

Where do good ideas start?

That all depends. Many times, the people in the shops can best point out inefficiencies and problems in material management.

That's what happened in the case of the JIT story reported in the last issue of **EMPLOYEE INVOLVEMENT TODAY**--where a new computerized ordering system is helping to cut our cardboard stock. Ordering is done by computer and delivery is made directly to the shop floor, cutting our cardboard inventory by two-thirds.

So who came up with this great idea? The members of Q.W.L. Circle 1--The Central Store. STAN VACHAL, Dept. 584, former Q.W.L. Circle 1 president, says his circle "hopes (the savings) will grow into millions by the end of the year."

Over 18 months ago, the people in the storeroom began documenting what they already knew--some days the very same parts were received, stored and then pulled out of stock and delivered. The Circle recommended shop-to-shop delivery.

The Circle worked closely with members of the systems support group staff to develop a workable plan using computers. The first target--the cardboard--is now being followed by a project of shop-to-shop delivery of piece parts.

From there--who knows? The success of these projects has the potential to influence how every piece of material is delivered at the Omaha Works.



Here's the group that came up with the idea!...1.to r...SUSAN DILLON, STAN VACHAL, JIM SHUSTA, BRENDA WILLIAMS, DORIS ETTLIN, IRENE PALMA, BOB HOGG, GARY REZEK and TED HUMMEL. Not pictured are RALPH AVOLIO, DON MORRIS, BOB HART and ROD MACK and retirees JOANN JONES, JOANNE McGEER AND JERRY VanROY.

Employee Involvement

February 15
1990
Issue 7

Today
Omaha Works



BILL WHITTE, DEE GARCIA and DICK SKROK (IBU 583-2, sheet metal shop) look through the OMAHA WORKS TOGETHER prize catalog during a recent employee information session.

CECILIA HOBBS of the Training Dept. is busily keying all the OMAHA WORKS TOGETHER Employee Suggestion info into the computer...stuff like who's teaming up with who...who wants to be a team leader...things like that.

JIT Planning and Implementation Manager MERLE DINSLAGE says "We're excited about the participation rate...it looks really high."

Preliminary numbers show over 400 teams will be created, either by self-formation or through an on NFL-style draft by team coaches on Sat., Feb. 17.

Team leaders will be assigned this week for a one-shift training class (various sessions are scheduled during the last two weeks in February). The class is to train team leaders on how to process paperwork and communicate with coaches and resource personnel.

Teams may begin meeting in just a few short weeks...starting Monday, Mar. 5.

Factory Engineer JERRY LYNCH is working on 8 team meeting rooms in Bldg. 30 (near columns 4N and 110) and 4 in Bldg. 50 (3 at the west end of the mezzanine and 1 near the 85 store receiving office). The rooms should be ready by the end of March.

Have you stopped by the Black History Month display in the cafeteria? The emphasis on this year's display is on the contributions of African-American women and was put together by Engineer CURTIS CURRY, Dept. 742 and NICK JOHNSON, IBU 581, sheet metal shop, both members of The Alliance of Black Telecommunication Employees. We appreciate your efforts!!



Let's see about your knowledge of history...

QUESTION: Who was the first woman to lead soldiers into battle in the United States?

ANSWER: HARRIET TUBMAN was asked to lead Union soldiers into battle in the Civil War. Tubman knew Southern geography quite well because of her experience in helping Southern slaves to freedom through the Underground Railroad.

African-American Historian Dr. CARTER G. WOODSON promoted the first observance of Black History Week--first called NEGRO HISTORY WEEK--in February 1926. During the 1970s, the observance became known as BLACK HISTORY WEEK and was designated BLACK HISTORY MONTH in 1976.

Thanks to FRAN GILL in the Product Display Center for providing us the info on that bit of history.

You can catch AT&T's LANETTE MOORE playing the rainbow in this month's Center Stage Theatre Production of FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF. Lanette's a production specialist in the IBU 583-7 sheet metal shop.

It's a simple idea and a beautiful example of people joining together to get the job done," says the Toolroom's DARWIN FAGER.

He's referring to the Cornhusker Chapter 92 of the TELEPHONE PIONEERS OF AMERICA--who recently won the SALVATION ARMY AWARD for top Corporate Employees Group and TOPPED ALL OTHER CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS!!!! in the city for collecting OVER \$16,000 in the 1989 Tree of Lights campaign. 300

AT&Ters raised \$9,600 in 1988.

Over 600 AT&T employees took to the streets...bells and buckets in hand...to edge out the Downtown Rotary Club in this good-natured competition.

AT&T Drive Chairmen HARVEY PALMER (IBU 581-9) and JERRY FITZGERALD (IBU 571-6) were the guys who begged, cajoled and twisted a few arms to get us out in sub-zero December temps to shake, rattle and roll those bells at local retail stores.

These two guys have been doing this since the early 1980s...Jerry and BOB BEARDSLEY (Dept. 584) were the original AT&T ringers and started this whole plant-wide project by collecting \$79 one Saturday at K-Mart back in 1981--Harvey joined soon after...and totals seemed doubled every year since.



HARVEY PALMER and JERRY FITZGERALD show off the Salvation Army traveling trophy and plaque presented to Chpt. 92 of the Telephone Pioneers of America as top civic fundraisers in the 1989 Tree of Lights campaign.

The schedule's set for the 1990 National E-Week activities at the Omaha Works...

ENGINEERS



TURNING IDEAS
INTO REALITY

NATIONAL ENGINEERS
WEEK - FEBRUARY 19-25 1989

Monday, Feb. 19,
10 a.m., auditorium
ROGER CORNETT, Pres.,
Belden Wire and Cable
3:30 p.m. German-American Society
Mfg.V.P. JACK MCKINNON
and Network Cable
Systems Pres. GREG
HUGHES.

Thursday, Feb. 22,
8:30 a.m., auditorium
RALPH CERBONE, Advanced

Television Project Director (HDTV).

Committee members include KEVIN
PAUBA, BOBBIE DEN HARTOG, GEOFF
MCKENZIE and CHAIRMAN STEVE ZERBS.

January 15, 1990--AT&T's seemingly-infallible telecommunications network is virtually shut down by computer problems.

AT&T CEO Bob Allen says "We didn't live up to our own standards of quality" and goes on to emphasize what a significant effect everyone's work has on the success of AT&T's customer service:

"This experience holds powerful lessons for all of us. It demonstrates how much people depend on us. And even while the network was having real problems, AT&T people throughout the world were doing important work, ranging from research, development and manufacturing to installing products and services and preparing bills. Yet one tiny, isolated flaw in our network caused astonishingly far-reaching consequences. Even though we handled some 83 million calls on Monday (Jan. 15), the hard reality is we let customers down. Period.

The larger point is that all our work is important. Tiny, seemingly insignificant flaws in what we do--in all corners of the company--can have far-reaching impact on customers who rely upon us, customers inside and outside the business. That's why we must ensure quality in everything we do. We can never be complacent, no matter how good we are or have been."

Next issue--a look at some BIG, money-saving changes in the Bldg. 30 packing area...

Do you remember the story in the last EMPLOYEE INVOLVEMENT TODAY about AT&T Network Systems?

Seems we didn't read our organizational chart correctly and we got mixed up on some of the names of the AT&T business units--namely the business unit of which the Omaha Works is a part.

Rather than saying "AT&T Network Systems" was one of 19 business units established in early 1988, we should have said "AT&T Network Cable Systems." In fact, it's technically correct to refer to the Omaha Works as part of AT&T's Network Cable Systems, not AT&T Network Systems.

AT&T Network Cable Systems is a composed of the Omaha, Atlanta and Phoenix Works.

In a milestone that could dramatically change the way computers work, AT&T Bell Laboratories has built the world's fastest digital optical processor. AT&T says the next generation of computers will run hundreds of times faster than today's best. Another technological breakthrough is in the works...the Labs have unveiled a computer that processes information with pulses of light rather than electrical impulses.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH CLUB

The handwriting on the wall may be a forgery. --Ralph Hodgson

Quality means
never having to
say you're sorry

On the road to certification

Final inspection and testing assure that products aren't shipped from the Omaha Works until all quality standards are met.

"We are continuously evaluating our inspections to make sure they meet our customers' expectations," according to CHUCK MEYERS, Quality Engineering Manager.

These final inspections simulate the customer use of the product. Our quality standards meet or exceed the needs and expectations of our customers.

Next time...equipment calibration and maintenance.

Safety Section Chief RICH SCHMITZ says:

"HEADS UP!!! Keep an eye out for forklift trucks and other vehicles that are moving constantly in the shop aisles. Look up and use the safety mirrors hanging over the intersections to see what's coming.

And give the truck drivers a break.

If you want to talk, do it in the areas designed for that. Don't use the aisles. Let's work together to make the aisles safe."



Taiwan and the Philippines have been added to AT&T's worldwide high-performance fiber-optic network as AT&T recently completed its \$178 million undersea telecommunications cable...United Parcel Service Service is wiring thousands of AT&T desktop computers into its worldwide communication network...total value of the contract is \$29 million...AT&T has also won a 5-year, \$132 million contract from Metropolitan Life Insurance for customer voice and data services.

Put these WEOMA/PIONEER dates on your calendars...Easter Seal Telethon, Saturday and Sunday, Mar. 3 and 4; Pioneer Life Member Luncheon, Tuesday, Mar. 13; and the Spring Party, Saturday, Apr. 7.



Professional and management folks working in the EW&C SBU (who normally dress up for work) had a day off from the suits, ties and heels last Wednesday (Feb. 7). Jeans, sweatshirts and Nikes were the order of the day. The casual dress day was the brainchild of engineering managers MIKE FULLER and GARY EPP...who say the idea "was intended to inject some fun into the serious business of running our business" and help all employees in this SBU identify with each other. Epp says he doesn't know when they'll be doing it again, but lots of folks outside that IBU have volunteered to participate the next time. Funny thing about team work!

GRAHAM SEITER's folks have a new article you'll find of interest. "GAGING TRAINING IMPROVES QUALITY" ...from the January issue of QUALITY magazine...training machine operators to ensure product quality by gaging their own parts. Call Agnes Peterson, ext. 3375 for a copy.

AT&T has reported profits for 1989 of \$2.697 billion, or \$2.50 per share, on revenues of \$36.112 billion. Revenues for 1988 were \$35.210 billion.

DON'T FORGET...the committee to help with those problem insurance claims is available (by appointment, x4954) in Rm 132 (1st level, Bldg. 20) from 7:30 a.m.--11:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.--4:00 p.m. Don't be shy. These folks really can make a mole hill out of a mountain, so give them a call.

QUESTION: Why is it always smart to take three pairs of socks to the golf course?

ANSWER: Just in case you get a hole in one.