

From: *Telephony*, November 1904, p. 419
Originally published in the *Abilene Chronicle*.

COON INVADES TELEPHONE OFFICE

There is a pet coon in this town that was the innocent cause of a thrilling adventure lately. The adventure took place in the telephone office one night about a week ago. Two of the "Hello" girls were at the board. They were the only persons in the building. Becoming thirsty they went into the hall where the ice water tank is located to get a drink. The coon meanwhile had left its customary resting place and started in search of new haunts. Seeing the light in the telephone office and being prompted by some unkind fate, it climbed upon the porch and entered the office through the open windows just as the operators were quenching their thirst in the hall. They started back into the room, when they noticed the wiggly form of the intruder. The door was closed with a bang and a scream and they took refuge in the long-distance room. Not being able to get out or in they grabbed the long-distance line to Junction City. They informed the operator there that a wild beast was in the telephone office and asked that Junction City telephone the Union Pacific operator to come to the rescue. This was done and shortly after four or five men armed with every imaginable weapon from a gun to a broom made a charge on the office and captured the pet without firing a shot. —Abilene (Kan.) *Chronicle*

Courtesy of Dickinson County Heritage Center