



photos by Brian McManus

The two types of satellite dishes available in Lincoln are shown above. Left, Lincoln Justice, hoes in front of his parabolic dish, located in front of his earth home in southeast Lincoln. Right, Russell Dodworth adjusts the horn to the spherical dish on the roof of his store.

Satellite dishes: A television alternative

BY BRIAN MCMANUS

If you've got the cash, you can turn your television set into a satellite receiving station.

According to Russell Dodworth, owner of Dodworth and Son Farm Store in Havelock, satellite receiving dishes are likely to become more popular for home use.

The dishes Dodworth is referring to are about 10 feet in diameter and can be aimed at the horizon to pick up satellite television transmissions. This allows the dish owner to pick up cable channels, including the movie stations, without having to pay for it.

The problem: the dish and the electronic hardware needed for a complete system starts at \$3,800, and can be as expensive as \$10,000.

Dodworth sells two types of receiving dishes. The first, and more expensive, is called a parabolic dish. It is a solid dish with the "horn," (the device which hones in on the transmission), at the center of the dish. The dish is usually mounted on a pole, and a motorized pivot can be purchased to move the dish to point to any of the five satellites on the western horizon.

The second type, known as the spherical dish, costs less, and according to Dodworth, gets just as good reception as the parabolic type. Dodworth sells the spherical in a "do-it-yourself" kit. It is a crisscrossing of redwood slats, covered with screening. The dish itself remains stationary, the horn is separate, pointed to-

wards the dish, and can be moved to pick up the various satellites' transmissions. Dodworth said it takes about two days build the dish, and it's easy enough that almost anyone can put one together.

There is nothing illegal in having a dish for private use, Dodworth said.

"The air-waves are free. They can't charge you for picking up transmissions that are in your air."

The question of legality comes when the transmissions aren't used just for private use, Dodworth said. Any satellite transmissions used for profit or large audiences are subject to FCC regulation, he said.

For example, Dodworth said that the Lincoln Meadows neighborhood by Holmes Lake was considering installing a satellite for their condominiums, having the tenants share the use of the one satellite. To do this, they would have to license themselves with the FCC, since there are over 49 people involved.

Doc Chaves, who was selected at a Lincoln Meadows Homeowner's meeting to investigate the possibility, said he doubted that they would install a satellite system. Although the cost of the satellite dish itself is feasible, they would have to buy separate amplifiers and demodulators for each user, which would raise the cost, he said. Nevertheless, he said it is an alternative to Cablevision that they are still considering.

Although the costs may be prohibitive to most now, Dodworth said that technology and mass production will lower the expense of owning your own private satellite dish. Like calculators and digital watches, greater demand will reduce production costs of the electronic hardware, he said.

In addition, he said that he thinks the present satellites will be replaced with much more powerful ones in the next five to seven years. When this happens, people will not need such large dishes to pick up the transmissions.

"It would be a very easy thing to do with the space shuttle," Dodworth said. He said he even called NASA to see if they were planning on replacing the satellites. They refused to give him any information.

"When the satellites are replaced, it will change the whole outlook on owning private dishes," Dodworth said. "People would only need two-or three-foot dishes on their roofs then."

The cost for a complete unit by that time could be as little as \$500, Dodworth said.

Former Crete Mayor: NU must cut spending

BY LORI MERRYMAN

Pointing to ASUN president Rick Mockler, a former Crete Mayor asked the Board of Regents Saturday what good his education would do him if he can't get a job because the nation is bankrupt in the process.

"I sympathize with this young man here," pointing to Mockler again, "and the generation that are going to get the bill for what we are today doing to them," Norman Behrens, member of Nebraska Tax Level Coalition, told NU regents.

"I sure hope all of us have a lot of money to leave our kids because they're sure gonna need it to foot the bill," he said.

He told regents the University of Nebraska should not shoot the moon in asking for state-aid budget increases, but conform with the rest of the country and

try to cut spending.

In the previous subcommittee meeting, UN-L President Ronald Roskens presented the regents with a proposal for a 15 percent increase in state-aid.

The regents board, representative of the people, should not be pushing for higher state-aid, Behrens said.

"The people I'm here to represent are darned worried about taxes" he said.

"Bankruptcies are upcoming on mainstreet Crete and elsewhere," he said.

"Keep in mind the debt that we owe our country has to come in the form of taxes, he said. Money used for state-aid to higher education comes from property taxes.

There has to be some property tax relief for the people in Nebraska, those on "mainstreet Crete," and the higher numbers of unemployed, he said.

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