

the Westerner

OMAHA WORKS

JULY 8, 1977



Everyone
Into
The Pool,
It's
Vacation
Time!

For Your Information

... pages 4 and 5 of this issue are reprinted from the July 1974 *Westerner*. We think it's as valuable today as it was three years ago. That's why we chose to share the information with you again. Take the time to read it through so you can make sure that you and your family enjoy the best — and safest — vacation ever ...

... a computerized "watchdog" called Telecommunications Alarm Surveillance and Control (TASC) is rapidly being put to use throughout the Bell System because of its broad capabilities and flexibility. TASC was designed by Bell Labs and is available from Western Electric to perform a variety of surveillance and control duties. It may be used to monitor and control remote electro-mechanical switching machines, cable and radio transmission circuits, power systems, and building security at as many as a hundred urban central offices. Or, it can do similar tasks for up to 200 rural community dial offices or short-haul transmission stations. Because the surveillance and control instructions — stored in the memory of a minicomputer — can be easily modified at any time, the standard system can be economically tailored to current and future needs of each telephone company. In 1976, TASC was put into operation by Michigan Bell, Pennsylvania Bell and New England Telephone. Another TASC system was cut over by Illinois Bell in March 1977 and 20 more installations are scheduled by the end of this year ...

... Henry Mancini and Vikki Carr will be waiting for you when you return from Standard Vacation. They'll headline the third big-name star attraction to be held at Ak-Sar-Ben this year. The Mancini/Carr Show runs August 2-7 ...

... before you leave for vacation, don't forget to check out the Weoma Club's supply of discount coupons to area tourist attractions and amusement parks ...

About The Cover . . .

Our uncovered cover model is 18-month-old Michael Howard, son of Public Relations photographer Rog Howard, who shot the photo.



AWARD-WINNER: Ron Neneman, Department 438, has received a \$400 suggestion award for his proposal that the acid-dip operation for a certain type of terminal strip be eliminated. He's pictured above flanked by section chiefs Roger Sprick, left, and Paul Elvers.

Effective June 30, 1977

Special Pension Increase Begins; Vested Pension Eligibility Modified

At the end of June, the Company began payment of increases in pension benefits to retired employees retroactive to January 1, 1977.

As announced on December 17, 1976, those eligible for an increase are retired employees whose service or disability pensions were in effect on December 1, 1976, and survivor annuitants on the pension roll on the same date.

The increase equals 0.2 percent of a retired employee's pension for each full or partial month of retirement from January 1, 1974, through December 1976. Accordingly, the maximum increase will be for 36 months or 7.2 percent of the pension being paid under the January 1, 1977, formula. Similar percentage increases also apply to survivor annuitants' pensions.

For retired employees receiving minimum pensions, there will be a fixed supplement of \$15 a month for anyone with at least 20 years' service, and \$12 a month for those with less than 20 years. This supplement will be paid in place of the percentage increase.

These increases were approved by the Audit and Benefit Plans Committee of the Board of Directors last December to be effective January 1, 1977. However, payment was delayed pending IRS approval of the plan as amended. Following review of the pension plan filed by

AT&T and associated companies, the IRS issued a favorable determination letter to AT&T conditioned on the adoption of certain additional changes. Western has made the required changes and other Bell companies are taking similar action.

Eligibility for Vested Pension Modified

The principal change affects employees leaving the Company at age 65 with less than 10 years' service. Such employees will now be eligible for a vested pension provided they:

- were hired before age 60
- were on the active payroll on or after January 1, 1976; and
- were on the payroll the day before their 65th birthday.

Vested pension amounts for such employees will be computed according to the normal pension plan formula in effect when they leave the Company and will be based on net credited service.

Employees currently retired without pension at age 65 (but after January 1, 1976), who meet the above criteria, will now be eligible to receive a vested pen-

(continued on page 7)

AUGUST SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES



Ron Fenger
30 Years 8/8/47



Jim Tolhurst
30 Years 8/11/47



Charlie Couch
30 Years 8/20/47



Steve Mehuron
25 Years 8/3/52



Ed Wigg
25 Years 8/4/52



Jim Woods
25 Years 8/4/52



Rex Ellison
25 Years 8/7/52



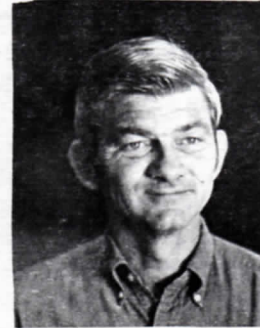
Bill Remillard
25 Years 8/11/52



Tony Miszuk
25 Years 8/12/52



John Smith
25 Years 8/20/52



Lloyd Ellsworth
25 Years 8/21/52

20 Years

L. D. Anstey
A. Anthone
T. M. Baye
J. J. Bretthorst
H. B. Clawson
R. L. Hanner
K. L. Harpham
H. A. Hendrix
H. C. Hill
J. W. Hiykel

J. L. Hurd
L. Janecek
D. A. Leifeld
A. J. Menzies Jr.
D. K. Olechoski
R. A. Petersen
R. R. Richling
W. A. Salkeld
O. H. Schroeder
E. C. Scott

15 Years

L. T. Adams
R. L. Belik
C. C. Brazee
A. A. Cahill
W. M. Carpenter
M. E. Gerch
F. D. Graser
J. W. Hoover
L. R. Johnson
L. R. Kousgaard

V. A. Land
A. A. Mackey
K. B. Meyer
C. C. Moore
B. G. Newton
V. B. Rich
A. B. Scott
M. T. Seals
J. T. Slominski
C. E. Thomason

10 Years

A. A. Armendariz
P. P. Avery
B. M. Bolander
C. B. Dahir
R. J. Davis
K. P. Guse
L. P. Hanke

R. L. Heaton
L. D. Janovec
D. M. Kimble
C. F. Leyendecker Jr.
W. L. Schmidt
D. C. Traugh
D. A. Wallinger

VACATION HINTS

The good thing about most advice is that it's free. And the next best thing is that, when given advice, you can usually take it or leave it.

Well, the following advice is something we hope you'll take — literally. It's good advice on how to have a safe vacation. And we hope you'll take this center section with you on your out-of-town excursions over the next two weeks.

And, for those of you whose patience or pockets will limit your vacation meanderings to back yard barbeques or a dip in the closest public pool, there's some handy hints for you, too.

- If you're planning on doing yard work, make sure all your lawn equipment is in good shape and safe to operate.
- Don't overdo heavy work. And be particularly careful about prolonged activities outdoors, especially on hot, sunny days.
- Don't crowd too many activities into your vacation schedule. You should maintain a pace corresponding with or slightly below your normal working pace.
- Take only a nominal amount of money with you on your trip. Convert a majority of your vacation money into travelers checks, preferably \$10 and \$20 denominations.
- Make your hotel or motel reservations ahead of time. And, before departure, find out if your planned travel route has any major detours or road construction.

Pre-departure check list

Car check list



- **Cooling system.** Add new coolant if necessary and check thermostat, pressure cap, radiator and hoses.
- **Spark plugs.** Check for cleaning or replacement; check points. Consider a complete tune-up if indicated.
- **Exhaust system.** Check mufflers and tailpipes. Replace if necessary.
- **Lubrication.** Start your trip with grease job and oil change (incl. filter).
- **Tires.** Check tread wear and inflation, also alignment and balance.
- **Brakes.** Get any of these corrected immediately: fluid leakage at master or wheel cylinder; too much play or sponginess in pedal; grabbing or pulling to one side; weak parking brake.
- **Mirrors.** Clean and adjust.
- **Wipers and washers.** Check mechanical condition, water, and blade condition.
- **Seat belts.** One for every passenger. Check fasteners, fabrics.
- **Emergency equipment.** Have these and make sure they work: flares, portable electric light or lantern, fire extinguisher (multi-purpose dry chemical is best), tow strap and chain, jack, spare tire and lug wrench.
- **First aid kit.** Include tape, cotton, tweezers, gauze, bandages, scissors, thermometer, insect repellent, lotion for poison ivy, extra

eyeglasses, copies of your prescriptions.

- **Turn signals and warning lights.** Check operation, clean off, buy spare bulbs.
- **Auto insurance policies.** Review your coverage; check expiration date.
- **Documents.** Carry driver's license, vehicle registration, hospitalization card, emergency medical identification (if you have a special health problem), auto insurance company I.D. card, phone numbers of friends and relatives (for visiting and in emergency).
- **Duplicate car keys.** Give to another family member to have available if you lose yours.
- **Theft protection.** Remove valuables, lock car. (Second best: lock valuables in trunk.) Avoid parking in alleys, dark streets, unlighted parking lots.
- **Trailer-pulling.** Check hitch, safety chains, brake and signal lights, tires. Make frequent checks while traveling.

Home check list



- **Tell police** or sheriff's department how long you'll be gone, where you can be reached in an emergency.
- **Inform the landlord** of your travel plans if you live in an apartment, or ask a neighbor to watch your property.
- **Buy a time switch** or photo electric device that turns on a light at night and off in the daytime to make thieves think your house is occupied.
- **If you have a burglar alarm** it should be in working order and

turned on.

- **Deliveries** should be handled according to the item. Stop milk and newspapers; ask the post office to re-direct your mail or have a neighbor collect it; temporarily suspend laundry and dry cleaning pickup and delivery.
- **Leave a house key,** a copy of your itinerary, numbers where you can be reached en route and your car license number with a friend or neighbor.
- **Cancel appointments,** meetings and social engagements.
- **Call the telephone company;** you may qualify for lower vacation rates.
- **Make important payments** in advance if you plan to be gone long, or have a bank or friend do it for you.
- **Lock doors and windows;** check locks and entrances for security.
- **Put your valuables** in a safety deposit box or other safe place away from your home.
- **Disconnect** electrical appliances and turn off gas jets.
- **Turn off water faucets.** Travelers who live in northern states and take long trips during winter should also consider turning off the main valves, draining the pipes and pouring anti-freeze in toilet bowls and sink traps.
- **Adjust thermostats** so heating or cooling systems don't have to work so hard while you're gone, yet so room temperatures can be restored to normal levels easily when you return. During the cooling season you might set the air conditioner about ten degrees higher; during the heating season you might set the furnace about ten degrees lower. For long trips you may wish to shut your systems off altogether.
- **Provide for pets** and house plants.
- **Fill prescriptions** you will need on the road. Try to carry more than you will need, but bring a copy of the prescription in case you need a refill.
- **Return library books** or renew them; some libraries have vacation loan plans.
- **Check your home insurance** to be sure it is both adequate and paid up.
- **Give duplicate house keys** to those you wish to enter your house while you're gone. If you have a key hidden outside (you shouldn't), take it with you.



7th Annual Weoma Club Talent Show

Featuring
Omaha Works Employees
and Members of Their Families
June 17, 1977
Works Auditorium





PROUD POP: Irv Schroeder, Department 744, is understandably pleased over the academic accomplishments of his 18-year-old daughter Debbie. A recent Burke High School graduate, Debbie has received a \$300 scholarship from the Ak-Sar-Ben Chapter of the National Secretaries Association. She'll begin pursuing a business degree this fall at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Bloodmobile Visits

Omaha Works employees once again showed their generosity by donating 451 pints of blood during the recent Bloodmobile visits to the Plant.

Due to special scheduling arrangements, there were two separate one-day visits this time — June 24 and July 1. The next scheduled two-day Bloodmobile visit will be on September 8 and 9.

Pension

(continued from page 2)

sion starting the day after their last day on the active payroll.

Sandia Service To Be Credited For Vesting

Another change concerns recognition of service with Sandia Laboratories for participation and vesting eligibility credit.

Bell System employees with service in Sandia Laboratories may now have such service credited toward the vesting of a pension in a Bell System Company. This crediting of Sandia service will not affect the amount of the Bell System pension, which will be based only on Bell System service.



SIZABLE SPLIT: Department 746 employees Billy Murphy, left, and Henry Konichek, right, have split a \$1090 suggestion award. The two jointly proposed certain insulating techniques for the annealer units in the Cable Plant. They're pictured receiving their checks from Works Director Charlie Higginson.

ANOTHER PICNIC '77 BULLETIN!

The *Westerner* has just received an update on plans for this year's Weoma Club Picnic. It looks like a real winner with something for everyone — rides, games, drawings, Bingo, horseshoes, miniature golf, beer and pop. Plan to be at Peony Park on September 25. Further updates to come.

RETIREMENT



Blanche New
18 Years

Bond Purchases Increase

Over 500 Omaha Works employees signed up to buy bonds during the recent in-Plant U.S. Savings Bond drive. With the addition of these new subscribers, there is now 69% employee participation in the Payroll Savings Plan for a total monthly investment of over \$118,000.

Approximately 300 employees worked as campaign solicitors for the 1977 Bond Drive which was headed by Assistant Manager George Rosness.

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 **Western Electric**



FOUR-FIGURE IDEA: Department 746 employee Rian Murphy, pictured above, cashed in big for his proposal that fiber bushings in the annealer units be replaced with steel bushings and that the unit be insulated from the ground. Rian received a sizable \$2255 for his idea.



OPEN WIDE AND SAY "YUM": Charlotte Zvolanek gets ready to chomp into a monster-size hogie sandwich with the assistance of Department 442 fellow-employees Leona Dean, center, and Harriet Weberg. Charlotte's sandwich, which was homemade by her sister, sports a number of candles because it was a birthday sandwich. Although Charlotte got the first bite, she shared the remainder of the six-foot concoction with several of her fellow-employees.

Works Hosts Joint Conference

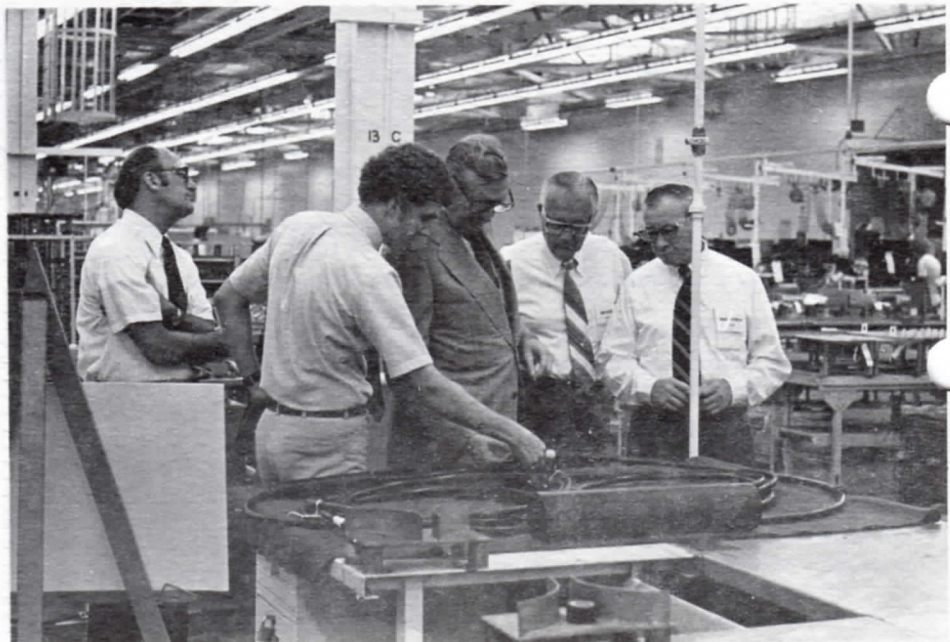
On June 22-23, the Omaha Works hosted a joint Bell Sales/Cable and Wire Division Conference.

The two-day event included several tours of the Plant and the Product Display Center.

Pictured in the photo below are Manager Dick Iaffaldano, left, Section Chief Wayne Anderson, Manufacturing Division Executive Vice President Rip Fick, Bell Sales Division General Manager

(Mountain-Northwestern Region) Dave Hilder and Works General Manager Frank Lefebvre.

In the photo at left are Department Chief Ralph Brewer, left, Bell Sales Division General Manager (Northeastern Region) Bob Cowley, Cable and Wire Division Vice President Art Foster and Cable and Wire Division General Manager (Product Line Planning and Management — Cable, Wire and Associated Apparatus) Ed Britt.



**Have a
GREAT
Vacation!**