

Tymshare will test computer-radio link

By Michael S. Malone
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The announcement of an important new technology and a question about women's rights marked a brief and casual annual stockholders meeting of Tymshare Inc. at Cupertino Thursday.

The firm, which leases computer time to hundreds of customers, is celebrating its 10th anniversary as a publicly traded firm. Since 1975, the company's growth has tripled to \$193 million, with profits climbing from \$5 million to \$14.6 million.

Of particular interest to Tymshare at the moment, as indicated by the answer to a stockholder question, is the use of radio waves to carry computer signals.

Should such a technology be found practical, it could reduce the cost of computer data transmission by as much as 95 percent.

To test the effectiveness of digital radio, Tymshare, through its subsidiary Tymnet, has entered into a business relationship with Satellite Business Systems, an IBM-Aetna Insurance backed research project investigating the creation of terrestrial and satellite-based computer communications networks.

A question from the audience, which surprised the executives, asked why Tymshare, with more than 50 percent of its employees female, did not have any women sitting on the corporate board.

President and chairman Thomas J. O'Rourke responded that Tymshare made it a policy to look outside the firm for directors and that if and when it found an eligible woman executive, it would not hesitate in nominating her for election.

According to the year's summation by O'Rourke, Tymshare in its second decade faces unprecedented challenges.



Thomas J. O'Rourke

'The rules will change'

"In the '70s, our marketplace followed the predictable," he said, "but in the '80s the rules will change."

Among the reasons for this change, said O'Rourke, are:

✓ Tymshare's increasing presence in the computer information services market.

✓ "The rest of the business community has discovered computer communications is a real market."