



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

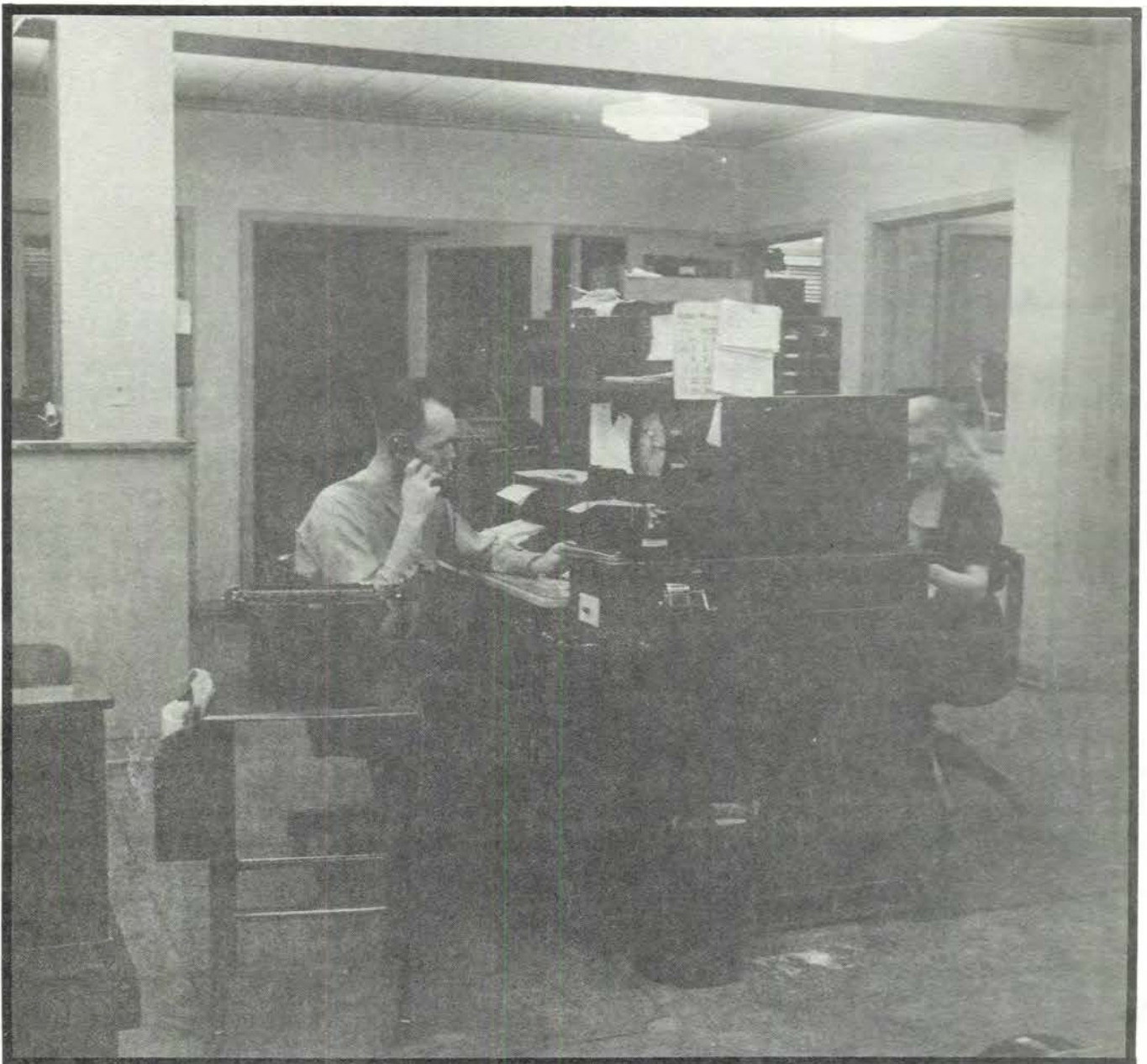
# intercom:

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Alaskan Region  
701 C Street, Box 14  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513  
(907) 271-5296

August 1986

86-14

## ***FAA Overseas Communications Station***



## Cover story

Paul Wilson (left), area supervisor at the old FAA Overseas Communications Station, Merrill Field, October 1945. Clare (?), checker, is on the right. This is the same building the Anchorage Flight Service Station is in now - just different people.

Thanks to Wilson, who is now retired from FAA, for taking the time to bring the cover photo in and for sharing it with the rest of the FAA folks.



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If you have questions, suggestions, or complaints, please call the Editor at 271-5293.

## Thanks, Ron

The Civilair Club, sponsor of the FAA picnic, would like to thank Ron Larsen, South Alaska Airway Facilities Sector, for donating handmade bolo ties and jewelry for door prizes at the picnic in June. According to one of the Civilair Club officers, the "lucky winners went away happy."



## Repasky saves \$

Congratulations to John Repasky, South Alaska Airway Facilities Sector, on his recent suggestion which is saving the FAA in the Alaskan Region over \$1,800 a month.

Repasky suggested to discontinue one circuit from the Kenai FSS and establish a two wire circuit from Kodiak air traffic control tower to Kodiak Alascom. The two wire circuit bridges the circuit that is the Woody Island remote control outlet from the Kenai FSS. This circuit now has the capability of handling additional tone circuits. This combining of circuits produced the over \$22,000 a year savings.



## News in brief

Administrator Donald Engen has designated Bob Whittington, ANE-1, to fill in for the departing Dick Jones until a new Deputy Administrator is named by the Reagan Administration and approved by Congress.

\* \* \*

It is time to use the new July 14, 1986, DOT telephone directory when calling FAA headquarters or any other DOT office in Washington. The new Northern Telecom phone system went into operation on the 14th, changing every number in the system. However, both the old and the new telephone systems were in operation until July 28. After that date, dialing an old number gets you an "intercept" operator who will help you place your call.

\* \* \*

The General Services Administration (GSA) will let agency and department heads decide by fall whether to permit smoking in common work areas. The move is an apparent retreat from plans to ban smoking in all public buildings except in designated areas.

The modification to a proposed regulation published in the May 22 Federal Register was attributed by GSA officials to comments received during the public comment period that ended July 21.

\* \* \*

In spite of rumors and protests (by a Lawton, Oklahoma business group) to the contrary, the Management Training School (MTS) is finally en route to the Daytona Beach, Florida area. The first class is expected to enter MTS at the new location in the fall of 1987.

\* \* \*

FAA's Alaskan Region is encouraging all pilots to participate in the Operation Lights On Program, and use their anti-collision lights anytime their engines are running. Pilots are also encouraged to turn on landing lights when taxiing onto an active runway, when operating within ten miles of an airport, where flocks of birds may be expected, or anytime when flying in marginal visibility.

\* \* \*

James Burnett, who had been renominated for his third term as National Transportation Safety Board Chairman by President Reagan, was confirmed by the full Senate on Monday, August 11, 1986. Burnett has been a board member since December 1981.

\* \* \*

As a result of new Performance Management System regulations issued by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), employee performance appraisals will be tied even more directly to awards and within-grade pay increases. The new system covers all General Schedule and Wage Grade employees. An agency work group, representing both supervisory and non-supervisory employees, convened to develop an appropriate system for FAA. Recommendations are now being incorporated into a directive which will be circulated throughout FAA before FAA's Performance Management System is in place in December or January of 1987.

\* \* \*

Halfway through 1986, the aviation safety record continues to show marked improvement over the same period last year, especially in the air carrier category.

\* \* \*



Air traffic control specialist Dwight Kramer (right), Kotzebue FSS, was presented a Special Achievement Award by his supervisor, Bill Penland.



Monte Larsh (left), supervisor, North Unit, Anchorage Sector Field Office, presents a Special Achievement Award to Steve Andrews, electronics technician, for an outstanding performance.



Henry Nakamura (left), operations planner, AAL-460, receives a Special Achievement Award for a sustained superior performance from Dale Steckel, supervisory operations officer, AAL-462.



Fred Keller (middle), automation specialist, Anchorage ARTCC, receives an Outstanding Performance Award from assistant manager of automation Buck Willoughby (right). Keller also received two Letters of Appreciation for his work on Mosaic EARTS from acting air traffic manager Mike Hessler.



Norma Bonewitz (right), personnel staffing assistant, AAL-14A, receives a Letter of Commendation from Director Frank Cunningham for her work as human resources assistant, AAL-1H.



Ricky Wilder (right), Anchorage ARTCC, is congratulated by his supervisor, Jerry Jones, for receiving an outstanding performance rating.



## Alaska gets hotline

The Federal Aviation Administration has begun testing a toll-free Consumer Hotline in the Alaskan Region.

Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Hanford Dole said, "We are offering consumers a convenient source where they can get information or register complaints on such matters as child safety seats, airport security procedures and carry-on baggage; or FAA services such as examinations, aircraft certification and facility operations."

Individuals calling the FAA Consumer Hotline (1-800-FAA-SURE) may expect a return call from an appropriate FAA official.

FAA's Hotline can not respond to consumer complaints concerning airline "service" problems, such as smoking sections on aircraft, lost luggage, flight cancellations or ticket refunds. FAA recommends consumers with complaints or inquiries about such issues first contact the airline's consumer affairs or customer relations office, frequently located at their corporate headquarters. Consumers who remain dissatisfied may contact the DOT Community and Consumer Affairs Office, which for Alaska, is located on the fifth floor of the Federal Building in Anchorage. The telephone number is 271-5147.

## NARFE meets

Anchorage Chapter 1779, National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Senior Center, 1300 East 19th Avenue.

A potluck begins at 6:30 p.m., and the business program begins about 7:15 p.m. The meeting lasts about one hour.

For additional information call (907) 272-2645, or write NARFE, Anchorage Chapter 1779, 2941 Princeton Way, Anchorage, Alaska 99508.



Competition is getting keener...are you?

## OPM approves airway science program

from: AAL-14

The Office of Personnel Management has approved a 5-year Airway Science Curriculum Demonstration Project for the Federal Aviation Administration. FAA initiated the Airway Science Curriculum as a method of preparing the next generation of aviation technicians and managers. The curriculum stresses hard science, the human side of management, knowledge of computers and, of course, aviation. For the next several years, the FAA will help to support Airway Science Education by hiring qualified graduates each year.

Aviation is in the forefront of technological change and progress. It is estimated that by the end of this century, the number of flights will more than double, the number of pilots will increase by 60 percent, and this country will have 800 new airports. The Airway Science curriculum was developed to ensure FAA meets the challenge and also to prepare our work force to cope with the sociotechnological forces of the future.

The Alaskan Region recently hired its "first" Airway Science Program employee. Richard Zdanoveck, an electronics technician, GS-856-7, entered on duty July 22, with the North Alaska Sector in Fairbanks. Zdanoveck attended the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, where he obtained an Associate Degree in electronics technology.

## People and awards

### \*\* SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD \*\*

William Herbert, formerly an electronics technician, NA-SFO, now at NA-AFS

### \*\* LETTERS OF COMMENDATION \*\*

Dottie Muhs, management analyst, AAL-62

Patrick Wilson, air traffic control specialist (ATCS), Fairbanks FSS

### \*\* LETTER OF APPRECIATION \*\*

Dottie Muhs, management analyst, AAL-62

### \*\* ON-THE-SPOT AWARDS \*\*

Helen Hall, general supply specialist, NA-SFO

Vickie Dukes-Mane, secretary, NA-SFO

Darrel L. Zuke, manager, NA-SFO

Hilda Elias and Lee Plummer, both from AAL-421

### \*\* 30-YEAR SERVICE PIN \*\*

Ray E. Marley, radar electronics technician, Murphy Dome

### \*\* 25-YEAR SERVICE PIN \*\*

Nelson Gnirke, AAL-451

### \*\* 15-YEAR SERVICE PIN \*\*

Allan Scott, avionics technician, Anchorage FIFO

### \*\* 3-YEAR SERVICE PIN \*\*

Jeff Wheeler, ATCS, Cold Bay FSS

### \*\* RETIREMENT \*\*

John Scukanec, ATCS, Anchorage FSS

### \*\* TRANSFERS/PROMOTIONS \*\*

Erniestine Fleece selected as manager, Labor Management Relations Branch, AAL-16

Dottie Taylor selected as manager, Employment Branch, AAL-14

Chris Novosad selected as manager, Budget Branch, AAL-31

Irene Gross, area supervisor, transferred from Fairbanks FSS to King Salmon FSS as air traffic manager

Ron Glonek, area supervisor, Sitka FSS, transferred to Northway FSS as air traffic manager

Earl Scott, area supervisor, Nome FSS, transferred to McGrath FSS as air traffic manager

Ed Wilson, ATCS, transferred from Kenai Tower to the Anchorage Tower

Ken Strong and Bob Grussenmeyer, ATCSs from Fairbanks Tower, transferred to Anchorage Tower

Allen Hoffman, ATCS, King Salmon Tower, transferred to Anchorage Tower

Don Hall, ATCS, Bethel Tower, transferred to Anchorage Tower

Quentin J. Gates selected as manager of the Anchorage ARTCC transferring from the Central Region Air Traffic Division (pickup date September 28)

James Washington, a former Alaskan Region employee, has been selected as the manager of the Logistics Division, AAL-50; he is transferring from Washington, D.C.

...continued...



Joe Buckley selected as the supervisory electronics technician (SET) at Anchorage ARTCC; formerly an ET at the Center

Sherrill and Don Czarnecki, AAL-421 and ZAN AF, transferred to the Academy in Oklahoma City as instructors

Shawn Keane, ATCS, arrived at Merrill Tower from school in Oklahoma City

#### \*\* WEDDING/BIRTH \*\*

Ted Wild, ATCS, Fairbanks FSS, married Janet Olson on July 16 in Fairbanks

Corinne Boes, ATCS, Sitka FSS, had a baby girl, Mindy, on June 24

#### \*\* DEATHS \*\*

Warren Mitchell, technician-in-depth, ZAN AF, passed away Monday, July 28, from a heart attack

The son of retiree Doug McCotter, former area supervisor at Fairbanks FSS, was killed in an auto accident on July 26

#### \*\* KUDOS TO \*\*

Earl Scott, ATCS, Nome FSS, was awarded a Beneficial Suggestion Certificate

Roger Dude, ATCS, Kotzebue FSS, has been working part-time as a volunteer policeman since May 1986

Sid Stone, retiree and former manager of FSDO-63, Anchorage, received a plaque from the Airmen's Association

## Around the region

The following letter, dated July 11, 1986, was sent to the personnel at the Bettles FSS:

"After a delightful trip up to Deadhorse and back to King Salmon, I just had to let you know how much I appreciate the help and hospitality that you extended to me and the other 99's on the flying adventure. The use of your backyard for setting up tents, along with the use of your indoor facilities, helped make our trip really enjoyable. And, of course, the briefings and other assistance were invaluable. Thanks for helping us to fly comfortably and safely...and keep up the good work!"

Sincerely,  
Cathy Wilson

\* \* \* \* \*

The Talkeetna FSS hours of operation were reduced on February 28, 1986, due to personnel shortage, with plans to return to normal hours of operation on July 20, 1986. However, circumstances leading to the reduction of hours are unchanged and these reduced hours have been extended through January 1, 1987.

\* \* \* \* \*

Friday, June 27, 1986, the Juneau Tower recorded the highest traffic count ever for the facility. Total operations for the 15.5 hour day was 804 operations, an average of about 52 operations per hour. This figure exceeded the previous record traffic day by 58 operations.

\* \* \* \* \*

The ground breaking for the new automated flight service station in Kenai was held on July 29, 1986. Kenai Mayor Tom Wagoner and Councilwoman Sally Balie, along with FAA personnel, were on hand for the ceremony. The winning bid was submitted by Woodard Construction.

\* \* \* \* \*



## Decrease in costs

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) recently announced a 7.5 percent reduction in Basic Life Insurance Rates which became effective August 1, 1986. The decrease will be reflected in the August 26 paycheck.

Under the revised rates, there were reductions in the premiums for Basic Life, all age categories of "standard optional," and in some age categories for "additional optional" and "family optional."

OPM Director Constance Horner said OPM ordered the reductions following a re-examination of recent experience under the program and the most up-to-date mortality and economic data.

For more information contact Jean Pershall, AAL-14D, 271-5816.



## Safety hotline used

The FAA's Safety Hotline has recorded 506 calls since it was established a year ago to provide a confidential link to FAA for use by those in the aviation community who have legitimate concerns about possible violations of the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR).

As of May 31, 384 investigations resulting from these calls had been completed. Fifty-nine of the 384 probes, or 11.7 percent, uncovered actual FAR violations. Of the 506 total, 191 calls concerned air carriers. And of the 125 air carrier investigations that were completed by May 31, 20 produced evidence of FAR violations.

The Safety Hotline's toll-free number is (800)255-1111.

## New phone number

The Personnel Hotline changed phone numbers on July 28:

NEW NUMBER - 267-8220

OLD NUMBER - 426-3934

## Did you know?

Did you know that news media interest and hence public interest in aviation safety has doubled in the past three years?

Did you know over 50 percent of U.S. air taxi accidents occur in Alaska?

Did you know that in the past eight months 36 people were killed in Alaskan aviation accidents?

Did you know that from 1980 to 1985 fatal accidents in Alaska were up 97 percent and fatalities were up 86 percent?

Did you know some pilots seem to think that because they are flying in Alaska, they should not have to operate by the regular rules of safety - that Alaska is different?

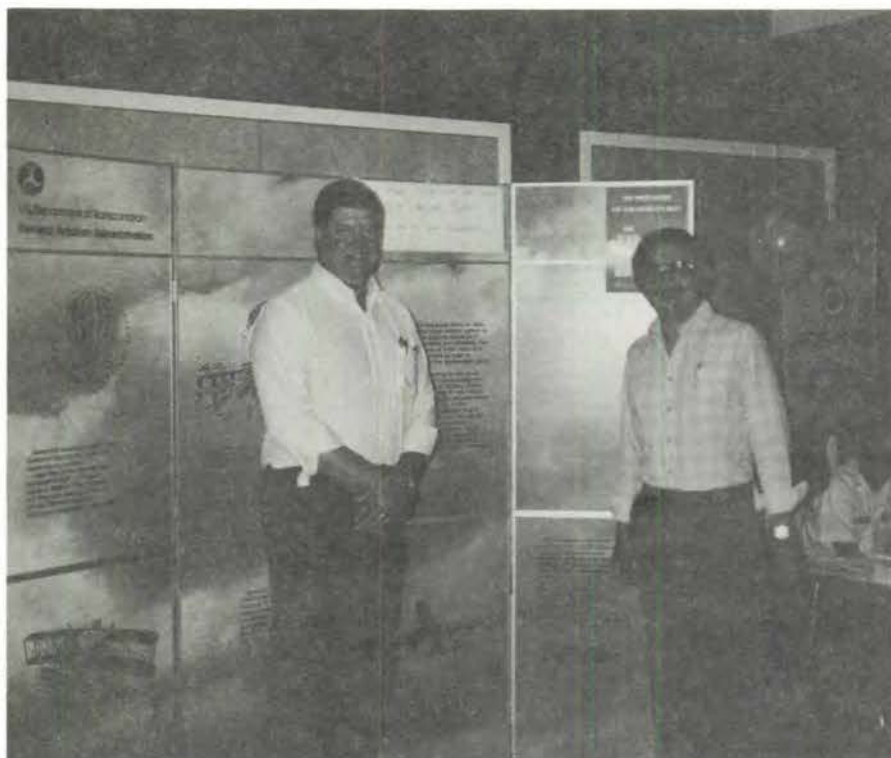
These are some of the reasons to support the FAA Safety Check Book program.

It is also a responsibility of FAA employees as stated in Order 1000.9D, Para. 6, "Any agency employee who becomes aware of an apparent violation, or an apparent lack of qualification on the part of any person subject to the regulation, must provide the responsible agency element with information concerning the violation or lack of qualification." (This order is not new; it has been in existence for some time.)

So become a part of the team by helping to reduce accidents in Alaska through use of the FAA Safety Check Book.



## FAA employees celebrate 50th anniversary



An open house was held at both the Juneau Tower and Flight Service Station on July 12. The Juneau Civil Air Patrol (CAP) assisted by providing five CAP cadets to serve as tour group escorts. Approximately 65-70 visitors toured the facilities during the four-hour period and many more visited the FAA information display set up in the airport terminal (see picture on left). Tom Meisner (left), air traffic control specialist, Juneau Tower, and Al Hester, supervisory air traffic control specialist (right), Juneau FSS, served as focal points for the open house program.

The picnic/ballgame that was held on July 13 in honor of the ATC 50th anniversary celebration was attended by approximately 100 people (see picture on right). It was held at the Abbott O'Rabbit Park, where the sun was shining and the ground was dry (rumors have it that in some places around Anchorage it was raining so a number of people assumed the picnic was cancelled). But those who did show up had a great time playing softball and eating refreshments provided by the Air Traffic Division, Billie Cox and Charlie Muhs.



## Medical notes - dental care

by: Mary Grindrod  
AAL-300

While I was in the dental chair a few weeks ago, I had the thought that all of you should have this experience. I was not having much fun and I almost passed out when I got the bill.

The biggest news in dentistry today is the growing awareness that patients share as much responsibility for their dental health as their dentists do. We should all be aware and have some knowledge about prevention and good oral hygiene. This should be a part of our daily lives.

The adult mouth contains 32 teeth. We have 16 uppers and 16 lowers that are shaped and positioned for the most efficient chewing of food. We need to preserve our teeth so they will last a lifetime.

The best way to deal with tooth and gum problems is to head them off before they start. Our saliva is one of the built-in tooth and gum protectors. It helps wash away particles of food and also inhibits the bacterial action that causes cavities and gum disease. Fluoride is also a major natural protector. Scientists have established a safe and effective level of fluoride for dental use.

The natural protectors are important; however, only good scrubbing will remove plaque from your teeth. Teeth should be brushed and then flossed to get in between the teeth. After brushing and flossing, you may want to rinse with a mouthwash.

Toothbrushes come in a variety of shapes and sizes. You should choose one that fits your mouth (a child's toothbrush should be selected for children). Soft bristles are the best for your teeth.

Because of the increase in awareness of good dental care there are fewer cavities. In the U.S. 37 percent of the children have never had a cavity. But nearly two-thirds still do develop cavities, as do adults, if tooth care is neglected.

Another area that the dentist is concerned with is periodontal disease. This is a disease of the tissue around the teeth. This is a progressive disease and may be characterized by tenderness, inflammation, and bleeding of the gums. If this disease is not treated, the tooth will be lost.

A person may experience root-canal problems. This is when the pulp that contains the blood vessels and other tissue of the tooth dies and pain will occur. The tooth may have to be extracted, but it is always preferable to try to save the tooth.

You may have a malocclusion. This is when the teeth fail to close properly and is caused by such problems as teeth that are over-large, crowded, crooked, and/or protruding.

Most of these major dental problems are hereditary. You may have wondered why some people are prone to tooth decay and gum problems while others go through life with hardly a cavity - heredity is the reason. Research indicates, however, that an immune system that is able to fight off mouth bacteria is inherited, but being able to fight decay and periodontitis is not inherited.

The American Dental Association estimates that some 35 million Americans suffer from dental anxiety. I happen to be one of those anxious ones. I know about modern dental equipment and that there usually isn't any pain involved, yet I remain anxious. Let me close by saying that after the visit is over and you know that your mouth is in good shape, it is a real good feeling. Well, until the next time ....



## 3-day program in NY

The National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Administration Employees has announced a three-day program of activities for its Tenth Annual Anniversary Convention and EEO/Civil Rights Conference to be held October 22-25 at the Viscount Hotel adjacent to the Regional Office in Jamaica, New York. Registration fees for all events is \$85.

For further information and registration contact Sherelle Carper, (718)917-1233 or FTS 667-1991.

## \$4.9 targeted to FAA

The House of Representatives has approved a \$10.3 billion fiscal year 1987 budget for the Department of Transportation with \$4.9 of the total targeted for FAA. During the budget debate, House members rejected, by a 226 to 193 vote, an amendment to require the rehiring of 1,000 air traffic controllers fired for participating in the 1981 strike. The amendment was strongly opposed by the Reagan Administration and Aviation Subcommittee Chairman Norman Mineta (Democrat - California).

The next step in the budget process is for Senate action on the bill, and then a joint conference to resolve any outstanding differences between the two versions.

## "Catch-all" bill

President Reagan has signed the "catch-all" spending bill that contained FAA's supplemental FY '86 budget request. The supplemental provides the agency with an additional \$84.2 million for Operations. FAA's original request to Congress was for \$80 million.

The bill also authorizes a \$72 million transfer from the Facilities and Equipment Appropriation to help fund the Advanced Automation System.

## FAA items for sale

Do you need a plaque or 14kt gold ring with the FAA emblem on it? There are a couple of companies around which specialize in making products with the FAA emblem on them.

One of the companies is owned by Ernie Ortiz, an air traffic control specialist at Miami ARTCC. The name of the company is ATCon Jewelry. His company makes and sells 14kt gold rings, watches (Seiko) and other fine items. If you have any questions you can write Ortiz at ATCon Jewelry; 6710 Bull Run Road 466; Miami Lakes, Florida 33014.

The second company is Dane of California which sells pen sets, plaques, name stands, buckles, badges, and more with FAA emblems on them. The address is 1546 21st Street; Manhattan Beach, California 90266.

## Court rules

The Supreme Court, in a 7-2 decision, ruled July 7 that the automatic budget-cutting mechanism in the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings balanced budget law is unconstitutional.

However, the decision does not invalidate the G-R-H law. It simply means that Congress no longer can farm out the budget-cutting process to the Comptroller General but must do the job itself.

# FTS

Federal Telecommunications System

**NOT**

Free Telephone Service

It's just plain illegal to use the FTS  
for personal business or pleasure.

Please use it wisely.

(Official, long distance calling in  
the conduct of government business)

