

the Westerner

Omaha Works
October 17, 1979



• A minute is all it took to become WEOMA picnic tug-of-war champs. Look inside for more photos of the picnic.

Pages 4, 5

• Inside and outside, work crews are kept busy as construction is completed or just beginning at the Omaha Works.

Page 8

for your information

Are you the kind of chess enthusiast who likes to take plenty of time before making your move? You may want to enter the Bell System Postal Chess Tournament.

Already about 1,200 Bell System employees participate in chess by mail. The 33rd annual chess round will begin early this winter. Players are grouped into sections of relatively the same skill (new participants are considered to be average players).

Each player plays all other members of the section simultaneously, about eight games at once. Winners receive victory certificates.

All entrants should have a knowledge of the rules of chess and ability to read chess notation. For an application form, send a self-home-addressed, stamped envelope to: Chess Tournament Director, 195 Broadway — Room 1338, New York, N.Y. 10007.

Applications for the third round must be returned to the director by Nov. 15 . . .

. . . For the rest of this month, memberships to the Joslyn Art Museum may be purchased through the WEOMA Club office at \$15 per individual or \$20 a family. Joslyn members are entitled to free admission to the museum, discounts at the gift shop, and rental privileges at the sales and rental gallery. Members will receive a periodic calendar of events and are eligible for reduced-price tickets to special events, as well as discounts on workshops and classes at the museum. A membership is good throughout the calendar year 1980 .

SQC course will cover the basics

A basic course in statistical quality control (SQC) is being offered to supervisors, engineers and selected operating personnel. The 12-hour course is taught in six sessions to groups of 12. At the end of September, more than 60 persons were enrolled, with the first class held Oct. 3. Classes will continue into next year.

The purpose of the course is twofold, according to Herb Rhodes, SQC engineering and inspection manager. First,

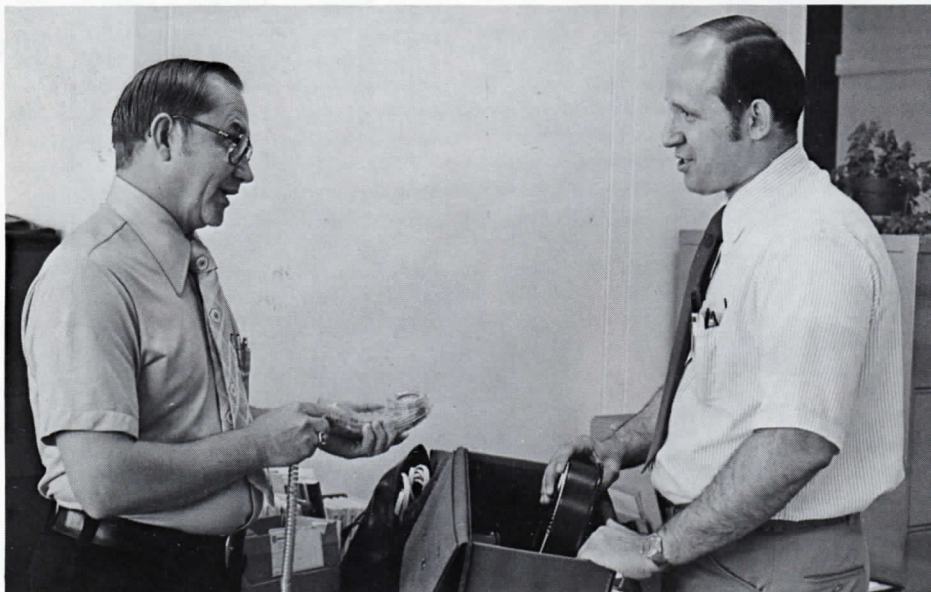
it's a continuation of the Works' quality awareness program. Second, considering that quality tends to be an abstract term, the course should help make quality control more concrete and meaningful to employees.

The Works always has had a fine reputation as a manufacturer of quality products, he said. The kinds of products we manufacture today, however, have put us in a market more competitive than ever, and "quality takes on an even more

important role," Rhodes explained.

Instructors for the course are Roger Knutson and Tom McNulty of Dept. 362. Course material includes how the SQC system works and the methods of quality control; an explanation of statistical theory, probability and sampling plans; how to make, read and interpret various charts; an explanation of the "T-rate" and of a new quality measurement plan; and process capability studies.

A course similar to this hasn't been offered at the Works since the early 1970s. Rhodes thinks the course will have a beneficial effect: "I hope people will have a better understanding of the tools of quality control, and that there will be some reduction in scrap and corresponding improvements in shipments."




Talk's cheap? No, it's free

"WHATEVER YOU DO, don't lose your notes," Bob Attebery (left) of Dept. 521 cautions Larry Ainsworth of Dept. 289. As two new members in Western Electric's Speakers Bureau, Bob and Larry have attended a two-day training workshop at the Omaha Works. Speakers Bureau provides speakers free of charge to local groups including service clubs, church, social and civic groups, and junior and senior high schools. At a group's invitation, a Speakers Bureau member will pack up the slide projector and assorted props to deliver a talk on one of a wide number of topics — from the changing role of women in business to solar energy. Anyone who knows of a group interested in hearing a speaker should call Loretta Asche in Public Relations, Ext. 3956.

**the
Westerner**
VOL. 23 NO. 9

Linda Ryan
Editor

Published for employees of the Omaha Works.
For information write: Editor, *The Westerner*,
P.O. Box 14000, West Omaha Station, Omaha,
Nebraska, 68114; or telephone 691-3553.
Member
IABC/Omaha
International Association of Business Communicators
Printed by the Omaha Works
Reproduction Department

 **Western Electric**

20 years

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| M. S. Abramson | R. J. Kurtzuba |
| L. H. Baker | G. A. Kushinsky |
| F. M. Barnhart | D. F. Kuta |
| P. R. Brzezinski | R. R. Lake |
| R. I. Chard | W. D. Loring |
| L. M. Christiansen | D. E. Meisinger |
| F. L. Core | M. S. Mihaly |
| E. N. Dobbs | J. P. Morris |
| N. A. Eickhoff | W. Onisk |
| R. H. Ellingson | J. P. Phalen |
| J. B. Fay | M. B. Prettyman |
| A. C. Foust | L. S. Schulz |
| C. O. Gallup | D. J. Seaton |
| J. L. Gould | M. G. Seaton |
| D. D. Haase | R. G. Seiter |
| R. G. Halvorson | A. H. Straka |
| K. R. Harshbarger | H. Toledo |
| J. J. Hollist | R. G. Walters |
| L. F. Hunt | R. L. Welsh |
| J. L. Johnson | M. F. Willenborg |
| P. D. Kennedy | |

15 years

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| D. L. Ambrose | P. J. Mickells |
| J. L. Anthony | R. R. Miller |
| N. L. Beasley | R. S. Mitchell |
| M. P. Belmudez | P. T. Mullen |
| N. W. Carbonell | J. T. Nelson |
| W. W. Combs | G. W. Reese |
| W. D. Echtenkamp | J. B. Salvatore |
| R. O. Fuxsa | N. Shaw |
| E. P. Grooms | N. W. Smith |
| F. E. Hoepfer | R. A. Taylor |
| J. G. Klingeman | S. S. Timm |
| M. S. Krahmer | N. V. Trudeau |
| R. A. Krokaugger | L. W. Warren |
| A. M. Lucas | M. W. Wilson |
| J. C. Mabry | |

suggestion box

By the time this issue of The Westerner is delivered, the total amount of suggestion awards presented during 1979 may be double the amount awarded for all of 1978.

As of Aug. 31, 1979, the Omaha Works had presented \$47,685.27 in awards to those whose ideas were adopted through the employees' suggestion program. That compares to a total of \$25,464.51 awarded as of the end of 1978.

The 1979 figure indicates a greater interest by employees to suggest better ways of doing a job, thereby earn-

ing a "bonus" in the form of an award. It also shows, in many instances, that jobs are being made easier because of helpful suggestions, and represents a savings to the Works (at the end of August) of almost \$318,000.

Over the past month, employees who have received awards include:

James McDonald, Dept. 439, \$480.

Gary Stott, Dept. 441, \$400.

Floyd Anderson and Gary Stott, both of Dept. 441, \$302.50 each, joint suggestion.

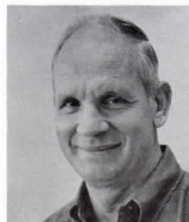
Ronald Erickson, Dept. 437, \$230.

Norma Landon, Dept. 441, \$120.

retirements



Kenneth
Harshbarger
20 years



Harold Carritt
20 years



Bill Houston
22 years

service anniversaries

october

10 years

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| E. W. Adams | J. S. Keller |
| B. R. Amos | F. T. Kennedy Jr. |
| M. J. Anderson | T. L. Klimiuk |
| W. H. Baldwin Jr. | M. K. Kobielski |
| E. D. Betzer | D. H. Kramer |
| L. S. Boryca | E. G. Krutina |
| D. R. Carlson | C. L. Michel |
| M. P. Carlson | J. C. Mitchell |
| C. T. Comstock | R. A. Munson |
| L. Cox | J. S. Ogrady |
| D. B. Dragon | T. J. Porter |
| S. K. Fricke | B. W. Rogers Jr. |
| D. C. Gallagher | G. Y. Sawaged |
| P. J. Galus | C. R. Schaupp |
| M. S. Gates | T. J. Schliffke |
| R. L. Gillam Jr. | B. N. Sealock |
| E. Gills Jr. | K. G. Seibel |
| J. S. Goodhard | C. W. Sharpe |
| J. J. Grego | G. H. Sorensen |
| W. E. Halstead Jr. | R. H. Stennis |
| G. W. Hanson | W. S. Swierczek |
| R. W. Hartley | J. G. Walls |
| C. Hodges | G. M. Wasser |

H. B. Wells
A. C. Winger

L. D. Winterstein
J. K. Zieman



By the dozen

TWENTY HOURS of Roger Hedin's time translates into countless hours of play and learning time by handicapped youngsters who will use these geometrical training aids. Roger, of Dept. 735, made a dozen of the wooden aids, which the Cornhusker Chapter Pioneers donated to J. P. Lord School and the Omaha Public Schools. The aids help develop a youngster's eye coordination, and give Roger a perfect excuse to indulge in his woodworking hobby. He's also made a bookshelf and other training aids for the Pioneers to distribute.

Pioneer Days planned

Cornhusker Chapter Pioneers are planning their exhibits to be displayed during Pioneer Days Nov. 1 and 2. Employees who stop by the auditorium will see exhibits on Pioneer leisure activities and service to the community, as well as a slide presentation. A luncheon for life members also is scheduled, and coffee and cookies will be served to all Pioneers.



The barkeep . . .

A farewell to warm

The calendar said it was autumn, but it felt like a summer's day in June. A better day for the WEOMA Club picnic couldn't have been custom-ordered.

The only bad thing about the picnic was that you couldn't be everywhere at once. What will it be? A spirited softball game between shop personnel and man-

agement (the shop won, 18 to 11), or a hair-raising spin on the Flying Bobs?

There were games for the young and young at heart, from "running to mama" races to frisbee-throwing contests. You could swing your arm back and toss a "ringer" in horseshoes, or swing your partner to disco music.

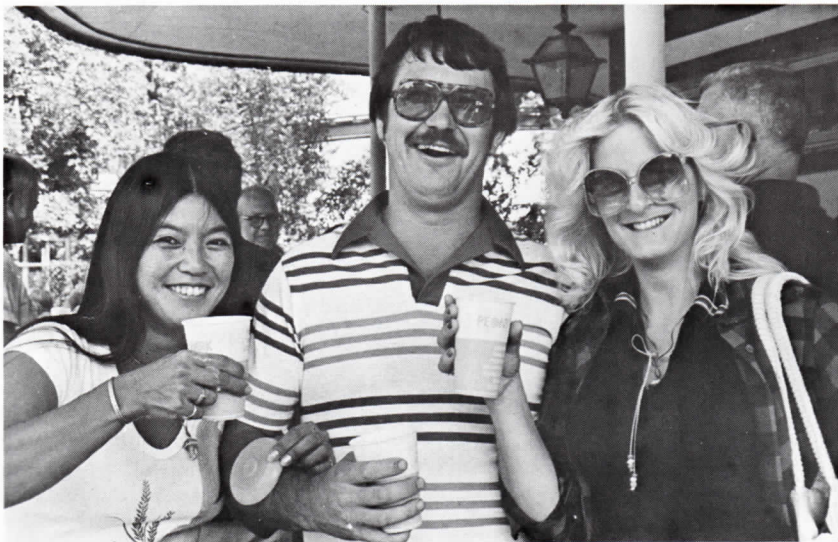
Of course, you could just stay put if you wanted — like at the bingo game, the picnic table or (ahem) the adults-only refreshment stand.

No wonder the day moved along so quickly. But even by late afternoon, the party wasn't over. While egg toss contestants wiped egg off their faces, a tug-of-war championship was at stake.

The other two teams were no match for the five he-man team that disposed of its opponents in very short order. The winning team was awarded prizes for a feat accomplished in what must be record-breaking time: Works safety campaign T-shirts proclaiming, "It only takes a minute."

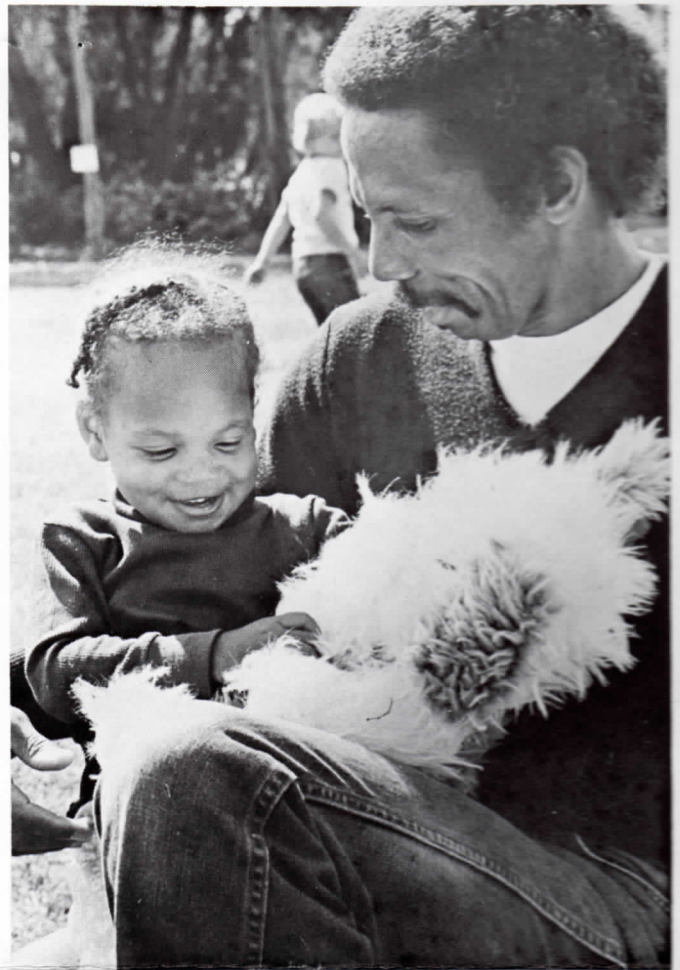
On the cover is the winning team. Paul Frampton (back, right) is the son-in-law of Gene Schiffer, Dept. 745, and Richard Owen (front, left) is the son-in-law of Leona Dean, Dept. 728. The others are relatives: Jack Owens, John Regan (back, from left) and Denny Paulsen (front, right).

. . . and satisfied customers.





Ball players show enthusiasm and good form.



"He's been following me all day. Can I keep him?"





Photo by Rog Howard

PASS THE CHECK . . . Tom Skutt (left, foreground) accepts a "super check" from Sharon Anderson (from left, clockwise), Ralph Avolio, Ralph Brewer, Gay Allen, Chuck Meetsma, Jim Hardick, Kathy Fink, Bruce Curl and Terry Moore.

Omaha Works' team effort 'beautiful'

The atmosphere wasn't unlike the day before Christmas, when the little ones can hardly stand to wait a moment longer before finding out what's inside the colorfully wrapped packages.

Only, the scene was the general manager's conference room, where United Way workers were gathered for a check presentation. Tom Skutt, this year's general campaign chairman, couldn't wait to hear how well the Omaha Works did in its campaign. Works general manager Chuck Meetsma teased him at first by revealing only that we had raised the highest amount ever at the plant.

Finally, the super-sized check was unveiled: The Works had raised \$314,443 — that's 106 percent over its goal. The icing on the cake was the \$52,733 "new dollars" collected from employees who previously had not participated in the drive. The Works experienced a 20.1 percent increase in total giving, with 87.4 percent of the employees participating.

The check was presented to Skutt by the plant's three top solicitors: Ralph Avolio for Building 50, Bruce Curl for Building 30, and Gay Allen for salaried personnel. They collected 98, 127, and 108 percent of their respective goals as plant solicitors.

Meetsma commented at the presentation that, as a newcomer to Omaha, he has observed it to be "the kind of community where we take care of our own — and that's certainly evident here at the Works. Inflationary effects have hit all of us, and yet we're able to dig in and help out in the community."

Works drive chairman Hank Davidson credited the success of the campaign to

"an outstanding effort on everyone's part." He particularly noted the fine performance of Jim Hardick and Terry Moore, his labor co-chairmen, and Ralph Brewer, management co-chairman. Also on hand for the presentation were Sharon Anderson and Kathy Fink, who helped in the Works' United Way office.

In accepting the check from the Omaha Works, Skutt commented about the plant's teamwork he witnessed firsthand as general campaign chairman. He said, "It's too bad the whole city of Omaha can't see the beautiful way labor works with management here — it's a tremendous job."



**Support
your local
human
beings.**

Sedentary life invites back trouble

Of all the injuries incurred by employees at the Omaha Works, back injuries continue to be among those which occur most frequently. The sedentary life particularly invites back trouble, because it results in the weakening of support muscles that aid the back in maintaining its upright position.

There are steps a person may take, however, to strengthen the back. They won't prevent all backaches, but they should help people avoid injury and possible surgery as well as help prevent recurring attacks of back pain. Dr. Lee Grant, Works medical director, has outlined those steps:

Exercise. Any exercise that strengthens body muscles in general also helps the back. Most specific back exercises emphasize strengthening abdominal muscles to aid the "front line" of defense against a sagging back.

Many different exercise programs have been recommended and most will work if carried out on a regular basis. When tolerated, sit-ups with the knees bent are among the best.

Learn proper lifting and bending. By now, most of us have gotten the message that bending and lifting from the waist is bad for the back. Instead, the knees should be used for bending, and heavy objects should be kept as close to the body as possible.

Maintain proper posture. Although mother's strictures against slumping may have been excessive, most experts agree she had a point. Sleeping posture also is important. It is best to avoid sleeping on one's stomach; instead, adopt side or back positions. A firm — not hard — mattress also is helpful.

Finally, high heels may be fine for fashion, but they are bad for the back.

Loose excessive weight. This seems to be the answer to everything. Logic clearly points to excessive weight (especially abdominal overhang) as extra strain on the back.



What are friends for?

NOBODY HAS MORE doting "aunts and uncles" than 12-year-old Terry Mantich, son of Jim Mantich, an insulating line operator in Dept. 282. When employees in that department and in Dept. 746 learned that Terry's go-kart motor was inoperable, they chipped in to buy him a new engine. Terry has leukemia, and go-kart racing is one sport in which he can actively participate. Ike Rauterkus (above, holding sign) and Wes Lyons (left) were among the departments' employees on hand to surprise Jim Mantich with the gift for his son. With a broad grin matching those of his co-workers surrounding him, Jim mentioned that this is the third time employees have taken up a special collection for his son. "It's more than words can say," he said. "It's just great to work with such wonderful people."

Omaha Works people to the rescue

Neither rain nor snow nor Hurricane Frederick can keep telephone service out of commission for long, especially when people like Omaha Works em-

ployees can come through in an emergency.

South Central Bell Telephone needed two 1200-pair and one 1800-pair 10-type stub cables to make repairs after Hurricane Frederick struck. Within just a few days last month — instead of the normal eight-week interval — Omaha personnel manufactured to order and shipped the stubs.

The feat is particularly noteworthy because longer cable lengths and pair sizes larger than normal were required. Because of its size, the 1800-pair stub cable had to be shipped by a specially obtained truck, rather than by air.

Included in the shipments were rush orders of 709A tool mountings and a 900-pair load coil case.



WRAPPING UP . . . Rosemarie Desautels (right) and Linda Wiegel, both of Dept. 445, bundle the CONECS portion of a 1200-pair stub cable that was shipped.

BSSP and SSP values

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

| | BSSP | | SSP | |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| | Units Value | Units Credited Per Dollar | Units Value | Units Credited Per Dollar |
| AT&T Shares | 2.0734 | 0.4822 | .9653 | 1.0358 |
| Gov't Obligations | 1.9735 | 0.5066 | | |
| Equity Portfolio | 1.4567 | 0.6864 | 1.0478 | .9543 |
| | | | At&T Shares | |
| | | | Guaranteed | |
| | | | Interest Fund | |

Construction progresses at Works

If you thought the Omaha Works has been the training grounds in recent months for Olympic high hurdlers, you were mistaken. Those "hurdles" (construction barricades) have served to re-route traffic while maintenance was done and improvements were made to the Works' drives.

A major improvement to the plant's roadways involves a new road connecting the front drive with the I Street drive leading to Building 30 parking. The new, more readily accessible connecting road will allow employees to enter and exit with the benefit of 120th Street traffic signals. This should ease congestion caused by turning traffic.

Road work isn't the only kind of construction going on around the Works, however. Paving of the reel yards is scheduled to begin this fall, and work is under way to remove architectural barriers to the handicapped.



DIG IN . . . Workmen landscape along the walk and ramp leading to the front of the administration building.

ers to the handicapped.

The reel yards are being paved to avoid problems that develop after heavy rains and the spring thaw. Even with crushed rock on the surface, deep ruts develop in the mud, and equipment to move the reels gets bogged down.

First to be paved will be the northwest reel yard area, then the area north of

Building 30. The north central reel yard will be paved last, sometime early in the spring of next year.

Architectural modifications should make it easier for handicapped persons to get around the Works. Earlier this year, control buttons in the east elevator in Building 20 were lowered for easier access. Late this summer, construction began on a walkway and ramp leading to the front of Building 20.

In its plan to remove architectural barriers to the handicapped, the Works hopes to have all work completed within about three years. During that time, the following changes will have been made:

- Parking stalls reserved for the handicapped; ramps to sidewalks installed.
- Modification of drinking fountains, warning alarms and lights, cafeteria and medical facilities.
- Public telephones replaced or relocated.
- Auditorium, conference and training rooms equipped with specialized furniture.

Plating room prepared

It won't be long before gold and solder plating operations get under way in the southwest area of Building 30 (former Product Display Center). The gold plating equipment was to have been shipped to Omaha from Bell Labs' Murray Hill location on Oct. 15. Solder plating equipment is to be shipped from Atlanta on Nov. 15.

After the two automatic strip platers are installed and "proven in," (an expected three to four-week interval for

each), manufacturing operations will begin.

The gold plater will be used to plate modular station cord blades. The solder plater will be used to plate LTA contact elements; initially, 710 connector elements will be plated.

With gold and solder plating operations in-house, the Works should have better control of the quality and output of products plated.

OLLIE OOPS

