

the Westerner

OMAHA WORKS MARCH 25, 1977



Pictured inside the IPVC vault still under construction are, back row from left, Jim Detwiler, Wally Dring and Gene Stoltenberg. In the front row from left are Bill Bystrom, Bob Socha, Tom Filipski, Ralph Heesch, Hawk Hawkins, Tom Schliiffke and Al Albin.

WE Crew Completes Critical Installation

The last issue of the *Westerner* carried a two-page article on the IPVC vaults located in the Cable Plant.

As was noted in the story, the process surrounding the production of IPVC products is fairly complicated. Naturally, the installation of the accelerator system which performs the irradiation process is a highly critical operation. As a matter of fact, improper installation could cause a malfunction which would in turn

cause severe damage to the equipment.

One of the most critical aspects of vault installation is the alignment of the major mechanical and electrical components. This includes focusing an electron beam which travels slightly less than the speed of light (186,000 miles per second). Add to that the fact that each vault has 10 miles' worth of wire associated with the accelerator system, and you come up with a pretty important project.

And where you find an important project, you'll also find some equally important people. The men pictured above comprised the first Western Electric crew to ever install an accelerator system without the equipment manufacturer's assistance. While such assistance was utilized on the first two vault installations, the third vault was a Western Electric-only job. Another vault is currently under construction.

For Your Information ...

... for the fifth consecutive year, the federal excise tax on telephone bills has dropped one percentage point. The 1977 figure is 5%. The point by point drop was ordered by Congress under the Excise, Estate and Gift Tax Adjustment Act of 1970 and was implemented in 1973 when the tax went from 10% to 9%. By 1982, it will be completely phased out ...

... the annual in-Plant membership drive for Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo is just about over. If purchased before April 1, a 1977 Family Membership is \$15 — a \$3 savings. Included in your membership is free admission to the zoo during the 1977 season (April 1 to October 31); free admission to the annual Family Day on August 3; reduced rates on children's art lessons offered each summer at the zoo; and a free zoo member newsletter. In addition, a 1977 membership card will admit you to 41 other zoos in the United States and Canada. For more information, contact the zoo membership representative in your organization ...

... according to Western Electric's 1976 annual report, the Company had 1976 total sales of \$6,931 million compared with \$6,590 million in 1975. Sales to Bell telephone companies comprised \$6,569 million of the 1976 sales figure. WE registered a \$110 million increase in net income, finishing 1976 with \$217 million. Company wide, the Purchasing and Transportation Division achieved annual economies of \$193 million while a record \$218 million in annual savings will be realized from engineering cost reductions introduced in '76. Last year, Western Electric purchased approximately \$2.7 billion worth of supplies, manufacturing materials and transportation services from over 45,000 suppliers in more than 4,000 communities. Most Omaha Works employees took a share of the Company's 1976 Nebraska payroll which amounted to \$69,772 million. The state's share of Company taxes totaled in excess of \$3.8 million. In addition, 545 Nebraska-based suppliers in 37 of the state's communities were paid approximately \$18 million for materials and services provided ...

... thanks to all employees for their help in making this year's Ak-Sar-Ben membership drive a success. The 1977 line-up of big name stars guarantees lots of good times for you and your family ...

... on April 7, the Bell System will mark the 50th anniversary of long-distance television transmission in the United States. On April 7, 1927, AT&T President Walter S. Gifford participated in the first public demonstration of this technology. He was in New York City while he spoke with and viewed the then Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover who was more than 200 miles away in Washington, D.C. ...



RECORD SET: Department 446 has made its mark in the record books by shipping in excess of 50,000 miniature wire spring relays on each of two consecutive weeks. These were the largest one-week shipments ever made on miniature wire spring relays and employees in Departments 446, 441 and 437 were treated to a special coffee in recognition of the event. All three departments contributed to the record-setting shipments which took place between February 7 and February 19. Employee representatives Bill Sahulka, left, Pat Hartung, Mary Polson and Bill Jones received personal congratulations from General Manager Frank Lefebvre.

Weoma Bowlers Compete

What do Ken Kowalewski, Glen Barker, Arch Witherell, Walt Bolton, Dick Kusmierski, Rod Wentworth, Jay Ridenour, Lauren Throener, Robert Greene, Pete Peterson, Al Benkis, Charlie Stewart, Bob Walters, Steve Prerost, Greg Jones, Butch Colanino, Dave Burrell, Fred Cappello, Hank Wnuk, Buddy Davis, Frank Waniske, Peter Hein, Bill Joyce, David Wiggins, Stan Petrulis, Ron Bressman, Mike Durae, Clyde Slater, Sig Ortlieb, Carl Baratta, Bob Albers, Charles Taylor, Bob E. Taylor, Bob Szymanek, Bob Walters, Willard Scott, Renee George, Esther Kana, Carol Pigman, Clarice Diggs, Rose Desautels, Terry Barnes, Pauline Leith, Sharon Aschoff, Peg Reed, Lois Story, Earline Brown, Opal Merriweather, Doris Heman, Alyce Newell, Vera Brantz, Jeannette Elliott, Jan Cox, Irene Lileikis, Sally Behrendt, Dixie Salsbury, Joyce Franzen, Judith Hunt, Doris Jennings, Laurie Slater, Carol Hailey, Alvertus Jones, Yvonne Russell, Juanita Mitchell, Shari Dolezal, Forrestine Ford, Rita Kaczmarek, Mary Nelson, Marilyn Goodell, Myrt Loges,

Vera Bowersox, Sharon Allas, LaVonne Waters, Helen Ortlieb, Don Donovan, Deb Christianson, Barb Ernst, Dave Ernst, Jeanne Taylor, Gail Kopczynski, Ron Kopczynski and John Barnes all have in common?

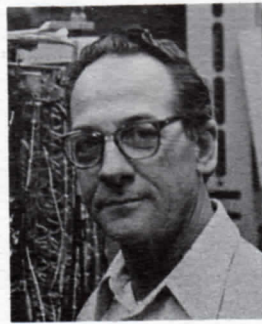
Each cashed in on his or her bowling talents in the 18th Annual Weoma Club Bowling Tournament held earlier this year at the Elkhorn Lanes. Those named in the preceding list either won or placed in one or more of the 11 bowling events. Each received a cash award. In addition, first place winners were given trophies.

Over 500 employees and their spouses participated in this year's tournament.

**APRIL 8
Omaha
Works
Holiday**



MARCH/APRIL SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES



Howard Firebaugh
30 Years 3/10/47



Carl Dunham
30 Years 3/20/47



Ray Lash
30 Years 3/21/47



Guy Godios
30 Years 4/16/47



Leroy Dietz
30 Years 4/23/47



Ray White
30 Years 4/23/47



Leroy Roth
25 Years 3/18/52



Irish Donahoo
25 Years 3/20/52



Richard Kobza
25 Years 3/24/52



Charles Patterson
25 Years 4/7/52



M. L. "Butch" Davis
25 Years 4/15/52



Ray Retzlaff
25 Years 4/23/52



Hugh Short
25 Years 4/25/52

25 Years

L. T. Hurdiss

20 Years

G. P. Anderson
J. Avery
M. P. Bizal
M. C. Brennan
E. M. Dixon
J. V. Goodbarn
J. W. Goodhard
R. L. Halliman
J. R. Healy
J. L. Howard Jr.
P. E. Jackson
W. F. Johnson
R. E. Joppa
E. J. Karasek
J. P. Kelly
G. H. Kohlscheen
J. V. Koralewski
H. K. Loomis
R. D. Mallory

C. F. Mellick
A. F. Miles
M. M. Nemecek
L. M. Reed
D. G. Scholer
D. G. Sheil
R. F. Sorensen
E. M. Stootsberry
K. D. Tracy
L. B. Vondra
M. J. Widger
W. J. Wunderlich

G. M. Agosta
L. G. Anderson
C. A. Aufenkamp
J. W. Barnes
N. A. Blazka
K. S. Burda
J. L. Burke
D. P. Cupak
D. D. Eitzmann
D. S. Gould
E. J. Hamell
E. W. Hawk
D. L. Karloff
E. W. Karohl
W. D. Kirk
F. M. Kravchuk
F. J. Lajba
C. L. Landers
D. J. Langdon
W. L. Mott
R. E. Springer
L. F. Stamp
F. L. Strudl
R. K. Sundell

R. C. Trenolone
E. K. Turnquist
R. P. Winter

15 Years

W. J. Andrews
Z. W. Buzzard
E. C. Carlson
G. R. Cheshek
E. A. Cleveland
B. B. Coia
B. C. Conatella
S. T. Costello
E. J. Golda Jr.
P. O. Hartung
K. B. Hughes
D. D. Knoell
B. S. Landon
C. J. Miszuk
S. B. Moedhammer
C. R. Nading
R. S. Neneman
G. E. Pospisil
D. M. Veylupek

J. Cardenas
L. B. Clark
H. E. Curtis
J. J. Francavilla
E. B. Hendricksen
G. L. Honey

D. J. Huenninger
R. E. Kusmierski
T. R. Lash
M. W. Nelson
G. L. Odell
D. E. Plowman
S. H. Roberts
S. W. Smalley
J. Verbocy Jr.
G. J. Ward
R. S. Workman

10 Years

J. L. Detwiler
L. M. House
B. D. Lampkin
T. P. Lichliter
D. A. Linn
S. T. Meisinger
P. N. Moreno
R. H. Olderog
P. T. Zerbs

W. L. Anderson
M. C. Dergan
M. L. Meiman
R. A. Molden
M. C. Poulson
K. L. Smith
E. M. Velez

RETIREMENTS



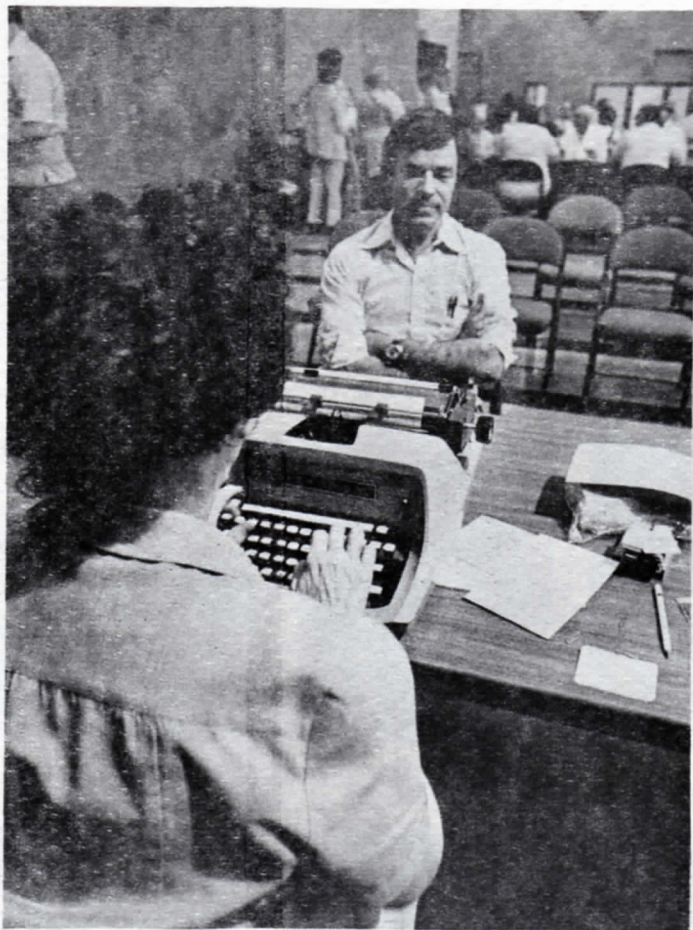
George Schabloske
31 Years



Earl Frost
21 Years

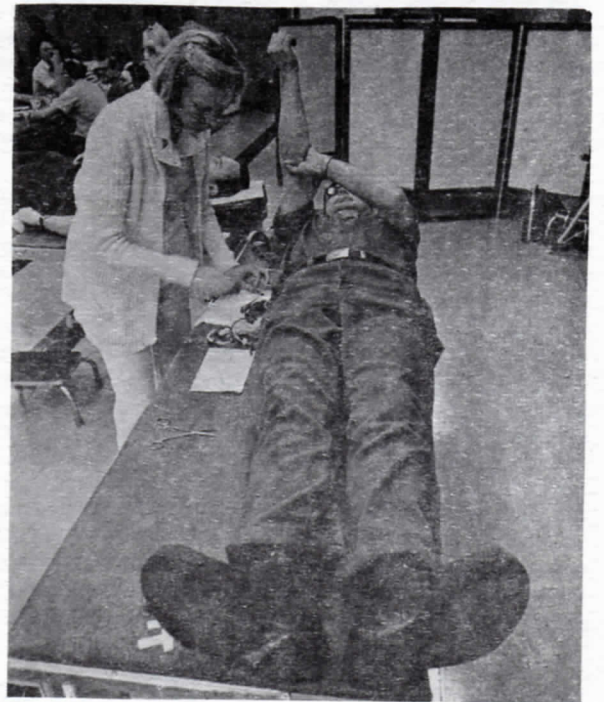


James Stauch
19 Years



Bloodmobile 1977

On March 3 and 4, a lot of people ended up flat on their backs in the Works Auditorium. Dozens of nurses and volunteer workers hovered around. The pungent smell of antiseptic occupied one corner of the room while the aroma of hot coffee commanded another. By the end of the two-day visit, the Red Cross Bloodmobile was 392 pints richer due to the generosity of an equal number of Omaha Works employees. A familiar sight at the Works since 1958, the Bloodmobile will be visiting the Plant two more times this year. Since 1973, employee donations during these visits have averaged over 1,000 pints a year.



Bargain Book, Hospital Project Among Latest Pioneer Endeavors

The Telephone Pioneers would like to recommend a good book . . . and a great bargain.

It's *The Telephone Book: Bell, Watson, Vail, and American Life, 1876-1976*. Written by H. M. Boettinger, director of corporate planning research at AT&T, the book is the story of the three men who laid the foundation on which the Bell System stands today.

The 9 by 12-inch book contains more than 300 illustrations, many of them in color. A good number of the illustrations have never been published before. The volume also includes photo essays about the Telephone Pioneers, The Bell Museum at Nova Scotia, Bell Labs and Western Electric.

Although the bookstore price is \$30.00, the Telephone Pioneers have been given exclusive rights to sell the volume through their local chapters for only \$10.00. Chapters will retain \$5.00 for each volume sold. Proceeds will be utilized in various Pioneer community service projects. In May, the book will be made available by the publisher at the jacket price of \$30.00.

So if you want to read a good book, get a great bargain and aid a worthwhile cause, contact Pioneer President Jim Schwetz in the Engineering Organization. He'll be glad to take your order.

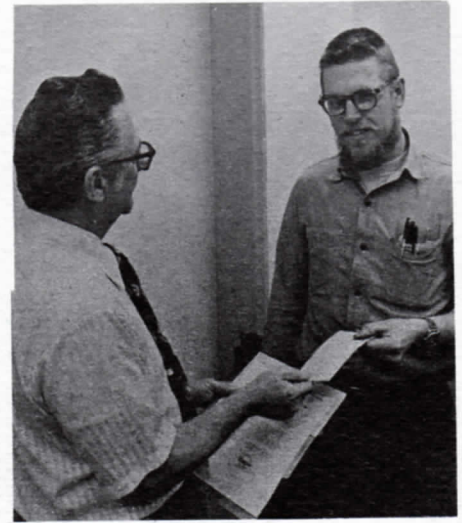
And speaking of worthwhile causes, the Pioneers are seeking assistance on a very important project. Elderly patients at the Douglas County Hospital Annex are in desperate need of lap robes and bibs.

In most instances, these patients have no one to provide or care for their personal needs, so they rely heavily on the assistance of people like the Pioneers.

If you have even minimal sewing skill, some scrap material and a giving heart, please consider helping in this project. You don't have to be a Pioneer or an employee to participate.

The lap robes should be 36" by 42/45" and made from a good quality, washable material. If you prefer, they can be crocheted or knitted.

Bib patterns and additional information on the project can be obtained from either Peggy Reed, Ext. 3937, or Gay Darwin, Ext. 4219.



IDEA PAYS OFF: Ron Hanner, Department 746, has received a \$250 suggestion award for proposing a modification on the preheat sheaves for the vinyl wire insulating lines. Ron's idea has resulted in savings both in material and machine downtime. He received his check from his department chief, Glenn Pardee.



Above: Pioneer President Jim Schwetz displays a copy of *The Telephone Book*. Right: Donna Harner, left, Peggy Reed and Gay Darwin view some of the completed lap robes.



Spring Frolic

Friday, April 29
Peony Park
Ballroom

Fashions from
Landon's and
Plaza Suite

Food and
entertainment
Prizes

Tickets on sale
now at
\$7.50
per person

MAC-8: Small But Mighty "Mind"

A device less than one-tenth the size of a postage stamp but as powerful as the processing "brain" of a small computer has been announced by Bell Labs.

Called MAC-8, the new microprocessor is expected to be uniquely suited for a wide range of telecommunications applications. It's the first microprocessor of its kind able to execute several hundred different electronic logic or "thinking" functions while using only one-tenth of a watt of power. The device contains over 7,000 tiny transistors fabricated on a single chip of silicon, the material used in making integrated circuits.

When used in Bell System equipment, a device such as MAC-8 is expected to provide customers with new or improved service features. For example, a microprocessor in a coin telephone could provide the electronics for sensing coin deposits and for determining when sufficient deposits have been made.

A unique feature of MAC-8 is its ability to respond to combinations of over 400 different electronic instructions at a rate exceeding 100,000 per second. With this capability, the device will form an integral part of Bell System equipment such as private branch exchanges, electronic switching systems and other communications systems. The impact of MAC-8 on such equipment will be to hold down manufacturing costs and further increase product reliability.

MAC-8's singularly low power requirements and large set of instructions make the device ideal for potential use in telecommunications equipment and systems that are difficult to power or so

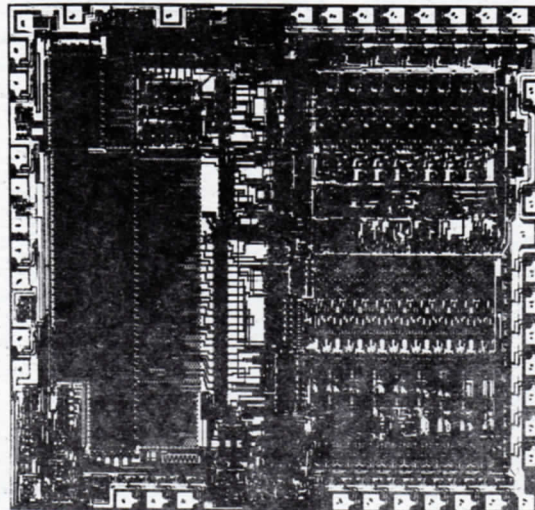
compact that heat is a problem.

Associated with the MAC-8 is an "off-chip" memory unit — a piece of silicon about the size of a thumbtack head — that can be tailored to contain instructions for specific applications. For example, a microprocessor designed to work with an electronic switching system will require a memory with more complex instructions than one serving a coin telephone. The off-chip memory provides the potential for increased memory capacity and processing capability without

the need for additional circuit design.

Processing functions for MAC-8 are controlled by an extensive series of programs prepared by Bell Labs system designers. As a result, the off-chip memory units can be customized to enable the microprocessor to perform a wide range of functions.

A typical MAC-8 instruction is made up of eight "bits" or basic units of "on-off" electronic information, an instruction format used by most microprocessors today.



MAC-8 may contain over 7,000 transistors and be as powerful as the processing "brain" of a small computer, but it's still a very tiny device. To prove just how small the microprocessor really is, it's shown in the above photo framed by two ordinary staples.

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 **Western Electric**

Vice President Pays Visit

Cable and Wire Division Vice President A. G. Foster was the keynote speaker for the Omaha Works' in-Plant observance of National Engineers Week, February 20-26.

Prior to addressing the Technical-Professional staff in the Works Auditorium, Mr. Foster took a tour of the Plant, viewing a number of presentations and visiting with employees.

This was Mr. Foster's first visit to the Omaha Works since we joined the Cable and Wire Division.



Right: Engineering Associate Gary Drehsen, right, discusses the old and new design of the B Wire connector with Mr. Foster, left, Assistant Manager Dick Iaffaldano and General Manager Frank Lefebvre. Above: Mr. Foster stops to talk to Works employee Veda Jones. Also pictured is Department Chief Lynn Wenstrand.



Product Picture Expands

If you've been busy keeping track of Omaha's growing product line, here's a couple more items to add to your list.

Late last year, the Omaha Works began producing the 115 Apparatus and "G" Type Cable Terminal Boxes. They're used inside subscriber premises as a terminating and distributing facility for connecting station equipment.

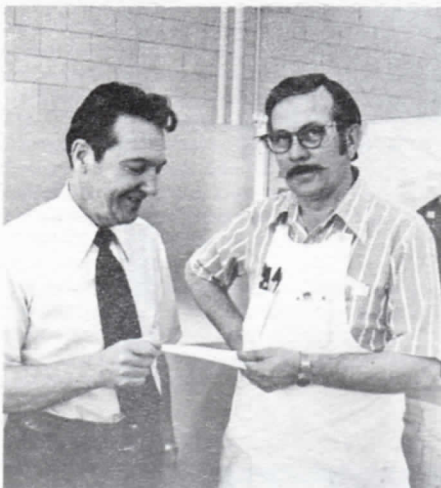
Now the sole source for these boxes, Omaha will manufacture about 300,000 this year.

Omaha is also in the initial stages of manufacturing and shipping 10 Type Cable Stubs. Once the job is completely

transferred into the Plant, approximately 175,000 10 Type Stubs will be manufactured each year. Basically, these cable stubs are utilized as pressure plugs enabling the installer to connect pressurized cable to non-pressurized cable. These cable stubs range from 50 pair to 900 pair and can be manufactured custom-length.

Both the terminal boxes and the cable stubs were transferred from the Baltimore Works.

Right: Gene Baumgart prepares a 115 Apparatus Box for shipment. Below: Kathy Bacon is preparing 100 pair cable for subsequent filling with polyurethane compound to make the pressure plug.



KAAR COLLECTS CHECK: Don Kaar, Department 741, recently cashed in on his suggestion that a less expensive, easily repairable clamp be used on solderless connectors. Don, pictured above with his section chief, Bill Zorko, collected \$180 for his idea.

