Phone interference? 12/12/95

One day last week, beginning just after either 2 or 3 in the afternoon, the cordless speakerphone on which I have used the speakerphone only started to ring and there was no answer when I picked it up, only extraordinarily loud noises much like amplified scratching noises. The ringing was eratic and not once like the ordinary ring. Sometimes it was quite long, uninterrupted for a long period of time. Sometime it was a series of brief rings. This continued for quite some time. From time to time the identical speakerohone in my office rang with the one in the livingroom, sometimes they rang independently and usually the rings were not identical. While they rang together they also rang independently. When I hung up there were sometimes brief ~~priods~~ periods of silence, no ringing, then it began all over again. Once when there was silence I rang and got the operator. She checked the line and told me the line was clear. She also connected me with repairs, where the operator also hear the strange ringing and noises. Repair scheduled a repairman to be here the next morning. From my limited knowledge of phones and of radio, which is what the cordless part is, the part I have never used on either of these phones, I found no explanation.

We have but a single line. We have six phones on it. There is an additional speakerphone in Lil's office but she never uses the speakerphone part. She uses only the handset. That phone never rang although it produced the same noises. We have three other standard phones not one of which rang as the two in my office and where I sit in the livingroom did. It happens they are our only phones I ever use. They are both on the same channel. Our original phone, a standard Bell, which is also located near where I sit in the livingroom, did not ring once. Ordinarily it rings a fraction of a second before the other two.

Then, after this continued for some time, until after dark, which while there may be no connection, was after I spoke to the operator and to repair service, all of this stopped abruptly. Our phones were again normal and from then until now this abnormality did not return.

None of that ringing was picked uo by our Caller ID.

This was probably last Thuesday because when early the next morning a man who identified himself as the repairman phoned. Had that been Wednesday or Friday I would not have been home at that time,

The repairman told me he was on the pole outside our house and had been there for some time. He told me that he had found the troubles, loose wires or a lose piece of the cable. He said he had bypassed that part of the cable with our line and we should have no more trouble. Actually the trouble ended before he got here. We called the next day to ask how out service had been.

It happenes that several months earlier there had been work on that utility pole. A new house was built nearby and its phone service comes from that pole. Several utility poles were placed on that property for it to get both electricity and phone service from the pole on our property and later cable TV was provided to it from our pole where the cable is although we do not have cable.

As of the time of this disturbance the weather was normal. However, from time to time after that new pole work and prior to the disturbances there had been strong windstorms, with enough wind to break many branches off and down a few trees not close to the house. When there had been all that wind to disturb those alleged loose wires or that alleged hanging piece of the phone cable our phone service was completely normal. If this trouble had been caused by the disturbance to whatever it was, an end of cable hunging or rattling loose wires around I would have expected the winds to cause it but they did not. I would also not expect what happened to have happened during a period of cslm. From what the repairman told me this disturbance should not have happened when it did happen and should have happened when it did not happen.

Yet I know of no reason for there to be any special interest in what is on our phone now as compared with the past. And, with our phone there is no need to tap at the pole. We are in an automated exchange where normally no people are present. It can be and I believe in the past was tapped at the empty exchange building.

I note this because the explanation given me by the repairman, while it may be the truth, makes no sense to me. Pieces of cable are not left hanging loosely, the ringing was abnormsl and it was particularly odd to me that only these two phones rang and they did not ring together.

We had been away for several hours that day before this happened. It began shortly after we were home. What also seems to be inconsistent with the explanation I was given is that all of this ended spontaneously, the night before the repairman came, and if from the cause he gave me should have been a plague for several months during which there was no phone disturbance of any kind, those months of heavy windstorms to agitate the lose wires or cable piece. Also, that the two phones only of the six on the single line rang and rang independently of each other seems to be quite abnormal. It is because of these seeming abnormalities that I make this note.