



WHO IS DCI. DEAFNET?

DCI. DEAFNET Is a Nationwide Electronic Mail System for the Deaf



In April, 1978 the Deaf Community Center received funding from the Department of H.E.W. to evaluate the uses of computerized telecommunications for the deaf in Boston. Although the three year pilot program was a demonstration project, one of the goals was to develop a permanent communications network. With the incorporation of Deaf Communications Institute in 1980, this goal has been realized.

At the beginning of the project 50 computer terminals were distributed among deaf families, clubs, and service organizations. We began an electronic mail message system offering computer conferencing and bulletin boards. While the network was local, we used BBN's HERMES message system; when we made the big decision to "go national", we switched to GTE's TELEMAL. By using an already developed business tool, we were able to offer the deaf community a national system during off-hours at reduced rates.

At every stage of the project deaf users have been actively involved...from teaching new members the system, to evaluations, to participation on the board of directors (51% of the Board of Directors are deaf).

In the fall of 1983 electronic mail services for the deaf will take another step forward when the Department of Education launches its national "Deafnet" dissemination project to acquaint leaders of the deaf communities in large metropolitan cities across the United States with the concept of "Deafnet."

Some of the major users of DCI.DEAFNET are deaf people who are involved in such organizations as the National Association for the Deaf, the Oral Deaf Adult Section, Alexander Graham Bell Society, and Telecommunications Devices, Inc. Board members in a dozen major cities have telephone connections for DCI.DEAFNET. The two seem made for each other. These people have a need to communicate with each other as part of their ongoing advocacy efforts and on a social basis. Electronic mail can accomplish both, as well as cut the costs of high telephone bills.

We envision a growth in the network when these first national users encourage more of their branches to participate. Future users will be athletic club members, students, hearing relatives, and businesses employing the handicapped.

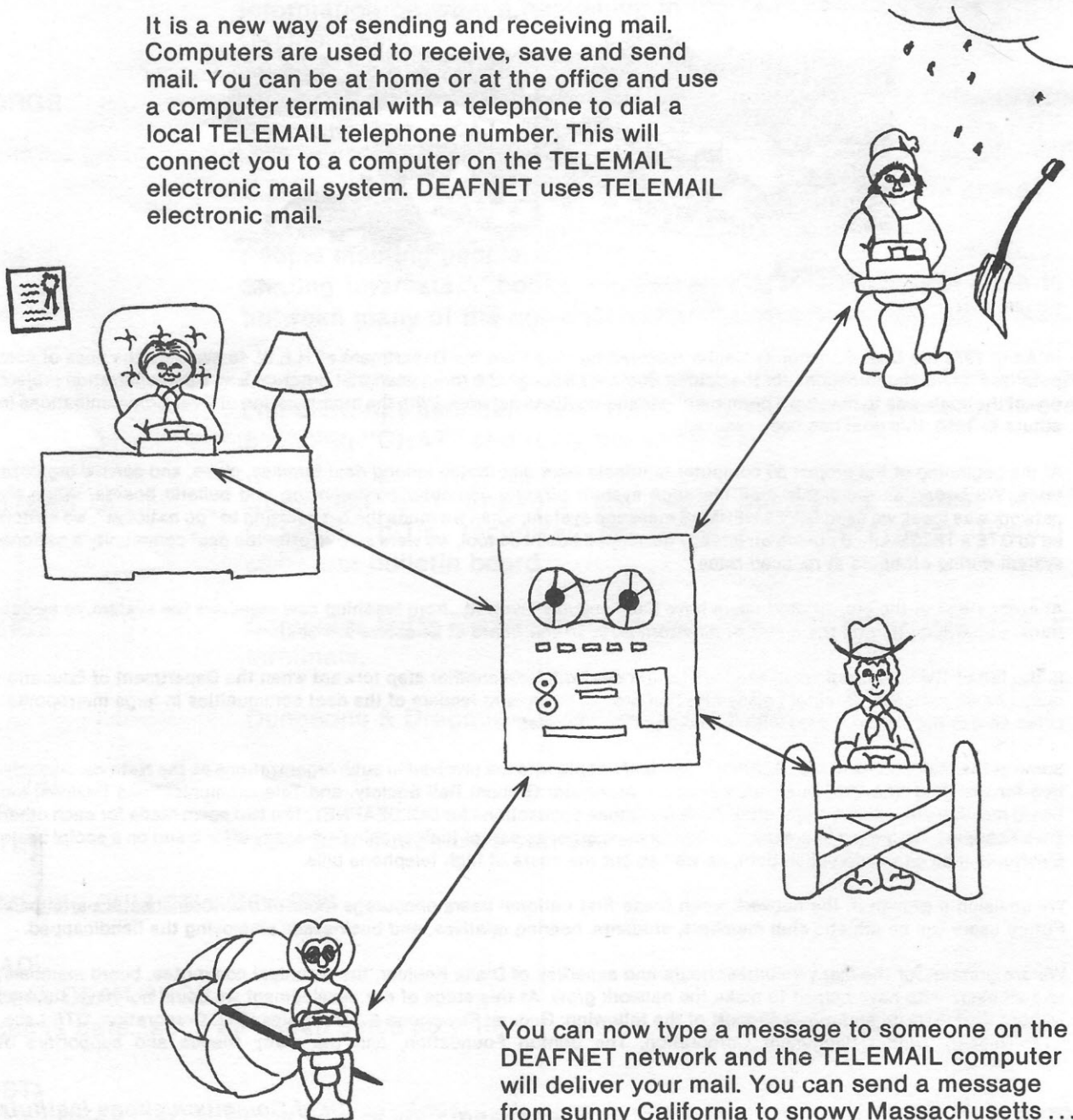
We are grateful for the many volunteer hours and expertise of Diane Koehler, the technical committee, board members, and all users who have helped to make the network grow. At this stage of our development we could not have survived without the financial and moral support of the following: General Telephone & Electronics (GTE Corporation, GTE Labs, GTE Telenet), Digital Equipment Corporation, The Benton Foundation, and the many friends and supporters of DCI.DEAFNET.

*Deaf Communications Institute
at Deaf Community Center
Bethany Hill
Framingham, MA 01701
Voice: 1-617-875-3617
TTY: 1-617-875-0354*

WHAT IS ELECTRONIC MAIL?

Electronic Mail is a New Idea!

It is a new way of sending and receiving mail. Computers are used to receive, save and send mail. You can be at home or at the office and use a computer terminal with a telephone to dial a local TELEMAL telephone number. This will connect you to a computer on the TELEMAL electronic mail system. DEAFNET uses TELEMAL electronic mail.



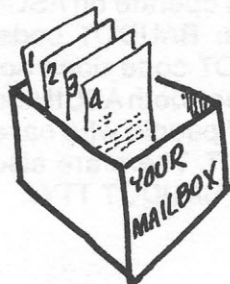
You can now type a message to someone on the DEAFNET network and the TELEMAL computer will deliver your mail. You can send a message from sunny California to snowy Massachusetts ... almost instantly.



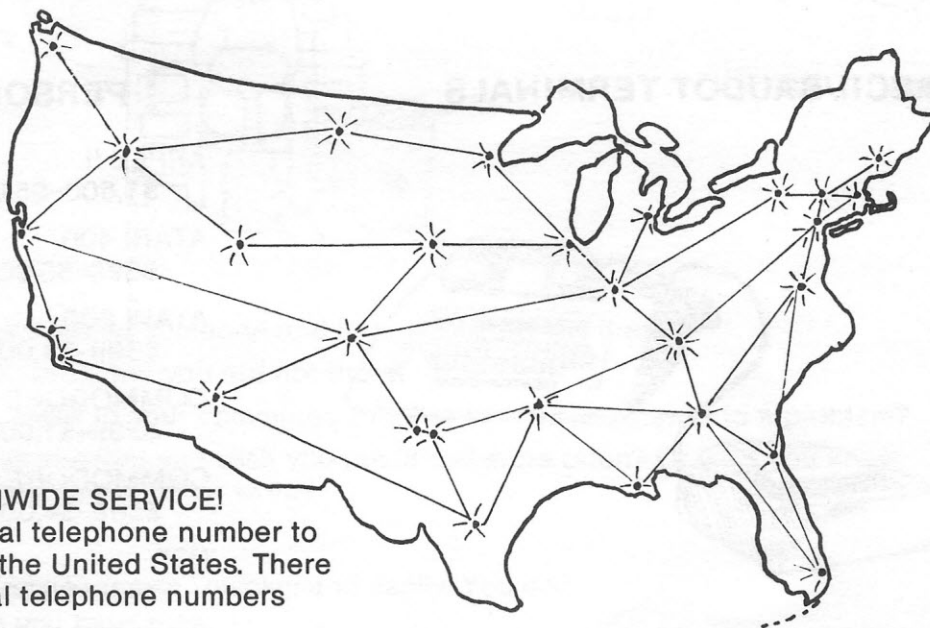
WHAT IS DEAFNET?

DEAFNET Offers Electronic Mail to Deaf People!

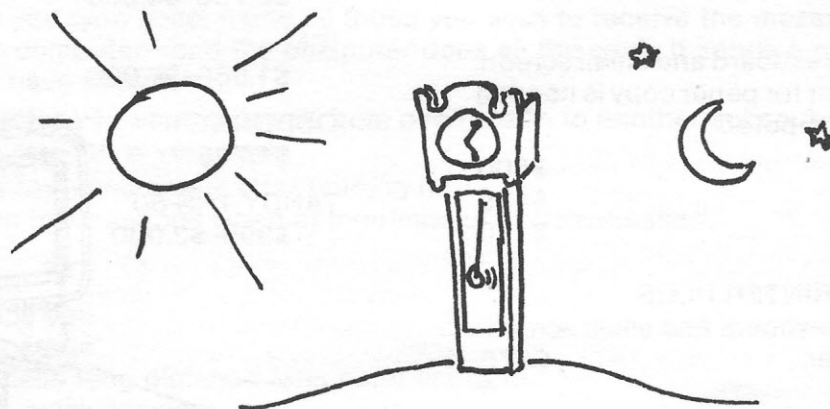
DEAFNET offers this service to deaf people throughout the United States. When you subscribe to a DEAFNET mailbox you can:



- Keep in close contact with family, friends, committee members.
- Read bulletin boards with up-to-date information on special things of interest to the deaf.
- Share information by "posting" a message to a bulletin board for all to read.
- Be a more informed board member.
- Read your mail at any hour when you have time.



DEAFNET IS A NATIONWIDE SERVICE!
A subscriber calls a local telephone number to send mail anywhere in the United States. There are more than 250 local telephone numbers available on DEAFNET.



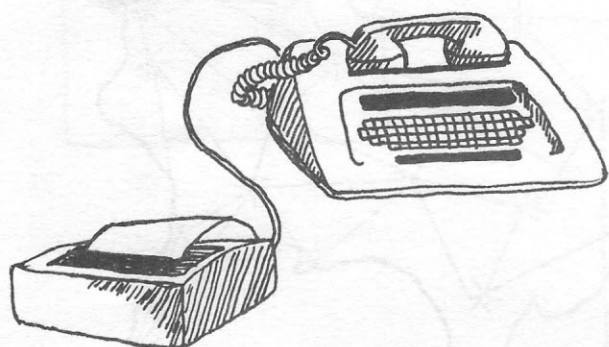
And this service is available ... twenty four hours a day ... seven days a week.

WHAT EQUIPMENT DO I NEED ON DEAFNET?

Telephone Service, a DEAFNET Mailbox, and an ASCII Computer Terminal

The following computer terminals may be used for electronic mail. All of them operate on ASCII code. TTY's used by deaf people for telephone conversation operate on BAUDOT code. BAUDOT code was established long before computers were made. BAUDOT code does not work with computers. However, new equipment such as the SUPERPHONE uses both ASCII and BAUDOT codes, so you can have regular telephone conversations with deaf people who have TTYs AND you can also connect with computer networks such as DEAFNET. There are also modems manufactured to use with a computer terminal to make it "talk" to BAUDOT TTYs.

ASCII/BAUDOT TERMINALS



SUPERPHONE

Terminal with keyboard and small screen.
Attached printer for paper copy is needed
for use with computer.

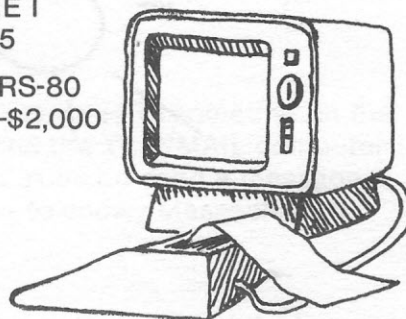
Basic Unit:	\$500
Printer:	\$495
Cable:	\$ 20

KROWN PORTAPRINTER PLUS

Terminal with keyboard and small screen.
Attached printer. \$675

PERSONAL COMPUTERS

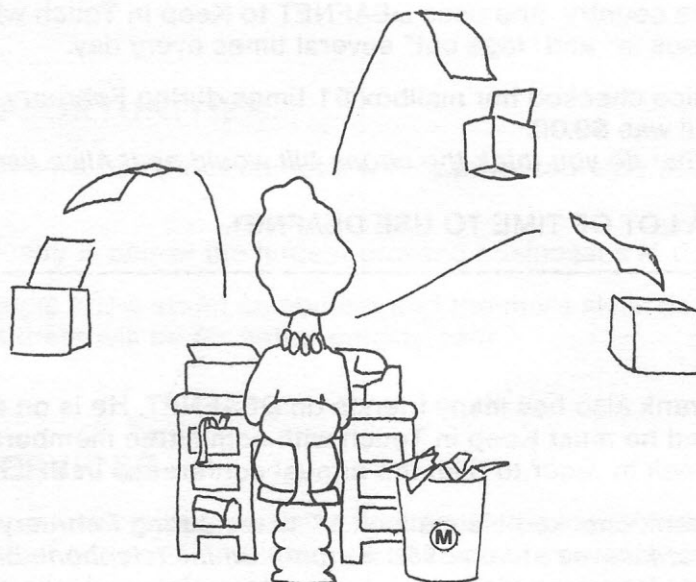
APPLE II	\$1,500-\$5,000
ATARI 400	\$399-\$3,000
ATARI 800	\$899-\$4,000
COMMODORE VIC 20	\$299-\$1,000
COMMODORE 64	\$595-\$4,000
PET	\$995-\$6,000
HEWLETT-PACKARD HP-85	\$2,750-\$6,000
IBM	\$1,565-\$6,000
OSBORNE I	\$1,795
TANDY TRS-80	\$399-\$2,000



Prices are approximate. 3/82.

WHY USE DEAFNET?

DEAFNET Saves Time, Money, Energy!



Are you a busy person?

How many times have you called someone and found they are not there?

Then, they try to call you back and you are not there!

How many calls do you make to your committee to try to resolve an answer to a problem?

Is there a friend or family member you wish you could call more often? Or wish you knew how they were? —but they never call or write?

DEAFNET helps you “Keep in Touch” quickly and easily. You can

- Read your mail when you have time.
- Write and send multiple copies.
This means you type once, name all those you wish to receive the message, send it through the computer—and the computer does all the work. It sends a copy to each person you have named.
- Forward a letter you have received from one person to another subscriber on the network. Sharing information is very easy.
- Answer a letter immediately after reading it.
- Cut down on interruptions when at meetings or in conversation.

DEAFNET helps you
 save postage
 decrease long distance telephone charges
 get quick answers
 save time, energy and effort

HOW SOME SUBSCRIBERS USE DEAFNET . . .



Alice lives in California but she has made many deaf friends throughout the country. She uses DEAFNET to Keep in Touch with her friends. She "logs in" and "logs out" several times every day.

Alice checked her mailbox 51 times during February, 1982. Her DEAFNET bill was \$9.00.

What do you think the phone bill would be if Alice used her TDD?

IT DOESN'T TAKE A LOT OF TIME TO USE DEAFNET.



Frank also has many friends on DEAFNET. He is on a national committee and he must Keep in Touch with committee members several times every week in order to plan the annual conference in St. Louis.

Frank checked his mailbox 17 times during February. His bill was \$6.00. *Frank saves at least \$50 a month on his telephone bill.*

DEAFNET IS VERY CONVENIENT FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS.



Sam is a TDI agent. Sam uses DEAFNET to Keep in Touch with his business. He keeps up to date on new equipment, shares information with other TDI agents, and talks to old friends as well. Sam spends a lot of time on DEAFNET.

Sam checked his mailbox 35 times during February. His bill was \$18.00. *The month before Sam joined DEAFNET his telephone bill was \$65.00.*

DEAFNET IS A GOOD WAY TO SHARE INFORMATION.



Jack is a deaf/blind student who lives in the mid-West. Jack likes to check the "Computers" bulletin board to keep up with the latest computer technology.

Jack checked his mailbox 22 times during February. His bill was \$11.00. *Jack finds DEAFNET very convenient to use.*

THE COST FOR DEAFNET SERVICES DEPENDS ON YOU AND YOUR NEEDS!

IS DEAFNET FOR YOU?

Computer Technology is Opening Doors for Deaf People!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Computer programmers, computer operators, data processor operators, word processor operators

The computer industry is one of the largest growing businesses in the world.

The more deaf people know about computers and the more skills deaf people learn ... the more chances there will be for better employment.

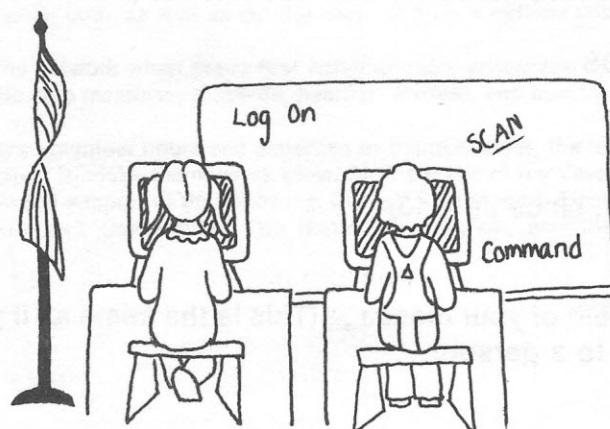
INFORMATION SERVICES

Computers can store unlimited information. It is possible to read a computer bulletin board for news, weather, sports and many other items of interest that you like in newspapers and magazines. Information that is of special interest to deaf people such as new legislation that has a direct impact on them can be quickly read in a computer bulletin board. This information might be missed in a regular news paper.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Many schools for the deaf are acquiring computers and will use them to teach students new ways to learn reading, writing, and arithmetic.

The younger generation will be prepared for jobs in the computer industry. Schools will also use computers to store information as a resource for the community.



DCI.DEAFNET OFFERS ELECTRONIC MAIL BULLETIN BOARDS!

CHECK THESE BULLETIN BOARDS:

- DCI.DEAFNET** Notices to users from DCI staff. Plus tips on how to make the best use of the Deafnet system.
- INFO** Information on what's happening in the deaf community for and from all Deafnet users.
- DEAF.ORGs** Communication between Deafnet users and the deaf organizations on Telemail.
- LISTS** A directory of users on the network and names of bulletin boards.
- FRIENDS** People meeting people.
Sharing interests. . .books, movies, computer information. This is a link between many of the non-deaf computer people and DCI.DEAFNET.
- CHAT** On-line communication between users for "Fun & Games" or general chit-chat. Any user can "talk" by sending a party-line message to everyone scanning "CHAT" and reply the same way.
- COMPUTERS** Questions and answers on home computers. Latest update on DCI.DEAFNET's technical committee's progress with Boston local computer bulletin board.
- GRAPHICS** Computer buffs exchange ideas and programs for graphic arts on video terminals.
- DD** Dungeons & Dragons -- a computer-type game.
- INDIVIDUAL GROUP - PRIVATE** Your board members can use this for private, confidential meetings.

HOW TO USE BULLETIN BOARDS

TO READ:

Check DEAF.ORGs
Scan (a date...such as "Scan since July 13)

TO POST:

Type "DEAF.ORGs" in the field of your message (This is the same as if you were sending to any of the other bulletin boards or to a person).