PULSE

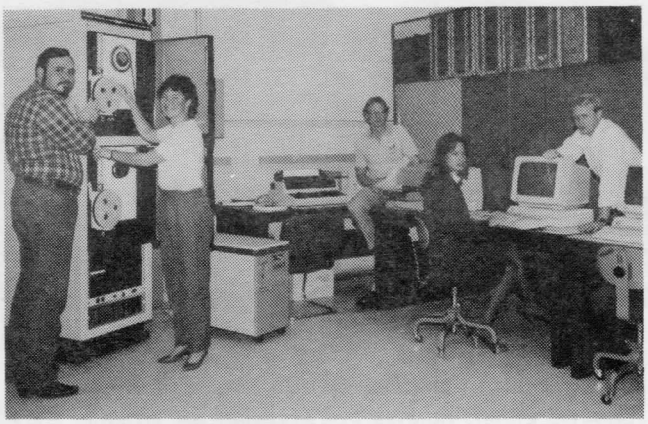
FAIRCHILD WESTON SYSTEMS INC.

FAIRCHILD WESTON SYSTEMS, INC.
DATA SYSTEMS DIVISION
P.O. BOX 3041
SARASOTA, FLORIDA 33578

VOL. VIII, NO. 2 FEBRUARY, 1986

NEW SYSTEM READY TO GO TO VANDENBERG AFB

A new Display and Processing System (DAPS) for Lockheed at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California was readied for shipment this month. The DAPS is a MicroVAX II system, among the first of many MicroVAX computer systems scheduled to be delivered by Data Systems Division. This system is valued at $365,000, and an order for a new software add-on has just been received.



Shown with a new Display and Processing System for Lockheed at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California are: Don Worthington, Beth Putnam, Mike Erdahl, Kathy Bossert and Jeff Kelley. Missing from the photo are Marvin Edgeworth and Phil Potts. The new MicroVAX computer is contained in the small "box" behind Beth Putnam, and will be utilized in many of our systems in the future.

The DAPS equipment will be used in conjunction with the Shuttle program at Vandenberg. Data received during the launch of the Shuttle at Vandenberg AFB will be processed and recorded to digital tape and displayed on any of the four DAPS terminals. Data displays include two alphanumeric displays with limit checking processing, and a color graphics display.

Phil Potts designed the Telemetry Input Channel, a new QBUS buffered data input channel, for use in passing the data between the Data Acquisition System shipped to Vandenberg last year and this new DAPS MicroVAX system.

(Cont'd on Page 2)

INTERNATIONAL SALES GROUP MEETS IN SPAIN FEB. 24-28

Members of our International Sales staff and 23 International Sales Representatives from around the world will meet in Malaga, Spain, February 24-28, for an annual International Sales Meeting.

There will be extensive training on new Data Systems Division products and discussions about recognizing new potential business for large systems. Training will be offered by Applications Engineers and our International Marketing staff, and will concentrate on our Telemetry and Instrumentation Data Recorders business segments.

Two Representatives will receive awards for 20 years of service as International Sales Reps for our products and systems. They are Frank Grace, of Solartron, England, and Gianni Legnani, of Elesys, with offices in Milan and Rome, Italy.

THANK YOU, DONORS!

A great big debt of gratitude to those caring individuals who donated blood during our latest Blood Drive. You have personally shared the gift of life. It's badly needed. Thank you!

STAY SAFE AND KEEP OUR SAFETY RECORD GROWING!

Safety-conscious employees have enhanced our safety record to nearly 400,000 hours without a lost-time accident.

Congratulations! Let's keep that number growing -- and avoid those painful injuries. Safety awareness really helps.

BASKETBALL TEAM HAVING FUN

Fairchild Weston's Men's Fast Break Basketball Team members are doing themselves proud. Team Coach Ralph Portuondo is very pleased with the team's performance.

At press time, their record was three wins and five losses.

WORKSHOPS HELP GROUP LEADERS DEVELOP SKILLS

Group Leaders from around the Data Systems Division participated in a series of five workshops during the past few months. These sessions were designed to assist Group Leaders in developing interpersonal skills and to help employees in problem solving.

Workshop topics included effective communication, time management, motivation, and problem solving. The workshops were conducted by Productivity Development Systems and coordinated by Freddie Masse.

Also participating in the workshops, in addition to the Group Leaders, were Art Acosta and Gary Mahaffey of Manufacturing Engineering.

At the final meeting in January, the Group Leaders were joined by Dave Clouse, Eldon Andrews, Hans Kaiser and Bob Wallace, of Manufacturing, in an information-sharing meeting to discuss how employees can work together to meet Department and Company goals.

GROUP LEADER WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS -- Front row: Paul Shetler, Joyce Koscielny, Mable Altman, Rita McCrea, Ann Stinton, Polly Smith, John Elliott, Jon Wolf. Middle row: Bob Wallace, Margaret Dill, Opal Black, Carmen Ireson, Judy Boyd, Betty Austill, Terri Workman, Art Acosta, Evelyn Christian, Freddie Masse. Top Row: Phil Luquette, Eldon Andrews, Phil Stockton, Bill Wheeler, Gary Mahaffey, Jon Thompson, Dave Clouse, Bob Carlson and Bob Boyer. Missing from this photo are Walter Holmes, Hans Kaiser and Mike Mace.

NEW SYSTEM READY TO GO TO VANDENBERG AFB

(Continued from Page 1)

Mike Erdahl, Hardware Project Engineer, and Don Worthington, System Hardware Technician, performed the system hardware integration. Software integration was done by Marvin Edgeworth, Jeff Kelley, and Beth Putnam. Kathy Bossert was Program Manager and Software Project Engineer. Systems manuals were created by our Manuals Department, and training is to be performed on-site by Ron Spadoni, of Training. Mike Erdahl and Beth Putnam will work on the installation at Launch Control Center, Vandenberg Air Force Base, next month.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

SAFETY AWARENESS PAYS

CONGRATULATIONS !

KEITH MARSH (Calibration Lab) and his wife Kathy welcomed their new son, William Craig, on January 28. He weighed in at 8 lb. 6 oz.

ROBIN SPEIDEL (Reliability) and his wife Michelle are the happy parents of a new baby girl, Carly Lynn. She was born on January 28 and weighed 7 lb. 9 oz.

MICHELLE CRAWFORD (DPL) and her husband Steve welcomed their daughter, Ashley Virginia, on February 16. The young lady weighed 7 lb. 1 oz. at birth.

ED KREYLING (SPS) and his wife Pam have a new baby daughter. Alicia Rose was born on February 19 and weighed 8 lb. 6 oz.

INTRODUCING THE MEMBERS OF OUR RPV TIGER TEAM

Introducing our Tiger Team! This key Engineering Team from our Telemetry group is busily developing a Data Link to control a Remotely Piloted Vehicle (RPV) and to bring back video data from the airborne vehicle to a sophisticated ground station.

All of this RPV work is under the Program Direction of Frank Hurlburt, with intensive activity going on in three design areas.

"Since the requirements of the Data Link Development program cover a wide range of design work, three design teams have been formed -- a Ground Station group, a Radio Transmitter-Receiver team, and a Digital Signal Processing team," Frank Hurlburt explained.

Jerry Belveal heads the Ground Station design group. Jerry, along with Rick Mowrey as Software Design Group Leader, will be responsible for designing a ground station around a VAX 11/73 computer which will monitor and control the Remotely Piloted Vehicle (RPV). Jerry also has the added responsibility of coordinating design efforts of Mechanical Engineers Mike Hackathorn and Ted Hordeski with Manufacturing for the airborne enclosures and circuit modules.

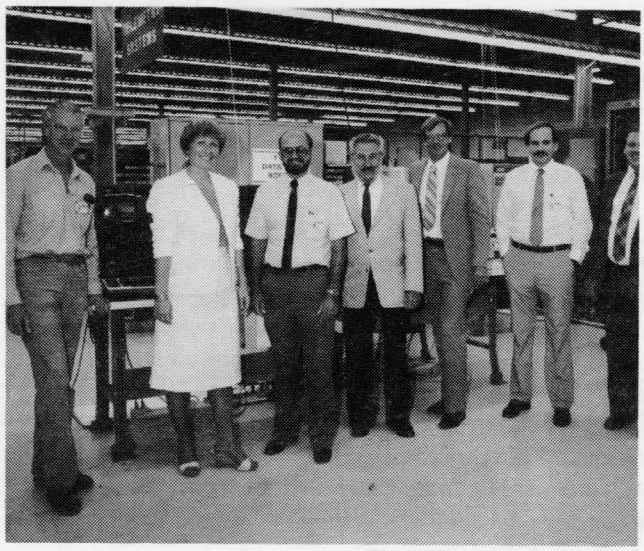
DATA LINK GROUND STATION GROUP: Paul Taylor, Rick Mowrey, Jerry Belveal, Adam Leonard, Joe Panarello and Mike Hackathorn. Missing from photo are Ted Hordeski and Mark Gilmore.

A critical component is the Radio Transmitter-Receiver. This development, headed by Larry Pack, involves the development of a state-of-the-art radio which is the heart of the communications link between the airborne vehicle and the ground station.

The Digital Signal Processing Unit provides the intelligence for the basic data link and directly interfaces with the airborne vehicle flight control equipment and its payload. John Keal heads this group and also does the System Engineering for the Data Link project.

Flight demonstration equipment is scheduled for delivery in early fall. This will include the ground station and several airborne units. Demonstrations are scheduled to be given to various U.S. Government defense agencies.

"Following these successful demonstrations, we expect to have some significant production orders for the future," Frank Hurlburt said.



RADIO TRANSMITTER-RECEIVER TEAM: Chris Freeberg, Nancy Vranesh, Larry Pack, Bill Bernard, Dave Johnson, Phil Van Atta and Bob Blazek.

DIGITAL SIGNAL PROCESSING TEAM: Frank Hurlburt, Nick Ostrye, John Belt, Milt Litwiller, Phil Schram, Mart Dismukes, John Keal and Pervis Sanders. Missing from photo is Pavlo Bobrek.

EMPLOYEES INTO ASTRONOMY

IT'S TIME TO GET READY FOR BEST VIEW OF HALLEY'S COMET

For scientists or amateur astronomers, the excitement is growing as we approach the peak viewing dates for observing Halley's Comet. A number of our Data Systems Division colleagues are interested in astronomy and are getting ready to take advantage of the early morning viewing times to see the phenomenon in March and April. After all, Halley's Comet only comes around every 76 years.

ED KREYLING (SPS) has been an amateur astronomer for ten years, observing deep sky objects. He owns a Criterion 8" Newtonian telescope and has modified and updated the mount. Ed is a member of the Local Group of Amateur Astronomers which meets at Myakka State Park on the Saturday before or after each new moon. He also uses a Pentax K1000 camera for his celestial photography, with a piggyback mount and through the lens capabilities.

JIM SCHADL (Telemetry R&D) has been interested in planetary and solar system astronomy dating back to 1966. He has an 8" Schmidt-Cassegrain and has built some "minor" pieces of equipment, including mirrors. Jim is also a member of the "Local Group" which meets at Myakka Park monthly.

MIKE O'BRIEN (Product Development) describes his astronomy interest as "stargazing and history." He has a 4" Reflector telescope and is a member of the Local Group of Amateur Astronomers, too.

KARL HAHN (Telemetry Software) observes the stars and planets using binoculars and borrowed telescopes, and studies books on the subject. His interest in celestial matters goes back some nine years.

BILL LIEBE (SPS) has been interested in astronomy since he was eight years old. He has a Celestron C8 (8" Schmidt-Cassegrain) telescope and also uses his Olympus OM2 camera piggyback and through the lens. He is most interested in deep sky and nebulas and the origin of the universe.

"My wife is also interested in astronomy, and we bought our telescope as our 4th and 5th anniversary presents," Bill said.

SCOTT ZEINER (Data Recorders Engineering) has been interested in astronomical observation and photography for 20 years. He has three telescopes -- a 13.1" Dobsonian, an 8" Schmidt-Cassegrain, and a 4.25" Newtonian. Scott also uses his knowledge of computer software to calculate photographic exposures and to locate positions.

Scott uses his Pentax camera with his telescopes. For a wide field he mounts the camera on the side of the telescope, using the camera lens. For normal shots, the camera mounts in place of the eyepiece and the telescope becomes a 2100 mm telephoto. For planetary and lunar shots, the eyepiece mounts between the telescope and camera, and projects a magnified image onto film.

Some astronomers amoung our colleagues -- seated, Mike O'Brien, Scott Zeiner, Karl Hahn. Standing, Ed Kreyling, John Schilling, Jim Schadl, Bill Liebe, Nick Ostrye.

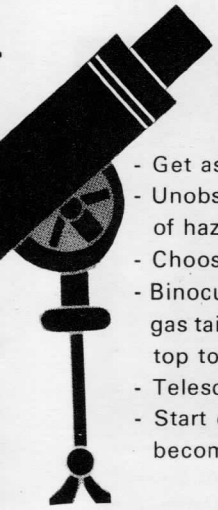
JOHN SCHILLING (SPS) first became interested in astronomy in the second grade. He particularly likes deep space objects such as nebulas, giant stars and the techniques used to study them. John is currently shopping for a telescope and sometimes buys and sells them.

"Don't buy a telescope for the purpose of seeing Halley's," John said. He recommends listening to the local TV weatherman or TV's Stargazer for tips on observing Halley's. "But don't delay too long -- it will be gone soon."

JOHN YOUNG (Receiving Inspection) has been interested in naked eye astronomy since high school. "For recreation I enjoy identifying traditional constellations and their mythology, but I'm also interested in astronomy for survival and emergency navigation, since I am frequently on small boats."

NICK OSTRYE (Advanced Product Development) likes to view the planets and star clusters. "My favorite is Jupiter and its constantly changing four moons," he said. Nick owns a 4.25" rich field Astroscan, and hopes to buy a camera adapter in the future.

"When Halley's Comet was visible recently I invited other employees over to look at it, and they were pleased to see it but wished it were brighter and more detailed... So it is with astronomy," Nick noted.



LOOKING FOR HALLEY'S COMET

- Get as far away from lights as possible.
- Unobstructed southern horizon -- flat, clear of trees, free of haze, airports, busy roads, lights.
- Choose "moon-free windows" in March and April.
- Binoculars: 7 x 50s or 10 x 50s to observe subtle dust and gas tails, or 11 x 70s, 16 x 80s, or 20 x 80s to scan comet top to bottom
- Telescope to observe nucleus
- Start early, allowing 20 to 30 minutes to let your eyes become adapted to the dark.

BEST VIEWING TIMES

March 7-21 4 a.m. to 5 a.m. through dawn -- low in East/Southeast sky.*
April 5-11 2 a.m. through 4 a.m., low in Southeast to Southern sky.*
April 12-17 1 a.m. through 3 a.m., low in Southern sky.*

*(Approximately 15° above horizon)

Halley's closest approach to earth is April 9/10 -- only 39 million miles away. Next viewing -- the year 2061. Mark it on your calendar!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Thanks for information provided by Data Systems Division amateur astronomers, and article in ASTRONOMY, March, 1986, pages 46-51, "Gazer's Gazette --Halley At Its Best" by David J. Eicher.

BOWERS ADDRESSES SEMINAR

GARY BOWERS, Administrative Senior Buyer in Procurement, was invited to address a Small Business Development Center seminar on February 11. His presentation dealt with "Doing Business with the Department of Defense," and was aimed at helping interested small business men and women. The seminars are sponsored by the University of South Florida's College of Business Administration.

SAFETY TIPS ★★★★★★★★★

NOTHING -- BUT NOTHING PROTECTS YOU BETTER THAN CONSTANT SAFETY AWARENESS

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

INSURANCE TIPS

PREADMISSION CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE VERY IMPORTANT

Under our group insurance benefit plan with Connecticut General, employees and covered dependents should remember to follow the Preadmission Certification procedure to assure maximum insurance coverage.

Before you or your covered dependents are admitted to the hospital for an overnight stay or longer, please follow this procedure:

1. You and your physician must complete the Medical Review Request Form. (Obtain the packet from our Benefits Office.)

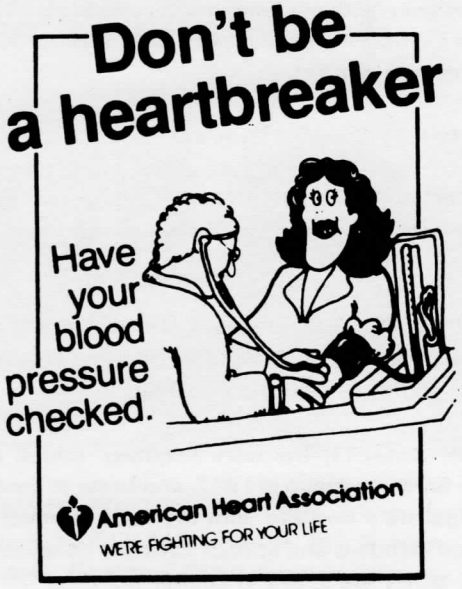
2. Your physician must forward the form to INTRACORP (address on form) 7 to 10 days prior to admission date.

3. INTRACORP will notify you and your doctor when certification process is completed.

IN AN EMERGENCY, notify INTRACORP within 24 hours of admission to hospital, or on the first business day following admission.

THE TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR CERTIFICATION THROUGH INTRACORP IS: 1-800-633-9900.

Another important reminder -- certain surgical procedures require a second opinion. Please check with Benefits Coordinator Alma Sanger (Ext. 5526) or your Insurance Benefit information packet for more information.



GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH CIRCLE MEMBERS

PULSE is pleased to offer a new feature about the Data Systems Division employees who are involved in our Circles. Special thanks to the Circle members who contributed these notes to help us all get better acquainted.

"BIT BY BIT" CIRCLE

Members of the "Bit by Bit" Circle are Software Engineers, Program Librarians and a Coordinator, all of whom work with Engineering Programming projects in connection with our Telemetry/Computer systems.

JAN AMMEN, Program Librarian, joined our company 13 years ago. She enjoys traveling to the islands and beach walking. Her family life is a busy one, with husband Carl, two daughters, a son-in-law and a grandson.

KATHY BOSSERT is a Software Engineer who has been with FWSI for seven years. Her spare time interests are sunning, boating and aerobics.

CAROL BYRNE, Program Librarian, has been with our company since July, 1978. A busy mother of six, Carol enjoys reading and working with children.

MONA CARTER, Software Engineer, has been with us for over a year. She enjoys the Florida beaches, cruises, and keeps active with aerobics, ballet, jazz and tap dancing.

MICHELLE CRAWFORD, Program Librarian, has been in our DPL for over five years. She welcomed her baby daughter on February 16, and plans to continue her service with FWSI.

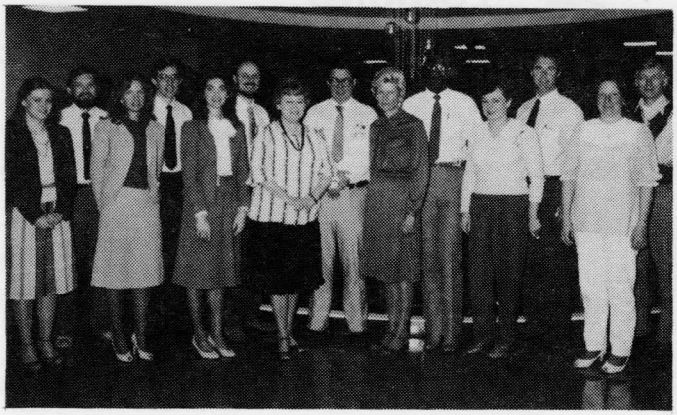
MARVIN EDGEWORTH, Software Engineer, has been with Fairchild Weston for three years. He is an amateur gemologist and facetor.

TERESA FANNIN, Software Engineering Coordinator for the DPL, has been with our company for two years. She enjoys living in Florida with her husband Larry, and her three dogs, two birds and one cat.

BOB FEATHER, Software Engineer, joined us two years ago. He is a husband, father of two, active in his church, and is learning to play the guitar. "I'm looking forward to working on large projects which require innovative new software solutions," Bob states.

KARL HAHN, Software Engineer, joined us nearly five years ago. Karl writes fiction in his spare time and enjoys life with his wife and three-year-old daughter.

ARTHUR HALLETT, Software Engineer, joined our Field Service Software group in 1977, and came to Sarasota two years ago. He's involved with the 8385 product line and works on standard and special software development. Art and his family are active in church work.



BIT BY BIT CIRCLE MEMBERS - - Teresa Fannin, Bob Feather, Kathy Bossert, Kevin Lewis, Mona Carter, Karl Hahn, Carol Byrne, Marvin Edgeworth, Jan Ammen, Art Hallett, Judy Lamp, Herb Larrabee, Michelle Crawford, Adam Leonard.

JUDY LAMP, Program Librarian, has been with us for seven years. She enjoys reading and traveling. Recent trips have been to Lake Tahoe and Banff, Canada. Judy plans to go to San Francisco next year.

HERB LARRABEE, Software Engineer in SPS, has been with FWSI for five years. Herb, his wife and two sons can be found weekends sailing around the buoys on their San Juan 21.

ADAM LEONARD, Software Engineer, describes himself: "Actually a religious philosopher, but that doesn't pay very well, so programming telemetry systems is almost as good. My wife and I are moving to a villa since the five kids are grown up and my desire to commune with God doesn't extend to yard work."

KEVIN LEWIS, Software Engineer, has been with Fairchild for three years and in software engineering for seven years. He enjoys SCUBA diving, water skiing and travel.

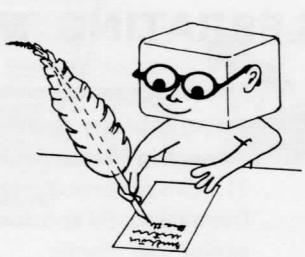
FINE LINERS CIRCLE MEMBERS STUDY MIRROR IMAGE DRAWINGS

"Fine Liners" Della Dunlap, Rick Englund, Carol Scheele, Paul Waldmann and Ray Wilson, representing the Drafting Department, made a management presentation on February 6.

The group has researched the problems and additional costs incurred because of mirror image parts drawings. The Fine Liners Circle members interviewed employees in various departments to understand the impact and seriousness of the problems, and have proposed some solutions.

"Their presentation was well received, and I'd like to say congratulations on a job well done," Circle Facilitator Freddie Masse said.

NEW CIRCLE GROUP FORMED



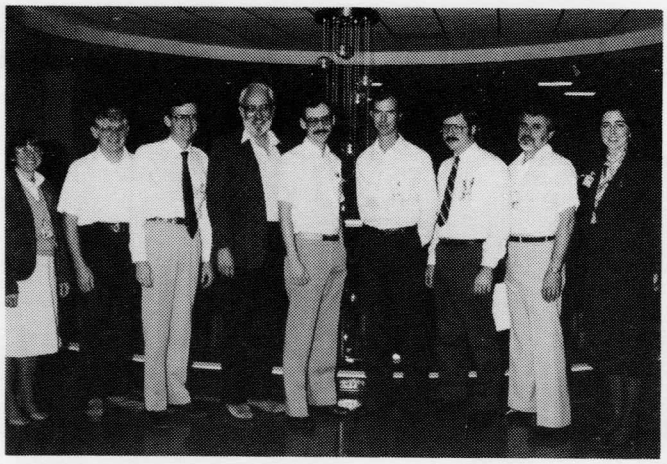
The Writers' Block

Our newest Circle is called "The Writers' Block." The group consists of writers from Telemetry, Recorders and SPS Publications, with Bill MacNeill serving as Circle Leader.

Membership includes, from Telemetry Publications -- George Emigh, Scott Havens, Don Lignore, Sue Nurczyk, Carolyn Peet and John Wood. From Recorders Publications -- Mike Eddins, Carlo Mammelli, and John Talbot. From SPS -- Mark Hanigan. From Telemetry Marketing Proposals--Jim Graham. Also participating as an advisor is Dale Dennis, of MIS.

"The goal of 'The Writers' Block' is to decrease the calendar time and hours needed to produce publications by 10% within one year, while improving quality," Bill states. "We'd like to contribute to the company's profitability by becoming more productive, and also improve our competitive edge by improving the quality of our publications and their usefulness to customers."

The group is looking at possible improvements in productivity and quality, and is interested in the technology of Computer Aided Publishing (CAP) systems, currently being evaluated by Dale Dennis.



Members of "The Writers' Block" Circle - Carolyn Peet, George Emigh, John Wood, John Talbot, Carlo Mammelli, Mike Eddins, Scott Havens, Don Lignore and Sue Nurczyk. Missing from this photo are Jim Graham, Mark Hanigan and Bill MacNeill.

SCHLUMBERGER SCHOLARSHIPS

Is your son or daughter aiming for a Schlumberger Scholarship? Now is the time to be sure all the necessary tests and paper work are completed and submitted -- BEFORE MARCH 31, 1986.

Employees' sons and daughters who are now in their senior year of high school, or preparatory school, can make application for a Conrad and Marcel Schlumberger Scholarship. The employee/parent must have completed five years of service with the company prior to the time the student enters college.

Scholarship applicants are required to take the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) Scholastic Aptitude Test, and must submit the necessary application and supporting materials to the Secretary, Conrad and Marcel Schlumberger Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 2175, Houston, Texas, 77001. The complete information must be received BY MARCH 31, 1986.

The four-year scholarship awards recognize outstanding scholastic achievement and provide financial assistance to deserving students seeking a college education. A booklet about the Schlumberger Scholarship program is available in Personnel.

Data Systems Division employees are especially proud of our Schlumberger Scholarship winners -- four students in 1983, one in 1984, and two in 1985.

NOTICE OF APPRECIATION RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER

A notice of recognition has been received by Data Systems Division for Fairchild Weston's participation in the Antisatellite Test program known as ASAT.

FWSI was contracted, through the Boeing Company, to provide a sophisticated system in a very short time frame. The Telemetry/Computer system included our new generation 8000 series units and 715 Multiplex Processor in addition to the DEC 11/750 computer. The complex data acquisition system was delivered to the test facility at Edwards Air Force Base in 1985. The system became operational and participated in testing only days after delivery.

Members of the in-house project team include: Sue Sutherland as Program Manager; Bob Feather, Adam Leonard, Roger Mort, Beth Putnam, Tom Smeed, Mike Witchey, all of Systems Engineering; Dick Vorce of Applications; and Rosemary Williams, Contract Administrator. The Lancaster, Calif., Field Service Office provided on-site support for the system and has been instrumental in the installation and checkout of add-on items, such as the recently delivered 8330 Signal Simulator.

All of the employees who contributed to this successful effort have the added satisfaction of knowing your hard work was noted and appreciated by the customer!

COLLEAGUES CELEBRATING MAJOR SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Employees are observing some major service anniversaries during February. Special congratulations to Maurice Calvert whose big 35th service anniversary took place on February 21. Also observing major milestones are Jon Brown and Ed Domrzalski. Ed and Jon both completed 20 years of service earlier this month.

Congratulations to our colleagues who are pictured in the accompanying photographs on achieving these major service milestones.

Congratulations on major service anniversaries to: Ann Murray (5 years), Jon Wolf (5 years), Maurice Calvert (35 years) and Bunny McFarland (10 years).

Happy anniversary to Jon Brown (20 years), Isabel Wetz (5 years), and Ed Domrzalski (20 years).

CREDIT UNION MEETING & ELECTION

DOLLAR$ ENE

The 19th annual meeting of the Fairchild Sarasota Credit Union was held in the Cafeteria on February 13, with President Wiley Dunn presiding. A positive progress report showed the Credit Union has grown to 667 members with total assets of $753,500 and net income of $48,100, as of December 31, 1985. The 1985 annual dividend rate of 6% paid $31,800 in dividends to Credit Union savers.

A membership drive was announced for the remainder of February to March 14. The $5.00 initiation fee will be waived and the requirement for 90 days of seniority will also be waived for new members joining the Credit Union during the membership drive.

Credit Union President Wiley Dunn requested that members "spread the word that the Credit Union has money to lend." Treasurer Ed Annaratone reported that two separate successful audits were completed during 1985 and the Credit Union was commended for being a "very sound" small Credit Union in the "under $1,000,000" group.

Elections were held and the following members won seats on the Board of Directors or Committees:

Board of Directors (3 year term) -- Chris Hopkins
Supervisory Committee (one year term) -- Chris Lester, Karen Peterson, Cinda Whaley.
Credit Committee (one year term) -- Pat Redmond, Ben Robinson.

Winners of cash prizes, donated by the company were:

$5 prizes -- Lillian Conway, Pearl Jennings, Sue Sutherland, Cindy Prieto, Beth Gisiger, Pat Redmond.
$10 prizes -- Sybille Sabbides, Herb Larrabee, Susan Taylor.
$15 prizes -- Dan Konieczka, Monica Laskowsky
$20 prizes -- Margaret Herbst, Pat Carney
$25 prize -- Karen Peterson
$30 prize -- Della Presley
$40 prize -- Tony Reali

FAIRCHILD WESTON SYSTEMS INC.
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HEALTH LINE

By DEBBIE GRAHAM R.N., C.O.H.N.

ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFFIECIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

One of the most frightening diseases that we hear about today is AIDS. We'll be hearing alot more about it in the months and years to come because the disease is fast becoming a major international epidemic.

In 1983, there were 1,500 cases of AIDS in the entire world. In mid-year 1985, there were more than 12,000 cases in the United States alone! By 1987 it is estimated that there will be over 100,000 cases of this deadly disease for which there is no cure known.

It is important for all of us to know as much about this disease as we can. Especially for those who are sexually active.

WHAT IS AIDS?

AIDS is a sexually transmissable infection caused by a virus. It is called: human T-cell lymphotrohic virus type III. It is abbreviated: HTLV-III.

WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

AIDS is believed to have originated in Africa. It is estimated that 10 million Africans, 1-2 million Americans and half a million Europeans are infected by the virus. We do not know how many infected persons will develop symptoms, but some experts feel that one-third will.

HOW DOES AIDS KILL?

We all have an immune system that helps us to fight off germs when they attack us. Normally, when our body is exposed and infected with germs, our immune system goes into action and fights off the germs so that we can recover. In AIDS, the immune system is deficient and is unable to fight off infections. These usually treatable infections rage in our bodies unchecked until they produce a fatal illness.

HOW DO WE GET AIDS?

AIDS is transferred to normally healthy people in three ways.

1. AIDS is transmitted by sexual contact.
2. AIDS is transmitted by blood which is contaminated with the virus.
3. AIDS is transmitted by needles which are contaminated with infected blood.

WHO IS AT RISK OF AIDS?

Homosexuals
Heterosexuals
Blood or blood components/receipients
Intravenous drug users

SEXUAL CONTACT

Explicit information is available in the dispensary. A separate handout will be available outside the dispensary on the shelf with other medical information. Methods of prevention and control will be included. You are encouraged to pick up this information.

BLOOD AND BLOOD COMPONENTS

Let us once and for all, understand about AIDS and blood and blood products, and clear up the misconceptions.

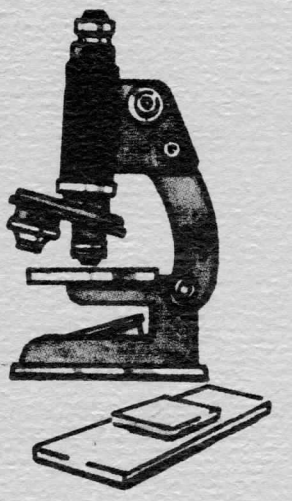
YOU CANNOT GET AIDS BY DONATING BLOOD. This is not how AIDS is transmitted at all.

AIDS is transferred to otherwise healthy persons when they RECEIVE blood which is contaminated by the virus.

BUT, at our blood bank, new, sterile disposable needles are used to withdraw your donation. The needles are not contaminated by anyone's blood and you are not at risk.

The needle after it's one time use, is then safely discarded.

The risk occurs when you RECEIVE blood, because if the donor is infected with the AIDS virus, it could be passed onto you. Because of this very real danger, the blood bank tests EVERY donated pint of blood for any evidence of the antibodies which form in the blood of persons infected by AIDS.



WHEN THESE ANTIBODIES ARE FOUND IN A PINT OF DONATED BLOOD:

The specimen is re-tested. If the test is again positive for the antibodies, it is tested again. These procedures are very costly but deemed necessary to protect our nation's blood suppl; so that if you require a pint of blood, you can be reassured that it is safe. Any contaminated blood is discarded.

IF A DONOR IS FOUND TO HAVE POSITIVE ANTIBODIES:

in his blood that indicates exposure to AIDS, he/she is notified. This information is strictly confidential. This person is then no longer able to donate blood, and is encouraged to seek the advice of their physician.

THE ANTIBODY TEST DOES NOT DIAGNOSE AIDS.

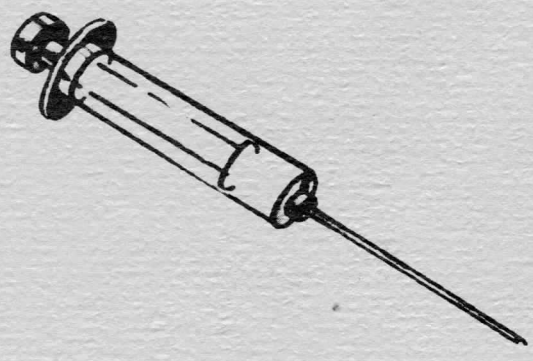
The antibody test if positive indicates that the person has been exposed. A positive test does not mean that the person will definitely get AIDS. The test provides protection so that the risk of getting AIDS from transfusions will be less than it already is. Remember, every unit of blood is tested for AIDS. If it is found to be contaminated, it is discarded.

NEEDLES

When someone is injected with a needle, blood in small amounts are usually left on the tip of the needle. IF the the same needle is used to inject someone else, they could become infected with any germs or viruses that are in the blood on the needle. This explains why there is a high incidence of AIDS among illicit intravenous drug users who share needles.

In our country, needles are sold by prescription only. In countries where needles are sold over the counter, the percentage of AIDS patients is very much lower than in the United States.

Needles are mass produced as a disposable item in the United States. They are used once, on one person, then discarded, so the opportunity of introducing infection via a needle under normal circumstances is non-existent.



Health care givers excercise extreme caution after giving a patient an injection, so that they do not inadvertently, stick themselves. (There are two documented cases of AIDS caused by carelessness, in handling needles.)

ARE THERE ANY SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS OF AIDS?

YES

A word of caution.....the symptoms of AIDS (some) are similar to many viral type infections. The old fashioned "flu" resembles it.....but eventually the "flu" symptoms will resolve....but the AIDS victim becomes sicker and sicker.

Probably the most common symptom is an unexplained weight loss, accompanied by fatigue and malaise. An illness that appears like mononuclosis: fevers, night sweats, pain in joints and muscles, lack of appetite, swollen lymph nodes (several), and sore throat. You may have blue or purple spots on or under the skin or on mucous membranes. Persistent white spots or unusual blemishes in the mouth.

Persistent cough and shortness of breath or persistent diarrhea. These alarming symptoms should be checked by your doctor.

IS THERE ANY CURE OR TREATMENT?

NO there is no cure. The only treatment is to support and treat the symptoms. At present, research programs are frantically attempting to find a cure and many experimental treatments are being tried.

AIDS is a fatal illness. At this time we do not have the answers because the problem is so complex.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF AND MY LOVED ONES FROM AIDS?

AIDS is a disease that we are discovering has many myths attached to it. We do know that AIDS is transmitted via sexual contact. Details of this type exposure are available in the dispensary for your private investigation.

AIDS can also be transmitted by a pregnant mother to her unborn fetus. The infant is then born with the AIDS virus.

If you are an intravenous drug user (illicit) STOP, for many reasons other than fear of contracting AIDS. If you do not stop, then you should recognize that sharing needles is a prime method of transmitting the AIDS virus from one person to another.

We must all understand that there are many questions about AIDS that are unanswered. We are really "scratching the surface" of our knowledge and as time and research progress, additional problems and modes of transmission of this illness may appear. At this juncture in our knowledge of AIDS it does not appear that ROUTINE social contact with AIDS patients or AIDS carriers of HTLV-111 will spread the disease. Persons living in the same household as an AIDS patient are not a threat to the community.

Children with AIDS, who are of school age, need careful evaluation on a case by case basis, to determine their return to school status. Unless they exhibit problems, or are biters (this could lead to the transmission of the virus), they should not be considered risks. This sensitive issue needs careful attention by a team of concerned professionals.

CONFIDENTIALLY

Probably the most important issue to aid us in the prevention and further spread of this tragic illness, is the reassurance to AIDS patients and those persons who are found to have positive antibodies in blood tests, that privacy will be assured. A positive test to the AIDS antibody only indicates that a person has been exposed to the virus and infected long enough to develop antibodies to it. It does not reveal whether infection is still present, whether immunity to further infection has been required, or whether AIDS will develop. The news that your test revealed a positive result is chilling enough; the idea that others will become aware of it, adds further to your fears.

Lack of strict confidentiality regarding the screening tests, can also result in less persons taking the test that may be at high risk. Then the program of identification, prevention, and treatment suffers, and the fight to eradicate the disease is weakened.

A person with a positive antibody test needs to establish an ongoing relationship with his doctor who can give psychological support and monitor the individual for signs of illness.