



## The hands of an artist

One hand draws the two safety cartoon characters — Ollie Oops and Ima Klutz — who will appear regularly in *The Westerner*. Ollie appears first in this issue. The other two hands belong to musically inclined LaRoy "Lash" Campbell, who has found the secret to outlasting the winter.

Pages 6, 7

A new show has opened and it's a smashing success. Find out who's who in the star-studded cast and why this show promises to stay for a record-breaking engagement.

Pages 4, 5

# Corgan now vice-president

Effective March 1, Warren G. Corgan became vice-president of government and commercial sales, a new position and division headquartered in Greensboro, N.C. He is responsible for sales to the U.S. government, commercial sales to non-Bell companies and Western's patent licensing operations.

Corgan officially became general manager of the Omaha Works in June 1978. He had come from Gateway II in Newark, N.J., where he was general manager of the Pricing and Corporate Account Management Division.

He began his career with Western in 1955 as a test engineer in the Defense

Projects Division. His assignments have included those at the Allentown (Penn.) and Kansas City (Mo.) Works; at the En-

## *A million hours of safety comes naturally in Dept. 741*

You would think a safety record that took four years and nine months to achieve would be a big deal. But members of Dept. 741 (tool maintenance and construction), which recently acquired one million man-hours without a disabling injury, consider it all part of the job.

In Dick Mortensen's words, "It's second nature to watch for safety." The 22-year veteran of the Works has spent 17 of those years as a tool and die maker. He and others in Dept. 741 work with complex machinery that might otherwise increase the risk of accident were it not for the safety consciousness of the group.

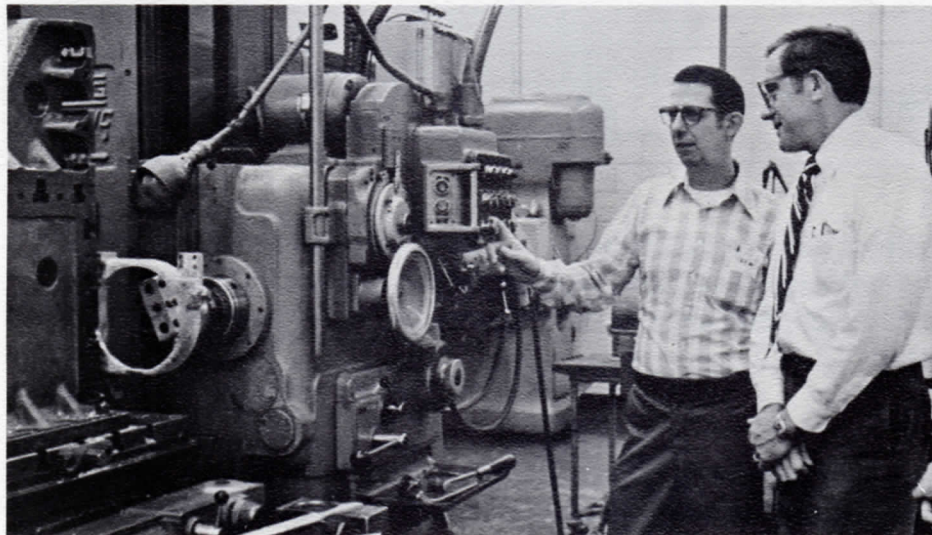
In honor of the achievement, general manager Warren G. Corgan was host at a breakfast attended by Ray Moulis, department chief, and Walter Woodrum and John Carter, department employees. The department was presented with a plaque, the first such award the department has received, Moulis said.

Moulis recalled how he had gone over

the department's safety hours record and realized it was nearing the one million mark. He didn't say anything to his employees, however: "I didn't want to jinx them," he explained.

Carter, a tool and die maker, said that one way the department manages its safe record is by each employee respecting the machines used. "Each machine has its own personality or characteristics," he said, "and by learning these characteristics, you become aware of the safety hazards." Also, Carter considers his safety glasses the most important safety precaution he takes on the job.

Precision machine operator Walter Woodrum agrees with Carter. "After you've been here a few years you start thinking and living safety to the point where you even notice safety hazards on TV programs," Woodrum said. "The other night someone was using a drill on TV and I thought to myself, 'Uh-oh, no safety glasses.'"



THE SAFE WAY . . . Walter Woodrum (left) explains to Warren Corgan that a person can't afford to be careless around the machine he operates, a mill, or any of the other machines in Dept. 741.



Warren G.  
Corgan

gineering Research Center; and at company headquarters in New York City.

Corgan is a graduate of Fordham University and did graduate work at Northeastern University.

### *Zoo drive under way*

The annual in-plant membership drive for the Henry Doorly Zoo will be conducted throughout March. During March an employee may buy a family membership at a discount price of \$15. Part of the money for this year's drive will be used to build permanent quarters for the zoo's giraffes. Supervisors can help employees who would like to buy memberships but who may not have been contacted by a zoo drive representative.

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Editor

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 **Western Electric**

# service anniversaries

## february march

### 20 years

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P. F. Alexander  
D. W. Anderson  
W. D. Baco  
W. H. Brazeel  
R. H. Brewer  
N. A. Clark  
D. A. Davis  
W. E. Dineen  
E. E. Drake  
D. L. Drews  
J. M. Dross  
D. W. Ehrenberg  
A. V. Ellefson  
F. L. Everman  
V. G. Faller  
K. C. Fuss  
J. L. Hurst  
B. M. Kahre  
J. E. Kaszuba  
H. J. Kats  
J. J. Kresl  
C. C. Kuhns  
H. P. Maass Jr.  
E. D. Malone  
D. L. Miller  
M. R. Miller  
K. K. Moser  
M. D. Nelson  
J. J. Nilson  
L. F. Pacas  
A. L. Pegg  
W. A. Peters  
C. A. Raygor  
D. D. Reitmajer

R. S. Rhoades  
V. O. Rogers  
T. D. Ross  
P. L. Rudolph  
B. L. Rupp  
H. J. Sabata  
R. L. Savicky  
R. H. Schropp  
R. F. Sempek  
E. H. Thomas  
C. J. Winsont  
R. F. Wollenburg  
J. A. Beckman  
E. J. Bielenberg  
G. A. Bruening  
L. D. Buck  
J. W. Carter  
D. F. Cera  
D. H. Christensen  
M. E. Cook  
K. E. Danahy  
D. H. De Boer  
P. K. Downing  
R. D. Evans  
R. J. Gagliani  
J. M. Giles  
P. G. Hartung  
E. E. Held  
R. W. Howland  
W. W. Isbell  
L. E. Jarecki  
R. G. Jensen  
M. M. Kohlbeck  
R. L. Koltes

F. S. Kros  
M. E. Livengood  
D. F. Mattingly  
H. J. McEvoy  
W. H. Mitchell  
B. C. Murphy  
H. W. Parks  
H. H. Peters  
G. W. Pote  
E. E. Ruth  
J. F. Schanbacher  
W. J. Schleusener  
P. M. Stolinski  
J. J. Tyrcha

### 15 years

E. C. Biglow  
K. A. Gates  
D. G. Kopera  
M. S. Pinkerton  
C. B. Smith  
L. G. Strode  
P. A. Woog  
P. F. Bader  
B. C. Balus  
B. S. Gunia  
F. R. Kennedy  
M. J. Lawrence  
R. S. Riepl



**Kevin Cahill**  
40 years  
2/18/39



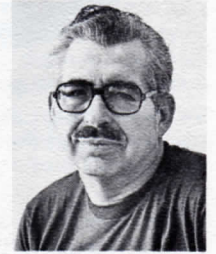
**Raymond Van Cura**  
40 years  
3/15/39



**Ronald Vanskiver**  
35 years  
3/24/44



**Richard Ballantine**  
30 years  
2/2/49



**Roy Reighard Jr.**  
30 years  
3/23/49



**William Wheeler**  
30 years  
3/4/49



**Don Nelson**  
25 years  
2/4/54

### 10 years

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A. T. Brown  
J. Castro  
F. D. Conley  
R. W. Escritt  
M. H. Gardner  
R. L. Jirka  
J. L. Johnson  
M. P. Johnson  
E. B. Klosky  
H. C. Kozisek  
T. H. Kusek  
C. C. Leonard

G. P. Lohmeier  
C. B. McCants  
P. R. McVicker  
S. E. Miller  
E. J. Moser  
J. E. Nick  
C. C. Pigman  
A. B. Randolph  
K. W. Rasmussen  
E. H. Rimerman  
L. C. Sherry  
D. W. Stenzel

R. M. Wagner  
D. R. Anderson  
P. H. Anderson  
K. D. Baxter  
M. M. Bennett  
J. M. Bischof  
R. J. Branch  
J. S. Connolly  
B. L. Cork  
J. D. Cornett  
R. L. Cowger

C. G. Distefano  
M. K. Fager  
R. D. George  
G. D. Hanson  
S. C. Jocheim  
E. R. Jones  
F. J. Kounovsky  
B. F. Krzemien  
T. R. Lewis  
N. T. Marcotte  
J. S. Pasienuk

C. M. Patzloff  
R. B. Rican  
J. B. Simons  
R. L. Shropshire  
D. S. Smith  
R. N. Soppe  
J. M. Spracklin  
J. L. Stephenson  
R. W. Stern Jr.  
P. Warner  
M. J. Zagurski

# BRITT CENTER

## 'Now I've Seen Everything!'

**"NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING!"**  
★★★★ Starring cable and wire products. Shows daily at the Britt Product Display Center.

The new E. M. Britt Product Display Center opened officially to a full house



**THE SHOW OPENS . . .** Ed Britt (seated) uses an 835A-1 tool, assisted by Tom Bowman, to cut the ribbon at the entrance to the display area. Guests at the center's opening ceremony are in background.

Feb. 8 with the premiere of "Now I've Seen Everything!" A star-studded cast from the entire cable and wire product line put in a performance that proved the show to be aptly titled. No audience can leave the show without knowing they have viewed the best cable and wire products Western Electric has to offer.

Attending the premiere were Ed Britt (for whom the center was named) and Mrs. Britt; former Works general manager Frank Lefebvre and Mrs. Lefebvre; general manager Warren G. Corgan and Mrs. Corgan; director Charlie Higginson; and members of the large staff. Britt, the former general manager of Product Line Planning and Management, Cable, Wire and Associated Apparatus in Atlanta, was influential in negotiations that put the Omaha Works into the loop transmission apparatus (LTA) business.

A dedication plaque in Britt's honor was unveiled, then Britt cut a ceremonial ribbon at the center's entrance with the assistance of one of the show's stars — the 835A-1 tool. The show was on.

The visual effects were stunning, thanks to dramatic spotlighting on the stars. Test sets, 710 connectors and tools, cable, cords and closures appeared in original wall displays. The FDI cabinets were scene stealers at center stage, and the 16-type closures commanded attention suspended from a see-through panel. Aerial load coil cases and other closures gave authentic portrayals mounted on telephone poles or attached to telephone lines.

Acoustics were superb. The audience viewed a slide presentation without noisy distractions from outside the center. The controlled environment was de-

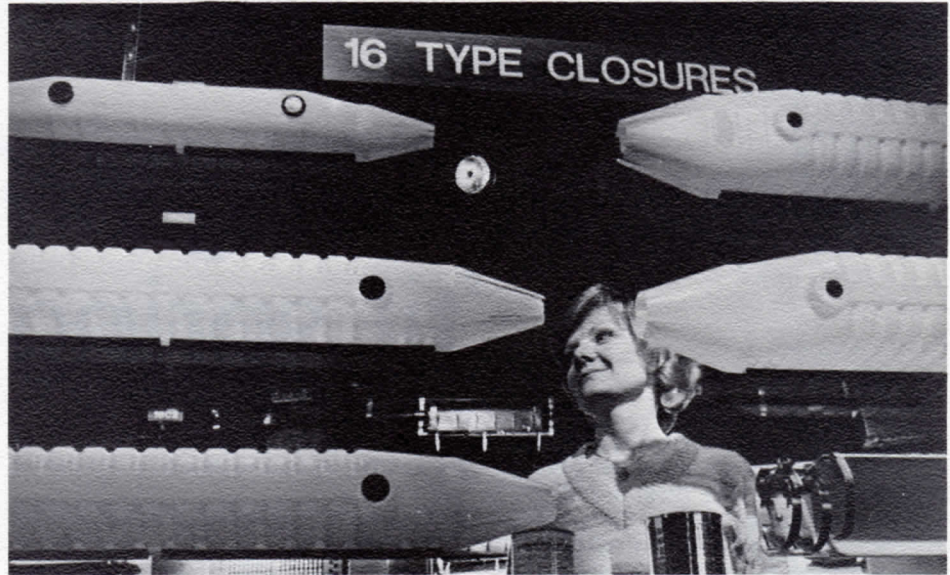
signed to enhance audiovisual and speakers' presentations that illustrate specific features of individual products.

"Now I've Seen Everything!" is a re-make of an earlier version introduced in 1976, according to the show's promoter, Tom Bowman. The earlier show starred LTA products and played for almost three years in the display center located in a southwest room of Building 30. More than 2,000 viewers, either operating Bell Telephone representatives or Western Electric personnel, saw the show to learn all about new outside plant products manufactured at Omaha.

The new Britt Center has allowed the current version of the show to be expanded to include all cable and wire products manufactured at Omaha and other locations, too, Bowman said. The center also features an attractive display of telephones available through the Bell System, as well as an eating area for Works' customers who have come to view the show.

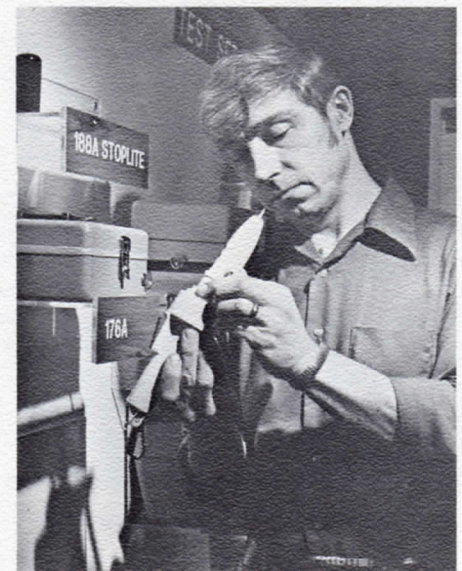
Bowman and assistant promoter Phil Stubbe (both of Dept. 401) expect the new show to draw even greater crowds than did the first. They have slated numerous private showings for customers of the Omaha Works, and are working on scheduling that will allow every employee of the Works a chance to see the show.

So that Works personnel may know on a given day that the show is sold out to customers of our products, signs will be posted at entrances to the center. Bowman asks that Works employees not come into the center when the signs are posted, thus allowing customers to enjoy the show undisturbed.



**BACKSTAGE CREW . . .** Production hands include in picture at left John Aksentowitz (left, Dept. 437) and Harvey Cotton (Dept. 439). As layout operator, John keeps an eye on the manufacture of 50-type closures, which can be used to splice together buried or aerial cable. Production on the closures began in early January this year. Harvey has been assembling B cable terminals since the Works began making them in April 1978. Above, Mary Ann Bunting (Dept. 441) stands behind the plexiglass display of 16-type closures. She assembles the kit of parts that goes into the closures, which are used to splice cable in the buried waterproof cable system. Currently the Works just assembles closure parts; by late fall, vacuum-forming of the closures should begin.

**REACH OUT . . .** Below, Mary Ann Reick (left) and Shirley Fiscus, both of Dept. 725, see how they sound on Design Line decorator telephones. Mary Ann is a detailer who looks for defects in straight cords before testing; Shirley bags spring cords and has run the PRAM machine in the station cords area. At right, Bob Sempek inspects a 188A stoplite test set, which a telephone craftsman can use to check for hazardous voltage. Bob is a layout operator in Dept. 443. The first 400 test sets manufactured at Omaha were shipped in February.



# How to hang on 'til spring

Don't be fooled. Just because it's March doesn't mean we're altogether beyond a final wintry blast and cabin fever. To help you hang in there these last few weeks before spring, take some cues from fellow employees who tell how they survive the winter season:

**LaRoy "Lash" Campbell (Dept. 252):** "I learn how to play new songs on my harmonica" (he's good, too), a hobby he picked up when he'd stay to work nights. Harmonica-playing kept him awake on the drive home.

**Jim Curran (744):** Read books, play handball or paint.

**Russ Queen (524):** "I square dance" with the Ponca Fire Stompers, and sometimes he does woodwork.

**John Lovely (748):** "I go ice fishing — it's very healthy."

**Marjorie Pallas (443):** Take trips to warmer climes. This year, she went to Hawaii.

**Ed Cooperrider (411):** "I'm active in Boy Scouts" (he's a district commissioner).

**Ruth Lake (748):** Play cards with friends and participate in church activities.

**Dick Fenske (282):** "I drink a lot of beer, play cards and take a lot of vitamin C."

**Eleanor Hundt (413):** "I holler at Sam (Keyser) a lot."

**Sam Keyser (413):** Polishes gems for jewelry. His wife, Evelyn (444), does the silver work.

**Joann Gemar (740):** "My husband and I drink wine by the fireside." (Saturday nights only, never during work week.)

**Frances Minor (333):** "I like to write lots of letters, crochet and bake."

**Bob Wilson (122):** "I DO go stir crazy. The whole family gets cabin fever, and as the winter goes along, the cabin gets smaller."

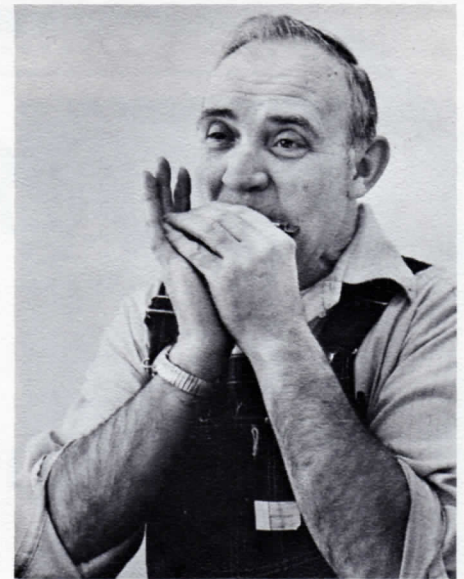
**Juanita Dowis (411):** "With a 14-year-old daughter, if I can't think of something to do, she will."

**Flora Fleischer (725):** Go shopping, read, knit and crochet. (She hopes it stays cold long enough to finish afghans for two granddaughters.)

**Kenny Boikowatz (745):** Play games, dance and work on ceramic pieces for hobby show.

**John Beck (744):** Dance, eat out or relax at home.

**Anita Hicks (413):** Attend daughter's



LaRoy Campbell

basketball games. (Daughter Crystal is just a frosh at Cathedral and already plays on varsity team.)

**Pete Hess (201):** "I hunt coyotes or work on ship models." He's now working on a 56-inch model of the USS Missouri. How long has he been working on it? "Nineteen years — but I only work on it in February and March."

**Elaine Anderson (333):** Play bingo twice a week and a little racquetball.

**Frank Markesi (362):** Shovel a lot of snow and play Yahtzee with the family.

**Marge Donovan (252):** "As soon as I get off work (third shift) I go have breakfast, then go shopping."

**Vince Toledo (253):** Ice skate when he can, tinker on his car or play with his three young children.

**Harold Noble (746):** "I take naps." When he wakes up, he does woodwork.

**Joe Sinkule (744):** He co-owns the Vern Luddington Orchestra, whose engagements keep him busy. He recently vacationed in the Caribbean when the orchestra played aboard the TSS Festival.

**Nancy Sherry (444):** Read stories to her two small children, sew or bowl on Saturday nights.

**Gail Bailey (511):** Bundle up, take the dog and go sledding.

**Tom Larsen (362):** Bowl two nights a week.

**Terry Pinneke (746):** Ride his Kawasaki on icy, snowy streets.

**Wes Nicholas (476):** "I haven't had cabin fever yet this year — work keeps me too busy."

**Dick Ballantine (362):** "I pay high utility bills and think spring."

**Bob Wemhoff (737):** Feed 15 head of cattle morning and night on his farm in Bennington.

(Continued on Page 7)



Nancy Sherry



Ed Cooperrider



Kenny Boikowatz



Pete Hess



Joe Sinkule



Dick Fenske



Terry Pinneke



Flora Fleischer

# ... You can read or dance or ...

(Continued from Page 6)

**Judy Rudd (444):** Read mysteries by the fireplace.

**Larry Cherry (444):** Play basketball on a winning team (the Right-Ons).

**Herman Endorf (235):** Between errands to run, grocery shopping and repairs to make around the house, he likes to read the paper and watch a little TV.

**Dee Nibbe (444):** "I love to go disco dancing."

**Pat Pinhero (439):** Crochet lots of afghans.

**Ardis Knight (726):** Paint with oils, do charcoal drawings; collect old iron pieces (she has a Civil War cannonball from Pea Ridge).

**Carolyn Hodges (122):** Sleep.

**Jean Allen (736):** Eat out more, sew, bake or play pinnoche.

**Martha Ross (733):** Take business law and accounting classes; do volunteer work; serve as hospitality chairman for Omaha School of Music.

**Fred Cottone (733):** "I've got four kids at home, so I go to the grocery store a lot." Any hobbies? "Whatever my wife wants me to do around the house."

**Linda Giebler (524):** Experiment with new plants; make scrapbooks for the



Sam and Evelyn Keyser



Gordon Wheeler



Bill Kasal



Herman Endorf



Larry Cherry

children; try out new recipes on friends.

**Gordon Wheeler (253):** Sit by the fire-side or play pool in his basement with his two sons.

**Delphine Drews (439):** "I like winter — I never feel cooped up." She reads and crochets.

**Bill Kasal (437):** He goes ice fishing, but not this year — too cold.

**Clay Higginson (731):** Whittle minute scissors and pliers each from a single piece of wood. He's even whittled pliers from a match stick.

**Joni Hinkle (523):** Transport children to or attend children's gym meets or basketball games.

**Don Dai (523):** This year — rewire the house and remodel sons' room.

**Don George (437):** Go bowling, listen to rock music.

**LeRoy Roth (282):** "I repair old pump organs and I've got all the work I need to keep me busy." The organs are antiques. He works on their interiors in the winter, then refinishes their exteriors in warmer weather.

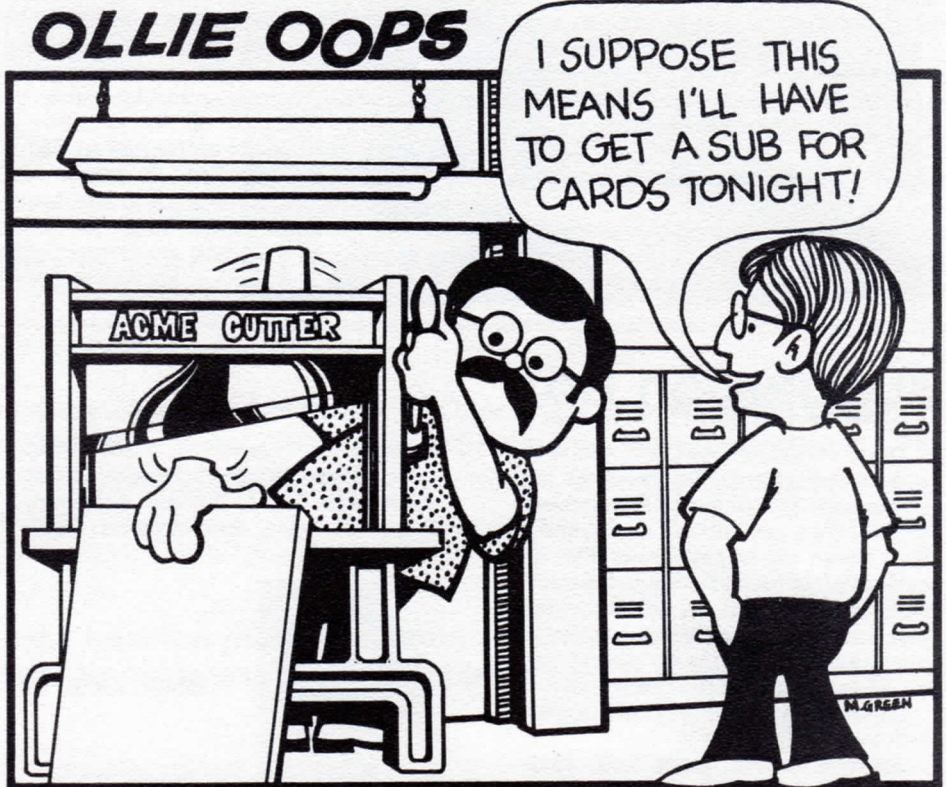
## Mark Palmquist awarded patent

Mark Palmquist, Dept. 473, has an idea of how Alexander Graham Bell felt when Bell was awarded a patent for the telephone. Palmquist recently was awarded a patent for an invention of his own: a scanning and control system for laser welding.



Mark Palmquist

This is Palmquist's first patent. He was on a rotational assignment at the Engineering Research Center in Princeton, N.J., in 1976 when he designed the system. It consists of the optics that go inside the laser used in the manufacture of small crossbar switches.



# WEOMA Club plans activities

The new officers and directors of the WEOMA Club already have plans under way for activities this year. In addition to the annual picnic, talent show and Christmas party, the group is checking into offering classes in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and starting up a jogging club, according to new WEOMA president Jim Woods.

Woods and the other new officers and directors were installed in office on Jan. 19. They are: Jim Sharp, vice-president; Jim Krambeck, treasurer; Dan Allen, assistant treasurer; Helen Kirk, Darlene Wilhelm, Joye Scott and Tom Korpela, new directors serving three-year terms.

Those continuing in office are Dick Reida, executive vice-president; Bob Ackley, Helen Solomon, Dave Burrell, Denny Karloff, Lou Carnazzo and Dona Richling, directors. Charlotte Pfeffer recently became the new secretary of the WEOMA Club.

## BUSY SIGNALS . . .

The new officers and directors of the WEOMA Club already are busy with plans for the year. The new faces to look for belong to Helen Kirk (top to bottom, left to right), Tom Korpela, Darlene Wilhelm, Joye Scott, Jim Woods, Jim Sharp, Jim Krambeck, Dan Allen and Charlotte Pfeffer.



# Engineers Week observed; goals set

A check of about \$2,000 from the Western Electric Fund was presented to the University of Nebraska at Omaha during the Omaha Works' observance of Engineers Week Feb. 18 through 24. The money will go toward buying equipment for use in UNO's solar energy studies.

Members of the technical-professional staff heard guest speakers throughout the week and reviewed past achievements and future goals.

In January, the tech-pros kicked off their 1979 cost reduction campaign, a major engineering effort. Through technological advancements and by keeping manufacturing costs to a minimum, they help the Works provide superior service

and quality products at reasonable cost.

Examples of last year's cost reduction efforts include a \$1.03 million savings in DEPIC cable. Improvements over a three-year period (1976-78) amounted to almost \$4 million in savings. Contributing to the savings was a switch from hard plastic to foam filler, which proved to be a better insulator, could be manufactured more quickly and cost less.

Improvements in all manufacturing operations of cords amounted to a \$1.8 million cost reduction. A conversion from DC to AC current cut to one-tenth the time it takes to test D-pack load coils, amounting to \$125,000 in savings.

For the past seven years, the tech-pros have set new records in cost reduction, representing an average of 3.2 percent of the Works' total production for that period. Last year they made 101.3 percent of their cost reduction goal of \$8 million. This year they seek a \$9.2 million cost reduction total.

## retirements



Gay Darwin  
34 years



Elmer Anderson  
20 years



Ann Lind  
25 years

Not pictured:  
Charles Fowlkes  
32 years

## suggestion box

Doug Haase of Dept. 441 has won suggestion awards, but never as big as the most recent award he received, \$1,695. It's a preliminary award and a final award will be presented after an evaluation of total savings to the company is completed. Haase suggested that tooling be purchased in order to manufacture a particular spring cap on an automatic screw machine.

Other recent recipients of suggestion awards include:

Johnnie Smyth, Dept. 282, \$510;  
Steven Bothwell, Dept. 726, \$470;

Donald Kaar, Dept. 741, \$350; Dwain Miller, Dept. 441, \$125; Beverly Opfer, Dept. 445, \$115; Ronald Erickson, Dept. 437, \$115; Marvin Opfer, Dept. 445, \$105.



Doug Haase