



Gotcha!

Andrea Rowe's egg carton puppet is after a chunk of Ben Garcia's nose. She made the puppet at the Social Settlement, Ben's favorite hangout when he was a youngster.

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- The flyer strander and spinning wheel have a lot in common.

Pages 4, 5

- A cost reduction case saves the Works more than \$2 million.

Page 7

for your information

Children of Western Electric employees and of subsidiary company employees may now apply for a student loan through a Western Electric Fund program announced in June. Loans are made through the Chase Manhattan Bank. The loans are designed to supplement any other financial assistance a student may receive.

Students may borrow up to \$2,500 per year, with a maximum of \$7,500 for undergraduate study. Graduate students may borrow up to \$5,000 per year to a

maximum of \$15,000. Combined undergraduate and graduate loans may not exceed a total of \$15,000.

The current interest rate is 7 percent simple interest per year on all approved loans. The federal government pays the interest on all loans while the student is enrolled in school and for nine months after completion of studies. Repayment of a loan begins on the first day of the 11th month after studies are terminated.

No collateral is needed for a loan, and the program is limited to four-year colleges and graduate and professional schools approved by the U.S. Office of Education. A brochure with more information about the program is available in the personnel and benefit office . . .

. . . A round of applause, please, for the folks out in the cable shop who came through on a rush order. Northwestern Bell needed seven more miles of cable for the Trans-Nebraska Cable Project. The order for seven miles of 200-pair

cable was placed on June 15. The cable was delivered by June 22. Works production on cable for the project began in September of last year. The project was the largest single order of cable ever placed with the Works . . .

. . . In an effort to encourage minority and small business firms, the Omaha Works participated in a Minority Business Opportunity Fair held locally in May. The fair was an attempt to broaden large corporations' knowledge of minority business services available in the area. Lynn Landgren and Bill Fedderson of Dept. 1273 interviewed 28 new suppliers at the fair. Since then the Works has done business with two of the suppliers and hopes to call on at least seven or eight others whose services would meet our needs. Bill Hairston of Dept. 525 helped oversee the smooth operation of the fair.

A minute for safety is one well spent

It must be a good omen.

The first of the Omaha Works' 18 safety campaign kickoff meetings was held July 30. On July 27, the Works achieved 1 million man-hours without a disabling injury, the first time since 1975.

It's a good omen because it shows that a conscientious effort to practice safety can have positive results. That's the whole idea behind the special safety campaign now in progress at the Works: To raise safety awareness among employees and make ours the best safety record possible.

There's a bonus, too. If ours is the best record, the Works could win the 1979 Western Electric President's Safety Award.

All employees, divided into groups, attended safety campaign kickoff meetings in the auditorium. Overhead banners proclaimed the campaign slogan: "Take a minute for safety . . . 24 hours a day."

Employees had coffee and cookies,

Sept. 23 picnic date

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's Skylab! No, it's a sky diver, and he's aiming for the WEOMA Club's annual family picnic to be held Sept. 23 at Peony Park.

The parachutist will drop in as just one of the attractions planned for the day. Also scheduled are demonstrations by a radio-controlled plane club, a disco dance contest and, of course, plenty of games, prizes, food and rides.

Watch for advance ticket sales and mark the date on your calendar.

viewed a slide presentation and heard General Manager Chuck Meetsma touch on campaign strategy. T-shirts imprinted with the campaign slogan were awarded at each of the kickoff sessions.

In his talk, the general manager noted that while improving on a safety record will require persistence and cooperation, there's room for fun. Every month, for example, prizes relating to taking time for safety (clocks, watches, etc.) will be awarded to five employees. At least one employee will win an RCA 19-inch color TV at year's end. Only employees whose sections have not had a

serious injury since Aug. 1, 1979, will be eligible for the TV.

Supplementing other ongoing safety promotions at the Works will be the sale of safety T-shirts for \$2 each; discounts on safety-related items such as fire extinguishers; refresher courses on safety; and \$5 off each pair of safety shoes bought from the safety store during September. Employees who dial the Safety Hotline number (3312) may question the safety organization on any safety-related matter.

All the "hoopla" is necessary, Meetsma said, to gain the attention safety deserves. But he added, "Whether we win the President's Safety Award or not, I think we'll all come out winners."



"CARTOONS ARE ON!" . . . Ken Meyer of Dept. 282 and Evelyn Suverkrubbe of Dept. 287 are ready to watch the TV that will be awarded at the end of the year.

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Editor

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 **Western Electric**

service anniversaries

august

20 years

R. W. Alberts
L. G. Amato
E. N. Arellano
J. E. Barrett
W. N. Brink III
W. M. Buck
R. E. Burbank
R. E. Cochran
E. E. Connerley
W. W. Davis
K. L. Debord
L. D. Doeden
L. E. Donahoo
H. T. Eischeid Jr.
L. R. Fisher
L. L. Fontenelle
B. G. Frank
R. B. Gaddie
H. L. Groleau
L. L. Henry
W. W. Hillebran Jr.
C. R. Hirtzel
J. M. Humpal
E. G. Jenny
M. W. Johnson
B. B. Jones
M. S. Karalius
C. Romer
K. G. Krumpus
R. A. Kyriss
L. E. Lashure
L. P. Lass
E. L. Leaver
W. E. Lyons

A. A. Machal
W. E. Martens
J. E. Matthews
D. J. McDonald
D. N. McGrath
D. J. McGuire
R. P. Mindrup
G. L. Mintken
J. R. Mladovich
W. N. Moller
L. D. Mongar
J. M. Murphy
M. W. Murray
M. A. Opfer
R. A. Ove
C. E. Palensky
J. M. Palu
F. R. Payne
C. W. Petersen
C. W. Peterson
S. R. Prerost
F. D. Reinbold
N. D. Rohloff
H. T. Rowe
E. P. Rowswell
A. Sanders
J. T. Schenkelberg
C. M. Sears
M. S. Sivertson
J. E. Stoltenberg
S. J. Szczepanski
G. E. Thiel
L. R. Tremayne
J. A. Turner

H. P. Wells
J. G. Williams

W. G. Witte
R. A. Wozny

15 years

L. T. Baker
R. F. Beisner
E. R. Bowman
L. O. Circo
J. J. Filipiak
L. J. Gardner
A. H. Grant
W. H. Hairston
N. O. Hopkins
L. M. Johnson
C. N. Kern

B. J. Kraska
E. D. Olsson
P. M. Patterson
M. M. Sedlacek
E. C. Snawerdt
H. S. Solomon
V. M. Stewart
C. S. Tunnicliff
S. B. Witherell
C. V. Young

10 years

T. B. Amatulli
B. R. Barko
S. K. Barnes
C. L. Barrick
S. S. Bircher
B. H. Borstad
M. D. Brock
D. C. Buddenhagen
M. J. Casper
V. J. Degroff
M. E. Delgadillo
C. B. Dennes
S. Y. Dimauro
J. M. Edmonson

M. S. Etherington
D. L. Fleming
D. A. Gorden
L. H. Guest
P. C. Hamilton
J. H. Hascall
S. A. Hearn
D. A. Horvath
V. D. Hyslop
S. A. Justsen
C. E. Kinney
S. W. Kush
L. M. Lund
D. L. Martin

W. C. Mason
D. R. McCauley
P. G. McCormick
R. G. McKim
P. L. Modlin
J. G. Nebe
E. O. Nicholson
V. J. Osborn
N. R. Pegg
D. A. Plambeck
L. G. Rise
C. W. Schrader
G. L. Scott

V. C. Seaman
M. C. Seitz Jr.
B. J. Smith
J. H. Swenson
J. C. Swirzinski
F. J. Tesnohlidek Jr.
E. Tipler
T. A. True
M. K. Viles
J. H. Wachter
J. L. Wyman
L. B. Zealand
M. A. Zimmerman



Virginia Byrnes
30 years
8/27/49



Harlon Harvey
40 years
8/28/39



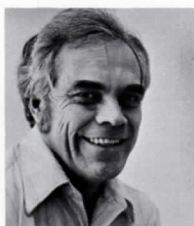
Not pictured:
Lester Stearnes
25 years
8/28/54

Orv Olson
25 years
8/21/54

suggestion box

An idea that will save the Omaha Works almost \$18,000 a year resulted in a suggestion award of \$1,315 each for **Ron Howland** of Dept. 746 and **Ron Siwa** of Dept. 745. The two jointly suggested that the heating elements used in the inclined enameling machines be connected in a different manner.

Other employees who have re-



Ron Howland



Ron Siwa

ceived awards for their suggestions include:

Ida Flott, Dept. 439, \$810.

Kenneth Meisinger, Dept. 413, \$540.

Arlo Nielsen, Dept. 441, \$470.

Connie Rue, Dept. 728, \$355.

Kalman Szekeres and **Fred Cappello**, both of Dept. 745, \$258.75 each for joint suggestion.

James Andersen, Dept. 745, \$245.

Albert Anthone, Dept. 746, \$235.

James Filipiak, **Ronald Proctor** and **Richard Metzler**, all Dept. 725, \$228.33 each for joint suggestion.

James Morris, Dept. 282, \$190.

Raymond Warren, Dept. 746, \$166.25.

Jack Reed, Dept. 441, \$130.

Donald Harrington, Dept. 282, \$115.

retirements



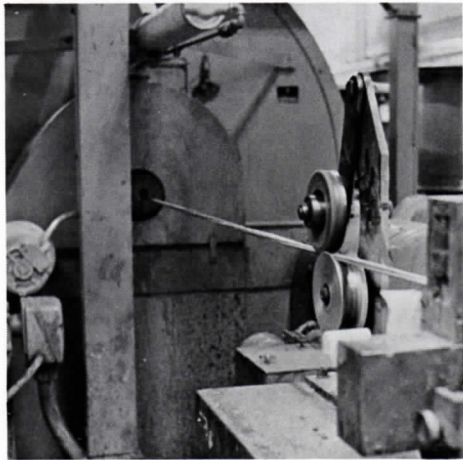
Louise Amato
20 years



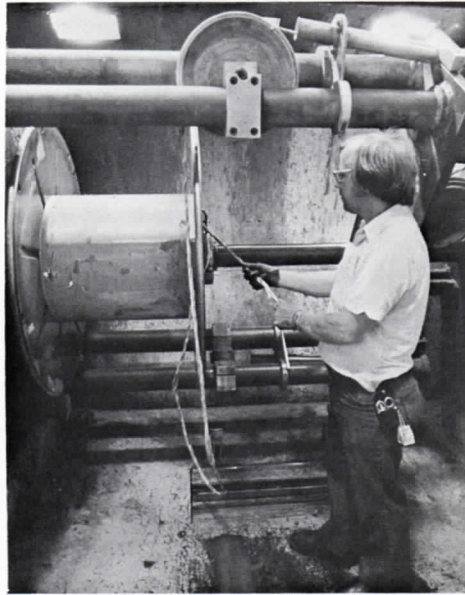
Henry Mottel
36 years



Art Ojanen
28 years



IN IT GOES . . . The cable core enters the axis or center of the flyer strander (left), similar to the way wool being spun enters the flyer orifice of a spinning wheel (top right, opposite page). Norman Rohloff, a flyer operator in Dept. 252 (right), threads a cable core end on a reel.



Spinning with a tw

One test of a good idea is how long it takes before it is replaced by a better one.

With that in mind, Leonardo da Vinci must be among the best of idea people. The Florentine artist-scientist drew up the plans around 1500 for an invention whose basic operation is identical to that of the flyer stranders in the cable shop. The flyer stranders didn't make the scene at Western Electric until the 1920s.

Leonardo's invention? The spinning wheel.

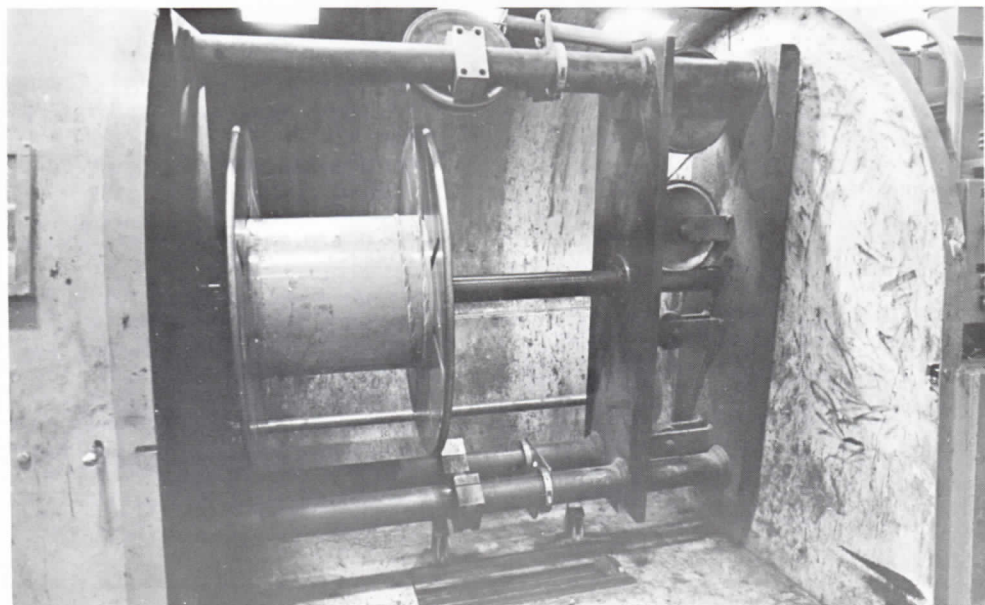
There are obvious differences. For one, the flyer of the spinning wheel imparts a twist on raw wool to form yarn that is wound around a bobbin. The flyer of the Works' flyer stranders twists a cable core of wire fed into it. It can twist a cable core of 25 to 100 pairs of wire, which then is wound around a reel. The Works uses four flyer stranders in the manufacture of exchange cable, and three flyer stranders for switchboard cable.

The amount of twist imparted by the flyer stranders must be precise, depending on the kind of cable needed. This helps ensure that electrical problems with the cable are avoided, and it aids flexibility.



TESTING . . . Rock Ferrucci of Dept. 252 checks the electrical capabilities of cable core on a full reel. Rock also operates a flyer stander in his department.

OUR VERSION . . . From the axis the cable core passes through the pulleys of the flyer and is wound around a reel. The flyer rotates and imparts a twist to the cable core.



wheel rist

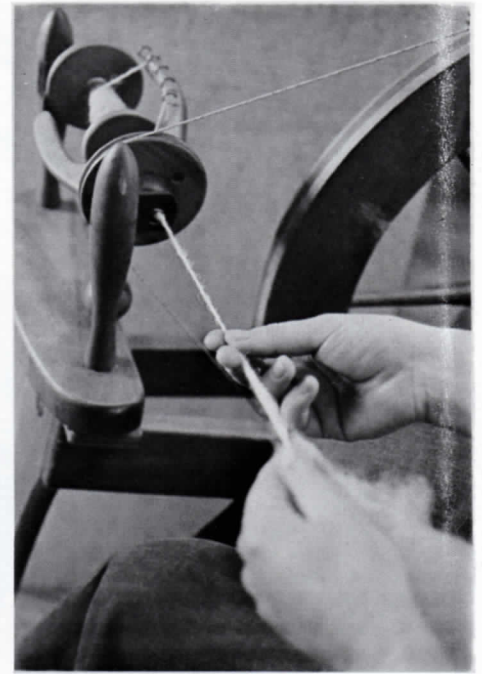
Such precise twisting isn't necessary when spinning yarn, said Mary Jo Horning, who has been spinning yarn as a hobby for 11 years. The more twists in yarn, the stronger and harder it is. However, fewer twists produces softer yarn, which she prefers for knitting purposes, she said.

Mary Jo, who has been teaching fiber arts classes at Creighton University and Joslyn Art Museum, toured the cable shop to compare the flyer strander operation to that of the spinning wheel. Then, she invited The Westerner to visit her "shop." Pictures of those visits appear on these pages.

Mary Jo explained that before the widespread use of the spinning wheel, yarn was spun by using a "slip spindle," which dates back to ancient Egypt. The spinner would hold the raw wool threaded through a notch in the spindle, letting the spindle dangle and spin much like a top. The yarn would twist as it wound around the spindle.

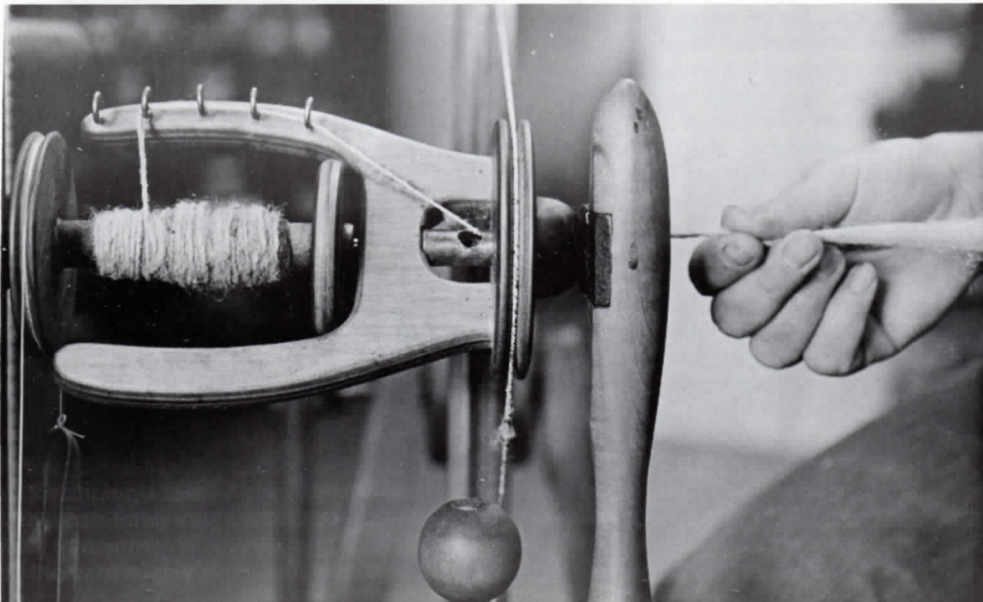
Had the spinning wheel not been invented, who knows? Today the Works could be twisting wire for cable the slip spindle way.

Gee, thanks, Leonardo.



FLUFFY . . . Mary Jo Horning first fluffs up wool by pulling it between two wire brushes (left), a process called "carding." Then a few fibers of wool are wrapped around a leader piece of yarn, which is threaded through the flyer and onto the bobbin. She holds the fluffed up wool as the flyer twists it (right).

ENJOYABLE HOBBY . . . Mary Jo knits wearing apparel with the yarn she spins. She's even knitted a bootie as a joke for her horse, using steel wool "yarn" she spun.



THE ORIGINAL . . . The horseshoe-like contraption is the flyer of a spinning wheel. The wheel spins and a drive belt turns the flyer, which twists the wool into yarn. Hooks on the flyer guide the yarn evenly onto the bobbin.



HORSEPLAY . . . Ben Garcia's horse puppet "Horshack" steals a kiss from another of the puppets made by children in a Social Settlement class. The puppet was much less bashful than its creator.

Meeting needs is what it's about

The chair was a little small, but he didn't look out of place. He sat at a child's table amid the glue pots and clean old socks, surrounded by 17 eager youngsters attending a puppet-making session at the Social Settlement.

It was a homecoming of sorts for Ben Garcia, a machine operator on FDI cabinets in Dept. 437. As a youth, Ben was a "regular customer" of the neighborhood community center.

Of course, things have changed since then. For one, the Settlement has moved to more spacious quarters at 48th and Q streets from its former location at 31st and Q streets. And in young Ben's day, back in the '50s, probably nobody had even heard of a puppetry class.

Ben's favorite things to do at the Settlement then were more sports oriented: Basketball, softball, boxing — but not too much boxing, he said, "when you get beat up, you don't like it."

He recalled playing softball on the Settlement's diamond until dark, then sleeping under the stars with his teammates. "Once, we thought someone had let loose two mean dogs in the playground," Ben said. Letting their imaginations get the best of them, the youngsters began running blindly in the dark, enjoying every minute. "One guy even dove into a hole in the fence and tore up his clothes. It was funny."

THERE ARE no mean dogs today next door to the Settlement, the playground is bigger, and the Settlement program it-

self is greatly expanded. The sports Ben enjoyed are still very much a part of the center, helping fulfill one of its major goals: To foster understanding of one another.

Gordon Doeschot, the center's director, explained, "Recreation is a tool of the socialization process. Children learn to play together, plan together." Besides sports, there are field trips to take and numerous clubs (sewing, astronomy, etc.) to join.

Emphasis on other major objectives, which the Settlement has had since it first formed in 1908, is stronger than ever. Basically, those goals are to be aware of the needs of the neighborhood and to try to resolve them through cooperative action; to provide experiences that will educate and enrich the lives of participants, whatever their age and background; to strengthen family life; and to maintain a close relationship with the neighborhood.

The ways the Settlement has met those goals include sponsoring neighborhood clean-ups and persuading the city to post speed zones. The center has offered classes on how to be better parents, and its 2-year-old preschool program now serves about 450 children in a year's time.

TUTORING, arts programs and professional counseling also are available. Volunteers to help with programs and members on the board of directors include residents of the neighborhood the

center serves. (The Settlement primarily serves an area bound by Harrison, L, 42nd and 65th streets, but anyone may join the center.)

There is a fee to join the Settlement, but nobody is refused membership if he cannot pay, the director said. Most activities are free, with grants and membership fees paying expenses in part. The biggest chunk of operating costs, however, is paid for by the United Way.

As he surveyed activities in progress at the Settlement's 48th Street location, Ben Garcia acknowledged that the center provides opportunities even greater than when he was a member. He wondered if the youngsters making puppets realized how lucky they are.

"I don't know what I would have done without the Settlement as a kid — maybe just walk the streets. My parents both worked in the packing house and the Settlement was a place to go — a place to make friends that you'll have for life," Ben said.

"I think kids especially miss out on something if they don't have a place like the Settlement. I wish we had one in Millard (where he lives now)."

Someday, maybe.

But for now, the Social Settlement will try to continue to meet the needs primarily of a South Omaha community. It can with the help of the United Way . . . and with the help of Works employees who give generously to the early United Way fund drive under way.

Terminals cost us \$2 million less

It's as easy as one, two, three.

OK, maybe not that easy. But certainly the way the Omaha Works makes its 76 binding post terminals is a considerable improvement over the previous method. It's such an improvement that the Works will realize a savings of \$2,121,400 per year in cost reduction at the current production level.

The terminals are used in the manufacture of FDI cabinets. At present, more than 30 million terminals per year are used, said Gerry Wood of Dept. 475. Until about 2½ years ago, the terminals

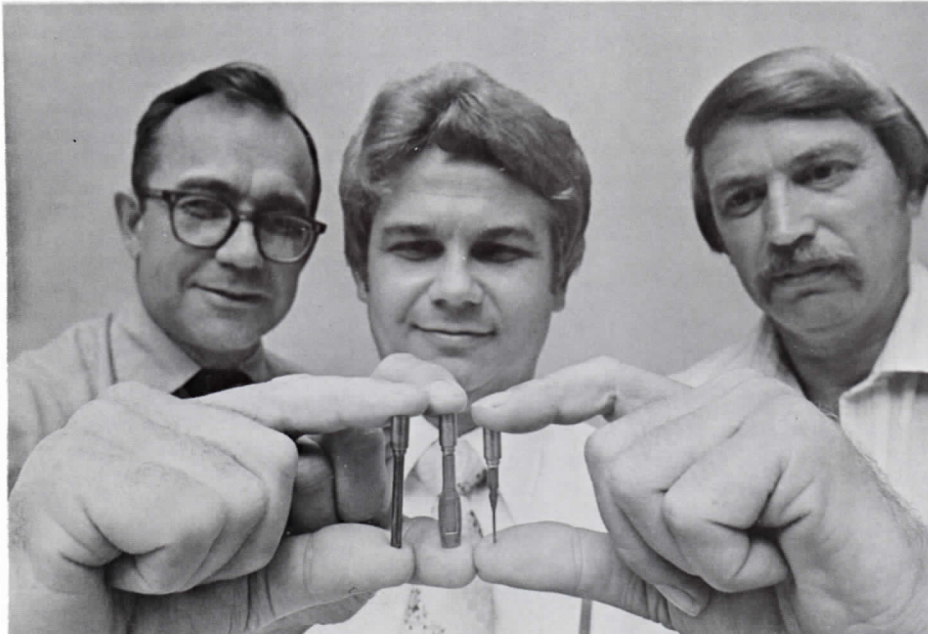
were made for the Works by outside suppliers.

Lyndon Ensz, also of Dept. 475, and Dean Davis of Dept. 737, came up with an idea for a machine that would manufacture the terminals automatically within the plant. Ensz took the idea to Walter Konik and Roger Hedin, both of Dept. 435, who designed the "coin and trim" machine. Gary Larson of Dept. 735, designed the tooling.

In January 1977, the first such machine was put in operation. Now the Works has three machines, which work

like this: First, thousands of cartridge brass blanks are fed into the machine and positioned for the next step. Then each blank undergoes "coining," during which a portion is flattened. After one blank is coined, the machine immediately trims away excess material from the flattened portion, to give the terminal its final shape.

When they were manufactured by outside suppliers, each terminal had to be inserted by hand in a machine for coining, then inserted into another machine for trimming. It cost the Works about seven cents apiece to have the terminals made outside. With inside plant production of the terminals, their cost has been reduced to a fraction of the original — just six-tenths of a cent each.



ONE, TWO, THREE . . . Walter Konik (from left), Lyndon Ensz and Gary Larson display samples of each step in the manufacture of 76 binding post terminals, from the cartridge brass blank (left) to the final shape.

Wanted: Scary tales

Have you heard the tale of the Green Mist? Or the story about the Hatchet Man?

Those are a couple of ghost stories that may be familiar to Omaha natives. And they are the kinds of stories wanted for publication in the October Westerner.

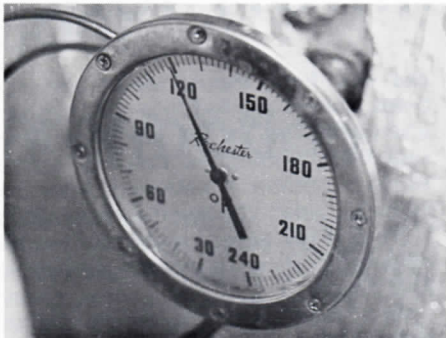
Everybody has grown up with goose bumps-raising stories. If some of them are true or halfway true, so much the better.

If you have a tale to tell — be it about the haunted house in your hometown or other mysterious happenings — contact Linda Ryan, Ext. 3553. If response is good, the scary stories will be printed in October to help make your Halloween more frightening.

OLLIE OOPS & IMA KLUTZ



**energy . . .
less is more**



WHEN IT'S HOT, it's hot . . . but not as hot as it used to be. As part of the Omaha Works' continuing program of energy conservation, the temperature of the hot water used in lavatories throughout the plant has been lowered. The temperature now ranges from 105 to 120 degrees, compared to a previous range of 140 to 160 degrees. Lower temperatures mean less fuel is needed to heat the water, an energy-saving measure that works well at home, too.

Congress considers legislation to amend Communications Act

Congress has been busy this summer rewriting proposed legislation for a new national telecommunications policy. Legislators hope to have a completed bill this fall and a new law by next spring.

Proposed legislation deals with amendments to the Communications Act of 1934. Two bills were introduced in the Senate by Sen. Ernest F. Hollings (D-S.C.), chairman of the Senate communications subcommittee, and Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), ranking minority member of the committee.

A House bill (HR-3333) was introduced by Rep. Lionel Van Deerlin (D-Calif.), which sought to replace the 1934 Act. Last month, however, Van Deerlin decided not to rewrite the Communications Act; rather, his bill would concentrate on amending the common carrier sections of the law.

Basically, the Senate bills (S-611 and S-622) call for extensive deregulation of the telecommunications industry. It

modifies the 1956 Consent Decree to permit the Bell System to compete in new markets, and continues to stress the need for universal service. It also calls for the possible creation of "arm's length" separate subsidiaries for local, long distance and equipment services provided by the Bell System.

Van Deerlin's plan would permit the Bell System and its industry partners to retain control of the core network, but would limit them to providing Message Telephone Service (MTS). Other companies would have access to the network and could offer MTS-like services, as well. Bell could offer other services through competitive subsidiaries, companies separated from AT&T.

His proposal also would require changes in Western Electric's structure (mostly through accounting functions), to reflect work done for the regulated or core network services of the Bell System, and for the unregulated, or competitive services. Western would have the opportunity to enter competitive markets, either through its own subsidiary or through the Bell System competitive subsidiary.

Speaking to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Communications during hearings on the legislation, AT&T Chairman Charles L. Brown said, "What I want to make clear is AT&T's willingness and resolve to work toward the basic goals set forth in the legislation — to bring the benefits of competition to the market place for telecommunications products and services while at the same time retaining and indeed enhancing the universal service objective."

Ring's owner traced

You know what happens in a chain reaction, don't you? Well, what had its beginnings in Dept. 445 was more like a "ring reaction." It ended with a young woman in Ohio being thankful that people still take time out to help.

One day Bob Ludlow of Dept. 445 was scoring and tying stub cable. He noticed what appeared to be a ring in the corner of a pan of black top caps. Upon closer look, Bob found a high school ring that had a large letter "L" imprinted beneath the clear blue stone, and which bore the initials "S.K.S."

"I figured it had dropped out of the supplier's box of parts," Bob said, and guessed that its owner would appreciate its return. He took the ring to his supervisor, Paul Elvers, to see if the owner could be traced through the supplier.

The "ring reaction" was under way. Paul took the ring to Chuck Sipe, a stock maintenance clerk in production control (Dept. 413). Could the supplier, Venture Plastics, be contacted to see if the ring's owner may be an employee?

Chuck referred the matter to an expiditer in the purchasing organization, Paul Quandahl (Dept. 1273). Paul called the supplier and described the ring in detail.

After some checking on the supplier's part, the owner — Susan Street — was located in Newton Falls, Ohio. Susan had since left the company to be married.

Susan was both surprised and thankful that her ring was being returned. After all, who would expect a busy manufacturing company the size of the Omaha Works to pick up on an item seemingly as small as a class ring?

All it took was a few good people who cared.



"WHAT'S THIS?" . . . Bob Ludlow found a missing ring in a pan of parts.

Savings plan results

The following are the June unit values for both the Bell System Savings Plan (BSSP) and the Savings and Security Plan for Non-Salaried Employees (SSP):

	BSSP	
	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T Shares	2.0749	.4819
Gov't Obligations	1.9534	.5119
Equity Portfolio	1.3603	.7350

	SSP	
	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T Shares	.9657	1.0354
Guaranteed Interest Fund	1.0323	.9686