

CrossTel Newsletter

301 W. Main Street Crossville, IL 62827 618-966-2196

Winter 2001

Board Approves New Telephone Building



The Board of Directors of the Crossville Telephone Company has approved the construction of a new 2000 square foot office building to be located across the street from the company's present

location at 301 W. Main Street in Crossville, Illinois. Tom Rawlinson, Vice President of Operations and Building Project Manager, has contracted with the ADG architectural firm of Mt. Carmel, Illinois to supervise the planning and construction of the facility.



Tom Rawlinson

Rawlinson negotiated the purchase of the land for the building's site which is bounded by Main, Fourth, Hamill, and Graves streets. Structures on the acquired property will be demolished to make room for construction. Upon completion of the new building, the present telephone office will be torn down to make room for an Old National Bank parking lot. The bank's parking lot, which is now across the street from the bank, will become a parking lot for the telephone company.

Established in 1917, the telephone company has grown from providing "Plain Old Telephone Service" (POTS) to offering long distance, special circuits, Internet connectivity, and cellular service as an agent/owner of First Cellular. With growth comes outgrowth,

and the present building, which is over seventy years old, is no longer functional.

According to Crossville resident Maxine Randall, the Crossville Post Office operated from the original building site at 301 W. Main. "The Post Office burned in 1927, and I remember that because I was having my tonsils removed the next day. I wanted to go see the fire, but they [her parents] wouldn't let me. So, I had to watch the fire from my kitchen window." After the fire, the post office



Maxine Randall

was rebuilt on the same site. The telephone company office was located on second street in what is now the home of Gene and Marilyn Doughty. In the early 1950's, the phone company moved into the old Post Office building and continues to operate office functions from there today.

The new building will consist of two offices, a conference room, a break room, a bathroom, a storage vault, a lobby, and a community display area for customers to experiment with new telecommunications products and services. The Plant and Maintenance operations will continue to be located in the building at the corner of Main and Hamill streets, and the Central Office switch will remain at its current location behind the existing office building.

Weather permitting, Rawlinson estimates that the building will be completed later this year.

Will Wireless Replace Wireline Phones?

FIRST Cellular
of southern illinois

First Cellular Offers A Choice.

Most telephone companies, including Crossville Communications, charge a recurring monthly fee and long-distance charges for wireline service. Some companies even charge an additional per-call or per-minute fee for local calls. (Crossville Communications does not do this.) First Cellular of Southern Illinois has launched the area's only plan that provides customers with unlimited calling anywhere in the company's southern Illinois home coverage area for one monthly rate. If you place a high volume of local or long distance calls, First Cellular's plan may be less expensive than your wireline phone, and it's mobile.




The new service, called *The Southern Illinois Unlimited*, enables customers to use their wireless phone as much as they want for \$34.99 a month, including free long-distance service for all Southern Illinois calls. The plan is unlike any wireless service offered today, where most companies provide a limit on the number of minutes that can be used for free each

month. After those minutes are used up, users incur costly additional per-minute charges. With *The Southern Illinois Unlimited*, a wireless user has no limit on the number of calls made or the number of minutes used. The new service also gives users the added benefit of mobility.

"This is a plan designed especially for the people of Southern Illinois," said Terry Addington, President and CEO of First Cellular. "As the area's only locally-owned and operated company, it's important that we offer services we know are important to the people in this area and developed with them in mind. Wireless service has continued to progress and improve in quality and affordability every year," he added. "With the affordability of *The Southern Illinois Unlimited* plan, your wireless phone is no longer just a phone to be used away from home. We believe your wireless phone can be your primary phone for use at home and on the road."

The concept of a wireless phone as the "home" phone was not realistic a few short years ago. However, improvements in wireless technology and shrinking prices have changed that. In addition to offering mobility and competitive pricing, wireless service offers all the advantages of other landline services such as Caller ID, Call Waiting, Voice Mail and more. Sleek, attractive phones have made wireless a popular choice among all ages.

First Cellular is investing \$30 million to enhance its digital network which is paving the way for this revolutionary "unlimited" service.



The investment means First Cellular will be able to provide customers nearly seamless digital coverage throughout Southern Illinois upon completion. It also means more customers can take advantage of *The Southern Illinois Unlimited* plan. The enhanced network will also provide clearer calls, longer lasting batteries and more secure communications, all improvements that make wireless a reliable alternative to landline service.

"People like choices," said Addington. "By and large, customers want choices for their landline service. We think we've unleashed a service that gives them a choice. We've come a long way from the day when the wireless phone was viewed as a safety phone," he said.

First Cellular of Southern Illinois is a locally owned and operated wireless communications firm whose cellular network includes 48 cell sites. First Cellular's paging network includes 27 paging transmitters throughout its twenty-four southern Illinois county coverage area. Due to explosive growth since 1993, First Cellular now employs over 160 people and has more than 30 million dollars in capital infrastructure in addition to the \$30 million investment in the digital network.

First Cellular is a company that includes Crossville Telephone Company d.b.a. Crossville Communications, Egyptian Telephone Cooperative, Hamilton County Telephone Cooperative, Odin Telephone Exchange Inc., Shawnee Telephone Company, Harrisonville Telephone Company and Wabash Telephone Cooperative Inc. Each telephone company is a local, well-established business in its respective community. Since most cellular and paging companies do not enjoy the advantages of local ownership, First Cellular is unique, allowing southern Illinois dollars to stay in southern Illinois. First Cellular's mission focuses on doing business with its neighbors and in taking special pride in providing the best quality of service and technology to its customers.

For more information on First Cellular's new plan, contact Pat Rawlinson at Crossville Communications at (618) 966-2196 or visit Crossville Communications' web site at www.crosstelco.com and link to First Cellular's site.

Handling Unwanted Calls

There are ways to handle unwanted calls right from your phone. Here's how:

Get Caller ID

This service lets you see who's calling before you answer if the caller's name and number are in the network's database. [966-2343] Caller ID is \$6.00 a month. (Look for a special offer on Caller ID in this newsletter.)

Get Anonymous Call Rejection

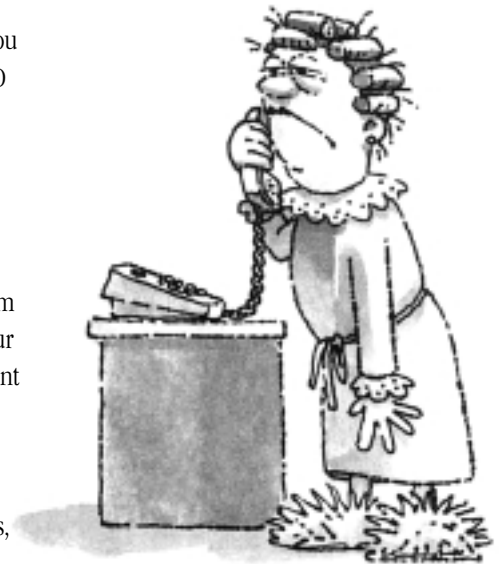
This service refuses Crossville calls from those who have blocked their numbers. When you turn this service on, Crossville callers who have blocked their number from your Caller ID display will hear a pre-recorded announcement that you do not accept anonymous calls and that they should remove their Blocking and call back. Anonymous Call Rejection is \$1.50 a month.

Get Selective Call Rejection

This service won't let unwanted calls from Crossville numbers disturb you. You can program your phone to reject calls from Crossville numbers you place in the rejection list. When your service is turned on, any Crossville caller in this list will hear a pre-recorded announcement that you're not accepting calls at this time. Selective Call Rejection is \$1.50 a month.

If you have two or more calling features from Crossville Communications, each service is only \$1.00 a month, excluding Caller ID. For more information or to order these services, call Crossville Communications at 966-2196, or visit our web site at crosstelco.com, click on telephone services and then click on calling features.

Missing some beauty sleep because of unwanted calls? We can help.



We're on the Web at www.crosstelco.com

Visit Crossville Communications on the Internet at www.crosstelco.com and find information on telephone services, calling features, long distance, Internet service, cellular service and more! [966-3720] You can email us with an order for a calling feature, to make comments, or to ask questions. It's a great way to keep in touch after daily business hours or anytime.

Our web site is still under development, so if you have any suggestions, just email us at croslink@shawneelink.net. We're linking your world on the World Wide Web!

www.crosstelco.com

How Much are you Paying for Internet Service?

You shouldn't have to pay more than \$15 a month for unlimited Internet service. Shawneelink has a special price of \$15 a month for Crosslink Long Distance customers. Call us at 966-2196 for details on this special offer. What are you waiting for?

\$15
per month
UNLIMITED

Shawneelink Internet and Crosslink Long Distance are Linking Your World!

Crossville Communications

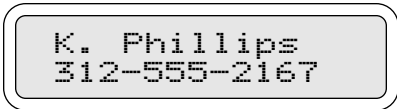
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Hurry before your luck runs out.
This offer ends on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2001.

Find your telephone number hidden in this newsletter and win your choice of a Caller ID Trendline phone or one month's free local service. Call 966-2196 to claim your prize.