

Tom Edison:

One of the major reasons I am displeased with what TAP has become is that you have spent nearly 50% of the damn space bitching and venting your spleen and other organs about what you don't like about us, the readers. We subscribed because the original version contained interesting and useful information, not the ravings of an ego-maniac who is pissed at himself because he can't handle the job, and wants somebody else to do it for him. Knock off the crap, and get back to business, or I shall cancel also.

Wash., D.C.

I received the above letter a few days ago and usually whenever someone feels strongly enough to take the time to write a poison pen letter to the editor, there are probably many other readers that feel the same way but are just too damn lazy to voice their opinions or they feel that their complaint letters will never see the editorial page. I could have taken the easy way out and just thrown away your letter but I feel that anybody that takes the time to write me deserves a reply. I'm very sorry that you disapproved of all my bitching but it WAS necessary! People are basically lazy. TAP readers are almost dead! To try and get some of our readers to write an article is almost as impossible as trying to get Bell to reduce phone rates! I honestly hoped that if I antagonized enough readers they would get off their asses and write me, even if they began their letter with "Stop bitchin', Edison, here's the info you wanted." No such luck. I then tried an "open door" policy where I decided to tell our readers EXACTLY where we stood financially. I let you all know that we needed new subscribers fast. As an immediate result to all of your NON-action, I was forced to increase subscription rates!

In another attempt to get some help I opened the TAP office from 12 noon to 9:00 PM for the months of July & August. Do you know how many TAP readers came in to help? I won't embarrass TAP by telling you how many people came in, but you could count them all on one hand and still have fingers left over to finger-fuck your girlfriend while cleaning out your ear wax with your pinky!

As for being an ego-maniac, I plead guilty! I'd be a hypocrite if I told you that going from a lowly subscriber to editor-in-chief hadn't given me a swell head!

As for being pissed at himself because I can't handle the job, you're partially right! I AM pissed that I can't do a better job but considering the fact that since I joined TAP we've published regularly and the fact that I have a full time outside job along with several other part time jobs, I don't feel that that I've fucked up the job too much, do you?

And as for wanting someone else to do the work for me, you're absolutely correct! I'd like nothing better than to sit on my fat ass just collecting the money and let some other sucker do all the work, but unfortunately it's just not happening that way. I wish that some of you who are bitching about the lack of technical info in our more recent issues could spend just one day at the TAP office! After 47 issues, there is just so much reader supplied info. I admit that I've had to scrape the bottom of the barrel sometimes for articles, but at least I've tried, which is more than I can say for most of you! Don't complain to me about the lack of technical info! You send it to me and I'll print it!

And finally, don't you threaten me about canceling your sub. Nobody put a gun to your head to force you to subscribe and I can assure you that even without your subscription, TAP will survive!



JAN-FEB 1978

NO. 48

Pay Bills by Phone

AUTOMATIC Telephone Payments (ATP) is an idea whose time has arrived. The service may be offered by 100 banks throughout the country within the next few months. Why do consumers like the idea?

The overwhelming plus is that it's easy and convenient. It saves lots of time. There are no checks to write, no envelopes to seal or address, no stamps to lick. You can pay bills without leaving your home or office. You can use the service almost any time, day or night. Even when you are out of town, you can call in your bill payments if you didn't have time before you left.

ATP cuts down on paperwork. Your record-keeping is made simpler. And it eliminates the embarrassment of writing bad checks for regular bills.

It's usually far cheaper than conventional bill-paying methods. It can cost as little as a 10-cent or 20-cent phone call. Some financial institutions charge no service fee at all. Some charge a monthly flat fee of \$2 to \$4. Some charge a 10-cent or 15-cent fee per transaction.

Consumers who use the service like it so much that they wish they could use it for all their bills. But, most systems are set up to handle only the regular, recurring payments, which account for 60 to 75 per cent of your financial obligations.

However, the service has encountered customer resistance in some markets. Because it's such a new and innovative idea, people don't understand what it's all about. The unfamiliar naturally breeds suspicion.

Drawbacks voiced by those who have not used the service include the fear that they will somehow lose control over their payment process. But payments are made only to vendors whom you've authorized ahead of time. And payments are not made unless you make the phone call to activate the payment.

Some folks prefer the security of having canceled checks as proof of payment. ATP systems furnish a monthly statement listing all transactions. The Internal Revenue Service accepts the monthly statement as proof of payment as long as the bank backs it up. However, in some localities, courts have not yet ruled whether ATP statements will be sufficient proof of payment in all situations.

Some people worry that the system may be too complicated for them to operate. But after placing the phone call, you get step-by-step instructions from a live operator or recording.

Concern has been expressed that privacy will be lost — that your bank will find out your bill-paying habits. But if you now have a checking account, your bill-paying habits are already known to your bank.

Some persons don't want to mix their transaction funds with their savings funds. This refers to ATP service offered by thrift institutions in states that prohibit them from offering payment accounts. But money in savings accounts receives interest up to the time you authorize payments to be made — an advantage over placing your money in a regular checking account.

Giving up "the float" is another reason some people don't favor ATP. You must have funds in the bank at the time you authorize payment. No chance to race to the bank to make a last-minute deposit before the check clears.

Ma Bell Strips

A new patient was quite upset when the doctor's nurse led him to a curtained cubicle and told him to undress.

"But I only want the doctor to look at my ingrown toenail!" he protested.

"Our rule is that everyone undresses," curtly answered the nurse as she left him.

"Damn fool rule," grumbled the patient as he complied, "making me undress to look at my toe!"

"That's nothing," came a voice from the next cubicle, "I came in to install another telephone."

IF YOU FIND MISTAKES in this publication, please consider that they are there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone and some people are always looking for mistakes.

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LETTERS FROM READERS

Dear TAP,

Your new smaller type is super -- more information in less space. I was particularly surprised to get the article on radar speed detectors as I had just been reading an article in Electronics Magazine (copy encl.) describing how good ol' Kustom Signals, Inc. of Chanute, Kansas.... (316) 431-2700....has put a 6800 microprocessor in their newest radar gun. The object is to enhance the tactic Smokey uses now, where the pistol-grip radar is left off until its victim is well within range, then raised suddenly and activated. He has your picture before your Fuzzbuster has had time to wake up, let alone your brake foot react. The micro-controlled gun operates with a modulation-controlling program which randomizes the transmitter's pulse width and repetition frequency; it also keeps the transmission duration so low that a detector doesn't have time to respond. I can't see any reasonable electronic countermeasure to this gun, particularly since its first accessory will be a camera to record your license number, the speed and the date photographically. This device will almost certainly obsolete the radar jammer anticipated in the September issue of Car & Driver, which has, by the way, surfaced as one of the most libertarian straight publications I've seen. Check out this issue; sure, they're into making money for the publisher, but you can read a lot of reality between the lines (schematics too).

Of course, all this technology is really irrelevant; as anyone who has ever contradicted a cop in traffic court knows, the judge listens to the cop. A prime example of this is the primitive timer used a lot in the south for speeding busts (Vascar). Any cop who can solve a time-distance-velocity equation can cheat on this just by flipping a switch a little early, yet the device looks real scientific in court. It's prohibited in California by V.C. 40802, which specifically precludes convictions based upon devices which measure the time required for you to traverse a certain distance. Related sections define a speed trap, outlaw the use of unmarked cars, identify an officer as legally incompetent if he attempts to introduce evidence based upon a speed trap or is not in full uniform, etc.

The lesson to be learned is that one who drives at a reasonable speed (over 55) would be well advised to purchase a copy of his or her state's motor vehicle code. I don't know if they all make this information available (it sure is subversive) but California does, and is required to by law. You aren't going to win by denying the violation, so you have to win by a) having a good lawyer (expensive and unreliable in most cases, not to mention the difficulty of finding one with the motivation to work on a low-profit case); b) knowing the law better than the cop who testifies; or c) knowing some loophole that will make them reticent in prosecuting. In the Bay Area I have found a couple of helpful bits of knowledge: first, as soon as you get a ticket, go to court and plead not guilty, asking for a trial date as late as the judge will allow. You will be arraigned and must be brought to trial within 45 days. In most cases, the court will be so backlogged that this will be impossible. If that doesn't happen, there is still a good chance that the cop won't show up because it's his day off, or that he will show up and will request a continuance. If he doesn't, you should; say your lawyer didn't show up, or whatever....just try to get the trial date postponed until after the 45 days have elapsed. If the cop isn't there (on any date agreed to by the judge, who has presumably consulted the prosecutor) or if 45 days have elapsed since you were arraigned, you may move immediately to have the case dismissed for lack of prosecution, and the judge must comply. Needless to say, nobody at the courthouse is going to help you with this; in fact they will often bullshit you in an attempt to make you fuck up, so read the book. Remember, this court-and-lawyer stuff is just a game, and nobody involved takes it very seriously...they just think they do. Unfortunately, you as the defendant are the only person who has to take it seriously.

While I'm digressing from the subject of telephone systems, perhaps I should send out a plea for help in the area of countercomputers. The unfortunate truth is that most folks who don't trust the government, big business, & technology, also don't trust computers. But they're using computers, and the computer myths, to oppress us; the more we understand computers and other implements of modern societal control, the better chance we have to subvert them. And as most TAP subscribers know, the best way to understand something is play with it. Due to the miracles of modern technology we now have microprocessors....little chips of silicon that can be taught to do lots of interesting things. While I personally feel that they're being forced on designers and will soon take all the joy out of logic design (unless you happen to design logic for a semiconductor house) they do have the power of relatively cheap versatility. They never get tired of dialing, and they're capable of extremely accurate timing. Quite a lucrative market has developed around putting little systems into boxes and selling them as computers to bored engineers in suburbia, but it's not necessary to spend \$2000 which is what they'd like. The KIM can be found for \$175 used, and with a lot of patience and a little ingenuity can be made to synthesize tones, close relay contacts, measure frequencies, learn and repeat control sequences, and so forth. For those with tools, the cost can be reduced to about \$50 by sleazing samples from manufacturers, copying someone else's manual, ripping off small parts and hand-wiring. (If you guys want an article on sample-sleazing, send me a few beans and I'll find the time).

Because the people who own personal computers tend to come from social strata where both several hundred dollars and the requisite education come naturally, there aren't many revolutionary computerfreaks. There's a number of publishers trying to elbow in on the profits, but their political leanings prevent any exchange of sensitive information. So we need a medium through which we can transmit information.... information we desperately need, like encoding algorithms for airline computer network data transfer, access methods for the NCIC computer, and so forth. We have the medium (TAP) but WHERE'S THE INFORMATION? Just a few letters from interested folks appearing in TAP would probably supply the motivation for a lot more of us lazy fuckers. I'll be pleasantly surprised (as well as get my ego boosted) to hear from anyone with a desire to correspond in a less public manner, but I think everybody needs a fire lit under 'em. WHATDAFUCK?

Power Bus

Unincorporated

Dear TAP,

This is a BLACK BOX ALERT!!! About a month or six weeks ago my cousin in Iowa, who has been a faithful Black Box user for some time, heard a knock on his door one evening --- it just happened to be three Telco security people who had with them a computer print-out of every phone call that had been made to his phone since March of this year!! They had been alerted by the large number of "unanswered" calls to his number. They asked him where he got the device (from a hitch-hiker), how much it cost to build (who knows?), how is it made (didn't know), where is it (threw it away), etc. They told him they know there are lots of Black Boxes all over the country and they have the means to detect them. They know there are a large number in the New York area, but right now the number is too large for them to go after. My cousin gave the Bells \$400 as partial payment for the tolls avoided, and they agreed not to prosecute. Please include this alert in the next TAP issue. I don't know what advice to give except for everybody to stop using Black Boxes for a month or so. That might confuse 'em a bit!

The Answer Man

INFORMATION RAIN DATA SERVICE
PRESENTS
A REVIEW OF
POOR MAN'S JAMES BOND AND THE SURVIVOR
BOTH BY KURT SAXON

Poor Man's James Bond is an amazing and shocking book. It's basically a manual of violent mayhem that covers homemade weapons, arson, explosives, dirty tricks, and counterfeiting. Saxon accurately bills it as "the most outrageous book on improvised weaponry ever."

PMJB is divided into two sections. The first is by Saxon and concerns general do-it-yourself style nastiness and destruction. Typical topics are "tear gas", "chemical delay igniters", "the eleven shot shotgun", and "bomb handling and protection." Material is clearly presented in Saxon's very unique and humorous style. The plans and formulas are simple but effective and so are easily enacted by even the most drug-crazed and morally bankrupt TAP reader.

The second half of PMJB is a technical paper on arson written by a member of the other side (ie: a pcrker). It's quite extensive and concentrates on the "how to's" of this growth industry. Highly recommended for anyone who has a burning desire (ugh) to get even with the FoneCo.

The only way in which PMJB can be faulted is in the fact that a small amount of information is outdated and thus inaccurate. For example, ammonium nitrate (an explosive mentioned) is no longer available in plant nurseries. Nicotine insecticide, for which Saxon has a rather novel use, has also gone the way of the three slot payfone. It is, however, only a small amount of information in PMJB that is erroneous and the enterprising reader will quickly discover what material no longer applies.

The Survivor is a monthly newsletter published by Saxon. It's supposed to be a continuation of PMJB but in my opinion does not fulfill this role. It seems to be concerned with surviving some sort of vague catastrophe (as the name implies). I was never one for imminent disaster and do not find most of the material relevant. A lot of it deals with various aspects of (post blowout) primitive lifestyle such as blacksmithing, windpower, survival nutrition, etc. There is some material which corrects and adds to PMJB (the letters column is best in this respect) but the majority of the material in The Survivor is concerned with making it past that big bummer. A lot of this information is simply reprints from old formularies that (like Henley's) that Saxon is big on but seem to be of little value. If you're into the "coming crash" mentality you'd probably enjoy The Survivor. On the other hand, if you are the average technophreak TAP reader who'd rather screw Bell than stalk the wild rutabaga it's of limited value. But PMJB is a gem!

Late note: Saxon is now selling a new edition of PMJB that includes some additional texts on fireworks for \$10.00. I have not seen this new edition but am sure it is well worth the money being asked. The Survivor is \$8.00 per year for a monthly sub. Both are available from: Atlan Formularies, Box 483, Eureka Calif 95501.

* the name of this column comes from Eno's song "Miss Shapiro": "and the information rain slashed the dirty window panes in the square." Please direct any comments, criticism, etc to Information Rain Data Service c/o TAP. I am especially interested in knowing if there is interest in having this become a regular column revealing some of the more "unique" material being published these days.



AT&T

The Elephant and the Gnat

A \$50-billion-per-year jumbo giant—that was the phone company in 1971. Since then, it's ballooned into a \$75-billion-dollar-per-year mega-giant. At the same time, the

phone phreaks—ATT's sworn enemy, those people who use devious electro-wizardry like blue boxes and black boxes—have grown by an even greater percentage, although still tiny by comparison in actual numbers. One important off-shoot of this crafty subculture is a publication called TAP.

Scenes first covered TAP in 1971, when it was a baby newsletter with only 100 subscribers. In 1974, originator and editor Al Bell abdicated to successor Tom Edison (all those involved go by pseudonyms for protection), and over the past three years, Edison has expanded the sheet, bringing to it an international readership of over 2000.

"Although we call TAP an 'information only' source, we do encourage all our readers to send in any hot tips about a new gadget or development. No matter what sophisticated technology Ma Bell comes up with to snuff us out, one of us always invents a way around it, shares it through the paper, and soon all the phreaks are on top again," grinned Edison, himself a crack electronics specialist.

"We've now become so popular we've rented an office at 1201 Broadway, room 608. It's open every Wednesday afternoon until 9 p.m. Anyone can come in and rap with us about phone problems, get information, or just swap stories about what's going on in the scene. And we've even set up a special service called 'MEAT' so phreaks can discover each other within their own cities." (Subscriptions are \$5 for 10 issues; \$7 first-class. Mailing address: TAP, room 504, 142 W. 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036).

At this point, there are literally hundreds of ideas that TAP spreads among its bimonthly readership. Here are just a few:

- Ways to hook into the worldwide military Audovon system and have access to any important "hot line."
- Plans for making special improved slugs for pay phones, or where to get them.
- Methods for turning traffic lights green while remaining in your car.
- Latest schemes for getting free electricity.
- How to lower phone bills every month by repunching the computer card, creating a special refund that gets deducted from the next month's bill.

Doesn't anybody ever get caught in a rip-off enterprise of this magnitude? "Occasionally," Edison admitted. "But not often. We're extremely careful. It's impossible to telephone us, and we screen all our requests very thoroughly. The ones that look suspicious get discouraging replies. We shred every single piece of discarded paper. Man, does ATT hate us," he chuckled. "You know, there's really nothing they can do. All their tracking machinery's become so complex and expensive, it's impossible for them to check out and verify every suspicion."

The above article originally appeared in the September 26th issue of THE VILLAGE VOICE in the Scenes column written by Howard Smith & Leslie Harlib. This is as good a time as any to publically thank the Voice and especially Smith & Harlib for giving us a plug now and again when we needed it. I've been a Voice subscriber for 18 years and I go back to when it was 10¢ and 10 pages. It's now 60¢ and well over 100 pages and while some Voice readers feel that the new large size makes the Voice less intimate, I personally feel that the increase in size has made for a wider range of topics and writers. The fascinating information in Smith's Scenes column alone is worth the price of the issue. I owe Howard Smith a personal vote of thanks because it was his TAP plug in the September 1974 issue of the Voice that enabled me to write to TAP for a subscription which led eventually to my becoming Editor of TAP.

A one year subscription costs \$18 or you may sub for half a year for \$9. Write to: The Voice, Subscription Dept., 643 Ryan Way, Marion, Ohio 43302. Tell 'em Tom Edison sent ya.

NEW RATES !!

Back Issues are 50¢ each.

Subscriptions - 10 issues - US Bulk rate \$5.

US First Class in plain sealed envelope \$7.

Canada & Mexico First Class \$7.

Foreign \$8.

IMPORTANT! Include mailing label or Xerox copy

when writing to TAP about your subscription.

Book - Monopoly \$1.20.

Electronic Courses - 50¢ each A - DC Basics,

B - AC Basics, C - Phone Basics, D - Amplifiers.

TAP T-shirts \$4. Specify size: Small, Med., Large, X-Large.

Send only check or money order (No Cash) to

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This is a mail drop only.

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Tom Edison—phreak
with phoney handle

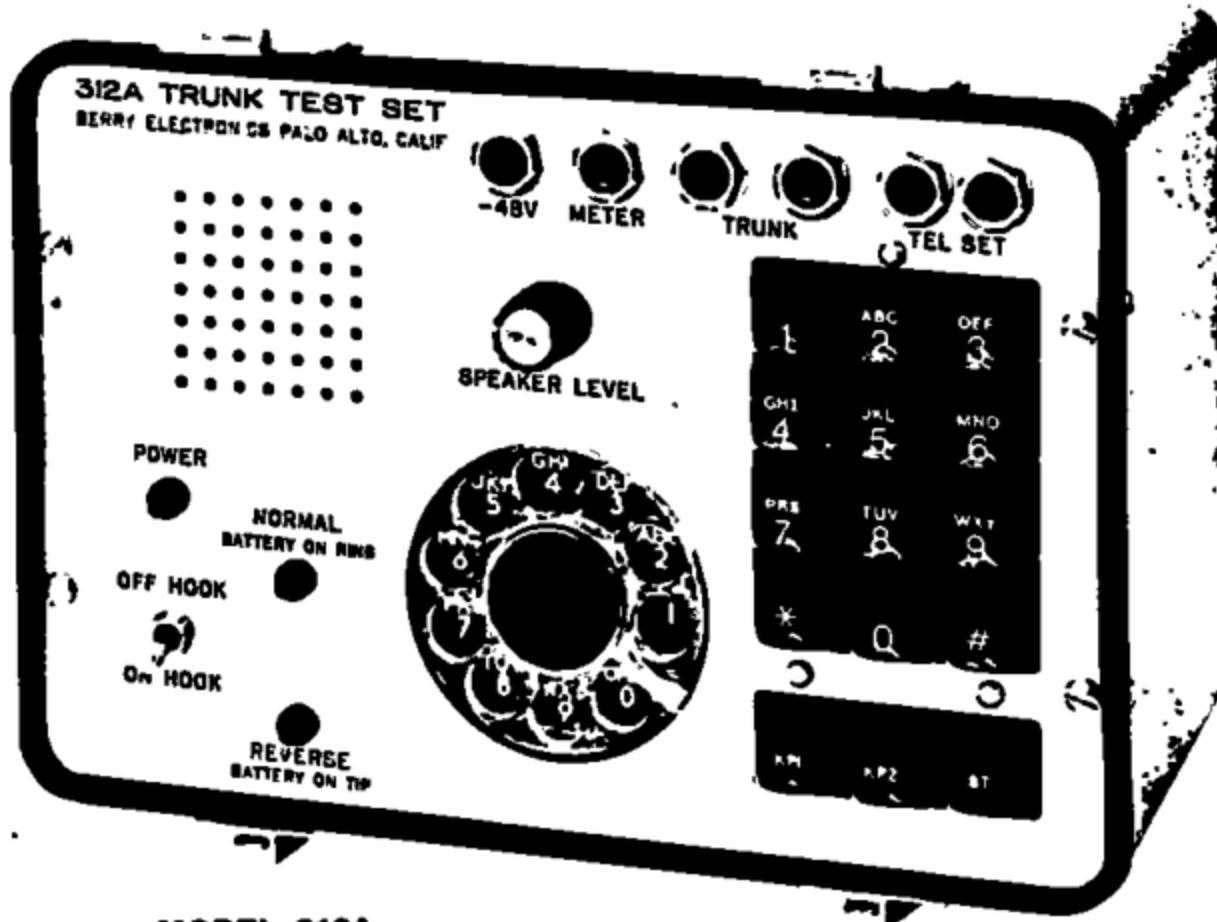
Applications

Test Incoming Trunks for reversal and completion.
Test Incoming Registers (MF and DP)
Test Outgoing Trunks at the QDT Frame Test Position.

Specifications

Type of Signaling:	Multifrequency or Dial Pulse.	Terminating Impedance: (while receiving)	600 ohms balanced DC-10KHz
MF Digits Generated:	Digits 0 thru 9, KP1, KP2, ST Code 11, Code 12, (CAMA Reset same as Code 11).	MF Output Level:	-44dBm (800 ohm load). Usable with trunks up to 7000 ohms resistance.
Output Frequencies:	Standard MF: 700, 900, 1100, 1300, 1500, and 1700 Hz.	Trunk Impedance Limit:	Within .1 dB of trunk input level.
Frequency Accuracy:	$\pm 2\text{Hz}$ (25°C).	METER Jack Level:	Useful to -40 dBm.
Frequency Stability:	$\pm 5\text{Hz}$ (0° to 60° C).	Power Requirements:	-40 VDC to -60 VDC with a current drain of approximately 100 mA.
Output Waveform:	Envelope formed by two sine waves; each sine wave has less than 2% harmonic distortion.	Monitor Speaker Sensitivity:	Useful to -40 dBm.
Output Impedance: (while sending)	600 ohms balanced DC-10KHz.	Size:	8" x 6" x 8" d.
		Weight:	3.75 pounds.
		Temperature Range:	0° to 60°C (operating).

All of the above tests can be made without using the Master Test Frame, thereby lessening the interruption of routine testing.
The Model 312A is a portable multifrequency (MF) and Dial Pulse (DP) sender with built-in trunk monitoring for testing incoming and outgoing interoffice trunks and trunk equipment.



MODEL 312A

The Berry Electronics Model 312A Trunk Test Set is a portable Multifrequency (MF) and Dial Pulse (DP) sender with built-in trunk monitoring for testing incoming and outgoing interoffice trunks and trunk equipment. Provision is made for the telephone craftsman to monitor the trunk under test via a built-in loudspeaker or to actually communicate on the trunk being tested by using the "TEL SET" jacks and a standard telephone headset. Two Light Emitting Diode (LED) front panel indicators show the craftsman trunk battery polarity. "NORMAL" polarity (Battery on Ring) lights one LED while "REVERSE" polarity (Battery on Tip) lights the other LED. Battery reversal supervision and signaling are quickly and unambiguously displayed. Parallel connected "TRUNK" jacks allow other test instruments to be connected to the trunk under test along with the 312A. This feature is particularly useful in transmission and noise testing with the 312A being used to outpulse the proper test number for 1 milliwatt test tone or "quiet line" with an external level meter in parallel to measure the tone or noise level. An isolated and bridging "METER" jack is provided on the 312A for connecting instruments with unbalanced and/or low impedance inputs to the trunk under test. Many instruments such as spectrum analyzers, wave analyzers, and vacuum tube voltmeters have such inputs and these are normally difficult to connect to a balanced trunk without a bridging amplifier. Six highly stable transistor oscillators provide the standard 700, 900, 1100, 1300, 1500, and 1700 Hz MF frequencies for producing all MF codes including KP2, Code 11, and Code 12, thus making the 312A useful for testing CAMA, TSPS, and International Direct Distance Dial (IDDD) trunks. Normal power for the 312A is -48 VDC from the central office battery. With option 01, the 312A is powered either by the -48V central office battery or its own internal battery pack.

Dear TAP,

Thank you for your inquiry concerning the 312A MF & DP Trunk Test Set. We are currently supplying a number of Bell System and Independent telephone companies with this test set. The primary area of interest and application has been in switching maintenance. I have enclosed several data sheets for your convenience.

The 312A Trunk Test Set is far less costly than competitive instruments, and yet has superior performance and features. The price of the 312A, which operates from both central office battery supply and its own internal battery pack, is \$650. The small size and light weight makes the 312A very versatile and easy to use.

If you or anyone else at your company would like more information regarding the 312A MF & DP Trunk Test Set, please call or write:

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PLAZA, N. J.

Dessert of Day: Pot Luck...

Two Kittatinny Regional High School students face juvenile court action because they added too much "spice" to brownies in a home economics class, police said.

State police in Newton said yesterday that two 16-year-old boys in a cooking class in the school in the Sussex County community of Hampton loaded brownies with marijuana and passed them out to classmates.

The teacher became suspicious when students began wadding down the treats, police said.

