

Calling Vietnam? Plan Ahead

Area residents were advised today by Michigan Bell Telephone Company to plan ahead if they wish to talk during the coming holiday season to relatives or friends stationed in Vietnam.

"It is generally easier for a serviceman to call home than for his family to try reaching him in Vietnam," said John Peard, Plymouth manager for the company.

"And to avoid disappointments, servicemen are encouraged to notify their families in advance if they expect to telephone home, particularly during the holidays."

MORE THAN 42,000 calls were completed between the United States and Vietnam last year. Most of the calls were made from Vietnam rather than the U.S. because of the difficulty in locating servicemen when calls come in from the states, Peard said.

"The heavy concentration of so many troops in a small country at war creates some real communications problems," he added. "Service is still not what we would like it to be but it has been improved substantially in recent years."

Travel restrictions and curfews in Saigon complicate the task of locating servicemen to take telephone calls. For this reason, when a call is made to Saigon it is important for the

caller to have the serviceman's unit, his APO number and, if possible, a telephone number where he can be reached.

UNTIL 1967, SERVICEMEN could call home only once from Saigon. Calls now can be placed from hospitals and bases in Tonkin, Binh, Binh, Cam Ranh Bay, Nha Trang, Qui Nhon and Da Nang. U.S. callers, however, can reach only telephones in Saigon and the immediate vicinity.

The speed of handling a call to Vietnam depends on the volume of calls pending at the time and the availability of the servicemen in Vietnam. Calls between the U.S. and Vietnam average about 350 a day, but this figure is expected to increase during the holiday season.

Calls originating in Vietnam are handled "first come, first served" at various telephone centers operated for servicemen. But when a serviceman does get to a telephone, it is usually just a few minutes before his call is completed to the states. Saigon is 13 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time.

IN 1965, communications facilities in Vietnam permitted the completion of only 30 calls a day between the two countries. Two commercial high frequency radio circuits were operated four hours a day.

There are now 10 radio circuits available for Vietnam service, and they generally are open 12 to 15 hours a day. The circuits go by ocean cable or satellite to Hong Kong and the rest of the way by high frequency radio.

The calling hours are not continuous because radio circuits between Saigon and Hong Kong are subject to interference several hours a day.

The first three minutes of a station-to-station call to Vietnam is 49¢. A person-to-person call costs \$12 for the first three minutes. Additional minute rates for both station and person calls is 33¢.

Salt For Storage

Before rolling up canvas awnings or canvas chair backs for storing, sprinkle them freely with salt and then roll them in the usual way. Store in any cool dry place. The salt will absorb the moisture and prevent mildew.

Pursell Asks Audit of Sheriff

Carl Pursell, Wayne County supervisor for Livonia, Plymouth, Northville and Canton has urged that the board of supervisors hire an outside audit firm to come to grips with the facts concerning the records in the sheriff's department. The records indicate the county owes from \$80,000 to a quarter of a million dollars to their employees in overtime and compensatory time, said Pursell. (R-56th District).

Speaking before the Law Enforcement Committee, he said, "This poor businesslike procedure has existed over the last few years and its time to bring in an outside firm as neither the auditors nor the sheriff's department can keep the records straight."

"THE AUDITORS were directed by our committee last Nov. 26 (after we had received a report from an analyst that this accrued overtime dates back as far as 1937) to submit to us at this meeting an item-by-item audit of each employee."

Realty Firm Loans Its Tour Bus

Harrison-Moore Realty of Livonia has announced availability of its tour bus to organized civic groups at no cost.

Although buses have been used by other real estate offices in other areas, Harrison-Moore is the first realtor in this area to purchase one for listings inspections, its primary purpose.

Already taking advantage of the bus loan service are the Livonia Family Y, Stevenson High swim team and St. Suzanne parish club pack.

A telephone call to Harrison-Moore will reserve the bus for your group, said a spokesman.

Easy To Spray

Refinishing a piece of furniture? The National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association suggests that you remove as much hardware as possible from the piece before you begin. If you mount drawer pulls, knobs and other decorative pieces on cardboard, you can quickly and easily spray paint or enamel them.

who has overtime due. "We realized," said Pursell, "that the auditors could not complete the audit by Dec. 12 but had directed them to submit a list of all employees so that we could establish the legal and other problems related to paying this off."

"This they did not do," said Pursell. "And furthermore they will not resolve this problem in the next year."

"If I were an employee waiting patiently for the last few years for overtime pay and saw the buck passing between the sheriff's department, the auditors, and the board of supervisors, I would proceed with court action," said Pursell.

PURSELL ALSO stated that "this report submitted to us was laid before our committee the day after the election in the City of Detroit."

"It seems strange, the report began in April was printed on Aug. 26 and then was released publicly to our committee just one day after the election."

"I wonder if the taxpayers are getting honest answers and the employees a fair bargain," Pursell referred to the fact that Sheriff Roman Gribbs was running for mayor of Detroit at the time the report was written.

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