

Harassing Phone Calls Prohibited By Law

Tom Graham, Southern Bell District Manager, says "The use of profane, indecent, or threatening language to any person over the telephone; annoying or harassing by repeated telephoning; or making certain false statements over the telephone is prohibited by law. (N. C. General Statute 14-196.) A false report concerning destructive devices (bomb call) is unlawful (N. C. General Statute 14-69.1.)"

Last year, Southern Bell received approximately 25,000 complaints from North Carolina customers who had received obscene, harassing or threatening calls (19,000 harassing, 4,000 obscene and 2,000 threatening.) The company's security officers interviewed about 1079 customers, and worked with law enforcement authorities to arrest more than 86 callers. Fifty-two convictions resulted."

"Due to advance technology and improvement of telephone equipment, obscene, harassing and threatening phone callers are having a tougher time of it this year," said Graham, "and more people are being caught."

"The company uses various types of equipment to identify the telephone lines where these illegal calls originate," he said.

The kind of tracing equipment used in a specific investigation depends on the type of equipment serving the customer's phone. In many instances, Southern Bell personnel can use company computers to track down a caller.

Customers who receive a series of such calls should contact the local telephone office,

and make a note of when the calls occur to determine whether there is a pattern.

Normally an obscene caller's line can be identified by personnel who attach tracing devices to the victim's line at the telephone company's operations center. Tracing is not done at the victim's home.

In some cases, Southern Bell uses a device which holds the connection after the caller hangs up. Then the calling telephone line is identified.

After accurate documentation, this information is furnished to the police at the request of the called party in cases where prosecution is sought.

Police here work closely with Southern Bell's security personnel, but officers do not get involved in the actual tracing of calls.

"Most of those complaints are about sexually oriented or obscene calls. Most of the calls go to women," Graham said.

"Police use certain techniques to identify the caller and would not reveal what they do," he added.

Both telephone and police officials leave the decision to prosecute an obscene or illegal caller up to the victim.

"If you receive obscene, harassing or threatening calls, follow these suggestions," said Graham:

1. Hang up at the first obscene word or if the caller doesn't say anything the second time you say "hello".

2. Give no information such as your name and address until the caller has been identified.

3. Advise your children to give no information to strangers. If



TOM GRAHAM

you're not home, they should say "Mother/Father can't come to the phone now."

4. If calls persist, call your Southern Bell Residence Service Center Office.

All annoyance calls are in violation of N. C. law. It is also a crime for anyone knowingly to permit their telephone to be used for the placement of annoying calls. This violation is punishable by two years imprisonment; a fine or both.

"Repeated identification of the same subscribers can result in disconnection of telephone service as stated in the General Subscribers Services Tariff," said Graham.

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OBITUARIES

Clyde Greene

Clyde Cleveland Greene, 47, of 1469 Troy Road, died Sunday at Cleveland Memorial Hospital. He was employed as a fixer at Dora Yarn Mill No. 2 and a U. S. Army veteran.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late Grover Cleveland and Lois Pearson Greene.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Champion Greene of the home; two sons, Michael Greene of Kings Mountain and Danny Greene of Shelby; a daughter, Angela Greene of the home; a brother, J. D. Greene of Morganton; two sisters, Mrs. Margaret Smith of Casar and Mrs. Helen Wynnberry of Shelby; and three grandchildren.

Services were held Tuesday at 3 p.m. at Community Baptist Church, where he was a member, by the Rev. Lee Byers and the Rev. Lloyd Silver. The body was placed in the church at 2:30 p.m. Burial was in Community Baptist Church cemetery.

JAMES BRIDGES

James Alexander Bridges, 71, of Route 1, Kings Mountain, died Thursday at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A Cleveland County native, he was a retired textile worker and the son of the late Landrum and Ida Burton Bridges.

He was a member of Cherokee Baptist Church, where services were conducted Saturday at 3 p.m. by the Rev. George Leigh and the Rev. Gene Leigh. Burial was in Westview Cemetery.

Survivors include his wife, Maggie Bridges of the home; two daughters, Diane England and Nadine Wyatt, both of Kings Mountain, one brother, Jake Bridges of Kings Mountain; and four grandchildren.

Corrie Weaver

Mrs. Corrie Huffstetler Weaver, 74, of 905 Church St., died Tuesday morning at Kings Mountain Hospital after several weeks' illness.

She was the widow of the late Ira Allen Weaver and the daughter of the late Wright and Ella Dover Huffstetler. She was

a member of Temple Baptist Church.

She is survived by one son, J.J. Bisenboy Weaver of Kings Mountain; two daughters, Mrs. George (Sue) Carroll and Mrs. Jack (Helen) Chaney, both of Kings Mountain; three brothers, Kermit Huffstetler of Kings Mountain, Luico Huffstetler of Shelby and Bobby Huffstetler of Salisbury; two sisters, Mrs. Margaret Horen of Kings Mountain and Mrs. Juanita Hill of Cherryville; 15 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted today at 3 p.m. at Temple Baptist Church by the Rev. Clarence McMahan, the Rev. Eugene Land, the Rev. Sam Murphy and the Rev. Frank Monroe. Burial will be in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

The family received friends Wednesday night from 7 to 9 p.m. at Masters Funeral Home.

Shulie Waters

Mrs. Shulie Wright Waters, 65, of 600 Landing St., died Tuesday morning.

She was the daughter of the late William Albert and Anne Henson Wright. She was a member of Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church.

She is survived by two sons, Larry Waters of Statesville and Leon Waters of Huntersville; two daughters, Mrs. Audrey Ginnusa of Stateville and Mrs. Mildred Ellis of Rochester, N.Y.; one brother, Jonas Wright of Kings Mountain; one sister, Mrs. Mary Waters of Kings Mountain; five half-brothers, James Wright, Paul Wright, Joe Wright, Silas Wright and Sol Wright, all of Spartanburg, S.C.; a half-sister, Mrs. Sarah Hinson of Spartanburg; and 12 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted today at 4 p.m. at Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church by the Rev. Mitchell Pruitt and the Rev. Charles Clark. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

The family received friends Wednesday night from 7 to 9 p.m. at Masters Funeral Home.

MARTY BLACK

GROVER—Graveside services were held Wednesday at 4 p.m. at Allen Memorial Baptist Church for Marty Dennis Black, infant son of Major Dennis and Vickie Hamrick Black of Route 1.

Marty was the grandson of Major John and the late Edna Black of Blacksburg, S.C., and Marvin and Marjorie Ellis Hamrick of Grover.

BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be held June 21-25 at Faith Baptist Church, 1009 Linwood Road. Classes for all age will be held from 7 until 9 p.m. There will be a Bible study for adults. The public is invited to attend.