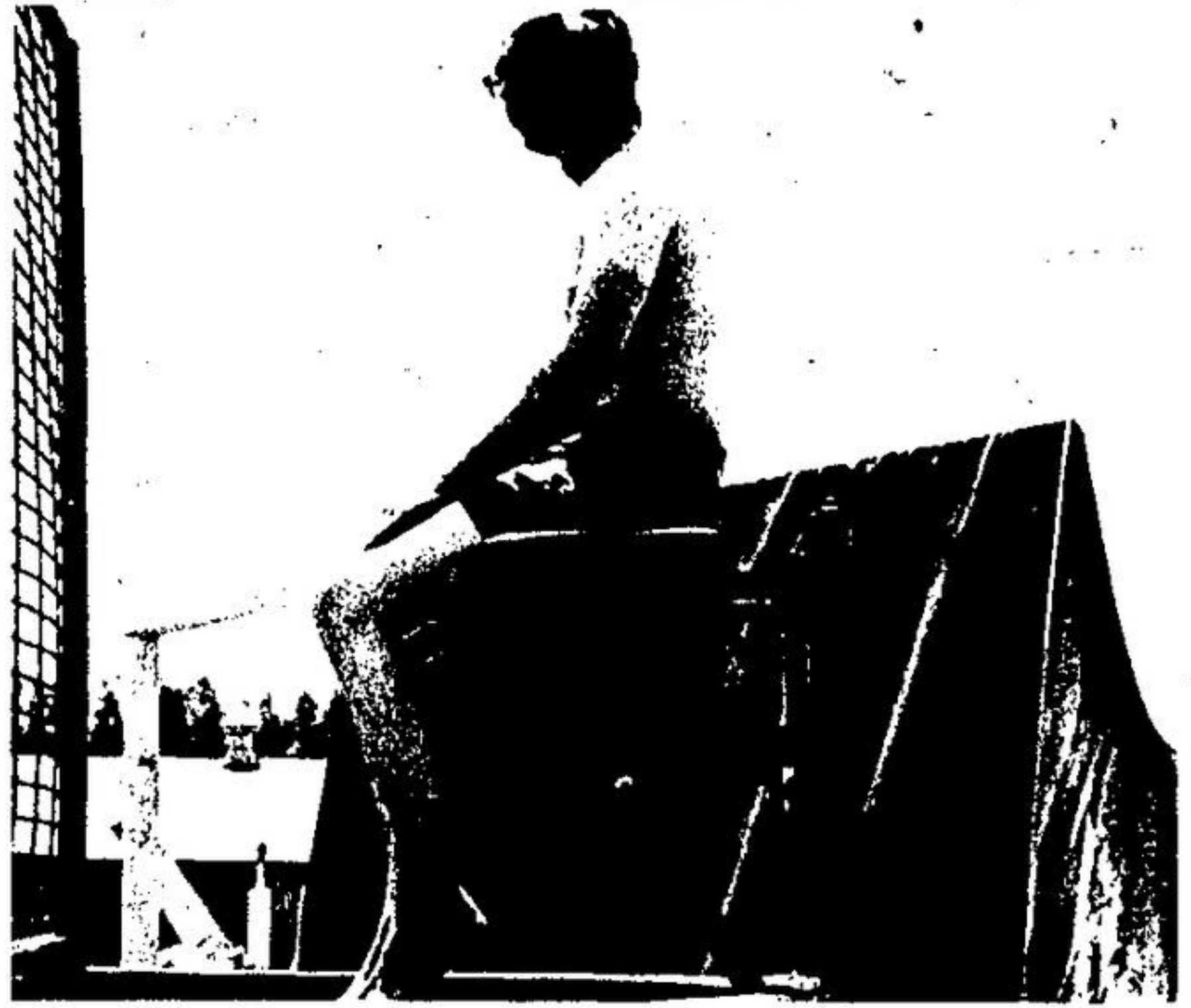




Erin Founder's Day Draws Hundreds To Gala Festivities



Residents Annoyed By Erin District Telephone Increase

Price increases always have a way of upsetting people, and residents of Erin and Hillsburgh are upset. The community telephone company serving the area informed the subscribers a week ago about a proposed rate increase for telephone service. All residents had until July 19, to voice their opinion on the increase.

According to R. M. Brown, president of the community telephone company, of Ontario, the rate increases are different for most of the subscribers, because of mileage, service and extra benefits they use.

"This is not really a rate increase, as much as it's an inquiry into increasing the rate, nothing is finalized yet," he explained.

Mr. Brown pointed out that

the proposed increased rates are filed with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications who have the final decision to allow the increase or not.

"I've never seen proposed rate increases that weren't changed by the commission yet," the president added.

However, Erin residents are still upset over increasing the rates. The general consensus is that if the telephone rates are to climb, then, the area of local calling should be increased.

TONY DUFFIELD, an engineer, of 79 Waterford Dr. in the village pointed out that he had signed a petition against the proposed increases because, "I'm not very happy about it."

"I'd certainly like to see the

village serviced by someone like Bell telephone who could take over the telephones here," he added. "We're very limited in the area we can phone without being charged long distance rates."

Mr. Duffield noted that he would prefer to pay more if the service area was expanded past Hillsburgh, possibly to Guelph. "Also, the party lines are a fair bit of a problem here," he said.

BROOKE MILLER, an employee of Miller's Pharmacy of 248 Main St. had one word to describe the proposed increase in rates, "terrible." She was very upset over the telephone company's method of presenting the increases to the public.

"I don't like the new rates one bit. The company wrote a letter

which we received about 15 days later and now have only one week in which to reply," she said.

She pointed out that the local calling area only includes Hillsburgh, Caledon, and Belfountain. Miss Miller felt that if the rates were increased, then the local calling area should include Guelph at least.

JIM BROWN, 80 Main St. is the owner of Jim Brown T.V. and he believes that the rates are justified, since the price of most things is increasing.

"I appreciate the fact that everything is going up, labor, parts and supplies are scarce, I understand why they need to increase their rates to run the business," he said.

Mr. Brown said that the

service provided by the company was very good, "without troubles." "If I had a choice, I'd rather have no rates at all, but..." he continued.

"You really need a telephone service, so if they have to increase their rates to provide it, I guess it's alright," Mr. Brown said.

DICK KRETSCHMAN of 122 Main St. an electrician by trade exclaimed that the rate increases, "suits me fine."

"Everything else is going up so I guess the telephone service is no different," he said explaining his reason.

However, Mr. Kretschman was in favor of increasing the area for local calls, especially to include Guelph. "Now that's something I can go along with," he said.

"Everytime I want to phone for anything, it seems to be long distance. The service is very good, and the phones are good, but a larger area is needed," he said.

Mr. Kretschman pointed out that the area could probably be better served by Bell telephone, but noted that, "I can't really say one bad word about the service that the community telephone company gives me."

HARRY SMITH, a teacher living at 75 Waterford Dr. in the village pointed out that since inflation is going up, it made sense that the telephone rates would be increasing. "The service is okay around here, and I see no reason why Bell telephone should come into the area," he added.

RON MOODIE, of 7 Church St., the postmaster for Erin Village, simply does not approve of the proposed rate increase, especially since "they don't have offices here for people to pay their bills."

"Each month, you have either a bank charge for writing cheques or a charge for a money order, which amounts to almost 35 cents, so you can mail your bill to the company," Mr. Moodie said.

He added that the local calling area should be increased because the only local calls are to Caledon. "But I don't really want to see Bell telephone in town," Mr. Moodie pointed out.

MELANIE BRAIDEN, of R.R. 2 Erin is an employee of the Flag Shop in the village. She

stated that the new rates are "really terrible."

"Most of my friends live outside of the local calling area, and I'm constantly phoning long distance," she added. "I'd like to see the community telephone company stay here because they do provide good service."

BRIAN ROBINSON, 79 Brant St. in Guelph operates the Treasurer Chest in Erin, a small store. Mr. Robinson noted that he did not really know about the increased rates, but understood "that the rates are higher here than in most places."

"I'd definitely like to see the local calling area expanded. Everytime I call out of Erin I know I'm calling long distance," he explained.

Mr. Robinson felt that the Bell telephone company may be able to provide better service for the people, but believed "it's impossible for them to come into town."

WELLIS PELLEY, of 5 Park, a carpenter, explained that the situation was "terrible, but then, people always complain about the rising costs of everything."

"It's justified just like everything else that's going up in price. I've got no complaints about the service, it's pretty fair, I guess," he said.

In considering whether the local calling area should be expanded, Mr. Pelley answered quickly, "certainly, but only if it's not going to cost any more."



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