



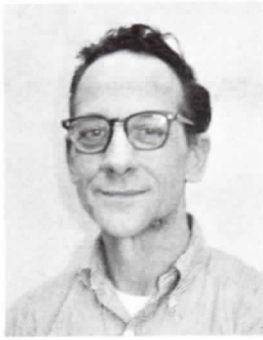
**1972**

**the  
year  
of  
our**

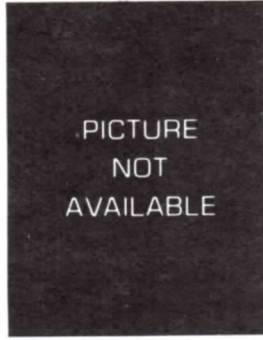
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see story inside

# omaha employees mark service anniversaries



**Howard Firebaugh**  
25 years  
3-1-1947



**Ed Grasmick**  
25 years  
3-17-1947



**Carl Dunham**  
25 years  
3-20-1947



**Leroy Dietz**  
25 years  
4-27-1947



**Harold Hoepfner**  
25 years  
4-15-1947

## 20 YEARS, MARCH, 1972

J. P. Kahler .....	3-10	E. L. Donahoo .....	3-20
L. H. Roth .....	3-18	R. A. Kobza .....	3-24

## 15 YEARS, MARCH, 1972

A. F. Miles .....	3-1	E. M. Dixon .....	3-18
K. D. Tracy .....	3-1	J. F. Sheehan, Jr. ....	3-18
G. P. Anderson .....	3-4	E. M. Stootsberry .....	3-18
M. M. Nemecek .....	3-4	J. W. Goodhard .....	3-19
V. K. Osterholm .....	3-4	M. P. Bizal .....	3-25
H. S. Rawlings .....	3-4	W. F. Honson .....	3-25
D. G. Scholer .....	3-4	J. V. Koralewski .....	3-25
G. H. Kohlscheen .....	3-6	R. D. Mallory .....	3-25
J. R. Healy .....	3-11	R. F. Sorensen .....	3-25
H. K. Loomis .....	3-11	L. B. Vondra .....	3-25
L. M. Reed .....	3-11	E. W. Calfee .....	3-28
D. G. Sheil .....	3-11	E. J. Karasek .....	3-28
M. J. Widger .....	3-11	P. E. Jackson .....	3-29
R. E. Joppa .....	3-14	J. P. Kelly .....	3-31
W. J. Wunderlich .....	3-16	J. V. Goodbarn .....	3-25

## 20 YEARS, APRIL, 1972

C. S. Patterson .....	4-7	H. A. Short .....	4-25
M. L. Davis .....	4-15	M. W. Barry .....	4-28
R. R. Retzlaff .....	4-23	E. B. Greenwade .....	4-28

## 15 YEARS, APRIL, 1972

C. A. Aufenkamp .....	4-1	F. M. Kravchuk .....	4-22
D. S. Gould .....	4-2	F. J. Lajba .....	4-22
C. F. Mellick .....	4-3	C. L. Landers .....	4-22
E. W. Hawk .....	4-8	W. L. Mott .....	4-22
W. D. Kirk .....	4-8	D. L. Karloff .....	4-23
N. A. Blazka .....	4-9	J. L. Burke .....	4-24
G. M. Agosta .....	4-9	E. K. Turnquist .....	4-24
R. K. Sundell .....	4-11	R. P. Winter .....	4-25
O. H. Best .....	4-15	D. D. Eitzmann .....	4-29
F. L. Strudl .....	4-15	D. J. Landon .....	4-29
E. W. Karohl .....	4-17	R. E. Springer .....	4-29
D. J. Sopcich .....	4-19	R. C. Trenolone .....	4-29
D. P. Cupak .....	4-19	P. Zuk .....	4-29
J. W. Barnes .....	4-22	L. F. Stamp .....	4-1



## blindness — one man's handicap, another's motivator

The goal of proving that the blind can compete with sighted employees is the driving force behind Dick Zlab, Department 422-9.

Putting his goal into practice, Dick gained group incentive seven weeks after joining the Omaha Works in November, 1970. Supervisors rate him as "a 100 per cent plus employee and an effective contributor to the group as a sleever." Dick views this as a first step to better things within the Company.

As president of the Tri-County Chapter, Federation of the Blind, Dick strives to encourage its members to find positions of responsibility. As a member of the Nebraska Federation of the Blind Board of Directors, Dick pushes for legislation to advance the rights and opportunities for the blind within the state. He has met with members of Nebraska's Unicameral in supporting legislation for the blind.

Overcoming his handicap has been a life long accomplishment for Dick. At 18 he opened a radio repair shop and operated it for nine years until the advent of television. He then went to Denver and became a

door-to-door salesman, competing with the sighted. In 1966 Dick lost his five per cent vision and joined other blind Americans aided by seeing eye dogs.

San Rafael, California was the training school for guide dogs, and it was there Dick met his second wife, a classmate in the training course. After a year they married, bringing his family to five children, 15 to 25 years-old.

Advancing the blind is a family affair, as his wife visits public schools and explains the guide dog story.

In his year and a half at Western Electric, Dick boasts of not missing a day. "There are a lot of nice people around here," says Dick, "some have driven 30 blocks out of their way to see that I get to work. Presently I have Miss Weoma XIV, Janice Moore, as a chauffeur and she's a sweetie.

We talk about work and cars mostly, Janice is sort of half a mechanic herself."

But no matter what Dick Zlab talks about, his thoughts are with advancing himself within Western Electric, and obtaining better services for the visually impaired and blind throughout the state.



## WE...the people

Paula Brust, a senior at Benson High School was selected this year for a Western Electric expense paid trip to the Bell Telephone Laboratories in Murray Hill, N.J.

Each year one representative from a local high school makes the tour. Selected by a committee of teachers at Benson High, Paula made the three day trip with her physics teacher, John Jensen. Upon her graduation, she plans a major in forest research management at either the University of Minnesota or Washington. She ranks seventh in her class of 621 and is a candidate for the National Honor Society.

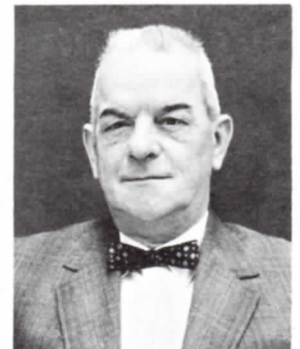
Paula is pictured above, seated, with Richard Reida, Western Electric representative, Dr. Howard Sorenson, Principal, Benson High School and John Jensen.



Holding a combined 67 years of service to Western Electric the Volberdings, Eldon and Sally, retired from active service on March 23.

Both Eldon and Sally began their careers with the Company at the Hawthorne Works, Eldon in 1936 and Sally in 1941. At the time of her retirement, she was Assistant Manager's Secretary for Messrs. Dahl and Gannon. Eldon was Senior Engineer in Department 171.

In their retirement years, the Volberdings will remain at their home in Valley, Nebraska. Eldon will occupy his time with farming and Sally plans to tend her garden.





## 483 register at campaign action center



On May 9 voters in Nebraska will speak via the ballot box and choose their candidates for the 1972 Presidential elections. Among the Nebraskans qualified to vote this spring will be 483 who registered during a voter registration drive conducted at the Omaha Works.

*Jan Moore, Miss Weoma XIV, lends a helping hand during the voter registration drive.*

During the week long, February 28 through March 3, joint Company and Union sponsored registration drive, booths were rotated through cafeterias at the Omaha Works and were available to all employees on all shifts.

Bright red, white and blue buntings bearing the message "Campaign Action Center" and signs reading "REGISTER TO VOTE HERE" marked the booths. And register they did with lines often 20 people deep stacked up during the peak hours. Twenty-three employees of the Omaha Works actively worked on the drive in many capacities.

The success of the drive reflected the active support given to it by Omaha Works management and Local Union 1974 IBEW leaders.

Near the end of the drive, General Manager Frank J. Lefebvre and Union President Michael Quinlan registered their intent to vote, while cameras from the local news media recorded their actions.



*Frank Lefebvre (foreground), General Manager of the Omaha Works, and Mike Quinlan, President of Local Union 1974 IBEW, register during the in-plant registration drive.*





*“I’m sixteen years old and in love with a girl. What should I do?”*

To the adult who has forgotten his youthful days, it is puppy love. But for the sixteen-year-old boy, it’s a very real, traumatic problem.

Young love, drugs, frustrations, sex and bewilderment are among the common stumbling blocks that youth must clear on the way to becoming an adult. And Dave Jacobson, Dept. 433-6, is there helping them on their way. He has been there for 11 years helping, by his estimate, some 1000 teens to develop an understanding and confidence in themselves, to find what is best for them and cope with life’s situations.

Dave conducts his own community youth program based out of St. James Methodist Church in Bellevue. And during a typical week, he will meet with 150 of “his kids” to help them solve their own problems, to listen to them and to just enjoy them. He helps them find themselves through working together and interacting on group projects—holiday dinners at old folks homes, gifts for orphanages, swimming classes for mentally retarded children and ecology drives.

The frustrations and hang-ups that teens feel they have from school, family, and the norms and standards of society bind them; keep them from being all they could be. Dave’s philosophy is to listen to “his kids” (*they have a real desire to be listened to*), talk to them and have them shake loose the things that hold them back. “Every solution to a problem serves as a future reference—that will help them cope with life.”

Dave said, “Adults need kids; kids need adults.”

And WE hold that Omaha needs them both. The Omaha Works is proud to recognize Dave as one of its community builders.

Read this article slowly, think about it and enjoy it.

Keep in mind that what you read is not fiction. The jobs exist and to the people who work in the departments or hold the jobs, they are sincere titles. For a moment, however, let's digress and look at the humor around us.

Imagine the awkward situation that might have arisen, if six months ago you were working in Department 133-9 and someone asked you what you did for a living.

You would no doubt have taken a deep breath and responded something like this... "Uh, well, uh, I work in the Automatic Inorganic Plating, Acid Dipping and Waste Treatment and Miscellaneous Inorganic Finishing Section."

Or.

Picture the disbelief of your new neighbors when they learn that you are Section Chief of Contact Spring Welding, Punch Press and Select Bar Welding, Spring Winding, Punch Press, Core

Heading, Shearing, Tapping, Roll Weld and Screw Machine Section.

Pity the rookie in Department 111 who is introduced to the BU, BY Wire And A Cable Stock Maintainer or the DFW, IWC & Conn Cable Stock Maintainer.

Have you ever heard someone say "a job is a job"? Well it might be some places, but that certainly is not true in the Western Electric Company. The following verses relate the plight of a young man in his first WE interview:

# "What jobs have you got says I?"

## THE INTERVIEW

I was looking for work at the **WECO** plant; They asked me: "What can you do?" "Plenty," says I, "what jobs have you got?" So they shows me a list of a few:



There was **BUTCHER** and **BAKER**  
And **CABINET MAKER**,  
**CARPENTER, CLEANER**, and **COOK**;  
**ESTIMATOR, INVESTIGATOR**—

I took me another quick look:

**TRACKMAN**—that's running and I ain't so spry;

I nixed 'em on **DYER**—I'm too young to dye.

"**POURER!**" says I, "at pouring I shine,

I can pour tea—or coffee—or wine!

D'you need your own monkey to work as a **GRINDER?**

What wool I wind if I end up a **WINDER?**

I can't be a **DOCTOR**, I can't be his **NURSE**,

**TYPIST?** That's silly, and **MATRON** is worse.

**INSTRUCTOR** and **LEARNER** were both on the list,

Then **TESTER** and **MARKER**, now that's a new twist;

"What specialization!" says I, quite impressed,

"How come the teacher can't mark his own test?"

A **DEVELOPER** probably works in the dark;

**PRESSMAN** means laundry—that ain't no lark!

Does a **LETTERER** work with the **STAMPER** on mail?

I don't like the kitchen—as **PLATER** I'd fail.

A **SPRAYER** is some **SORTER PAINTER**, 1 guess,

I don't dig **SELECTOR** and **SAWYER** much less.

I could be a **CHECKER** and mark things like that: ✓

Or is he a draughtsman? (—That one fell flat.)

**SERGEANT** or **GUARD** is not my kind o' dodge,

And **MASON** is out 'cause the elks is my lodge.

Thank you," says I, "you've been, all of you, swell,

But I think I'll just opt for a job with Mother Bell."

Louis Seeger

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** "The Interview" was written by Louis Seeger from an actual list of job titles offered throughout the Company.





*First load of corrugated cardboard leaves the Omaha Works.*

## environment

**Whether we like it or not we—as a Company and as individuals—are faced with what is perhaps the most critical challenge of the latter part of this century: the repair of our environment.**

**It is virtually impossible to ignore the warnings of the effects of continued pollution and waste of our water, our air, our land. Each of us has seen countless illustrations of the damage we have inflicted directly on our environment and, indirectly, on ourselves. We have all read thousands of words of concern, of frustration, of anxiety, and—yes, even of hope.**

Offering positive action with words of hope, General Manager Frank J. Lefebvre announced, at a March 3 press conference, rededication of the Omaha Works to reversing environmental decay. The positive action will come through four major steps forward in the area of environmental affairs.

"First," Lefebvre said, "we have just completed installation and initial testing of a new pollution control device that will curtail hydrocarbon emissions."

The device called a "Cold Trap<sup>®</sup>" works by placing a layer of cold, dry air over the cleaning solvent used to degrease metal parts in the tool room. The cold layer of air prevents the escape of hydrocarbons from the cleaning tank, thereby eliminating odors and cutting emissions to near zero.

"In the next six months," he continued, "the cost of all eleven Cold Traps<sup>®</sup> will reach \$90,000, part of the 1.25 million dollars the Omaha Works will spend in the near future on pollution control."

As a second major step, a new 16 member environmental affairs and safety department was created. This new department will coordinate all pollution control and employee safety activities at the Omaha Works.

For the third major stride forward in the continuing fight against pollution, a program was initiated to collect and recycle scrapped corrugated cardboard at the Omaha Works. As a result of this program, approximately 18 tons of cardboard each week will be salvaged for reuse.

As a fourth major step Mr. Lefebvre indicated that an employee glass collection drive undertaken last year on a trial basis was resumed and expanded.

At the end of the single month of the preliminary drive in 1971, Omaha Works employees had contributed seven and one-half bins of glass for recycling. Because of this success, a new drive was initiated to accommodate tin and aluminum cans as well as glass.

"All of the material collected," Lefebvre said, "will be turned over to Keep Omaha Beautiful for recycling."



*General Manager Frank J. Lefebvre at March 3 press conference.*

for local employees

## company Nebraska payroll at \$68 million

Payroll figures released by Frank Lefebvre, General Manager of the Omaha Works, show that the Company paid \$68,000,000 to its Nebraska employees in 1971. This was paid to a work force at the Omaha Works which numbered slightly more than 6,800 and an additional 530 at the Service Center.

Nationwide, the number of Western Electric employees was approximately 214,000. The Company's national payroll amounted to over two and one-half billion dollars in 1971.

For the year 1971, the Omaha Works paid \$3.5 million in state and local property, income and sales taxes. Omaha Works employees had \$900,000 withheld from their wages for state income taxes for 1971.

The Western Electric Company annual report released in early March showed that sales for the Company improved moderately, but the cost of doing business rose significantly in 1971.

According to the report, the Company in 1971 had sales totaling more than \$6 billion, a three per cent increase over the previous year. However, the net income of \$258 million was 4.3 cents per dollar of sales—the same rate as in 1970—and the return on average invested capital declined from 10.6 per cent in 1970 to 9.4 per cent in 1971.

In this, his last annual report before retiring, Chairman of the Board Harvey G. Mehlhouse said operating costs would have been even greater were it not for improved efficiency and an aggressive engineering cost reduction program that produced new first-year savings of \$74 million in manufacturing and service operations. That figure was \$19 million more than the previous record achieved in 1970.

The Company as a whole reported the purchase of services and materials from 50,000 suppliers, located in 4,000 communities in all 50 states last year. The amount of materials and services purchased was approximately 2.7 billion dollars last year. At the Omaha Works, Mr. Lefebvre said that the Company paid approximately \$20,000,000 to 560 suppliers of materials and services in 36 Nebraska towns during 1971.

### 1972 OMAHA WORKS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

<b>Memorial Day</b>	May 29	Monday
<b>Independence Day</b>	July 4	Tuesday
<b>Labor Day</b>	September 4	Monday
<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	November 23	Thursday
<b>Day after Thanksgiving</b>	November 24	Friday
<b>Day before Christmas</b>	December 22	Friday
<b>Christmas Day</b>	December 25	Monday
<b>New Year's Day</b>	January 1, 1973	Monday



**Western Electric**

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