

WESTERNER

Omaha Works October 1984



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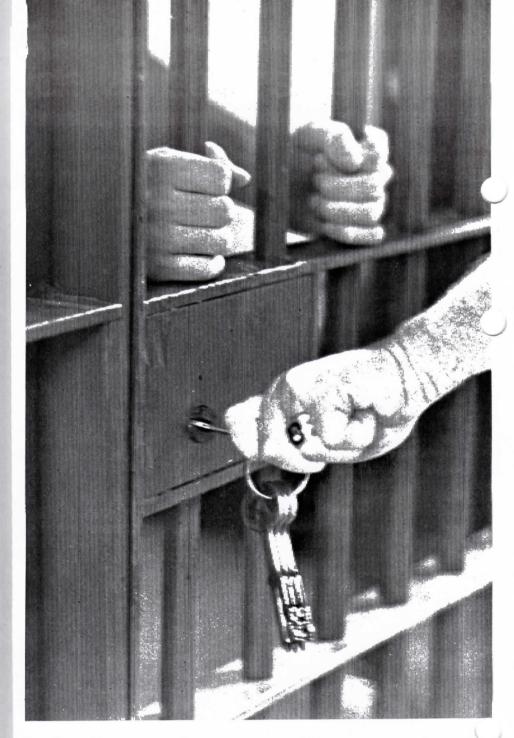
On the cover

Taking first prize is a big moment in anyone's life, but when you're only 3 years old, sometimes the prize is as big as you are. This toddler proudly clutched her prized pink panda she won in the children's games event for 3-year-olds at the annual WEOMA Club picnic last month at Peony Park. For more picnic pictures, turn to Page 6.

WESTERNER

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Nobody votes in Conville, USA

By Pete Simer

The vote-hawks never land in Conville, USA (a "pen" name for all correctional facilities in America). Its 432,000 residents, myself included, have lost their voting rights.

I am convict No. 87776 in Southern Michigan Prison (population 5,300), just off I-94 at Jackson.

After a company employee magazine editor expressed interest in how my "neighbors" felt about not being allowed to vote, I talked with nearly 300 of them — most of whom are

chronic misfits who merely shrugged or otherwise indicated lack of concern. But there were some unusual responses to the question, "Did you vote when you were free?"

One came from a retired captain of a plant security team who, at age 69, is serving three to 10 years for felonious assault (he had shot a toe off of his antagonist during an argument over a minor auto accident).

Very patriotic

"I have been a good American," he said. "I served on juries seven times. I have donated hundreds of hours to civic activities. When it comes to voting — wellsir, I have never shirked my duty."

I interrupted: "Duty rather than privilege?" He flashed a smile. "Not rather than," he amended. "Duty first, then take

pride in the privilege.'

And this, from a 39-year-old burglar, doing 10 to 30 years as a habitual offender: "Hey, man. I ain't never voted 'cause it keeps on lookin' like no matter who gets elected president, ain't no poor folks ever gonna get nuthin' but more of nuthin' just like they been gettin' all along."

The next guy ignored my questions until I loaned him three bucks to buy a jug of spud juice — contraband, locally distilled booze. At 42, he is serving 7½ to 15 years for running down and mangling a pedestrian, leaving three little people with no mom. (Twice before he had been found guilty of drunk driving and merely fined.)

"I never blew a turn at the ballot box," he said. "I even voted in school board elections. I'm an alcoholic but I'm also a hard-working, honest, patriotic American.

"And I'm up on voting because I'm down on lousy deals like Watergate, Debategate and Scandalgates of all kinds. I know that if enough Americans attend to patriotic duty, someday we'll send a president to Washington who will Fumigate."

I found a 39-year-old bandit busy at a sewing machine in the garment shop. He is doing "all day" — natural life with no provision for parole.

"Sewing, huh?" I asked idiotically. He finished a seam, shut off the machine, rose and replied, "Nope, I'm reaping." A chuckle or two later he responded to the voting questions.

"My dad was a strict three-D man. Discipline. Duty. Democracy. Our house was run that way," he began. Any family crisis that could be voted on called for balloting. Me, Mom and Dad, one brother and three sisters all toed the three-D line. Dad believed that no democracy could survive without the other two Ds, and that all three Ds must start and flourish in the home.

"So, naturally, it bothers me that part of my punishment is being unable to vote. I never had a chance to vote in a public election." (At age 19 and "high on pot and what not" — one month after his father died — he had held up a jewelry store, wounded a cashier and killed the proprietor.)

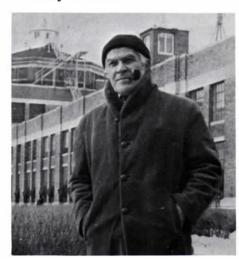
Four more years

As for myself, I seem to be a fixture in the chronic misfit category. Now 72, I have served 33 years in one Conville or another — nearly all for counterfeiting and cashing bad checks. (For seven months in 1920, when I was 9 years old, my father had me on the street cashing his bum checks. All told, Dad spent 22 hours in jail.)

But I rarely neglected voting when free and I have high hopes of voting again (in 1988). Meanwhile, the burglar's words keep echoing to enhance my contention that, on either side of the walls of Conville, USA, it is invariably the non-voters who are most addicted to griping. They seem unable to understand that the only shots heard 'round the political world are the wee small voices of voters at the polls.

In the end — in a strict patriotic sense — I feel that nothing is worse than losing one's right to vote in Conville, USA — except your city, town or village where each and every registered American citizen **may** vote and "take pride in the privilege."

And you don't.



THE AUTHOR... Pete Simer is an inmate in Southern Michigan Prison whose 5,000-plus population has lost the freedom to vote.

Where to register

More people turn out to vote in presidential elections than they do for other elections. But even at that, just a little over half (about 59 percent) of those eligible to register and vote in Douglas County actually did so in the 1980 presidential election.

If you are 18 and over and have changed your name or address, or if you have never registered to vote, you have until Oct. 26 to register for the Nov. 6 election.

Douglas County residents can register at the election commissioner's office Downtown between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., and at county offices located at the South Omaha City Hall, Westroads, Crossroads and in Florence (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

They also can register at the Urban League offices, 3022 N. 24th St. (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.), and at all Omaha Public Library locations during regular library hours, including evenings.

Radio usage survey ends on positive note

Can rock fans, easy-listening devotees, country music enthusiasts and inspirational music lovers work in harmony side by side?

Apparently they can, based on the results of a 90-day radio usage survey which Quality Circle No. 3 conducted in two apparatus shop departments. Because of the circle's study, the prospects are good that radio usage will be extended to other shop employees.

Last June, the circle — "The 710 Connection" - began its study allowing the use of individual headset radios by certain operating employees in Depts. 442 and 443. Only those employees whose performance and safety on their jobs might be jeopardized — those working in truck traffic aisles, for example — weren't allowed to participate. Roughly 90 percent of the combined total of department employees — almost 500 employees — were eligible for the study.

The circle chose the radio

survey as its project because "there had been indications from employees that radio use in the shop was a legitimate concern," said Sharon Brown, the circle's leader. The circle thought most employees would benefit from such a survey if the results proved to be positive — "and we knew we would have the support of the people."

From the very beginning the circle had that support to begin a radio survey which, Brown believes, has never been done in an industrial setting. The circle members themselves — Brown, Dan Dehning, Donna Erickson, Rick Madej, Lynn Hapke, Judy Coffey, Mary Ann Smith and Dennis Fleming — extensively researched, planned and organized the project.

Next, they enlisted the support of the employees in Depts. 442 and 443. Dept. 443, represented by the quality circle, makes 710 connectors. Dept. 442, a larger department comprised of more newly hired employees,

makes central office connectors and building entrance protectors. Employees were asked to wear the radios only at their work positions. They also were asked to fill out questionnaires periodically regarding the project.

The survey turned up some interesting results, Brown said. The majority of employees polled thought radio usage curbed stress and eased animosities among themselves. Department supervisors also were surveyed and they agreed with employees who thought the project cut down on talking while increasing productivity. Virtually 100 percent of the employees said they support permanent radio usage, although not all would choose to use radios.

Circle member Dan Dehning wears his radio all day long and thinks he's "less grouchy. My wife has noticed that. I don't have the frustrations with (making) rates anymore."

Circle member Mary Ann Smith said, "I've always had a problem with everyday job stress." Now that she can listen to her favorite Western music, she's found her stress to be alleviated considerably.

Brown said her being able to listen to music and educational tapes has "certainly helped my efficiency. It's easier to sit

Dieting? Don't skimp on nutrition

The following is one in a series of articles about health as part of "Love-Life," a health education program developed by the Immanuel Medical Center.

Want to look and feel your best and save money to boot?

Every year Americans spend millions of dollars on fad diet and nutrition advice. Unfortunately, often they don't get their money's worth. Every week it seems another "ideal diet" book bombards the bookstores promising instant health, beauty and a gorgeous physique — all

in two weeks for only \$12.95.

Save your money. Fad diets generally produce fad weight loss. While the weight may take a temporary vacation, it comes right back.

The best way to lose weight is to eat right but cut back on serving sizes and exercise more. You still have to have good nutrition.

Some people think that good nutrition is a hopelessly confusing mystery known only to doctors. Actually, it's a matter of a little basic knowledge, some common sense and a combination of eating the right foods while avoiding the wrong ones.

In order to have a good balanced diet you must eat a variety of foods. Limiting yourself to only fruits and vegetables is not any better than eating only meat and fish. Both are incomplete diets.

Your body needs about 40 different nutrients to keep running right. You can skimp on some of them for a while, but eventually a bad diet will catch up with you. Hair loss, bad skin, blurry vision, dizziness and no energy are all signs of a bad diet.

The basic four

There are four basic food groups: bread and cereal; meat, poultry, fish and beans; fruits and vegetables; and dairy. No single group contains all of the nutrients a normal person needs.

Normally, a person should have two daily servings from the meat, poultry and beans group; two from the dairy group; and four servings each from the bread and cereal and the fruits and vegetable groups.

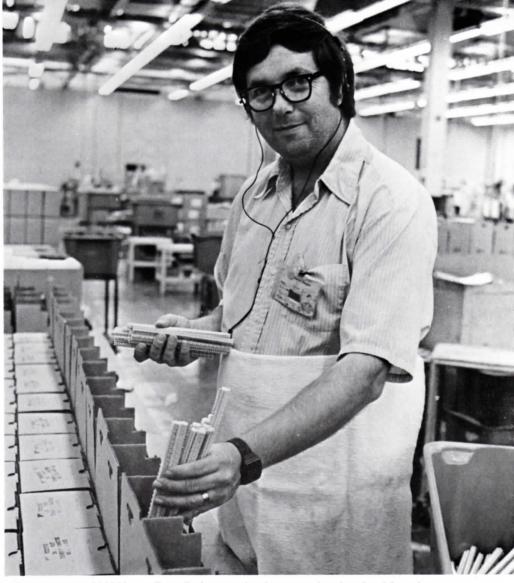
there and get my rate out."

Responding to circle survey questions, department chief Tom Vierk (Dept. 443) said, "I'm very pleased with the way people responded and adhered to the rules" of the survey. He's also pleased with its results: "Production was up drastically intially," he said and he thinks radio usage offers diversity in a job routine which can be monotonous.

Brown also was pleased with the survey's success, citing the cooperation of all employees, not just those in the two departments allowed to use radios.

"We've really solved a lot of other problems with this project," she said, referring to other concerns Quality Circle No. 3 has pledged to resolve. But an important outcome of this survey, she said, is that radio usage elsewhere in the shops can now become a reality. (Introduction will be gradual and selective. The exact schedule wasn't available at deadline time.)

"Really, the whole plant took part in this survey," Brown concluded. "If employees hadn't helped us, it never would have worked."



NO MORE GROUCH . . . Dan Dehning thinks use of individual headset radios isn't disruptive in his work, but rather, it's constructive.

Check with your doctor, however, if you have a special health problem. Some diets call for a reduction of servings from particular groups.

Try to avoid too much fat. Atty, high-cholesterol foods can quickly become a health hazard. Eat more fish and poultry and cut back on fatty red meats. Watch excess dairy intake and use polyunsaturated fats such as vegetable oils whenever possible. These oils actually help lower the cholesterol level in your pody.

Too much sugar also can be a problem. Every American uses about 130 pounds of sugar and sweeteners a year, one of the highest averages in the world. The biggest hazard to using sugar is teeth cavities. Contrary to myth, sugar in itself does not cause diabetes, but it can

lead to weight problems. Too much weight is a contributor to diabetic problems.

Pass on salt

Don't pass the salt — pass it up instead. Sodium is a contributor to heart and circulatory disease. Too much salt helps your body retain excess water which adds to your weight. Learn to season your foods with spices or lemon juice. If you use salt, cook with it. Do not put a salt container on the table at dinner.

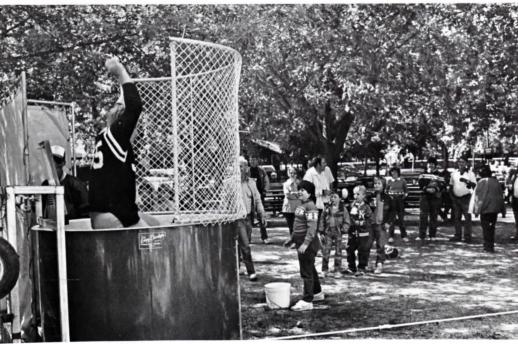
Make sure there is enough fiber and starch in your diet. Fiber can be found in whole grain breads and cereals and in fresh fruits and vegetables. Starch is found in beans, nuts, vegetables and cereals. Both starch and sugar contain carbohydrates which supply your body with energy. While sugar and starch both supply calories, foods with starch supply many other essential nutrients as well.

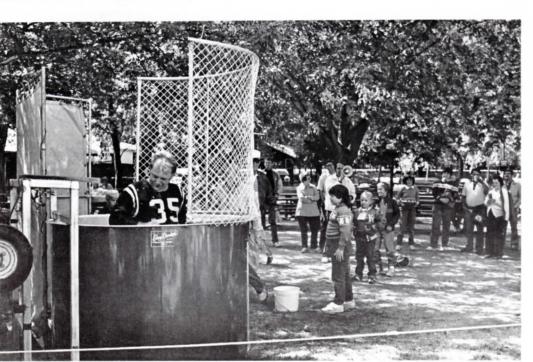
Drink alcohol only in moderation. Alcoholic beverages tend to be very high in calories while offering no nutritional value. One to two drinks a day should be the average adult's limit.

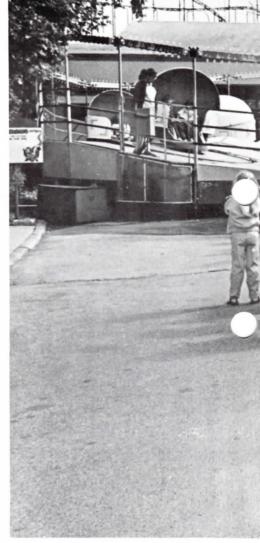
Maintain your proper body weight. Your daily caloric needs are based on your activities, age and body metabolism, which is the rate at which your body uses the food you eat.

Good nutrition everyday is a vital part of maintaining a healthy body. If you do decide to diet, be smart about it and eat right. By sacrificing nutrition while you cut back on calories, you can lose more than just weight. You can lose your good health.

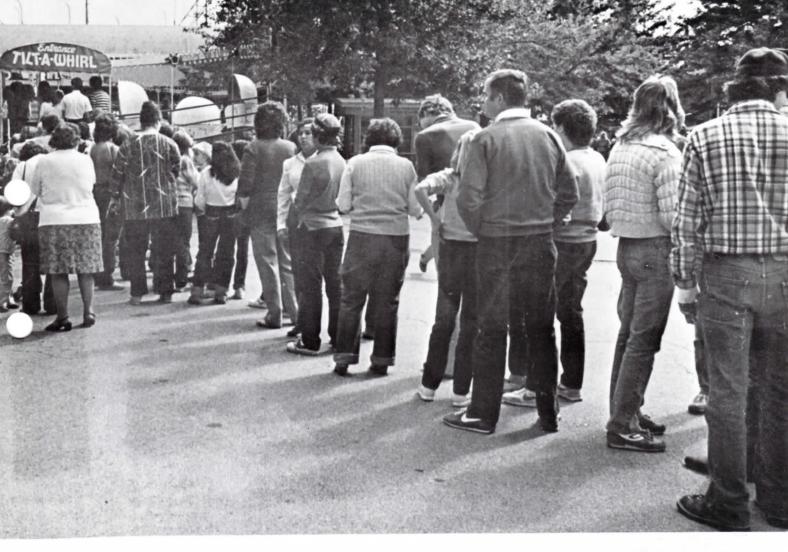


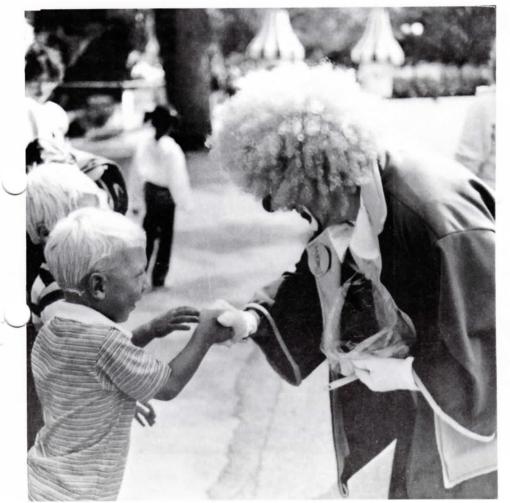






WHAT, ME WORRY? . . . IBEW Local 1974 president Ken Mass (top photo, left) takes a nonchalant approach to his turn on the dunk machine until — whoops — he falls from his perch (below and bottom) and finds out the water isn't any warmer than the cool air. Above, long lines to amusement rides were common at the picnic, but nobody was in a big hurry. We don't know if this clown was running for political office (right) bu these youngsters were glad to shake his hand anyway.





Picnic '84

The annual WEOMA Club picnic had its biggest turnout in recent years, with 4,100 people attending festivities at Peony Park on Sept. 16.

Cool breezes made it an autumn-like day, but there was still a lot of fun to be had in the summer of '84. There were lines to most amusement rides, but no one seemed to mind. Competitive games complete with prizes, horseshoes, bingo and tug-of-war contests filled the afternoon hours.

New attractions at this year's picnic were an 'executive dunk tank' and a display of antique and classic automobiles.

(Continued on Page 8)

WEOMA picnic '84

(Continued from Page 7)

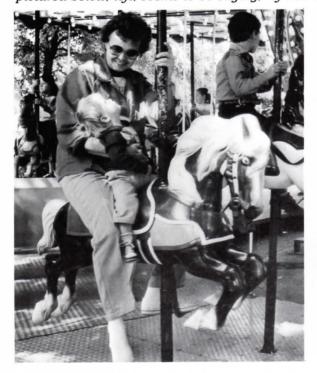
The dunk tank was an offshoot of the in-plant United Way campaign, offering the opportunity to dunk members of the Works managerial staff or IBEW union officers. Some employees had won "free throws" during the plant

campaign, but others at the picnic paid a dollar a dunk — contributing an extra \$100 to the campaign.

The auto display was the result of a story idea submitted to the Westerner. Gus Frics submitted the idea and also displayed a car of his own at the picnic.



SO FINE . . . Gus Frics (left, above) and his son were on hand to display a 1957 Cadillac. His and classics like Butch Colanino's shiny red 1932 Ford (below, right) attracted admiring looks from picnickers. The youngster pictured below, left, seems to be saying, "If this is a dream, don't wake me up!"





etc.

embica promoted

Ed Gembica has been promoted to senior planning engineer in the quality assurance department, Dept. 1113. He formerly was a planning engineer in the department.

Gembica's appointment was effective Sept. 1.





Trip to L.A.

While many of the local folks watched the Cornhuskers-Bruins game last month on television from the comfort of their homes, Henry Hill of Dept. 202 was watching from his seat at the Rose Bowl in Los Angeles.

Hill was the recipient of one of two grand prizes awarded by Citicorp Person-to-Person Financial Center. His prize included an all-expense-paid trip for two to Los Angeles for the game Sept. 22. Airfare, game tickets and spending money were all part of his winnings.

fill and his wife, Rosa (who works in Dept. 203), were among the Cornhusker Big Red Boosters contingent at the game.

Big turnout

Participation by AT&T employees in this year's Corporate Cup Run was double that of last

npared to 103 in 1983. In addition to Works employees entered, other local AT&T participants came from AT&T Communications, Information Systems, the service center and from the Material Management Center in Underwood, Iowa.

The event is held annually to benefit the American Lung Association of Nebraska.



FILES IN ORDER . . . Agnes Peterson (foreground) and Kathy Fink kept data and campaign figures up to date.

United Way goal topped

Works employees were asked to do more good than they thought they could, and they surely did.

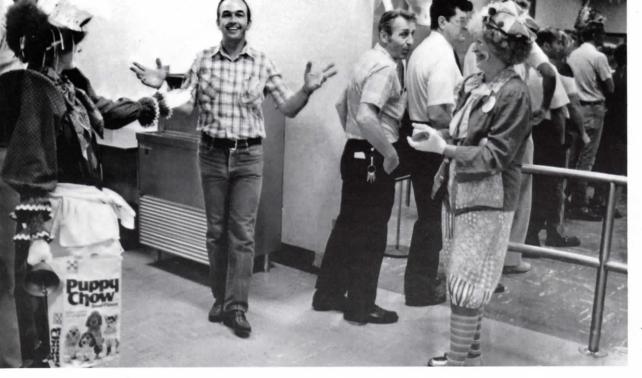
Not only did employee pledges to the United Way in-plant campaign this year reach the goal of \$600,000, but they surpassed it. In all, \$660,000 in employee contributions will go toward United Way-affiliated agencies in Omaha and surrounding communities.

The amount is a 35 percent increase — \$172,000 more than what was contributed last year. It figures out to be \$133 per capita, better than \$124 per capita in 1983. To date, \$660,000 is the highest amount Works employees have pledged to the campaign.

Contributing to the drive's success were the "behind the scenes" efforts of many employees. Among them were committee workers and helpers Kathy Fink and Agnes Peterson (they kept track of data and figures needed throughout the drive), Marlene Wilson and Terry Moore

(who prepared the auditorium for employee campaign sessions), Sally Stancavage, Bill Huetson, Jim Perryman, Ron Johnson (the "tab run man"), Paul Pickrel, Dick Hergenrader and numerous volunteers who assisted during auditorium sessions. Co-chairs of this year's campaign were Dale DeBoer, Jim Hardick and Leo Thietje.

Some employees who gave to the campaign also were on the receiving end. The following employees have claimed prizes awarded as part of the drive: videotape recorders — Barbara Robertson (Dept. 201), Rich Shropshire (3444), and Rod Conser (472); Olympic telephones Lonnie Malone (201), Steve Pokorski (421), Jean Kilton and Lola Boger (429), Rosie Griffin (442), Betty Clanton (444), Jan Zieman (447), Otis Knutson (429), Melody Bartrem (442), and John Pleskac (472); tickets to Nebraska football home games Geraldine Jones (425), Tim Raasch (070), Darrel Suddath (531) and Bill Krum (082).



FOR ME? . . .
Clowns Bubblegum
(Donna Kerr, left)
and Buttons (Mona
Payne) told Pete
Heim to take a bow
during lunchtime.
The free lunch
was perfect timing
for him, since
his birthday was
the next day (Sept.

Employees treated to free lunch

Whoever said, "There's no such thing as a free lunch," wasn't at the Omaha Works Sept. 21 when employees on all three shifts were treated to roast beef dinners.

The lunches were free to all employees in celebration of the Works' having accumulated 3 million manhours without a lost-time injury. Just several weeks earlier on Aug. 7, the Works marked its 2 million manhour milestone.

No regular lunches were served in the cafeteria on "free-lunch

day." Employees received tickets to the lunch in advance, which specified eating times.

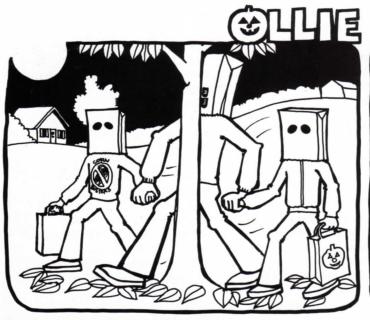
The ARA cafeteria crew put in a long day serving meals to third-shift employees at 3 a.m., to first-shift people at three serving times, and to second-shift people at 7 p.m. Provisions were made for seven-day coverage employees who were off that day. Close to 5,000 employees redeemed their tickets.

Lorraine Mott, a layout operator in Dept. 554, had another cause to celebrate. The serious

injury-free safety record enabled her to become a full-card winner in the Safety Pays game, winning \$775 — the second largest amount awarded in the game's history.

Safety department chief Dick Veach said the Omaha Works hasn't accumulated 3 million hours of safe working since 1966, when safety rules were much less stringent. What will be done for an encore if we reach the 4 million mark?

Said Veach, "We're working on it."





Service anniversaries

25 years		N. Shaw	282 10/5
M. S. Abramson	28110/26	R. A. Taylor	282 10/1
L. H. Baker	282 10/5	S. S. Timm	44210/26
P. R. Brzezinski	232 10/15	L. W. Warren	111310/12
R. I. Chard	421 10/5	J. E. Webster	426 10/6
L. M. Christiansen	448 10/12	M. W. Wilson	443 10/12
R. H. Ellingson	421 10/12		
J. B. Fay	232 10/7		
C. O. Gallup	234 10/5	15 years	
D. D. Haase	425 10/5	E. W. Adams	428 10/6
R. G. Halvorson	421 10/13	B. R. Amos	443 10/13
L. F. Hunt	28210/23	M. J. Anderson	42910/20
J. L. Johnson	554 10/14	W. H. Baldwin	1113 10/1
P. D. Kennedy	232 10/2	E. D. Betzer	44410/20
R. J. Kurtzuba	42810/26	L. S. Boryca	28710/10
G. A. Kushinsky	429 10/1	S. F. Buzzell	42910/27
D. F. Kuta	421 10/7	D. R. Carlson	429 10/6
R. R. Lake	542 10/1	M. P. Carlson C. T. Comstock	44710/13
W. D. Loring	28210/21 $28110/12$	L. Cox	42810/28 281 10/6
D. E. Meisinger	281 10/12	D. C. Gallagher	443 10/3
J. P. Morris W. Onisk	273 10/19	P. J. Galus	287 10/20
J. P. Phalen	231 10/26	M. S. Gates	42310/27
M. B. Prettyman	42910/12	R. L. Gillman Jr.	42910/13
L. S. Schulz	42910/26	E. Gills Jr.	287 10/2
D. J. Seaton	281 10/20	J. S. Goodhard	07110/21
M. G. Seaton	281 10/20	J. J. Grego	28210/21
R. G. Seiter	230 10/1	W. E. Halstead Jr.	423 10/1
H. Toledo	531 10/12	G. W. Hanson	423 10/1
R. G. Walters	429 10/19	R. W. Hartley	425 10/11
R. L. Welsh	281 10/21	C. Hodges	07110/20
M. F. Willenborg	42610/12	J. S. Keller	42410/20
		F. T. Kennedy Jr.	42810/14
00		T. L. Klimiuk	44810/27
20 years		M. K. Kobielski	42910/20
D. L. Ambrose	475 10/5	D. B. Kot	42910/20
J. L. Anthony	429 10/6	D. H. Kramer E. G. Krutina	232 10/6
N. L. Beasley	425 10/7	C. L. Michel	44410/20 42410/13
M. P. Belmudez	42110/20 $28710/28$	J. C. Mitchell	287 10/23
N. W. Carbonell W. W. Combs	421 10/31	J. S. O'Grady	42910/13
W. D. Echtenkamp	281 10/7	T. J. Porter	428 10/2
R. O. Fuksa	442 10/6	B. W. Rogers Jr.	42310/27
E. P. Grooms	44410/20	G. Y. Sawaged	443 10/6
F. E. Hoeper	53210/15	C. R. Schaupp	53210/22
J. G. Klingeman	287 10/12	T. J. Schliffke	23210/27
M. S. Krahmer	287 10/15	B. N. Sealock	421 10/7
R. A. Krokaugger	28110/26	K. G. Seibel	446 10/2
A. M. Lucas	42910/25	C. W. Sharpe	281 10/8
J. C. Mabry	230 10/5	G. H. Sorensen	443 10/5
P. J. Mickells	443 10/21	R. H. Stennis	424 10/15
R. R. Miller	425 10/14	W. S. Swierczek	447 10/6
R. S. Mitchell	07110/20	J. G. Walls	44810/13
P. T. Mullen	425 10/26	G. M. Wasser H. B. Wells	42910/24 072 10/8
J. T. Nelson G. W. Reese	421 10/8 421 10/5	A. C. Winger	287 10/13
G. W. Reese G. T. Rush	426 10/3	L. D. Winterstein	44410/20
J. B. Salvatore	281 10/26	J. K. Zieman	447 10/13
o. D. Salvatore	20110/20	J. II. Bidliuli	11, 10, 10

IU years		
C. M. Bonham	1722	10/9
R. R. Delgado	442	10/2
C V Toleton		10/5

442 10/5

5 years

A. H. Woods

D. M. Williams 475 10/1

Works policy on equal opportunity

The Omaha Works, like all other locations of AT&T Technologies, Inc., is an equal opportunity employer.

It is the policy of AT&T Technologies to afford equal opportunity to all of its contractees, employees and applicants for employment. That is, all selections will be made on the basis of individual merit without discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, age or national origin, except where sex or age is a bona fide occupational qualification.

The employment policies and practices and all other personnel actions of AT&T Technologies have been and will continue to be such to ensure that all of its employees are treated equally. No distinctions are made because of the employee's race, color, religion, sex, age or national origin. Our commitment to this policy applies uniformly to all levels within the company.

Our equal opportunity investigator, Gail Bailey Merrick (Ext. 3597), is available to discuss our policy with you. If you, as an Omaha Works employee, think you are not being afforded equal opportunity under the applicable laws and regulations, you are urged to contact her for assistance.

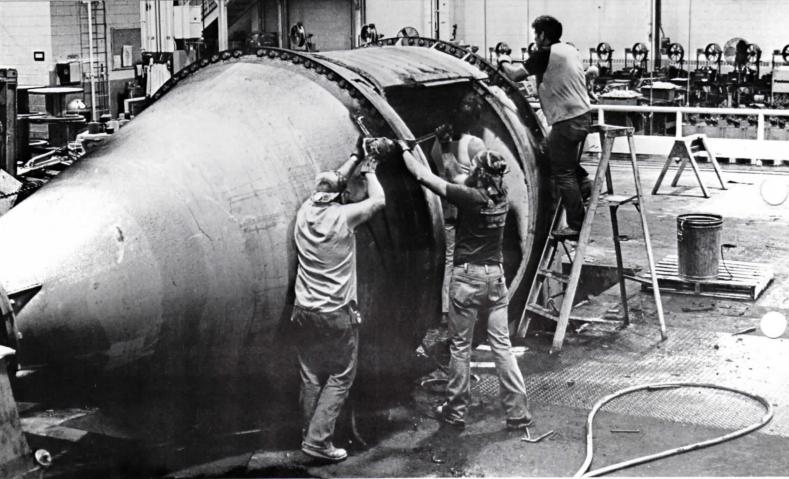


Photo by Linda Enterline

Last frame

This may look like a coneshaped space capsule curiously situated in the cable shop, but it actually is a piece of equipment with far more sentimental value to the Omaha Works.

It is the take-up portion of one of three strander-cablers used in the manufacture of exchange cable since the Works first opened its doors some 25 years ago. Workers dismantled the strander-cablers to make room for outside plant products we'll be making.

When the strander-cablers were installed in the cable shop early in 1958, a Westerner article reported there were none like them in the company. Indeed, they were innovative machinery in the entire cable and wire industry.

They represented the latest method of manufacturing cable core at a considerable reduction in cost and in half the space required by other methods. Often compared to how a spinning wheel operates, the strander-cablers imparted a twist to pairs of wire fed into it, resulting in the rope-like cable core. A complex system of electronic controls maintained proper tension on wires, correct twisting and precise rotating speeds.

We used our strander-cablers to twist up to 1800 pairs of wire. In 1978, one of the strander-cablers was used in the Trans-Nebraska Cable Project, the largest single order of cable — 3 million linear feet — ever placed with the Works.



Omaha Works P.O. Box 37000 Omaha, Ne. 68137