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Glenn Clegg (PT&T Napa manager)

Notes Reads like phone company PR.

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Phone Company Cracks Down On Illegal Calls

A 20-year-old Santa Rosa man has become the latest person arrested for using an illegal device known as a "blue box" to make unlimited free long distance telephone calls.

The suspect was arrested March 26 after an extensive investigation by representatives of Pacific Telephone's chief special agent's office.

Under Section 502.7 of the California State Penal Code, persons convicted of electronically defrauding the telephone company of \$200 or more in toll calls are subject to a felony charge which carries a fine up to \$5,000 and-or five years in a state prison.

Napa's Pacific Telephone manager, Glenn Clegg, warned that with the implementation of new and sophisticated computerized equipment, it is no longer possible for persons to escape detection by using blue boxes.

"There was a time when someone might have avoided arrest by using a blue box,"

Clegg said, "but not anymore. Our agents can now pinpoint possible toll fraud suspects by studying computer print-outs."

The proof of Pacific Telephone's success in stopping persons using blue boxes has been borne out by the number of arrests and convictions in recent months. In 1974 some 55 persons in California were convicted of electronically defrauding the company and an additional 41 cases are presently awaiting trial.

Clegg noted that in several cases the suspects do not have any prior offenses and look upon "ripping off the phone company" merely as an insignificant violation.

"If these people only knew how severe the sentences can be for electronic toll fraud," Clegg said, "I'm sure they would not consider using a blue box. Especially now with the company's new methods of detection, it just isn't worth the risk involved."