



Amole's corner

By Gene Amole

Don't call me

Dial 9. What hath God wrought?" wondered Samuel F. B. Morse as he tapped out his first telegraph message. I have given it some thought and have concluded God hath wrought more than I can handfeth.

My problem is not with the telegraph, but with the modern telephone. I liked it better when I could pick up the phone and the operator would say, "Number, please."

I would say, "Let me talk to Keystone 7924." She would ring the phone, and my call would go through. Simple.

BUT NOT ANYMORE. Here at the Rocky, we have something called the DIMENSION PBX, and I haven't figured out how to call Trish to see if she wants me to pick up a loaf of bread on my way home.

To complicate matters, a note on my desk the other day said: "We no longer have the call forwarding all calls' ability on our phone system. Instead, this feature has been changed to call forward busy don't answer."

To activate this new feature you will hit *3, listen for the dial tone and dial the four-digit extension, hear the confirmation beeps and hang up."

Hang up? I'm sorry I picked up the darn thing in the first place. I don't want any calls forwarded. I have never had any good news on the telephone, and I certainly don't want bad news beeped forward. Just let it die right there on the line.

As if this weren't enough, I was out of town for a few days, and while I was gone, the dunderheads who own the radio station where I moonlight, had Ma Bell install the HORIZON CS system.

Since I returned, I have been trying to assign my FLEX DSS, OUT button, whatever that is. I don't FLEX as well as I did as a younger man. My FLEX went shortly after I became short of breath and my knees buckled.

I did stumble upon something interesting. When I try to hold a call, I DEPRESS SWITCHHOOK, and my phone beeps out the first four notes of Beethoven's 5th Symphony. It won't do Yankee Doodle, though.

It must be my age. I have a 13-year-old daughter who is a virtuosa on the telephone. I have known her to set up conference calls and call collect from the shopping center. Her greatest achievement was to get Mountain Bell to use a 20-cent stamp to refund a dime she claimed she was overcharged.

MA BELL LOST ME when the phone company went all-digit dialing. I loved the old exchanges. Remember Spruce? Gallop? Tabor? Telephone numbers had personalities in those days. Not anymore. You know the lady who comes on the line to tell you the number you have dialed is no longer a working number? She is not a real lady. She is a computer lady. You can tell by the clipped way she says her numbers.

I don't know if Mountain Bell deserves the \$127.4 million rate hike it has requested from the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. That's a bundle. The company cited inflationary pressures as the reason for the increase.

But from where I sit, Ma Bell's services have been inflated beyond my ability to use them. Until I come to terms with the new equipment, please don't call me.

I'll call you 7-590

Judge ends city's role in Clayton College trust

By JOSEPH SELDNER
News Staff

Denver Probate Judge James R. Wade on Wednesday approved an agreement that will end Denver's 73-year stewardship of Clayton College, a home for troubled youngsters.

Wade called the termination of the city's role as trustee "long overdue."

The judge said he intends to appoint former University of Denver Chancellor Chester M. Alter, 76, as interim trustee of the George W. Clayton trust, which supports the home. Alter will serve until the judge names a trust commission.

The city's agreement to end its supervision of the trust ends legal action against Denver by Attorney General J.D. MacFarlane, who had asked Wade to remove the city as trustee on grounds of mismanagement of the trust's assets.

Under the terms of the settlement, the three city officials who make up the Clayton trust commission — Mayor William H. McNichols Jr., City Council President William R. Roberts and Manager of Revenue Carl H. Gustafson — will resign their positions.

Further, the council must repeal all city ordinances concerning the trust, dating back to 1909, and a complete accounting of the trust's assets must be given to the probate court.

Wade specifically directed that the accounting be "mathematically correct" — an apparent reference to the fact that past trust accountings have contained inaccuracies.

As a result of Wednesday's court proceedings, the city is released from its responsibility for \$130,000 in back rent owed to the Clayton trust by Bel Wallen, the

concessionaire at the trust-owned Park Hill Golf Course.

The money still will have to be paid, explained MacFarlane, but the agreement gives the new trustee the option of "doing whatever he thinks is necessary" to get the money. The new trustee can ask for a lump-sum payment, ask for installment payments, or declare Wallen in default and find a new concessionaire if that becomes necessary, MacFarlane said Wednesday.

"We think it's an excellent bet" the money will be paid, he said. At least \$65,000 of the debt is covered by a performance bond the city required Wallen to provide.

The golf course is owned by the trust, which leases it to the city. The city, in turn had contracted for Wallen to operate the course. Assistant City Attorney Gerald H. Melgrin said \$8,000 of Wallen's total

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Sharing the ride

A couple of young bikers shared the ride Wednesday in Golden. Providing the power is Sarah Cook, 11, while Mary Mitchell, 10, hangs on. The day's high temperature of 70 may fall to 65 on Thursday.

Gorsuch acted on scant data, aide admits

By AL GORDON
News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency's air pollution enforcement chief admitted Wednesday that Administrator Anne M. Gorsuch had only scanty information on the financial plight of a New Mexico refinery she exempted from federal lead regulations.

Gorsuch had promised not to prosecute the Thriftway Co. of Farmington, for violating lead standards on the grounds that the firm would have been driven out of business if it complied with the regulations.

Testifying before the House environment, energy and natural resources subcommittee, Richard Wilson, acting director of EPA's office of air, noise and radiation enforcement, called it "unfortunate" that Gorsuch made such promises in a private meeting Dec. 11 with representatives of Thriftway.

"I would have preferred that the more normal process had been gone through," he said, "and the administrator had not set the precedent of herself being involved." But he said that didn't make her actions illegal or improper.

The failure to deal with the refinery's problem "through the normal channels," said Wilson, "created the appearance of some sort of favoritism," even though, he insisted, there wasn't any.

Wilson said he subsequently took it upon himself to investigate Thriftway's financial plight and that study isn't yet complete. He said Gorsuch never asked for detailed financial data on the company.

Byron Nelson, Gorsuch's press spokesman, said she continues to believe she was "vindicated" by the opinion of a law firm retained by the EPA's inspector general. The firm concluded that a court probably would find Gorsuch's promise not to prosecute within her administrative discretion.

Wilson said Gorsuch never "explicitly" based her promise not to prosecute Thriftway on the firm's claim of economic hardship. He insisted that such a condition was implicit in the meeting Gorsuch had with company officials.

But that didn't quite square with an account of the meeting by subcommittee Chairman Toby Moffett, D-Conn.

Moffett said Gorsuch told an aide to Sen. Harrison Schmitt R-N.M., after the meeting that she couldn't advise the firm to break the law but she "hoped they got the message." Moffett said he based his charge on evidence gathered by the EPA's inspector general.

Even if legal, Moffett charged, Gorsuch's actions were a signal to industry that they can get away with flouting environmental laws. He released a letter to President Reagan calling for disciplinary action against the former Colorado state representative.

He also pointed to sworn statements that Gorsuch has promised to kill regulations limiting the lead content of gasoline.

Moffett vigorously opposed any weakening of the lead standard and devoted considerable hearing time to testimony on lead poisoning from doctors and environmentalists. Moffett's witnesses said lead from automobile exhausts comprise 90 percent of lead pollution in the atmosphere and contribute to lead poisoning in children.

City's Clayton role ends

(Continued from page 4)

\$138,000 rent arrearage already has been paid.

The Rocky Mountain News reported in a series of articles last summer that the city officials who operate the trust had failed to manage the assets for the benefit of the youngsters the Clayton trust is intended to help.

Among other things, the News reported that the city had turned the trust's most valuable piece of real estate into the low-yield golf course, leased space on the orphanage campus to social service agencies at low rents and sold trust assets for less than they were worth.

Poor returns on the trust's assets had forced its managers to raid the trust capital to meet operating expenses for Clayton College, apparently in violation of the turn-of-the-century will creating the trust.

City officials denied any impropriety.

MacFarlane launched an investigation of the trust after the News articles, and his legal action against the city in Probate Court followed that investigation.

Pioneer Denver millionaire George Washington Clayton left his fortune to build and support

the refuge for poor orphaned boys. In his will, he named the city trustee.

Today, Clayton College for Boys at Colorado and Martin Luther King boulevards houses about 30 youngsters, few of them actual orphans. Although children once attended school on the campus as Clayton intended, they attend public schools today.

The City Council still must give final approval to the settlement on Monday, but that seems certain since the council voted 9-4 during its last meeting to remove the city from its Clayton trusteeship role.

"The time, effort and money that would be needed to carry out a proper defense in this case is great, and the people who might suffer would be the children," said Himegrin, explaining why the city agreed to withdraw from management of the trust.

Wade said the city "has worn two hats" as both lessor and lessee of the golf course. However, he said the city has done its part to effectively supervise the non-real estate assets of the trust — mostly securities managed by First National Bank of Denver.

Choice for Clayton trustee lauded

The proposed appointment of Chester M. Alter as trustee of the George W. Clayton Trust drew praise Wednesday from Colorado Attorney General J.D. MacFarlane.

"I think he's an excellent choice," said MacFarlane, who had asked Denver Probate Judge James Wade to remove the city of Denver as trustee.

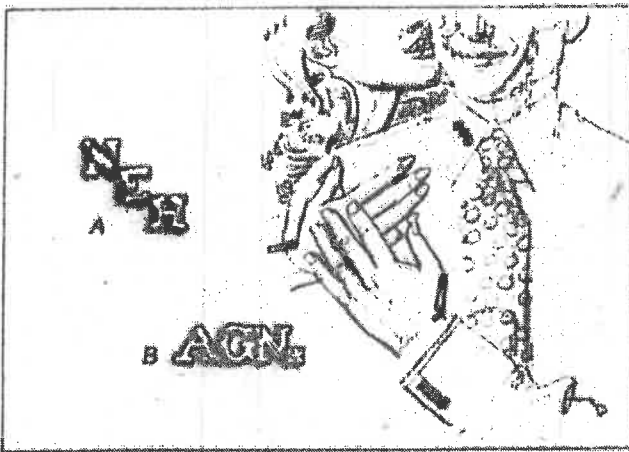
Alter, 76, was chancellor of Denver University for 14 years until his retirement in 1967. At DU, he was extensively involved in the management of the university's real estate holdings, he told Wade during a hearing Wednesday.

After his retirement, he formed a consulting

firm specializing in helping businesses and institutions "in meeting long-range management and public responsibilities," according to a 1970 announcement of the firm's formation. He said Wednesday he has been a consultant for more than 50 colleges in the United States, Korea, Malaysia and Brazil.

Alter served on a commission which recommended federal judges for Colorado. He has been active with the American Judicature Society, a professional group dedicated to the improvement of criminal justice. A Colorado Bar Association award, named for him, is given periodically to non-lawyers who contribute to public understanding of the judicial system.

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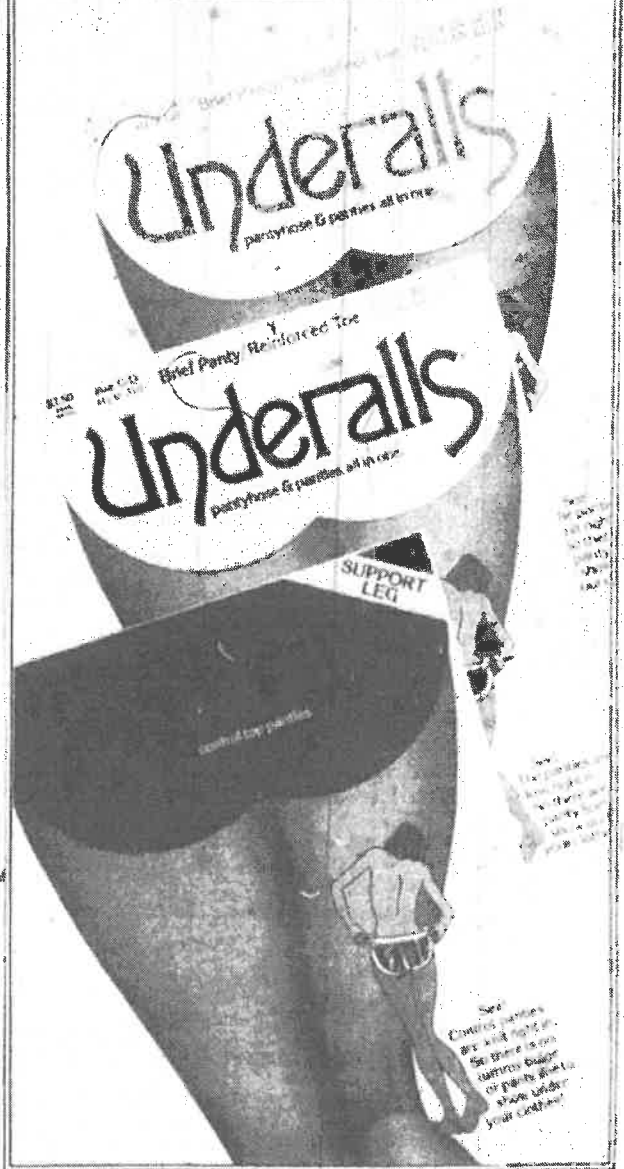
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