

GBPPR 'Zine



Issue #54 / The Monthly Journal of the American Hacker / October 2008

"Blacks have different brains from whites. They don't think in the same way. I read about the suppressed brain research in The God Delusion. They are more inclined to rest. You can see them lying out on the streets, in full sun. They can't even be bothered to go into the shade. Those dead blacks lying on the streets that were on the news during the apartheid era were really blacks sleeping."

--- Quote from "Mike" in Jenny Diski's *Diary*. (www.lrb.co.uk/v30/n13/disk01.html)

Table of Contents

- ◆ **Page 2 / Software System Introduction – Software Description / #1A ESS (Part 1)**
 - ◆ Detailed analysis of the software "generic" program which a #1A ESS operates under.
- ◆ **Page 28 / Antenna Switch for 2.4 GHz Applications**
 - ◆ Utilize a cheap Omron relay to switch between two antennas in the 2.4 GHz band.
- ◆ **Page 37 / DMS–100 Originating Line Number Screening Service/Equipment Display Table (OLNSEQDP)**
 - ◆ DMS–100 table entry for the originating equipment information displayed on an operator's screen.
- ◆ **Page 38 / DMS–100 Toll–Free Service Screening Table (TFSSCRN)**
 - ◆ DMS–100 table entry listing which NXXs cover the toll–free range in a switch.
- ◆ **Page 40 / He's Not Muslim! LOL!**
 - ◆ Sheik Barack Hussein Obama voted for an "Islamic Community Day" in 1997!
- ◆ **Page 42 / Bonus**
 - ◆ Community Organizing
- ◆ **Page 43 / The End**
 - ◆ Editorial and rants.

BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES
AT&T Co SPCS

SECTION 231-045-005
Issue 2, September 1983

**SOFTWARE SYSTEM INTRODUCTION
SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION
2-WIRE NO. 1 AND 1A "ESS*" SWITCHES**

CONTENTS	PAGE	CONTENTS	PAGE
1. GENERAL	9	B. Input/Output Programs	16
INTRODUCTION	9	C. Call Control Programs	18
SOFTWARE DOCUMENTATION	9	D. Service Routines	21
PURPOSE OF THE SOFTWARE	9	CENTREX CALL PROCESSING	22
SCOPE OF SECTION	9	A. General	22
2. MAJOR FUNCTIONS DESCRIBED	10	B. Centrex Digit Analysis Program	22
CONTROL STRUCTURE	10	C. Incoming Digit Analysis for Centrex	22
3. INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAM CONTROL	10	D. Disconnect for Centrex	22
PROGRAM STRUCTURE	10	E. Centrex Register Seize and Release	22
CENTRAL CONTROL	11	CIRCUIT SWITCHED DIGITAL CAPABILITY (CSDC)	23
MAIN MEMORY	11	A. General	23
AUXILIARY MEMORY STORAGE	11	B. Feature Operation	23
BUS SYSTEMS	11	TANDEM CONNECTIONS PROGRAM	24
4. OPERATIONAL SOFTWARE FUNCTIONS	11	SCANNING SOFTWARE	25
SOFTWARE CONTROL PROGRAMS	12	A. General	25
A. General	12	B. System Scan Control Interface	25
B. Input/Output Program Control	13	C. System Scan Hardware Interface	25
C. Base Level Program Control	15	D. System Memory Interface	25
CALL PROCESSING SOFTWARE	16	E. Scan Programs	25
A. General	16	OUTPULSING SOFTWARE	27

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Page 1

Software System Introduction – Software Description / #1A ESS

SECTION 231-045-005

CONTENTS	PAGE
A. General	27
B. Outpulsing Control	27
C. Outpulsing Description	27
D. MF Outpulsing	29
E. Dial Pulse (DP) Outpulsing	29
PERIPHERAL CONTROL SOFTWARE	30
A. General	30
B. Entry to Peripheral Control	30
C. Peripheral Order Buffer Execution	32
OPERATOR FUNCTIONS	33
A. General	33
B. No Test Calls	33
C. Emergency Manual Line (EML) Service	33
D. Miscellaneous Outgoing to Switchboards and Desk	33
E. Toll Switch Origination	33
F. Traffic Service Position System (TSPS)	33
G. Toll Operator Signaling	34
CHARGING SOFTWARE	34
A. General	34
B. Collecting Local AMA Data	34
C. AMAC Interfacing	35
D. AMA Register-to-Buffer Processing	35
E. AMA Midnight Routine	36
COIN FUNCTIONS	36

CONTENTS	PAGE
A. General	36
LOCAL COIN	36
A. Operation	36
COIN ZONE	37
A. Toll and Special Services	38
B. Coin Station Testing	39
TRANSLATIONS SOFTWARE	39
A. General	39
B. Addresses of Equipment Numbers	39
C. Numerical Quantities	40
D. Generic Translation Data	40
E. Special Output Situations	40
F. Translators	40
RECENT CHANGE (RC) SOFTWARE	42
A. General	42
B. RCSS Functional Description	42
C. Translation Data Storage	42
D. Queuing of RC Inputs	42
E. Customer Line Inputs	44
F. Inputs From the Office RC and Service Order TTYs	44
G. Rollback	44
H. Rollback Area Management	44
I. Delayed RCs	46
J. Inputs From the Service Order Activation Phone	46
QUEUE AND GENERAL PURPOSE SOFTWARE	47

Software System Introduction – Software Description / #1A ESS

ISS 2, SECTION 231-045-005

CONTENTS	PAGE
A. Queue Administration Program (WQUE)	47
B. General Purpose Programs	48
C. Call Trace Program (TRCE)	50
D. Queuing Calls to Multiline Hunt Groups	50
SPECIAL SERVICES SOFTWARE	51
A. General	51
B. Program Description	51
MEASUREMENT SOFTWARE	53
A. Purpose of Measurement Software	53
B. Functional Description of Measurement Software	54
C. Interface With Other Programs	54
NETWORK MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE	54
A. General	54
B. System Network Management Control Interface	55
C. Network Management Software Function	57
FILE STORE ADMINISTRATION SOFTWARE	59
A. General	59
B. Functional Description	59
ATTACHED PROCESSOR SYSTEM	60
A. General	60
B. Attached Processor Message Handler	60
C. File Manager Interface (FMI)	60
D. Disk Administration Interface (DKADI) Program	61

CONTENTS	PAGE
1A PROCESSOR INPUT/OUTPUT SOFTWARE	61
A. General	61
B. Input Message Software	62
C. Output Message Software	63
AUXILIARY DATA SYSTEM SOFTWARE	64
A. General	64
B. ADS Organization and Operation	64
PERIPHERAL UNIT CONTROLLER	65
A. General	65
B. Peripheral Unit Controller (PUC) Software	65
C. PUC Maintenance	66
PUC/DATA LINK (DL)	67
A. General	67
B. Software Interface	68
C. MAINTENANCE	72
STATION MESSAGE DETAIL RECORDING (SMDR) AND EXPANDED MESSAGE DETAIL RECORDING (XMDR)	74
A. General	74
B. Account Codes	78
C. Call Event Codes	79
D. Service Feature Codes	79
AUTOMATIC CALL DISTRIBUTION (ACD)-ESS SWITCH MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (AEMIS) DATA BASE (MSDU)	79
A. General	79
B. Call Processing	80

Software System Introduction – Software Description / #1A ESS

SECTION 231-045-005

	CONTENTS	PAGE		CONTENTS	PAGE
	CENTREX STATION REARRANGEMENTS (CSR)	81		D. Trouble Reporting	95
	A. General	81		TRUNK AND LINE TEST SOFTWARE	95
5.	MAINTENANCE SOFTWARE FUNCTIONS	81		A. General	95
	MAINTENANCE SOFTWARE CONTROL PROGRAMS	83		B. Automatic Line Insulation Test (ALIT)	96
	A. Maintenance Control Program (MACP)	83		C. Incoming Trunk Test Termination (ITTT)	96
	B. Base Level Scheduled Maintenance	83		D. Station Ringer Test (SRTT)	97
	C. Fill Maintenance	84		E. Through Balance Test Facility (TBTF)	97
	AUDIT SOFTWARE	84		F. Line Termination Denied Program (PLUG)	97
	A. General	84		DATA MAPPING SOFTWARE	98
	B. Audit Error Detection	84		A. General	98
	C. Correction Strategy	85		B. Functional Description	98
	D. Audit Subsystem Requirements	86		SYSTEM PERFORMANCE SOFTWARE	102
	E. Audit Activity During a Phase	88		A. General	102
	DIAGNOSTIC AND EXERCISE SOFTWARE	88		B. System Performance Software Interface	102
	A. 1A Processor Diagnostics	88		C. System Performance Software Function	102
	B. ESS Switch Peripheral Diagnostic and Exercise	90		MASTER CONTROL CENTER SOFTWARE	105
	DIAGNOSTIC RESULTS POST-PROCESSING SOFTWARE	91		A. General	105
	A. ESS Switch Peripheral	91		B. Master Control Center Software Interface	105
	B. 1A Processor	92		C. Master Control Center Software Function	107
	TRUNK AND SERVICE CIRCUIT MAINTENANCE SOFTWARE	94		GROWTH SOFTWARE	107
	A. General	94		A. General Purpose	107
	B. Trouble Detection	94		B. Network Growth Program	108
	C. Testing	95			

CONTENTS	PAGE
C. Cutover Program for Growth	109
GENERIC UTILITY SOFTWARE	110
A. General	110
B. Generic Utility Software Interface	111
C. Generic Utility Software Function	112
RINGING, TONE, AND RECORDED ANNOUNCEMENT MAINTENANCE SOFTWARE	113
A. General Purpose	113
B. Ringing and Tone Maintenance	113
C. Recorded Announcement Maintenance	115
TELETYPEWRITER SOFTWARE	116
A. General	116
B. TTY Software Interface	116
C. TTY Translation Input/Output Program (TTYM)	116
LIBRARY AND PAGED PROGRAM CONTROL SOFTWARE	119
A. Library Control Software	119
B. Paging Program Supervisor (Pident PAGESUPER)	122
C. Miscellaneous Run-Time Loading Functions	123
NETWORK MAINTENANCE SOFTWARE	124
A. General	124
B. Software Interface	124
C. Network Maintenance Software Function	124
FAULT RECOGNITION SOFTWARE	125

CONTENTS	PAGE
A. General	125
B. Fault Recognition Software Interface	126
C. Fault Recognition Software Function	126
SYSTEM UPDATE SOFTWARE	127
A. General	127
B. System Update Software Interface	127
C. System Update Software Function	127
D. Full Update	129
E. Data Transfer	130
F. Building System Maps and Tables	130
G. Data Mapping	130
H. Main Memory Overwrite	131
I. Running on New Issue	132
J. Copying File Store Mates	132
WRITE PROTECT SOFTWARE	133
A. General	133
B. Write Protect Software Interface	133
C. Write Protect Software Function	133
6. INTERRUPT RECOVERY SOFTWARE FUNCTIONS	134
INTERRUPT RECOVERY SOFTWARE CONTROL	134
A. General	134
B. Central Control Features	135
C. Interrupt Hierarchy	135
D. General Approach to All Interrupts	135

Software System Introduction – Software Description / #1A ESS

SECTION 231-045-005

CONTENTS	PAGE
SYSTEM REINITIALIZATION	145
A. General	145
B. Memory and File Store Load	146
C. Data Verification	148
D. Central Control Basic Sanity Tests	150
E. Recovery From Catastrophic Faults	150
F. Process in the Presence of Failures	151
HARDWARE RECOVERY	153
A. General	153
B. Processor Configuration Recovery (Level 1)	157
C. Processor Configuration Recovery (Level 2)	157
D. Hardware Initialization	157
SOFTWARE INITIALIZATION	157
A. General	157
B. Phase Triggers	163
C. Phase Activity	169
EMERGENCY MODE CONTROL SOFTWARE	169
PROCESSOR RECOVERY SOFTWARE	171
A. General	171
B. Central Control Fault Recovery	171
C. Call Store Fault Recovery	174
D. Program Store Fault Recovery	175
E. Auxiliary Unit Fault Recovery	176
F. File Store Fault Recovery	178

CONTENTS	PAGE
G. Attached Processor System Single Strategy Fault Recovery (SSFR)	179
H. Data Unit Fault Recovery	181
ERROR ANALYSIS SOFTWARE	182
A. General	182
B. Data Collection	183
C. Data Retrieval	183
7. SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION (USER-TYPE DOCUMENTS)	184
INTRODUCTION	184
GENERIC PROGRAM DOCUMENTS	184
A. PR Documents	184
B. PK Documents	184
C. IM Documents	185
D. OM Documents	185
E. TG-1A Documents	185
F. PG-1A Documents	185
G. TLM Documents	185
APPLICATION DOCUMENTS—1A PROCESSOR	185
A. Diagnostic Program Applications—Description	185
B. Generic Utility Program Applications—Description	185
C. Error Analysis Program Applications—Description	186
D. Program Listing—Software Description	186
E. Diagnostic Language (DL-1)—Software Description	186

CONTENTS	PAGE	CONTENTS	PAGE
8. GLOSSARY	186	20. Attached Processor System Hardware Block Diagram	61
9. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	187	21. Input/Output Control Program Interfaces	62
Figures		22. Auxiliary Data System Interface Diagram	65
1. ESS Switch Software and Documentation Breakdown	10	23. Data Unit Administration Program Interface	66
2. Program Control Plan	12	24. PUC Block Diagram	67
3. Operational Control Structure—Functional Grouping	14	25. Block Diagram of Hardcore	68
4. J- and H-Level Interrupt Processing—Flow Diagram	15	26. PUC Software Subsystem Functional Interface	69
5. Call Processing Interfaces	17	27. PUC/DL RSS T1 Carrier Office Configuration	70
6. Centrex Programs Interface	23	28. PUC/DL ETS Office Configuration	71
7. Scanning Program Interface	26	29. PUC/DL CCIS Office Configuration	72
8. Outpulsing Interfaces	28	30. PUC SCAM Layout	73
9. Peripheral Control Subsystem	31	31. Input Data Message	74
10. Network Path Transitions	32	32. PUC/DL Destination Buffer Structure	75
11. Operator Functions Software Subsystem	33	33. SMDR/XMDR Hardware Configuration for LMDRS	76
12. AMA System	34	34. SMDR/XMDR Hardware Configuration for Centralized Station Message Detail Recording System	77
13. Translation System	39	35. No. 1A ESS Switch Maintenance Control Structure	82
14. No. 1A ESS Switch Recent Change Subsystem	43	36. No. 1A ESS Switch Audit System	85
15. Subsystem Interfacing With Queue Administration	47	37. Trunk and Service Circuit Maintenance Software Interface	94
16. Special Services Program Interface	52	38. Trunk and Line Test Software	96
17. Measurement Program Interfaces	55	39. Data Mapping Interfaces With Other Subsystems	99
18. Network Management Program Interface	56		
19. File Store Administration Program Interfaces	59		

Software System Introduction – Software Description / #1A ESS

SECTION 231-045-005

	CONTENTS	PAGE		CONTENTS	PAGE
40.	Functional Flowchart of Update Procedure With Emphasis on Mapping	101	60.	H- and J-Level Processing—Program Flow and Interfaces	148
41.	System Performance Software Interface	103	61.	Error Stop Processing—Program Flow and Interfaces	148
42.	Master Control Center Software Interface	106	62.	Interject Processing—Program Flow and Interfaces	149
43.	Growth Software Subsystems Interface	108	63.	System Reinitialization—Flowchart	150
44.	Generic Utility Software Interface	111	64.	Processor Configuration Recovery Level 1—Flowchart	158
45.	Ringin, Tone, and Recorded Announcement Maintenance Software Interface	113	65.	Processor Configuration Recovery Level 2—Flowchart	161
46.	TTY Software Interface	117	66.	Hardware Initialization—Flowchart	165
47.	No. 1A ESS Switch Library and Paging Control	120	67.	Emergency Mode Configuration	172
48.	Network Maintenance Software Interface	124	68.	General Program Flow for Fault Recovery	173
49.	Fault Recognition Software Interface	126	69.	Central Control Fault Recovery—Flowchart	174
50.	System Update Program—Program Interface Block Diagram	128	70.	Call Store Fault Recovery—Program Flow and Interfaces—Simplified	175
51.	Write Protect Software Interface	133	71.	Program Store Fault Recovery—Program Flow and Interfaces—Simplified	177
52.	General Interrupt Structure	137	72.	Attached Processor Interface Layout	180
53.	A-Level Processing—Program Flow and Interfaces	138	Tables		
54.	B-Level Processing—Program Flow and Interfaces	140	A.	No. 1/1A ESS Switch Operational Software	13
55.	C-Level Processing—Program Flow and Interfaces	141	B.	Information Contained in SMDR and XMDR Records	78
56.	D-Level Processing—Program Flow and Interfaces	142	C.	Output Messages	119
57.	E-Level Processing—Program Flow and Interfaces	144	D.	1A Processor Interrupt Sources	136
58.	F-Level Processing—Program Flow and Interfaces	146	E.	1A Phase Activity	170
59.	G-Level Processing—Program Flow and Interfaces	147			

1. GENERAL

INTRODUCTION

1.01 The No. 1/1A ESS switch is an automatic common control type switching system operating under control of a processor directed by a stored program. This stored program is organized as a generic program plus a data base which uniquely associates the generic with a particular office. A generic program is a general purpose switching system control program for ESS switching equipment and is generic in the sense that the same basic program is used for all No. 1/1A ESS switching equipment installations. A data base, consisting of parameter and translation data, is created to uniquely define a particular ESS switch installation to its generic program. The generic program consists of all of the software and data necessary for routine and maintenance operations. For purposes of discussion, the generic program may be broken into many functionally dependent parts. This document provides an introduction to the No. 1/1A, generic program at the functional part level. Any information that is peculiar to 1A ESS switch is noted as such. Information that is peculiar to No. 1 ESS switch is not given.

1.02 This section is being reissued to include coverage of:

- Circuit Switch Digital Capability (CSDC)
- Supervision Modernization
- Attached Processor System (APS)
- Memory Expansion
- Peripheral Unit Controller
- Peripheral Unit Controller/Data Link
- Station Message Detail Recording (SMDR) and Expanded Message Detail Recording (XMDR)
- Automatic Call Distribution (ACD) Electronic Switching Systems Management Information System (AEMIS) Data Base (MSDU)
- Centrex Station Rearrangements (CSR).

Change arrows are used to indicate these significant changes.

1.03 This section is based on the 1E7 (No. 1 ESS switch) and 1AE7 (No. 1A ESS switch) versions of the generic program.

SOFTWARE DOCUMENTATION

1.04 The term software, as used in this document, refers to the series of programmed instructions and associated data used to direct the operation of a No. 1/1A central control. Supportive information such as maps, listings, and program documentation is included in this definition. Refer to Part 7 of this document for more detailed information.

PURPOSE OF THE SOFTWARE

1.05 The software, ie, generic program package, is the set of stored programs which controls the operations of the ESS switch. The ESS switch software directs all hardware activities for normal operations, including maintenance and interrupt environments.

SCOPE OF SECTION

1.06 This document provides a system level introduction to the No. 1/1A generic programs. Additional information describing software support information is provided. Some of the programs or pidents referenced may not be active for particular installations. Refer to the program listings for specific applications.

1.07 Part 9 of this document provides a defined list of the abbreviations and acronyms used in this section.

1.08 Section 231-045-000, titled "Introduction to Software Description," provides cross-reference lists of all programs covered in the software description series, which are:

- 254-280-XXX
- 231-045-XXX
- 231-310-XXX.

Note: The last three digits in each series further designate the functional positions of the document within the overall No. 1/1A ESS switch software coverage.

1.09 PG6A002 titled "ESS Switch Index of Generic Program Documents for Program Store and

SECTION 231-045-005

Call Store Generic," contains a listing of program titles and pident numbers.

2. MAJOR FUNCTIONS DESCRIBED

CONTROL STRUCTURE

2.01 The generic program can be functionally arranged into three functional divisions as shown in Fig. 1.

- (a) The operational software includes the base level or normal operations necessary to accomplish call processing and other routine operations.
- (b) The maintenance software is responsible for the automatic and manually initiated maintenance and diagnostic programs used for ESS switch maintenance.
- (c) The interrupt control software is predominantly responsible for controlling or obtaining

control of the ESS switch during abnormal processing environments and for restoring the system to normal operations.

2.02 The ESS switch software documentation consists of this and other manuals or support information which provide ESS switching equipment operation and maintenance personnel with the required user information.

3. INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAM CONTROL

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

3.01 The ESS switch programs are controlled under a structure designed primarily to handle the call processing requirements of the office but, in addition, provide for other operational and maintenance functions. Most normal operations, including the bulk of call processing and routine maintenance, are carried out by the base level portion of the generic program. Base level refers to the hardware exe-

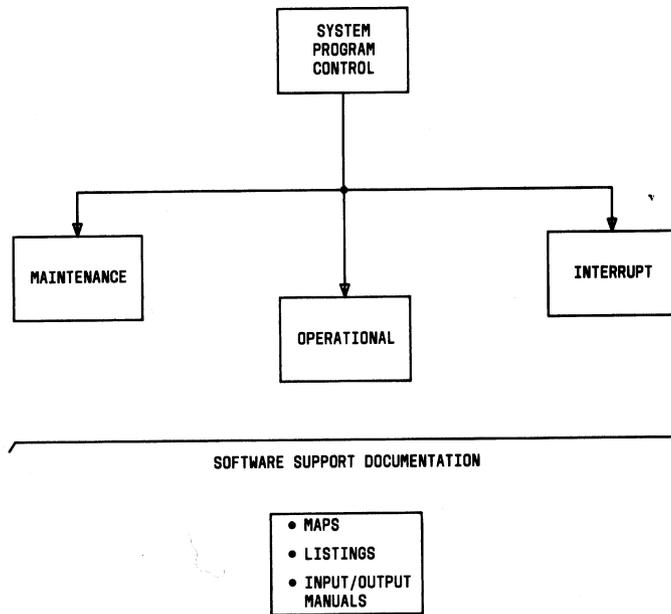


Fig. 1—ESS Switch Software and Documentation Breakdown

duction state existing when the interrupt handling mechanisms are not in control. All base level programs and routines collectively form the base level program which, although functionally divisible, operates as a group of endless loops, often referred to as the base level loop. The core of the base level program is the executive control main program.

3.02 The base level program execution sequence may be temporarily interrupted by programs which operate on interrupt level (Fig. 2). Provision is made for ten levels of interrupt priority: A through K, excluding I. An interrupt causes control to be taken from the instruction currently in control of the hardware and given to the interrupt handling programs. The highest priority level of interrupt is A-level.

CENTRAL CONTROL

3.03 The central control is the heart of the ESS switch processor system. The No. 1/1A processor, consisting of two identical central controls (central control 0 and central control 1 provide basic processing redundancy), process instructions and data stored in various memory devices. The major processing function is to administer the switching network for call processing purposes. The central control reads, decodes, and executes the coded machine instructions. Execution times vary according to instruction types and sequences.

MAIN MEMORY

3.04 Main memory is comprised of program stores and call stores. Both program store and call store are high speed random access stores operating under control of the central control. The primary function of the program store is to store the memory resident portion of the generic program. Call store serves primarily as a repository for call processing and other system related data. Program store holds a single copy of the resident generic program while call store may provide simplex (single copy) or duplex (redundant) storage.

AUXILIARY MEMORY STORAGE

3.05 In the No. 1A ESS switch, auxiliary storage is provided by file store and tape units. File store consists of a disk storage system which provides high-speed access (but slower than program store or call store) to bulk stored programs and data. The pri-

mary functions of file store are (1) to store the non-resident portion of the generic program, and (2) to provide backup copies of all program store and simplex call store information. The file store system also provides complete redundancy for itself.

3.06 Magnetic tape storage for the No. 1A ESS switch is provided by the auxiliary data system (ADS). The ADS provides a versatile, medium-speed, data storage and retrieval facility. Tape provides for further redundancy of system programs, data, etc.

BUS SYSTEMS

3.07 The four major bus systems of the processor provide 2-way communications between the central control and other processor units and the periphery. These four bus systems are:

- Call store bus
- Program store bus
- Peripheral unit bus
- Auxiliary unit bus (1A only).

Each bus system provides a write bus to send data from central control to a unit and a reply bus for central control to receive a reply from a unit.

3.08 Access to a particular unit on a particular bus is via an address. In order to address any particular unit, an address including an enable field (ie, a K-code) which specifies the unit being accessed is applied to the address bus for the particular bus system. The K-code plus the remaining address bits specify the location within the unit and the type of operation. For example, the call store address field includes:

- (a) A 5-bit K-code identifying one call store
- (b) An address specifying one within the store module.

Each bus system also provides for transfer of maintenance, control, and status information.

4. OPERATIONAL SOFTWARE FUNCTIONS

4.01 Despite functional subdivisions that are made for various purposes, the ESS switch pro-

SECTION 231-045-005

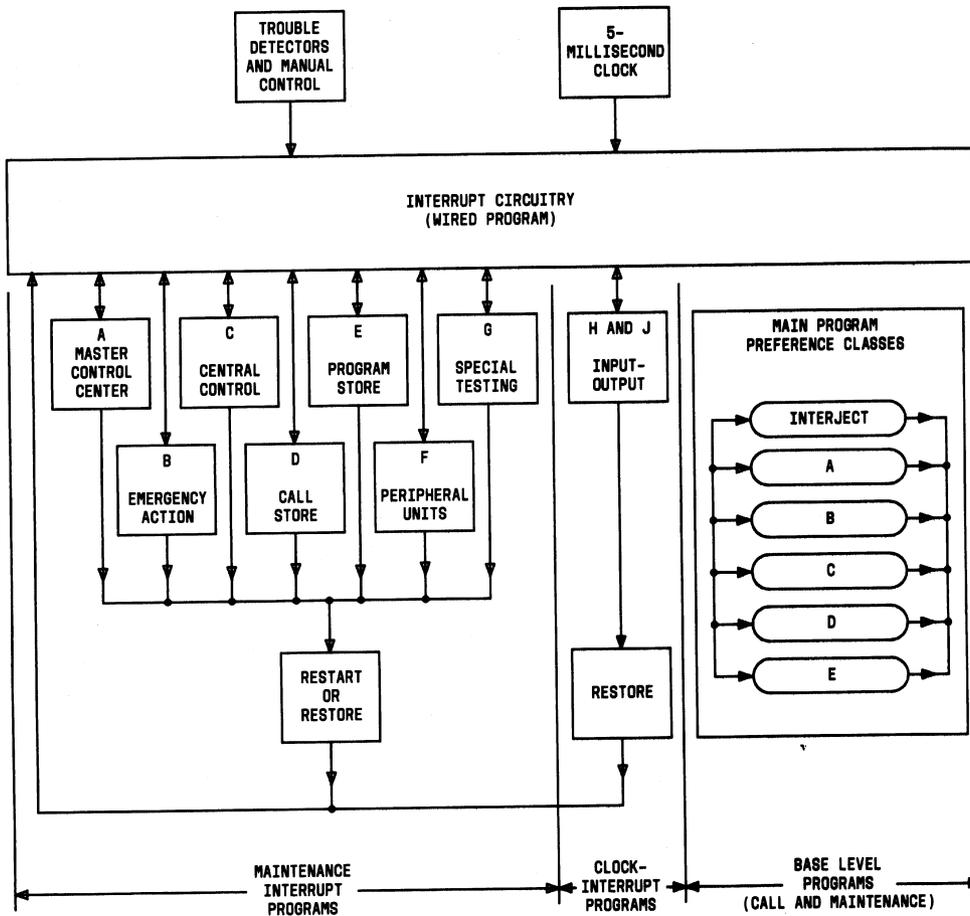


Fig. 2—Program Control Plan

grams are operationally a single program made up of endless loops. The operational software control structure controls the orderly scheduling and execution of programs used in call processing, input/output management, and administrative control, via the operational software listed in Table A. Each of these functional areas is described in subsequent paragraphs.

SOFTWARE CONTROL PROGRAMS

A. General

4.02 Programs associated with operational software at the major control level are as follows:

- (a) Executive Control Input/Output Program

TABLE A
NO. 1/1A ESS SWITCH
OPERATIONAL SOFTWARE

Operational Software Control
Call Processing
Scanning
Outpulsing
Peripheral Control
Operator Functions
Charging
Toll/Tandem Switching
Translations
Recent Changes
Queue and General Purpose
Centrex—Data Link
Special Services
Measurements
Network Management
File Store Administration*
Processor Input/Output
Auxiliary Data System*

* No. 1A only

(ECIO): The ECIO administers and schedules the execution of J- and H-level input/output programs and sets up the control structure for running base level jobs.

(b) Executive Control Main Program (ECMP):
 The ECMP administers and schedules the execution of all base level (L-level) programs.

(c) Automatic Overload Control Program (AOVD): The AOVD identifies overload conditions as they occur and initiates control strategies to reduce the demands on system resources.

The basic operational control structure interface is shown in Fig. 3.

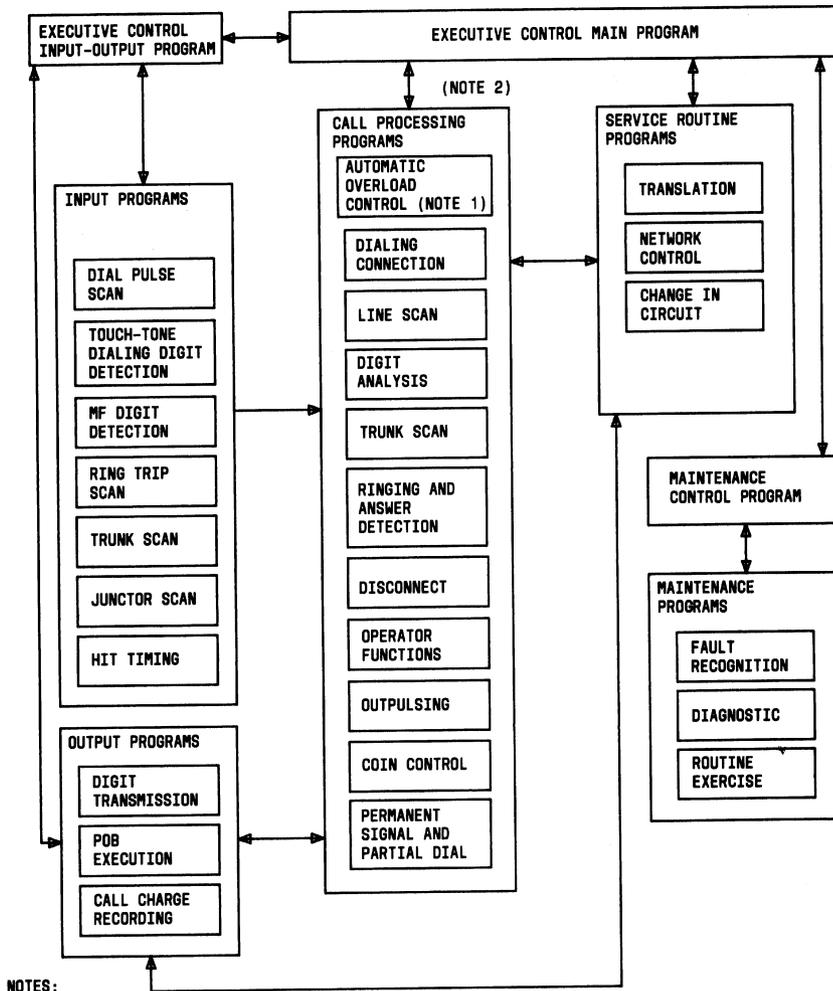
B. Input/Output Program Control

4.03 Every 5 milliseconds a system clock activates the J-level interrupt which gives control to the input/output programs via timetables administered by the executive control input/output main program.

4.04 All input/output programs are classified into high priority and low priority tasks according to the frequency and urgency with which these tasks must be performed. Low priority tasks can be delayed for a few milliseconds without an adverse effect on the operation of the system. In the event that the coincidence of input work under a peak traffic load causes the system to take more than 5 milliseconds to complete high and low priority tasks on J level, the H-level interrupt will occur and the low priority work will be interrupted. The high priority tasks will again be performed before returning to the low priority task that was interrupted. When the low priority tasks have been completed, return is made to the interrupted base level program. A general flow diagram of J- and H-level processing is shown in Fig. 4.

4.05 In order to perform all tasks promptly, the individual task must not take too long. Thus it is necessary to limit the amount of processing performed by the interrupt programs. The input programs are confined to scanning for and recognizing input signals and storing the input information in a call store hopper. Each hopper is inspected by the base level programs. When data is present in the hoppers, appropriate base level programs start or continue the processing of the call. Likewise, call store buffers are provided for use by the base level programs in storing output information. At an appropriate time, the call store buffers are unloaded by output programs which deliver the information to the peripheral equipment. The peripheral order buffers are used to store address and control information for peripheral equipment, such as network controllers and signal distributors. These buffers provide the means for communication between the scheduled input/output programs and the base level call processing programs.

SECTION 231-045-005



NOTES:

1. THE AUTOMATIC OVERLOAD CONTROL PROGRAM CONTAINS BOTH CALL PROCESSING AND OVERLOAD CONTROL ROUTINES.
2. THE INTERCONNECTION LINES INDICATE THE GENERAL FLOW OF INFORMATION AMONG PROGRAMS. THESE LINES DO NOT DEPICT SPECIFIC PROGRAM RELATIONSHIPS OTHER THAN THE RELATIONSHIP TO THE EXECUTIVE CONTROL MAIN PROGRAM AND TO THE TYPES OF PROGRAMS. THE EXECUTIVE CONTROL MAIN PROGRAM SCHEDULES THE WORK OF ALL CALL PROCESSING PROGRAMS.

◆ Fig. 3—Operational Control Structure—Functional Grouping ◆

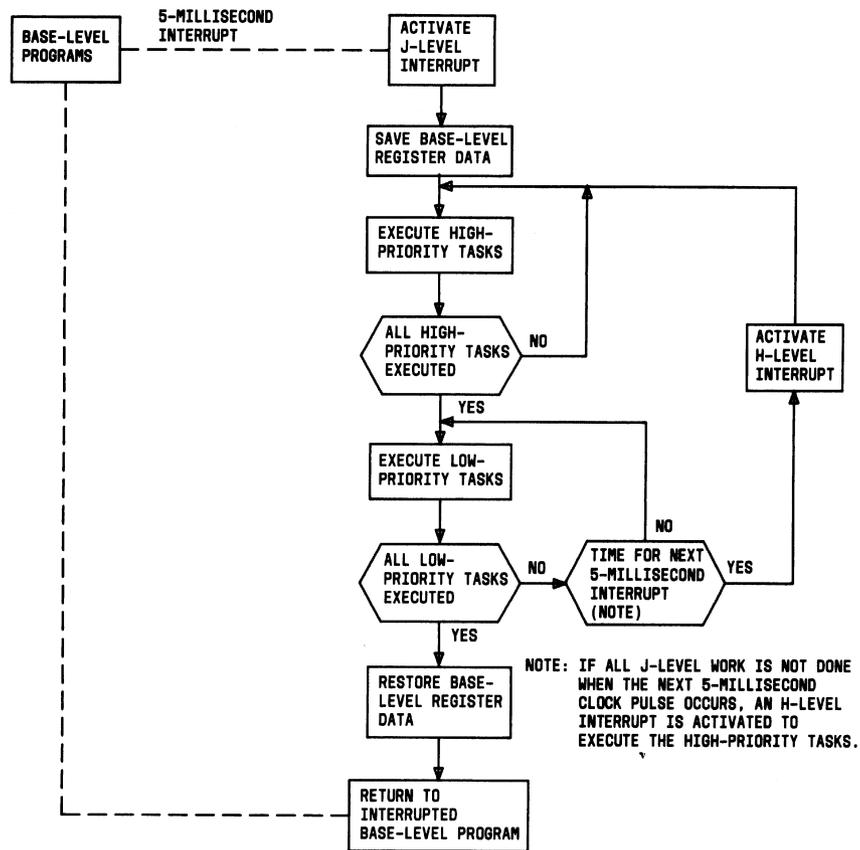


Fig. 4—J- and H-Level Interrupt Processing—Flow Diagram

C. Base Level Program Control

Frequency Class and Interject Administration

4.06 The bulk of the programs, both call processing and maintenance, are executed on the base level while no interrupts are in effect. All base level work can be deferred to some extent, but the amount of delay each program can tolerate varies widely. It is for this reason that a priority system implemented by a control program is used within the base level.

4.07 All base level programs are controlled by a single program called the executive control main program, ECMP. The main program performs its control function on the base level with the use of six priority classes of programs. The highest priority class is interject. The other five classes are A, B, C, D, and E, in descending order of frequency of examination. Among other tasks included in the base level scheduling universe (external to frequency classes A through E) are supervisory trunk and line scanning and routine maintenance.

SECTION 231-045-005

4.08 Within each frequency class there is a fixed sequence of major program units called task dispensers. The majority of these are for call processing and administration. In general, they dispense program control to one or more task programs a consecutive number of times, depending on the number of tasks that the task dispenser program finds waiting.

4.09 Although interject work is not regularly scheduled in the class sequence, it has priority over the work in frequency classes A through E. After execution of each task program within a class, a check is made for the existence of an interject request. If interject work is required, it is performed before returning to the task dispenser presently in control.

System Overload Control Administration

4.10 System overload occurs when offered traffic produces excessive demands on any of the available system resources (hardware, software, and real time). The objective of automatic overload control is to identify overload conditions as they occur and then to initiate appropriate control strategies.

4.11 Overload conditions are generally classified as hardware, software, or real time, according to the source of the problem. Hardware overloads can occur as a result of all network paths being blocked or when the total demand exceeds the amount of available service circuits, outgoing trunk circuits, or 2-way trunk circuits. Software overloads occur when the demand for memory resources exceeds the supply, for example, when no register of a particular type is available or when a hopper overflows. Real-time overloads occur when the system work load requires more time than is generally acceptable to maintain efficient system operations. The basic strategies employed for hardware and software overloads are (1) try another way, (2) queue, (3) try again later, and (4) do not serve the call. For real-time overloads, the strategies are to delay and/or eliminate work.

4.12 During an extreme situation such as an emergency or a disaster, traffic may increase to the point that the automatic overload controls cannot alleviate the overload condition; consequently, service can be degraded. Service during these periods is improved with the use of a last in first out (LIFO) buffer line service request algorithm. This algorithm

assures that the most recent originations will receive dial tone first. This reduces the probability of partial dials and/or misdirected calls which would place further resource constraints on the system. The LIFO is augmented by an automatic Dynamic Service Protection mechanism which provides some degree of priority treatment during overload to essential lines.♦

CALL PROCESSING SOFTWARE

A. General

4.13 The ESS switch interconnects telephone customers by centralizing the decision-making and memory required to process telephone calls in an electronic data processor. As a result, many aspects of call processing have been greatly simplified.

4.14 The purpose of call processing is to interconnect customer telephone lines. Calls between customers in the same central office (intraoffice) are handled a little differently than calls between customers in separate central offices (interoffice). However, there are three categories of software which become involved with both types of calls. These are: (1) programs which detect changes in the periphery and constitute inputs to the ESS switch and those which produce changes in the periphery and constitute system outputs (input/output programs); (2) call control programs which have only call related purposes and whose function is to advance a call to completion; (3) programs called service routines which perform frequently used functions. These can be used by call processing programs as well as other programs. Figure 5 shows the call processing interfaces.

B. Input/Output Programs

Input Programs

4.15 The programs which detect system input are designed to be relatively simple and highly efficient programs. They report changes or events to call control programs which analyze the report and perform any required actions. There is a large number of inputs (scan points) to be interrogated regularly, but the number of changes detected at any one time is expected to be quite small.

4.16 The program which detects line service requests interrogates all line scan points in the office approximately three times a second. The line scanners are arranged so that 16 line scan points are

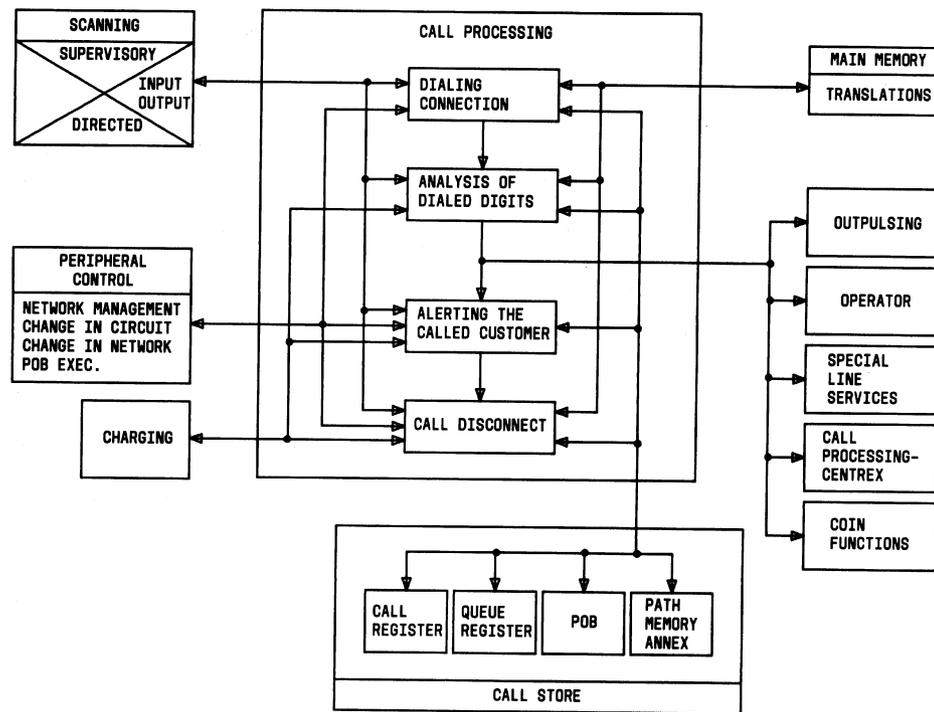


Fig. 5—Call Processing Interfaces

read simultaneously. The supervisory scan program reports the origination to a call control program via a hopper entry in the line service request hopper and continues its round of line scanner interrogation.

4.17 Another input program detects dialed digits and reports them to a call control program which will determine whether any action should be taken and if so what actions. The program also performs two other auxiliary functions for which reports are made. The first function is to report when the first digit is dialed so the call control program will know to remove dial tone. The second function is to perform permanent signal and partial dial timing. If no digits are received for an interval of time, the program reports this to the call control program, which will handle the call from that point on.

4.18 A third input program scans the relays controlling the ringing circuits. When the called customer answers, the input program reports to a call control program which removes the ringing connection and establishes a talking connection.

4.19 Another scanning program looks for changes from off-hook to on-hook. A change of state from off-hook to on-hook may be a momentary hit on the line or an inadvertent switchhook jiggle. Also, the customer may be flashing to initiate a special service request. Therefore, the scanning program reports the change to a hit-timing program which times the length of the on-hook signal to discriminate between hits, flashes, and true disconnects. The results are reported to the call control programs, which decide the appropriate action to be taken.

SECTION 231-045-005

4.20 The trunk scan program detects a number of signals in incoming and outgoing trunks. The program can deduce some information from the changes it is designed to detect. For example, a change from off-hook to on-hook indicates the start of a disconnect or a flash, and is reported to the hit-timing program. A change from on-hook to off-hook on an incoming trunk constitutes a request for service; but on an outgoing trunk, it could indicate that the call was answered at a distant office. ♦The scanning programs do not know if the on-hook to off-hook is an answer or request for service. The program loads the information of the events into the trunk seizure and answer hopper (TSAH). Then the base level determines the type of report.♦

Output Programs

4.21 When the processor needs to output data to initiate action in the periphery, it encounters an entirely different time scale. The generic program processes parts of a call at a very high rate of speed. To operate relays and other hardware associated with completing calls, a relatively large amount of time is required. The processing of other call elements cannot be delayed to wait for these actions.

4.22 ♦The call processing program determines which periphery needs to be operated and loads peripheral control orders into a peripheral order buffer

- Close or open a relay in a trunk circuit
- Close a network switch
- Scan a scan point in a trunk circuit.

After loading all orders into the peripheral order buffer, the call processing program suspends further processing of that call and passes the peripheral order buffer to an output program.

4.23 The output programs are executed once every 25 milliseconds. Each execution is called a cycle. On every cycle, the output program visits a peripheral order buffer. One order is unloaded from the peripheral order buffer and transmitted to a peripheral circuit. While this peripheral circuit is slowly performing the transmitted order, the output program does not wait but proceeds to call another peripheral order buffer. The output program unloads one order from that peripheral order buffer and

transmits that order to another peripheral circuit. The output stops executing the current cycle when it visits all peripheral order buffers passed to it by the call processing program and returns control to the main executive program. Then the main executive program processes other calls or performs maintenance function. On the next cycle, the output program recalls each peripheral order buffer, unloads the next order from the visited peripheral order buffer, and transmits the order to the appropriate periphery circuit. The output program repeats this sequence of events during each cycle. When the output program unloads all orders from a given peripheral order buffer, the output program passes that peripheral order buffer back to the call processing program to resume processing the call until the point of interruption.

Note: Interweaving output functions with call processing functions in this manner, allows the central control to process calls and perform maintenance functions. This allows periphery to operate at a slow speed.♦

C. Call Control Programs

4.24 Each call control program performs a specific function, usually related to a stage in the progress on a call. This separation of responsibilities permits each program to be of manageable size and perform a defined function well. It also makes the addition of new features relatively easy.

4.25 On a normal intraoffice call, many call control programs are brought into play and are responsible for handling the call through various stages. These are:

- Dialing connection
- Digit analysis
- Ringing and answer detection
- Call disconnect.

Dialing Connection Programs

4.26 When a customer requests service, a report is made by the line scan program. To serve the request, there are several things that the dialing connection programs must do. They must find a block of temporary memory in which to store data regarding

the calling line and the number that the customer will dial. Also, they must acquire some information about the calling line such as whether it is dial pulse (DP) or TOUCH-TONE® service or if it has any special features.

4.27 When this information has been obtained, the programs select an idle customer digit receiver which is compatible with the telephone being used. A network connection is made from the calling line to the selected digit receiver. After the connection has been established and the line cutoff contacts opened, the digit receiver applies a power-cross detection test to the line and reads a scan point to determine the results of the test. After all the necessary tests have been performed and passed, the programs cause a relay in the digit receiver to operate and connect a supervisory relay and dial tone to the calling line.

4.28 A similar procedure is followed to establish a dialing connection for trunks. When an incoming trunk is seized, the dialing connection for the trunks program is given the trunk network number of the trunk and additional information, such as supervisory information and what type of digit receiver is needed.

4.29 An idle incoming register is seized and a path is established between the trunk and an idle receiver of the appropriate type (MF, DP, revertive or TOUCH-TONE service). Supervision is then supplied and a start pulsing signal is sent if needed. A receiver junior register is seized for digit scanning. Received digits are loaded into a digit hopper along with abandon reports. Control is then passed to the digit analysis programs.

4.30 It should be noted that the dialing connection programs merely request the actions; they do not actually perform these actions. Instead, the services of the network control programs are called upon to find an idle path from the line to the digit receiver. The network control programs load the network controller addresses and instructions in a peripheral order buffer. The dialing connection programs then call on the circuit control programs to load the desired relay and scan actions in the peripheral order buffer. After the buffer loading is complete, and the buffer is activated, the peripheral order buffer execution programs remove the instructions from the buffer one at a time until it is emptied. The peripheral order buffer execution programs then report

back to the dialing connection programs that the execution was completed successfully. If trouble develops during execution, the rest of the actions will be skipped and a failure report returned to the dialing connection programs.

Digit Analysis Programs

4.31 These programs are responsible for recording and interpreting the customer's digits as they are dialed. As the digits are received, they are counted and stored. At predetermined digit counts (usually after the first, third and the seventh digit), all digits dialed up to that point are analyzed by translation programs to determine their meaning. The translations program returns:

- (a) A call type
- (b) Charging condition
- (c) How many more digits are expected
- (d) When the next digit analysis is needed.

If the digits dialed so far represent a prefix or special code requiring special actions, translation routines will return the information necessary to pass control to the proper programs.

4.32 Call processing actions vary solely as a function of the dialed digits as interpreted by the translation programs. For example, the translation programs may return the following call type information:

- Service code dialed
- Invalid code
- Interoffice code
- Intraoffice code
- Charge or free call.

4.33 If the call type indicates a valid service, program control is transferred to the operator functions subsystem. If the digits are invalid, the call is routed to an intercept operator. When the digits dialed indicate an area code, the translations program further determines if the call is to a trunk code or zone code. If a trunk code is indicated, several dig-

SECTION 231-045-005

its are absorbed and the program continues to collect further digits until all the expected digits are received. If a zone code is indicated, the program continues to collect digits until all expected digits are received. In either case, the call is now termed an interoffice call. The translation program also indicates a charge in both cases.

4.34 When the digits dialed indicate a trunk code, the translation programs will determine if the call is to another local central office or to a customer served by the same office. If the call is to another local central office, the program continues to collect digits until all expected digits are received.

4.35 If the call is to a customer served by the same central office, the call is termed an intraoffice call, and the program continues to collect digits until all expected digits are received. When all digits are received, this program then shuts off the customer digit receiver. The translation subsystem is again used to convert the dialed directory number to a called line equipment number and terminating class information. This information consists of the following:

- Busy or idle line
- Invalid number
- Special treatment line
- Temporary transfer activated
- Trunk group found.

4.36 If the called number is invalid, program control is transferred to an intercept operator, tone circuit, announcement circuit, or automatic intercept system depending upon local option. Otherwise, digit analysis checks to see if the called line was found busy or idle. If the line is busy and does not have special treatment, a peripheral order buffer is seized, loaded, and executed (by using the peripheral control subsystem) for establishment of a network connection between the calling line and a busy tone circuit. If the line is busy and has special treatment (eg, call wait), program control is transferred to the special line services subsystem. If the line is found to be idle, the digit analysis program will then seize and initialize a ringing register, if available. If all ringing registers are busy, queuing for a ringing register is done. When a ringing register becomes available,

program control will be transferred to the ringing and answer detection programs.

Ringing and Answer Detection Programs

4.37 The ringing and answer detection programs, as their name implies, control all system actions on intraoffice or incoming calls from completion of dialing until answer. Their basic job is to connect ringing to the called line, connect audible ringing tone to the calling line or trunk, establish a talking connection if the call is answered, and remove all connections if the call is abandoned before answer.

4.38 The network locations of lines and the type of ringing to be applied to the called line are needed to set up the ringing connection. The information regarding the calling and called lines (intraoffice calls) is passed to the ringing and answer detection programs by the digit analysis programs. With this information, the ringing and answer detection programs call upon the services of the network control programs asking these programs to:

- (1) Find idle circuits connected to the active phases of ringing and audible ringing
- (2) Find an idle path from the calling line to the selected audible ringing circuit
- (3) Find an idle path from the called line to the ringing circuit
- (4) Reserve a path from the calling line to the called line
- (5) Load the instructions for making these connections into a peripheral order buffer.

4.39 The ringing and answer detection programs then call upon the circuit control programs to load further instructions in the peripheral order buffer among which are:

- Power Cross test
- A pretrip test
- Continuity.

The circuit control programs also load instructions to operate circuits which will apply ringing voltage to

the called line and audible ringing tone to the calling line.

4.40 An answer is detected by the ringing trip scan program and is reported to the ringing and answer detection programs. Upon receipt of the report, ringing and answer detection programs call upon network control and circuit control programs to release the ringing and audible ringing circuits, idle the two network paths, and to set up the previous reserved network path between two lines. A junctor circuit is used to connect the two lines together.

Disconnect Programs

4.41 Unless a special service call is in progress, no other call control programs are called into play until one of the customers hangs up. At this time, a scanning program reports this event to the disconnect programs. Hit timing and optional flash timing will already have been performed by the scanning program.

4.42 The functions of the disconnect programs are:

- To provide calling line control of the call
- To signal disconnect to a distant office over an incoming or outgoing trunk
- To remove the talking connection at disconnect
- To restore to idle any lines or trunks involved in the call.

4.43 To determine the treatment for disconnecting a call, the programs must find out some information about the line reporting a disconnect. This information includes which party has disconnected, whether the line has any special services, and whether there is an incoming or outgoing trunk involved. Different actions are called for, depending on this information.

4.44 For an intraoffice call, if the disconnect is from the calling line, the calling line is idled and the called line is placed on a 10-second false origination protection timing. When either the timing expires or the called line disconnects, the called line is idled. The false origination protection timing allows the called customer to determine that the call has ended and disconnects. If the called line discon-

nects first, the connection between the two lines is split and the call is placed on a 10-second timed release disconnect timing. When either the timing expires or the calling line disconnects, both lines are idled. If the called line returns off-hook within 10 seconds, the connection between the two lines is unsplit and the call is allowed to resume.

4.45 Disconnect for an interoffice call is handled in a similar manner with one additional step when the called line disconnects first. Before placing the call on the 10-second timed release disconnect timing, an on-hook signal is transmitted over the incoming trunk to the calling office notifying that office that the called line went on-hook. Likewise, when the called line returns off-hook within 10 seconds, an off-hook is transmitted over the incoming trunk to the calling office. The calling office needs to know the status of the called line because the calling office also performs a timed release disconnect timing simultaneously with the called office and disconnects the calling line. This occurs when the calling office does not receive an off-hook from the called office within 10 seconds.

D. Service Routines

4.46 Most call control programs use a number of service routines while controlling the progress of a call. Examples of service routine usage are: to request a change in a network configuration, to request the operation or release of a relay in a trunk or service circuit, and to obtain translation information. These service routines are used not only by the call control programs but also by the maintenance and diagnostic programs.

Network Control Programs

4.47 The primary function of the network control program is to hunt for idle network paths, to administer the network map and path memory, and to load instructions in peripheral order buffers which are used to close network paths. In the process of performing these functions, the network control program is provided with the ability to find an idle trunk in a group, to make a second trial (or third trial for line to trunk paths) if all the paths to the first selected trunk are busy, and to consult the translation program to find an alternate route if all trunks are found busy in the first-choice route. Since a record of the busy or idle condition of all links in the switching network is kept in temporary memory (network link

SECTION 231-045-005

map), the network control program can reserve a path from one terminal to another terminal for expected use at a later stage of a call. Similarly, the information regarding an established or reserved connection in the switching network is kept in temporary memory associated with network terminals (path memory). The network control program records pertinent information about a path at the time a connection is reserved, established, or removed.

Circuit Control Programs

4.48 When a call control program determines that a change of state in a trunk or service circuit is required to make a test or cut through a talking path, the call control program calls upon the services of the change in circuits program. The client informs the change in circuits program of the type of circuit to be used and the function to be performed. Then the change in circuits program loads the peripheral order buffer with the signal distributor operations necessary to implement the change and any scanner actions needed to check that the operation was performed successfully.

◆**Note:** The change in circuits program does not perform these functions. It is the clients responsibility to perform these actions as necessary.◆

CENTREX CALL PROCESSING

A. General

4.49 A Centralized Telephone Communication Exchange (centrex) processes calls for a business customer group. Special switching equipment may be installed on the customer's premises or the lines may be tied directly to the ESS switch. Centrex calls are processed by four centrex programs in addition to the normal call processing programs. These centrex programs perform the following:

- (a) Analyze and translate digits dialed from a centrex station.
- (b) Analyze and translate digits from a distant office for a call to a centrex station.
- (c) Provide disconnect on calls to and from centrex stations.
- (d) Seize and release registers needed for processing centrex calls. Figure 6 shows the centrex call processing interface.

Page 22

B. Centrex Digit Analysis Program

4.50 Whenever the dialing connection program determines by translation that a line requesting service is a centrex line, it passes control to the centrex digit analysis program (CXOR). The CXOR receives the dialed digits, then uses a table lookup technique to determine what type of service is being requested. The digits may be the number of another centrex station, the centrex attendant, a line outside the centrex, an invalid number, or a request for special centrex services. The CXOR performs the actions necessary to route the call or provide the requested special service.

C. Incoming Digit Analysis for Centrex

4.51 The incoming digit analysis for centrex program (CXIC) performs the same kind of functions as CXOR, but for incoming calls to centrex. It is entered from the digit analysis for trunks program and performs any special actions needed to complete centrex calls. This may include routing to a centrex station, the centrex attendant, or a recorded announcement. Additional processing may be done if the called station has special features such as call forwarding.

D. Disconnect for Centrex

4.52 The disconnect for centrex program (CXDS) assures correct disconnect of centrex calls. It works together with the normal disconnect program (DISC). Centrex features such as ADD-ON, which require flashing, are also handled by CXDS. If a flash is detected, a transfer is made to the appropriate feature routine. For normal disconnect, disconnect timing is done and the connection is disconnected.

E. Centrex Register Seize and Release

4.53 The centrex programs use several types of call registers for storage of information needed temporarily for call processing. The centrex register seize and release program (CXYH) maintains a list of idle centrex call registers. Whenever one of the other centrex routines needs a register, it requests one from CXYN. The CXYN allocates a register and removes that register from the idle list. When the register is no longer needed, CXYH is called to put it back onto the idle list. The CXYH program handles four types of registers:

- Customer Facility Group Registers

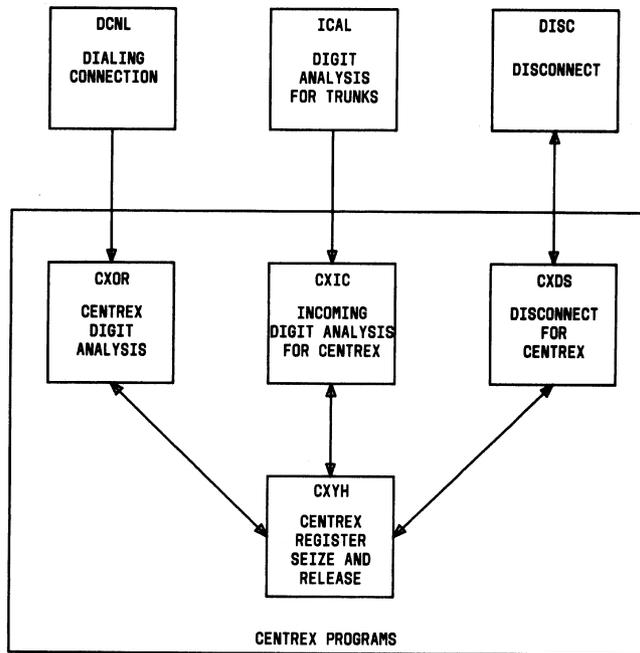


Fig. 6—Centrex Programs Interface

- Centrex Loop Call Registers
- 6-Port Conference Registers
- Simulated Facilities Registers.

► **CIRCUIT SWITCHED DIGITAL CAPABILITY (CSDC)**

A. General

4.54 The CSDC feature provides end-to-end circuit switched transmission capability for 56 kilobits per second (kb/s) data signals. This feature employs an alternate voice-data (AVD) capability which allows the customer to alternate between direct distance dialing (DDD) like voice communication and 56kb/s digital communication on the same circuit path any number of times during any call.

Note: The CSDC feature was formerly known as the Public Switched Digital Capability

(PSDC) feature. It is important to note that these terms are used synonymously and both terms are used in this document due to pident references. The CSDC term is used in reference to the feature or for customer identification and explanation.

B. Feature Operation

4.55 An off-hook origination initiates the seizure of an originating register. A line translation is performed and the 2-bit PSDC indicator from the line equipment number class 4 (LENCL-4) word is stored in the originating register. A TOUCH-TONE service receiver is connected to the line and dial tone is applied. Upon receiving a digit, dial tone is removed. If the digit received is #, digit collection is set up to collect two more digits. Upon receipt of two more digits (99) the prefix access code translator is indexed via the dialed digits to determine what ser-

SECTION 231-045-005

vice has been requested. A check is made to determine if the line is allowed the CSDC feature. If the line does not have the CSDC feature, special service announcement treatment is given. The "AB" service indicating digits (88) are collected next. Once these digits are received, the associated service index and chart column (CCOL) are retrieved. If the "AB" digits dialed are valid, a check is made to determine if the line has the type of CSDC service requested via the "AB" digits. If the CSDC access code (#99AB) is successfully dialed, the original CCOL in the originating register is overwritten with the CSDC CCOL. A CSDC originating call traffic count is pegged at this time. The CSDC service index is stored in the originating register. A bit is set in the originating register to indicate that the call being processed is a CSDC call. The call is now reinitialized to appear as though no digits have been collected. Dial tone is reapplied and digit collection proceeds until the proper number of digits (7 or 10 with an optional 1 prefix) have been received. Dialing is not considered complete until a final # is received. When the final # is received, it is not stored as a digit. The call is then routed according to the dialed digits on a CSDC outgoing trunk. Answer timing (2 to 3 seconds) is done and an automatic message account (AMA) register is seized. Upon answer, the answer time is recorded in the AMA register. Line-to-line CSDC connections are only allowed via a digital carrier trunk (DCT) digroup that is looped in the office or a DCT trunk to a tandem office that is routed back to the originating office.

4.56 An outpulsing annex is seized and a peripheral order buffer is hunted. An outgoing trunk and a transmitter (if needed) is found. Information on the trunk is stored and a transfer to the appropriate outpulsing routine (either MF or Common Channel Interoffice Signaling [CCIS]) is accomplished. A verification is made to ensure that the originating line or incoming call (for the tandem case) and the outgoing trunk are both CSDC. If this verification fails, retry is inhibited and the call is routed to tone or announcement.

4.57 For MF outpulsing, a junior register is seized, the outgoing trunk is put into the proper states, and start pulsing signal detection is done followed by digit outpulsing. For CCIS, call processing is the same as for a non-CSDC call except for the following actions. The CCIS continuity check (if one is done) is performed in the on-hook state. For line-to-CCIS outgoing trunk calls, the trunk is kept in the on-hook state until answer.

4.58 For an incoming call, the PSDC bit from the trunk class code (TCC) word is stored in the incoming register and a CSDC incoming traffic count is pegged. Digit collection is performed in the same way as a message telecommunications service (MTS) call. Once it has been determined that the call is to terminate locally and the proper number of digits have been collected, a terminating directory number translation is performed. If the terminating line is idle, a check is made to determine if the line is allowed the CSDC feature. If the line is not allowed CSDC, the call is routed to a service announcement. Provided that both the line and trunk have CSDC, a ringing register is seized and the PSDC bit is set in the ringing register. Normal call processing actions are done to provide ringing and audible ringing. Upon ring trip, a talking path is established. For all cases except line-to-CCIS outgoing trunk connections, answer processing is the same as for MTS calls. Upon answer, the incoming trunk is put in the off-hook state to pass answer to the next office.

4.59 Standard disconnect and trunk guard timing is performed on CSDC calls when the called or calling party goes on-hook after a talking path has been established.

TANDEM CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

4.60 The tandem connections program (TAND) processes calls requiring a trunk-to-trunk connection through the switching office. Trunk-to-trunk connections may be made

- (a) when the ESS switch is used as a local tandem office or as a toll office,
- (b) when an incoming call is to a line with temporary transfer to a line outside the office,
- (c) to connect a pair of centrex tie trunks, or
- (d) to connect an incoming call to a centrex station.

4.61 When TAND is entered, it receives the trunk network number of the incoming trunk and an outgoing trunk route index. It uses the route index to hunt for an outgoing trunk. It restores the incoming register to the idle list and prepares information for the outpulsing program. It then passes control to the outpulsing program. If the outpulsing is successful, TAND restores the transmitter to the idle list and supplies answer and disconnect supervision.

4.62 If outpulsing fails, TAND takes appropriate actions. If the selected transmitter is preempted, the registers associated with the call are released and the incoming trunk is connected to overflow tone. A transmitter may be preempted if no start pulsing signal is received within 4 seconds after it is seized. If the incoming trunk abandons, the registers are released and the path is idled. If there are interoffice signaling problems, an attempt is made to route the call over a different trunk. If a busy condition is encountered, an attempt is made to preempt a transmitter. If this fails or a blocked condition exists, the incoming trunk is connected to overflow tone. If there is a hardware failure, the registers are released and the failure is reported.

SCANNING SOFTWARE

A. General

4.63 The scanning programs supervise the call processing functions by detecting and reporting changes of call states, such as off-hook, on-hook, flash, etc. The scanning group of programs performs scans on lines, junctor circuits, trunk circuits, and selected supervisory points to detect service requests, disconnects, and call-related information.

B. System Scan Control Interface

4.64 All line scanning and nearly all of the trunk scanning functions are performed on base level which is external to the system controlled A, B, C, D, and E frequency classes. Figure 7 illustrates the interfaces of the scanning programs with the ESS switch control programs. Most scanning control flags are set at lower priorities than the frequency class flags in order to decrease scanning rates at certain traffic levels. In the case of trunk scanning, the scan control flags are set at higher priorities than the frequency flags. Trunk scanning is also performed on J level to provide a minimum scanning rate during the time in which long audits are running on the base level. A relative minimum scanning rate for lines is accomplished by performing some line scanning during the class E frequency system jobs. This intervisit time is controlled during system overload conditions.

4.65 System control flags are used to maintain a 50-ms scan rate for inband operator trunks and a 200-ms rate for all other supervisory trunks. A supervisory scan program segments the trunk scanning function so that approximately 1/20 of the scan-

ning work is done per each scanning routine entrance. Every 10 ms, the system main program controls a segment scan of the inband trunks. The two scan rate controls for inband trunks provide the control for distributing the five scanning segments evenly over a 50-ms interval.

4.66 The system also utilizes a control flag for scanning of lines. This flag is set twice every 200 ms and can provide up to 20 additional program scans each 200 ms, the rate depending upon traffic levels.

4.67 The low priority flags are administered in order to decrease scanning rates of both line and trunks simultaneously as system performance varies. The use of the next lowest priority flag also minimizes the probability of performing any maintenance during the time when trunks and lines are not being scanned at their maximum rates.

4.68 System control flags are also used for line scan supervision. These control flags provide for varying the scan rate during traffic overload conditions. As traffic increases, the lowest priority control flag is affected. The decrease in the rate of setting this flag causes the trunk and line scanning rates to decrease simultaneously. As traffic continues to increase, the next lowest priority flag setting rate decreases causing the line scan rate to further decrease. In this case, the trunk scanning rate will remain high because of a high priority control flag.

C. System Scan Hardware Interface

4.69 Input information to the scanning programs, such as on-hook, off-hook, dial pulser, and electrical states of various points within the system during diagnostics and administrative procedures, are furnished by scanners. Central control addresses a scanner via a central pulse distributor. The scanner, in turn, interrogates a group of sensors called ferroids. Their electrical state is then returned to the central control.

D. System Memory Interface

4.70 The scan results are loaded into blocks of memory called hoppers. Registers contain information which identify the call or maintenance procedure.

E. Scan Programs

4.71 Two types of scan functions are performed, namely: (a) supervisory and (b) directed. The

SECTION 231-045-005

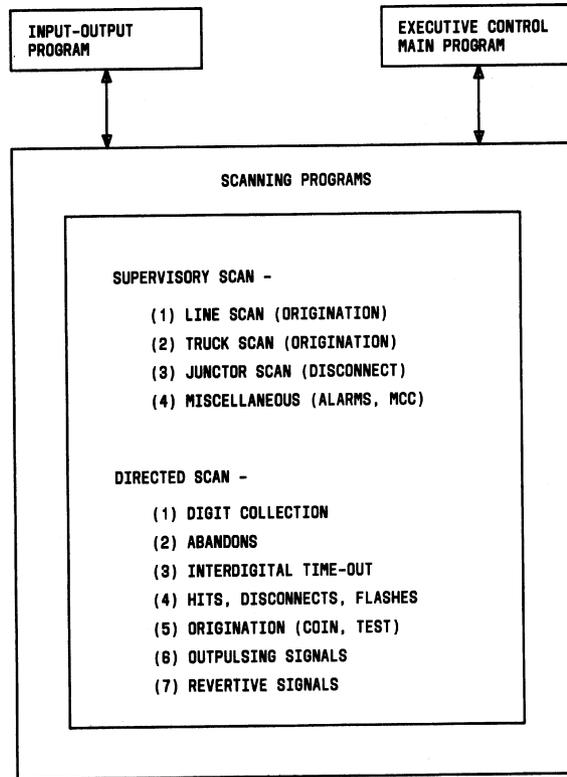


Fig. 7—Scanning Program Interface

supervisory scans are those performed on lines, junctor circuits, trunk circuits, and selected miscellaneous points to detect changes of call states. Directed scan routines collect information about the state of a line or trunk during the call process or maintenance procedure.

Supervisory Programs

4.72 Incoming lines are scanned for originations (on-hook to off-hook) at nominal intervals of 200 ms via a line scanner. The ferroids of a scanner row are interrogated simultaneously approximately five times a second. The electrical state of each ferrod

is compared with the state of the previous scan. If the change of state indicates an origination (on-hook to off-hook), a report is made to the dialing connection program to connect the line to a receiver.

4.73 Every 100 ms the ringing circuits are scanned to determine whether the called line has answered the call. Whenever the answer (on-hook to off-hook) is detected, the report is recorded in a memory hopper.

4.74 The junctor circuit is scanned to detect disconnect (off-hook to on-hook) on either end of the call connection. The on-hook occurrence is placed in

Antenna Switch for 2.4 GHz Applications

Overview

Probably every amateur radio experimenter in the history of the planet has experienced the same problem – you have too many antennas and not enough feed lines. The common solution to this problem is to use a remote-mounted, automotive relay to switch between two or more antennas at the end of a single coaxial feed line run. Automotive relays work quite well up into the VHF range, and they can even switch several hundred watts of RF power. At UHF and microwave frequencies, the preferred method of antenna switching is to use special RF relays, which are usually very expensive, hard-to-find, and sometimes operate at strange high voltages.

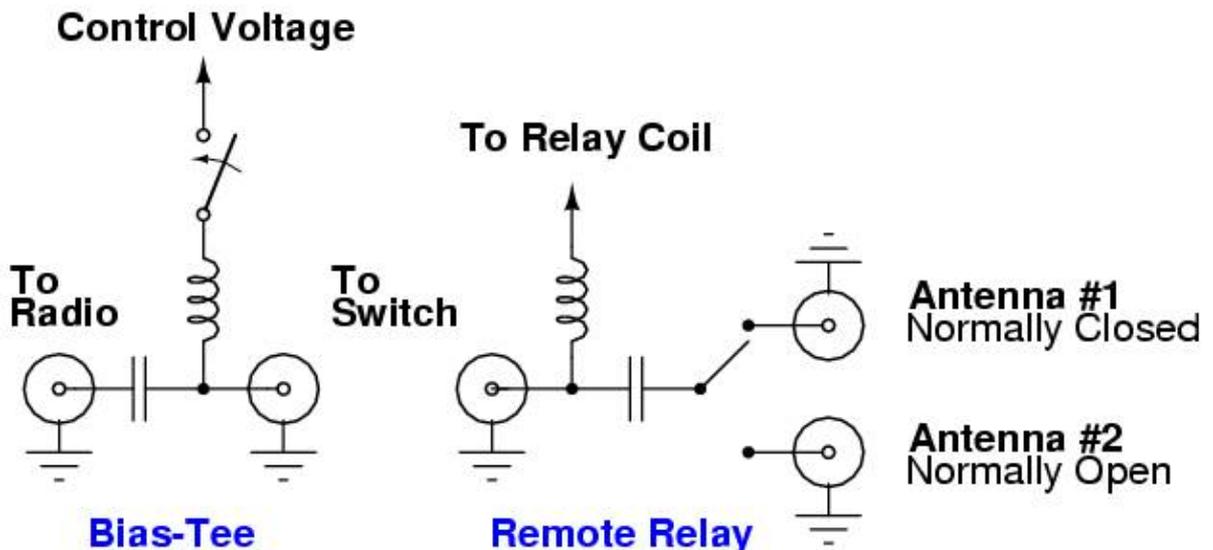
Thankfully, a new and cheap solution to this problem had come around. Omron Electronics now sells a series of low-cost, surface-mount RF signal relays that can easily switch low-levels of RF power up to at least 3 GHz. The Omron G6Z-series of RF signal relays offer fairly high isolation (30 dB min.) and low insertion loss (0.5 dB typical). They will also handle up to 10 watts of RF power if you wish to transmit through them. They can be ordered to operate at the standard 5 and 12 volts and need less than 100 milliamps to operate. They also offer versions with a 75 ohm impedance for video switching operations. All this with only a price tag of around \$6 each!

For this project, we'll be using the Omron G6Z-1FE-A relay, which is available from Mouser Electronics. The idea is for this circuit to remotely switch between two antennas operating in the 2.4 GHz band. The basic idea is to switch between an omni-directional and directional Yagi antenna to monitor any signals in the local area.

To use the RF switch remotely, we'll need to also build a device called a "bias-tee" which will inject the relay's control voltage into the common coaxial cable feeding the switch. The bias-tee can inject this DC voltage into a coaxial cable system without effecting any RF signals or altering the line's impedance. The use of a bias-tee to control the switch is optional, as you can just run an external control line, if you choose.

Block Diagram

Remote Antenna Switch



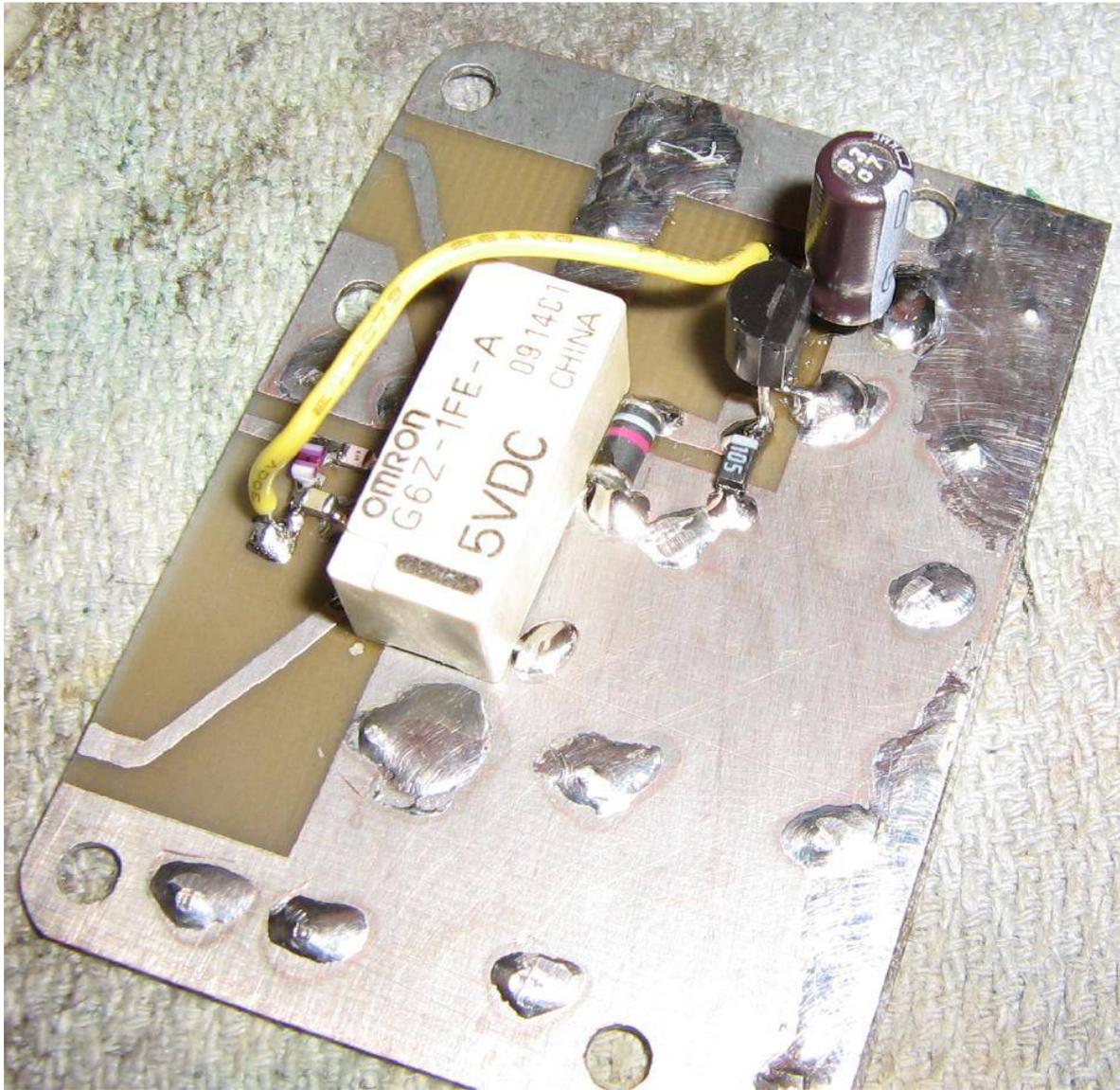
Construction Notes & Pictures



PC board construction for the remote relay switch. Good RF construction skills will be required if operating at UHF or microwave frequencies. This board was designed to be mounted in an old California Amplifier MMDS downconverter case.

The inductors in the bias-tee circuit should be chosen to have an impedance of around 200 to 400 ohms at the *lowest* operating frequency and also a self-resonant frequency *above* the highest operating frequency. They should also be able to handle the relay's current draw without saturating (40 mA continuous).

The DC-blocking capacitors should have low impedance over the operating range and should also be able to handle the DC voltage.

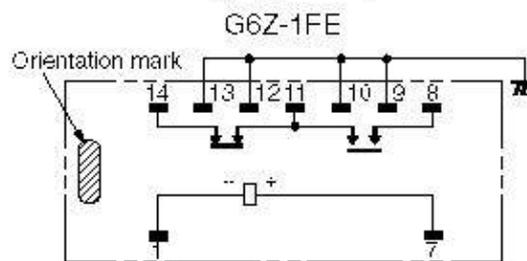


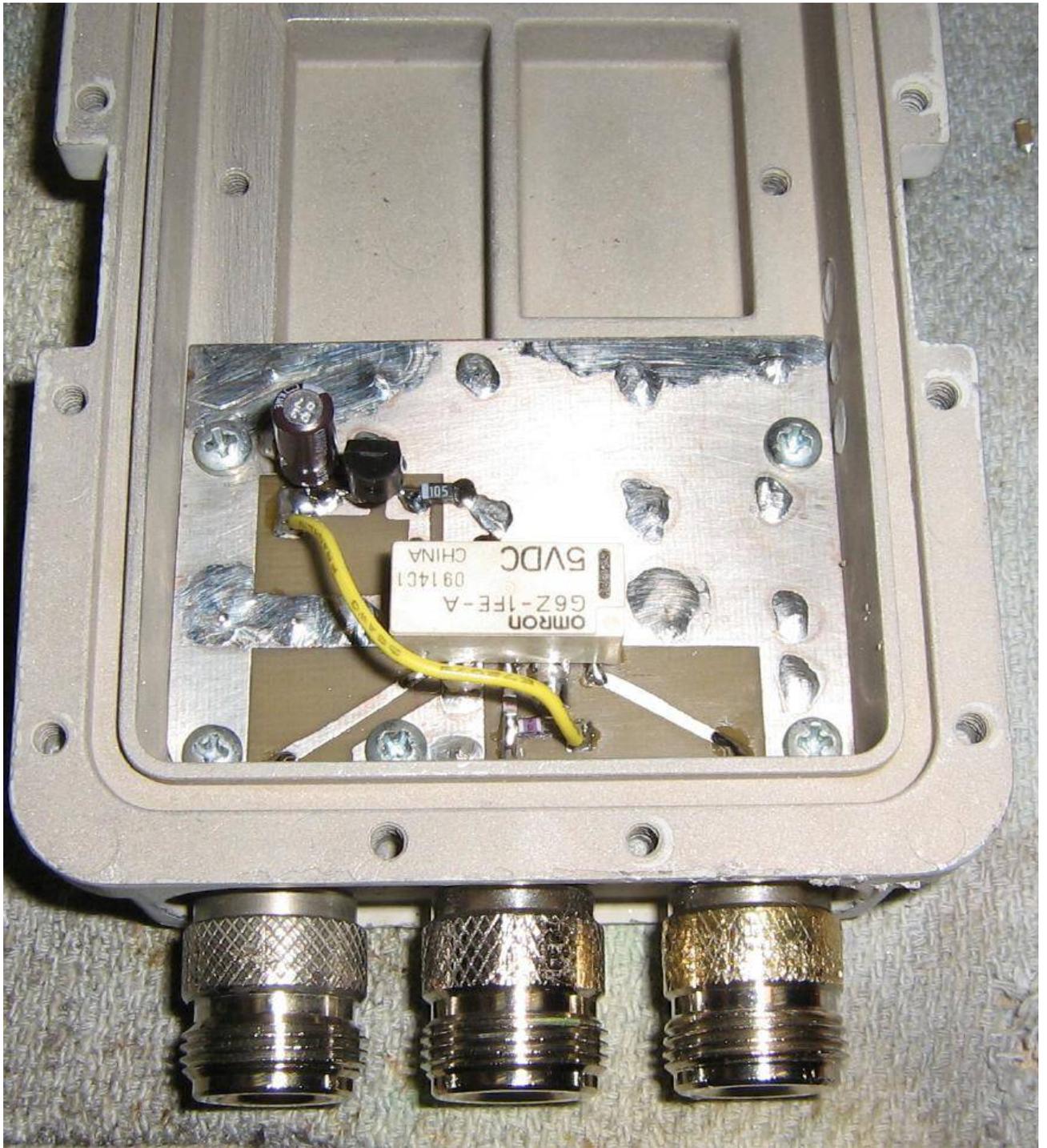
Construct the circuit as shown. The ground pins on the relay need to be connected directly to the circuit board's ground plane with low-inductance vias.

Pin-out diagram for the Omron G6Z-1FE-A relay. Pin-11 in the **RF Common**, Pin-14 is **Normally Closed**, and Pin-8 is **Normally Open**.

Pins-1, -9, -10, -12, -13 are **Ground**, and Pin-7 is the relay's coil **Positive**.

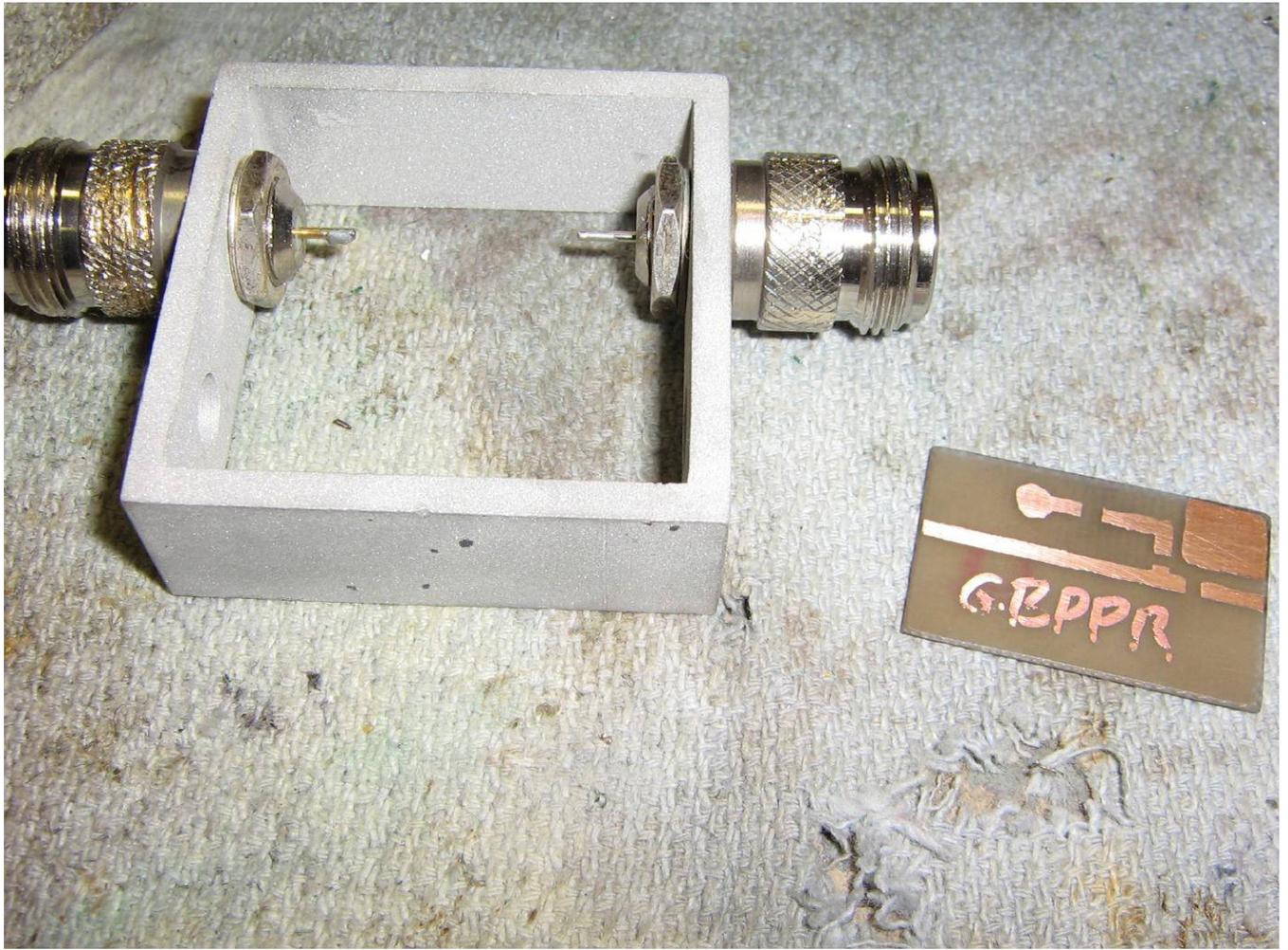
Terminal Arrangement/Internal Connections (Top View)





Alternate view showing the circuit board mounted in the case.

The three N connectors are a little too cramped for most N connector shells, so you may have to fiddle with them a bit when connecting the cables or use different style connectors.



Beginning construction on the bias-tee.

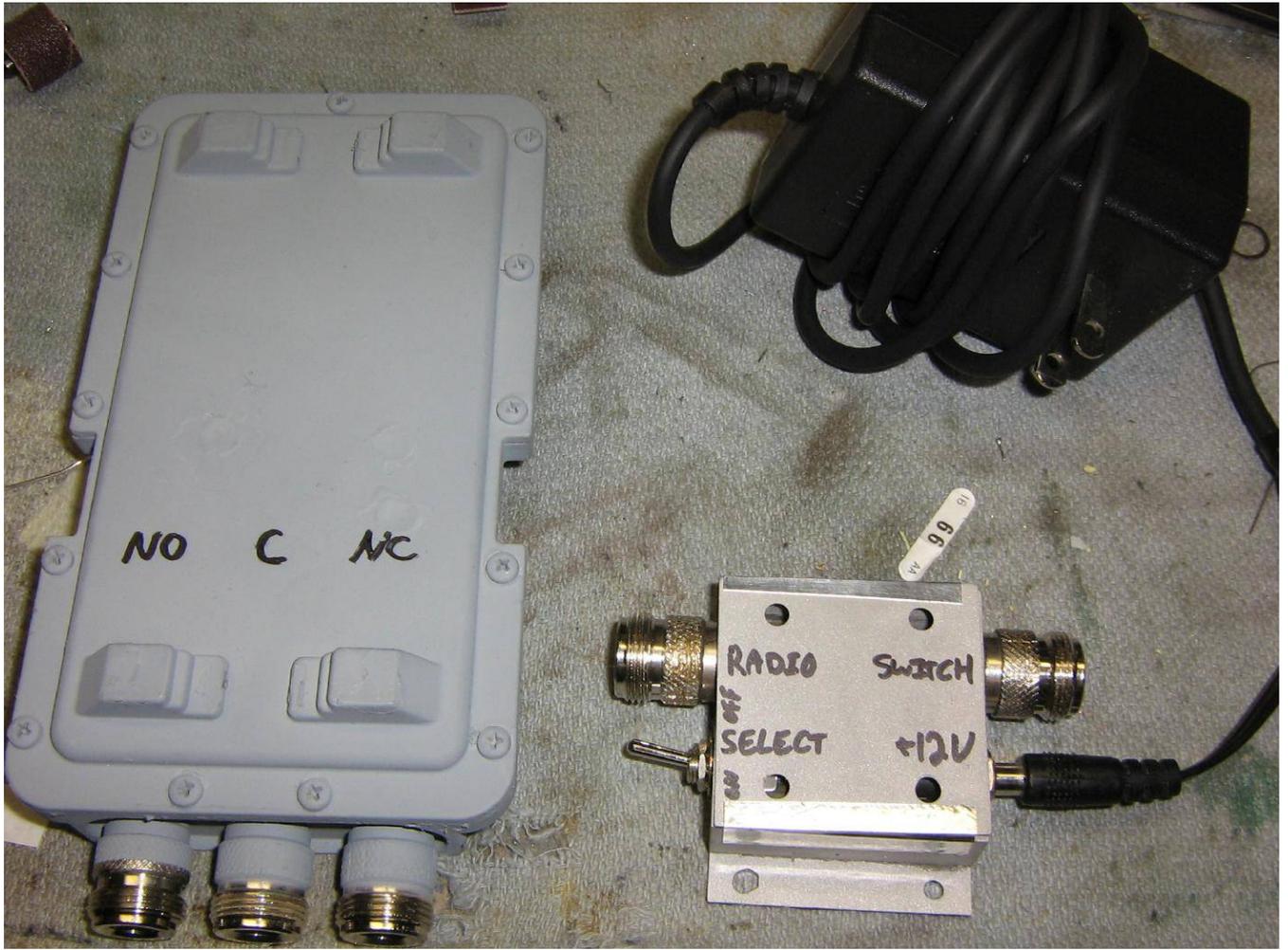
The case is from an old VHF pre-amplifier. The bias-tee's circuit board is on the right.



Bottom ground connection of the PC board to the N connectors. Grind the base of the N connectors with a Dremel tool to "roughen" them up to allow them to more easily take solder.



Overall view of the finished bias-tee. There is not much to it. The DC voltage comes in via a 12 volt wall-wart power supply and is controlled via a SPST select switch. A 10 ohm resistor acts as a current limit and fuse. The radio connects to the left-side N connector. The switch circuit and DC-inject signal connect to the right-side N connector.

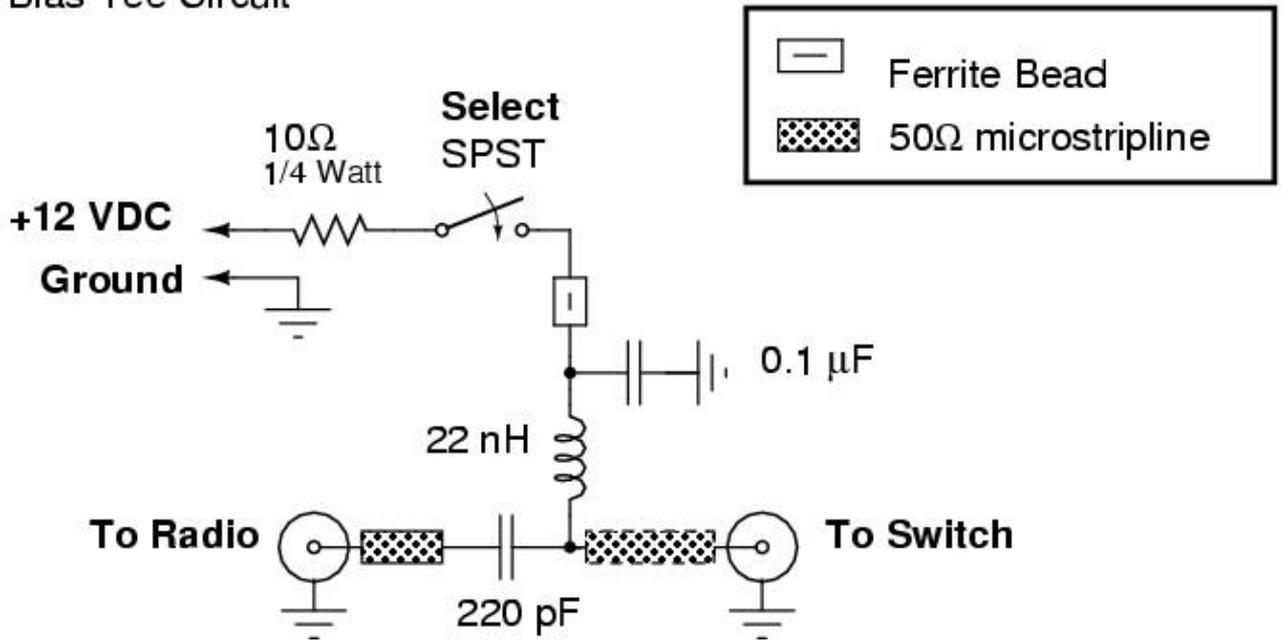


Finished view of the switch and bias-tee cases.

Schematics

Antenna Select Relay for 2.4 GHz

Bias-Tee Circuit



Antenna Select Relay for 2.4 GHz

Relay Circuit

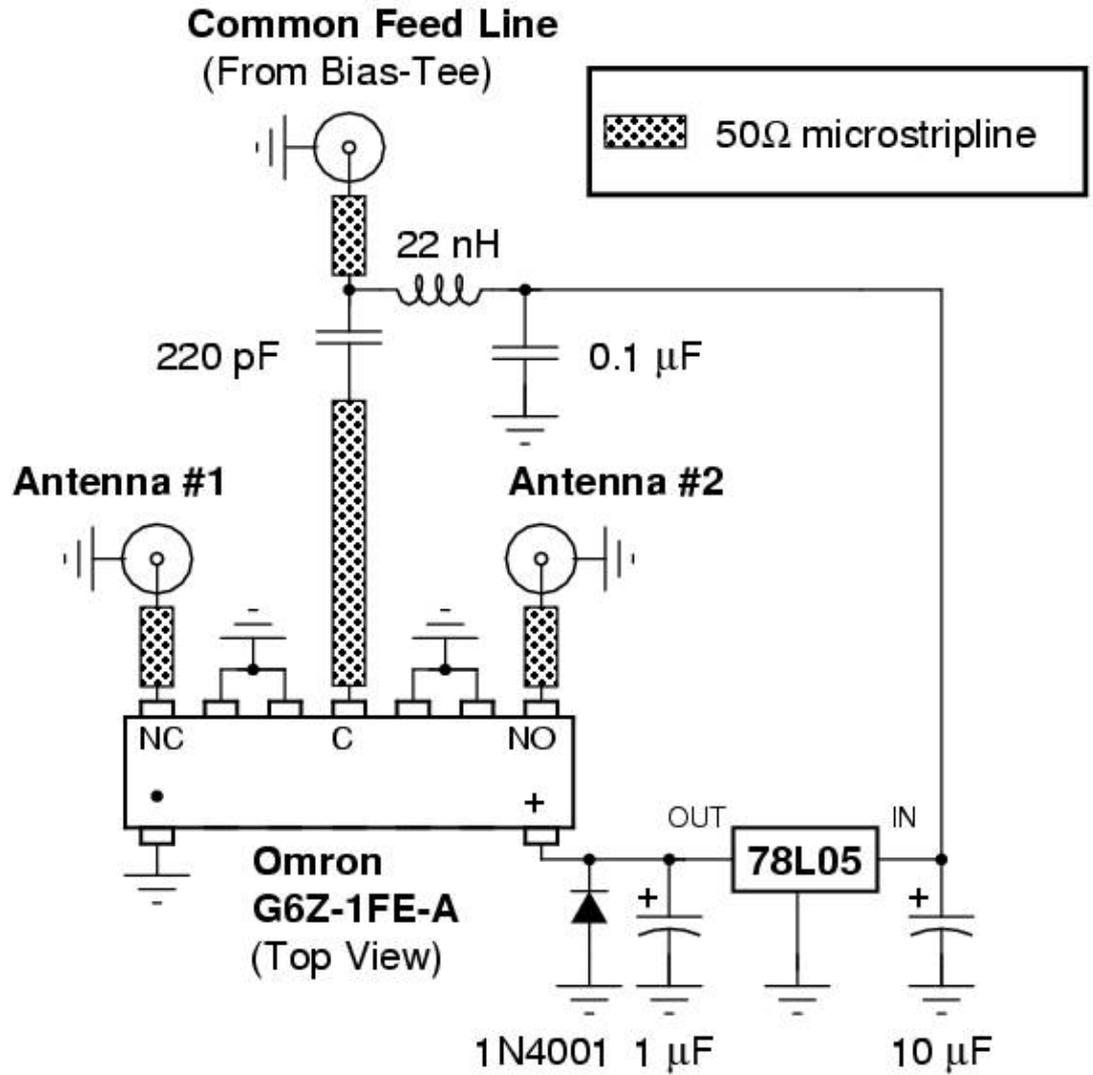


Table Name

Originating Line Number Screening Service/Equipment Display

Functional Description of Table OLNSEQDP

This table provides the 8-character equipment display for the operator. The key into this table is based on the equipment indicator returned by the OLNS data base. The display from this table appears where the display from table RESTBIL (TOPS Restricted Billing) appeared prior to OLNS.

Datafill Sequence & Table Size

The following tables must be datafilled after table OLNSEQDP:

- OLNSTARS (OLNS Toll and Assist Billing Restriction)
- OLNSDARS (OLNS Directory Assistance Billing Restriction)

Size is 0 to 100 tuples.

Datafill

The following table describes datafill for table OLNSEQDP:

Table OLNSEQDP Field Descriptions

Field	Subfield	Entry	Explanation and Action
EQDPKEY		See Subfield	<i>Equipment Display Key</i> This field consists of subfield EQDPIDX.
	EQDPIDX	0 to 99	<i>Equipment Display Index</i> This field is the index into the table. The display number is obtained from table OLNSTARS or OLNSDARS.
DISPLAY		8-Character String	<i>Operator Display</i> Enter an arbitrary name to identify the equipment type of the originating party on the operator display.

-End-

Datafill Example

The following example MAP display shows sample datafill for table OLNSEQDP:

EQDPKEY	DISPLAY
5	INMATE

DMS-100 Toll-Free Service Screening Table (TFSSCRN)

Table Name

Toll-Free Service Screening Table

Functional Description of Table TFSSCRN

Table TFSSCRN lists the toll-free numbers subject to Bellcore/Telcordia GR-2892 (Switching and Signaling Generic Requirements for Toll-Free Service Using AIN) processing. When a number encounters the Number Service Code (NSC) selector, a check is made to determine whether or not it is on the list. When the number is on the list, it bypasses Bellcore/Telcordia TR-533 (Database Services Service Switching Points – Toll-Free Service [E800]) processing and proceeds as an Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN) call.

Datafill Sequence & Implications

Table TRIGDIG (Trigger Digits) is datafilled before table TFSSCRN.

When a corresponding AIN trigger is not present in table TRIGDIG, the results are as follows:

- Numbers in table TFSSCRN bypass E800.
- A database query does not occur.
- The call is routed to treatment.

Table Size

The minimum table size for table TFSSCRN is 0 tuples, and the maximum table size is 32,000 tuples. A restart is not required to increase table size.

Datafill

The following table describes datafill for table TFSSCRN:

Table TFSSCRN Field Descriptions

Field	Subfield	Entry	Explanation and Action
TFSCODE		800, 888, 877, 866, 855, 844, 833, 822	TFSCODE describes the toll-free code (SAC) in use.
FROMNXX		000 to 999	FROMNXX describes the lower-bound of the range of the numbers in this SAC, that are processed by GR-2892.
TONXX		000 to 999	TONXX describes the upper-bound of the range of the numbers belonging to GR-2892.

Note: The numbers belonging to GR-2892 must be greater than or equal to FROMNXX.

-End-

Datafill Example

The following example MAP display shows sample datafill for table TFSSCRN:

TFSCODE	FROMNXX	TONXX
800	622	733

He's Not Muslim! LOL!

From: [http://web.archive.org/web/20010222074715/
www.legis.state.il.us/legisnet/legisnet90/summary/900SR0110.html](http://web.archive.org/web/20010222074715/www.legis.state.il.us/legisnet/legisnet90/summary/900SR0110.html)

(Yes, as I type this, "www.legis.state.il.us" is unavailable. Shocking, huh?)

Thank God for Archive.org!!!!

90th General Assembly Summary of SR0110

Legislation:
Please enter a bill number.

[[Home](#)] [[Back](#)] [[Legislation](#)]

Full Text Bill Status

Senate Sponsors:

[OBAMA](#).

Short description:

11/1/97-ISLAMIC COMMUNITY DAY

Synopsis of Bill as introduced:

Declares November 1, 1997 to be South Shore Islamic Community Center Day.

Last action on Bill: SESSION SINE DIE

Last action date: 99-01-12

Location: Senate

Amendments to Bill: AMENDMENTS ADOPTED: HOUSE - 0 SENATE - 0

END OF INQUIRY

[Full Text Bill Status](#)

State of Illinois 90th General Assembly Legislation

[\[Home \]](#) [\[Back \]](#) [\[Legislation \]](#) [\[Bottom \]](#)

90_SR0110

LRB9007260KBkba

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Since 1995, the South Shore Islamic Community
3 Center, located at 2672 E. 75th Street, has worked to improve
4 life for the community of South Shore, and for the City of
5 Chicago as well; and

6 WHEREAS, Formally a tavern called the "Bird Cage", the
7 home to the Community Center was purchased by Imam Sidney R.
8 Sharif and his wife Esther D. Sharif; with hard work and only
9 their money, the Sharif's converted the building into a
10 valued part of the community; the City of Chicago razed two
11 buildings next to the Center, making the neighborhood feel
12 more comfortable for visitors to the Community Center; and

13 WHEREAS, The Center provides a safe and comfortable
14 atmosphere for prayer and meditation; the Center provides a
15 food giveaway each year; the Center sponsors a free summer
16 lunch program for needy children; and successfully sponsored
17 one of the most Safe Night city-wide celebrations in 1996, a
18 program helping families and friends with their children
19 celebrate the new year without drugs or alcohol; and

20 WHEREAS, The South Shore Islamic Community Center
21 sponsors programs that aid in the clean-up of the community;
22 the Center sponsors a community service program for youth
23 through the Juvenile Courts Probation department; they have
24 established the Youth for Community Awareness and Development
25 Team, or "Youth Cad"; they have sponsored educational trips
26 for children to various institutions throughout the Chicago
27 area, including DePaul University; and have made their
28 community more aware of gangs, drugs, and domestic violence
29 issues by setting up counseling in these areas; therefore, be
30 it

31 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
32 OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we salute the South Shore

-2-

LRB9007260KBkba

1 Islamic Community Center for their great work in making their
2 community a better place to live; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That we declare November 1, 1997 to be the
4 South Shore Islamic Community Center Day; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to South Shore Islamic Community Center.

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- [Panel rejects language in petition to recall Willow Run school board members](#)
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Racial slurs spray-painted across Obama billboard in Pittsfield Township

Posted by [Tracy Davis](#) | [The Ann Arbor News](#) September 17, 2008 10:17AM

Categories: [Breaking News](#), [Election](#), [Top Stories](#)

Racist slurs were spray-painted across a large Barack Obama presidential campaign billboard alongside a heavily trafficked stretch of US-23 in Pittsfield Township sometime overnight Tuesday.

And the U.S. Secret Service is investigating what now appears to be two threatening letters against Obama that were received in Livingston County, according to news reports.

Michigan State Police were on the scene of the billboard Wednesday morning, and have called in for tracking dogs, police said.

Black spray paint was used to draw three swastikas, symbols of Klan hoods and to write "KKK," "Rebel" and two racial slurs.

The billboard, roughly 10 feet tall by 50 feet wide, is located where Textile Road deadends near US-23, east of Carpenter Road.

Cathleen Babcock, a kindergarten teacher at Pittsfield Elementary School, saw the Obama billboard on her morning commute today and called police to report the incident.

"It's very disturbing," she said.



Alan Warren, The Ann Arbor News

Ken Harding, Gary Johnson, (L to R in bucket)

From: blog.mlive.com/annarbornews/2008/09/racial_slurs_spraypainted_acro.html

Note the swastika was painted backwards! How much you wanna' bet this "graffiti" was done by a bunch of Barack Hussein Obama voters to stir up controversy... err... to help "organize the local community." Haha!

End of Issue #54



Any Questions?

Editorial and Rants

Still think the ACLU supports free speech? LOL! Wake the fuck up people...

Note that when a shit-skin moves into a majority white area, they themselves are engaging in "ethnic profiling."

Criticism of Bizzell Intensifies

September 10, 2008 – From: www.newsobserver.com

By Kristin Collins and Lorenzo Perez

RALEIGH – Civil rights and immigrant groups Tuesday accused Johnston County Sheriff Steve Bizzell of discriminating against Hispanics.

The American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina, acting on behalf of at least eight advocacy groups, says it will conduct an investigation into whether the sheriff has engaged in ethnic profiling. The group requested arrest records, jail book entries, documents related to traffic checkpoints and statistics.

The action was prompted by a Sunday story in The News & Observer, in which Bizzell made broad statements about Hispanics. In the article, he accused them of "breeding like rabbits" and being "trashy," and expressed concerns about a cultural takeover of his county.

"We were collectively aghast," said Jennifer Rudinger, executive director of the ACLU of North Carolina. "These comments are racially inflammatory, and the fact that they're attributed to the person in charge of law enforcement in Johnston County is deeply alarming."

Rudinger said ACLU leaders decided to launch an inquiry to determine whether Bizzell's statements were affecting law enforcement in Johnston County.

A spokesperson for Bizzell, who has apologized for the comments, said Tuesday he was outside the county and was not available for comment.

The NAACP's branch in North Carolina joined the ACLU in condemning Bizzell's comments.

"We know how dangerous it is when someone with a badge spews racist innuendos," said the Rev. William Barber, president of the N.C. NAACP. "It gives license to people who don't have a badge. We won't stand for it."

Juvenio Rocha Peralta, president of the Association of Mexicans in North Carolina, an advocacy group in Greenville, became the second Hispanic leader to call for Bizzell's resignation. El Pueblo's executive director, Tony Asion, issued the first call Sunday.

Rocha Peralta said Bizzell's comments about Mexicans, a term Bizzell uses as a catchall for Hispanics, were an insult.

"He's an elected official that's been put in place to serve the community, not to criticize and accuse the community," Rocha Peralta said.

He said Bizzell and other leaders who resent an influx of Hispanics should deal with reality.

"We're here, and we're not going anywhere," said Rocha Peralta, who has lived in North Carolina for 26 years. "We have good and bad people just like anyone else."

Bizzell has been a supporter of Sen. Elizabeth Dole, appearing at news conferences with her to speak about the impact of illegal immigration. Her office said Tuesday that Bizzell did not speak for Dole, who was in Johnston County for a fundraiser Monday. Her chief of staff, Brian Nick, said she has not been in contact with Bizzell since the story appeared.

"People's words are reflections of themselves," Nick said. "Sen. Dole should be judged on her own statements, and obviously Sheriff Bizzell should be judged on his, and that's why he apologized."

Linwood Parker, mayor of the Johnston County town of Four Oaks, said Bizzell should be commended for apologizing.

"We know that people make mistakes in life, and we don't want to judge the sheriff just on some comments he made out of frustration," Parker said. "The sheriff's not a bad guy, he just, you know, had some comments over the top. That's all it amounts to. I hope people won't judge him just on one instance."

Let me guess... You didn't hear about this one?

Brothers Provide Lurid Crime Details

August 20, 2008 – *From: cjonline.com*

By Steve Fry

The last moments of a 15-year-old Topeka girl were described in gruesome detail during a court hearing Tuesday in which a witness said another young woman who unexpectedly showed up at the homicide scene could have suffered the same fate if she had discovered the body.

Nacole Winter, a student at Hope Street Academy, was stomped to death, a coroner testified during the preliminary hearing of Christopher Dwayne Hall, 25.

Winter was killed in a southwest Topeka apartment, then her body was transported in the trunk of a car across town where it was burned near Lake Shawnee, witnesses told Shawnee County District Judge Charles Andrews.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Hall was bound over for trial on felony charges of first-degree murder and aggravated indecent liberties with a child 14 to 16 years old and certified for trial on a misdemeanor count of desecration of a corpse.

County coroner Erik Mitchell said Winter died of blunt force injuries. An autopsy showed she suffered a hairline skull fracture, a fractured neck, bruises on the scalp and bruises on the chest.

Bruising across the front of Winter's neck was "consistent" with ligature strangulation, Mitchell said.

A fractured vertebra above the base of the neck was caused by a "very hard blow," most likely by a kick or a stomp, Mitchell said.

Bruising about 3 or 4 inches wide on the teenager's chest wall likely was caused by a stomp, the coroner said.

Winter was dead when her body was burned, Mitchell said. She didn't have any drugs or alcohol in her system.

The body was found by patrolling sheriff's deputies early Dec. 14, 2006. It was identified through dental records, Mitchell said.

Michael Hall, 27, and Anthony Hall, 28, who are brothers of the defendant, said Christopher Hall recruited them several days before Dec. 14 to help dispose of the body.

Testing of material recovered on vaginal swabs showed Christopher Hall had sex with Winter at some point before she was slain, a written stipulation signed by prosecution and defense attorneys said.

Michael Hall said his brother showed him Winter's body when it was wrapped in a tarp and lying in a trash can in a basement storage and laundry area at Fairlawn Greens Apartments, 5237 S.W. 20th Terrace, where the three men lived.

At one point, Christopher Hall was showing the body to Michael Hall when they "dumped her out," Michael Hall said.

Christopher Hall said he killed her after he and Winter were smoking in his apartment, there was an altercation, and she tried to leave, Michael Hall testified.

Michael Hall said his brother told him he first used his hands to strangle Winter.

But "he noticed she wasn't dead, and he put a cord around neck and strangled her," Michael Hall said.

Anthony Hall testified Christopher Hall told him he strangled Winter when she tried to scream.

Just seconds before his girlfriend, Sonya Vines, arrived home, Christopher Hall put Winter's body in a closet in the couple's apartment.

"If (Vines) had found there was a body in the closet, he probably would have had to kill her, too," Michael Hall said Christopher Hall told him.

Christopher Hall at one point told Michael he had "murked" someone, slang for killing a person.

Christopher Hall first considered disposing of Winter's body in a trash can at the apartment complex, but decided against that.

Michael Hall said the three brothers put her body in the trunk of Vines' car, stopped at a convenience store to buy gasoline and a gas container, and drove to an open field in the 4100 block of S.E. East Edge Road in the Lake Shawnee area about 9 or 10 p.m. at night.

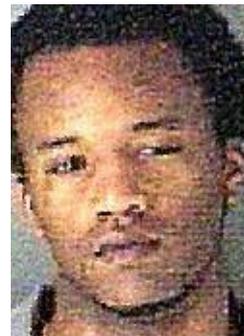
Once there, Christopher and Anthony Hall unloaded the body, gasoline was poured on the corpse, and Christopher Hall lit the fire, Michael Hall and Anthony Hall testified. Winter's body was found two days to a week later, Michael Hall said.

The scene inside Tuesday's three-hour hearing was emotional.

During sometimes graphic testimony, Vickie Winter, Winter's stepmother; Cynthia Marciszewski, Winter's mother; and other members of the gallery wept.

Vera Morrow, of Burkburnett, Texas, said after the hearing, "I'm just pleased with what I heard today," adding she now knew what happened to Winter. The teenager was Morrow's goddaughter and niece.

The case "is going to go to trial, and the (Hall) brothers will testify," Morrow said. Morrow said she was relieved to know her niece was dead when her body was burned.



Nacole Winter, Anthony Hall, and Christopher Hall



Another good read from Pat Buchanan.

He's One of Them – She's One of Us

September 8, 2008 – From: worldnetdaily.com

By Patrick J. Buchanan

One wonders: What did Sarah Palin ever do to inspire the rage and bile that exploded on her selection by John McCain? What is there either in this woman's record or resume to elicit such feline ferocity?

What did we know of her when she was introduced?

That she was a mother of five who had brought into this world a baby boy with Down syndrome, thus living her Christian beliefs. That she was a small-town conservative who had risen from mayor of Wasilla (population 9,700) to be governor of a state twice the size of Texas.

That she was a reformer who had dethroned an old boys' network by dumping a sitting Republican governor. That she had taken on Big Oil, taxed the companies and returned the money in \$1,200 checks to every citizen of Alaska. And that she had cut a deal with Canada to build a pipeline to bring natural gas to her fellow Americans.

And, oh, yes. She was "Sarah Barracuda" – a fierce high school athlete, a runner-up in the Miss Alaska pageant, a Feminist for Life and lifetime member of the NRA. Introduced by McCain, she praised Hillary Clinton and pledged to finish her work by smashing through the glass ceiling in which Hillary had made 18 million cracks.

What, in any or all of this, is there to justify the feral attacks within minutes of her introduction? What had she done to cause this outburst? Answer: absolutely nothing.

No. Sarah Palin is not resented for what she has done, but for who she is: a Christian conservative who believes unborn children are gifts of God, even those with birth defects, and have a God-given right to life.

Normally, the press is reluctant to rummage into the private lives of public servants, unless their conduct affects their duties or they preach virtues they hypocritically do not practice.

Yet, no sooner was Palin introduced than the media went berserk over the news that her 17-year-old daughter is pregnant. As one in three births in America is out-of-wedlock and Hollywood celebrates this lifestyle, why did the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* splash this "news" on Page 1 above the fold?

How does Bristol Palin's pregnancy disqualify Sarah Palin to be vice president? Why is it even relevant?

They did it because they thought it would damage Sarah Palin in the eyes of a Christian community they do not comprehend.

So out of bounds was the media that Obama, in an act of decency, declared Palin's family off limits and reminded the media that he was himself born to a teenage single mom.

If one would wish to see the famous liberal double standard on naked display, consider.

Palin's daughter was fair game for a media that refused to look into reports that John Edwards, a Democratic candidate for president, was conducting an illicit affair with a woman said to be carrying his child and cheating on his faithful wife, Elizabeth, who has incurable cancer. That was not a legitimate story, but Bristol Palin's pregnancy is?

Why did the selection of Sarah Palin cause a suspension of all standards and a near riot among a media that have been so in the tank for Barack even "Saturday Night Live" has satirized the infatuation?

Because she is one of us – and he is one of them.

Barack and Michelle are affirmative action, Princeton, Columbia, Harvard Law. She is public schools and Idaho State. Barack was a Saul Alinsky social worker who rustled up food stamps. Sarah Palin kills her own food.

Michelle has a \$300,000-a-year sinecure doing PR for a Chicago hospital. Todd Palin is a union steelworker who augments his income working vacations on the North Slope. Sarah has always been proud to be an American. Michelle was never proud of America – until Barack started winning.

Barack has zero experience as an executive. Sarah ran her own fishing fleet, was mayor for six years and runs the largest state in the union. She belongs to a mainstream Christian church. Barack was, for 15 years, a parishioner at Trinity United and had his daughters baptized by Pastor Jeremiah Wright, whose sermons are saturated in black power, anti-white racism and anti-Americanism.

Sarah is a rebel. Obama has been a go-along, get-along cog in the Daley Machine. She is Middle America. Barack, behind closed doors in San Francisco, mocked Middle Americans as folks left behind by the global economy who cling bitterly to their Bibles, bigotries and guns.

Barack has zero foreign policy experience. Palin runs a state that is home to anti-missile, missile and air defense bases facing the Far East, commands the Alaska National Guard and has a soldier-son heading for Iraq.

Barack, says the National Journal, has the most left-wing voting record in the Senate, besting Socialist Bernie Sanders. Palin's stances read as though they were lifted from Reagan's 1980 "no pale pastels" platform. And this is what this media firestorm is all about.

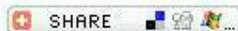


Friday, August 1, 2008

Wait, Magic Isn't Real?



Over at the internet's best movie news website [CHUD.com](#) (where I write a blog from time to time), writer Devin Faraci was an excellent column about the idiocy of a local Fox News affiliate, which, through the miracle of investigative reporting, uncovered the shocking truth that Criss Angel (seen here as an Anne Rice cosplayer) doesn't really have supernatural powers. It seems Criss chained himself inside a building set to implode, and he only had a few minutes to break free and make it to a helicopter on the roof. The effect is that he doesn't break free, the building collapses on him, and he's found in the rubble unharmed. Fox News smelled a rat, so they strangled their fuel budget, fired up the Fox chopper, and taped an overhead shot of Criss sneaking into the rubble after the implosion. Congratulations, Fox News. Though I bet you feel silly about having Bill O'Reilly call for Criss' execution for sawing a woman in half right in front of a camera. More details [here](#).



Posted by AmateurScientist at 8:16 AM

Labels: [Paranormal](#)

More anti-science, anti-logic, woo-woo propaganda from the stupid fucks at [The Amateur Scientist](#).

Now these clueless morons are confusing a *very* tongue-in-cheek "magic" story from a local Fox broadcast affiliate station with the Fox News cable television station – which are two *completely* different things!

Maybe we should teach these anti-science faggots a thing or two about Darwinism, and beat them to near death? Sounds like fun!

125 Shot Dead In Chicago Over Summer

September 5, 2008 – From: cbs2chicago.com

By Adam Harrington

CHICAGO (CBS) – An estimated 125 people were shot and killed over the summer. That's nearly double the number of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq over the same time period.

In May, cbs2chicago.com began tracking city shootings and posting them on Google maps. Information compiled from our reporters, wire service reports and the Chicago Police Major Incidents log indicated that 125 people were shot and killed throughout the city between the start of Memorial Day weekend on May 26, and the end of Labor Day on Sept. 1.

According to the Defense Department, 65 U.S. soldiers were killed in combat in Iraq. About the same number were killed in Afghanistan over that same period.

In the same time period, an estimated 247 people were shot and wounded in the city.

Police department spokeswoman Monique Bond disputed the numbers, saying in an e-mail that sometimes shootings are re-classified as accidental. She said the CBS 2 analysis did not match official department statistics, but she did not provide details. CBS 2 has asked for that information.

"The department officially releases crime statistics on a monthly basis to ensure the proper investigations are thoroughly conducted to determine manner and motive which also may result in reclassifications," Bond said.

Violent crime reports available on the department's website do not break down shootings by month. However, the latest report shows that the murder in the city is up 18 percent from last year. From January–July, the department reports 291 people were murdered, compared with 246 for the same period in 2007.

Bond said gang-related violence presents the most serious danger to Chicago residents.

"Gang and gun violence continue to be the dominating threat on our streets," Bond said in an e-mail. "Up to 60 percent of the shootings are gang related. More than 90 percent of the offenders have criminal histories and up to 80 percent of the victims have criminal histories."

For total shootings, the South Side's Englewood District, which includes the Englewood and West Englewood neighborhoods on the city's South Side, fared the worst over the summer. A total of 11 people were shot dead there, and 46 were shot and wounded.

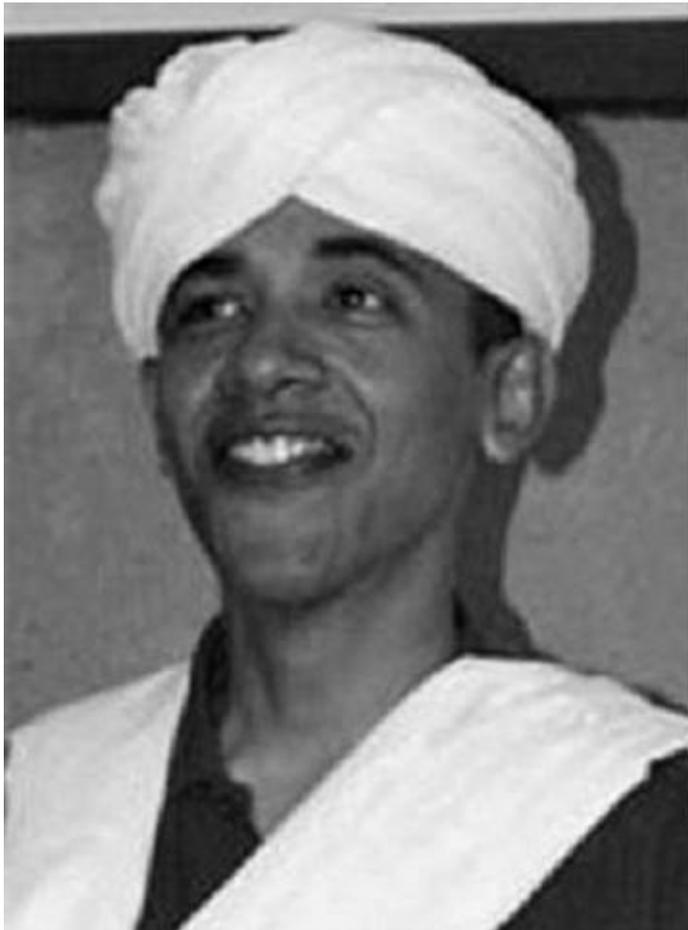
The highest homicide totals came in the Grand Crossing District, which includes the South Shore, Woodlawn, Park Manor and Grand Crossing neighborhoods on the South Side, 13 people were killed and 24 were injured.

Also hit severely by gun violence over the summer was the Harrison District on the city's West Side, where 11 people were shot dead and 25 were shot and wounded. In the Southwest Side's Chicago Lawn District, 12 people were shot and killed and 15 were shot and wounded. In the Ogden District – which includes the Near Southwest Side's Lawndale and Little Village neighborhoods – nine people were killed and eight were injured.

The South Chicago District on the Southeast Side saw nine people killed and 18 injured, almost all concentrated in the South Chicago and Avalon Park neighborhoods at the north end of the district. The Far South Side's Calumet District – including the Roseland, Fernwood and Pullman neighborhoods – saw nine killed and 23 injured.



Guns Don't Kill People – Niggers Do!



This is an excellent article. You can't give mortgages to "unqualified minorities" and expect to be paid back!

The Real Scandal

February 5, 2008 – From: www.nypost.com

By Stan Liebowitz

PERHAPS the greatest scandal of the mortgage crisis is that it is a direct result of an intentional loosening of underwriting standards – done in the name of ending discrimination, despite warnings that it could lead to wide-scale defaults.

At the crisis' core are loans that were made with virtually nonexistent underwriting standards – no verification of income or assets; little consideration of the applicant's ability to make payments; no down payment.

Most people instinctively understand that such loans are likely to be unsound. But how did the heavily-regulated banking industry end up able to engage in such foolishness?

From the current hand-wringing, you'd think that the banks came up with the idea of looser underwriting standards on their own, with regulators just asleep on the job. In fact, it was the regulators who relaxed these standards – at the behest of community groups and "progressive" political forces.

In the 1980s, groups such as the activists at ACORN began pushing charges of "redlining" – claims that banks discriminated against minorities in mortgage lending. In 1989, sympathetic members of Congress got the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act amended to force banks to collect racial data on mortgage applicants; this allowed various studies to be ginned up that seemed to validate the original accusation.

In fact, minority mortgage applications were rejected more frequently than other applications – but the overwhelming reason wasn't racial discrimination, but simply that minorities tend to have weaker finances.

Yet a "landmark" 1992 study from the Boston Fed concluded that mortgage-lending discrimination was systemic.

That study was tremendously flawed – a colleague and I later showed that the data it had used contained thousands of egregious typos, such as loans with negative interest rates. Our study found no evidence of discrimination.

Yet the political agenda triumphed – with the president of the Boston Fed saying no new studies were needed, and the US comptroller of the currency seconding the motion.

No sooner had the ink dried on its discrimination study than the Boston Fed, clearly speaking for the entire Fed, produced a manual for mortgage lenders stating that: "discrimination may be observed when a lender's underwriting policies contain arbitrary or outdated criteria that effectively disqualify many urban or lower-income minority applicants."

Some of these "outdated" criteria included the size of the mortgage payment relative to income, credit history, savings history and income verification. Instead, the Boston Fed ruled that participation in a credit-counseling program should be taken as evidence of an applicant's ability to manage debt.

Sound crazy? You bet. Those "outdated" standards existed to limit defaults. But bank regulators required the loosened underwriting standards, with approval by politicians and the chattering class. A 1995 strengthening of the Community Reinvestment Act required banks to find ways to provide mortgages to their poorer communities. It also let community activists intervene at yearly bank reviews, shaking the banks down for large pots of money.

Banks that got poor reviews were punished; some saw their merger plans frustrated; others faced direct legal challenges by the Justice Department.

Flexible lending programs expanded even though they had higher default rates than loans with traditional standards. On the Web, you can still find CRA loans available via ACORN with "100 percent financing . . . no credit scores . . . undocumented income . . . even if you don't report it on your tax returns." Credit counseling is required, of course.

Ironically, an enthusiastic Fannie Mae Foundation report singled out one paragon of nondiscriminatory lending, which worked with community activists and followed "the most flexible underwriting criteria permitted." That lender's \$1 billion commitment to low-income loans in 1992 had grown to \$80 billion by 1999 and \$600 billion by early 2003.

Who was that virtuous lender? Why – Countrywide, the nation's largest mortgage lender, recently in the headlines as it hurtled toward bankruptcy.

In an earlier newspaper story extolling the virtues of relaxed underwriting standards, Countrywide's chief executive bragged that, to approve minority applications that would otherwise be rejected "lenders have had to stretch the rules a bit." He's not bragging now.

For years, rising house prices hid the default problems since quick refinances were possible. But now that house prices have stopped rising, we can clearly see the damage caused by relaxed lending standards.

This damage was quite predictable: "After the warm and fuzzy glow of 'flexible underwriting standards' has worn off, we may discover that they are nothing more than standards that lead to bad loans . . . these policies will have done a disservice to their putative beneficiaries if . . . they are dispossessed from their homes." I wrote that, with Ted Day, in a 1998 academic article.

Sadly, we were spitting into the wind.

These days, everyone claims to favor strong lending standards. What about all those self-righteous newspapers, politicians and regulators who were intent on loosening lending standards?

As you might expect, they are now self-righteously blaming those, such as Countrywide, who did what they were told.

Still think liberals are nice, calm, and rational people?

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We are Barack's gun in this gunfight. (Time for action)

by [Geekesque](#)

Fri Sep 12, 2008 at 11:57:09 AM PDT

There are many people who think the Obama campaign is not hitting McCain hard enough. Too principled. Bringing a knife to a gunfight.

So, what should we do?

The answer: Beat the crap out of McCain ourselves. Stop attacking Obama for being too soft.

Instead, take a bite out of McCain himself.

And you can do that just as easily as you belly-ache on Daily Kos or Mydd.

Details and a preliminary action item below the fold.

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We can be the gun.

Indeed, if Barack can't or won't do the dirty work, then we have to do it for him.

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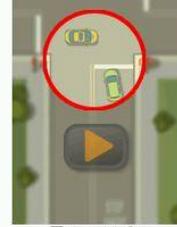
It's all about finding really damaging stuff--news stories, YouTubes, informative blog posts. And then circulating those with the intent of having them work their way up the media stream. Email it to your friends. Email it to any journalists whose email you have. Post it in diaries or blog comments.

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Just a Piece of Paper?



You should email this to ten people. Or ten bloggers. Or both. Spread it far, spread it wide.

If you would like to do this on a regular basis, I've set up a couple of Google Groups to help out with that process.

One group, The Viral Messaging Project, (the "VMP") is a gathering point for potentially damaging stories about the enemy. Folks who belong to that one can post whatever stories they find anonymously. Just post a link or create a page, and others will take it from there.

That brings me to the other group, The Sharp End of the Stick. This group is the actual action group--the one where the most damaging stories collected by folks at the VMP. It's real simple. You log in or get an email alert, you copy and paste, and you email it to various folks--either friends and family or content-based websites like blogs and online news sources.

I am more than happy to add folks to either group or both. Just email me at:

geekesqueATSYMBOLyahoo.com

and let me know which you'd like to join.

Let's go out and expose these bastards for what they are.

To the barricades.

Note: If you don't believe in scorched-earth politics, no one is forcing you to join this effort, of course. We all contribute in our own way.

Tags: 2008 Elections, Activism, Media, Sarah Palin, Alaska Independence Party, Anti-Americanism (all tags) :: Previous Tag Versions

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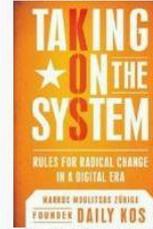
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(Yes, they tried to delete this.)**

Top Recipients of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Campaign Contributions, 1989-2008:

3. Obama, Barack Senator, D-IL (\$105,849)

<http://pfds.opensecrets.org/092408.html>

Fannie Mae Eases Credit To Aid Mortgage Lending

September 30, 1999 - From: query.nytimes.com

By Steven A. Holmes

In a move that could help increase home ownership rates among minorities and low-income consumers, the Fannie Mae Corporation is easing the credit requirements on loans that it will purchase from banks and other lenders.

The action, which will begin as a pilot program involving 24 banks in 15 markets -- including the New York metropolitan region -- will encourage those banks to extend home mortgages to individuals whose credit is generally not good enough to qualify for conventional loans. Fannie Mae officials say they hope to make it a nationwide program by next spring.

Fannie Mae, the nation's biggest underwriter of home mortgages, has been under increasing pressure from the Clinton Administration to expand mortgage loans among low and moderate income people and felt pressure from stock holders to maintain its phenomenal growth in profits.

In addition, banks, thrift institutions and mortgage companies have been pressing Fannie Mae to help them make more loans to so-called subprime borrowers. These borrowers whose incomes, credit ratings and savings are not good enough to qualify for conventional loans, can only get loans from finance companies that charge much higher interest rates — anywhere from three to four percentage points higher than conventional loans.

"Fannie Mae has expanded home ownership for millions of families in the 1990's by reducing down payment requirements," said Franklin D. Raines, Fannie Mae's chairman and chief executive officer. "Yet there remain too many borrowers whose credit is just a notch below what our underwriting has required who have been relegated to paying significantly higher mortgage rates in the so-called subprime market."

Demographic information on these borrowers is sketchy. But at least one study indicates that 18 percent of the loans in the subprime market went to black borrowers, compared to 5 per cent of loans in the conventional loan market.

In moving, even tentatively, into this new area of lending, Fannie Mae is taking on significantly more risk, which may not pose any difficulties during flush economic times. But the government-subsidized corporation may run into trouble in an economic downturn, prompting a government rescue similar to that of the savings and loan industry in the 1980's.

"From the perspective of many people, including me, this is another thrift industry growing up around us," said Peter Wallison a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. "If they fail, the government will have to step up and bail them out the way it stepped up and bailed out the thrift industry."

Under Fannie Mae's pilot program, consumers who qualify can secure a mortgage with an interest rate one percentage point above that of a conventional, 30-year fixed rate mortgage of less than \$240,000 — a rate that currently averages about 7.76 per cent. If the borrower makes his or her monthly payments on time for two years, the one percentage point premium is dropped.

Fannie Mae, the nation's biggest underwriter of home mortgages, does not lend money directly to consumers. Instead, it purchases loans that banks make on what is called the secondary market. By expanding the type of loans that it will buy, Fannie Mae is hoping to spur banks to make more loans to people with less-than-stellar credit ratings.

Fannie Mae officials stress that the new mortgages will be extended to all potential borrowers who can qualify for a mortgage. But they add that the move is intended in part to increase the number of minority and low income home owners who tend to have worse credit ratings than non-Hispanic whites.

Home ownership has, in fact, exploded among minorities during the economic boom of the 1990's. The number of mortgages extended to Hispanic applicants jumped by 87.2 per cent from 1993 to 1998, according to Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies. During that same period the number of African Americans who got mortgages to buy a home increased by 71.9 per cent and the number of Asian Americans by 46.3 per cent.

In contrast, the number of non-Hispanic whites who received loans for homes increased by 31.2 per cent.

Despite these gains, home ownership rates for minorities continue to lag behind non-Hispanic whites, in part because blacks and Hispanics in particular tend to have on average worse credit ratings.

In July, the Department of Housing and Urban Development proposed that by the year 2001, 50 percent of Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's portfolio be made up of loans to low and moderate-income borrowers. Last year, 44 percent of the loans Fannie Mae purchased were from these groups.

The change in policy also comes at the same time that HUD is investigating allegations of racial discrimination in the automated underwriting systems used by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to determine the credit-worthiness of credit applicants.



Barack Obama: Mother Not Just a Girl From Kansas

March 27, 2007 – From: www.chicagotribune.com

By Tim Jones

Chip Wall can't help but zero in on the little stuff whenever he watches Barack Obama on TV.

The turn of the smile, the sharp wit, the comfortable self-assuredness, all of which he saw up close, a half-century ago.

It's his old pal Stanley.

For Wall and a few dozen others, Obama on the campaign trail often brings to mind Stanley Ann Dunham, Obama's mother and a strong-willed, unconventional member of the Mercer Island High School graduating class of 1960.

"She was not a standard-issue girl of her times. ... She wasn't part of the matched-sweater-set crowd," said Wall, a classmate and retired philosophy teacher who used to make after-school runs to Seattle with Dunham to sit and talk -- for hours and hours -- in coffee shops.

"She touted herself as an atheist, and it was something she'd read about and could argue," said Maxine Box, who was Dunham's best friend in high school. "She was always challenging and arguing and comparing. She was already thinking about things that the rest of us hadn't."

The education of Obama the would-be politician didn't begin, of course, until after his birth in 1961, in Honolulu. But the parental traits that would mold him -- a contrarian worldview, an initial rejection of organized religion, a questioning nature -- were already taking shape years earlier in the nomadic and sometimes tempestuous Dunham family, where the only child was a curious and precocious daughter of a father who wanted a boy so badly that he named her Stanley -- after himself.

In his best-selling book, "Dreams From My Father" and in campaign speeches, Obama frequently describes the story of his mother, who died of cancer in 1995, as a tale of the Heartland. She's the white woman from the flatlands of Kansas and the only daughter of parents who grew up in the "dab-smack, landlocked center of the country," in towns "too small to warrant boldface on a roadmap."

Implicit in that portrayal is this message: If you have any lingering questions or doubts about the Hawaiian-born presidential candidate with a funny name, just remember that Mom hails from America's good earth. That's the log cabin story, or his version of Bill Clinton's "Man from Hope."

That presentation, though, glosses over Stanley Ann Dunham's formative years, spent not on the Great Plains but more than 1,800 miles away on a small island in the Pacific Northwest.

Obama visited the Seattle area last October, and in a speech to a Democratic Party rally at Bellevue Community College, he mentioned that his mother attended Mercer Island High School before moving on to Hawaii. In "Dreams," Obama wrote that the family moved to Seattle "long enough for my mother to finish high school."

But her stop was more than some educational cup of coffee; Obama's mother spent 8th grade through high school here. Four of those five years were spent on Mercer Island, a 5-mile-long, South America-shaped stretch of Douglas firs and cedars, just across from Seattle in Lake Washington.

Her parents, Stanley and Madelyn Dunham — he was a boisterous, itinerant furniture salesman in downtown Seattle, she worked for a bank and was the quiet yet firm influence at home — moved to Mercer Island in 1956, after one year in a Seattle apartment. The lure was the high school that had just opened and the opportunity it offered for their daughter, who was then 13.

Stanley Dunham died in 1992, and the Obama campaign declined to make Madelyn Dunham, 84, available.

But interviews with their friends from Kansas, now in their mid-to-late 80s, and interviews with their daughter's former classmates and teachers, now in their mid-60s or older, paint a vivid portrait of Barack Obama's mother as a self-assured, iconoclastic young teen seemingly hell-bent to resist Eisenhower-era conformity.

Boyish-looking, Stanley Ann was prone to rolling her eyes when she heard something she didn't agree with. She didn't like her nose, she worried about her weight, she complained about her parents — especially her domineering father. Her sarcasm could be withering and, while she enjoyed arguing, she did not like to draw attention to herself. The bite of her wit was leavened by a good sense of humor.

While her girlfriends, including Box, regularly baby-sat, Stanley Ann showed no interest. "She felt she didn't need to date or marry or have children," Box recalled. "It wasn't a put-down, it wasn't hurtful. That's just who she was."

Her name was something to tolerate — barely. Elaine Johnson, who used to wait for the school bus with her, picked up on that when Dunham introduced herself one morning.

"I know, it's a boy's name . . . and no, I don't like it. I mean, would you like to be called Stanley?" Johnson recalled her saying. "But my dad wanted a boy and he got me. And the name 'Stanley' made him feel better, I guess."

Susan Blake, a classmate and former city councilwoman from Mercer Island who long ago changed the infant Barack's messy diaper, said of her friend: "Hers was a mind in full tilt."

Over time, the distinctive and often clashing qualities of Madelyn, Stanley and Stanley Ann have been merged, smoothed, polished and put on display in the politician who is their grandson and son. Obama's voice volume is lower than his excitable grandfather's. The overt skepticism of his mother and grandmother has been papered over, and Stanley Ann's aversion to attention is gone. The candidate who vows to help bridge America's racial, religious and cultural divides has shed his mother's rejection of organized religion, calling his embrace "a vessel for my beliefs."

He lost his grandfather's impetuosity but kept the sales skills, attracting enough big money and broad support to reshape the race for president.

In a recent interview, Obama called his mother "the dominant figure in my formative years. . . . The values she taught me continue to be my touchstone when it comes to how I go about the world of politics."

Those values trace to the get-rich-quick oil fields east of Wichita, Kansas.

Maternal grandmother

Madelyn Payne was born in the oil boomtown of Augusta, to stern Methodist parents who did not believe in drinking, playing cards or dancing. She was one of the best students in the graduating class of 1940. And, in ways that would foretell the flouting of conventions by her daughter Stanley Ann, Madelyn was different.

"A bunch of us would go to Wichita, to the Blue Moon Dance Hall," said Nina Parry, a classmate who still lives in Augusta. "We'd hear Benny Goodman and Tommy Dorsey and Glenn Miller. . . . All the big bands came. It was wonderful."

Then Madelyn met Stanley.

Four years older, Stanley Armour Dunham lived 17 miles east, in El Dorado. In 1920, El Dorado, with a population of 12,000, seemed to exist solely for the purpose of drilling holes in the ground. And for good reason. In 1918, the El Dorado field produced 9 percent of the world's oil production.

The Dunhams were Baptists. Unlike the Paynes, Stanley Dunham did not come from the white-collar crowd. Gregarious, friendly, challenging and loud, "he was such a loose wheel at times," said Clarence Kerns, from the El Dorado class of 1935. Others who knew Dunham described him as a salesman "who could charm the legs off a couch."

His marriage to Madelyn was one of those that acquaintances said spanned both sides of the railroad tracks, and Stanley was always placed on the wrong side. They secretly married on the spring weekend of the annual junior-senior banquet in 1940, Madelyn's senior year, several weeks before graduation, according to friends. Continuing to live with her parents, Madelyn didn't tell them about her marriage until she got her diploma in June. The news was not a big hit at the Payne family home, but parental objections didn't matter.

When World War II came, Stanley enlisted in the Army. Madelyn became a Rosie-the-Riveter at Boeing Co.'s B-29 production plant in Wichita. And Stanley Ann Dunham arrived in late November 1942.

The Dunhams were full-time working parents, renters and strugglers in pursuit of the next opportunity. After the war, Madelyn worked in restaurants while Stanley managed a furniture store on Main Street in El Dorado.

Mack Gilkeson, a retired engineering professor who grew up in El Dorado and knew both Madelyn and Stanley, has watched their now-famous grandson too. "If I were to squint my eyes and look at Barack," he said, "I'd almost see his grandparents."

'Anarchy alley'

The Dunhams that Gilkeson saw after the war moved from El Dorado to a bigger opportunity in 1955 -- a large store in downtown Seattle called Standard-Grunbaum Furniture at the corner of 2nd Avenue and Pine Street. "First in Furniture, Second at Pine," read the Yellow Pages ad in the Seattle telephone directory.

Seattle in the 1950s had no Space Needle, no Microsoft, no Starbucks. Mercer Island, now a pricey home to corporate luminaries such as Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, was then "a rural, idyllic place," said Elaine Johnson, who remembered summers with "sleepovers along the water in sleeping bags. It was so safe." The island was quiet, politically conservative and all white.

But consistent with the 1950s, there were undercurrents of turmoil. In 1955, the chairman of the Mercer Island school board, John Stenhouse, testified before the House Un-American Activities Subcommittee that he had been a member of the Communist Party.

At Mercer High School, two teachers -- Val Foubert and Jim Wichterman -- generated regular parental thunderstorms by teaching their students to challenge societal norms and question all manner of authority. Foubert, who died recently, taught English. His texts were cutting edge: "Atlas Shrugged," "The Organization Man," "The Hidden Persuaders," "1984" and the acerbic writings of H.L. Mencken.

Wichterman taught philosophy. The hallway between the two classes was known as "anarchy alley," and students pondered the challenging notions of Wichterman's teachings, including such philosophers as Sartre and Kierkegaard. He also touched the societal third rail of the 1950s: He questioned the existence of God. And he didn't stop there.

"I had them read 'The Communist Manifesto,' and the parents went nuts," said Wichterman, adding that parents also didn't want any discussions about "anything to do with sex," religion and theology. The parental protests were known as "mothers' marches."

"The kids started questioning things that their folks thought shouldn't be questioned -- religion, politics, parental authority," said John Hunt, a classmate. "And a lot of parents didn't like that, and they tried to get them [Wichterman and Foubert] fired."

The Dunhams did not join the uproar. Madelyn and Stanley shed their Methodist and Baptist upbringing and began attending Sunday services at the East Shore Unitarian Church in nearby Bellevue.

"In the 1950s, this was sometimes known as 'the little Red church on the hill,'" said Peter Luton, the church's senior minister, referring to the effects of McCarthyism. Skepticism, the kind that Stanley embraced and passed on to his daughter, was welcomed here.

For Stanley Ann, the teachings of Foubert and Wichterman provided an intellectual stimulant and an affirmation that there indeed was an interesting life beyond high school dances, football games and all-night slumber party chatter.

Their high school class was an in-between generation. The Beat generation had passed, and the 1960s era of protest was yet to begin. Classmates of Dunham -- Wall, Blake, Hunt -- felt they were on the cusp of societal change, the distant early warning of the '60s struggles over civil rights, women's rights and war.

"If you were concerned about something going wrong in the world, Stanley would know about it first," said Chip Wall, who described her as "a fellow traveler. . . . We were liberals before we knew what liberals were."

One classmate, Jill Burton-Dascher, said Stanley Ann "was intellectually way more mature than we were and a little bit ahead of her time, in an off-center way."

The two Stanleys, though, were not soul mates. Stanley the father "was always welcoming to the kids, but he embarrassed Stanley because he tried too hard," Maxine Box said. The two would argue, Box said, and Madelyn usually mediated.

Susan Blake said Stanley's father was "always looking for a rise out of people," Blake said. "It seemed like every time her father opened his mouth, she would roll her eyes."

Full emergence in Hawaii

When the Mercer Island High School yearbooks began circulating in the spring of 1960, Stanley Ann's senior year, classmates scribbled best wishes to friends and remembered slumber parties, one mother's exceptionally good chocolate cake and thoughts on some goofy boys.

Dunham wrote to Maxine Box: "Remember me when you are old and gray. Love & Luck, Stanley." Seemingly out of the blue, her father had found a better opportunity -- another furniture store, this one in Hawaii. "He just couldn't settle," Box recalled.

"I remember she didn't want to go to Hawaii," she added.

That was only the first surprise. Stanley Ann began classes at the University of Hawaii in 1960, and shortly after that, Box received a letter saying that her friend had fallen in love with a grad student. He was black, from Kenya and named Obama.

About that same time, another letter crossed the Pacific, this one heading to Africa. It was from Barack Obama Sr. to his mother, Sarah Hussein Onyango Obama. Though the letter didn't go into great detail, it said he had met a young woman named Ann (not Stanley). There wasn't much on how they met or what the attraction was, but he announced their plans to wed.

The Dunhams weren't happy. Stanley Ann's prospective father-in-law was furious. He wrote the Dunhams "this long, nasty letter saying that he didn't approve of the marriage," Obama recounted his mother telling him in "Dreams." "He didn't want the Obama blood sullied by a white woman."

Parental objections didn't matter. For Stanley Ann, her new relationship with Barack Obama and weekend discussions seemed to be, in part, a logical extension of long coffeehouse sessions in Seattle and the teachings of Wichterman and Foubert. The forum now involved graduate students from the University of Hawaii. They spent weekends listening to jazz, drinking beer and debating politics and world affairs.

The self-assured and opinionated Obama spoke with a voice so deep that "he made James Earl Jones seem like a tenor," said Neil Abercrombie, a Democratic congressman from Hawaii who was part of those regular gatherings.

While Obama was impatient and energized, Stanley Ann, whom Abercrombie described as "the original feminist," was endlessly patient but quietly passionate in her arguments. She was the only woman in the group.

"I think she was attracted to his powerful personality," Abercrombie said, "and he was attracted to her beauty and her calmness."

Six months after they wed, another letter arrived in Kenya, announcing the birth of Barack Hussein Obama, born Aug. 4, 1961. Despite her husband's continued anger, Sarah Obama said in a recent interview, she "was so happy to have a grandchild in the U.S."

When the same news hit Mercer Island, it dumbfounded Stanley's classmates.

"I just couldn't imagine her life changing so quickly," said Box, thinking about her independent-minded friend who had disdained marriage and motherhood.

Although he didn't say it at the time, Abercrombie privately feared that the relationship would be short-lived. Obama was one of the most ambitious, self-focused men he had ever met. After Obama was accepted to study at Harvard, Stanley Ann disappeared from the University of Hawaii student gatherings, but she did not accompany her husband to Harvard. Abercrombie said he rarely saw her after that.

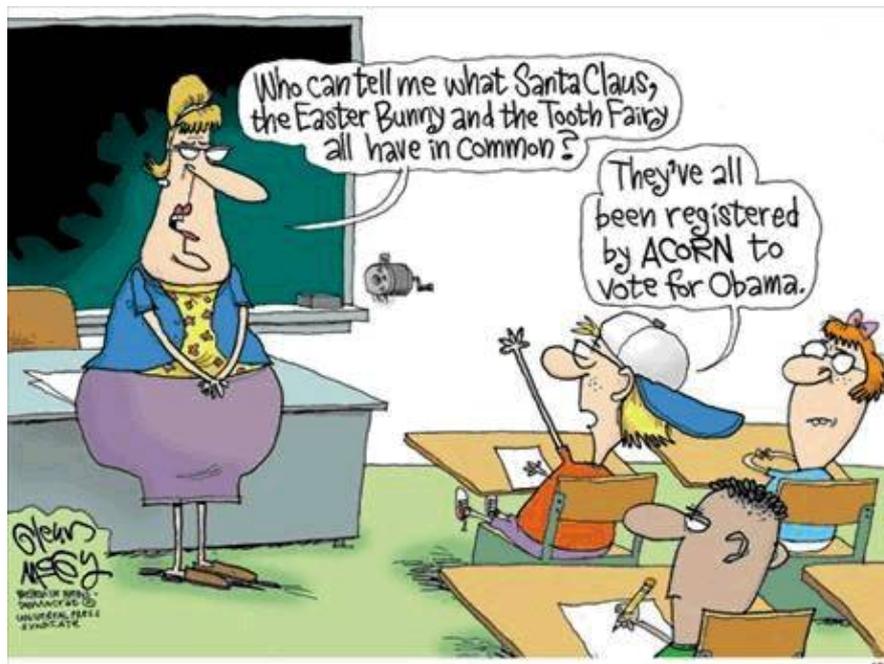
"I know he loved Ann," Abercrombie said, but "I think he didn't want the impediment of being responsible for a family. He expected great things of himself and he was going off to achieve them."

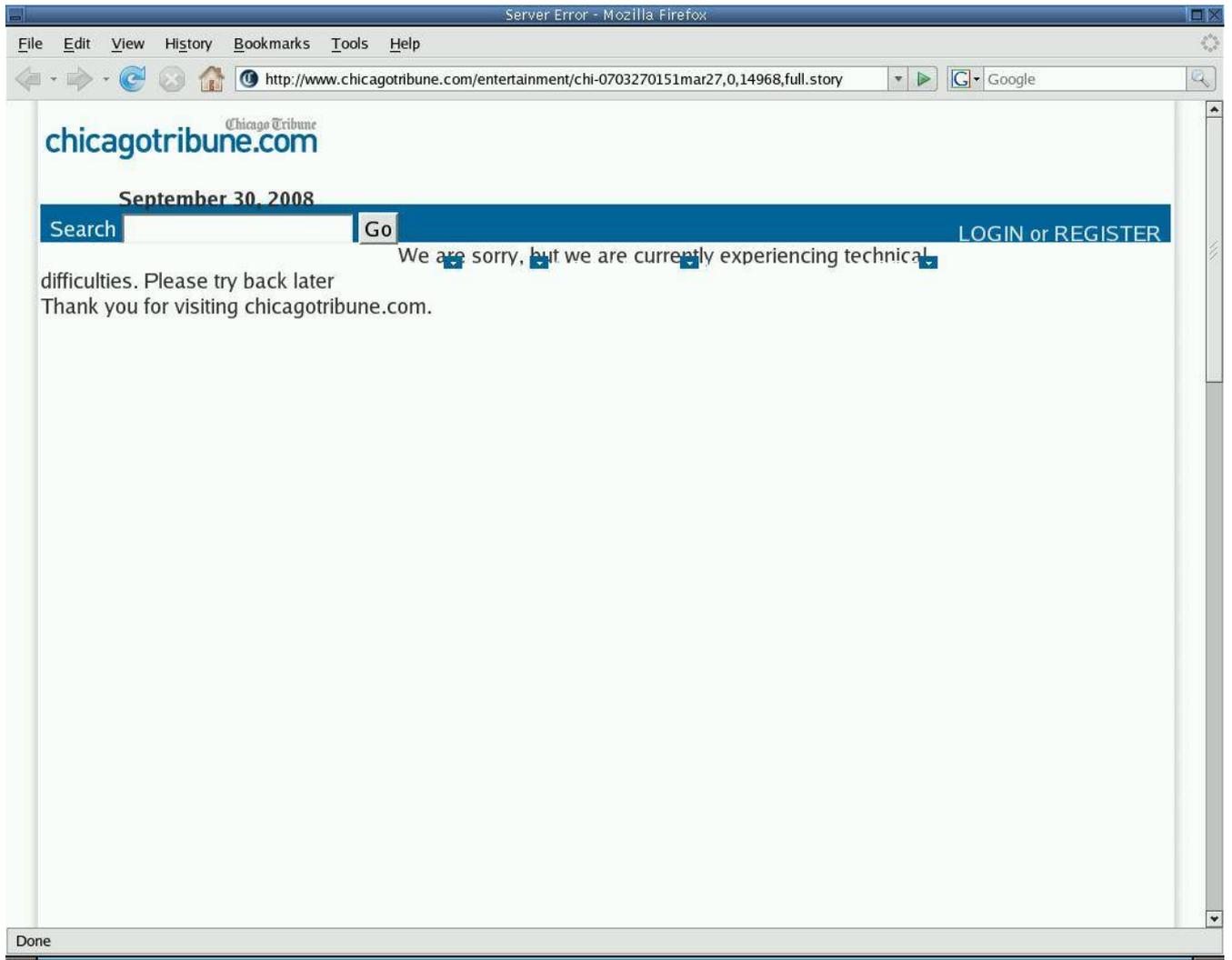
The marriage failed. Stanley Ann filed for divorce in 1964 and remarried two years later, when her son was 5. The senior Obama finished his work at Harvard and returned to Kenya, where he hoped to realize his big dreams of taking a place in the Kenyan government.

Years later, Abercrombie and another grad school friend looked up their old pal during a trip through Africa.

At that point, the senior Obama was a bitter man, according to the congressman, feeling that he had been denied due opportunities to influence the running of his country. "He was drinking too much; his frustration was apparent," Abercrombie said.

To Abercrombie's surprise, Obama never asked about his ex-wife or his son.





That last story is currently censored from the *Chicago Tribune* website!

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