from ACUTA's Board of Directors;
your editor, our fabulous printing people,
and the entire staff in the Telecommunication
Office at the University of Nebraska----
Happy Holidays!
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm extremely proud to address you all today as your new President.

When Don Latuk called to give me the good news about his appointment with Occidental Petroleum, I was so caught up in his excitement that it took me several minutes to realize that I would now be required to take over his duties as president.

A quick reference to the ACUTA Constitution also confirmed that following the Atlanta Conference, I would remain eligible to serve my own term as president. I feel extremely fortunate to be afforded this extended period of time in office and hope it will allow me to see most new projects through to completion.

Some of the matters which must, I feel be addressed as a matter of some urgency are:


c) To increase membership, particularly in regions 4, 5 & 6.

d) To encourage ACUTA members to publish articles in Trade Journals.

e) To evaluate, after three years of existence, the value of industry members in ACUTA.

I would like to handle the Industry Membership question in the same way as we handled the newsletter situation last year, i.e., by inviting all full associate and industry members to write to me confidentially on the subject at: York University, 4700 Keele Street Downsview, Ontario M3J 2R4

And now for a review of the Region 3 Workshop. The workshop was hosted by Ferris State College in Big Rapids, Michigan on October 29 thru 31. It was a big success and I had the pleasure of attending along with fellow board members Elwyn Hull and Jackie Pollack and past presidents Dorothy Heinicke, Tom Miller and Doug Brumme11.

The occasion was marred by the fact that after working so hard to make the whole thing happen, our host Lois Hitzeman was taken to the hospital on Saturday, the 28th, suffering from acute arthritis attack in the spinal region and subsequently spent the whole workshop in intensive care.

I'm sure you all join me in wishing Lois a speedy recovery and in congratulating her for organizing the workshop so well that her boss Bob Kern was able to step right in and take the whole thing right in his stride.

The workshop sessions included:
Installation and Maintenance of Your Privately Owned System; conducted by Rocco Salerno of Northern Telecom.

Criteria for Selecting and Working With a Consultant; by Robert Kern of Ferris State College.

Bell System, Today and Tomorrow; by Phillip Skeba of Michigan Bell.

Accounting Control for Telephone Costs; by Marvin Witbeck of Ferris State and Harvey Makin of Sys-Tel.

And before leaving, we were all given a tour of the Telecommunication Center at the College, featuring of course the new SL-1 Switch.

The accommodations were just great, the food was first class and the hospitality shown us by these wonderful people at Ferris State will long be remembered.

Thank you all so very much!

Until next month,

Yours Sincerely,

/s/ Mal Reader

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

from left to right, Peter Harrop, Consultech Canada, Ltd., Fern Campbell, Uni of Alberta and ACUTA President Mal Reader, York University, Toronto.....

Tommy Miller from Southern Miss enjoying his beautiful surroundings...
The intrepid international traveller has returned to the harsh world of reality at Emory University. BAH HUMBUG! You know, if I had money, I'd be dangerous, just jet-setting all over the world. Well, anyone can be rich. One has to have a lot of character to be poor, and I have more character than I can handle... I'd rather have less character—more money!

Even on vacation I couldn't get away from the world of communications. On the flight to London I met a charming young man with the international telecommunications division of the British Post Office. (Can you imagine what would happen if the U.S. Postal Service operated our telephone system?? It makes me shudder!) At any rate, we passed the hours discussing the advanced state of British Telecommunications and their great strides in the use of optical fiber cable. He said that when the work in progress is completed in a couple of years, the United Kingdom will have one of the most modern and advanced telecommunications systems in the world. I believe him. I was reading in the November issue of Communication News that the BPO will be offering Prestel, its view-data service linking the telephone to the TV set to give users access to information stored on a computer, in the U.S. next year.

The Computer and Communications Industry Association (CCIA) has charged that AT&T's selling of software is an violation of a 1956 consent agreement. CCIA, in it's complaint states: "Virtually none of the software is oriented toward using computers directly to provide common carrier communication services." The Justice Department's Antitrust division has notified AT&T that an investigation is underway.

From Bob Scrivener of Northern Telecom: "The future is clearly going to call for fully integrated information systems. The technology -- essentially microprocessors, LSI's and software will be the same for telephones, telecommunications networks, and other terminals such as word processors. Today's LSI technology means the intelligence may be distributed in your telephone, the transmission line, PBX, central office switch, computer or any other terminal -- in short, at any place or in several places in the telecommunications network, wherever it's desirable, as long as someone is planning the integration...." That "someone" is you an me, friends!

Robert Eyres, Arizona Chapter President, speaking at the recent TCA Conference: "....the telecommunications function is moving into new areas of the organization. Our function is moving out of the 'office services' area and into data processing....The pressure is on us now to adapt our attitudes and skills so that we will be able to compete successfully with data processing technicians for the key management positions available. We will only succeed in this area by striving to advance ourselves professionally, and by continually proving to management that we have the knowledge and capability that will contribute to the operational efficiency and profit of our company. It is not the system which provides the solution: it is the people who must develop, implement, and make the system work who provide the solution.... that ultimately becomes the measure of success or failure."

In case you missed the announcement, effective November 15, AT&T reduced its long distance rates. If you do a lot of international dialing you might want to check with your account manager about the new rates which comes about as a direct result of reduced charges for overseas satellite circuits that AT&T leases from Comsat.

It was only a matter of time department: You can now dial-a-divorce in Vancouver, B.C.... All of the information is taken over the phone. The enterprising lawyer who came up with the idea says that mostly middle income people use the service and that with his toll free number he can be conveniently reached from anywhere in Canada. Total cost to get unhitched? $200.00....

Specialized Systems, Inc of San Diego is now marketing a portable teletypewriter terminal for use by the deaf. The device, called PORTA-TEL, allows the individual to initiate a call by placing a telephone handset onto the built-in modem coupler and dialing the number desired. When the phone rings, a system of flashing lights signals the deaf person being called. Although it takes two TTY's to communicate, they do not have to be made by the same manufacturer. PORTA-TEL can be used to communicate with an old reconditioned teletype machine, or a newer, portable TTY. Teletypewriters for the Deaf, Inc., of Washington, D.C. publishes a special Telephone Directory of the Deaf. The directory lists private individuals, organizations, government agencies, schools, etc., which have some kind of TTY device.

Multitudinous thanks to all of you who took the time to respond to my questionnaire on ACUTA programs and seminars. I was most encouraged! I believe you will all be pleasantly surprised when you see what I have planned for you in Atlanta.

I forgot to mention that, as a true Daughter of the South, I took grits with me on my trip to England and Scotland. I would like to report that a thrilled and grateful nation greeted their introduction, but the general consensus of opinion among my family over there was that I should be declared an undesirable alien and immediately deported! Oh well, even in the best Southern families, one is bound to find a Yankee in the woodpile....

Quote for the month comes from Charles Franklin Ketterling who said: "People must have a certain amount of intelligent ignorance to get anywhere. I've got the ignorance part down pat.... one of these days I'll work on the intelligence part...."

See you next month....

Best Wishes

FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND THE NEW YEAR
Since there are so many wonderful and exciting things to see and do in the city of Atlanta, it would be tremendously helpful if you would indicate, from the list below, three (3) activities in which you would be interested during your stay in Atlanta. Mark your choices with an "X." If you are planning on bringing your spouse, indicate the three activities in which they might be interested with an "S." Your help and cooperation are very much appreciated. Please return this questionnaire to: CONNIE GENTRY, PHYSICAL PLANT DEPT., EMORY UNIVERSITY, ATLANTA, GA. 30322.

_____ Six Flags Over Georgia: One of America's finest family amusement parks, featuring the world's tallest roller coaster, the world's only triple loop roller coaster, live entertainment and multitudinous other wonderful attractions.

_____ Underground Atlanta: Atlanta's "City beneath the City," restored to it's 1890's atmosphere. Over 85 shops, boutiques, restaurants and lounges.

_____ Stone Mountain Park: So named because it contains the world's largest mass of granite on which is carved the world's largest piece of sculpture. Park is 3200 landscaped acres complete with ante-bellum plantation, native craft and gift shop, 18-hole golf course, steam locomotive ride around base of mountain, see-and-touch game ranch, restaurants and other good stuff.

_____ Swan House: Home of Atlanta Historical Society, see Margaret Mitchell Library, Civil War memorabilia, excellent collection of 18th antiques.

_____ Wren's Nest: Home of Joel Chandler Harris (or Uncle Remus to the ignorant).

_____ Shopping/Sightseeing: Visit Atlanta's largest covered mall, shop at Neiman-Marcus, Sak's, Lord & Taylor, tour the Governor's mansion, other points of interest.

_____ Braves Baseball Game: Anyone who chooses this is either a dyed in the wool baseball fanatic, a sadist, a masochist, or all three.

_____ Golf: If you are attending the wonderful and exciting sessions I have planned, you won't have time to play golf, but maybe your spouse would be interested.

_____ Tour of Homes: The stately and historical homes of Atlanta are opened for your edification and enlightenment. Needless to say, my residence is not included.

_____ Tour of Bars: The stately and historical bars of Atlanta are opened for those who care nothing for edification and enlightenment.

If you don't see anything on this list that interests you, please feel free to tell me what you would be interested in doing. And keep it clean!
"WHAT IS TMC?"

TMC, Telecommunications Management Corporation, is an independent consulting firm specializing in Telecommunications Utilization and Management, and offering a full range of services including Equipment Analysis & Design, Computerized Network Analysis & Design, Preparation of Bid Specifications, Manufacturer/Vendor Interface, Department Organization & Efficiency, and Complete Implementation Services.

All contracted services include concise and complete Management and Financial Documentation, and thorough follow-through and follow-up services to insure the effectiveness of our recommendations.

"WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTING FIRM?"

TMC does not represent any Equipment or Facilities Manufacturer or Vendor. As Communications Consultants to your College, University, or Medical Center, our only function is to serve your best interests. This objective we pursue with all of the ability and energy at our command.

"DO YOU KNOW THE EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT?"

Our Education Specialist is a former University Telecommunications Manager who understands from 'Hands On' experience Telecommunications requirements and operation in an educational environment. Current clients in the education community include Boston College and The University of Virginia.

"WHAT DO WE DO IF WE ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR SERVICES?"

At your request, and at no cost to you, TMC will send our Education Specialist to your office for a mutual interview. From the results of the interview, TMC will prepare (for your review and analysis) a complete and detailed proposal of offered services and associated costs based upon your stipulated requirements. Upon acceptance of part or all of the proposal, the details will be incorporated into a contract. You will know what we will do and the associated cost to your institution before you enter into an Agreement.

CALL OR WRITE TO OUR EDUCATION SPECIALIST TODAY!

James J. McCullough / Member of ACUTA
"MOUTH OF THE SOUTH"

I hope yaw'l enjoyed last month's column. Just to prove that we believe in equal tahn (time), we borrowed a few lines from Earl Wilson's column "How to Tawk Like Noo Yawkers". When a true yankee says amateur, it will sound like "amachuh", parks become "pox", years become "yizz", forty becomes "faudy" and yaw'l becomes "yizz'll". A typical sentence might be, "yizz'll have to git otta here". Well enough of that "Yankee" talk.

I'm sure Connie (alias Scarlet O'Hara) will introduce you to southern bobbycue. This is a delectable southern sandwich that is prepared properly only in certain parts of the South. It consist of chopped hawg, cole slaw and fiery sauce made chiefly of vinegar, red pepper and ketchup. "Ah just caint go another day without a bobbycue sandwich." When they make bobbycue, there is a lot of smoke which goes up the "chimbley". Because the bobbycue is so hot, yaw'l probably want to order to Co-Cola--the soft drink that started in Hotlanta and conquered the world.

While yaw'l are eating that bobbycue, it will probably be warm and you might hear someone yale, "Turn on the fayan" (an electrical appliance that circulates air).

Now, yaw'l remember last month I told you about the "Good Ole Boys", well they really like their likker; either the amber kind bought in stores or the homemade white kind the Federal Boys from upon. Now most of the Good Ole Boys carry their likker in a poke (a brown paper bag).

Well, I reckon (an expression of supposition or intent) I better be goin' back to work. See ya next month.

"JEST A GOOD OLE BOY"

PARTY LINE

As stated on the front page of ACUTA NEWS, we wish all of you a Merry Christmas. Many people at the University of Nebraska are involved in the production of the ACUTA NEWS and the greeting comes from all of us!

Received a note from Dorothy Heinecke, always a plus for me. She was answering the query from Mike Grunder concerning the absence of Hank Huitt at Snowbird. The following is her answer:

".....Hank accepted an offering from Governor State University at South Park Forest, Illinois (a suburb of Chicago) to become their Director of Auxiliary Enterprises. Those of you who attended the St. Louis meeting will remember that Hank pulled out of the running for the new secretary job because of the move he intended to make. I have been hearing from Hank periodically and understand that he is settling into his new work very nicely. It was a big decision for Hank to make since he enjoyed being in the telecommunication area at Southern Illinois University, but the new work is giving him the possibility of advancement which is what he was looking for.

Hank is one of our charter members and in fact, goes back to the group who attended the workshops which I asked Michigan State University to sponsor prior to the formation of ACUTA. Even before this, Hank worked with our Illinois group in sponsoring quarterly meetings of the telecommunication managers. I tried to get the word around that Hank had sent his greetings to the group at Snowbird, but perhaps I missed Mike.....Dorothy Heinecke"

Another note from Dorothy identifies my un-named people in the November ACUTA NEWS. Dorothy advises they are: Nancy McReynolds from Tulane University and Alvin Telles from Western Washington State College and she believes the photo was taken at the Toronto Conference in "75.

Thanks for your help Dorothy!

I heard the other day, that the very first telephone was installed in the White House 100 years ago. Can you just imagine the change in numbers and costs!

The latest issue of APPA (Association of Physical Plant Administrators) says the the University of West Virginia has implemented a long distance telephone cost and control and accountability system that resulted in savings of over $217,000 last year. DDD access was restricted and all calls routed over leased lines network. Come on West Virginia, lets have an article from you on this.....

In "COMMUNICATIONS" I read a little article that interested me and it should you.....Severe skill shortages in several telecommunications disciplines, inflation and record hiring all served to increase salary levels throughout the industry, reports Jay Jacobson of Personnel Resources. '77 was by far the best year we have ever seen for corporate telecommunications openings for analysts, supervisors and managers', Jacobson said. Most of these openings have been in the starting salary of $15-27,000. Free copies of the salary survey are available from Personnel Resources, Suite 1234, 342 Madison Avenue., N.Y., NY 10017...."
PARTY LINE, CONTINUED:

In the December issue of DATA COMMUNICATIONS is an article that should wake a few of us up to what is happening in our world and the major reason ACUTA and our training programs are so vital to us. The article is about Frank J. Carr, the Commissioner of the Automated Data & Telecommunications Service (ADTS) of the government's General Services Administration. He is responsible for $500 million dollars of electronic data communications equipment purchased annually, plus managing the huge inventory of the system. Carr is deeply concerned about the negative atmosphere that surrounds both the planning and procurement of government information systems, and would like the ADTS to be viewed as an "advocate", especially as systems get more complex with the increasing use of telecommunications in data systems. The article quotes Mr. Carr:

"...I'm all for getting the management of EDP and communications together. Five years from now, the world is going to be a lot different, and I think the communications function itself will benefit enormously from association with EDP, simple because communications managers have not been living in a competitive world. In a lot of places, the head of communications only worries about getting telephone service, paying the bills, and filling out the budget forms. He doesn't want to worry about the electronic systems because he's going to retire in two or three years."

Carr admits that both the GSA and other agencies have historically tended to look at EDP and telecommunications in terms of the money spent than benefits derived. With people costs rising about 6% a year, investing in EDP and communications become more attractive than ever. He estimates that contrary to rising personnel costs, communications costs are declining 11% a year computer logic cost is dropping 25% a year and computer memory cost is decreasing about 40%. (I wonder where he was during the latest rate increases by the Telco's)......

His statement about the telecommunications administrator is about the same idea that Jerry Goldstone discussed at ACUTA conference in Snowbird. Let's get with it, learn what EDP needs are and be there first......

The 1979 Midwestern States Telecommunications Managers and Directors meeting has been set for May 9, 1979 thru May 11, 1979. The site is Rapid City, South Dakota. Anyone interested in attending should contact Jim Stein for information:

Jim Stein, Telecommunications Section
Office of Central Services
State Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
604-773-3121

Jim advised he decided against housing in tents on the wide open prairies, and has reserved a block of rooms at the Howard Johnson's, which is complete with tennis courts, swimming pool and bar......

In the December issue of COMMUNICATION NEWS, our good friend Bruce Howat has some very interesting observations on conferences for telecommunications managers. He discusses the TCA Conference in San Diego and the regional conferences of CMA, CICA and SETA. One point that is made concerns the exhibitors. It is his opinion that the four regional conferences mentioned, plus the ICA meeting and the annual conferences of AFCEA, APCO and ACUTA more than amply meet the needs of telecommunications managers and that these regional groups must generate more attendance from all chapters and select sites for their meeting which will assure heavy "walk-in" and non-member guest attendance so they will merit continued and/or greater exhibitor support. This was a subject covered very thoroughly at the ACUTA board meeting in Snowbird and one that continues to be of great concern to the board. We feel the exhibitors are most important to our conferences, but it is getting more difficult to attract them. Bruce Howats "Point of View" is worth reading.....

I am taking the liberty of re-producing about the funniest cartoon I have seen for a long time. It is from the Telecom Library and I hope they don't mind. Thanks Harry Newton!!!

*******************

HELLO...YES, THIS IS HE...THEY'RE TRYING TO BREAK UP WHAT...AND IF I DON'T INTERVENE YOU'LL CUT OFF MY SERVICE...WELL, I;)

More future

****************************

ACUTA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Region 5:
George J. Woodin
Oral Roberts University
P.O. Box 2187
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74131

Region 6:
Edward B. Lindaman
President
Whitworth College
Station 1, Spokane, Washington 99251
509-466-3200

POW! Right in the old kisser....
but Doug Brumwell seems to like it!
QUESTION:
Can you give us some background information about the FCC January, 1980 policy relating to hospital paging frequencies?

ANSWER:
On July 2, 1974, the FCC adopted a Report and Order in Docket 19880 relating to the operation of medical services systems. This proceeding substantially altered provisions in the Special Emergency Service.

One of the changes imposed by this proceeding was to require all Special Emergency Radio Service one-way paging operations to be moved to dedicated paging channels, by January 1, 1980.

The decision was based on a number of problems associated with conducting both the hospital paging operations and regular two-way medical communication transmissions on the same channel. These problems stemmed from the high volume of traffic generated and the potential for interference to more urgent requirements than the messages associated with hospital paging operations.

The frequencies affected by this amendment to the rules are as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>VHF LOW BAND</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MHz</td>
<td>MHz</td>
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<tr>
<td>33.020</td>
<td>155.160</td>
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<td>33.040</td>
<td>155.175</td>
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<td>33.060</td>
<td>155.205</td>
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<td>33.080</td>
<td>155.220</td>
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<td>155.235</td>
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<td>155.265</td>
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<td>37.980</td>
<td>155.280</td>
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<td>45.960</td>
<td>155.295</td>
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<td>46.000</td>
<td>155.325</td>
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<td>47.420</td>
<td>155.340</td>
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<td>47.580</td>
<td>155.400</td>
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<td>47.620</td>
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NOTE: Certain of the Special Emergency Service frequencies listed above carry specific footnote limitations concerning their overall usage.

Section 89.523(D) of Part 89 of Chapter I of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations describes the required changes in operations and reads as follows:

"(D) Effective August 15, 1974, paging operations may be authorized in the Special Emergency Radio Services only on frequencies assigned under the provisions of 89.525 (F) (12). Paging operations on other frequencies, authorized prior to August 15, 1974, may be continued for the balance of the license term then effective. In addition, such operations may be renewed until January 1, 1980, subject to the condition that harmful interference is not caused to regularly authorized operations in the Special Emergency Radio Service."

The important elements contained in Rule Section 89.523 (d) from the practical viewpoint are:

1) Any new system licensed after August 15, 1974 on the above listed Special Emergency frequencies may NOT include one-way paging operations.

2) Systems licensed prior to August 15, 1974, which included authorization for paging operations, may continue paging operations for the balance of their license term.

3) Paging operations authorized prior to August 15, 1974 may be renewed until Jan 1, 1980, provided that harmful interference is not caused to other regularly authorized users.

4) Systems licensed after August 15, 1974, which authorize paging operations MUST follow the provisions of Rules Section 89.525 (F)(12) and reads as follows:

"(12) This frequency will be assigned only for one-way paging communications to mobile receivers. Transmissions for the purpose of activating or controlling remote objects on this frequency are not authorized."

Continued next page:
The Special Emergency Paging Only frequencies are listed as follows:

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<th>VHF LOW BAND</th>
<th>VHF HIGH BAND</th>
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<tr>
<td>35.640 MHz</td>
<td>35.680 MHz</td>
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<tr>
<td>43.640 MHz</td>
<td>43.680 MHz</td>
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NOTE: Certain of the Special Emergency Radio Service Frequencies listed above carry specific footnote limitations concerning their overall usage. Refer to the table of frequency allocations for the particular service regarding the applicable restrictions.

Recently the FCC has received a number of inquiries concerning the feasibility of providing exceptions to the paging limitations in order to allow "alerting" by organizations conducting ambulance and rescue squad operations.

These "alerting" transmissions involve the signalling of personnel (usually volunteers) who, once notified, assemble at a predetermined site, usually that of the emergency vehicle, and respond via two-way radio in order to ascertain the nature of the emergency requirement.

This "alerting" of volunteer ambulance and rescue squad personnel is distinguishable from regular hospital paging operations which normally involve medical staff messages and administrative matters.

Rules Section 89.525(f)(25) makes provision for alert-type paging and reads as follows:

"(25) This frequency may be used for one-way paging, alerting, transmissions. All such use, however, is limited to ambulance or rescue squad organizations and is on a secondary basis to base/mobile operations".

Special Emergency Frequencies which currently allow alert-type paging are as follows:

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<th>VHF LOW BAND</th>
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<tr>
<td>33.020</td>
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<td>37.940</td>
<td>45.920</td>
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<td>45.960</td>
<td>46.040</td>
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<td>47.420</td>
<td>47.460</td>
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<td>47.540</td>
<td>47.580</td>
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<td>47.660</td>
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NOTE: Certain of the Special Emergency Radio Service Frequencies listed above carry specific footnote limitations concerning their overall usage. Refer to the table of frequency allocations for the particular service regarding the applicable restrictions.

Some of the comments of the Agency in making this decision included, "the decision was made based on a number of problems associated with conducting both hospital paging operations and regular two-way medical communication transmissions on the same channel. The problems stemmed from the high volume of traffic generated and further....hospital paging is inherently one-way, a reply is not expected.... allowing "alerting" type paging for specific operations is that many of the ambulance/rescue squad operations are made up of volunteer organizations who depend on public funds and contributions for radio equipment. The costs involved in making these organizations secure paging only channels would represent a significant economic burden. The financial problems are compounded by realization that many of these volunteer systems are coordinated over large regions, sometimes entire states, so that any funding sources are usually not uniform and all units in a coordinated system approach will not be in similar fiscal situations...."

Thanks for the question!
"BITS AND PIECES"

To the undoubted surprise of numerous large users whose expressed views were directly to the contrary, the FCC last week selected "customer perception" as the one of several possible alternative approaches on which to conclude that wide area and message toll telephone service are "functionally equivalent" and therefore "like" services under section 202(a) of the Communications Act.

Effect of the 7-0 FCC action is to require AT&T, in a new WATS tariff probably next year, to demonstrate that the resulting discrimination between MTS and WATS rates for evidently like services is justified and that it is not unjust or unreasonable.

The Commission emphasized that the ruling does not require AT&T to discontinue either inward or outward WATS, but to justify the tariff differences between MTS and WATS in rates and service conditions. Any ultimate ruling by the Commission requiring either elimination of WATS or rate parity with MTS, would have vast effects on the competitive telecommunications market. Specialized common carriers offering MTS like services have stated they are really competing far more with WATS than MTS. While interstate MTS revenues for the entire US telephone industry totaled $11.1 billion, interstate WATS revenues in the same year were $1.8 billion. User comments with the FCC have made it clear that some businesses stake their entire operation on WATS, and revenues from the service have roughly doubled in four years.

The FCC adopted two items during their session. The first was a final decision on inquiry into the like service question and the second was a lengthy reaffirmation of the July 1977 decision rejecting AT&T's most recently filed WATS tariff. No fixed deadline for the submission of a new tariff was set by the Commission, although present WATS rates were found unlawful by the agency over two years ago and AT&T's subsequent tariff was rejected as not following the guidelines of that order.

They set next March 1 as a tentative date for a threshold filing by AT&T, these will be open to the public.

In its press releases last week, the FCC reported it "also denied a request by MCI for a rollback back to the pre-1974 WATS tariff, or a freeze on WATS expansion."

The above is a partial reproduction of Telecommunications Reports, Volume 44, No. 47, and is sent regularly to your editor by the Mouth of the South.....

Pacific Tel, in support of President Carter's anti-inflation program, has proposed a $168 million reduction in its pending rate increase applications now before the California Public Utilities Commission. Three applications totaling $212 million would be reduced to $344.3 million. Board Chairman Gordon Hough said "Since 1974, the cost of operating Pacific Tel in California has increased 39% while telephone rates increased 4%. In the same period, food prices have increased by 34%, housing 42% and medical expenses 52%." Illinois Bell also voluntarily reduced its rate increase request from $192 million to $110 million.....

The School of Arts at New York University will offer a new degree program leading to a Master of Professional Studies Degree in Interactive Telecommunications beginning in the Fall of 1979. This will be the first program at an American University to concentrate on interactive telecommunications. It has been developed over the past three years with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation.

The new program will prepare individuals to play a leading role in the continuing national and international need for exploration of new technology..... Communication NEWS, Dec/78.....

The Texas PUC upheld MCI Communications Corporation's right to offer the full range of its services within Texas. Southwestern Bell contended that MCI Executene Service was providing local exchange service in Texas without having obtained the requisite certificate of convenience and necessity from the PUC. However the PUC found that MCI was a specialized intercity common carrier, not engaged in local services and did not require commission authorization to operate within the state. At present MCI is operational in Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio.....

Don't know if I believe this, but I read in a report by the Office of Management & Budget that federal agencies have reduced the paperwork load on individuals and businesses by more than 85 million hours. They cite the following:

1. the number of recurring federal reports cut from 5310 to 4987.

2. the IRS has cut its paperwork burden on the public by 70 million hours.

3. HEW's reduced by 7 million hours.

However, the IRS still has the most burdensome reports of all in terms of hours required; Individual tax returns, 148,950,000 hours; Wage & Tax statements (W-2), 109,087,000 hours; and the Employers Quarterly Returns, 86,984,000 hours. Well, every minute counts!.....

Connie Gentry has a questionnaire in this month's ACUTA NEWS and she would really appreciate it if we would all take time to fill it out and return it to her as soon as possible. It's a big job to host a conference and it will help a lot if she knows what we want to see and do in Atlanta next year. Please take a minute and fill this questionnaire out.....

ACUTA NEWS is in need of photos, cartoons, and news items. I will return any photos, if you will make it known when you send them.

It would really be nice to hear from the other regions. I'm sure you are all involved in doing neat things. We are getting ready to enter phase 2 of our new switch at Nebraska. Our magic date is December 27, 1978. So far, phase 2 seems to be relatively trouble free and we are looking forward to the second cut. As mentioned before, we are cutting to GTE Automatic Electric 2EAX with Least Cost Routing. This combines the University and State Government on one switch.....

Have a happy holiday, send pictures and articles, and your New Year Resolutions.....
Assuming you're not quite as tired of reading about it as I am of writing about it, I think a few more thoughts on our recent conversation to ESS would be apropos. As I have mentioned previously, the preliminary planning and work for our conversion went very well. A great deal of campus cabling had to be added and re-routed and a number of manholes had to be re-built. Off-campus a Telco building had to be extensively remodeled before the new switching equipment could be installed. Administrative planning-equipment inventories, record changes, public utility-all went about as smoothly as can be expected.

The actual cut over went well also. The Telco troops were out in force and the coordinating of all the different people involved was impressive. It happened on a Saturday morning so there was not a significant amount of traffic on the system for the first couple days; Monday would be the first test.

When Monday arrived the first test was passed with flying colors. All things considered, I have to give C & P an 'A' for their efforts. Think about the vast number of things that could have gone wrong but didn't and I'm certain you all would agree.

This is not to say that everything was letter perfect; nothing this big is going to be completely trouble free. A number of things did go wrong and some of them are worth noting for those of you who may be planning a similar conversion.

First off, don't take anything for granted. The proper number of local and CCSA trunks were planned for, the proper number determined and ordered months ago. No sweat, except a few of each got left out; a minor thing, but none the less inconvenient for us and embarrassing for them.

As mentioned in the past, with a conversion of this type people are going to get confused with the fast dial tone - or rather the lack of a trunk and pause when they dial to get outside dial tone. Even with all our publicity on the matter we still received numerous calls from people who complained that they could not get off campus or CCSA dial tone.

Also on day one we received many complaints of dead phones. Exactly why I'm still not sure, but by day's end things were back under control. Just mark that one off to the proverbial "bugs" that always need ironing out.

Now that we've had the system in for awhile a few other snakes have crawled out of the woodwork. Electronic switches will do just about anything you want except polish your shoes-and I think they're working on that one. I thought I knew exactly what all the features were about. This proved to be not quite the case. In fact, the telephone company isn't even sure on some of them.

For example, the call forwarding-no answer feature started acting up. In some cases it wasn't forwarding all of the calls after the pre-determined number of rings. Turns out the feature can be made to forward just on-campus calls or just off campus calls or all calls. This fact, while not earthshaking, was new to me. Although I never ordered this feature for anything less than all calls, some of my requests had been programmed for only on-campus calls.

The point here is not to assume that you know it all. There's really more to it than meets the eye sometimes. Call forwarding is not the only feature that turns out to have a number of programming variations. Every day has become an educational experience for both me and the telephone company.

And speaking of not assuming that you know it all all-even on the simplest custom calling features never assume that your users understand them. Some of the off the wall problems that pop up are really amazing. Training really is mandatory.

One other troublesome problem to watch out for that I never thought about: On our Telco equipment inventory rotary groups are (or rather should be) marked as such. Turns out some were not marked, others were marked but were not really in rotary. When our ESS was programed these mistakes were programed right along with all the rest of the information. Thus we ended up with some lines in rotary that should not have been and vice versa.

Also, another little surprise to some of our users was that the ESS does not allow you to busy out a line by putting it on hold. This really upset some people as well as some office routines. Needless to say, we got some flack on this one!
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