

THE HEADLINER



Network Cable Systems, Omaha Works

September 1995



Photo by Steve Miller

COMPARISON...Members of AQT-60 listen as Valmont employees explain how they operate their brakes and shears work cell. At far left (facing camera) is AQT member Bill Elliott. Jim Norville and Karen Fisk-Walker are farthest right.

AQT-60, Valmont compare notes

Sometimes we get a clearer view of our own back yard from the one next to us.

That is to say, ideas to improve our business oftentimes are more readily apparent when we look at what we are doing from a totally different perspective...when we step outside of our normal business world and venture into other business environments with which we can compare.

It's called "benchmarking."

Several members of the sheet metal fabrication and paint area quality team (AQT-60 in IBU 237) ventured into the "back yard" of Valmont Industries in late August for benchmarking purposes. They returned with ideas they think can be adapted within not only their own AQT, but other AQTs at the Works

as well.

The leader for AQT-60, Jolene Possinger, said that about the time the team had set benchmarking as one of its goals, Valmont contacted the Works requesting a tour here for several of its employees.

Valmont, which manufactures primarily irrigation systems and poles used for lighting and signs along Interstate highways, is in the process of seeking ISO registration.

A look at ISO

"We saw it as an opportunity to see how other companies approach ISO requirements, and to get some ideas for improvements," Possinger said. The team was especially interested in quality process systems and JIT (Just-In-Time) applications.

So, the Works AQT and Valmont officials agreed to mutual visits of their work facilities. (An employee team from Valmont in scheduled to tour the Works' sheet metal fabrication and paint work areas in late September.)

AQT members who toured the manufacturing plant in Valley, Neb., were selected by drawing from those who volunteered to participate. About 50 employees are in the AQT.

Besides Possinger and Cathy Placzek, quality engineer for the IBU, tour participants were: Jim Norville, Bill Elliott and Mary McCoy, first shift; Karen Fisk-Walker and Sharon Foster, 2nd shift; and Claudia Spencer, third shift.

At a briefing held before the tour

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Omaha HISPA Chapter to host '96 conference

The Omaha chapter of HISPA (Hispanic Association of AT&T Employees) has extra cause this year to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 16 through Oct. 15.

The chapter has just received word that it has been chosen to host the 10th Annual HISPA Conference next year in Omaha, making it the first factory-based chapter to do so.

The event draws members from U.S. and worldwide HISPA chapters, including those in Argentina, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Honduras, Dominican Republic and Chile.

Some 1,000 participants are expected to attend the 1996 event.

The HISPA Executive Council (HEC) chose Omaha as the conference site based on a verbal presentation and detailed written proposal prepared by HISPA Chapter President Richard Carmona and members Marcia Grothe and Susan Wetherington.

Written information was compiled with the assistance of the Omaha Visitors' Convention Bureau and the

Red Lion Hotel. Data included information about facilities and background on Omaha and the Omaha chapter.

Fifteen members of the Omaha chapter will attend this year's HISPA conference to be held in Phoenix, Ariz., Oct. 5 through 8. Locations for past conferences include Puerto Rico, Miami, Denver and Chicago.

AT&T sponsors world premiere at Lied Center

AT&T is sponsoring the world premiere of "Chinoserie" on Sept. 22, 1995, at the University of Nebraska's Lied Center for the Performing Arts. The performance starts at 8 p.m. in Kimball Recital

Hall.

"Chinoserie" was conceived and directed by Ping Chong, who also performs in the work. The word itself has different meanings in different contexts, but has come to refer to all things "Chinese."

"Chinoserie" is a multidisciplinary work that explores both the Chinese spirit and the paradox of the Western fascination with a fear of Chinese culture. It includes scenes, songs, dances and slide sequences on historical events ranging from the Opium War to the recent shipwreck of the Golden Venture.

The AT&T Foundation awarded the Lied Center a \$25,000 grant in December 1994, and another \$25,000 grant in July 1995.

"For more than 50 years AT&T has

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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 Oct. 18, 1995. All news items should be in to the PR office by no later than 9 a.m. Monday, Oct. 2, 1995.



Photo by Steve Miller

Know your states: Mark Riggle adds a little color to the playground at Seymour Elementary School in Ralston, where he and other AT&T Cornhusker Chapter Pioneer volunteers painted an oversize version of the United States map. The map will be used by teachers in education games to help their students gain a better understanding of our country's geography. The Pioneers plan to complete 29 maps by the end of the year at elementary schools in Omaha and surrounding school districts. So far, maps have been painted at Howard Kennedy, Boyd, Dodge, Wakonda and Walnut Hill schools (Omaha Public Schools); Seymour, Wildewood, Blumfield, Mockingbird and Meadows schools in Ralston; Washington, Davenport and Clarmont schools in Fremont; and at Mead (Neb.) School. If you'd like to help, call Al Dusek, Ext. 4834.

(Continued from previous page) shown its commitment to the arts by sponsoring music, dance and dramatic presentations all over the country," said John Heindel, copper apparatus and wire vice-president. "We are especially proud to sponsor the world premiere of 'Chinoserie' at the Lied Center, given our continued support of educational and cultural programs at the university over the years."

Certified in occupational health nursing

Kathy Carson, RN, is now Kathy Carson, RN, COHN.

A member of the Works' medical staff, she recently passed the exam to become a certified occupational health nurse, or COHN.

Certification is awarded by the American Board of Occupational Nurses. The day-long test is given only after a candidate can show five years of experience as an occupational nurse, and after having completed 75 hours of continuing education studies.

Carson prepared for the test through independent study, using various resources recommended by the nurses' board which included books, classes and seminars.

She is the second nurse on the medical staff to earn the certification. Donna Nielsen, RN, COHN, became certified in 1986 and was recertified in 1991.



Kathy Carson

EW&C begins new MFCS scrap tracking

The electronic wire and cable shop (EW&C) is introducing a new scrap tracking feature to its material flow control system (MFCS), which guarantees scrap decisions within 28 hours.

It replaces a manual scrap tracking method in which scrap could be on "hold" for weeks or months before entering EW&C's tracking system, according to Ken Kline, EW&C's shop systems coordinator.

Kline said the new system will provide more timely and complete information so better decisions can be made about handling scrap.

For example, a reel of questionable product will be put on hold for 28 hours in order for an inspection to be conducted. Using the reel's bar code, the new tracking feature will provide true traceability—footage, quantity, item and core number. It also will track reel location, making it easier to find and move a reel.

All EW&C shop associates began training on the scrap feature earlier in September.

Cross-country event at Works

More than 100 men and women competed in the AT&T Classic Cross-Country Meet Saturday, Sept. 9, on the south lawn of the Omaha Works' property.

Five women's teams representing Midland Lutheran College, the University of Missouri at Kansas City, Creighton University, the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), and Dana College competed in a 5,000-meter race, with the Midland team taking first place.

Five men's teams representing Midland, Missouri/K.C., Creighton, Dana and Highland (Kan.) Junior College competed in an 8,000-meter race, with the Missouri/K.C. team taking first.

(Continued on next page)

It's later than you think!

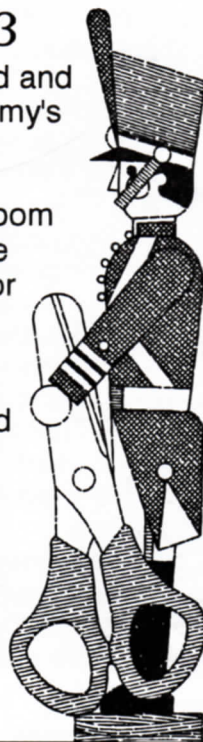
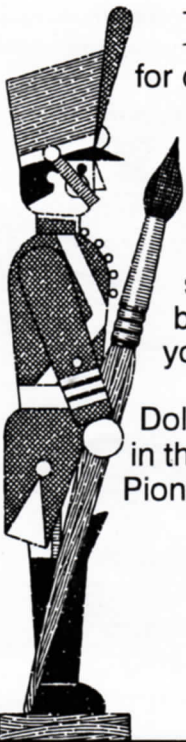
Deadline is Oct. 23

for dolls and bears to be outfitted and returned for the Salvation Army's Dress-a-Doll/Bear project.

Return to the Pioneer workroom opposite medical offices. Be sure to pin a tag on the doll or bear you turn in that includes your name.

Dolls and bears will be displayed in the Works auditorium during Pioneer Week, Oct. 30 - Nov. 3.

Direct questions to:
Bonnie Anderson, x3562 or
Thelma McKiddy, x3379, 1st
shift; Pat Patterson, x3504,
2nd; Joyce Alexander, x3362
or Kathy Schutte, x3379, 3rd.



NEWS IN BRIEF

(Continued from previous page)

This is the first cross-country event AT&T's Omaha Works has sponsored. Creighton and UNO were host schools.

Retirements are announced

Is there a better time to retire than when summer's heat turns into balmy days and cool evenings?



Madeline German
29 years



Emil Karasek
38 years



Roger Bahr
28 years



Roger Patrick
36 years

A number of Works employees don't think so, and they are retiring this September. Those retiring who are not pictured include:

Tom Diblasi, 20 years
James Ellinger, 30 years
Robert Latimer, 37 years
John Palu, 33 years
Kathleen Palu, 27 years
Billy Ridge, 37 years
Maudie Thompson, 31 years

Sept. service anniversaries

The following employees are celebrating milestone service anniversaries during September 1995. The anniversary date is given with service years following the employees' names.

9/1--James Andry, 30; Barbara Bokowski, 30; Donna Sumner, 10.
9/2--Ryland Giles, 30.
9/4--Donald Stewart, 25.
9/5--Michael Mainelli, 25.
9/6--Jerry Fitzgerald, 35; Richard Edgman, 40; Callie Drake, 25; Ronald Coleman, 35; Roger Swanson, 40.
9/7--William Morgan, 30.
9/8--H. G. Rush, 30; Edith Coker, 25; Gerald Wagner, 30; Emmalee Howard, 10.

(Continued on next page)

Don't get sick this winter! Get a flu shot.



The Omaha Works Medical Department will give flu shots to employees at no charge, beginning Sept. 26, 1995. Employees may get their shots in the medical offices **before or after their shifts, only** (not during lunch or breaks), between the hours of 6:30 - 9:30 a.m. and 2 - 5 p.m.

Suggested days/times are based on the first initial of an employee's last name:

A - C, Tuesday, Sept. 26
D - H, Wednesday, Sept. 27
I - M, Thursday, Sept. 28
N - R, Friday, Sept. 29
S - T, Tuesday, Oct. 3
U - Z, Wednesday, Oct. 4

Make-up days: Thursday and Friday, Oct. 5 & 6

(You must complete and sign an authorization form and bring it to medical when you get your shot. If you have not received a form, extras are available in the medical department.)

NEWS IN BRIEF

(Continued from previous page)

9/9--Donna Cunningham, 30.
9/10--John Lubert, 25.
9/12--Beverly Schuerman, 35.
9/13--Edmund Rodriguez, 30;
Norbert Totosz, 40; Suzanne
Greenup, 20; James McDonald, 30;
Kazumi Russell, 30.
9/14--Steven McGuire, 30; Thomas
Lutzi, 40; James Kvetensky, 30; Gerald
Giesing, 25; Roosevelt Morgan, 25; Jose
Alvarado, 25; Thomas Risinger, 25;
Wilma Psota, 25; John Phalen III, 25;
Byron Chard, 35.
9/15--Fredrick Cappello, 35;
Charles Bailey Jr., 30; Russell Sellin, 30.
9/16--Robert Ackley, 40; Marilyn
Davis, 25; Norman Schuttler, 35;

Dennis McNulty, 30.
9/17--Betty Clanton, 25; Linda
Meyer, 25.
9/19--Lisa Vacek, 10.
9/20--Sterling Stuart, 30; Allen
Buehler, 30; Joseph Carl, 35; Judy
Carper, 15.
9/21--Charles Schultz, 25; Leo
Tyler Sr., 35; Douglas Armburg, 25;
James Hardick, 30; Delbert O'Neal,
25; Arlo Olsen, 35.
9/22--Harry Spangler, 30; Eliza-
beth Rowland, 30.
9/24--Thomas Diblasi, 20; Maxine
Altic, 20.
9/27--Lovetta Hoffman, 25; Gary
Updegraff, 30; Anthony Johnson, 30;
George Gage, 30; Ronald Hassler,

30.
9/28--Daniel Glaessmann, 25;
Kenneth Schmidt, 30; Bonnie
Zeleny, 35.
9/29--Ivy Wilkinson, 25; Ronald
Beckman, 35; Colleen Swanson, 20.
9/30--William Kirtley, 30; Char-
lotte Wiebelhaus, 35; Steven
Petersen, 10.

In memoriam

Louis Pendrock, production
specialist in IBU 254-6, Aug. 20,
1995.

Loren Throener, production
technician in IBU 237-F, Sept. 7,
1995.

Summer temps stay for annual picnic

If you thought the weather for last year's employee picnic was a bit on the cool side, you probably found this year's picnic more to your liking.

With temperatures in the upper 90s, more picnickers chose to take a cool dip in the pool at Fun-Plex this year than did last year, alternating with rides and game activities. Some 2,800 employees and their families attended the event that was held Aug. 27, 1995.

Of course, if you were lucky enough to win one of the prizes awarded by the Cornhusker Chapter of the Telephone Pioneers or by the WEOMA Club, it really didn't

matter what the weather was like.

Lucky winners of prizes from the AT&T Phone Store, awarded by the Pioneers, were Mark Love, Cees Eastberg, Bob Shafer, Diane Swanson and Ruthanne Dimmock.

The WEOMA Club had a drawing for the winners of ten \$25 gift certificates to the Oak View Mall. The winners were Mike Brock, Rudy Delgado, James Wachter, Henry Hill, Frank Walker, Chris Wingate, Ed Betzer, Rosie Pettis, James Chism and Kurt Stratton.

This was the second consecutive year that the employee picnic was held at Fun-Plex. ■



SOME LIKE IT HOT...Picnickers let the wind cool them off as they raced around the go-cart track.



Photos by Chris Kostszewa

SOME LIKE IT COLD...The Fun-Plex water park was an ideal way for many picnickers to beat the heat.

AQT counts Valmont tour as benchmark

(Continued from Page 1) began, Valmont officials "stressed the same things we stress—the importance of being ISO registered in order to sell overseas," Possinger said.

Once the tour began, "I was really glad to see how members of our AQT were able to pick out areas they know are critical points in gaining ISO registration," she said.

"The tour made me realize how our team is becoming very much aware of the things that must be done (for ISO registration)," said Jim Norville.

He added, "The Valmont people were very friendly and helpful and very knowledgeable about their jobs. I was especially impressed by their enthusiasm."

AQT-60 plans more benchmarking visits to other companies this fall, Possinger said. Both Ray Swartz (manager of copper apparatus

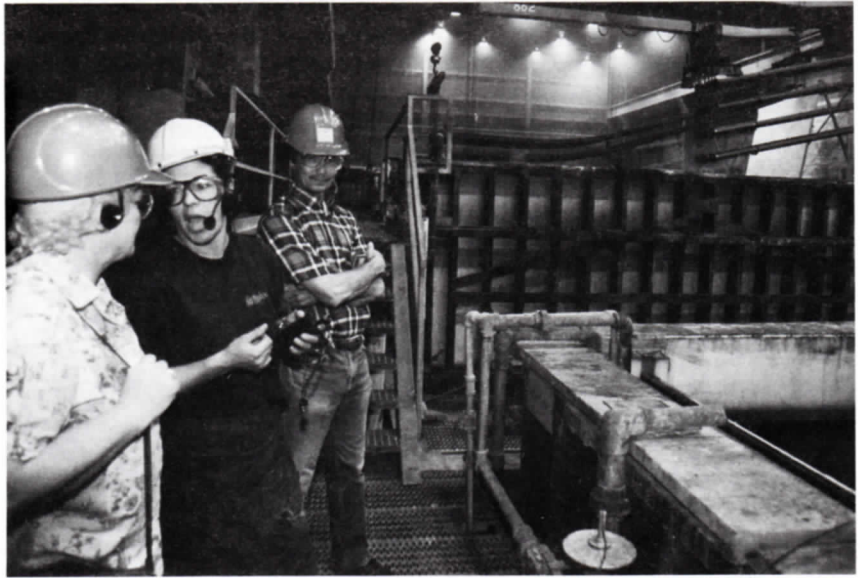


Photo by Steve Miller

PLATING AREA...A Valmont employee (center) explains to Claudia Spencer and Jim Norville how light poles are zinc-plated. They wear protective hard hats in this area and use headphones so visitors can hear the tour guide speak amid manufacturing noise.

manufacturing feeder operations and metal fabrication, engineering and operations) and Jeff Orley (cabinet metal fabrication IBU operations manager) fully support such tours as valuable learning experiences that could benefit the Works as a whole.

The AQT is not limiting itself to manufacturing locations. Possinger said the team also believes much can be learned from the shipping and service industries about quality processes and meeting ISO requirements. ■

A look at what they do at Valmont

Several of the AQT-60 members who toured Valmont Industries summarized their findings at a meeting of the Works' executive staff. Highlights of what most impressed the tour group and AQT members' comments follow:

- ♦ Valmont occupational employees—not their supervisors—generate their own daily metrics (such as charting production levels, quality problems, etc.), a process in which they are trained.

Gwen Hightshoe: "I think if we did our own metrics, we would certainly become more aware of the importance of metrics. Overall, we would be more concerned about our jobs and job quality."

Jim Norville: "I think we would be better able to relate to our jobs and the impact we really do have on improving results and quality."

- ♦ Valmont AQT members fill out standardized JIT report forms after each of their meetings.

Jolene Possinger: "These forms help you to keep consistent track of your meeting results. For example,

you list what you accomplished compared to what you planned to accomplish in the last meeting. There are categories for tracking the levels of employee involvement or improvements. You have an accurate record of your progress."

- ♦ Valmont employees have an exercise and wellness program which includes regular group exercise at the start of a work shift.

Possinger: "Together, they perform simple exercises before working, such as hand stretches, designed to strengthen muscles and help prevent strains and injuries that could occur in their job areas."

- ♦ Job awareness and knowledge are stressed at Valmont, especially through employee involvement.

Norville: "Occupational employees are more involved with materials management. I think if we could work closer with our planners, we would have a better grasp of the ups and downs of our business. Also, planners would have a better understanding of what it takes for us to get the job done." ■

Eye safety important for children, too

(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.)

Each year, thousands of children suffer eye injuries from products and objects commonly found in and around the home. Reminding us that September is "Children's Eye Health and Safety Month," Prevent Blindness Nebraska says that supervision is still the best precaution against eye injuries.

But there are steps one can take to ensure a child's safety and well-being. The following home safety tips can help prevent accidents.

Inside the house

- ♦ Teach children not to play with forks or knives.
- ♦ Place detergents and cleaning supplies behind locked doors or out of a child's reach.
- ♦ Set a good example by wearing eye protection when cleaning the oven or using ammonia-based cleaning agents

- ♦ Don't allow children to run around with their toothbrushes.
- ♦ Make sure clothes hangers stay in the closet.
- ♦ Don't allow children to play with small or pointed toys in bed.
- ♦ Don't allow young children to play with hairspray, hairbrushes or combs without Karen Push adult supervision.
- ♦ Teach children to put their toys away, and keep toys intended for older children away from younger ones.
- ♦ Remind children not to throw toys or objects at each other.
- ♦ Repair or throw away toys with broken parts.
- ♦ Keep nails, glue, screwdrivers and other tools out of a child's reach.
- ♦ Keep children away from workshops where power tools are used.
- ♦ Wear eye protection in your workshop and encourage those who enter the area to wear it, too.



More on eye safety

For additional information on how you can keep your home safe for children's eyes, call Prevent Blindness America at 1-800-331-2020, or Prevent Blindness Nebraska at 572-3520.

In the yard

- ♦ Keep children away from the area Lynn Nelson when using a lawn mower or other yard power tools.
- ♦ Wear safety eyewear when using lawn equipment, fertilizers and pesticides.
- ♦ Encourage children to wear appropriate eye protection when playing contact sports such as baseball.
- ♦ Children who wear prescription glasses should not play contact sports without proper eye protection.
- ♦ Work together with children to develop a list of eye safety rules that they can follow when playing. ■

Pioneers screen youngsters for vision problems

Volunteers from the Cornhusker Chapter of AT&T's Telephone Pioneers of America are helping parents keep tabs on their children's eyesight.

Through their Sight Screening Program and working in conjunction with Prevent Blindness Nebraska, Pioneer Life Members and their partners go to preschools throughout the Metropolitan Omaha area to test youngsters for vision abnormalities.

Pioneer Life Member Bob Kemp said the program's goal is to identify vision problems at an early age.

"If caught in time, these vision

problems can be prevented from getting worse, and they can be corrected," he said.

Kemp coordinates the program by assigning Life Members or partners to conduct sight screenings at those preschools that choose to participate. About 45 Life Members currently volunteer their time to the program.

Last year the vision of some 2,000 youngsters was screened at preschools in Douglas and Sarpy counties.

Vision abnormalities are detected in about 2 to 3 percent of those screened, Kemp said.



Screening consists of "playing the

E-game." A child stands about 10 feet from the traditional "E" chart and, while blocking the vision of one eye, identifies which way the "legs" of the "E" point.

Parents of children who do not pass the screening are advised to take their children to an eye specialist.

The program has been well received by parents, Kemp noted. "We're always getting letters of thanks from them."

The Sight Screening Program begins usually in mid-September and continues throughout most of the school year. ■



MONDAY,
OCT. 2, 1995,
IS YOUR DAY
TO SHINE!

The Omaha Works kicks off Worldwide Quality Month with
Employee Appreciation Day on Monday, Oct. 2.
YOU'RE THE STARS of the celebration!

Stop by the main cafeteria during your normal lunch or
dinner break (all three shifts) and be treated to ice cream and
cake, served by members of the management team.

And, remember the following Works' Quality Policy... You just
might be a winner of prizes to be awarded throughout the
month of October:

**"CUSTOMER SATISFACTION
THROUGH QUALITY
AND RESPONSIBILITY
AT THE SOURCE."**

