

From: *Abilene City Directory 1904 – 05*

Instructions for Use of Rural Line Telephones

1. Always call central office and ask for the number wanted even if party is on your own line.
2. To call central office give the bell crank one sharp turn and then place the telephone to your ear. The operator will answer “What Number?” When the operator repeats the number, if party wanted is on the same line as yourself, hang up your telephone until operator rings party wanted.
3. Always listen on the line before ringing. If line is in use hang up your receiver and wait five minutes. Then try again.
4. Never, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, take down your receiver when bell rings some other signal than your own. Subscribers are not allowed to listen on the line when other parties are talking. The management reserves the right to cancel any contact at any time for violation of this rule.
5. Do not hold the line more than five minutes at any one time. Remember other folks have equal rights as yourself.
6. Death messages and calls for doctors take precedence over all other business.
7. Singing or playing of musical instruments over lines will not be permitted.
8. Operators are required to be courteous in all their dealings with subscribers, but are not allowed to hold conversations with them beyond what is necessary in answering calls.