

MELPARTICULARS

Volume 7, Number 6

E-Systems Melpar Division

October 1986

MELPAR HOSTS E-SYSTEMS PUBLIC RELATIONS MEETING

The Melpar Division was the site of a meeting of creative minds as the editors and other representatives from Corporate and the various divisions gathered for a September Public Relations Meeting.

The meeting brought together the writers of *Team* magazine and the divisions' newsletters to discuss innovative approaches to the dissemination of internal company news and information. Corporate Director of Public Relations John Kumpf also covered various Company public relations topics.

This two-day gathering opened with introductions and a greeting by Vice President of Employee Relations Tony DePasquale. Following an informal talk, the group toured the Falls Church facility with stops in the Duplicating area, the Photo Lab, and the Video Production area. After lunch, everyone attended the Air Force Association Show held at the Sheraton-Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The next morning, Kumpf spoke on some Corporate public relations subjects and solicited feedback from different division representatives. Following the discussion, a magazine feature writing workshop was given by Debra Stratton of Stratton Associates. Various ideas were covered,



The Corporate and Division public relations representatives and editors on tour of the Video Productions Lab at Falls Church.

including how to boost readership on company publications, improved creativity, content, format, visual presentations, distribution, and photographic innovations. Results of a *Team* Survey, which had been conducted by the individual editors prior to the meeting, provided feedback on employee expectations concerning this vehicle of corporate communication.

The meeting, discussions, and pre-

sentations proved very fruitful. Everyone enjoyed meeting each other, many for the first time and as one editor put it, "At least now I'll have a face to go with the voice when I call for news and information."

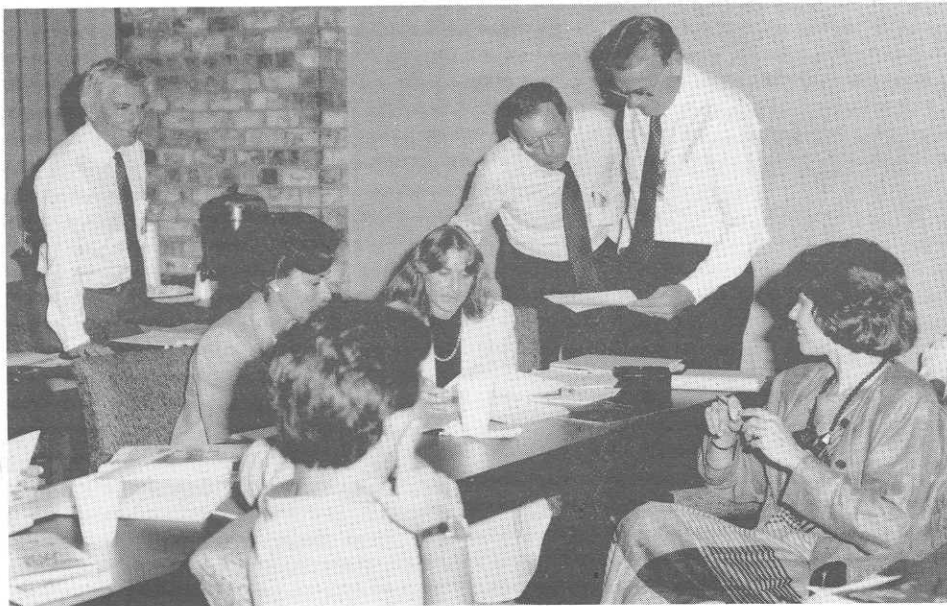
DIVISIONS' PRODUCTS DISPLAYED AT AFA SHOW

On September 16-18, Melpar, Greenville, and ECI representatives participated in the Air Force Association's National Convention and Aerospace Development Briefings and Displays held at the Sheraton-Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Melpar displayed its Communications DF System, Physical Security Sensor, Remotely Controlled ESM System capabilities, and Micromin and Nanomin Receivers. In addition, Melpar's Video Production group produced this year's Corporate-sponsored video show at the convention. The film, entitled "The Electronic Edge," ran approximately ten minutes. It was produced by Susan Love, directed by John Landers, and Tom Ryals was the cameraman on the project.

Approximately 8,000 people attended the AFA show. Based on initial reports, E-Systems personnel spoke

AFA SHOW Cont. on page 3



E-Teamers compare notes at the feature writing workshop.

Security Spotlight

Soviet espionage in the United States is an unpleasant but constant fact of life. The routine of Soviet espionage is carried out daily under diplomatic or other official covers in this country.

Soviet intelligence officers attend to seemingly innocent duties as consular officers, trade functionaries, or representatives of Soviet state-owned firms, but the bulk of their time is devoted to intelligence tasks. These may include agent control, arranging for meetings, picking up reports, providing new instructions or payment, considering possible security problems, reinforcing motivation, and completing administrative details. Other tasks may involve attendance at receptions, conventions, and similar functions to spot and develop people who appear to have potential for becoming Soviet spies. This is a low-percentage game, but to recruit people, you have to meet them first.

The candidate for Soviet interest may be quite unaware of the overall Soviet design. He or she may be a U.S. Government employee who has given some indication of financial distress; a business executive or military officer who cannot control liquor intake and permits compromising situations to develop; or university professors or students who welcome a relationship with a Soviet official. Other Soviet spy recruiters may work the cocktail circuits or the singles bars to find lonely individuals with access to secret information.

Containment of Soviet efforts to gain unauthorized access to U.S. secrets will remain a challenging task for the Government, defense industries, and for the many elements in American society that deal with sensitive national security information.

Any cleared employee, including those in the process of being cleared by DOD, are to notify Security immediately of all contacts with foreign nationals or representatives of designated countries.

MELPARTICULARS

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E-Systems Melpar Division

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Contributors: Dee Boysen, Peggy Byers, Mike Dutchak, John Landers, Evy Lowenstern, Kevin Martin, Bill Oldridge, Jr., Kathy Samples, Peggy Simon, Gina Smith, Cindy Strange

EMPLOYEE AWARDED \$500 FOR SUGGESTION



Technical staff member, John Pratchios, was awarded \$500 by Vice President and General Manager Talbot Huff for a suggestion

he submitted entitled "Reduced Computer Purchase/Maintenance Costs."

Library Up-date

If you have ever tried to track down information from the Federal Government, you know what a time-consuming and frustrating task it can be. However, a little patience, perseverance, and information can make the job easier.

There are several sources of information available in the Technical Library that can facilitate your search. The *United States Government Manual* is a good place to begin. The *Government Manual* provides comprehensive information on agencies of all three branches of the government, as well as quasi-official agencies, international organizations in which the U.S. participates, boards, committees, and commissions. A "Source of Information" section is included for each agency where you will most likely find a phone number to get you started.

From there it may be useful to consult the *Federal Yellow Book*. Although this book does not provide descriptions of departments and agencies, it does provide a more detailed telephone directory of federal departments and agencies than the *Government Manual*. The *Federal Yellow Book* gives phone numbers for individuals in specific offices and

usually provides a public information number for each department as well. This book is updated several times a year.

The *Department of Defense Telephone Directory*, which is published three times a year, is another useful source. This directory gives detailed listings for the Office of the Secretary of Defense and for each branch of the service. Related offices not listed elsewhere are in a "Miscellaneous" section. Another helpful feature is a directory, classified by state, of military installations and other major units of the Department of Defense.

If you are seeking information regarding congressional offices, the *Congressional Yellow Book* can direct you. In addition to providing general phone numbers for Senate and House offices, it lists phone numbers for each Senator's and Representative's office, congressional committees, leadership and member organizations, as well as congressional support agencies. The names and areas of responsibility of the staff of each Senator and Representative are given, as are the committee assignments for every member of Congress. This publication is updated quarterly.

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AFA SHOW Cont. from page 1

to as many as 900 people at the AFA display. Many of these encounters represent significant new business opportunities.

To improve the Company's return on investment and overall performance at trade shows, a Corporate trade show planning committee has been organized with representatives from each division. Dick Kolasheski and Peggy Byers are the representatives for Melpar. The committee is concentrating on all areas of trade show performance, including improved boothmanship, lead tracking, and a more professional approach in general.

Director of Business Planning and Support Dick Kolasheski commented on this new approach to trade shows. "I think that the creation of the trade show planning committee reflects the Corporation's increased interest in the trade show as a marketing tool," he said. "In today's competitive environment, you have to make the most of every business opportunity. The improvements being initiated by the committee have already increased our return on investment from the conventions, and I'm sure that this trend will continue."

Kolasheski added, "I think it's fair to say that Melpar has been a leader in the push for more effective trade show participation. Our booth personnel have been doing a super job and we're getting a lot of support for our shows throughout the Division."

SHIPLEY PRESENTS PROPOSAL SEMINAR AT MELPAR

Proposal writing is an essential skill for working in the competitive defense industry.

In February 1986, Melpar introduced a pilot program on "How to Write Winning Proposals," to help employees improve these writing skills. The course, presented by Shipley Associates of Salt Lake City, has been highly rated by Melpar participants. In addition, a special executive session was held for Manage-

ment in September.

The two-and-a-half day seminar, held both at Falls Church and Fairfax, involves intensive "hands-on" proposal writing. Participants work on three proposal simulations that have been specially designed for Melpar.

Classes are planned for October, November, and January, 1987. The next course will be held from November 21-27 at Fairfax in the mornings, and at Falls Church in the afternoons.



Melpar employees working on a proposal simulation in a class held at the Falls Church facility.

HEALTHTALK — EARLY CANCER DETECTION THROUGH MAMMOGRAPHY

Breast cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death in women now that the increasing number of women smokers has elevated lung cancer to the number one cause of death.

One of the best methods doctors have in fighting breast cancer is early detection — finding and removing the tumor before cancer cells spread to other parts of the body. Women of all ages are urged to examine their breasts for unusual changes such as lumps, puckering of the skin, or discharge from the nipple, and to have annual breast exams by their doctors. Because the risk of breast cancer increases dramatically as a woman ages, many doctors refer women over 50 for a mammogram. A mammogram is a special breast X-ray that detects tumors before they are large enough to be discovered in routine breast examination.

The most obvious difference be-

tween a mammogram and a regular X-ray is that the mammogram results appear on paper rather than on film. This provides doctors with a detailed geography of a particular woman's breast tissue. To make a record of a woman's breast, some doctors send women between the ages of 35 and 40 for a "baseline" mammogram. The baseline mammogram then can be compared with later mammography results to help detect subtle changes.

Mammography is highly successful at finding early-stage breast cancer. According to Dr. Robert Allen, a radiologist at Fairfax Hospital, studies show that 30 percent or more of the tumors found by mammography were not yet palpable (able to be felt). Other studies show annual mammograms help reduce breast cancer death rates in women over 50. For women under the age of 50, annual mammograms do not significantly change the breast cancer death sta-

tistics, but it is recommended that after 40 a woman should get serious about having mammograms with some degree of regularity. This is especially true for women with family histories of breast cancer or who have had previous cancers.

The American Cancer Society recommends a baseline mammogram between the ages of 35 and 40, a mammogram every two years from 40 to 50, and annual mammograms after 50. Some women have been afraid to have mammograms so frequently because ionizing radiation is a known cause of cancer. Others worry that frequent use of any diagnostic procedure increases the risk of misdiagnosis, such as missing the signs of cancer or identifying benign lumps as cancer. Dr. Allen admits that mammography will miss some cancers. Still, many more early-stage cancers will be detected than missed,

HEALTHTALK Cont. on page 7

Know Your Benefits... 1987 FLEXCOMP MEDICAL COVERAGE

With Flexcomp enrollment quickly approaching, Melpar will offer five medical options to choose from this year. The following overview details each plan and introduces Capital Care, Melpar's new Health Maintenance Organization (HMO).

Existing medical plans are designed to offer the best coverage for singles and families alike. The current Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan continues to offer three coverage options: Plans A, B, and C.

Plan A provides the highest level of coverage and pays 100 percent of basic charges (hospital, nursing home, and home health care) with no deductible. Major Medical (ambulance service, doctor visits, x-rays, medical supplies) is covered at 80 percent with a \$100,000 maximum benefit after a \$100 deductible is paid. Outpatient diagnostic x-rays and lab exams are covered under Basic at 100 percent for charges up to \$300. Major Medical picks up the remaining charges at 80 percent. There is a maximum of two deductibles per family per calendar year.

Plan B pays 80 percent of all covered charges with no maximum benefit after a \$150 deductible is paid. Plan B covers the first \$5,000 of medical expenses at 80 percent.

When eligible expenses exceed \$5,000 in a calendar year, the coverage increases to 100 percent. There is a maximum of two deductibles per family per calendar year.

Plan C also pays 80 percent of all covered charges with no maximum benefit. However, you must pay the first \$2,500 of covered charges for your family each year.

This year Melpar will be offering two HMOs at Flexcomp enrollment time. These are Kaiser Permanente and Capital Care. The HMO emphasis is on preventive care with most costs paid up front in the biweekly premiums. Generally, there are no claims forms to submit or reimbursements issued.

Kaiser Permanente medical services are provided by a "team" of doctors and nurses at a Kaiser Center convenient to your home or workplace. They offer 24-hour on-call service seven days a week. In 1987, Kaiser will be introducing several new additions to their list of available services. One new addition is the introduction of a new prescription plan called the 0-6 Plan. Prescriptions filled at an in-house Kaiser pharmacy will be at no cost to the individual. Those filled at an outside pharmacy will be \$6 each. Kaiser will

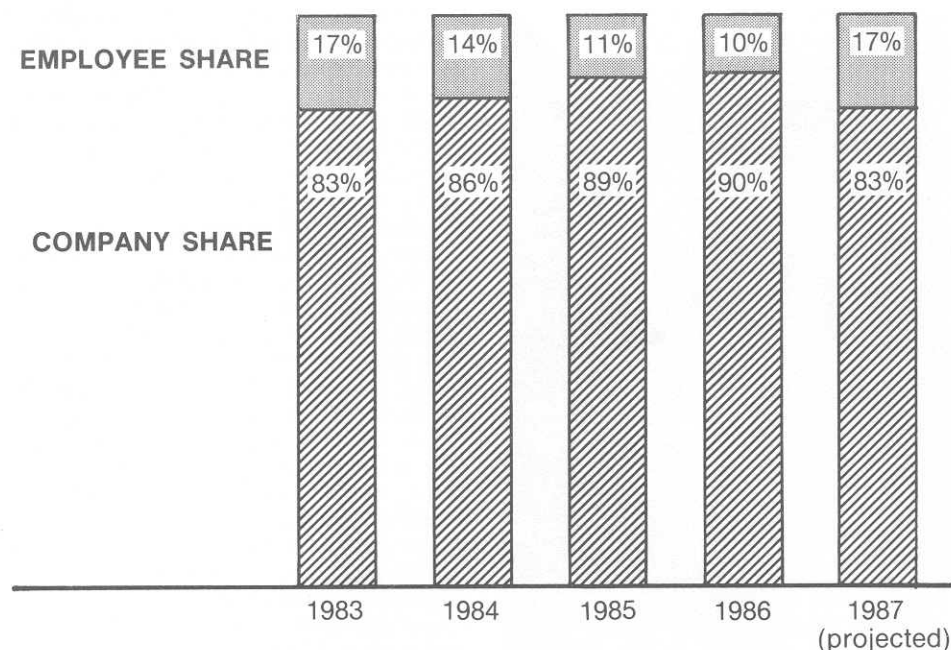
also offer discounts on dental services. If you have dental services performed by a participating Kaiser dentist, they will offer discounts from 30 to 70 percent.

Capital Care is the newest addition to the Flexcomp package. This plan is an HMO subsidiary of Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Capital Care offers health care services by physicians in private practice, otherwise known as IPAs (Individual Practice Associations). An individual may elect a participating Capital Care physician of their choice. In order to help contain costs, Capital Care uses a copayment program for certain health care services. For example, there is a \$5 copayment on doctor visits, \$10 for visual exams and visits to urgent care centers, and \$25 for hospital emergency room care. The cost varies for mental health services. They offer 24-hour emergency service seven days a week. Capital Care also offers a prescription plan comprised of a \$3 maximum charge if the prescription drugs and refills are purchased from Peoples Drug Stores.

If you have any questions about the medical options, please call Evy Lowenstern on extension 1545, or Kathy Samples on extension 2370.

	BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD	
	PLAN A	PLAN B
DEDUCTIBLE	0 — Basic \$100 — Major Medical Two Deductible Maximum	\$150 Deductible Two Deductible Maximum
COVERAGE AFTER DEDUCTIBLE IS PAID	100% — Basic 80% — Major Medical	80% coverage until you surpass \$5,000 in medical expenses, then coverage increases to 100%
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS	Covered at: 80%	Covered at: 80%
MAXIMUM-OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES	\$100 Deductible plus 20% of Major Medical charges	Once you surpass \$5,000 in medical charges, coverage increases to 100%
MAXIMUM BENEFIT	Basic — No Maximum Major — \$100,000	No Maximum
PHYSICIAN/LOCATION	Any independent practice	Any independent practice

INSURANCE COSTS



1987 FLEXCOMP ENROLLMENT KITS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL EMPLOYEES OCTOBER 29, 1986

For a complete description of E-Systems' Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage, please refer to your benefit plan summary booklet entitled "Health Care and Weekly Income Disability Plan."

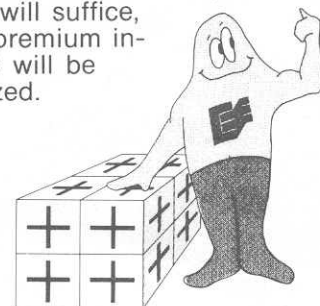
MEDICAL PLAN COSTS
REVIEWED

The current year's experience, plus the projected rise in costs for 1987 will result in an increase in Plan A costs and a decrease in the cost of Plans B and C.

During the 1983-1986 period, E-Systems' average cost per employee increased from \$734 to \$1,220. This increase in cost has been paid by E-Systems. As a result, the employee's proportional share of the plan cost has been decreasing while the company's share has been increasing. In 1987, however, Plan A participant costs will increase along with company costs.

Employee deductions in 1987 for Plan A participants will increase by approximately \$210, while the costs for plans B and C will be reduced by \$50 and \$60 respectively.

Controlling medical costs is everybody's business. Therefore, if we each avoid unnecessary medical costs, such as using the hospital emergency room when your family doctor will suffice, future premium increases will be minimized.



PLAN C	KAISER	CAPITAL CARE
\$2,500 Deductible per family	None	\$ 5.00 — Doctor Visit \$10.00 — Urgent Care Center Visit \$25.00 — Emergency Room Visit
80%	No Deductible — 100% coverage	100%
Covered at: 80%	0-6 Plan \$0.00 — Kaiser Inhouse Pharmacy \$6.00 — Any other pharmacy	\$3.00 per prescription at Peoples Drug Store
\$2,500 plus 20% of remaining charges	None	Copayments for Doctor, Urgent Care Center or Emergency Room Visits
Maximum	None	None
Any independent practice	Kaiser Permanente Medical Centers	Capital Care participating physician

RESTON TRIATHLON . . . A CHALLENGE FOR E-TEAMERS

Anyone ready for a 1-mile swim, a 23.8-mile bike ride, and a 6.2-mile run?

Business Analyst Jane Kinzler and Systems Test Group Supervisor Richard Schiller were ready. Both of these Melpar employees participated in the Third Annual Reston Triathlon held in September, competing with 300 other local sports enthusiasts.

What exactly does a triathlon entail? For one thing, an enormous amount of workouts and practice. "You have to start training early," Kinzler explained. "It is also wise to have at least two out of three of those sports under your belt at the onset." For Schiller, the triathlon provided the perfect incentive for him to push himself during workouts. This is his third triathlon this year, and he plans to keep entering similar events. "I like to force myself to my limit in training," Schiller said, "and I've improved during each race, which makes me feel good." Kinzler, on the other hand, related that the deciding factor in her entering the Reston Triathlon was peer pressure. "Once I was committed," she admitted, "there was no going back!"

The first event in the Reston Triathlon was a 1-mile swim in a lake, followed by a 23.8-mile bike ride, and culminating in a 6.2 mile run. The events are set up in that order for safety reasons. If competitors tire after the first events, the chance of anyone hurting themselves is much lower in a run than if one were swimming in an open lake.

The distances involved in triathlons can be punishing, and the training to build up endurance is exhausting. "I really practiced the transition parts," Kinzler said. "These can be difficult because you are using different muscles in each of the sports."

How did these two E-Teamers feel



Jane Kinzler arrives at Triathlon with gear.

about participating in the Reston Triathlon? "It was exhilarating," Kinzler commented. "All my friends were cheering me along. It was great."

Schiller had a more sober view of the event. "Sometimes after all that training, the race itself can be anticlimatic," he said, adding, "I'm not in this for the competitiveness of the event, but for my health. I think I'll probably keep doing these triathlons forever."

Although neither Kinzler nor Schiller won first place, they made very respectable times in their individual categories and were pleased with the results. Other E-Teamers, such as Mike Dutchak, Staff Administrator to the Vice President of Finance, have also participated in similar sports and triathlons held throughout Virginia.

LIBRARY Cont. from page 2

The following tips are useful to keep in mind when asking someone for information:

- Identify yourself and your organization. People tend to be more responsive when they know with whom they are speaking.
- Be clear about the information you are seeking.
- Be polite and patient. Although you may have made your request to several other people, it is important to remember that this is the first time this person is hearing it.
- Don't become discouraged. If the person you are speaking to cannot help, he or she may know someone else who can. Ask for referrals to other offices and/or individuals. Remember that most people are willing to assist you if they are approached in a friendly, open manner.

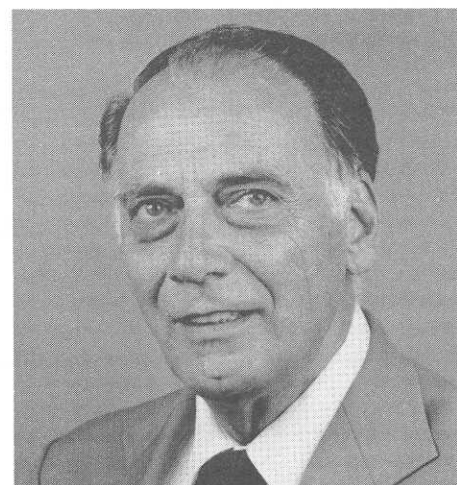
For help in identifying possible sources of information in the Federal Government, stop by the Technical Library, or call Division Librarian Peggy Simon on extension 2157.

A REMINDER

ALL 1986 VACATION TIME
MUST BE USED
BY DECEMBER 21

RETIREE

Edward C. Johnston
32 years



LANDERS WINS IN NATIONWIDE PHOTO CONTEST

A photograph taken by Melpar Video Producer John Landers was chosen as a winning entry in the recent "A Day in the Life of America" photo contest.

The contest, sponsored by Eastman Kodak, selected one picture from each state to represent the rich diversity of a typical day in America. Landers' photo was chosen for the state of Virginia. The photo the judges picked was a color slide of a woman posing at the Winchester Apple Blossom Festival.

Landers explained the circumstances of the shooting, saying, "I

spent most of the day searching for a picture to represent what I felt would be the quintessence of a 'Day in the Life of America'. I started at 4:30 in the morning, drove halfway across the state, and returned home at 10:00 that night." He added, "In all, I exposed less than half a roll of film." For his efforts, Landers will receive a cash award, a 35mm camera, and a copy of the book *A Day in the Life of America*.

Landers' winning photograph will be featured in *Popular Photography* magazine's 50th anniversary issue, to be published this January.

1986 SERVICE AWARDS SECOND QUARTER

Twenty-Five Year Service:

Ruth V. Ashley

Twenty Year Service

James E. Fowler, Jr.
Rozelle H. Neely
Bernard O. Spector
Lois J. Weimer

Fifteen Year Service:

Randolph N. Smith

Ten Year Service:

Ellen I. Crim
Robert J. Flanagan
Alan W. Jackson

Five Year Service

Monica L. Bing-Grant
Charles E. Buckingham
Frank Chanka, Jr.
Brenda S. Collins
Kenneth N. Detro
Susan C. Duvall
Gerald L. Ehlers
Suzan M. Foulks
Marvin A. Hunter, Jr.
Alan G. Hupke
Sandra G. Johnson
Floyd R. Karzen
David A. Lee
Alan R. Lighton
Michael A. McCann
Dan McKray
Frank D. Morrisson
Celeste R. Peterson
Cortland G. Pohle III
David O. Robinson
Carol J. Smootz
William N. Taylor
Loretta T. Thompson
Donald W. Vernon
Mary Alice A. Weigle
Raymond C. Wills III
Russel B. Wolfe
Steven D. Woods

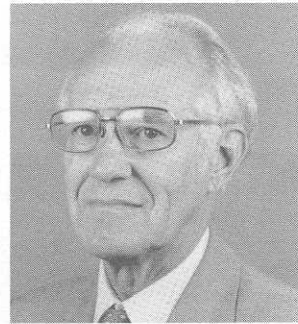
Thirty Year Service:



William L. Hux, Jr.



Arthur G. Keene, Jr.



Henry W. Mauldin, Jr.

PROMOTIONS — JULY AND AUGUST

Falls Church

C.L. Beldy
V.T. Bingham
G.F. Bosco
B.L. Chapman
C.D. Clattenburg
A.V. Davis
H.T. Dong
T.A. Gadowski
G. Garofalo
M.A. Garrison
H.J. Gillespie
S.W. Gross
P.B. Gural
K.E. Hamm
N.D. Hughes
B.C. Jerome
T.L. Johnson
L.L. Kinard
L.L. Klepec
J.A. Krause
W.H. Lee, Jr.
E.S. Lowenstern
R.A. Magon
J.Y. Mark
P.L. McClung
C. McIntyre
J.C. Russ
J.D. Selby
S.R. Shaffer
W.L. Strain
J.A. Tilton
I.L. Walker
D.C. Witcher
K.W. Wood
B.C. Wright

Fairfax

W.P. Alexander
G.M. Bielen
A.L. Brewer
E.J. Davies
B.S. Foster
R.L. Grant
D.A. Griffiths
W.J. Grolemond
M.A. Hunter, Jr.
J.J. Hur
E.H. Kanelopoulos
R.B. Lavery
B.A. Miller
B.N. Pham
K.M. Rowe
T.B. Sheehan
K.C. Steffen

From

Receiving Clerk
Data Control Opr
Detailer
Porter
Principal Engr
Programmer
Jr Programmer
Programmer
Program/Analyst
S/W Analyst
Asst Gov't Prop Admin
Accountant
Sr Elec Engr
Sr Cost Analyst
Maint Mech 1cl
Sr Field Engr Tech
Data Control Opr
Report Typist B
Engr Tech
Programmer
Principl Engr
Personnel Rep
Principal Engr
Programmer
Program Mgmt Asst
Programmer
Assem 1cl
Engr Tech
Elec Engr
Computer Aid
Cost Analyst
Assem 1cl
Programmer
Programmer
Elec Engr

Sr Drafter
Jr Cost Analyst
Design Engr
Jr Security Spec
Test Tech
QA Asst
Jr Facilities Layout Tech
Sr Prod Develop Analyst
Elec Engr
Assem
Jr Facilities Layout Tech
Cost Analyst
Clerk Typist
Assem
S/W Analyst
Sr Design Engr
Tech Editor

To

Receiving Grp Ldr
Sr Data Control Opr
Drafter
Porter Grp Ldr
Engr Supv
S/W Analyst
Programmer Asst
S/W Analyst
S/W Analyst
S/W Analyst
Gov't Prop Admin
Sr Accountant
Prin Engr
Cost Analyst Supv
Maint Mech 1cl Grp Ldr
Jr Field Elec Engr
Sr Data Control Opr
Word Proc Opr
Sr Engr Tech
S/W Analyst
Engr Supv
Sr Personnel Rep
Engr Supv
S/W Analyst
Program Specialist
S/W Analyst
Assem Tech
Sr Field Engr Tech
Sr Elec Engr
Logistics Asst
Sr Cost Analyst
Assem Tech
Sr Programmer
S/W Analyst
S/W Analyst

HEALTHTALK Cont. from page 3

and other procedures generally will catch a benign lump mistakenly diagnosed as cancer.

Philip Vincent, Director of Radiology Services at Fairfax Hospital, says fear of radiation should not keep women away from a potential life-saving technology. For women, he said, mammography should be used judiciously, along with breast self-examination and regular medical checkups, as a standard part of preventive care.

From *Health Talk*, Fairfax Hospital

Sports Corner

SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS

Melpar's newest softball team, the E-Systems Blasters, made a very respectable showing during their first season in the Fairfax County Men's Softball League.

Because this was their first year, the Blasters played in the New-comer's Division, and swept through the regular season competition. The team started with a 3-1 record and won 15 straight games before losing their very last game. They finished with an 18-2 record during the regular season. The Blasters were sparked by a solid defense and a clutch pinch hit by Mike Dutchak.

The playoffs were not as rewarding, however. Two starters were out of town during the playoffs, and another player was ill, although he still managed to play. The Blasters did make it to the third game of the playoffs before being eliminated in a very close game.

The team will be playing again this fall to gear up for next summer, when they will move up to a tougher division. The Blasters wish to thank all their fans for their continued support, and intend to continue their winning tradition in the future.

SUMMER BASKETBALL

This summer a number of Melpar basketball teams played in local tournaments, providing fun-filled matches for team members and fans alike.

The E-Systems Eavesdroppers capped a successful basketball season by making it to the semifinals of the league playoffs. The team finished first in the division during the regular season with a hard-earned 8-2 record. Good teamwork and a tough defense were essential to the team's performance during the season. Let's hope the winter league will prove as exciting as the summer games were.

The newly-formed team in the Fairfax County Men's Summer Basketball League was the E-Systems Eliminators. The team's final record of 7-3 allowed them to make the playoffs, but they were eliminated in the first round in a close four-point game. The team's good showing during the season can be attributed to the impressive balance of its players and to the outstanding contributions from Kenny Wood off the bench. Hopefully, this positive teamwork will take the team far in next season's games.



RAFTERS RIDE THE YOUGHIOGHENY RAPIDS

Each fall for the past several years, a number of Melpar nature lovers have taken off for an adventure of rafting in the Pennsylvania rivers.

The first week in September heralded this annual trip with 30 E-Teamers rafting the Youghiogheny River. This outing was organized by Tom Hubicz, a Melpar mechanical engineer. Systems Administrator Gina Smith joined in to help with the preparations. The fee included rafts and equipment, rentals, campsite fees, and food. All the rafters had to do was show up at the Melpar parking lot on Friday evening for the four-hour convoy to the Pennsylvania mountains.

By 7 a.m. on Saturday morning, the gang was ready to hit the rapids. After the initial confusion of who had what lifejackets, paddles, and rafts, the group was ready for action. The chilly trip on the rapids lasted about 5 hours.

The excitement began early as the rafters hit the first rapids. One E-Teamer fell into the water and was rescued by virtue of the fact that she had the camera. Shortly thereafter, several more adventurous spirits hit the cold waters. A few water battles were started and almost everyone

was soaked by the time they reached Swimmer's Rapids, one of the major stopping points.

While going downriver, everyone had the chance to soak up the beautiful natural scenery. Mountains rising right from the shore were topped with large trees framed by an incredibly blue sky. The picture proved an idyllic sight for nature lovers. One rafter commented that it was a great break from D.C. traffic!!

After the exhilarating day, everyone returned to the campsite for showers, naps, dinner, and a little evening table pool. It was an exhausted bunch that "hit the sack" at the Ohiopyle Campsite that Saturday night!

Sleeping in the fresh mountain air produced ravenous appetites, so on Sunday morning the gang went to a local restaurant for a hearty breakfast. Then the tired but contented group headed back to the congestion and the steel skyline of Northern Virginia.

In all, the trip was exciting and proved to be a good workout. Anyone interested in rafting next summer should contact Tom Hubicz on extension 2319 or Gina Smith on 4353.

The E-Systems Rockets' 0-10 record is not indicative of the enthusiastic efforts of the Fairfax facility team. However, the experience that the team gained by struggling through the summer league will be put to good use during the winter season.

The highlight of the season came during the very last game when the Rockets came very close to beating the undefeated Dukes. Despite their disappointing record, the team had a good time overall. Better luck for the next season!