

WESTERNER

Omaha Works
February 1985



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On the cover

Need a little oxygen? If you work on the third shift you might find yourself breathing better with the help of this man, Joe Modie. A member of the Millard Volunteer Fire Department, Modie is captain of the Works' third-shift fire and rescue crew. When Modie isn't answering fire and rescue calls at the Works, he is an insulating line operator in Dept. 202. A story about the Works' new ambulance and rescue team operations starts on this page.

WESTERNER

Linda Ryan, editor
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Brigade on call for rescue work

With close to 5,000 employees on its roll, the Omaha Works is almost a small town in itself with a population larger than many Nebraska or Iowa communities.

Like a small town, the Works instituted its own fire brigade a little over a year ago to control fires beyond the containment of those people working in an area where a fire erupts.

Now the 27-member brigade, whose duties cover all three shifts, has expanded its responsibilities to provide rescue services for all employees — both in the shop and office areas. A shiny, white, electric-powered ambulance is parked alongside the Works' new red fire truck in a garage in Building 42.

The ambulance, which looks somewhat like a large golf cart with overhead flashing lights, is identical to those used on the grounds in Los Angeles during the Summer Olympics, said fire brigade chief Rich Schmitz.

But its size can be deceiving, Schmitz said, because it is equipped just like full-sized rescue squads used by most community volunteer fire and rescue crews.

Two-seater

The ambulance seats two attendants, with a stretcher to the right of the seats. It also has a "hardboard" stretcher for injured persons who must be kept in a firm, stationary position,

and oxygen equipment.

Its storage compartments hold a Heart Aid which monitors the heartbeat of a coronary victim and which can automatically defibrillate or pace the heart as may be required, Schmitz said. An advanced first aid kit is complete with splints, bandages, sterile sheets for burn victims and neck collars, for example.

The same people who have responded to fire emergencies within the plant over the past year are now on call to respond to rescue emergencies. The 27-member crew is divided into nine members to serve each of the three shifts.

Alerted by pagers

All except one are current or former members of local volunteer fire and rescue crews, Schmitz said. All have been trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid, most are trained emergency medical technicians, and three are paramedics who have been trained in advanced life support procedures. They attend monthly training meetings at the Works, too.

They continue to carry portable pagers on them at all times. A call to the central guard office at Ext. 3222 (a new number) will result in crew members being paged and dispatched to a location. Assigned drivers — all who work near the Building 42 garage — drive the ambulance directly



FOR EMERGENCIES . . . Members of the second-shift rescue team show off the Works' new ambulance. From left are Jerry Engel, a machine operator in Dept. 402; Jim Sweeney, a layout operator in Dept. 290; and Gary Williams, a machinist in Dept. 403. Engel is captain of the shift team and a former member of the Mead (Neb.) Volunteer Fire Department; Sweeney is one of the shift's drivers and former Mead Department member; and Williams is a paramedic and instructor for the Works' rescue team, as well as a member of the Pacific Junction (Iowa) Volunteer Fire Department.

to the emergency area, just as they do in a fire emergency. The rest of the nine-member shift team arrives on foot.

Schmitz estimates the response time of a rescue team to be less than that involved in a fire emergency because no time must be taken by crew members to don fire-fighting gear. Responses to fires average about three minutes or less, depending on the location.

Having a rescue team and ambulance available at all times now eliminates the need to maintain departmental crews as the Works has done in the past. Cot crews were employees assigned to transport ill or injured co-workers to the Works' medical offices.

Schmitz expects the brigade's rescue work to be called upon more frequently than their fire-

fighting skills. He's confident that the crew will respond with the same professionalism and expertise it already has shown in responses to fire emergencies.

Top performance

The captain of the second-shift fire and rescue team, Jerry Engel, shares that confidence.

Engel, who works in machine maintenance in Dept. 402, mentioned three fire calls which brigade members have answered since the new fire truck was acquired. One fire was in the powder paint area in Building 30, another in an outside trash compactor, and a third in the Building 41 cafeteria.

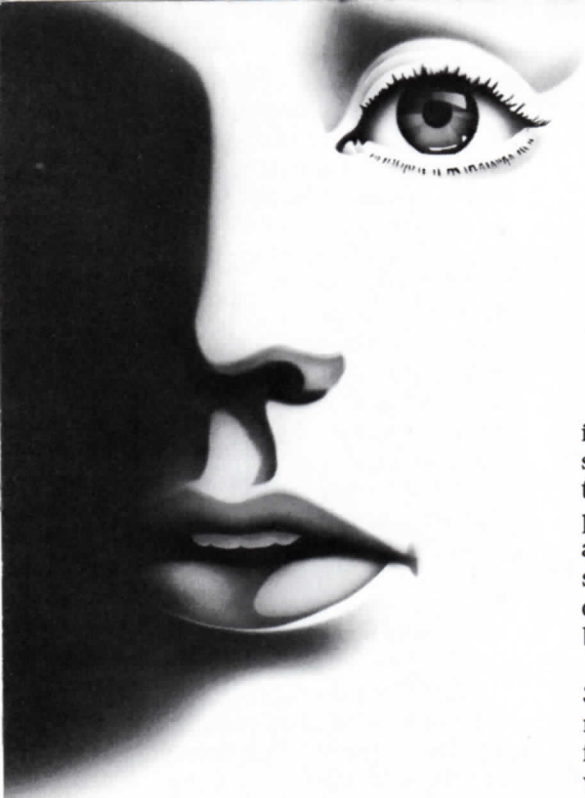
Response time averaged under 2½ minutes on those calls, Engel boasted, and total damages for all three fires amounted to just \$57.60.

He's particularly proud of the way crew members responded to the powder paint area fire. The fire was close to the ceiling in an oven that was overheating. It required that one crew member approach it from the outside on the roof. The incident might have become much more serious if an experienced fire-fighting crew hadn't responded.

"These are all very experienced people," Engel said. "They know what they're doing and they will keep injuries and damages down to a minimum."

To report fire,
rescue emergency:

Ext. 3222



Look out for your eyes

The following is one in a series of articles about health as part of "Love-Life," a health education program developed by the Immanuel Medical Center.

Close your eyes. Tight. Now make yourself a cup of coffee. Or walk from one room of your house into your bedroom, take off your shoes and put on your slippers. Or call a friend on the telephone. You have now discovered some of the best reasons for reading this article.

Every year more than 40,000 Americans become blind. About 20,000 of them did not have to go through the anguish of never seeing another sunrise or enjoying a garden full of flowers. They did not have to know the emptiness of never being able to see their own reflections in a mirror. But they did, maybe out of ignorance, laziness or fear — just failing to take care of their eyes.

About 29 percent of all blindness is the result of cataracts or glaucoma. Yet surgery — the only known cure for cataracts —

is safe, relatively painless and successful in about 95 percent of the cases. Glaucoma is easily, painlessly and inexpensively diagnosed and treated. But thousands of us will live in total darkness because we didn't bother to have our eyes checked.

Injuries account for only about 3 percent of blindness. But many more people, 1,000 per day, suffer from industrial accidents involving the eye. Diseases such as diabetes or vascular disease account for another 20 percent of all blindness. Even many of these cases do not have to result in total blindness if doctors' orders are followed and medications are taken.

Age takes its toll

There's no doubt that as we get older our sight often begins to become less sharp. The eye ages just like other parts of the body. About half of all blind persons are at least 65 years of age. The 65 and older group accounts for about 10 percent of the population.

Many of us who never had to wear glasses may find we need them to read a menu or a book once we've had our 40th birthdays or so. It is not a sign of weakness to wear the prescribed glasses. Vanity isn't worth risking the chance that our eyes will get worse.

Glaucoma is another worry we have as we reach middle age. Figures show that at least two out of every 100 persons over the age of 40 have glaucoma and about half don't even know it. Glaucoma is caused by pressure built up in the eyeball. It develops because excess liquid in the eye doesn't drain properly.

Sometimes there are no specific warnings. Symptoms can begin as innocently as an occasional headache or blurred vision. Gradually, vision is

destroyed and if left untreated, blindness will result.

Pay attention

We all have to be aware that once we reach our middle years we should pay special attention to our eyes and the quality of our sight. The following pointers should help:

1. If your doctor has told you to wear glasses or contact lenses, wear them.

2. Wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from harsh chemicals, fumes, flying sparks or particles, sunburn, intense light rays or other hazards which could injure your eyes.

3. Never rub your eye to try to remove a particle. Small particles often can be dislodged by pulling the upper eyelid out and down over the lower lid.

4. If something does penetrate your eye, do not attempt to remove the object. Do not rub, press on or wash the eye, even to stop bleeding. Loosely bandage the eye and go to the nearest emergency room.

5. If double vision, vision loss, blurred vision or pain accompanies a black eye, see a doctor as soon as possible.

6. Never share eye cosmetics, because they can spread eye infections.

7. These warning signs tell you something is wrong. If you experience any of them, see a doctor: persistent pain or unusual sensitivity to light; seeing rainbows or halos around lights; persistently seeing flashing lights; loss, blurring or any change in vision.

8. Glaucoma can develop at any time but is most common in individuals over 35 years old. Have an examination for glaucoma every two years after you turn 35. If you experience any change in your vision at all, see your eye doctor.

etc.

Exclusively ours

Federal Judge Harold Greene has rejected a challenge by the Justice Department on behalf of the Bell operating companies to force AT&T to allow the companies use of its 800 service data base to provide services to other long-distance companies.

Greene said the companies' existing systems would enable them to quickly deploy toll-free capabilities, though not as advanced as AT&T's. He said the operating companies "are enti-

tled under the plan (of reorganization) to obtain from AT&T the hardware, software and know-how necessary to develop data base systems, but they are not entitled to replicate AT&T's existing system by simple use of AT&T's data base."

The thrill of it all

Here's your chance to make a gorilla happy. (Why on earth would anybody want to make a gorilla unhappy?)

The annual in-plant Henry Doorly Zoo membership drive begins Feb. 21, during which time a family membership may be purchased for \$28. Don't postpone buying a membership, however, because the price goes up to \$33 after April 1.

"Thrill a gorilla" is the slogan chosen for this year's campaign,

said Dick McGaughey (Dept. 534), who is chairing the drive. The zoo plans to direct money raised toward building a new complex to house gorillas and other members of the ape family.

A family membership provides free admission to the zoo for an entire family during the 1985 season — April 1 through Oct. 31. It also allows free admission to the annual Family Day at the zoo, reduced rates on zoo-sponsored art lessons and summer classes for children, and a free quarterly newsletter.

McGaughey said the zoo membership also will admit a family to 61 zoos in 26 states and Canada.

Membership sign-up cards will be made available to employees by department. The drive runs through March.



Electronic wire equipment installed

The first piece of equipment installed specifically for the manufacture of electronic wire is in place in the cable shop. A 30-foot-long mini-insulating line will produce 30-gauge backplane wire, a kind of hookup wire used in computers and digital switching equipment. The Omaha Works will make the wire for the Oklahoma Works and commercial market applications. Senior product engineer Horst Woellner (left) of Dept. 271 and senior factory engineer Larry Moody of Dept. 274 inspected the pre-heater section of the insulator as workers completed its installation.

Retirements



Rex Zeller
40 years



Felix Halpenny
26 years



Lorna Stroy
20 years



Wayne Rotschafer
28 years



Hugh Loomis
27 years



Frances Kennedy
24 years



Opal Merriweather
20 years



Eddie Greenwade
26 years



Rey Kucera
26 years



Tony Ciullo
43 years



Joyce Wermuth
28 years



Mel Hewitt
27 years



Laurin Mongar
26 years



Ed Brumbaugh
28 years



Glenda Novak
24 years



Eugene Cook
40 years



Russ Queen
40 years



Roland Hanson
26 years



Lorraine Keckler
24 years



Adrian "Van" Van Oeveren
27 years



Bennett Bornman
28 years



John Fuller
26 years



Tillman Vice Jr.
25 years

Not pictured:

Pauline Brown — 21 years
Raymond Madsen — 28 years

Edward Kot — 43 years
George Bridenbaugh — 24 years
Gerald Pfund — 20 years

Rodney Bird — 26 years
Geraldine Brewer — 15 years
Mildred Kemp — 23 years

Service anniversaries

25 years

E. D. Bastian	553	2/8
F. S. Boisvert	423	2/9
L. O. Briggs	448	2/1
D. L. Dockweiler	202	2/9
E. M. Durbin	202	2/9
J. V. Sonderman	550	2/8
J. J. Spudich	290	2/21
W. R. Steimer	204	2/8
W. D. Switzer	558	2/5
D. E. Thurman	421	2/3
J. A. Vachal	202	2/8
E. C. Vanderlinden	449	2/28
R. K. Williams	202	2/11

20 years

J. C. Ahlberg	402	2/22
B. A. Brown	442	2/15
J. L. Campbell	446	2/2
J. E. Dolezal	204	2/22
V. M. Dschaak	202	2/17
M. W. Haynes	429	2/11
R. L. Henrichs	424	2/8
L. N. Larry	444	2/3
A. P. Pierce	202	2/24

M. G. Shelton	429	2/18
C. E. Stander	202	2/1
P. F. Sully	429	2/4
M. S. Wright	443	2/27

15 years

M. Alvarado	448	2/16
D. Bagley	428	2/12
L. J. Bailey	051	2/2
D. O. Borstad	421	2/16
H. W. Brown	443	2/9
B. K. Bruno	448	2/11
W. D. Chilcoat	1723	2/9
J. J. Dessel	421	2/11
E. D. Eichner	444	2/11
J. S. Gardner	448	2/9
K. L. Jeannere	444	2/4
R. G. Jones	444	2/12
M. B. Kamprath	421	2/5
A. L. Knight	448	2/7
D. N. Kuiper	553	2/10
N. R. Madsen	540	2/8
L. M. Nelson	429	2/11
J. B. Nosek	448	2/3

P. J. Olds	444	2/4
P. M. Ross	448	2/6
M. J. Ruppert	471	2/9
Q. M. Schiffer	403	2/2
P. O. Smith	1225	2/16
D. E. Stewart	448	2/16
M. Stubblefield	448	2/9
P. G. Sundberg	552	2/16
H. R Swink	448	2/9
J. S. Tomes	429	2/7
H. M. Toney	429	2/11
A. K. Wilcox	428	2/2
D. T. Wulf	448	2/11

10 years

M. B. Epley	442	2/13
C. L. Fletcher	428	2/13
J. M. Radke	429	2/27

5 years

R. C. Brickell	204	2/11
J. L. Green	558	2/18
T. A. Killham	476	2/18
N. E. Walde	203	2/18

E-Week speakers scheduled

The committee working on the Omaha Works' observation of this year's National Engineers Week has planned a full roster of guest speakers for the week of Feb. 17.

On Monday, Feb. 18, technical-professionals will gather in the auditorium to hear Omaha Chief of Police Robert Wadman speak on "Liberty vs. Security." On Feb. 19, the president of AT&T Bell Laboratories, Ian Ross, will address the group on research and development challenges confronting manufacturing engineers.

Other speakers for the week are the following:

Feb. 20 — John O'Neill, AT&T Network Systems executive vice-president, and James Cacy, vice-

president and associate director of research for the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

Feb. 21 — Warren Corgan, AT&T Federal Systems vice-president.

Feb. 22 — Geraldine Cox, vice-president and technical director of the Chemical Manufacturers Association.

Reg Yates, who chairs this year's E-Week committee, said the theme for the national observation is "Engineers: Turning Ideas into Reality."

Turning some of those ideas into reality, meanwhile, has added up to considerable savings at the Works over the past year.

Final tabulations of engineering cost reduction cases show that during 1984 the Works accumulated the largest amount of cost savings in its history — \$22.2 million. That exceeds the goal which was \$16 million.

The largest cost reduction case was in Dept. 472, amounting to \$3.2 million. The savings reflect the impact of consolidation efforts on receiving, material inspection, storeroom and central

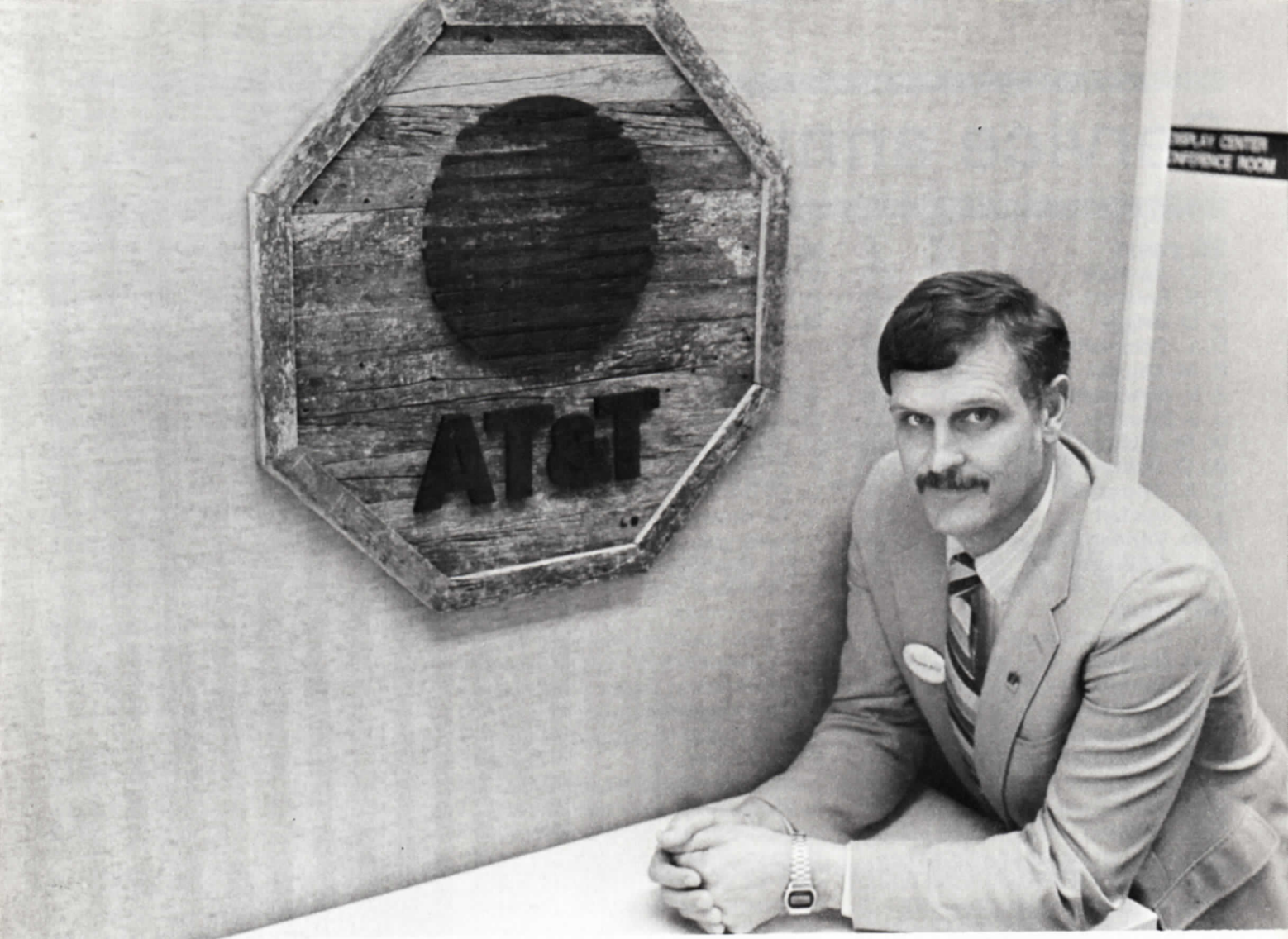
shipping activities.

Four other cost reduction cases each amounted to \$1 million or more. In Dept. 471, a redesign of 4-type unit protectors resulted in a \$1.75 million cost reduction. Another case in the department resulted in \$1 million in savings through the introduction and development of the modular 110 patch cord.

Dept. 475 had a \$1.5 million cost reduction case, savings stemming from the automatic assembly of 76 binding post blocks. In Dept. 271, a \$1.4 million cost reduction was achieved involving core wrap and jacket for 25-pair plenum cable.

By subbranch, the following total savings were accumulated: Subbranch 050, \$623,000; 270, \$3.1 million; 470, \$17.7 million; 500, \$700,000.

As consolidation efforts continue in 1985, this time involving product lines from Hawthorne and Kearny Works locations, the Omaha Works is working toward another hefty goal. This year's cost reduction goal is \$33 million.



Last frame

There are AT&T logos and then there are AT&T logos.

This one has a decidedly Midwestern air about it. It's the handiwork of Larry Blanke, a section chief in the Product Display Center.

Not long ago Blanke visited the family farm in Marysville, Kan., where he was born and raised. It was a clean-up and fix-up visit, he said, and in the process an old tool shed was torn down.

The shed's barnwood planks sparked an idea in Blanke. When he returned to Omaha, he had a copy of the AT&T logo blown up to the size he wanted, made a pattern and cut the wooden pieces. The hardest part was

carefully placing the globe's segments so the proper ratios were maintained.

Blanke painted the globe blue and the letters black, keeping the background its natural barnwood color. "I was just messing around with it," he said of the project, which took him maybe five or six hours total over a two-month period.

The insignia currently hangs by his desk in the display center.



AT&T
Network Systems

Omaha Works
P.O. Box 37000
Omaha, Ne. 68137

