

Telephone customers could save some money

Alexander Graham Bell never agonized over so many choices before he directed Watson.

What kind of phone should you get, wall model or desktop? Touch-tone or rotary dial? What color? What style? How many?

Telephone service has joined the ranks of wardrobes and automobiles, things with a utilitarian purpose which may be turned into customized objects of luxury for a few extra dollars.

And like those other two items, it's up to the consumer to determine how much he or she needs, and the cheapest way to obtain it.

The Oregon Consumer Services Division has prepared an overview of the cost variables involved in getting phone service. Consumers have more to consider than just the make, model and color of that plastic box.

For example, there might be deposits required just to get tied into the system. If you've never had a phone listed in your name or do not have a credit record established, the phone company is likely to request a deposit. The amount is generally equal to twice the monthly local service charge plus twice your estimated monthly long distance

charges. This usually amounts to between \$35 and \$60.

When a deposit is required, it usually can be waived if someone else who is a phone customer in good standing will cosign the application. If asked for a deposit, question the reason. Often the amount will be reduced or eliminated.

If it must be paid, learn the policy for returning the deposit. Usually it is refunded after nine to 12 months with 6 percent interest, if monthly bills are paid on time.

Know where phones will be located before they are installed. It costs

considerably more for additional phone jacks if the phone company worker has to come back a second time. Better to have all the work done in one visit.

Installation costs vary, but you can expect to pay about \$35 for one phone and \$50 for two phones. That cost normally can be reduced by \$10 per phone if no new phone jacks are installed. The jacks must be of the new single-prong modular type to avoid this wiring cost. New or additional outlets enabling customers to move the phone

around generally cost \$10 apiece if the work is done when the phone is being installed.

Consumers generally can save \$5 or more per phone by picking up their phone from local "Phone Center" or "Phone Mart" stores. General Telephone runs a "phone mart" service at 295 NE Second St. in Gresham.

Telephone rental costs per year vary considerably, depending upon the number of phones and the type of instrument desired.

And nowadays they come

in dozens of shapes, styles, colors and functions.

An extension telephone in Oregon usually carries a monthly fee of at least \$1.25. Before ordering that second phone, consider getting a longer cord on your present unit for a service fee of \$10.

Like any other service with a lot of variables, consider your telephone needs and your budget. Is the convenience worth the cost? The difference between a standard dial phone and a trimline touch-tone phone can be \$25 or more per year.

A person who doesn't make very many calls per month can save money by requesting "measured rate" phone service, available in some parts of Oregon at a savings of \$1.50 from the standard monthly rates.

And, in the spirit of telephone consumerism, make sure the phone you buy comes with a guarantee. If repairs are necessary, they should be done by the retail outlet you bought it from or by the manufacturer.

Senior Center News

A new shopping and grocery delivery service for homebound senior citizens is in the planning stages. The program is sponsored by the Clackamas County Senior Citizens Council and the Sandy Senior Center.

Persons interested in participating in the program are asked to contact the center at 668-5569 for more information.

The Senior Center would like to invite all area residents to join the Golden Age Club potluck today, Sept. 13, to see slides of the Sutherland vacation on the Delta Queen.

Reservations may now be made for the Flea Market. For more information, call Thayer Parmenter at 663-3877.

Activities for the Week of Sept. 13 to Sept. 20

Thursday, Sept. 13

12 noon Golden Age Club potluck with Delta Queen slides after lunch.

Friday, Sept. 14

12 noon Loaves and Fishes
2:30 p.m. Circus

Monday, Sept. 17

10 a.m. Exercise class
10 a.m. Women's pool class
12 noon Loaves and Fishes
1 p.m. Cards

Tuesday, Sept. 18

7:30 a.m. Men's breakfast
9 a.m. Sandy Senior Center Advisory Committee meeting
12 noon Loaves and Fishes
1 p.m. Blood pressure
1 p.m. Bowling

Wednesday, Sept. 19

10 a.m. Exercise class
10 a.m. Women's pool class
12 noon Loaves and Fishes

1 p.m. Oak Knoll Winery tour
1 p.m. Arts and Crafts class

Thursday, Sept. 20

12 noon Loaves and Fishes
6:30 p.m. Square Dancing

Sandy Union High School Principal Bill MacFarlane is still out on sick leave and it's not known when he will be back at school. Superintendent Jack Peters told a small crowd attending Monday night's school board meeting.

His response was in answer to a question by resident Barbara Boswell.

MacFarlane has been on sick leave since May. Peters said he knew what was wrong with MacFarlane but would not say because it was personnel information.

The principal does have enough sick leave accumulated to take care of the days he is missing, Peters assured Boswell. Despite MacFarlane's

absence, opening of school has been smooth, Peters said. But the smoothness hasn't come without paying a price, he added.

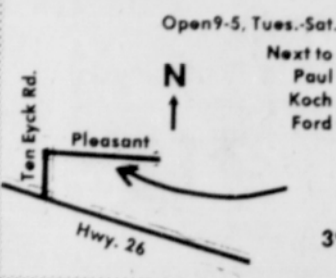
The whole staff was pulling together, some working overtime hours to fill in for the principal.

Vice Principal John McMahan agreed, saying that the staff has given 200 percent.

Staff does work of principal

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Arrangements from \$7.50 to \$10 and \$15.



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Obituary

Thelma Clapp

Funeral services for Thelma S. Clapp, of Boring, were held Monday at the Bateman Funeral Chapel in Gresham.

Clapp died Thursday, Sept. 6, at Providence Hospital in Portland. She was 54.

Born in Yates Center, Kan., she grew up in Kansas and came to Oregon in 1940, where she married Gordon A. Clapp.

She was employed as a waitress for more than 20 years and was last employed as hostess-manager at the Safari Club in Estacada.

She was a member of Pleasant Home Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband; a son, Gordon Jr., of Boring; daughters Judy Snell and Connie Bacon, both of Boring; brothers Lawrence Woodcock of Sanger, Calif., and Garold Woodcock of Eagle Creek; sisters Idella Clapp of Boring and Riva Brooks of Eagle Creek; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Burial was in Willamette National Cemetery.

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