

**BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES**  
**Outside Plant Construction**  
**and Maintenance**

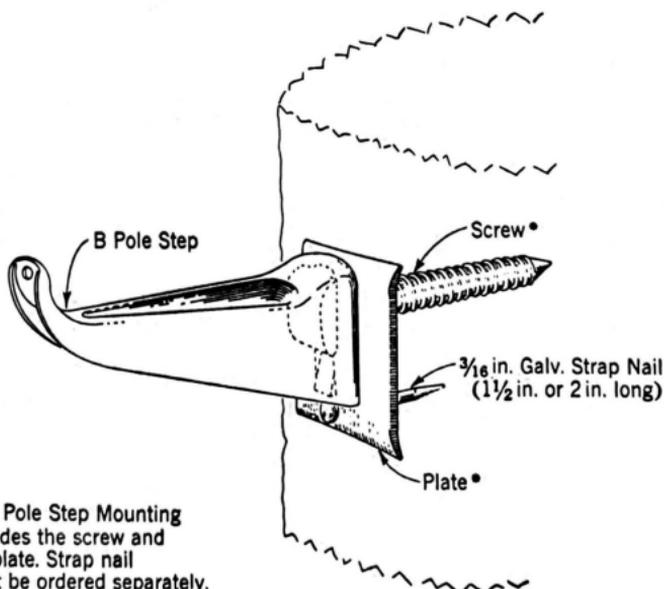
**SECTION G86.195.1**  
**Issue 1, June, 1954**  
**AT&T Co Standard**

**B POLE STEPS**  
**INSPECTION FOR CRACKS**

**1. GENERAL**

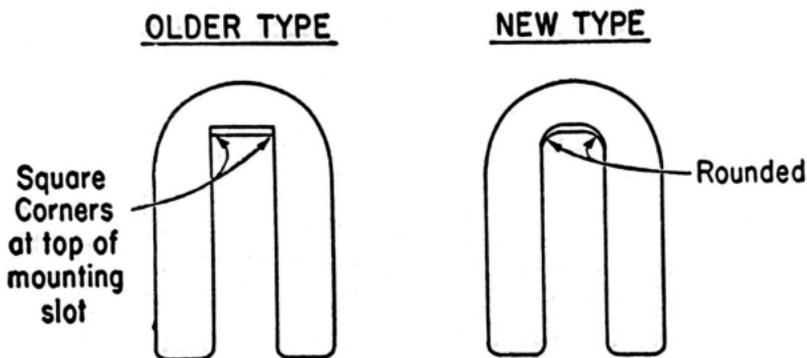
1.01 The B Pole Step is a detachable pole step used in conjunction with a B Pole Step Mounting. Two or more of these steps are used to enable a workman to gain access to stepped poles which are not equipped with permanent steps below a level of 6-1/2 feet to 8 feet above ground.

1.02 The combination of step and mounting is shown in the following illustration. The installation of the mounting is described in a section of the Practices covering Stepping Poles.



1.03 In connection with the use of B Pole Steps, it has been found that in a small number of cases, fine cracks have developed at the bends in the metal on the inside of the steps and at the corners at the top of the mounting slot. It appears that under long continued use, these cracks become progressively larger and tend to result in a faulty fit of the steps on the heads of the mounting screws or possibly eventual failure of the steps. The cracks are probably due principally to stresses in the metal introduced in forming the steps.

1.04 The manufacturing requirements for the steps have been changed with the object of preventing the development of the cracks. The older type steps can readily be identified by the square corners at the top of the mounting slot as shown in the following end view of the steps.

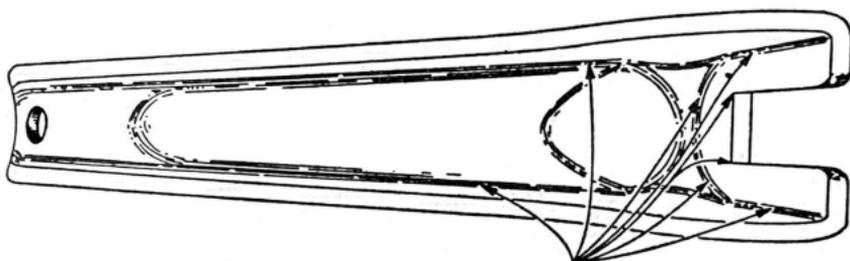


1.05 It is expected that the new type steps will remain free of cracks.

## 2. INSPECTION OF STEPS

2.01 In order to eliminate the risk of failure of any of the older type steps, proceed as follows:

(a) Examine closely all the **used older type** steps at intervals of 3 to 4 months. It is not considered necessary to examine any **unused** steps of the older type, inasmuch as the cracks, if any, would probably be covered by the galvanized coating and would not be evident until after the steps had been in use for some time. Pay particular attention to the **underside** of the steps where the metal is bent and at the **inside** of the corners at the top of the mounting slot. These locations are shown in the following sketch.



Examine closely the inside of the step at the bends in the metal, particularly at the points indicated.

(b) If any steps with cracks are found, junk them.