



Exploding The Phone

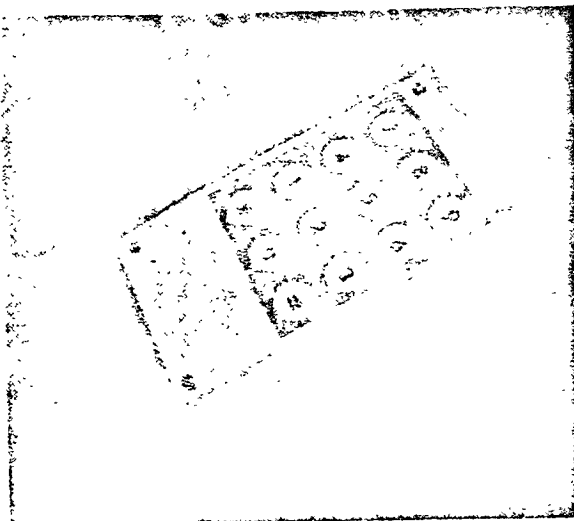
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| Title | Telephone Company Breaking Up Calls |
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| Abstract | Sanford Herschel Kosman arrested for blue box fraud in Marin, CA; article details blue box detection and investigation methods, also mentions 7 page blue box manual and that box was purchased for \$325. |
| Keywords | blue box; blue box manual; Marin County, CA; San Rafael, CA; Sanford Herschel Kosman (arrested) |
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YOU DON'T EVEN NEED A DIME — Inspector Edward Klementovich of the Marin Sheriff's Department displays an electronic gadget, known as a "blue box" which "phone phreaks" use to defraud the telephone company. The device enables individuals to make long distance calls all over the world without paying for them.

'PHONE PHREAKS'

Telephone Company Breaking Up Calls

By GEORGE NEVIN

The Pacific Telephone Co. has come up with a new way to trap "phone phreaks," electronic wizards who up to now have been outwitting Ma Bell.

The system, which depends on tapping the telephone of anyone suspected of using electronic gadgets to avoid paying for long distance calls, came to light yesterday with the arrest of a Point San Pedro man.

Armed with a search warrant, Marin sheriff's deputies converged on the home of Sanford Herschel Kosman, 32, of 34 Marine Drive.

There, according to Sgt. Garrett N. McDonald, they discovered a "blue box," the name given by phone phreaks (as they call themselves) to a sophisticated electronic device.

Officers also confiscated a seven-page booklet explaining how to use the gadget, and arrested Kosman, a manufacturer of custom motorcycle parts.

McDonald said Kosman bought the device from an out-of-state friend for \$325 and had been using it for about three weeks.

The manual describes how the "blue box," — which has 10 buttons which emit musical tones when pressed — works:

A phone phreak uses the box to beep out a number, either a long distance information number or one of the toll-free numbers in the 800 area code series.

Once hooked into the long distance equipment, the phreak punches more box buttons, disconnecting his phone from the information or toll-free number. He then punches out a new number anywhere in the world.

The phone company was powerless to catch the phreaks until recently, McDonald said, when its computerized billing equipment was modified to show when any phone was used to call a long distance information or an 800 number an abnormally long time period, such as 30 minutes.

McDonald said this kind of call drew the phone company's attention to a customer.

It was then, other Marin law enforcement sources told the Independent-Journal, that the phone company began its taps.

If phone company records reveal that a customer is making a lot of long calls to San Diego information, for example, a tap is placed on his telephone.

If the phreak makes the suspicious calls from a pay phone, the company will tape the telephone of anyone receiving a lot of unpaid calls from that pay phone number.

A Pacific Telephone spokesman yesterday refused to say whether the company uses taps to trap phone phreaks and referred all calls on the Kosmos arrest to the Marin district attorney's office.

Kosman was arrested on suspicion of two misdemeanors, defrauding the telephone company and possessing a device to do so.

He was released on his own recognizance and will be arraigned Thursday in Marin Municipal Court.