



# ***Exploding The Phone***

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Bibliographic Cover Sheet



Title           **Whistler Started Young**

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Abstract       Background on Engressia's childhood

Keywords      Joe Engressia; USF; University of South Florida

Source         University of South Florida

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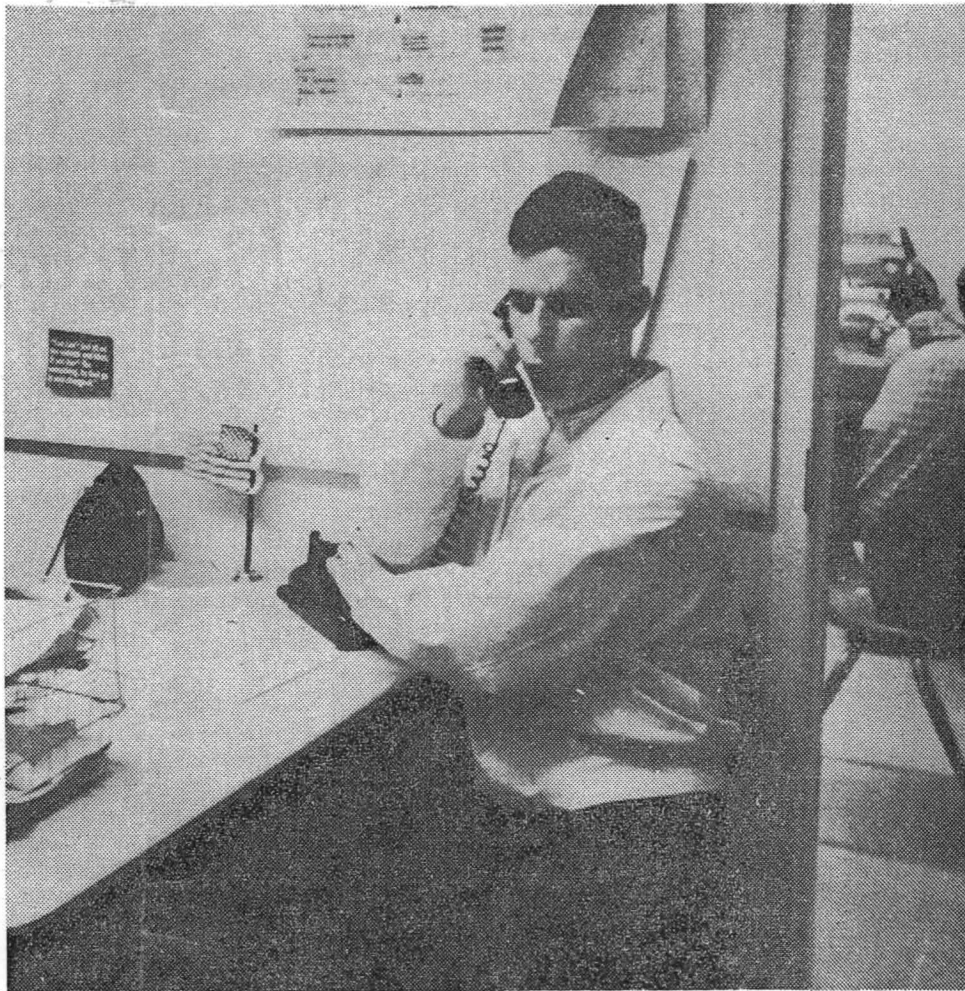
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(Please See JOE, Page 3)



Joe 'Whistled' His Way To Montreal

## Whistler Started Young

"I've been studying tele-  
phones all my life. I know all  
about them," 19-year-old Joe  
Engressia said Friday.

"As a small child I was fas-  
cinated with the sounds that  
came out of the phone. I  
learned to dial at two."

"Then one day when I was  
about eight I accidentally dis-  
covered I could cut operators  
off by whistling into the  
phone. One thing led to another, and I gradually learned  
how to place complete calls  
by whistling."

Engressia said he obtained  
telephone manuals from  
Southern Bell in Miami and  
had them read to him. He  
would go down to their offices  
and do voluntary trouble-  
shooting.

Mr. and Mrs. Josef Eng-

ressia, 9050 S.W. 117th Ave.,  
Miami, said they are proud of  
their son.

"We're going to stick right  
by him," Mrs. Esther Eng-  
ressia said in a telephone in-  
terview Friday.

"Anyone who can outsmart  
a computer - I'm with  
them."

Mrs. Engressia said she  
first became aware that her  
son, blind since birth, was ex-  
traordinarily intelligent when  
he was in kindergarten.

"Did you know you had a  
genius for a son?" the kinder-  
garten teacher asked one  
day.

"His father and I always  
tried to let him do experiments  
and research what he was in-  
terested in."

"He took all kinds of things  
apart."

"He has always been afraid  
he would reach a limit to his  
intelligence one day but he  
hasn't yet. I've devoted a lot  
of time to helping Joe and his  
21-year-old sister (also blind)  
work at things they were in-  
terested in."

Mrs. Engressia says she  
wasn't aware that Joe was so  
far advanced in his "whis-  
tling."

She said Dean Wildy called  
her the night before Eng-  
ressia was called in but told  
her not to call her son. "Dean  
Wildy didn't explain the seri-  
ousness of the case," she said.

"I think it's a shame to  
chop someone in half and not  
give him a chance to finish  
out the quarter."

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