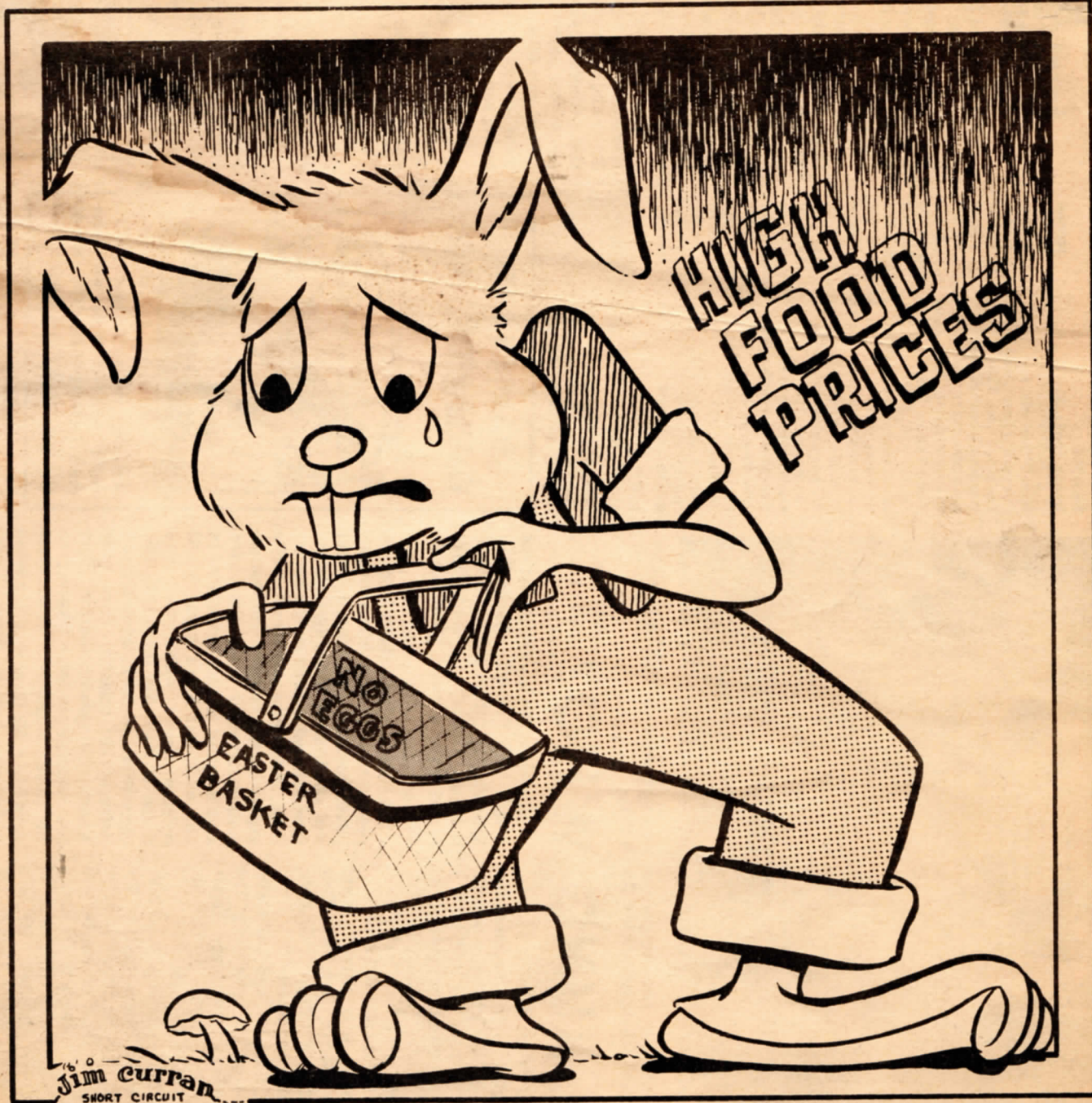
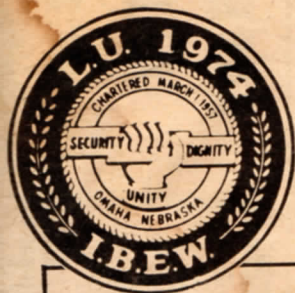


The Short Circuit

Official Monthly Publication of
Local Union 1974, International
Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
AFL-CIO, Omaha, Nebraska



PARKING LOT TOP COMPLAINT

In the February issue of the "Short Circuit" we ran a poll for the members to fill out and return. It stated "Morale seems to have reached an all time low at the Omaha Works. In an effort to focus attention on the possible causes of dissatisfaction in our jobs, surroundings, company policies, etc., we have devised this poll. We would appreciate your opinions, ideas, gripes and complaints."

The poll then listed 13 possible areas of concern: attendance program, parking lot, merit raises, supervision, suggestion system, break areas, overtime, benefits, wages, union representation, company policies, Weoma activities, restroom and a space to list other complaints.

Over 700 responses have been returned and tabulated. The number of returns shows us that the membership has taken this poll quite serious and definately feel

they have cause for dissatisfaction.

The parking lot drew most of the complaints with 73 percent of the people listing it on their polls. Typical explanations were "No protection of our property," "Too much stuff being stolen," "Not enough security" "too many thefts," etc.

Second in the running was merit raises, which was responded on by 58 percent of the people answering the poll. Among their comments were "distributed by favoritism," "not given out fairly," "you have to be buddy, buddy to get one," "cause a lot of hard feelings," etc.

Running a close third with 55 percent of the response was the attendance program. Again most comments were in agreement "shouldn't be charged for snow storms," "snow not our fault," "shouldn't be blamed for weather," etc. A few mentioned that they

(Please turn to page 2)

MEETING DATE CHANGED

The regularly scheduled meeting for April has been moved up a week because of the Good Friday-Easter weekend holiday. As the time draws near to a much needed 3 day weekend work break, we hope you make it worth your while this weekend to attend the union meeting. You might win \$100 and arm yourself with informative facts. Remember informed members hear the real scoop at 13306 Stevens Street 12:30 a.m. or 8:00 p.m. - make the traditional unlucky Friday the 13th a lucky day.

LUCKY

The Short Circuit

APRIL, 1973

8

Vol. 15, No. 9

FEB CPI SOARS



Political meeting for Mayor's endorsement. (Left to right) John Sutej, C.O.P.E. Registrar of Local 1974, Phil Petersen, Douglas County Chairman of Young Democrats, Mayor Candidate, Edward Zorinsky, State Chairman of Young Democrats, Mike Paventi and Union Representative at Kelloggs, Terry Moore.

Young Democrats Endorse Zorinsky

Edward Zorinsky, candidate for Mayor of Omaha, has received the endorsement of the Young Democrats of Nebraska.

The official endorsement came after a meeting between the State Chairman of the Young Democrats, Mike Paventi, County Chairman, Phil Petersen and Zorinsky.

John M. Sutej, C.O.P.E. Registrar of Local 1974 and Terry Moore, Union Representative for Kelloggs participated in the meeting at our Local Union office.

ment of Zorinsky is most important to fulfill our democratic obligation of getting out the vote."

He went on to state: "His (Zorinsky's) progressive approach to the development of our business in

BIGGEST JUMP IN 22 YEARS MEANS 3 CENTS

The Consumer Price Index for February took its sharpest one month jump in 22 years.

The index which measures the day-to-day costs most consumers pay for goods and services, soared at a seasonally adjusted rate of eight tenths of one percent in February, nearly 10 percent on an annual basis, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Almost two-thirds of the rise was due to higher food prices.

February grocery prices zoomed at the seasonally adjusted rate of 2.4 percent or an annual rate of 28.8 percent. The month before, the rate of increase in the super-market prices was nearly as high as 2.3 percent.

This brought the February index to 128.6 of its 1967 base, which means goods and services costing \$10 six years ago sold for \$12.86 in February.

Though higher food prices accounted for most of the increase, prices for nonfood commodities and services also jumped, contributing significantly to the rise.

The C.O.L. adjustment to the member jumped an unrepresented 3 cents in February to now total 12 cents. This 12 cents — plus rises in the C.O.L. for March, April and May will be in addition to the 3.2 negotiated wage increase effective July 16, 1973.



WINNER

Lyle Kahnk = \$100

During the March meeting the \$100.00 drawing made its debut. As reported in the March issue of the Short Circuit, twenty names would be drawn and in the event of NO WINNERS, the cash prize would be carried over and the prize doubled at the next month's meeting. Luckily for Lyle Kahnk this was not necessary. To him and his fellow members surprise Lyle's name was the fourth name drawn.

Those names drawn before Lyle's but were not present at the meeting was First - K. T. Cotten, Jr.; Second - R. E. Dunlap; and Third - R. Johnson. If these people had gone to the March Business Meeting, they would have been \$100 richer. Our congratulations to Lyle Kahnk.

Fighting Sutejs

Fighting seems to run in the Sutej family. As many members know John Sutej is COPE Registrar for L.U. 1974. His role for our Union, one he enjoys very much, is fighting in the political ring for labor.

John's nephew, Steve, is also a fighter of promising talents. This 15 year old 124 pound pugilist won a third round TKO in the Kid Gloves Tournament held annually at the South Omaha Boy's Club.

Steve has been in the South Omaha Boy's Club boxing program for two years. In this short span, under the direction of trainer, Jim Gaughan (an ex-pro boxer in his own right). Steve has compiled a 3 and 2 won-lost record. Of Steve's three wins he had two TKO's and one KO.

Like his uncle, John, we wish Steve continued success in the future.

Union Representative for Kelloggs participated in the meeting at our Local Union office.

Paventi stated that "after reviewing Zorinsky's record of public service, it is our contention that the taxpaying citizen of Omaha will receive a fair and equally administered government under Ed Zorinsky."

"Due to the fact that there is no Democratic candidate in the Mayor's race, we feel that an endorse-

of getting out the vote."

He went on to state: "His (Zorinsky's) progressive approach to the development of new business in Omaha will be beneficial in tax revenue for the city and will promote job opportunities for those seeking employment."

"We feel his plans for solving the city's problems are the most advanced and practical that have been forwarded by any Mayoral candidate to date."

Group Auto Insurance

Don't forget that group auto insurance is still available at a reduced rate for all Local 1974 Union members.

Reports from our members who have applied for this program indicate savings in almost every case.

Dwight Robinson of the Chas. Newstrom Insurance Agency is available at the Union Hall from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day to provide you with a quote on your indi-

vidual insurance coverage and to answer any questions that you might have.

(Please turn to page 5)



NOTICE

**The Monthly Meeting
of the Membership
will be held**

Friday,

April 13, 1973

**at the Union Hall,
13306 Stevens Street,
Millard.**

**Second shift meeting:
12:30 A. M.**

**First and third shift meeting:
8:00 P. M.**

\$100 Drawing

NOTICE

**Absolute Deadline for
Articles is the
1st of Each Month**

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday falls on the Friday before Easter. This day by some is observed in commemoration with the crucifixion of Christ. The Good Friday services in the Roman Catholic churches are observed in accordance with elaborate ritual, based on services in the early Christian Church. With gradual growth, the Protestant Churches now observe Good Friday as they also observe Christmas and Easter.

A custom growing from Good Friday is the eating of hot cross buns in England. Sold on the streets by vendors this custom eventually worked its way to America. In other parts of Europe there are customs that have not found footing in America.

In Portugal it is customary to hang Jesus in effigy. In Spain women dress in black, sit in churches and beg for the poor.

Penonce is served in Palermo, Sicily. Persons masked in hoods,

(Please turn to page 4)

the C.O.L. for March, April and May will be in addition to the 3.2 negotiated wage increase effective July 16, 1973.

Additional changes in the C.O.L. will be reported as they incur.

Scabs: Plague In Canada

OTTAWA, ONT. Professional strikebreakers — scabs — have been responsible for smashing 50 local unions in Canada since 1965, according to an eye-opening report issued by a committee of the Ontario Federation of Labour and the Labour Council of Metropolitan Toronto.

The 300-page report describes how professional strikebreaking companies, aside from providing scab workers, supply spies who work their way into the ranks of active unionists, and discolse information to management; some legitimate employees, the report says, "are 'hooked' cloak-and-dagger fashion by professional unionbusters who pay the worker-agents for regular reports on daily behaviour of their fellow employees."

"Even in the United States of America," the report says, "where the professional strike-breaking racket began and flourished to a multi-million dollar business, it has almost vanished. In 40 states there are controls of some kind on professional strike-breakers and anti-union spies. But anti-labour rackets operate openly and lucratively in Canada."

The report suggests the Conservative government has refused "to acknowledge the difference between the casual scab who is so desperate he or she will work anywhere for anything, and the industrial mercenary whose livelihood depends on the continuation of the strike and the presence of turmoil, not the resolution of the bargaining process."

Letter To The Editor

Whoever hired the band to play at the St. Patrick's Dance Saturday, March 17, at the Union Hall in Greater Millard, certainly couldn't have been too well informed about the type of music played on St. Patrick's Day. Even the juke boxes put Irish songs on several days before March 17. After waiting an hour at the dance to hear an Irish tune I requested an Irish song and to my surprise was told by the leader of the band that they could not play an Irish song, but if I request an Italian song they could play one. St. Patrick's Day comes but once a year and at a dance held to celebrate that day I think you could expect to hear one Irish song.

'Tis a fine Irish wish this note is bringing, next year check on the band and get one who can put a little bit of Ireland in the hearts of the Irish who may never get a chance to see the land of the green except in their dreams.

Mrs. Jackie Larkin
Dept. 253

EDITORS NOTE: Your thoughts are well taken and I feel a bit of explanation is in order as to the type of music that was at the dance. Your Local Union Officers have given a lot of thought as to what kind of band would please all the members and have found out that such a band does not exist.

Because of this we have decided to hire bands that play a specific type of music that appeals to different segments of our membership. By changing the bands and their "specialty" music each dance, we hope to eventually get around to pleasing everyone's taste.

This last dance was a rock group. A Country & Western Band is being planned for this fall and Polkas, sounds of the fiftys and other styles of music are being planned. As I have mentioned earlier, this is an effort to eventually please every-

Parking Lot Top Complaint

(Continued from page 1)

shouldn't be charged for unavoidable sicknesses.

Drawing the fourth spot with 45 percent was restrooms. A few wanted more of them, but most answered with one word—DIRTY!

Break areas were next with a 39 percent response. Here comments run from "too cramped," to "not enough coffee machines" and "not sufficient number of them."

Supervision with 33 percent of the count drew comments of "they don't care," "unhealthy attitude toward employees," and "teach them to be human."

Overtime, benefits, wages and company policies were grouped close together by 18 percent to 20 percent of those who answered the poll. Here the comments were varied and showed no definite trend.

Fifteen percent marked suggestion system with over half of them suggesting it should be dropped.

Union representation was marked by only six people and four of them had the same Union Rep listed as their explanation.

Weoma activities was filled in by eight people with four stating that it was "not needed."

The last item on the list was a space marked "other." Twenty-one percent of the ballots had this space marked but here the explanations were different on almost every sheet.

Those most notable were complaints of surplusage — too much c.c. time — company's gestapo tactics — no consideration is given for the older employee — and one wanted to know why his issue of the Short Circuit is always late.

ARMY

Plating Room: An Essay in Perplexion

By Robert W. Alberts,
Executive Board Officer

For the past one or two years the earnings in the plating room, department 133, have been less than desirable as have been the hazardous conditions that we are forced to work under.

First, let's take a look at some of the conditions that exist in the plating room. For those people that work or have reason to travel through the plating room during the daily tour these facts are well known.

I have been in the plating area for about fourteen years. During this time we have used the same machines. They have all been overhauled and reconditioned many times. Usually they will function properly for a short time afterwards. Some-



Alberts

times for a week or two usually two or three days will be the most we can expect without experiencing difficulty due to breakdowns, jam-ups or acid fumes due to faulty exhaust blowers. Of course it is impossible for the group to make good incentive earnings when the machines are not running. It is difficult enough when they are operating properly. The maintenance people have always done a good job on the repairs, but a broken down piece of machinery can only be repaired for so many years before it becomes senseless and useless to continue to repair it. If we knew of someone who collected antique plating machines, they should be worth quite a lot of money.

quite regularly, but even injuries and near injuries are not reason enough to eliminate the problem. The carriers still fall off and the employees are expected to dodge them. And should you be unlucky enough to get banged on the head, which by the way is where they all seem to land, you will be rushed to medical and given the proper treatment.

There will be investigations. The Company will take a few pictures and the employee will be interviewed by the department chief, assistant manager and one or two people from safety. The Union will be restricted from attending these meetings. When I as a Union Representative from the plating room request to attend, I am told that it is Company policy not to have the Union set in, but is it company policy to allow these carriers to continue to drop on an employees head? I wonder!

Yes, we have many, many dangerous situations in existence in the plating room and nearly as many ridiculous ones. Situations that could be rectified fairly easy if some one would take the bull by the horns. But unfortunately we seem to be lacking the aggressiveness necessary in some of our management people to do the things they get paid for.

We do have one new plating machine. It has been setting about three-quarters finished for about a year. I have been unable to find out for sure why. I have gotten several reasons from several different management people, but no one is sure. Certainly it does not sound like a sound management practice. It is kind of like buying a new car without an engine — what good is it?

Union Stewards Stand Steadfast

by Robert Osterman

The greed and power seeked by the captains of industry and their subordinates has given every Union Steward his work. It is his business to do it, and the Company business to hinder him if they can. They may present other things more promising. The Company may try to allure you by promotion prospects, merit raises, they may assault you with slander, torment you with



Osterman

false accusations, employ persons to lie about you. You may have around you people willing to sell you for a few pennies. You may wonder why all of these things come upon you. Can you not see that the whole thing is the cunning of the Company?

To draw you from your work and hinder your performing the job of representing your brothers and sisters.

Keep about your work. Do not flinch because the lion roars. Do not fool away your time. Do your work. Let liars lie, let the devil do his worst, but see to it nothing hinders you from fulfilling your job as a Union Steward.

You may be assaulted, wronged, insulted, slandered and rejected. But remember, you did not become a Union Official for the money or the popularity. So keep about your work and see to it with steadfast determination that you pursue the purpose of unionism and after you have finished your work, you can look anyone straight in the eyes and hold your head high, for you know in your heart you did the best job that you were able to do.

I could fill this paper with the

have mentioned earlier, this is an effort to eventually please everyone's taste in music.

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they should be worth quite a lot of money.

To say the least, the plating room is not a very desirable area to work in. Certainly the Company should try and give us good equipment so that we could have the opportunity to make respectable earnings.

Most departments that are managed properly have stable earnings, usually the earnings will not fluctuate more than two or three percent from month to month. The employees in the plating room don't have this problem unfortunately. We stabilize at various percentages from 38 percent down to about 13 percent. Quite obviously there is something wrong; we the employees recognize this fact, but the Company does not or should I say will not.

In recent months we have had several injuries from the carriers that fall off the conveyors line. These carriers weigh approximately 30 pounds. These carriers fall off

what an engine what good is it? best job that you were able to do.

I could fill this paper with the problems in this department, problems we have had since, like most departments, they began; but mostly problems we have experienced in the last year or two. There is no doubt we will continue to have them some time to come. At least until upper management takes a look into this area and makes the management people responsible do their jobs.

In the meantime, we will get by with the faulty machinery, and the dangerous conditions. After all, if management does not care, why should we. We will still make the lousy earnings we have been making; and maybe, just maybe, no one will be seriously injured or worse yet maybe even killed. The longer the Company flirts with these situations the greater the possibility that this will happen. Maybe then they will realize how serious these problems are, but I for one will not count on it.

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Short Circuit Profile:

Mrs. James Alexander

by Donald M. Wiczorek

In the 613 Lindclay Building there are very few people who don't know Mrs. James Alexander.

Mrs. Alexander or Bess as she likes to be called is a Midland, Texas native and she has been a concerned employee of Western Electric for eight years. Bessie and her husband, James, have been residents of Omaha for the last twelve years.

Bessie's first concern, like the majority of us, is for her family. Surrounded by a growing family, she started eight years ago, to put it all together. Ignoring the protests of her husband, a Medical Administration Assistant at the V.A. Hospital, Bessie joined the legions of working mothers.

Bessie never finished high school. Her next concern besides keeping a homey atmosphere for her children (her seventh child wasn't born yet) was to finish her education. When Western Electric offered opportunities for employees lacking a high school education to receive a diploma, Bessie eagerly responded.

On the subject of education; Bessie says completion of her high school education was more than a matter of personal satisfaction. "Knowledge is a power that is important to all people, white and black. And my first concern for going to work was that I didn't want my children to be deprived of a solid, basic education."

To properly define Bessie Alexander we would say she is the warm sun we looked for last winter or the sunshine that breaks intermittently through the wet clouds of late March and early April. Besides the sacrifices she, like other women working at Western Electric, have made for their families, we find

munity to become part of the local scene.

Sunday evening finds Mrs. Alexander as Vice-President of the Young People's Willing Workers. The weekly meeting of the Y.P.W.W. empowers Bessie to keep in contact with young people, directing their energies toward community needs. Bessie divides her meeting activities between administration and teaching. Perceiving a need in the community, she aptly advises youth in the positive approach to helping other people and helping themselves. The Y.P.W.W. also informs the younger members of the church community on the evils of drug abuse, immaturity of premarital sex, and the instilling of good morals. In addition, one Sunday a month Bessie is Correspondence Secretary of the Young Women's Christian Council.

* * * * *

Bessie's experience is not totally localized. As Vice-President of Home and Foreign Mission, she is constantly broadening her horizons. "People need help not only in Omaha, but all over the world," declares Bessie, "And we can best attack and handle our problem through the sharing of these experiences." Bessie proves her philosophy by being a representative of the International Sunday School Committee of Church of God and Christ. Standard vacation period of 1972 sent Bessie on a religious retreat to Nassau in the Bahamas. Our next standard vacation will find Bessie traveling to Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

Church work and helping young people put their lives on the right track takes up a lot of Bessie



Bessie Alexander, taking a break from her busy schedule to pose with her first love; home and family.

Shouldering so many extra responsibilities leaves little leisure time left for Bessie. She confessed she has little time for television viewing, but has her favorites. Bessie, like most second shift workers likes to watch the Dick Cavett Show. Topping her list is All In The Family and she wishes that she could see Stanford and Son more

charitable actions are duplicated in the home. The Alexander household is a non-drinking and non-smoking atmosphere of family togetherness. Sunday rule is God and Church first before the children make their plans. The Alexander children being older now don't hesitate to share Bessie's household chores and need little supervision

A Very Sensitive Situation

By Robert Gaddie, Dept. 241

Our Department 241 has a special agreement for overtime. Shift lines will not be crossed for equalizing overtime. Section or pool lines will not be crossed for equalizing overtime. Low man in a pool and shift will be offered the extra work first. When the job is a specific repair, construction machining, etc., a man can be brought in for overtime out of sequence. An effort towards keeping all personnel in the pool equal on overtime will be made. If a man on a specific job does get ahead on overtime, he is not offered any until the other pool personnel are equal again. People that are on vacation or P.E.D. the day overtime is scheduled by the supervisor, will not be offered or charged overtime. This rule also applies to the weekend or holiday adjoining a vacation period or P.E.D.

These are but some of the rules governing who and how overtime should be scheduled in Department 241.

But what happens when the work that my section is normally engaged in gets behind, overloaded or hot? The right to manage the business allows realignment of the work force or temporary help to get the work caught up during the week. (Using a man of the same job description and shift and department).

Quite naturally the men respond with: "Hey! They are taking overtime money right out of our pocket. Why can't we work overtime? I am normally scheduled on the job; it needs more effort to complete it; I'll do it. I could use the money. That damn guy is saving money by not bringing me in on Saturday!"

Management contends that: A department needs a given work load

March and early April. Besides the sacrifices she, like other women working at Western Electric, have made for their families, we find Bessie's concern runs much deeper than home.

Sundays and during the week, when most of us are away from the job relaxing or toiling around the home, Bessie starts her week helping others.

The traditional day of rest finds Bessie at Grace Tabernacle Church, 1801 Cummings Street, where she is President of the State Usher Board of Eastern Nebraska.

Directing others to direct members of the congregation is rewarding says Bessie. It enables her to renew old acquaintances, help others, and play a role in reducing the complications that might arise before each Sunday service. Whenever the State Usher Board meets it is her task to keep the Eastern sector of Nebraska informed and in order.

After Sunday services, Bessie meets with the Hospitality Club. This church based club warmly invites new members of the com-

and the Holy Land. Church work and helping young people put their lives on the right track takes up a lot of Bessie Alexander's spare time. But Bessie's activities encompass more than the moral fiber of the community.

As part of her mission work, an exercise in self-sacrifice, Bessie outshines herself and her other activities. Three times a week she drives to Council Bluffs, destination Pleasant View Home, to pick up a 77 year old lady. Bessie helps this woman break up the monotony of old people's home life by taking her shopping and on sightseeing tours around the city. With her willing sacrifice, she gives an older person the dignity of youth.

Bessie expresses a great enthusiasm for helping the old and forgotten of our society. Bessie feels our older citizens have been harshly deprived of their prestige. "Money from Social Security isn't enough to care for them in their later years," Bessie cited. "For all they (older people) have done for America, they have been cheated out of their share of America's pride."

ers likes to watch the Dick Cavett Show. Topping her list is All In The Family and she wishes that she could see Stanford and Son more often.

Bessie's creative moods used to be fulfilled by painting and drawing. Now she attends ceramic classes twice a week and has tastefully decorated her home with some of her better creations.

Another part of her free moments finds Bessie taking a breather with her family at a local restaurant. Bessie likes good food and she is an avid fish connoisseur. Complaining quietly, she regrets that Omaha doesn't have more restaurants specializing in seafood.

Music is another Alexander interest. Husband James plays the piano, a hobby for his own pleasure. Bessie lights up when she talks about how her eight year old son learned to play the same instrument by ear.

Bessie Alexander's religion and

make their plans. The Alexander children being older now don't hesitate to share Bessie's household chores and need little supervision from mother or father.

Unionism is another strong concern of Bessie Alexander. Since coming to Western Electric Bessie has been a solid member of L.U. 1974. Her selfless concern for young and old people leaves her little time to attend union meetings, but that doesn't mean she isn't involved in unionism. Her union salesmanship could teach fellow stewards on the finer points of union membership. In her eight years as a sister member she has sold over 200 non-members on the importance of joining.

Bessie Alexander is energetic, pleasant, concerned and extraordinary. After reading her profile, we hope you realize how rare a personality she is. We believe the contribution Bessie Alexander makes to her fellow man is a gift that surpasses the meaning of soul.

money by not bringing me in on Saturday!"

Management contends that: A department needs a given work load to sustain itself relative to the number of men. It can't be ideal: each week there is enough work materializing that can be completed by Friday, for week after week. Sometimes there is not enough available and other times we can't keep up. It is management's job to smooth out the work load situation and provide us with steady employment.

Occasionally they screw up! As when we have too little in a section, the departmental decision should be obvious. Don't surplus or displace highly skilled personnel or waste their potential by inactivity. Channel the effort to a same job classification and wage level, keep him in the department and try to line up the work load to get the situation straightened out.

However, that other side of the coin pertaining to overtime effort is highly important. A tradesman's job is very close to his well being. His knowledge, his hands, his tools and his assignment are very jealously guarded. Management treads on his job by not allowing him to follow through on a problem area — as working the overtime when it is needed. Management should see that they are undermining the basic people they need to establish and run the business. Western Electric! We are not only an "E" number. We are people with feelings and concern for your position and ours too.



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GOOD FRIDAY

(Continued from page 1)

put a rope around their necks and bind their hands. These people are led through the streets by monks and priests. Other parts of Europe have mystery plays.

* * *

According to Hazeltine's book of anniversaries and holidays; the word 'good' as applied to Good Friday may be a corruption of the phrase 'God's Friday' or it may refer to the good which comes into the world as result of the life and death of Jesus Christ.

"The events surrounding the last week of Christ's life coincide with the Jewish Passover which is a movable feast, therefore, our Good Friday and Easter are movable festivals."

EASTER

Easter is the festival of Christ's resurrection and is the most joyous day in the Christian year. It is also the most important day of the Christian religion.

In most countries, Easter comes in early spring, at a time when green grass and warm sunshine begin to push aside the ice and snow of winter. Its name may have come from Eastre, a Teutonic goddess of spring. According to legend, she opened the portals of Valhalla to receive Baldur, called the White God, because of his purity and also the Sun God, because his brow supplied light to mankind.

The Christian, or accepted story of Easter comes from the Bible. The Gospels tell us that the body of Jesus disappeared from his tomb on the third day after Crucifixion. An angel appeared to his followers and said, "He is risen."

The symbol representing Easter is the Cross. The Cross pertains to the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. This also has special meaning to Christians as a symbol of Christ's victory over death.

SHORT CIRCUIT FOCUS:

Trailing The Trial Trails

by Don Wiczorek

Nebraska, particularly around Omaha is the type of area where unless a person has definite tastes or hobbies, Sunday fun is a search for excitement.

Imagine a motorcycle event laid out along the similar lines of a golf course. This course is planned over natural terrain but instead of well groomed golf greens for goals; the goal on this course is stay aboard the bike.

The next noticeable difference in this riding event is the type of machinery used. No ordinary bike is used here. The contestants compete on English Trail bikes. They are easily distinguished by low profile accented by high center to lessen discomfort because much of the trails event is done standing up. To complete the bike, the entire machine is geared lower than normal street machinery.

The compatibility of the event, low gearing versus natural terrain separates the heavy footed Evel Knevel madman from the graceful and level headed bikemaster.

Observed Trials is the name of this sport. For those first coming in contact with the sport, they will find the challenge rewarding and off the beaten path.

Many Trial events have a minimum of five events which the participants must navigate three times. The idea being the cyclist must not touch the ground, with an unwary foot, loose forward motion, or go out of bounds.

**Competitive
action might
seem slow**

The least difficult maneuver is following a path through sand. Success there leads to a rock strewn trail, each person aiming for the center, with quick prayers for solid footing.

After a deep breath, the rider must face either a hill climb, down hill turns, or a vertical terrain run, which dazzles and dizzies the best at a 45° angle and for no less than 60 hairy feet.

Every event gives rider and bike a bath. The water crossing looks like a bottomless pit with no pre-defined markers for depth. Creek or still water, the psychological effect upon the cautious contestant brings peels of laughter from the grounded spectators.

**Find where
its at and
you'll find
trail dusters**

As the sweating brows are splashed, thrown and dumped into starting over the emphasis in each riders mind is control, balance and finesse; not speed.

As most veteran motorcyclists say, Rome wasn't built in a day and neither were Observe Trialmen. But don't let fear keep you from trying and learning.

If you have no ranking or experience in this event, we have Novice Classifications. For those with a little more bike lore behind them you can skip novice and start at



Novice trail rider Morgan Whale, bike busts his way over log jump.



is the Cross. The Cross pertains to the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. This also has special meaning to Christians as a symbol of Christ's victory over death.

The lamb is one of the traditional foods of Easter. The symbol of the lamb comes from the Jewish Pesah (Passover) holiday. The Jews sacrificed a lamb, called a paschal lamb, during their traditional Passover ceremonies in the Temple of Jerusalem. Early Christians spoke of Jesus as "The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

Lights, candles and bonfires mark Easter celebrations in many countries.

Eggs represent the new life that returns to nature about Easter time. The custom of exchanging eggs began in ancient times.

Also in ancient Egypt, the rabbit symbolized birth and new life. The rabbit because of his egg and candy giving virtues, is a big favorite among children in America today. This custom is believed to come from Germany.

Competitive action might seem slow but try making a bike walk

While the meet judge looks on, calm competitors guide their machines through the different traps, hoping to drink victory before mishap.

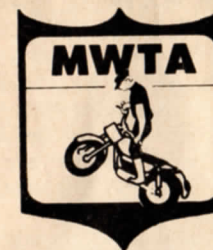
If you have no ranking or experience in this event, we have Novice Classifications. For those with a little more bike lore behind them you can skip novice and start at Amateur.

Observe Trial competition covers all ranges of experience and for those bike masters who want to jump in and get their feet wet right away there are two more higher classifications, expert and master.

These events are as Bruce Brown would say—are a whole different world "On any Sunday." The are designed to enjoy on any week-end in the year. If you don't own a bike come on out and be a spectator; for spectators are our biggest fans.



Agile biker John Sutton (Dept. 246) finesses his way around tree stump



4807 SO. 24th
OMAHA, NEBR.
1-402-731-0625

1973

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

April 1	Sept. 9
May 13	Oct. 28
June 17*	Nov. 4
July 1	Dec. 2
Aug. 12	

* Championship

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2 MILES EAST, ONE MILE SOUTH

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8

THE SHORT CIRCUIT



Omaha, Nebr.

APRIL, 1973

Vol. 15, No. 9

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Benefits Delay: Accident or By Design?

by Guy Davis, Dept. 133

I wonder how many of you have had the misfortune of dealing in one way or the other with benefits. I for one have been somewhat lucky. In the years of my employment at Western Electric, I have had only occasional experience with them. In this respect I feel very lucky.

The term benefits, as defined in Webster, is anything that is for the good of a person or thing. Evidently, Western Electric feels that the person has nothing to do with it. "Thing" must refer to Western Electric. How else can you explain the arrogant and haughty attitude of these people working in the office. The only people I have seen smile are the secretaries.

I know of one case just recently that a person was very dissatisfied with them. This person works 2nd shift and was off all week. The three day sickness report was turned in Thursday morning, also

the doctor's certificate was mailed out Thursday. This person came into medical and reported in on Friday at the beginning of their shift. They received their doctor's certificate on Saturday. If you are lucky and your doctor is in his office on Saturday, which this person is not, you can get it filled out.

This person came at their assigned time, which was 3:30 p.m. and reported to medical, then to benefits. At this time you are promptly told that you cannot get paid until next week. Your doctor's certificate was not in soon enough.

There is nothing on the doctor's certificate telling you that it has to be in earlier. You are not told that you can request a pay advance. There is nothing said but go back to work. If you need a pay advance because of the delay in benefits, ask your supervisor to get you one. If you have trouble, contact your Union Rep.

A Tornado Warning System

Research by Elmer Johnson

The month of April is the unofficial opening of the Tornado season in the Midwest. Since Omaha and the surrounding area haven't encountered a major tornado in sixty years, the experts say we are long overdue.

Throughout the summer we often hear of Tornado watches or warnings. A tornado watch means that conditions are favorable to a tornado forming and we should be alert if one does happen to materialize.

If a tornado is sighted, then the radio stations and television broadcast tornado warnings.

Several years ago Newton Weller of Des Moines, Iowa discovered a system of detecting tornados in your vicinity by using your television set. He found out that lightning and tornados generate a signal near 55 megacycles which over rides the brightness control on Channel 2. He also discovered that Channel 13 is high enough on the frequency band that it is not effected. By adjusting your television to dark on Channel 13 to insure it isn't being affected by a tornado already in progress and then changing to Channel 2 - we can have a very effective tornado warning system right in our home.

For your convenience and safety, we are listing the instructions of this system for you to cut-out and tape to the back of your television set. When a tornado warning has been broadcast for your area - check the instructions and adjust the television set accordingly.

GROUP AUTO INSURANCE

(Continued from page 1)

Anyone needing his service can reach him on his own special phone number 333-9229.

The no-obligation application cards still need to be filled out and returned to the Union Hall.

If you have returned the information card and given us your expiration date, Mr. Robinson will call you prior to the due date.

It seems however that the original cards did not reach everyone so for your convenience, below is a

copy. Please complete and give to your Union Steward or leave at the Union Hall; or if you wish, mail to Chas. Newstrom Insurance Agency, 724 Service Life Bldg., Omaha, Nebr. 68102. You will then be contacted prior to the expiration of your present policy.

You are not obligated to purchase if you obtain a quote. The decision is your own.

If you have any questions or need information, please call Mr. Robinson at 333-9229.

Enrollment Interest Card

☐ Yes - I am interested.

Name..... Date of Birth.....
(Please print)

Street.....

City..... State..... Zip.....

Home Phone..... Business Phone.....

My present auto policy expires.....

Completion of this card in no way obligates me to purchase this insurance.

Fear: Friend or Foe?

Fear can paralyze you-or it can help you if you understand it and can control your fear of fear itself. Here are ten ways to make fear work for you:

1. Fear causes excitement. The fear you feel before you attempt something important is natural. Let it excite you, and use that excitement to generate enthusiasm.
2. Fear makes you agile. No man can run faster than he does with an angry dog behind him.
3. Fear adds energy. Mothers in fear for their children's lives have performed seemingly impossible feats of strength and endurance.
4. Fear sharpens your senses - your hearing, vision, senses of touch and smell.
5. Fear helps you understand your imagination. When you see another person in a panic over an imagined problem, it gives you an insight into your own imagination.
6. Fear makes you prepare. Fewer people would die in natural disasters if they had anticipated the danger and prepared for it.
7. Fear makes you consider options, many of which the blindness of prejudice closes off during calmer periods.
8. Fear can be a warning signal that you are unprepared for an effort you must make.
9. Fear makes you dare. People often commit themselves to projects requiring great courage when they fear the alternative.
10. Fear can provide confidence. Performers sometimes feel uneasy if they're not nervous before a performance. Controlled fear gives them that extra energy they need for a superior effort.

system for you to cut-out and tape to the back of your television set. When a tornado warning has been broadcast for your area - check the instructions and adjust the television set accordingly.

TORNADO DETECTION INSTRUCTIONS

First - Warm up your TV set and tune to Channel 13. Darken the screen to almost black. (Use the brightness control).

Second - Turn to Channel 2 and leave the volume control down (unless you have a broadcaster on that channel).

Your tornado dictior is now in operation. As a storm approaches lightning will produce momentary white bands of varying widths across the screen (color sets produce a colored band). A tornado within 15 to 20 miles will produce a totally white screen and remain white (color on color sets). Should this occur, turn off your TV sets, take your portable radio and go to a place of shelter immediately.

Always keep a portable battery operated radio handy for emergency instructions and in case of power failure. Lightning will cause intermittent static on a radio turned on 550 kilocycles. A tornado will cause steady, continued static.

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"I LOVE IT"

"GREAT DANCE"

As thought, Irish Fever did hit Millard last March and L.U. 1974's St. Patrick's Day Dance was a tremendous success. It was the largest turnout by the members of any dance ever sponsored by our Union. The new Union Hall rocked on its foundation to the bombastic sounds of the mod attired Trojan Horse Band.



Photographs this page Courtesy of Bob Wall

While the musicians dug into their bottomless repertoire of sounds the dance floor did not cease to be a wall-to-wall crowd of controlled mayhem. Young, old, and in between moved and girated to what seemed to be an endless fusion of physical energy. This reporter was never ceased to be amazed by the excited and at times frenzy of excitement that seemed contagious to everyone present.

Throughout the festivities honoring the adopted Emerald Isle, people who might have been casual acquaintances at work shared a bond of comradery. There were peels of laughter during the evening as a few misinformed members, who thought St. Pat was a lady, toasted her good virtues with drink and song. Other comments directed away from the holiday and more toward home ran the gauntlet from, "It's a great dance, I love it," to "The music is so loud I think I lost



Fun-seekers take a deep breath during band intermission.



and song. Other comments directed away from the holiday and more toward home ran the gauntlet from, "It's a great dance, I love it," to "The music is so loud I think I lost a filling".

Another amusing note was the indistinguishable bar and restroom lines. People seeking relief from thirst or the other, found themselves in the early part of the evening puzzled as they reached their misguided destination. This problem was resolved as everyone learned experience was sometimes not the best teacher.

A special pat on the back should go to Vice President - Whitey Clark and Executive Board Chairman - Jack Thraen, for the long hours they spent tending bar. Their indefatigable performance at satisfying the constant swelling and endless line of thirsty patrons was a job well done.

Whitey, still showing the slight after effects of frostbitten fingers from pouring several thousand ounces of the bubbly into ice filled glasses was overheard shouting during the mad cap event "HELP!"

* * * * *



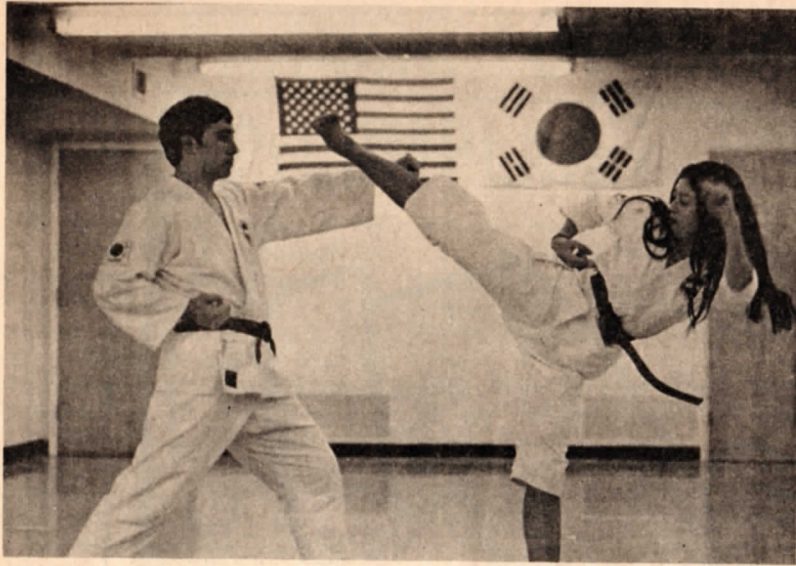
Fun-seekers take a deep breath during band intermission.



Help will be on the way Whitey, as behind the scenes the officers of L.U. 1974 thoroughly satisfied with

the response the members showed for this dance, plan a Country & Western Dance for the fall season.





Girl identified as Lee using a side kick technique on Tony Infantino. Lee has been taking lessons less than a year.

KUNG WHO?

Most of us are familiar in some way or other with the television show Kung Fu. It's become popular with the younger set and quite a few of us so called older generation. It is well written (although a little far fetched) and gives a pretty good idea what the martial arts are.

For those who haven't heard what the Martial Arts are, they consist of such things as Ju-Jitsu, Judo, Aikido and Karate.

Karate, Kung-Fu, and Tae Kwon Do, are about the same thing. The difference being in language. Karate is Japanese. Kung-Fu is Chinese. Tae Kwon Do is Korean.

Karate has become popular here in the United States only in the recent past. You've probably never met a karate artist or maybe you have and didn't realize it. We have a member who holds the rank of second degree blackbelt. He is a member of the World Korean Tae Kwon Do Association, and like most people in the karate world, he doesn't beat his chest or go around bullying people. He's Del Wilke, who can be found daily in Dept. 251, on the first shift, going about his chores as a twister.

At present Del is working out the details with President, Michael D. Quinlan for future Karate demonstrations. Del says he thinks Mike would make a pretty good Karate man.

We asked Del what kind of people take Karate? We were surprised to learn that men, women, and children of most ages can be found chopping away on the Karate floor. Something we didn't really expect is the amount of women getting involved these days. Del says a lot of women get started in one of Master Kim's women's self defense classes which meet two times a week for ten weeks and then either go on in advanced self defense or transfer into pure Karate. He guesses that the fact that women are more exposed to the threat of physical attack these days has made them very interested in knowing how to defend themselves. You only have to pick up a paper or listen to the radio to know why. Del wonders how many of these cowardly criminals would stand up to a well trained woman or man.

The Record

DEATHS:

Nancy Jones, 257	.....	Mother
W. J. Hatfield, 253	.....	Mother
Jean O'Donnell, 144	.....	Father
Esther Ellefson, 482	.....	Father
Doris S. Engel, 134	.....	Father
Dorothy Bowman, 432	.....	Father
Enis Gills, 137	.....	Father
Robert Fleming, 431	.....	Sister
Rosie Talton, 134	.....	Father-in-law
Shirley Arp, 252	.....	Mother
Willie Mason, 257	.....	Brother
Ed Faust, 253	.....	Mother-in-law
Joe Bond, 251	.....	Father
D. D. Rowletts, 252	.....	Father
Patricia Siderewicz, 432	.....	Mother
Jim Barrett, 134	.....	Daughter
Marlin Johnson, 434	.....	Father-in-law
George Bridenbaugh, 263	.....	Father-in-law
John Puente, 263	.....	Father-in-law
Katherine Thomas, 142	.....	Mother-in-law
Jim Parys, 411	.....	Daughter
Gerald Johnson, 411	.....	Father
Harold Johnson, 434	.....	Father
Byron Chard, 343	.....	Father

BIRTHS:

Mike P. Murray, Dept. 134 4, Daughter

NEW STEWARDS:

Julie R. Bumgardner, Dept. 422,
Day Shift, Ext. - 3375.

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BASEBALL IS

CHILD LABOR LAW: Kids May Hold Summer Jobs . . .

"Will the child labor laws let my 15-year-old child work this summer?" is a question U.S. Labor Department offices are hearing frequently as the school vacation approaches.

And the answer, according to Doyle I. Loveridge, regional administrator of the Department's Employment Standards Administration in Kansas City, is "Yes, but . . ."

Nearly all the Federal regulations on child labor are based on the Fair Labor Standards Act, which is administered by his Administration.

"The Act prescribes a general minimum age for employment of 16 years," Loveridge said, "But it also permits employment of young people 14 and 15 years old in clerical and sales jobs, under limitations designed to protect their health and education."

On the other hand, he said, there is an 18-year minimum age for employment in occupations declared hazardous by the Secretary of Labor.

And there are no age limitations for a few jobs; distributing newspapers and professional acting.

There are limitations on hours for the 14- and 15-year-olds, Loveridge said. They may not work during the hours that school is in session; they may work only three hours a day on school days, and eight hours on non-school days; 18

hours a week in school weeks, and 40 hours in non-school weeks. During the school year, they may work only between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., but from Memorial Day to Labor Day, they may work until 9 p.m.

Farm work may be performed by children of any age, except that the ban on work during school hours by children under 16 is rigidly enforced.

Farm youth, too, work under a different set of rules regarding hazardous occupations, such as tractor operation. Extension agents and many farm organizations are familiar with those rules.

Whether or not employment certificates are required for summer jobs is a matter of State law, Loveridge said. But he warned employers that they should have some proof of age, usually obtainable from local school authorities, for all young workers under 19. And they should maintain a record of birth dates of those workers.

"Our people will be happy to answer questions on the child labor provisions of the Act," Loveridge said. Employment Standards Administration offices are listed under the Labor Department in the U.S. Government section of the telephone book. Or information can be obtained by writing his office, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Standards Administration, 911 Walnut, Kansas City, Mo. 64106.



BARBERS OF RALSTON

Avante; Skulptur Kut
Permastyl, Male Shag

bullying people. He's Del Wilke, who can be found daily in Dept. 251, on the first shift, going about his chores as a twister.

After a days work, Del changes into his Karate uniform and becomes a top notch instructor at an Omaha Karate School. He also once a week teaches classes at Offutt Air Force Base. Del learned Karate from Master Kim, a sixth degree black belt and the highest ranking master in World Tae Kwon Do in our area. Also, Kim is the only man ever to win the All Korean National Karate Championship twice, (May, 1963) and (Oct., 1965).

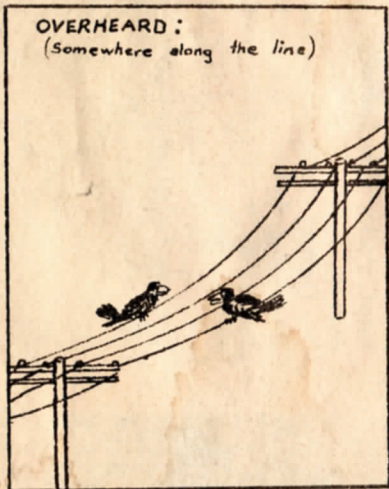
With the high cost of living these days, a non-working wife is almost a luxury.

RESTROOM BLUES
I WONDER WHAT I'M
GONNA DO,
THE 9 O'CLOCK BUZZER
IS OVERDUE
MY TEETH ARE FLOATING,
MY KNEES ARE WEAK,
SO INTO THE RESTROOM
I'LL TRY TO SNEAK
OH, OH, I BETTER
TAKE A CHANCE
OR ELSE I'M GONNA
WET MY PANTS
WHEN FINALLY TO THE
CAN I GET,
I FIND THIRTY-TWO WOMEN,
NO PLACE TO SET
TWENTY-ONE MINUTES,
NO RELIEF
ON 'A COUNTA' THAT
!%*%!* SECTION CHIEF
BUT WHO SHOULD COME
POUNDING DOWN THE AISLE,
IT'S THE BOSS MAN,
WITH HIS WRITE-UP FILE.
—ANONYMOUS

these cowardly criminals would stand up to a well trained woman or man.

Another note of interest to our members is the Kiddies self defense and Karate class offered. These are for kids from six to twelve. Del said he would be happy to talk to anybody about these classes.

Del says he will keep us up to date on Karate. As soon as the Karate demonstrations have been arranged, we will let you know. Meanwhile, don't break any boards, at least not without being properly taught how.



"Why is morale in the tool-room so low?"
"I don't know . . . Is it?"

Editors Note: The above cartoon has been submitted by a member to be used as a format with a different caption each issue. He states he will use this to bring attention to different problems that arise throughout the plant.



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L.U. 1974 Participates In Union's Food Caravan



Lincoln, Nebr. — Saturday March 31, Union Locals from all over the Midwest turned out to help I.B.E.W. Local 1536 continue in its efforts against the Square D Company.

The help took the form of a food caravan to help feed the families of those on strike.

Assembling at 10 a.m. at the Labor Temple in



Lincoln, a sea of cars and trucks unloaded cases of food to assist Local 1536 in its tenth week of trying to negotiate a fair settlement.

Afterwards a parade of 150 cars circled through Lincoln and around the Square D Company. Police were out in force. The famed paddywagon was standing by for the first signs of trouble and dogs were seen in the back seats of patrol cars.

Afterwards, the crowd reconvened at the Labor Temple to listen to the President of Local 1536, I.B.E.W., Jeff Ditzler, tell of the Company's efforts to break the strike.

Because of nationwide pattern of contempt for the workers by the Square D Corporation, Local 1536 has called for a boycott of Square D products across the

country. He reported that Locals in New York City, Detroit, St. Louis, Atlanta, Chicago, Kansas City and other major cities have announced their intentions of honoring the boycott. Even if Square D can resume



production, it won't be able to sell its products because of the boycott.

International Vice President, Robert Garrity, of the I.B.E.W. said his office has filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court seeking injunction relief. He said the complaint maintains that the Lincoln Police and Company Officials have "conspired to deprive Union members of their rights and privileges."

Named in the complaint were Mayor Sam Schwartzkopf, Police Chief, Joseph Carroll and Police Lt. Robert Myers.

Garrity said the Union requested a panel of 3 Federal Judges be set up to hear the Union charges of "threats, interference and harassments" during the strike.



Numerous Stewards Chief Stewards and Officers of L.U. 1974 turned out in support of the food caravan.

Executive Board Officer, Dean Frye, presented our "Sister Local" with a check for \$500 to assist in their "efforts to negotiate a fair and just contract."