



Exploding The Phone

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Bibliographic Cover Sheet

Title **Action City West**

Publication *San Francisco Chronicle*

Date 1970-10-26

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V/I/P p. 23

Abstract Printer Arthur Dettner informs the phone company of a push-button gadget he had bought that would allow him to call NY for free.

Keywords Arthur Dettner (printer); Blue box; Don Bellenger

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Action City West

INSIDE STUFF: This smooth-looking guy — let's call him Sam — walked into Printer Arthur Dettner's office one day last week and smiled conspiratorially: "Would you like to call somebody in New York, free for nothing?"

When Dettner shrugged "Why not?" Sam picked up his phone, dialed long distance information in New York and asked for a non-existent number. "Sorry," said Sam — but when N.Y. info rang off, he didn't hang up. Instead, he clamped a push-button gadget over the mouthpiece and punched out a New York number that Dettner had given him. It worked!

"Fantastic!" gasped Dettner. "How much?" "One thousand bucks," said Sam. Dettner scribbled out a check.

After Sam had disappeared, Dettner called the phone company, and in a flash, two of Ma Bell's security men were in his office. On the spot, they reimbursed his \$1000, got a description of Sam, and took off with the incredible push-button gadget.

Latest reluctant word from Ma Bell's front office: two suspects in custody but "no further comment."