

# THE HEADLINER



Network Cable Systems, Omaha Works

July 1993



Photo by Linda Ryan

*ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION...Randy Pegg (standing) and Karen Hoffmann check out one of the more novel approaches to visual factory signs, this one painted by Steve Marshall (seated). All work in the 80-type cabinet area.*

## Human factor is vital in 'visible factory'

If you happen by the 80-type cabinet assembly area in Building 30, you can't miss the hand-painted "scoreboard" that makes you think a line drive from Rosenblatt Stadium is headed your way.

The scoreboard is the handiwork of Steve Marshall in the 80-type cable prep area. It is a prominent indicator of an approach to manufacturing that is gaining increasing attention at the Omaha Works, called "visual factory."

The training department offers a course on visual factory, which a number of area quality teams (AQTs)--like those from the 80-type area, from the Works print shop, and from the cable shop's coiling and spooling area--

(Continued on Page 2)

## Broadband test site uses Works MSDTs

For about two years Craig Williams has been the primary assembler, tester, packer and shipper of multi-service distant terminals--or MSDTs--in IBU 23H.

That's all changing with the addition of another eight or nine employees. The IBU is being expanded to meet a major and unique order that makes the Omaha Works a partner in the leading edge of broadband technology.

MSDTs are interface cabinets that pull together fiber-optic, coaxial and copper cable in residential areas, making it possible to provide multimedia services (often called interactive video services) in which televisions, telephones and computers interact.

Orders have been limited yet steady as various communications vendors begin to dabble in the new technology.

Now US West has ordered roughly 1,600 of our SLC® 2000 MSDTs to use in a test site for its application of broadband technology, said Art Meier of AT&T Network Systems sales. Also, 40-type cabinets which would be used as "video nodes" are being considered for purchase by the customer.

The test site is in West Omaha and is the first major test site not only in US West's 14-state territory, but in the entire country, Meier stated.

By the end of 1993, US West expects to have 10,000 homes and businesses linked to broadband, a figure that could grow to 50,000 or 60,000 by late 1994.

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## 'Visible factory' continued from Page 1

already have taken.

Marshall's co-worker, Randy Pegg, defines the ultimate goal of visual factory as "having a ready understanding or grasp of the work process in a given area" just by looking at it.

That's important because it signifies that a manufacturing process has been designed not only to ensure product quality and on-time delivery to the customer, but to ensure the physical and emotional well-being of workers.

That latter part, the "human factor," is the backbone of visual factory and relies on individual workers to instigate improvements in their work areas.

The visual factory approach includes signs for purposes of labeling, giving directions or otherwise providing information important to the work process. Marshall's scoreboard gives updates on quality performance. "Hits" signify cabinets produced without error or defect; "runs" stand for cabinets shipped; "errors" signify defects in the process.

Visual factory also involves consolidating equipment and employees, and being mindful of

designs open to mobility or adaptability as process improvements are made. And always, a process is designed keeping in mind the human ultimately doing the job.

For example, the AQT in the cable prep area is redesigning its work area for better work flow and to incorporate new equipment that will

de-reel cable reels (to eliminate the wear and tear of lifting and moving heavy reels) and strip cable (to reduce repetitive motion injuries).

In Karen Hoffmann's area, where workers make up the 80-type cabinet "kits" for assembly, hundreds of nuts and bolts and assorted pieces for the

(Continued on next page)

## Works MSDTs chosen for test site

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Broadband services potentially include "video on demand" services; "distance learning" in which students use the telephone to dial up lessons on a TV screen; televised health care treatment for home-bound patients; cross-town video game playing; instant and specific access to news, weather, sports and other information.

Analysts project that the multimedia market could grow to \$12.4 billion by 1996 from an estimated \$600 million in revenue in 1991. Meier sees the US West order as an

exciting development in the part the Works will play in the broadband market.

"This could open up future applications of not only MSDTs, but also 40-type cabinets and possibly 80-type cabinets," he said, the latter especially because of their versatility and capacity to house combined telephone, video and computer equipment.

"It has a major impact on the future of the Omaha Works and its contribution to the establishment of a national information 'superhighway.'" ■

## THE HEADLINER

The Headliner is an internal publication of the Omaha Works, produced monthly by the public relations department. It is printed by the Works print shop.

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

**Linda Ryan, Editor**  
Ext. 3795.

*The next issue will be published on Aug. 11, 1993. All news items should be in to the PR office by no later than 9 a.m. Monday, July 26, 1993.*



Photo by Linda Ryan

*GROWING BUSINESS... Craig Williams works on a multi-service distant terminal, which includes wiring the circuit boards for a fan to cool the unit; assembling the cabinetry; and installing a channel bank, a protector device and a video node box. Parts for the cabinet come from the Works and from the Richmond and Oklahoma City Works locations.*



(Continued from previous page) kits have been rearranged, providing much better access for workers.

Hoffmann and Vickie Gundlach (of cable prep) both agree that the success of visual factory relies heavily on employee involvement.

"Who knows better than we do?" Hoffmann said. "We're the ones who work in this area."

And it's the worker, added Gundlach, who can best make changes that ensure "you're in a good mood when the day is over."

## Degrees conferred upon employees

Hard work and determination have paid off for a number of Works employees who recently earned degrees. They include:

**Carol Bloomer**--Bachelor's degree in business administration from Bellevue College.

**Judy Cook**--Bachelor's degree in business administration and bachelor's degree in accounting, both

from Bellevue College.

**Joy Jones**--Bachelor of professional studies in management of human resources from Bellevue College.

**Brent Timko**--Master of business administration from the University of Nebraska.

**Dave Wiebelhaus**--Bachelor of science degree in manufacturing engineering technology from the University of Nebraska.

**Carolyn Yates**--Master of science in human resource management from Chapman University, Orange, Calif.

(Editor's note: Paperwork for the company's Tuition Assistance Plan is no longer handled at the Omaha Works. Consequently, there is no record of an employee having earned a degree unless that employee reports the information to the personnel office. If you have earned a degree this past school session but your name is not listed above, please call Linda Ryan in public relations, Ext. 3795. Recognition will be given in the next issue of the Headliner.)

## Teamworks group racks up ideas

Ask 'em and they'll probably tell you "there's plenty more where those came from."

We're talking about the Omaha Teamworks Idea Process team of Ron Hug, Tom Miller, Cecil Ward, Earl Stoakes, Ernie Belik, Ray Warren, Jim Richardson and Brian Mischke. This team submitted the greatest number of ideas to the Teamworks program during June--a total of 10.

Their names should be somewhat familiar by now, in that this group has earned the same distinction in at least a couple of previous idea marathon contests (but who's counting?). For their efforts, team members each received a Teamworks sports bottle.

The total number of ideas submitted by all teams during June was 29. A reminder for Teamworks

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# OPEN HOUSE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help is needed during the Omaha Works 35th anniversary open house, to be held Sunday, Sept. 12, from noon to 6 p.m. Needed are hosts and hostesses, guides, helpers to distribute gifts, etc. Maximum of two hours.

If interested, fill out the coupon at right and return to:

Bob Miller  
WEOMA/Pioneer  
Office



YES! I'M INTERESTED IN  
VOLUNTEERING MY HELP  
DURING THE WORKS OPEN  
HOUSE ON SEPT. 12:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPT.: \_\_\_\_\_

Shift: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Ext.: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and return to  
Bob Miller  
WEOMA/Pioneer office.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

(Continued from previous page)  
participants: Service Merchandise has expanded its selection of Teamworks awards to include travel appliances, furniture, electronics and tools.

### Works men stir up the pot

Don't know what to cook tonight?

Maybe you should check with a couple of your co-workers for ideas, Nick Johnson and Jimmy Webster.

Both recently participated in the fifth annual "Men Who Cook," an interracial fund-raising event for the Urban League. Participants volunteer to make a specialty dish, and tickets are sold to the public to sample the culinary creations.

Some 40 participants volunteered this year, feeding about 425 people who sampled their wares.

Johnson, who has participated in all but one year of the annual event, cooked a spinach/cheese meatloaf.

"Casseroles are my favorite things to make," said Johnson, who admit-

ted he likes to improvise with recipes. He said he enjoys cooking for his family, a skill he's been perfecting since his bachelor days.

Webster, on the other hand, said, "I can't cook."

However, he was so impressed with last year's cooking event that "I said I want to be a part of this. All of my male friends can cook and I think I may have been a little jealous."

He's working on his culinary skills and follows recipes faithfully for now.

"I plan to have bragging rights, too," Webster stated but quickly added, "my buttermilk chocolate

cake (which he made for this year's event) is the best in the world!"

### Q.A. lauds product quality

Quality Assurance has awarded the following IBUs the grade of "A" for their product quality achievements for the June rating period. They are listed by IBU manager and/or number:

**Bob Wustrack, 228--710** connectors; 700-type connectors; 105 cable terminals; N-type cable terminals.

**Steve Alloway, 226--DSX;** 11-type cable stubs; 300-type central office connectors; 78, 89, 112 connecting blocks.

**George Parkerson, 223--110** wiring blocks; 66 connecting blocks.

**Charity Smith, 222--188, 189, 190,** 300 building entrance protectors.

**Steve Condra, 23H--76** and 108 terminal blocks.

**Gary Epp, 250--Plenum/LAN** cable; ground wire.

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**Haven't signed up yet for the 1993 Corporate Cup Run?**

**Deadline is July 23!**

Signup forms are in the main cafeteria or from Judy Stroy, Ext. 3602

*The Omaha Works  
Fire and Rescue Brigade  
challenges you to a*

## BARREL FIGHT!



**Who:** Works employee teams, men and women, mixed or not.

**What:** Your team of 5 goes against the Brigade's team. Direct water from a fire hose to push a suspended barrel to the opposing team's side. Bunker coats, helmets and boots provided. Expect to get wet! (BYOT--bring your own towels.) Prizes to be awarded!

**Where:** Loading dock area behind Building 30.

**When:** Sunday, Sept. 12, 1993, at the Works' 35th anniversary Open House.

**Why:** Because the Brigade thinks nobody's team can beat 'em! Are they all wet?

**How:** Line up your team of 5 employees, choose a captain and call it in to:

**Rich Schmitz, Brigade fire chief, Ext. 3583**

*(If you get Audix, be sure to leave your name, dept. and phone number)*



## NEWS IN BRIEF



Photo by Steve Miller

*HOW SWEET IT IS...John Heindel (left) accepts the KC/Omaha Works Golf Tourney trophy for the Omaha Works. Bill Kadereit is the presenter.*

### KC/Omaha golf tourney trophy changes hands

Our golfing guests from Kansas City hauled a big trophy to town, but they didn't take it back with them.

The Omaha Works came out the winner in the second annual Kansas City/Omaha Works Golf Tourney. The final score: Omaha, 141; KC, 131.

A total of 110 golfers--68 of them from the Omaha Works--vied in the contest, which was held June 26 at Tiburon Golf Club in Omaha.

Omaha's golfers should have known the day would be theirs. "It was the first weekend in 11 weeks that we had sunshine," commented tourney organizer on the Omaha side, Chuck Schultz.

At day's end, the tournament trophy was presented by Bill Kadereit, CS & CT vice-president at the Kansas City Works, to John Heindel, copper apparatus and wire vice-president.

Next year, tournament play returns to Kansas City.

"A big thanks to all of the people who helped me put this on--Ken

Micek, Tom Heim, Pat Oliver and Bill Peters," Schultz commented.

"We worked on the tournament a year in advance, and all of the planning fell together."

### July service anniversaries

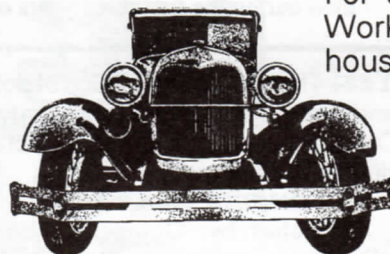
The following employees are celebrating milestone service

anniversaries during July. The anniversary date is listed first, with service years given after the name.

- 7/1 Thomas James, 25
- 7/1 Gary Bainbridge, 25
- 7/1 Quang Duong, 5
- 7/1 H. W. Friesen, 30
- 7/1 Clara Moody, 20
- 7/1 Thomas Furst, 25
- 7/2 David Mraz, 25
- 7/5 Harold Hampton, 25
- 7/6 Margaret Lockett, 10
- 7/6 Cynthia Jack, 10
- 7/10 Shirley Martin, 20
- 7/10 Sandra Schropp, 25
- 7/11 Andrew Lucas, 5
- 7/11 Gerald Kerans, 20
- 7/15 Jeremia Starace, 25
- 7/15 Esther Wegner, 30
- 7/16 Deborah Czaplewski, 20
- 7/18 Sharon Miller, 30
- 7/20 Mary Anderson, 25
- 7/21 Donald Moore, 35
- 7/23 Earl Stoakes, 20
- 7/23 Loretta Thimgan, 30
- 7/24 Louise Carlson, 20
- 7/24 Susan Bernady, 15
- 7/25 Linda Minarik, 25
- 7/28 Wilson Dunlap, 15
- 7/29 Gary Dyke, 25
- 7/29 Michael Boruff, 25
- 7/29 Danny Allen, 30
- 7/29 Harry Findeis, 25
- 7/30 Rebecca Hughes, 10
- 7/30 Connie Schmidt, 20

### ANTIQU & CLASSIC CARS

You got 'em? We want 'em...



For display during the Omaha Works' 35th anniversary open house Sunday, Sept. 12, 1993.

For more information & show of interest, call: Paul Hartung, Ext. 4885 (Leave name & phone number on Audix.)

Get the show on the road for Sept. 12!



\$28,500 from Family Care Development Fund

# AT&T awards grant to Kids Club

The Omaha Public Schools' (OPS) extended day care program is the first local recipient of a grant from the AT&T Family Care Development Fund.

A check for \$28,500 was presented earlier this month to the Omaha School Foundation for its Kids Club day care program.

Accepting the check was Luanne Nelson, associate executive director of the Omaha Schools Foundation. She said the money will be used to buy VCRs and monitors, educational games and equipment for Kids Club centers located in 18 OPS elementary schools.

The seven Kids Club day care sites that are used by AT&T families will receive \$2,500 each, while the remaining 11 sites will receive \$1,000 each. The extended day care service is available to OPS students in kindergarten through sixth grade before and after school during regular school months, from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"The (foundation) board is very, very excited about the grant money," Nelson related. Because Kids Club is self supporting and relies on fees from parents to cover costs, the AT&T grant provides "the chance to really enhance our program."

The Family Care Development Fund was developed as part of the 1989 contract agreement between AT&T, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and



Photo by Linda Ryan

*IMPROVED SERVICES...The presidents of IBEW Locals 1974 and 1614, (from left) Frank Possinger and Donna Schwenck, were on hand when a check for \$28,500 was presented to the Omaha Schools Foundation Kids Club. Luanne Nelson (second from right) of the foundation accepted the check. At right is Shelley Anderson, who sponsored the funding proposal.*

the Communications Workers of America (CWA), who administer the program jointly.

Its purpose is to improve the quality and overall supply of community-based child and elder care services available to AT&T employees in the communities where they live and work.

A total of \$10 million was distributed during the first three years of the

funding program, and another \$15 million has been allocated for distribution during the ensuing three years.

AT&T encourages funding proposals which may be made directly by employees or by organizations in the community where child and elder care resources are located.

With the Kids Club proposal, Shelley Anderson of the human resources department served as sponsor for OPS, helping Luanne Nelson with documentation required for funding consideration.

Anderson said she would like to see more local allocations made through the AT&T fund, and encourages employees to look into how they may participate. Employees who want to know more about the program should stop by the Employee Resource Center (ERC) to pick up guidelines and application materials. ■

**Dolls  
and  
bears  
already?**

**Yes!** The annual distribution of dolls and bears for the Salvation Army's Dress-a-Doll project will be conducted during all lunch periods on:

**August 10 and 11**

Return by: October 11

Display in auditorium: Oct. 19-21

Need dolls early or have doll clothes to sell? Contact: Bonnie Anderson, Ext. 3407/3408



# CLASSIFIED ADS

*Classified ad deadline for the next monthly issue (Aug. 11) is at 7 a.m. Tuesday, July 27, 1993. Submit Headliner ads in the Employee Activities Mall.*

## FOR RENT

HOUSE: 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, family room in basement, close to shopping & Oakview center, close to elementary school, middle school and Millard South High, 2 miles from AT&T. 896-3813.

## FREE

RING-NECKED DOVES: (3) one female, two males, very friendly. 332-3545.

SNOW KITTY: needs a new home, Persian/No. American short-hair mix, spayed, front declawed, white long-hair with big green eyes, Snow Kitty comes complete with 20 lbs. of kitty food, dishes and all the furnishings. You'll love her. 334-0569 evenings.

## FOR SALE

### PETS

GREEN SLIDER TURTLES: (2) \$3.00 each, (1) ten gallon aquarium, \$4.00. 895-5222.

COCKATIELS: (2), males, \$10 each, must sell. 332-3545.

## REAL ESTATE

TRAILER/CABIN: outlet Missouri River, 50 miles from Omaha, Tekamah, NE, furnished and ready to enjoy, \$3500. 496-0647.

## RECREATIONAL

15' LUND PRO PIKE BOAT: with 3 hydraulic seats, trailer & 25 horsepower motor, boat also has cover, \$3000. 331-2532.

## LAWN AND GARDEN

LAWN EDGER: electric, heavy duty. 339-4740.

RIDER LAWN MOWER: Ariens 30" cut, 8 hp, double bin grass catcher, 5-speed shift on the run, 4 years old, \$950. 733-1643.

## APPLIANCES

WINDOW AIR CONDITIONER: GE, 10,200 BTU, good shape, approximately 3 years old. 896-2033.

NORGE FREEZER: upright, \$75. 721-0637 after 5 p.m.

REFRIGERATOR: side-by-side, 21.6 cubic ft., white, 1 year old, \$700. 731-9985

## HOME FURNISHINGS

LOFT BED: with mattress, book shelves & student desk, TRUNDLE BED: with mattress. 345-9740.

WATERBED: king size, frame, headboard, heater, liner, 1 year old mattress. 553-0208 after 5 p.m.

TWIN BED: mattress, box spring & triple dresser. 392-1239 after 5 p.m.

COUCH, LOVESEAT & CHAIR w/OTTOMAN: with heavy wood frame, color-earthtone, good shape, \$300. 331-2532.

DINING ROOM TABLE: solid oak, 48" w/additional 24" leaf, (6) chairs - two of them captain chairs, in like new condition, asking \$1200. 733-5928.

SECTIONAL SOFA: (4) piece, like new, \$600, WING BACK CHAIR: new, \$75, SOFA & CHAIR: \$100, moving must sell. 731-9985.

## MISCELLANEOUS

REFRIGERATOR: side-by-side, 21.6 cubic ft., white, 1 year old, \$700. 731-9985

AT&T SAFARI LAPTOP COMPUTER NSX 20: 40 meg hard drive, (80 meg stacked), 6 meg RAM, 2400 Baud modem, software, like new, \$1500 firm. 691-2092.

SCHWINN AIR DYNE EXERCISE BIKE: low miles, PRECOR STAIR STEPPER: digital, computerized, PRECOR ROWING MACHINE & AVITA ROWING MACHINE: both digital & computerized, PIONEER REEL TO REEL: 4 channel 10 1/2" & 7" tapes, many extra tapes, BEER & LIQUOR SIGNS. 339-4740.

SEARS SWING SET: 895-2721.

WEIGHTLIFTING SET: beginners, including bench, \$25, DOG HOUSE: large, well made, shingle roof, \$20. 592-3285.

SEARS LIFESTYLER SKIER: seldom used, \$300 new, asking \$100. 346-8426 leave message.

METAL STORAGE SHED: 5 x 10. 592-9308 or 681-6881.

AVON COLLECTABLE STEINS: 1976-1992. 896-0232.

CUTTY'S OF OKOBOJI OWNERSHIP: private campsite at Cutty's. Resort has motel rooms, cabins, indoor pool, miniature golf and more, open 365 days a year. 895-4034.

HUFFY 20" DESERT ROSE BICYCLE: girl's, like new, \$40, only difference between this one and a new one is the price, S-K 3/4" SOCKET SET: with a lot of extra sockets, \$85, can deliver to work. 721-8322.

## VEHICLES

1976 KAWASAKI 90: 3000 miles, \$225, 1976 HONDA 200: 8000 miles, asking \$275, both bikes like new, very clean. 346-8426 leave message.

1987 BUICK GRAND NATIONAL: all black-tinted windows, non-smoker, one owner, full power, many upgrades, V-6 Turbo, excellent condition, 18,700 miles, ideal graduation present, \$15,000 or best offer. 330-5075 between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. 330-5075.

1989 CHEVY CAVALIER: asking \$7000, 4 door, 29,000 miles, gray. 330-0423.

(Continued on next page)



# Safety sense: Don't leave home without it

*(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.)*

**Summertime:** The traditional season of vacations and outings is upon us. But, even though you'll be taking some time off from work, remember not to take "time off" from safety.

Playing it safe while you're on vacation will help to ensure that you and your family avoid accidents and injury while getting the rest and recreation you deserve.

It requires that you prepare for your activities ahead of time, secure your home if you'll be away, and that you use common safety sense.

Think ahead to where you'll be going and what you'll be doing. If you're planning a vacation in a warm climate, be sure to pack sunscreen, loose-fitting, lightweight clothing, sun hats, sunglasses and a cooler or jug for carrying cool liquids.

Build up your sun exposure gradually--15 minutes the first day, 20 minutes the second day, 25

minutes the third day, and so on.

If you will be boating, swimming, water skiing or enjoying other water sports, make sure that all family members know how to swim before allowing them to participate in those activities. Take lessons in water sports activities from a qualified professional who can teach you the rules of the game as well as specific safety tips.



## Secure your home

Before leaving on vacation, make sure that your home is secured. The following checklist can help you prepare for your departure:

- \*Are all electrical appliances (except your refrigerator) unplugged?
- \*Are gas pilots and water faucets turned off?
- \*Are windows and doors securely locked?
- \*Have you arranged for someone to

pick up your mail?

\*Did you cancel your newspaper subscription Ralph Wolverton?

\*Have you notified friends, relatives and/or neighbors where you'll be and how you can be reached?

\*Have you set a timer to turn lights on and off, or asked someone to do it for you?

## Good safety sense

Perhaps your most important tool for having a safe vacation is your own common safety sense: When staying in unfamiliar surroundings, check for fire exits, alarms and escape routes.

Bring along your family's medical information in the event of illness. That includes insurance ID card, immunization records, history of diseases and prescription Linda Clements medications.

Bring a first aid kit and manual and familiarize yourself with their contents. And *never* leave small children unattended.

When you use safety sense, you'll relax and enjoy your vacation. ■

## CLASSIFIED ADS (continued from previous page)

1986 DODGE MINI RAM VAN: conversion, 5 passenger, auto, air, cruise, new mag tires, brakes, 4 cyl, \$3100. 553-5838 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

1969 MUSTANG FASTBACK: V-8, auto, \$2500. 733-4736 before 4:30 p.m. leave message after 4:30 p.m.

1977 OLDS TORONADO XS: limited edition, sunroof, rap around back window, body rough but runs great, only 77,200 miles, \$1500 or make offer. 895-6193 after 4 p.m.

1981 FORD F100 PICKUP: 6 cyl, with topper, light blue with white topper, good shape, \$2000. 331-2532.

NEW HOLLAND NO. 66 BALER: or trade for other machinery, need 278 N.H., also have 15.5 x 38 tractor and 16.9 x 34 rear tires, old Cheveller, 4 door also. 426-5469 Blair, NE

### PARTS AND ACCESSORIES

Parting out 1985 Jeep Cherokee 2.8 auto, motor transmission and 4-wheel drive, good. 332-3128 after 4 p.m.