

Order of The Iron Test Pattern



Volume 1

October 10, 2002

Number 2

This is your Newsletter and your input is, of course, most welcome.

We've been managing this noble Order of the Iron Test Pattern for a little over a month now and nothing in our lives has been the same since. The power has definitely gone to our feet.

Our new website, as of October 10th (today) has had no less than 500+ different deranged souls visit it. There must be a lot of folks out there that don't have much better to do.

Those of you who are among those 500+ visitors to our website, you know we've made some changes. We've added a "Can You Top This" page – the very title should speak for itself. So that the fame and flames of our members and those we know survived the rigors of this business, we added a "Hall of Fame and Flames" page. Got any candidates? We've also added a list of members. And finally there's the new "Rogues' Gallery." We'll be posting pictures of members at different events, as we can muster up the tintypes. If you have any pictures that we can post, send them in. Blackmail is one way to pay for our activities.

Those of you who haven't taken the time to visit our website, well what can we say?

NEWS

For the latest in industry news, take a look at the Current Edition of Tech-Notes. The latest is dated October 7th, 2002. <http://www.Tech-Notes.Tv> These are the folks who maintain our <http://www.OITP.org> website.

Just in, the FCC isn't going along with the DirecTV/Dish merger.

NEW PAGES ON THE WEBSITE

We've had four submissions to our "Can You Top This page. Mark Schubin tells us of his surviving the riggers of New York's Lincoln Center and burning holes in his typewriter ribbon writing for Videography.

Your infamous Sagacious Pixel never passes up an opportunity to brag about his work with those silly little translators in the sky called satellites. You'd think he did it all.

Father Bob, the name we've dubbed our notorious founding father, Robert N. (Bob) Vendeland, tells us about how he set the example for all those obnoxious infomercials. Can we ever forgive him?

And finally "The Keeper of the Antique Cameras," Chuck Pharis, tells us about his collection of antiquated television gear. You'd think he was there with Philo showing him how to do it. And if anyone doesn't know, who Philo is, drop us a line and we'll gladly explain. If you've got any old stuff lying around and you don't know what to do with it, call Chuck. He's the Cal Worthington of used television equipment, but he's not reselling them. I'm waiting for him to tell us he's got an old TT-5A. Know what that is?

At the request of several members, we've also added a list of members. Now this list desperately needs updating. We do not have reconciliation between several of the databases we received from the previous administrators of this fine organization. Much of the information is old and incorrect. If you do not see your name on the membership list, please send us your latest info so we can get things updated. Other than the name, dignity/rank and date the member began his or her excursion of survivorship in the television game, there is no other contact information that would disclose why the electric bill is so high once they've signed their digital transmitter on the air. If you want your name removed, drop us a line.

SENT IT ON

Those of you who sent us your applications and included \$\$\$ to cover the costs, should have gotten the pins and/or certificates by now. We still have a few applications that we've not gotten the \$\$\$ for. As soon as we get the \$\$\$, we'll be sending them out.

Back in the days when Itelco and others underwrote the ~~Order~~, they offered complimentary certificates; we cannot afford to do that any longer. Certificates are only \$5 and lapel pins, which can also be used for tie-tacks, are \$10 each. There is a \$5 shipping and handling charge for each order. Most folks like to have both the certificate and pin and send in a check to cover the costs with their application. Please be advised that batteries are not included and continued use may be habit forming, or may cause the loss of hair on an unmentionable part of the body.

Remember: There are no dues or initiation fees. To join, simply go to our website: <http://www.OITP.org> and click on the "**How to Join**" tab. This page explains the requirements and how to qualify for the various "dignities" or ranks. You might want to

check there to see if you are eligible for an upgrade or reinstatement. If you'd like to see samples of the certificates, there's a link there. And yes, we've sent out our first Monochrome Mogul certificate with its Black, Gray and White ribbons on it.

Click on the application link; you'll need an Adobe Acrobat Reader. A link for one is there also. Print the application, fill it in and follow the directions on how to return it. We went to PDF because the other way was too messy.

WHAT IT TAKES

We got our first page underwriter: DSC Labs of Canada -- The Test Pattern People. Visit their website: <http://www.DSCLabs.com> and see what they have to offer. DSC took our front page. We have eleven other pages just waiting for some one to step up and offer us a stipend. We've also gotten our first two business cards posted: Clark Wire and Cable and McKeown Consulting. Visit their respective websites at: <http://clarkwc.com> and www.mckeownconsulting.tv. Most anyone can afford the business card thingy. Give us a call (541) 902-2424) or an e-mail webmaster@OITP.org. DLCreations are listed because they did the animation on the front page and Tech-Notes maintain our website, so they get honorable mention too. If you call, just remember we're on the west coast. We can use the \$\$\$.

A LITTLE HUMOR – VERY LITTLE HUMOR

Just in case we got too serious here, here's something to ponder. When engineers have far too much spare time on their hands, when they can come up with things like this.

Definitions:

Arbitrator ar'-bi-tray'-ter : A cook that leaves Arby's to work at McDonald's.

Avoidable uh-voy'-duh-buhl' : What a bullfighter tries to do.

Bernadette burn'-a-det' : The act of torching a mortgage.

Burglarize bur'-gler-ize' : What a crook sees with.

Control kon'-trol : A short, ugly inmate.

Counterfeiters kown'-ter-fit'-ers : Workers who put together kitchen cabinets.

Eclipse ee-klips' : What a Cockney barber does for a living.

Eyedropper i'-drop-ur : A clumsy ophthalmologist.

Heroes hee-rhos' : What a guy in a boat does.

Left Bank left' bangk' : What the robber did when his bag was full of loot.

Misty mis-tee' : How golfers create divots.

Paradox par'-u-doks' : Two physicians.

Parasites par'-ih-sites' : What you see from the top of the Eiffel Tower.

Pharmacist farm'-uh-sist : A helper on the farm.

Polarize po'-lur-ize' : What penguins see with.

Primate pri'-mate' : Removing your spouse from in front of the TV.

Relief ree-leef' : What trees do in the spring.

Selfish sel'-fish' : What the owner of a seafood store does.

Subdued sub-dood' : Like, a guy who, like, works on one of those, like, submarines, man.

Sudafed sood'-a-fed' : Brought litigation against a government official

ENGINEERS

COMPREHENDING ENGINEERS - TAKE ONE

Two engineering students were walking across campus when one said: "Where did you get such a great bike?" The second engineer replied: "Well, I was walking along yesterday minding my own business when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike. She threw the bike to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, 'Take what you want.'" The second engineer nodded approvingly: "Good choice; the clothes probably wouldn't have fit."

COMPREHENDING ENGINEERS - TAKE TWO

To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

COMPREHENDING ENGINEERS - TAKE THREE

A pastor, a doctor and an engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers. The engineer fumed: "What's with these guys? We must have been waiting for 15 minutes!" The doctor chimed in: "I don't know, but I've never seen such ineptitude!" The pastor said: "Hey, here comes the greens keeper. Let's have a word with him." "Hi, George. Say, what's with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?" The greens keeper replied: "Oh, yes, that's a group of blind firefighters. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let

them play for free anytime." The group was silent for a moment. The pastor said: "That's so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight." The doctor said: "Good idea. And I'm going to contact my ophthalmologist buddy and see if there's anything he can do for them." The engineer said, "Why can't these guys play at night?"

COMPREHENDING ENGINEERS - TAKE FOUR

There was an engineer who had an exceptional gift for fixing all things mechanical. After serving his company loyally for over 30 years, he happily retired. Several years later the company contacted him regarding a seemingly impossible problem they were having with one of their multimillion dollar machines. They had tried everything and everyone else to get the machine to work but to no avail. In desperation, they called on the retired engineer who had solved so many of their problems in the past. The engineer reluctantly took the challenge. He spent a day studying the huge machine. At the end of the day, he marked a small "x" in chalk on a particular component of the machine and stated: This is where your problem is". The part was replaced and the machine worked perfectly again. The company received a bill for \$50,000 from the engineer for his service. They demanded an itemized accounting of his charges. The engineer responded briefly: One chalk mark: \$1.00; Knowing where to put it: \$49,999.00. It was paid in full and the engineer retired again in peace.

COMPREHENDING ENGINEERS - TAKE FIVE

What is the difference between Mechanical Engineers and Civil Engineers?
Mechanical Engineers build weapons, Civil Engineers build targets.

COMPREHENDING ENGINEERS - TAKE SIX

The graduate with a Science degree asks, "Why does it work?" The graduate with an Engineering degree asks, "How does it work?" The graduate with an Accounting degree asks, "How much will it cost?" The graduate with a Liberal Arts degree asks, "Do you want fries with that?"

COMPREHENDING ENGINEERS - TAKE SEVEN

Normal people believe that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it doesn't have enough features yet."

COMPREHENDING ENGINEERS - TAKE EIGHT

An architect, an artist and an engineer were discussing whether it was better to spend time with the wife or a mistress. The architect said he enjoyed time with his wife, building a solid foundation for an enduring relationship. The artist said he enjoyed time with his mistress, because of the passion and mystery he found there. The engineer said: "I like both." "Both?" Engineer: "Yeah. If you have a wife and a mistress, they will each assume you are spending time with the other woman, and you can go to the lab and get some work done."

COMPREHENDING ENGINEERS - TAKE NINE

An engineer was crossing a road one day when a frog called out to him and said: "If you kiss me I'll turn into a beautiful princess". He bent over, picked up the frog and put it in his pocket. The frog spoke up again and said: "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I'll stay with you." The engineer took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to the pocket. The frog then cried out: "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I'll stay with you and do ANYTHING you want." Again the engineer took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket. Finally the frog asked: "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess that I'll stay with you and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?" The engineer said: "Look I'm an engineer. I don't have time for a girlfriend, but a talking frog, now that's cool."

If Ducks could hunt



PRETTY INTERESTING.....

Next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be...Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children - last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it - hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Houses had thatched roofs - thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof - hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed - hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt, hence the saying "dirt poor."

The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway - hence, a "threshold."

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while - hence the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man "could bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "upper crust."

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock them out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days

and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up - hence the custom of holding a "wake."

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a "bone-house" and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they thought they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer."

And that's the truth ... Who said that History was boring?

Our Halloween picture.



CLOSING QUOTE

As survivors of this industry, we well know the meaning of what Yogi Berra once said:



"It ain't over until its over."

THE FADE TO REAL LIFE

Well that's about it for this time. As we said earlier on, stay tuned – things can only get better! – But only with your help. Tell a friend or associate about us.

Until next time FADE TO **BLACK!**  .