

The 25,000th Performer
See pages 4-5



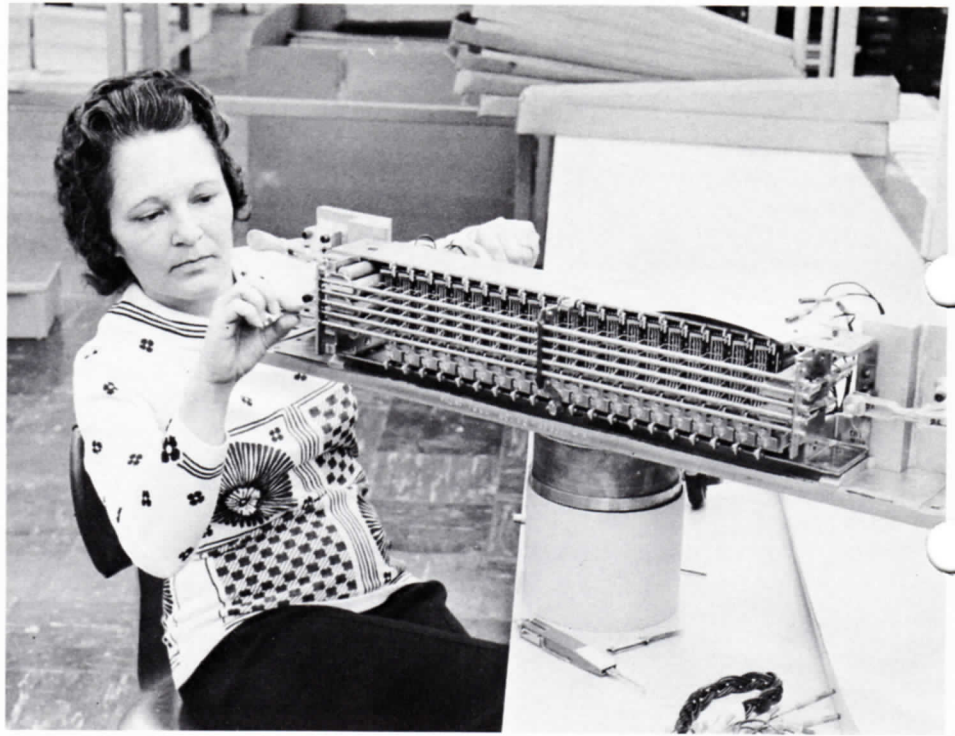
New Small Switch Now In Production

On January 17, production was completed on the first CB1 small crossbar switch at the Omaha Works.

"Several weeks of initial preparation were involved prior to the actual manufacture of this new type small switch," explained Bill Peterson, section chief in Department 132.

"Our schedule called for 40 units the first week of production," Bill continued. "Production will increase to 180 units through the last week of March."

The CF1, the only other small switch produced in Omaha, went into initial manufacture here last year. A total of 6,016 units were produced in 1972. Approximately 350 of the units are now produced each week.



Shirley Schroeder, a switch adjuster, completes one of the final operational phases.



Wireman Phyllis Connolly, Department 429, does the surface wiring on a Phase II frame.

Phase II Operation of ACD System To Handle More Information Calls

Production of an expanded version of the Automatic Call Distribution system recently began at the Omaha Works.

The ACD itself has been produced in Omaha for several years. The system distributes information calls to information operators.

Phase II, which is the terminology being used for the expansion of the original ACD network, allows more

calls to be channeled to the operator through the various information phone numbers, the most familiar being 411.

Both the ACD and its Phase II version are produced in the 400 organization.

The initial Phase II order of 61 frames will go to the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company here in Omaha.

Ideas Worth Cash For 33 Employees

Virg Orso, a machinist, and Sam Toscano, an electrician, pocketed an extra \$470 each on January 29.

At that time the two employees of Department 245 split a suggestion award totaling \$940.

The idea submitted involved the number of crossbar switch vertical unit bases which can be plated on each rack in Department 133.

The checks were presented by Wayne Hunt, director of engineering and manufacture.

Between December 15 and January 12, the Suggestion Committee awarded a total of \$1,855 to 33 Omaha Works employees.



Sam, left, and Virg shared the \$940 award.

The Environment: A Vital WE Concern

Two parts hydrogen, one part oxygen and too many parts pollution—today water can often be blamed as the carrier of some rather unenjoyable consequences of modern living. Pollution is the all-encompassing term. And nothing suffers more than our environment.

In taking a positive approach to pollution control, Western Electric's Omaha Works has developed an intricate system of testing the ef-

fluents leaving the plant.

"We have a letter of understanding with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Nebraska Department of Environmental Control," explained Len Lowder, senior staff engineer, Department 501C. "The agreement is that we will continuously monitor the volume of flow, the temperature and the acidity of the water discharged from the plant into the

nearby storm sewer system."

Since water leaves the plant via two separate routes (east into Hell Creek and west into the West Papio Creek), two distinct monitoring systems must be maintained.

The latest system is in the process of being set up south of the administration building. A small underground room has been constructed to house transmitters and a pump. The other monitoring system is located just north of the cross bar building.

"The pump will bring water samples into the building so that the acidity can be continuously measured," Len said. "The transmitters will measure temperature and flow of water. As for testing the water in general, we are looking principally for metal content."

Water samples obtained through a mechanized sampling system are tested in the chemical laboratory on the lower level of the administration building. The process employs an intricate piece of equipment called an atomic absorption spectrophotometer.

The instrument is capable of determining the presence as well as the proportion of most metals in water.

Explained Jerry Glenn, planning engineer in Department 171, "Our atomic absorption spectrophotometer, purchased last September, is capable of detecting one part in one million and, for some elements, one part in one billion.

"Put to practical use here at the Omaha Works, the instrument is employed in analyzing water effluents, air particulates (dust) and other samples such as plating, wire and raw materials."

Jerry stressed, "We feel that by monitoring the water and air, Western Electric can assure the public as well as its own employees that the air they breathe and the water they use is of the highest quality."



The atomic absorption spectrophotometer has an important function in determining metal content in water. Jerry, left, and Louis Canal, assistant chemist, run a sample test.



Jean, left, Esther and Bill have worked on the first to the 25,000th perforator. They, as well as the other department employees, look forward to another

The 25,000th Perfo

They're pretty proud of their perforator. And the Omaha Works is pretty proud of their performance.

That's a simple explanation of a much heralded event in Department 143 during the week of January 21.

At that time employees in the department produced the 25,000th KS 13882 perforator, a product unique to the Omaha Works.

The unit monitors telephone calls and provides the initial billing information.

Of the 25 employees involved

either directly or indirectly with the production of the perforator, none has less than 10 years of service with Western Electric. Among those employees directly involved are three of the original people assigned to the job approximately 15 years ago. They are Bill Neal, Esther Roeber and Jean Smyth.

Commenting on his involvement from the first to the 25,000th perforator, Bill said, "Anybody who can stick with it and adjust 25,000 perforators must know there's some-

thing to this type of work."

Esther noted, "I've always thought it was a special job because Omaha is the only place where this product is made."

Jean explained, "It's kind of a good feeling to reach this point. It's an interesting job. I've always liked it."

Said Department Chief Wayne French, "Since the initial production of the perforator, there hasn't been a major field complaint. The quality on this job is fantastic."



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rator

Wayne attributes the quality production to the fact that employees in the department take a tremendous pride in their work.

"These people are almost artists," he emphasized. "This is precision work involving highly-skilled personnel."

On hand January 25 to congratulate the employees for their outstanding performance were Wayne [Name], director of engineering and manufacture; John Stancavage, manager, 100; and Jack Rusthoven, assistant manager, 140.

Pioneers Share Skills

For five-year-old Jennifer, the geographical history of the United States is a series of strings, pieces of cardboard, small squares of material and raised dots on a piece of paper.

Jennifer's small fingers trace over the various shapes of the states, learning what they look like and where each is located in relation to the other.

Her eyes will never tell her what the Rocky Mountains look like on a bright spring day. Jennifer will never see the blue of the sky or the green of the grass.

But her mind will absorb what her fingers can feel. And although blind, Jennifer will experience a world as bright and promising as can any other inquisitive five-year-old.

Children like Jennifer can learn only so far as there is available teaching material. To facilitate the education of the blind, the A. B. Goetze Council of the Telephone Pioneers of America spend hundreds of volunteer hours each year compiling teaching aids.

Each Tuesday, in a spacious workroom on the lower level of the administration building, a number of Pioneers, Pioneers' wives and just plain interested people get together to work on the various projects for the blind.

Among these people is Kaye Trav-nicek, whose husband, Jim, is a planning engineer in Department 171. Neither Kaye nor Jim are Pioneers. But the rule book doesn't say that only members of the organization can contribute their time and efforts to these worthwhile projects.

Explained Kaye, "The workroom volunteers are a group of people who are so interested in life. Age is certainly no barrier. We need more volunteer help. And nothing could be more valuable than some young ideas."

Kaye has the distinction of contributing a very special talent to the volunteer force. Three years ago she became a certified Braille transcriber, a feat which involved six months of intensive study.

"My involvement in these Pioneer projects is very rewarding," Kaye said. "I do feel we need a larger workroom staff, particularly where Braille transcription is concerned.

"Braille should be done on a one-to-one basis. This way the individual child's particular needs can be met. And I believe this group could do it."

Those interested in assisting with the many local Pioneer projects should contact Bud Fanckboner, Department 172, president of the Goetze Council.



Kaye works on transcriptions for books the women in the background are completing.

Millard Student, Teacher Visit Bell Laboratories.



Mr. Lefebvre, left, presented round-trip plane tickets to Steve, right, and Bill.

It may be a long way from the science lab at Millard High School to the Bell Telephone Laboratories in Murray Hill, N.J.

But due to the efforts of Western Electric and the Omaha Works, Millard High School senior Steve Knight and teacher Bill Schnase made that trip in late January.

Each year, the Omaha Works, participating in a Bell system-wide pro-

gram, invites an area school district to submit the name of an outstanding science or math student. The student and one of his teachers are given an all-expense paid trip to the Bell Labs.

"I congratulate Steve on the honor he brings to himself and to his family," commented General Manager Frank J. Lefebvre. "This is the first time someone from the

Millard School District has been represented in the program, and I think it's great."

The annual field trip to the Bell Laboratories brings together some of the finest science students from all over the country.

Indicative of Steve's interest in the fields of science and engineering is the fact that he has applied for admission to Georgia Tech.

Service Anniversaries



Glenn F. Pardee
35 Years
3-16-38



Edward Gembica
30 years
3-3-43



John Maul
25 Years
3-1-48



Edward L. Woodrum
25 Years
3-5-48

Donald E. Hutchins
20 Years
3-27-53



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Olivia Hytrek, repairman in Department 433, and Art Euler, department chief, unravel one of the several quality banners that are being hung as a part of the campaign.

Quality Is Reemphasized

"WE AT OMAHA GUARANTEE QUALITY."

That's what the banners and the buttons say.

But it's not the banners or the buttons that perform. It's all of us at the Omaha Works. Our efforts in maintaining this guarantee of quality substantiate this campaign promise.

Contributions—big ones—are solicited from everyone. But the value is measured in efforts rather than in currency.

"The 1973 Omaha Works quality campaign is a perpetual one," emphasized Wayne Hunt, director of engineering and manufacture, who heads the in-plant steering committee for quality.

"This guarantee of quality is a standard of this location. Any product shipped from Omaha does have an absolute guarantee of quality assumed with the shipping of that product."

Quality in production isn't anything new to the Omaha Works in particular or to Western Electric as a whole.

It's the organization of the present campaign, the constant reiteration of the campaign slogan throughout the plant, and the continuing efforts of active quality teams in each of

the operating areas that make this standard a reality.

Think about it. It takes people to blank a core, mold a comb, assemble a relay, adjust a switch, twist a pair, mount a panel, solder a connection, process a unit, test a frame or sign off an inspection ticket. And it takes people to put quality into each of these operations.

Let's face it. Repair, rework, re-inspection and scrap amount to a large toll in terms of time, labor and material losses, not to mention untold hours of personal frustration.

Each of us at the Omaha Works has an essential part to play in assuring that quality is a part of every Omaha-shipped product.

"The quality banners and buttons and the program as a whole are a revitalization, a stimulus to increase awareness on everyone's part that we here in Omaha must guarantee quality," Mr. Hunt stressed.

Planned as an integral part of the Omaha Works quality campaign are regular features in **The Westerner** throughout the year.

Subsequent articles will focus on the quality standards of individual departments and people as well as reports from the various quality control teams.

Winter Retirements Are Announced For Three Omaha Works Employees

Omaha Works employees Bud Pettersen, Elmer Schmersal and Imogene Newton have retired from Western Electric following a combined 91 years of Company service.

Bud started with Western Electric in 1928 as a mechanic at the



**Bud
Pettersen**

Hawthorne Works. In 1930 he joined the Baltimore Works where he was employed for 27 years.



**Elmer
Schmersal**

Bud was transferred to the Omaha Works in 1957 as department chief, Expediting. At the time of his retire-

ment, he was department chief in 242. Bud's retirement was effective February 6.

Elmer's last day at the Omaha Works was February 6. His retirement, following five weeks of vacation, is effective March 14.

Elmer's WE career began in Lincoln, Nebr., where he was em-



**Imogene
Newton**

ployed in 1946 as a wireman. He came to the Omaha Works in 1960 as a relay adjuster. Elmer held the position of machine operator in Department 132 at the time of his retirement.

Imogene began her WE career in 1951 as a clerk typist in Lincoln. She joined the Omaha Works in 1962 as an invoice clerk. At the time of her retirement, she was a technical clerk in Department 356. Her retirement was January 30.

National
Engineers Week
February
18-24

See WE's Display
At The Crossroads

New Editor Is Named

Nancy Emshwiller has joined the Omaha Works Public Relations Department as editor of **The Westerner**.

A Creighton University graduate, Nancy worked as an editor for



**Nancy
Emshwiller**

Mutual of Omaha prior to coming to the Omaha Works.

She is married, holds memberships in the Omaha Press Club and the National Organization for Women, and enjoys sports car racing.



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