



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

LOCAL UNION NO. 1974



13306 STEVENS STREET

OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68137

TELEPHONE 895-4080

OFFICERS

Tom Connor *President*
Frank Nagel *Vice-President*
Marie Cook *Recording Secretary*
Mary Ellen Maxwell *Financial Secretary*
John Schwenck *Treasurer*

Union Meetings

Third Friday of Each Month
Dayshift — 8:00 p.m.
Nightshift — 12:30 a.m.

Executive Board

Frank P. Possinger, Chairman
Marlene Majeski Tom Van Dyke
Kenneth L. Parker Marlene Wilson

Newspaper Staff

D. M. Wiecezorek, Editor
Wayne Masek, Asst. Editor

July 15, 1988

President's Message



Tom Connor

The Company announced in June that they would modify the existing Attendance Control Plan for hourly employees effective on July 1, 1988. This modification would have tightened the criteria for levels considerably and also tightened the irregularities. This change caused a great deal of anxiety within the hourly ranks.

In the past several weeks, your local union and the Company held many discussions concerning the attendance issue.

The major complaint heard from the membership was "Why should good people be made to suffer because of a few bad actors." This issue was discussed at great length with the Company. In these discussions, the Company continually said they did not want to punish good people but that the costs for sickness absence had risen significantly. The Company continually stated that in today's competitive marketplace, this increased cost cannot be passed on to our customers.

I think that these discussions produced a better understanding of the problems facing both the Union and the Company concerning the attendance issue.

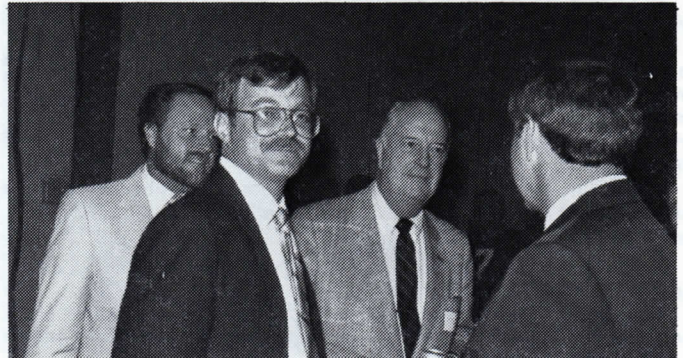
As an outcome of these discussions, the Company has announced that the existing Attendance Control Plan would remain in effect with no changes on July 1, 1988. Your Local Union has made a commitment to the Company to work with the Company and the membership in order to reduce the rising costs of sickness payments.

Your Local Union will be meeting with the Company on a regular basis to discuss the attendance and we need your ideas on this issue. We are looking for positive ways to establish a work environment that is built on the trustworthiness of the overwhelming majority rather than on the dishonesty of a few.

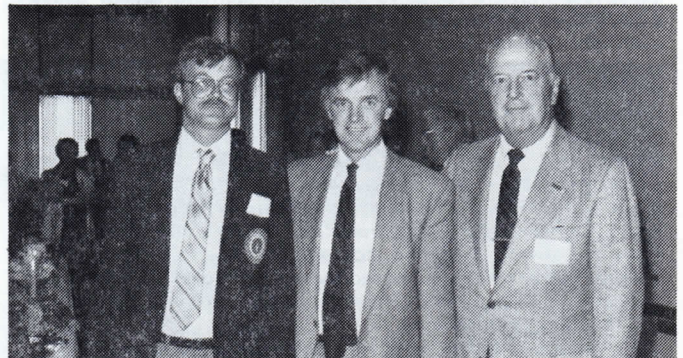
On June 28th, a dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony was held for our new ETOP Computer Training Center. The

day proved to be a very successful event in our history. International President Jack Barry and AT&T Network System President Wayne Weeks were our honored guests. Mr. Barry and Mr. Weeks jointly cut the ribbon to our new center. Both spoke briefly on the center and the fact that this computer center represents the joint efforts of labor and management.

I was very proud of our membership and the Omaha Works. I am sure that all of our distinguished visitors came away with a positive feeling of the Omaha Works and its people. My thanks to the many people that worked to make this day a success.



IBEW President Jack Barry talks with CWA Local 7400 President Dan Dolan (extreme right) while Director of Manufacturing Bob Stander (left) and President LU1974 Tom Connor listen in.

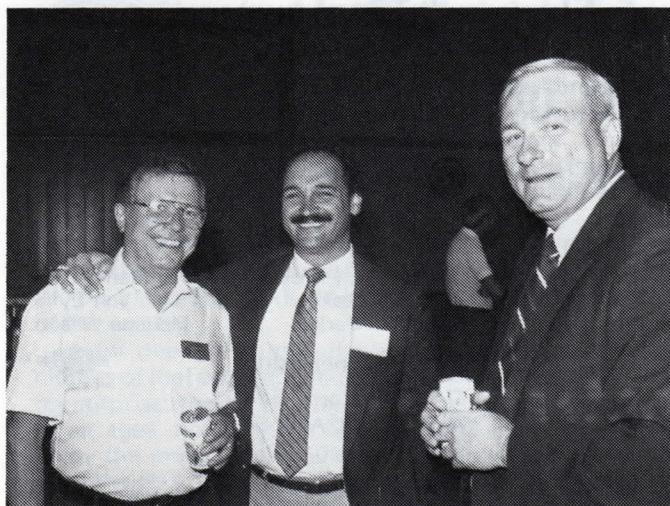


Taking a little time away from his vigorous election campaigning Senatorial Candidate Bob Kerrey (center) stops by LU1974 to meet with IBEW President Jack Barry (right) and LU1974 President Tom Connor.

Union Meeting Tonight

The monthly meeting of the membership will be held Friday, July 15, 1988, at the Union Hall, 13306 Stevens Street.

Second shift meeting: 12:30 a.m. First and Third shift meeting: 8 p.m. \$100 Drawing.



Local Union 1974 Vice-President Frank Nagel takes a little time out from the recent reception for IBEW President Jack Barry to speak with Nick Falcone, Secretary-Treasurer of EM-3 Council (center) and Bob Myers, President of the EM-3 Council.

CWA Presidents Tour Omaha Works

By Vice-President Frank Nagel

On June 20, 1988, Tom Connor and I met with Ralph Maly, President of the Atlanta Works, and Bill Hirsch, President of the Phoenix Works, who were in Omaha to attend a CWA District Meeting.

During their visit, they expressed a desire to tour the Omaha Works as both had friends here that transferred from other locations.

Gene Saab from the Labor Relations Department conducted the tour for us and did an excellent job. Ralph and Bill were both impressed with the size of the Omaha Works, the diversity of our products and the overall cleanliness of the buildings. They also enjoyed discussions with many of the employees as well as old friends.

While they were here, Tom and I discussed a number of items with them that are common to our three locations, including coordinated bargaining in 1989.

Both presidents extended an invitation to us to visit their locations at some near future date.

I ran across the following article in CWA's Atlanta Works union paper entitled "Bell's Belles" which I found quite interesting and worthy of sharing:

"Once there was a speech therapist, a teacher whose compassion for the deaf was so great that he spent every spare moment experimenting with ways to help them learn to speak. These experiments eventually led the young man to investigate the electrical transmission of sound and to invent a revolutionary apparatus that came to be known as the telephone. That teacher was, of course, Alexander Graham Bell.

But you just think you know the rest of the story . . .

If it's true that behind every great man is a woman, then it was doubly true of Alexander Graham Bell. Two women greatly inspired him: his mother and his wife. Bell's mother, Eliza, helped direct his childhood attention to the study of speech. Whenever Alex set about on his enterprises and hobbies, the original "Ma Bell" was always there to encourage him.

Enter Mabel Hubbard, the second belle in Bell's life — his wife. Alex met Mabel in Boston. Their story weaves the romantic tapestry of a 19th century novel.

She youthful, lovely, rich. He brilliant, ardent, poor.

Together they encountered the traditional obstacles of initial parental objection to the marriage and public ridicule of his genius. And yes, they eventually succeeded. Mable, like Alex's mother, inspired Bell through love and devotion — and perhaps, through something else.

Alexander Bell's occupation, first and foremost, was his work with those who could not hear. Isn't it ironic, then, that his beloved students could never benefit from his most celebrated invention, the telephone? It is even more ironic when you consider that the two women who gave him inspiration could never fully appreciate it either.

For they also — his mother and his wife — were deaf."



Photos and Story by Donald M. Wieczorek

Omaha—Monday, June 27, 1988 will long be remembered as one of the biggest days in the 31 year history of Local Union 1974. IBEW President Jack Barry paid a special visit to Local Union 1974. It was the first time ever that the President of the IBEW visited LU1974.

President Barry was in Omaha to officially dedicate the joint IBEW/AT&T Enhanced Training Opportunities Program (ETOP) Computer Center recently installed at the Omaha Works. President Barry would share in the dedication ceremonies with Network System President Wayne Weeks.

Accompanying President Barry to Omaha was his assistant Thomas Hickman; Bob Stander, Director of Manufacturing; Michael D. Quinlan, IO Rep; Bob Meyer, President EM-3 Council; and Nick Falcone, Secretary-Treasurer EM-3 Council.

President Barry attended a special reception held in his honor at the Local Union 1974 union hall. Also in attendance for the special occasion and invited by our local union to meet President Barry was Senate candidate Bob Kerrey; Gordon McDonald, President of the Nebraska State AFL-CIO; Ken Mass, Secretary-Treasurer, Nebraska State AFL-CIO; Terry Moore, President of Central Labor Union (CLU); Dan Dolan, President of CWA 7400; several union officers and business agents from affiliated IBEW locals within the 11th District, and the officers and union reps of Local Union 1974.

There was a later AT&T sponsored reception Monday evening in honor of the ETOP Committee and the special dignitaries from both the IBEW and AT&T.

On Tuesday the 28th, President Barry was given a tour of the Omaha Works where he met and talked with over 100 union members working at their jobs.

The in-plant tour was followed by a special banquet in the company auditorium. Guests at the banquet included 100 randomly picked employees along with the ETOP Committee and special dignitaries from the IBEW and AT&T.

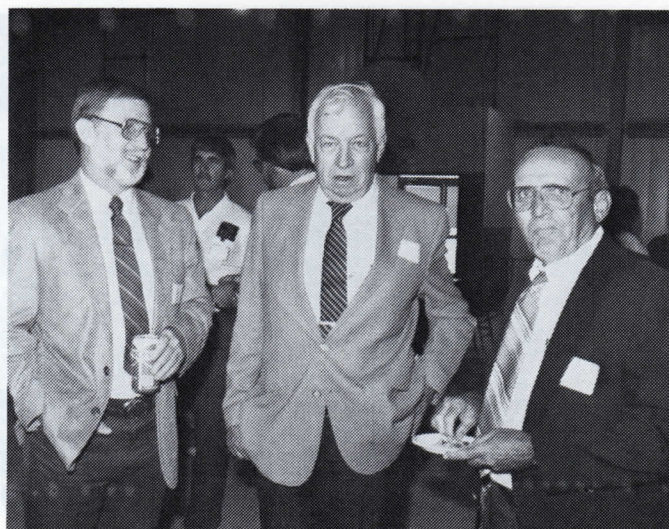
After the banquet, IBEW President Barry and N/S President Weeks officially dedicated the ETOP Computer Center. Both President Barry and President Weeks ceremoniously cut the ribbon that would lead to computer knowledge and congratulated each other on the cooperation exhibited by both their organizations, the IBEW and AT&T, in getting this task completed.

IBEW President Barry called the ETOP Computer Center "a milestone" in cooperation between the AT&T Company and the IBEW union. He said "It was significant that our union members are being trained in computers."

"This is the place to be right now," said President Barry, "If we are going to be masters of our own destiny, we have got to be able to provide training for it. We have a lot of competition from off-shore, but we are not going to give up."



IBEW IO Representative Michael D. Quinlan spends a little time talking to one of three remaining L.U. 1974 charter members, Ryan Murphy of Dept. 545.



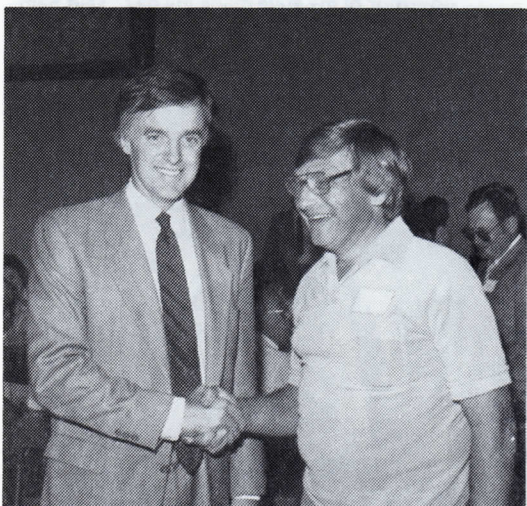
Representatives from two IBEW locals in the 11th District (left to right) Jim Pelley, BA, Local 265; Ed Callahan, Local 1525; Tom Brock, president, Local 1525.



IBEW President Jack Barry (a former splicer) jokes with several members of Local 763. This local represents workers (including linemen) who work for OPPD at Fort Calhoun.



Local 1974 Office Secretary Marge White and Pam Rabbe talk to Linda Johnson, Dept. 261. Linda owns and operates *Extra Touch Catering*, which took care of the food needs for the reception for President Barry, held at the Union Hall.



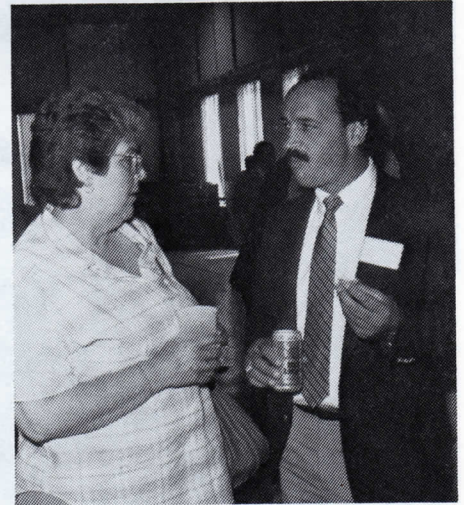
Senatorial Candidate Bob Kerrey shakes hands with Short Circuit Asst. Editor Wayne Masek. "I never had the opportunity to meet these kinds of people when I was on the Job Grades Committee."



Union Reps Carla Dixon and Debbie Gulizia comment on IO Rep. Quinlan's sport jacket. "I didn't recognize you without your leisure suit," says Carla. "You look like you just walked off the cover of *Gentleman's Quarterly*."



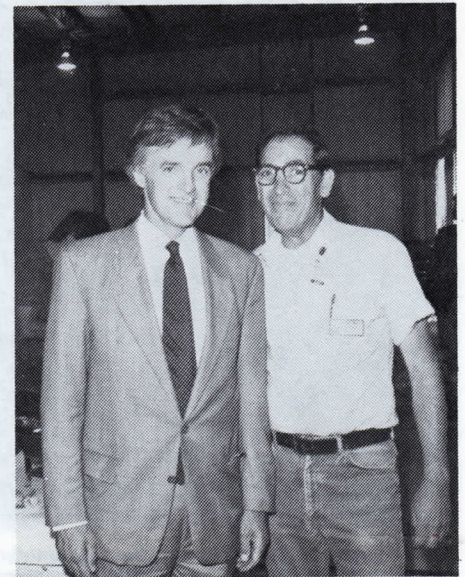
A large group of union reps meet International President Jack Barry. (Left, from top) Edie Reister, Debbie Gulizia, and Nebraska AFL-CIO President Gordon McDonald. (Front row, right) Debbie Ridge, Carla Dixon, and Sparky Bruning. (Standing, rear row, right) Frank Possinger, Sandy Barnes, Sandy Ryder, Mary Maxwell, Marie Cook, President Barry, and Joyce Osler.



Pat Nicholson, local union 1614 president, talks with EM-3 Council Secretary-Treasurer Nick Falcone.



(Counterclockwise around table) President Barry talks with a group of union reps: Jerry Pote, Jim Pabian, Wayne Masek, Ben Garcia, and Ed Betzer.



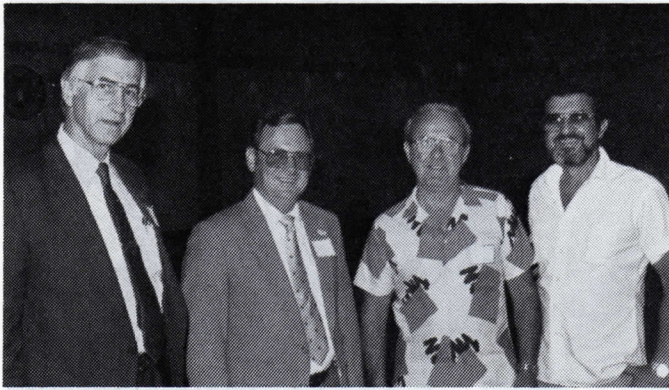
Senatorial Candidate Bob Kerrey and Sam Toscano Dept. 544. "Meeting the former governor of my state made my day," said Sam.



Two former Local 1974 Presidents, Ken Mass (left) and Mike Quinlan (right) discuss old elections as Tom Murray looks on.



Former Local 1974 President Mike Quinlan introduces IBEW President Jack Barry to Union Rep Vern Klauman, Jr.



I.O. presidential Executive Assistant Tom Hickman stops to talk with Local 1974 Treasurer John Schwenk, and Union Reps Al Meyers and Mike Kelly.



Job Grades Chairman Jerry Pote has discussion with Bob Stander, director of manufacturing, and Nick Falcone, EM-3 Council sec.-treas.



Officers and stewards of Local 1614 stop by to meet President Barry. (Clockwise from left) Sandy Petska, financial secretary; Donna Schwenk and Bob Guyton, stewards; Pat Nicholson, prresident; Loren Wacker, vice-president; and Carla Dixon, Local 1974 steward.



Executive Board Officer Marlene Majeski and Recording Secretary Marie Cook have a conversation with President Barry.



Shop Steward Charlie Newell (right) speaks with Senate Candidate Bob Kerrey while Marie Cook (back to camera), President Barry, and Mike Quinlan look on.



Director of Manufacturing Bob Stander and Safety Rep Ben Garcia reminisce about the old days, and life in South Omaha.



Three out of the four girls above offered to pay this photographer \$1 to be photographed with two Local 1974 shop stewards. (Left to right) Dan Lubash, Local 1974; Lori Myers, Local 2366 executive board; Judy Hosack, president of Local 2366; Donna Schwenk, Local 1614; John Armbruster, Local 1974; and LaVonne Herczyski, executive board, Local 2366.



Executive Board Officers Marlene Majeski (left) and Marlene Wilson talk to Mike Quinlan about the economy and what might be in store at the next contract negotiations.



IBEW President Jack Barry shakes hands with union member Don Teague of Dept. 541. Looking on is long time IBEW member Don Hunt of Dept. 283.



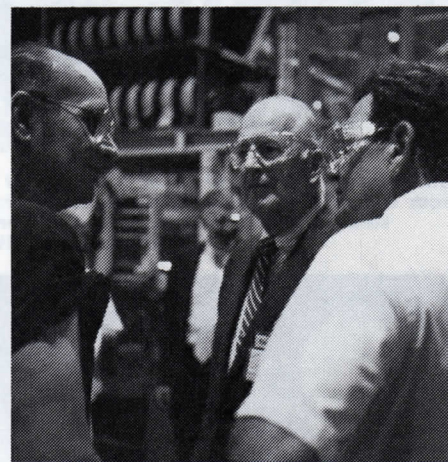
George Vomacka of Dept. 281 meets IBEW President Jack Barry. Looking on is Bob Stander and Mike Quinlan.



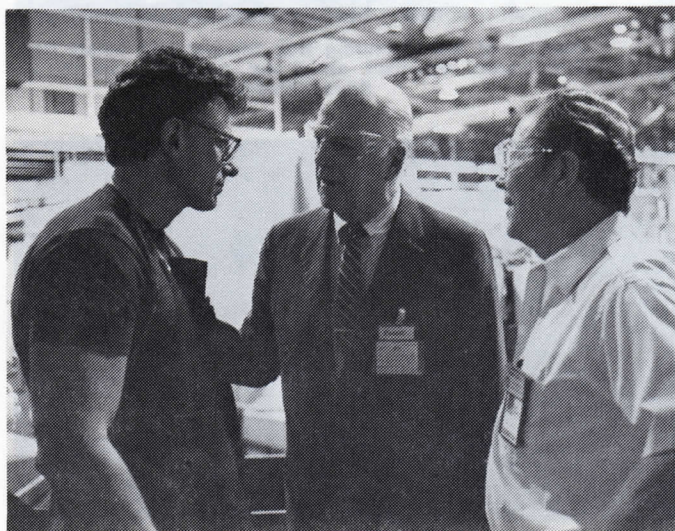
IBEW President Jack Barry talks with union member Dick Seaman of Dept. 283 about the AT&T employee suggestion plan.



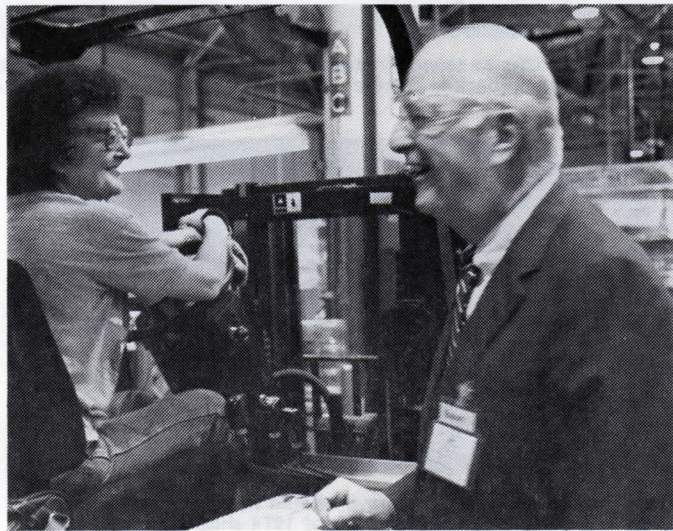
IBEW President Jack Barry and Machinist Pete Crawford of Dept. 541 discuss the heat in 50 building.



Union brother Gene LaChapelle of Dept. 283 stops and talks about his work assignment with President Barry and IO Rep Mike Quinlan.



IBEW President Jack Barry and L.U. 1974 Vice-President Frank Nagel stop and talk with Machinist Fred Wolski, Dept. 545.



Jolene Marfisi of Dept. 283 stops her trucking duties long enough to meet IBEW President Jack Barry.



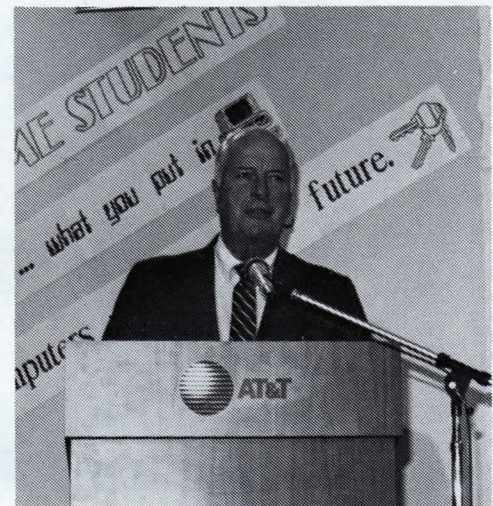
IBEW President Jack Barry and Network Systems President Wayne Weeks cut the ribbon to officially dedicate the ETOP computer room.



IBEW President Barry and N/S President Weeks congratulate each other on the cooperation it took from both their organizations, the IBEW and AT&T, Inc. to achieve the opening of the ETOP computer training center.



IBEW President Jack Barry, N/S President Wayne Weeks, and Omaha Works Manager Jack McKinnon applaud the unveiling of the ETOP computer center.



IBEW President Jack Barry speaks to the assembled employees "This computer center is a 'milestone' in cooperation between the IBEW and AT&T."



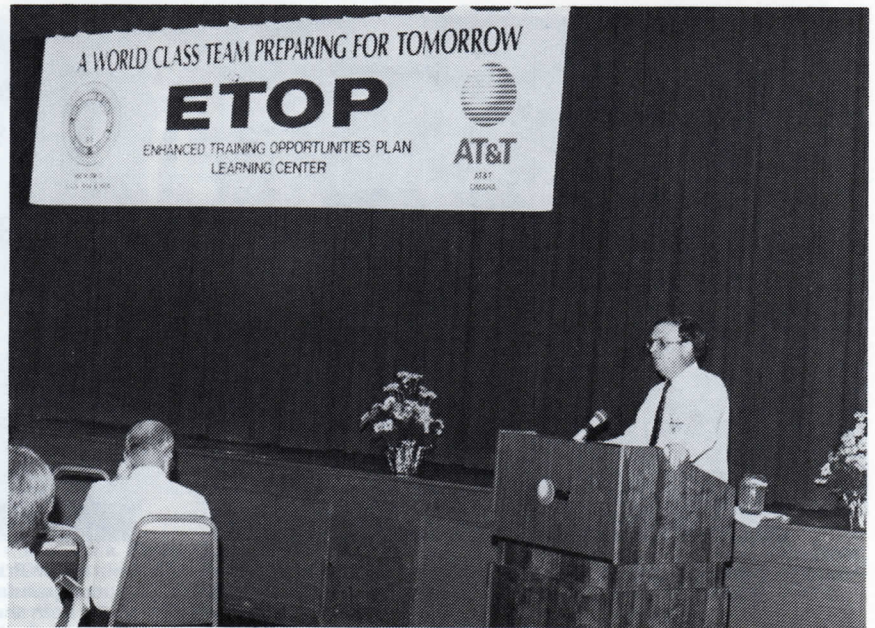
IBEW President Jack Barry autographs full page advertisement run in *World-Herald* June 27, 1988. Looking on is N/S President Wayne Weeks (left), Omaha Works Manager Jack McKinnon, and Omaha Works Bargaining Agent James Andry.



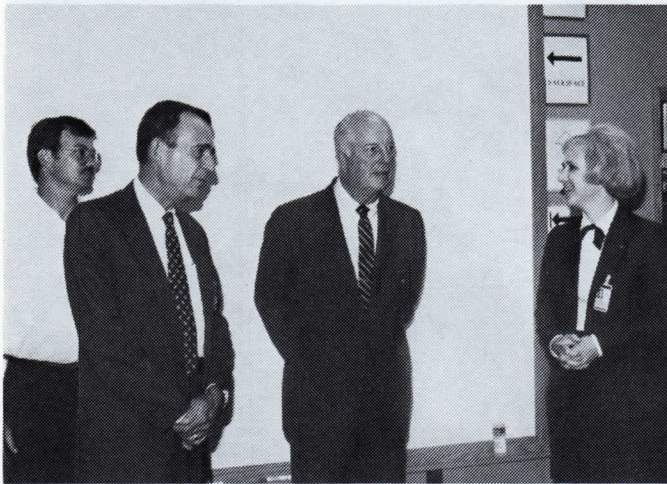
Network Systems President Wayne Weeks "If we are to be the masters of our destiny then it must be done through computer learning."



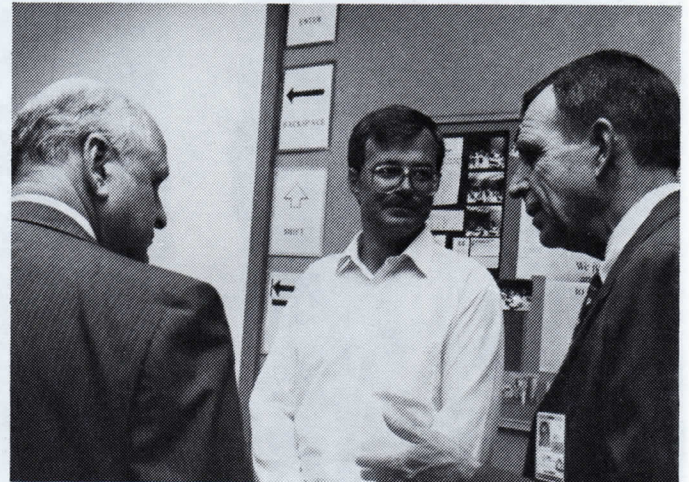
Julie Springer, Dept. 266 stops on her way to ETOP Banquet to talk with former LU1974 President Michael D. Quinlan.



Omaha Works Manager Jack McKinnon addressing invited guests at ETOP Banquet. "Competition and the future of business is now. And a well versed computer trained workforce will guide us into that future."



President LU1974 Tom Connor, N/S President Wayne Weeks, and IBEW President Jack Barry listen as Computer Science Instructor Cristal Smith explains classroom instructions and procedure.



Jim Dowdall, Director Corporate Labor Relations, Morristown, N.J. and Tom Connor President LU1974 listen to Network Systems President Wayne Weeks express his opinion on the importance of a computer trained workforce.



A pause in the ribbon cutting and speeches (from l-r) Local President Tom Connor, Local Vice-President Frank Nagel, Local Recording Secretary Marie Cook and IBEW President Jack Barry.



Labor Relations Associate Glenna Oltman introduces George Daily, supervisor Labor Relations to Thomas Hickman, Executive Assistant to I.O. President.

Benefit News

By Mary Ellen Maxwell

Financial Secretary & Benefits Officer

In last months Benefit News we touched on the wording in the new Benefit Booklet handed out by the company. The wording in question was in regards to the company having the right to change or terminate the Medical or Dental coverage for retirees.

A letter was given to the Union on July 6 from the Company with the following clarification of this wording. The letter states: It is true that those plans set forth long standing legal rights held by the Company to take such actions. Reference to those statements in booklets, however, does not mean that the Company has changed its position in any way as to whether or not such rights should be exercised. The Company merely set forth a legal right which always was contained in the plan documents. Nothing more was intended and nothing should be read into it.

Notwithstanding the legal rights outlined above, it should be noted that the booklets also point out that the plans for unionized employees will be maintained subject to applicable collective bargaining agreements. In other words, even though the Company may legally modify or terminate the plans, **It has agreed with the union not to do so for the period of the contract. The same is true for plans extended to retired employees who may be the subjects of those labor agreements.**

Workouts Can Hurt; Here's Help

Golf: Common injuries are golfer's elbow, back or neck strain, shoulder strain or bursitis.

For golfer's elbow, ask the club pro to recommend forearm conditioning exercises to help your forearms become strong and limber. Don't play for long periods until you've built up your strength.

For back and neck strain, do stretching exercises, such as truck stretches or knee-to-chest pulls to increase back flexibility.

Running: Common injuries are minor damage to tissue surrounding the kneecap (runner's knee); shin-splints or pain across the front of the leg; and Achilles' tendinitis, an inflammation of the tendon that starts in the calf and runs along the back of the lower leg to the heel.

For runner's knee, do conditioning exercises that build leg strength and don't increase your speed or distance by more than 10 percent in any given week.

For shin-splints, run on soft surfaces. Wear an orthotic device, a small pad placed in the shoe to help realign the foot and dissipate stress.

For Achilles' tendinitis, use an orthotic insert, do stretching exercises concentrating on calf muscles and choose a running shoe with maximum stability to help reduce the force on legs.

Tennis: Common injuries are tennis elbow, an inflammation of tendons in the forearm; neck and shoulder strain; and carpal tunnel tears.

Tennis injuries can be alleviated with a

Bicycling, golf, running and tennis are some of the most popular leisure sports in America.

Here is a look at how you can prevent strains, sprains and other pains:

Bicycling: Common injuries are neck and shoulder strain, knee strain and hand numbness

For neck and shoulder strain, reposition yourself so that your weight is more evenly distributed over the front and rear wheels. Tilt your head from side to side when riding in a crouched, racing position.

For knee strain, adjust the saddle height. Sit upright on the seat and extend your leg straight so that your heel touches the pedal at its lowest point. Be sure your foot isn't rotated inward or outward on the pedal.

Pace yourself by keeping the number of wheel revolutions per minute between 65 and 85. When traveling uphill, switch to a lower, easier gear.

Wear riding gloves or use padding on the handlebars.

conditioning program that includes exercises to build forearm strength.

Avoid a heavy, stiff or tightly strung racquet as it can produce stress at the elbow.

Don't play every day. Your arm muscles need to rest.

Play with a mid-sized or oversized racquet, which have larger hitting zones and can minimize off-center shots that produce harmful vibrations.

Be sure to do calf-stretching exercises daily and right before play.

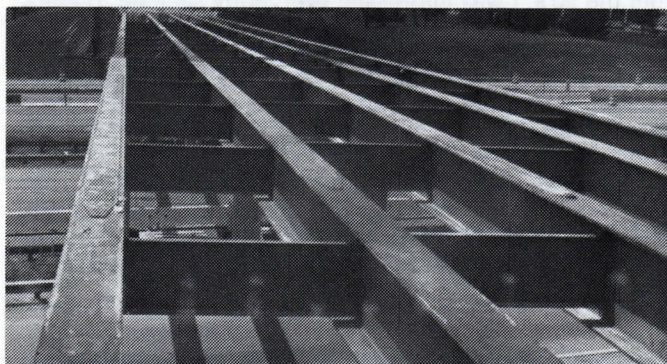
Conference Room Completed

Omaha—After a month of designing, planning, and hard work the officers of Local Union 1974 were proud to unveil the newly decorated mini conference room after the June business meeting.

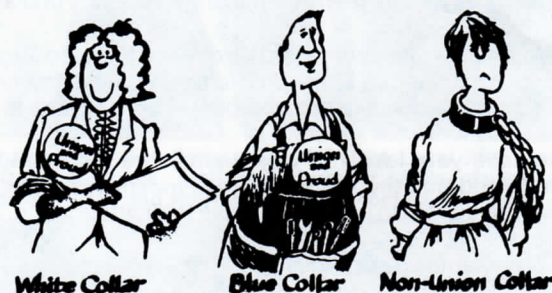
A coordinated blending of fresh paint (where needed), minor repairs, and installation of carpeting on both the floor and walls transformed the room from large and impersonal to warm and inviting.

Combining two shades of gray carpet on the walls with a solid mauve for the floor gives the room a personal touch that blends strength and intimacy and should make every meeting held in that room a pleasure and an experience.

The officers of LU1974 did an outstanding job in getting the mini conference room project completed. It will be the pride of LU1974 for some time and a job well done.



ATTENTION WIZARDS OF MANAGEMENT: The above photo is looking west at AT&T from the unfinished bridge over I-80 on I Street. Since most of you management people live west, north and south and you can leave the plant anytime you want. This is the major reason we working folks from the east who work at the Omaha Works dread the "traffic crunch" because we all leave at the same time. This allows every one to drive out of the parking lot at once and join the cars from Control Data and Fruehauf.



June Highlights

SPLIT-A-COPE

A.M. Betty Rasmussen — \$9.50

P.M. — Scott O'Bradovich — \$23

Betty Johnson — \$100

This Month — Omaha Royal Tickets

The Record

LEE SCHLOTTFELD, Dept. 261, MEMBER.
RICHARD OGLEVIE, Dept. 545, MEMBER.
JERRY VAN STRATTEN, RETIRED MEMBER.
Penny Gustafson, Dept. 261, Brother.
Jerry Engel, Dept. 545, Wife.
Frank Bogatz, Dept. 541, Father-in-law.
Pat McPherson, Dept. 235, Father-in-law.
Emma Howard, Dept. 261, Mother-in-law.
Enis Gillis, Dept. 266, Mother.
Tony Militti, Dept. 269, Grandmother.
Tanis Faltin, Dept. 263, Mother-in-law.
Darrel Hutchison, Dept. 545, Mother.
Dennis Ramsey, Dept. 533, Father-in-law.
Marsha Seals, Dept. 235, Grandmother.
Dale Suchsland, Dept. 545, Mother-in-law.
Shirley Roberts, Dept. 284, Mother.
Gary Funk, Dept. 264, Mother-in-law.
Bill Tift, Dept. 541, Mother-in-law.
Steve D'Agata, Dept. 261, Mother.
Kathryn C. Tuttle, Dept. 266, Mother.

Thanks for the Memories

by Sam Toscano, Dept. 544

Recently, when the AT&T Company celebrated thirty years at the Omaha Works, I am one employee who can honestly say I enjoyed the week long event. I not only enjoyed the well planned activities, but I enjoyed the enthusiasm of my fellow union members and fellow works employees.

It seemed that for that entire week we were all able to forget about the little gripes that bothered us during the year. We could come to work, do our jobs and enjoy the festivities of the week.

I, for one, grew up in the 50's and took the music and clothes of that era pretty much for granted. You can imagine my surprise when I discovered how much my fellow workers, of all ages, not only old 50's folks like myself, seemed to enjoy the music of the 50's and dressing up in the clothes from the 50's. I was impressed everybody seemed to enjoy the 50's more than me and I lived through it.

I hope I don't sound too sentimental to my fellow union members, but I really thought the thirty year anniversary planning committee did one great job planning the recent party. They out did themselves and it will be an event I won't forget for some time.

I just wish we could keep this kind of attitude with us all year 'round. It was very pleasant coming to work in a very friendly atmosphere where we all felt like employees who the Company and our bosses knew by our names instead of our numbers.

A Change for the Better

By John Schwenck

Recently, management decided to leave the attendance program as it was and to let the people participate in the methods used to improve it.

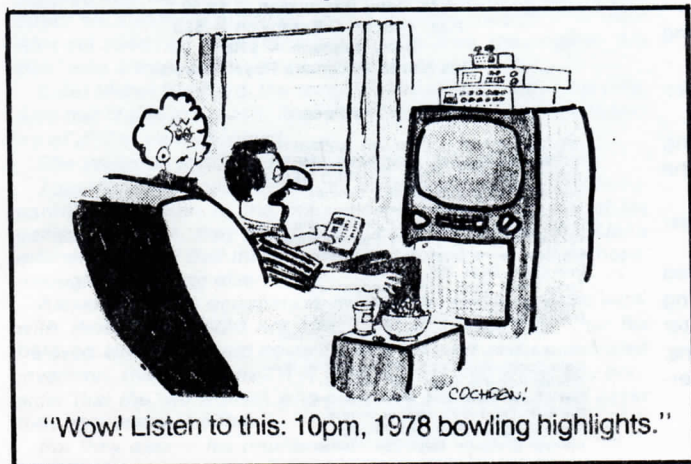
This represents a huge change in the attitudes of management toward hourly employees. Hourly employees will now have a say in the decision making of a policy that affects their future.

This decision also represents a chance for us to show the company that we can solve problems and make the kind of decisions that will make this company a better place to work for all of us.

We need your ideas on ways to improve the Attendance Control Program and on the types of incentives we need to encourage people to want to improve their attendance. If you have any ideas, please write them down and give them to your representative or officer.

With everyone's help, we will find a better way.

Summer Sports on T.V.



We Sure Do Need You

By Marie Cook

Have you or your family members and friends, any time to spare?

C'mon down, and have some fun too. I'm talking about getting on the band wagon for our candidates. They need our support. Our time is more important than us donating monies.

There are so many things to do — take your pick of jobs and schedule your own time.

There is no better way to get to know the candidates than to be working with them and their staff. The most crucial races to us are Bob Kerrey for Senate and Peter Hoagland for House of Representatives.

Bob's campaign headquarters is located at 7602 Pacific Street or call 391-3411 and ask what there is to do.

Peter's campaign address is 8601 Dodge Street, telephone number 392-0347. I'm sure either candidate would love to meet you (and/or) your family and be very pleased that you would like to help.

Or, get involved in your City Council and State Legislature Campaigns. If you don't know who they are or where they are located, call me at the union office and I will get you the information.

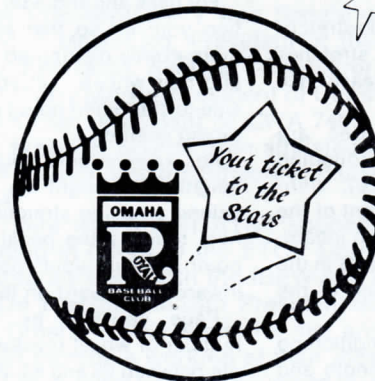
Please, they do need your help — a couple of hours a week or a couple of hours a month.

Sure do hope to see you there!

KEEP DEMOCRACY WORKING



REGISTER AND VOTE



The dog days of summer are closing in on our Royal ball players and they need our support. Come on out to the ball park and cheer them on.

July 18, 19 — Louisville
July 26, 27, 28 — Denver
July 29, 30, 31 — Oklahoma City
August 1 — Oklahoma City
August 8, 9, 10 — Indianapolis
August 11, 12 — Buffalo