

A Parade of Phone Calls

By Hap Hansen

The parade of telemarketing phone calls is getting out of hand. I average at least two such phone calls each evening, usually just after I have started to eat dinner. I am also getting more and more calls during the daytime. I know those folks making the calls need to make a living, but it is not wise to give out one's credit card number to a strange voice on the phone. Many times, the voice on the phone is a recording, which makes it even more disgusting. I have finally learned that if I do not recognize the name or number on the phone, I simply do not answer. The parade of callers almost never leave their name and there is almost never a message.

On one occasion, some time ago, the call was local, so I decided I must know who was calling. When I answered, the caller, giving no name asked, "We are only talking to retirees who are highly intelligent. Are you retired?" I answered, "Yes." He said, "Sir, are you intelligent?" And I replied, "Yes, I am," and then hung up. He didn't call back either!

Once, when we lived in Casper, Wyoming, our phone number was similar to the police department's. The phone rang and a nearly hysterical lady said, "Someone is looking at me through the window!" I got her address and called the police department, who dispatched a squad car immediately.

The police Sergeant called me later and said that a deer had wandered onto her patio and was watching television with her through the window!

Some time ago my phone rang and a lady asked for Pearl. I replied that no one by that name lived here. Angrily, she replied, "WHO IS THIS?" I said, "Ma'am, who is calling?" Now the lady got really furious. "WHO IS THIS? I DEMAND TO KNOW WHO THIS IS." Now I'm angry. I asked her what number she was calling. At the top of her voice, she said, "WHY YOU DUMMY, I CALLED *THIS* NUMBER. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH PEARL?" In frustration, I just hung up, knowing she probably couldn't call back because she had the wrong number.

I am getting more and more of these kinds of call parades. Please, someone call me who knows me and my number. Phone a friend today. And if you know where Pearl is, tell her to call her friend.