



Exploding The Phone

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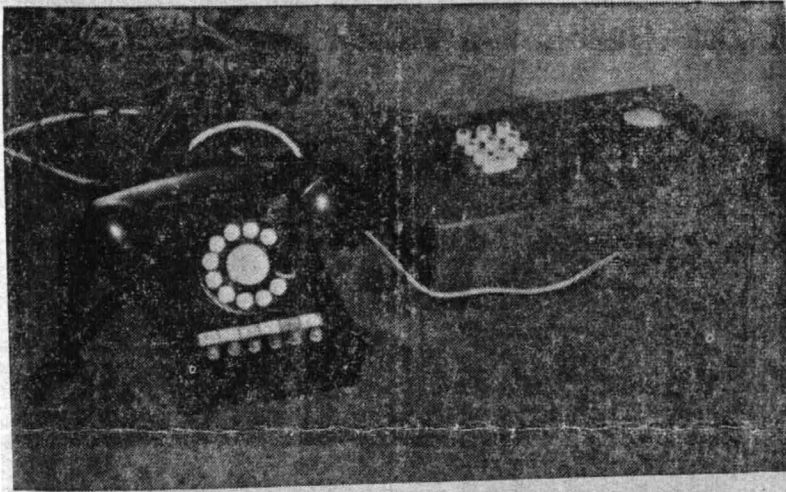
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Bibliographic Cover Sheet

- Title** **Young Scientist Warned To Re-Direct His Talents**
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- Abstract** Ralph Barclay and James R. Michel arrested for blue box fraud. "On Saturday authorities said the arrests followed a prolonged probe by Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone Company who had contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Justice Department concerning alleged violations of the long distance dialing statutes."
- Keywords** Ralph Barclay; James Michel; blue box; Pacific Northwest Bell; Washington State University

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Young Scientist Warned To Re-Direct His Talents



ELECTRONIC DEVICE which led to trouble with the law for Raiph R. Barclay, 19, Grant Orchards, is pictured as it was studied beside a telephone at the Grant County Sheriff's office. The device, measuring 12" x 7" x 3", was confiscated by officers and Barclay was given a suspended fine of \$100 for making a fraudulent telephone call. See story for details — Journal photo.

Ralph Roy Barclay was reportedly on his way back to the Washington State University campus today and he carried with him words of caution from Justice of the Peace James Wickwire that he should apply his knowledge of electronics to the furtherance of science.

Barclay, 19, from Grant Orchards near Soap Lake, was given a suspended \$100 fine this morning by Judge Wickwire at the WSU sophomore's hearing on a misdemeanor charge of making a fraudulent telephone call. As part of the suspended sentence, the court confiscated a device which Barclay had made through his unusually high talent of electronics. The big trouble with the \$100 invention was that it by-passed toll centers on direct dialing long distance telephone calls.

The youth was arrested Friday by Grant County Sheriff Cecil H. Gilman and the fraudulent phone call charge was filed by prosecutor Paul Klasn Jr. Also booked for making a fraudulent call was James R. Michel of Ephrata, who was fined \$25 and \$6.25 courtcosts by Judge Wickwire this morning.

On Saturday, authorities said the arrests followed a prolonged probe by investigators for Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone company who also had contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U. S. Justice Department concerning alleged violations of the long distance dialing statutes.

Two telephone company investigators and one technician who looked over Barclay's machine did not give many details on how the machine was traced locally.

The machine had numbered buttons similar to an adding machine and also had a mounted dial. It is believed to be the only one of its kind in the country. Its wiring looked similar to a homemade radio.

Investigators said it enabled the caller to contact information operators at distant points, then leave the line open while the call by-passed a timing center which would determine cost of the call.

Barclay told authorities that he constructed the device with equipment purchased at electronic supply houses and by using technical manuals that are available to public citizens with a flare for electronics.

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