



**I.B.E.W.
Local #1974**



December 18, 1997



President's Message



This is the last **SHORT CIRCUIT** of 1997! There have been some pretty positive things happen at the Omaha Works in **1997**.

We have added 200 employees in production.

There have been 10 people graduate from the Trades Apprenticeship Program.

They are: **Bryan Wilkie**, Electrician; **Marcus Barnes**, Composite Master Toolmaker; **Chad Nielsen**, Composite Master Toolmaker; **Steve Skelton**, Composite Master Toolmaker; **Gary Schaben**,

Composite Master Toolmaker; **Courtney Perkins**, Composite Master Toolmaker; **Mark Stanley**, Composite Master Machinist; **Thomas Wingate**, Composite Master Machinist; **Scott Budoff**, Composite Master Machinist; and **Thomas Padworny**, Composite Master Machinist. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

We also had eight employees recognized at the Nebraska/S.W. Iowa Outstanding Apprentice Award Ceremony. Lucent Technologies was the only manufacturing location represented.

Others nearing this award from IBEW L.U. 1974 are: **John Knipple**, Composite Master Toolmaker; **Don Miller**, Control Systems Technician; **Willie Roach**, Pipefitter; **Bart Schramm**, Composite Master Machinist; **Ed Dillinger**, Building Maintenance Specialist; **Steve Skelton**, Composite Master Toolmaker; **Andy Stanley**, Composite Master Machinist; **Bryan Wilkie**, Electrician Maintenance.

We had 17 employees enter the Apprenticeship Program this year: 8 Composite Master Machinists; 5 Toolmaker Trainees; and 4 Control Systems Trainees.

There have been 90 people start the Machine School Program and 28 have entered the Control System Technician Program.

The main people to thank for making this happen are: Jerry Pote, Jim Black, Rick Madej, Ray Sempeck, Jesse Walker, John Huladek, Cecil Ward, Bob Agee, Dan Derner, Chuck Schultz, Maurice Johnson, Dale Kunz and Rick Wolkowiak.

We have added a new job description with a higher pay scale and pension band than a Level III, Master Molding Technician. All Level III's in molding were given the opportunity to upgrade. A 30-month program was put together this year and openings were posted, giving 9 employees the opportunity to start training for these positions.

Schedules in most areas in the plant are high. A lot of overtime is being worked. Some departments (Cable Plant and GPC Building) are working during the Christmas shutdown.

The cabinet business has a new contract with Sprint for about 4,000 PCS cabinets ... the expected order was for only 1500. Southwestern Bell has given us an increase of over 200 40-type cabinets. We'll be doing 35 cabinets per week and will increase to 55 per week.

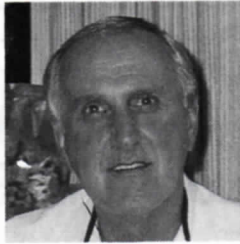
During the first part of January, LB 124, "The Fair Share Bill" will be up for a vote. If it does not move in this

Continued On Page 3

TO: ALL UNION MEMBERS:

The monthly membership meeting will be held **Thursday, December 18, 1997 in the Small Meeting Room, 13306 Stevens Street, Omaha, Nebraska. Phone: 895-4080 - FAX 895-1828.**

Third Shift meeting: 8:20 a.m., Second Shift Meeting: 2:00 p.m., Day Shift Meeting: 4:15 p.m.



Views from the Vice President's Office

By Sam Martin



I hope by the time you read this, the 30 Building parking lot will have some improvements. I have asked Santa Claus for Bumper guards and Roll bars. I don't think it's just the parking lot that is the problem, we have people practicing for Sunset Speedway in the parking lot.

The question was asked, "How to choose operators during shut down?"

1. Review Article 13 Section 2(b) of Union Contract

a. Vacation days and Excused workdays are offered to the operator with the highest departmental seniority first. Then the next high departmental seniority operator will be asked and so on per needs of the business.

b. The Highest Seniority operator has a choice of the number of days during shutdown they want to work.

c. Holidays and weekends will be offered to the operator with the low number of hours in their over-time pools.

The Christmas and New Year Holidays are upon us. 1997 was a good year. Our businesses are good, we have over 200 new hires, and in safety we have attained "Star Status" and so forth. In 1998, I am hoping, planning, on making more money, with better benefits and higher pension contributions via our contract renewal.

I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah for you and your family!

DEATH OF AN INNOCENT

submitted by Sam Martin

I went to a party Mom
I remember what you said
You told me not to drink Mom
So I drank soda instead.

I really felt proud inside Mom
The way you said I would
I didn't drink Mom
Even though the others said I should.

I knew I did the right thing Mom
I know you were always right
Now the party is ending Mom
as everyone drives out of sight.

As I got into my car Mom
I knew I'd get home in one-piece
Because of the way you raised me
So responsible and sweet.

I started to drive away Mom but
as I pulled out into the road
the other car didn't see me mom
and hit me like a load.

As I lie here on the pavement Mom
I hear the policeman say
The other guy was drunk Mom
and now I'm the one who will pay.

I'm lying here dying Mom
I wish you'd get here soon
how could this happen to me Mom
my life just burst like a balloon.

There is blood all around me Mom
and most of it is mine
I hear the medic say Mom
I'd die in a short time.

I just wanted to tell you Mom
I swear I didn't drink
It was the others Mom
The others didn't think.

He was probably at
the same party as I
the only difference is
he drank and I will die.

Why do people drink Mom?
It can ruin your whole life
I'm feeling sharp pains now
Pains just like a knife.

The guy who hit me was walking Mom
and I don't think it is fair
I'm lying here dying
and all he can do is stare.

Tell my brothers not to cry Mom
Tell Daddy to be brave
and when I get to Heaven Mom
Write "Daddy's Girl" on my grave.

Someone should have told him Mom
Not to drink and drive
If only they had told him Mom
I would still be alive.

My breath is getting shorter Mom
I'm becoming very scared
Please don't cry for me Mom
When I needed you, you were always there.

I have one last question Mom
Before I say good-bye
"I didn't drink and drive Mom
so why am I the one to die."

Jennifer Walker, Council Bluffs
Jennifer Walker is a student at Thomas Jefferson High School

**I KNOW IT'S THE HOLIDAYS BUT
DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE**

President's Message

(Continued from Page 1)

session, it will die. If this bill passes, employees that choose not to belong to the Union would have to pay their fair share for benefits they receive by working at a place where unions bargain with companies for wages, pension, health care, etc. Please take the time to contact your senator and ask them to support this bill.

Happy and Safe Holidays to you and yours and may the New Year bring good health and prosperity!

*Fraternally,
Marlene Wilson
President / Business Manager,
L.U. 1974, IBEW*

Stock Option Notice

by Rick Madej

I recently received a frantic call from New Jersey asking what was going on in Omaha. It seems that they have been inundated with requests for replacement stock option packets. They were starting to wonder if anyone in Omaha had received the initial packets that were mailed across the country. As hundreds of calls are pouring in, they asked me to clarify my article.

The packet has not been changed. The replacement packets are identical to the original packets that were mailed out to you. You do not need this packet or the certificate to exercise your option in 1999. If you have lost your packet, you are entitled to a replacement packet, but please wait a few months before requesting one so that they can catch up with the demand. They will appreciate any help that you can give them.

Thanks!!

THE SHORT CIRCUIT

Omaha, Nebraska

December, 1997

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

President Marlene Wilson
Vice President Sam Martin
Recording Secretary Sparky Bruning
Financial Secretary Edie Riester
Treasurer Tom Pallas

Executive Board

Jim Filipiak, Chairman
Mike Kelly, Rick Madej, Marlene Majeski, Jim Pabian

Newspaper Staff

Editor Deb Gulizia
Artwork Tim Cremeens



Make sure you attend the December Union Meeting for a chance to win one of the \$25.00 Gift Certificates that will be given away.

See you there!

TRADE WINDS

BY RICK MADEJ

Last month our Apprenticeship Program reached a new milestone. With the graduation of Tom Padworny, we now have had fifty (50) apprentices graduate to journeyworker status under the current two year apprenticeship format. Our new program, as required by the US Department of Labor, is in reality a four year program but the employee is required to get the first two years of training on his/her own time at an accredited trades school. The last two years of the four year program are taught in house but also on the employees own time.

We were hoping that we were finally getting to the position where we could begin discussions with the company about adding some full time instructors when we were informed that we must once again replace our training coordinator. We have worked through many problems in the last two years so this setback will be handled also. In the meantime, we will continue to do the best we can for the good of the programs.

We currently have twenty-five apprentices in various programs and we look forward to adding more, especially in the Toolmaker, Machinist and Control Systems Technician classifications. If you are qualified, watch the bid boards. It may not happen real soon, but it will happen.

The Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Committees wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we will see you again in 1998.

Don't Forget!!!!

Orange Bowl Bash Tickets are available from any officer or rep for \$5.00 advance (\$7.00 at the door). Your ticket entitles you to watch the game on Big Screen TV's, free food and refreshments and enters you in a drawing for a 27" American made Sharp TV.

Get together with other Husker Fans. Remember ... you won't have to clean up!

Have fun at YOUR Union Hall!

SAFETY CONTEST

BY DEB GULIZIA

This year's Safety Contest is now history. Hopefully, everyone's awareness has improved. There were 216 winners plant wide, so if you weren't a winner, chances are that you know one of those lucky people.

Thanks to everyone that helped make this contest a success, especially the Safety Sub-Committees.

Congratulations to all of those that won prizes!

PHASE III WINNERS

Week 11

Robert Pohlmeier
Shirley Bruning
James Carlson

Mary Landall
Marcia Halac
Jim Utterback

Week 12

Jerome Kromer
Richard Sorensen
Michael Zagurski

James West
Jerry Gagner
Ryan Herman

NON-MEMBER LIST

By Edie Riester



Here's the list of non-members as requested. I'm doing the K's and L's this month. Next month I'll be doing the M's and N's. Offer still goes, if you know any of these people, page me 0706, and I'll bring you over a signup card. Wouldn't it be neat to have 100% membership for contract next year? That's what I would call Unity Bargaining.

Dorothy C. Karis
Jean D. Kennedy
Annette L. Knight
Donald D. Knoell
Marlene G. Knuth
Alberta R. Kohls
Donovan C. Kohls
Charles F. Kriesel
Ernest J. Kubr
Delores A. Kunze
Thomas H. Kusek
Kathy M. Landrum
Leon R. Landrum
Eberto Leal
Maria R. Leal
Donnie R. Lee
Marie O. Lemke
Mark D. Logsdon
Thomas L. Lutzi

The rest of you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If any of you are traveling, have a safe trip. See you all next year.

The Hyatt Legal Plan for Occupational Employees

To use the Legal Plan, call Hyatt Legal Plans' Client Service Center at 1-800-821-6400 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. (Eastern Time), Monday through Friday. Identify yourself as a participant in The Lucent Technologies Occupational Employees' Legal Plan and give your Social Security Number. The Client Service Representative who answers your call will:

- Verify your eligibility for services
- Make an initial determination of whether and to what extent your case is covered
- Give you an authorization number
- Give you the telephone number(s) of the Plan Attorney most convenient to you
- Answer any questions you have about the Plan

You must call Hyatt Legal Plans prior to contacting any attorney. Plan benefits will be denied if you do not call first. You must give the authorization number to the attorney on the first visit in order for benefits to be paid.

What services are covered:

- Unlimited Office Consultations
- Juvenile Defense
- Debt Collection Defense
- Document Preparation: Deeds and Notes
- Uncontested Adoption
- Separation or Divorce
- Refinancing of Home (primary residence only)
- Sale or Purchase of Home (primary residence only)
- Living Trusts
- Living Wills
- Powers of Attorney
- Wills and Codicils

Certain matters are excluded from coverage under the Hyatt Legal Plan. No services, not even a consultation, can be provided. To receive detailed information on the covered benefits as well as the exclusions, stop by the Employee Resource Center or call the Joint Benefit Committee at X4954.



VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

BY DEB GULIZIA

After the Holiday rush is over, it's a great time to get out and have some fun. We are having a competitive CO-ED Volleyball Tournament at our hall, January 17, 1998. If you don't play volleyball, but know someone who does, let them know about it. We will accept the first 12 teams. The entry fee is \$84.00. Contact me or leave a message with Margie at the Union Hall at 895-4080. This tournament will benefit the COPE Committee.

50-50 Cope Winners

The winners of the 50-50 Cope Drawings were:

At the 8:20 a.m. meeting- **Marv Abramson** \$10.50
 At the 2:00 p.m. meeting-**Rich Griffin** \$ 3.00
 At the 4:15 p.m. meeting-**Edie Riester** \$ 9.00
All of the above winners donated their winnings back to the COPE Fund.

\$50 Door Prize Winners

At the 8:20 a.m. meeting - **Dave Bettger.**
 At the 2:00 p.m. meeting - **Dick Nightser.**
 At the 4:15 p.m. meeting - **Tom Riester.**

OPEN HOUSE

Submitted by Marlene Majeski,
E-Board

The 40th year Anniversary Open House went very well with many members stopping in for food, drinks, and just plain conversation. We had many good comments and suggestions that we have more get togethers like this.

The Board drew names for door prizes for the Open House Celebration. The lucky drawing winners were:

The winners of the Denim Jackets were: **Joe Vlcek, Bob Volkmer, Mike Keller, Gerry Maas, Stan Kull, Frank Tenczer, Dennis Laaker, Clara Moody, Buddy Davis, and Bernie Stopak.**

The winners of the Varsity Jackets were: **Chuck Stanley, Doris Litle, Rich Griffin, Tom Riester, Tom Blasing, Don Morris, Linda Lawrence, Tom Filipski, John Gude, Richard Nightser.**

The winners of the AFL-CIO calendars were: **Deb Gulizia, Steve Mahr, Kenny Meyer, Joyce Stark, Lyle Kahnk, Steve O'Dell, Scott Obradovich, Rick Palmer, Les Rue, Ernie Belik.**

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all of you that took the time to come down and socialize at your Union Hall.

Happy Holidays

Word Scrambler

Answers page 9



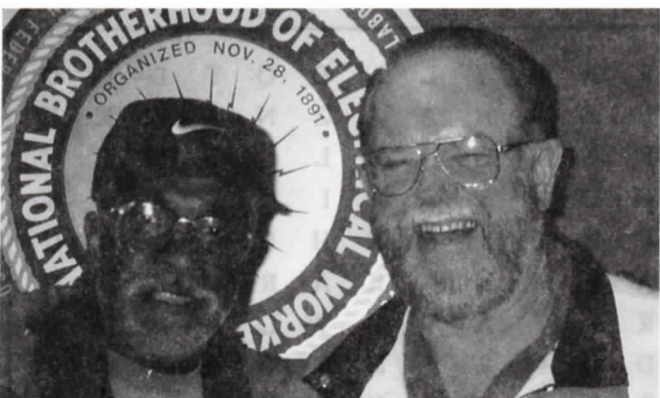
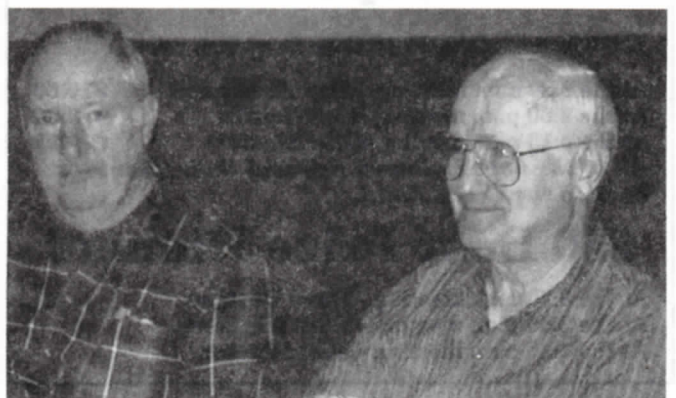
Find the following holiday-related words in the puzzle.

Chanukah	Christmas	stocking	tag
holiday	Santa	snow	December
nutcracker	dreidel	gifts	elf
cookies	candle	star	tinsel
menorah	tree	card	
kinara	mistletoe	feast	
Kwanzaa	wreath	bow	

R	F	R	Y	L	N	D	Q	T	D	M	O
E	A	S	R	A	A	Z	N	A	W	K	H
P	Z	T	G	N	D	L	I	G	M	T	C
O	U	V	S	T	F	I	G	W	A	B	S
C	B	E	L	M	X	H	L	E	Z	L	C
A	R	A	N	I	K	A	R	O	C	E	H
R	J	T	A	V	T	W	L	P	H	D	K
D	O	N	R	F	N	S	O	A	R	I	C
E	E	A	M	E	X	W	K	N	I	E	O
C	O	S	O	T	E	U	J	K	S	R	O
E	T	L	E	S	N	I	T	T	T	D	K
M	E	T	C	A	L	I	O	F	M	U	I
B	L	Z	H	E	U	C	E	H	A	V	E
E	T	C	Q	F	K	N	L	S	S	H	S
R	S	B	W	I	R	C	D	B	D	A	M
F	I	C	N	W	H	G	N	O	L	R	J
Z	M	G	A	K	I	N	A	W	M	O	O
A	R	E	K	C	A	R	C	T	U	N	U
G	C	H	L	T	L	I	B	V	R	E	K
E	J	U	B	F	O	H	X	W	T	M	S

INTERESTED MEMBERS

AT LAST MONTH'S UNION MEETING



Remember! Santa is watching YOU!



Hmmm, I wonder if Solich needs an assistant?

Orange Bowl Bash '98 and The Best TV Give-Away Ever

You can watch the Orange Bowl most anywhere, but you won't find a better deal than the event which will be held **January 2 at our Union Hall**, which is being hosted by our Local COPE Committee!

You'll be able to watch the game on two big television screens (56 inch) with a sound system to fill the hall with that "being there feeling."

Tickets are only \$5 available from any Union Rep or Officer or may be purchased at the door for \$7. Included in the cost of admission will be:

Hot dogs, chili dogs, chips, beer and soda and a chance to win an American made 27" Color Stereo Television made by Sharp.

The ticket you buy enters you in the raffle for the TV. **You do not have to be there to win!**

The best part about this raffle over most others is we will probably only sell about 200-300 tickets, so your odds of winning could be as little as 1 in 200 (pretty good odds), so please buy your tickets now.

(By the way, whoever sells the winning ticket will also receive a "special prize.")

Big screen TV's courtesy of Marty and John at Rent-A-Center, 644 North Saddle Creek Road.

*Submitted by,
Ron Hug, COPE Committee*

NEW MEMBERS

Dennis L. Agee
Tammy K. Bisaillon
Dean 'Marty' Buss
William D. Casey, Jr.
Robert W. Durand
Logan C. Grey
Casey J. Hoffman
Mike J. Jankovich
Yvonne M. Kloucek
Craig A. Mueller
Linda S. Nollenberg
Ron L. Novak
Gregory J. Potter
Jeno P. Reiff
DeAnn L. Richard
Ghazi Y. Sawaged
Raymond Shorts
Mark E. Thomas
Daniel J. Wilson
Diane E. Wulf



Ergonomic Conference

by Don Wieczorek

Members of the Ergonomic Safety Committee had the good fortune to attend a one day Ergonomic Issues Conference at Mahoney State Park on November 13, 1997.

The Conference for Ergonomic Issues was put together by the Safety and Health Council of Greater Omaha, Inc. and presented to safety representatives from throughout the Omaha area.

Topics ranged from "Developing Effective Return to Work Programs"; "Ergonomics and It's Effect on Workman's Comp."; "Preventing Back Injuries"; "How To Identify Ergonomic Problems in the Workplace;" "The Holistic Approach to Ergonomics;" and "A.D.A. and Ergonomics: Using Ergonomics to Make Reasonable Worksite Accommodations."

Each member of the Ergonomics Team, and other safety specialists from the Omaha Works attended four mini-sessions throughout the day, and the entire session lasted all day.

Attending from the Omaha Works were Susan Dillinger and Shelly Anderson representing the Lucent Benefits Organization; Linda Miller; Safety Specialists, Jeff Orley, Safety Organization; and Deb Gulizia representing LU 1974 from the Union/Management Safety Committee. Members of the Ergonomics Committee in attendance were Pam Amos, Karen Dappen, Larry Allison, David Piercy and Don Wieczorek; representing Ergonomic Issues support for Lucent was Jerry Lynch, Engineering; Donna Nielsen and Virginia Fishaber, Medical; and Paul Pickrel, Safety.

Everyone from the Ergonomics Organization held a follow-up meeting to discuss the conference while still fresh in their minds. The conference was very good and rewarding to all those who attended.

Happy Holidays to all of our members and people we represent. Keep healthy and wise to do you job so you can become healthy, WEALTHY and wiser!

Retirees in October 1997

Bess K. Chrastil
Janet M. Cox
Richard D. Edgman
Ronald A. Proctor
Betty C. Robinson
Oliver W. Whitaker
Debby S. White

Thank You – 1997

December 18, 1997 – one more day left for “most of us,” and the end of another work year. We probably spent more time in here than we did at home. Most of us probably used some of our vacation days just to get a day off. Now, we will have two weeks off, time to just sit round the house and get cabin fever.

However, there are a few events in that two-week period to break things up and I hope we put those days to good use. **Christmas Day** – a time to be grateful for something that happened in this world thousands of years ago. **Peace on Earth and good will among men.** That’s one BIG dream that I hope I’m around to see. Just think if everyone just took a moment to say one little prayer. The world might not change, but I bet a few individuals might change and that’s a big start!

New Year’s Eve – a time for us to make all those resolutions and break them the next day. The important ones we really do try and keep and most of us are successful. The important thing is we try. **Nothing ever gets done by just thinking how good it could have been; when we try to be successful and fail, the trick is to get back up and start where we left off!** This concept is important in our every day life, as well as in the work place.

We have seen a number of good ideas or “programs” get started and get dropped because someone was thinking “**IT’S NOT WORKING;**” maybe it was working but not the way they wanted it to, or a better excuse, “**IT’S TAKING TOO LONG!** (“WPOF”)

The day after January 1, 1998 is a **BIG ONE, ORANGE BOWL DAY!** On December 6, 1997, **OUR NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS** traveled to San Antonio, Texas to face off against Texas A&M in the Alamo Bowl for the Big XII Conference Championship. With no surprise to the 64,000 plus fans, Nebraska defeated the Aggies 54-15. Thank you Huskers for bringing 1997 to a “**GO BIG RED!**” end. A win in the Orange Bowl would be a great start for a New Year. Three in a row would be better!

Don’t forget we have an **ORANGE BOWL BASH on January 2, 1998 at our Union Hall.** Starting time is 3:00 p.m. and will continue until we get asked to leave! See the fliers posted around the plant for details and your reps for tickets, all for only \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door.

I want to extend a pleasant Christmas and Happy New Year to all our members and management.

**Fraternally,
50 Bldg. Executive Board Officer
Jim Filipiak**



The Record

LLOYD HARTMAN, RETIREE

Dan Hegarty, A-13, Mother

Bettie White, B-16, Stepmother

Bob Snyder, B-12, Mother-in-Law

Mel Finley, B-14, Father

Patty Griffin, D-13, Father

Ruby Stiers, B-12, Mother-in-Law

Dottie Mitchell, C-12, Father

Edwin Rodriguez, D-17, Grandmother

Charles Whitlock, B-12, Son

Diane W. Keller, B-12, Father-in-Law

Mike McMurtry, C-1A2, Brother

Submitted by Marlene Majeski

30 Building Coordinator

With another holiday season upon us and the expectation of bargaining after the first of the year, we all know that we have a busy time ahead of us.

I would like to wish all of you and your families a very Happy Holiday Season and very prosperous New Year.

California Court Says Layoffs by Age OK

The Los Angeles Times

San Francisco – A divided California Supreme Court decided Wednesday to let stand a lower court ruling that allowed companies to layoff older workers and keep younger employees to save money.

The court’s action means that trial courts throughout the state will be bound by the July ruling in favor of employers. A Court of Appeal in the case ruled that firing predominantly older workers is not age discrimination if the motivation is economic.

“It is pretty devastating for anyone age 40 or older for this to remain law,” said William Quackenbush, a labor and appellate lawyer. “Employers are now going to be free to arrange their restructuring and business decisions around this case.”

Sarah Rios, a human resources consultant for the Employers Group, an organization of 5,000 state businesses, said employers will now have more flexibility when they make layoffs.

“It will have a positive impact on California employers,” she said.

Submitted by Jim Filipiak

Holiday Gift Suggestions For the Children on Your List

If you are stumped by what to get for the youngsters on your holiday gift list this year, note the following age-appropriate toy suggestions offered by the American Academy of Pediatrics:

Newborn to One Year

- large blocks of wood or plastic
- pretend pots and pans
- rattles
- soft, washable dolls, or animals
- floating bath toys

One to Two Years

- cloth or plastic books with large pictures
- nesting blocks
- toy telephones
- kiddy cars
- stacking toys

Two to Five Years

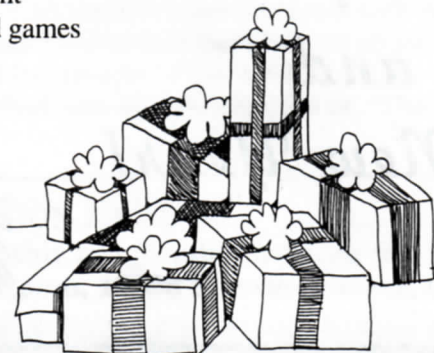
- books (short stories or actions stories)
- crayons, nontoxic finger paints, clay
- tape recorder
- simple puzzles
- dress-up clothes

Five to Nine Years

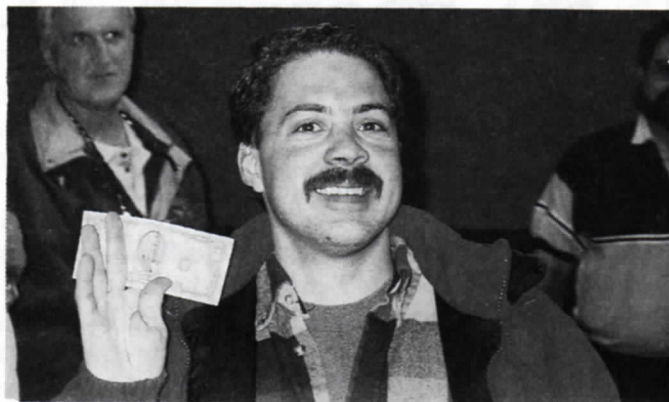
- card games
- paper dolls
- roller skates
- table games
- electric trains

Ten to Fourteen Years

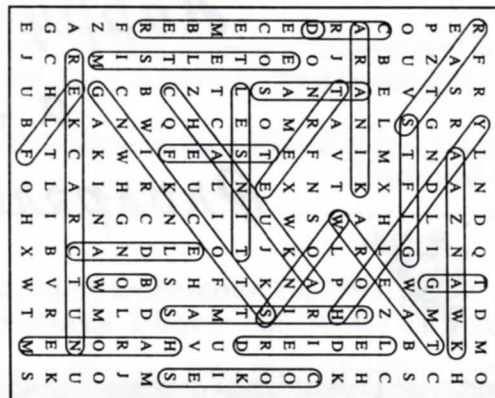
- computer games
- hobby collections
- microscopes/telescopes
- sports equipment
- table and board games



\$50 Drawing Winners



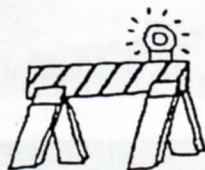
Holiday Scrambler Answers



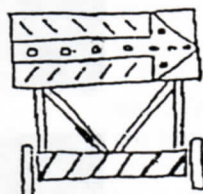
WELCOME TO NEBRASKA

THE STATE WHERE EVERY STREET EVENTUALLY NARROWS TO A SINGLE LANE OR IS...
DETOURED

State Animal:
the Barrier Horse



State Historical
Landmark:



State Mineral:



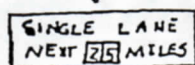
State Flag:



State Statue:



State Motto:



State Tree:



State Joke:



*The officers and representatives
 from Local 1974
 wish you and your family
 Happy Holidays and
 a Safe and
 Prosperous New Year!*

