

Victim's nightmare caller's satisfaction



TRIXIE, Greenore Cres., went the entire parade route and only fell off her wagon twice.

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To the person on the receiving end of the telephone, the experience can be a terrifying nightmare, filled with suspicions, threats and accusations. A quiet life can



SPREADING the word Peter Marks stands on the opening ceremony platform proudly displaying his patriotic T-shirt.

A local family, not too long ago, went through a nightmare for two weeks. They received up to ten calls a day, all from the same person, family members soon learned a new vocabulary as the caller lashed out with a string of obscenities. If hung up on, he would soon call back, and repeat the process.

suddenly be turned upside down as soon as the telephone rings. Obscene or harassing phone calls can happen to anyone, male or female, young or old. The caller could be a sick adult or a youngster, bored, with nothing to do, who decides to get his kicks at the expense of others.

In most cases the caller is known to the victim, says Sheila Raddie, of Bell Canada, although the victim may not realize who is on the other end of the line. In many cases, the caller is never caught, becomes bored with his strange pastime, and the calls stop.

However, in other cases, the calls persist, the police and Bell Canada are notified and steps are taken to catch the guilty party. Jail terms, stiff fines of probation may result.

The wife and daughters were not the only targets of the caller. If the husband or son answered, the caller was not discouraged. He just continued with his foul language and filthy comments anyway.

The family could find no reason why anyone would make such calls to their home, and break their peacefulness. When the phone rang, members stiffened in anticipation of what they would hear when they picked up the telephone. After a while no one except the father answered the telephone, but this proved no deterrent.

After two weeks of having their life totally disrupted, the police were called. They explained they were getting up to ten calls a day for two weeks. They would immediately hang up, but that did not seem to bother the caller. Bell Canada was notified, and the two forces worked together to put an end to the calls. Various devices were attached to the phone in order to track down the origin of the calls. Bell authorities were

standing by waiting for the next call, according to family members. However, it never came. The calls ceased as suddenly and as mysteriously as they had started.

Not all bothersome phone calls are obscene, and not all of them are to the home, Mrs. Raddie says. She explained that many people get the calls in their place of business. An irate customer will call to threaten the victim—and keep calling until the victim becomes harassed. Or the calls may be an offshoot of harassing or obscene calls directed originally to the home. Some calls may even be from competitors. The same advice holds true in these cases, hang up immediately.

In the telephone book, under "Some Useful Information", there is advice on what to do when victim of such calls. The first is to hang up. "What the caller really wants is an audience. Don't be that audience," it says. Hang up if the caller doesn't say anything, at the first obscene word, if the caller doesn't identify himself, herself.

The most terrifying call is when the caller says he knows the victim, and is watching them at all times, even as they speak on the telephone. In this case, the victim fears for his or her life. He or she becomes suspicious of their friends, acquaintances, or anyone they see on the street. It can lead to a neurotic life until the calls are stopped.

Sometimes, the number is just chosen randomly out of the phone book, or someone picks up the receiver and dials any group of numbers. In most cases, Mrs. Raddie says, the calls are more of an annoyance than anything else. If the victim lets it go and does not let the calls bother him or her, they usually stop.

Bill Salmon, manager of Bell Canada, explained that if the victim remains calm, and shows the caller he is not bothering the victim, the calls usually stop. "He wants to upset and bother you," Mr. Salmon said. "Don't give him the satisfaction."

Constable Ron Donaldson, of the Halton Regional Police, agreed with both Mrs. Raddie and Mr. Salmon that the calls come in cycles. Weeks and months can go past and they will have no complaints, and

suddenly they have several. There is a definite link in the calls and when school is out for holidays, Mrs. Raddie noted. Const. Donaldson explained that when the caller is caught and charged, it is usually a male teenager. He stated that if the calls persist, the victim usually has to get their number changed, or an unlisted number. He figures one out of three victims call the police and Bell Canada.

Some say there is a sharp increase in calls when the moon is full, and when the weather is warm. It is something which cannot be proven, but as they point out, it is too obvious to overlook. Halton Hills callers have no preference as to towns. Acton gets as many calls as Georgetown, according to the police. They might have six complaints every two months, Const. Donaldson said.



FARRAH came to Back to Acton Days.

Real Estate MARKET PLACE

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1100 Sq. ft. modern store - located on Main St. Milton close to LCBO. This property also has a full high and dry basement - loads of storage space, on street parking area plus private parking at rear. The rent of \$400. per month includes heat, hydro and water.

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Three bedroom bungalow, 2 bathrooms, close to school. Superior interior decorating and landscaping.
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the painted box

by Wendy Thomson

Gradually, over the past couple of years, I've been completing my western education. The list of things new to me is constantly growing, and I can never say life is on the boring side.

The first experience was, and continues to be, Alberta gumbo, the mud that is half glue.

Then there was land-clearing, where great numbers of acres of trees would be standing in the morning and absolutely flattened by evening.

And minor things like magpies, peat bogs, wild honeysuckle, and a double rainbow curving to end in our haypile. And government owned phones.

And one night we almost put our necks out of joint watching the northern lights start low in the sky and raise shimmering pink and green curtains till they were directly overhead. The lights then radiated from a central point, forming an umbrella effect above us.

Almost every day something new presents itself in one form or another. And our neighbours seem only too eager to initiate me into the various Alberta pastimes.

I've been pushed up, hauled over, dragged down, and guided through trees, mountains, beaver dams, horses, and rivers, with promises of things yet to come.

I guess I'm getting a reputation as somebody who's interested in ANYTHING.

Last weekend I ended up at a branding party, not sure what to expect and finding more than I'd thought.

The scene seemed to be one of mass confusion, as two dozen neighbours of all sizes and ages lent their hands to what would have otherwise been a long, tedious job.

But after watching awhile, I could see that, despite appearances, people knew what they were doing and had definite roles. There was a person on the needle, on the fire, the irons, the knife, the pail, numerous holder-downers, and some waiting on the fringes to throw themselves (literally) into the act whenever and wherever needed.



BRANDING PARTY at Buck Creek, Alberta, brings everybody out. Wendy Thomson writes about in her column this week, the Painted Box.

Church Services

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
80 Mill Street East, Founded 1842
Pastor: Rev. Das Sydney B.Sc., M. Div.
Pastor's Phone - 853-1835
Church Phone 853-0690
WEDNESDAY
6:30 p.m. - Shari Program
7:30 p.m. - Young Peoples
Sunday, July 9, 1978
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
Combined Worship Service with Churchill Community Church.
Please note change of time

BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Sunday, July 9, 1978
Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Preschool Sunday School during the morning service. Sunday School during the morning service.
You are welcome
Church of the "Back to God Hour" heard over these stations: Hamilton C.K.O.C. 7:00 a.m. dial 1150, St. Catharines, C.H.S.C. 8:30 a.m., dial 1220, Toronto, C.H.I.N.F.M. 8:00 a.m. dial 101, M.H.Z., Toronto C.K.F.H. 11:30 a.m. dial 1430.

EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE
33 Churchill Rd. N.
At Evangel Summer Spells
Sunday School Weekly at 9:45 a.m.
Phone 853-0481 for transportation
Sunday, July 9, 1978
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
7:00 p.m. - Evening Service
TUESDAY
8:00 p.m. - Bible Study

PREBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX CHURCH ACTON
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie B.A., B.D., Minister
Mr. E.A. Hansen, B.A. Organist and Choir Master

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA TRINITY CHURCH ACTON
Rev. Chas. Beaton B.A., B.D.
Dr. George Elliott M.A., Ph.D.
Director of Music

COMBINED WORKSHOP SERVICE
July Worship: 10:00 a.m. Trinity United Church, Rev. Chas. Beaton Preaching 853-2090 or 853-1444
August Worship: 10:00 a.m. Knox Presbyterian Church, Rev. A.H. McKenzie Preaching 853-2360 or 853-0974
Everyone Welcome

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR
1872 - Anglican 1978
Corner Willow St. and St. Alban's Dr.
Rev. Leonard Ewing Rector
Director of Music Mrs. Frank Oakes
Sunday, July 9, 1978 TRINITY VII
10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist
In the absence of the rector we welcome the Reverend James Maxwell who will be our celebrant and preacher.

CHURCHILL COMMUNITY CHURCH
Churchill Rd. N.
Minister The Rev. J. L. McFadden B.A., B.D. and Mrs. Eleanor McFadden, B.A.
Box 731, Guelph, Phone 821-3215
Sunday, July 9, 1978
For the month of July Combined Worship Service at Acton Baptist Church at 11:00 a.m.
The church on the hill is an inter denominational congregation ministering to the needs of the community.
Everyone Welcome

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
177 Maple Ave., Georgetown
Sunday, July 9, 1978
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Hear Dr. E.S. Kerr Interim Pastor
THURSDAY 7:30 P.M.
Dr. Kerr Speaks
"The Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Canada" We Care!

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