



# THE westerner

WESTERN ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC.,  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

VOLUME 1 / NUMBER 2 / OCTOBER, 1957

## Omaha Employees Receive Asiatic-Influenza Vaccine

Over 700 employees of the Omaha Shops have received inoculations against Asiatic Influenza and many others will as vaccine becomes available. Shipments of flu vaccine are expected to arrive weekly.

The Asiatic Flu vaccine is being made available by the Company to all employees without cost and on a voluntary basis. If you wish an inoculation contact your supervisor.

Nebraska medical and public health authorities believe we are almost certain to have a widespread epidemic

The new "Asian" strain of virus is now known to be seeded in Omaha and all of Nebraska.

The disease caused by this virus is characterized by its abruptness of onset, severity of symptoms, shortness of duration (3 to 5 days), and low death rate—1 or 2 deaths in 1000 cases of sickness. Deaths that occur are usually in the extremes of age or in those who have a health impairment, particularly those who have respiratory or heart disease. The sickness itself is rather an acute case of headache, generalized aching, sore throat and cough, and a marked degree of weakness.

Dr. John F. Latenser, Company doctor, states that the flu vaccine is not to be mistaken as absolute protection. As a preventative, he says, it is about 70 per cent effective. The shots do, however, prevent the flu entirely in some people and lessen the severity, length and after-effects of the sickness in all people. Approx-



## Employees' Dance Draws 775 Requires Second Ballroom



These dancers move to the auxiliary ballroom where they pick-up the three quarter beat from an address system. The *Westerner* will print more photographs of the Employees' Fall Dance in the next issue.

### Attendance Sign Of Shops' Spirit

Seven hundred and seventy-five persons filled the spacious Ballroom on the tenth floor of the Livestock Exchange Building for the Employees' Fall Dance—the first dance to be organized by the employees of the Omaha Shops.

Shortly after the band struck the first beat at 9 p.m., the 60 by 100 foot Ballroom was packed and every table and chair occupied. Still the couples flowed in, and more and more tables and chairs were set up to handle the swelling crowds. Even more arrived than the vast Ballroom could possibly accommodate without completely filling up the dance floor with tables and chairs, and changing the employees' dance into a band concert. That evening, ninety-five tickets were sold at the door.

## New Cable System to Link U S with France-Germany





of Asian Influenza this fall and winter. Their prediction is based on the appearance of an entirely new strain of type A influenza virus against which we have no specific immunity. This virus has already caused widespread epidemics in several foreign countries and localized outbreaks in this country.

generalized aching, sore throat and cough, and a marked degree of weakness.

Dr. John F. Latenser, Company doctor, states that the flu vaccine is not to be mistaken as absolute protection. As a preventative, he says, it is about 70 per cent effective. The shots do, however, prevent the flu entirely in some people and lessen the severity, length and after-effects of the sickness in all people. Approximately 14 days are required after the injection before a good immunity has developed.

To be sure that no employee with an allergic tendency will have a severe reaction to the vaccine, the Company's medical staff has been giving sensitivity tests. In the test, a drop of the vaccine is injected between the layers of skin. In about five minutes an employee's sensitivity to the vaccine will be indicated, if present. The shot is not given in such a case.

## Shops Offer First Aid Courses

The opportunity to acquire the life-saving knowledge of first aid is being offered again to employees.

Beginning the latter part of this month, *Standard* first aid training courses will be held in buildings A and B. The courses will be sponsored by the Company under the direction of the local chapter of the American Red Cross. Any employee may attend the courses by contributing his time and presence.

The *Standard* course will be arranged under the new A.R.C. schedule. Instead of 18 hours, the course this fall will be 10 hours—two-hour classes given once a week for five weeks. The classes will stress prevention, early medical care, common injuries and

life-saving skills.

Two Shops "pros" of last winter's first aid training will again instruct. They are Bob Bevington, wage incentive engineer, and Bud Fanckboner, chemical engineer. Both men have received official Red Cross instruction on the "new look" of the revised course.

Commenting on the revised course, Bud Fanckboner said, that it has been simplified to bring out the fundamentals over and over again with more emphasis on the *Why*. The teaching approach has been changed and should prove to be much more interesting, he added. "There is more discussion rather than the spoon-fed lecture style . . . A person can crystallize his thoughts and understanding of first



These dancers move to the auxiliary ballroom where they pick-up the three quarter beat from an address system. The *Westerner* will print more photographs of the Employees' Fall Dance in the next issue.

## New Cable System to Link U. S. with France-Germany

A new transatlantic cable is scheduled for 1959.

On September 30, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company signed a contract with German and French Agencies for construction of an undersea telephone cable system between this Continent and Europe. The system is to be completed in 1959.

The twin cables of the new system will cross the Atlantic between Claren-

ville, Newfoundland, and Penmarch, France, which is on the Brittany Peninsula. The system will be of the same design as the transatlantic link now connecting the United States and Canada with England. This first transatlantic cable was placed in operation last year. Also similar cable systems now operate between Alaska and the U.S. and Hawaii and the U.S.

There will be 58 Western Electric built deep-sea repeaters spliced into each of the twin cables. They will be spaced about 44 miles apart. The Hillside Shop of the Kearny, N. J. Works is already at work building the delicate, durable repeaters, or voice amplifiers, which make possible the transmission of voices thousands of miles under the sea.

The twin cables, some 2400 miles long, will be able to carry 36 simultaneous conversations. Agreements among American, British, Canadian, French and German agencies involved stipulate that 13 of the 36 circuits will go to France, and 13 to Germany, while the remaining 10 are to be reserved for extension to other European Countries.

first beat at 9 p.m., the 66 by 100 foot Ballroom was packed and every table and chair occupied. Still the couples flowed in, and more and more tables and chairs were set up to handle the swelling crowds. Even more arrived than the vast Ballroom could possibly accommodate without completely filling up the dance floor with tables and chairs, and changing the employees' dance into a band concert. That evening, ninety-five tickets were sold at the door.

Fortunately, an over-flow valve was provided in the form of an auxiliary ballroom located across the hall from the main Ballroom. This was opened to handle the increasing attendance and music was transmitted to the ballroom over a public address system.

A variety of dance music was provided by the Dave Huskey Band, with W.E.'s Joseph L. Sinkule on the drums. Joe Sinkule, maintenance man in the machine construction and maintenance section, also emceed the dance.

Herbert P. Heath, plant manager, complied to a request to address the party. He expressed his pleasure at the large attendance which he looked upon as an indication of the fine spirit of the Omaha Shops' employees.

The dance committee was introduced to the party and they received a hearty applause for their work. Shirley Jensen was chairman of the committee and the members were: Dale Karloff, Loretta Asche, Margaret Maurer, Gene Saab, Bob Bevington, Ron Rezek, Peggy Reed, John Mangiameli, Rose Von Dollen, Joan Hixon, Del Hartung, Marie Fowler, Ardyth Gade, Ida Pohle, Don Scott and Lowell Iske.

The clock moved fast that dance night, and too soon, so it seemed, the band finished their last selection at 1 a.m.



# THE **westerner**

Published monthly for the information of Omaha Shops employees by the

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1957

**Western Electric Company**  
INCORPORATED

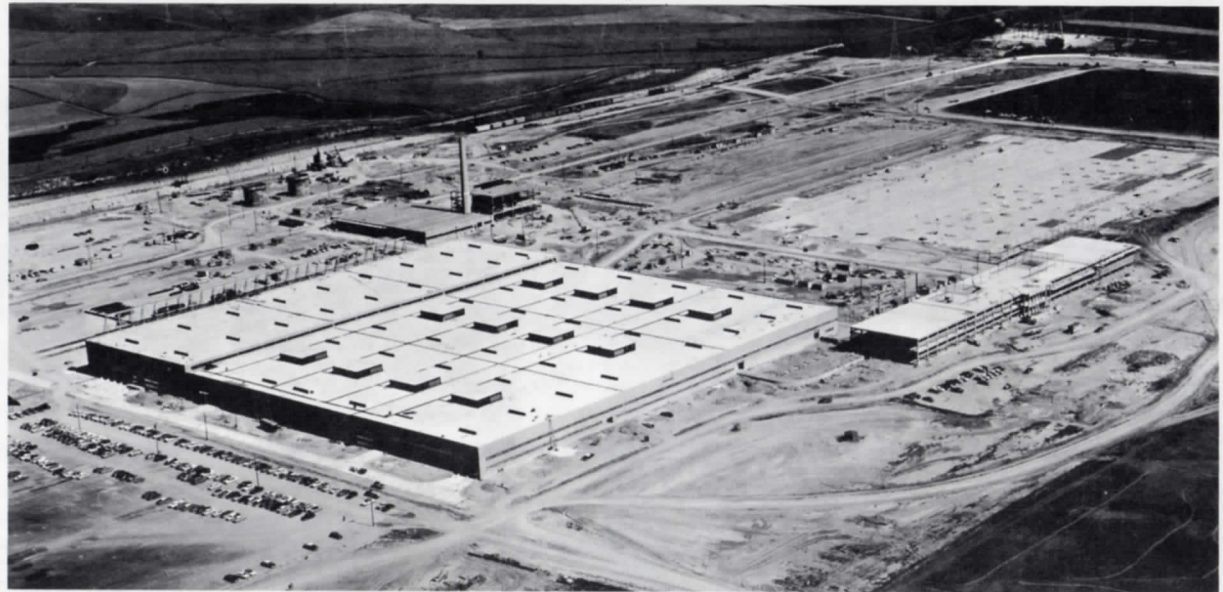
Donald Shafer, Editor

## Vice-president Randolph Visits Shops



Clyde C. Randolph, vice-president, manufacturing—Area B, visited the Omaha Shops on September 4 and 5. Mr. Randolph, accompanied by Herbert P. Heath, plant manager, Morris Brown, superintendent—engineering, and Robert Jafeck, assistant superintendent—cross bar equipment, toured buildings A and B on the afternoon of his arrival. During his tour, the vice-president enjoys a conversation with Virginia Chrastil (above) as she checks wire spring relay combs by shadow graphing. On the morning of the 5th, Mr. Randolph toured the new plant under construction at Millard. He was accompanied by Messrs. Heath and Brown and Harold Goodyear, assistant superintendent—wire and cable.

## Bell System Presents Science Who-dunit



This is the latest aerial photograph of the new Omaha Plant under construction at Millard. The photograph was taken from an airplane located 800 feet over the southwest portion of the 367-acre plant site. The large, completely closed-in building is the cable building. On the 1st. of November, twenty-five per cent of the cable building will be available for the purpose of machinery installation. The buildings in the background by the smokestack are the utility building and the boiler house. These buildings are progressing rapidly

## Over 98% Support U. C. S. Fund Drive

Over ninety-eight per cent of us have made a continuous payroll pledge contributing a total of over \$13,300 annually to the support of the United Community Services.

During the recent Omaha Shops' campaign held in connection with the annual United Drive, thirty-four additional employees signed a pledge bringing the total pledges to 1066.

Our support of the United Community Services helps people through 53 Red Feather-Red Cross Services.

and are expected to be closed in by the end of Oct. The long, narrow building is the administration building which will be closed in by early December. The foundations of the crossbar building, above the administration building in the photograph, are completed and erection of structural steel will begin when shipments arrive in early November. Also well underway is the grading and paving of the permanent road system. The two parking lots, shown in the lower left corner and upper right corner, are completed.

## TRANSFERS

Lloyd W. Myers, assistant superintendent from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to assistant superintendent, cable engineering.

Robert W. Dunn, section chief from the Tonawanda Shops, transferred in September to department chief, exchange cable production control.

Charles E. Sprain, department chief from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to department chief, exchange cable product engineering.

Michael C. Schultz, department chief from the Hawthorne Works, trans-

ferred in September to product engineer—exchange cable.

William A. Johnson, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to product engineer—exchange cable.

Rex D. Mallory, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to product engineer—exchange cable.

Robert C. Mayberry, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to engineer—cable shop.

Robert F. Minehart, engineer from the



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## Bell System Presents Science Who-dunit On National T. V. Network, October 25th

Every minute of the day and night, every living creature on earth is bombarded with infinitely tiny and invisible particles of matter so small that they pass through human beings without leaving any trace. You can't feel them, but the fact that they're there has been established by a series of scientific investigations that rivals the best detective fiction ever imagined.

These particles are cosmic rays. Cosmic rays are billions of invisible atomic meteors from outer space that plunge into our atmosphere with such terrific speed and force that they shatter air molecules and shower us with the fragments.

The story of the discovery of these particles is developed in *The Strange Case of the Cosmic Rays*, a Bell System Science

Series program to be telecast in color and black and white over KMTV at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 25.

In the scene shown below, Richard Carlson as *Fiction Writer* and Dr. Frank Baxter as *Dr. Research* (at right) tell three detective story experts—Charles Dickens, Edgar Allan Poe, and Feodor Dostoevski—about how the silent, invisible cosmic rays were discovered, identified and traced to their hide-out by scientists. The masters of detective fiction, represented by puppets, find it one of the most gripping detective stories of the 20th century.

This program will be the third one on science produced by Academy Award winner Frank Capra for the Bell System Science Series. *Our Mr. Sun* and *Hemo the Magnificent* were earlier programs.



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Michael C. Schultz, department chief from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to department chief, factory layouts and engineering—cable shop.

Robert W. Erickson, section chief from the Lincoln Shops transferred in September to section chief, plant trade maintenance.

John R. Sullivan, twisting machine operator from the Tonawanda Shops, transferred in September to section chief, cable shop—twisting, rewinding and repair.

James Dearing, results investigator, from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to section chief, material ordering.

Rudolph Cerjan, wire drawing machine operator from the Tonawanda Shops, transferred in September to section chief, wire drawing and die recutting.

Warren E. Petersen, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to engineer—cable shop.

Harry R. Jacobs, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to engineer—cable shop.

Howard H. Burroughs, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to engineer, material handling new plant.

Harry F. Fjelstad, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to engineer—cable shop.

James V. Goodbarn, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in Sep-

tember to product engineer—exchange cable.

Rex D. Mallory, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to product engineer—exchange cable.

Robert C. Mayberry, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to engineer—cable shop.

Robert F. Minehart, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to engineer—cable shop.

D. E. Nichols, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to engineer—cable shop.

Robert W. Rake, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to product engineer—exchange cable.

Donald E. Reser, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to product engineer—exchange cable.

Darrel G. Scholer, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to product engineer—exchange cable.

James Schwetz, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to product engineer—exchange cable.

John F. Sheehan, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to product engineer—exchange cable.

John H. Shoemaker, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to product engineer—exchange cable.

E. E. Shonka, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to engineer—cable shop.

D. W. Zimmermann, engineer from the Hawthorne Works, transferred in September to engineer—cable shop.



# They strip them for 'stock' racing - skill, hard work go into hobby

Number 89 was holding third position in the 15-lap stockcar race when rounding the south bend, it was "hooked". Another stockcar hooked under 89, lifting up its rear end and tilting the car so it nosed into the dirt. Instantly, 89 flipped end over end and tumbled over on the side arriving top up on the green.

Strapped in the driver's seat of 89 was Charlie Cachelin, truck operator in the shipping and receiving department, and running from the pit to his aid was his partner Russ Christensen, material handler in the same department.

Because of the very stringent safety requirements on stockcars, Charlie was not hurt. But 89 was busted. The motor mounts were busted. Shocks and springs were busted. Front axle was bent. And the fan blades were twisted from slicing into the radiator.

When Charlie and Russ bought the '41 Mercury from Omaha Shops' guard, Richard Cox, "it was a good looking car with no dents." For stockcar racing, it had to be stripped of its soft comfort, and its frills and ornaments removed so they would not injure the driver in a collision. It was a matter of destruction for construction. The boys approached the car with welding torch and hammer. Fenders were torn off. Roll bar supports were welded in the body for rigid bracing. All seats were removed but the driver's seat equipped with a safety belt. Door handles were removed, and the doors strapped. In two weeks, working late each evening in a quonset hut on the Christensen farm near Fort Calhoun, Russ and Charlie reconstructed, with skill, hard work and inventiveness, a stockcar racer.

Now 89 was wrecked. Again Russ and Charlie returned to the quonset hut with their car and applied their mechanical skill to restoring it. Transfusions of parts and sections were made from a '41 Ford into the battered Mercury. With a knowledge of automotive anatomy that would astound most of today's driving "dashboard-mechanics," they soon had 89 set for track action.

Again Charlie donned the crash helmet and safety goggles, and strapped himself into the seat of the car for the Sunday races, while Russ remained in the pit ready for on-the-spot repairs.



Charlie Cachelin and Russ Christensen pause to study how to fix a new radiator system on their stockcar.

Solution found, Russ skillfully handles welding torch to re-shape car frame for the radiator.



Back in the races is stockcar 89 (dark car, upper left,) the creation of Omaha Shops' Charlie Cachelin and Russ Christensen of the shipping and receiving department.

From in and out, and three sides, the boys tear down the Ford for parts for their racing Mercury. Helping Russ (standing) and Charlie (right) is Don Dunlap, a neighbor who shares work in the pit.



## W.E. Completes Arctic D.E.W. Line Radar System





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# W.E. Completes Arctic D.E.W. Line Radar System

On July 31, Western Electric turned over the completed Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line to the United States Air Force, thus completing the greatest single undertaking in the Bell System history—construction of the 3,000 mile radar chain across the Arctic from Alaska to Baffin Island to provide the U. S. and Canada 4 to 6 hour advance warning of the approach of airborne objects over the Arctic.

In spite of the hazards of Arctic construction, the difficulties of hauling hundreds of thousands of tons of building materials and construction machinery, the transporting and maintaining thousands of construction workers across some of the bleakest, coldest, most ruthless and desolate land on earth, the DEW Line was completed by Western Electric in 32 months—right on schedule.

When charged by the United States Air Force to construct the Line in 1945, Western Electric enlisted men with unusual technical skills from all Bell System companies. Now coming home are the last of the 4,478 Bell System people who temporarily gave up most of the comforts of civilization to go to the frozen arctic.

Their task wasn't easy.

Up on the sites the going was often difficult. One hundred-mile-an-hour



winds blew incessantly, and the temperature dropped to 50 degrees below zero. (How cold is this? Above a glass of water thrown in the air at 50 degrees below zero vaporizes instantly.)

Trying to describe adequately the difficulties imposed on the project's personnel by the arctic is not an easy task, as many returned Dewliners already have found after being accused of "yarning" by their fellow co-workers who stayed at home. But conditions often were tough on the Line and strange things often did happen because of the whims of the weather. Here is an example:

One morning a Dewliner got up from the breakfast table at a construction camp to take a tracked

vehicle to a job site. While walking to the vehicle he noticed that it was beginning to snow. By the time he got the engine started and the vehicle moving, he could see no further than 5 feet ahead through the blinding blanket of white. He inched the vehicle slowly towards camp which he had just left. Or so he thought. Hours later he still was unable to find the camp. An Eskimo was finally sent out to find him and guide him back. When the snow storm cleared it was found that the driver had been no further away from the dining hall than 40 feet through most of his ordeal!



Besides the newness of snow and cold, many Bell System people came face-to-face with animals they had seen before only in a zoo. Polar bears were frequent visitors to many stations and were extremely bold about stealing food and tearing open boxes of equipment. On more than one

occasion men would leave their tents or shacks to find themselves suddenly confronted by these huge white, 1,200 pound monsters.

The construction statistics of the Distant Early Warning Line are astronomical. For example: over 9,600,000 cubic yards of gravel were used in construction—enough gravel to build a road one foot thick and eighteen feet wide from Boston to Salt Lake City; more than 370,000 tons of material were shipped into the region by land, sea, and air; and over 1,000,000 air miles were flown by survey teams just to establish the route the line would cover.

The DEW Line and the Western Electric have made their imprint on the arctic. Where once only barren, snow-swept, rock-hard terrain was to be found, now the symbol of the DEW Line, the radome, that covers and



protects the radar antenna from the harsh Arctic weather, gracefully reigns on the horizon. There is now, also, a new location designated on maps of the arctic—Lake Bagnall—named by the Canadian government in honor of the first DEW Line project manager, the late Vernon B. Bagnall.

The Eskimos, whose help proved invaluable in building the DEW Line, have also been affected. Their children have discovered the joys of bubble



gum and comic books and more than one Eskimo hut sports a few wooden crate slats, the words "Western Electric" indelibly and unmistakably emblazoned large for all to see. Nor will the Eskimos forget the Bell System men who played Santa Claus for the kids at Christmas, or who assisted at the birth of an Eskimo baby.

And, the birth of the DEW Line.





## BACKSTAGE

Part of the fun of phoning is that it is so easy, so sure . . . so simple. That's why you'd be amazed if you went backstage in a Bell telephone central office.

Here you'd see row on row of 11-foot high racks of switches made by Western Electric. For you to dial even a local call, thousands of them must work together perfectly—and we build them to do just that.

The fact that you can take for granted the dependability of this equipment — plus the wires, cable and the telephones themselves — is our greatest pride as manufacturing and supply unit of the Bell System, a position of trust we have had now for 75 years.

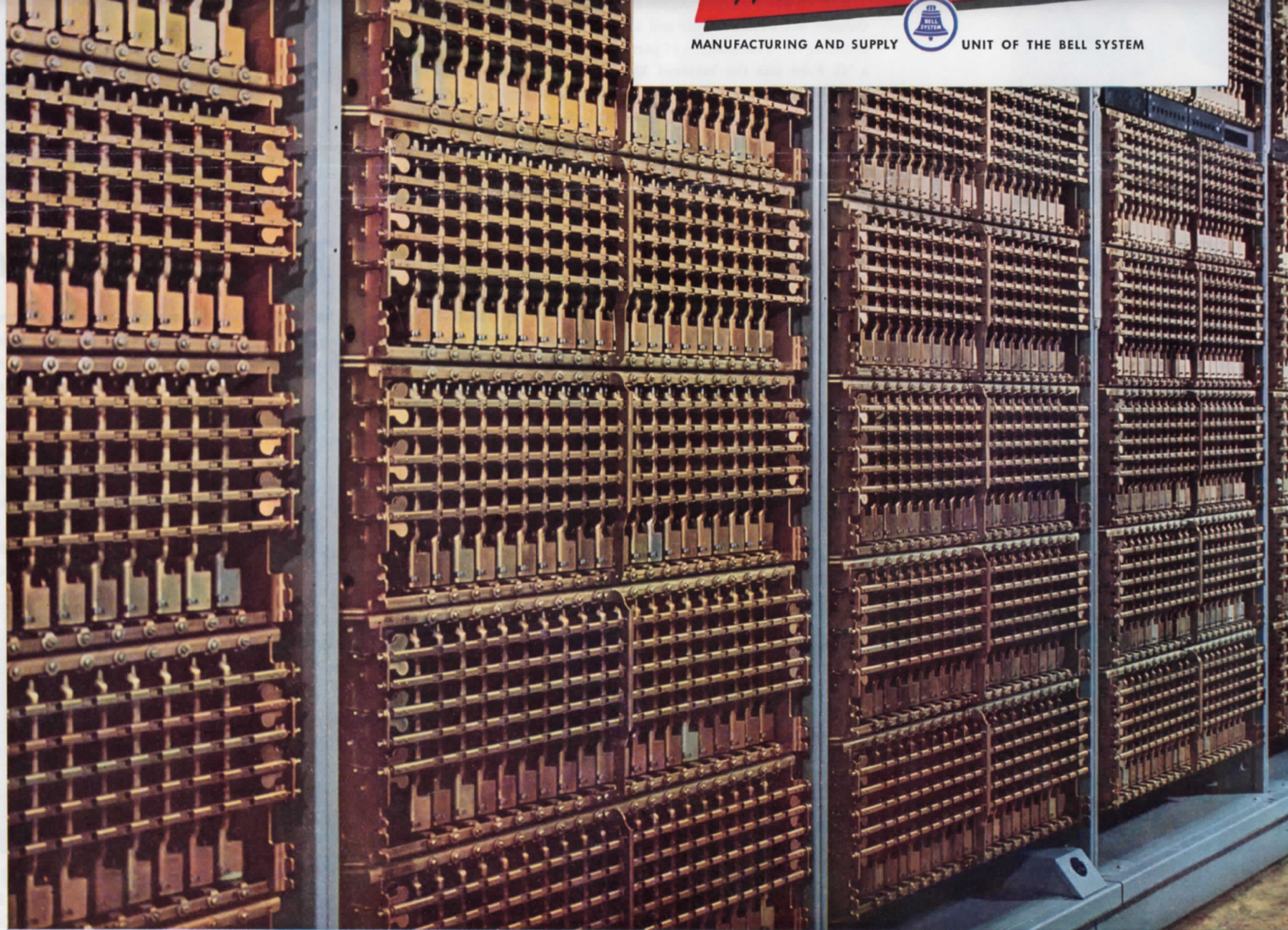
**Western Electric**



MANUFACTURING AND SUPPLY

UNIT OF THE BELL SYSTEM





This advertisement appears in color in:

*Saturday Evening Post* . . . October 12, 1957

*Newsweek* . . . October 21, 1957

*Life* . . . October 21, 1957

*Time* . . . October 28, 1957

*Look* . . . November 26, 1957

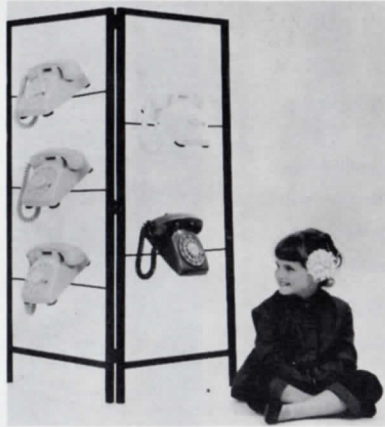


# Phones Coming in New Colors From W.E. Production lines

Five bright and gay new color telephones—white, aqua blue, rose pink, light beige and light gray—are coming off the production lines of the Western Electric Works in Indianapolis.

To make way for these newest arrivals, the present shades of medium blue, rose, beige and oxford gray will go into retirement. Brown will be available only in multi-button sets.

With the new color phones, the Bell telephone companies will have ten colors to offer. Four of these—cherry red, pastel yellow, moss green and ivory—are retained from the original colors. Then there will be the five new colors, with brown on a limited basis. Black telephones will continue to be available. All will come with



cords in matching colors.

The Western Electric men and women in Indianapolis will create, during 1957, nearly 6,680,000 telephones of all kinds.

## Five Donate Blood to Regional Program

Five Omaha Shops employees donated blood to the American Red Cross regional blood program during September. They are Leslie Parsons, Harold Nicklen, Eugene Shonka, Irma Shrader and William Wolford.

To date, Mrs. Shrader and Mr. Nicklen have generously donated a gallon of their blood to the program.

The regional blood program collected 581 pints of blood—531 from the center and 50 from the mobile operation—during September.

## BIRTHS - - -

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kinsley, draftsman, a daughter Lori Ann, July 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Thompsen, technical assistant, a son Jeffrey, August 25.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Setzer, designer, a daughter Elizabeth Ann, August 28.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Heffin, guard, a daughter Sharon Rae, August 29.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Reida, supervisor of benefit, medical and restaurant section, twins Diane and Daniel, September 10.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Vilhauer, inspector, a boy Gary Allen, September 26.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Grimm, cost accounting clerk, a girl Michele, October 3.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Deitch, cafeteria

manager, a boy John Christopher, October 4.

## MARRIAGES - - -

Winona Payne to Dave Frye, staff trainee, August 24.

Geraldine Pekarek to James L. Stewart, tester, August 31.

Donna Isgrig, bench hand, to Elmer Johnson, September 14.

Mary Lou Wilson to Warren L. West, relay inspector, August 30.

Myrtle Ann Halterman to Arlo Lauren Nielsen, process checker, September 21.

Dorothy Lillian Miller to Carl Theodore Anderson, department chief, October 5.

## ENGAGEMENTS - - -

Clara Price, secretary, to Stanley J. Dzieminski, September 27.

## Two Prize-winning Films For Loan to Shops' Employees — Just Ask

Is your social club, or church group, or fraternal organization looking for prize-winning movies to show its membership? Then why don't you step up and offer for their entertainment *Tools of Telephony* and *Arctic Mission*—two prize-winning, technical films you can borrow from the personnel department.

Both these films — produced by W.E.'s motion picture department—won Chris awards for excellence in production. The awards, named in honor of Christopher Columbus, were made by the Film Council of Greater Columbus at the fifth annual Columbus, Ohio, Film Festival.

*Tools of Telephony*, granted its award in the business-industry category, tells how Western Electric serves the Bell telephone companies in the quadruple role of purchaser, manufacturer, distributor and installer.

*Arctic Mission*, winning its Chris in the education category, reports on W.E.'s giant DEW Line job—the construction under extreme conditions of the 3,000 mile chain of interconnected radar stations across the Arctic from Alaska to Baffin Island.

Are you interested in borrowing these films? Then talk to Harold Wheelock of the personnel department who is in charge of the films.

## Two Promoted in Supervision

Two supervisory promotions were announced August and September.

William T. McNabb, formerly supervisor of the procurement and develop-



W. T. McNabb R. A. Jahnke

ment section, was promoted to department chief, personnel and employment service, effective August 15. Bill McNabb joined Western Electric in 1946 as a personnel investigator at the St. Paul, Minn., Shops. He stayed in personnel work until his transfer and promotion to section chief, coordinating, in July, 1955. In January, 1956, Bill transferred to section chief in operating, a position which he held prior to his transfer to the Omaha Shops in September of the same year.

Roy A. Jahnke, formerly training class leader, was promoted to section chief, tool and machine inspection, effective September 1. Roy Jahnke joined Western Electric in 1926 at the Hawthorne Works in Chicago. In 1933, he worked for awhile at the Company's Chicago Distributing House. Roy was a toolmaker at the Hawthorne Works prior to his transfer in May.

## OBITUARY



George H. Behney, 44, a machinist in machine construction and maintenance section, died of a coronary occlusion on the morning of August 13. Mr. Behney joined the Omaha Shops last May. He was living in Springfield, Nebraska, and is survived by his wife, Harriette, and a daughter, Susan, and a son, George Jr.



## Made in Omaha for Omahans

Employees on the fifth floor of building A made local history last month when 14 block relay frames and 5 district junctor frames moved off the assembly line here.





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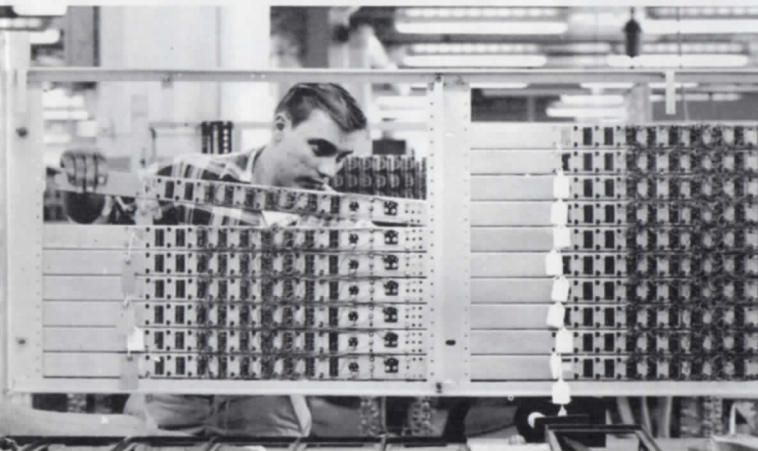
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Above, Mary S. Sterba assembles selected components for the Omaha order to metal district junctor strip. Below, Gwendolyn B. Payne, using wire wrapping gun, wires components assembled to strip.



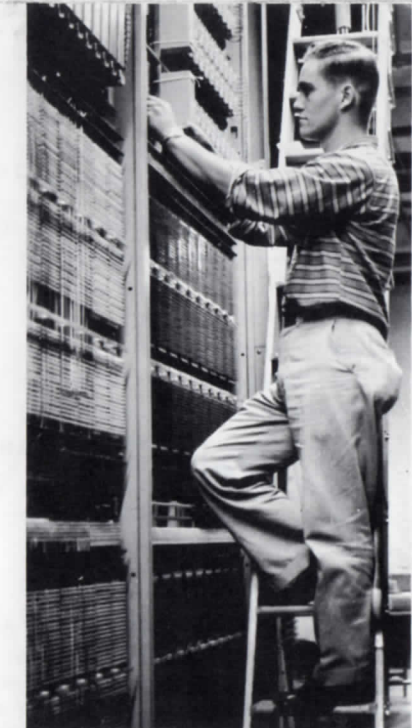
Gerald I. Swanson stacks and bolts surface wired strips into frame to form district junctor unit.



Grace Prater and Edith Legault work together wiring formed cable to a district junctor unit.



Below, William C. Anderson listens for the tone in one of the test operations he performs. Right Edward H. Mommsen fastens a district junctor unit to large frame.



Merle Giddings, W. E. installer, checks numbers on terminal strips on block relay frame made in the Omaha Shops for hometown telephone service.



## Made in Omaha for Omahans

Employees on the fifth floor of building A made local history last month when 14 block relay frames and 5 district junctor frames moved off the assembly line here.

Instead of being shipped to Greenville, Mississippi or Long Branch, California or to one of the many thousands of other possible sites where telephone crossbar offices are being installed, they were sent some 50 blocks away to the offices of exchanges Prospect, Pleasant and Kenwood.

Some of the functions of the junctor frames are: furnishing talking current to subscriber lines, timing of calls and controlling the collection or return of coins in pay telephones.

Some of the functions of the block relay frames are: searching out the particular subscriber's number and determining whether that number is busy.

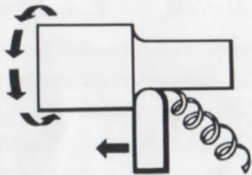
The final work was done by another part of Western Electric, namely the Installation Organization which is headed by area manager Frank Estabrook, who has approximately 130 installers working in Nebraska.

The Made-in-Omaha tag on this equipment reemphasizes to all that Western Electric is a permanent part of the business community of Omaha.





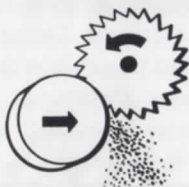
Larry D. Moody, above, was the first trainee in the toolmaker and machinist training program. Today there are 56 trainees learning to operate machine tools dependent for their operation on one or more relatively simple mechanical principles illustrated below.



< TURNING



< DRILLING



< SAWING



< GRINDING

## Eye on tomorrow

With the increasing complexity of today's machines there is an ever-growing need in Western Electric and all industry for those skilled tradesmen—tool and die makers and machinists—whose contribution is so basic in today's industrial society. With an eye on tomorrow, the Company started a training program for tool and die makers and machinists in order to meet the need for these trades for the Omaha Plant.

The program began on October 15, 1956, when the first trainee reported to the training section located on the first floor of building B. Today there are 56 trainees, and the program will grow to 70 by the end of the year.

The 56 trainees range in age from 18 to 34, and come from 24 different towns of which the farthest is 257 miles from Omaha. Their backgrounds are varied. Some joined the program straight from high school, while others had some college training. Some were machine operators, while others were farmers. All are carefully selected.

Every applicant for the training program is given four tests. The tests measure an applicant's intelligence, his mechanical aptitude, his ability in arithmetic, and his general knowledge in the sciences. Qualifying in the tests, the applicant is interviewed by the instructors and supervisor before being selected for the program.

The training program is a formalized period of training with a set curriculum, classes, texts and full time instructors. It is approved by the Veterans Administration for training under the G. I. Bill.

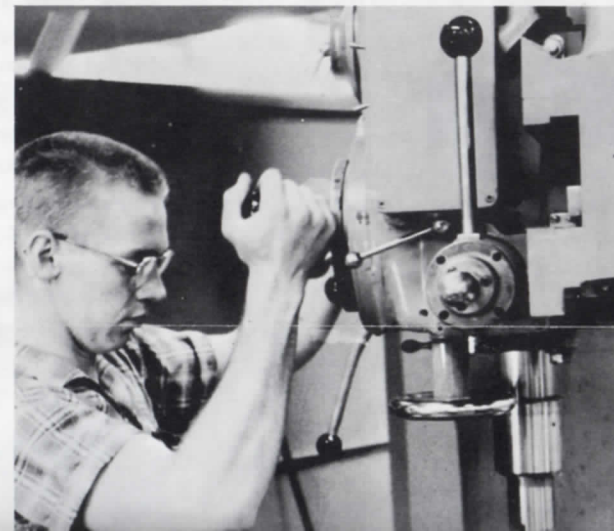
The program for both the toolmaker and the machinist trainee is 183 weeks or 3½ years. With the exception of 4-hours of classroom study per week—2-hours of shop theory and 2-hours of drawing—most of the approximately 7,320 hours is shop work. The shop work produced by the trainees is for tools and machines used in the manufacture of products. This work must be performed to the same degree of accuracy as would be expected of the more experienced tradesmen and must meet the same inspection requirements.

Each trainee is rated by the instructors on his quality, quantity, job ability and job attitude. Their ratings are noted on weekly "report cards" which the trainees receive each week. According to the judgement of the instructors and supervisor, the ability of the trainee and the needs of the business, the training periods may be varied.

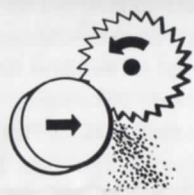
There are openings now available in the training program for capable



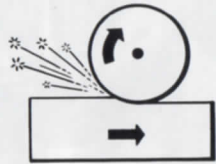
With patience and concentration, trainees Richard M. Cartwright (front), Leslie J. Parsons and Larry D. Moody (back) operate lathes. The training section is equipped with the best and latest machines.



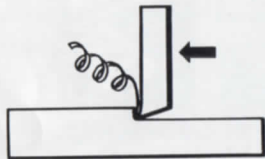




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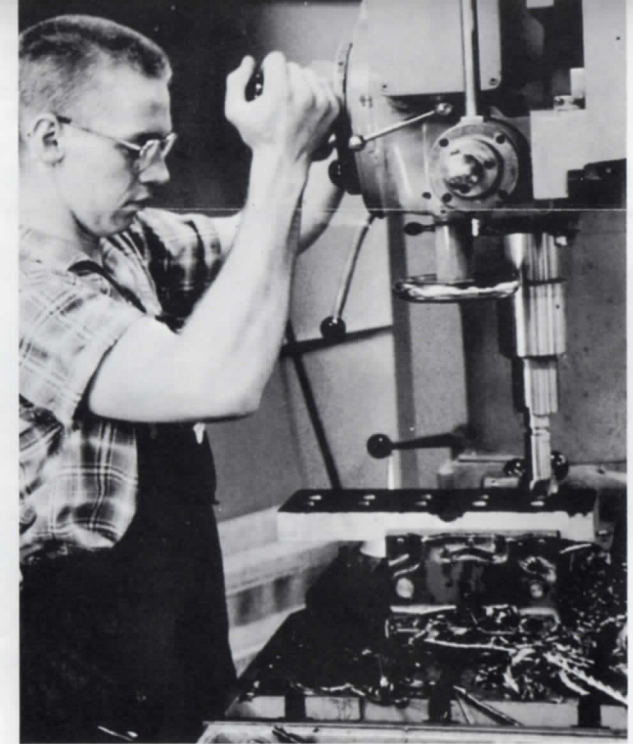
< SHAPING

185 weeks or 5 1/2 years. With the exception of 4-hours of classroom study per week—2-hours of shop theory and 2-hours of drawing—most of the approximately 7,320 hours is shop work. The shop work produced by the trainees is for tools and machines used in the manufacture of products. This work must be performed to the same degree of accuracy as would be expected of the more experienced tradesmen and must meet the same inspection requirements.

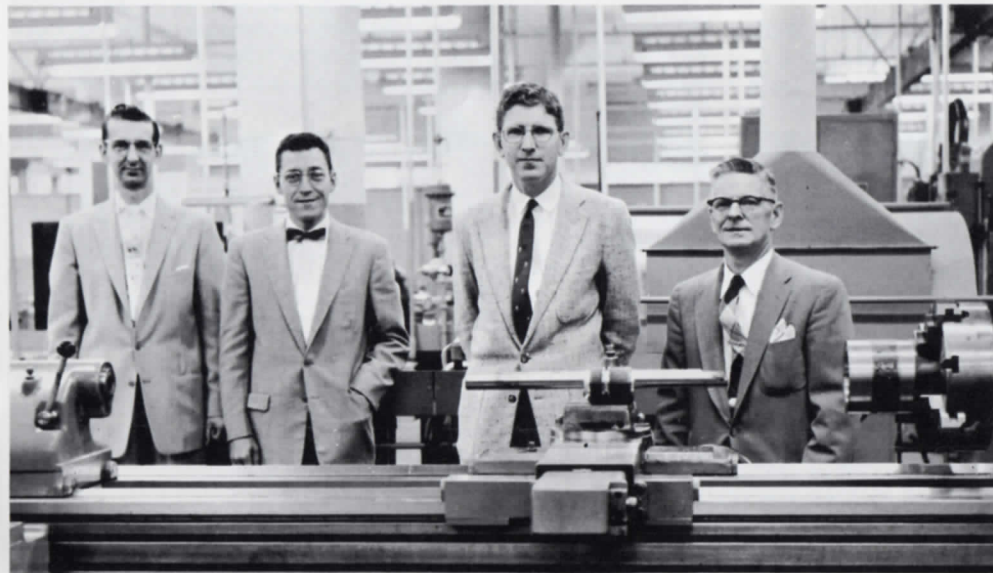
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There are openings now available in the training program for capable young men. If you know someone, with an eye on the future, who might be interested in becoming a toolmaker or machinist, advise him to apply at our employment office in building A.

Mind, muscle and machine are teamed together as trainee Chester Kemmerle operates the radial drill. Trainees work only on jobs intended for operating use; there are no practice parts produced.



Behind the big lathe and the big job of developing toolmakers and machinists for the Omaha Shops are these four men who have headed the training section since it began on October 15, 1956. They are, from right to left, David T. Smith, who started operations and hired the first trainees; Floyd L. Kriesel, first man to head the training section; Walter W. Baumgart, who succeeded Kriesel in March of this year; and Frederick E. Kujawa who has headed the section since July.



Ready to guide and assist trainees in the toolmaker and machinist's skills are the five Omaha Shops' instructors. Below, instructor Jack McIntosh discusses specification details with trainee David Pfeifer.



Trainees receive individual assistance from able, experienced instructors such as Curtis Chapman, below, who checks out a math problem with trainee Darrel Hutchinson. Curtis has 17 years as a machinist and toolmaker.

