

the Westerner

OMAHA WORKS

DECEMBER 1976

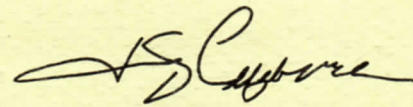


OH, YOU BEAUTIFUL DOLL: The real live doll in this photo is two-year-old Stefanie Moore, daughter of John Moore, Department 262. Stefanie is pictured with only a few of the over 400 dolls which were provided by the Salvation Army for Omaha Works employees, spouses and relatives to dress. As in previous years, the dolls will be distributed by the Salvation Army as Christmas gifts for needy Omaha-area children. The Omaha Works dolls constitute about 35% of the total city-wide effort.

The Omaha Works is about to conclude one of the most challenging years in the history of this location.

We have taken on a number of product lines new to Omaha and welcomed a number of new employees from Buffalo. We have adapted well to some unique situations while preparing ourselves for further changes and challenges in the coming year.

It is with continuing pride in our people and our Plant that I wish you and your families the most enjoyable of Holiday Seasons.



General Manager

Effective January 1

Omaha Works To New Division

Effective January 1, 1977, the Omaha Works will move from Western Electric's Manufacturing Switching Equipment

K. J.
Reinhart



Division to the Company's Manufacturing Cable and Wire Products Division.

As a result of this move, the Omaha Works will be reporting to Vice President A. G. Foster. As a Switching Equipment location, the Works has been reporting to Vice President E. J. Eckel.

Also effective the first of the year, Kenneth J. Reinhart, Manager, Buffalo Plant, will be reporting to Omaha Works General Manager Frank Lefebvre.

For Your Information...

... Illinois Bell's employee publication, *Telenews*, reports that telephone customers in New Orleans are being offered a unique wake-up service. A company called "Roosters" offers its customers a variety of alternatives to the standard alarm clock. Sleepers are roused by telephone with such sounds as 21-gun salutes, train wrecks, avalanches, the grinding of a nail file, the squeak of chalk on a blackboard and loud gargling. The wake-up service has 200 additional sound effects available to its subscribers...

... effective January 1, 1977, the taxable wage base for Social Security will be raised from \$15,300 to \$16,500. The rate for both employee and employer will remain at the current 5.85%. After the first of the year, an employee's salary or wages will be taxed up to a maximum of \$16,500. Persons earning that amount or more will pay \$70.20 more due to the fact the tax will be levied on an added \$1,200 of earnings...

... the tax bill signed by President Ford in October changes the eligibility requirements for active or retired employees to claim the sick pay exclusion from personal income taxes. These new rules are retroactive to January 1, 1976. Under the new rules, the sick pay exclusion will be available only to retired employees who were "permanently and totally disabled" at the time of retirement. Further, this exclusion will be phased out even for totally disabled retirees if their gross income exceeds \$15,000 a year. The Company can no longer continue the practice of adjusting tax withholdings during disability absences, or from disability pensions. Disability pensioners who are permanently and totally disabled can claim the exclusion when filing their tax returns next April. Those who will not qualify, whether active or retired, who have already had the benefit of the sick pay exclusion reflected in their tax withholdings earlier this year because of illness, may find they are underwithheld for their 1976 income tax. Such people may wish to consider filing an estimated tax return for 1976. This must be done by January 15, 1977...

... on Thursday, December 23, hourly rated employees will be paid for the week ending December 19. At this time, the holiday allowance for the Holiday Week (December 27 through December 31) will be advanced to all hourly rated employees. Wages for the week ending December 26 will be paid to hourly rated employees on January 6, 1977. This payment will include adjustments for holiday overtime as well as deductions of the holiday allowance for those who did not qualify. Salaried employees will receive their end of month payment on December 23...



The problem-solvers with the B-wire connectors are Dave Geary, left; Charley Koukol, Ray Fugger, Fred Stratbucker, Andy Anderson, John Wilkening and Mike Kliment.

Teamwork Solves Problem

Almost every problem has its solution. And when the problem was the erratic operation of the B-wire connector assembly machines in Department 436, the solution was discovered through the teamwork of seven Works employees.

An inadequate timing circuit was the culprit. The remedy was a new design control circuit which replaced the original electromechanical devices with solid-state electronic devices.

Members of the problem-solving team were Department 745 Section Chiefs Dave Geary and Charley Koukol; Electricians Andy Anderson, Ray Fugger and Mike Kliment; and Department 472 Engineering Associate Fred Stratbucker and Planning Engineer John Wilkening.

The resulting engineering cost reduction case gives the Omaha Works \$38,500 in savings for the current year.



Manager J. C. Stewart, second from right, presented copies of the patent to Gary, left, Duane and George.

Three Share Patent

Among the over 24,000 patents awarded to Western Electric and Bell Labs personnel since 1925 is the one recently awarded to three Omaha Works employees.

Senior Engineers Duane Desler, Department 476, and Gary Baltzer, Department 473, and Planning Engineer George Pappas, Department 476, received a patent for their work on the design of the 1F timer.

The 1F is utilized in timing calls placed

from coin phones through No. 1 cross bar central offices. Designed as a replacement for the electromechanical 1B timer, the electronic 1F went into production at the Omaha Works in 1974.

This is the second patent for Duane, the first for both Gary and George. The three also combined their efforts to develop the 4E electronic timer which is now being used to time calls in central offices.

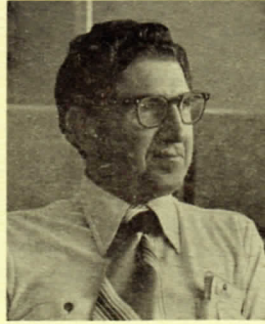
SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES



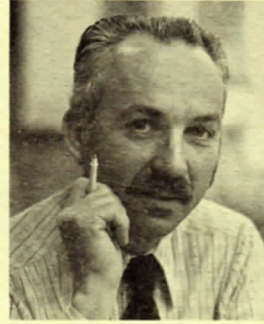
John Hearity
35 Years 12-20-41



Orville Galbreath
30 Years 11-4-46



Floyd Kriesel
30 Years 11-25-46



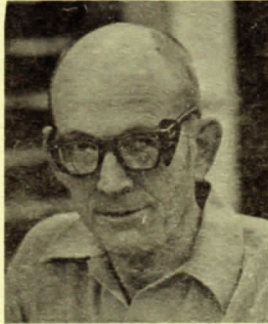
Boyd Swarts
30 Years 12-11-46



Don Stalker
30 Years 12-13-46



Ben Buckingham
30 Years 12-31-46



Charlie Stewart
25 Years 11-17-51



Max Zimmerman
25 Years 11-26-51



Jim Cahill
25 Years 12-2-51



Betty Hunt
25 Years 12-10-51

November & December

20 Years

W. R. Ahlman
W. C. Becher Jr.
F. A. Belsan
D. I. Bergers
K. P. Bolkowatz
G. M. Burgess
J. L. Carse
R. M. Cartwright
Y. G. Christensen
B. D. Coffman
R. P. Dages
R. L. Dent
W. F. Foxworthy
W. Goodbrod
E. R. Graham
R. F. Herwig
W. J. Heskin
R. C. Johnson
E. P. Kealy
L. N. Keiser
W. H. Kinsley Jr.
O. E. Kollars
D. D. Kovar
R. L. Mass
C. A. Miodowski
W. E. Montalbano
E. R. Neiderheiser
H. W. Noble
W. A. Peterson
L. G. Reuter
G. L. Ricker
J. P. Rinn Jr.
W. H. Rotschafer
S. J. Rudolfo
P. A. Ryan
K. W. Saunders
J. J. Subbert
K. C. Watkins

L. Wiegert
E. L. Woslager
E. S. Zimmerman

B. W. Abel
R. M. Allen
E. E. Allen Jr.
A. F. Andersen
J. H. Berry
S. J. Caniglia
R. L. Coffman
N. E. Cook
R. H. Dohse
G. H. Geerdes
R. L. Hansen
G. M. Hazard
R. L. Hansen
R. W. Hogg
A. Horst
W. P. Houston
M. B. Johnson
R. D. Kilmer
T. V. Kowal
N. C. Longgear
G. C. Lund
M. K. Maurer
L. G. Minkin
W. E. Petersen
C. K. Prazan
J. R. Roth
E. A. Sautter
R. G. Selvig
R. H. Skoge
W. C. Sturgeon
L. W. Swoboda
D. T. Talty
J. E. Voss

15 Years

G. C. Bailey
J. L. Cartwright
L. S. Detmers
D. R. Kramer
E. O. Lee
R. E. Lesley
L. W. Olsen
C. S. Patlan
R. D. Reitan
C. W. Tramp

R. J. Gartigas
J. L. Gemar
R. C. Kaczmarek
D. P. Kelly
W. W. Petersen
B. W. Sales
T. M. Schulte

10 Years

T. G. Blair Jr.
D. B. Carper
C. L. Diggs
I. K. Gunia
S. W. Hennings
B. B. Johnson
J. J. La Pesh
S. M. Lieske
E. R. Nath
M. D. Nickell
R. E. O'Connell
R. G. Porter
B. R. Rimington

L. G. Armenta
H. J. Bergman
L. U. Carlson
E. K. Evans
J. K. Eyestone
G. G. Gould
J. G. Moss

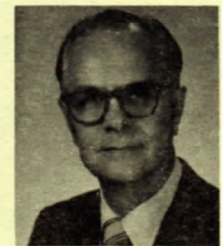
RETIREMENTS



Hal Teteak
38 Years



Wally Scott
36 Years



Jack Rusthoven
35 Years



R. W. 'Jonesy' Jones
20 Years



Gloria Payne
16 Years



Annie Walker
15 Years

Barb & Lloyd Gray

A Day in the Life of Two

Mornings at the Grays' start early. At 6:20 Barb is up, dressed and in the kitchen preparing breakfast. Juice, cereal, toast. Three sleepy-eyed kids make their individual appearances, dressed for school but not too enthusiastic.

Between spoonfuls of oatmeal, Lloyd entertains the family with the story of a Cable Plant employee dressed in a gorilla suit.

Interspersed among the breakfast conversation are seven-year-old Kelly's repeated complaints about her hair, a sizable chunk of which is sticking straight out. A few minutes later, 12-

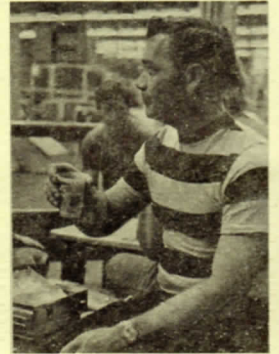
year-old Lisa solves the problem with a curling iron.

With breakfast over and time to spare, Mike begins to talk about one of his favorite subjects — dinosaurs. In a matter of minutes, an encyclopedia is lying open on the kitchen table with the 11-year-old relating an item of interest about the prehistoric monster.

Now it's 10 minutes past seven and everyone seems to come to life. The kids have donned their hats and coats and are sprinting out the door and down the driveway to await the school bus that will take them to Springfield, Nebraska, a couple of miles south. It's Barb's turn to

drive the carpool so she's already backing the station wagon out of the garage. Lloyd doesn't have to be at work until eight so his departure is delayed for another 20 minutes.

By the time Lloyd completes the 10-minute drive to work, Barb is already busily pursuing her secretarial duties in Quality Assurance. Her day is filled with a variety of typing, filing and photocopying assignments broken up by an occasional cup of coffee. By the time Lloyd finishes off his lunch in one of the Cable Plant break areas and settles into his afternoon routine, Barb is grabbing a



Omaha Works Employees

cup of coffee in the cafeteria to accompany her brown bag lunch.

Lloyd's afternoon will be much like his morning. He's a twisting machine operator in the Cable Plant where he has spent his entire 11-year Western Electric career.

By the time 4 o'clock rolls around, he has put in a hard day's work and is ready to head for home. No stop at the time clock because he's on the "No Punch" program. A half hour later, Barb is departing the Plant with her carpool, arriving home a few minutes before five.

But just because their Western Electric work is done for the day, that doesn't

mean there's a lull in the Grays' activities. Barb takes a few minutes to change into some comfortable clothes. Then it's off to the kitchen to prepare dinner.

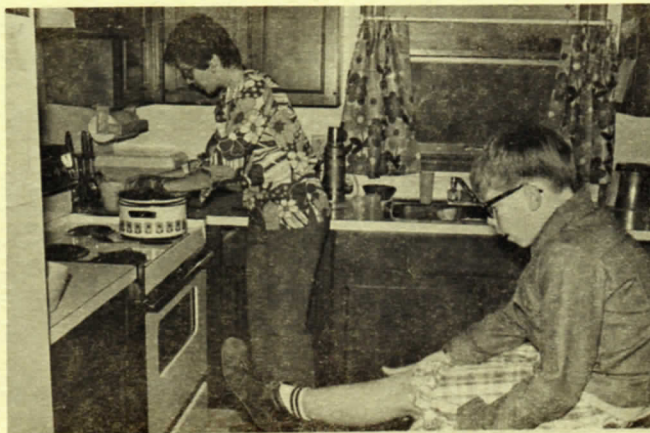
Chicken tonight. Meanwhile, Lloyd and Mike are energetically raking the front yard. Once Barb gets dinner started, she recruits the two girls as kitchen help. In a little bit, the two yard men appear in the kitchen, their outdoor chore completed. Mike shows Mom his latest football injury while Lloyd takes a last-minute look at a Voter's Guide. This is Election Day and once dinner is over, Barb and Lloyd will drive into Springfield to vote.

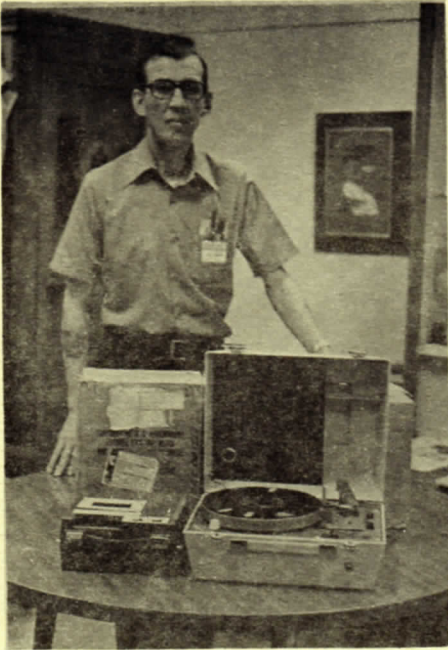
The table is set; dinner is ready, and the Grays settle down to an enjoyable

pause in their long day. (The extra place at the table? Well, photographers get hungry, too.) During the meal, Barb mentions the fact that this was her sixth anniversary with the Company.

Dinner is done in about a half hour. The dishes are cleared and the kids scatter in three different directions.

Once the kitchen has been cleaned, the voting accomplished and the homework done, it's already 10 o'clock. The kids are in bed. The house is extremely quiet. Barb and Lloyd now have some time to themselves. A busy day. A quiet evening. Tomorrow will most likely be the same.





SCOUTING AWARD: Gene Tharp, Department 472, was recently presented a Silver Beaver Award by the Mid-America Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Gene was among several scout leaders who received the Council's highest award for distinguished service to boyhood.

Pioneers Put Pizazz In Projects

When Omaha Works Pioneers put their heads together, they can come up with some pretty innovative ideas. Take their community service activities, for example.

For the Pioneers, community service is a multi-faceted endeavor. There's Pioneer workroom projects keeping dozens of volunteer workers busy on the lower level of Building 20. There's take-home projects for Pioneer employees. Current workroom and take-home projects revolve around educational aids for the handicapped as well as holiday table favors for nursing homes.

Other Pioneer community service activities include the transportation of visually handicapped people to monthly meetings of the Tri-County Federation

of the Blind. The Pioneers also deliver on-loan cassette tape players and record players to the visually handicapped.

And as the Pioneers will repeatedly emphasize, the emotional responses of the people who benefit from the community service activities are compensation enough for the Pioneer volunteers.

Top, clockwise from left; Tom Larsen displays some of the equipment he delivers to the visually handicapped. Among the employees who recently worked on Thanksgiving favors for nursing homes are Ruth Dages, left, and Evelyn Stootsberry. Volunteer workers in the Pioneer Workroom include Betty Zorko, left; Blanche Dunn, Kaye Travnicek, Donna Hanner and Kathryn Schwetz. Below: Volunteer drivers include Jinx Graham, left; Jim Trenerry, Carl Knutson, Don Hanrahan, Marguerite Utiger and Lee Utiger.



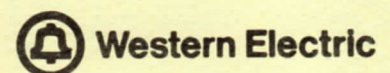
on display
Auditorium
December 14

the Westerner
VOLUME 20 NUMBER 5

Frank J. Lefebvre
General Manager

Nancy Lynch
Editor

Published for employees of the Omaha Works.
For information write: Editor, *The Westerner*,
P.O. Box 14000, West Omaha Station, Omaha,
Nebraska, 68114; or telephone 334-4132.
Member
Nebraska Association of Business Communicators
International Association of Business Communicators
Printed in the U.S.A.



Serving Up The Products That Keep Omaha Going

The Omaha Works has consistently proven it has a healthy appetite for new products. Among the items being served up to help whet that appetite and keep the Omaha Works a viable manufacturing operation are those pictured on this page.

The first four items on today's menu came to us from Buffalo. Guy Godios, Department 762, heads up the "food" line with a serving of fine gauge wire. It's great for a variety of inter-works applications when prepared as tinned copper or served plain. A popular variation of this recipe is fine gauge bronze wire which is used on the station cord job.

Next in line is Jim McCallum, Department 761, who's a real connoisseur of station cords. This product is most appetizing when used on telephones to connect the receiver to the handset and the set to the telephone jack.

Loretta Baker, Department 252, has the special of the day. Actually, it's the special of any day. It's specialty cable and wire, made to specific customer orders ranging anywhere from one foot to a couple of hundred feet.

Hot out of the oven is how Chester Dziewa, Department 762, prefers his enamel wire. This is a familiar item on Omaha's product menu since it is utilized in the manufacture of relays and coils. Now enamel wire is being manufactured as well as used at Omaha. The operation utilizes about one half of the fine gauge wire produced here. Instead

of extruding plastic over copper as is done in the Cable Plant, enamel wire goes through a process whereby a very thin conductor of copper takes on a coating of oleoresinous or polyurethane varnish. The wire passes through the enamel solution and is baked, a procedure repeated several times.

Fred Holz, Department 435, couldn't

find a tray big enough to fit his appetite. It's an FDI (Feeder Distribution Interface) cabinet, one of Omaha's Loop Transmission Apparatus products. A favorite of the telephone companies as an outside plant interconnection facility for feeder and distribution cables, the FDI comes in a variety of sizes and shapes to serve a variety of tastes.



Employees Attain Safety Milestone

Employees in Department 262 have been recognized for working two million man-hours without a disabling injury.

The two-million mark covers a 17-year period during which no lost time injuries were incurred by the department's hourly employees. This safety milestone has been attained by very few departments and is an indication of the positive safety attitude fostered by the employees in Department 262. That positive attitude resulted in a one million man-hour award for the department in 1969.

In the history of the Omaha Works, 27 one million man-hour awards have been presented, four two-million awards and one three-million award.



Pictured during the award presentation are Department Chief Art Euler, left; Employee Representative Dee Kirwan, General Manager Frank Lefebvre and Union Representative Mike Kelly.

This Is The House That Roger Built . . .

Actually, this is the house that Roger carved. An engineering associate in Department 735, Roger Hedin has an enviable talent that drew a lot of admiring comments during the 3rd annual Weoma Club Arts and Crafts Show, November 1-3.

Roger says he has been doing wood carvings most of his life, views the talent as a means of relaxation and doesn't sell any of his creations. His most ambitious project to date is a six foot, three inch high hard maple china cabinet.

In addition to Roger's carvings, an estimated 1,000 employees viewed 22 other art and craft displays during the three-day show in the Works Auditorium.



PROUD MOM: Naomi Jones, Department 434, has a lot of good reasons to

boast about her 17-year-old son, Tony. The Technical High School junior was recently chosen President of the Nebraska Association of Student Councils and in that capacity will travel to Washington, D.C. in February to meet Nebraska's Senators and Congressmen and the President of the United States. Tony currently serves as parliamentarian for Tech's Student Council and is President of his Junior Class, the school's Culture Studies Organization and his Junior Achievement Company. Future plans include college and law school.



Mike, left, and Frank didn't really have to share a trophy. Each received one of his own.

Trophies To Two

Omaha Works employees Frank Mareski, Department 264, and Mike Weninghoff, Department 254, have been named "Outstanding Loaned Executives of the Year" by the United Way of the Midlands.

The two were cited for their outstanding work from among the 118 individuals throughout the metropolitan area who participated as account executives in this year's United Way drive.

This is the second consecutive year Mike has won the award, a distinction not previously held by any other loaned executive in the metropolitan area.



NEW OFFICERS: On January 1, a new slate of officers will take over the activities of the Weoma Club. Seated from left to right are President Herb Rhodes, Vice President Gene Saab, Treasurer Larry Blanke and Assistant Treasurer Vi Rogers. Standing from left to right are Directors Myrtle Wolf, Dona Hillman, Lou Carnazzo and Denny Karloff.