

Then and now: Telephone numbers once had letters

Calif State of	
D L Bliss State Park Headquarters	Homewood 2-Y-5
D L Bliss State Park Ofc	Homewood 2-Y-12
Division of Highways	Tahoe City 190-W
Quarantine Station (T)	Kimbi 4-3798
Tahoe Camp Ground State Park	
Office	Tahoe City 67-W
Residence	Tahoe City 67-J
Tahoe Fish Hatchery	Tahoe City 76
Vikingsholm	Tallac 37
Callender Benj F Callender's Ldg	Homewood 21
Callender's Lodge	Homewood 21
Callery Bernard Tahoe Alps Court (B)	Liberty 6-3822
Cal-Neva Biltmore Hotel (CB)	Liberty 7-3361
Cal-Neva Lodge (CB)	Liberty 7-3341
Cal-Pine Motel (T)	Kimbi 4-3641
Cal-Vada Lodge (CB)	Liberty 7-3374
Cal-Va-Rado Motel (T)	Kimbi 4-3393
Camp Richardson	Tallac 19
Camp Richardson Souvenir Shop	Tallac 31
Camp Richardson Stables	Tallac 42-W

Pages of an old phone book.

To the left is a page from the 1954 Pacific Telephone Book for Lake Tahoe (California) when calls still were placed verbally through the operator. (Think of Andy Griffith in Mayberry).



Emerald Bay is on the cover of this old phone book.

Notice the intriguing phone numbers like Homewood 2-Y-5 or Tallac 31.

All the phone listings, A-to-Z, occupied only 18 pages. Self-dialed local calling didn't arrive until the later 1950s. Long-distance calling required operator assistance into the

1960s.

Did you know Kimball and Ludlow? Prior to today's all-digit phone listings, KImball (54) and LUdlow (58) were the word prefixes for South Shore California and Nevada, respectively.

For example, KImball 4-6474 today is 544-6474, and LUdlow 8-6611 today is 588-6611. The change from word prefixes to all-digit occurred in the early 1960s.

Telephone book courtesy of Theresa and Darrell Eymann.

– Bill Kingman