

Canadians are second highest phone users

Canadians have again lost out to our southern neighbors as the world's talkingest telephone users.

An increase of 44 conversations per person gave the United States a total of 745 calls per person for the year. Canadians stayed in second place with an average of 710 conversations per person.

However, even while dropping back in the talking race, Canadians made nearly five telephone calls every second of every day throughout the year — almost all of them local calls. Only 2.8 per cent of the 14,969,816,000 calls made by Canadians were long distance.

We've got the lowest long distance calling rate among all countries with developed telephone systems.

U.S. leads

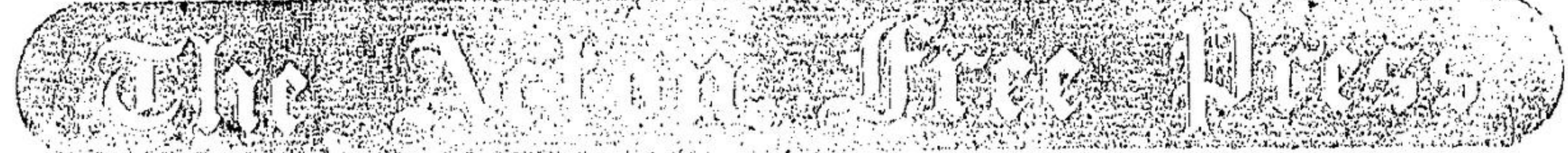
Leading the world in numbers of telephones are the United States with 115,220,000, Japan with 23,131,088, the United Kingdom with 13,947,000, West Germany with 12,450,268 and in fifth place Canada with 9,302,823.

Canada has the fourth highest ratio of telephones to population with 41 phones per 100 people. The U.S. has 56, Sweden 54, Switzerland 45. By comparison, the U.R. has 26, Japan 22 and France 16.

New York leads

Of the world's leading cities, New York leads with 5,904,933. London has 3,451,400; Paris, 2,490,974; and Tokyo 4,033,847. Montreal and Toronto lead Canadian cities, with 1,560,400 and 1,394,351 telephones respectively. Toronto has the highest ratio of phones per 100 population in Canada with 62.7, followed by Ottawa which has 61.9 and Montreal with 54.7.

Washington, D.C. is the only city in the world with more phones than people, 100.2 phones for every 100 residents.



Vic Smith hand crafts violins in his basement workshop



VIC SMITH PLAYS ONE of his own finished products, made in the workshop at his home. The hand crafted violins have a unique tone that is lacking in machine produced instruments.—(Staff Photo)

When Vic Smith of R.R. 2, Rockwood, retired from Beardmore and Co. in 1970, his friend Ed Watson, of Acton, enquired what he was going to do with his spare time. It came as no surprise when Vic replied he thought a filing at making fiddles would be appropriate because both have an affinity for violins that goes back a long way.

Two violins and a lot of experience later, Vic Smith is still making fiddles at his home on 30 Sideroad in Nassagaweya township. He has also turned it into a "fiddle hospital" for violins that have seen better days.

He's an enthusiast more now than ever, holding the fiddle up as the instrument responsible for settling this country.

Bridges gaps

"If it hadn't been for the fiddle we wouldn't have been able to pioneer this country," says Vic emphatically. He pointed out the fiddle was the one means the pioneer had of relieving the loneliness and bridging communications between neighbors. It was also the instrument pioneers made good use of for barn dances and get-togethers.

He's an avid admirer of old time fiddlers. Sometimes his new aluminum house on 30 Sideroad rocks with old time music when he has a get together going on a Saturday night.

his own design. Each violin requires a fresh start since different makes produce different tones.

The first thing he does is cut a pattern. Then he cuts out the shapes of the various pieces of wood that go into making a fiddle.

Gluing the base of the violin is one job that requires a great deal of dexterity as the wood must be made into various thicknesses and comes down to one-eighth of an inch from the original inch thickness. The wood must not be weakened since the strings of a violin create 70 to 80 lbs. pressure with a downward pressure of 30 lbs.

Glued together

Parts are assembled by the use of clamps and good old fashioned glue, which must be clamped firmly for over 24 hours. Then the whole package is done up with a special varnish, imported from Germany.

The first violin Vic finished he called Bertha. It has since been sent out on trial with a musician from the area who belongs to the fiddlers' association from Guelph. Membership in the association, delighted there is someone close who can fix their instruments, have been leaving them at the Smith house for repairs, an added side to the business Vic never suspected when he took the plunge.

What's the difference between a fiddle and the violin? asked the enquiring Free Press reporter.

None at all, replied the enthused violin maker. Fiddle is just a name they have pinned on the violin.

Vic's fiddles have a quality of their own, like most hand-crafted instruments, which retail at around \$200. A cheap violin made on an assembly line basis costs around \$40 and the sound is something different again.

If you happen to be around 30 Sideroad in Nassagaweya township and hear the strains of Mendelssohn's Spring Song it might just be Vic Smith trying to coax the weather to change with an appropriate theme. Or you could hear a violin virtuoso on the radio because the Smiths, both Vic and his wife, love the sound of the violin.

And now he has added his own particular sound to a list of craftsmen.



TICKLISH PART OF making violins is adding the sides to the instrument which are built thinly but strongly to withstand up to 80 lbs pressure. Vic Smith has designed some of his own tools to assist in several of the painstaking tasks.—(Staff Photo)

Conservation club elects executives

By Cecil Patterson

The organizational meeting of the Halton 4-H Conservation Club was held at the Agricultural Office in Milton at 8 p.m., Friday, March 28.

Leaders this year are Bob Merry and Hugh Cook. There were eight members present. The election of officers was held as follows: president Janet Hunter, vice-president Cathy Lasby, secretary Liz Anderson, press reporter Cecil Patterson and delegate to leaders' council Carol Somerville.

Busy Program

Hugh Cook, the assistant agricultural representative for Halton county, briefly outlined what the conservation club did last year in the way of projects. It was decided this year that there would be a group project and individual projects.

A film about landscaping was arranged for the April meeting. A guest speaker will be on hand. A brief outline of the rest of the monthly meetings was set up.

A film entitled "The Patterns of the Wild" was enjoyed by all. The meeting was adjourned by Janet Hunter.



TOP PART OF EACH violin is fashioned from soft wood which comes from Europe. Here Vic Smith shows part of a violin he is repairing for an old time fiddler. Parts—70 of them—are glued together.—(Staff Photo)

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