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Bell Telephone Laboratories, Incorporated (Bell Labs) had a major research and development (R&D) facility on Mountain Avenue in Murray Hill.

I worked there during the 1960s and 1970s and employees were attracted to Long Hill Township.

David “Duke” Dorsi is an older resident of Long Hill who remembers when Bell Labs considered building in Long Hill in the late 1930s.

Property behind the graveyard in Hick’s hollow and off Valley Road in Millington was considered, but in the end Murray Hill was chosen. Duke started working at Bells in 1943 and became a glass blower there.

He hunted duck in the Great Swamp with William O. Baker, vice president of the research area. He made a glass-blown candlestick telephone as a gift for the CEO of Sony, and a photograph of that telephone is on the cover of a recent book about Bell Labs. [A. Michael Noll & Michael N. Geselowitz, Bell Labs Memoirs: Voices of Innovation, IEEE History Center, 2011 (available from Amazon)]

My very first supervisor at Bell Labs was John L. Sullivan, Jr., who lived in Millington. His group worked in human factors related to telephone transmission quality, and included a couple of Ph.D. psychologists.

A number of my colleagues in speech research at Bell Labs lived in Long Hill. Joseph P. Olive, who also composed computer music, lived on Long Hill Road in Gillette.

My department head was Peter B. Denes, who also lived on Long Hill Road in Gillette.

His boss, Manfred R. Schroeder, had his home in Gillette. Researcher Marion Macchi was yet another and lived on Long Hill Road in Gillette. She later left Bell Labs and started her own business in speech technology.

Italo Quinto lived in Long Hill and was a limousine driver at Bell Labs. His autobiography, along with Duke Dorsi and Manfred Schroeder, are in the book with Duke’s cover.

John Mays lived in Millington while working at Bell Labs, but moved to Washington where he helped create the Department of Education. Per Biorn lived in Stirling while working at Bell Labs,

but also worked from his home on art projects for such famous artists as Robert Rauschenberg.

There most certainly were probably many more Bell Labs employees who lived in Long Hill Township. I mention here only the very few who I knew. They were attracted to Long Hill by its natural surroundings and tranquility. And it was only 10 minutes from the Murray Hill facility.

The writer is a resident of Stirling.

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