

# the Westerner

OMAHA WORKS FEBRUARY 1977

## For Your Information ...

... we'd like you to meet Rich Little, Mel Torme, Norm Crosby, The Carpenters, Henry Mancini, Vikki Carr, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. They're the star attractions at Ak-Sar-Ben this year. In addition to seeing these big-name performers, your 1977 Ak-Sar-Ben membership entitles you to discounted rodeo and ice show tickets, a free Family Show and a choice of free Coronation or Ball tickets — all for only \$18. To keep you posted on upcoming attractions, announcements will be posted on Company bulletin boards prior to each individual Ak-Sar-Ben show giving you information on the show as well as information on exchanging your tickets for a different day of the week. This information will also be carried in the Weoma Club newsletter ...

... the Bell Federal Credit Union's main office in downtown Omaha is moving to new quarters. It's expected that facilities will be open at 111 South 18th Street on March 1. The move is taking place "to accommodate an ever increasing workload of members' transactions in an efficient manner ..."

... according to a recent issue of *Bell Labs News*, New York Telephone has begun a unique advertising campaign. The ads, appearing in ethnic newspapers, promote direct dialed overseas calls. The ad below is appearing in two Chinatown daily newspapers. It points out that calls to the Republic of China (Taiwan) can be dialed direct. The ad states that a three-minute call is \$9 with the price even lower on Sundays. English ads promoting calls to Ireland are also appearing in two Irish-oriented papers ...


### 直撥台灣的長途電話 簡便，快捷，便宜

你可以從紐約市區的電話直撥台灣（中華民國）的電話號碼。局對局的長途電話，開始的頭三分鐘，只收九元美金，以後每增一分鐘加收三元。星期天的費另有折扣優待。

你不必經過接線生接撥，只要取下聽筒，一撥完對方的號碼，馬上就可談話。

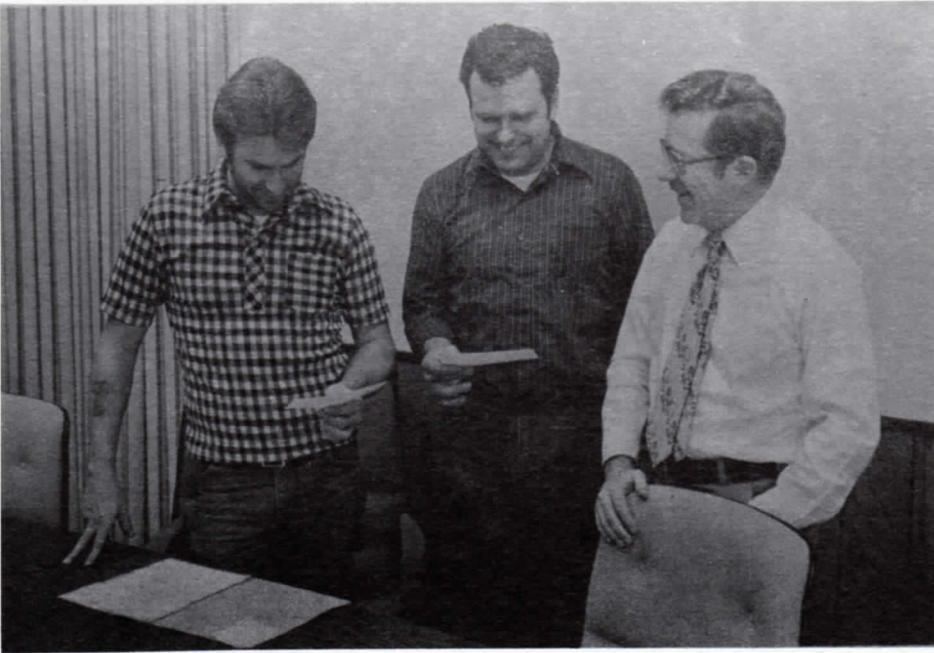
如果你想知道你自己的電話是否可以直撥台灣，或者想知道更詳細的情形，請你打電話詢問當地的紐約電話局。我們會寄贈一本說明國際長途電話的撥法及收費標準的小冊子。

何不打開電話給你的親戚、朋友，或者你想念的人？說不定他們正在等待你的音信呢！不要猶豫，馬上撥個號碼試試。

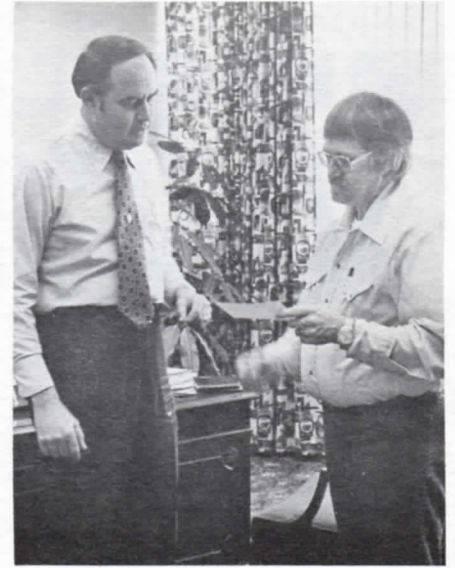
 New York Telephone



**SPECIAL SHIPMENT:** Although station cord production began at Omaha a relatively short time ago, the Station Cord Shop has already achieved a milestone with the shipment of the one millionth station cord a few weeks ago. The occasion called for a special photo of the employees involved in station cord production. Although it's not certain where one million station cords put end to end would lead, it is certain that the teamwork of the employees in the Station Cord Shop has led to a noteworthy milestone. CONGRATULATIONS!



**SIZABLE SPLIT:** Department 741 employees Steve Smith, left, and Frank Holecek, center, have split a \$2865 suggestion award. The two proposed that a steel replacement part be incorporated into some of the machinery utilized in B-wire connector production. Works Director Charlie Higginson presented the checks.



**SUGGESTION PAYS:** Stu Stuart, Department 437, is the recipient of a \$675 suggestion award for his proposal that a rewinding system for plated square wire be installed to utilize wire that is normally scrapped. Stu received his check from Manager J. C. Stewart.

## Western Electric's Policy On Employment of the Handicapped, Disabled and Vietnam Era Veterans

Omaha Works General Manger Frank Lefebvre has invited all qualified handicapped individuals and disabled and Vietnam era veterans to identify themselves to the Personnel Organization for employment consideration under the Company's Affirmative Action Program. This invitation is covered in a general policy statement signed by Western Electric President Donald E. Procknow

for 1976-1977. Mr. Lefebvre reaffirms Mr. Procknow's statement that all information submitted to the Company will be held in strict confidence.

Employees who believe they qualify for consideration under this Affirmative Action Program may go on record as such by completing a form available from our EO Investigators Ms. G. Bailey (X-3597) or Mr. R. Olderog (X-3594).

This identification is sought on a voluntary basis only. Refusal to provide the Company with this information will in no way subject the employees to any kind of adverse treatment.

Mr. J. O. Bosworth, Manager, Industrial and Labor Relations, Environmental and Industrial Engineering, assumes responsibility for administering the Affirmative Action Program for the Handicapped and Disabled and Vietnam Era Veterans (AAP-H/V) as 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 workforce, Mr. Bosworth will monitor our program to ensure that where feasible we have met our commitment to increase job opportunities for the qualified handicapped.

Copies of the AAP-H/V, on file in the Personnel Organization, are available for employee inspection.

All persons who believe themselves covered by this Program, that is, the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and/or the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 and, further, believe that an alleged violation of these Acts has occurred, are asked to please contact our EO Investigators for 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.

# SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES



Ray Kniewel  
40 Years 1-18-37



Frank Lefebvre  
35 Years 1-27-42



Ray Kelly  
35 Years 2-9-42



George Rosness  
30 Years 1-2-47



Lloyd "Steve" Stevenson  
30 Years 1-6-47



Clark Schroeder  
30 Years 1-24-47



Bob Morey  
30 Years 2-3-47



George "Jonesy" Jones  
30 Years 2-6-47



Lynn Allen  
25 Years 1-2-52



Jim Lash  
25 Years 1-25-52



Gene Nelson  
25 Years 2-11-52



Kenny Sharpnack  
25 Years 2-12-52



Herman Endorf  
25 Years 2-18-52



Mel Lesinski  
25 Years 2-26-52



Don Scott  
25 Years 2-27-52



Dorothy Spomer  
25 Years 2-29-52

## 20 Years

D. M. Ahrens  
C. E. Blanchard  
B. K. Bornman  
L. P. Brown  
H. B. Cottrill Jr.  
C. F. Crawford  
J. M. Drinnin  
A. W. French  
N. J. Goesser  
N. G. Grant Jr.  
J. R. Harper  
F. Houska

C. J. Hughes  
C. R. Hughes  
W. G. Jones  
R. L. Knutson  
E. F. Krumel  
R. J. Laux Jr.  
R. J. Madsen  
A. S. Murphy  
W. C. Neal  
R. F. Oglevie  
C. J. Orsi  
C. G. Rehberg  
R. L. Schutt  
A. J. Simpson

J. Slosser Jr.  
J. B. Smith  
C. J. Stout  
D. D. Tiffey  
V. G. Tingwald  
C. C. Tompsitt  
L. D. Wenstrand

A. K. Bailey  
G. L. Baltzer  
D. C. Beccard  
T. E. Bowman  
R. M. Czaja

E. H. Elliott  
W. J. Fitt  
B. N. Harris  
M. H. Hartman  
R. M. Hossle  
M. T. Kelly Jr.  
J. L. Matthews  
W. J. Napier  
H. B. Purcell  
J. J. Schweigart  
H. Shelton  
J. F. Sinkule  
D. M. Tatreau  
A. E. Volkmer Jr.

R. J. Was  
D. C. Wichman

## 15 Years

R. M. Drewniak  
G. D. Ellwanger  
E. W. Fetherkile  
D. W. McFarland  
D. J. Michel  
L. H. Noble  
D. M. Novak  
B. L. Panowicz  
D. W. Widtfeldt

S. D. Wolkins  
D. H. Young

E. P. Epperson  
B. Y. Hindman  
M. Lorka  
B. G. Maxwell  
C. W. McGee  
R. E. Palmatier  
N. G. Perales  
R. J. Skrok  
E. P. Vessell  
W. Vinson  
F. M. Wolski

## 10 Years

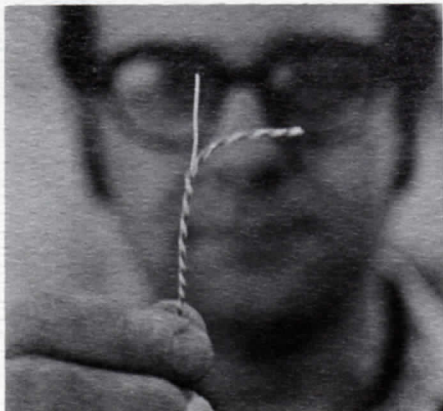
R. J. Anderson  
R. B. Boesiger  
D. Garcia  
G. W. Highshoe  
J. H. Larkin  
R. J. Lukowski  
M. R. Payne  
R. P. Bahr  
A. C. Shaddy  
R. R. Wustrack

# IPVC



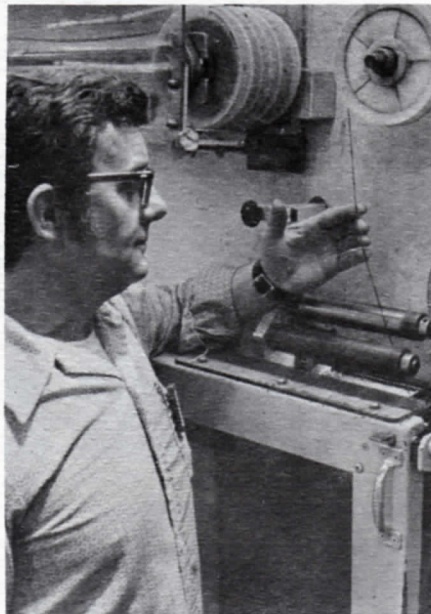
Hi, I'm Paul Challgren. I work out in the Cable Plant as a layout operator on one of the four IPVC vaults.

I imagine most of you have already heard about these vaults. They're used in the production of irradiated polyvinyl chloride insulated wire. But how they're used, why they're used and how safe the process is are questions you probably can't answer. That's why I was asked to give you a little orientation on the set up.



Let's begin with this. It's a strand of textile insulated distributing frame wire,

also manufactured here at Omaha. I can strip off the plastic cover with my finger nails.

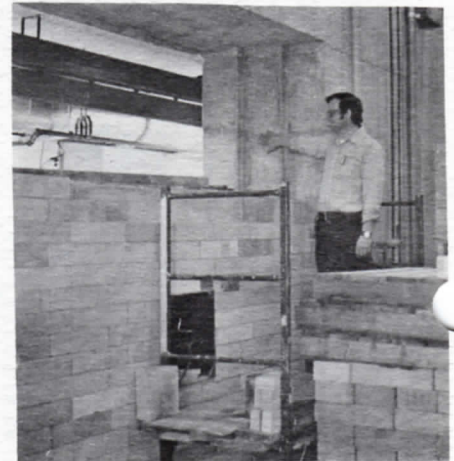


This is IPVC insulated distributing frame wire and I'd just about have to be the Six Million Dollar Man before I could strip off this plastic cover with my bare hands. The irradiated wire is obviously a lot stronger than the textile version. It provides the resiliency and compactness needed on central office main distributing frames. The secret is in the irradiation process contained within these vaults.

Basically, what happens inside these extremely thick concrete walls is a process whereby unirradiated polyvinyl chloride is bombarded by high energy electrons. Now, if I start talking about molecules and atoms and stuff like that, I'm going to be getting into an area I

really don't know that much about. And you're probably going to get pretty confused. Let's just leave it at this — the electron bombardment creates a reaction in the PVC that results in the very hard plastic I showed you a minute ago.

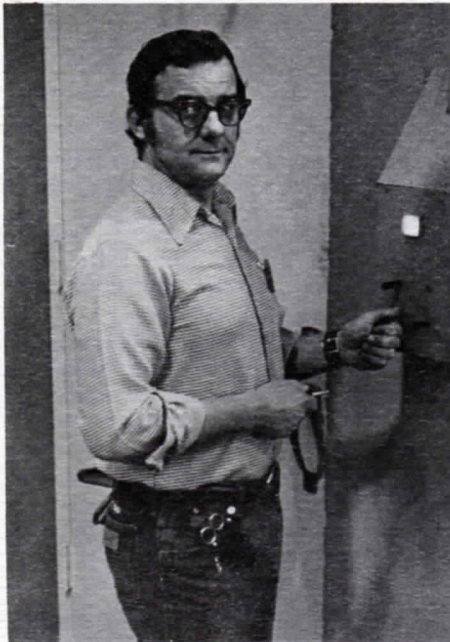
A by-product of this process is x-rays. That's why when the vaults are running, no one is inside. And as far as the harmful effects to those working outside like myself, well, I'm exposed to about as much radiation as a person viewing a program on a color television set. And speaking of television sets, that's how we monitor the operations inside the vaults. There are three closed circuit television cameras inside each vault and three monitors outside.



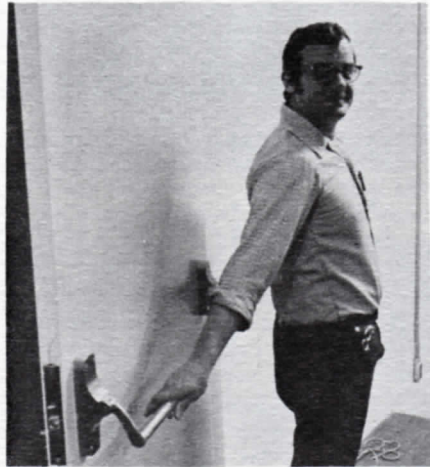
As you can see on this vault which is under construction, there's about three feet of concrete between me and the irradiation process. In addition, a series of safety interlocks have been built into each vault to provide assistance in the safe operation of this equipment. And believe me, there are checks and re-

# Q & MIE

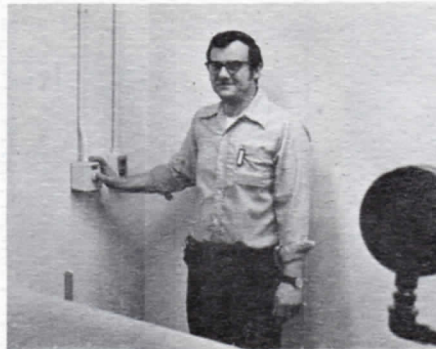
checks to make sure these safety devices are in perfect working order. Now that I've told you how safe this operation is, I'm going to show you exactly what I mean. Let's go into one of the vaults while it's not operating.



Our first stop is outside the vault door where you see this panel of four plugs. Before entering the vault, I have to pull one of the plugs out. When all of the plugs are in the panel and the power is turned on, the door won't budge. If even one plug is removed, the door won't lock and the machinery won't start. I carry the plug with me when I go into the vault. That way, there's a visible indication on the panel that someone is in the vault. If more than one plug is gone, more than one person is in the vault. Since you're going in with me, we'll take out two plugs.



There's a crash bar on the inside of the vault door. Hit that and you render the machinery inoperable if the power were on.



Inside each vault there are five of these buttons. Push one and again the machinery would be inoperable if the power were on. It takes a special key located outside the vaults to restore this button to its 'off' position. Another safety precaution is a horn which sounds inside the vault 30 seconds prior to start up.



Prior to machinery start up, a lot of preliminary inspection is done both inside and outside the vaults. And right here outside each vault is where all the operations are controlled and monitored.



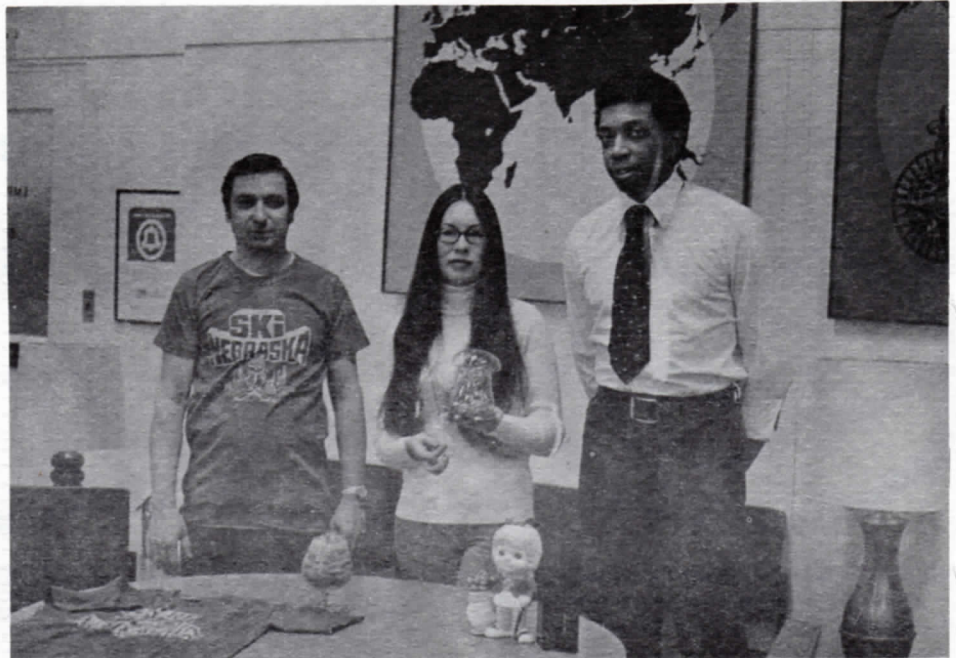
A lot of work has gone into the design and construction of the vaults and their related safety devices. It's quite a set up. Besides, where else can you get paid to watch television during your working hours?



**RETIREES VISIT:** Over 100 retired Western Electric employees visited the Omaha Works on December 13. The group attended an in-Plant luncheon and was given an updated status report on the state of the business and the outlook for 1977. Following the luncheon, a number of retirees visited the Loop Transmission Apparatus Product Display room where they were greeted by Department Chief Tom Bowman, pictured above, and shown some of Omaha's newest products.



**IDEA PAYS OFF:** Leonard Perkons, Department 741, has received a \$275 suggestion award for his proposal that a spring-loaded polyurethane bumper be utilized on B-wire connector production machinery. Leonard is pictured with his Department Chief Charlie Muehlhausen.



Junior Achievement advisors Joe Bonaiuto, left, Shirley Kolo and John Henson display some of the products their companies are manufacturing.

## Achievers Chartered

Three Company-sponsored Junior Achievement companies were officially chartered in December during a special dinner held in the Works Auditorium. Those in attendance included the achievers, their advisors and Company JA representatives.

Spearheading the Omaha Works' 1977 JA involvement are the 12 Works employees who comprise the three advisor teams.

Ralph Beisner, Wanda Gouldsmith,

Joe Bonaiuto and Ray Swartz are the advisors for Successes Unlimited which manufactures ice scrappers, fuzzy dolls and fun t-shirts.

Fred Drake, Jim Giles, Gerhart Wehrbein and Shirley Kolo make up the advisory group for Western Eccentric which sells sand art.

Jim Kelly, John Henson, Dorothy Dragon and Ed Kot are advisors for Bleon-Bracs, producers of smiley dolls, personalized pass holders and dust dolls.

## RETIREMENTS



Amandus Larson  
29 Years



Hugo Rahja  
29 Years



Betty Hunt  
25 Years



Evelyn Blasky  
20 Years



Frank Talacko  
20 Years



Lumear Sedlacek  
18 Years



Beverly Donovan  
17 Years

# First Full-Service System Tried

*Editor's Note: If you've watched any recent Bell System television specials or Bell System-sponsored television programs, you've probably seen commercials dealing with the Bell System's involvement in an innovative field called fiber optics. We thought the following article, dealing with fiber optics in the telecommunications industry, would be of interest to you as a member of the Bell System.*

The world's first lightwave communications system to provide a wide range of telecommunications services to customers will be evaluated in Chicago this year.

During the evaluation, a cable of hair-thin glass fiber lightguides will run about

1½ miles under the streets of Chicago carrying Bell System customers' voice, data and video signals on pulses of light.

Last year, under simulated field conditions, a complete experimental lightwave system was tested successfully at the joint Bell Labs-Western Electric facility in Atlanta.

Bell Labs-designed lightwave communications components such as lasers and light emitting diodes (LEDs), signal detection devices and glass fiber lightguides will be used in the system evaluation with a lightguide cable carrying voice, data and video signals.

Installation of the lightwave system is expected to begin shortly. A single half-inch diameter cable, containing 24 light-

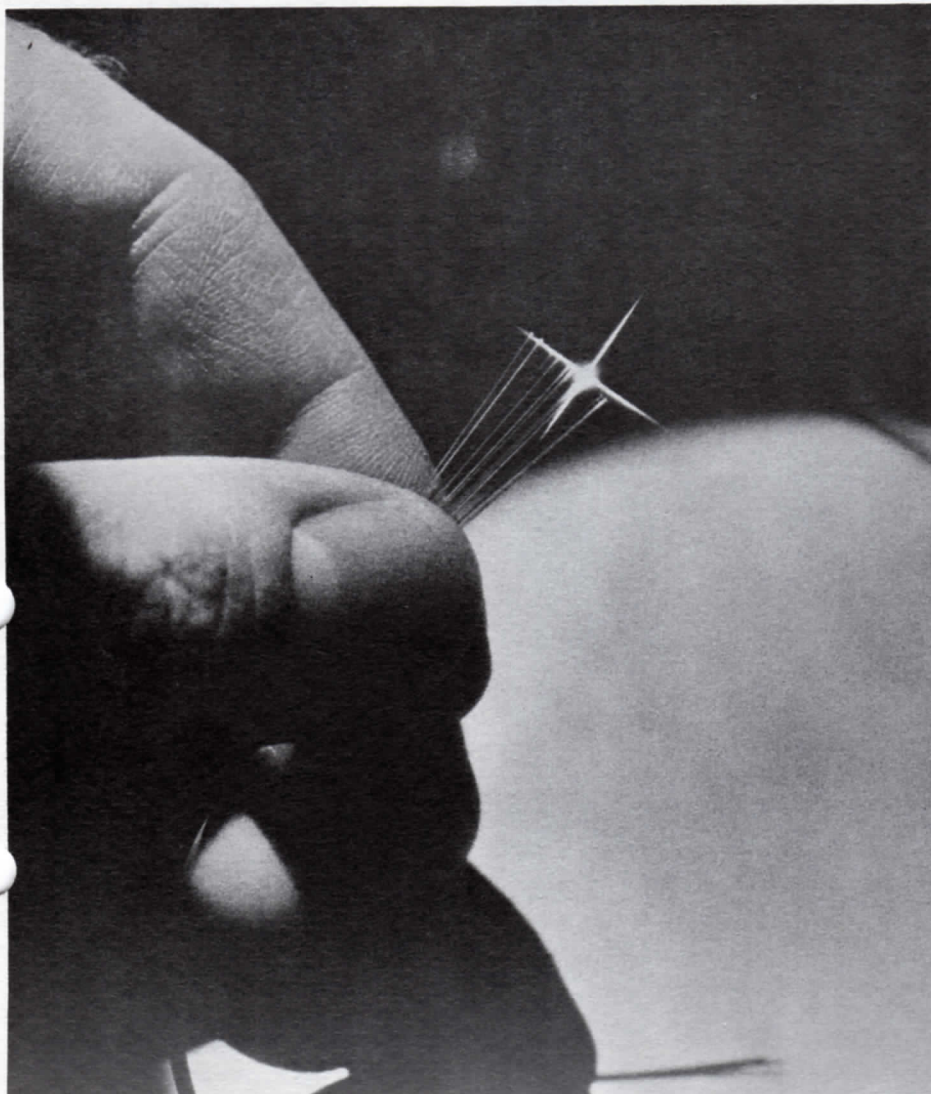
guides made by Western Electric, will be installed in standard telephone company ducts and manholes.

Each lightguide to be used in the Chicago system will be connected at one end to a transmitter module that includes a solidstate laser or LED light source, both smaller than grains of salt. The other end of each lightguide will be connected to a receiver module containing a tiny photodetector device that converts light pulses to electrical signals compatible with those transmitted within the nation-wide telecommunications network.

The basic material of the lightguides is silica, the most common form of which is sand. Extremely pure silica, with exceedingly closely-controlled additives, is used to produce lightguides so transparent that, if the deepest ocean were as clear, you could see to the bottom.

In the Chicago system, a single pair of lightguides in the cable will be able to carry 576 simultaneous conversations or an equivalent mix of voice and various types of data signals. Separate pairs of lightguides in the same cable will be used to carry the video signals. No "amplifiers" will be needed to boost signals along the route.

The planned system evaluation should be completed next year. It is one of several steps the Bell System will be taking to analyze the design, manufacturing, operational and economic feasibility of lightwave communications.



Twenty-four hair-thin lightguides will carry voice, data and video signals.

**the  
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**Nancy Lynch**  
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**PLANS FORMULATED:** The in-Plant observance of National Engineers Week, February 20-26, is being coordinated by the technical-professionals pictured above. Standing is E-Week Chairman Jim Gumprecht. Seated from left are Bill Chilcoat, Dave Buddenhagen, Bob Burdett, Gene Weeks and John McLaughlin. In addition to a display at the Westroads Shopping Center, the E-Week committee has invited Cable and Wire Division Vice President Art Foster to be the keynote speaker for the in-Plant celebration.



Major contributors to the success of the 1976 campaign were the department chiefs and engineering personnel who comprise Departments 271, 273 and 472.

## Three Make Million Mark

The Omaha Works 1976 Engineering Cost Reduction Program made its mark by surpassing \$7 million in cost reduction savings for the year. The achievement was highlighted by three engineering departments which each attained million-dollar milestones.

Departments 271 and 472 collected savings of \$1,308,675 and \$1,240,683 respectively. The third million-dollar

milestone was achieved by Department 273, the first department at Omaha ever to achieve as well as exceed the two-million mark. The department has collected over \$1 million in cost reduction savings for each of the past three years and attained a 1976 savings of \$2,334,630.

The Engineering Cost Reduction goal for 1977 is \$7,700,000.

## Stewart Moves

Effective February 1, 1977, J. C. Stewart, Manager, Engineering and Manufacturing — LTA and Crossbar, became Manager, Engineering and Manufacturing — Apparatus, at the



J. C. Stewart

Switching Equipment Division's Dallas Plant.

The organizations which reported to Mr. Stewart will report temporarily to Works Director Charlie Higginson.

### 1977 Holiday/Vacation Schedule

Good Friday  
April 8

Independence Day  
July 4

Standard Vacation  
July 18-29

Labor Day  
September 5

Thanksgiving  
November 24-25

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day,  
redesignated Memorial Day Holiday,  
Floating Holiday and New Year's  
Day Holiday  
December 26-30



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