

WESTERNER

Omaha Works
May 1983



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On the cover

Do they or don't they look like their photos on their employee I.D. cards?

Pass card photos are in plain view of everybody these days since the company began requiring all employees to wear pass cards in clip-on badges. Computer service analyst Rollie Miller (from left), keypunch operator Barb Price and computer operator Warren Shaw of Dept. 1722 were among the first to try the new badges. For more on the story, see Page 4.

WESTERNER

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Employee phone sales the best deal around

Pssst! Wanna buy a telephone?

In case you haven't noticed, it's now open season as far as the sale of telephones is concerned. A person can buy a telephone just about anywhere these days, with the possible exception of a dimly lit back alley.

The media have bombarded all of us with reports on how divestiture will affect the consumer pocketbook, change billing procedures and stimulate new competition in the telecommunications marketplace.

And only recently, the local phone company announced what it will charge customers who continue to lease home and business phones, and how much it will cost to buy new phones or phones already in use.

Suddenly the household staple we've all taken for granted provokes questions whose answers aren't always easily reached. Should we continue to lease our phones or buy them? If we buy new ones, what kind should we get — and where?

This article doesn't pretend to have all the answers. However, it might have some information you need to help make decision-making easier.

WHICHEVER way your consumer thoughts are leaning now, be sure to consider the current sale of Western Electric-made telephones to WE employees at discount prices. The sale will continue now through Dec. 16.

Like a similar sale offered last year, Design Line® phones are being offered at a discount. But something more has been added to this sale.

For example, traditional, Trimline® and Princess® sets are available for a much wider selection. Also available at discount prices are "customer convenience" products such as cords, adapters, wire, wire strippers and modular connecting blocks.

But here's the best part. The prices of the phones offered are competitive if not the best you will find for a Western Electric phone anywhere in the area. In fact, you can buy some phone models through Western for not only less cost than an identical new phone elsewhere, but also less than it would cost you to buy the same phone used.

The following are discount prices employees would pay for some of the more popular phone sets: Standard rotary, \$35.28 (wall) and \$29.89 (desk); standard Touch-Tone®, \$43.31 (wall) and \$42.54 (desk); Trimline rotary, \$36.55 (wall) and \$36.44 (desk); Trimline Touch-Tone, \$46.08 (wall) and \$46.63 (desk); Princess rotary, \$33.41; Princess Touch-Tone, \$47.38.

THIS TIME, retired employees also may participate in the sale. Retired and active employees may get a complete listing of phone sets and related products available and place orders through a sales representative

located in the Works Employee Activities Mall.

The rep will be there only during the following times:
Mondays — 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. (third shift orders), 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (first shift);
Wednesdays — 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (first shift), 3 to 4 p.m. (second shift). Retired employees may call the rep at 691-3879.

Sales to active employees will be handled through payroll deduction. Only checks or money orders will be accepted from retired employees.

All items will carry warranties comparable to those offered by American Bell. Delivery is subject to stock available, not all colors are offered, and there may be a temporary shortage of certain models, options and colors.

"Western Electric originated the employee sale program last year as a means of giving employees advantageous prices on products the company supplies," said W. J. Warwick, vice-president of Business and Residence Products.

"We were delighted by the response and hope that this year's broader offering is received just as enthusiastically."

During 1982, WE employees purchased approximately 34,000 telephone sets and 17,000 accessory products, material that sold for a total of about \$4 million.



BUTTON, BUTTON . . . Who's got the Big Button telephone? It's Linda Giebler, a secretary in the Product Display Center. The Big Button telephone is one of a number of telephone sets being offered to employees at discount prices.

Blood pressure testing is free

Feeling good is not enough.

Anybody can have high blood pressure — people of both sexes and of all ages. And just because you feel good doesn't mean you don't have it.

High blood pressure left un-

treated can lead to stroke, heart attack or kidney disease. It cannot be cured, but it can be controlled.

The first step in that direction is to find out if you have high blood pressure. Throughout May

employees can have their pressure checked for free by using a blood pressure testing machine. The machine will be moved periodically from the main cafeteria to cafeterias in the cable and apparatus buildings to give everyone a chance to use it. Cafeteria posters will tell where to find the machine.

Use of the machine, handouts and pay detail stuffers about high blood pressure constitute yet another phase of the Works' Wellness Program, according to Dr. Lee Grant, medical director. The thrust of the program is timely, he said, because May is National High Blood Pressure Month.

If you think you have high blood pressure, see a doctor. The doctor may prescribe medication which should be taken faithfully.

In addition, there are other things you can do to decrease high blood pressure and help the medication be more effective. If you are overweight and the doctor prescribes a diet, stick to it and start to develop more sensible eating habits. High blood pressure is twice as common among overweight people.

Cut down on your salt intake, which can contribute to high blood pressure, and learn to season your food with lemon juice, herbs and spices. Avoid processed foods and read food content labels.

Your doctor also may suggest you quit smoking or exercise more.



TAKE THE TEST . . . Floor hand Gary Babel of Dept. 445 gave his left arm to a blood pressure testing machine in the main cafeteria. In return, the machine told him his blood pressure is normal.

Employee badges part of security

There's no hiding it now.

That I.D. pass you used to show to the security guard each workday with your thumb strategically covering your photo is in plain view of everyone now.

Since the beginning of the month, all Omaha Works

employees have been wearing security badges which consist of an I.D. card inserted in a clear plastic case. The clip-on badges are worn visibly by each employee.

The pass holders were distributed last month to Works employees as part of a companywide security measure to safeguard proprietary information. As we move into a highly competitive environment, it is important that we are not careless with information which would be so valuable to our competitors.

So, the badge program will

help us readily distinguish visitors from employees and make sure visitors aren't in any areas where they shouldn't be.

Additional holders may be requisitioned through the Works stationery store. Also, neck chains to use with the badges may be obtained upon request. However, employees who work near machinery or in a hazardous area posing a risk to chain wearers shouldn't wear badges on a chain. The chains will be available initially in the personnel office and thereafter in the stationery store.



HOW DO YOU DO . . . A tour group from Northwestern Bell's broad gauge pricing staff had a chance to ask Thelma McKiddy of Dept. 445 about her role in the manufacture of Works products. She visited with them about how she wires a 53A4-50 terminal block.

Employee dedication recognized

"It was my privilege to visit with you," reads a letter from a Wisconsin Telephone Co. assistant manager of construction. After a tour of the Product Display Center and the shops, he wrote us of his appreciation.

"Two employees were especially impressive . . . one man in the 80-type cabinet area who didn't take his break so he could answer my questions . . . (and) the man who was running the Kearney-Trecker boring unit on the splicing tool head. He went out of his way to see that my questions were answered," the letter continues.

"Both of these gentlemen's spontaneous comments will remain with me for a very long time."

That's what's called making a good impression on the cus-

tomers, something every employee has a chance to do each time he or she comes into contact with customers visiting the plant.

The value of making a good impression on customers cannot be underestimated, and perhaps no one understands that better than members of Western Electric's Account Management teams.

It's Account Management's role to introduce Western's products and services to customers. Bringing customers to the Omaha Works is one way they get the job done. They count on Works employees to assist them by extending hospitality to customers as they tour various work areas.

When Account Management's Network Distribution Services account managers met at the Works in March, they brought a gift as a token of appreciation of employees here. They presented a golden plaque which states, "In appreciation . . . to all the employees of the Omaha Works for their dedication to service and quality. Your job makes our job easier."

The plaque, which will be hung in the main cafeteria, honors employees for their part in

attracting customers, said Tom Bowman, network distribution service and engineering manager. "They show they know their jobs and that they are enthusiastic about helping a customer in any way they can."

By bringing customers to the Product Display Center (about 1,600 since 1976) and on shop tours, "we're building for future sales," he added.

"It conditions the mind of the customer that the people of the Omaha Works really do care."



Celebrate 25 years together

Keep the week of June 12 open.

During that week, employees and their families will be treated to free barbecue dinners served under a giant tent in the mall between Works buildings. Dinners will be served from 5 to 8:30 p.m. on June 14, 15 and 16, and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 16, the latter to accommodate night-shift employees.

Admittance will be by ticket only. Tickets will be issued to employees sometime this month.

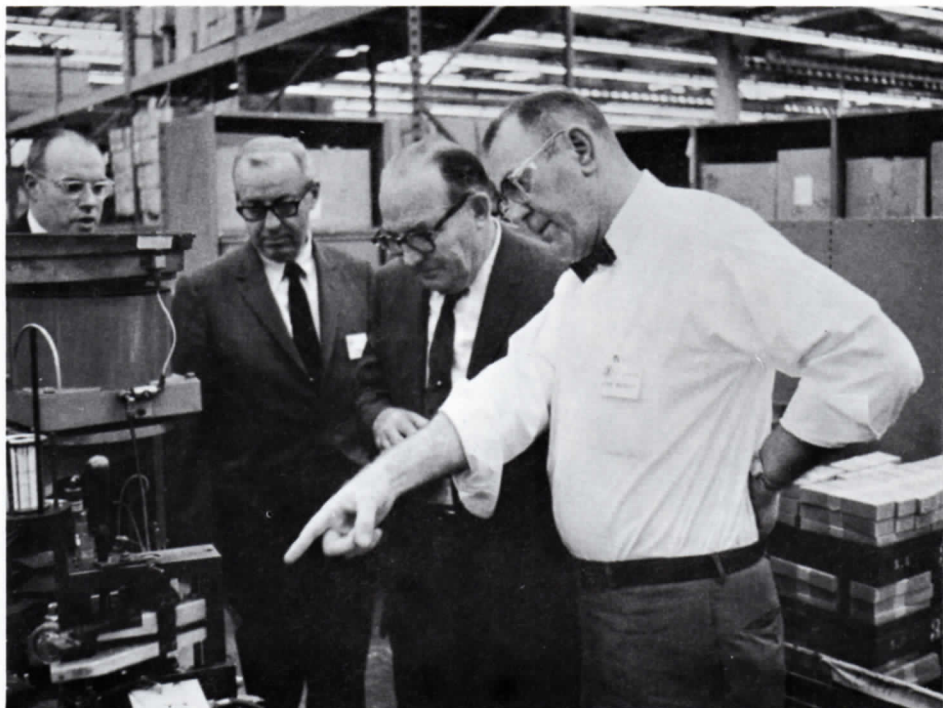
The barbecue is among activities planned to celebrate the Omaha Works' 25th anniversary this year. Festivities those nights and afternoon will include a chance to tour the shops and view special displays and an audiovisual presentation in the auditorium.

Other things planned to celebrate the anniversary include the offer of discount tickets to employees for the NCAA Women's Softball College World Series and the College World Series. You will find complete information on ticket availability in weekly issues of the WEOMA Club newsletter.

And now for caption contest winners and names of employees who saw themselves in last month's old photos: The winning captions and contributors are shown under the photos. We had so many good entries, we've selected runners-up, too.

Employees who saw themselves in the old photos were: Nancy Hume, Dept. 283; Dale Wichman, 283; Joe Sharpnack, 435; Harvey Bolte, 441; Lloyd Honeywell, 031; Jack Walker, 435; Lloyd Parker, 282; Bill Mott, 032; Tom Payne, 031; Don Loring, 253; Betty Olderg, 810.

Gene LaChapelle, 252; Bill Harlow, 283; Richard Toelke, 445; Don Kadereit, 435; Vi Beckman, 033; Joe O'Grady, 439;



WINNER . . . "I told them, 'Eat in the cafeteria!' But do you think they listen?" — Larry Kroeger, Dept. 437.

RUNNER-UP . . . "Look. Made in Japan. Why don't they buy American?" — Otis Knutson, Dept. 437.



WINNER . . . "What do you mean I can't have it in the arm? She did!" — Doug Carlson, Dept. 439

RUNNER-UP . . . "Just relax, now. This new super glue will hold that shoulder together just fine." — Bob Sterba, Dept. 034.

John Schanbacher, 036; Willie Shields (retired); Barney Keppers (retired); Charlotte Pfeffer, 500-1.

Watch next month's issue for more faces in the crowd and a chance to claim a gift.

etc.

Suggestions accepted

An idea here and an idea there surely can add up.

Suggestion awards of \$100 or more presented to employees in past weeks have amounted to more than \$3,000. That amount represents more than \$21,000 the Works will save in a year's time by incorporating these suggestions into manufacturing operations.

Recipients of awards through the employee suggestion program include: Roy Baker, Dept. 031, \$715; Al Anthone, Dept. 035, \$460; Don Kaar, Dept. 031, \$380; Darrell Lieber, Dept. 251, \$355; John Perkins, Dept. 439, \$225; Robert Spidle, Dept. 034, \$130; Tom Filipski, Dept. 035, \$100; and Larry Anderson, Dept. 032, \$100.

Made in America

AT&T International, the overseas marketing unit of AT&T, has signed a contract with Nippon Telegraph & Telephone

(NTT) for the supply of echo canceling equipment to Japan.

The contract, valued at \$3.6 million, is the first awarded by Japan to AT&T International, and marks the initial sale of the 2B echo canceler outside the United States. The 2B echo canceler has been designed to meet specific international standards and will accommodate NTT network requirements.

The Western Electric-manufactured echo canceler has been used successfully in the U.S. satellite communications network to reduce the persistent problem of echoes caused by transmission delay.

Meanwhile, next door . . .

C. L. Brown, AT&T chairman, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the People's Republic of China, calling for the investigation of technical exchanges, manufacturing programs and establishment of mutual fellowship programs.

A delegation consisting of Brown, Robert Sagemen (AT&T International president) and Ian Ross (Bell Laboratories president) traveled to China at the invitation of the vice-minister of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MPT).

In an interview with The

Washington Post, Brown said, "The Chinese have electric power and communications on the top of their priority items list." The Chinese people "want the technology, and they want to do it themselves."

During the trip, the trio toured local and toll switching centers, and met with Yao Yilin, chairman of the State Planning Committee and vice-premier of China.

As a result of the understanding between AT&T and China, representatives from AT&T International will be traveling to that country in the future to study the network in more depth.

Beneficiary change?

Have there been changes in your life that may affect who you want as beneficiaries in your group life insurance through the company?

A family death, divorce or remarriage are the kinds of things that could alter the selection of beneficiaries. If you think you need to update your beneficiary designation, contact Marie Pope in the personnel office, Ext. 3599.

Savings plans results

The following are the February unit values for the Bell System Savings Plan (BSSP), the Savings and Security Plan (SSP) for non-salaried employees, and the Bell System Voluntary Contribution Plan (BSVCP).

	BSSP	Units Credited Per Dollar
	Units Value	
AT&T	3.4546	.2894
Government Obligations	3.1470	.3177
Equity Portfolio	2.3368	.4279
Guaranteed Interest Fund	1.4242	.7021
	SSP	
	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T	1.6101	.6210
Guaranteed Interest Fund	1.5220	.6570
	BSVCP	
	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T	1.101	.907
Mutual Fund	1.225	.815
Money Market	1.035	.965
Guaranteed Interest Fund	1.052	.950

Service anniversaries

35 years

D. M. Kirwan	023	5/13
B. P. Sengpiel	531	5/7

30 years

D. W. Israelson	437	5/30
D. E. Janousek	437	5/7
L. C. Mott	023	5/11
J. A. Peterson	023	5/12
A. T. Visocky	447	5/25

25 years

M. M. Cook	285	5/8
F. L. Cottone	033	5/5
I. O. Huebner	449	5/30
R. L. Lastovica	031	5/5
R. L. Lloyd	031	5/8
R. J. Murphy	032	5/23
D. W. Olsen	447	5/28

20 years

L. D. Boettcher	032	5/27
L. R. Gasper	252	5/9
C. Z. Kelly	441	5/21
L. A. Krysl	435	5/12
M. W. Nicholson	253	5/30
H. F. Sedlacek	1231	5/22
V. J. Sedlacek	252	5/23
K. R. Stevens	251	5/20

15 years

R. R. Albert	447	5/20
M. D. Blanchard	282	5/23
L. E. Gosch	287	5/21
L. P. Goynes	071	5/2
M. T. Lenz	030	5/4
C. F. Masilko	435	5/15
D. H. Olsen	287	5/13
J. P. Taylor	1722	5/13
J. F. Uryasz	435	5/7



Last frame

“Oh, boy! Is that a box of Captain Crunch?” Denny Karloff (second from right) could be asking.

Denny and Bob Noblauch (from

left), Dennis Carper — all from Dept. 034 — and Al Johnson, Dept. 1231, were packing food items donated by Works employees to help needy families.

The Cornhusker Chapter of the Pioneers conducted a food drive at the Works during the latter part of March. A total of 2,500 pounds of food eventually was donated to the Omaha Food

Bank for distribution within the community.

And speaking of Pioneers, the local chapter will install its new officers May 20.

The new officers are Guy Godios, president; Jim Woods, senior vice-president; and Ed Arnone, vice-president-elect. Herb Schober is the new life member representative.



Western Electric

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