

A GSI PROCESSING SERVICES PUBLICATION

TIMAP* System Visits Frozen North



A.J. points out on the map of Alaska just how far north Umiat is.

By A.J. NINI

December 5 a prop-job Twin Otter Plane winged its way north, carrying me to Umiat, Alaska, to act as a TIMAP* operator for the shooting season on the North Slope. The Umiat TIMAP system is believed to be the only computer on the North Slope — and has been labeled "northernmost TIMAP system in the world."

Paul Lilja, Midland maintenance engineer, and Ron Stanberry, Dallas Engineering, had been in Umiat since November installing the TIMAP system. This was the second year in a row the system was operational on the North Slope. This season it supported several GSI crews.

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Austin P&AE Luncheon Is Fulfilling

By LEE WHITE

Austin Computer Services personnel who submitted work simplification MIRs in 1979 were treated to an "all-you-can-eat" barbecue luncheon on Thursday, March 13 at Hunt's Ranch House. The luncheon was held to recognize those involved in the P&AE program. John Brockett, Processing Services manager, and Alan Ferretti, Processing Services

Production Planning & Control (PP&C), who were in town for a quarterly technical review, were among the 28 people that attended.

Juan Blanco, Austin P&AE coordinator, stated that the luncheon was a big success. (If the success of a luncheon is measured by the least amount of work accomplished after it, one would say that this luncheon

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PROCESSING

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SERVICES
NEWS

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Bedford Ramps on To Austin IBM System



John Chase and Steve Bridge (foreground) with participants at February JCL school.

By STEVE BRIDGE

Bedford received its IBM terminal late in the afternoon on 21st February and after some initial modem problems it was up and running by midnight.

Preparation to begin use of the IBM in Austin started last year when Ian McKenzie (GISG) spent several months in Austin helping with software checkout. Early this year he was joined by two Bedford Marine input people. Ian Harris (Start-up) and Matthew Brown (FTP) travelled to Houston in early January for a month, to learn from Houston's experiences and to begin preparation for our own IBM project.

At about the same time Slawcia Tomkiw [Bedford Production Planning & Control (PP&C)] extended her Christmas vacation in Texas, spending a week working in Austin PP&C to observe and learn about the IBM system. I flew into Dallas-Fort

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Bedford ramps on
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Worth on 19th January and bumped into Slawcia at the airport. We had just enough time to say "hello" before she caught her flight back to England and I went on to Austin.

The purpose of my trip was to attend the week and a half IBM training school put together by Bill Huffman. Jim Cellner and Hugo Castro, Houston; Mike Ellerbrock, Dallas; and Domingo Yruegas and Lee White, Austin, were also in attendance. I am sure they would all agree with me that the course was very beneficial and we appreciated the efforts of all involved.

My stay lasted another week and a half with most of the time spent working in Austin PP&C. During the last week, Bill Huffman, Al Pryal, Ken Kacir and I spent a day in Houston attending their weekly IBM meeting. The final day of my trip was spent in Dallas learning about the IBM terminal so that on my return to Bedford I would be able to assist in training our operators.

I departed from Dallas in the early evening and arrived back in England just before midday on Sunday 10th February.

I crawled into work on Monday morning suffering from severe jet-lag, to attend the first day of JCL school given by John Chase. John had already been in Bedford a week giving the course to GISG, and was now repeating it for a handful of

Marine users, Slawcia and me. The course went well considering that John had other things on his mind (read on).

Our IBM terminal should have been up and running by this time but a series of setbacks had meant that we were having to input to GSI using Bulk Data Transfer (BDT). BDT enabled us to input jobs through a Bedford CIC terminal into CIC's IBM in Dallas, where the jobs were recognized as being for GSI and passed on to Austin via direct link between the two systems. The S/W for BDT had never been thoroughly tested and was proving to be troublesome, so much of John's time was spent helping Dallas sort out the problems.

John was attempting to speed up the delivery of our second terminal. I say "second" because we had already taken delivery of one which had proved to be the wrong model, and since there was no spare "MOD2" terminal around, a new one had to be built in Scotland. John's stay with us was extended by a week so that he would be around when the new terminal arrived. When it arrived and was up-and-running, John's job was over so he left us to return home to Austin.

Since coming on line we have had no major problems with the hardware and have encountered no serious operational problems. Bedford is ready for IBM processing!

Austin P&AE
Continued from page 1

was tremendous! Everyone was too stuffed with ribs, beef and sausage to get much done afterward.)

Austin Computer Services has an aggressive P&AE program. Personnel involvement, either in team participation or individual contribution, surpassed the goal of 75% for 1979. Personnel training in P&AE, including work simplification seminars every three months, reached 89%, although 1979 was a rapid growth period for the center. Total MIR contribution for the center equaled an annual savings of \$735,000.

In continuing the trend, Austin set even more aggressive goals for 1980. Plans are to continue work simplification seminars with a goal of 100% participation, and to get more involvement in team participation by assigning previous non-participants to teams. In recognition of participation, GSI caps are being issued to individuals for MIR/team participation along with MIR certificates. People-involvement is being emphasized rather than the dollar value of a cost-effective contribution.

One major goal for 1980 was accomplished recently when Floyd Lowry, ASC Hardware engineer, successfully completed a work simplification seminar after somehow missing the seminars for seven years. Now that Floyd has finally completed a seminar, the center is almost guaranteed to reach its goal of 100% participation.

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GSI Processing Services News

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Austin P&AE Contributors for 1979 — (L-R) — (Kneeling, First Row) Chris Fanuel, Juan Blanco, Ernest Meyer, Dave Parker. (Second Row) Floyd Lowry, Jerry Matthews, Bob Brey, Lyle Bradshaw, Bill Huffman, Keith Giles, Rick Miller. (Third Row) Tim Mizner, Gary Evans, Harvey Gray, Sam Chavez, Ken Kacir, John Matthews, Jerry D. Light, Wendell Weatherford, Donn German. (Not Present) Ted Osborn, Chris O'Gorman, Joe Olivera, David King, Bill Hankinson, Steve Shelton, Jim Neyens, Steve Joiner, Becky King, Delores Peebles, Florene Bolin, Chuck Schmidt, Bob Beck, Jimmy Jean, Ken Porter, Jerry Light, Sr., Ed McCarthy, Mike Noble, Lee White.

Be in the Know

By LACY SPEARS

GSI/TI is growing by leaps and bounds and is hiring new people around the world to meet the challenge of this growth. Many of the new employees may not have had the opportunity to participate in a detailed new employee orientation, so the following policy is presented especially for them, and as a review for old hands.

Conduct at TI/GSI is governed by these regulations to promote a quality work situation, good working relationships, safety, security and efficiency.

Any one or more of the following major infractions may be considered grounds for immediate termination.

- Theft of company property or the property of a TI/GSIer.
- Knowingly submitting false records on hours worked or other payroll information.
- Assault or battery on a fellow employee.
- Unexcused and/or unexplained absences of six or more working days during any twelve month period or five or more working days during a four week period.
- Willful destruction of company property.
- Disclosure of classified material to unauthorized persons.
- Conviction of a major crime.
- Deliberate misrepresentation in order to obtain employment.
- Gross misconduct on company premises.
- Deliberate violation of safety rules that endanger the life of others.
- Gross insubordination (i.e., refusing a work assignment).
- Unauthorized possession of firearms or explosives on company property or work site.
- Consuming or showing signs of the use of intoxicants or drugs on company property or work site.
- Defrauding or attempting to defraud the company (including falsification of records).
- Illegal possession of or sale of drugs on company premises or work site.
- Conflicts of interest, disclosure of proprietary information, or other conduct of such nature as to bring serious discredit to TI/GSI, to TI/GSI employees or to TI/GSI customers or vendors.
- Offensive or indecent personal conduct between TI/GSIers which is disruptive to company business.

Umiat TIMAP System

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Home sweet home in Umiat with ice visible on the lower part of the door. (The trailers are heated and quite warm according to A.J.)

The purpose of the Umiat TIMAP system is to stack and correlate data, process instrument tests and field experimental programs such as walkaway noise tests. We also did some investigative processing of special field problems, client-requested optional processing (such as brute stacking) and GSI originated discretionary processing.

Curtis Olson and Phil Oviatt, Houston Processing seismologists, also supported the operation. Curtis arrived soon after I did and Phil relieved him later. (People from Calgary and Houston only sign on for four-week assignments, with the last week, "overlap week," to allow the relief man to get familiar with the operation). Charles Jones, Houston operator worked the 10-hour night shift and I worked the 10-hour day shift. Paul stayed on to round out the crew in his maintenance engineering capacity.

The Alaska "season" lasts as long as the ground stays cold enough for the Land crews to shoot. While I was there, the "high" was 15° above zero with two weeks of 58° below temperatures; -20-40° is about the norm. Sleeping in a "hooch" with ice forming around the inside of the door — and at one point, creeping up the bedpost — was a new experience for this southern boy (Dallas for the past 10 years).

During off-time there were video movies to watch, books to read, or cards to play at the State House Hotel. The hotel houses many visitors, such as Field Service personnel arriving on troubleshooting operations to provide whatever services and equipment are needed.



Paul Lilja, Curtis Olson, Phil Oviatt, A.J. Nini, and Charles Jones, taking a break from running data at Umiat.



Shemo, the camp dog, whose job is to bark and warn camp-dwellers that bear or other wildlife are approaching, mostly during the thaw. Wildlife is scarce during the winter months.

On Tuesday and Saturday during the peak season, the GSI chartered 737 jet arrives full of people — 25 or 30 at a time — bringing excitement and news to the secluded north territory. Field crews come in and out frequently from their operations.

The TIMAP system — like everything else in Umiat — runs off a diesel-powered generator. All supplies are flown in but the water, which is piped in after the thick ice of a nearby lake is drilled and a vacuum pump installed.

The food was great. Charlie, the cook, managed to put out the likes of King Crab, prime rib and other goodies to whet the appetite. Three people stay at Umiat permanently to maintain the camp during the off season.

Like all the guys, I looked forward to the 10 days off-time in Anchorage after working my 30 (standard procedure in Alaskan remote operations). Umiat's seclusion makes these trips important to everyone. The bi-weekly plane and a telephone hookup to Anchorage via satellite is the only communication with the rest of the world (Ed: If you call Umiat, talk low and slow, or they can't understand you).

Umiat's isolation makes the GSI operation all the more impressive. The clients especially are impressed that GSI "cares enough to send its very best" all the way to the Alaskan North Slope.

P.S.S.T.

(Processing Services Small Talk)

By JILL JOHNSMEYER

Had a nice note from Calgary this month — unfortunately it was to let me know I messed up when I gave Dot Hale credit for thinking up the name for this column. Seems it was not Dot's idea, but Adele Shay's. I'm contrite! Dot, thanks for letting us all know.

Was so delighted to finally hear from Bedford that I'm putting in their entire letter:

"The Bedford computer centre has been brightened up by the appearance of Sharen Kiernan, the first female to be seen in an operations role in Bedford for some time — more are scheduled for later in the month.

"Another new face out on the computer floor is that of the new troubleshooter, Terry Cook. He's a welcome addition to Bedford operations and has relieved the workload of the two 'software stalwarts' John St. George and Dave Manning. Dave, by the way, has not stopped growing (around the middle) since he was married some 10 months ago. Rumour has it that this is the reason for his forthcoming office move! While on the subject of excess weight, Steve Bridge (PP&C) seemed to develop the same problem during his three-week sojourn in the U.S.A. His wife, Leslie, is rumoured to disapprove of this type of company-paid "vacation". By the way, Steve came home with the usual 3 B's (belts, buckles and boots!)

"Terry Denning was 'volunteered' to be the Processing Services representative on the committee responsible for organizing the festivities to celebrate GSI's 50th anniversary. On arriving at the first meeting he found that he had also been 'volunteered' to be the chairman of the committee. What price democracy!

"Terry Pearce, long time Bedford shift supervisor, will be leaving us in April to take up the job of EAME training manager — he will be sorely missed; however, we can expect to see even more of him at the various local happy hours, in which he always shows an interest."

On the subject of females, Dallas TIMAP* Engineering has one now (besides Leslie Santangelo, their secretary). Her name is Sherry Cochran and she'll be responsible for shipping the computers, parts, manuals, etc. to y'all from Dallas.

Houston operations personnel and input crews are being 'treated' (?) to a tour of the Austin seismic facilities. The tour includes a bus trip to Austin, a chance to see the Austin facility in action, and an all-you-can-eat lunch at Hunt's Ranch House. Operations personnel on the first tour were Derrick Hargus, Al Livingston, David French, Alice Atwood, Danny O'Brien, John Newsome, Judy Bettinger, Brad Watkins, Vin Hennessy, Janice Riggs, Hiram Ramos, Terri Kirby, Jenny Webb and Don Branton. Two more tours are planned.

Heard a few other 'bits' from Houston — Judy Bettinger and Loreli George are both expecting; Judy in May and Loreli in August. Charles Jones' tour in Umiat, Alaska (see story in this issue) is nearly over; Rita Monmouth and Brad Watkins both got a lunch from their supervisors for a year's perfect attendance; and the long awaited Herman Miller furniture finally arrived (just in time, as the center is about to move to a new building). I've heard some people spend their vacations with their families, but Jim Cellner recently spent a week with his little sick Triumph TR6. Hopefully both are recovering. And finally, Barney Milner is joining the 'over the hill gang' this month. He's made it to the big four-oh. Can hardly wait to hear what the operations people have in mind to celebrate this occasion.

Calgary display tsar Ray Wallace and his wife Sylvia spent three weeks sailing and touring New Zealand. THREE WEEKS? Boy am I jealous. Was glad to hear that Stan Borawski, also from Calgary, has returned to work after undergoing back surgery. Good news for sure. Calgary also sends their congratulations to Singapore on their 2x production contest win, and promises to "get them next time".

Finally, George Chrisman would like to know where Reardon Smith was hiding the night of Bryan Robertson's stage debut, and he pleads innocent to the charge of going into the furniture removal business.

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Terry Denning Reaches 15 Years



Terry Denning.

By PETE DOPSON

Terry Denning, United Kingdom maintenance manager, was presented with his well-earned 15 year award by Pete Dopson at the first quarter department meeting in Bedford.

Pete reminisced on the "bad old days" centered around such places as the Corporation Hotel in Middlesbrough. Terry joined GSI as an observer. (He was particularly successful at observing the local talent as well as the equipment — it wasn't long before he was courting Margaret, the GSI secretary, whom he subsequently married.)

Having served his apprenticeship in the North Sea, Terry took his family globe trotting. The Dennings set up residence in such places as Canada, Italy and Singapore, with training spells in Dallas.

On his present assignment he is responsible for a large number of TIMAP* and display systems, as well as other equipment.

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Processing Services

Service Anniversaries

May

15 Years

Alexander Davie

Dallas

10 Years

Abdullah-bin Idris
Sock Tee Koh

Singapore
Singapore

5 Years

Yoke Soon Chan
Kwang Chye Quek

Singapore
Singapore

International Group Attends TIMAP* Training School



(Seated) Chee Hoong Wong sets up scope, as Yoke Thim Leong (standing left) insures that the scope is set up for proper syncing. Bryan Vaughn (right) having determined where the problem is, waits for verification.

By LARRY HUBENAK

An internationally representative group attended the first Phase I TIMAP training class held at the Dallas Park Central facility February 11-April 11.

A dozen computer maintenance engineers gathered in the classroom and the lab (better known as "The Swamp") for a concentrated study of such esoteric subject matter as VRC drums, Gould and color plotters and 770 intelligent terminals.

Representing the Southeast Asian island of Singapore across the blue Pacific and the South China Sea came students Chee Hoong Wong and Yoke Thim Leong.

Richard Andrew and Alastair Ashby winged their way across the cold Atlantic to represent the United Kingdom in the TIMAP classroom (it must be noted that neither of these two chappies were Irish).

John Thomson, a swagger, was the lone student from "down-under", representing friendly Australia, the land of kangaroos, koala bears, and the most beautiful opera house in the western world.

The only other student from a foreign port was Charles Wright, whose home base is "the desert of west Texas", sometimes called the middle land between El Paso and Fort Worth. (He is also known for his "modeling" ability — this is the third month in a row he's had his mug in this newsletter).



Richard Andrew (sitting) viewing the signal on the scope CRT as Alastair Ashby (center) and Steve Johnson (right) discuss the aspects of the signal.

Semi-tropical, wet and gloomy, swinging Houston enlisted three to hit the books and play with the machinery: Manuel Cortes, Michael Gastineau, and Bryan Vaughn.

The snow-covered mountains of Denver, Colorado sent forth two Colorado cowboys going by the handles of Terry Rintala and Homer Paddock.

The "old homestead" deep in the heart of Texas, the infamous Big "D" town, was represented by one lone cowpoke, Steve Johnson.

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Homer Paddock (center) directs the troubleshooting operation as Terry Rintala (right) approves of the procedure. John Thomson (left) thumbs in a "Mickey Mouse program," so the problem can be scoped in a loop.



(Left to right) Michael Gastineau directs Manuel Cortes where to hang the scope probe on the network.



Charles Wright ambitiously tracks down the faulty component.

One-inch TIAC** Tapes Needed for Recycling

Murphy Babb, Land Engineering field data manager, is looking for one-inch TIAC tapes that can be recycled. Please contact him at MS 3904, telex DGNR, or phone extension 83-2626 (after May 27, phone 995-7706 or 995-7784) if you locate any of the one-inch tapes.

Recycling these tapes could save the company approximately \$25 per tape, or more, depending on the volume of tapes that can be found. "About 80 per cent to 90 per cent of the old tapes can usually be recycled," Murphy said, "With the current cost of new tapes at \$40 per tape (and going up daily) recycling them would save the company considerable money."

Murphy's group is recycling these tapes as part of its engineering research and development support function for the Land product-line.

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Profile: Bill Workman

Bill Workman, manager of TIMAP* engineering in Dallas since 1978, joined GSI in 1956 because he knew about the possibility of foreign travel and liked the idea. The young man's dream came true — he has almost literally seen the four corners of the earth.

He was hired February 28, 1956, as a driller working with Shorty Trostle in West Texas. By mid-year he was on his way to Japan joining a Land/Marine seismic crew. He noted that he and Leland Tschurr (Marine) are the two from that crew still with GSI, which shot both from shipboard and on the beach.

Libya was Bill's next assignment beginning early 1957. He became an IE soon after his arrival, then relief PM. By 1960 he was at the Analog Processing Center working as an operator under Elmer Wiens. He says, "An operator in those days also acted as data input person, entering data directly into the machine. This enabled young operators to learn a great deal about seismic processing in a hurry — from necessity."

About 1965 with the introduction of the digital computer to Libya, he became an engineer on the TIAC 827, then lead engineer. Bill, described as extremely good at working with others, became center manager in 1970. He has a reputation as a leader able to spot employees with potential, and for getting his employees involved in the success of the operation.

In the meantime — 1959 — he had met and married Desiree, who was born in Cairo, Egypt, of French parentage. They lived in Libya 15 years and have two sons, Alan, born in Benghazi in 1960, and Ronald, born in Tripoli in 1962. A by-product of the Libyan years was the opportunity to travel extensively through most of Western Europe.

In 1973 Bill and Desiree came to Dallas to begin preparation for mobilizing a center in Lima, Peru. One of the most memorable experiences of his career occurred on the day of their arrival in Lima in January 1974 — a major earthquake. He says that swaying on the eighth floor of a hotel is not his idea of fun, but it was a portent of things to come. Earthquakes occurred monthly and the Workmans experienced another major quake before they left. Peru offered opportunity to see a different area of the world, for Desiree to add



Bill Workman

a sixth language to the five she already spoke fluently, and to meet folks like Emir Tavella, Dionel Fuselier and Bill Smith (now in Saudi).

Bill says that logistics problems (such as getting equipment through customs), learning local rules and customs, and trying to communicate rapidly with the home office in Dallas, were common challenges of being center manager in countries other than where the home office is located.

Early 1976 found Bill in Dallas at school, preparing to take over as Midland center manager later in the year. He remembers Bob Clarke, Hurshell Stinson and Larry Dixon, site manager from the Midland days. Midland's terrain isn't too different from Libya's, he says.

As TIMAP engineering manager he is in charge of putting together TIMAP systems for worldwide operations. His group orders, "in bits and pieces," the peripheral equipment to make a complete system. They then test, repair, adjust, and ship completed systems to the production centers. The group also gives any technical support necessary to centers, evaluates new equipment, controls change notices to centers, and interfaces with the Digital Systems Group (DSG) on testing hardware.

"The biggest challenge as TIMAP engineering manager, is getting these systems in place on schedule," Bill said. He anticipates a tough schedule for the rest of 1980 — "and I haven't caught my breath from the pace set in 1979."

Bill graduated from high school at Chickasha, Oklahoma, and served in the U.S. Army, where he received electronics training.

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Murphy Strikes Again

By JILL JOHNSMEYER

What started out to be a typical GSI highly coordinated, standard, run-of-the-mill panic-avoidance exercise, turned into a major comedy of errors last month when about noon Friday the 14th it was decided that there was enough backlog in Houston to justify sending 100 hours of data to another U.S. site. Sounds simple enough, right? Ah, but there were a few little complications this time.

First of all, the data was to be processed by SPPR, a system available only in Houston, Bedford and Dallas. Second, there were two centers with spare capacity, New Orleans and Denver. Third, the new SPPR software is still in the testing stage, so it could not be released unless an operations-type familiar with the system physically accompanied the tapes, installed the system and trained someone to use it. (Obviously Houston could not spare an operator, so the person had to go from Dallas, along with the software). Last (but not least), the prospect runs on the IBM system, requiring a VSN tape for whatever center was chosen, and blank output tapes for the processed data. Now, we had field tapes from Houston, an operations person with software and VSNs from Dallas, and output tapes from Austin, all to converge on a site sometime within eight hours. Remember, it's Friday (the 14th not the 13th) although from here on you'd never know.

The first inkling I had that something was up was about 11:00 a.m. (lunch time, of course) when Alan Ferretti called from the Austin QTR to request travel arrangements for Mike Ellerbrock, Dallas PP&C rep, to New Orleans that night. (At this point, Mike was still looking forward to a normal weekend with plans already made). Twenty minutes later we had a ticket to New Orleans and TA half typed when Alan called again — "Cancel New Orleans, it's going to be Denver and the tapes will arrive from Houston about 7:30 p.m. Mike needs to be there at that time with the software."

About now, Murphy began to get involved (you know, the "anything that can go wrong, will" Murphy). All the Denver flights were full except one at 3:50 p.m. The Dallas Park Central ticket office does not open until 1:00 p.m. This meant that

TIMAP* Training School Adds Second Instructor to Staff

Kelvyn Gipp, most recently lead engineer in Perth, arrived in Dallas February 18 to join the TIMAP training staff as an instructor. Kelvyn's position is part of an extensive training expansion for Processing Services in 1980. Kelvyn will be one of three instructors at the Dallas TIMAP training school, joining Larry Hubenak, present instructor. The third instructor will join the staff shortly.

Kelvyn will teach in both the TIMAP Phase I and Phase II classes, which train employees from all over the world in all aspects of TIMAP systems and related areas. Processing Services is putting a new emphasis on training in an effort to offer more training to more people, both at the Dallas Park Central facility and at local sites. Besides the usual heavy load of lesson planning, test grading and lab supervision, the instructors' duties include planning and assisting in the development of videotapes for remote sites. Kelvyn will also attend training schools in Oklahoma and New Jersey to amplify his knowledge of equipment.

He brings most of his family — wife, Susan, and children, Caroline, 12, and Michael, 9 — with him to Dallas. An important part — the family's long-haired German Shepherd, Rik, 4 — is waiting in Australia to be brought over when the Gipps are able to move into their new house in suburban Garland. The family is staying with friends in Plano until the recently purchased house is ready for occupancy. Kelvyn, a London native, and Susan, an Isle of Wight native, have lived in the Dallas area before, while Kelvyn attended training schools. (They were in Dallas enough so that when they returned to the U.K. their friends thought they "spoke funny.") Kelvyn says they learned to like Dallas and look forward to making it their home.

Kelvyn was hired October 1967 as an engineer. In 1971 he transferred to Beirut, Lebanon. Before returning to Croydon 3½ years later he had been promoted to lead engineer and finally assumed the operations manager position. Once back in Croydon in 1975 he traveled all over the Far East — Cairo, Baghdad, Turkey,



Kelvyn Gipp

Oman and Saudi Arabia — as relief engineer, making systems visits for the EAME group.

After a short stay in Bedford (4½ months) in 1977, the Gipps were transferred to Perth. Kelvyn described Perth, where they lived 26 months, as a great place to live — second only to Dallas as their favorite place.

After five moves in three years, the Gipps hope to settle for awhile in Dallas. Kelvyn has become oriented to his new instructor's job and has settled into his teaching responsibilities. "It's a lot of hard work being part of the accelerated training program," Kelvyn said, "but I didn't come here for a picnic."

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Murphy

Continued from page 6

sometime between 11:30ish and 3:30, Mike had to manage a crash refresher course in SPPR processing, get his plans cancelled, go home for some clothes, get his ticket, traveler's checks and some cash, and manage to get to DFW (a good 45-minute drive). Houston had to pack, fill out transmittals, make travel arrangements for, and get all the required tapes to Intercontinental Airport. Austin had to T2T a GS1 VSN tape to Dallas (for Mike to hand-carry), find, pack, make travel arrangements for and get 500 blank output tapes to the Austin airport. Denver had to pull together a weekend crew, make arrangements to meet several airplanes, and calmly wait for the parts to arrive.

Surprisingly, everyone got to the respective airports in time, but now the fun began. At DFW the airline was boarding two planes side by side as Mike came rushing in clutching the tapes, grabbed a boarding pass and made it to the plane about 15 seconds before it left. After settling in his seat and ordering some refreshment he leaned back to catch his breath. At this point, it seemed that all was well, but after about an

hour he noticed that the voice on the intercom kept mentioning the weather in Los Angeles. Los Angeles? No way that could happen, is there? IS THERE? It seems there is. Mike and the tapes were on a non-stop flight to LA.

At times, the airlines can be very efficient and such was the case this time. When the plane landed in L.A., Mike was met by airline representatives who escorted him, still clutching his tapes, through the airport and onto a plane headed back to Denver. Talk about embarrassing! Can't you just see this jeans-clad, semi-shy person being herded through the L.A. airport by airline security types? Of course, by now it's 6 o'clock in Denver and center personnel are beginning to assemble to install the software in preparation for the arrival of the Houston tapes. It's going to be a long wait.

Meanwhile, back at DFW, the plane from Austin carrying the blank output tapes (plus a shipment of Bedford FTP tapes trying to make the London flight) has come and gone. This plane is now non-stop to New York with, you guessed it, all of the output tapes and Bedford FTP tapes still on board.

Apparently Murphy's target for the day was DFW, since the Houston

tapes arrived in Denver on schedule, but Denver operations was beginning to be concerned. They were now the proud possessors of 100 hours of data needing to be processed and back on its way within 48 hours, with no way to process it, no VSNs, no software, no one to show them how to process the data (if they could), and nothing to output to. A call to Dallas to verify that someone was on the way did not help, since the Dallas second shift was not aware of the situation and the Dallas secretary who might know was not available (Friday, you know). Denver's a pretty cool operation, though. Instead of panicking, they just meandered over to the nearest watering hole to wait awhile. By the time Mike finally got there (about 9 p.m., only 4½ hours late) they were relaxed, refreshed and ready to work all night. As it turned out, everything was installed, tested and ready to go by about 2 a.m. and everyone got a fair amount of sleep before the output tapes finally arrived the next day.

I've been unable to find out just how the weekend went, except that there were a couple of 20-hour days put in out there. Watch for the follow-up on the story from Denver, hopefully next month.

Houston Wears Two Hats

Tucked away in a far corner of the third floor of Building I at the TI-Stafford site in southwest Houston is a long room full of steel-grey boxes, more commonly known as TIMAP* computers.

This is the Houston computer center, complete with several TIMAP systems, an ASC/RJE terminal, an IBM/RJE terminal, TIADD* system, enlarger, a network of 770 systems, and a large number of employees. Houston provides a full range of processing — from FTP to 900 package — while also doing pre-release testing on new hardware and software systems.

In 1979 the Houston center had a hand in testing just about everything that came out of Dallas. TIMAP accounting, shotpoint processor, IBM system software, 770 Data Input Systems and ATP4s, were all familiar to Houston before they were released to the world. Being a part of both processing and pre-testing adds excitement and challenge to our daily jobs. We are geared up to continue to meet this challenge.

In order to continue goal-level production while taking on the testing responsibilities, we saw many of the old familiar W3s — so what better way to tell you about Houston than the who, what, when format....

Operations

* Supervise first shift, order F-TRACE tapes, schedule problem jobs, and order supplies — Hugo Castro — before going fishing

* Supervise second shift, coordinate training, schedule more jobs — Darrell Koebelen — between jokes

* Supervise third shift for eight hours, attend meeting for two hours, report strange yellow light in the sky — David Yee — night after night

* Manage operations, hire personnel, write procedures, write accounting software, resident architect, fix TIMAP (when Barber isn't looking) etc, etc, etc. — Grady Joiner — hair getting thin from all that "hat" changing — twenty five hours per day

* Pray for a successful recovery, a good Q.C. and a log that equals eight hours — all operators — every day



Shift supervisors Hugo Castro, first shift; David Yee, third shift; (Darrell Koebelen, second shift, not pictured); and Operations manager Grady Joiner.

Display

* Travel all over the world to work on display systems, stop by Houston to oversee display operations — Doyle Mullan — when not working for Dave Barber

* Keep the display production up while Doyle travels all over the world — Jimmy Lester, Don Branton, — first shift, Joe Landa, Pam Preston — second shift; Flip (Lonesome) Gibson — third shift

* Work in display on second shift, but don't give up on TIMAP — Bill Hogan



First shift operators — (Seated) Rita Monmouth, Faye Vance, Debra Thomas. (Standing) Jimmy Lester, Danny O'Brien, Don Branton, Lee Ballard, Derrick Hargus, Al Livingston.



Second shift operators — (Seated) Pam Preston, Terri Kirby. (Standing) Rusty Callaway, Joe Landa, Bill Hogan, Deborah Ford, Debra Brown, Bob Blasingame, Veronica Turner, Buck Martin.

Hardware

* Complete TIMAP hardware school — Bryan Vaughn, Manuel Cortes, Mark Severinson — next 6 weeks

* Continue training under Dave Barber — John Newsome, Mike Gastineau, Hiram Ramos — ongoing

* Hold down second shift hardware — Jerry Dahlgard — in spare time

* Maintain all systems, stay at model, keep up good down-time record — Dave Barber — 8 days a week



Hardware — (Seated) Mark Severinson, Javier Celaya, (Standing) Doyle Mullan, Les Wheeler, John Newsome, Hiram Ramos.

Tape Library

* Try to get to the airport and back (alive) — Jerry Rathheim — during rush hour

* Find room for 500 more tapes — David French, Donald Thompson — every day

* Keep track of sixty thousand tapes — Vin Hennessy — every 10 minutes

Keypunch

* Punch 500 cards then call a technician — Ranjan Patel, Alice Atwood — first shift

Punch 500 more cards then call a technician — Jenny Webb, Renee Murden — second shift



Third shift operators — (Seated) Russ Roussell, Pat Joseph. (Standing) Roderick Joseph, Brad Watkins, Hector Uribe, Vin Hennessy, Al Gibson, Perry Goodman. (Not pictured — Judy Bettinger, James Mitchell.)



Keypunch — (Seated) Ranjan Patel, Jenny Webb. (Standing) Renee Murden, Alice Atwood.



Shipping and receiving — (Front row) Don Thompson, David French. (Second row) Vin Hennessy, Larry Hill, Jerry Rathheim.



PPC — (Seated) Janette Forgy, Loreli George. (Standing) Bill Horton.

PP&C

* Insure that all jobs go on the status board, answer the phones, chase priorities and listen to complaints — Janette Forgy — all day

* Coordinate worldwide P&AE activities, keep users calm and interface with Austin — Bill Horton — in spare time

* Get to work at 6:00 a.m., do the backlog and production figures — Loreli George — til the baby comes

* Forecast, hindcast, salary and wages, purchase orders, billings, etc., etc. — Par Keys — before first close

* All the above, hold weekly user-meetings, and keep PP&C running smoothly — Jim Cellner — 12 hours a day

OTHER

* Order two cases of transparency film, two dozen typewriter ribbons and three dictionaries — Ranae Smith — before next operations review.

* Make it happen! — Barney Milner — all the time

That's Houston. Now you know what we do between meetings!

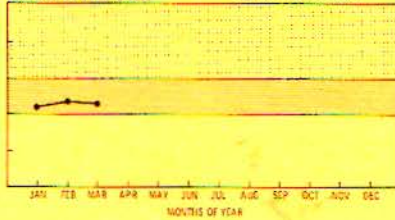


Administrative — (Seated) Ranae Smith, Parthenia Keys. (Standing) Jim Cellner, Dave Barber, Barney Milner.

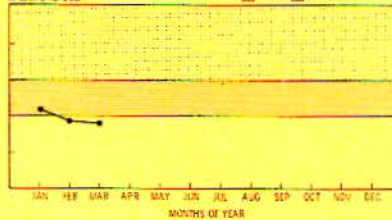
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1980 COMPUTER CENTER PERFORMANCE

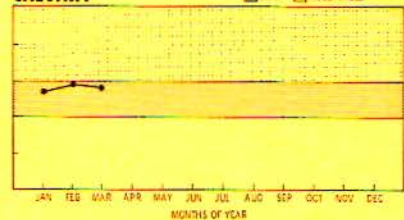
TOTAL NETWORK GOAL ACCEPTABLE



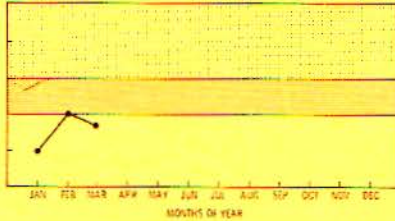
BEDFORD GOAL ACCEPTABLE



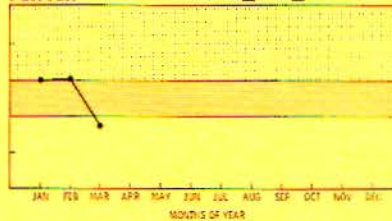
CALGARY GOAL ACCEPTABLE



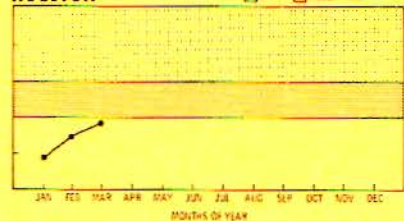
CROYDON GOAL ACCEPTABLE



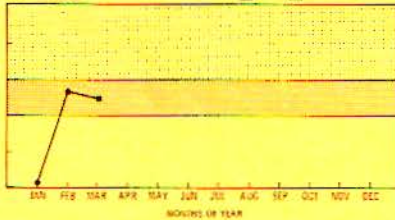
DENVER GOAL ACCEPTABLE



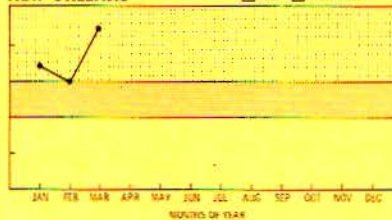
HOUSTON GOAL ACCEPTABLE



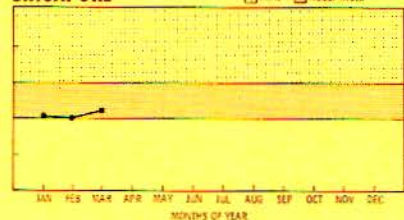
MIDLAND GOAL ACCEPTABLE



NEW ORLEANS ★ GOAL ACCEPTABLE



SINGAPORE GOAL ACCEPTABLE



★ PRODUCTIVITY CENTER OF THE MONTH

Singapore Breaks Record!

By JILL JOHNSMEYER

During the two week period ending April 2 the Singapore computer center finally accumulated a big enough backlog of TIMAP[®] processing to show what they could accomplish if pushed a bit, and they really took advantage of the situation.

After determining the previous weekly production record was held by Calgary, using a comparable number of systems; and realizing the potential addition of yet another trophy for their fast growing collection, a message was sent to Calgary suggesting Singapore could indeed better the Calgary production for a week and maybe even for the month — though Calgary had a big head start. It was also suggested that Dallas get in the act by providing some sort of incentive award for the center who could break the existing record.

At this point, having carefully set up all the skeptics and non-believers, the Singapore center promptly proceeded to break the old weekly

production record by a whopping 18 hours. Not content to relax after this feat, they hinted that with a slight increase in the ante not only would they again top the Calgary record, but would even better their own. Dallas fleetingly considered double or nothing but fortunately did not commit, as for the second week in a row the record fell... this time by an additional 2 hours.

Even spotting Singapore their first of the month idle time, CALGARY did hang on to the MONTHLY PRODUCTION RECORD for March. However, one of their machines has now gone to Perth and the Singapore backlog looks healthy, so — watch out world — by the end of April the monthly record could also easily belong to Singapore. Calgary expects to get it back this fall when both centers will again have equal capacity.

**TO BOTH CENTERS, A HEARTY
"WELL DONE"**

3 Have New Jobs

Roy Fuller has been named manager of South Latin American Land operations, with headquarters in Rio de Janeiro. He will also be the major customer liaison for Marine operations in the appropriate Latin American countries.

Roy Kelm has succeeded Roy Fuller as manager of operating services, and Eric Lewis has replaced Roy Kelm as manager of Materials Services. Both are based in Dallas.

NOTE: To all you other centers — Dallas also keeps track of the best production TIMAP each week. For the past month the winner has been either Singapore or Calgary, but since the weekly is based on total 2X time for a specific machine and all machines are configured basically the same, it looks like someone ought to be able to break the pattern. How about it?

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