

# the Westerner

OMAHA WORKS

JUNE 28, 1974

## Employees Meet President

When Skip Vencil saw Western Electric President Don Procknow heading down the aisle toward her work position, her first instinct was to panic.


A relay adjuster in Department 146, Skip had been selected to give a presentation to Mr. Procknow during his June 7th tour of the Omaha Works.

"I wanted to get up and run," Skip related. "I kept telling myself it was all a dream, that it wasn't really happening."

But it was happening. And Skip, in spite of her brief moment of panic, spent several minutes explaining the intricacies of relay adjusting. In addition to Mr. Procknow, her audience included Joe West, executive vice president; Gene Eckel, vice president, Manufacturing — Switching Equipment; Works General Manager Frank Lefebvre and Wayne Hunt, Omaha's director of Engineering and Manufacture.

Skip was commended for the excellence of her presentation and she later noted, "I felt I explained the process well. The men were very attentive and listened to what I was saying. That made it easy for me to talk to them."

Skip admitted her initial thoughts prior to Mr. Procknow's visit were that important people like that



*Skip Vencil details a relay adjustment for Messrs. Procknow, left, Eckel and West (foreground).*

(continued on page 3)



# For Your Information...

... Omaha Works employees will join the rest of the country in celebrating the United States' 198th birthday, July 4. It's also a good way to get in shape for standard vacation which begins at the end of the following week. But whatever your holiday plans may be, please make safety a major part of your planning ...

... during the last Red Cross Bloodmobile visit, June 13 and 14, the Omaha Works again exceeded its goal in blood donations. This time Works employees donated a total of 603 units. And something happened during the Bloodmobile visit that gives you a good indication of how badly that blood is needed. Following an emergency request, the Red Cross delivered to a local hospital four units of blood which had just been donated by Works employees ...

... changing your address? In order to make sure you receive your copy of the *Westerner*, you should notify your departmental secretary immediately preceding a permanent move. A Company-provided "change of address" form must be completed to ensure that a prompt correction is made ...

... and speaking of changes, if you were one of the initial participants in the Omaha Works Carpooling Survey and have since changed your address or shift hours, you can obtain a new carpool listing. And for those of you who chose not to participate in the original survey but wish to do so now, it's not too late. Complete carpooling information can be obtained by contacting the Public Relations Department, Ext. 4132 ...

... during the recent Western Electric U.S. Savings Bond Drive, employee participation at the Omaha Works increased by 524 subscribers. In addition, 922 employees already enrolled in a bond savings plan increased the number of bonds they purchase. A total of 4,164 Works employees are now buying bonds through the Payroll Savings Plan.



**BEFORE AND AFTER:** Through the efforts of Giles Gardner, an engineering associate in Department 472, Western Electric will gain additional monetary savings in the Company's ongoing cost reduction program. Giles, pictured above, is responsible for accomplishing Omaha's first successful conversion from flat type relays to wire spring relays in the #5 crossbar trunk unit. Giles' work is expected to contribute about \$135,000 towards the Works \$5 million cost reduction goal for 1974. Additional savings will be realized as the change is implemented at other crossbar locations.



**TRAVELING ON:** Merchandise Service's **NEVER SAY NO** traveling trophy has found another temporary home. Recipients of the trophy during its fifth presentation are pictured in the above photo. Cited for their service-oriented efforts in Local Cable Manufacturing and Inspection are, from left, Eugene Nicholson, Lucille Vondra, Dolores Kirwan, Bill Ebert, Hazel Norwood and Bob Pretko. The women are all inspectors in Department 861. Bill and Bob are section chiefs in Department 434. Eugene, also in Department 434, is a cable former and packer. Not available for the photo were Vera Wagner and Nadin Marlin, both inspectors in Department 861. As mentioned in previous issues of the *Westerner*, the trophy is awarded following balloting in Merchandise Service. Editor's Note: Eugene credits the combined efforts of all the cable formers in sections 8 and 9 of Department 434 for his winning nomination.



# President Visits Omaha...

(continued from front cover)

wouldn't be interested in what she had to say.

"But he was genuinely interested," she said of Mr. Procknow. "He leaned right over my shoulder and watched what I was doing."

And Skip added, "Maybe they wouldn't have noticed if I made a mistake but the thing was, I didn't want to make any mistakes."

In addition to visiting Skip in

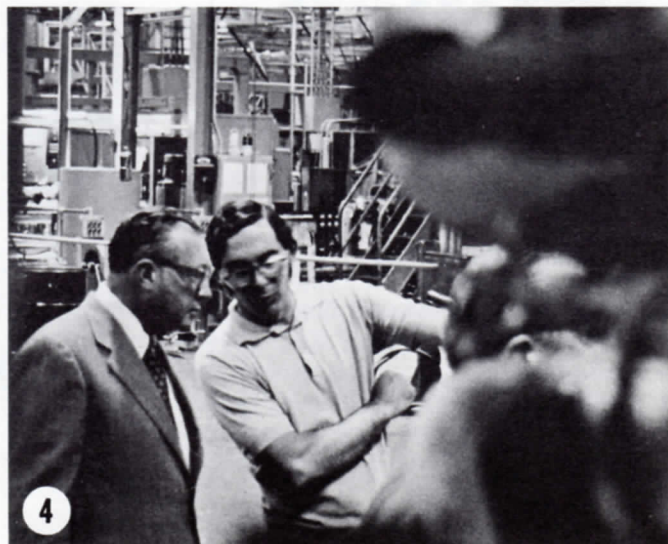
Miniature Relay Assembly, Mr. Procknow and the others also visited the Small Crossbar Switch and Wired Equipment Shops in the Crossbar Building and Sheathing Line #3 and "Z" Screen Manufacture in the Cable Plant.

Prior to visiting the shops, the group viewed a cost reduction presentation in the Administration Building.



Among the Works employees involved in the tour were

1. Dorothy Karis, Department 132;
2. Frank Garrett, Department 132;
3. Paul Koehler, Department 273;
- and 4. Bob Taylor, Department 253.





**NEW REGIME:** On July 1, the Arthur B. Goetze Council of the Telephone Pioneers of America will induct a new slate of officers. The 1974-75 officers pictured in the above photo are, from left, Gerry Alfons, Department 422, president; Jim Schwetz, Department 233, secretary-treasurer; and Gay Darwin, Department 864, vice president. Among the Pioneers' list of activities in the upcoming months are a picnic, a trip to the dog races, a tour of the Falstaff Brewery and a Lincoln Bingo Party. The Works Pioneer Council has nearly 350 active members and approximately 150 life members.

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING DURING STANDARD VACATION?

Whether you're planning an out-of-town trip or a stay-at-home rest, watch for the next issue of the *Westerner*...

It's a vacation special with lots of good ideas to make your vacation as safe and as fun as possible!

**the  
Westerner**  
VOLUME 18 NUMBER 6

**Frank J. Lefebvre**  
General Manager  
Western Electric - Omaha Works

**Nancy Emshwiller**  
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.



**Western Electric**

BULK RATE  
U S POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Omaha Nebraska  
Permit No. 262