

# **Case Studies of Inductive Coordination and Electrical Protection Issues in the Field**



**PEG GENERAL MEETING - 2013**

**DALE STEGMAIER – ICEP ENGINEER, CA  
LARRY PAYNE – COMMON SYSTEMS STAFF**





A scenic photograph of a valley with mountains in the background. The foreground is filled with dense green foliage. The middle ground shows a valley floor with some buildings and palm trees. The background features a range of mountains under a clear sky. Overlaid on the image is yellow text.

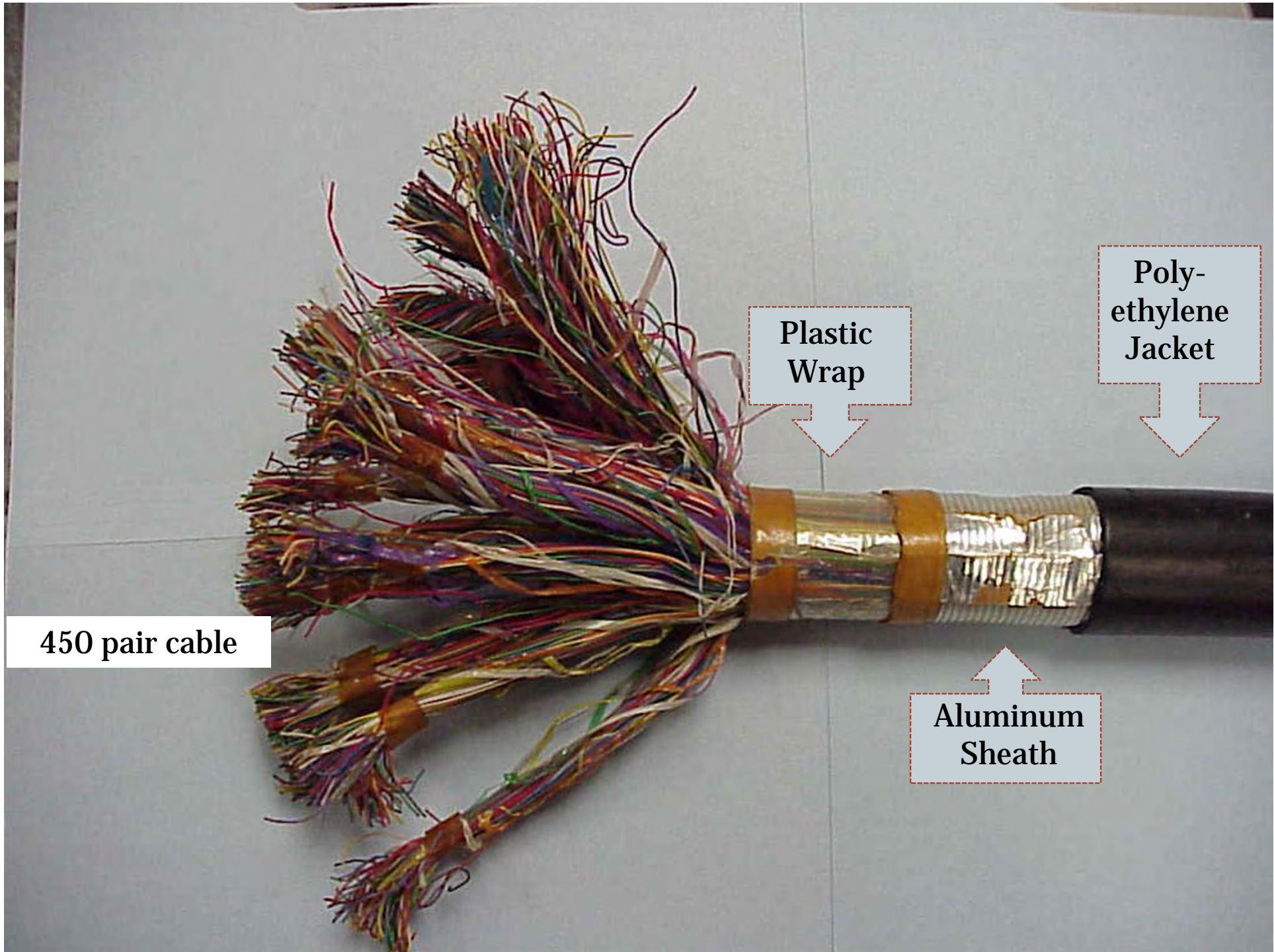
# Stage Coach Current

**Dale Stegmaier**









450 pair cable

Plastic  
Wrap

Poly-  
ethylene  
Jacket

Aluminum  
Sheath





**MEASURE SHEATH CURRENT**  
**On Cable 17**





**MANHOLE GROUND ROD**















2 Ground rods

.75

5

2.25

2.25

CABLE 27

to ground 10.4

to ground 16.9

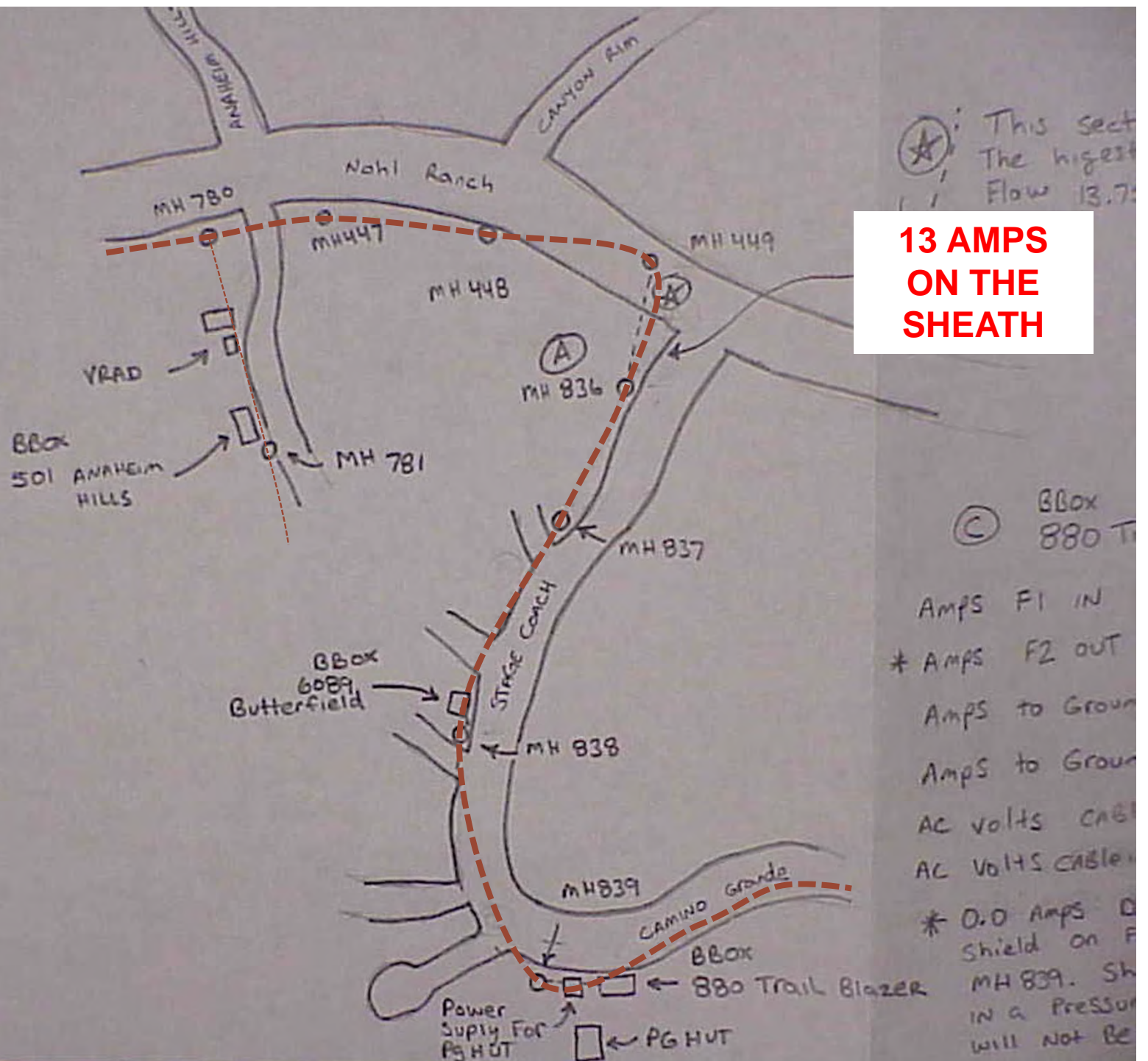
Butter Field

1.25

.25

1.0

to ground 13.25



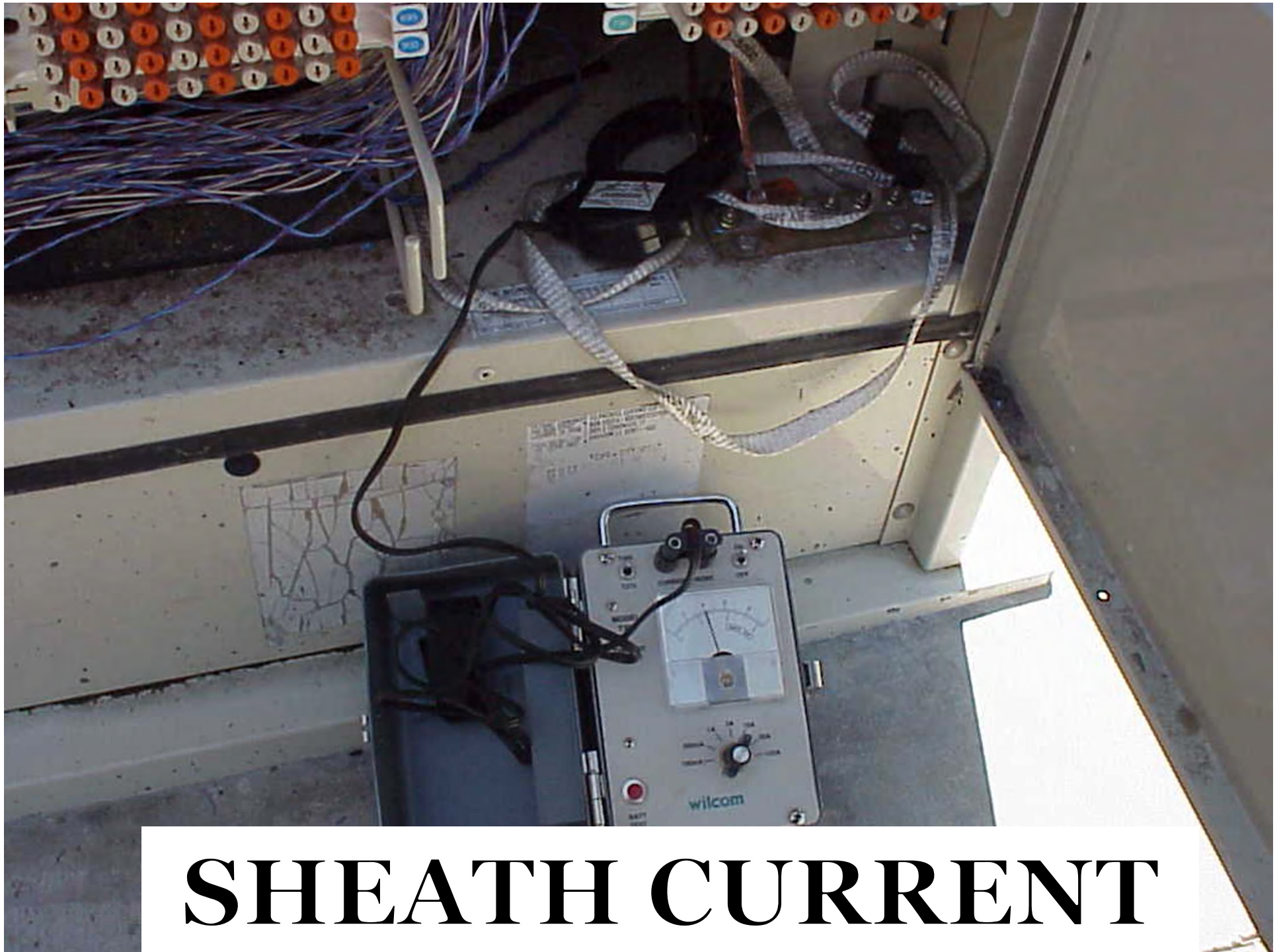
13 AMPS  
ON THE  
SHEATH





**880 BOX**





# SHEATH CURRENT







## 21 AT&T States

- 1. Cable must have a continuous shield**
- 2. Bonds to the MGN and at both ends**
- 3. Normally carry from 500 mA to 5000 mA**

## California

- A. No bonds to MGN**
- B. Cable bond to ground bed every  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile**
- C. Normally carry from 50 mA to 5000 mA**

Readings less than 50 mA indicates an open shield

Readings more than 7000 mA **suggest** power system issues

**PI (Power Influence) 80 – 90 dBrnC is Marginal**

**PI over 100 dBrnC **suggest** power system issues**

**Noise = Less than 20 dBrnC**



Location	Date 5/3/07		Current mA (21)	Loss dBm (8.5)	Noise dBm		Power Influence		T-R Voltage AC Volts	Dominant Frequency
					Cmsg <20	Flat	Cmsg <85	Flat		
880 Box 880 Trail Blazer	Cable 17	Dynatel	26.8	5.9	30		7106		T-R 16.75V R-G 16.75V T-G 16.75V	Plot 1 Plot 2 Plot 3
	Pair 416 BP 416	Wilcom 132EZ	600 Termination Bridge							
B Box 501 Anaheim Hills	Cable 17	Dynatel	28.8	4.9	19		94		T-R 2.0 R-G 2.0 T-G 2.0	Plot 4 Plot 5
	Pair 551 BP 701	Wilcom 132EZ	600 Termination Bridge				54042 96			
↓	Cable 17	Dynatel	28.9	5.0	30		95		T-R 2.0 R-G 2.0 T-G 2.0	Plot 6 Plot 7
	Pair 901 BP 201	Wilcom 132EZ	600 Termination Bridge				54042 91			
	Cable	Dynatel							T-R R-G T-G	
	Pair	Wilcom 132EZ	600 Termination Bridge							
	Cable	Dynatel							T-R R-G T-G	
	Pair	Wilcom 132EZ	600 Termination Bridge							
	Cable	Dynatel							T-R R-G T-G	
	Pair	Wilcom 132EZ	600 Termination Bridge							

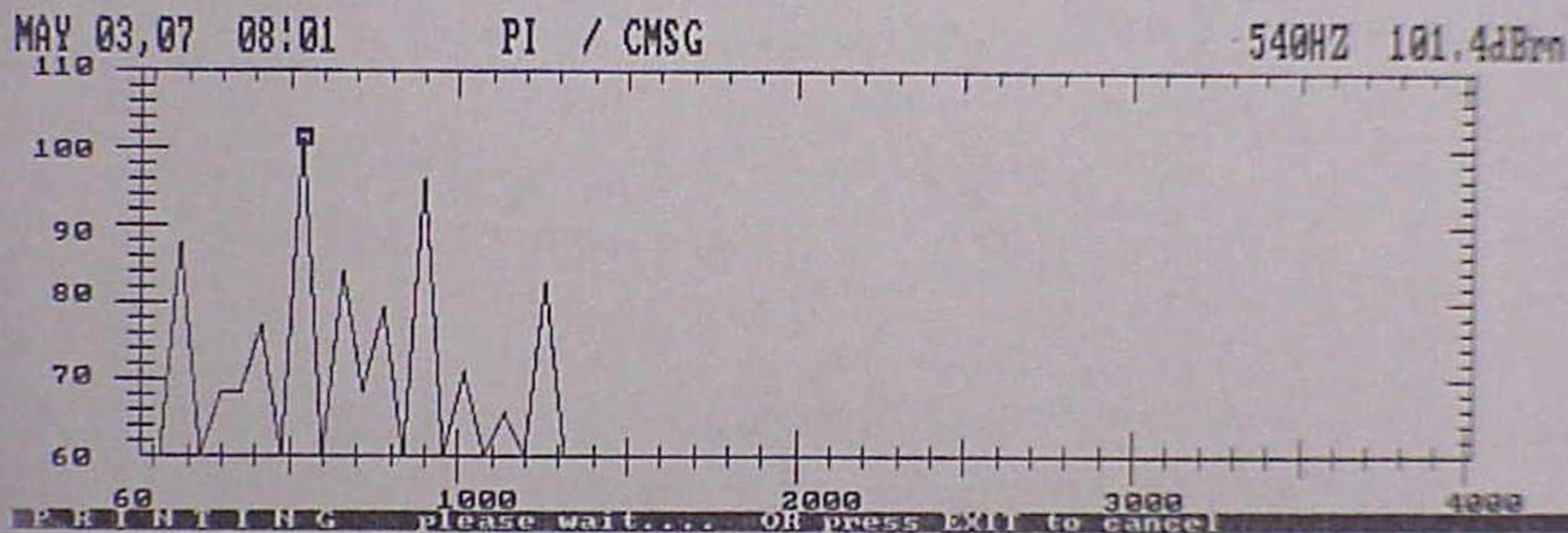


C-Message

880 trail Blazer

Plot 1

alt 17  
Poi 416

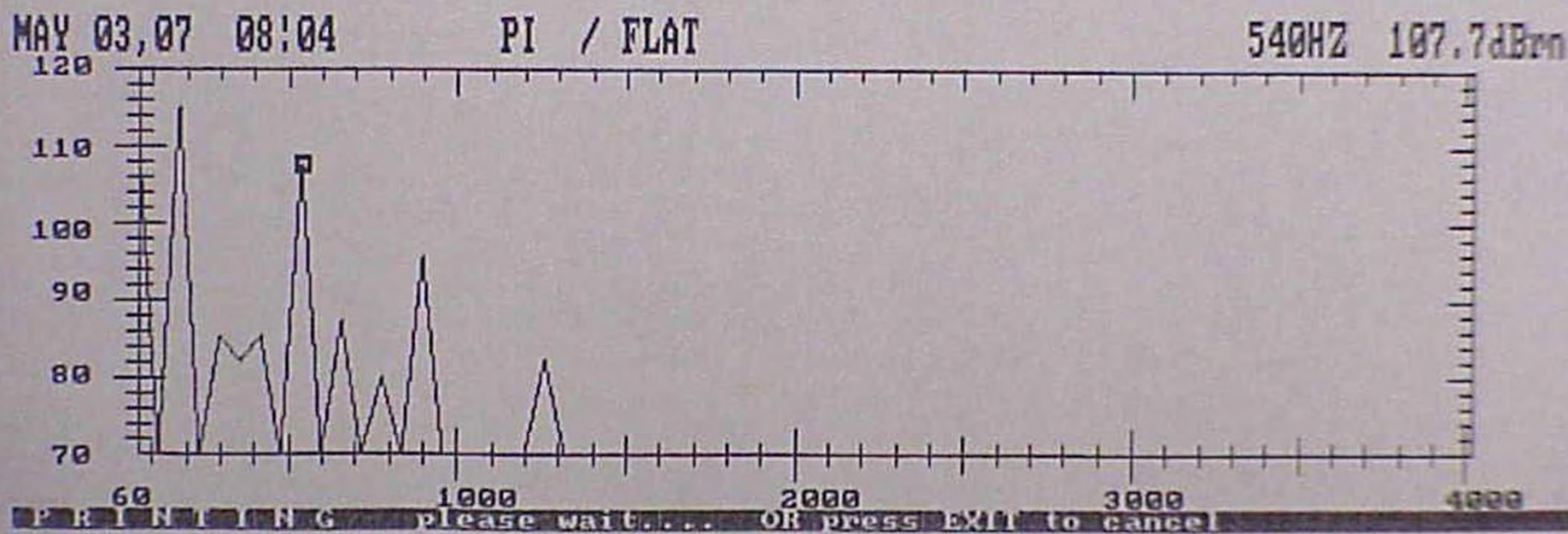




Flat

Plot 2

Cell 17  
Pair 416





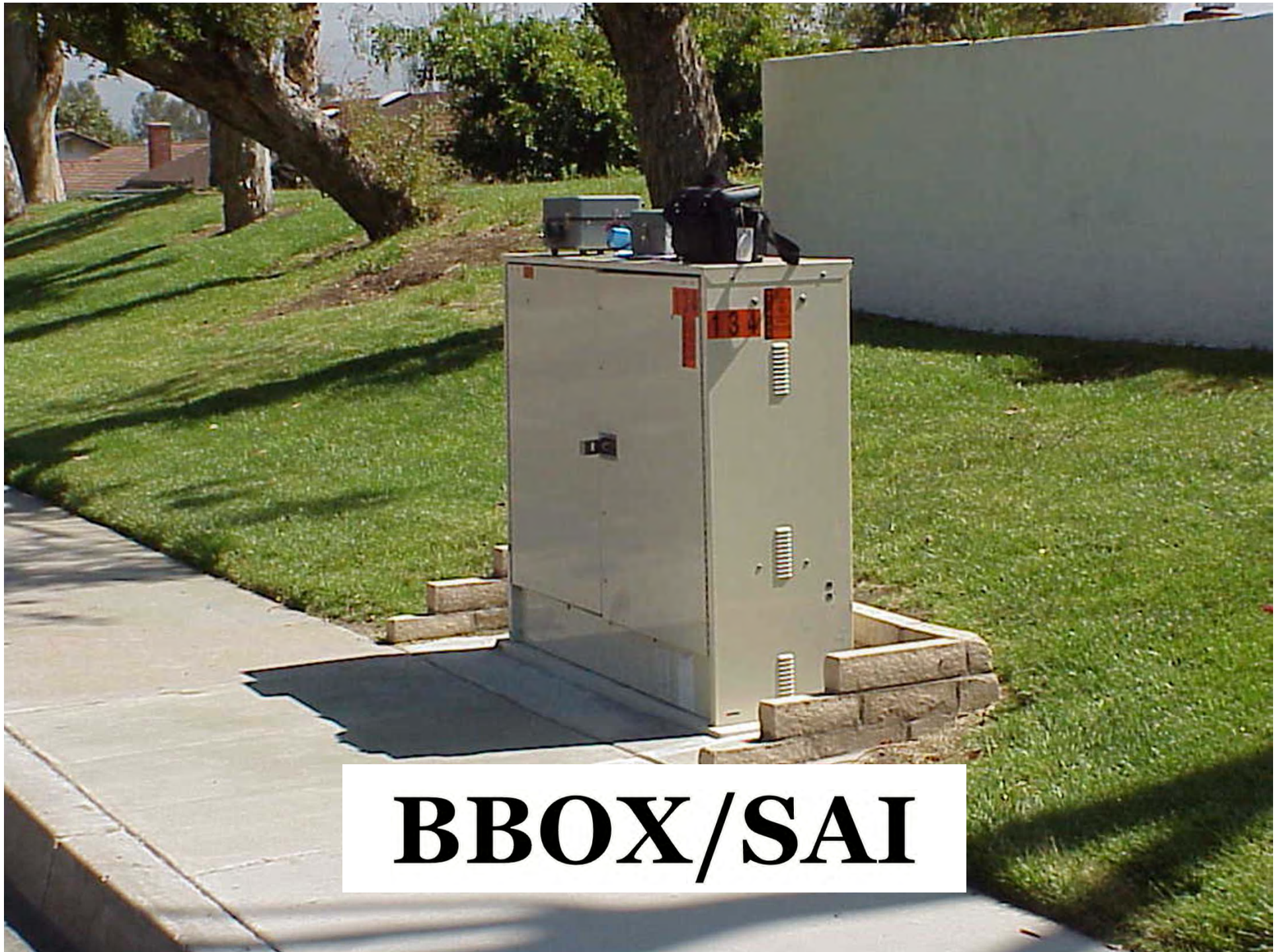




500 KV







**BBOX/SAI**





**880 Box**













**PAIRGAIN**





**Bond To Ground Ring**



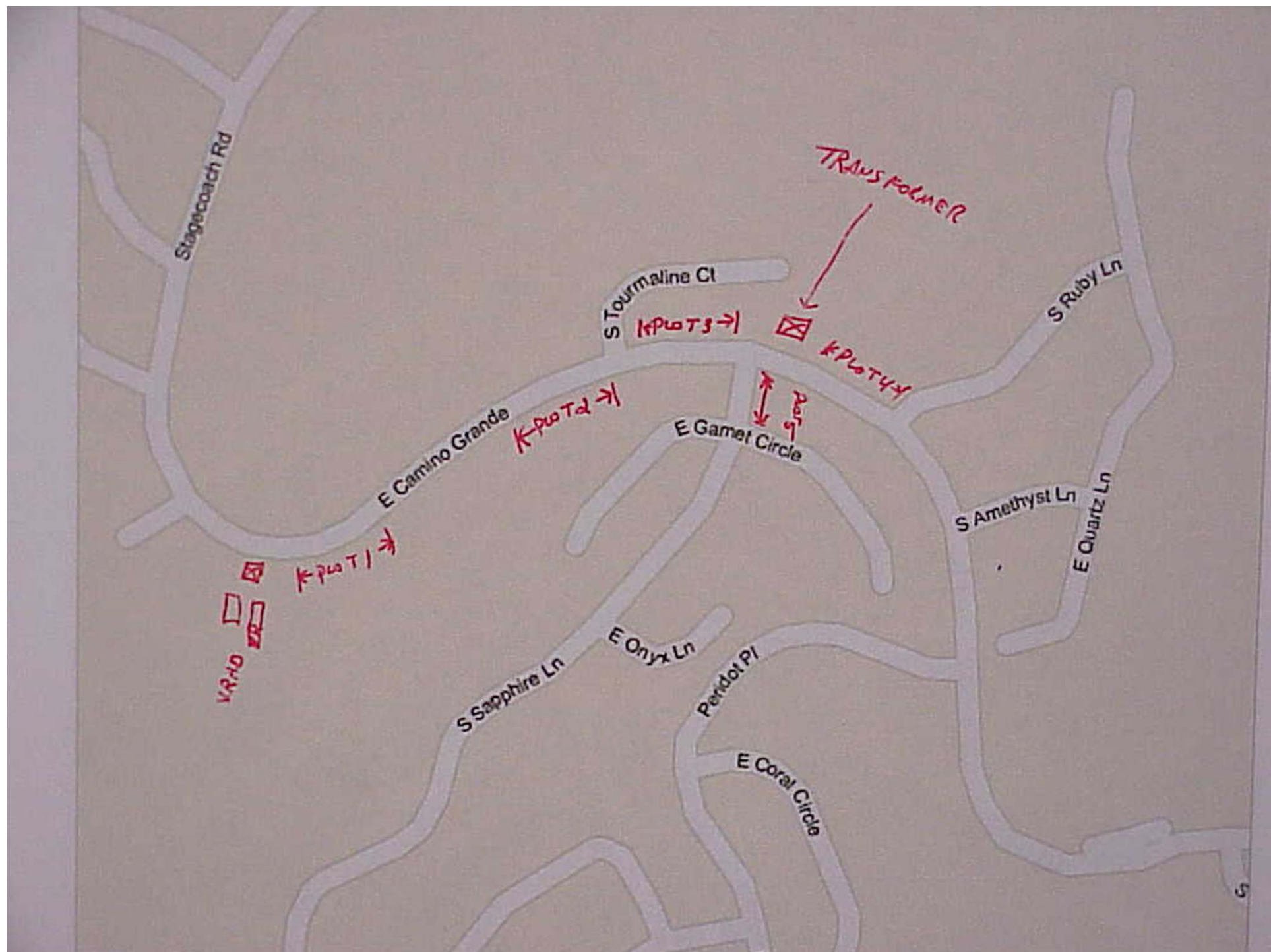






**START LOOKING UP  
THE HILL**









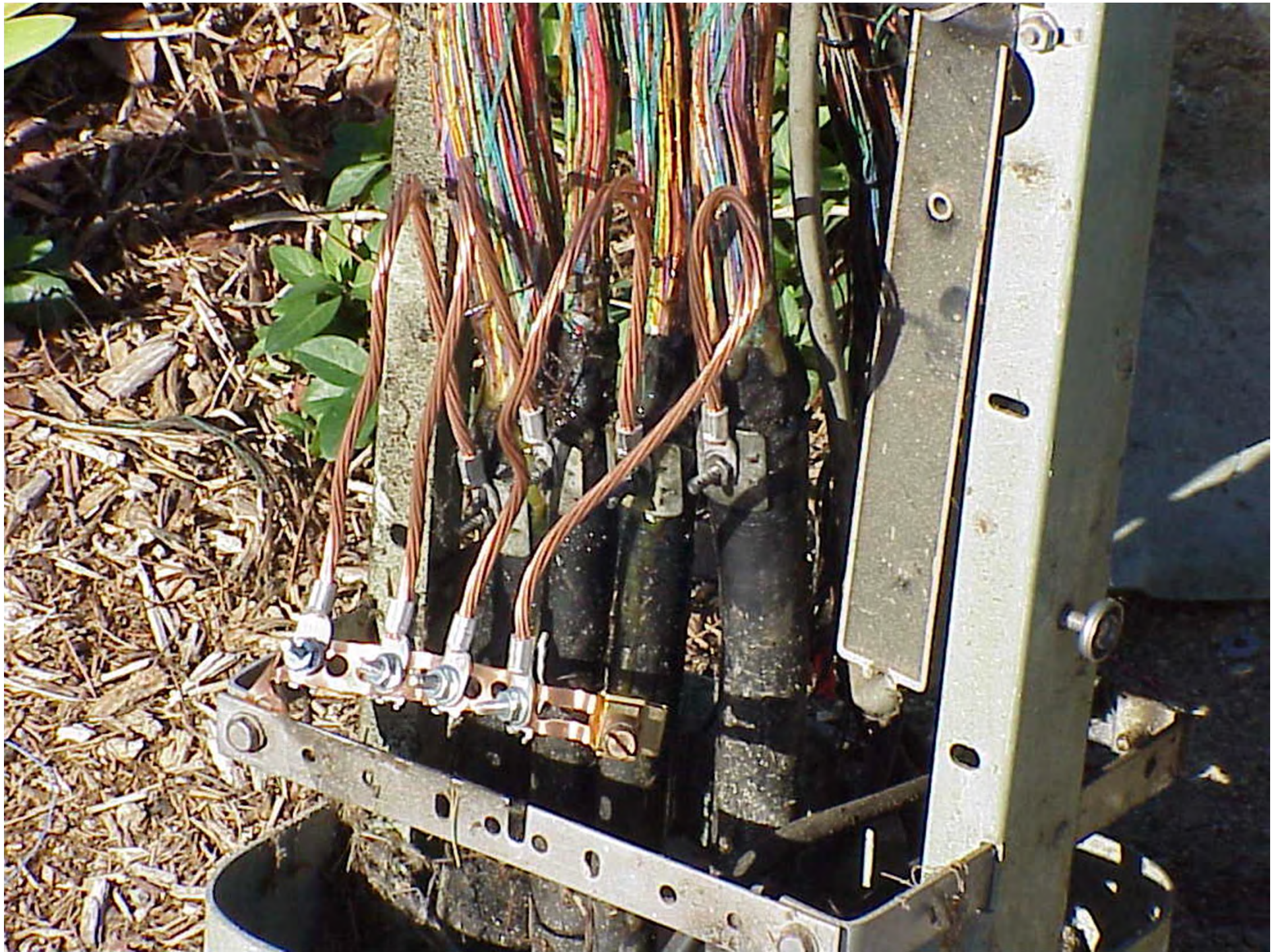
















**MH 839**

**Back To Box 880**





**NOISE REDUCED FROM 30 dBrnC TO 14 dBrnC**





**A Well Grounded Fence**

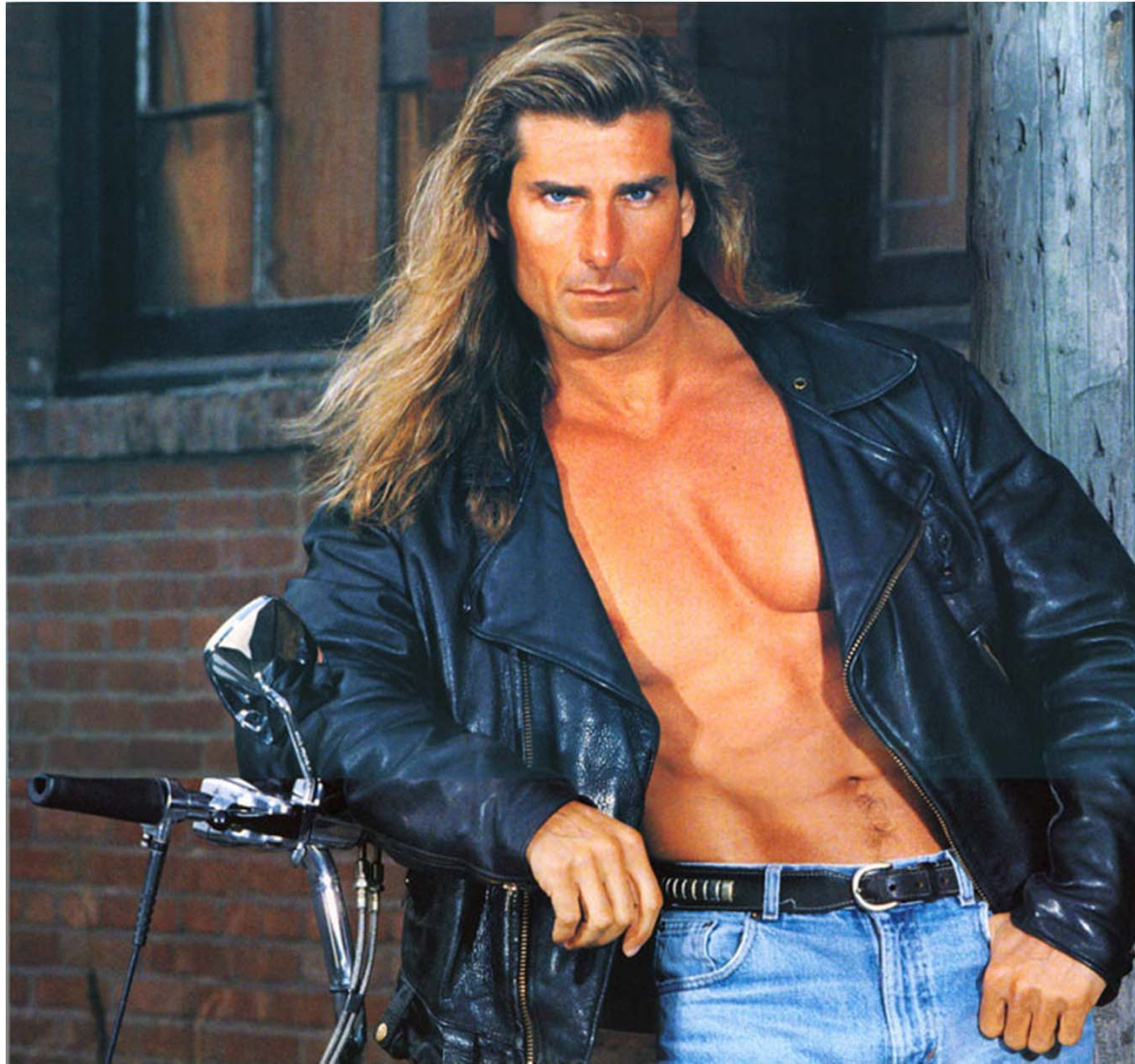


# Noise Analysis Using a Clampon Ammeter



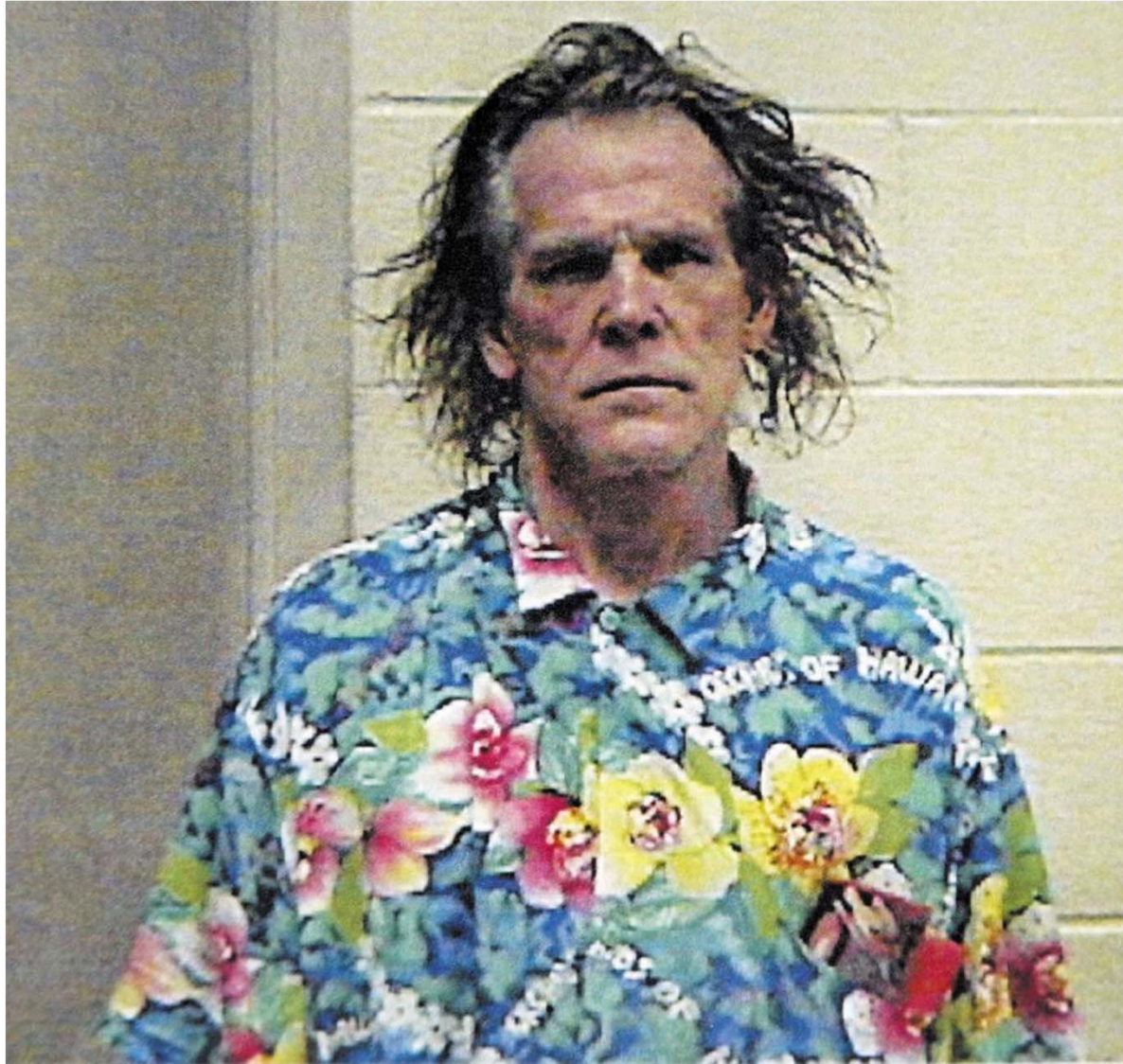
**HENRY RANDOLPH**





**Henry Before He Goes Out on the Town**





**Henry After He comes Back Home**





**Henry at Work on Monday Morning**





**Trouble: when  
loopback device is  
grounded, the  
circuit begins taking  
errors.**

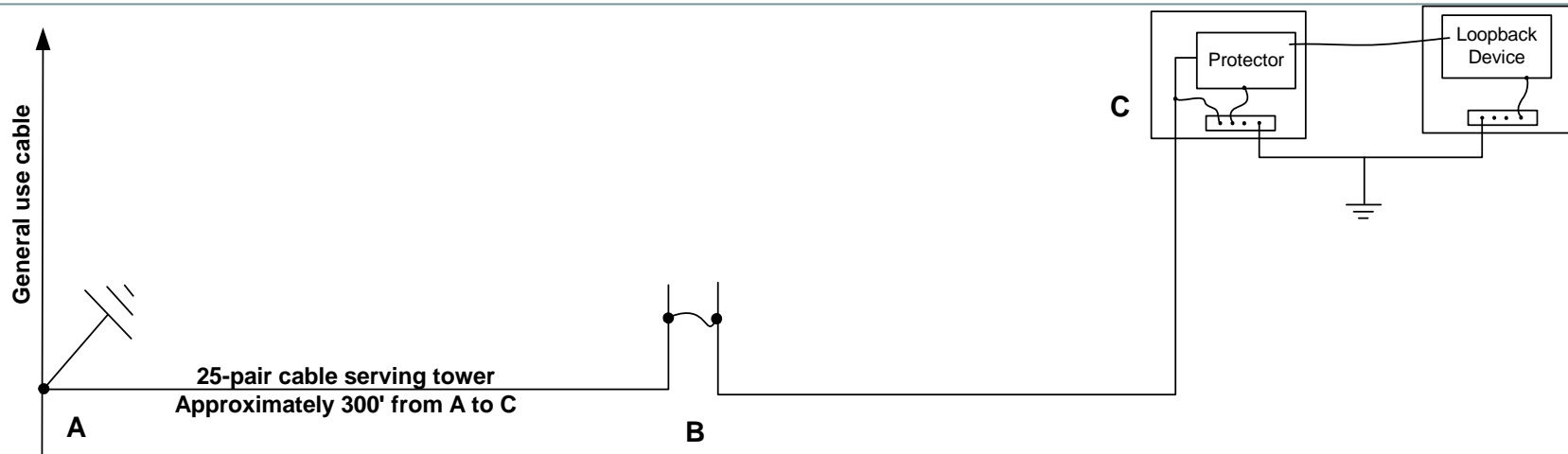


# Effects of High Resistance Shield



- Reduced Current Flow in Shield
- Induced Voltage on Cable Pairs Increases
- Results in Intermittent Firing of Secondary Protectors in the NCTE Card





**This method works by measuring induced voltage and current flow on the shield**

- Induced Current at the Bond Strap at Location C = 7 ma (Between the Grounds at Location A & C)
- Induced Open Circuit Voltage at Point C with Bond Strap Removed = 0.1 volts
- Calculating the Resistance of Shield Between A & C -  $0.1 \text{ volts} / .007 \text{ a} = 14\Omega$
- This Resistance Should be  $< 1 \Omega$  (25 Pair Cable Shield has  $\sim 1\Omega$  per 1000 ft)
- The Only Bond Between Locations A & C was at the Splice at Location B
- Bond was corroded, when replaced, the Induced Current Flow at Location C Increased to 1.12 amps
- Indicating that the Resistance of the repaired shield was less than  $1 \Omega$



# Measuring Shield Current







**Pedestal with  
Corrosive Bond**



**Sections of  
Corroded  
Shield at  
Splice  
Location B**





# Effects of Lower Resistance Shield



- **Increases Current Flow in Shield**
- **Decreases induced Voltage on Cable Pairs**
- **Sporadic Firing of Secondary Protectors in the NCTE Card is Eliminated**
- **Circuit Errors Stop**



# **Telecommunications Protection by a Power Company**





# **“Special Protector”**



- Required by a Power Company for Warranted Protection from Damage
- Placing in series and on customer side of telephone protector
- Would not pass HPNA Signal
- NEC issues
- No listing mark
  - Primary Protector?
  - Secondary Protector?





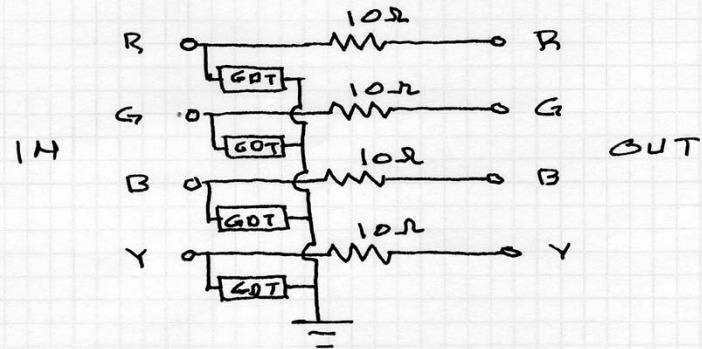




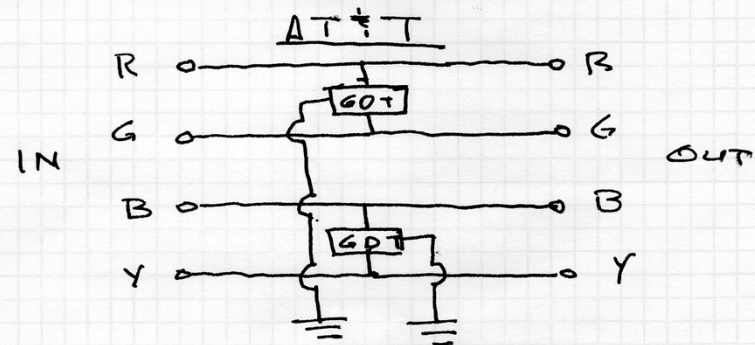


# TELEPHONE LINE SURGE PROTECTION COMPARISON

## Power Co



TWO ELEMENT GDT



THREE ELEMENT GDT

LCP .



# Design Question



- 10 Ohm resistors provides “coordination,” ...  
but not coordinated with AT&T equipment
- Two element gas tubes
  - A device for each conductor
  - Longitudinal to Metallic Conversion during a surge
- Standard AT&T Station Protectors - Three Element Gas Tubes
  - Minimal Longitudinal to Metallic Conversion during a surge event

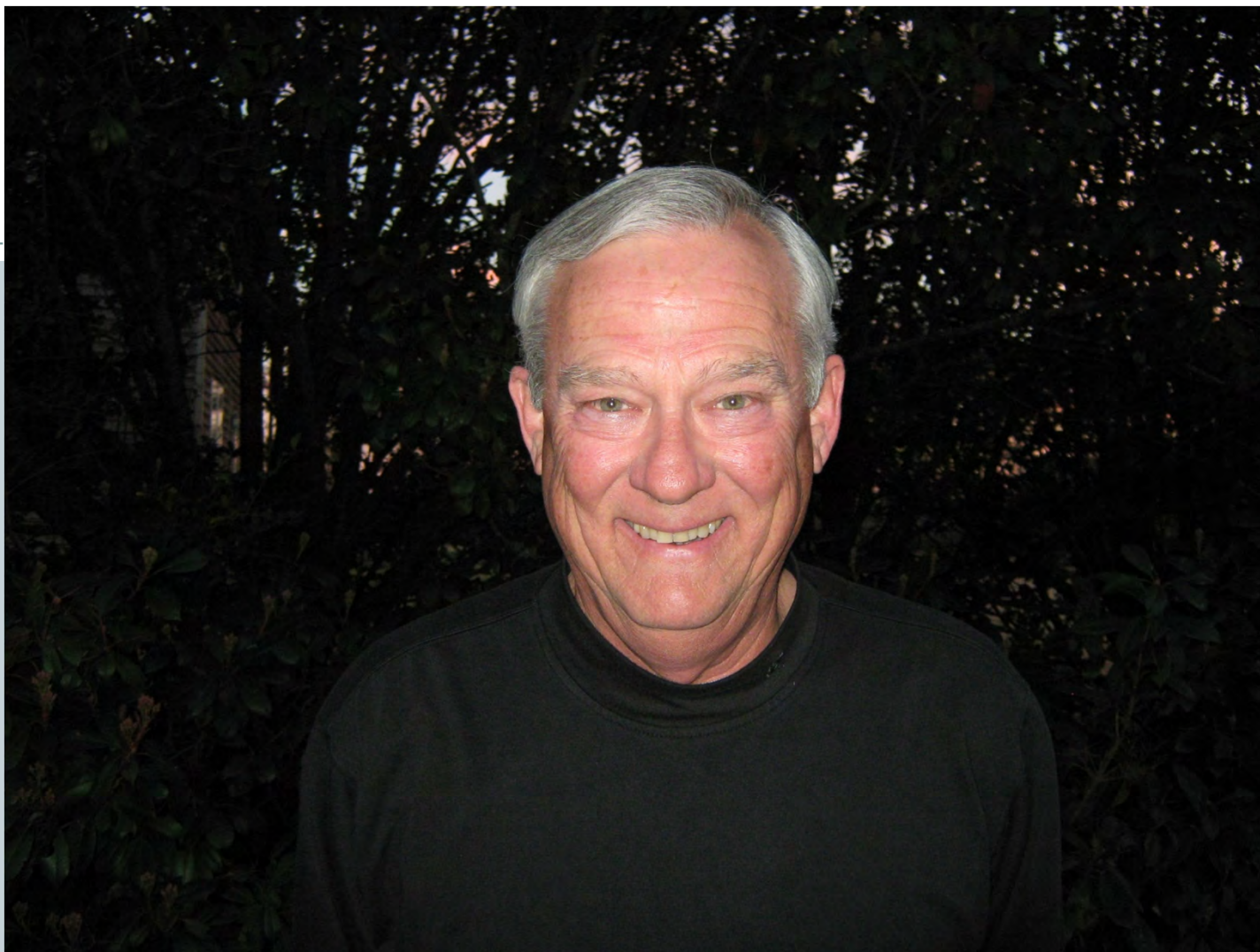


# **Equipment Damage Claim in Mississippi**





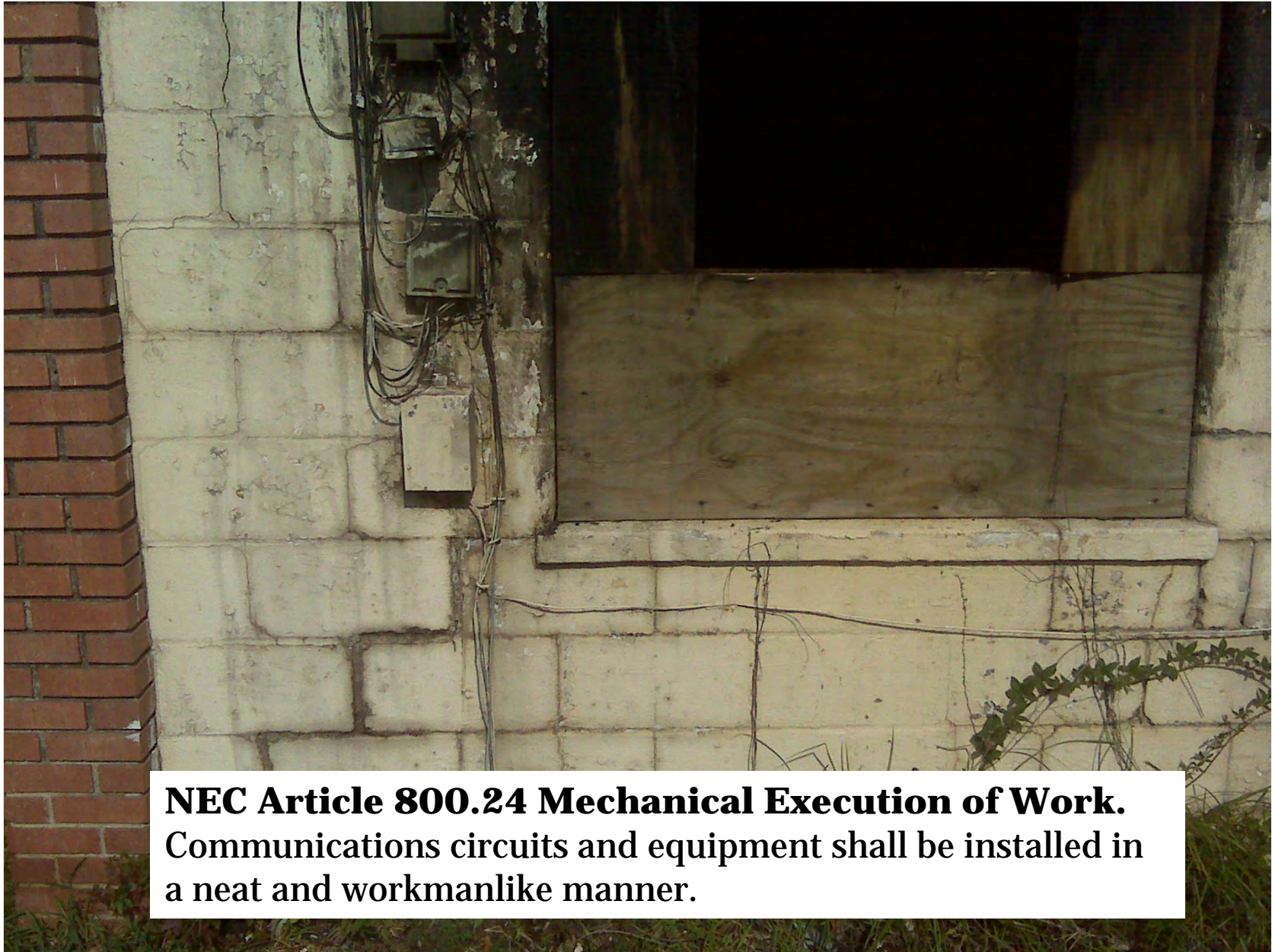
# Bill Tucker











**NEC Article 800.24 Mechanical Execution of Work.**  
Communications circuits and equipment shall be installed in a neat and workmanlike manner.







# **Electric Fence Controller Damage**





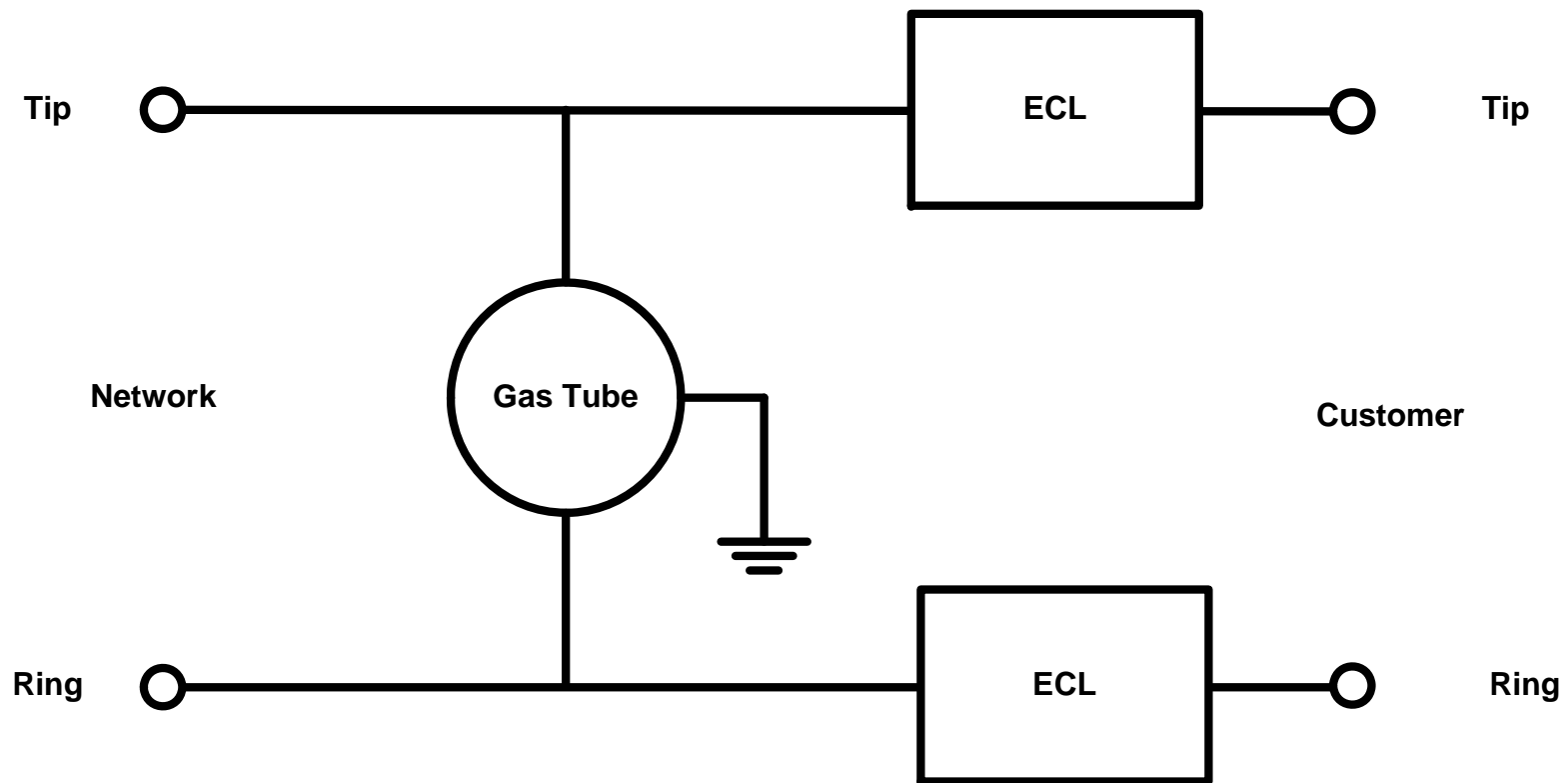
# Electric Fence Controller Damage



- Controller for electric fence damaged frequently by lightning storms.
- I Suggested using a special protector
- Originally designed for telecommunications equipment at customer premise.
- GDT and ECL



# Three Element Gas Tube with ECL Station Protector Schematic





# ECL / Gas Tube Function



- Switches very quickly from a low resistance state – approximately  $12\Omega$  - to an open circuit when current threshold is exceeded
- Signal / surge path is opened until gas tube fires
- Signal / surge path is shorted to ground until surge is removed
- Critical to connect “Network” side to cable pair, “Customer” side to customer’s inside wiring
- Results – no more damage to electric fence controller in more than a year



# Alternative and Creative Use of an RT Site



**TRUE...**























