

Satellites Begin Worldwide Service

Health problems coincide

Motorola's 66 Iridium satellites began full-time service, as scheduled, on September 23, 1998. On that date digital cellular phone service was made available on a trial basis to 2,000 users throughout the world who had been provided with Iridium telephones. On November 1, after this trial period, commercial worldwide service began.

On about October 1, the Taskforce contacted 57 electrically sensitive people in 6 countries. Two support groups were also surveyed, and two nurses and one physician were interviewed. This survey found that approximately 86% of electrically sensitive people interviewed, and a majority of patients and support group members, became ill on Wednesday, September 23 exactly, with typical symptoms of electrical illness such as headaches, dizziness, nausea, insomnia, nosebleeds, heart palpitations, asthma attacks, ringing in the ears, etc. One person said it felt like a knife went through the back of her head early Wednesday morning. Another had stabbing pains in the chest. More than one person, including this writer, were so sick they weren't sure they were going to pull through. Followups revealed that some of these people were acutely ill for up to three weeks. This writer suddenly lost his sense of smell on September 23, and it still has not returned to normal. (Russian researchers Y.A. Lobanova and Z.V. Gordon wrote in 1960

that loss of olfactory sensitivity was one of the earliest signs of microwave influence.)

U.S. total mortality statistics for 122 cities, obtained from the Centers for Disease control, reveal the following numbers for 1998:

week 39	11,351
week 40	11,601
week 41	11,223
week 42	11,939
week 43	11,921
week 44	11,497
week 45	11,387

For certain cities, numbers are missing for some weeks; the above table has been adjusted for the missing numbers. CDC personnel estimate an average 3-week delay between time of death and filing of the death certificate, upon which the tables are based. That puts weeks 42 and 43 to about Sept. 27 to Oct. 10, which are the same weeks that most electrically sensitive people were sickest. A 4% to 5% rise in the national death rate occurred during those two weeks. This is also the time period that thousands of homing pigeons got lost in races throughout much of the eastern 2/3 of the United States.

Thousands of Homing Pigeons Lose Their Way

"More Than 3,000 Birds Vanish in One Week, leaving Owners Baffled". So ran the headline of a *Washington Post* story of Thursday, October 8.

"Out of 1,800 birds competing in a 200-mile race from New Market, Virginia to Allentown, Pennsylvania, about 1,500 have vanished," wrote reporter Eric Wee. "And in a 150-mile race from western Pennsylvania to suburban Philadelphia, 700 out of 900 pigeons are missing.

"In a 350-mile race Saturday, from Pittsburgh to Brooklyn, 1,000 out of 1,200 birds never showed up. Peter Viola, an organizer of that race, said he'd also heard reports of large losses in races from Buffalo to New Jersey in the past few days.

"Most of the pigeons should have been back in their lofts within a few hours. Although it's not unusual to lose a few birds during a race—a hungry hawk, for example, might snag a few racers—the recent losses are extraordinary, organizers say.

"There is something in the air,' said Gary Moore, who was the 'liberator' for the 150-mile race, deciding when and where the birds were released. 'To lose this many is just unbelievable.'"

Contacted by the Taskforce, Moore said that during the racing season he flies his birds regularly a distance of 20 miles, several times a week, and that in early October it took them double the normal time to come home. He also observed that very few wild birds were out flying, not even sparrows, and that he saw geese flying scattered all over the sky, instead of in a normal "V" formation.

Robert Costagliola, of Fogelsville, Pennsylvania, added that hawks weren't out hunting during about a two-week period, and that his pigeons acted strangely even when they were in their roosts.

Phone calls to pigeon racers throughout the country have revealed that huge losses in early October races were not confined to the northeast, but occurred throughout more than half of the United States, from the Great Plains to the East Coast.

Larry Lucero, a New Mexico pigeon owner, told the

Taskforce that 1997 was the worst in his 35 years of racing pigeons. After 8 weeks of racing young birds that fall, he had just 12 birds left out of the 65 he started with. This year, said Lucero, his losses have not been so large, but his birds have also not been as healthy. With respiratory conditions and digestive problems, they have needed medicines that he hasn't had to use for years.

Similar problems have been noted during the past few years in other countries. For example, the *Irish Times* of July 21, 1997 carried a story entitled "Mobile Phones Blamed for Poor Pigeon Performance." Reporter Nuala Haughey wrote:

"The Secretary of the New Ross and District Pigeon Club, Mr. Jim Power, said he has noticed that the problem of lost birds has worsened as satellite television and the mobile telecommunications network in the State have developed.

"Mr. Power says membership of his club has fallen drastically over the past three years due to heavy losses of birds."

The article continued:

"UCG's Professor of Applied Sciences, Philip Walton, is, however, fast to clip the wings of the mobile phone theory.

"He said: 'I would regard it as very unlikely because the power of the radio waves from these transmitters is very small compared to television or radio transmitters, which have been around since the 1930s and 1940s. I would think that putting phone masts on a hill would be much more upsetting to the birds from a visual point of view.'"

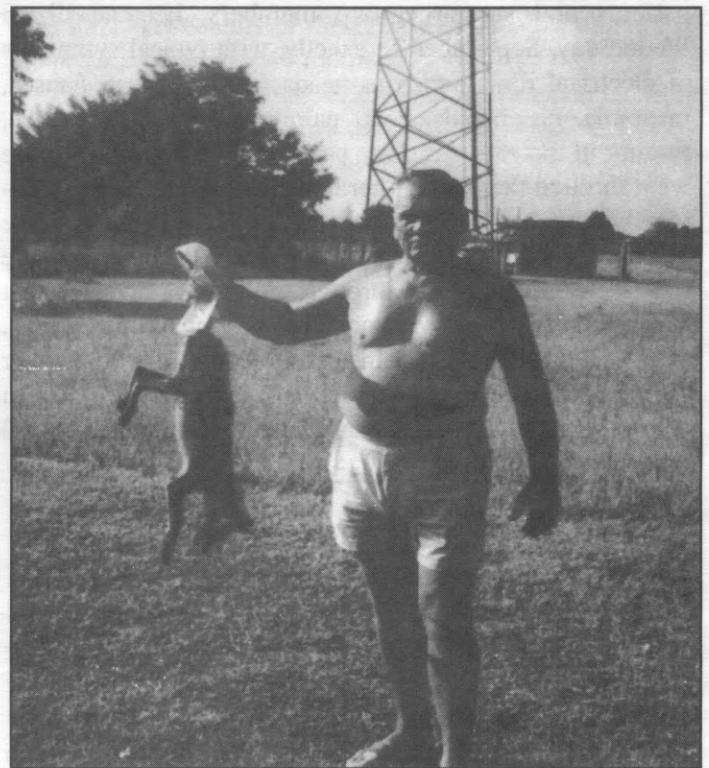
Contrary to the notions of Dr. Walton, however, it is well-known within pigeon-racing circles that in the 1930s and 1940s, when lots of radio and TV transmitters were being put up, pigeons got lost all over the place. They adjusted only after years of breeding in the new electromagnetic environment. Lucero told the Taskforce he heard this from Charles Heitzman, a father of the sport, and also from Colonel Otto Meyer, former head of the U.S. Army Signal Corps' Pigeon Corps, both now deceased.

towers to cover the entire United States. Since there are commonly 6 or more competing companies in each market, at least some of which are building their own towers, we can guess that half a million PCS towers will ultimately be built in the U.S. This translates to 1¼ billion birds killed per year, or fully one quarter of all birds that migrate through the U.S. annually.

Wildlife

Alice Beougher (see "The Wagram Inn, Reynoldsburg, Ohio," *No Place To Hide*, Dec. 1997) writes:

"I am enclosing a picture of how this radiation killed a den of coyotes. This occurred just a few months after they erected the tower within 200 feet of our back yard. "



The tower was erected in April 1993. The coyotes, whose den was about 200 feet away, began wandering around the Beoughers' yard weak and dazed, with ragged coats. They all died or disappeared. The Beoughers' white Maltese dog, Mindy, 10, also became sick at the same time, and was sick for four years before being put to sleep. It ran fevers and eventually lost all its hair. The yard was once full of rabbits, and was frequented by groundhogs, deer, ducks, geese, robins, blue jays, and other birds. All have left. Bird feeders still attract the occasional flying visitor, but none stay long, and none nest. Alice tells us that in Columbus, Ohio, antennas have been mounted on both a water tank and a tower, right next to the Columbus zoo.

No Place To Fly (Continued)

According to biologist Jim Cox of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the average tower kills 2,500 birds per year (*Tallahassee Democrat*, Sept. 22, 1997). A rough estimate of the number of towers in the country can be made based on industry advertising. Sprint PCS boasted in 1997 that it was going to build 50,000 cell sites in one year. That translates into 125 million birds killed, just from one company's towers built in one year.

Since PCS towers reportedly need to be 4 to 5 miles apart, a single company's network will need 200,000