

RULES FOR GOOD SERVICE

1. Use the Directory. Never try to remember a telephone number. It's all right if you do remember it; but to try to remember is to begin to guess. If you have the least doubt about it, look it up and thus save time and trouble.

(As a matter of fact, you know, you have no more right to disturb a subscriber by guessing that his number is the one you want than you have to disturb him in any other entirely needless way.)

2. Spell Out all Numbers, by giving each figure separately, as "Main, two, five, six, one," for "Main 2561"; "Main, two, oh, oh, four," for "Main 2004."

(The following of this rule is essential to good service. A majority of errors in calls is directly traceable to confusion between "eighteen" and "thirteen," "twenty-three" and "thirty-three," etc., which sound so much alike over the telephone; also to the fact that subscribers do not correct the Operator if she repeats the wrong number.)

3. Speak Distinctly, especially when giving the number to the operator, and when talking over a toll line. Talk into the mouth-piece.

4. Answer Your Bell Promptly. A ring means a friend calling you—don't make him wait, or perhaps miss you entirely.

5. Until Your Bell Stops Ringing do not remove the telephone from the hook.

6. Be Brief but Courteous to the Operators. We require them to be so to you. They have no time to converse with you; they do not know the subscribers' names; they deal entirely with numbers.

Courtesy, like virtue, is its own reward, but pays extra dividends in connection with telephone service. Try it.

P.S.—By the way, when you know that a false call is due entirely to your careless use of the wrong number why not acknowledge it to the "innocent bystander" who answers the call? Why leave the Operator to shoulder all the blame?

7. Call for "Information" when you can't find the telephone number you want, or to get answers to any questions regarding subscribers' names, numbers or addresses. Your regular Operator cannot answer such questions.

8. Report all Complaints to "Complaint Department."

To be most effective they should be not only prompt but should describe accurately the trouble encountered. Many forms of trouble look alike at first, and most of them we will not know about till you tell us. If you can't get Exchange at all, call up from a neighbor's or send us a postal card.

9. Advertise That You Have a Telephone, but don't put its number on your letter heads, bill heads, cards and wagons. Why? Because this only increases the amount of trying to remember such numbers by the public—also the continued use of obsolete numbers—which in turn only hurts the service and doesn't help your business at all. Think this over.

10. Be Reasonable. You always are—yes, of course—but what we mean is this. It is unfortunate—for us—that a telephone subscriber sees nothing, when getting service, but himself and one telephone instrument. He doesn't see the other hundreds or thousands of subscribers and he gets no idea of the work we are really doing and the violent and uncertain changes in the number of calls given us at various hours of the day.

We have Rushes of Business just as the street cars, the stores and the Post Offices do. Yet a man who will patiently wait in line two or three minutes to be allowed to deposit his money in someone's Bank will become "disgusted with such service" if he has to wait in line fifteen seconds to get an Operator to connect him with his residence that he may inform them he "will be a little late to dinner."

It's a fact. And we think the reason is indicated above. It's human nature, perhaps; but human nature can be improved if one tries, and all we ask is that you try. Ask yourself these questions:

"Does any other company or store in town wait on me so uniformly promptly, or cause me so little direct loss of time, as does the Telephone Company?"

"Can I get the services of a street car, a clerk, a sales girl, a cashier, or of any one else nearly as quickly, whenever I want them, as I can those of a Telephone Operator?"

So We Repeat—be reasonable in your complaints, and patient withal, if the Operator is occasionally too busy, waiting on our other customers, to give you instant attention. Meanwhile we will undertake to make your average service prompt and the longer delays reasonably few and far between. When you are not satisfied with it, don't discuss the matter with the Operator, but let our Manager know about it.

11. Observe these Rules if you believe they are good ones. If not, call on our Manager, see our plant in operation, and give him an opportunity to convince you. For we must all work together if we are to have

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