

Ladd-Helbling info for California Pioneer website 'News Page' postings...

In response to queries as to further background of the Ladd-Helbling Fund and why the recent \$50 checks were sent to pre-1987 retirees, please note:

The Ladd-Helbling Fund was initially established by George S. Ladd, the first president of Pacific Telephone and Telegraph, who died in 1889. His will designated funds be set aside to establish a hospital for needy telephone company employees. Since there were funds to build the hospital but not to staff it they were invested until a remedy could be found. Eventually Mr. Ladd's widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Patterson (Ladd) Mitchell, and the trustees decided to establish a fund to help Pacific Telephone retirees who experienced severe financial needs.

The fund grew through the years expanding with the addition of the estate of retired Pacific Telephone and Telegraph/Telesis employee W.E. (Bill) Helbling who passed away in 1988.

The purpose of the Ladd-Helbling Fund is to generally provide one-time assistance for extraordinary expenses or to provide a small, temporary stipend to supplement a retiree's basic income in times of need. It is open to all California retirees who are Disability or Service Pension eligible. Applications and directions can be found on the Pioneer California chapter websites or may be requested at the address noted below. *{Note: A retiree does not need to be a member of the Pioneers to apply.}*

At the end of 2008 discretionary funds were available for distribution and were sent to all pre-1987 eligible retirees. The \$50 checks sent the end of December are legitimate; a gift-grant sent with the good wishes of those who now administer the fund.

Ladd-Helbling apologizes for any confusion the gift created.

*Patricia J. Schwafel
February 2009*

Patricia J. Schwafel
Administrative Manager
Ladd-Helbling Fund
P.O. Box 1046
Benicia, CA 94510
707-643-6692
ladd-helbling@sbcglobal.net