BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES
Outside Plant Construction and Maintenance

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CABLE SPLICING—GENERAL
PLACING AND BEATING IN LEAD SLEEVE

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1. GENERAL

1.01 This section describes the placing of lead sleeves over splices or sheath openings, and the final beating in of the ends preparatory to wiping the joints.

2. PLACING

2.01 Before placing a lead sleeve over a splice or sheath opening, make sure that the inside of the sleeve is free from moisture.

2.02 If a desiccant treated splice has irregularities that make it difficult to place the sleeve, it is advisable to correct the condition by wrapping the splice tightly with a rubber bandage and dressing it lightly with a wood cable dresser. Remove the bandage and rub stearine on the muslin wrapping to facilitate placing the sleeve.

2.03 If paraffin is used to dry the conductors place the sleeve while the splice or sheath opening is still warm and soft from the last boiling out.

2.04 **Split Sleeve:** A split sleeve is placed in the following way:

(1) Open the sleeve wide enough to go over the wrapped splice or sheath opening. A sleeve spreader may be used to facilitate opening the sleeve.

(2) Center the sleeve and close it partly by hand. Make a tourniquet of several strands of muslin or houseline around the sleeve, and use a bar of solder or a screwdriver in the tourniquet to draw the edges of the sleeve together.

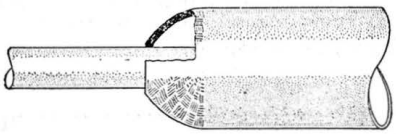
(3) Hold the edges together with the tourniquet and "tack" them with solder near each end and at two or three intermediate points.

2.05 Center the sleeve carefully and make a light mark on the cable sheath at each end of the sleeve. These marks are used as a guide in keeping the sleeve in proper position during the beating in and wiping operations.

3. BEATING IN

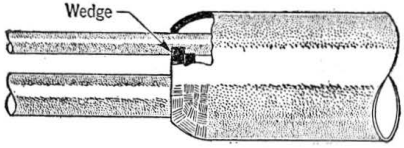
3.01 Beating in is done with a wood cable dresser or hammer. In many cases part of the beating can be done before placing the sleeve, and this should be done wherever possible. The beat-in should be uniform, free from furrows or dents, and should follow a smooth curve. This can be accomplished best when the sleeve can be rotated slowly during the beating in. It is generally advisable to beat in both ends of a sleeve and to adjust the positions of the cables and sleeve before wiping the joints.

3.02 **Round Joint:** At a round joint the beat-in should have the following shape.



3.03 **Round Joint in Duct Splice:** Make a shallow ring around the cable where the end of the sleeve meets the sheath. The ring may be made with a round iron bar or, if space permits with a Cable Sheath Constrictor. Beat the end of the sleeve into the ring as shown in the following illustration.

3.04 **"Y" Joint:** Beat in the end of the sleeve snugly around the cables and the wedge as shown in the following illustration.



3.05 **Cap Joint:** The end of a sleeve that is to be used for a cap sleeve or butt splice should be beaten in before the sleeve is placed on the cable.

3.06 **Knuckle Joint:** After the split sleeve has been "tack" soldered, beat in the round end of the knuckle joint, closing it at the end as much as possible. Then beat in the flared opening, through which the cable enters the sleeve, as illustrated below.