

**the
Westerner**

Omaha Works
November/December 1981



for your information

Slump, what slump? Sales are brisk at the new Cornhusker Chapter Pioneer Store, open for business in the former safety store.

Sales have been far beyond initial expectations, noted Bob Pierson, Works Pioneer administrator. On occasion, some items have been sold out.

"We know a lot of people are doing their Christmas shopping here," he said, pointing to display items ranging from stuffed toys and music boxes to T-shirts and jackets.

Store hours are from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday. Several Works Pioneers and Life Pioneers take turns handling sales. Employees may pay for purchases over \$10 through payroll deductions.

Profits from sales go toward Cornhusker Chapter functions, with profits from all sales to non-Pioneers earmarked for charitable and community service projects . . .

. . . Bob Miller, a section chief in Dept. 253, has been presented the Silver Beaver award by the Boy Scouts of America Mid-America Council. An Eagle



COUNTER OFFER . . . Sales crew member Lorraine Mott (Dept. 361) and Bob Pierson are ready to serve customers at the new Pioneer Store.

Scout himself, Bob has been active in scouting for 23 years. Two other Works employees, meanwhile, walked away with honors from an all-bird show held in Council Bluffs. Bonnie Shilling of Dept. 287 earned 17 awards for the 18 birds she entered and Virginia Barker of Dept. 435 received four awards for her four entries. A total of 550 of our feathered friends were entered in the show.

Where does the time go?

Perhaps living in today's world with its stepped-up pace has something to do with it. We're often so caught up in a myriad of things demanding our attention that somehow the days slip by with little notice. It can be frustrating when we discover we can't accomplish all the goals we had intended.

Then the holidays come along. It can be a hectic season, indeed. But if we pause long enough to catch our breath, we would see it as the peaceful and fulfilling time of year it really is. It's a wonderful chance to spend special moments with those close to us and to rekindle old friendships that have taken a back seat to too many pressing concerns. It's a perfect op-

portunity to let people know how much we appreciate them.

And so, I'd like to take this opportunity to express to all of you how proud I am to be associated with the people from the Omaha Works. In my 1½ years here, I've witnessed your eagerness to help and cooperate, no matter what the situation — and we all know recent times haven't been too easy.

You people are special, and I have every confidence you will be a prime force in making our future here successful in the face of uncertain change. I wish you and yours every happiness of the season and a new year of health and peace.

Larry Swallen

Director of engineering
and manufacturing

Bundle up

Although federal law governing heating and cooling temperatures in buildings has been rescinded, the Omaha Works is continuing to maintain building temperatures at 65 degrees in the winter and at no less than 78 degrees in the summer. The practice is effective in conserving energy and cutting costs, but it needn't mean discomfort this winter. Dress warmly for work. Remember, the simple addition of a heavy sweater is the equivalent of raising the room temperature by almost four degrees.

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Western Electric

service anniversaries

november
december

40 years

J. D. Hearity 753 12/20

35 years

F. L. Kriesel 743 11/25

L. N. McKenna 274 12/30

D. L. Stalker 445 12/13

30 years

G. J. Murphy 361 11/3

C. S. Stewart 437 11/17

M. L. Zimmerman 361 11/26

J. J. Cahill 361 12/2

25 years

W. C. Becher 362 11/6

F. A. Belsan 744 11/5

D. I. Bergers 252 11/7

J. L. Carse 728 11/6

R. M. Cartwright 744 11/19

Y. G. Christensen 413 11/19

B. D. Coffman 444 11/5

R. P. Dages 413 11/19

W. F. Foxworthy 741 11/5

W. Goodbrod 413 11/12

W. J. Heskin 741 11/12

R. C. Johnson 741 11/5

E. P. Kealy 746 11/5

L. N. Keiser 444 11/28

W. H. Kinsley Jr. 273 11/12

O. E. Kollars 745 11/19

D. D. Kovar 745 11/26

J. C. Marinus 282 11/26

R. L. Mass 746 11/5

W. E. Montalbano 413 11/26

E. R. Neiderheiser 521 11/12

H. W. Noble 746 11/26

W. A. Peterson 728 11/19

S. Puchalski Jr. 726 11/24

L. G. Reuter 746 11/5

G. L. Ricker 744 11/16

J. P. Rinn Jr. 333 11/20

W. H. Rotschafer 746 11/5

K. W. Sanders 441 11/5

J. J. Subbert 413 11/12

K. C. Watkins 728 11/28

L. Wiegert 746 11/26

E. S. Zimmerman 723 11/1

B. W. Abel 744 12/4

R. M. Allen 753 12/10

E. E. Allen Jr. 741 12/10

E. V. Arnone 440 12/31

J. H. Berry 746 12/7

S. J. Caniglia 435 12/3

R. L. Coffman 361 12/24

N. E. Cook 741 12/6

R. H. Dohse 439 12/27

G. H. Geerdes 251 12/5

R. L. Hansen 413 12/24

G. M. Hazard 250A 12/10

R. W. Hogg 746 12/5

M. B. Johnson 472 12/31

R. D. Kilmer 746 12/12

T. V. Kowal 744 12/3

N. C. Longgear 445 12/17

G. C. Lund 439 12/10

W. E. Petersen 273 12/3

J. R. Roth 728 12/31

E. A. Sautter 746 12/10

R. G. Selvig 251 12/14

R. H. Skoge 1231 12/3

W. C. Sturgeon 746 12/3

L. W. Swoboda 728 12/3

D. T. Talty 745 12/20

J. E. Voss 439 12/31

20 years

G. C. Bailey 445 11/23

S. S. Bruning 437 11/23

J. L. Cartwright 361 11/6

L. S. Croft 723 11/20

E. W. Jarrett 725 11/30

D. R. Kramer 430 11/1

E. O. Lee 723 11/7

L. W. Olsen 725 11/17

R. J. Pellerito 443 11/13

R. D. Reitan 439 11/19

C. W. Tramp 437 11/13

R. J. Gartigas 361 12/11

J. L. Gemar 740 12/17

R. C. Kaczmarek 445 12/5

D. P. Kelly 437 12/1

P. M. Lysenko 741 12/6

W. W. Petersen 251 12/29

B. W. Sales 361 12/27

T. M. Schulte 741 12/28

15 years

T. G. Blair Jr. 472 11/30

D. B. Carper 744 11/21

I. K. Gunia 201 11/25

S. W. Hennings 725 11/26

B. B. Johnson 725 11/9

J. J. LaPesh 252 11/7

E. R. Nath 435 11/15

M. D. Nickell 282 11/21

R. E. O'Connell 282 11/14

B. R. Rimington 439 11/16

L. G. Armenta 723 12/17

H. J. Bergmann 252 12/5

L. U. Carlson 725 12/12

E. K. Evans 122 12/13

J. K. Eyestone 725 12/14

G. G. Gould 725 12/20

J. G. Neely 728 12/27

M. C. Pruitt 439 12/4

10 years

B. S. Morehouse 439 11/21

J. M. Rozic 444 11/2

suggestion box

Don't think for a minute that even the simplest idea may be of little value.

Scanning a listing of recent recipients of suggestion awards at the Works will indicate that ideas need not be elaborate to save time and money.

One suggestion proposed that tickets used on products be printed by computer. Another proposed the use of drip pans to reduce waste in the manufacture of a certain product.

The total amount of suggestion awards presented to this group of employees amounted to almost

\$2,500. That represents a total of \$16,400 in savings the Omaha Works will realize over the period of one year.

Employees who have received awards through the employee suggestion program include:

Ivan Fetherkile, Dept. 441, \$765.

James Brainard, Dept. 439, \$735.

David Wells, Dept. 435, \$245.

John Butcher, Dept. 444, \$210.

Vera Bowersox and Douglas Haase, Dept. 441, joint award of \$152.50 each.

David Howell, Dept. 746, \$100.

Patricia Kratina, Dept. 728, \$100.

Letters to Santa

Santa Claus, are you reading this Westerner issue carefully?

We certainly hope so, because the other day we found a bunch of letters that had fallen behind a desk in the Works mailroom. They were from employees, all addressed to you.

They wouldn't reach you in time for Christmas, so we're publishing them in the employee paper. (We know you enjoy reading it after a grueling day at the toy factory.)

Keep in mind, Santa, that we at the Omaha Works have been very, very good all year long.

* * *

Dear Santa,

What we really, really need is a new watch. Not just any watch, but a time study watch. We keep asking Tony for one (and you remember Tony), but he

just mumbles something about watch abusers and hollers at us.

Honest, Santa, we're not watch abusers. We can't help it if Tony gets cheap watches that break when he winds them too tight or accidentally drops them. So please, don't forget us this year. We'll leave your snack in the usual place.

Industrial engineers

Dear Santa,

This year I want a figure like Bo's (Do I **have** to exercise from head to toes?)

And hair like Farrah's would be nice (The beauty shop charges such a price!)
A mink like Nancy's would be warm (Just a collar is cold in a storm!)
A diamond the size of Liz's rock —
A little stuffer for my sock.

Santa, if you think I'm being too greedy
Forget the above and give to the needy.
When we **give** a gift we also receive
So Santa, this year I do believe
I'll reach out and touch someone — yes,
you.

Here's a bucket of paint — turn Rudolph bright blue!

From Lynn

Dear Santa,

I know you're a busy man so I'll get to the point. I'd like to have a 1954 two-tone Chevy, light blue with white top. Naturally, I'd like it just off the showroom floor. I had one like it years ago and it was the most reliable car I ever owned. It drives like a tank, but it uses regular gas!

And just one more thing: I'd like a parking place closer to the door at work. I understand the general manager's parking slot is open. That would be fine.

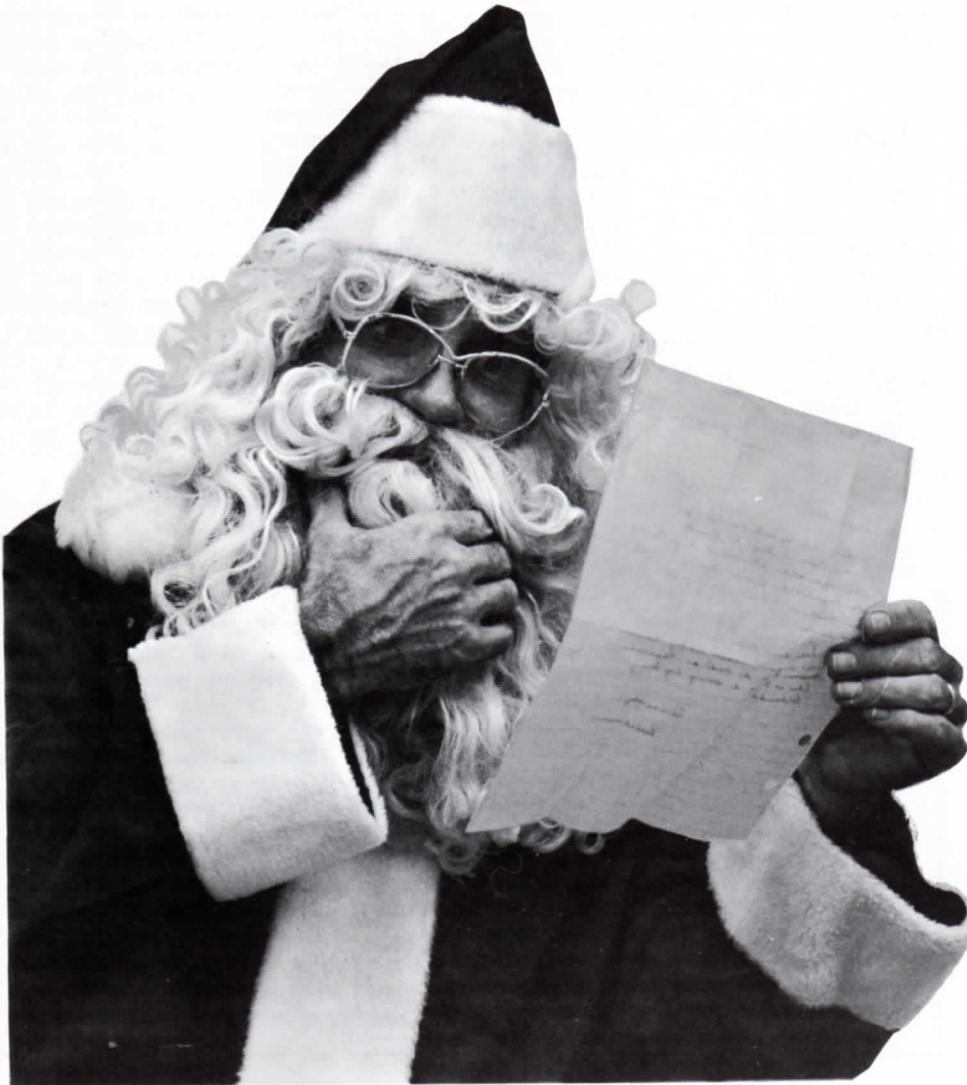
Sincerely, Joe

Dear Santa,

Thanks for all the nice things you brought last Christmas. But this year, add a size or two to the clothes you bring — I seem to be growing even at my age.

By the way, how come you never gain weight from all the goodies left out for you? For that matter, how come you don't get any older like the rest of us?

Your friend, Jean



Dear Santa,
You probably recognize my handwriting. If you do, then you'll recall that I haven't written to you since Christmas.

That was the year I asked for a big, winking princess doll. Instead, you gave me one of those tiny dolls you win at carnivals. The arms and legs didn't even move! I still haven't gotten over it.

Anyway, I've decided to give you a second chance. If you can guarantee that Neil Diamond will give a concert in Omaha and get me a couple of tickets, all will be forgiven.

Sincerely, Mary Jo

Dear Santa,
How can a grandmother, just like me,
Come and sit down on Santa's knee?
The children would laugh and chuckle
with glee
To see such a funny sight, you see!
So the next best thing that I can do
Is sit down and write a letter to you!
To tell you all my wants and wishes
But for heavens sake, I don't want
dishes!
For all of my loved ones I'd ask for good
health
(And it wouldn't hurt if you threw in some
wealth!)

And a bundle of wishes of health and
good cheer
To all of my friends for the coming New
Year!

From Sharon

P.S. Thelma wants a Mickey Mouse
phone.

Hi, Santa,
The only thing I'd like for Christmas is
for you to do my holiday shopping for
me. I'm doing my bit for inflation by
throwing away my credit cards, but now I
find I'm short of cash.

Attached are the sizes and colors you
need to know. Don't forget that Uncle
Harry can't wear wool. He developed a
rash from the scarf and hat I gave him
last year, and his face was so swollen he
couldn't watch any of the bowl games on
New Year's Day.

Phil

Dear Santa Claus,
Seems as though it was only yesterday
that I was writing last year's letter. It
certainly must keep you busy year after
year to coordinate this massive giving of
gifts. I just want you to know that I ap-
preciate your carrying on this fine
tradition started so long ago by three

kings when a very special Child was born
in Bethlehem.

I realize that too often we tend to lose
the true meaning of Christmas amid its
excessive commercialism. Ironically, in
some ways this same commercialism
sometimes brings people closer to
Christ after Christmas, if only to pray to
Him for help to pay off their charge
accounts.

That adage, "The only difference be-
tween little boys' and big boys' toys is
their price," certainly is true. I admit I've
gotten carried away with material goods
as an adult, but when I think about it, the
anticipation somehow turned out to be
greater than the "toy" I wanted so much.

Anyway, I just wanted to share some of
my thoughts with you, but I also have a
request. It is one that sounds simple, yet
has a price definitely unique to each of
us.

Because it is a limited resource, its
worth becomes increasingly apparent
only with the addition of years and
responsibilities. I feel it is the best gift
we can share with our spouse and
children, our entire family and our
friends. I ask only for more **time** and the
ability to use it wisely.

Merry Christmas, Aaron

Unforgettable last-minute gifts

If you're tired of giving just another
sweater or pair of slippers as Christmas
gifts, use your imagination. To help you
get started, here is a sampling of gift
items available in Omaha not many re-
cipients will forget:

— An hour-long champagne flight in a
air balloon. Licensed pilot flies two
passengers wherever the wind blows. In-
cludes photos of flight and champagne.
\$175. (If you prefer an enclosed flight
over the city, private plane rides cost
about \$30 for 30 minutes.)

— A gift certificate for a pedicure given
at home. No more callouses, dry skin,
uneven toenails — and it's better than
walking barefoot in the grass. \$20.

— A dozen long-stemmed red silk
roses. They'll never wilt and look so real.

Delivered in a florist's box. \$20 to \$30.

— A visit from Santa. The man from the
North Pole delivers gifts and chit-chats
with guests. About \$15.

— A handmade copper windchime
from Israel. No two are alike. \$26.

— A pair of graceful ceramic hands to
hold bathroom tissue. \$36.

— Stationery in a baby grand piano.
The miniature piano's keyboard is im-
printed on the stationery, and a pen
holds up the piano's lid. \$10.

— Wooden puzzles from England
which, when assembled, are stand-up
sculptures in themselves. Choose
giraffes, dolphins or can-can girls. Take
apart and let the recipient figure it out.
\$39.

— Handmade beaded necklace from
Africa. Elaborate design covers body's
upper torso. \$80. Smaller, multicolor
beaded choker costs \$29.

— Christmas dinner catered in the
home. Turkey and all the trimmings for
10 people served at the table. Includes
centerpiece. About \$100.

— Unicorn music box in white
porcelain plays theme from "Camelot."
The unicorn is a symbol of innocence.
\$18.50.

— A message in the sky. Wish some-
one special a merry Christmas by en-
gaging a sky-writing service. Plane
flashes nighttime message in lighted
letters beneath its wings. You pick the
time and place. About \$75 for 70 letters.

5 million safe hours

Performing what was perhaps his last official duty as general manager of the Omaha Works, Chuck Meetsma presented a plaque to Dept. 361 for achieving the highest number of man hours without serious injury in Works history — a total of 5 million hours. The presentation was made in the auditorium where department employees had gathered.

"It has to be one of the highlights of my career here to be able to recognize a department that has achieved this kind of record — it doesn't just happen," he said to the group.

"Some may say that you don't have the exposure to danger as others have, but I don't accept that," the general manager

continued. "Just being out in the factory poses risk for anybody regardless of what they do."

Department chief Art Euler, who accepted the plaque, agreed with that comment. His department is comprised of inspectors whose jobs take them to all areas of the manufacturing shops to appraise product quality.

"Our job in itself isn't high risk, but because we work in areas that are high risk, 5 million man hours without a disabling injury is quite an achievement," Art said.

An inspector's job may involve cutting over big bales of steel to test the steel, or crawling over hopper cars in incle-

ment weather to take a sample of plastics buried within the car. There can be



WATCH IT . . . Don Bell, a sheathing line inspector in the cable shop, always keeps his eyes on the gauge he uses to measure the corrugation depth of aluminum used in cable. Otherwise, the gauge could slip and Don could be cut as the aluminum moves through the line.

energy . . . less is more

It's time for another energy puzzle, courtesy of the Works' resident puzzle maker in Dept. 743, Charles Petersen.

This one tests your "word finder" skills. All you have to do is decipher

the gobbledygook of letters to find the words listed. All of the words pertain in some way to energy conservation efforts at the Omaha Works. The puzzle solution is on Page 8.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. air | 8. exhaust | 14. maintenance | 20. skylights |
| 2. boilers | 9. fans | 15. motors | 21. sodium lights |
| 3. car pools | 10. flow meters | 16. oven | 22. thermostats |
| 4. compressed | 11. heaters | 17. posters | 23. timers |
| 5. computer | 12. hot water | 18. recycling | 24. vestibules |
| 6. controls | 13. insulation | 19. signs | 25. windows |
| 7. energy surveys | | | |

M Y D T H E R M O S T A T S T O N
 A V E R O N I S L O R T N O C W O
 I E S X T I M E R S Z M B D O F I
 N S S T W S R E L I O B F I M L T
 T T E G A F T O S I G N S U P O A
 E I R B T N O H J F P Q V M U W L
 N B P O E P S R E T A E H L T M U
 A U M V R E C Y C L I N G I E E S
 N L O A M P O S T E R S S G R T N
 C E C I W I N D O W S Q Z H T E I
 E S T R T S U A H X E M O T O R S
 S K Y L I G H T S A T V O S T S A
 B X T S Y E V R U S Y G R E N E S

Computer graphics by Fred Cormaci

BSSP/SSP results

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

	BSSP	
	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T	2.6144	.3824
Government Obligations	2.3903	.4183
Equity Portfolio	1.7622	.5674
Guaranteed Interest Fund	1.1935	.8378
SSP		
	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T	1.2210	.8189
Guaranteed Interest Fund	1.2869	.7770

hazards in the two raw materials labs where testing of materials includes extruding and molding operations. The risks vary for inspectors from one area to another.

As Art sees it, the reason the department's 135 employees (office staff, supervisors, raw materials technicians and floor inspectors) haven't had a disabling injury in 22 years is because "everybody pays attention." They exercise caution and care and have developed safe working habits over the years, he said.

There's another reason behind the department's safety record, too, Art pointed out. He's always maintained that safety, clean working conditions and quality work are interrelated, with one positively affecting the results of the others, he said.

Apparently, his theory has been proven in Dept. 361, which has "won more housekeeping awards than any other department" at the Works, Art said. "And working in a neat area contributes to safe working conditions."



CAREFUL HANDLING ... Raw materials inspector Mike Miller uses saws and a small mill to take samples of steel sheets. Careful attention to safety ensures he won't be cut in the process.

Policy on equal opportunity

The Omaha Works invites all employees and applicants who believe themselves to be handicapped, special disabled veterans or veterans of the Vietnam era, and who wish to be considered under the Affirmative Action Program, to identify themselves to the personnel organization. The identification is sought on a voluntary basis only. Refusal to provide the company with the information in no way will subject the employees or applicants to any kind of adverse treatment.

This invitation is communicated to all employees and applicants as a reaffirmation of our commitment to equal opportunity. Information submitted to the company will be kept confidential and used only for affirmative action purposes.

The management of the Omaha Works firmly supports the company's commitment to full compliance under the Affirmative Action Program for the Handicapped and Disabled and Vietnam Era Veterans (AAP-H/V).

L. B. (Timm) Timmerman, department chief of human resources, has been delegated the responsibility to administer the program. He is the appointed head of equal opportunity programs at the Omaha Works.

When needs of the business permit an expansion of or advancements within our work force, he will monitor the Affirmative Action Program to ensure that, where feasible, we have met our commitment to increase job opportunities for the qualified handicapped individuals and covered veterans. Assisting him are Works equal opportunity investigators, Gail Bailey (Ext. 3597) and Dick Reida (Ext. 3579).

Updated copies of the AAP-H/V have been distributed to all supervisors and also are on file in the personnel office, available for employee inspection.

All persons who believe themselves covered by this program (that is, the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and/or the revised Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974) and who believe that an alleged violation of these acts occurred, are asked to contact the E.O. investigators. They will provide counseling, assistance or information related to filing a complaint.

Employees and applicants are protected from coercion, intimidation, interference or discrimination for filing a complaint or assisting in an investigation under these acts.



South Central Bell visits Works

Early in November, the entire network distribution staff — 19 people in all — of South Central Bell Telephone Company visited the Omaha Works. It was the largest group of operating Bell Telephone customers to which the Works has been host.

The visitors included Bob Blanz, executive vice-president, network; Jimmy Johnson, vice-president for distribution — north; and T. L. Cloar, vice-president for distribution — south.

The purpose of their visit was to become better acquainted with the products and services the Works can provide. In the past, South Central Bell has been an important Works customer, buying products ranging from connectors and load coils to station cords.

From an Omaha Works standpoint, making a good impression on such a valued customer was the goal. Technical presentations in meeting rooms were planned. Tours through the shops were scheduled to encourage contact between the customers and the people who make their products.

Frank Heffron, Western's vice-president of manufacturing in the Cable and Wire Products Division, and account representatives and Bell Lab staff members came to assist with presentations.

As a result, the South Central Bell team left the Omaha Works with an enthusiasm indicated in their letters



PROBING . . . Manufacturing manager Ed Arnone of Organization 440 (second from left) explains an FDI binding post assembly cutaway to Bob Blanz (left), George Burton (South Central's general manager, distribution—Kentucky), and Frank Heffron.

of thanks. Their confidence in the Works was commonly expressed, but perhaps excerpts from a letter to all Works employees from G. B. Brown (an operations staff manager for South Central Bell) says it best:

"One first notices your personal appearance, the smile and hello, your orderly and clean work areas. I am sure these things contribute to your attitude, quality, safety and productivity. They also add up to the final cost and com-

petitive resulting prices

"I want you, the people who really make it happen, to know that as your customer we, in turn, place your products in the service of the general public. Together we have the best communications system in the world."

United Way honors Larson and Markesi

Vern Larson of Dept. 435 and Frank Markesi of Dept. 362 have been named loaned executives of the year in the business and industry division of the 1981 United Way of the Midlands campaign.

As loaned executives, Vern and Frank contacted various local businesses seeking pledges to the United Way fund. Donations from Vern's business accounts reflected a 54.6 percent increase in dollar giving over last year's pledges. Frank's accounts reflected a 45.4 percent increase. Together, they helped raise more than \$162,000 for the drive, an increase over last year of more than \$50,000.

This is the third time Frank has been named loaned executive of the year, while it's the first time for Vern.

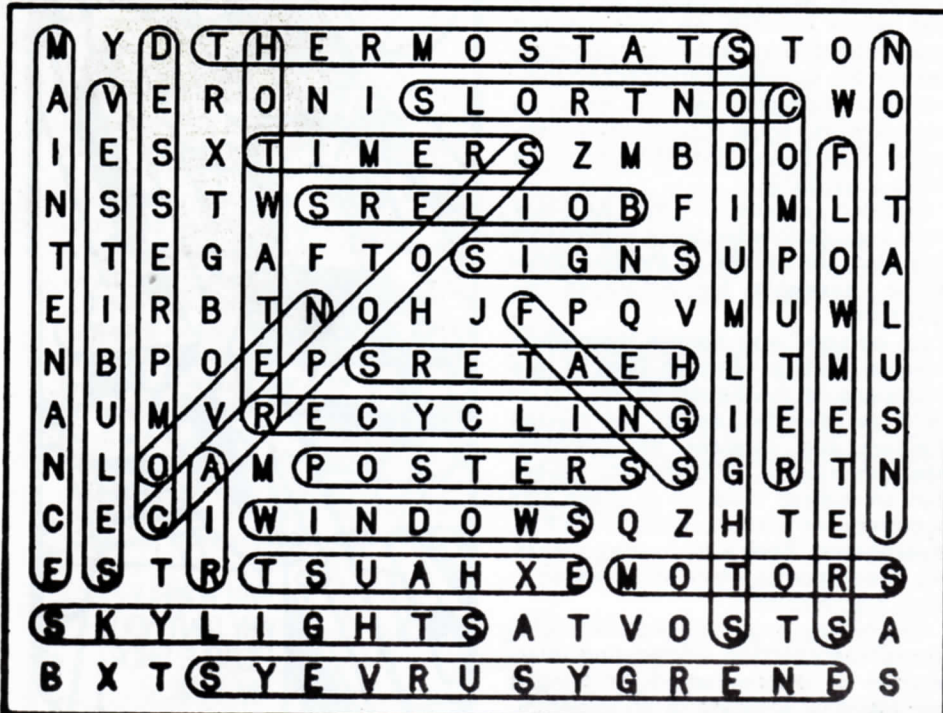


Frank Markesi



Vern Larson

Puzzle solution



Computer graphics by Fred Cormaci