

# the Westerner

Omaha Works  
February 1981



Join the club — Page 4



# for your information

Several changes have been noted in Western Electric aid and gift programs.

**United Student Aid Fund:** An increase has been approved in the amount of the loan maximums which may be granted for undergraduate study. The maximum has been increased from \$7,500 to \$10,000 for a four-year degree program, and to \$12,500 for a five-year program.

As of January 1, 1981, the following two fund programs have been modified to include retirees of Western Electric and its wholly owned subsidiaries, who completed at least 15 years of service and who retired on a service pension:

**Matching Gifts:** Retirees' gifts to eligible colleges and/or universities will now be matched in accordance with the terms of the Western Electric Fund's program.

**United Student Aid Fund:** Children of eligible retirees who have been participating in the student loan program will be permitted to continue until completion of their education or loan eligibility . . .

. . . If you haven't already sent in your federal income tax statement, you may be able to claim an additional deduction. Safety shoes are considered a deductible item. If you are in the 33 percent tax

bracket, you can save a third of the cost of the shoes by listing them as a deduction. And that money isn't all you'll save — by wearing safety shoes, you could cut down on foot injuries and save a toe or two . . .

. . . The Omaha Works Speakers Bureau has added four new speakers for a total of nine members. These speakers are available to talk before various school, church, civic and professional groups. Topics of the prepared talks range from solar energy to one about our American heritage. If you're in a group or know of an organization interested in engaging in one of these speakers, call Robin Boe, Ext. 3956, for assistance . . .

. . . Not too far back, sports columnist Wally Provost of the World Herald had words of praise for Works employee Carl Wright of Dept. 748. Wally described Carl as a "one in a million" fellow, citing Carl's work as head coach for the North Omaha Boys' Club football team. He lauded Carl in helping to build the good character of his young athletes by advising them, "If you can try and live your lives with your poise and emotions under control, you have a chance to become some great men." Wally said Carl sets a fine example — but we at the Works already knew that. You may recall that Carl and his team were the subject of a Westerner article in October 1975 . . .

. . . Bell Telephone has redesigned its manhole cover after 52 years. While the old design weighed 315 pounds and could withstand loads up to 60,000 pounds, the new design weighs 65 pounds less and can take an 80,000-pound load. It's still called a "manhole" cover, but maybe that, too, should be changed . . . it was designed by a woman.

## energy . . .

less is more



THE DECEMBER completion of the bus stop shelter along the Works' south roadway couldn't have come at a better time, say its users. Employees who ride the bus say the shelter isn't drafty and is reasonably comfortable even in sub-zero temperatures. The Works installed the shelter for the benefit of employees and to help stir interest in bus ridership, thereby conserving fuel, said Darrel Scholer of Dept. 743. Darrel coordinated the installation. Some of the shelter's best customers are Bessie Harmon, Dept. 361 (right) and (from front to back) Joan Jones, Dept. 411; Louise Kojdecki, Dept. 435; Dorothea Randolph, Dept. 437; Star Jamison, Floorbrite employee; and Linda Rothery, Dept. 445.

Are you a nicotine addict who is trying to kick the habit? Are you an ex-smoker who's successfully overcome withdrawal symptoms? Or, are you a fallen ex-smoker who's puffing again?

I'd like to hear about your trials and tribulations. It just might make a good Westerner story. You can call me, **Linda Ryan**, on **Ext. 3553**. Or, fill out this form and have your department's secretary send it to me in **Dept. 525**. I'll be waiting.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dept.: \_\_\_\_\_ Ext.: \_\_\_\_\_

- I quit  
 I'm trying  
 I give up

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## the Westerner

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**Linda Ryan**  
 Editor

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**Western Electric**



# service anniversaries

## february



Bill Ebert  
40 years  
2/26/41



Jim Bosworth  
40 years  
2/26/41



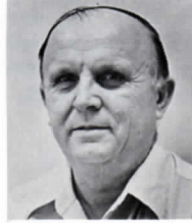
John Slama  
35 years  
2/11/46



Oscar Timmons  
35 years  
2/4/46



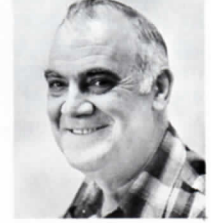
Charlie  
Muehlhausen  
35 years  
2/15/46



Charles Trouba  
35 years  
2/13/46



Robert Simmons  
35 years  
2/20/46



Karl Schnell  
35 years  
2/4/46



John Doan  
35 years  
2/14/46



Victor  
Gabelhouse  
35 years  
2/22/46



Roland Epperson  
35 years  
2/4/46



Eugene  
Roberts Jr.  
30 years  
2/28/51



Chris Fricke  
30 years  
2/26/51



Violet Kilburn  
25 years  
2/10/56

Not pictured:  
George McMorran  
25 years  
2/6/56



Glen Gutridge  
25 years  
2/28/56

## suggestion box

Three Works employees were the recent recipients of suggestion awards amounting to more than \$1,000 apiece — **Darrell Yenney**, **Richard Laughlin** and **Ermin Krumel**, all of Dept. 741.

Darrell was awarded \$1,925, which was an additional amount to an award of \$542.50 he received earlier. His suggestion involved modification of the dowel bushings in a miniature wire spring relay core punch and die.

Richard and Ermin submitted a joint suggestion resulting in each being awarded \$1,225. Their idea was to modify the 710 connector blanking tool in a way that abnormally high punch breakage would be curtailed.

Other employees who have earned suggestion awards include:

**Phillip Davis**, Dept. 741, \$720.  
**Kalman Szekeres**, Dept. 745, \$290.  
**Preston Clark**, Dept. 444, \$160.

### 20 years

P. D. Connolly  
J. A. Richey  
W. R. Urban

### 15 years

J. H. Armbrust  
C. T. Block  
T. G. Cornwell  
R. D. Dinslage  
R. T. Eastman  
G. W. Gardner  
C. E. Holt  
R. D. Huss  
L. V. Johnson  
G. J. Landmichael  
T. P. Luther  
M. L. Majeski  
R. L. Majeski  
A. J. Miliitti  
E. M. Miller  
R. K. Ohme  
J. Orosco

J. J. Pechar  
P. B. Pickrel  
L. C. Reed  
C. G. Rue  
W. E. Ruff Jr.  
S. E. Smith  
D. L. Strehle  
K. J. Stricklett  
B. A. Sullivan  
S. J. Swoboda Jr.  
D. T. Tatreau  
D. C. Wilke

### 10 years

J. D. Saner  
E. H. Schriever



Ermin Krumel



Richard Laughlin



Darrell Yenney

## WEOMA Club

# Directory

**W**hat's going on? You had to ask.

The Omaha Works WEOMA Club offers an assortment of groups to join and activities to enjoy throughout the year. For easy reference, clubs and activities are listed on these pages, along with names and numbers of people to call for more information. Included are the names of the 1981 WEOMA Club officers and directors.

## Officers

President: Roger Neumann,  
Ext. 3147  
Executive vice-president: Dick  
Reida, Ext. 3579  
Vice-president: Rol Kull,  
Ext. 3525

Treasurer: Sieg Ortlieb,  
Ext. 3252  
Assistant treasurer: Kathy  
West, Ext. 3337  
Secretary: Charlotte Pfeffer,  
Ext. 3617

## Directors

Associated clubs, hobbies:  
Al Anthon, Ext. 3141  
Outdoor athletics, associated  
clubs: Dave Burrell,  
Ext. 3165 or 3867  
Indoor athletics: Larry  
Anderson, Ext. 3079  
Business methods, budget:  
Tom Korpela, Ext. 3266  
Entertainment, tours: Joye  
Scott, Ext. 3256

Bloodmobile, Operation Gift  
Lift: Bobbie Wilson,  
Ext. 3522  
Picnic, education, special  
projects: Hank Wnuk,  
Ext. 3023  
Publicity: Helen Kirk, Ext. 3887  
Representatives: Darlene  
Wilhelm, Ext. 3202  
Women's activities: Betty  
Nath, Ext. 3434

## Clubs

### Camera Club

Purpose: To promote  
photography as a hobby  
and develop photographic  
skills through slide  
presentations, field trips,  
tours and guest speakers.  
Meetings: Third Tuesday each  
month, Swanson Library,  
90th Street and West Dodge  
Road, 7 p.m.  
Contact: Tom McNulty,  
Ext. 3953

### Music Club

Purpose: To promote music  
appreciation. Club  
sponsors annual talent  
show, provides entertain-  
ment at Works programs.  
Meetings: As called by  
president. Singing practice  
held Wednesdays and  
Fridays from noon to  
12:30 p.m. and 7:30 to  
8 p.m.  
Contact: Dick Runnels,  
Ext. 3081 or Gloria Grimm,  
Ext. 3434

### Chess Club

Purpose: To promote chess  
for enjoyment and skill  
development; fosters  
competition including tele-  
phone and postal  
tourneys.  
Meetings: Second Friday  
each month, IBEW Union  
Hall in Millard, 8 p.m.  
Contact: Walter Wolff,  
Ext. 3077

### Science Club

Purpose: To foster the ad-  
vancement and enjoyment  
of science.  
Meetings: As called by  
president.  
Contact: Tom Trometer,  
Ext. 3328

### Sportsman's Club

Purpose: To promote  
sportsmanship, conser-  
vation, and the knowledge  
and safe practice of  
hunting and fishing  
techniques.



# Activities

## Bowling

Season: Winter league, September through May; summer league, May through August. Men's, women's and mixed, all three shifts.

Contact: John Francavilla, Ext. 3128

## Men's raquetball

## Women's raquetball

Season: Late September through February, first and third shifts.

Contact: Charlie Newell, Ext. 3771

Meetings: First Wednesday each month, Commercial Federal Savings and Loan, 137th and Q streets, 7 p.m.

Contact: Bob Dinslage, Ext. 3074

## WE Ski Club

Purpose: To promote safe and enjoyable skiing and sponsor annual employee ski trip.

Meetings: As called by president.

Contact: Sue Dellinger, Ext. 3505

## R. C. Flyers Club

Purpose: To promote the designing, building and flying of radio-controlled planes.

Meetings: Second Tuesday each month, Commercial Federal Savings and Loan, 137th and Q streets, 7:30 p.m.

Contact: Don Kaar, Ext. 3075

## Men's basketball

Season: November through February, first and third shifts.

Contact: Larry Cherry, Ext. 3394

## Men's softball

Season: April through August. Leagues for all shifts.

Contact: Terry Moore, Ext. 3456

## Tennis

Season: May through August. Men's, women's, mixed — singles and doubles, all shifts.

Contact: Art Cruz, Ext. 3075

## Men's golf

Season: Late April through September. Leagues for all shifts.

Contact: John Francavilla, Ext. 3128

## Women's golf

Season: May through September. Play Tuesdays, Cedar Hills Golf Course, 4:45 p.m.

Contact: Charlotte Pfeffer, Ext. 3617

## Mixed golf

Season: Late April through September. First-shift league.

Contact: Ruth Dages, Ext. 3919

## Volleyball

Season: Late October through February. Mixed teams, first and third shifts.

Contact: Hank Wnuk, Ext. 3023

## Tours, entertainment

Tours offered to employee groups at discount rates to places such as New York, Las Vegas, Europe and Far East.

Discount tickets offered for various entertainment, including Worlds of Fun, Boat and Travel Show, ballet and symphony performances.

Contact: Joye Scott, Ext. 3256

## Spring party

Open to men and women, featuring dinner, style show and dancing. Held usually in April.

Contact: Dee Kelly, Ext. 3394

## CPR courses

Offered quarterly to employees and family, all shifts.

Contact: Hank Wnuk, Ext. 3023

Note: Other educational classes may be scheduled based on request and employee interest.

## Dress-a-doll

Employees outfit dolls for distribution to needy by Salvation Army; mid-November to first part of December.

Contact: Betty Nath, Ext. 3434

## Operation Gift Lift

Employees collect toys for distribution to needy by Salvation Army; first week of December.

Contact: Bobbie Wilson, Ext. 3522

## Bloodmobile

Red Cross conducts blood donor program on Works premises three times yearly — February, May, September.

Contact: Bobbie Wilson, Ext. 3522

## Picnic

Open to all employees, retirees and family. Held usually in September.

Contact: Hank Wnuk, Ext. 3023

## WEOMA newsletter

Distributed weekly on Tuesdays. Want ad copy due in WEOMA office by Tuesday night, one week prior to issue date.

Contact: Helen Kirk, Ext. 3887

### On the cover

Whatever your likes, the Omaha Works WEOMA Club probably has a club or activity to suit your needs. Karol Harvey of Dept. 445 likes tennis, while Walter Wolff of Dept. 741 prefers the challenge of chess and Don Tatreau of Dept. 331 is active in the Camera Club.



# Savers have \$2.6 billion nest egg

If you participate in the Bell System Savings Plan (BSSP), you are one of 248,000 Bell System employees to do so. Approximately \$2.6 billion that belongs to these employees is invested through brokers and investment managers along Wall Street. Even by Wall Street standards, that's a large sum of money.

The BSSP is considered a long-range investment and savings plan, although employees may choose periodic partial distributions and other withdrawal options. Basically, it works like this:

Most salaried employees with at least one year's service are eligible to participate. As of Jan. 1, 1979, non-salaried employees with one year's service became eligible for the new Bell System Savings and Security Plan (SSP).

BSSP participants may have two, four or six percent of their regular salary deducted monthly and put in the savings

plan. Non-salaried employees may have from \$5 to \$20 deducted weekly from their checks, depending on their pay rates, and put in the SSP. (Since January 1981, those whose weekly rate is \$400 or more may have \$25 deducted weekly.)

The company adds 50 cents for every one dollar an employee contributes, not to exceed 50 percent of an employee's basic allotment. (Pending approval at the April 1981 share owners' meeting, the company contribution will increase to 66 2/3 cents per dollar.) An employee, however, may make an additional supplementary allotment which is not augmented by company contributions. The allotments may be up to four percent of a salaried employee's salary, or based on individual pay rates for non-salaried employees.

Professional money managers retained by the Bell System then invest the

employees' savings in a variety of ways. Making those investment decisions are four firms outside of Western Electric: Brown Brothers, Harriman & Company; Equitable Life Assurance; and Banker's Trust bank.

There are four investment options in BSSP — AT&T stock, Equity Portfolio (a selection of other stocks), Government Obligations (treasury notes and bonds), and Guaranteed Income Fund. The SSP has two investment options — AT&T stock and Guaranteed Income Fund.

The Guaranteed Income Fund guarantees employees a specific return, but there is some element of risk in the other options. That's why having responsible money managers is so important.

In the last five years, the plan's money managers have consistently matched or outperformed the Standard & Poor's index of the 500 leading stocks. The "S&P 500" is commonly used as a point of comparison to evaluate the performance of investment portfolios.

In 10 years since BSSP began in 1969, returns have shown good growth in all risk-oriented options. In fact, as the table that follows shows, the return on Government Obligations and AT&T stock exceeded the S&P 500.

## BSSP/SSP results

The following are the December unit values for both the Bell System Savings Plan (BSSP) and the Savings and Security Plan for non-salaried employees (SSP):

	BSSP			SSP	
	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar		Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T	2.0097	.4975	AT&T	.9388	1.0651
Government Obligations	2.2257	.4492	Guaranteed	1.1882	.8415
Equity Portfolio	2.0108	.4972	Interest Fund		
Guaranteed					
Interest Fund	1.0978	.9108			

### Average annual return on investment 1969-79

S&P 500	6.0%
Government Obligations	7.0%
AT&T stock	6.6%
Equity Portfolio	4.1%

## retirements



Iola Homan  
21 years



Frank Zajac  
27 years



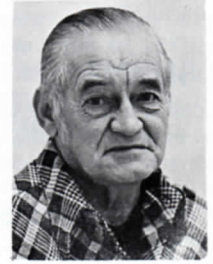
Amanda Braband  
24 years



Wilma Nichols  
20 years



Wally Geason  
30 years



Harold Asmussen  
21 years



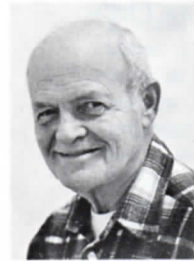
William Remillard  
28 years



Stanley Mazur  
20 years



Richard Mortensen  
23 years



Neil McTaggart  
22 years



Elsie Elliott Purkey  
24 years



Betty Deeds  
20 years



# Serious injury all but extinct in Dept. 443

If you like to play it safe, Dept. 443 is your kind of work area.

That department, headed by department chief Herb Streng, has achieved more than one million man hours of work without a disabling injury to any of its employees. That's no small accomplishment when you consider the potential for injury around the equipment necessary for load coil winding assembly, module assembly and 710 miscellaneous coil case assembly.

For example, one machine in the area — the Electrovert Wavesolder machine — contains solder reaching a temperature of 850 degrees. The machine is used to solder terminals on inductor D-packs for load coils. An operator must wear a safety mask, gloves, flame-retardant apron and safety glasses around the machine. The fact that department employees are careful to follow safety practices in their work is apparent in their outstanding record.

The million man-hours were accumulated over a period from Jan. 18, 1978, to Dec. 18, 1980 — two years and 11 months. It would take one employee 357 years and two months (working eight hours, seven days a week, 50 weeks per year) to achieve the same record.

First and second-shift department employees were honored at receptions in the auditorium, at which time Works



**DRESSED FOR SAFETY . . .** Marilyn Plowman of Dept. 443 skims off waste solder from the Electrovert Wavesolder machine, wearing safety glasses and mask, gloves and flame-retardant apron.

general manager Chuck Meetsma presented a commemorative plaque to Herb Streng.

Employees were commended for making the extra effort to avoid serious injury. In fact, the department is so safety conscious that as of mid-February 1981, employees have had not even a non-disabling injury since January of last year.

## Holiday/vacation schedule, 1981

- Jan. 1 — New Year's Day
- Jan. 2 — Excused workday or management personal day
- April 17 — Good Friday
- May 25 — Memorial Day
- July 3 — Independence Day
- Sept. 7 — Labor Day
- Nov. 26, 27 — Thanksgiving
- Dec. 21, 22, 23 — Standard vacation days\*
- Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve holiday
- Dec. 25 — Christmas Day
- Dec. 28, 29, 30 — Standard vacation days\*
- Dec. 31 — Floating holiday
- Jan 1, 1982 — New Year's Day

\*The standard vacation periods for 1981 consist of six days: Dec. 21 through 23, and Dec. 28 through 30. Excused workdays, management personal days or personal days off without pay may not be substituted for standard vacation days. The balance of a person's vacation eligibility shall be scheduled with the approval of one's supervisor and consistent with the needs of the business.

### 1981 chairman

Phil Warren, a section chief in Dept. 411, has been named 1981 chairman of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce President's Club, the group responsible for membership.



Ronald VanSkiver  
36 years



Raymond Olson  
35 years



Sara Marchello  
20 years

Not pictured:

Lester Stearnes  
26 years

Edythe Walter  
20 years

Floyd Rastede  
22 years

Harvey Hicks  
26 years

Frances Minor  
21 years

Ed Kahler  
44 years

Eugene Pearson  
25 years

Wilkie Pedigo  
20 years

Clarence Stout  
24 years



Kenneth Bolkowatz  
24 years



Harold Redinger  
21 years



Carl Colofiore  
22 years



# Cost reduction aims at 'bad guys'

If the critics had to give an Oscar for the best performance, they would have had a difficult time deciding.

Should the award go to the song and dance team who performed CR's Top Ten 1980 Hits, or to "Hat" Lewallen for his portrayal as the CR Marshal of Engineering in "Gunsmoke"?

Perhaps the best performance was that given by the engineering staff in 1980 for achieving cost reductions. After all, cost reduction (CR) was what the Jan. 15 program in the auditorium was all about.

The program began with members of the local Sing-a-gram troupe belting out numbers that underscored 1980's "top ten" hits in engineering. "I've been workin' on connectors" was among the audience's favorites, but Miss Piggy singing "What now, my SCRAM?" brought down the house.

The program continued with highlights of 1980 cost reduction accomplishments and recognition of outstanding engineering departments. Savings for 1980 amounted to \$11,943,000, which exceeded the year's goal and placed the Omaha Works at the top in the Cable and Wire Products Division. Load coils, station cords, 16 closures and 710 connectors were described as just a few of the product lines "at the heart" of the cost reduction program.

Works general manager Chuck Meetsma presented awards to the following:

—Organization 700. Last year was the second year in a row the organization reached the greatest percentage of its goal (146 percent), for a total of \$3,157,200 in savings.

—Dept. 271. The department saved \$1,487,081 in 1980, the fifth year in a row savings amounted to more than \$1 million.

—Dept. 472. This department's savings amounted to \$707,888.

—Dept. 476. The department was the first to save over \$4 million in one year — \$4,009,095.

—Dept. 736. Savings for 1980 amounted to \$2,016,680.

The general manager barely had time to mention that the 1981 cost reduction goal again would be \$11 million before Larry "Hat" Lewallen swaggered up to the auditorium stage wearing an oversized red cowboy hat, rifle in hand. Thus, the stage was set for the 1981 theme, "Shootin' for 11."

Shades of "Gunsmoke" prevailed as trouble threatened on the 1982 horizon. "Marshal Lewallen's trusty sidekicks breathlessly charged into his jailhouse office with the news:

Chester (Ken) Stasiek warned that the



"MARSHAL LEWALLEN!" . . . Slim Beisner had alarming news about the technology stampede on the market.

competition bandits were out to steal our customers. Festus (George) Rosness reported that Chief Rising Cost was ambushing our petro-chemical products.

Doc (Mark) Foster told Marshal Lewallen that "we've got double trouble" with productivity swindlers, and Slim

(Ralph) Beisner was concerned about the technology stampede on the market.

Would "Hat" Lewallen be able to raise the \$11 million in cost reduction to defeat all those bad guys? The second part and conclusion of the story will continue in January 1982.

## Engineers Week under way

Considerable planning went into the Omaha Works' observance of this year's National Engineers Week, February 22 through 28. "Engineers plus opportunity equals progress" was the theme for the observance.

A number of activities and guest speakers were scheduled during the week for the 250 members of the Works' engineering staff. They included:

—A special patent recognition ceremony during which three Works engineers were to be honored for their having earned U.S. patents during 1980. They are Bob Loesch of Dept. 736; Bob Douglas, Dept. 737, and Mike Szymanski, Dept. 476. A plaque with their photos will hang in the Works' technical library.

—A productivity seminar during

which one of the week's guest speakers, Robert Walkup, was to talk about the "quality circles" work concept. Walkup is manager of the fabrication division of Rockwell International.

—A film about productivity titled, "If Japan can, why can't we?"

—A Day with an Engineer." Students from Explorer Post No. 533 were to spend a day with a member of the technical-professional staff to learn more about the engineering profession.

—Guest speakers: "Keynote speaker Don Geis, general manager of administration and quality assurance, Corporate Engineering; Dwight Nesmith, director of the engineering experiment station, Kansas State University; Arnold Heiber, Western Electric's Network Systems planning manager.