

Florida vacation

By ROBERT MIRALDI

Eight men will walk up the steps of an Eastern Airlines Lockheed 1011 Tri-Star jumbo jet May 16 and join about 255 other passengers for a two-and-one-half-hour trip to Orlando, Fla.

The men will get off at the Orlando airport and will quickly enter two waiting cars which will whisk them to the Sheraton Olympic Villa where they will stay for eight days.

For the eight men from the

Willowbrook Developmental Center it will be the first vacation of their lives.

"They're excited. They know it will be a big week," says Laddie Baldwin, senior recreational therapist at the state center for the retarded. Baldwin has been organizing and planning the week in Florida for four months.

"As far as we know, it's the first time anyone from Willowbrook has gone on a plane trip," Baldwin says.

"And it should be quite an

experience," explains Robert Silverman, office manager of Majors Travel Center in Mariners Harbor, which has booked the flight and made the Florida accommodations.

Silverman says that two days at Disneyworld, the fantasy recreation park in central Florida, should be the trip's highlight, although side excursions are also planned to Busch Gardens, Cypress Gardens, Sea World and Cape Kennedy.

The trip is expected to cost

about \$1,500 and is being paid for by money which the eight residents have accumulated in their personal bank accounts.

Silverman says that some special arrangements had to be made for the trip. First, one major airline refused to book the trip, which irked Silverman, who said he could have arranged the trip with that airline but decided instead to switch to Eastern.

Eastern will provide a customer service representative at Kennedy Airport May 16 to

see that the eight Willowbrook residents are taken care of.

Once in Florida, says Silverman, precautionary arrangements have been made with Orange County Hospital, in case emergency medical care might be needed.

Baldwin says that the only problem he foresees in Florida could be the special diets some of the residents are on. "I don't see any other problems," Baldwin says, adding that he has been taking the residents on frequent trips.

for Willowbrook eight is good news

"They have never been away from Willowbrook for this long," Baldwin says, "and only one of them has been on a plane. I think they're in for quite a time."

On May 16 eight residents of Willowbrook are in for eight days of good news.

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