

m.m.memos

Our telephone is either a marvelous convenience, a darned nuisance, a great joy or a necessary evil, depending on which member of our family is viewing the instrument and on what day at what hour.

For some members of our family, it's a means of getting and giving messages as quickly as possible.

For others, it's what makes the social world go round.

I'm somewhere in between these two schools of thought. But on a recent evening, our telephone was the instrument of mighty frustration.

I have an aunt who lives about 15 miles away in a neighboring suburb. She turned 83 this summer, and for the last few months she's been alone in the two-story-plus-basement home she formerly shared with a companion.

She gets along remarkably well despite being nearly blind and having knees that don't function very well. She knows she should make other arrangements and in her family know it too. But these major moves take time, so for now she's on her own most of the time and I worry some.

On the recent evening in question, my worry-meter took a big rise. I tried to call her, and got a busy signal on the line. Tried again half an hour later and the same signal came. I kept trying for more than an hour—still busy.

My aunt belongs pretty much to the telephones-are-for-information school, so I asked the operator if she would check for me if the line was indeed busy.

I had done this many times in the past, but it seems Ma Bell has a different system now to insure privacy, the operator said. She could "break in on the line" only if there was "immediate

By MARGARET MILLER



danger to life and property." I tried to explain about my concern over an 83-year-old woman living alone. The operator could only repeat those words of the policy.

Finally, in desperation, I reported immediate danger to life and property, and a special operator was called in. He checked and told me the telephone receiver was "off the hook." The vision of a dangling receiver arose, and I started some real worrying.

The panic didn't last long. I located a neighbor, who determined all was well, and it turned out my aunt had indeed been talking. As a matter of fact, she was describing our recent wedding to friends and relatives.

I guess I was a little unnerved with the discussion of danger and the words "off the hook" instead of the "talking on the line" they used to say.

And as much as I appreciate our telephone company's concern for our privacy, I wish for a bit more flexibility on the part of the operators who deal with the public.

After all, they handle a tremendously important instrument.

Community celebrates neighborhood's rebirth

Suburban friends will participate in the celebration of a neighborhood's renaissance at Orchestra Hall at 8 p.m. this Saturday.

The program, "A Renaissance Evening in The Cass Corridor," will include music, mime, dance and choral music by area talent. It will climax with an address by Thomas N. Bonner, Wayne State University's new president.

Bonner, who assumed the presidency of Wayne last month, will speak on "From Dream to Reality."

Sharing the spotlight will be the 16 voice Cass Technical High School chorale.

Other attractions carry on the renaissance theme. A group of Detroit businesspeople called the Recordors Court Classical Renaissance Musicians will play baroque instruments including recorders, crumhorn, viola da gamba and harpsichord in the style of a medieval court.

The Renaissance Dance Company, established in 1969 by Harriet Berg, will perform 16th century dances in authentic Elizabethan costumes.

The Invisible Theater Mime Group principals, college students Vince Verpage and Jon Wizer, have created a special act which they bill as "the cultural part of the show."

Beverly Payne, TV anchorwoman,

will serve as mistress of ceremonies. Julia Coulton, actress and director of the Red Door Players, based in Cass Corridor, will direct.

Following the Orchestra Hall program, there will be an afterglow reception for Bonner in one of the neighborhood's historical homes, now the residence of a board member of the Concerned Citizens of Cass Corridor.

The evening which showcases the creative talents of area groups was conceived and developed by First Unitarian-Universalist Church and the Concerned Citizens of Cass Corridor, a 400 member group of residents, property owners, businesspeople and institutions in the mile long strip bounded by Fisher Freeway on the south, Ford Expressway on the north, the Lodge on the west and Woodward on the east.

Proceeds will help further neighborhood betterment programs which, to date, have helped reduce crime through adequate lighting, alley access, landscaping, trees and other property improvements.

Tax deductible tickets are \$5 for the Orchestra Hall program. A limited number of tickets for program an afterglow are available at \$20 each by calling First Unitarian-Universalist Church, 833-9107. Tickets for the program will be available at the door.

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