

Callers jam phone lines Dec. 25

Michigan Bell is predicting state residents will ring up about 1.2 million long distance calls on Christmas Day, and if they do, it will be an all-time high.

The company is expecting holiday well-wishers will make 700,000 long distance calls within the state and 500,000 calls to places outside Michigan, including about 250,000 calls to countries overseas.

Because of the anticipated record number of calls on Christmas Day, traditionally the phone company's busiest holiday of the year, Michigan Bell is advising customers to schedule their holiday calls during the less busy hours.

"Early morning or afternoon calls have a better chance of going right through," said Lon Kane, Michigan Bell's local manager. "That means you'll be better off

phoning before 8 a.m. or between 1 and 1 p.m. in the time zone you're calling."

Callers can avoid the rush by phoning earlier in the week, or before 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve. "And, if you don't have the phone number you need for a long distance call, get it from information before the rush," Kane said.

FOR THE LOWEST possible rates, Kane said, "that your own calls. Direct dial rates, no matter what the hour, are lower than operator-assisted rates."

If a call does not go through on the first attempt, the phone company suggests that callers wait a few minutes before trying again. Callers are most likely to encounter busy circuits when phoning heavily populated communities in the southern and western states.

Nationwide, the Bell System is anticipating holiday callers will make a record total of almost 15 million interstate Christmas calls this year, including more than 500,000 calls to countries overseas.

To make available a maximum number of transmission paths to handle the heavy Christmas volume, the telephone industry will rearrange circuits around the country which are generally used for heavy business day calling.

Michigan Bell is rearranging 100 long distance circuits, two-thirds of them in the Detroit metro area, to handle holiday traffic in Michigan.

Christmas can be holy or a pagan festival

By the REV. STAN NICOL
Pastor of North Farmington Baptist Church

I was talking to a person the other day who attacked our celebration of Christmas on the basis that Dec. 25, historically, represents a pagan festival. He used the same logic concerning Easter.

The truth is that he is right about these dates being the dates of ancient pagan festivals. He is also right in suggesting that Jesus was not born on Dec. 25.

The point at which he and I parted company was when he said that, for the above reasons, Christians should not participate in the celebration of Christmas.

I BELIEVE THAT what makes a day pagan or holy depends on how I use it. If I fill it with pagan practices and pagan thoughts, then the day will be pagan no matter what holy event may have occurred.

On the other hand, if I fill a day, or season, with reverence and praise to Almighty God, it is a holy day or season in spite of a pagan past.

A more legitimate complaint about celebrating Christmas would be the sub-Christian practices which have even found their way into our churches. But, even here, it is more sensible to work to make our practice Christian than to surrender the day to pagans.

HISTORICITY is no guarantee of purity. St. Paul, in Romans, affirms that the heirs of God are those who were the historic children of Abraham. So today, a New Testament Church is one which seeks to live out the spirit of the New Testament, not one that can trace its history back to New Testament times.

Shaarey Zedek sets lectures

Dr. Emil Fackenheim, professor of philosophy at the University of Toronto will be the guest speaker for Congregation Shaarey Zedek's Great Weekend for Jan. 7 and 8.

At 8 p.m. on Friday evening, Jan. 7 Dr. Fackenheim will speak in the Morris Adler Hall on "Israel and the Diaspora." On Sabbath morning his topic will be "The Sabbath of Messianic Anticipation."

Born and educated in Germany, he is recognized as a distinguished philosopher and scholar. He has had an impressive academic career and is the author of five books of Jewish thought. He is a contributing editor of "Judaism Magazine."

Dr. Fackenheim is a survivor of the Nazi period and has addressed himself to the meaning of faith after the Holocaust.

Sarah W. Davidson and the William Davidson family are the sponsors of the Great Weekend, which has been planned by the synagogue's cultural commission.

The lectures are open to the public at no charge.



On the way to Northville

Senior citizens in the Gathering Place formed their own assembly line to stuff toys, candy, books, personal items and a large variety of hand-made things into 250 bags to be delivered to residents in Northville Residential Training Center. Even the bags were hand-

fashioned from colorful wallpaper samples, created for both children and adults. The items came from the seniors, who got a big assist from students in Beahan Junior High School. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)



Holiday reunion

Five generations met this week in the home of Chester Jones, 23119 Floral, Farmington. Jones hosted the holiday reunion for his granddaughter, Ann Anderson (at his left) from Ohio, (at his right) his great-grand-

daughter, Tawnya Comer and her five-month-old son Gary, from Ohio, and his daughter, Gladys Haynes from Traverse City. It was the first time the five had been together since the infant was born.

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Cross-country skiing at Oaks County

Cross-country skiing enthusiasts can now enjoy 7 1/2 miles of scenic trails at Independence Oaks County Park near Clarkston.

The park will be open from 8 a.m. until dusk, daily during the winter months. Admission is \$2 per car. Warmth and shelter will be provided at the site. Ice fishing will also be available at the park, when ice conditions are safe.

Independence Oaks County Park, which is owned and operated by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, is located two miles north of Pine Knob off of I-75 and the Sashabaw Road exit.

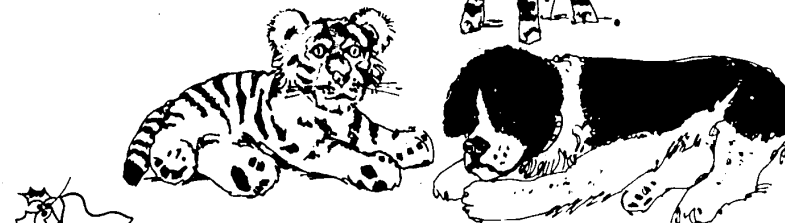
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