

OMAHA WORKS



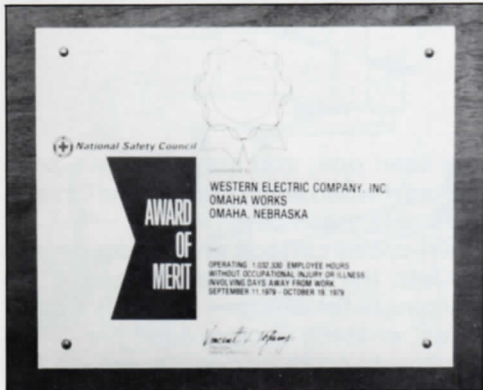
1979 safety review



Ear plugs muffle the noise around Delorse Stinson 725, when she operates a station cord tinsel roller.

Operating 1,032,330 employee hours without a disabling injury won Omaha Works the Award of Merit from the National Safety Council.

1. Introduction



General Manager Chuck Meetsma

It was a year worth a million. In fact, two million.

Yes, in 1979 the Omaha Works achieved a safety first: twice the entire Works reached a million man hours without a disabling injury. Also, one operating department accumulated a million man hours without a disabling injury.

Reaching these milestones deserves recognition, but not to be forgotten are the people and events creating an environment capable of reaching such goals.

As with any major effort, individual contributions were instrumental in creating the end result — an ambitious, enjoyable safety campaign. Those people and events are reviewed for you, our employees, in this booklet.

I know much has been said and done about winning the President's Safety Award, and this publication will accompany our entry. However, the award entry is not the publication's most important function. We hope it provides a reminder of how you created the safest year yet at the Omaha Works.

For such a year, please accept my heartfelt thanks and continue to "Take a minute for safety — 24 hours a day."

Sincerely,

On job safety

2. Campaign slogan



Ima Klutz lives up to her name in **The Westerner's** cartoon column.

When you've seen one, you may not have seen them all. At least when encountering the Omaha Works' 1979 safety campaign.

Led by two accident-prone cartoon characters named Ollie Oops and Ima Klutz, the year's safety slogan urged employees to "Take a minute for safety — 24 hours a day."

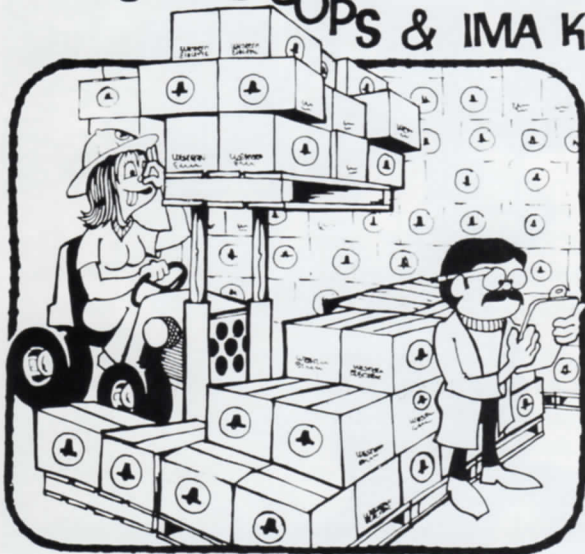
Ollie and Ima did just what the doctors don't prescribe. They stressed the negative to produce positive results, but it worked. The couple tripped and klutzed its way into the hearts of plant employees, creating hazards that would raise any respectable safety inspector's hair. The message to do "only as they say" rang loud and clear, with workers producing a safety record well worth the effort.

Ima and Ollie first began their disastrous capers on the pages of **The Westerner**, the Works' newspaper, but soon progressed to posters and giant-sized banners throughout the plant. Although an integral part in promoting safe working conditions for 1979, the characters created by freelance artist Mike Green will probably continue in **The Westerner** during 1980.

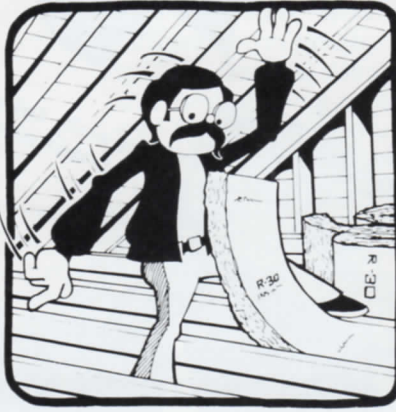
The "Take a minute" slogan also made appearances without its two friends. The words assumed various shapes and sizes when employees wore safety sloganed t-shirts in the plant on officially designated days. The blue and white shirts were purchased from the safety store, and creativity blossomed as owners designed novel ways to combine them with working attire.

To "Take a minute" at work, however, was not enough. For a home reminder, sloganed refrigerator magnets were distributed to employees, emphasizing safety's 24-hour necessity.

OLLIE OOPS & IMA KLUTZ



OLLIE OOPS



Ollie and Ima's unsafe capers continue both on and off the job.





Munching down before gearing up for safety keeps kickoff audiences satisfied.

3. Kickoff meetings

A campaign kickoff meeting sounded great, but great enough to repeat it 18 times?

Obviously so, because that's how many assemblies public relations people cranked out introducing the "Take a minute" safety theme to all Works employees.

It started with two supervisor kickoffs building toward 16 work force presentations and a busy campaign to win the President's Environmental Health and Safety Award. After evaluating the Works' mid-year safety record, it was decided 1979 was a good year to go "all out" for the award. Thus, a new safety campaign was born.

It began with motivational meetings in the auditorium for all shifts. Groups of about 250 viewed "3½ Minutes of Safety," a slide presentation humorously presenting the historical, motivational and practical approaches to safety.

There were also refreshments, free safety slogan refrigerator magnets, a drawing for safety t-shirts and a talk by General Manager Chuck Meetsma. Supervisors and engineering personnel received pocket protectors with the "Take a minute" theme printed on them.

Meetsma's comments emphasized the Omaha Works had been putting "extra effort into safety all year," and had only half the disabling injuries as the same time in 1978. He expressed his desire to win the President's award, but cautioned the award itself should not be the Works' ultimate concern.

"After all, our real purpose in all of this is to make the Omaha Works a safer place for everyone," he said. "That's a big task, and a big responsibility. But if we all commit ourselves to making our work place safer, whether we win the President's Safety Award or not, I think we'll all come out winners."

Tug-of-war champs at the WEOMA Club fall picnic take a minute to show off their muscles and safety slogan t-shirts.



Besides eating lunch, the noon hour also means volunteer Larry Johnson, 435, selects the final winner for the television drawing.

4. Monthly drawings

Everyone loves a winner, and there were plenty of them, thanks to the Safety Advisory Campaign Committee.

Once a month committee members descended on the lunch hour crowd to select participants for its regular safety drawing. Those willing to pull names from the raffle drum received a free safety t-shirt, and the lucky winners chose from various time-related prizes.

To coordinate with the "Take a minute" safety theme, they included watches, clocks, house timers, minute steaks, and time on the tennis court.

All employees in sections without a disabling injury during the fiscal month were eligible for each five-winner drawing, another motivation for safe working conditions. These drawings were adjusted to compensate for the four to one expense-direct ratio. That is, one prize was awarded to a salaried employee and four to hourly employees.

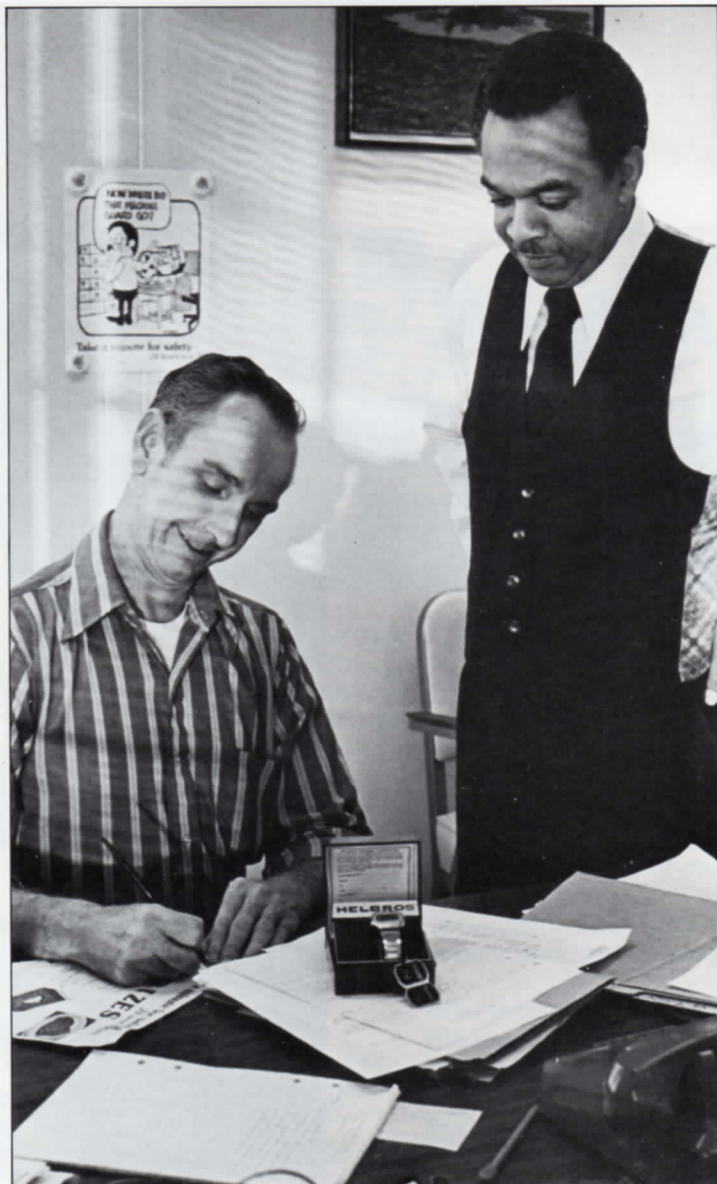
The biggest motivation, however, was for the grand prize drawings: 19-inch RCA color television sets with remote control. The number of sets awarded was based on a comparison of the total disabling injuries for 1979 with 1978. As the injury percentage went down, the number of televisions awarded went up.

Television drawings were weighted, reflecting the probability of incidence of incurring an injury based on the employee's occupation and job location.

Although one grand prize drawing was initially set for January 4, 1980, plans were altered due to good news. By November 1, the low number of disabling injuries indicated several sets could be awarded in advance, and two interim drawings were planned for November 19 and December 3.



Just in time for Christmas, Eleanor Alva, 725, selects and admires the watch she won in the monthly drawing.



A signature is all it takes for Lonnie House, 252, to receive his watch from Bill Hairston, 525.



Starting the new year's a pleasure for Virginia Rich, 44, winner of a color television set presented by Charlie Higginson, director of engineering and manufacturing.

5. Campaign committee

Safety campaign committee members prepare a safety mailing for all Works employees.



The Safety Award Campaign Committee provided behind-the-scenes manpower necessary to launch the "Take a minute" campaign activities.

Committee members represented a cross section of the workforce, in hopes to encourage total Works involvement in the program. Three representatives from public relations and one from safety served as the working committee. They were advised by two employees each from management, engineering, salary graded, hourly graded, and one staff person.

Together, the group planned the events to keep motivation for safety strong in 1979. Members and their departments were:

Lillie Allen — 724
Alice Brink — 525
Judy Couchman — 525
Joe Dolezal — 437-7
Aaron Faltin — 476
Lorine Goynes — 331
Dr. Lee Grant — 140

Bill Hairston — 525-1
Bill Lewis — 333
Ken Meyer — 282
Mike Parizek — 271
Rudy Rudolfo — 524-1
Andy Simpson — 252-4

6. "Safety Pays!" game

It's a matter of wrist action for Clara McCoy, 252, when she draws the day's "Safety Pays!" number for Bob Hansen, 524.



Safety paid in dollar signs for winners of the ever popular "Safety Pays!" game.

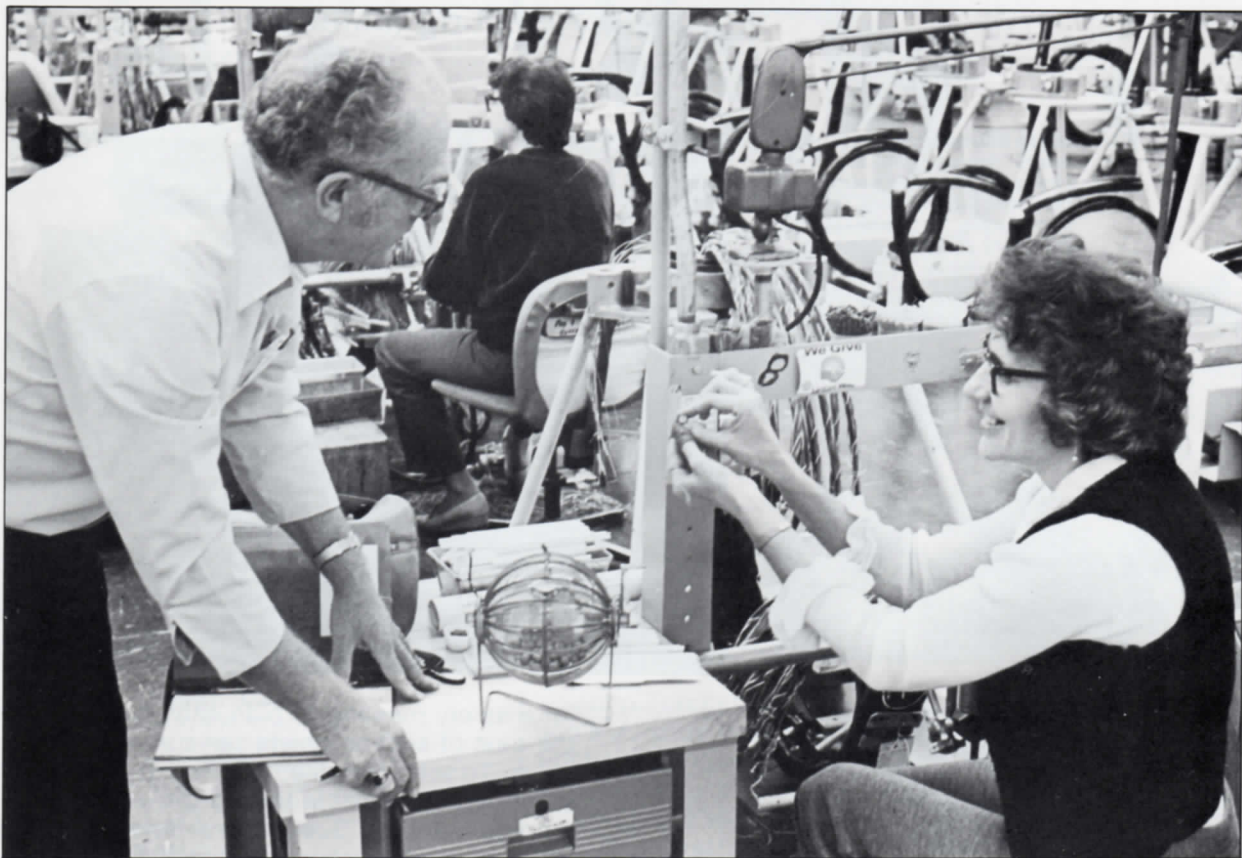
The bingo-type game was initiated in 1978 to increase employee safety awareness, and continued in 1979 because of its success in reducing serious injuries.

With the exception of large staff, each employee received a computer-generated card containing two games and a safety message. Patterned after a program developed in Merrimack Valley, Omaha's computer could generate 19,000 number mixes for the cards.

Numbers were drawn from a standard bingo mixer by randomly selected employees and then posted on bulletin boards throughout the Works. Not even weekends were missed, since on Mondays three numbers were selected for anxious players.

Employees could receive up to \$250 on 10 possible winning designs. Each design was paid once during a game, but the duplicate winners on the same day were also awarded. When employees completed a design, all they needed was to drop the card in a deposit box and be paid within 24 hours.

A game stopped after a disabling injury was reported, or



An invitation from Russ Queen, 524, to pick the day's number is an offer Janice Rentschler, 444, can't refuse.

an individual was a full card winner (the person had circled all numbers on the card). If needed, new cards were issued, and another game began. Games during 1979 ranged from two to 44 days.

Certain conditions meant safety would pay even more than usual. If a winner had six months perfect attendance or met specific overtime qualifications, winnings were doubled.

A representative from each manager's organization served on a committee to resolve any game disputes.

7. Safety meeting materials

Using information from the new safety topics booklet, Duane Linn presents information to department 445 on back problems and listens to Mike Huerta's comment on lifting properly.



Local musicians John Fischer and Mark Gorat dress the WECO way while recording music for the year-end videotape.



With a safety meeting to plan each month, even the best of section chiefs can run out of topic ideas. To solve this dilemma, supervisors could use two new resources available toward the year's end.

A new training manual, "Supervisors' Safety Meeting Topics," provided on and off job topics for first line supervisors in planning their monthly meetings. The publication, a joint project between safety and training personnel, explained 25 safety hazards as well as how to conduct an effective safety meeting.

Each topic entry included background and statistical information, common preventions, and a list of audio-visual aids available at the Works. If applicable, illustrations accompanied written explanations. Subjects were selected on the basis of frequency of exposure to the hazard and potential severity of a related accident at the Omaha Works.



Supervisors Marshall Meiman and Bob Wustrack, 439, double as instructors on precautionary measures to use when operating epoxy dispensing machines. Operators Bill Sloup and Alvertus Jones served as models at the monthly safety meeting.

John Tompkins, manual coordinator, said the publication's purpose was twofold. It served as an explanation of safety meeting responsibilities for the new supervisors and a review for experienced ones.

Tompkins said he hopes the manual will continue to be used by all first line supervisors in 1980. To help evaluate its effectiveness, monthly safety meeting record forms were rewritten for supervisors to indicate whether the manual was used in planning and conducting meetings.

On the lighter side, a videotape produced by the Public Relations Department looked at accident prevention from a humorous point of view.

To the music of an original country tune, "Take a Minute for Safety," workers were reminded to practice safety awareness in the plant. Topics included safety glasses, shoes, machine guarding, ear protection, and office and parking lot injuries.



A wide variety of literature helps promote safety at the Omaha Works.

In addition to these new meeting helps, the Safety Organization provided a wide variety of literature and audio-visual materials for Works employees. If the organization didn't have a requested safety topic on file, members often purchased or developed literature in that area.

Another new item this year, magazine racks in the cafeterias and vending areas offered free safety literature to interested employees. Safety personnel also periodically distributed topical safety handouts to workers.

A selection of films and slides completed the library of safety information available.



Willie Shields, 361, and Sharon Fricke, 728, leaf through a free copy of **Family Safety Magazine** available in the cafeteria.





John Schanbacher, 524, stresses safety while training **Don Schreiber**, 251, in the use of a laser.

8. Training classes

Accidents don't just happen. Neither does the ability to cope when they create an emergency situation. With this in mind, the Omaha Works offers year round training programs teaching employees job safety or how to solve an unexpected crisis. Scheduled according to need and interest, these courses offer classroom and "hands on" experience in a wide variety of safety topics.

Cot crew training prepares employees to react quickly and efficiently in event of an emergency or illness. Approximately 43 crews are available throughout the plant to assist an employee unable to help himself and needing immediate transportation to the Medical Organization.

Although they provide no medical treatment, each six-person crew contains at least one member trained in first aid procedures. In addition, members are scheduled to attend company-sponsored CPR classes (see related story).

The group's major function, however, is to move the individual as quickly and comfortably as possible. All employees have a cot located within 50 feet of their working area.

The company-required crews receive an explanation of their duties, and then "walk through" the cot opening and handling procedures. Supervisors assign crews and alternates from their departments, and membership lists are updated twice yearly to allow for personnel changes.

First aid training also instructs its students in emergency care of the injured, as well as accident prevention.

Trainees meet American National Red Cross requirements for certification by successfully performing basic first aid skills and passing a written test. Subject areas include bleeding, shock, poisoning, burns, overexposure to heat and cold, bandaging, and artificial respiration.

Concentration helps while listening to **Rex Zeller**, 524, explain cot crew techniques to **Sadie Douglas**, **Bob Gorig**, and **Yneko Slatin**, all from 445.



Daily checks for truck operator permits and safety check lists are a part of routine inspection for Bud Hughes, 524, and operator Doris Ettlin, 411.

All industrial truck operators are trained and licensed before operating their vehicles on company grounds. The list comprises those driving fork lift, jackstacker, pallet, high reach, and platform trucks.

Prior to attending a training class, the supervisor must initiate a request for the employee's industrial permit. After a request is submitted, the potential driver then completes a code nine physical exam. After passing, the employee begins on-the-job instruction from a qualified truck operator in the shop.

Once this phase of training is completed and verified, the employee attends a classroom session conducted by a safety advisor. Instructors explain the theoretical and safety aspects of vehicle operation, using slides and information booklets to illustrate each procedure.



Adjusting the chemical cartridge respirator is easier for Jan Cox, 445, with the help of Madeline Engel, 524.

If a trainee passes the written test administered at the course's completion, he is issued an operator's permit within 24 hours. Permits are renewed each year after passing a medical exam.

Once on the job, the nearly 700 truck operators still think about safety. Drivers check their vehicles daily, and safety personnel randomly audit truck operators daily for current safety checklists and valid operator permits.

Although smaller in number, rider-type crane operators follow a similar procedure for training.

The Works also houses several lasers with each type requiring specific, individualized operation instruction. When a new operator is assigned a laser, the safety engineer schedules instructional time for him. During a session, the trainee learns the laser's electrical makeup and safety hazards. The new operator is then supervised by an experienced one until considered competent to work alone.

Employees working with radiation study its properties, effects, and protection from overexposure. Others who might be exposed to toxic gases or in an area suddenly devoid of oxygen, receive respirator training.

Spill training emphasizes prevention and solutions to an oil "spill event" at the Works. Storm drains and sewers empty into two public streams, and permitting oil to enter them is illegal.

Annually, supervisors in possible oil spill areas instruct their people according to the Oil Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC). They review oil storage and handling facilities, spill event procedures, spill prevention, cleanup and other related topics.

In addition, newly promoted section chiefs are required to attend a course for beginning supervisors. Within this course is a Supervisory Education Plan module (SEP), outlining safety responsibilities and methods for developing effective safety practices. The module helps them identify and correct safety problems, encourage workers to have a positive safety attitude, orient new employees to safety procedures and properly handle on-the-job injuries.



Lectures by John Tompkins, 514, explain how an unconscious person's airway can be obstructed.

Steadily gaining popularity, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes at the Works gained enrollment and a new training room in 1979.

Training specialist John Tompkins, 514, believes increased media and company publicity has created greater public awareness of the course's value. He said in its first four years at the plant, 70 employees received certification through the American Heart Association. This compares to over 170 employees earning certificates in 1979.

Expanded enrollment necessitated moving classes from the auditorium to a newly constructed room in Building 20, lower level. The room provided a much needed permanent CPR training area.

The course is designed "to provide basic life-saving training to employees who are most likely to be called upon to give assistance in an emergency," Tompkins said.

A combination of artificial respiration and circulation, CPR serves as a lifesaving procedure between the time a person's heart stops and when he can reach a medical facility. Working quickly is the key because the procedure not only saves a life, but also can prevent brain damage.

Students practice mouth-to-mouth breathing and heart compressions on a training mannequin. Lectures also explain heart attack symptoms and preventive measures to decrease the risk factors associated with the attacks.

A film, slides, and instructional pamphlets also aid students in passing the tests to become certified in CPR. A certificate, good for three years, signifies a person has successfully completed written and performance tests in accordance with the Heart Association's standards.

CPR isn't hard to learn, said Tompkins, but some people are hesitant when first encountering the mannequins. Students learn to administer CPR alone as well as with a partner. The method can be physically demanding, so two people can team up by giving mouth-to-mouth breathing and checking compression on an alternating basis.



Mouth-to-mouth breathing and chest compressions are major skills John Tompkins, 514, teaches his CPR classes.



Tompkins explained certain selected employees, such as cot crew members, are required to take the course on company time. Others interested in the training can schedule through the WEOMA Club and attend on their off job hours. WEOMA-sponsored classes fit into the overall training schedule according to student interest and instructor availability.

Four certified instructors share responsibility for conducting the classes, consisting of two four-hour sessions. Plans also include calling students back annually for a three-hour refresher course.



**Santa's thinking
safe this Christmas**



Fire escape ladder
For making safe entries into
steep chimneys
\$23.95
\$32.75

Fire extinguisher
Model 10 compact and safe in
the chimney, the entire
apartment building
\$10.95

Smoke alarm
Beeping, sounding the
alarm, saving lives by
warning of fire in advance
and saving damage to your
home
\$9.50

Wheel chocks
To secure the rig and
prevent your moving while
unattended
\$5.25
\$7.00

So should you

 Western Electric Support your local safety store

Even Santa joins the campaign on a poster created for Christmas safety store sales.

Checking all the facts, Optician Betsy Emmel readies Harold Drake, 441, for a pair of safety glasses.

9. Safety store sales

It didn't sell high fashion merchandise, but the Works safety store still kept busy outfitting customers for accident protection.

Hot-selling items were the company safety shoes. In September, a special promotion offered \$5 discounts on all shoes stocked in the store. During the month, approximately 500 pairs were sold to employees not required to wear them on the job. (The company issues shoes free of charge to employees required to wear them on the job.)

This sale allowed the safety store to reach \$35,000 in shoe sales for 1979. Purchasers could select from 14 men's and four women's styles in stock, and another 150 through a special order catalog.

Another major store item, safety glasses were required for all employees working in production areas. Responsibility for fitting people with frames was switched from safety to medical personnel this year. The transfer of duties was agreed upon because fittings need frequent medical consultations and approvals.

The switch also continued the services of a trained optician for fittings, rather than a safety representative. Fittings, conducted in the safety store, were scheduled by appointment with the Medical Organization. The optician visited the store 10-12 hours a week.

Besides shoes and glasses, the store provided workers some of the protective equipment required to wear on the job.

For off job safety, the store introduced several new items. Employees could purchase smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, wheel chocks or fire escape ladders to meet their home safety needs.

They look good enough for jogging, but Wanda Beebee, 411, will use her new safety shoes for protection in the plant.



10. Architectural improvements

At times, safety meant tearing up and starting over. Construction improvements at the Works created an inconvenience for barricade dodgers, but in the end created safer travel for employees and visitors.

A major improvement to the plant's roadways involved a new road connecting the front drive with the "I" Street drive leading to the Building 30 parking lot.

The new, more readily accessible connecting road allowed drivers to enter and exit the Works grounds with the benefit of 120th Street traffic signals. This addition created a more efficient traffic flow by easing congestion caused by front road traffic turning left on 120th.

Road work wasn't the only kind of construction aiding people at the Works. Paving the reel yard began in the fall to avoid problems developing after heavy rains and the spring thaw. Even with crushed rock on the surface, deep ruts developed in the mud and equipment to move reels bogged down, becoming unsafe to handle.

Paving plans included the northwest reel yard, the area north of Building 30 and the north central reel yard. Although a 1979 idea, the paving will continue into 1980.

Architectural modifications also made travel easier and safer for handicapped persons at the Works. Early in the year, control buttons in the Building 20 east elevator were marked for the blind and lowered for easier access.

Later in the summer, construction workers added two handicapped ramps to the office building's main entrance. One ramp connected the visitors' parking lot to the front sidewalk, and the other allowed wheelchair travel from the front sidewalk to the main lobby level. In addition, a parking stall close to the ramp was reserved for handicapped visitors.

Other ramps were constructed from the east parking lot, through the guard gates, and up to the Building 30 east pedestrian entrances. Similarly, ramps were constructed from the west parking lot, through the guard gates, and up to the Building 50 west pedestrian entrances.

11. Safety and plant inspections

D 0174

"DANGER"

**DEFECTIVE
DO NOT
USE**

Signed by _____

Date _____

SAFETY ORGANIZATION

D 0174

Tagged By _____ Date _____

Dept. _____ Loc. _____

Mach./Item _____

Comments _____

COM 15-4 (8-73)

Danger tags shut down a machine until repairs are completed.

Move over, Sherlock. You've been upstaged by company safety and plant inspectors. Combined, they logged over 600 inspection tours in 1979, investigating for every safety hazard imaginable.

Safety advisors filed 42 inspection reports resulting from 400 routine tours. Their weekly audits checked for unsafe working conditions, rotating among all shifts and areas of the plant. After each inspection, the reports, listing hazardous conditions discovered, were issued to the management line of the branch inspected.

Approximately three weeks after the initial inspection, serious violations were checked again for corrective action. If a hazardous condition was not eliminated by this time, safety advisors continued spot checks until the correction was completed. However, about 98 percent of all hazards were corrected soon after a report was issued.

Safety advisors searched for any condition that could result in employee injury. From machine guards to protective clothing, not one possible hazard was neglected.

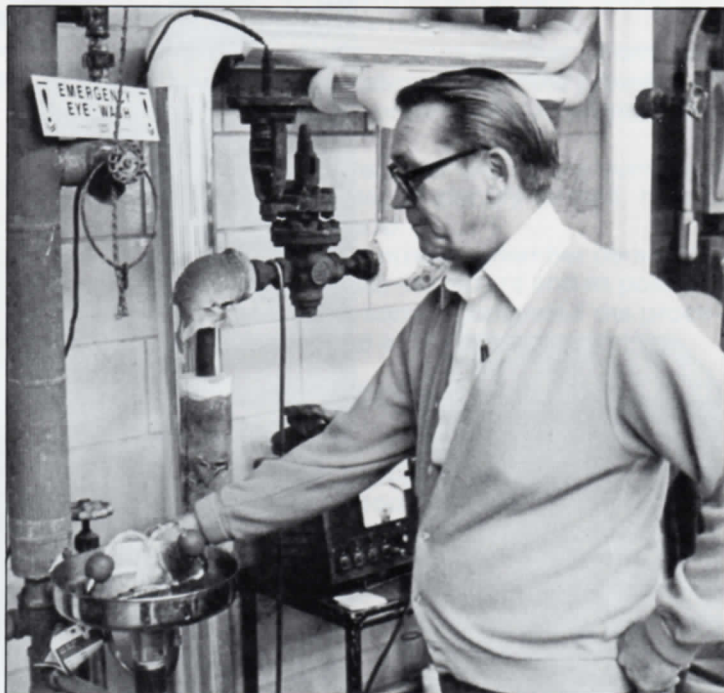
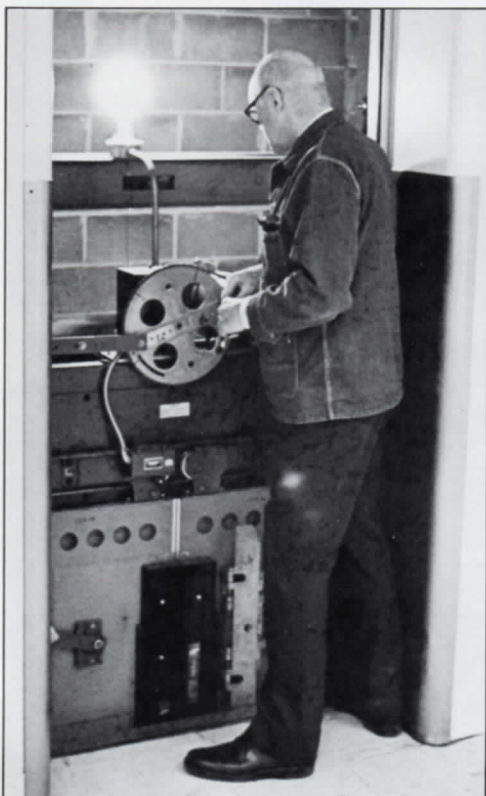
If a machine was determined unsafe, it was assigned a caution or danger tag, depending on the seriousness of its operational hazard. A caution tag meant the hazard was minor, and operation could continue providing it was repaired within a specified time period. A danger tag shut a machine down until repaired because its condition could cause a serious injury.

During the year, safety advisors uncovered 842 hazards, including 21 housekeeping items, 95 unsafe acts, and 726 unsafe conditions.

Although they too often uncovered safety hazards, plant inspectors provided for the upkeep, maintenance and integrity of the Works' facilities. Their 96 established routines encompassed daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, semiannual, and annual inspections.

Emergency eyewash stations offer immediate relief thanks to Bud Hughes', 524, careful scrutiny.

Even the elevators are scrutinized when Bob Hansen, 524, completes an inspection.



Plant inspectors filed reports on such items as the spill diversion system, elevators, eye wash stations, parking lot conditions, gas masks, compressed air leaks, and numerous other items.

They also handled various non-inspection duties. These inspectors issued welding permits, met with outside contractors to instruct them on company safety and environmental requirements, closed out shop orders on new equipment, and reviewed company property damage.

From 244 periodic trips, plant inspectors filed 314 Works inspection reports, 411 welding permits, 17 fire damage reports, and 18 sprinkler system shutdowns.

Safety advisor Russ Queen, 524, attaches a caution tag to a machine because of its injury hazard.

C 0568	
"CAUTION"	
USE WITH CARE	
REPAIRS NEEDED	
SAFETY ORGANIZATION	
THIS TAG TO BE REMOVED BY SAFETY ORGANIZATION ONLY	
C 0568	
Tagged By _____	Date _____
Dept. _____	Loc. _____
Mach./Item _____	
Comments _____	
OH 15-4 (8-73)	

Caution tags allow a machine to continue operation, providing repairs are completed within a specified time period.



12. Safety hotline

Employees with an urgent safety problem could call 3212 and tell the safety hotline about it.

To provide direct communication from employees to the safety organization, the hotline provided an immediate outlet for people spotting safety hazards at the Works.

It was a simple procedure. After dialing the number, a recording requested the caller to identify himself, his job location, and the safety hazard.

From there, a Safety Organization member personally contacted the caller to discuss the hazard and its possible solutions. Finally, safety personnel completed the procedure by reporting the hazard immediately.

13. Injury investigation reports

Even with putting safety first, there were times when accident prevention happened after the fact.

Once a serious nondisabling or disabling injury occurred, an investigation began to prevent its repetition. After an accident, the injured employee's supervisor completed a preliminary investigation report and an accident investigation meeting was called.

The meeting, chaired by the assistant manager, and attended by the department chief, section chief, and injured employee usually met within 48 hours of the accident. Also present were a Safety Organization representative, the functional engineer, and, if needed, a Medical Organization representative.

Conducted on an informal basis, the meeting was not a disciplinary measure, but a fact-finding vehicle. Participants discussed how the accident occurred, suggestions for on job safety, and prevention action recommendations.

To follow up proposed actions, the Safety Organization completed a serious injury action taken status report. New this year, the report was updated each month for the Works Safety Committee meeting. It detailed the progress of corrective action taken until work was completed.

14. Committees

Four new committees played an important function in keeping the Works safe in 1979. Their careful research and planning solved problems in several major areas.

The **Biomechanical Task Force** formed with an interest in reducing injuries caused by lifting or other stresses on the body during work performance.

Committee members developed a program which conducted indepth investigations into biomechanical injury causes and their corrective procedures. A major thrust toward job modification often meant improvements, new equipment or mechanical aids added on certain jobs causing strain.

To develop an effective program, the committee evaluated the Omaha Works' method for handling biomechanical injuries and reviewed similar activities and changes at other Works locations.

In addition, the **Works' Safety Committee** began meeting to review unsafe conditions requiring special attention and to take corrective action not accomplished through regular channels.

The group reviewed various safety problems as needed. It evaluated serious injuries from the previous two-week period, action taken by supervisors for employee safety violations, and repeated serious injuries in a supervisor's area.

Other review items were departments experiencing an excess of injuries, cases of employees with a serious injury history, and plant inspection logbook reports.

Housekeeping Committee members, all assistant managers, served on a rotational basis to inspect areas for cleanliness. Those conducting the weekly housekeeping checkups could reward the golden broom award to orderly areas and the grimy gulch award for those failing inspection.



Poor housekeepers not-so-proudly display the grimy gulch award for failing inspection.



It's a hands on job keeping Department 287 clean and winning the Golden Broom Housekeeping Award three times in one year. Happy winners of the award are Mack Thorton, Walley Leander, and Larry Ainsworth.

Although the awards looked humorous, the intent of the inspections was serious: to keep the Works safe by eliminating hazardous housekeeping practices.

Listings of the best and worst housekeepers were published in the Supervisors' Newsletter.

Hazardous Waste Disposal Committee members developed methods to properly dispose hazardous waste from the Works. The group developed several major items:

- an employee awareness of the importance of handling waste.
- interim instructions and procedures on control, handling, and disposition of waste until 1980 government regulations are released.
- instructions and methods for labeling hazardous material drums.
- waste product record sheets identifying wastes generated in each job.



Off job safety

15. Fire prevention week

Water, water everywhere and not a fire to fight. That was the state of affairs when firemen and their apparatus invaded the Omaha Works for Fire Prevention Week, October 8-12.

Water gushed on schedule Thursday, October 11, when firefighters provided an ultra air display in the mall for delighted employees. Millard Volunteer Fire Department members connected their pumper to a hydrant and streamed water high in the sky from three hoses below.

The super shower highlighted the week's daily displays by the Millard and Omaha Fire Departments. They provided firefighting rigs complete with crews to demonstrate equipment and answer questions from interested Works employees. Some employees, however, were providing answers as members of the Millard volunteer crew.

These noontime events were only a portion of the Safety Organization's week-long gala to emphasize National Fire Prevention Week. Organization members, concerned about increased home fire hazards, planned a series of events to firmly plant fire safety in employee minds.

Fire prevention first caught work force attention when "Partners in Fire Prevention" posters were placed in strategic locations throughout the plant. Published by the National Fire Prevention Association, the signs warned of possible work and home fire hazards.

In addition to the posters, 10-foot banners in the east and west parking lots heralded fire prevention during the official week and on through November.

The Omaha Fire Department's Education Bureau also stationed firemen in the cafeterias all three shifts during Prevention Week to display equipment, answer questions, and distribute free literature. Pamphlets included information on how to build a fire escape ladder, the EDITH escape plan, and a fire safety check-off list.

A super shower from the Millard Fire Department pumper highlights the Safety Organization's fire prevention activities.



Having second thoughts, Curt Morse, 524, takes one last look before Russ Queen, 524, accompanies him up the fire truck ladder.

Fired up about safety might best describe Rudy Rudolfo, Omaha Works safety and plant inspection supervisor.

As a result of his contributions toward fire safety awareness at the Works, Rudolfo was appointed the city's 1979-80 honorary fire chief by the Omaha Fire Department.

During National Fire Prevention Week, Rudolfo was honored at the city's central fire station October 9, and received a plaque and regulation fire hat to applaud his many years of effort.

According to Vernon Van Scoy, Omaha Fire Department chief, Rudolfo was chosen because of "the outstanding job he's done at Western Electric in fire prevention and fire protection.

"It's a big job. To protect people from themselves is the hardest job in the world, and that's what fire prevention is," Van Scoy said.

16. Fire prevention meetings

How do you explain to an elderly lady smoke detectors are not just for smokers?

That was an unexpected problem to solve for Mike Blanchard, 282-5, and Larry Josoff, 731, when conducting their first fire prevention meeting for elderly Omahans.

The two men, members of the Western Electric subgroup of the Omaha Jaycees, presented programs for tenants of the Omaha Housing Authority's buildings for low income senior citizens. The project, funded by the Omaha Works and the Omaha Jaycees, was designed to teach the elderly basic fire prevention rules and safety habits.

Each presentation began with a fire prevention film narrated by Dick Van Dyke, and was followed by refreshments and a talk about prevention rules. Awarding smoke detectors as door prizes usually wrapped up the sessions, but some participants were so enthusiastic, they asked to see the film again.



Fit for fire prevention, Rudy Rudolfo, 524-1, models his regulation hat for Chief Vernon Van Scoy.

17. Safety calendar

Judges Carol Anderson, Sister Barbara Loomis, and John Pecoraro examine calendar contest entries.



Budding young artists proved safety can be creative during the second annual safety calendar contest.

Sponsored by the Safety Organization, 144 posters were entered by children and grandchildren of employees, in hopes theirs would be one of the 12 chosen to illustrate the 1980 calendar. Each entry was judged according to artwork quality, prominence of a safety message and reproduction quality.

Choosing from almost twice the number entered for last year's calendar, judges said selecting the best was difficult because all entries were well done. Judges were Carol Anderson, art supervisor for the Omaha Public Schools; Sister Barbara Loomis, art instructor at Christ the King School; and John Pecoraro, art instructor at the Ralston Middle School.

Entries, due July 31, were evenly distributed among the contest's six age groups, represented each season, and dealt with a wide variety of topics.

Winners received one share of AT&T stock, and were served refreshments in the Works auditorium. The calendars, distributed in December, pictured each winner with his or her sponsor.

The winners, two chosen from each group, were:

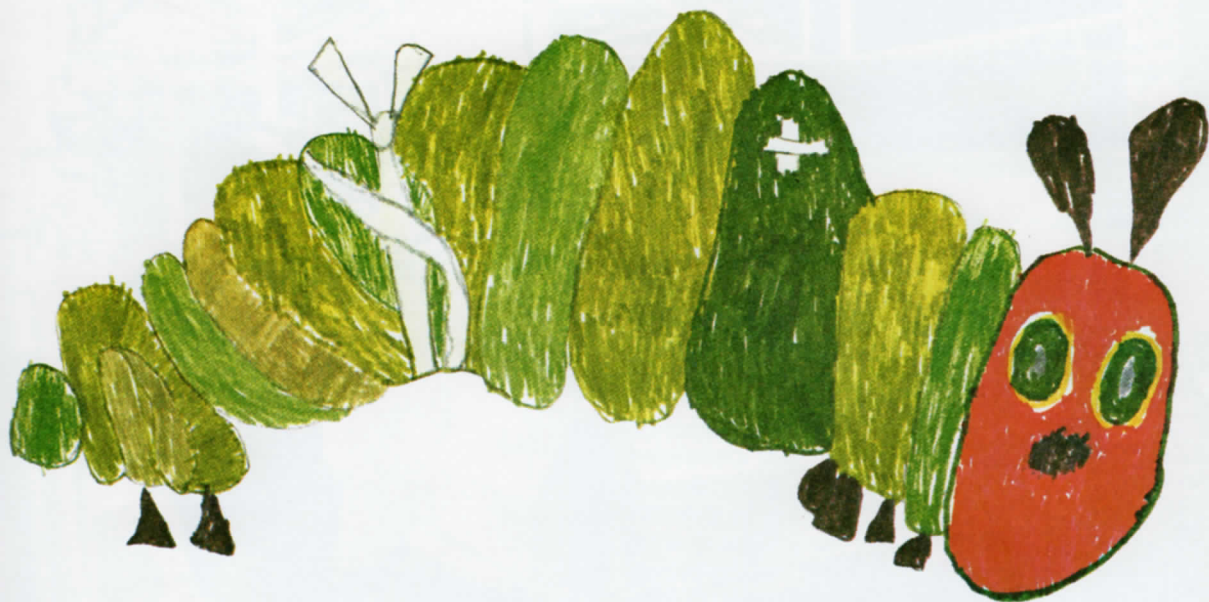
Group 1 (Preschool to 2nd grade): Marcus Hagood, son of Helga Hagood, Department 435; Daniel Ens, son of Lyndon Ens, Department 475.

Group 2 (3rd and 4th grade): Julie Cornwell, daughter of Todd Cornwell, Department 735; Tiffany Browns, daughter of Richard Browns, Department 741.

Group 3 (5th and 6th grade): Colleen Cochran, daughter of Robert Cochran, Department 1231; Shaun Stewart, son of Jay Stewart, Department 475.

Group 4 (7th and 8th grade): Dave Karloff, son of Dennis Karloff, Department 744; Jerry Kent, son of Ed Kent, Department 445.

Take A Minute Everyday
Safety First
Before It Hunts

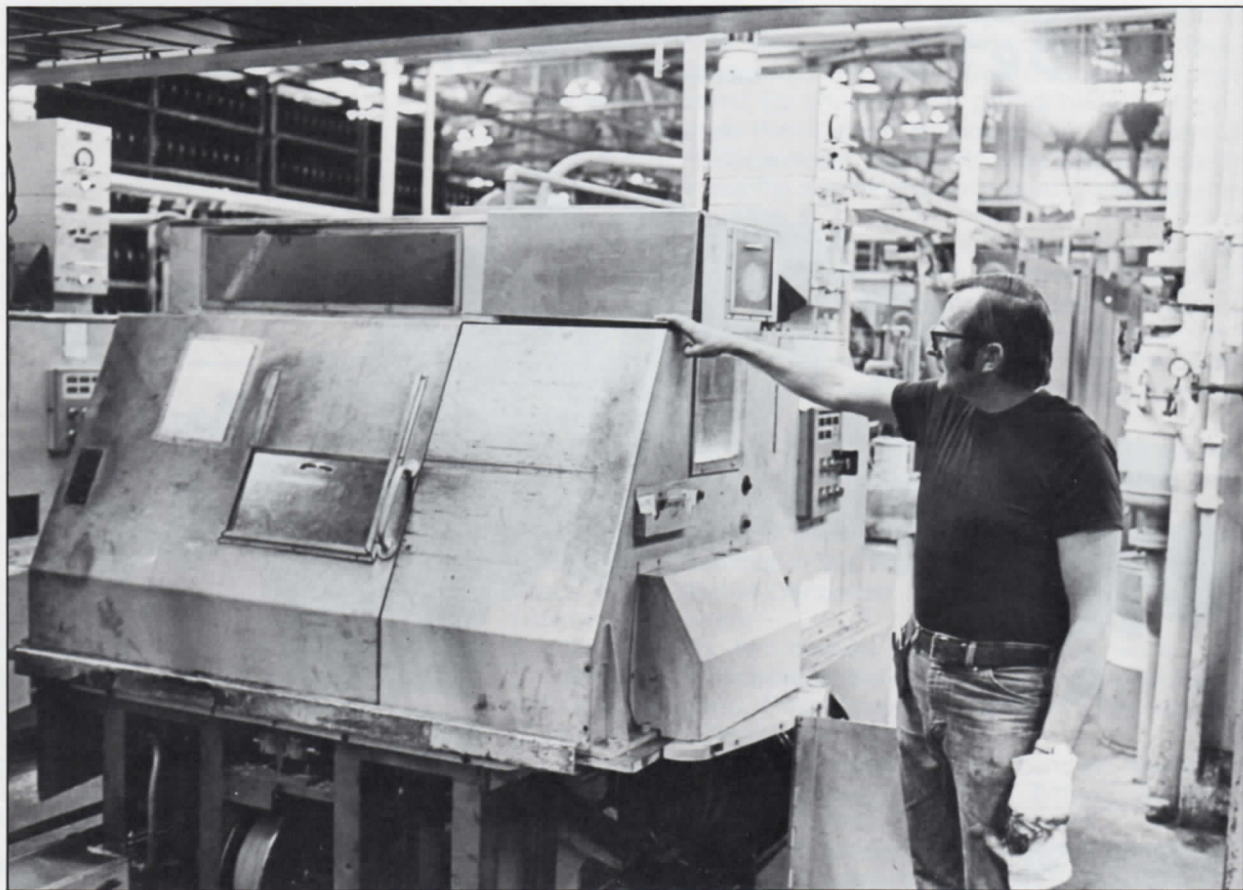


Even crawly caterpillars promote safety in the 1980 calendar. This bandaged creature was created by Daniel Enszt.

Group 5 (9th and 10th grade): Lora Wilson, daughter of Betty Wilson, Department 725; Greg Baltzer, son of Gary Baltzer, Department 472.

Group 6 (11th and 12th grade): Peggy Miller, daughter of Sharon Miller, Department 331; Teresa Harken, daughter of Sam Martin, Department 435.

Engineering contributions



Glenn Anderson, 251, examines exchange insulating line take-ups guarded to contain flying wire.

18. Machine guarding

Protecting against accidents takes concrete form when machine guards are added for operator protection. Machine-guarding improvements during the year resulted in:

1. Better conveyor guards placed on exchange wire insulating line take-ups.
2. Redesigned shrouds on exchange insulating line high speed take-ups.
3. Modified guarding on PVC insulating line color coders.
4. Exchange insulating line take-ups guarded to contain flying wire.
5. Improved die lab heavy duty ripping machine guards.
6. Additional guarding on the belt sander.
7. New guarding on the coin and trim machines.
8. Redesigned guards for inserting terminals on ground straps for 10-type stub cable.
9. Crossover heater tube guards installed on top coat extruders on the PVC jacketing line.
10. A balancing machine in the machine construction area guarded with a partition and sliding hood.
11. Additional guarding placed on all IPVC wire re-winders.
12. Additional guarding installed on DFW coilers to contain flying wire.



A new electrostatic precipitator exhaust helps Dick Hinkle, 441, when removing solder dross from the circuit pack wave soldering machine.



Installation of a novel exhaust system makes work safer for Kenny Hunt, 441, on the 2-type closure job.

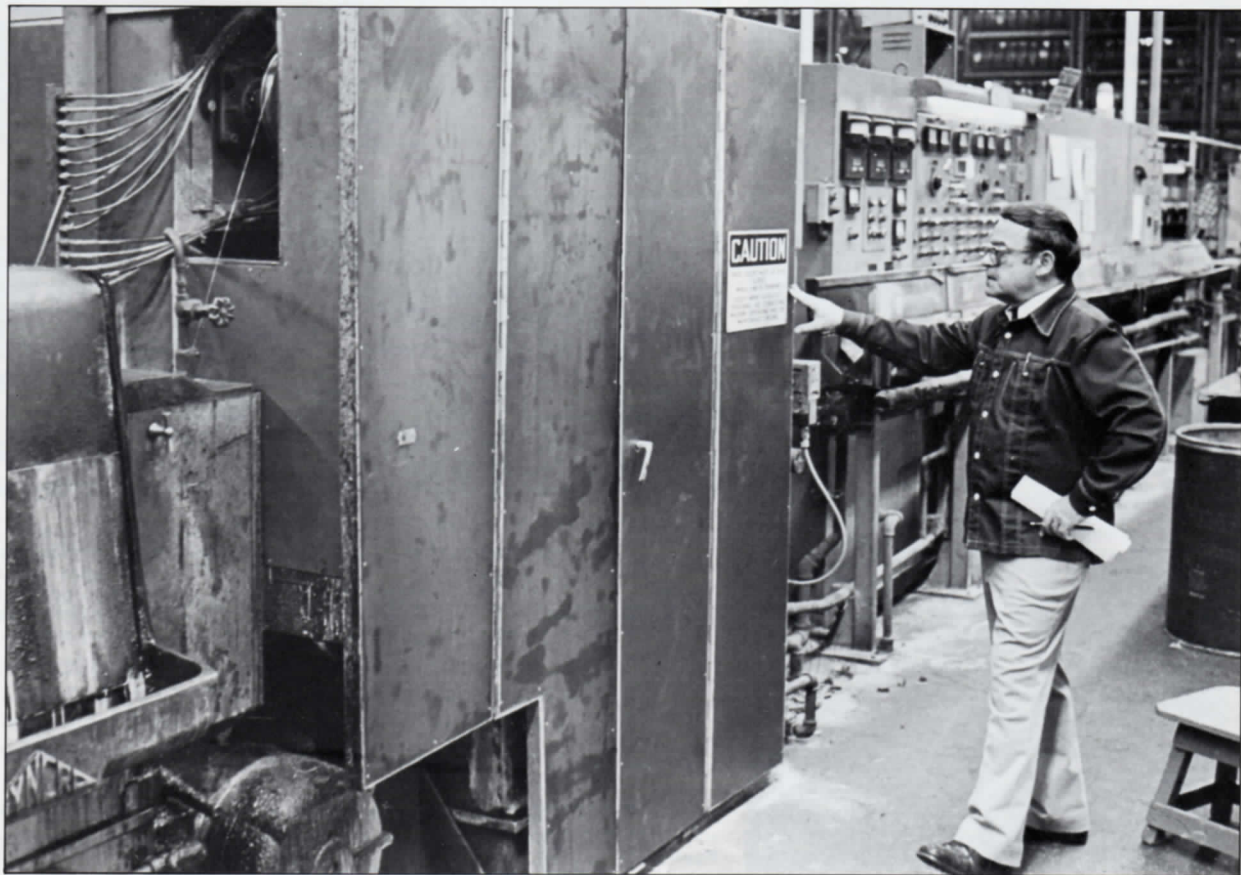
19. Exhaust systems

Chemicals can be any Works' dream or nightmare, depending upon the control and efficiency of its exhaust systems. To guard against chemical over-exposure and its disastrous effects, these systems were carefully inspected and adjusted in line with strict safety standards.

Exhaust system installations and alterations included:

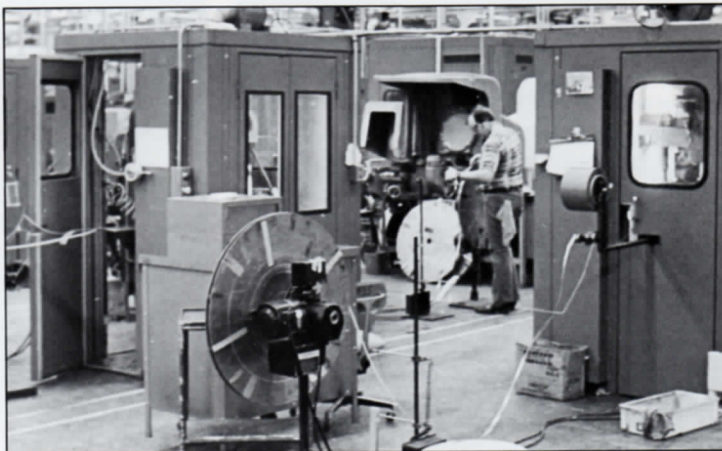
1. A new electrostatic precipitator exhaust now used when removing solder dross from the circuit pack wave soldering machine.
2. Installation of a novel exhaust system for the 2-type closure job.
3. Modification of the binding post alumina mixing pot's exhaust systems, reducing dust and exposure to epoxy and methylene chloride vapors.
4. Exhausts installed for polyurethane dispensers.
5. The miniature wire spring relay comb acid dipping exhaust redesigned and rebuilt for greater efficiency.
6. The miniature wire spring relay and ground strap solder pot exhausts, as well as the P & E Lab exhaust, modified for greater efficiency.

John Schanbacher, 524, inspects improved wire insulating line annealer doors that now help minimize noise.



20. Noise control

New accoustical enclosures surround various punch presses.



Noise control plus hearing protection equals safer, healthier plant employees. To keep that formula (and employees) working, several changes were engineered to improve job atmosphere. They were:

1. The exchange wire insulating annealer doors were improved for noise abatement.
2. By replacing the pressure blower and vacuum pump on one unit, the plastic pneumatic handling system noise level was reduced.
3. Reels of wire rotating on the exchange wire mass remnant scrapper were quieted by redesigning the pay-off arbor.
4. Accoustical enclosures were purchased and installed around various punch presses.



Under the watchful eyes of Dr. Lee Grant, 140, Dan Boland, 524, measures the force required to start wheeled pallets at PIC tandem lines.



Additional overhead hoists in the 10-type stub cable area reduce physical exertion for La-mond Secret, 445.

21. Biomechanics

Disabling injuries of the worst kind: those caused by unnecessary physical exertion. To prevent the pain of back strain, hernias, and lost work days, biomechanic alterations literally made the load lighter for many operators.

Advances in bio-mechanical engineering were numerous:

1. A new Biomechanics Task Force reviewed all cases and implemented changes for decreasing operator stress.
2. A pallet repair program was instituted to prevent back strains and hernias.
3. Safe-lifting training increased employee awareness of back problem causes.
4. Heavy reel payoff shafts were redesigned to decrease their weight.
5. The mass scrapper was redesigned to decrease required physical exertion.
6. Orders for jackstacker replacements were placed to reduce reel handling risks.
7. Atactic tank car unloading facilities were redesigned to lessen operator strain.
8. Revision of comcodes prevented receiving chemical bags weighing more than 50 pounds.
9. To prevent excess exertion, work tables were lowered in the metal fabrication shop.
10. Dollies were purchased for the 710 connector job, eliminating lifting of full parts containers.
11. Additional overhead hoists installed in the 10-type stub cable area reduced physical exertion.
12. Counterweights were installed on the exchange insulating capstan doors.
13. Hydraulic lift tables and counterbalances for hand riveters were added in the metal fabrication shop.



Because they need careful handling, Mary Ann Johnson, 524, labels hazardous material barrels shipped from the Works for disposal.

22. Industrial hygiene

New diversion basins intercept any abnormal affluent occurring at the Waste Treatment Plant.



Safety is a people preservation and environment protection business. Just like the song, there really can't be one without the other if hazard prevention is permanent. Environmental engineering accomplished the following items to keep the two balanced:

1. A procedure was established for consultation with environmental and safety organizations prior to issuing new comcode numbers for chemical or hazardous items.
2. Wire drawing compounds at the number one and two wire drawing machines were converted to synthetic types, eliminating disposal problems of soap fat wastes.
3. Considerable expense and engineering time updated the waste treatment plant.
4. A new waste disposal identification system was implemented.



Jeff Gamble, 524, takes an airborne lead sample off operator **Martin Kearns, 441.**

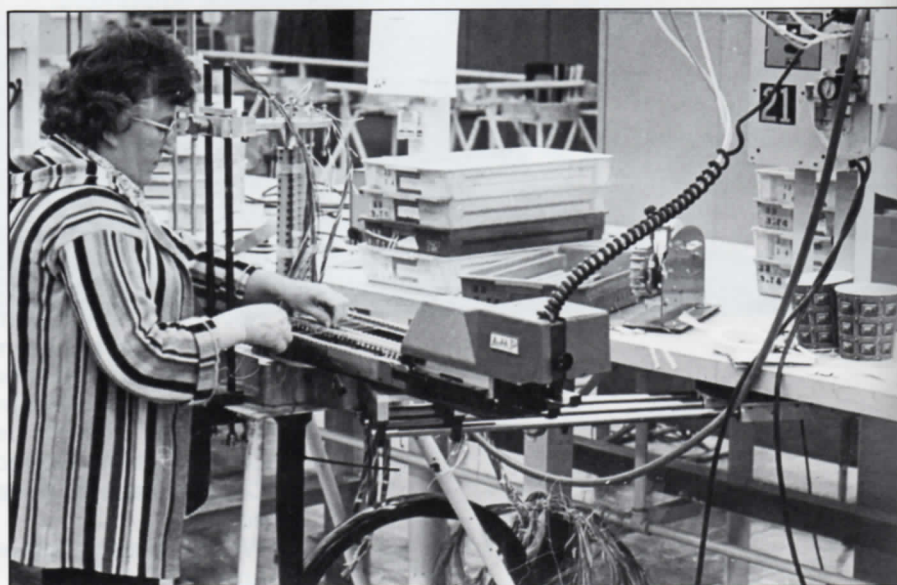
23. Environmental engineering

While environmental engineers concern themselves with out-of-plant conditions such as waste disposal, industrial hygienists create a healthier inplant environment for employees. On-the-job industrial hygiene activities included:

1. Additional funds spent for extra industrial hygiene equipment.
2. Additional floor space assigned to the industrial hygiene-environmental laboratory.
3. Revision of the Omaha Supplement to the Manufacturing Standard 16,000.
4. Lead tests where possible exposures existed.
5. Testing short-term exposures to methyl chloroform, epichlorohydrin, and perchloroethylene.
6. Studies and testing on epon-containing plastics.
7. Updating of the hazardous material withdrawal system.
8. Revision of the radiation training manual.
9. Cooperation between the Medical and Industrial Hygiene Organizations to update occupational health examination protocols.
10. Industrial hygiene personnel involved with the Omaha Safety Council, OSHA inspections, and CEC courses to advance their technical knowledge.
11. Writing 12 environmental concern papers on hazardous materials.



New wire insertion machines in the load coil assembly operation eliminate soldering and reduce the number of operators. Department 444 members Valene Lathan and Victoria Balsarine work with the old method while Dixie Curry handles the new.



24. Additional engineering items

These engineering items made safety in '79 complete:

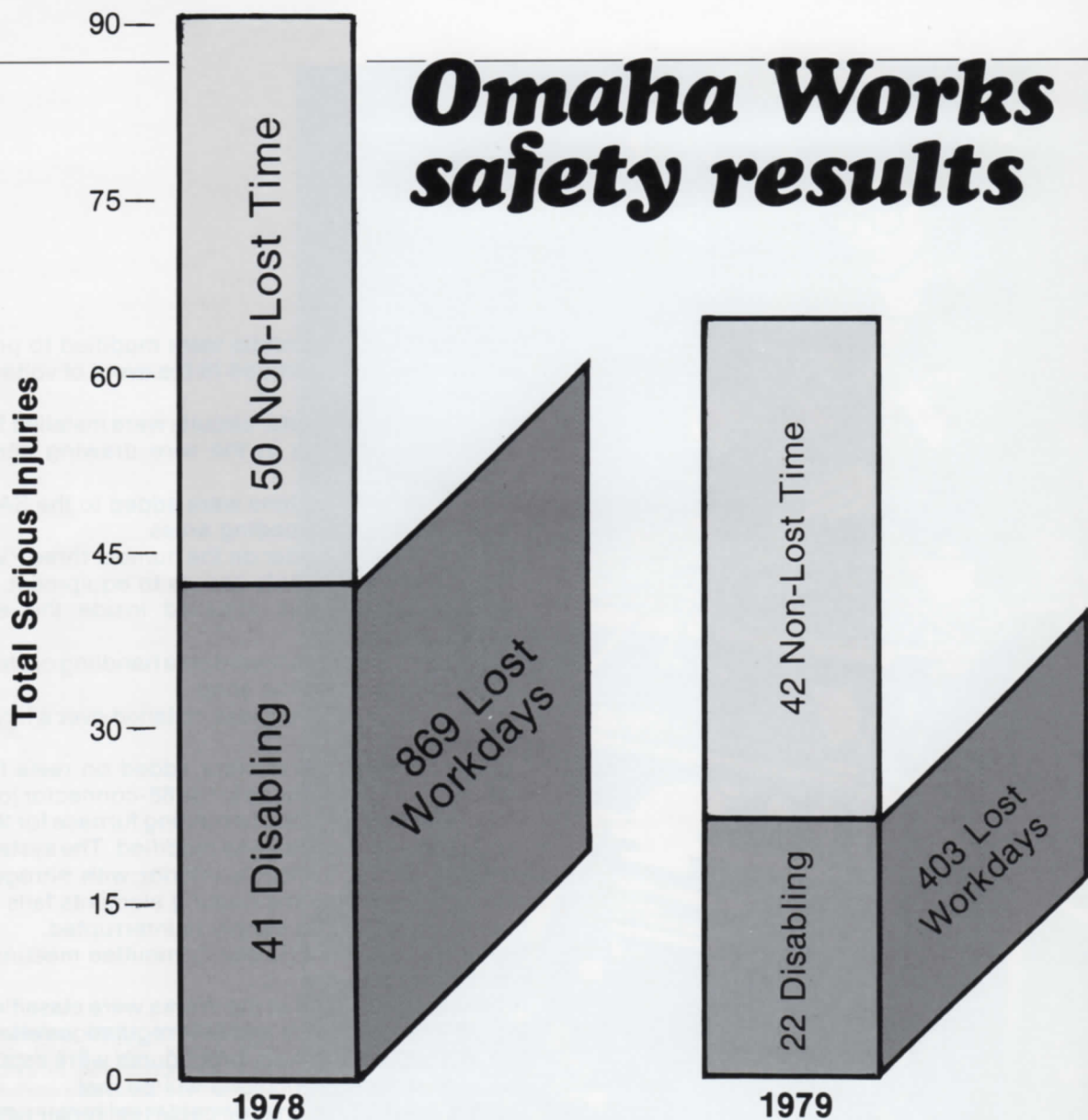
1. Exchange insulating electrical control cabinets were cooled to eliminate opening them for cooling in hot weather.
2. Safer hook designs were made for FDI cabinet chromate pre-treatment washers, both front and back hanging positions. Also designed were powder finishing hangers for "F" size and aerial model "H" FDI cabinet shells.
3. To prevent pinching of fingers, orders were issued to interlock old-style exchange insulating line take-up arbors.
4. Orders were placed to install limit switches on exchange DEPIC insulating line take-ups. This will reduce chances of a rotating reel leaving the arbor. Design and orders were also completed to change the brake lock circuit.
5. A cage added in the wire die laboratory now prevents burns from hot tools.
6. New cable cutters for the 76 and 108 terminal blocks were safer to use.
7. Eliminating possible hazard, a dual-stage foot pedal was installed for a spot welder.
8. The 16-type closure vacuum-forming machine received a safety gate and fire control system.
9. Wire insertion machines in the load coil assembly eliminated approximately 160 undesirable hand soldering operations.
10. Cooling the electrostatic powder spray room created better conditions for workers.

Preparing cords for bagging, Bea Gunia, 725, knows she works in safe conditions. The machine's electrical control system was modified to prevent accidental cycling during voltage surges.



11. Bagging machine circuits were modified to prevent inadvertant operation in the event of voltage surges.
12. Ground fault interrupter circuits were installed for all electrical outlets in the wire drawing compound room.
13. Emergency stop buttons were added to the SAM machines inside unloading areas.
14. Guardrails and a ladder on the number three PVC vault roof provided safe access to equipment.
15. Internal lighting was installed inside the exchange twisters.
16. Hydraulic lift tables allowed safe handling of steel in the metal fabrication shop.
17. A maintenance catwalk was installed over a large overhead door.
18. Several safety features were added on reels for cable forming operations in the 88-connector job.
19. The purge system in the hardening furnace for the product heat treat area was modified. The system will blanket the furnace's interior with nitrogen whenever power to the heating elements fails or the atmospheric gas supply is interrupted.
20. Union Management Safety Committee meetings continued.
21. All wastes generated at the Works were classified for DOT requirements and EPA regulations effective in 1980. In addition, procedures were established to assure regulations will be met.
22. Plans were made to change cable reel repair paint from organic solvent enamel to a water base latex.

Omaha Works safety results



25. Results

In 1979, Omaha achieved a 54 percent decrease in lost and 46 percent reduction in disabling injuries.

There's more to the statistics than meets the eye. The number of injuries (13) directly associated with the Omaha Works operations in 1979, showed a dramatic decrease from 24 for 1978.

This decrease of 46 percent was also true for total statistics for 1979. They included parking lot injuries (2), occupational diseases such as dermatitis (1), and other occupational disabilities such as hernias (5), and tenosynovitis (1).

However, this latter category (OOD's) which must be included for corporate statistical purposes, consists of long-term onset medical problems, rather than outright traumatic injuries from plant operations.

26. Safety organization



The Safety Organization. Front. John Schanbacher, Vi Beckman, Linda Giebler, Mary Ann Johnson. **Second.** Dan Boland, Jeff Gamble, Dick Veach, Rudy Rudolfo, Madeline Engel. **Back.** Russ Queen, Bob Hanson, Bud Hughes, Jerry Cozette. **Not pictured.** Curt Morse, Rex Zeller.

Safety glasses are a must for Bernice Salkeld, 289, while operating a cable shielder.



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Western Electric