

Order of the Iron Test Pattern



Volume 2

Newsletter

Number 2

News! When it happens you'll see it happen, even if we have to make it happen!

February 25, 2003

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

(Things printed in **blue** type are links to the related subject matter.)

Who Can Be a Member of the Order of the Iron Test Pattern?

Just to clear up any questions about membership, it's **free**! There are no initiation fees, processing fees or dues. The only cost is if you want a certificate, lapel pin or screen saver. We're thinking about beverage containers and possibly T-Shirts too, but we need to get some coins in here before we go wondering off in that direction. These things help with keeping us afloat. Remember! Our certificates are a conversation piece and, as OITP Galactic Tycoon, Philip M. Kane (retired Engineer, FCC guy and attorney) has advised us, they can come with an aural guarantee: Folks will ask you what in the H—L they are and they'll draw flies, but we don't promise in which order it will happen.



Under 50 years



Over 50 years

(Samples)

We really don't have a Ben Dover as a member and Farnsworth couldn't sign the application form – he's dead. Notice the difference in the color of the ribbons?

Who can join? Nearly anyone connected, at one time or another, to broadcasting can be a member; you just have to be a SURVIVOR and military service counts as dose part time employment. Once upon a time you had to be in the business fifteen years, but there are many SURIVORS who've only been in the business a short time, so we've made it possible for them to join us too. Take a look at the dignity associated with time in the business.

Page - 15 minutes	Commodore - 25 years
Squire - 5 years	Brigadier - 30 years
Ensign - 10 years	General - 35 years
Lieutenant - 15 years	Admiral - 40 years
Commander - 20 years	Galactic Tycoon - 45 years
Monochrome Mogul - 50 years	

Membership isn't restricted to television only. You can be from any of the related areas. We offer endorsements for those who have worked in any of the following disciplines:

Digital Cinema - Knight of the Cinematic Bit-keeper	Radio - Knight of the Wooden Tower
Satellite - Knight of the Geosynchronous Stuff	Translators - Knight of the Hip-pity-Hop Signal
Cable - Knight of the F59 Connector	Sales - Knight of the Order Pad

Believe it or not, many of the applications we've received have asked for multiple endorsements and we'll put them on your certificate too. Applications and lapel pins go for Fifteen dollars each. The Screen Saver is Twenty and is customized with you name on it. There's also a Five dollar shipping and handling fee for each time we mail something out to cover those costs as well.

Need an application, click here: [**APPLICATION**](#)

Mail it to:
Order of The Iron Test Pattern
%Larry Bloomfield
1980 25th Street
Florence, OR 97439-9717

Our website is sustained by sponsorship of the various pages and the business card page. The only page which is currently sponsored is our main page and we are really grateful to the folks at [DSC Labs](#) for their help in this area. The business card page has [Clark Wire & Cable](#), [McKeown Consulting](#), [AJA Video Systems](#), [Dorrough Electronics](#), [Michael Couzens - Attorney at Law](#), [Thomson Broadcast Solutions/Grass Valley](#), [BIA Finical Network](#) and [DL Creations](#) Click on any of the names (above) and it will either take you to their website or give you an e-mail to them. Check them out; use them – if and when you need their products and/or services, but most important, let them know you appreciate their support of OITP. So far we're just a head of the game, but we need more support if we expect to keep the website and e-mailing list-server that goes with it. The new addition since our last newsletter is [Thomson Broadcast Solutions/Grass Valley](#) and its there through the efforts of General Michael D'Amore, who just happens to be Vice President - Market & Business Development. Hay out there – if the folks at Thomson Broadcast and Grass Valley think it's worth their time and effort, it probably is worth yours too.

Progress Report

We're still looking for a place to meet at NAB. We've been talking to Berry Mishkind, keeper of the broadcast archives at www.olderadio.com and AKA - the eclectic engineer, who has an annual get together. Berry tells me that his confab plans haven't jelled as yet, but he's interested in our joining with him and his SURVIVOR buddies. Perhaps we can all find solace in sharing our SURVIVOR skills. We'll let you know as soon as we find out something. In the interim, [Any suggestions?](#)

We're also looking for [nominations](#) for the various awards we'd like to give out to the SURVIVORS who've got an unusual story to tell. Show me an engineer who doesn't have some kind of unusual story to tell.

With regard to our increasing numbers, we've added nine (since the last newsletter), bring our total membership of living members to 335, as of today. Beginning with (back to) February 15, 2003, we will post membership activity here in the newsletter; new members, reinstatements and those who've applied for an upgrade in their dignity.

Received on Feb. 15th – Andrew L. Brown, who will sport the dignity of Brigadier, is the Owner of Multimedia Engineering in Portland, OR. Want to welcome this NEW member to our ranks? His e-mail address is abrown@mediaeng.com OITP Brigadier Brown will be receiving his certificate and two lapel pins shortly.

Received on Feb. 25th – Scott Sheriff, who will sport the dignity of Commander, is a self-employed freelance Director who lives in Delta, CO. Want to welcome this NEW member to our ranks? His e-mail address is sheriffTV@aol.com OITP Commander Sheriff elected to pass up one of the few remaining Commander lapel pins, but will be receiving his certificate shortly.

Also received on Feb. 25th – Peter Symes, who will sport the dignity of General, is the Manager of Advanced Technology with Thomson Broadcast & Media Solutions out of Nevada City, CA. Want

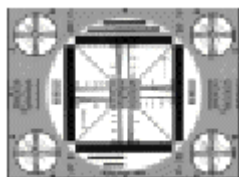
to welcome this REINSTATED member back to our ranks? His e-mail address is peter@symes.tv OITP General Symes, will be receiving his certificate and lapel pin shortly.

All three have been added to our membership list on the website and will get this and other very valuable bits of communication from us.

We've really done well on visitors to our website. Since our last edition, we've had an additional 500 plus new visitors. Remember that his counter service only counts an IP address once. If we could only get some of these folks to join and invest in a certificate to hang on their wall, a lapel pin to do what ever with, a drive you crazy screen saver and take out a business card ad on our business card page, we'd really be setting well. Isn't it nice to dream?

Despite all our marketing efforts, we still have a few of the lapel pins with "COMMANDER" emblazed across them, but when they're gone, we will not replace them. Want one? Order it today before stock runs out.

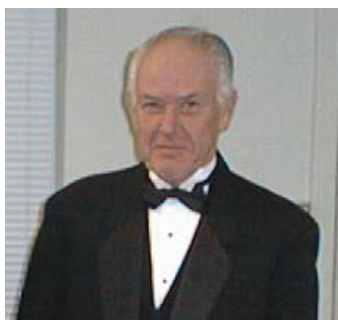
Our stock of medallions for the certificates is beginning to run low. That will cost us nearly \$500 for the 400 minimum order. Any one know where we can get the same quality, but for a better price? Or wish to cover the costs of this very expensive layout? **HELP!**



Another member goes to that Master Control Room in the Sky

The story in our last newsletter about one of our new members giving a membership, complete with certificate and lapel pin, is really quite touching, when you know the complete story. It seems that it was a very timely gift too, bringing a smile and some solace and comfort to the life of a man who was in a loosing battle with cancer. As we have posted on our website, the follow is Admiral Bob Crawford's obituary:

The final segment of the Bob Crawford show faded to black on February 11, 2003 at 1950 EST.



Bob had been in a coma for several days. He passed with his loving wife Pat at his side and other family members there. We have lost a good friend and broadcaster. Bob began his career in broadcasting in 1958. He worked White House Communications during Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson. Riker Industries, CBS Labs, Telemation and from 1975 to 1998 WRC-TV in Washington DC. After "retirement" from WRC, Bob worked at RJC Designs Inc. as a Design Engineer. While at RJC, Bob worked on the XM Satellite Radio broadcast plant build-to documentation project and, in addition to many other accomplishments, held the dignity of Admiral in the Order of the Iron Test Patter. The

family requests that in lieu of flowers, a donation be made to Hospice of Northern VA

NAB – Just around the corner



From your Sagacious Pixel, Larry Bloomfield

I'd like to encourage everyone to try to make it to NAB2003. Billed as "the world's largest electronic media show," it's five days of nonstop educational opportunities beginning Saturday, April 5th and finishing off Thursday, April 10th.

I know that attendance is nearly an insurmountable task for some, but if there is any way, **DO IT!** It is difficult, as a former engineering manager, for me to understand why a station would want to short-change their engineering staff and themselves by not having at least one, if not more, engineers attend this most important function.

There are many engineers who view the NAB convention as being so important in keeping abreast of the fast moving technology that they pay their own way to the NAB convention. That should not be necessary! The benefits of having a well informed engineering staff who can intelligently participate (now there's a novel concept) in the technical decision making process far out weighs the costs and time spent in sending them to the NAB convention.

Take advantage of the abundance and multitude of learning opportunities that only the NAB convention can offer. Other than perhaps IBC in Amsterdam, there is no other place where engineers in our industry can go visit the plethora of manufacturers and learn about the latest technology available to our industry, first hand. NAB can be an unparallel technical education. Gathered this year, as in the past and all in one spot, attendees will have endless opportunities to speak with the many engineers who've designed and have worked with their company's technology over the years. The technical sessions are also a golden opportunity to keep informed on the latest from regulations to technology. To some, this is preaching to the choir, to others, hopefully it is the nudge that will get you to turn out and hay! I didn't get paid to say this either, I believe it!



Not seen on a TV screen in over 56 years

Should you be one of those poor souls who are deprived of this great opportunity, may I humbly suggest you take advantage of our traveling Road Show, right after NAB2003. There is no way the road show can begin to hold a candle to NAB2003, itself, but at least it is an effort to bring a "Taste" of the new technology to those who weren't able to make it.

Our affiliated organization, the Tech-Notes is putting together the Tech-Notes Road Show and it's really coming together nicely. There are now eight kind folks who've express an interested in going along with them this year:



There are others who've express a passing interest, but not enough to include them with the above. We're looking for three more underwriters to round out our cast.

One new wrinkle this year will be the opportunity to meet the many members of the **Order of the Iron Test Pattern (OITP)**. Although OITP's roll in all this has as yet to be defined, you can bet it will be one of significance.

Venue bookings are coming along quite well. We've not contacted very many folks yet and the bookings are nearly a third completed already. Take a look at our website and the Taste of NAB2003 page for more details. At most of the venues we'll be part of either the SBE Chapter or SMPTE Section meeting. Want us to visit your town? Contact us: RoadShow@Tech-Notes.TV.

Great Tidings! Fluke is donating one of their Model 189 multimeters again year as a door prize at the end of the trip. Last year's winner is Dennis Asst. Director of Engineering at Telefutura in Miami, FL. The Fluke Model like last year, will be shipped from the factory directly to the luck winner.



this
Morton,
189,

Last year a second door prize, a \$200 gift certificate for Ham Radio Outlet, donated by Leighton M. (Linc) Reed-Nickerson of Rohde & Schwarz, Inc. S. Stein, Director of Operations for Sinclair Broadcast Group in Cockeysville, MD won that prize. We're looking for additional door prizes; any suggestions? We'll gladly accept anything of value and/or interest to cable, radio or television engineers.

was
Norman

We've been told that an upcoming edition of the SBE Signal will carry a story about this year's road show and it is suggested as a program for local chapters.



It's been a long haul from the remote truck for W6XYZ (later KTLA) in Los Angeles to the Telecopter.

Keeping history alive – The Telecopter.



Had the opportunity to view a DVD made available through what is probably the oldest Television Engineering Society in the world, aptly named the [Society of Television Engineers](#) (STE). STE is unique to the Los Angeles television market and was [founded in 1940](#) by chief engineers of Los Angeles stations, “To advance the theory and practice and to enlarge the use of television, and to promote harmony and cooperation within the television industry.” STE still holds monthly meetings in Los Angeles.

John Silva, former Chief Engineer of KTLA in Los Angeles from 1955 to 1978, and member – former president of STE, gave a presentation during their May 2002 meeting before 119 members and guests. This presentation was recorded on videotape at the time, and has now been reproduced on a DVD, with a few extras added. If you are even remotely interested in the milestones in television's history, this DVD is a must viewing, and should hold a place of honor in your archives.

Why Silva? To list Silva's contributions to the television industry would take more space than we have here and will be saved for future editions, but the one thing that is probably his crowning achievement is the conception and development of the very first Telecopter. In the DVD, Silva takes you through the processes and the hoops he had to jump through to bring it into fruition along with some very pleasant surprises, historic events covered by the Telecopter and demos. The program is titled "The Telecopter: the original, present and future." The DVD lived up to its title.

As the DVD points out, Silva got the idea for the Telecopter in 1957, a year after his first boss and mentor, Klaus Landsberg had passed away. And then, it took a year or so and two general managers before he could get the go-ahead.

Silva, with the help of Roy White, 38 year KTLA veteran, Studio Engineering supervisor, and later Engineering Operations Supervisor, and Harold Morby, then staff engineer (who later became the Telecopter cameraman/engineer), made it all happen. The October 1958 edition of Radio and Television News announced: "Telecopter" A Flying TV Station.

Television news in Los Angeles, as it is most anywhere else, is a dog-eat-dog business. Taking remote trucks out to news events was done, but took hours of planning and setup. The mobility and speed of a Telecopter in a metropolitan area such as Los Angeles was a stroke of genius. As the DVD points out, it took 6-months of very secret development to get the 2000 pounds of television equipment reduced to the 400 pound weight restrictions of the Bell helicopter that it was necessary to make it happen.

Silva designed two boxes which were mounted initially on the helicopter's skids. The camera, monitor, and audio and video controls were placed in the "bubble." The equipment laundry list included: transmitters for audio and video, the monitor, a 2-way radio system, a power supplies, a G-E vidicon camera that was equipped with a Zoomar lens and a special scaled-down version of a GE helical antenna that was made to be retractable that was fabricated in Paramount's machine shop. Put that all together and you had the world's first Telecopter.

While viewing the nearly hour and a half presentation, you come away with a keener respect for our fellow engineers who put their hearts and souls into projects such as these during television's more formative years. Issues of intense vibration that exists in helicopters and the way Silva and crew invented special shock mounts and baffling to prevent the equipment from being jarred excessively are just a few of the problems you see these gentlemen with vision overcome.

For more information on this historic project, visit any of the websites below. For copies of the DVD from the STE (Cost \$15.00 S/H included) Contact John Joannou, this year's STE president --: John@teklogic.com

<http://www.nationalhelicopter.com/telecopter.html>
<http://www.paccd.cc.ca.us/classes/envsci/lariverproj/'69%20flood.htm>
<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/ggninfo/76.htm>

Construction of the Telecopter-KTLA about 1957-First flying TV Station in Southern California

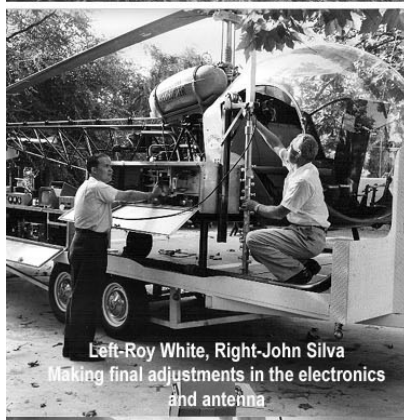


Second generation-Telecopter #2

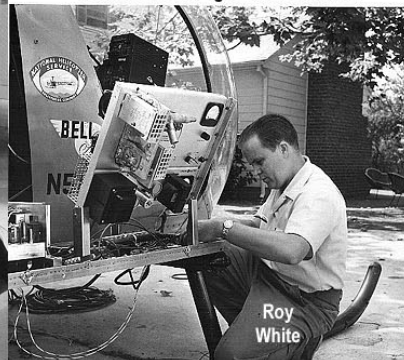
Below-construction of Telecopter #1
This was built in the backyard of the
president of National Helicopters.
We didn't want our competition to know
what we were building!



Left-John Silva, in copter-Harold Morby,
center right-Roy White
Copter#1 ready to roll to the airport. A 'first'
Below-final testing and construction



Left-Roy White, Right-John Silva
Making final adjustments in the electronics
and antenna

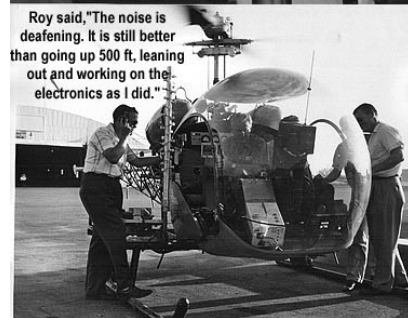


Roy
White

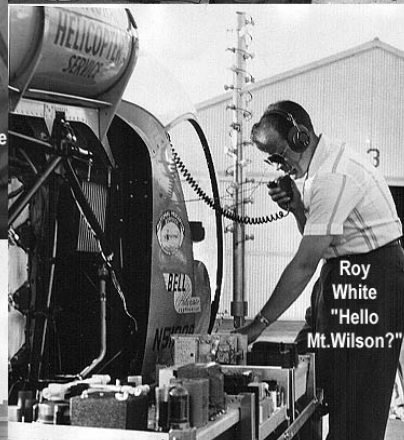


John Silva
"Think this thing will work?"

Roy
White
"Sure we
did a
good
job"

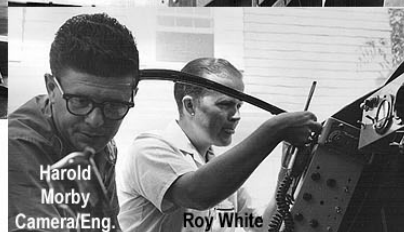


Roy said,"The noise is
deafening. It is still better
than going up 500 ft, leaning
out and working on the
electronics as I did."



Roy
White
"Hello
Mt.Wilson?"

Left-Roy White, in copter John Silva, Right-pilot
Ready to take off and make history scooping all
all other news media with picture close ups from
above of riots, dam breaking, car chases, etc.



Harold
Morby
Camera/Eng.

Roy White

(Pictures courtesy Roy White)

(Editor's Note: If you know of historic events, please let us know for future articles.)

Comments from Father Bob (Bob Vendland – our beloved founder)

I got a couple of belly laughs out of the stuff in your latest newsletter.

Also, your last comment about giving an OITP membership as a gift reminded me that one of the things that we did in the past that was more fun (and also really appreciated) was to prepare special OITP awards for retirement parties. You could make it a requirement that they have to not only pay for preparing the award, but provide the words for it in order to get the special offering price. Of course, if the recipient is not yet a member, have the donor pay for a membership certificate as well (every little bit helps). We did it free, but we also had Dynair for a Daddy. I personally did a couple of them locally and helped participate in the usual "roast" at the station. That gave me a chance to make the pitch about what the OITP was all about and we usually picked up a few new members at the time.

You can make your announcement of this special OITP service really funny, charge as much as \$100 for the package containing the retirement award certificate, the OITP membership certificate, and a CD made by you singing "Happy retirement to you" Add in any other useless, but actual mementos of the old days in the "service" offered, put them on a supplementary price list and really drum up business.

Include your personal appearance for a small honorarium as well. The price list for your time, mileage expense, price range for suggested meals, and the type of accommodations that are acceptable can become a collectors item if you do it right. Of course, I could prepare all of this for you, but you are really getting into the spirit of this thing and will do a superior job yourself as you carry on the tradition.

Bob

Reply to RNVendeland@cox.net

A Little Humor – Very little!

IRAQI TV GUIDE

SUNDAY:

0800 - My 33 Sons
0830 - Osama Knows Best
0900 - I Dream of Mohammed
0930 - Let's Mecca Deal
1000 - The Kabul Hillbillies

MONDAY:

0800 - Husseinfield
0900 - Mad About Everything
0930 - Monday Night Stoning

1000 - Win Bin Laden's Money

1030 - Allah McBeal

TUESDAY:

0800 - Wheel of poverty
0830 - The Price is Right if Saddam Says it's Right
0900 - Children are Forbidden from Saying the Darndest Things
0930 - Taliban's Wackiest Public Execution Bloopers

1000 - Buffy the Yankee Imperialist Dog
Slayer
1030- Muslim TV: The Husseins (Osbornes
have nothing on us !)

WEDNESDAY

0800 - Beat the Press
0830 - When Kurds Attack
0900 - Two Guys, a Girl, and Pita Bread
0930 - Just Shoot Everyone
1000 - Veilwatch

THURSDAY:

0800 - Fatima Loves Chachi
0830 - M*U*S*T*A*S*H
0900 - Veronica's Closet Full of Long, Black,
Shapeless Dresses and Veils
0930 - Married with 139 Children

1000 - Eye for an Eye Witness News

FRIDAY:

0800 - Judge Saddam
0830 - Suddenly Sanctions
0900 - Who Wants to Marry a Terrorist
Millionaire?
0930 - Cave and Garden Television
1000 - No-Witness News

SATURDAY:

0800 - Spongebob Squareturban
0830 - Who's Koran Is It Anyway?
0900 - Teletalibans
No cable

DARWIN AWARDS

Hard to believe, but another year has passed. For those who don't know it, and we have once again found the Darwin Award Winning Nominees. The Darwin's are awarded every year to the persons who died (or almost died) in the stupidest way. Named Darwin Awards, because it is hoped that "Survival of the Fittest" means something. Hopefully these idiots haven't passed along their stupidity.

This year's nominees are:

Nominee No. 1: [San Jose Mercury News]: An unidentified man, using a shotgun like a club to break a former girlfriend's windshield, accidentally shot himself to death when the gun discharged, blowing a hole in his gut.

Nominee No. 2: [Kalamazoo Gazette]: James Burns, 34, (a mechanic) of Alamo, Mich., was killed in March as he was trying to repair what police describe as a "farm type truck." Burns got a friend to drive the truck on a highway while Burns hung underneath so that he could ascertain the source of a troubling noise. Burns' clothes caught on something, however, and the other man found Burns "wrapped in the drive shaft."

Nominee No. 3: [Hickory Daily Record]: Ken Charles Barger, 47, accidentally shot himself to death in December in Newton, NC, awakening to the sound of a ringing telephone beside his bed, he reached for the phone but grabbed instead a Smith & Wesson 38 Special, which discharged when he drew it to his ear.

Nominee No. 4: [UPI, Toronto]: Police said a lawyer demonstrating the safety of windows in a downtown Toronto skyscraper crashed through a pane with his shoulder and plunged 24 floors to his death. A police spokesman said Garry Hoy, 39, fell into the courtyard of the Toronto Dominion

Bank Tower early Friday evening as he was explaining the strength of the building's windows to visiting law students. Hoy previously has conducted demonstrations of window strength according to police reports. Peter Lawson, managing partner of the firm Holden Day Wilson, told the Toronto Sun newspaper that Hoy was "one of the best and brightest" members of the 200-man association.

Nominee No. 5: [Bloomberg News Service]: A terrible diet and room with no ventilation are being blamed for the death of a man who was killed by his own gas. There was no mark on his body and an autopsy showed large amounts of methane gas in his system. His diet had consisted primarily of beans and cabbage (and a couple of other things). It was just the right combination of foods. It appears that the man died in his sleep from breathing the poisonous cloud that was hanging over his bed. Had he been outside or had his windows been opened, it wouldn't have been fatal. But the man was shut up in his near airtight bedroom. According to the article, "He was a big man with a huge capacity for creating "this deadly gas." Three of the rescuers got sick and one was hospitalized.

Nominee No. 6: [The News of the Weird]: Michael Anderson Godwin made News of the Weird posthumously. He had spent several years awaiting South Carolina's electric chair on a murder conviction before having his sentence reduced to life in prison. While sitting on a metal toilet in his cell attempting to fix his small TV set, he bit into a wire and was electrocuted.

Nominee No. 7: [The Indianapolis Star]: A cigarette lighter may have triggered a fatal explosion in Dunkirk, Indiana. A Jay County man using a cigarette lighter to check the barrel of a muzzle loader was killed Monday night when the weapon discharged in his face, sheriff's investigators said. Gregory David Pryor, 19, died in his parents' rural Dunkirk home about 11:30 PM. Investigators said Pryor was cleaning a 54-caliber muzzle loader that had not been firing properly. He was using the lighter to look into the barrel when the gun powder ignited.

Nominee No. 8: [Reuters, Mississauga, Ontario]: A man cleaning a bird feeder on the balcony of his condominium apartment in this Toronto suburb slipped and fell 23 stories to his death. Stefan Macko, 55, was standing on a wheeled chair when the accident occurred, said Inspector D'Arcy Honer of the Peel Regional Police. "It appears the chair moved and he went over the balcony," Honer said.

Finally, Nominee No. 9, The Winner!!!: [Arkansas Democrat Gazette]: Two local men were injured when their pickup truck left the road and struck a tree near Cotton Patch on State Highway 38 early Monday. Woodruff County deputy Dovey Snyder reported the accident shortly after midnight Monday. Thurston Poole, 33, of Des Arc and Billy Ray Wallis, 38, of Little Rock were returning to Des Arc after a frog gigging trip. On an overcast Sunday night, Poole's pickup truck headlights malfunctioned. The two men concluded that the headlight fuse on the older model truck had burned out. As a replacement fuse was not available, Wallis noticed that the .22 caliber bullet from his pistol fit perfectly into the fuse box next to the steering wheel column. Upon inserting the bullet the headlights again began to operate properly and the two men proceeded on eastbound toward the White River Bridge. After traveling approximately twenty miles and just before crossing the river, the bullet apparently overheated, discharged and struck Poole in the right testicle. The vehicle swerved sharply right, exiting the pavement and striking a tree. Poole suffered only minor cuts and abrasions from the accident, but will require surgery to repair the testicle. Wallis sustained a broken clavicle and was treated and released. "Thank God we weren't on that bridge when Thurston shot his balls off or we might both be dead" stated Wallis. "I've been a trooper for ten years in this part of the

world, but this is a first for me. I can't believe that those two would admit how this accident happened," said Snyder. Upon being notified of the wreck, Lavinia (Poole's wife) asked how many frogs the boys had caught and did anyone get them from the truck??

FROM YOUR BANK - ATM PROCEDURES

To enable customers to use this new facility the following procedures have been established. Please read the procedure that applies to your own circumstances and remember them when you use the machine for the first time:

MEN

- 1) Drive up to the cash machine.
- 2) Lower your car window.
- 3) Insert card into machine and enter PIN.
- 4) Enter amount of cash required and withdraw.
- 5) Retrieve card, cash and receipt.
- 6) Raise window.
- 7) Drive off.

WOMEN

- 1) Drive up to cash machine.
- 2) Backup to align car window to machine.
- 3) Set parking break, lower the window.
- 4) Find handbag, remove all contents on to passenger seat to locate card.
- 5) Turn the radio down.
- 6) Attempt to insert card into machine.
- 7) Open car door to allow easier access to machine due to its excessive distance from the

car.

- 8) Insert card.
- 9) Re-insert card right side up.
- 10) Dig through handbag to find diary with your PIN written on the inside back page.
- 11) Enter PIN.
- 12) Press cancel and re-enter correct PIN.
- 13) Enter amount of cash required.
- 14) Check make up in rear view mirror
- 15) Retrieve cash and receipt.
- 16) Empty handbag again to locate wallet and place cash inside.
- 17) Place receipt in back of checkbook.
- 18) Re-check make-up.
- 19) Drive two feet forward.
- 20) Backup to cash machine.
- 21) Retrieve card.
- 22) Re-empty hand bag, locate card holder, and place card into the slot provided.

23) Give appropriate one-fingered hand signal to irate male drivers waiting behind.

24) Restart stalled engine and drive away.

25) Drive for 2 to 3 miles.

26) Release Parking Brake.



ACTUAL FLORIDA NEWSPAPER HEADLINES OF 2002!

- Crack Found on Governor's Daughter
- Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says
- Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
- Iraqi Head Seeks Arms
- Is There a Ring of Debris around Uranus?
- Prostitutes Appeal to Pope
- Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
- Teacher Strikes Idle Kids
- Miners Refuse to Work after Death
- Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
- War Dims Hope for Peace
- If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile
- Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures
- Enfield (London) Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide
- Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges

- Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

Man Struck By Lightning Faces Battery Charge

- New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
- Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft

- Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

- Chef Throws His Heart into Helping Feed Needy

- Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half

Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors

WiFi RF enhancement

Check out this website and let us know what you think <http://j-walk.com/blog/docs/wifispray.htm>
It works like magic!!!

Obituary

What with all the sadness and trauma going on in the world at the moment, it is worth reflecting on the death of a very important person which almost went un-noticed last week. Larry La Prise, the man who wrote "The Hokey Pokey" died peacefully at age 93.

The most traumatic part for his family was getting him into the coffin. They put his left leg in - and then the trouble started.....

LIFE IN THE 1500'S

Here are some facts about the 1500s: True.....enjoy.

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 "thresh hold."

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 bacon 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 "uppercrust."

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 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?)

Headlines From The Year 2035

- Ozone created by electric cars now killing millions in the seventh largest country in the world, California.
- White minorities still trying to have English recognized as California's third language.
- Spotted Owl plague threatens northwestern United States crops & livestock.
- Baby conceived naturally.... Scientists stumped.
- Authentic year 2000 "chad" sells at Sotheby's for \$4.6 million.
- Last remaining Fundamentalist Muslim dies in the American Territory of the Middle East (formerly known as Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, and Lebanon).
- Iraq still closed off; physicists estimate it will take at least ten more years before radioactivity decreases to safe levels.
- Castro finally dies at age 112; Cuban cigars can now be imported legally, but President Chelsea Clinton has banned all smoking.
- George Z. Bush says he will run for President in 2036.
- Postal Service raises price of first class stamp to \$17.89 and reduces mail delivery to Wednesday only.
- 35-year government study: diet and exercise are the key to weight loss.
- Massachusetts executes last remaining conservative.
- Supreme Court rules punishment of criminals violates their civil rights.
- Upcoming NFL draft likely to focus on use of mutants.
Average height of NBA players now nine feet, seven inches.
- Microsoft announces it has perfected its newest version of Windows so it crashes BEFORE installation is completed.

- New federal law requires that all nail clippers, screwdrivers, fly swatters, knitting needles, and rolled up newspapers must be registered by January 2036.
- Congress authorizes direct deposit of illegal political contributions to campaign accounts.
- IRS sets lowest tax rate at 75%

INSTRUCTIONS: HOW TO GIVE A CAT A PILL

(OITP really offers extend services.)

- 1) Pick cat up and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.
- 2) Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.
- 3) Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.
- 4) Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.
- 5) Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from garden.
- 6) Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.
- 7) Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines and vases from hearth and set to one side for gluing later.
- 8) Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.
- 9) Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink glass of water to take taste away. Apply Band-Aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.
- 10) Retrieve cat from neighbor's shed. Get another pill. Place cat in cupboard and close door onto neck to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.
- 11) Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard door back on hinges. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus jab. Throw Tee-shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.

12) Ring fire brigade to retrieve cat from tree across the road. Apologize to neighbor who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil-wrap.

13) Tie cat's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table, find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of fillet steak. Hold head vertically and pour 2 pints of water down throat to wash pill down.

14) Get spouse to drive you to the emergency room, sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Call furniture shop on way home to order new table.

15) Arrange for SPCA to collect cat and ring local pet shop to see if they have any hamsters.

Essential additions for the workplace vocabulary:

- BLAMESTORMING: Sitting around in a group, discussing why a deadline was missed or a project failed, and who was responsible.
- SALMON DAY: The experience of spending an entire day swimming upstream only to get screwed and die in the end.
- CUBE FARM: An office filled with cubicles.
- PRAIRIE DOGGING: When someone yells or drops something loudly in a cube farm, and people's heads pop up over the walls to see what's going on.
- PERCUSSIVE MAINTENANCE: The fine art of whacking the crap out of an electronic device to get it to work again.
- 404: Someone who's clueless. From the World Wide Web error message "404 Not Found," meaning that the requested document could not be located.
- WOOFYS: Well Off Older Folks.
- SEAGULL MANAGER: A manager who flies in, makes a lot of noise, craps on everything, and then leaves.

IDIOT SIGHTINGS

1. This week, my phone went dead and I had to contact the telephone repair people. They promised to be out between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. When I asked if they could give me a smaller time window, the pleasant gentleman asked, "Would you like us to call you before we come?" I replied that I didn't see how he would be able to do that, since our phones weren't working. He also requested that we report future outages by e-mail. I asked him, "Does YOUR email work without a

telephone line?"

2. I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, "Has anyone put anything in your bags without your knowledge?" To which I said, "If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?" He smiled knowingly and nodded, "That's why we ask."

3. The stoplight on the corner buzzes when it's safe to cross the street.

I was crossing with an intellectually-challenged coworker of mine when she asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red. Appalled, she responded, "What on earth are blind people doing driving?!"

4. At a good-bye luncheon for an old and dear coworker who was leaving the company due to "downsizing," our manager commented cheerfully, "This is fun. We should do this more often." Not a word was spoken. We all just looked at each other with that deer-in-the-headlights stare.

5. I work with an individual who plugged her power strip into itself and for the life of her she couldn't understand why her system wouldn't turn on.

6. When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went up to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I went and tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. "Hey," I then announced to the technician, "It's open!" To which he replied, "I know - I've already got that side unlocked."

IDIOTS AT WORK:

I was signing the receipt for my credit card purchase when the clerk noticed I had never signed my name on the back of the credit card. She informed me that she could not complete the transaction unless the card was signed. When I asked why, she explained that it was necessary to compare the signature I had just signed on the receipt. So I signed the credit card in front of her. She carefully compared the signature to the one I had just signed on the receipt. As luck would have it, they matched identical.

IDIOTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD:

We live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the Deer Crossing sign on our road. The reason: "too many deer were being hit by cars" and he didn't want them to cross there anymore.

News item: In California, the Davis Administration announced today, amid concerns about the State's deepening budget crisis, that two major state agencies will be combined to reduce administrative costs. Effective March 1st, 2003, the California Highway Patrol and the California Department of Fish & Game will be merged.

The new agency will be known as the Department of Fish & CHiPs.

What does WD-40 stand for?

From the WD-40 website:

In 1953, a fledgling company called Rocket Chemical Company and its staff of three set out to create a line of rust-prevention solvents and degreasers for use in the aerospace industry, in a small lab in San Diego, California.

It took them 40 attempts to get the water displacing formula worked out. But they must have been really good, because the original secret formula for WD-40—which stands for Water Displacement perfected on the 40th try—is still in use today.



Convair, an aerospace contractor, first used WD-40 to protect the outer skin of the Atlas Missile from rust and corrosion. The product actually worked so well that several employees snuck some WD-40 cans out of the plant to use at home.

The product made its first appearance on store shelves in San Diego in 1958.

WD-40 Company, Inc., went public in 1973 and was listed Over-The-Counter. The stock price increased by 61% on the first day of listing

How to clean up in the Hospital business

There was a case in one hospital's Intensive Care ward where patients always died in the same bed, on Sunday morning, at about 11 A.M., regardless of their medical condition. This puzzled the doctors and some even thought that it had something to do with the supernatural. No one could solve the mystery as to why the deaths occurred around 11 A.M. on Sundays. So a Worldwide team of experts was assembled to investigate the cause of the incidents. The next Sunday morning, a few minutes before 11 A.M., all doctors and nurses nervously wait outside the ward to see for themselves what the terrible phenomenon was all about. Some were holding wooden crosses, prayer books and other holy objects to ward off the evil spirits. Just when the clock struck 11... Pookie Johnson, The part-time Sunday sweeper, entered the ward and unplugged the life support system so that he could use the vacuum cleaner.



A Different perspective

1. Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead. Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow. Do not walk beside me either. Just pretty much leave me the hell alone.
2. The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a leaky tire.

3. It's always darkest before dawn. So if you're going to steal your neighbor's newspaper, that's the time to do it.

4. Sex is like air. It's not important unless you aren't getting any.

5. Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.

6. No one is listening until you fart.

7. Always remember you're unique. Just like everyone else.

8. Never test the depth of the water with both feet.

9. If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments.

10. Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes.

That way, when you criticize them you're a mile away and you have their shoes.

11. If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

12. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

13. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

14. If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

15. Some days you are the bug; some days you are a windshield.

16. Don't worry; it only seems kinky the first time.

17. Good judgment comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

18. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.

19. A closed mouth gathers no foot.

20. Duct tape is like the Force. It has a light side and a dark side, and it holds the universe together.

21. There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works.

22. Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.
23. Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
24. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
25. We are born naked, wet, and hungry, and get slapped on our ass -
- then things get worse.
26. Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.
27. There is a fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."
28. No matter what happens, somebody will find a way to take it too seriously.
29. There comes a time when you should stop expecting other people to make a big deal about your birthday. It's around age 11.
30. Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.

THE MOST WASTED DAY OF ALL IS ONE IN WHICH WE HAVE NOT LAUGHED!



Well that's about it for this time. Don't forget to check out the industry news in the Tech-Notes: <http://www.tech-notes.tv/> the latest edition has just been posted.

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! ☺ .

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