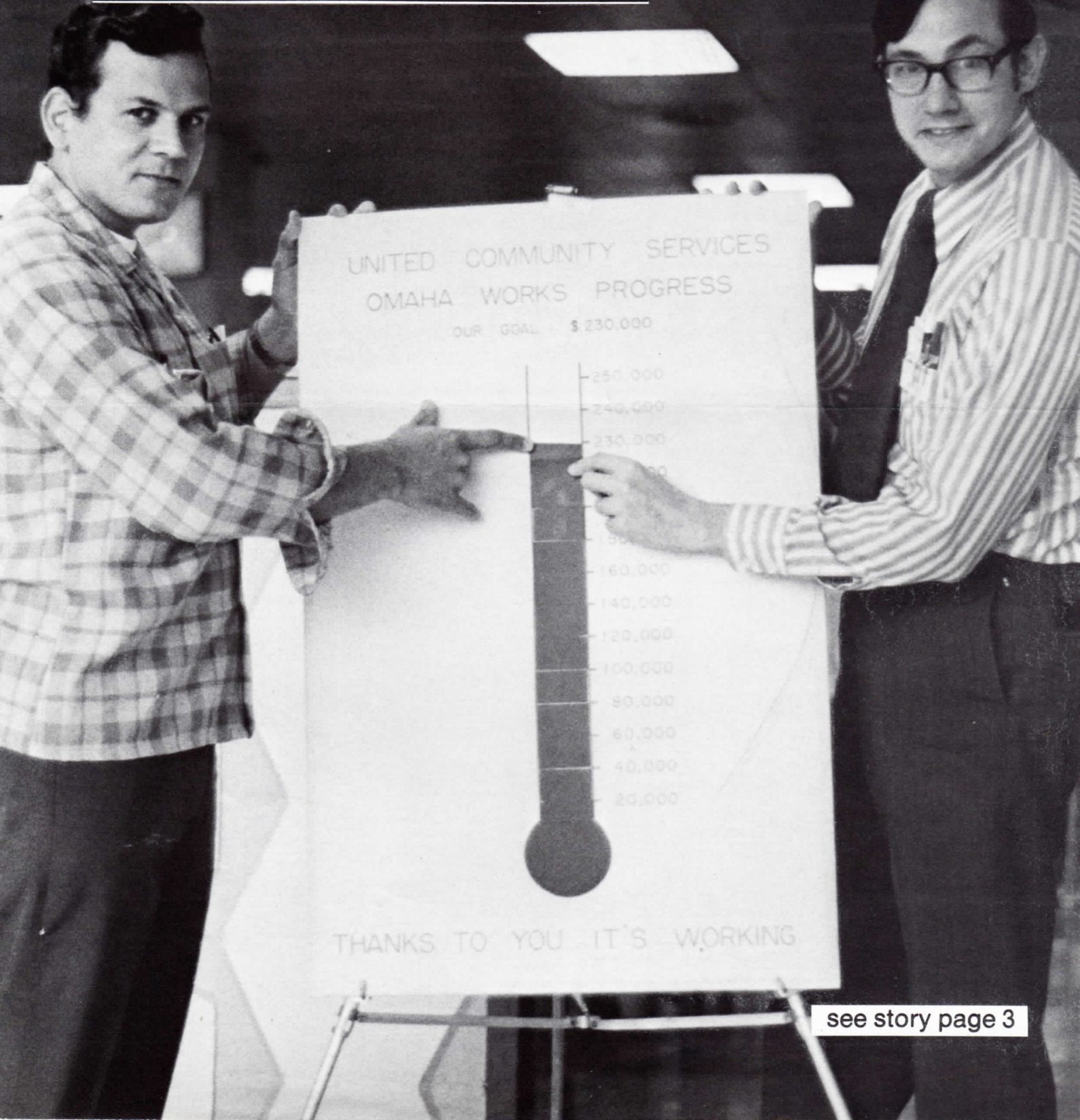


# t h e **WEsterner**

**Omaha Works**

**December 1, 1972**



UNITED COMMUNITY SERVICES  
OMAHA WORKS PROGRESS

OUR GOAL - \$ 230,000

250,000  
240,000  
230,000  
220,000  
200,000  
180,000  
160,000  
140,000  
120,000  
100,000  
80,000  
60,000  
40,000  
20,000

THANKS TO YOU IT'S WORKING

see story page 3

Frank J. Lefebvre, General Manager  
Western Electric—Omaha Works

Michael W. Rissien, Editor

James H. Beck, Assist. Editor

# the **WE**sterner

## Volume 16 — Number 13

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Member

Nebraska Association of Business Communicators  
International Association of Business Communicators

## Art Gareau Ends Service Career

Arthur V. Gareau, section chief of 242-1, ended a 29-year career with Western Electric on October 22.

Art started at the Hawthorne Works in 1943 as a Business Methods Investigator, and in 1946 was transferred to the Lincoln Shops.

In 1955, Art was transferred to the Accounting Organization, and in May 1956 came to the Omaha Works as Section Chief, Accounting, Business Methods and Financial. In 1960, he moved to his latest assignment as Section Chief, Shipping and Receiving Department 242.

Art plans to reside in the local area.

## \$230,100 For UCS

The in-plant United Community Services Fund Drive has topped its goal of \$230,000, according to Drive Co-Chairmen Paul Bayliss, Assistant Manager 480, and IBEW Local 1974 President Mike Quinlan.

The final results show the Omaha Works reaching \$230,100, with \$213,270 going to the Heart of the Midlands campaign. The remainder of the money pledged at the Works will go to Fremont (\$7,245), Wahoo (\$4,645) and Lincoln (\$4,840). In the Omaha area, the Works was the largest single contributor to the UCS Campaign.

The success of the Works drive was due to the efforts of 400 canvassers, 240 of whom were union members and representatives. The remaining 160 canvassers were salaried personnel. In addition, departmental secretaries provided needed assistance in sorting cards and handing out campaign materials. The big job of planning the campaign and coordinating the efforts of the workers was carried out by the nine man Campaign Committee under Bayliss and Quinlan. Those men were: Chuck Newell, Bryce Qualset, Bob Osterman, Elmer Johnson and Dean Frye from the Union. Management members of the Committee were: Bob Tatten, Joe Kennedy, Dick McGaughey and Phil Warren.

Congratulations are in order to organizations 170, 270, 356, 470, 520, 540, 921, 963 and 6350, all of which achieved 100 percent participation. Special recognition is due sub-branch 470 which achieved a 91 percent level in fair share contributions.

## Service Anniversaries for Seven



Charles D. Koukol  
30 years  
11-1-42



Louida M. Wilson  
25 years  
11-7-47



Viola K. Fowler  
25 years  
11-16-47

### 20 YEARS - NOVEMBER, 1972

R. B. Schaefer	11-10
H. A. Hicks	11-19
R. H. Gulliksen	11-24
M. M. Newton	11-22

# Christmas Party Dec. 8-9

The Second Annual Omaha Works Employee's Christmas Party will be held on December 8-9, according to Party Chairman Joe Dolezal.

The affair this year will be held in the Works auditorium, where Santa Claus will greet employees and their children, and present gifts to the children. Assisting Santa will be Miss Weoma XV and her court.

The hours of the Christmas Party will be from 7 to 10 p.m. on December 8, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on December 9.

Last year more than 3,900 employees attended with their child-

ren, who numbered some 2,200. This year's attendance is expected to surpass these totals.

Ample parking will be provided in the East Office Parking Lot, with access to the building through the east doors of 31 Cafeteria.

Refreshments will be served in the cafeteria, and entertainment will be provided by the Perkins Family, the Country Drifters and the Weoma Club Band and Chorus.

Employees and their families are invited to participate.

*Santa to again greet Works employees children.*



## New Resident Organization

All vinyl products and switchboard wire stocked at the Hawthorne Works will soon be transferred to Omaha, as the result of a reorganization of the Merchandise function.

Effective October 1, Department 9961, under the direction of Department Chief Barney Keppers, became a resident organization, occupying Building 613. This organization will have the responsi-

bility of stock maintenance, order receiving, select, ship and service of all items considered stock items in Omaha. Included in this classification are: all vinyl products, inside wiring, switchboard wire, terminal strips and relays, plus some 3000 sub-classes of these items.

Under the Manager, Merchandise Stock at Hawthorne, A. T. Olsen, the Reorganized Merchandise and Service Stock Department will receive all vinyl products, including power cable and switchboard wire now stocked at Hawthorne. In the future, the Omaha group will have the added responsibility of processing all return goods of these categories from the field.

"The change is an attempt to consolidate and maintain adequate stock, and to improve service to our customers in filling supply demands," Barney said. "We presently ship to all service centers and service regions. When the new Materials Management Centers are built we'll ship to them, and they in turn will fill the needs of their respective service division region."



*Here in the relay packing area, boxes are filled for shipment.*

# Idea Wins \$1,220 Reward

Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Lou Gehrig and Mickey Mantle would be somewhat awed by the mighty batting average of Donald D. Walker, Department 135. Just as these baseball immortals are recognized, so was Don for his recent suggestion which won him a \$1,220 award.

In the 11 years of the Suggestion System at Omaha, Don has submitted 12 suggestions, seven of which have resulted in a monetary reward, for a whopping .656 suggestion adoption batting average.

Don's latest suggestion was for ordering steel sheets 20 feet shorter for making 395 A and B Mounting Plates. It was estimated that over a 12-month period, the Company would experience a 96,000 pound savings in scrap resulting in a \$8,114 cost savings award.

In his presentation of the award check to Don, Omaha Works General Manager Frank J. Lefebvre said, "I think it's just fine when an employee takes the time and effort to submit a suggestion which will save the Company money. The Purchasing Organization buys the materials, and the engineers design machines to manufacture the apparatus. But it takes conscientious people like Don to find better ways to do the job."

In other Suggestion System action: Merle E. Cook, Department 248, received his fourth suggestion award in seven attempts . . . this one good for \$385. Merle's idea, which will result in a first year's savings of \$2,550 to the Company, provided for changing to a matching multiple "V" belt with bonded backing, from the current non-bonded type. The new type belt will provide a longer service life and reduce maintenance and replacement costs.

Redesigning the die holders in the Cable Shop die lapping machines was the suggestion which won W. H. Rotschafer of Department 246 a \$95 award. The suggested redesign will result in a reduction of labor costs. Also gaining a sug-



*General Manager Frank J. Lefebvre hands Donald D. Walker (center) a check for his suggestion, as Department Chief John Berg gives Don a pat on the back.*

*Merle Cook (right) receives a check and congratulations from R. B. Schaefer, Manager, Engineering and Manufacturing-Cable and Quality Control and Work Service, for his suggestion.*

gestion award of \$75 was R. D. Powelson, Department 343. His idea resulted in a savings in the transportation costs of packages mailed from the Merchandise Organization.



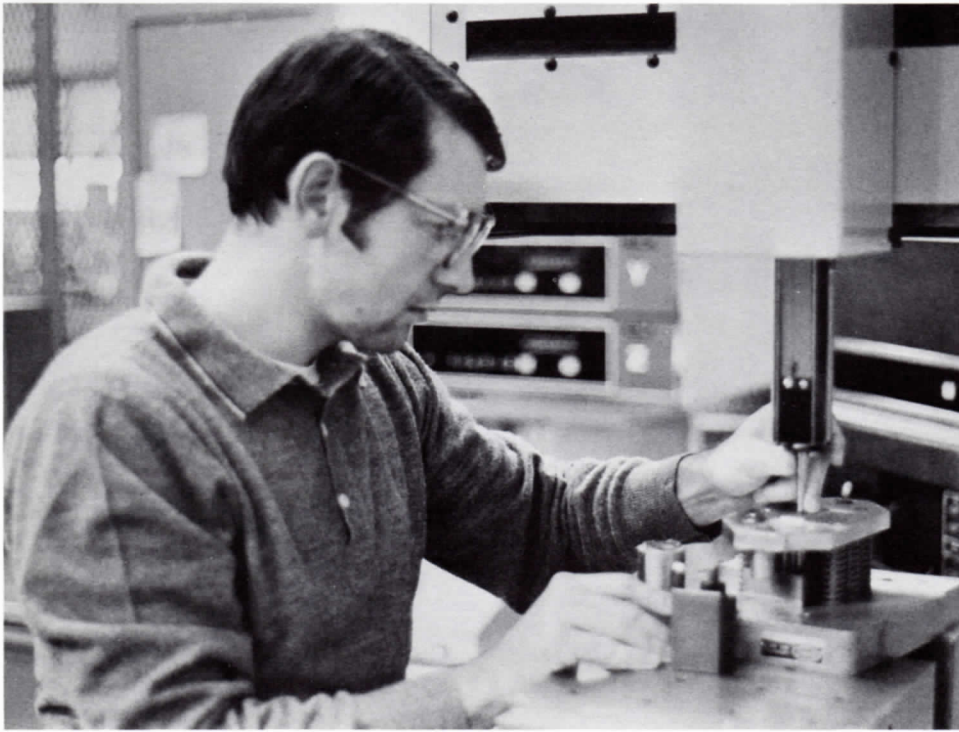
## Omaha Works Hosts Council

More than 90 members of the Omaha Safety Council, representing 49 companies, attended a half-day seminar October 24, hosted by General Manager Frank J. Lefebvre.

The objectives of the seminar, entitled "How To Get Your Employees To Work For Safety," was to provide the conferees with workable techniques in developing approaches for promoting safety to their employees, and for creating attitudes of awareness for safety 24-hours a day.

Opening the session was George A. Nothelfer, Manager, Omaha Safety Council, with James O. Bosworth, Manager, Industrial and Labor Relations and Environmental Services welcoming the group on behalf of the Omaha Works.

The seminar was the ninth informational meeting of the Council this year aimed toward informing employees and employers with the needs and concepts of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.



## Czech Finds Freedom In U.S.

“What I cherish most is the freedom; that is the biggest asset of this country.”

Those were the words of Joe Jech, an Inspector in Department 245.

The Czechoslovakian immigrant sat reflecting on the events which brought his family to the United States in 1958, and which began for Joe “a peaceful life.”

The turning point in Joe’s life came in 1949. His father, who had escaped a Czech prison where he had been held as a political prisoner before fleeing to West Germany, had arranged for a guide to lead his family to Germany and freedom. After eight hours of walking, Joe, his mother and two sisters reached the border and were reunited with their father. A year later Joe’s family moved to Brazil.

“My father decided not to wait for a visa to the United States in Germany because he feared for his safety, so we moved to my Uncle’s home in Brazil where my father worked in my uncle’s mirror factory,” Joe said. “When I was 16, I used to help in the factory’s machine shop, and two years later I worked part-time in a machine shop of a company which repaired microscopes and made surgical equipment.

“I was 20 when my family moved to Omaha in 1958. A week after we arrived my father died, and it was necessary for me to get a job. My background helped me find work with Color Supply Company and I enrolled in night school at Omaha Technical High School to improve my English. In November, I applied for work at Western Electric and was hired as a Tool

Room Machine and Bench Operator.”

Six months later, Joe was transferred to the Tool Room Grinding Section as a Group II Tradesman Precision Surface Grinding Operator. Between 1960 and 1968, Joe attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha on the Company’s Tuition Refund Program, accumulating 50 hours of engineering credits. During his spare time, he met Sandra Skillstad, and two years later they were married.

In 1969, Joe was enrolled in the Company’s apprentice program, graduating as a tool-and-die maker. In 1972, Joe was moved to the position of Inspector in the tool room. “I didn’t get a monetary reward for completing the apprentice program,” Joe said, “but the education was well worth the time. I found the course a thoroughly satisfying experience.”

In May 1972, Joe was sent to Massachusetts by the Company for training in the operation of a digital computer that works in conjunction with the Cordax Measuring Machine, which provides a permanent record of the dimensions and specifications for tools, fixtures and gauges.

Reflecting on his achievements, Joe said, “There will always be conflicts. In Europe you didn’t know what to expect from the government or the economy — that’s why we moved to America. That is the biggest asset of this country, you don’t have to worry about your freedom. For me, I know that if you work for it, you can achieve whatever degree of freedom you want.”

# Blood Donors Increase

The Omaha Works hosted the 96th visit of the Douglas/Sarpy County Red Cross's Bloodmobile November 2-3, and established an eight-year high for donor turn-out.

According to Works Bloodmobile Director Dona Hillman, 575 people volunteered during the two-day visit. The previous high was in 1970 when 554 employees contributed their blood during a three-day visit. "This time, 612 people showed up, but 37 had to be deferred for one reason or other," Dona said.

The total contribution this time amounted to 72 gallons of blood. Adding to that total was Rudolph Kozisek, Department 245, who was reaching a personal goal of his own—eight gallons. Rudolph has contributed two and one-half gallons while working at the Omaha Works since 1959. The rest was donated in the Omaha Region of the Red Cross before joining WE.

Asked why he began giving blood, Rudolph replied, "Someone told me it was good for you. It never hurt, so I kept at it."

Just beginning her blood donating career is Marjorie Kennedy, an Assembler in Department 146, who said this was her second time for donating blood.



*Rudolph Kozisek jokes with Bloodmobile Director Dona Hillman as he gives the last pint of his eighth gallon of blood.*

"I tried it last time to see what it was like," Marjorie said, "and it wasn't bad at all. Three from our department donated. We think they all should come, it doesn't hurt so why not give."

These are but a few of the views of Western Electric employees at the Omaha Works, but it is representative of the many who through their time and effort contributed to our receiving the Red Cross's Business and Industry Award plaque for achieving a 1971-72 quota of having the highest percentage of corporate first-time donors, with 17 percent in the 1000-5000 employee category.

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*Marjorie Kennedy — "it's not bad at all."*



Western Electric

BULK RATE  
U S POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Omaha Nebraska  
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