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A6 ASBURY PARK PRESS, Fri., Apr. 23, 1976

Charges Filed Against Electronics Wizard

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A 33-year-old Menlo Park electronics wizard, who was fined \$1,000 in 1972 for using a toy whistle to make a free phone call to Australia, has

been indicted by a federal grand jury for placing free calls to Bethlehem, Pa.

John Thomas Draper, who gained worldwide notoriety as "Captain Crunch," was accused of fraud by wire in making three calls on Feb. 20 from Menlo Park to different numbers in Bethlehem.

The government, in its indictment Wednesday, accused Draper of using an electronic multi-frequency signaling device capable of producing certain sounds and signals to illegally make the free long distance calls. It was not known who Draper telephoned.

Draper got his nickname

after he discovered that toy whistles in Captain Crunch cereal boxes duplicated Bell Telephone Co. signals.

In November 1972, Draper pleaded no contest to placing a two-minute call to a radio station in Sydney, Australia. The toll for a minimum three minutes was \$9.99.

Federal Judge Robert

Peckham placed Draper on five years probation and warned:

"Your electronic gymnastics may have been thought to be a prank, a frivolity or a harmless vocational endeavor, but on the next occasion — if ever there is one — you will receive a prison sentence."