

Tom Edison battles plot!

TAP

MAY - JUNE 1979 NO. 57

Good, now that I've got your attention, let me make a request. First, for you new TAP subscribers, please read the following tale to get a better understanding of the history of TAP and how we operate. Second, for you old time TAP-ers who usually skip over any article that doesn't have a new schematic for a Box in the first paragraph of a story, please read this tale of woe if for no other reason than to appreciate the fact that you're holding a copy of TAP in your hands when, in all rights and because of what I'm about to tell you, TAP should have folded a long time ago. The title "Tom Edison Battles Plot!" could never be truer.

Our story begins on a hot July 4th weekend in 1975 when I was asked to join the TAP staff by publisher Al Bell. We opened an office on Broadway in New York City the following month and together with Mr. Phelps, we co-edited TAP with Al Bell. In March of 1977 Mr. Phelps left for greener lands and in August of that same year Al Bell resigned as editor. And now the plot thickens! I'm a technician and don't know my ass from a hole in the ground about running the business end of TAP. I asked Al to help me and his business advice was simple: Screw everybody! He kept no records, no books, only a file folder with a hell of a lot of missing receipts. I was naive enough to think that the business would run itself, and I was to pay dearly later on for that mistake!

Even though Al Bell had resigned, he asked me if I would let him do our mailing labels. Since I had no access to a computer and since Al offered to do them for free, I accepted his offer. And for a few months all went well. Then in the month of November Al Bell started to show his true colors. I had busted my hump the previous months getting issues 48 & 49 ready for publication only to be told by Al that he didn't have the mailing labels ready. He told me to be patient and I was, right up until March of 1978! Then I blew up, called up the bastard and put the screws on him to get those mailing labels done. Within a few days I had the labels and on March 23rd I finally mailed out issues 48 & 49. I told Al that the next issue of TAP would be our 7th anniversary edition and I'd need the mailing labels no later than the end of June. He said he'd have them by then. When the end of June rolled around and I still didn't have the labels, I called Al. He said he was working on it and to be patient. Where did I hear that before? I should have realized what was going on but I didn't.

And now the plot thickens some more! You gotta say one thing about Al Bell, he sure practiced what he preached! Over the years TAP has reported how individuals were screwing the I.R.S. out of taxes and apparently Al thought TAP should do the same. I discovered this condition during the summer of 1978 when Big Brother started sending TAP some nasty notes to pay up or else!!! To add insult to injury, Al had also ordered a number of books without paying for them. Had he ripped off the book company using his own name, that would have been OK, but by using TAP's name the collection agencies were after TAP and me! The staggering tax bill was finally paid but the late charges really put a dent into TAP's cash reserve.

TAP makes money only when we publish issues. We can't publish issues if we don't have mailing labels and that's just what we had from March to November of 1978 - no labels! I continued to print issues 51, 52, 53, 54, 55 & 56 with the expectation that Al wouldn't let me down. Boy, was I wrong! In November 1978 I get a call from him informing me that he can no longer do our mailing labels for us. Had that rotten bastard told me this way back in March, I could have had our labels printed by a commercial firm and all of you readers would have had your issues of TAP on schedule. Now, due to this nine month absence of issues, TAP was not only broke but we still didn't have any mailing labels either! The bills kept coming in, the issues were sitting on the office floor collecting dust, and the letters from our readers asking where the hell were their issues kept piling up on the desk! I had to make a decision and soon! I decided that I'd spent too much time, effort and sweat trying to build up TAP to let that no

good son of a bitch destroy it! I would put my own personal financial backing behind TAP. That would keep us going for a while. But I had to have mailing labels for those 7 issues pronto and to get them I needed Al Bell's help one last time.

I needed the computer master tape that contained the names and addresses of all our subscribers. I called Al (yes, even the great Al Bell has a phone!), crossed my fingers and asked for a copy of that tape. The tape I requested was for issue 48. The tape he sent was actually issue 46. I didn't know this until I started to check the labels against the computer print out and found a lot of omissions. What this meant was that all persons who subscribed between issues 46 and 48 were not listed on the master tape. Al Bell had struck again!!!!

Well, at least I now had a master tape valid up to issue 46. Now, how to update this tape? Al had used an old Fortran system using IBM key-punch cards and reel-to-reel magnetic tape. We had to upgrade this system. I called upon two old TAP friends, Cheshire and the Wizard. I key punched the new subscribers onto IBM cards, gave them to the Wizard who transferred them onto reel-to-reel magnetic tape who then gave them to Cheshire who transferred that onto a floppy disk to drive a printer! With so many steps involved, it's a wonder we got labels at all! And while I'm on the subject, let me publicly thank the Wizard and especially Cheshire for all their hard work not only in getting labels printed but in deciphering Al Bell's coded master tape. Of course there were mistakes and omissions. I personally had to hand letter hundreds of issues. Some people got several copies of each issue. Some subscribers didn't get any issues at all! I do have a hand written master list and I was forced to go through it several times to make corrections and make sure that all subscribers got their issues. I could not print our usual 3, 2, 1, and 0 issue renewal warning on the labels and since most of our subscriptions expired with issue 56, I stamped all labels PLEASE RENEW. I realized that there would be some concern by readers whose subscriptions expired on a later issue than 56 and were still getting a renewal notice but I had no idea you would be so vocal about it! Let me assure all our readers that the master list is correct and you'll get all the issues you're entitled to, no matter how many renewal notices you get. I hope that this clears up any questions about your recently screwed up subscription.

And now, what about the future of TAP? Well, to begin with there won't be any Al Bell to fuck things up. TAP now has a SOL 20 computer and a Micropolis 1053 Mod II quad density dual floppy disk drive. There were a number of readers concerned about the security of our mailing list. Rest assured it is secure. No one has access to it but me!

The old TAP office at 1201 Broadway is closed. For increased security we have moved underground. You may still use our mail drop address: TAP, Room 418, 152 W. 42 St., New York, N.Y. 10036. If you would like to talk to some of the TAP staff, it is rumored that they get hungry between 5:30 and 7:30 PM at Al-Ann's Luncheonette, 280 Bleeker St., Greenwich Village, N.Y. Take the #1 subway to Sheridan Sq. and then go two blocks south to Bleeker. Bon appetite!

1979 Credit Card Code

RANDOM NOTES

By G. J. Mandias

Make Credit Card calls only from pay phones, and at random times and locations. The less pattern the less likelihood of getting caught. When a call is made from a pay phone, there is no record of the originating phone number.

When you give the Credit Card number to the operator, s/he may ask for its Area Code. To have it handy, further identification is very unlikely however, the operator may listen to the beginning of your conversation.

If a fraudulent Credit Card call is reported to phone company security, and it is made from a pay phone, the only thing they have to go on is the phone number of the recipient. If the call was made to some institutional switchboard, they're stuck. If the call was to an individual, they may call, and try lies, sympathy, intimidation, or whatever they think might get them information or money, or they might just break the call onto the recipient's bill, months later. So only call individuals who will be dumb on the phone and sharr reading their bills. And not too often.

A telephone Credit Card number is ten digits and a letter. The first seven digits are being charged to. That is followed by the Regional Accounting Office number. The main RAO's are listed here. The letter is a verification code which changes every year. In 1979 it has to match the last digit of the telephone number.

1979 letters: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
A R L D M O V Z H W

It is harder to hunt someone who never uses the same Credit Card number twice. Long distance information is free, and a little imagination, there are endless possibilities. Since the call ends up on some real phone bill, don't make up numbers at random.

Also remember, please, that information is synaptic; when it's spread, it grows.

RAO Credit Card Codes

Area RAO Code

201 093,094,101 408 293 618 204,547
202 032 412 020,042 701 133
203 020 413 009 702 176
204 456 444 088,089 703 033
205 054 415 158,159,167 704 319
206 163 416 476,478 705 477
207 003 417 157 707 223
208 039,120 418 505 712 311
209 254,289 419 057,248 713 105,151
212 017 031,023, 420 086 714 164,182
072,074 502 048 715 202,330
213 986,183,194 503 131 716 020,107
214 149 504 046 717 027,028
215 041,043 505 102 801 155
216 050,082 506 451 802 002
218 061,314 507 310 803 189
219 236 509 128 804 257
219 320 512 146,152 805 252,255
201 011 513 107,085 806 103
202 012 514 470,472 807 481
203 153 515 134 808 461
204 034 516 127 809 490 (P.R.)
205 044,102 517 095 810 081
206 457 518 024 812 321
207 137 519 484 813 531
208 237 059 604 814 208,307
309 203,260,277 602 066 816 144
312 086,097,098, 603 004 817 150
095,234 604 086 818 474
313 083,094 605 138 901 187
314 143,177,251 608 211 902 452
315 303 609 473 903 056
316 080 609 101 906 295
317 080 609 101 907 492
318 051 612 126 912 145
319 149 613 417 913 185
401 019 614 079 914 069
402 139 615 047 915 221
403 454 616 086 916 160
404 035,063 617 001,006,007, 918 141
405 148,215 008 919 036
406 154

Screw The IRS!

That's right, help TAP screw the IRS out of taxes! Send CASH with all your checks. That way there's no microfilm record of your check or money order by the nosy banks. And most important of all, there's no record of the money for IRS tax purposes! As a further incentive, effective for immediately - All TAP subscriptions and renewals paid by cash will be extended one free issue. All orders for TAP merchandise sent with cash payment will be given a 10% discount. Remember, the more money we have to pay Big Brother, the less we have to help pay our enormous operating costs. We realize that you always take a chance sending money through the Postal Monopoly and of course there are always a few smart-asses who will send no money with their order and then raise holy hell with us demanding their order be sent. You send cash through the mail at your own risk!

Any hitch about where the hell your order is MUST be sent with a copy of your canceled check or money order. If you feel you need this "protection", then continue to send checks and money orders, but if you feel as we at TAP do, that Big Brother is getting too much of our hard earned dollars, this is one small way you have to get even! Remember, send cash and get an 11 issue sub or renewal for the price of a 10 issue one. Send cash and get a 10% discount on all TAP merchandise.

TAP MEAT

During the early years of TAP (Then known as YIFL) we offered a service to our readers called MEAT. The purpose of MEAT was to exchange names and addresses of TAP readers who lived close to each other so that they could get together and discuss interesting research & development ideas and projects in person. Readers are still requesting to be placed on our MEAT list and I have tried to take care of all MEAT requests as best as I can but due to the fact that our list was NOT in any kind of order, it was and is very difficult to match up readers. All of this has now been solved by the use of our new computer so this is to formally announce that TAP MEAT is now back in operation! To qualify for a position on our list simply send me your name (an alias will do) and address and a self addressed stamped envelope.

Upon receipt of your letter I'll scan through our list for the closest one to you and send that name and address back to you. A WORD OF CAUTION: I have no way to personally check out the person whose name I've given you so if he or she turns out to be a Bell security agent, don't blame me! I can say in all honesty however that in all the years we ran our MEAT service, I never got a complaint from anybody who said he paired together. Please remember to include a self addressed stamped (and Elmered!) envelope with your MEAT requests. Postal Monopoly rates are outrageous enough without us having to foot the bill for your MEAT request.

TAP DA.

Our D.A. (Disturbance Assistance) service is temporarily suspended until further notice. Our photo-copier is suspended and considering the fact that Lincoln used our copier for his Gettysburg Address, I think it's reasonable to say that it's had it! Also, since we are still getting our new office organized, the D.A. files are all boxed up and not readily available. A lot of our D.A. info will be put into our computer for security reasons. A complete index to all items in our D.A. file will be printed in a future issue of TAP. I would also inform you that the D.A. system is totally operational again. Readers who have sent in D.A. info recently will receive their requested info as soon as our files are in order. If your info is "hot" and you're worried about keeping it safe, send it to us. Our security is probably a hell of a lot better than yours anyway. The condition of eachmann D.A. info are the same and we fully explained our free D.A. info sheet. Write to us for your free copy.

Patch It Up!

TAP "Ma Bell" patches as shown at left are now available for \$1.50. The official looking 3 inch patch is white with blue cracked bell and gold lettering & trim. Please order one and some of the TAP junk listed below to help us pay the rising costs of publishing TAP. I will try to hold all TAP prices at their current level for as long as I can. Your support is urgently needed!

Back Issues are 50¢ each. Issue #50 is \$1.00.
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.
Electronics Courses - 50¢ each. A - DC Basics, B - AC Basics, C - Phone Basics, D - Amplifiers.
TAP Mugs - \$4.50.
TAP T-SHIRT - \$4.50. Specify size and color: Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large. Black or red T-shirt with white TAP logo.
TAP "Ma Bell is a Cheap Mother" T-shirt - \$4.50.
TAP "Ma Bell is a Cheap Mother" Large, Extra Large. Blue, tan, or yellow.
TAP "Cracked Bell" Button - 50¢ each.
TAP Cassette Tape - \$3.50. Hear Cant Crunch, Al Bell, Joe Congressia, and Bell Security Chief John Doherty. Send cash, check, or money order in!

TAP, Room 418, 152 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036
This is a mail drop only.

I find that it saves me some time in putting my friends hip to the inner's blue trick by having lists in garbage and not responded, the readers would like to use the following form letter for their convenience -- it can be retyped or xeroxed directly from the pages of TAP!

FREE POSTAGE

The increasing cost of postage to mail letters and packages is bringing down our standard of living. To remedy this deplorable situation, some counter control measures can be applied.

For example, if the stamps on a letter are coated with a brush with stiff, short bristles or a brush that is from 1/8 to 1/2 inch wide works well. Just dip the brush directly into the glue and spread it on evenly, covering the entire surface of the stamp. It will dry in about 15 minutes.

For mailing packages, just follow the same procedure as outlined above; however, the package should be weighed and checked to make sure that it has the correct amount of postage on it before it is brought to the Post Office.

Removing the cancellation and Glue's from the stamps can be easily accomplished by soaking the paper in warm water until they float free from the paper. The stamps can then be put onto a paper towel to dry. Precancel stamps in large batches saved time too. Also, it may be helpful to write the word "Glue" at the top of the letter (not on the envelope) to cue the receiving party in that the stamps have been protected with glue's.

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The Telephone #1

FLY NOW, PAY NEVER

This is a method of obtaining plane tickets using one's own personal checking account to purchase the ticket without suffering legal consequences when the check bounces. Can also be done with an alias account.

Open a checking account in your own name or use an account that you already have. Make sure that you have a balance of at least \$20.00 in the account, but not enough to pay for the cost of the plane ticket(s). You want the check to bounce. Writing checks on a closed account is a felony in some states, so make sure that you are using an open account.