

JIT Today

Omaha Works

There must be fifty, nifty ways...

Members of Dept. 573 are singing the praises of being breakdown-free.

The result? A 4-minute music video entitled "Nifty Ways to Improve Your Product", which tells the story of how OWL circle 12 (The Block Busters) spearheaded a 13-month project which reduced scrap last year by \$22,000.

The department worked to eliminate electrical breakdowns in N-type protected terminal blocks caused by a variety of quality problems. The Baltimore Works experienced similar problems before the job was moved to Omaha in 1983.

Dept. 573 is located in Building 30 between the concrete walls and in the high bay area.

The music borrows the 1970s Paul Simon tune "There Must Be Fifty Ways to Leave Your Lover". The lyrics were written by Larry Cherry, who's worked in the area for six years. When asked why he selected the "Fifty Ways..." pop tune, Cherry says "It just seemed like it fit." The music also allowed Cherry to easily include the names of many department members.



"We're Breakdown Free!" (left to right, row 1)...Larry Cherry, Robyn Allen, Verdell Temple, Mary Stanosheck. Row 2...Diana West, Jan Smith, Louise Alcaraz, Carol McKinley, Renee Jurgenson, Alberta Kohls. Row 3...Bob Richardson, Joe Bonaiuto, Irene Ward, Bev Morley, Terry Comstock, Eileen Kojdecki.

Operator Bert Kohls served as producer for the project, which was taped in the Omaha Works TV production facility and on-location in the department. Wilma Sumner handled the flip cards.

Chorus member Carol McKinley remembers "It was really a lot of fun. Everybody was a delight to work with. And it's a very effective way to get the message across."

Terry Comstock, who's worked in the area for six years jokes "I didn't know how to dance before this--and I still don't. I didn't know how to sing before this either--and I still don't."

The following Omaha Works employees have worked on the breakdown problem during the last 13 months: Section Chiefs Willie Mason, Fred Bednarz, Frank Kros, Mary Stanosheck, Tom Ward and Larry Dolleck and Department Chief Bill Lawson.

(continued)

Engineers include John Cervin, Aaron Faltin, Ted Killham, and Curt Nading. Operators Donny Tremble and Paulette Mullen worked closely on the project and have since been transferred to other areas. QWL Facilitators Sharon Brown and Tom Schulte (now of Dept. 572) facilitated the activities of Circle 12.

"Nifty Ways to Improve Our Product" made its Omaha Works debut at the Oct. 11 QWL Recognition Day activities. If you'd like to see the music video, contact Bert Kohls, Dept. 573, ext. 3768.

STORY IDEAS? Don't keep them to yourself! JIT TODAY wants to go to the source for JIT news--and that source is you! We're looking for all kinds of story suggestions on all kinds of topics, so please call Linda Enterline, ext. 3714, with your story ideas.



Ring us up!

READ ALL ABOUT IT! Section Chief Craig Alberhasky is the editor of the Dept. 533 Newsletter--a monthly update on activities in small pair DIW production in the cable shop. Publication began a year ago and reports on shipping results, incurred cost, quality issues and employee involvement. The 2-page letter also lists service anniversaries and birthdays of IBU employees.

JIT IN THE 40-TYPE CABINET AREA Preliminary floor plans for the area are being discussed. Updates to follow...

ANSWER:



The change from daylight savings time to central daylight time.

QUESTION: What's a good time to check the battery in your home smoke detector?

P.S.--That would be Oct. 29

ANSWER: When we switch from central standard time back to daylight savings time.

QUESTION: When should your smoke alarm be checked again?

PQMI Members of the Works Training organization are being trained in Process Quality Management and Improvement techniques, a class to be soon available to all Works employees. Look for future updates and a January 1990 kickoff.

THE AFTERMATH OF HUGO means more work for folks in IBU 573 (Bill Lawson's area). Connie Schmidt, manager of customer service, says everyone in the shop has done a superb job of meeting a tough schedule, particularly since priorities change every day. Barb Kruse, Dave Hamlet, and Terry Van Cleve of customer service and Bill Montalbano and all the operators in IBU 573 have done a great job to help Bell South restore phone systems in the Carolinas. It looks like it'll be another 4 to 6 weeks before the demand is fully met. The next edition of THE WESTERNER has the story on JIT activities in the area, so look for it.

EARNINGS OUTLOOK--AT&T Chairman Robert Allen says he's comfortable with the Wall Street estimates that his company will earn 63 to 70 cents a share in the third quarter ending Sept. 30, versus 55 cents a year ago. --Atlanta Constitution, 9/30/89

HOW HARLEY BEAT BACK THE JAPANESE is the title of book excerpt in the Sept. 25 issue of FORTUNE magazine.

WELL-MADE IN AMERICA was commissioned by Harley-Davidson and written by business journalist

Peter C. Reid. This Milwaukee-based company is 86 years old, running full throttle and maintaining 50 percent of the motorcycle market. Read how a beleaguered company beat the Japanese, beat the bankers and beat the odds. Copies of the article are available by calling ext. 3714.

The JIT enhanced building protector area in IBU 572 is up and running. Thanks to a contract with Bell Atlantic, production output will double. The 300-type central office job (Mike Wenninghoff, Joe Avery and Francis "Scottie" Scott) is on the priority list for conversion to a JIT cell.

BENEFITS PACKAGE Have you responded to a recent mailing to your home regarding your AT&T benefits? THIS ONE'S IMPORTANT, SO DON'T BLOW IT. The deadline is Friday, Nov. 17.

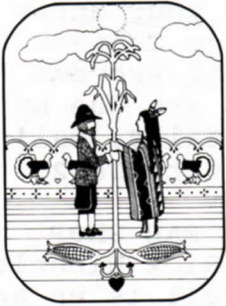
THE HOLIDAYS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER Have you checked out the latest AT&T products available at a discount to employees? Just take your badge with you to the lower level of the Westroads Shopping Center and tell the folks at AT&T's Phone Center you're from the Works. They'll be glad to see you!

NEXT ISSUE...
Factory engineers...what would we do without them?

OCTOBER IS QUALITY MONTH
Have you prepared your entry for the Super Prize Contest to promote Statistical Process Control? Entries are due by Oct. 31. For details, call the SPC Hotline, ext. 3882.

BUILDING 50 METAL FAB SHOP
Factory Engineer Rick Winholtz reports the JIT cell is up and running. The cell redesign included relocating a large brake press and an Amada punch press.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH CLUB
It's not best that we should all think alike; it is a difference of opinion which makes horse races.
--Mark Twain



The Pioneers are after YOU! Here's your chance to show off your pumpkin pie baking, turkey carving and holiday serving skills ...just the challenge you've been looking for. Volunteer for this holiday

Pioneer project. It's Turkeyfest. You guessed it. It's on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 23. Turkeyfest on Turkey Day. Pioneers--Helping to feed the area's needy and homeless. It just might be the most novel approach toward turkey you'll ever see! Contact your Pioneer office for details.

The 80-TYPE CABINET area has successfully implemented a KANBAN system with the cable cutters. By preparing only the required type and amount of cable, the departments are successfully cutting work-in-process inventory and using floor space more efficiently. The cell team is also considering ways of "KITTING" all metal piece parts used to assemble each cabinet into plastic sacks. ON THE TRAINING FRONT...all members of IBU 571 will have completed JIT classes by Christmas.

TELL ME AGAIN...JUST WHAT DOES KANBAN MEAN? Kanban--literally translated--means "visible record." In many kanban systems, the kanban is a card. Each production worker has a set of dollar bills, or kanban cards, with which to purchase required parts from the previous process. As a worker's supply of parts is depleted, the worker will purchase the parts needed to meet the daily schedule. No parts are delivered to any work station until they are paid for with kanban currency. The purpose of a kanban system is to control the movement and quantity of parts from work station to work station to suit the conditions in the plant at any time. The kanban system is dependant on quality parts and doesn't use any inventory as a buffer.

Chill out.
Be cool.
There's nothing worse on Halloween Than a spook who acts like a fool.



Put safety first on Oct. 31.