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Western-Pacific Intercom



SANTA MONICA TOWER

Cover Story

by Dave Diamon

Santa Monica, nestled against the northwest side of the Los Angeles International Airport, is a busy, single-runway, Level II air traffic control tower with the enjoyable task of servicing the corp-jet traffic generated by the airport's proximity to Century City and the affluent westside. The amount of this jet traffic, along with the airport's stringent noise abatement policies the fact that the Los Angeles Terminal Control Area actually determines the shape of the Santa Monica Air Traffic Area, and the sheer volume of primary training for foreign and domestic student pilots, makes the Santa Monica controller perhaps a bit uncomfortable when visiting a more unrestrained facility. The "wide-open spaces" seem, at times, unnatural.

Santa Monica Tower provides service to the pilot through cooperation with both Burbank and Los Angeles TRACONS. Although Santa Monica lies entirely in an airspace area governed by the Los Angeles TRACON, many of the approaches to Santa Monica's VOR-A are "turned on" by the Burbank TRACON. This is due to the runway configuration at Santa Monica Airport rather than proximity to Burbank. As the system stands now, Burbank TRACON hands the Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) aircraft off to Los Angeles TRACON which, in turn--utilizing Santa Monica's BRITE IV system--hands off to Santa Monica. Of course, at those times when Los Angeles TRACON is working the approach, Burbank has little involvement. Regardless of which facility initiated the approach, Los Angeles TRACON is the ultimate authority and assumes separation criteria responsibility.

Santa Monica Airport is also home to a

number of World War II "warbirds" like the F4U "Corsair" and a P51 "Mustang" among others. This gives the Santa Monica controller the opportunity to mix, say, an HS-25 on the approach with eight or 10 C150s or PA28s in the pattern and a "Spitfire" or "Sea Fury" on the overhead break. According to Santa Monica controllers, this is about the most fun one can have at work.

On staff are five Full Performance Level controllers--Dave Diamon, Yvonne Sandoval, Anthony Vella, Scott Duncan and Lori Collins; four developmental controllers--Robert Manuel, Mike Roundtree, Kirk Swanson and Fran Guerrero; Area Supervisor Brian Moore and Air Traffic Manager James Page.

When you find yourself in the position of being able to visit Santa Monica Tower, please enjoy yourself, but above all remember those famous words of Archie Leauge which have become the tower's credo, "Right turn approved at the shoreline for noise abatement, remain clear of the Los Angeles TCA, good day." See you at Santa Monica Airport.

Cover photos: Left--Controller Lori Collins monitors local control. Right--Controller Developmental Bob Manuel on ground control and flight data positions. Photos by Mike Roundtree.

Western-Pacific

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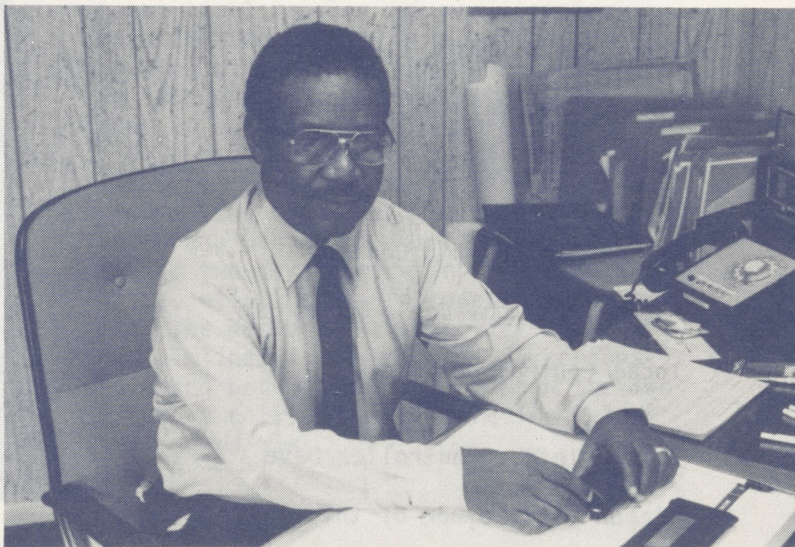
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SANTA MONICA PEOPLE

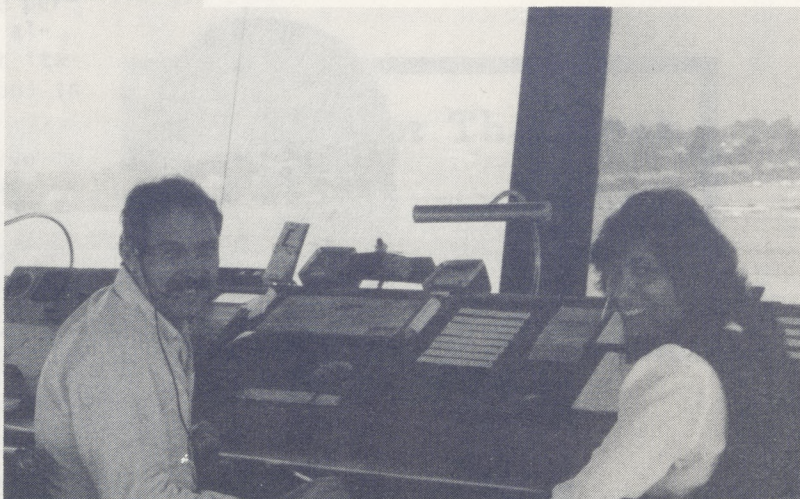
Right -- Santa Monica's Air Traffic Manager Jim Page.



Left -- Controller Yvonne Sandoval (left) receives a briefing for local control position from controller Scott Duncan.

Right: Developmental Air Traffic Control Specialists Kirk Swansom (left) and Fran Guerrero collaborate on flight data.

Photos by Mike Roundtree.



(Continue next page)

MORE SANTA MONICA FOLKS

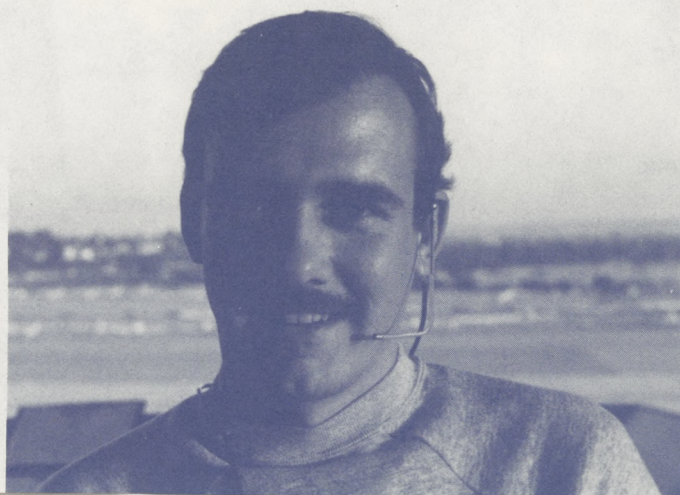
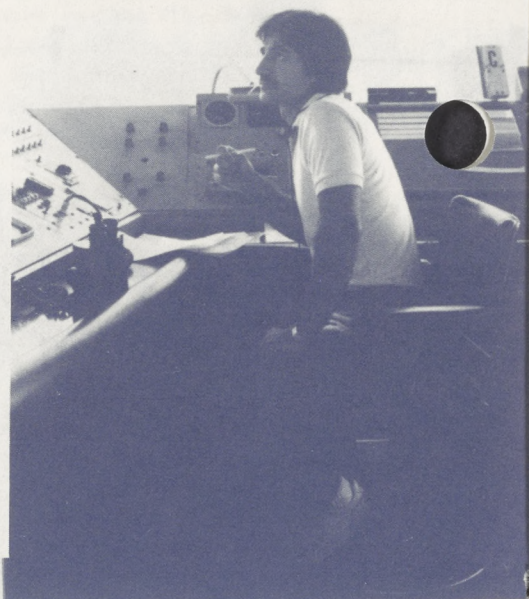
Top: Santa Monica Controllers
Yvonne Sandoval (left) and Lori
Collins.

Next: Air Traffic Control
Specialist Tony Vella works the
local control position.

Below, left: Controller Dave
Diamon (and author of this
week's cover story for
INTERCOM).

Below, right: Brian Moore per-
forms duties as area supervi-
sor.

Photos by Mike Roundtree.



The News

In Brief



It now looks like Federal workers will get a two percent pay raise in January. President Reagan recommended the pay hike on Aug. 28, noting that any larger increase would have an "adverse effect" on the economy. The raise -- the first in two years -- will go into effect automatically in January unless rejected by the Congress.

It's now official: the contract has been signed and the Management Training School (MTS) will be moving from Oklahoma to Florida in the fall of 1987. Embry Riddle Aeronautical University of Daytona Beach, FL, will provide the MTS facilities and support services and, in fact, is planning to build a new campus for the school at Palm Coast, FL. The estimated \$47.3 million contract covers a period of 20 years. Not included in the contract are the MTS instructors. The agency plans to award a separate contract for these services.

An FAA report says public concerns about possible terrorist activities put a severe dent in international air travel in the third quarter of FY 1986. Prepared by the Office of Aviation Policy and Plans, the report notes that revenue passenger miles by U.S. air carriers on international routes dropped 12 percent in the April-May-June period as compared with the same three months in FY 1985. However, the news wasn't all bad. APO's "Quarterly Industry Overview" shows that domestic carriers picked up part of the slack with a nine percent traffic gain for the quarter, allowing the airline industry to post its first operating profit (\$264 million) in FY 1986.

The agency now has commissioned two second generation Doppler VOR systems -- one at Riverside, Mo., and the other at New York's LaGuardia Airport. Over the next nine months, FAA plans to convert all 43 Doppler VORs currently in operation to solid-state Second Generation

equipment. The agency has purchased a total of 90 Doppler VOR modification kits from Northrop/Wilcox and the remaining kits will be used for training and converting selected conventional VORs to Doppler in the future.

NTSB has scheduled a public hearing for Sept. 17-18 on the midair collision between two sightseeing aircraft over the Grand Canyon on June 18. Witnesses at the two-day hearing in Grand Canyon, Ariz., will include representatives from FAA, the National Park Service and the two airlines involved. All 25 persons on board both aircraft died when the two aircraft collided when operating below the canyon rim.

Gary Otoshi Retirement Luncheon

Gary Otoshi, Manager, Investigations and Internal Security Staff, AWP-710, is retiring from the FAA. A luncheon will be held in his honor on Friday, October 3 at 11:30 a.m. at the Officer's Club, 2400 E. El Segundo Blvd., El Segundo, Calif.

For reservations or more information, please contact Olga Gomez or Nancy Holzhauser in the Civil Aviation Security Division, 213/297-1322 or 1323.

Thought For The Week

"Man/woman will find the greatest riches where he/she finds the joy in living."

-Leo Buscaglia

AF Helps Out "Gallant Eagle"

by Robert Barrows
San Pedro AF Sector Field Office

"Gallant Eagle" = That's the code name for one of the largest peace-time, military exercises of its kind. There were approximately 150 National Guard and Army troops of the 198th Signal Battalion (from the state of Delaware) stationed at FAA's San Pedro Hill Radar site for this exercise. Lt. Col. Boettcher, Commander of the 198th, and Al Groner, AF Sector Field Office Manager, were in constant communication to make this one of the best field exercises experienced by the 198th. This was reflected by an outstanding rating given to the 198th by Delaware Adjutant General's office. As this was a 24-hour operation, it was necessary for all the FAA Airway Facilities site technicians to become actively involved in the coordination, and still maintain their equipment in peak operating condition.

Although this generated an extra workload, they were happy to be involved, because of the great rapport with the 198th troops.

LTC Boettcher stated that in his 30 years of field exercises, this was absolutely the best supported exercise by a government agency that he has experienced.

The Gallant Eagle exercise lasted for one month.

Al Groner, site manager was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding support of the exercise.

Civilair News

Civilair still has "Good Any Day" Magic Mountain tickets available for \$11.95 each. This means a savings of \$4 per ticket (and no waiting in ticket lines at the park).

Magic Mountain has lots of fine entertainment lined up for the fall, including Chuck Berry, 9/20; The Spinners, 9/27; Juice Newton, 10/4 and The Four Tops 10/11.

To order tickets by mail, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Civilair Desk; Attn: Jane Presba; P.O. Box 92007 WWPC; Los Angeles, CA 90009. Be sure to include your check for the full amount.

Federal Employees Day Disneyland - October 13

Enjoy the best time of the year at Disneyland by coming to the Federal Employees Party at Disneyland on Monday, October 13, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person; children two years and under are free. (Regular tickets are \$17.95/adult and \$12.95/child).

Your party ticket includes:

-Admission to Disneyland and unlimited use of all attractions (except arcades),

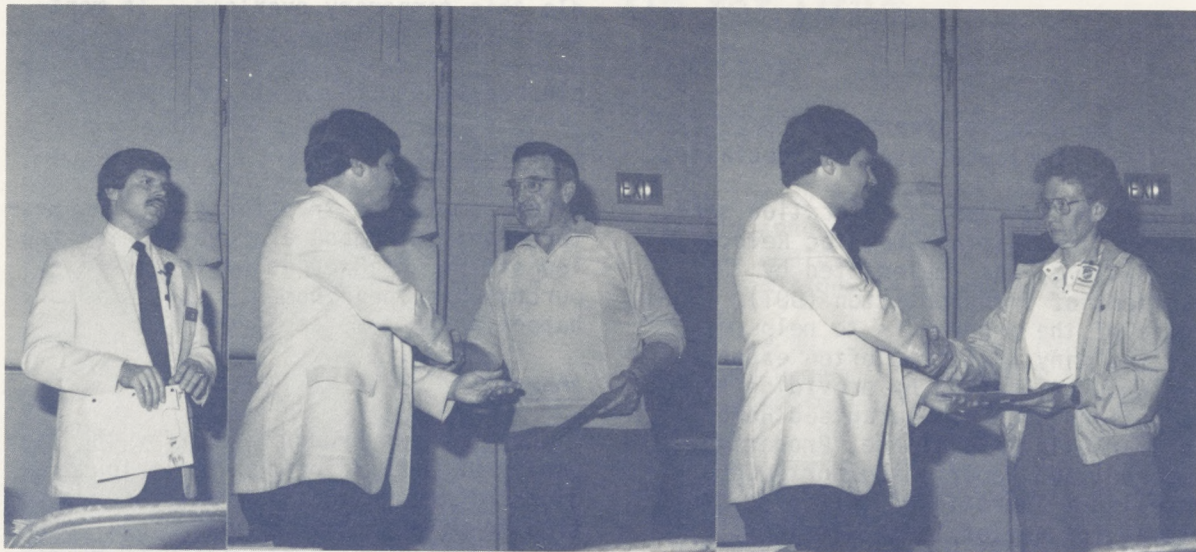
-Free parking

-Disneyland's newest attraction, the exciting 3-D film "Captain EO" starring Michael Jackson.

Tickets for FAA employees are available only from Civilair, and will not be on sale at Disneyland. Contact your Civilair representative, or visit the Civilair Desk on the 4th floor of the Regional Office weekdays, except Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For tickets ordered by mail, enclose a check payable to Civilair for the full amount and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Mail to FAA/Civilair, Attn: Jane Presba; P.O. Box 92007 WWPC; Los Angeles, CA 90009.



Fresno FSDO Active In Community Awards Program



Top left == Major Jim Nelson (right) with Civil Air Patrol, Fresno Group 12, is presented a certificate of Recognition by John Roach, Accident Prevention Specialist, Fresno FSDO.

Right == Lynn Ahrens (far right) accepts certificate in behalf of the President of Fresno Chapter of the Ninety-Nines.

The Fresno Flight Standards District Office == and in particular, John Roach with the Accident Prevention Program == has been very active in presenting Certificates of Recognition to deserving aviation organizations of the community.

Receiving Certificates of Recognition signed by Ed Hammonds, Manager, Fresno FSDO, were: Bakersfield, Fresno and San Joaquin Valley Chapters of The Ninety-Nines (the International Organization of Women Pilots); and the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary (Civil Air Patrol) = Commander, Group 12, and Commander, Merced Composite Squadron 47.

These organizations were recognized for providing facilities and sponsorship of several aviation safety education seminars in support of the FAA's General Aviation Accident Prevention Program.



Relocations Update

by Natalie Greenberg
Employee Benefits Specialist

On October 1, 1985, a relocation service contract, naming ChemExec Relocations Systems, was implemented by the Department of Transportation (DOT). The purpose of the program is to help relieve the many anxieties often experienced when relocating by providing service options such as Guaranteed Home-sale, Marketing Assistance, Property Management and Homefinding/Mortgage Counseling. There is no charge to the employee for any of these services.

As the Relocations Coordinator, I am repeatedly asked the same questions. Following are some of these, with appropriate answers. More Questions and Answers will appear in subsequent issues of INTERCOM.

Question #1:

What is causing the delays in the ChemExec Guaranteed Homesale program that did not previously exist?

Answer:

The employee transfer business in the current economic climate is experiencing a number of situations that had not previously been evident. One of the underlying factors contributing to the new circumstances is the lowered interest rate. With the large drop in interest rates, not only have the new home and resale market increases placed heavier demand on the loan processing end of the mortgage industry, but the tremendous number of homeowners refinancing their current residences, both to obtain lower rates and to get some of the built up equity out of their homes, has created paperwork and appraisal bottlenecks in the purchase and sales areas.

The basic difficulty is that there are not enough qualified appraisers to handle this temporary overload. If mortgage rates stabilize at current levels, however, this backlog of work should be cleared within the next three months.

Question #2:

Some employees transferring to the Western-Pacific Region are questioning the low offers ChemExec is making for the purchase of their homes. Why is this happening to some employees?

Answer:

The problems brought about by the disparity of housing prices in various regions of the nation will exist for some time to come. While a major portion of the Northeast and a few other parts of the country have witnessed housing prices skyrocket, properties in some sections, such as the Southwest, have appreciated little if at all.

Since this situation has been caused by downturns in industries not directly related to real estate, such as steel and oil production, we will have to wait until these businesses recover or are replaced by healthier ones. This could take years and is a much more serious problem than the delays brought about because of lower mortgage rates. Some of our employees have had to delay career progression because their homes have depreciated so much as to put them in a deficit equity position, which most cannot afford.



Miller Marks 30 Years



Congratulations to Phoenix TRACON Air Traffic Manager Dick Miller, who recently received his 30-year career service emblem. In the photo above, Regional Director Mac McClure, left, makes the presentation to Dick.

Bad Weather - Delays

The major reason air traffic delays have increased 29 percent this year over 1985 is the severe weather experienced over much of the country.

For example, the number of severe thunderstorms recorded by the National Weather Service jumped from 205 in the first seven months of 1985 to 282 in the same period this year -- an increase of 37 percent.

Similarly, reports of damage from winds of 50 mph or more and hail stones 3/4 inches or larger were up 13 percent for the seven months.

July was a particularly bad month with tornado reports up 60 percent and damage from high winds/large hail also up 60 percent in comparison to July 1985.

Agency Gearing Up for Drug Testing Program

The agency expects to begin its previously announced drug testing program for FAA employees in certain safety related positions in December or early January.

This target date was set following the award of a \$756,177 contract to Compu-Chem Laboratories of Research Triangle Park, N.C., which will assist the agency in establishing and implementing the program as well as performing the urinalysis function.

Approximately 24,000 of FAA's 47,000 employees who presently are required to take an annual physical as a condition of employment will be included in the program. Covered are air traffic controllers, flight service station specialists, pilots, safety inspectors and federal air marshals. Also included are operations officers, police officers, fire fighters and mobile lounge operators at Washington National and Dulles Airports.

Administrator Engen emphasized that the new program is not intended to be punitive in nature. "Our goal is to identify employees who may have a drug or alcohol problem, get them off the firing line, and provide them with an opportunity to enter a treatment program," he said.

Urine samples will be collected during annual physicals and sent to the contractor using procedures designed to insure the "chain of custody." Specimens will be screened for alcohol and a variety of drugs and those that produce a positive reading will be subjected to a more comprehensive confirmation test.

FAA employees who enter and successfully complete a treatment program may be returned to their original positions but will be subject to random drug testing for a period of one year. Refusal to enter a drug program will result in dismissal, as will a second offense.

FAA--FAA--FAA-FAA-FAA-FAA

Barainca Retirement Party Anchorage

Friends and co-workers are invited to a retirement party for Sabin "Bino" Barainca on October 4 at the Antelope Valley Country Club from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friends at Los Angeles Center extend the invitation through this poem:

ATTENTION!!!!!! ATTENTION!!!!!!

Come one, come ALL,
it's "RETIREMENT PARTY" time,
and we're gonna have a ball!

The FRIEND for whom
this gathering's to be,
is named SABIN "BINO" BARAINCA
you see.

The date set is SATURDAY,
OCTOBER the 4th,
the time is from 4 to 7 p.m.,
but of course.

Now this can't be held
in an old bar or pub,
so we're going first class,
to the A.V. COUNTRY CLUB.

It's \$10 per person,
but that will go far,
and say! did I mention,
there's "NO HOST" at the BAR.

And just so they can know for sure,
how much good food to fix,
try to have all names in
by SEPTEMBER 26.

Please call your reservations,
to the number here below,
(805) 947-4101 EXTENSION 230.

Employment Branch News

Like just about everyone else in headquarters, the Employment Branch of the Human Resource Management Division (AHR-150) has been having telephone problems in the transition to the new system. Division Manager Jim Adler says he knows this can be frustrating for people seeking job information or trying to file job applications.

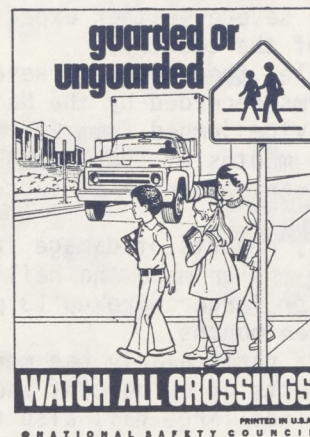
In another matter, AHR-150 has extended the comment period on the proposed merit system promotion order until Sept. 12. This leaves additional time for offices desiring a briefing on the proposal to schedule one by calling Judy Lucas on 267-3870.

Gets Radar

The Anchorage enroute center now has a new tool for tracking flights on the North Pacific (NOPAC) routes. On Sept. 1, the center began receiving remote radar beacon data via satellite from an Air Force installation on the island of Shemya near the end of the Aleutian chain that stretches out from Alaska toward Siberia.

With the commissioning of the new radar link, the agency was able to withdraw the controllers it has had stationed at Shemya since Sept. 1983 to monitor NOPAC flights and alert the Anchorage center to any course deviations. The controllers were assigned in pairs to two-week temporary tours of duty on the island.

Using information provided by the Shemya controllers and radar data re-moted from a new beacon radar system on St. Paul Island in the Bering Sea, the Anchorage center was able to alert 85 NOPAC flights to course deviations from Oct. 19, 1983, to July 19, 1986. In that same period, more than 86,000 aircraft used these routes.





**National
Hispanic
Heritage
Week**

"Top" Drawer Award

Hangar Six Manager Bernard ("Batch") Batchelder was the focus recently of a very unusual award ceremony. What made it unique was the fact that the award came not from FAA management but from Batchelder's own crew at Hangar Six, which is responsible for the agency aircraft based at National Airport.

Administrator Engen, a frequent user of Hangar Six services, presented the "Top Drawer" award to Batchelder and added his own personal congratulations for a job well done. "Top Drawer" is another way of saying the Hangar Six crew thinks Batchelder is first rate and, if there is any doubt, the rather lengthy inscription on the award plaque makes that abundantly clear.

It says, in part, that the Hangar Six chief is one of those people "who make this world a better place to live as well as enrich the lives of those who are privileged to know and work with them."

Update On Military Deposits

The first calculation of interest will be made during pay period 86-21 for those employees with an Interest Accrual Date (IAD) of October 1, 1986. The calculation will be based on the unpaid balance as of the close of business on September 30, 1986.

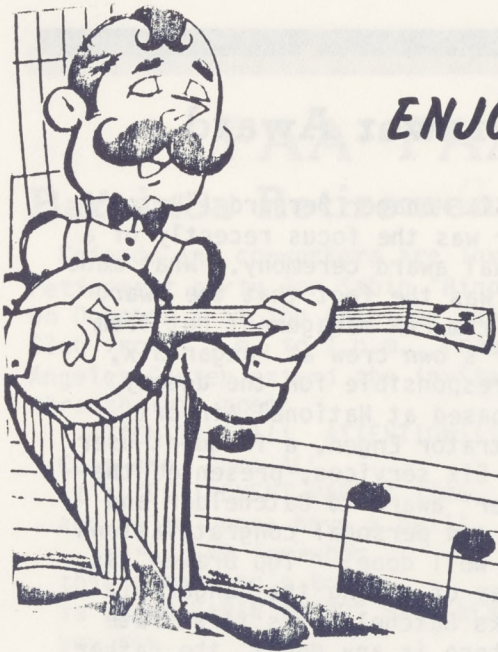
For those employees with biweekly deductions and an IAD of October 1, 1986, pay period 86-19 is the last pay date before the calculation of interest. It is the responsibility of these employees to contact their individual payroll offices for the balance of their account if they wish to have it paid off by September 30, 1986.

FAA Orders New Radio Control Equipment

AT&T has won a \$65.7 million FAA contract for new radio control equipment (RCE) that will improve voice communications between pilots and controllers.

The contract calls for replacing the present radio signaling and tone control equipment with the new solid-state AT&T gear at more than 2,000 remote communications sites, beginning in mid-1988. Contract options eventually could push the number of sites to over 4,000.

RCE is one of the almost 100 projects in the \$12.2 billion National Airspace System (NAS) Plan for upgrading and modernizing the entire air traffic control and air navigation system. AT&T already is delivering on another NAS Plan contract to replace the microwave system that relays radar information from remote antenna sites to FAA air traffic control facilities.



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PARTY

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OR THE CIVILAIR DESK
(4TH FLOOR, REGIONAL OFFICE)***

Tickets are limited.

No tickets on sale at Disneyland.



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MAGIC KINGDOM!***