

Most of our Service Representatives have been involved in a confrontation with Ma Bell's people at one time or another; but one man in this company knows exactly how they operate, and that's GEORGE HOMRIG (032 - Los Angeles). Below you'll find the "official" GEORGE HOMRIG RECIPE FOR MA BELL LINE PROBLEMS. Cooking time is 4 1/2 hours.

George arranges meeting with Ma Bell's best, at customer's office. George arrives customer's office 8:30 a.m., equipped with tool kit and \$1.00 in dimes. Customer says to George, "I don't care whose fault it is, it's your terminal, you're responsible." George smiles sickly. George test machine, tests line. George tells customer there's a bad repeater 6.2 of a mile from his office, on a gray pole with a black stripe, on the southwest corner of the street. 9 a.m.: Ma Bell's Best arrive--three in all - one in sport shirt and baggy pants, with a light testing wire hanging out of his shirt pocket. One is dressed in a green sport coat with red pants, and the third one in dark blue suit stuffed with pencils; he is carrying a pad--between them, one oscilloscope.

FIRST HOUR - SIMMER

Technicians discuss problem and very courteously suggest to George that his machine may not be compatible. George smiles and says, "That's a strong possibility, since we only have 500 machines on this system." George says, "Check Repeater." Sport shirt says to sport coat: "Let's check D.A.A. Decibel Level to see if it's Plus-Minus, Minus-Plus, Plus-Plus." George smiles.

SECOND HOUR - INCREASE TEMPERATURE

Ma Bell's Best bring in another 40 lb. piece of electronic equipment. Ma Bell's finest do a half hour on decibels -Plus-Plus, Minus-Minus. George says, "Check Repeater."

THIRD HOUR - ADD 3 CUPS COFFEE

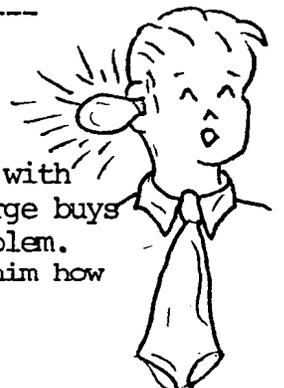
Suit says to green sport coat - "We need the electronic baffler - go to the truck." Electronic baffler arrives - 80 lbs. of lights with 3 screens. George is baffled. George says, "CHECK REPEATER." Ma Bell's Best begin checking a long distance line to Hong Kong. They place an order for Chicken Chow-Mein. George says, "CHECK REPEATER!"

FOURTH HOUR - SLOW BOIL

George drinks 6th cup of coffee and screws light bulb in ear - it lights up. Ma Bell's Best decide Chicken Chow Mein won't arrive in time for lunch. Suit says to shirt with light testing wire hanging out of pocket - "Go to truck and get Purple Transmitter with Audio-Data Sub Pack." In the door comes large dolly carrying 170 lbs. of lights - bells - horns - screens - switches--- George renames it "Big Purple." George says, "CHECK REPEATER!!"

LAST HALF HOUR - BRING TO BOIL

George takes light bulb out of ear, screws it in ear of dark blue suit with pencils, dark blue suit says, "I've got an idea, CHECK REPEATER." George buys 10th cup of coffee. Customer thanks telephone company for solving problem. Customer glares at George. George thanks Ma Bell's Best for teaching him how to solve problems. George puts in for vacation.



The Xmas party at Los Angeles this year was a fine affair, featuring such companies as Xerox, U.S.C., Cal-Tech, Copley Computer, and TRW. The logistics of the party were handled by such capable party makers as Kay Dowling, Joe Arbore, and Helen Hickish, the lovely wife of our District Manager. Other people contributed to the success of the party, but it was mostly in the drinking of Allan White's delicious champagne punch.

The Los Angeles office has a few confirmed bachelors among the service techs, but one has finally been caught. Bob Rice, our illustrious teletype technician, will be married on Saturday, January 12, 1974. We all extend our congratulations and best wishes to Bob and the future Mrs. Rice. What's next, Bob? The pitter-patter of tiny feet?

Limericks by Allan White

If your terminal is healthy, you may get wealthy
with data that flows an flows, but if sickness prevails
and your data base fails, you won't be able to pay for the phone -
Call Dr. Carter - his service is finer - than Pinsky's, Morris's
or Finegold's.
Carter will fix it, you won't have to ditch it -
and it won't be done with a pill.

If your terminal is droopy, the alphabet soupy
or one that is completely unknown -
Let the Doctor of business cure its' illness
whether ASCII, EBCD, or BAUDOT.