SAFETY AWARD PRESENTED

Aetna Technical Services, Hartford, Conn., presented a "Certificate of Merit for Safety to the management and employees of Fairchild Weston's Data Systems Division for outstanding achievement in accident prevention without a disabling injury." The certificate recognized the successful achievement of 500,000 hours without a lost-time accident during the period May 21, 1982 - November 30, 1982.

Members of the Safety Committee pictured with the Safety Award include: (seated) Debbie Graham, Dorothy Bennett, George Keegan, Fred Stiefel. Standing, Dutch Fonteine, Dexter Nash, Wayne Brinton, Ed Domrzalski, Eldon Andrews, Bill England, Roy Hollifield. Missing from the photo are Safety Supervisor Bill Shaw, Skip Brawn and Bob Boyer.

12% INTEREST RATE FOR NEW CAR LOANS

At their February meeting the Board of Directors of our Credit Union authorized a temporary reduction in the interest rate for new car loans. During the months of March, April and May, a limited amount of Credit Union money will be available for new car loans at 12% annual percentage rate for qualified borrowers.

BLOODMOBILE COMING

March 16th is the date for the next visit of the Bloodmobile at our plant. You can be a donor and help fellow employees and their families when illness strikes. Donor cards will be distributed by Nurse Debbie Graham.

TELEMETRY SALESMEN WIN HONORS FOR ORDERS

Telemetry Salesmen gathered in Sarasota during the week of February 14 for their Annual Sales Meeting, technical briefings and two-day marketing seminar on "Proposal Win Strategy."

Larry Edwards, based in Cupertino, Calif., captured the Telemetry Salesman of the Year Award. Jim Clements, of Huntsville, Ala., was runner-up. Bob Sayre (Wheaton, Md.) and Cal Brewster (Albuquerque, N. M.) were recognized as "Quota Busters" for winning over $1,000,000 in orders each.

Telemetry Salesmen, pictured during a plant visit: Bob Murphy, Detroit; Bob Sayre, Wheaton, Md.; Carl Steineckert, Lancaster, Calif.; Larry Edwards, Cupertino; Cal Brewster, Albuquerque; Jim Clements, Huntsville, Ala.; and Terry Miller, Laguna Hills, Calif.

QUALITY IS IMPORTANT TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS

General Dynamics Convair Division, San Diego, Calif, has sent Data Systems Division a certificate of appreciation for the quality of our products and our performance during the fourth quarter of 1982. The certificate, posted on our bulletin boards, reads: "In appreciation for your efforts in producing quality products on schedule and maintaining an acceptable quality program, this rating notice of A+ is presented to the employees of Fairchild Weston Systems, Inc."

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/H/V

A PERSONAL LOOK AT PERSONAL COMPUTERS

By Bill Waggener

In less than a decade, the personal computer has risen out of the primordial stuff of which the earth is made, silicon, to become a major world high-technology industry. In 1982, nearly one and a half million personal computers were shipped, accounting for $1.5 billion in sales.

What constitutes a personal computer? There is a great deal of personal opinion surrounding the various issues associated with personal computers.

My own definition of a personal computer is a computing machine that can be programmed by the user, can perform any of the functions normally associated with a large scale computer, can display results, can optionally print out results, and store and retrieve information from storage devices, such as tape recorders.

In addition, for the machine to be classified a personal computer, it must sell in a price range acceptable to a significant portion of the population. By my definition, personal computers would include some types of programmable calculators, hand-held computers, and other types of small computer systems with prices up to about $5000. Although the average price of the personal computer system is around $900, the price range spans from a few hundred dollars to over $4000 dollars.

Personal computer systems in the price range of $3000 and up tend to be more small business computer systems than home computers, although there are a number of home computer enthusiasts who have invested well over $5000 in systems.

EIGHT YEARS A.M. (AFTER MITS)

The history of the personal computer can be traced back to about 1974 to a computer kit manufactured by a company called MITS. Hence, I date the personal computer revolution relative to the MITS computer (A.M. = After MITS). MITS advertised itself as the number one personal computer company for several years, but soon lost that title to a small upstart company called APPLE computer. The APPLE I computer was initially sold in California in late 1975. The APPLE II computer, similar to its current configuration, was announced in 1977. Since the APPLE II, probably the most significant milestone in personal computers was the entry of IBM into the market in 1981.

Just what are the components of a typical personal computer? First, there must be the computer itself which consists of a central processing unit (CPU) together with some memory to store programs and data. Secondly, there must be a means for the user to communicate with the computer -- typically, a keyboard and some form of visual display, such as a cathode ray tube (CRT), or a conventional television set.

Beyond these essential items, the personal computer user soon finds that there are other additional units (called "peripherals") which will at first seem like expensive extras, but soon become required pieces of equipment. The personal computer user frequently starts out using a small cassette recorder as a means for storing programs or data from his programs. After using a cassette recorder for a while, the personal computer user generally begins to hunger after a more exotic type of mass storage device -- typically, a flexible (floppy) magnetic disc recorder.

Having purchased one floppy disc recorder, the user's next step is to buy several additional ones. The second peripheral, most usually added to the personal computer, is some form of paper printer. Once again, the user may start off with a relatively simple dot-matrix printer, selling for $400-$500, and will soon want a much more elaborate, more capable printer.

The personal computer is almost universally programmed in the computer language, BASIC. BASIC is a very good language for the personal computer since it is relatively easy to learn and it is an inter-active language. In other words, it will execute program lines as they are entered and will quickly identify simple programming errors. There are disadvantages to using BASIC, however, and the more advanced personal computer enthusiast frequently adds more powerful languages, with Pascal currently being a favorite. The hardier enthusiasts also resort to programming their computers in its inherent native machine language.

WHAT TO DO AFTER HITTING RETURN

There is a book with a similar title -- referring to the need to press the carriage return key on the terminal after entering a computer command. Now that you have obtained a personal computer, what next? The most commonly asked question about personal computers is, "What are they good for?"

A number of personal computer enthusiasts have gone to great lengths to document applications for personal computers. According to recent surveys, the four top applications for the home market segment of personal computers are: games, financial planning, education, and banking.

Of these four applications, game playing is the most common. But the personal computer makes a very expensive toy. Other applications, such as financial planning and an application not listed, word processing, are perhaps more meaningful uses of the personal computer. Lately, the use of personal computers for education has been receiving a considerable amount of attention. Some colleges have recently required that all entering freshmen buy a personal computer, and many secondary schools are buying personal computers for use in the classrooms.

There are many applications, and the real personal computer enthusiast never tires of finding more applications for his or her personal computer. Data Systems Division employees probably have a greater than average interest in personal computers because of our exposure to electronic systems

EMPLOYEES ARE USING PERSONAL COMPUTERS ℂ···ℂ···ℂ

The popularity of personal computers is evident among Data Systems Division employees, at home and at work. Some employees who are well versed in computer technology have progressed to sophisticated, expensive machines. Others are starting modestly and using less expensive models for fun and as a learning experience for themselves and their children.

PULSE asked employees about their interest in personal computers at home. Here are some responses from a number of employees:

Q.   What are you using your personal computer for?
A.   Learning BASIC ... modeling profiles ... program writing ... communicating with big computers via modem ... games ... personal finance, household budget ... catalog stamp and coin collections ... stock market/real estate/ investments analysis ... mortgage loan rate/payment schedule ... family genealogy ... word processing ... astronomical calculations ... engineering analysis ... ham radio.

Q.   Should others acquire a personal computer?
A.   Yes, eventually they will be used everywhere ... No, only if you have a use or need for it and the interest to learn to use it. It can be a pretty expensive lump on the table if you don't use it ... Yes, to become computer-literate. It has been predicted that in 10 years 85% of offices will use a form of computer-related electronic work station ... Yes, the mental exercize is exhilarating ... Yes, if you have time for it. Otherwise it will wind up on your closet floor.

Q.   What's the best way to learn about personal computers? How does one decide which computer to buy?
A.   Ask a lot of questions ... Have an affair with one ... Watch the sales ... Study user manuals and trade magazines ... Take courses ... Just dive in ... Check costs and software availability ... Depends on the uses you want it for ...

Q.   What about user groups?
A.   Local user groups can be helpful. Some employees are members of: Manasota IBM-PC User Group; Heath User Group; Atari User Group; Forth Interest Group: AIM-65 Users Group; TRS-80 Users Group, DECUS, etc.

Fairchild Weston Systems employees are also a source of computer expertise for the community. Some of our experts share their computer knowledge with the School system through advisory committees, or community speaking engagements, or helping with User Groups, and also aiding community agencies to select the proper equipment for computerizing their activities.

In-house, our business requirements utilize different kinds of computers for a wide variety of uses -- electronic spreadsheets, graphics, word processing, activity and project scheduling and monitoring, engineering analysis, simulation, electronic mail, and various types of data manipulation.

One of the best reasons for having a home computer was reported by one of our colleagues:
"My son is a quadriplegic and homebound. The challenge of learning about and using the personal computer has given him a new outlook for living a useful, meaningful, productive life. I hope that using a personal computer may enable him to start a business at home or lead to a computer-related occupation in the future."

ℂ···ℂ···ℂ···ℂ···ℂ

Doonesbury

PERSONAL COMPUTERS AT HOME

Employees are using various personal computers at home. Here's a partial list:

ATARI
George Bennett
Woody Griggs
Dave Harmas
Barbara Kinney
Willard Zoerner

COMMODORE VIC-20
Barry Dufour
Richard Dungan
Chris Freeberg
Clarence King
Burt Schmitt
Art Tackman

COMMODORE 64
Ronnie Sumner

APPLE II
Paul Copen
Ron McDeed
Hans Napfel
Mike Russell
Ron Spadoni
Jim Wayda
Scott Zeiner

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS 99/4A
Jim Horvath

AIM-65
Bill Waggener

PC-2 (RADIO SHACK)
Chuck Berster
Bill Waggener

SINCLAIR ZX 80/81
Jack Cain
Dan Harriger
Milt Litwiller
Bill Miller
Paul Taylor
John Young

HEATH
Joe Faso (H89, H11)
Mike Smith (H8)

TRS-80
Chuck Berster
Barry Campbell
George Emigh
Bob Heaton
Barbara Kinney
Gil Pelowski
Jim Schadl
Bill Waggener
John Young

As our Quality Circles program grows, more and more employees are becoming directly involved. How do individual employees and managers feel about participating in Quality Circles? PULSE visited with some employees and managers this month and asked their views.

Employees were asked: "As a member of a Quality Circle, how did you feel about the Management Presentation your Quality Circle gave?"

Managers were asked: "What were your reactions to the Quality Circle Management Presentations you attended?"

Here are their replies:

BUNNY McFARLAND, Stockroom
7 O'CLOCKERS Circle

At our Management Presentation I was shaking like a leaf in the wind. After a few minutes the nervousness left as we got into our project. The members of management and Advisory Committee asked good questions, and we had a chance to answer some questions. We are all pleased with our first project and our solution, and got very good feedback from our Managers. The thing I like about Quality Circles is that it helps with communications between departments, and gets us working together to solve our problems. All the members of our department gave us inputs, and added things we Circle Members forgot. I like what we accomplished. Since Quality Circles got started, people are more willing to listen.

WAYNE LOCKWOOD, Data Recorders Engineering
Tape Engineering Circle

During rehearsals, I believe some of our group were apprehensive. But our presentation to our Manager went smoothly, and we were given the go-ahead for our project. The Quality Circles procedure helps to develop skills. It permits us to act in a managerial manner -- presenting coherent, organized facts for a decision. It helps show talents at our level that management may not even realize we have. It provides us the opportunity to develop better mutual understanding and upward communication. Through our Circle we have been able to let our Manager know that some departmental training was needed to better equip us to do our jobs more efficiently. So now at our Department meetings we have guest speakers brief us on certain technical areas helpful to our whole group.

Bunny McFarland   Wayne Lockwood   Rita Keen   -4-

Bob Grados   Jacque Matthews   Jim Huffman

RITA KEEN, Telemetry Final Assembly
Ms. WITS Circle

At first I must admit I was discouraged with the amount of paper work and preliminary effort involved. When I began to draw my cause and effects diagram (which showed the major problems with our wire lists) it became more of a challenge which I felt good about. After the presentation to our entire department, our fellow employees encouraged us and cheered us on. We felt our management presentation went extremely well and we were encouraged by their responses. At this point in my life I want to grow, so I feel Quality Circles is for me.

BOB GRADOS, Machine Shop
Flamboyant Nuts & Bolts Circle

The Quality Circle Management Presentation process is exhilarating. At first it is scary -- would we be able to put our point across? Knowing that the audience included members of management who can do something about our project was great -- rather than just have us gripe about a problem. We had their complete attention. After our group finished the presentation, we felt we had accomplished something. They said it was a great idea and backed us 100%. Nobody said "change this or that." To have that compatibility among the Circle members and members of management is fantastic. You feel "somebody is listening." I'd like to say a personal word of appreciation about Dexter Nash. I've learned a lot from him. He showed me how to get things across to your listeners. Right on, Dexter! Keep up the good work.

JACQUE MATTHEWS, Data Recorders Test
Reel Problems Circle

Before our Management Presentation I was really nervous. During the presentation, as everybody in our Circle had their part to do, it was interesting to see how we Circle members were able to show our problem and describe the pro's and cons. Afterward, I thought we did an excellent presentation and felt it was impressive. The next step is a prototype of our project (an improved test rack) and its evaluation.

CIRCLES ⊙⊙⊙⊙⊙⊙

JIM HUFFMAN, Metal Fabrication
Thursday Noon Live Circle

As we were getting ready for the Circle Management Presentation, I was frankly skeptical. During the presentation, I was very nervous and didn't know what reaction to expect from the members of management and Advisory Committee. As they started to ask questions, I realized there was something to this. After the presentation I was no longer skeptical. The audience was enthusiastic. We liked the interest shown and the questions asked by Ray McPartlin, Malcolm Unsworth, Dave Clouse, Dick Veigel, and others. I think Quality Circles is one of the best things that has happened here. It will work if people give it a chance and a little time to prove itself. More people should take the time to visit their Department Quality Circle meeting and see what all is involved so they can get a better understanding of how it works.

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

We are on the threshold of new opportunities in our Quality Circles program. The initial seven Quality Circles have completed their first management presentations in which they demonstrated the tremendous people power we have here at Fairchild Weston.

The ideas and solutions described during these presentations will make our departments and sections, and our Division, more effective today and tomorrow. In these dynamic times we are constantly challenged with new opportunities. As we grow and change, Quality Circles allow input on the best methods and systems to be utilized. Our effectiveness depends on your input.

Congratulations on the first Quality Circle management presentations. Keep up the good work!

R. J. Keller
General Manager

MANAGEMENT TALKS ABOUT QUALITY CIRCLES

MALCOLM UNSWORTH, MANUFACTURING DIRECTOR

I have had the opportunity of attending six Quality Circle group presentations during the past three months. Each group presented their subject in a clear, concise manner. The material was well documented, and the participants were very well versed on the topics presented. The subject matter was well defined and the results were extremely worthwhile.

These presentations have indicated what can be done during the early stages of the program. All of the participants should be very proud of being part of the Quality Circle program. I am personally looking forward to being part of the next round of presentations.

Well done.

GRAY COZART, CONTROLLER

I was favorably impressed with the attitude the people demonstrated. They were very sincere. I have always believed that the employees who are closest to the action can make or break a company, and these people who work at Data Systems Division are going to be successful. I fully support and appreciate their efforts.

DAVE CLOUSE, MANUFACTURING MANAGER

I have been very proud of the people who made their management presentations. Their projects have all been tremendous and they have all done an outstanding job in their presentations. It is so encouraging to see employees, supervisors and managers working so well together to achieve a common goal. I couldn't be more impressed!

JOHN KERWIN, MATERIALS MANAGER

My reaction to the Quality Circle presentations I have attended was mainly a feeling of pride in those who participated. It was obvious that the Circle members were also proud of their work, and rightly so. Their projects were well identified, thought out, and implemented, I wish that more people who aren't yet directly involved in a Circle could get an opportunity to see these presentations.

FRANK BLOECHL, MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING MANAGER

It is a definite advantage to both the employee and the company for everyone to become conscious of cost reductions. Quality Circles is doing a good job toward this end. It is obvious that there is enthusiasm and pride in the presentations made by the Quality Circles, as there should be, since the presentations I have seen have been excellent.

MARTIN MARIETTA ORDERS NEW SYSTEM

Our Telemetry Group has received an order from Martin Marietta, Orlando, Fla., for a 700-series system and software. Our equipment will interface with the customer's PDP 11/34, and will assist in evaluating performance data in early phases of the Lantirn program. The Lantirn project is a fire control system for single seat aircraft. A Sabre 80 is also involved in the system.

Art Kelley, Ken Slezak and Dorothy Watson were part of the proposal team, and Dave Lyon is Project Engineer for our system. Don Worthington is System Technician, and the Software team includes Kathy Bossert and Beth Putnam.

NEW MACHINE HELPS OUR P.W. ASSEMBLY

A new version of the Ragen component insertion machines is now in use in our Printed Wiring Assembly area. The new unit is a semi-automatic machine which aids Assembly Operators in locating the proper part and the correct insertion place on complex printed wiring boards.

In operation, a light in the shape of a small arrow is projected down from an overhead projector onto the printed wiring board which is held in a fixture in front of the Operator. The arrow has been programmed to point to the location where the part is to be inserted. At the same time a light appears in front of the bin from which the component is to be taken.

This process helps to reduce search time and improves accuracy by consistently identifying the proper part and bin location.

The new Model 210 Ragen is replacing our present older versions of the Ragen machine. One main reason for replacement is that new machines are microprocessor-controlled. This substantially reduces the programming time involved and makes ECO changes much simpler than on the old paper tape controlled machines.

Another big plus is that the new machines can be easily programmed by the Operator as the first board is assembled. The program is then saved via a standard audio cassette tape for future use whenever that particular P. W. board is assembled.

The new machine also uses a different bin system which avoids the additional bin-loading step previously required by the old machine.

"We are confident that this new generation of Ragens will help us in improving our productivity and assuring high quality -- which is important to our company's position in the marketplace," said Mike Moninger of Production Engineering.

Plans are to add four more identical machines as soon as possible.

ANGELO JAIS

Angelo Jais, employed with Data Systems Division since 1978, died suddenly on January 29. He worked most recently in our Stockroom. Angelo was a veteran of World War II and Korea. He was a sports enthusiast and at one time pitched with the New York Giants AAA League team. He leaves his wife Marjorie, a son, Larry, and daughter, Maureen. Angelo will be missed by his many friends and colleagues here.

Susie Carrico at new Ragen component insertion machine, with Mike Moninger, of Production Engineering, and Supervisor Bob Johnson.

OUR CVR ON NEW AIRCRAFT

Our Fairchild Cockpit Voice Recorder was aboard the successful maiden flight of the new SF340 Saab-Fairchild twin turboprop 34-passenger regional airliner and executive aircraft in Linkoping, Sweden, on January 25. The new commercial aircraft is a joint venture of Saab-Scania AB of Sweden and Fairchild Industries, Inc., of the U.S.A.

CONGRATULATIONS!

RICHARD PAINTER (Telemetry Marketing) and Lee Pallaria were married on January 29 in Clinton, N. Y.

MIKE SMITH (Data Recorders Engineering) and ANNA MARIA SMITH (Labor Entry Group) are the proud parents of a daughter, Michelle Lynn, born on February 6. She weighed 7 lb. 7 oz. at birth.

JOHN BURR (Printed Wiring Assembly Test) and his wife Tonja welcomed their new son, David Michael, on February 9. He weighed in at 9 lb. 14 oz.

ALICE KETRON (CADDS) has completed a six-months course leading to State licensing in massage therapy. Alice will be taking the State Board exam for Florida Licensing in May.
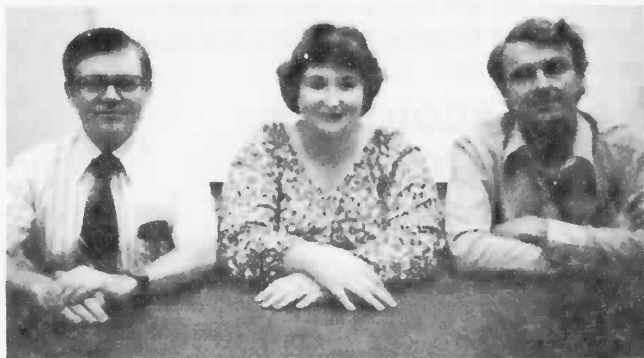
HIGHEST DIVIDEND PAID BY CREDIT UNION IN 1982

Credit Union members met in our Cafeteria for the 16th annual meeting on January 31 to hear reports on the status of the Credit Union and to elect members of the Board of Directors and Committees.

Don Parker, outgoing President, reported the 1982 annual dividend rate of 7.5% was the highest ever paid by our employees Credit Union. The Credit Union has assets of $581,000 and over 580 members.

General Manager Joe Keller said he supports the Credit Union as a good employee benefit and urged 100% participation by all employees.

Some 11 prizewinners won cash awards at the annual meeting. First prize winner of $35 was -- Joe Keller! He turned his prize money back to the Credit Union treasury. Prize money was contributed by the Company.

New Credit Union Officers and Board members are: (seated) President Scott Blair, Vice-President Roy Hollifield, Treasurer Ed Annaratone, Secretary Berenice Henderson, Assistant Treasurer Walt Knopik, Office Staff Toni Sleeman and Lillian Conway; Jud Strock and Don Parker.

Earl Studenwalt, Cinda Whaley and Mike Russell form the 1983 Supervisory Committee.

The Credit Union's 1983 Credit Committee consists of Chairman Paul Copen, Beth Jenkins and Dan Harriger.

RUNNING TEAM DID WELL IN GASPARILLA CLASSIC

Congratulations to our company-sponsored running team which did well in the February 5 Gasparilla Distance Classic in Tampa. All five men completed the 9.3 mile distance against some 5,700 runners who started the race. The Fairchild Weston runners placed as follows:

	Time	Place
Bob VanderVliet	56:44	400
Francis Wozniak	1:05:22	1157
Ray Sola	1:05:55	1232
Rob McLendon	1:13:28	2297
Ron VanderVliet	1:15:38	2580

Two of the men -- Ray Sola and Rob McLendon -- had never run this long a distance prior to the 9.3 mile event. Special recognition also goes to our father-son duo -- Ron (Dad) and Bob (Son) VanderVliet. Nice going, men.

PRE-RETIREMENT PLANNING

Thinking about planning for retirement? For some handy literature, please stop by our Benefits Office in Personnel, and consult some of the materials available in the hall bookcase.

LOCKHEED ORDERS MORE CVR SYSTEMS

Lockheed Aircraft Service Company, Ontario, Calif., has notified our Fairchild Aviation Recorders group that it is exercising contract options to order nearly 400 additional Cockpit Voice Recorder systems.

The Fairchild Cockpit Voice Recorder will be produced in Sarasota for installation on U. S. Air Force C130 and C141 transport aircraft. Production of these CVR systems will extend through 1984 and is part of our regularly scheduled production effort.

PLEASE?

Yellow Fire Lanes are being painted in our parking areas. Your cooperation is needed to assure that the Fire Lanes are kept clear for use by emergency vehicles. If your parking area is completely filled up, please use the Green (south) lot or the Visitors Parking area adjacent to the northeast fence. Thank you for helping.

OUR NEWEST RETIREES

Frances Karcanes, of Aviation Recorders Assembly, and Glenn Campbell, Supervisor, Plant Engineering, have selected February 25 as the day to bid goodbye to their Fairchild Weston colleagues and begin a new adventure -- retirement.

Frances joined us in July, 1959, and has worked in a variety ofAssembly sections on numerous products over the past 23 years. She elected early retirement to enjoy some trips and more time with her husband Jimmie. To begin, they plan to leave on a four-month trip to Spain and Greece in April. Later Frances will be puttering around her house and yard, and enjoying her grandchildren, plus fishing in Lake Okeechobee on board their small boat.

For Glenn Campbell, "retirement" means many activities. "I want to become as well known in the art world as I am in this plant," Glenn said. He is skilled in creating original ceramic designs, and has three kilns -- two electric kilns and one gas kiln he plans to install in his home studio. Glenn and his wife Marianna (Printed Wiring Assembly) will be traveling to various arts and crafts shows where Glenn's ceramics will be displayed.

He expects to take some courses to explore other varieties of glazing for his porcelain and ceramic pieces. Most of Glenn's ceramics work involves flower designs. In addition to his plant maintenance and supervisory experience, Glenn is also a licensed hairdresser and a licensed floral designer.

Glenn completed over 13 years of service with our company. But his working days are not over. He and Marianna also plan some changes around the house -- closing the lanai for starters.

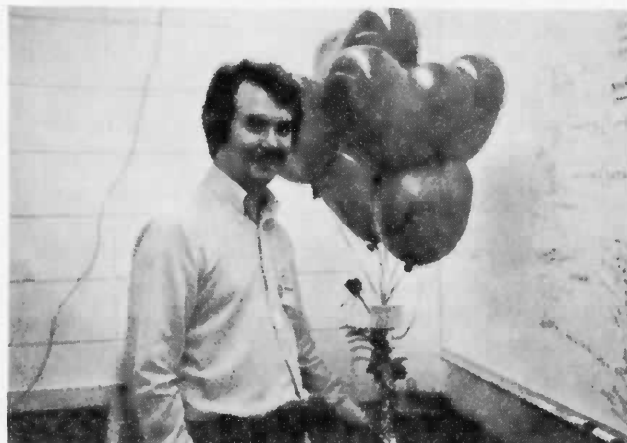All the best to our two newest Retirees -- Frances and Glenn.

Frances Karcanes and Glenn Campbell start retirement.

HELPING OTHERS

Ed Domrzalski, of Engineering, is teaching a Sign Language Class for communication with individuals who are hearing impaired. Ed teaches the class twice a year. The current sessions run from February 15 through May 17, at Faith Baptist Church, on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Cost is only $2.50 for the newrkbook. For details, please call Ed on Ext. 201.
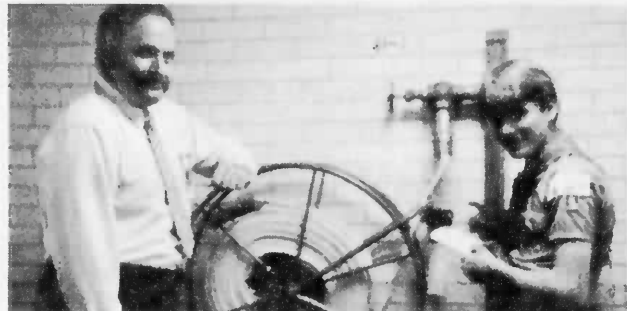
FEBRUARY THE MONTH FOR

... Heart Month... Presidents' birthdays... National Black History observances... and Valentines.

Rick Pfefferle (Software Systems) received a valentine greeting from his wife Sheila -- a red rose and a bouquet of red heart-shaped balloons. It certainly brightened up the office and Rick's day!

HELPING SCOUT WIN SAFETY MERIT BADGE

Seth Russell, of Boy Scout Troop 95, recently went on a plant safety inspection tour with Roy Hollifield, of Personnel, as part of Seth's effort to win his Safety Merit Badge. Seth is the son of Mike Russell, of our Data Recorders Engineering Department. Seth is a Star Scout, working toward his Life Scout rating. His Dad is Scout Master in the same Troop. Seth is a good example of safety awareness -- at any age!

BOWLERS PLACE THIRD

A women's bowling team made up of Fairchild Weston people took third place in the Sarasota Women's Bowling Association City Tournament on Saturday, February 12. The participants were: Pat Wetjen, Karen Lewis, Debbie Woolard, Sonya Carlson (Wometco Vending) and Joan (Mrs. Larry) Foster. Their team scored 2,917, with handicap, to capture third place in the tourney. Sonya rolled a 218 in her second game. Debbie and Sonya also placed tenth in the doubles event with a 1210. The ladies are now eagerly awaiting their cash prizes.

A PERSONAL LOOK AT PERSONAL COMPUTERS

By Bill Waggener

and computers at work. Personal computer systems are being very effectively used for some of our business applications. The personal computer is very well suited to running financial programs, such as VisiCalc, which permits the user to do many of the simple bookkeeping functions commonly encountered in business. And there are many other business - and scientific-oriented applications of the personal computer which will promote the proliferation of these systems.

IS THERE LIFE AFTER BASIC?

Putting aside all ad agency hype, just what does the personal computer mean to the average person? This is where personal opinion enters the picture. Within the next few years, I believe we will see an enormous flood of used personal computers on the market.

Reasonably-priced, simple personal computers are now affordable to a vast portion of the population. Once the machines have been bought, there is a real question of how to use them. The use of the personal computer for entertainment seems short-lived except for the most avid game enthusiast. The novelty of writing computer programs will quickly wear off, and I would predict that many of the low-cost personal computers will eventually gather dust in the closet or be put up for sale. The personal computer enthusiasts will soon decide they need a more elaborate system and will soon outgrow the simpler systems. These users are probably in the minority.

Keeping home financial records on a personal computer is very nice until the system has its first catastrophic failure -- requiring the user to recreate the information manually. The use of the personal computer in education is now in vogue, although I'm not quite sure who benefits more -- the student or the teacher.

Dr. Richard Hamming, a noted mathematician, said, "The purpose of computing is insight, not numbers." This statement, I believe, is very applicable to the use of personal computers in education. A computer can be very helpful in teaching students things they are required to learn by rote, such as the multiplication tables. But great care must be taken in using computers to teach higher concepts.

Exposure of students to machines with keyboard inputs and CRT outputs is educational in itself, as many of the future offices and industries will require workers to use these devices. However, one must be careful not to draw the conclusion that the student who can program the computer in BASIC is automatically going to be a good computer scientist. One drawback in using a language such as BASIC for educational purposes in that programming in BASIC can lead to some poor programming habits.

The old programming adage "Garbage in, garbage out" still applies, and students must be able to recognize incorrect results from computer outputs.

All in all, it is a wonderful era for those of us who like to dabble in computer technology and the next decade is likely to reward us with personal computers with almost unimaginable power.
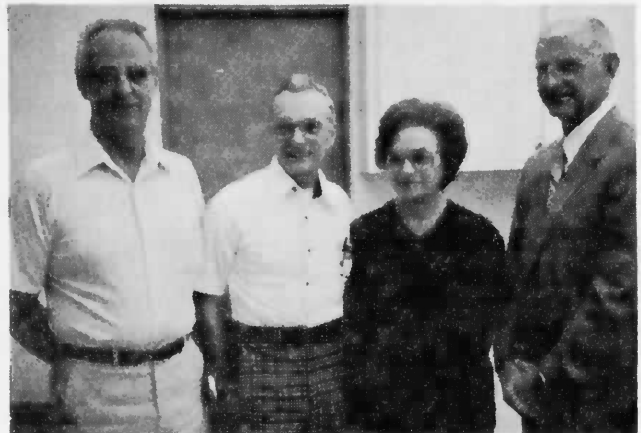
I just hope the next machine I want doesn't come out until my wife forgets about the money I have invested in my current computer.

SAFE -- OVER 700,000 HOURS

Sarasota employees of Fairchild Weston's Data Systems Division have achieved over 700,000 hours without a lost-time accident as we go to press. Remember, accident awareness and safe practices help us avoid painful injuries. Keep up the good work!

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

Congratulations to the employees observing major service anniversary milestones during February. At the top of the list are four long-time employees who are completing 25 or 20 years of service each.

Happy anniversary to Ken Clair (20 years), Gene Harbert (25 years), Irmgard McWhorter (20 years) and Frank McGowan (20 years).

Completing five years of service this month are: Norris Henderson, Jerry Lavelle, Thongvanh Keovilay, Chip Voss, Judy Boyd, and Sue Obenauer. Missing from this photo is Evelyn Busbee.

A VISIT TO OUR LAGUNA HILLS OFFICE

Greetings from the Southern California Sales and Service Office located in Laguna Hills. Here you'll find Regional Sales Engineer Terry Miller, Field Service Technicians Dan Rendon and Bill Young, and Secretary Dorothy Goedecker. Last October our offices moved to Laguna Hills from Irvine, and we are located midway between Los Angeles and San Diego.

This office interfaces with our clients from San Diego north to Santa Maria. Major accounts include the Pacific Missile Test Center, Vandenburg Air Force Base, and the large aerospace contractors in the Los Angeles and San Diego areas. Telephones are busy here, as you can see! Terry Miller is responsible for Telemetry sales. Bill Young and Dan Rendon handle the service for Recorders and Telemetry products. Although Keith Arrowsmith, Data Recorder Sales, does not officially work out of this office, his clients can contact him here.

Dorothy Goedecker and Terry Miller, in the Laguna Hills, Calif., office.

Dan Rendon, of Telemetry Field Service, in our Laguna Hills office.

Keith Arrowsmith, Data Recorder Sales

Bill Young, Recorders Field Service.

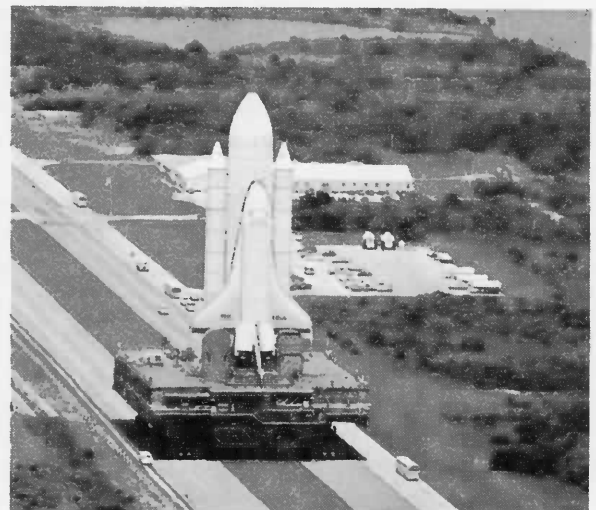# OUR EQUIPMENT HELPS WITH SPACE SHUTTLE

As the newest Space Shuttle is prepared for its next launch at Kennedy Space Center, our 400-series and 700-series equipments have been in use during pre-launch checkout and test firings of the engines. Excellent reports have been received on the performance and stability of our equipment, according to Wyatt Bishop, Telemetry National Sales Manager.

Our equipments are part of a PCM instrumentation system on board Mobile Launcher #2, to monitor the launch environment -- vibration, stress, strain, temperature, acoustics (sound pressure level). The 700-series equipment are at the launch control center and wave analysis lab.

The new PCM system replaces our old Model 230-series equipment -- part of the LUT FM/FM system installed in the mid-1960's.

A number of employees have visited the Cape to assist in preparing our equipment for the launch. They include Pat Bowers, Ray Thomas, Ron Vick, Russ Tatman, Frank Wakefield and Ron VanderVliet. In addition, Jerry Stubbs,

Jim Ratcliffe, and Joe Lazarony have serviced our Data Recorders involved in the Space Shuttle program at the Kennedy Space Center.

Space Shuttle on board mobile launcher platform.

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