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Skylab's return joins list

WASHINGTON - A Soviet satellite fell to Earth nine years ago scat-tering charred steel debris over the American southwest including a 640-pound steel plate that is the heaviest known piece of space junk to have been recovered. Sometime in late June or early

the nation

July, America's abandoned 78.5 ton Skylab space station will re-enter Earth's atmosphere, disintegrate and drop an estimated 500 chunks of metal along a 4,000 mile long belt 100 miles wide Forty-three Skylab pieces are ex-

pected to weigh more than 200 pounds with a section of an airlock module weighing 5,000 pounds, a lead-lined film vault weighing 4,000 pounds and six oxygen tanks weighing 2,700 pounds apiece. In addition to Skylab, there are

now more than 4,600 man-made objects the size of golf ball or larger in space. All but 114 are in orbit around the Earth and most sooner or later will return.

Thousands of man-made objects already have fallen out of orbit since the space age began in 1957 and the

North American Air Defense Com-mand (NORAD) reports space debris is now falling on the average of more than one a day.

NORAD said it knows of no one being hit by a man-made object from space and it said chances are greater

of being struck by a meteorite. According to a study for NASA by the Battelle Columbus (Ohio) Laboratories, there have been only seven verified incidents of injuries caused by a meteorite during the past 200 years and no verified fatalities.

There have been some close calls, however, during the past decade. Among 12 separate incidents re-ported since 1968 were:

—A 1.5-pound meteorite pene-trated the roof of a barn near Murchi-son, Australia, Sept. 28, 1969, nar-rowly missing two men who were stacking hay.

—A farmer in Ucera, Venezuela, saw a fireball and heard an explosion when an 11 pound meteorite struck the ground 240 feet from his house on Jan. 16, 1970.

-A meteorite weighing 12.3 ounces struck a home in

Wethersfield, Conn., April 8, 1971, and lodged in the ceiling of the living were recovered. pieces of steel were rural areas near Beau room

—A meteorite struck a garage at a home located two miles north of Canon City, Colo., Oct. 27, 1973, Calif., March 15, 1973. penetrated the roof and shattered when it hit the floor. Fragments the Southwest on Aug. 28, 1970, six

A 2-pound meteorite fell

Of the satellite debris that fell over

The largest piece was a flat ste weighing 640 pounds.

Metered phone calls, Ma Bell's mers latest idea: pay for what you sat

United Press International WASHINGTON — No matter

where you live, the day may be coming when you pay for your local tele-phone call by the same method as you're charged for long-distance by how long and how often you talk.

The industry contends the approach is only fair: People who use the telephone the most should pay more, and those who hardly ever lift the receiver should pay less.

Opponents of the approach say it's

You save about one-half the cost of using a moving company by renting a Ryder truck and moving it yourself. Not bad pay for doing your own moving, is it? And, with

Ryder, you know that you're renting a truck from the best-maintained, most dependable fleet in the world. That's nice to know when you're rolling across the highway with all of your family and possessions with you

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deceptive because it is touted as a tem. Most of the country, he voluntary option to current flat rate billing. In reality, they say, flat rate billing will eventually get so expen-sive that it will disappear and everyone will be left with the payby-the-call system.

The local measured approach is not new. New York City, for examfor years based on the amount of time the user is on the telephone. Chicago has had a variation of the same sys-

has been on a flat rate systemin calls

rural areas near Beaver, Ok

rian, Tex., and Pratt, Kan.

the pieces were oblong ch

to two and one-half feet

weighing about 150 pour

American Telephone and graph says the system — called measured service — is beinged in one form or another in most About 50 percent of the Bellsy ousiness customers have it and 13 percent of the firm's resi customers, a spokesman said "Optional measured service

the customer a chance to sele kind of service that appear most useful and best for hime he added. "In a time of rising it enables them to select as where, by the way they us phones, they can control them they pay.

One person who has been questions about the trends Richardson, an assistant to Peterson, President Carter sumer adviser. "It's not really voluntary,"

in an interview. "It's beingpo in a voluntary way and I fee deceptive.

"People who benefit, people use the telephone less, will se an effort to try to cut the bla they can cut the bills to vary grees," Richardson said. "Br means the telephone compa less revenue

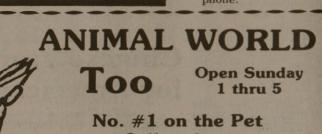
"What they have to do then the flat rate. The result is the will price flat rate out of the because the people remaining will be higher and higher we would start a spiral," he said.

Richardson also question measured service approach be 'it introduces uncertainty f sumers. The companies have cated us. Very few people ha idea how much they use the phone

. The

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of

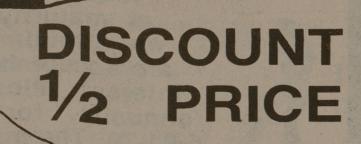


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