

THE HEADLINER



Network Cable Systems, Omaha Works

November 1994



Photo by Linda Ryan

SANTA'S HELPERS...Betty Rowland (left) and Carol Berry pack the dolls and bears, that were displayed in the auditorium, for shipment to the Salvation Army.

It's beginning to look a lot like...

You know, that time of year when youngsters try to be on their best behavior, and parents look for a safe hiding place for gifts from "Santa."

Each year the Salvation Army, through its various programs, helps many parents in the community make sure their children have

something to smile about on Christmas morning.

One such program is the annual Dress-a-Doll/Dress-a-Bear project in which Omaha Works employees traditionally have participated.

This year employees, retirees, their families and friends volun-

(Continued on Page 2)

'Wave' cuts connector panel costs, intervals

Watch us "do the wave." Not at a football game at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, but here in the Works' central office (C.O.) connector shop.

An effort that began about a year ago to reduce costs and intervals associated with manually soldering the ground plane on polycarbonate (a kind of plastic) connector panels has resulted in changing to an automated wave soldering process.

Compared to manual soldering operations (which have been done before now by a contracted vendor), the wave soldering process "has cut soldering costs by 25 percent and reduced manufacturing intervals by as much as 80 percent," said Steve Alloway, central office products engineering and operations manager.

The 307 was first

On-site wave soldering began on the 307 connector panels (used, for example, in 307 connectors and 80-type cabinets) in May of this year and most recently on 189-50 connector panels (a component of building entrance protectors). With the 310 connector panels soon to be included, soldering on the majority of panels made here will be automated.

Wave soldering is not new to manufacturing. It's been used for several years at the Works to solder DSX circuit boards. (In fact, until wave soldering equipment is installed in the C.O. panel assembly area at the end of this year, panels are being soldered on one of the DSX wave solder machines.)

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Photo by Linda Ryan

UNIQUE NATIVITY SCENE...Mary Purcell (left) and Betty Rowland show off bears outfitted for a Nativity setting "commissioned" by Robert Watson (he paid for materials) and designed and sewn by Kathy Schutte.

Holiday projects benefit kids

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teered to outfit 540 dolls and 238 bears for the Salvation Army to distribute to needy families at Christmastime.

Displayed in the Works auditorium last month, the dolls and bears

provided a unique fashion show, including elaborate bridal outfits, baby layettes, hand-crocheted dresses and sportswear. Ethnic outfits included traditional African garb and Dutch costumes--even a Nativity grouping of bears, complete with the three Magi.

By far, Mary Purcell and Mary Anderson of the Works dressed the most dolls this year--100 by Purcell and 70 by Anderson.

Before the dolls and bears from AT&T and other participating businesses and groups are distributed, Salvation Army judges will choose the best dressed, cutest, etc. in November. Those who outfitted the winners will be honored at a tea.

Dolls and bears are shown annually at the Crossroads shopping center, this year slated for Dec. 2 and 3 (outside Dillard's, upper level).

About 50 of the most unique and specially outfitted dolls and bears will be auctioned at a gathering of Omaha Rotary Club members. Money raised is used to purchase dolls and bears for next year's program and to support the Salvation

Army's community programs. Last year the auction raised more than \$23,000.

Another Salvation Army project supported by AT&T employees is the Mitten Tree. Purchased or handmade mittens, hats, scarves and lap robes are distributed to needy families. Purchases are made with money donated by employees, while the Works Crochet Club donates handcrafted lap robes.

Last month about 500 pieces of knitwear destined for the Salvation Army also were displayed at the Works with the dolls and bears.

Special thanks are due to the following for organizing and assisting with this year's Dress-a-Doll/Bear and Mitten Tree projects at the Works:

Dolls/Bears--Bonnie Anderson, Pat Patterson and Judy Mueller (co-leaders); Thelma McKiddy, Betty Rowland, Mary Purcell, Carol Berry, Sharon Cubrich, Priscilla Lueders, Mary Anderson, Vicki Gundlach, Jeanette Crouch, Helen Solomon, Alice Wilson, Dolores Kunze, Joyce Alexander, Lorine Randle, Cheryl Todd, Kathy Schutte, Ken Schutte and Gail Gorson.

Mitten Tree--Louise Broniecki (chairperson), Ingrid Griffin, Jean Belmudez, Judy West and Gary Funk.

Flood-related orders come in to the Works

When it rains, it pours, unfortunately for residents in Houston, Texas, and surrounding areas.

Damage to communications equipment caused by flooding last month after record downpours is generating orders for Omaha Works products.

By early November the full extent of damage was still being assessed by Southwestern Bell. However, the Works already had begun responding to initial emergency flood orders that are coming in through the Customer Response Center in St. Louis, Mo.

"To better serve Southwestern Bell, the majority of orders are being 'sourced' directly in the factory,"

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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 Dec. 14, 1994. All news items should be in to the PR office by no later than 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 28, 1994.

Diversity Council Mission Statement

To foster a work/community environment where differences are recognized, utilized and valued with respect and integrity.

To provide the workforce with useful knowledge about the importance of diversity for ourselves, our customers and our suppliers.

What does this mission statement mean to you? What will be its impact on the Omaha Works of the future? The Omaha Works Diversity Council invites you to share your views by contacting the representative on the council for your work area.

Don't know who your Diversity Council representative is? Your supervisors or department managers know. Ask them.

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said Tom Moore of production control Dept. 271.

That means that orders are being filled directly as non-stock items out of the Omaha Works and shipped directly to Southwestern Bell,

thereby eliminating transportation time and costs associated with shipping products to an MMC (material management center) first.

Most of the emergency orders have been for 9-type terminal blocks, 40-type cabinets and D-station wire.

Moore commended employee teams for making an extra effort to fill these short-interval emergency orders while maintaining the current shop schedule.

Three promoted to supervisor posts

Three Omaha Works employees have been promoted to supervisory positions in the shops: Carol Bloomer, Richard Carmona and Annette Eggert.

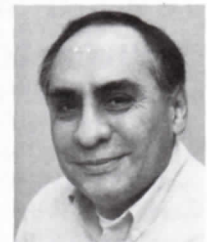
Bloomer is supervisor for IBU 23H-4, outside plant cabinet fabrication. She formerly was a production control planner in Dept. 272.

Carmona is a supervisor in the electronic wire and cable shop's plenum insulate area, IBU 256-7. He was a senior production specialist in IBU 274.

Eggert supervises outside plant cabinet fabrication in IBU 23H-5. Prior to her new assignment she was an accounting specialist in Dept. 070.



Carol Bloomer



Richard Carmona



Annette Eggert

Help the Pioneers
make this the
best-dressed



Turkeyfest

The Salvation Army and the AT&T Pioneers ask your help in preparing and serving Thanksgiving Day meals for needy citizens in the community. Food items to be prepared may be picked up in the east office parking lot Nov. 21, 1994, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. You can help by:

- ▶Cooking a turkey
- ▶Baking and delivering cookies to the Salvation Army
- ▶Helping in the Salvation Army kitchen
- ▶Delivering meals on Thanksgiving Day

Stop by the Pioneer office for details & to volunteer!

United Way/CHAD drive tops goal

The pledges are in, the numbers have been totalled and the results are official: AT&T employees at the Omaha Works took this year's

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NEWS IN BRIEF

(Continued from previous page)
United Way/CHAD campaign's theme—"More in '94"—to heart and committed to \$306,823 in contributions.

That equates to a 17 percent increase in participation over last year's numbers, and surpasses the in-plant campaign goal of \$306,293.

With the addition of a contribution from AT&T corporate funds, the Works' location has committed more than \$400,000 to assist United Way/CHAD's 51 local agencies that provide important health and human services to thousands of people in the Omaha community.

This year's campaign managers—John Heindel, Frank Possinger, Denny Vlcek, Rhett Zeplin and Jim Himes—extend their thanks to all on the Omaha Works team who made a personal commitment to the effort.

Team Works reward shares switch to NFM

Effective Dec. 1, 1994, Omaha Team Works reward shares in your account will be redeemable at the Nebraska Furniture Mart (NFM) only. They will no longer be redeemable at Service Merchandise.

If you currently have reward shares



Photo by Linda Ryan

IF THE VP TRIED TO SELL YOU A CUPCAKE... Would you say you're on a diet or would you buy two? Copper Apparatus and Wire Vice-President John Heindel took a turn selling sweet treats at the Pioneer bake sale along with Evelyn Dawson, Pat Novak, Rose Laschansky and Norma Korff.

in your account, you have through Nov. 30, 1994, to request a Service Merchandise gift certificate from the Omaha Team Works office (located in the personnel office). You will be able to use the gift certificate at Service Merchandise at any time.

If you choose not request a gift certificate to Service Merchandise

for current reward shares, any shares that remain in your account can be used only at NFM starting Dec. 1, 1994. Account balances will continue to accrue until you request a reward share certificate.

Reward shares continue to be taxable income for the individual employee.

If you have questions about the changeover, call JoAnn Alback, Ext. 3619, who is the new Omaha Team Works' coordinator replacing Sally Swoboda.

Security dept. now issues company passes

Stop! If you are headed toward the personnel office for a new ID pass, head for Room 37A in the lower level of Building 20 instead.

The security department is now providing one-stop service for company passes, as well as coding passes for those who need card access entry. The passes and coding

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Autumn's days are shorter ...so are our seminars!

ETOP seminars are just two hours long, so they fit into your busy schedule. Classes must be attended in off-work hours: 8:45 a.m., 1 p.m. or 4:15 p.m. First come, first served. Call Ext. 3584 to register for any of the following:

- Nov. 21**--Creating the perfect newsletter
- Nov. 28**--Scanning color/B&W photographs
- Nov. 30**--Scanning documents & text
- Dec. 5**--Modems & America On-line
- Dec. 7**--Banners & signs in Printshop Deluxe
- Dec. 19**--Printshop Companion Certificates
- Dec. 21**--Microsoft Works Wizards

(ETOP classes are open to represented employees only)



NEWS IN BRIEF

(Continued from previous page) will be completed while you wait.

Bring with you the appropriate documentation needed to acquire a new pass or replace a pass or for coded card access, available through your department secretary.

Pass and coding service will be offered as follows:

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.—7:30-9 a.m., 10-11:30 a.m., 2-4 p.m.

Wed.—10-11:30 a.m., 2-5:30 p.m.

Bake sale raises funds for Turkeyfest

The AT&T Pioneers bake sale held earlier this month raised nearly \$500, which will be used to defray costs of

the annual Thanksgiving Turkeyfest sponsored by the Salvation Army.

Baked goods donated by employees and retirees were sold in the main cafeteria on all three shifts Nov. 1. The local Pioneer chapter buys turkeys with the proceeds for volunteers to cook as part of the meals served by the Salvation Army on Thanksgiving Day.

The bake sale was held in conjunction with the observance of National Pioneer Week. The Pioneers set up an information table in the cafeteria the first week of November, where nonmembers could sign up to become Pioneers and all members could enter their names in a Nov. 7 drawing for prizes.

Two winners of the drawing have been named: Dennis Carper of IBU

245-3 won an AT&T logo jeans jacket, and Edie Riester of IBU 23H-6 won a porcelain doll.

New venture, awards put AT&T in the news

AT&T has announced a \$1 billion alliance with Grupo Industrial Alfa S.A. of Mexico to deliver global communications services to Mexico's business and residential customers.

Alfa's share of the venture would be 51 percent; AT&T, 49 percent.

Vic Pelson, chairman of AT&T's Global Operations Team, said the alliance is unique because "we would offer a full range of technology solutions to a broad customer base across the country."

He said the alliance would combine the strength of AT&T's brand, product and services range, reputation for quality, technology and network expertise with Alfa's broad customer base, management skills, and its proven record in identifying high-growth industries and entering alliances strategic to Mexico.

"Mexico is critical to AT&T's global strategy," Pelson said. "This agreement allows us to extend our communications services throughout North America. Alfa is the perfect partner for our participation in Mexico's exploding telecommunications market."

In other news, AT&T has won two of the world's most prestigious

(Continued on next page)

**Let's
hit the
slopes!**



Steamboat Springs, Colorado March 1 - 5

More details and signup form are on the back of flyers available in the Works' main cafeteria. Or call:

**Rich Runnels
x3194**

Sponsored by the AT&T Ski Club

Ski-in, ski-out condo for 6 persons
\$354 per person

Price includes 3 days of skiing; transportation on a "sleeper" bus; lodging.

**First come, first served!
Sign up by Nov. 30, 1994**

Scholarships...

AT&T employees' children who are high school seniors with a grade point average of at least 3.25 may apply for the 1995 AT&T Academic Awards Program. Remember: Applications must be returned and postmarked by Jan. 31, 1995. More details and forms are in the Employee Resource Center.

NEWS IN BRIEF

(Continued from previous page)
awards for achieving high quality.

AT&T Power Systems in Mesquite, Texas, won Japan's Deming Prize for Quality. No other U.S. manufacturer (and only one other U.S. firm) has won the Deming prize since its introduction in 1951. Usually it goes to Japanese manufacturers.

AT&T Consumer Communications Services won the 1994 Baldrige Award, the third Baldrige Award the company has received. No other company has won more than one.

Two employees recently retired

Congratulations and best wishes go to the Omaha Works' most recent retirees, Ralph Wolverton and Milton McBride.

Wolverton retires with 26 years of service. McBride retired after 32 years of service.

November service anniversaries

The following employees are celebrating milestone service anniversaries during November. The anniversary date is given with service years following the employees' names:

- 11/1--Gary Jackson, 10.
- 11/2--Wayne Harris, 35; Norman Honaker, 30.
- 11/3--Lizzie Kolp, 25; Gail Merrick, 25; Walter Peszulik, 25; Donald George, 25.
- 11/4--Janice Carlson, 25.
- 11/5--William Storm, 10; Sharon Anderson, 30; Carlos Chavez, 15; Dennis Everman, 25; Karen Fideler, 25.
- 11/6--Janet Menks, 25; Lauren Throener, 35.
- 11/9--Alta Amos, 30; Susan Gantt, 10; Rodney Conser, 35; John Lynch, 35; Robert Smywer, 35.
- 11/10--John Young, 25; Anna Wheeler, 25; Rubby Williams, 25; Peter Broderick, 35; William Campbell, 30; Ruth Jurgens, 25; Delores Hansen, 25.

11/11--Jay Ridenour, 25; Robert Russell, 35; Darlene Miller, 25; Deanna Zach, 25.

11/12--Loretta Lewis, 15.
11/13--Jahan Zeb, 5; Richard Faulhaber, 10.

11/14--Randall Promes, 10.
11/15--Jerry Glenn, 15.
11/16--Dale Snyder, 35.
11/17--Grace Lee, 25; Darwin Fager, 35; Leonard Bowen, 25; Katherine McGinnis, 30.

11/18--Glenn Sievers, 30; Elizabeth Williams, 25.
11/19--James Schlautman, 30; Helena Rhode, 30; Susan Dellinger, 30.
11/23--Evelyn Winters, 30.
11/24--Gayle Nemecek, 25; Daniel

Grimshaw, 25; Doris Litle, 25; Daniel Pfeifer, 25; James Geiger, 25; Phyllis Depue, 25.

11/25--David Koenig, 25; Ronald Machacek, 35.

11/26--Charles Fischer, 25.
11/27--Lawrence Lind Jr., 20.
11/30--Linda Giebler, 30; Jerome Green, 35.

In memoriam

Richard Melia, senior production specialist in IBU 274-3, Nov. 5, 1994.

William Sahulka, production specialist in IBU 223-1, Oct. 21, 1994. ■

You-know-who is coming to town...

Come visit Santa at the

Annual WEOMA Club Christmas Party

*Saturday, Dec. 10, 1994
1 to 4 p.m.*

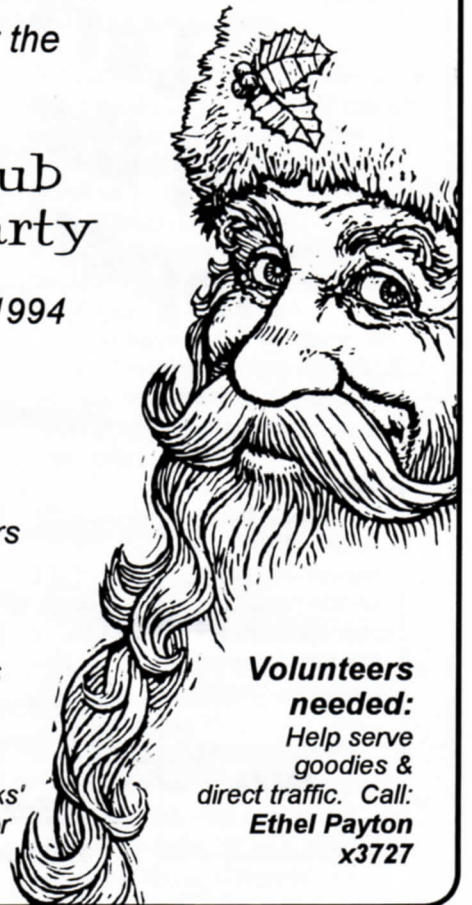
Also featuring:

**Entertainment
by local school choirs*

**Refreshments*

**Gifts *Clowns*

*(Park in east or west office
parking lots, and use the Works'
front lobby entrance Watch for
flyers with more details.)*



**Volunteers
needed:**
*Help serve
goodies &
direct traffic. Call:
Ethel Payton
x3727*

Special fixtures prevent 'meltdown' in wave soldering

(Continued from Page 1)

Nonetheless, wave soldering polycarbonate panels is an unusual application whose process was technically challenging to develop, said connector products engineer Kevin Ramplin.

Working with Anthony Serafino of the Bell Laboratories Engineering Research Center (ERC) in Princeton, N.J., the two found that wave soldering plastic panels worked only under controlled lab conditions that were impractical in a factory setting.

Couldn't take the heat

"Our major problem was generating enough heat from the solder wave without melting the polycarbonate panels," Ramplin said.

Ordinarily, the part that is to be soldered is placed in a custom-fit fixture that moves automatically

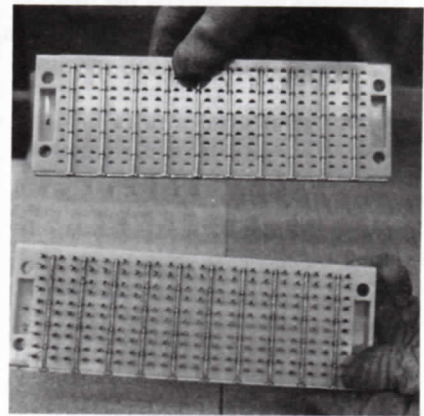
through the steps of the wave soldering process, including a preheating step. By the time the panel passed through the solder wave (literally a "wave" of solder that flows over the part to be soldered), the temperature that was right for soldering burned the plastic.

A vendor was located in Pennsylvania who designed a special fixture to protect the plastic panel from high temperatures. After encouraging lab evaluations, the process was introduced earlier in the year.

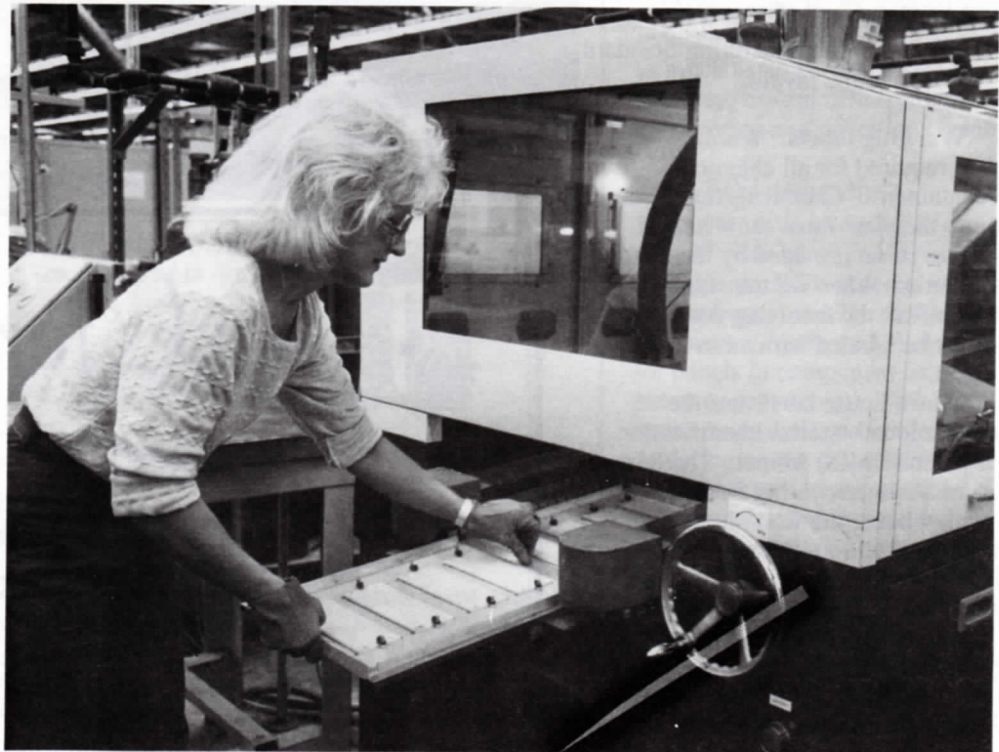
"There are still some kinks to work out" while in the prove-in stage, Ramplin noted, but overall he said he is pleased with the results.

Costs for transportation to the vendor and manual labor have been eliminated, as have other incidental costs such as damage to the product in shipping.

In addition, by integrating the soldering process into our own production line, he said, we now are able to exercise greater quality control while dramatically cutting intervals. ■



READY FOR THE WAVE... Carol Ward, who works in the DSX area, lines up fixtures that hold 189-50 panels that will be moved automatically through the DSX wave soldering machine. Four panels fit in each fixture that were specially designed to protect the plastic panels from melting in the heat of the solder wave. The smaller photo shows a panel that has been through the machine (top). The solder coating is cleaner and more uniform than that done manually (bottom panel, with terminals inserted).



Photos by Linda Ryan

Hazard Communication: Handle chemicals with care and knowledge

(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

“OSHA Hazard Communication-Right-to-Know” will be the topic of December employee safety meetings, providing information you should know on chemical hazards. Since we all use chemicals at work and at home, it is essential that we understand the hazards involved, the protective equipment we should use and the procedures to follow.

The Hazard Communication program consists of four key elements: (1)Warning labels on chemical containers; (2)Training on the safe use of chemicals; (3)Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) and (4)Procedures and personal protective equipment required which is found in the Manufacturing Standard 16,000 and the layout.

Warning labels: Warning labels are required for all chemical containers. Chemicals that come into the plant must show hazard information provided by the manufacturer. When we transfer a chemical, the receiving container must be labeled with an in-house label.

Our in-house labels use the Hazardous Material Identification System (HMIS) format. The format uses a numeric rating from 0 to 4, with 4 being the worst hazard for health, flammability and reactivity.

Training: Employees new to the plant must be trained in hazard communication. All employees also take periodic Della Kelly “refresher courses.” (Next month’s safety meeting is such a course.)

MSDSs: Material Safety Data Sheets are required for all chemicals, and are written by the chemical manufacturer. MSDSs contain the following information: trade name of the chemical; name and phone number of the manufacturer; list of chemical ingredients; OSHA standards; flammability and reactivity information; symptoms of overexposure; health hazards and emergency information.

Material Safety Data Sheets documentation is distribution controlled. MSDS documentation can be found in existing documentation control areas for all area quality teams (AQTs) and some support quality teams (SQTs).

Documentation control areas are designed to provide employees with one-stop access to information. However, where no documentation control areas exist, MSDS documentation can be found at Right-to-Know” stations.

MSDS documentation is in bound volumes complete with a table of contents listing all chemicals used in the area. Tab 1 contains MSDSs whose trade names start with a

number (such as 6602 ink). Tab 2 contains MSDSs whose trade names start with a letter and are arranged alphabetically with sub-tabs “A” through “Z.” Tab 3 contains Pearlie McKeever a fact sheet on how to use the HMIS labeling system for chemicals.

Manufacturing Standard 16,000 procedures and personal protective equipment: Section 2 of the Manufacturing Standard 16,000 contains information on the personal protective equipment required for all jobs requiring safety equipment in addition to safety glasses. The section also lists where the equipment can be obtained.

Appendix H of the Manufacturing Standard 16,000 contains the Works’ written Hazard Communication program. Safe work procedures also may be contained in your layout.

If you find something in the MSDSs or the Manufacturing Standard 16,000 that you do not understand, be sure to check with your supervisor or product engineer, or call the safety department. ■



hanks for giving

\$306,823

in pledges

1994 Omaha Works

United Way/CHAD campaign

It's you. It's me. It's all of us.