

# the WESTerner

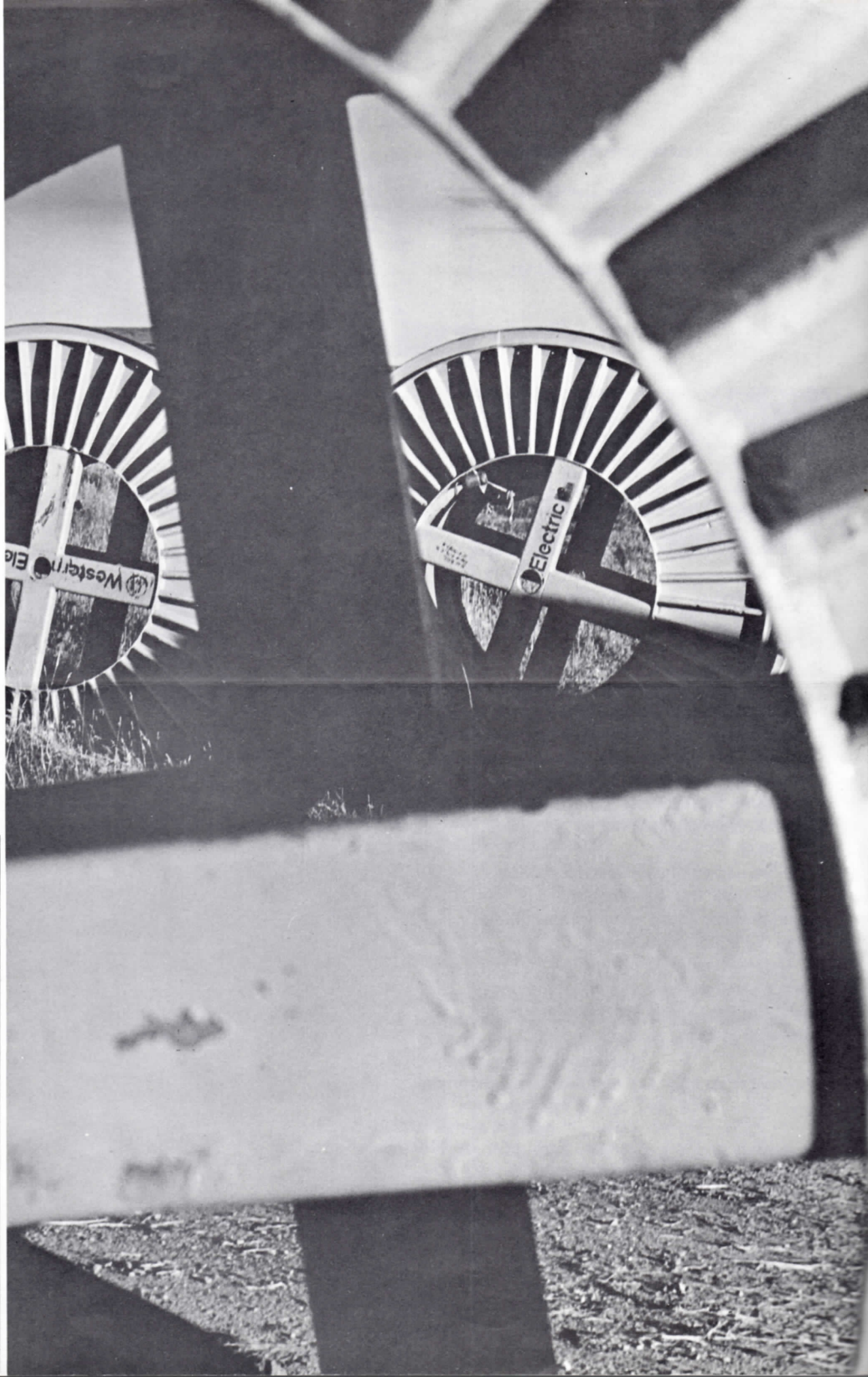
Omaha Works

July 7, 1972

# RAPID CITY:

a communications crisis and  
a return to normalcy.

See the Omaha Works story, page 4



# employees mark July service anniversaries

Frank J. Lefebvre, General Manager

Western Electric—Omaha Works

James H. Beck, Editor

Michael W. Rissien, Assist. Editor



Daniel Kinnally  
7-15-37  
35 years



Dick Branecki  
7-6-42  
30 years



Jerry Cozette  
7-14-42  
30 years

Len Branecki  
7-26-42  
30 years

20 YEARS — JULY, 1972

J.E. Malone . . . . . 7-7  
R.P. Lee . . . . . 7-22  
D.L. Maaske . . . . . 7-28

the **WEsterner**

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Member  
Nebraska Association of Business Communicators  
International Association of Business Communicators

## curtains close on three Western Electric careers



**Swanson**

By the time you get this issue of *The Westerner*, the curtain will have come down on one man's 46 year career with Western Electric.

Until his retirement, Ed Swanson, was the longest service employee at the Omaha Works. Ed began his short half-century of service at the Hawthorne Works in 1923. In 1956, he was transferred to the Omaha Works, where he retired as Section Chief. He will make his retirement home in Sun City, Arizona.



**Northam**

Art Northam, Department Chief 422, will end a 38 year career with Western Electric Company on July 7. That career began back in 1929, when Art was hired as a Final Inspector at the Hawthorne Works in Chicago. After working at five different locations, Art came to the Omaha Works in 1958, where he has remained until his retirement. He will make his retirement home in Omaha.



**Dlouhy**

After 28 years with the Company, John Dlouhy will retire on July 1. John, who at his retirement was Section Chief in Department 263, began his career in 1928 with Western Electric at the Hawthorne Works. In 1959 he was transferred to the Omaha Works from the Lincoln Shops. John will make his retirement home in Bend, Oregon.

# taking into account your invisible pay check

Every time you get one pay check, you get two!

Sound like a riddle? No doubt it does, but it is true.

Your first pay check is money in the bank for you; it's the one that you can count on to pay those perpetual bills. The second check is different; it is invisible. You will probably never see it or even know that it exists, until you need it.

The invisible check is yours, no strings attached. You don't pay taxes on it, and there are no withholdings. It's just there buying you peace of mind until it is needed.

You cash this invisible check whenever you take a paid vacation or paid holiday. When you reach 65 years of age, the invisible check is at your service again paying for those retirement hobbies and trips to see the grandchildren. Maybe you'll need to use it sooner than retirement. Through health insurance, it is your financial buffer in case of sickness or accident. It stands by you day and night providing a relaxed state of mind that comes with knowing your family will be taken care of by a group life insurance policy if something should happen to you.

Your invisible pay check is your Western Electric benefits package.

For every dollar you are paid as a Western Electric employee, another 25 cents (an average figure) is paid by the Company for your fringe benefits. This means that if you were paid \$8,000 last year the Company paid another \$2,000 in your behalf for paid holidays, group life insurance, health insurance, pensions and other fringe benefits. Somehow, though, the word "fringe" does not seem appropriate when the Company paid or set aside \$16,000,000 in benefits to Omaha Works employees alone in 1971.

Here's the way that \$16,000,000 was distributed:

Pensions . . . . .	\$5,362,500
Social Security contribution . . . . .	2,730,000
Sickness/Death benefits . . . . .	630,500
Group Life Ins. . . . .	585,000
Health Ins. . . . .	2,080,000
Separation Allowances . . . . .	65,000
Paid Holidays/Vacations . . . . .	3,563,000*
Tuition Refund . . . . .	30,400
Suggestion System . . . . .	16,068
Paid Absences . . . . .	1,368,000*
On/Job Accidents . . . . .	43,000
	<hr/>
	\$16,473,468

\*Amount reflects figure for direct employees only

The average Omaha Works employee receives \$1.84 in fringe benefits for every hour worked.

Though Western Electric is proud of the benefits package it offers its employees, it makes no pretense that you will find it completely adequate to meet all your security needs. Only you can decide what you need, what you want, and what you can afford, but you may be well advised to supplement these benefits with others tailored to your personal needs.



# RAPID CITY: the day the rains came

— by Mike Rissien —

It all began Friday, June 9. Rapid City, South Dakota was struck by torrential rains, reported in some areas to be falling at seven inches every two hours.

As the runoff raced down through the Black Hills, streams became raging rivers that collected in Canyon Lake Dam on Rapid City's west side. The waters rose and the dam collapsed under the pressure, sending a seven-foot high wall of water through the city.

By Saturday morning those escaping the flood waters began to dig out and seek food and shelter, their homes either washed away or mudfilled.

With more than 9,000 telephones out of service, a plea to help restore service was made to telephone employees in Nebraska, North Dakota and Minnesota. By Saturday night Rapid City again had communications.

This is the story of the service role played by the Omaha Works and its people.

It was 2:30 Sunday afternoon when Harlon Harvey, Department Chief 254, received a telephone call at home. The Stock Maintenance organization at Western Electric's Omaha Service Center needed cable for the Rapid City disaster. A call from Harlon, to the Omaha Works, alerted Tom Hoff in Cable Control and the wheels began to turn.

Bill Gewinner, Department 258-4, and Merlin Jones Department 112-3, selected the cable to be rushed to the Rapid City area, while Barbara Keeley processed bills of lading and load sheets to speed the replacement cable on its way.

Dick Shropshire, Department 963, was just finishing a days work when he received a telephone call from Hoff that the cables had to be shipped immediately. The first of seven truckloads of cable left the Omaha Works for the flood torn Rapid City area at 8 pm Sunday, just six and one-half hours after the request was received.

On the following Monday, an additional 25 reels were shipped and by Thursday 159 reels (62,669,000 conductor feet of cable) had been sent into South Dakota.

Again the Omaha Works and its people had played a vital and essential role in the wake of a natural disaster.



Tom Hoff



Bill Gewinner



Merlin Jones



Dick Shropshire



Barbara Keeley



*Telephone cable damaged or destroyed when flood waters racked Rapid City were replaced by Western Electric Installers. (right). Cable (below), part of that delivered by the Omaha Works, awaits use.*



# SICK. LONELY. HOSPITALIZED.

Bad Words. Worse things to be.



But they are especially bad when you are a child.

There is always something awesome and threatening about a hospital no matter how old you are. But when you are a child, and sick, and lonely, the threatening awe of a hospital is amplified.

Some things help to make the time children spend in a hospital a little bit more enjoyable. George Chonis, an Electrician in Department 796, is one of them.

The satisfaction of helping others, especially children, keeps George involved in volunteer work for Childrens Memorial Hospital. There on evenings and weekends all year long, he spends some ten hours a week of his own time. He helped produce the annual hospital bazaar, organized the charity bowling tournament, and served a Christmas dinner of turkey with all the trimmings to the late shift hospital employees.

Aside from the hospital, George manages a softball team for a Cub Scout Pack and raises his own family of four children.

George, who describes himself as having "a soft heart for children" and "being the kind of fellow who couldn't turn children away," has been an employee of the Omaha Works for 13 years.

George is one of our community builders.

# RECYCLING



**is only one step toward building a better environment. There are many others. Use them, too.**

But while you are finding them, remember that the glass and can recycling drive is still on at the Omaha Works. At any time, day or night, you can bring your cans and glass from home and drop them in the collection bins located in the parking lots of Buildings 30 and 50. There are only a few rules to remember:

- a) wash your cans and bottles before bringing them in
- b) remove the labels and lids
- c) flatten the cans

There are three bins at each collection point . . . one each for glass, cans and the containers you use to carry the recyclable material. Put each in the proper bin.



**Western Electric**

BULK RATE  
U S POSTAGE

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