

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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DON'T HOG IT

Many of the New Bernians who will read this editorial today aren't lucky enough to have a private telephone in their home. Through circumstances beyond their control, they are forced to share a party line with neighbors.

A party line at best can be an annoying thing, and at worst it is little short of a nightmare. Like a single bathroom in an overcrowded rooming house, everybody seems to want to use it at the same time.

So far no one has come up with a completely happy solution to the problem of the party line, and we doubt that anyone will. Just as long as there are telephones and people in close proximity, some folks are going to be talking while others want to talk and can't.

It's no secret that bitterness results. Certainly it's no secret to the telephone company, where complaints we feel sure are a matter of daily routine. Unfortunately, there's just so much that the company can do, where private lines are unavailable.

That's where courtesy enters the picture. Those of us who habitually "visit" on a party line are not only rude but downright dishonest. By talking at great length, we are cheating our neighbors out of their rightful belongings just as surely as if we defrauded them of cash or sneaked into pantries and walked off with their canned goods.

The Mirror feels a special affection for teen-agers, but they, more than anyone else, are guilty of monopolizing the family telephone. Because they monopolize it, we can think of nothing more irritating than having to share a party line with folks who have one or more youngsters in their household.

Never let it be said, however, that teen-agers are the only offenders. Housewives, especially during the morning hours, are often just as long winded, and occasionally much worse than the rock and roll set.

Some of us may take that attitude that we aren't depriving our neighbors of the use of their telephone, so long as no one is heard picking up the receiver and trying to dial.

That is only half a truth. What about the person who may be trying to reach your neighbor, only to find the line busy? Few friends or relatives—or even business callers—will continue to dial, time and time again, unless it's a serious emergency.

Hence, the greatest injustice done the other fellow when you hog a party line isn't the prevention of outgoing calls but the elimination of incoming calls. Some of those calls are important—at least as important as your own prolonged gossiping.

One of the insidious things about the person who is inconsiderate enough to keep a party line needlessly tied up is the fact that he or she is more indignant than anyone else when somebody else is using the telephone for a change.

Abusing the privilege of a party telephone is sorry behavior at any time, but the problem is more acute during holiday periods. You and your loved ones will naturally do more telephoning as Christmas approaches. By the same token, your neighbors will be doing the same, or trying to.

All of us think of the Yuletide as a time for giving. With this in mind, wouldn't it be nice to give your neighbor a break? Ease up on your conversations. The less you have to say, the less chance there will be of subjecting him to inconvenience.

Aside from that, the less you have to say, the less chance there will be of speaking evil about others. This absence of malicious gossip would certainly fit in with the true spirit of Christmas.

In short, don't be the guilty party on your party line.

Historical Gleanings

—By—

FRANCES B. CLAYPOOLE
and
ELIZABETH MOORE

New Bern, October 24, 1780
KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That, Whereas, the PRIVATE SHIP OF WAR called the GENERAL NASH on her late cruise against the British enemy hath taken and brot safe into PORT BEAUFORT three prizes, to-wit: THE BRIGG AGIE, THE BRIGG PRINCE OF WALES and THE BRIGG KITTY with valuable cargoes on board each of them;

NOW, KNOW YE, That, we the subscribers, late mariners and marines on board the said GENERAL NASH in her said cruise reposing special trust and confidence in Captain Daniel Deshon and William Tisdale have appointed and we do hereby constitute and appoint the said Captain Deshon and William Tisdale to be our agents and to act for us and in our room and stead, to receive all goods, wares, and merchandise and all sums of money arising from the three above prizes and their cargoes, boats, &c., which shall fall to our respective shares;

And we do further covenant and agree to allow to our said agents five percent on all such goods, wares, merchandise and sums of money arising as aforesaid as a full compensation for their trouble for receiving and paying and delivering to each of us our respective shares in the above prizes:

Charles Williams, John Fowler, Roger Galaspie, John Murphy, William Willcock, Daniel Auston, Isaac Farrow, Jacob Farrow, Harper Howard, William Tare, Sam Gelff, John Francois, Michael Egan, Louis Ince, William Capps, David Warsley, James Taylor, John Causey, Sam Gardner, Benjamin Northam, Thomas Miller, Roger Wrenn, Thomas Welch, William Castex, Simon Constock, George Meggs, George Ward, Theodore Hill, John Oliver, Ezekiel Everington, John Story, John Farham, L. Reed, John West, John Gourdon, John Blight, John Warner, Thomas Finigin, Antonio Wallace, Norman Montague, Solomon Hopkins, John Ford, Isaac Cunningham, John Morris, Thomas Clark, John King.

New Bern, October 26, 1780
We do hereby certifie that Richard Cogdell, Jun. shall receive one third of the commissions arising from the half part of the three prizes taken by the ship GENERAL NASH as we are appointed by the majority of the crew to act in their behalf.—William Tisdale, De. Deshon.

N.B. On condition of giving my assistance in receiving and disposing of the goods and moneys and giving every other assistance that is necessary.

Rd. Cogdell, Jun.
THOMAS SITGREAVES, MCA, in
A/c Current with Agents of the
SHIP GENERAL NASH

Rain or Shine,

We Have the Fastest Delivery Service in Town. You'll Like Our Selection of Meats.

Jack Hardy's
Grocery

1018 George Street
ME 7-4419

Village Verses

ARTIST

Have you an artist at your house, an artist half past two,
Whose talent leans toward picture books, has she adorned a few?
Does she insist that cats and dogs should all be green or pink,
And much prefer that grass is red, no matter what you think?
You've never seen a purple cow, but that's the kind she draws,
While turning topsy turvy Dame Nature's color laws.
If critics ever saw her works, they'd never call it art,
But you're forgiven, I feel sure, for figuring that she's smart.
There's genius in the bold, broad strokes brought forth for all to see,

And though they usually miss their mark, they're distinctive, folks agree.

You value such opinions from relatives and friends,
With each new word of flattery your boundless pride ascends.

Why be realistic, and halt this glorious static,
By recalling that most artists are starving in some attic?

The chances are she'll grow up to forget her early ways,
Deserting crayons and brushes long before her adult days.

Proficiency in any field means toil and sacrifice,
And youth is rarely willing to pay the lofty price.

But let others rave of Rembrandt, or Michelangelo,
Who painted masterpieces in the far-off long ago.
When you crave art that warms the heart, the grandest place to look

Is the gaudy pages of your youngster's coloring book.
—JCMcD.

Dr.

To the net pounds of the 1/2
of the BRIGGS AGA, PRINCE
OF WALES & KATHY 221848.12

Lbs. 221848.12

Cr.

By Mr. Stanley's costs 86021.14
Cash paid them as per orders 68745.12
Com. on the sales of 1/2 ye cargoes of ye BRIGGS AGA, PRINCE OF WALES AND KATHY 50000.00
Cash for the bal. 17081.06

Lbs. 221848.12

New Bern, February 6, 1781
Thos. Sitgreaves, MCA

Every man has a choice—if he isn't satisfied with the rules of the game he can start one of his own.

Evinrude Outboard
Motors

MFG & Sabre Glass
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Fleet Cap'n Trailers
Boat Supplies

Kimbrells

Outboard Service

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Where Quality and Experience
Save You Hours of Boating
Pleasure



FOR SPORTS WEAR OR DRESS,
NOTHING SURPASSES OUR
SANITONE DRY CLEANING
AND THE NEATNESS OF OUR
SNOW WHITE LAUNDRY.

Askew's Cleaners
and Laundry

ME 7-4312

Check-Up on Your Medicine Chest!

Throw-out old drugs, never use another person's medicine, and let us help you make a list of "needs" for emergencies, and to protect your family's health. And remember, your prescription is carefully and quickly filled.



Joe Anderson Drug Store

ME 7-4201

8 A.M.-9 P.M. on Weekdays . . . 2 P.M.-9 P.M. Sundays

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