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Bibliographic Cover Sheet



Title           **Phone Wizardry Lands RPI Man In Police Court**

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Abstract       Michael T. Spencer, a Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) student, arrested for blue box fraud.

Keywords      blue box; Michael T. Spencer; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI)

Notes          Date is approximate based on db800.

See also       db800

Source         Hoyt Stearns

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# Phone Wizardry Lands RPI Man In Police Court

The case of a 19-year-old RPI electrical engineering sophomore, who accomplished in six months what it took the Bell Telephone Co. 75 years to perfect, was adjourned before Justice Joseph F. Daly in Troy Police Court today until Jan. 31.

Michael T. Spencer, of Franklin, Mich., was charged with obtaining phone services fraudulently, a misdemeanor, and making connections with telephone wire without lawful authority, a felony.

He pleaded not guilty to both charges at his arraignment today. He was represented by his attorney, Timothy J. Fogarty.

Mr. Fogarty waived reading of the information and asked that the case be adjourned in order to prepare motions addressed to the information.

Spencer "boxed" himself into a cell in Rensselaer County Jail where he is being held in lieu of \$500 property bond or \$250 cash bail. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. George T. Spencer of Franklin, Mich., are expected to arrive later today.

Spencer was released in \$250 cash bail supplied by the Rensselaer Union, a student organization at RPI.

He invented a box which was capable of beating the long distance dialing of the nationwide communication company.

One of County Judge John T. Casey's first official acts was to grant a search warrant which the district attorney's office drew up under the direction of Acting Dist. Atty. Pierce H. Russell. This search warrant made it possible for the investigation by phone officials and Troy police to begin.

Spencer spent \$200 equipping the device. He purchased his material from — you guessed it, the New York Telephone Co.

It was accomplished by the

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