

THE HEADLINER



Network Cable Systems, Omaha Works

April 1994

New paint line to be unique in entire world

Has the battle against competition become so fierce that we've had to dig a trench in the high bay area of Building 30?

Not yet, anyway. But a trench is being built, and for good reason.

It will provide drainage and overflow protection for a unique new paint line under construction that, engineers say, will be like no other in the whole world.

Two existing paint line operations--one in Building 50 and the other at the east end of Building 30--will be consolidated into one operation at the high bay location.

The new paint line will take up less floor space than the combined other lines. Yet, it will have an approximate output of 1½ times that of both of the other paint operations.

The secret is a "power and free" conveyor system that is being installed.

A power and free conveyor system, this one custom-tailored to meet our manufacturing needs, is "a state of the art system that allows you to pick and choose item routings through the process," said Gus Checketts, the factory engineer overseeing the construction of the line.

By contrast, our current paint lines use a monorail conveyor system on which parts to be painted are hung in line and moved in unison through the paint process.

Smaller lots

With the new paint line, "we'll be able to produce smaller lot sizes with faster response time," and gain better control of our inventory, Checketts



Photo by Linda Ryan

IN THE TRENCHES...Engineers Gus Checketts (left) and Curt Stephany (right) review drawings for the paint line with contractors Rick Reed and Ron Wilke (center, from left), who are working on the trench that will be used for drainage and overflow.

said.

"It will give us a lot of flexibility" especially today when many of the parts being painted are customized parts, he said.

The new paint line will allow for "denser processing" of parts vs. single-file arrangement as they go through certain stages; for example, through the dry-off and cure ovens.

But the biggest advantage of the power and free system, Checketts noted, is that we will be able to route selected parts to one of four or five painting booths--with a specific color applied in each booth, all done simultaneously. Without a "pick and choose" capability, our current paint line conveyors allow for only one paint color to be applied at a time. The conveyors must be stopped to accommodate a color change.

The new paint line also will feature a 40-foot-long, seven-stage pre-

treatment washing process that will help ensure better treatment and cleaning of parts to be painted. That means better paint adhesion and corrosion resistance.

The trench, which will be sealed to prevent absorption of liquids, is part of this washing process. It will collect water used for rinsing as well as pre-treatment chemical solutions, all of which will be processed by the Works waste treatment facility for safe disposal into the city's sewer system.

Try out the new

New powder paint equipment already has arrived, some of which has been installed on existing paint lines so that operators may become familiar with it.

Shop operators, Checketts noted, "were key in helping us decide what

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Pioneer chapter elects officers

Members of the Cornhusker Chapter of the Telephone Pioneers have elected new officers for June 1994-June 1995. They will be inducted at a banquet to be held this June.

The new officers are: Al Dusek, president; Norma Korff, vice-president; Dee Kelly, second vice-president; Evelyn Dawson, Life Member representative (two-year term).

Harvey Palmer will serve as past president, and Dick Winter will serve the second of his two-year term as Life Member rep.

Shop prepares for PCP transfer

The Omaha Works is making headway in the transfer of premises connectivity products (PCP) from the Shreveport Works.

Floor space is being prepared in molding and surrounding areas of the copper apparatus shop (Building 30) to accommodate the rearrangement of molding operations and additional capacity.

The work coincides with an overall re-engineering plan for molding operations, which will result in a major rearrangement of molding presses at the east end of Building 30.

Chuck Meyers, re-engineering of molding facilities manager, said the first equipment relating to PCP operations to be transferred here should arrive late in May.

He said the Works' project team assigned to the PCP transfer includes representatives from operating, engineering, materials management and maintenance organizations.

Food Bank shelves are restocked

Organizers of the recent Pioneer Food Drive report that food items were delivered to the Omaha Area Food Bank just before Easter.

Besides food goods that were donated at plant entrances, the food bank also received a variety of meat products purchased with donations from Works employees and the Cornhusker Pioneer Chapter.

Donations totalling \$1,938.24

(Continued on next page)

When all else fails...

When you have dialed up someone's AUDIX message for the umpteenth time and you're desperate to get an answer to your question by a real, live person, who do you call?

Or, you're not sure who you need to talk to, and your call gets passed from one person to the next and still nobody has helped you. Now who do you call?

A secretary, that's who. Secretaries have been known to save many a person from the brink of total nerve frazzle. How do they manage when these types of calls come their way?

The week of April 24 being National Secretaries Week, we figured now was a good time to ask them:

Kari Oehme, 228--Outside callers "don't realize what a big place this is," so they may not understand why they can't get through to employees on the shop floor, she said. "You've got to make people feel that you are going to help them," she said, then do it. She's tracked down people in their work areas to deliver important messages. She uses "the secretary network," calling other secretaries who have the resources she needs to provide assistance to a caller.

Norma Korff, 23A--Unless the engineers in her department ask her not to, she tries to pick up their ringing phones when they're away from their desks. "I still think people prefer to make contact with someone on the other end of the phone" instead of an AUDIX message, she said. She tries paging the engineers to connect them with their callers, or finding someone else who can give the caller assistance.

Ruth Nolan, 275--She considers herself an "intermediary" for shop and office supervisors trying to reach each other by phone, not to mention

THE HEADLINER

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Your comments and suggestions are welcome and should be directed to:

Linda Ryan, Editor
Ext. 3795.

The next issue will be published on May 18, 1994. All news items should be in to the PR office by no later than 9 a.m. Monday, May 2, 1994.



Kari Oehme



Norma Korff



Ruth Nolan



MariAlyce Wagner

NEWS IN BRIEF

bought meat products most requested by the food bank: ground turkey, breakfast roll sausage, bacon, bologna and jumbo hotdogs.

Organizers for the drive were Dennis Karloff, Bonnie Stuto, Doug Study and Dee Kelly.

McCarthy accepts CFO position

Kevin McCarthy has been named chief financial officer, copper apparatus and wire, Omaha Works.

His appointment became effective on April 1. He formerly supported

the Business Architecture Team.

McCarthy replaces David Hitchcock, who is now chief financial officer, outside plant systems, based in Duluth, Ga.

Bowling, bowling and more bowling

Can't get enough of bowling?

Then you'll want to sign up for one of two--or both--bowling tournaments scheduled in May.

One tournament, Junior Achievement's Ninth Annual Bowling Classic, will be played on

May 13 and 14 at the Ranch Bowl. You can help raise money for the Junior Achievement program as a bowler, or you can pledge money as a sponsor. Either way, you will be eligible to win prizes.

Deadline to sign up is April 27. For more information and to sign up, call Chuck Schultz, Ext. 3673, or Norma Korff, Ext. 3801.

The other tournament, Big Brothers-Big Sisters Bowl for Kids' Sake Corporate Days, will be held on May 7 and 14 at Maplewood Lanes.

Team captains, bowlers and

(Continued on next page)

...call the secretary!

calls from PLM (Product Line Management) personnel and customer service, trying to reach material planners. She tries to make sure the person to whom she directs a caller is the right resource person. And always, she tells callers to get back to her again if they still need help.

MariAlyce Wagner, 226--"Listen to them. Give them a correct number to call. I try to remember that by the time they call me, they're probably pretty upset because they can't get through" to the help they seek, she said. She's helped many a frustrated shop operating employee when they've been unable to resolve corporate benefits and payroll problems by phone during break time. "I don't have all of the answers, but I tell them to let me do some checking for them. That way they can get back to their jobs."

Delores Sirian, 249--The important thing, she said, is to give a caller a useful answer, not to "put them off." When callers ask her for the help of a computer programmer from her department, she gets sufficient information so she can correctly refer the call. And because "everyone's always looking for Gordon Neubauer

(the Works engineer who addresses computer software problems), "I always know where he is or how I can find him."

Joan Siwa, 272--"I always try to treat a caller the way I would want to be treated--with courtesy." AUDIX is great, she said, "but there's no substitute for a friendly voice" responding to a call. "It means a lot to customers." If she can't connect a caller with the person best suited to address the caller's issues, she routinely gets the specifics of a call (that way the person returning the call will have a response ready). When she does direct a caller to another person's line, "I stay on the line to make sure they didn't get just another AUDIX message."

Sherryl Schuler, 246--Because Works contractors frequently must reach engineers in her department right away, she makes sure she can deliver messages in a timely manner. "All of the engineers in my department wear a page, so I contact them as soon as a call comes to me," she said. "They're pretty good about telling me where they'll be so I can reach them. I also make sure I get their phone and fax numbers whenever they're away on business."



Delores Sirian



Joan Siwa



Sherryl Schuler



Linda Fuksa

Linda Fuksa, 254--"I try to feel people out--prioritize the call" to refer it to the correct party, she said. "I either make sure the supervisor gets a message (from a caller) to an employee on the shop floor, or I'll go out to find the employee myself." Admittedly, secretaries "have to be able to take the heat," she said. Callers get frustrated when job changes complicate making contact with a Works employee. She stays calm, she said, because those people "need to vent steam. Anyway, we all have our bad days, too." ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

(Continued from previous page)

sponsors are needed. Food and prizes will be part of festivities. For more information, contact Jerry Fitzgerald, Ext. 3989 (Page #310). Signup deadline is May 1.

AT&T matches environmental donations

In response to employee interest, the AT&T Foundation will match U.S.-based active employees' donations to a group of environmental organizations April 15 through May 16, only.

The AT&T Employee/Earth Share Challenge Grants Program will provide a dollar-for-dollar match of contributions of \$25 or more to Earth Share, a charitable federation of 41 non-profit environmental and conservation organizations, or directly to one of its affiliates.

The AT&T Foundation will match up to a total of \$100,000 for the program. There is no maximum for individual employee gifts.

The program was created in response to requests by many AT&T employees that the company make contributions to match donations to environmental groups. It will complement the ongoing AT&T Foundation Matching Gift Program, which matches employee donations to higher-education and cultural institutions.



Here's how to participate: Write a personal check to Earth Share or one of its 41 affiliates (a list of which appears in the March 1994, No. 2 issue of AT&T News at plant entrances or in public relations). Be sure to write "AT&T" on the check memo line.

Mail the check to Earth Share, P.O. Box 98067, Washington, D.C. 20077-7252. Call the AT&T Matching Gift Processing Center at 1-800-424-6030 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. central time, Monday through Friday, to register your gift.

If you need more information about

the program, you also may call Marcy Chapin (212-841-4667) or Elaine Anacker (212-841-4659).

Works employees recently retired

Best wishes to the following Works employees who recently joined the ranks of retirees:

Ralph Avolio, 28 years
Harry Clawson, 36 years
Wayne Fiedler, 37 years
Margaret Patterson, 28 years
Yaeko Slaton, 18 years

April service anniversaries

The following employees are celebrating milestone service anniversaries during April. The anniversary date is listed first, with service years after the name:

4/1 Wayne Grudle, 20
4/1 Karen Anderson, 20

(Continued on next page)

Demand grows for EW&C products

Know what's "hot" on the market? Electronic wire and cable products, that's what.

Consider these indicators:

- Additional twistors for electronic wire and cable (EW&C) SYSTIMAX® products are in the process of being refurbished here at the Works, according to Bill Meyers, premise cable IBU operations manager.

Meyers said the twistors will support EW&C's efforts to meet increasing customer demands.

- AT&T's Network Cable Systems recently announced plans to develop an advanced cable manufacturing facility in Australia to produce cabling products in support of its SYSTIMAX structured cabling systems.

The start-up of the Australia

facility echoes the same business strategy that resulted in AT&T facilities being established in Bray, Ireland, and Tianjin, China: That is, the importance of establishing in-country manufacturing to gain a foothold in a given region of the world.

The manufacturing facility in Australia will produce Category 5 UTP cabling products.

A highly automated operation, it will be a source of supply for high-demand cabling products within the Asia-Pacific region.

Australia and New Zealand currently account for a large share of SYSTIMAX sales within the region, reflecting the sophisticated use and increased demand for advanced building cabling solutions.

Royce McDonald, sales director for

AT&T Network Cable Systems in Australia/New Zealand, said, "A manufacturing base in Australia will ensure we provide quality, value and service to our many customers, addressing their specific needs in the time frame they require."

It is anticipated that locating in Australia will stimulate market growth of SYSTIMAX products. Also, by exporting from that base in the Asia-Pacific region, AT&T will have some leverage in negotiating import duty credits for the imported portion of SYSTIMAX products.

Those imported products would include the copper apparatus SYSTIMAX products manufactured at the Omaha Works.

The Australia factory is scheduled to begin operations in the first quarter of 1995. ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

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4/2 Douglas Adams, 10
 4/3 Carl Soby, 35
 4/3 Darrell Lemmons, 10
 4/6 Louis Pendrock, 35
 4/6 Roger Patrick, 35
 4/7 James Furst, 25
 4/7 Irene Lileikis, 35
 4/9 Dennis Glinski, 10
 4/9 Richard Serp, 25
 4/9 Russell Bell, 15
 4/9 John May, 10
 4/9 Philip Digilio, 15
 4/10 Mary Carpenter, 20
 4/10 Karen Wilde, 10
 4/12 Timothy O'Connor, 10
 4/13 John Beck, 35
 4/13 Lavonne Meisinger, 35
 4/13 Erwin Rueschhoff, 35
 4/15 Dorothy Mitchell, 25
 4/15 Edward Kent, 35
 4/16 Mozella Grigsby, 20
 4/16 Vernon Ballard, 15
 4/16 Larry Thomsen, 10
 4/17 Steven Odell, 25
 4/18 Ajdrna Boger, 15
 4/20 Harold Clanton, 35
 4/21 Leo Reading, 10
 4/21 Thomas Johnson, 10
 4/22 Patricia Johnson, 10
 4/22 Gene Baumgart, 35
 4/23 Elinor Stoltenberg, 25
 4/24 Darlene Madison, 10
 4/24 Bobby Wolkins, 35
 4/24 Rebecca Kingham, 10
 4/24 Roy Yeck, 35

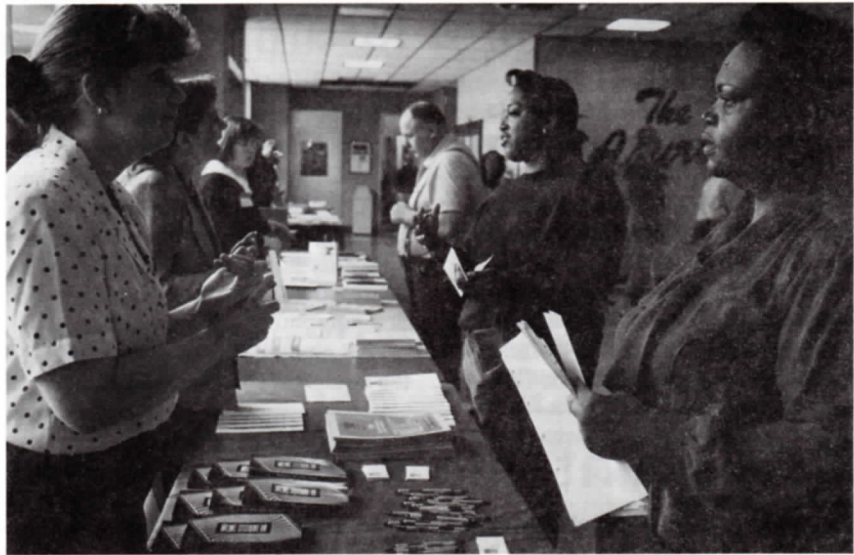


Photo by Linda Ryan

Learn about learning: Donna Reed (right, foreground) and Denise Williams chat with representatives from local colleges during an Education Fair held last month in the main cafeteria. Reps were on hand from UNO, Creighton, Iowa Western and Metro Community Colleges, Bellevue College and College of St. Mary as well as ETOP, Works' training and Employee Resource Center to answer employees' questions about their respective education programs.

4/26 Shirley Barnes, 30
 4/27 Joseph Modie, 30
 4/27 Kenneth Wright, 35
 4/27 William Carson, 35
 4/27 Larry Kroeger, 35
 4/27 Raymond Bohac, 35
 4/28 Marcus Kennedy, 35
 4/29 Decresia De Floria, 25

4/29 Lovell Jordan, 30
 4/29 Harold Staub, 35
 4/29 Glen Hopkins, 35
 4/30 Donald Zak, 35
 4/30 Steven Mathis, 10
 4/30 Linda Jurgens, 20
 4/30 Robert Sadil, 15
 4/30 Daniel Synowiecki, 15 ■

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New paint line is unique (continued from Page 1)

type of powder equipment to buy." Monthly meetings have been held with operating personnel as well as with plant engineering, accounting and purchasing and transportation staffs "to keep everyone up to date and to get their input."

Start-up of the new paint line will be sometime this summer, followed by a number of "prove-in" months during which the line will be fine-

tuned for optimum operation.

It comes at a time when electronic wire and cable (EW&C) needs more room for its operations. Besides the space that EW&C will gain when the Building 50 paint line is eliminated, it already has gained floor space with the removal of surplus metal fabrication equipment.

That equipment and surplus metal fab equipment in Building 30 have

been sold for more than \$1 million, which has helped to finance the moves and rearrangements that have occurred throughout the metals' re-engineering process. ■

New paint line's PLCs will 'talk to each other'

When Curt Stephany talks about the Works' new paint line, it's apparent that he's eager to see it up and running.

An electrical engineer, he's been working with project engineer Rich Runnels and factory engineer Gus Checketts since planning began last June.

He will be responsible for designing the controls and programming the PLCs (Programmable Logic Controllers) that control operations within the individual paint booths on the line. Eisenmann, the company that's making the new paint line equipment per AT&T specifications, will program the main PLC. The main PLC controls all operations on the paint line (conveyor, ovens, etc.) except the paint booths.

Essentially, the main PLC and the individual paint booth PLCs will "talk to each other" throughout the paint line operation, Stephany said. Here's how it all will work:

- The paint line operator will select a given hanging configuration for parts to be painted from CNS (Creatively Named System), a lot-tracking system used at the Works.

- Based on information from CNS, the main PLC will release that carrier of parts (using the "power and free" conveyor system) through the paint line.

- When the parts are cleaned and treated and are ready for the paint

booths, the individual PLCs take over. They will control the position of the powder paint guns as the parts enter the paint booths. The individual PLC can be set to run the conveyor at a set speed and turn on only certain powder guns for special parts.

- As parts leave the paint booths, the main PLC again takes over to move them to the cure ovens, cool-down and unloading areas.

- At the unload area, data that the main PLC has been tracking--tank and oven temperatures, humidity levels, etc.--is downloaded to CNS. This data is valuable should a quality problem surface. CNS also alerts the paint line operator at the unload area which quality checks must be performed.

Stephany noted that the new paint line will be the Works' first computerized operation to have a direct connection to Ethernet®. (Ethernet is a plant standard that links all of our computers together.)

That's significant, he said, because it will allow any authorized user to access the PLC from their networked PCs (personal computers) without having to go through converter boxes.

Before the paint line is started up, paint line operators will undergo two weeks of special training conducted by Eisenmann. ■

Paint line's benefits are many

The project engineer for the Works' new paint line, Rich Runnels, noted that the line's state-of-the-art technology "will greatly improve our quality" and significantly reduce cycle times in the painting process.

"It will afford us greater flexibility in scheduling" parts to be painted, he said, making us more responsive to customer needs.

The new line also will have "greater visibility" within metal fab operations, located strategically near 40-type and 80-type cabinet fabrication shops.


"We will have the paint line, assembly and kitting areas all strategically located" for improved efficiency, Runnels said.

"Kitting" involves grouping together (for the assembly shops) all of the parts needed to complete a given order. Kits prevent delays in manufacturing because an assembler has on hand all of the parts he or she needs to complete an order.

The new paint line's power and free conveyor system will make it easier to prepare kits than it is with old paint lines, Runnels said.

For example, stopping to make color changes on the old lines makes it impractical to prepare kits in small lot sizes. Also, paint gun positions on the old lines cannot be easily maneuvered to paint a large variety of shapes and sizes. Not so on the new paint line.

Runnels also said the new paint line has the capacity for expansion, which should make us even more responsive to customer needs. ■



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Watch for more details
during the Works'
Bond Drive to be
held in May.

**Take
Stock
in America**

Take precautions against bloodborne diseases

(If your name appears somewhere in this article, call Ext. 3583 or Ext. 3415 to claim a \$40 gift certificate to one of six popular local restaurants. The names of two employees are featured.)

By John Hazuka

Bloodborne diseases are disease-causing micro-organisms that can be present in human blood. Examples of these diseases include hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Exposure to bloodborne diseases may occur when blood comes into contact with broken skin, eye, mouth or mucus membranes. Since it is possible to become infected from a single exposure incident, incidents must be minimized.

Injury at work

If a co-worker has an accident at work and is bleeding, call the emergency medical phone number, Ext. 3222. A member of the Omaha Works Jean Sullivan Emergency

Topic for April

The monthly safety meeting topic for April is "Bloodborne diseases." If your department has not yet had its April safety meeting, your supervisor can call Rich Schmitz on Ext. 3583 to request that a member of the Omaha Works Emergency Response Team meet with your department.

Response Team (Fire and Rescue Brigade) will respond usually within two minutes. Stay with the victim until the response team arrives. Do not try to take the victim to the medical department, because the victim may pass out along the way. Response team members all are

certified in emergency medical technician ambulance (EMTA) training and are knowledgeable in bloodborne pathogen procedures.

If you yourself help the victim until the response team arrives, avoid contact with blood by using latex gloves to prevent possible exposure to disease. Latex gloves are now available at the entrances to all Works restrooms. They are intended for emergency use, only.

If you do have contact with blood, tell your shift supervisor. Your supervisor will either send you to the Works medical office or (during non-covered hours) call an emergency medical number so that you may be given a medical evaluation.

Cleanup important

All blood spills or body fluids containing visible blood must be cleaned up. Disease-causing micro-organisms can live in blood for at least several days. The emergency response team will decontaminate any area where such spills have occurred. If you see blood to be cleaned up, call Kurtis Lamb the medical emergency phone number, Ext. 3222. By the same token, if you or a co-worker have a major nosebleed, call the medical emergency phone number for help, Ext. 3222.

Employees may dispose of materials that have small amounts of blood on them (such as bandages, or paper towels or tissues used to clean up small cuts and minor nosebleeds) in lined trash containers.

However, if materials used to wipe up blood are saturated, they must be disposed of in a red "biohazard" bag by the emergency response team. Again, call the medical emergency phone number, Ext. 3222.

The Omaha Works "Policy for the prevention of bloodborne diseases" will be available in Manufacturing Standard 16000 by May 1994. ■



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