



Exploding The Phone

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HighWitness News

Can't Cotton Gin

A "gin duel" between two Florida bar patrons has claimed three lives. Walter Wade, 39, and Eugene Cole, 32, drank themselves to death in an attempt to settle a dispute over who could drink more. Claude Kidd, 52, the bartender who officiated at the contest later died of a heart attack provoked by reports that he would be charged with manslaughter. His wife, Catherine, told reporters that her husband died of grief. He had a history of heart trouble.

Police estimated that Cole and Wade each consumed between 32 and 48 ounces of gin in less than an hour at Kidd's bar.

New Box In Town

AT&T has begun using a new "box" to monitor certain calls on its lines. Developed by Tel-Tone Corp. of Seattle, Washington, the "silver box" permits phone company employees at a single monitoring to use a touch-tone dial that activates the system to listen in on any one of ten trunk lines. To monitor a call, a secret listener dials the seven digit number assigned to each box. When he hears a tone, he dials two additional digits in rapid succession. Once the codes are dialed in proper order, the snooper hears conversations on the ten lines—by pressing successive digits AT&T can hear different conversations simultaneously.

AT&T reports the device costs \$1,200 and has been purchased in order to maintain high quality service. Spokesmen for the monopoly insist the monitoring is strictly upon service representatives in local offices as they deal with customer requests and complaints. Customer-to-customer calls are also monitored randomly to assure proper long-distance service, admitted AT&T. However, the new box can be duplicated and anyone with knowledge of the secret dialing code, could listen in from any touch-tone in the country. The telephone giant has assured three Congressional investigative committees that the code is difficult to obtain and use. The investigations stem in part from revelations that AT&T assisted the FBI in conducting wiretaps for "national security" purposes and made available records of long-distance calls to government agencies investigating prominent persons.



A Dog's Life

Marijuana-sniffing dogs are able to put in only a short work-week, according to the *Police Times*. An article written by a dog handler reveals that pot-detecting dogs can be applied effectively for only fifteen to sixty minutes and then they need a rest, varying from a few minutes to forty-eight hours. The time limits vary depending on the animal, his work conditions, and the amount of success that encourages further efforts. Traditional tracking dogs may follow a scent continuously for up to forty-eight hours.

Skinned Mule Blues

Colombia's leading newspapers are now carrying a warning from the country's Civil Aeronautics Authority: Don't be a "mule!" In smuggler's argot, a "mule" is a person who knowingly or unwittingly serves as a courier. The ads are aimed at the 250,000 Colombians who annually visit the U.S. as ordinary tourists, from whose numbers many mules are recruited.

The ads warned that the number of "mules" arrested is climbing and that the penalty is up to 12 years in jail and a heavy fine. "Every day in any airport a drug trafficker may ask you courteously and innocently to help him carry a suitcase," declared the ads. "If you agree and cocaine or marijuana is later found in the valise, you have become a 'mule.' Don't accept suitcases or packages from someone you don't know or even someone you do—without knowing its true contents."

Bogus Busts Bared

Testimony in the trial of the alleged Seattle smuggling ring operating behind the facade of the O'Brien Water Ski Co. revealed that one shipment of alleged cocaine which the arresting officers purchased was actually sodium chloride—common salt. However, the DEA is convinced and hopes to prove that the alleged ring conspired to possess and distribute \$2 million worth of cocaine anyway and were themselves defrauded by Chilean salt merchants.

While in New York City, narcotics police in Astoria, Queens recently announced the seizure of forty-three pounds of "nearly pure" heroin with a

street value of fifteen million dollars. Further tests of the contraband revealed that it was pure quinine, but not before the media had picked up news of the "major drug bust." "It's great if you had a couple of guys suffering from malaria," commented Herman Reid, executive officer of the city's narcotic squads, adding that the thirteen arrests made in connection with the raid would stand, based on evidence from earlier indictments. He added that possession of quinine was a Class A misdemeanor and that additional charges might be filed.

THE HIGH AND MIGHTY

In the wake of the David Carradine pot bust there has been a wave of arrests of the great, the near great, and the once great. Rubbing elbows with the common felons and wrongdoers are the following:

- Aging 1930's movie star Lash Larue was charged with possession of marijuana after being arrested in Clayton County, Ga., for drunkenness. The former cowboy matinee idol, remembered as a whip-cracking swaggerer on screen, had a whip in his car at the time of the arrest.

- Danny Partridge was sleeping in the back seat of his car when San Francisco police arrested him and three companions for possession of marijuana. The fifteen-year-old actor in the popular series *The Partridge Family* was released in his parents' custody.

- Congressional Medal of Honor winner and Vietnam hero Richard Penry has been convicted of selling cocaine in Santa Rosa, Calif. Penry—whose sentencing had to be postponed because it was first scheduled for Veterans Day—saved scores of wounded GIs from a Viet Cong attack.

- One of the best-known jockeys in racing, Larry Adams, was arrested for possession of marijuana and codeine sulphate pills at Newark International Airport.
- New Jersey Representative Charles W. Sandman's nineteen-year-old son Robert S. Sandman was indicted by a grand jury in Atlantic County for possession of more than two pounds of marijuana with intent to distribute.

- Drug Enforcement Administration agent Jon Alan Ercole was arrested in Denver, Colo., on charges of selling grass he had been storing as evidence.

- In what some observers feel is an attempt to smear Sheriff Richard Hongisto of San Francisco County, a reformer who is up for re-election in 1975, Inspector Cecil Pharris arrested Deputy Sheriff Larry Burris on charges of selling cocaine to prisoners at San Francisco County Prison. No drugs or paraphernalia were found in Burris's possession and he was released on his own recognizance.

The United States government is growing concerned over the possibility that the giant domestic marijuana plants, which grow wild through the Midwest, may become extremely potent as the years go by. The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has found, through a series of studies, that many smokers have long known: the wild plants contain almost no THC and are virtually useless for getting high.

However, the HEW also found that, of the wild plants, the high THC producing strains are dominant, that is, when they are cross-pollinated with low THC plants, high THC pot is the inevitable result. The government has found that successive marijuana crops in Mississippi have been growing stronger by the year, and it is worried that the same thing will happen to the wild weeds in the Midwest.