

We've been getting swamped with requests for the new Credit Card Code. Apparently the phone company can't get it together to implement their new computerized credit card system in all areas at once. There is a report that the new credit card code is based on the 4th digit and is as follows: 1-E 2-M 3-U 4-J 5-Q 6-A 7-W 8-Z 9-H 0-R Please send us your experiences with this code so we can determine if it works and where.

You may have noticed that your mailing label is being produced by an inflexible space age giant electronic computer brain. If you are like 12% of our subscribers, you will never have any problem with your subscription. However, the computer is very literal-minded. When writing to TAP to change your address or renew your mail, must, MUST include your mailing label or a xerox of it.

Many readers could be interested in a device to clip onto pay phone wires like a testset, but could actually simulate a pay phone, beeps and all. Such a device would also have the same electrical responses as a real pay phone to ringing, coin collecting and returning, although no coins would be necessary for its operation. Readers who would be into working on this are urged to report their results for publication. Refer to this as the "Portable Pay Phone".

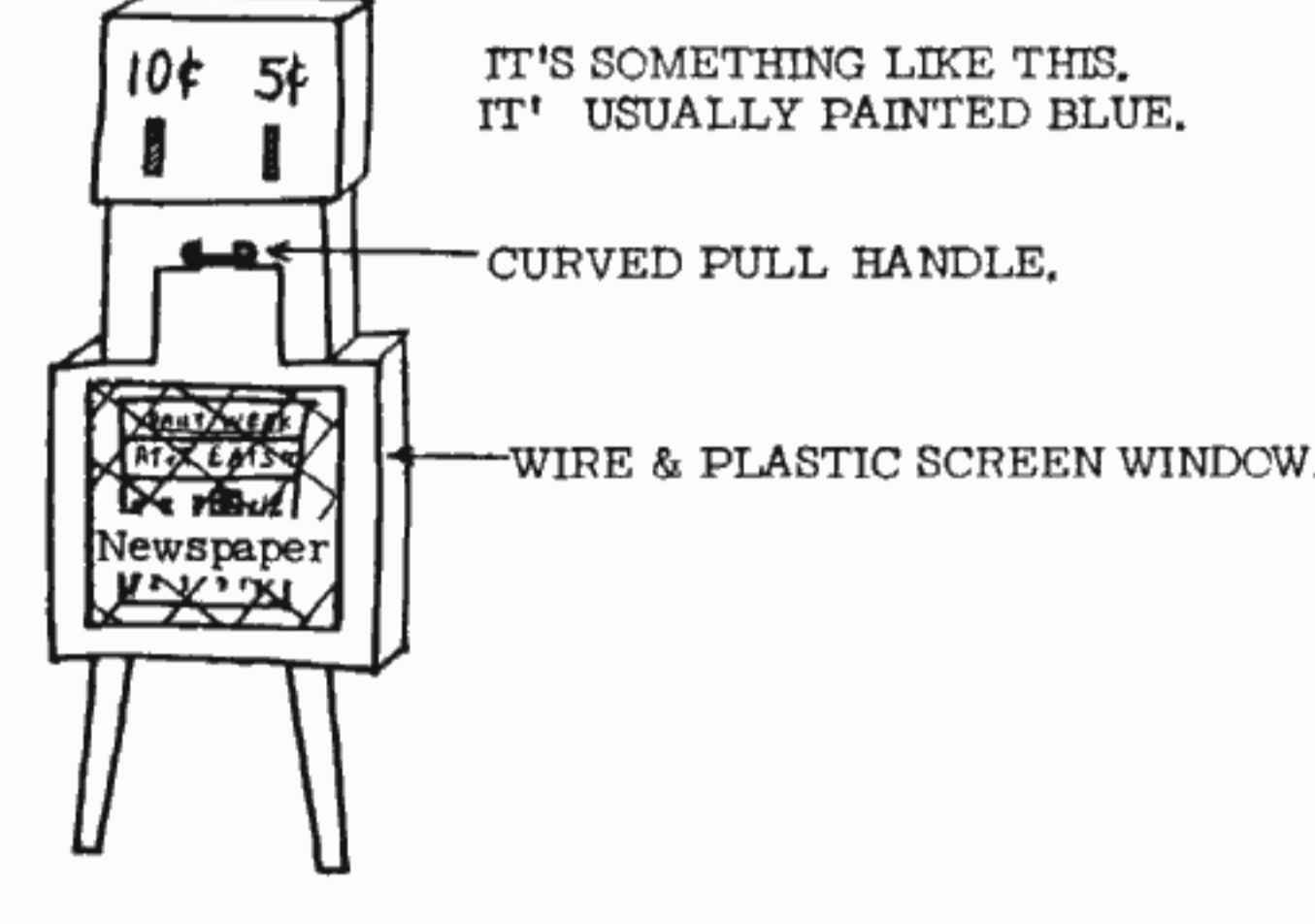
Finally, a note about the Telident phone call tracer. Our clipping last issue was from Popular Mechanics who now claims that Telident has moved or gone out of business and left no forwarding address. Top phreaks have felt the unit could not work and must be a hoax. PM claims Telident did a demo at the Waldorf Astoria in New York and it seems real. Could be publicity of this myth might frighten certain potential bomb callers, and that the press conference at the Waldorf was set up? Or maybe it does work and the Govt. or others are trying to keep it secret!

The following is a loop suffix list. These may or may not be free calls, and some may have changed recently. The suffix is added to the first 3 digits of your phone no. (the prefix) and when two people call the two numbers, they are connected to each other. Sometimes one number must be dialed before the other for connection to take place. For example, one dials 215-265-0094 and the other dials 215-265-0095. For people in Philadelphia the 215 would of course be unnecessary.

Table with 4 columns: AREA CODE, STATE, LOOP ENDINGS, and a list of numbers. Includes entries for N.J., Pa., Ca., N.Y., and N.C.

**YOU CAN HELP TAP**  
If you can contribute any information that you think other readers would be interested in, please do so. TAP readers are the main source of our information. You can help by meeting employees of phone and power companies, alarm places, etc., and asking them about questions other people raise in the newsletter. Be sure to get details and maintain contact in case you have additional questions. Most employees of those companies would be glad to screw their heads and they'd probably be interested in TAP, too. We hope that a lot of you will gather information so we know what the scene is around the country and Canada. We also need info on the following:  
Automatic Blue Boxes-With info about where they're necessary.  
Vending Machines-locks, getting stuff, etc.  
Locks- New code books, picking Medeco, Sargent Resco, Trucon, etc.  
Radio- Setting up your own Station, Schematic, legal stuff, jammers, etc.  
Burglar Alarms-Home and other central station alarms, bypassing, electronic keys and picking, etc.  
Also, Magnets, Overseas Phreaking, and Chemistry.

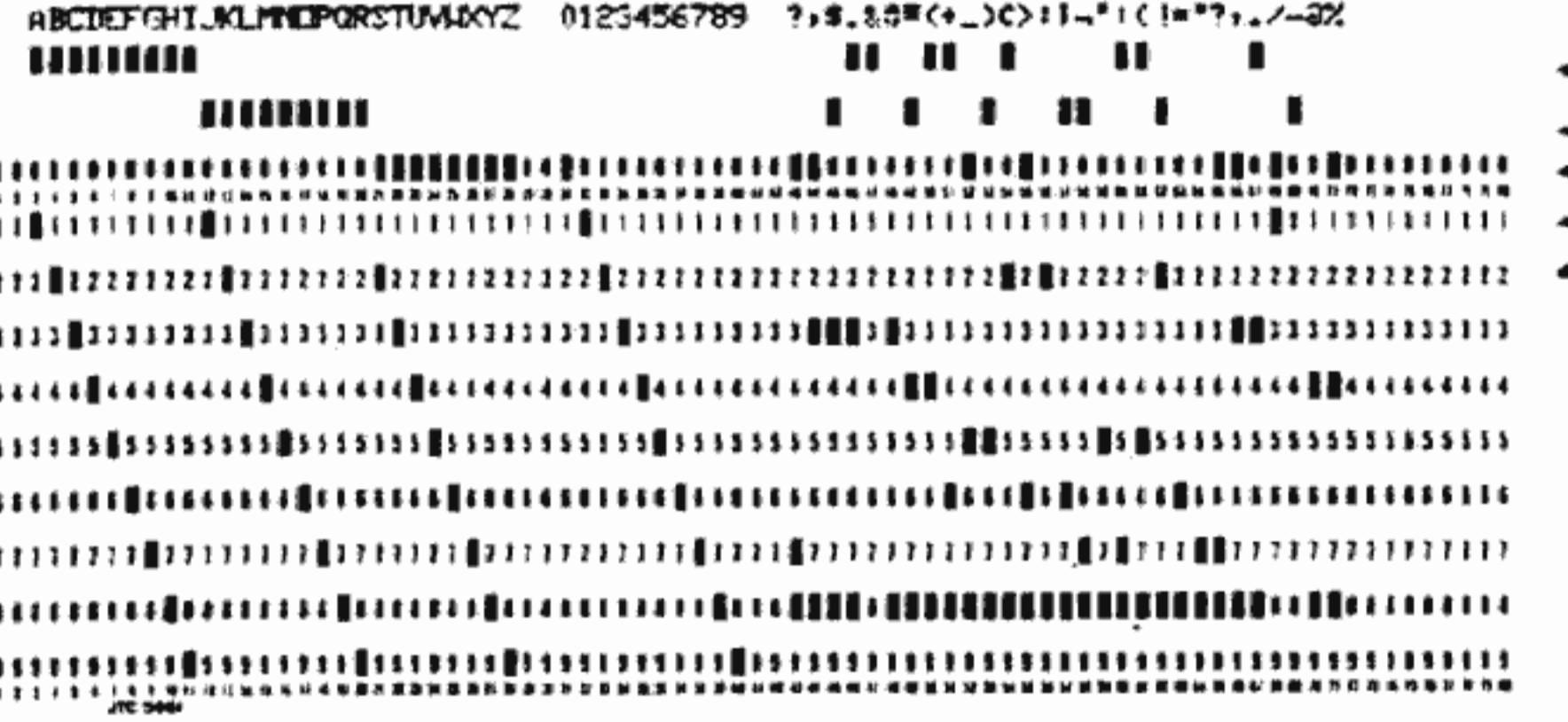
Dear TAP,  
Enclosed is a drawing of my ripoff newspaper discovery. I get a long, thin, strong wire like the type used on newspaper stacks. Stick equal lengths simultaneously down the two coin slots, and the door should pop open. Pull the handle, take all the papers you need. It usually takes 15 seconds.



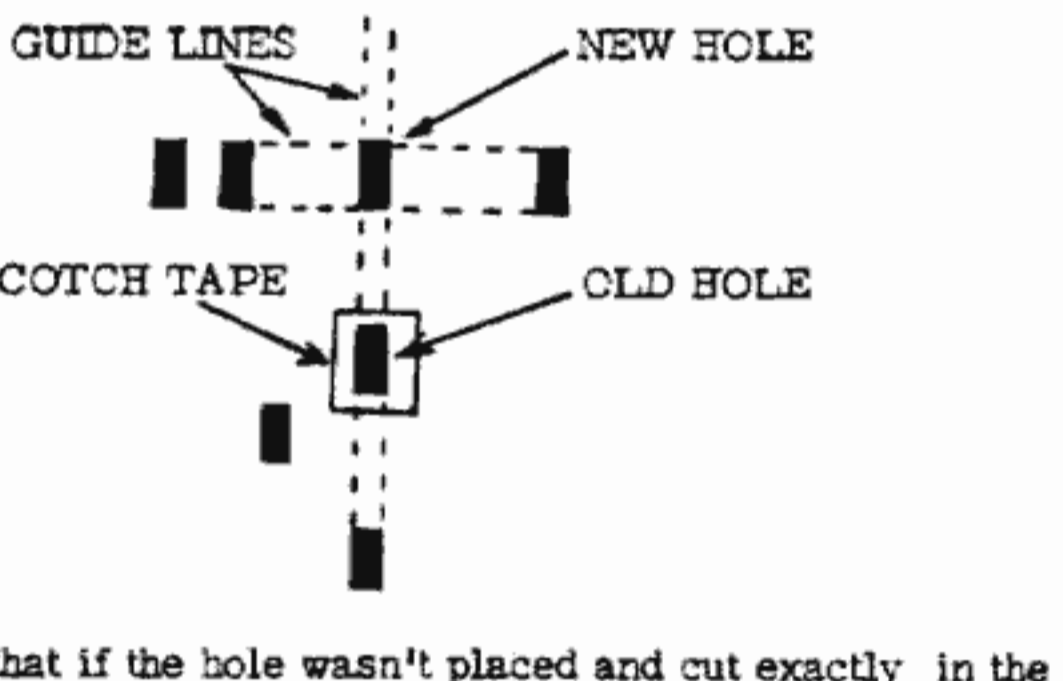
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**HOW TO READ COMPUTER BILLS**

The standard IBM keypunch code is used on computer bills sent you by the Phone Co., Blue Cross, Con bills sent you by the Phone Co., Blue Cross and everyone else who does alot of computer billing. Knowledge of the code can prove very interesting. Here's how it works. The card contains information printed on it, and you can read this information. But the computer reads this info by means of little rectangular holes punched in various rows and columns. The number "4" is represented by a hole in the fourth row, while the letter "B" is two holes, one in row A and one in row 2. A space is when no holes are punched.



THERE ARE 12 ROWS ON THE CARD, 0-9 and A and B.  
THERE ARE 30 COLUMNS, COUNTING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT.



knew that if the hole wasn't placed and cut exactly in the correct spot, the computer card reader would detect an error. His tiny piece of tape was pressed on firmly and he knew this would not be spotted. But, on the off chance that it would be, he covered himself by sending a check for the original amount, hoping to get the \$23.88 in the form of credit on his next bill. In fact, he sometimes will send more, like \$25.00, so that the scheme might not be looked at like

When you get a bill like this, the writing on it will not directly above the letters and numbers in this coded form. This is to keep the computer information secret. However, on a standard keypunch machine, which can be found at most college computer departments and in most large office buildings, computer cards can be punched out with the numbers and letters they represent right above each column. Plus, all the rows and columns are marked. Column 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 contain the amount you owe them on a N. Y. Telephone computer bill. It's unbelievable what some people would do out of spite towards the phone company. I know of one person who regularly crumples his computer card, and he knows that four of these holes will be 2, 3, 8, and 8. "Crash" doesn't have access to a keypunch machine, so he can't duplicate the phone bill and see instantly where the \$23.88 is punched out, but he knows another way. He assumes that there is at least one hole in each row of the card, and he knows that four of these holes will be 2, 3, 8, and 8.



HERE IS THE 2, 3, 8, 8, IN CONSECUTIVE COLUMNS, BILLS DON'T HAVE THE ROWS OR COLUMNS VISIBLE OR NUMBERED BUT THEY ARE STILL IN THE SAME PLACES.

I'd like to comment on a few statements being moronically repeated again and again by Pa Bell, via his public relation and security force regarding FAIRNESS. These are my own ideas mixed with those of some of the readers.

"We reluctantly allow billing to a third number from a pay phone, so as to allow the customer maximum service, although fraud losses are quite high." They really ate their foot this time. Pa Bell claims he's just so nice to risk billing to a third number from a pay phone, and then, without any publicity, they remove the bells from payphones. What about people who have to get a call back? What if they can't afford a phone, or they're moving, and they'd like to receive a call on a PUBLIC PHONE? Tough! The phone company would have us believe it's practically fraud to call someone back when their dime runs out, even though it costs us money to call them back! Telco is so greedy for those few extra pennies.

"We feel people who spend a long time on message unit calls should pay extra for each minute. This way people pay their fair share." This one's a gem. So they feel that people shouldn't have to subsidize the calls of others, huh? Do they publicize the fact that their one million employees get a discount on their phone bill each month? In fact, on their family's phone bill?

"Phone phreaks and illegal extension owners are picking the public pocket". Well, maybe compared to the grand larceny on the public by AT&T. Are they for real? How does putting in your own extension make other people pay, if, as they always claim, they don't like to make other people pay for the habits of some? AT&T simply wants to monopolize the manufacture, sale (or rental) and installation of every phone in the U.S., except for about a petty 1% so they can claim their not a monopoly! They have a testing program on now that is using up so much time and money just to detect illegal extension phones. They claim they have to protect the network. 99% of all store-bought phones are in no need for "protection", as our mob-oriented phone company claims. And the other 1% don't work when the owner installs it, so they remove it immediately. One reader says that all Western Electric phones made after 12-74 have a capacitor in the network box that does one thing; it allows detection even if the bell is disconnected. That's our money being spent to catch us trying to shop around in a so-called competitive economy.

As for phreaks ripping off the public, this is not too evident to us at TAP, who know that most phreaks enjoy exploring the system electronically, harmlessly, making a few calls that they would not ordinarily make. AT&T is afraid that word will spread and half the population will simply stop paying altogether and start phreaking. Not a bad idea, but that is far from happening at this time. But as I said before, we provide AT&T with the excuse that we're partly at fault for rising rates, which is simply a lie to cover up their ever-increasing greed for profit.

Dear TAP,  
In Issue 27 a reader said that the Z channel on Theta cable TV can be obtained free, but Theta is making this impossible by installing small white filter boxes on top of the telephone poles feeding houses with cable TV. This filter could be bypassed, but a better way is to open the white box and remove the insides, replacing it with a straight piece of wire. This then looks the same as before. Don't do this when police are cruising by; they wouldn't think you were sleepwalking and ended up on the telephone pole.  
-CALIFORNIA-

Dear TAP,  
In the 213 Area (excluding Gen. Tel.) we have an interesting method of making free calls. This system works after 6 on weekdays and after 5 on weekends. This is when telephone repair service is at a different office and there's a call-diverting device on 611. When repair service is called you get a dial tone, which is then broken by dial pulsing & you get connected to another office. If you disconnect as soon as you hear the dial pulsing and call back, an uninterrupted dial tone is heard which can be tough-toned off. Long distance people can still do this by calling the operator auxiliary number to repair service (after eight pacific time) and touch-toning the first digit when the dial tone is heard. The dial pulsing will occur, and then they can finish dialing the rest of the number (only in the 213 area).  
-CALIFORNIA-

-Note: By making the first impulse to the digit receiver a tone, the receiver then ignores any dial pulses. If a dial pulse is received first, however, all dial tones will be ignored. Two aux. no.s are 789-4010 and 346-0009 (213).  
TAP has courses on Basic Electricity that are easily understood, no matter how little knowledge of Electronic you already have. You learn by building useful projects and experiments such as those in TAP. In fact, you should be able to build any project in TAP after 6 courses, which are 50¢ each (free if you can't afford it). 4 courses are available now, A-Basic Electricity, B-Alternating Current, C-Basic Phones, and D-Amplifiers, with more coming soon. We urge you to send for them if you want a quick education in electronics.  
If you want to meet other phreaks in your area, and are willing to be met, write to Meat. We'll accumulate a list of names and match you up with someone nearby as soon as possible, and notify you both.

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BULK RATE  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 209  
Great Neck, N. Y.

A man who had bumped his head and gone into a coma awoke clearheaded and refreshed in 1992. The first thing he did was to phone a broker who informed him that his AT & T stock was now worth 5 million, his GM stock \$10 million, and his Xerox stock \$15 million "Holy", the man exclaimed excitedly, "I'm worth millions!" Then the telephone operator interrupted him. "Your three minutes are up, sir. Deposit \$1 million please."

an overpayment by mistake, but rather as an installment or even as a desire of credit by him. The person who opens his letter notes a check for \$23.88, and a bill for \$23.88, but if the computer indicated a credit of \$20.00, a nice round number, the person may be used to seeing people accidentally send in too much money by slipping a digit on their check, and investigate further. If the person saw a credit of \$21.32, however, it wouldn't appear suspicious.

Some card readers are mechanical, using little fingers feel the holes in the cards. However, more are now using light beams, which would not be stopped by the scotch tape unless it was colored. Also, card readers are precision machines that can be jammed by a small piece of scotch tape should it happen to come loose. Even a slight bend in the card, when straightened out, can still cause the card to jam, and when it does, someone is going to have to remove the card and possibly retype it.

Other variations on this theme are possible. When the amount on the bill is a credit due Crash, the last digit of the amount has a hole punched in the A row in addition to the number hole that is punched. One might assume that

All information is free if you can't afford it. Let us know.

- FACT SHEETS-50¢  
1-Telephone Conference Services  
2-How the Story is Written on Payphones  
3-Telephone Directory  
4-How Phone Calls are Made  
5-How the Bell System is Run  
6-How the Bell System is Run  
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**Bills Of \$210,117  
Written Off By  
Phone Firm**

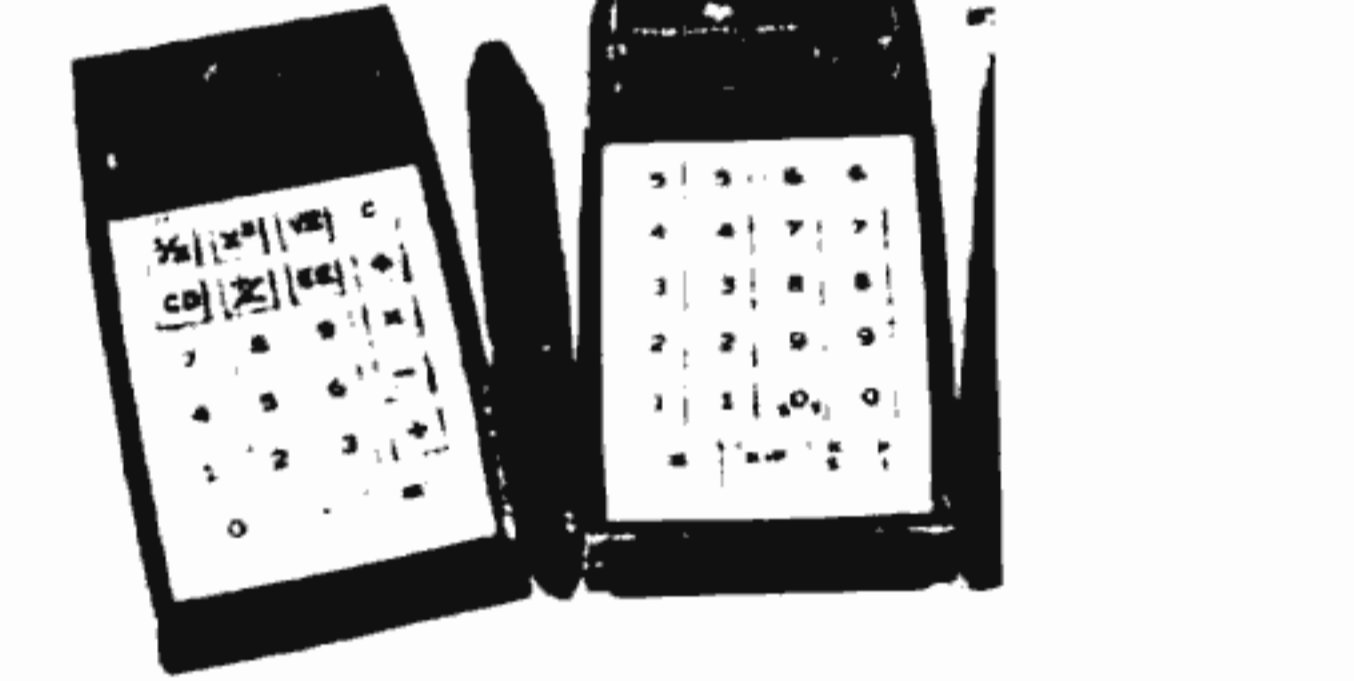
Some \$210,117 in unpaid customer bills has been written off as uncollectible by the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company during the first six months of this year. C & P usually gives customers 120 days after a "final bill" to pay after that, if other services for the customer, or if the bill is a small amount, writes it off as uncollectible, according to John G. Schuler, C & P spokesman. The figure is only 38 per cent of all C & P customer bills, but it is an increase over the first six months of 1973 when C & P wrote off about \$172,000, or 24 per cent of all bills.

punching this particular hole would result in a "reversal of the charges", in Phone Co. language. This is probably in addition to other codes for credit on the bill, and more information on this and related subjects would be welcome from readers. It makes fascinating reading, doesn't it? Crash knows some companies that this works at, and some where it doesn't. His warped mind tells him that any company big enough to have computer billing is worth ripping off, and so he continues his habit to this day. Beware!

**SOME INTERESTING IDEAS FOR  
PAY PHONE BOXERS**

By now, most phreaks are aware that boxing must be done with care to avoid getting caught. Most blue box arrests involve someone using a box on a home phone line for many calls. Rarely are busts made at pay phones, and so booths are becoming very popular. And since you can't bust someone for carrying a tape recorder, many boxers tape the tones and then go to the phone booth and make the call. If the tape is erased after completing the connection, it's hard to prove a box was used.

Sometimes, however, the phreak wants or needs his or her box right there at the phone booth. One phreak has built a box into the case of a TI SR-10 calculator. We'd really like to see someone build a blue box into a calculator case and still have the calculator work! One possible way



to switch between blue box and calculator operation would be a multipole relay for the diode matrix and power switching. A relay that would consume little current could be built using FETs as switches, or using a prepackaged IC analog switch.

In the phone booth, of course, there is that basic problem of holding the box or cassette up to the phone mouthpiece while looking out for people who might see. Most phreaks with cassette recorders use an extension speaker with a 3 foot cord. Some suggest running the cord inside the phreaks jacket and down the sleeve, emerging in the left hand or clipped to the inside sleeve. This hand also holds the phone mouthpiece and outside observers do not see the speaker. The recorder or box can be worn on a belt, also inside a jacket. Perhaps the ultimate idea in avoiding detection is to use a radio link from a car or home to the pay phone. A simple FM transmitter can transmit the tones to a small FM radio, which is entirely unsuspecting-looking and legal. A two-way radio would be more suitable for informing the person at the home case that the tones should then be sent. A continuous loop cassette or tape would eliminate the need for a partner and two-way radio.