

COMPARISON OF TELEPHONE RATES

Relative to the controversy over the increase in rates granted the Pacific Telephone Company recently, a McMinnville dispatch in last Sunday's Oregonian compares the rates of the Pacific system with those of the Home Telephone company of McMinnville:

"With the rising tide of feeling throughout the state, against the recent rate increase granted to the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company, McMinnville telephone users are finding some gratification in comparisons. In cities of the same group under the Pacific system, telephone patrons are paying from 7 to 125 per cent more for the same class of residence and suburban service than McMinnville people pay the Home Telephone company for service that compares favorably with any in the state.

Business houses have less grounds for gloating, although users in the Pacific system of the same size pay 7 or 8 per cent more for their service.

When compared with Portland rates, McMinnville patrons find even more reasons for feeling satisfied with their own service, as Portland business rates range from 167 to 185 per cent higher and residence and suburban rates from 100 to 175 per cent above those of McMinnville. The comparison, of course, does not take into consideration the recognized fact that overhead and investment are much greater in proportion to revenue from subscribers in exchanges as large as Portland than in the smaller McMinnville exchange.

In spite of the fact that telephone equipment has doubled and in many cases tripled in price since 1917, the Home Telephone company is able to maintain its service and pay dividends on its investment under the rate scale in effect. During the past year the company has declared dividends of 8 per cent upon its capital stock of \$29,600. Yet it is strictly a non-co-operative business enterprise owning and operating its lines and equipment within the city and maintaining some suburban lines.

McMinnville comes in the same class as Ashland, Bend, Grants Pass, Tillamook, Prineville, Woodburn and Heppner—the group five cities of the Pacific system. The McMinnville citizen with a one-party residence line pays \$1.75 a month, while the patron in the group five Pacific system cities pays \$3 and the Portland patron \$4. The McMinnville patron on a six party residence line pays \$1 a month as compared with \$2.25 and \$2.75 paid on four-party lines by the Tillamook and Portland subscribers, respectively.

On business telephones the McMinnville one-party line subscriber pays \$3.50, the group five Pacific subscriber \$3.75, and the Portland subscriber \$10. Suburban subscribers pay \$1.50 to the McMinnville company, \$2.50 to the Pacific com-

pany in group five communities and \$3 in Portland.

A comparison of Pacific group five rates and Portland rates with McMinnville rates in six major classes of service follows:

The wage scale now in force in the Home Telephone company exchange is the same as the Pacific system scale, according to W. H. Logan, president and manager of the company. Costs at the present time for wire, telephone and other materials used by the company are much higher than in former years and the net earning power under the present rates is not as high as it should be to protect adequately the property of the company, according to Mr. Logan.

"When we appeared before the public service commission for an increase in rates last year," said Mr. Logan, "they criticized us for not building up a much greater reserve fund for replacement and emergencies, instead of paying as high dividends as we have been paying."

A substantial increase in business rates was granted to the Home Telephone company last December by the public service commission, but no increase was granted in residence rates at that time.

The Home Telephone company was organized in 1908 and was financed for the most part by McMinnville capital. It entered into competition with the Bell system, which had local service in McMinnville at that time. A private trunk line was extended to Portland. Later the Bell system compromised, giving its local telephones in exchange for the Portland trunk line.

At the present time the Home Telephone company operates 214 miles of wire and has practically 1200 subscribers. Of this number approximately 900 are city subscribers and the remainder suburban. All telephone lines, telephone, and equipment in the city are owned by the company and a number of suburban lines in the same way. A large number of suburban lines are built and maintained by the farmers. On these an exchange fee of 50 cents a month for each telephone is levied.

The Home Telephone company has connection with the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company long distance service over eight trunk lines. Since the compromise by which the Pacific system took over the long-distance service of the McMinnville company the two companies have operated harmoniously and no attempt has been made by the larger system to take over the local service.

Call for City of Tillamook Improvement Bonds

City of Tillamook, Oregon, six per cent Improvement Bonds numbered 41 to 60 inclusive and dated November 7th, 1917, will be paid May 7th, 1921, when interest will cease.

LESLIE HARRISON, Treasurer, City of Tillamook, adv.

APRIL 29th, "GREEN STOCKINGS"

Little Journeys in Tillamook County

Flounder, a la Turque
Planked Cod
Halibut, a la Poitevine
Mussels, au grain
Rock Oysters, au gratin

The menu was planned with care, mindful of both possibilities and probabilities, and varied to cope with the most extreme fortunes of a fishing trip.

The advice of various "old heads" was followed in the matter of "gear" and Sunday morning found us on our way, accoutered in the most approved style and apparently prepared to handle any situation that might arise out of the waters of Netarts bay.

The detail of bait had been left to L. W. Eberhardt, who professed to have an intimate knowledge of the habits and tastes of the particular finny tribe against which our operations were to be directed.

Forty-five minutes after the editorial chariot gave its first snort on main street we were gazing down on the surging waters of the Pacific.

Parenthetically we might state that a good road builder would find wonderful opportunities for the exercise of his talent on the stretch of road between the Tillamook river bridge and Netarts.

A few minutes hike down the bay we found Messrs. Eberhardt and

Thel parked in a blue boat. Desperately they greeted us, explaining what a fat chance we had of catching anything at that time of day with the tide coming in, etc., etc. However, having come to fish, we were not to be lightly turned from our purpose, and firmly we demanded the promised bait. A wretched clam was handed out and divided like Joseph's raiment, was appreciated among the assembled fishermen.

Immediately the endurance contest commenced. You threw your line as far as you could into the bay and then drew it hastily back, the one hauling in the most sea weed and body fil in a given time being awarded the honors for the day.

After a couple of hours operations were brought to a close by the wearing out of the clam, and we retraced our steps with nothing but hearsay evidence in support of the claim that there were any fish at all in the bay.

The day was not a total loss, nevertheless, for there is more in fishing than just catching fish, and Netarts has other attractions for the entertainment of her sojourners. The sandy beach provides a tempting promenade, and the grassy hills offer innumerable reserved seats from which to contemplate the ever-changing panorama of the ocean.

For the kiddies and frivolous grown-ups there are high, steep sand banks provided by nature for apparently no other purpose than sliding down.

Delightful picnic spots abound and here and there throughout the camp grounds are open-air fire places for the convenience of the summer residents. Although the beach season will not open for several weeks activities were to be noted which forecast that Netarts will not be the least popular of Tillamook county resorts during the approaching summer.

And as we vibrated homeward in the gathering dusk, framing an alibi for the fish which we had so recklessly promised, we resolved to get another clam and try again some day.

MUSICAL

An enjoyable and instructive program was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Koch, under the auspices of the Monday Musical Club and the Harmony Class.

A brief review was made of the past six weeks work and music appreciation was introduced at this meeting. Mary Harrison and Helen Schultz demonstrated some of the points previously mentioned. Helen Leonard's display in ear training as well as her little song showed what cooperative work will do in six months' time.

Others who favored the Club with selections were Mary Lamar, Velma Daniels, Ramona Haltom, John Carroll, Mrs. O. M. Cook, Mr. Koch and Mrs. F. D. Small.

The Club has finished a large share of the fundamental work and about to enter the second period in music history. Anyone desiring to fall in line at this time may do so within the next two weeks.

Meets every Monday at 2 o'clock for one hour study at the home of Mrs. Koch. Visitors are always welcome.

TEETH ARE WORTH \$150 EACH

Jury Fixes Value in Awarding Damages to Man Who Lost Thirty.

Atlantic City.—One hundred and fifty dollars per tooth was the value placed on the cuspids, bicuspid and molars of Abram Froshin of Philadelphia in Atlantic circuit court following a trial of his suit against Michael Daley, a jitney owner of this city.

The total loss of Froshin was 30 teeth, and the verdict was \$4,500.

Froshin and his wife were passengers in a jitney when the machine crashed into a rope stretched across South Carolina avenue. The rope struck Froshin in the mouth and took all but the last two of his molars out. Parts of the gums were also destroyed, and experts testified that there is a possibility that Froshin will have to live on liquid foods the remainder of his life.

3-Legged Wolf "Bandit" To Be Used as Decoy

Denver.—"Big Lefty," the three-legged leader of a wolf pack in the Crested Butte section of Colorado and whose cunning is blamed by stockmen for the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars of live stock, is again in the hands of federal hunters. "Big Lefty" escaped from a steel trap eight years ago and, as leader of seven other wolves, has left a trail of partly eaten carcasses wherever he roamed since. The big wolf will not be killed but instead will be used as a decoy in an effort to trap his followers.



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