15th Anniversary

1958

1973
lab space station will be conducted from the Mission Control Center, with 24-hour days necessary to keep all systems operating properly until the third Skylab crew is ready to enter the orbiting laboratory in early November.

The crew of the second manned Skylab mission, scheduled to end their 59-day flight on Sept. 25, will be holding their first formal press conference during the first week in October. Most of that week, Astronauts Alan Bean, Owen Garriott and Jack Lousma will participate in day-long technical reviews of their activities aboard Skylab.

As the second crew of Skylab discusses their experiences in space, the third and last crew—Commander Gerald Carr, Science Pilot Edward Gibson and Pilot William Pogue—will be training for a Skylab flight set for at least 56 days.

Photographic laboratories at JSC will be working long hours to process the thousands of photographs of the Earth taken by the Earth Resources Experiments Package cameras. More than 12,000 pictures were taken during the first Skylab mission, and more than eight miles of computer magnetic tape were recorded, but both of these totals are expected to be surpassed by the work of the second crew.

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

As the anniversary arrives, crews at Kennedy Space Center will be busy recycling and retesting for the November SL-14 launch, last of the Skylab program presently scheduled and expected to focus on Kohoutek. It will be from Pad B of Complex 39.

On Oct. 1, at Western Test Range, Delta 97 will undergo a simulated flight test in readiness for its launch Oct. 18. The spacecraft will arrive on Oct. 1.

Meanwhile, guidance and control checkout and leak checking will be in progress on Delta 98, IMP-J, at Complex 17B. The spacecraft will be in Hangar S prior to undergoing spin test Oct. 8 for launch Oct. 25.

Titan Centaur 1, newest of NASA launch vehicles, will be on the stand at Complex 41 and will be undergoing preparations for its Composite Electrical Readiness Test before its scheduled proof flight on Jan. 15.

Mariner 73, scheduled for the first two-planet flyby to obtain Venus environment and atmosphere data and to conduct exploratory investigation of Mercury's environment and surface, will be on Complex 36B. Technicians will be preparing it for a Flight Events Demonstration Oct. 12 and launch on Oct. 30. Its backup will be on Complex 36A and will be undergoing functional testing.

In the Space Shuttle field, developmental work will continue on the launch processing system, and the design contractor will work on plans for the Shuttle Landing Strip. The system will consist of computers, display and control consoles, data transmission systems and hardware interfaced equipment for installation at the launch pad, maintenance and checkout area, Launch Control Center and other KSC areas.

An instrumented KSC aircraft periodically monitors mangrove trees in areas flooded for mosquito control to detect, by infrared photography, impairment to tree growth. Monitoring is in cooperation with the Brevard County, Florida, Mosquito Control Agency.

Imagery in various spectra for detection of tree damage by woolly aphids in Mount Mitchell State Park, North Carolina, is being obtained by a KSC instrumented aircraft.

Remote sensing of soils in Volusia County, Florida, is being accomplished by a KSC instrumented aircraft in cooperation with the county government. In addition, Puerto Rican waterways are being monitored with remote sensing devices from a KSC instrumented aircraft to assist the Territory's government in locating the habitat of snails associated with schistosomiasis.

KSC is planning facility modifications for the processing and launch of a manned Apollo spacecraft and airlock module on the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project mission of 1975.

LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER

During Anniversary Week and the weeks immediately following, activities at Langley Research Center will include:

Final preparations for a public open house featuring the Center's work in aeronautics and space technology and scheduled for Oct. 6.

Viking Project engineers and scientists will continue work for the launch of the Mars-landing spacecraft mission to take place two years from now. Critical design reviews of major hardware components have begun and attention is on final decisions concerning the experiments to be included.

Construction work on an Aircraft Noise Reduction Laboratory is about 70 per cent complete; much work still must be done to outfit the interior with equipment and simulation facilities. The lab will be the most complete noise study facility in the U.S., when it is completed in February, 1974. Studies conducted there are expected to help alleviate noise pollution from aircraft and airports and to gain knowledge about human responses to aircraft noise.

Work will continue on perfection of a hypersonic research engine designed to operate at speeds beyond the supersonic range.

Several environmental programs, designed to learn more about the oceans, rivers, and marshlands, will continue in cooperation with state environmental organizations.

The apprentice technician program, recently reinstated, has just begun. It will train aerospace technicians to support various research programs.

Final preparations are being made for a light aircraft crashworthiness program, scheduled to begin in October. Using the former Lunar Landing Research Facility, the program will test the structural strengths and weaknesses of light, general aviation planes.

Scout Project Office managers are preparing for a busy 12 months of launches, mostly for foreign space agencies, that will put satellites into orbit aboard Scout launch vehicles.

A final test program involving the VTOL Harrier aircraft, loaned to NASA by the British, begins in October. After it ends, the plane will be flown to Washington, DC, in December for turnover to the Smithsonian Institution.