



Beatrice started off 2018 with our revamped Beatrice Foods Co. business, and our flagship Tarasov Herbal Dressing & Sauce. The response has been tremendous, and our goal is to expand internationally, as demand for Tarasov, as well as our gourmet popped corn, Classy Crisps has garnered positive response to the elegant packaging, and the delicious flavours that have been a trademark of ours for years. Beatrice is committed not only to quality, but also to transparency in our food labeling, and we aim to produce our products with the highest in quality standards. Also, we have updated all of our nutritional labeling per the new FDA requirements that were supposed to go into effect, but have been pushed out to a later date. We felt that since our company was updating the labeling, the nutrition facts should be updated as well, and they are much easier to read and comprehend. The month of May we will be debuting a new flavour of popped corn, the first new flavour since

1992, and the sample testing has proven to be beyond our expectations. Further announcements will be forthcoming on the Beatrice web site, so stay tuned.

As some of you know, The Porticus Centre (www.bellsystemmemorial.com), which is a division of Beatrice Technologies, Inc., has substantial archives, not only in digital form, but also printed materials dating back to the late 1870's through the 20th century relating to Alexander Graham Bell and the phone system he had created; The Bell Telephone Company, which became American Bell, and was later acquired by its Long Lines subsidiary; American Telephone & Telegraph (AT&T Company) in 1899. Much of the communications we as humans take for granted today can be traced back to the "Bell System", as "The Phone Company". Our archives is part of American and Canadian history, as the Bell System encompassed parts of Canada as well, since Bell Telephone Company of Canada was an integral part of this network, up until AT&T relinquished their remaining shares in 1975.

Communications are an important part of everyday life for individuals, government, and businesses, and this is ever more so with how voice, video and data have converged into one platform. Security, redundancy, and reliability were once the standard of our communications network, but has been reduced to a mere commodity. Security has been a hot topic in government circles recently, and with credible concerns. Huawei, a major Chinese equipment manufacturer, which makes routers, switches, and cell phones, but thankfully the government has insisted that Verizon, AT&T and other phone companies not buy their equipment due to security concerns. When Bell Laboratories was under AT&T, they handled sensitive government research and development, and there was never a reason to allow foreign companies to even mess with our communications infrastructure in the old days under the Bell System. Did anyone in the government, other than former Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger even remotely even consider the long-term national security consequences of destroying the Bell System?

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To put it bluntly, politicians of the time of the 1974 anti-trust suit against AT&T were either stupid, naïve, or paid off to have allowed this to happen, and we would not even have this conversation had AT&T been kept intact, with some minor modifications, and a national policy of never allowing any foreign company to buy into our communications systems or be allowed to bid on any domestic contracts.

The problem with the monopolistic tech giants of today, as compared to the Bell System (American Telephone & Telegraph), is that AT&T invented technology (Bell Labs); manufactured (Western Electric); installed (Regional Bell Operating Companies). Every component came from Bell, and was manufactured in The USA, and never foreign. Our communications system was the envy of the rest of the planet, and I firmly believe that the destruction of Bell was the beginning of the decline in not only innovation, but also manufacturing, and the preeminent quality and security of a robust and redundant national communications network. Even the UNIX OS developed by Bell Labs back in 1969 was meant to make the national phone network operate more efficiently, and is considered the foundation on what the Internet runs on today, not Microsoft. What we lost in the dismemberment of the Bell System is a national tragedy, plus hundreds of thousands of jobs in manufacturing and research that resulted over the decade after the breakup in 1984.

As for the tech companies today, they are more globalist than American, and have shown this by their actions in how they hire foreign tech persons, and are in favor of special visas to bring them in. What great technology of worth has Google, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or even Apple brought us of long-term value? Bell gave us the first wireless transmission from overseas in 1916, fax transmission in 1927, TV testing in 1927, The first non-experimental installation of coaxial cable in the network in 1941, cellular concept in 1947, laser and transistor in the mid 40's, and much more. When, in 1996 AT&T spun-off their manufacturing business, and that unit became Lucent Technologies, Lucent sold off to Alcatel in 2006, and finally in 2015, Nokia acquired Alcatel, along with Bell Labs. The premier American research laboratories now foreign owned. No one barely even mentions such a diminished presence in research and development we as a nation have become.

Having personally worked in both the telephone and computer business, and see advancements, it is also troubling to see how so rapidly the security threat to our computers, smart phones and interlinked banking and power grid system has been at risk, and I have personally witnessed such invasive attacks with customers. When a nation no longer has control over the equipment that they used to manufacture, and have to rely on predominately Chinese networking hardware, computers and smart phones that are no longer U.S. made, this is a recipe for disaster, and one that we may never be able to reverse. We used to control our telecommunications destiny, but sadly this has been far from our reach for many years.

Sincerely,



DeWitt P. Hoopes
President, CEO & CTO