

# THE HEADLINER



Network Cable Systems, Omaha Works

March 10, 1993

## Team's 'better way to clean' eliminates toxic emissions

Clean as a whistle? How about clean as a 4-type plug protector?

An Omaha Teamworks group in IBU 222 has rewritten the old adage by coming up with an idea that not only effectively cleans parts used in 4-type protector assembly, but also eliminates toxic emissions in the process.

Team members, led by Don Walraven (now retired), had been working on improving cleaning procedures for about a year before they hit on a method that will save the Works an estimated \$55,000 this year.

A large share of those savings comes from an improvement in the dropout rate (improperly cleaned parts that cannot be assembled at the next stage), noted team member Darlene Miller. Literally millions of parts are cleaned over time.

The idea also saves money by eliminating the need to buy a new cleaner as originally had been planned, said engineer Jay Dempsey who helped to evaluate the team's proposal.

The idea involves the way that wax flux (used in soldering operations) is cleaned from the protector's pin and

sleeve assembly. In the old method, parts were washed in a solution of methylene chloride, a process that had to be carefully monitored to control emissions.

With the Omaha Works committed to AT&T's goal to reduce reportable toxic emissions 95 percent by year-end 1995, this seemed to be a matter deserving of priority attention, team members said.

So, working with Dempsey and the staff of the Works environmental health and safety organization, they considered a number of alternative

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### THE SOLUTION'S THE SOLUTION...A

Teamworks group from the 4-type protector area developed a solution to clean wax flux that works better than an old method. Several team members are pictured beside the mini "cement mixer" that contains the solution for cleaning: (from left) Carl Michel, Darlene Miller, Mike Zagurski and Harvey Bolte (far right). Second from right is Jay Dempsey who helped evaluate the team's idea.

Photo by Linda Ryan

(Continued from Page 1) procedures. Besides Walraven and Miller, team members included Carl Michel, Mike Zagurski, Harvey Bolte, Mary Welch, Alberta Brown and Chris Comstock.

Carl Michel emerged as the group's "Mr. Clean." Michel is the one who developed different combinations of cleaning agents to find the solution that would do the job best.

Not only does the solution do a better job of cleaning flux from the brass parts, Michel said, but the used solution is considered non-hazardous. The waste is treated by the Works' own waste treatment plant.

The cleaning solution is put in what is basically a miniature "cement mixer." The tumbling action of the parts in the mixer gets them clean.

Dempsey said equipment for the former methylene chloride process should be removed by July. Meanwhile, the team (which saved the Works in excess of \$50,000 with another idea on how to clean plastics used in molding operations), is being approached by other Works groups for possible help. It could be that possible solutions considered over the year may have application in other work areas.

## THE HEADLINER

The Headliner is an internal publication of the Omaha Works, produced twice 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:

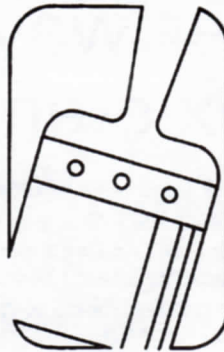
**Linda Ryan, Editor**  
Ext. 3795.

*The next issue will be published on Mar. 24, 1993. All news items should be in to the PR office by no later than 9 a.m. Monday, Mar. 15, 1993.*

## Electronic wire & cable shop sports brighter look

If you haven't ventured into the electronic wire and cable shop (EW&C) for several months, you're in for a real surprise.

A good portion of the ceiling, that has become dark and dirty over the years, has a fresh coat of paint. The effect is "room brightening," to say the least.



The ceiling was last painted in 1971, according to Gary Epp, manager of EW&C operations and engineering. He sees the painting project as "an investment for us as EW&C team members...and for our customers.

"We want to create a work environment for us that is world class in every way," Epp said, who noted that benchmarking visits to other factories repeatedly have underscored the fact that high-performance teams all work in bright, clean and orderly work environments.

And while skill and hard work give us our most competitive edge, he added, it's also important that customers who visit the Works are left with "a visual impression of excellent quality."

Money for the painting project comes out of "more profit than we committed to generate for AT&T in 1992," Epp stated. Some of that profit is being reinvested in improvement projects such as painting the ceiling.

Other improvements have included removal of an IPVC vault in the southwest corner of the cable shop, allowing more room to stage cable ready for the "cool room." New windows are replacing old ones along the south wall of the shop to augment lighting, and the center section of the

mezzanine has been renovated for better space usage.

The entire EW&C ceiling is scheduled for repainting. However, work will progress "as long as we continue to generate profits above and beyond our commitment to the company," Epp said.

Three factors made 1992 "a banner year" for the EW&C shop. "Sales were up. We improved our efficiency in producing products," he stated. "And we improved our efficiency in terms of period expenses (marketing, selling and getting products to customers)."

During 1993, improvements will be broadened to include other things, such as machines and equipment, cabinets and the floor. "We're now looking at ways we can bring some of this cleaning and brightening effort to the shop floor," Epp said, an effort that could begin "even before the ceiling is finished."

## Customers travel from Venezuela for overview

Representatives of Cabel of Venezuela traded their somewhat warmer climate for the snow-covered Midwestern plains when they visited the Omaha Works Feb. 24.

AT&T Network Systems has a joint venture with Cabel, which acts as a value-added reseller of AT&T products in Venezuela.

Antonio Martini, general manager of Cabel, and Salvador Camps, director of operations for Cabel, met with staff in the Works Product Display Center and toured the shops to get an overview of the variety of copper apparatus and electronic wire and cable products we make in Omaha.

This was a "pull through" visit, said Frank Markesi of the display center, meaning that it serves to "open up additional sales potential for AT&T products" beyond those that Cabel already buys.

AT&T's alliance with Cabel  
(Continued on next page)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

(Continued from previous page)

affords us the opportunity to sell to the Venezuelan telephone company, Cantv, Markesi noted.

Accompanying the Cabel representatives during their one-day visit here was Ted Trujillo, AT&T Americas business development director.

Our guests appeared to be "very much impressed with our operations," Markesi related. And, while the rest of us may have had our fill of snow, the visitors made it a point to

go outside and hurl a few snowballs before departing on their trip home.

### Bowling 300 is getting to be a habit

Jerry Handy (IBU 228) is on a roll now. For the second year in a row, Handy has bowled a perfect (300) game during A. D. Hill League play at a local bowling alley. Last year at this time he bowled another perfect

game

What's more, on that fateful day Feb. 20, he bowled a series totaling 837--his first ever 800 series. His individual game scores were 278, 259 and 300.

The 19-year veteran of the game has a 217 bowling average. His most recent 300 game is actually the fourth perfect game he has had in his bowling career. The previous two occurred before 1981.

For bowling a 300 game and 800

(Continued on next page)

## You, save a life with CPR?

Be ready in an emergency:

**Sign up now for CPR classes**  
sponsored  
by the WEOMA Club

Six-hour course offered in two three-hour sessions:

1st & 3rd shift--4:15 to 7:15 p.m.

2nd shift--12:15 to 3:15 p.m.

All classes on Works premises. Days of week and dates to be scheduled according to interest shown.



Sign me up for CPR (print name): \_\_\_\_\_

Dept. \_\_\_\_\_ Shift \_\_\_\_\_ Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_

Check one box below to indicate scheduling preference:

I prefer to attend both classes in the same week on the following days:  
M T W Th F (Circle two days of week)

I prefer to attend one class a week for two consecutive weeks:  
M T W Th F (Circle one day of week)

**You will be notified about the dates for classes.**

Clip and return this completed form to the WEOMA Club office.



series last month, Handy qualifies to receive a gold and diamond ring from both the American Bowling Congress and the National Bowling Association. One ring for each achievement, four rings in all.

When it was suggested that Handy will have to grow an extra hand to manage all of the rings he will be awarded, he laughed. But just think: It could make him unstoppable next year.

## Shop areas earn 'A' ratings

Employees in the following production areas, listed by IBU manager and IBU number, have received the grade of "A" for their work during the February rating period:

**Dick Cefrey, 228--53A** cable terminals; 700-type connectors; 105 cable terminals; 8-, 9-, and 142-type cable terminals.

**Bob Wustrack, 226--DSX;** 11-type cable stubs; 300-type C.O. connectors; 78, 79 and 112 connecting blocks.

**Fred Tirschman, 223--** 110 patch panel assembly; 110 wiring blocks; 66 connecting blocks.

**George Parkerson, 222--188,** 189, 190 and 300 building entrance protectors; plug-in protector units; screw-in protector units (two rating classes).

**Steve Condra, 23H--76** and

108 terminal blocks.

**Mack Curbeam/Wayne Andersen, 254/256--**Ground wire.

**Mack Curbeam, 254--**Coaxial cable.

## Golfers needed for evening league

Openings remain on several teams in the Men's Monday Evening Miracle Hills Golf League.

League play starts the third week in April. Golfers can join the league for a mere \$6 fee.

Anyone interested should call the league secretary, Dominic Zappia, on Ext. 3218 (days). Zappia works in the 40-type cabinet area of Building 30.

## WEOMA Club tennis leagues now forming

Tennis enthusiasts have until April 16 to sign up for WEOMA Club-sponsored tennis leagues. Employees, spouses and immediate family members are eligible for league play, which begins in May.

Participants may sign up for more than one league. The membership fee is \$3 per person per category.

Men's and women's doubles are played on a rotation basis, and partners are not necessary. Men's

and women's doubles currently are available only for first-shift participation, but if enough interest is indicated a second-shift league will be established.

On this year's registration form, participants are being asked to rank themselves by skill level as individuals or mixed doubles.

Registration forms for 1993 tennis leagues can be found in all of the Works' cafeterias. Or, they are available from any of the tennis club officers: Tim VanRoy (president), Ext. 3887; Shervin Shamloo (vice-president), Ext. 3110; Sue Straub (secretary), Ext. 3896; and Bob Heaton (treasurer), Ext. 3300.

## Henry Doorly Zoo drive continues

The membership campaign to join the Henry Doorly Zoo will continue through March 31. A family membership can be had for \$40. The price goes up to \$50 on April 1.

A family membership provides unlimited admission to the zoo for two adults and their children or grandchildren under age 21.

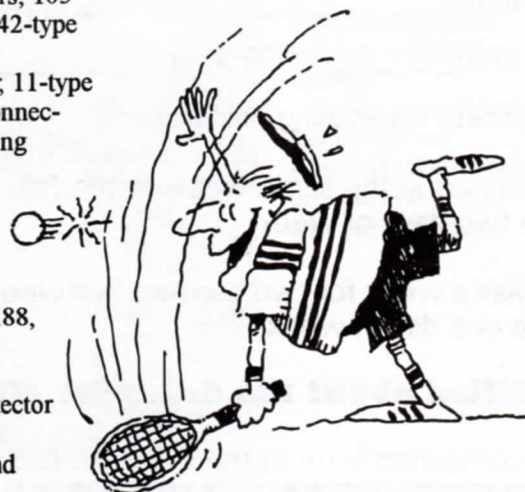
Memberships may be purchased through payroll deduction if preferred. Contact the appointed zoo membership sales rep in your work area or call Linda Young on Ext. 3152.

## Keep those ideas coming

Omaha Teamworks teams still have until March 31 to turn in ideas and vie to become the team that has turned in the most ideas for the month.

Members of the team submitting the most ideas each will be awarded a Teamworks duffel bag.

All Idea Process program rules apply for the contest. Ideas must be screened and signed by the team coach before being submitted. ■



## READERS' FORUM

### Ready to sign up organ donors

As co-chairpersons of the Pioneer's organ donor campaign, we have been trying to make ourselves available to all Works employees to explain the program. This includes staffing tables monthly in the main and Building 30 cafeterias, and during regular on-site Bloodmobiles.

Still, many people are unaware of our purpose: To find employees who are willing to sign donor cards as witnessed by us. To gain attention, the Pioneers have donated T-shirts, with one to be awarded each month to a winner chosen at random from among donor program participants.

If you haven't seen us at our tables and are interested in the program, please call to let us know how we may reach you personally. Or, if you know others who are interested, tell us how to contact them. We are somewhat flexible in accommodating your needs.

Watch for signs that post our monthly donor signup. We hope you will join other Works employees who recognize that this program gives us each one last chance to recycle parts no longer required.

Jerry Golmanovich, Ext. 3711  
Betty Golmanovich

### Computer courses for non-represented

In response to Bill Fleming's query (Feb. 24 Headliner issue) about updated computer courses for non-represented employees:

The Works has replaced the old 6300s (computers) in the lower-level computer lab with 486s. They have been equipped with Windows™ 3.1, Microsoft® Excel for Windows™ and Wordperfect® for Windows™.

In the near future, the education and training organization will be offering training on the software as needed. Employees in the non-represented universe will have an opportunity to take this training.

Anyone who has a question about the proposed training may call me on Ext. 3486 or Bob Hosier on Ext. 4970.

**Gordon Viner**  
Dept. 204

*If you have comments to share with other Headliner readers, put your thoughts in writing. You must sign your name and give your department/IBU and daytime phone number. The right is reserved to edit all submissions for space and clarity. Address comments to:*

**Readers' Forum**  
Public Relations, Dept. 206

**Too  
much  
winter  
make  
you  
growly?**



Come out of hibernation and check out the values like these at **The Pioneer Porch:**

● *Precious Moments™ miniature figurines, one for each month. Good selection available.*

**\$8.00**

● *"American Dream" T-shirts and sweatshirts. Patriotic graphic on white background. Sizes L, XL and XX.*

**Tees—\$7.25; Sweats—\$14.00**

● *"Go Big Red" telephone cords, handy 25-foot length.*

**\$3.00**

● *Awards frames, 16"x20" with black, royal blue or burgundy background.*

**Reduced to \$30.00**

### The Pioneer Porch

Open M-W-F 7-8 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 3-4 p.m.

Th 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 7-8:30 p.m.

Fri 3:30-5 a.m.; Closed Tuesdays

**What's  
on  
your  
mind?**



Share your views on a new topic. Comment on someone else's views. **JUST DO IT!** Include your name, dept. & daytime ph. no. Send to:

**READERS' FORUM**  
Public Relations, Dept. 206

# Listen up, everybody: Noise can affect your hearing

*(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.)*

Hearing loss is a normal part of the aging process. Throughout our lives we are exposed to loud noises and physical conditions that add up to gradual loss of hearing.

But many of us lose our hearing prematurely by failing to protect ourselves from excess noise both at home and at work. Understanding how hearing works can help you realize the importance of protecting your hearing now, before it's too late.

The ear is composed of numerous delicate structures designed to carry sound waves to the brain. The hair cells in the inner ear are particularly important because they stimulate the

auditory nerve which transmits impulses to the brain.

The brain translates auditory impulses into the sounds that we hear. When the ear's hair cells become damaged due to excess noise exposure, the auditory nerve is not sufficiently stimulated, the brain does not receive the appropriate sound signal, and we fail to hear correctly.

And, when hair cells are damaged by prolonged overexposure to loud noise, they "die" and cannot be replaced, resulting in permanent hearing loss.

## Excess noise exposure

Noise is measured in units called decibels (dBs or dBAs). Excess noise is generally considered to be exposure to 85 to 90 decibels or more over an eight-hour period.

A typical automobile horn can be as loud as 120 decibels, but hearing a horn honk for 10 seconds is unlikely to cause hearing loss.

If you had to listen to the horn blast for eight hours straight, though, you Perry Krom could very well experience gradual, permanent loss of hearing.

Or, if you work in a factory and are exposed to 80 decibels of noise over a four-hour period, you

Activity/situation	Decibels
Normal conversation	60
Auto traffic	75
Sanding	85
Subway	90
Woodworking	100
Drilling (pneumatic)	100
Power saw	110
Gunfire	120

might not be at risk. But, if you then went home and operated a power mower or tools, listened to high-volume music, or perhaps practiced at the shooting range, you could very well exceed your safe noise exposure limit.

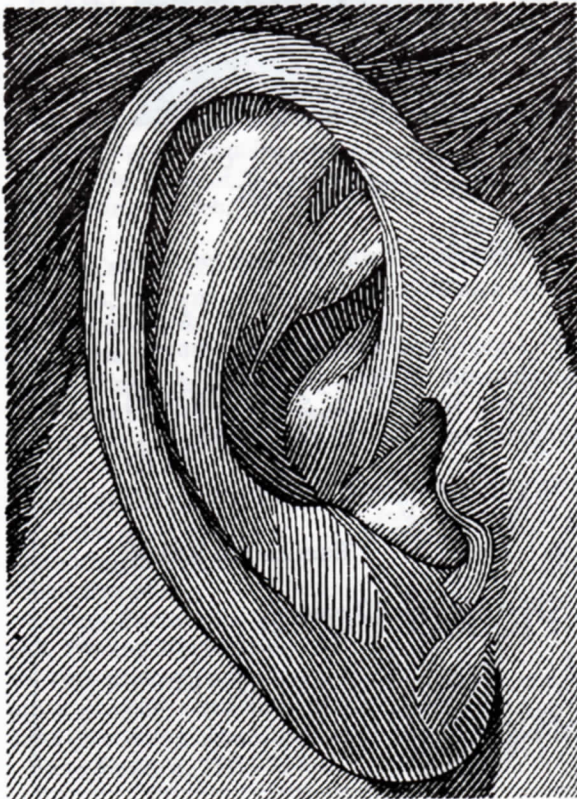
## Protect your hearing

On or off the job, you can protect your hearing by wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment recommended for your tasks.

Ear muffs, plugs and canal caps all can reduce the amount of noise to which your ears are exposed.

It also helps to know the decibel range or noise level of some common activities and situations to see if you may be exposing yourself to too much noise.

Remember that even loud vacuum cleaners, dishwashers, and home power tools can create excessive noise, so protect your hearing wherever you may be. ■



# CLASSIFIED ADS

The next deadline for classified ads is at 7 a.m. Tuesday, March 16, 1993. Submit Headliner ads in the Employee Activities Mall. Forms to place ads also are available in the mall.

## FOR SALE

## REAL ESTATE

HOUSE: super clean, 3 bedrooms, F/P, family room, 1 3/4 baths, finished basement, garage, plus 2 1/2 car detached heated garage, fenced yard, deck, patio, large tool shed, recent Hi-efficiency furnace air & water heater, good location, 4937 So. 50th St., \$74,950. Call 733-6627 for appointment.

## RECREATIONAL

GOLF CLUBS: Ram irons, #2 thru P.W., good condition, \$100. 331-6062 after 5 p.m. or weekends.

## APPLIANCES

MICROWAVE: Sharp with carousel turntable, 700 watt, like new, \$50. 339-7259.

## LAWN & GARDEN

SNOWBLOWER: Honda, starts easy, runs great, \$300 or trade for hunting equipment of equal value, call mornings only. 895-4591.

## MISCELLANEOUS

DIAMOND DINNER RING: ladies 14K gold, .75 total weight. 895-3803 evenings after 6 p.m.

## VEHICLES

1969 CHEVROLET PICKUP: C10, runs like new, straight 6, 4-speed manual shift, 8' box with shell cover, green original color, 52,000 actual miles, snow tires & regular tires on separate rims mounted, \$1,595, see to appreciate. call after 4 p.m. 402-731-7829.

1987 BUICK GRAND NATIONAL REGAL: 1 owner, never smoked in, excellent condition, 18,000 miles, many upgrades, aero kit, fully loaded, no T-top or sunroof, no tire kickers please, an investment for the future. 330-5075:

*Let Headliner classified ads work for you!*

**Discover Yourself!  
Discover for Organizations**

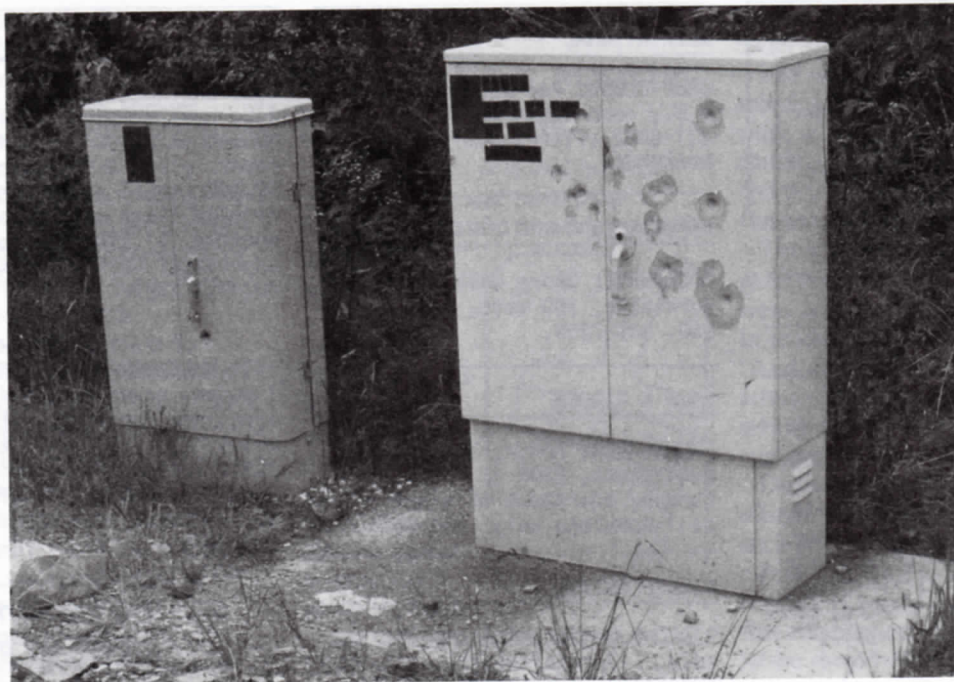
Attend one of these seminars!

March 25th  
8:45 a.m.  
1 p.m.  
4:15 p.m.

March 26th  
8:45 a.m.  
1 p.m.  
4:15 p.m.

Call X3584 for reservations

Program offered through ETOP to represented employees only



# Buck the bullet.

Somewhere in Little Rock, Ark., stands an Omaha Works-manufactured 40-type cabinet that took more than 20 hits from a barrage of bullets. Not one bullet pierced through the steel shell. Not one bullet damaged interior components. Not one customer lost service. Nearby, a competitor's cabinet took one hit. A single bullet penetrated the shell, resulting in damage and loss of service to some customers.

Here at the Works we know it's a tough world out there and sometimes you've got to bite the bullet. But we prefer to go one better: We buck the bullet, too.

