

Mobile Telephone Service For Basin Provided With New Equipment; Many In Use Now

Mobile telephone service has been available in the Klamath Falls area for two years.

Suppose you are driving to Klamath Falls on Highway 97. At the Crater Lake Junction you look at your watch and see you're going to be late for a dinner engagement.

So you pick up the phone — mobile telephone, that is — call your hostess and tell her to hold up the steaks for a bit.

That is fact, not fiction. It happened here a few weeks ago and could conceivably have occurred any time since Pacific Telephone introduced urban mobile telephone service here in June, 1956.

Mobile telephone service is more useful than keeping one out of the social doghouse, according to Thayne W. Cole, new telephone manager here. It is used to direct logging contracting and building operations and emergency calls for car repairs. The installation in a doctor's car might easily be responsible for saving a life.

There are in the neighborhood of 20 mobile telephone subscribers registered in the Klamath Falls area. Included in the number are Klamath Irrigation District, Puckett and Scherer and Lowell N. Jones both logging contractors, Bly Log-

ging Company, Bob Byrne, a Malin rancher, Coast Construction Company, general contractors at Kingsley Field housing project, KOTI-TV, Balsiger Motor Company, and Pacific Telephone.

Dispatching service, Cole explains, involves two-way communication between the vehicles and a particular telephone at the dispatching office. There is a direct private line connecting the dispatcher's telephone with the mobile telephone operator at the telephone central office. This is the type of service used by KID and Balsiger Motors.

Another type of mobile telephone service is "general service" and is in more common usage. This is a two-way telephone service between any regular telephone and any mobile unit. With this type service, motorists driving from Seattle to Mexico, on regular north-south highways, will find only a few areas between towns where phone service is not available from their cars. Urban mobile telephone channels are in operation in Oregon at Portland, Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, Grants Pass and Medford, Pendleton, The Dalles, Ontario, Florence, Newport, Coos Bay and Klamath Falls. The first station

to the south of Klamath Falls is Redding.

The effective range of mobile telephone service around Klamath Falls is north to Fort Klamath or Kirk; south to Perez and Grass Lake; west to Parker Mountain in the Greensprings and east to Bonanza, Malin and Stronghold.

The procedure for making a call from a mobile telephone to a regular telephone or to another mobile telephone is simple. Pushing the button on the handset sends a signal through the air to the receiving and transmitting station at Moore Hill. From there, the signal continues, automatically, by cable to the central office in downtown Klamath Falls, lighting a signal lamp on the switchboard in front of the mobile telephone operator. The operator then completes the connection to the telephone being called, whether it is a local or a long distance call.

The mobile telephone operator also handles calls made from a regular telephone to a telephone-equipped vehicle. The incoming call will ring a bell and light a signal light in the driver's compartment. If the driver is away from the vehicle for a time, the light remains on until his return

so he will be told to check with the operator to permit her to complete the call. In that way, it acts almost as an answering service, according to Ron Clancy, telephone representative who arranges for mobile telephone installations in this area.

Equipment used in a vehicle for mobile service includes a two-way radio set with power control switches and an antenna; a push-to-talk telephone handset and a small lamp and bell for signaling. The handset is the same as ship-to-shore phones which may also be telephone company installations.

Both the radio transmitting and receiving sets are powered by the vehicle's battery and generator. If heavy use is made of the mobile telephone, a larger than usual battery and generator may be required.

The service can be had for one month which is an advantage on a specific contracting job or arrangements may be made for an indefinite period. Information concerning installation of service is available through the local telephone office. The telephone company leases the necessary equipment for mobile service on a

monthly basis and provides maintenance of the equipment.



RON CLANCY, Pacific Telephone Company representative from Medford who arranges for mobile telephone installations in this area, is shown using the push-to-talk handset in a company car. In addition to the handset, mobile telephone service equipment in a car includes a two-way radio set with power control switches and an antenna and a small light and bell for signaling that a call is ready to come in. Clancy has been with the telephone company for the last five and one-half years and was transferred from the Portland office to Medford a year ago in March.



AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE of Pacific Telephone Company in downtown Klamath Falls Shirley Hill, mobile service operator, is shown about to plug into a special jack at her section of the switchboard to complete a mobile telephone call. From one to three operators, especially trained in mobile telephone work, are on duty at all times. There are in the neighborhood of 20 mobile telephone service customers registered in the Klamath Falls area. Each installation is assigned its own mobile telephone service number.



HURRYING HOME — This baby prairie dog is in a hurry to get back to the safety of mother and home. He's a member of the population of the nation's few remaining prairie dog towns located in Mackenzie State Park at Lubbock, Texas. At one time the little rodents thrived by the millions in the Southwest.

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