

Pardon me,
but haven't
we met?

Some of your best
friends used to be
babies. Can you
guess who this is?
Turn inside for clues
and other baby
pictures to identify.

Pages 4, 5



• A changing of the guard occurs.

Page 6

• Ima Klutz has a safety message.

Page 8

for your information

The 90th Army Reserve Command recently awarded a Meritorious Service Medal to Hugh Wells, Dept. 333, for exemplary command performance. Wells retired from the Army Reserve in February as a lieutenant colonel after 30 years of service . . .

. . . And speaking of the army, an army of another kind has sent a special thank-you to the Omaha Works. The Salvation Army has presented to the Works a Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Service

in the 1978 Christmas Tree of Lights campaign. The certificate is in appreciation of the support given by Works employees who donated new toys for the Salvation Army to distribute to needy youngsters . . .

. . . If employees' children missed taking the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) in October 1978, they still may become eligible for scholarships sponsored by the Western Electric Fund in the 1980 National Merit Scholarship competition. If students missed taking the test because of illness or other emergency, they may submit the scores from the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) in place of the PSAT. The SAT may be taken on May 5 or on June 2, but the request for consideration for scholarships through this alternate route must be made by April 27 to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Interested students should contact their high school guidance office for complete details .



WORKS TOUR . . . Ronald Bruno (left) and David Slaven inspect the products at one of the displays in the Product Display Center.

Creighton Prep duo takes Bell Labs tour

A student and teacher from Creighton Prep toured Bell Laboratories Murray Hill location last month, courtesy of Western Electric. David Slaven, a Prep senior, and Dr. Ronald Bruno, physics instructor at Prep, were participating in the Bell System High School Science Visit Program.

Purpose of the program is to promote career motivation in the science and engineering fields and to increase science awareness. Prior to their trip to Murray Hill, Slaven and Bruno attended a luncheon and took a tour of the Omaha Works.

Slaven, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James D. Slaven, plans to pursue math-related studies in college.

retirements



Herb Brinke
40 years



Howard Gaebel
38 years



Jay Weaver
32 years



Orval Galbreath
32 years



Eugene Korklaski
25 years



Flarance Stockford
23 years



Robert Johnson
21 years



Richard Rhoades
20 years



Joseph Deckert
20 years



Forrest Everman
20 years



John Dahlstrom
20 years



Blanche Rupp
20 years

Not pictured:


Ward Justus
33 years

Michael Grudenic
22 years

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Editor

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 **Western Electric**

service anniversaries

april

20 years

J. D. Andersen
G. R. Baumgart
J. H. Beck
R. J. Bohac
F. P. Bullard
W. K. Carson
D. D. Carstens
H. E. Clanton
R. F. Donat
R. C. Engler
E. A. Glinski
I. P. Homan
G. R. Hopkins
F. T. Kennedy
M. W. Kennedy
E. D. Kent
L. E. Kroeger
K. P. Kruger
I. G. Lileikis

L. A. Meisinger
H. B. Norwood
P. U. Peaco
R. R. Patrick
L. M. Pendrock
J. E. Philby
J. M. Pilant
E. J. Rueschoff
A. S. Rustermier
R. L. Slattery
C. E. Soby
H. L. Staub
J. B. Sweeney
T. E. Waples
F. W. Wheeler
B. R. Wolkins
K. L. Wright
R. M. Yeck
D. C. Zak

Correction:
Charlotte Winston
20 years, February



Linus Dillon
35 years
4/3/44



Erv Tvrdik
40 years
4/14/39

15 years

S. K. Barnes
L. Jorden
J. Modie Jr.
D. S. Nowakowski

10 years

F. M. Beckman
Q. H. Davis
J. J. Furst
R. S. Gray
D. W. Muller

S. L. Odell
Y. B. Russell
A. H. Spanel
E. A. Stoltenberg
P. H. Wolfe

suggestion box

Two suggestion awards totaling \$2,890 recently were presented. An award of \$1,490 especially should have come in handy for Thomas Crow, who retired from Dept. 746 last



Ray Olson

September.

Another award of \$1,400 was presented to Ray Olson, also of Dept. 746. Olson said when he received the suggestion award the day was lucky in another way, too: He won \$100 in the Safety Pays game.

Crow's suggestion was that an RC circuit be installed within all sparker probe cases to simulate a fault at line speed. Such a circuit provides uniform sensitivity and repeatability.

Olson's four-part suggestion saves maintenance time by modifying the bare wire electrodes used with sparkers.

promotions



Sharon Jocheim
From assembler, Dept. 728-1, to section chief, Dept. 725-9, SCRAM, STRAM, SAM and PRAM (cord finish and repair) section.

You must have been a beau

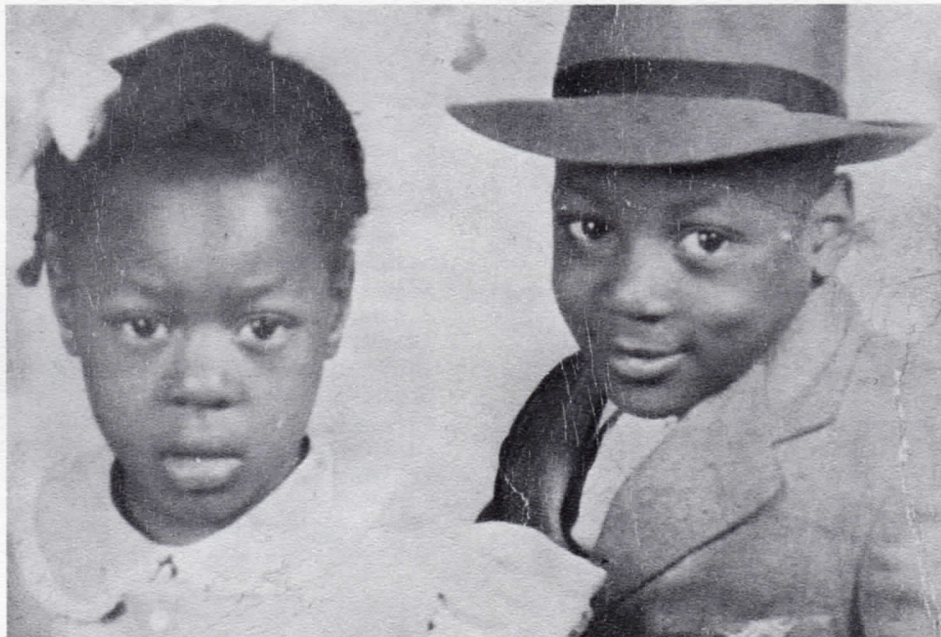
Do people really change? Take a look at the baby pictures on these pages. They are photos of people with whom you work, complete with clues to help you guess their identities. Turn to Page 7 for the way they look today. If you think you know the mystery baby pictured, call Ext. 4132. The first five people to call with the correct answer each gets a souvenir. The identity will be printed in the next Westerner.

On the cover

1. "I once had a dog named 'Rags.' Now I have a dog named 'Bambi.'"



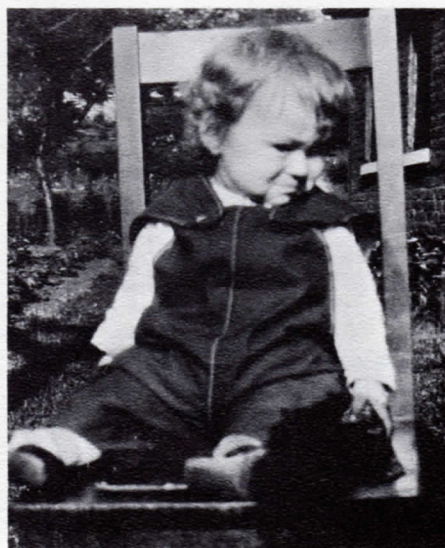
2. "When I was young I used to carry washers in my pockets to jingle as coins. Now, I just wish I had some washers!"



3. "My brother 'Click' and I used to fight over the TV. Now he lives far away and how I wish I had the chance to squabble over a program with him today."



4. "I used to take in stray cats as a child. Now that I'm moving to a house from an apartment, I can start up a new collection of cats."



5. "My folks thought I had been kid-napped when I'd wander off as a tot. Now I'm content to stay at home and play my guitar."

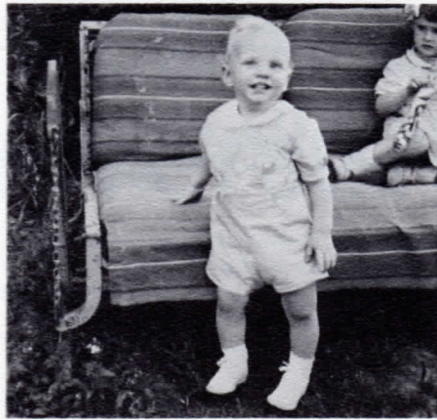


6. "I once smeared limburger cheese on the hot water heater at school. I didn't get away with practical jokes then and I still don't."

tiful baby



7. "When I was small I loved to play with toy trains. To this day, I still collect them."

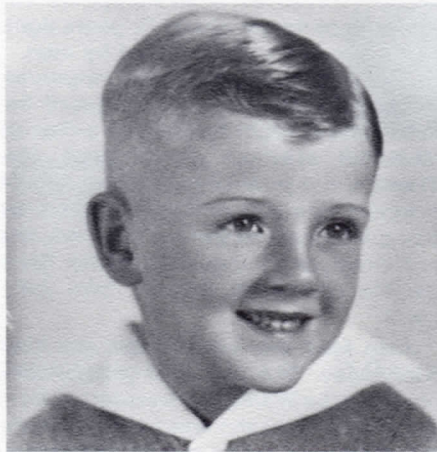


8. "I didn't learn how to walk until I was almost 2. Now I make up for lost time by practically running wherever I go."



Mystery baby

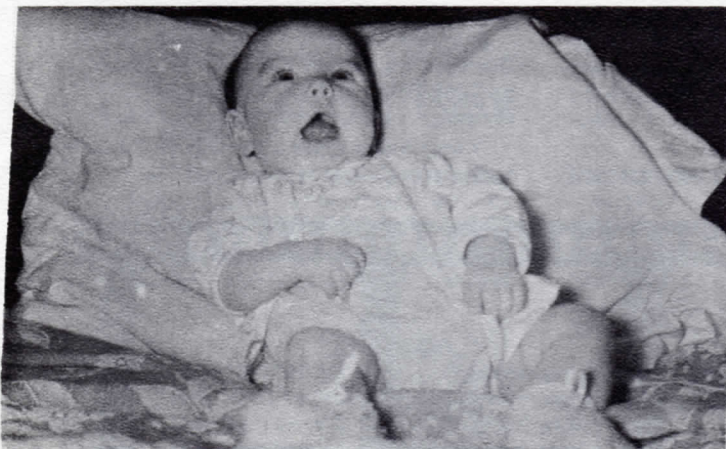
Call Ext. 4132 if you know who this is: "I used to star in backyard spaghetti westerns. Now I prefer to stay behind the scenes."



9. "I used to live in San Francisco — that was the life! Now I'm a Nebraskan — ahh, this is the good life!"



10. "My older brother and I are just 19 months apart in age. Now I'm expecting a second baby who will be 19 months younger than my first son."



11. "I used to shine shoes as a boy. Now I wear the classiest golf shoes on the Applewood course — they're red, white and blue."



12. "I used to jump rope faster than anyone else in my neighborhood. Now I jump rope to stay in shape — but I'm slower."

Female guards seek change and challenge

Joan Berry expected to raise a few eyebrows when she recently became one of two women on the plant security force. What she didn't expect was to field a particular question from other female employees as they passed through the plant gates.

"They wanted to know if it was true that we had been hired specifically to keep an eye on the women in the restrooms," Joan said. The answer she gave them was "no." She and Bobbie Sackett, the other woman to join the security guards, perform the same duties as the men.

Both Joan and Bobbie, however, have found those duties to be more varied than they had expected. Their assignments may put them in the lobby to greet

visitors, or at the truck and exit gates. At night and on weekends, they must walk their posts in the plant, keeping an eye out for security and safety problems.

"You have to be a good observer," Bobbie said.

Joan agrees. She noted that the guards walk their posts a different way each time. "You pick up things you didn't see before," she said, and it's a good idea not to establish a pattern that people can determine.

BOTH WOMEN, who started on the job in February, will work days. Although they are not the first women to be on the security force (two other women worked in the department about 10 years ago), theirs is a job normally filled by men.

A 20-year Western Electric employee, Bobbie sought the job as a guard because she thought it would be a change from her previous job in Dept. 444. There, she was the only 34-grade female machine operator in welding. She likes being a pioneer of sorts in her work, she explained, and the guard job also "gives me the chance to use my own judgment."

Joan took the job because she likes challenges. She has a 23-year service record at the Works and transferred from Dept. 726 where she was a layout operator. After work hours, she helps her husband, Frank, raise registered Appaloosas on their acreage in Council Bluffs. She also attends Iowa Western Community College three nights a week where she is working toward a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Change and challenge are exactly what the women are finding in their jobs. "I realize the guards aren't the most popular figures in the plant," Joan said, "and I have to be careful not to use too much authority or to become too lax" — especially if a friend is involved.

JOAN THINKS the most difficult part



CHALLENGING . . . Joan Berry has found guard duties to be more varied than she had realized.

of her job is the truck gate station, where she must fill out passes for incoming traffic and check all that goes out. One day at the truck gate she processed more than 200 trucks — not to mention other traffic made up of employees or construction and service workers.

For Bobbie, monitoring the console in the guard house is most challenging. On one occasion she was busy at the console watching the TV gates and answering the phone, when another guard was calling for a check of a firebox in the plant. Bobbie was to turn the key at her fire board to verify that the firebox was in proper order.

"The key malfunctioned and the alarm went off in the cable plant," Bobbie said. "While I was frantically trying to get it to stop, people were leaving their jobs."

Just then Bobbie's supervisor, Julius Sonderman, poked his head in the door and asked her if the alarm was for real or for fun.

"I told him it wasn't for real, but it certainly wasn't any fun, either."



RESPONSIBILITY . . . Bobbie Sackett likes being able to use her own judgment in her new job.

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Do you have an outstanding 35 mm color slide of a summery scene?

I need such a slide, preferably vertical, to run as a four-color front cover of the Westerner.

Any subject will do, as long as it represents summertime living.

Bring or send slides to me, Linda Ryan, public relations, Dept. 525.

Include name, department and phone number. Slides will be returned after a selection is made in late May.



Photo by Alice Brink

CLOSE QUARTERS . . . Mike Holtzen of NWB has little room to spare as he uses an 835A-1 tool and 710 connectors to install cable for the Dimension® 2000 PBX System.

Installation of PBX is a family affair

It could almost qualify as an episode of "All in the Family."

There he was, a cable technician from Northwestern Bell, working on the installation of the Dimension® 2000 PBX System at the Omaha Works. He was using an 835A-1 tool, a 710A tool mounting, and 710 connectors, all products manufactured at the Works.

But there's more to the family affair. The cable technician, Mike Holtzen, is the son of Henry Holtzen, a sheathing line operator in Dept. 253. In fact, the cable Mike was using — although made at the Baltimore Works — is the same kind his father helps make.

Dad, recuperating from back surgery, wasn't on hand to see son on the job. Mike was "half-tapping," a process in which he connects existing cable to new

cable later to be hooked up to the PBX system itself. This allows the current phone system to be used until cutover to the new system is made in July, with no interruption in service.

Installation of the system, which will service 2,000 lines, began in mid-February, said Fred Cottone, of Dept. 733. The system will be tested during May and June before the July cutover, at which time all Works phone numbers will have a new prefix, "691."

The PBX system allows a choice of features not now available, Cottone said. For example, say a person makes a call and gets a busy signal. With "automatic callback," that person's phone will ring as will the phone of the one he called, as soon as the line is open. With "call waiting," a person on the phone will know someone else is trying to call him when he hears a special signal over the receiver. Other features include improvements in "call forwarding" and "conference" calling. The latter allows more than three persons (the current maximum) to speak with each other simultaneously by phone.

When the system is operational, Mutual of Omaha will be the only other firm in Omaha with a new Dimension® PBX System as large as ours, Cottone said.

And baby, look at you now

1. Not pictured: Marjorie Hosch Dept. 445



2. Ed Arnone Dept. 440



3. Catherine McCants Dept. 724



4. Karen Oldfield Dept. 444



5. Charlie Patterson Dept. 253



6. Stan Byers Dept. 439



7. Ed Shobe Dept. 1231



8. Ralph Beisner Dept. 735



9. Ray Laux Dept. 300



10. Carol Nielsen Dept. 1353



11. Bob Latimer Dept. 251



12. Vickie Gundlach Dept. 437

Record 2 million cords are shipped

Ask employees in Dept. 725 how they feel and they're apt to reply, "Like two million!"

And rightly so. Within the four fiscal weeks of February, Dept. 725 managed to ship 2 million station cords — about 1.3 million of them spring cords, the rest straight cords.

"This is the most we've ever shipped in one month," said Jerry Dropik, a section chief in the department. The Omaha Works began manufacturing station cords in July 1976. The department was shipping an average of 525,000 station cords per week as of the middle of March 1979.

Dropik credits the record-breaking shipment to "a lot of perseverance on the part of operators, support help and maintenance." Dropik also noted increases in efficiency and in machine yield.

The department manufactures one color of straight cord and 13 different colors (there are 99 in all) of spring cords.

Terminal strips moved to Bldg. 20

Manufacturing operations once again are under way at the lower level east end of the administration building. The laminated terminal strip job was moved to the lower level from Building 30 to make



ROW BY ROW . . . Beverly Prather assembles the mounting strips, swiftly and smoothly placing the terminals in rows on each strip.

Spring party May 25

This year's annual WEOMA spring party will be held May 25 at the Holiday Inn, 72nd and Grover streets. "Friday Night Fever" is the theme of the party, which will feature dinner, a style show, entertainment and dancing.

room for additional injection molding presses for 710 connectors.

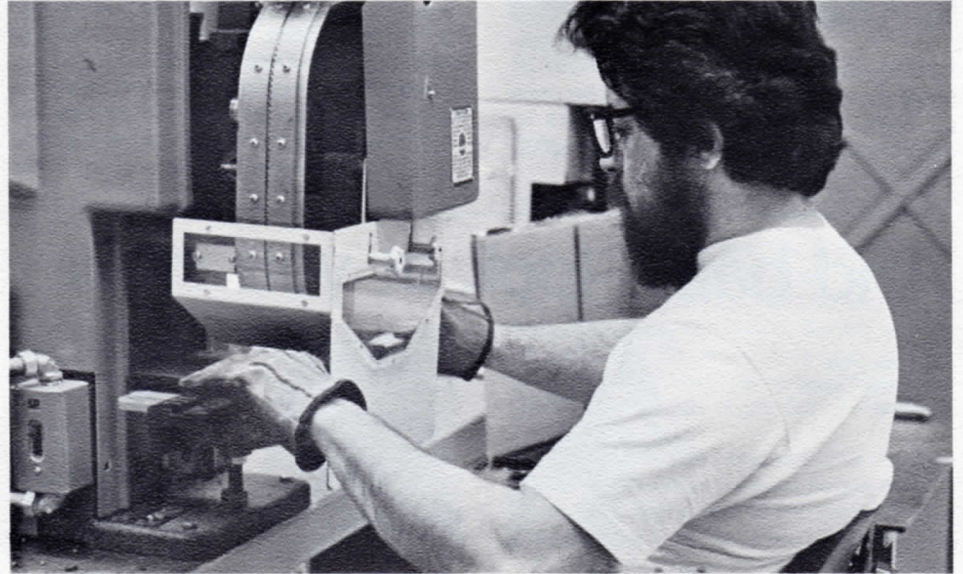
Dept. 445-4 has 35 employees, according to section chief Don Stalker. Full operations in the 7,657 square feet of space began Feb. 26. About 300 different kinds of laminated terminal strips are manufactured in the department. Their sizes range from one that a person can hold in the palm of his hand to a 65-pound model.

Terminal strips are arrangements of terminals that are used for wire terminations in switching equipment. They are called "laminated" because the strips holding a row of terminals are as-

sembled one on top of the other, or "laminated."

The department assembles about 8,500 terminal strips per week, Stalker said. The terminals and mounting strips are made at the Works, but the rest of the materials are purchased from outside suppliers.

Two basic steps are involved in assembling the product. First, nuts are set into the base on which a code is then stamped. Next, the mounting strips are assembled to the base, with rows of terminals put into each strip. Stalker noted that wiring or "strapping" also is done on some of the laminated terminal strips.



FIRST STEP . . . Butch Colanino machine-sets nuts into a laminated terminal strip base.

IMA KLUTZ

