



THE MEN IN THE PHOTO above left are (a) comparing hang-nails; (b) volunteering to go home early or (c) admiring the new ceiling in the Building 30 cafeteria (at the photographer's request). In this particular instance, (c) is the correct answer. During standard vacation, the Building 30 cafeteria got the once-over with a number of eye- and ear-appealing changes



including a ceiling and additional walls to cut off noise from work areas. The cable plant received its share of improvements, too, as shown in the photo above right. The women's locker room on the mezzanine was brightened up with a new coating of paint on the locker doors as well as with new acoustical ceiling tiles.

the
westerner
Omaha Works August 31, 1973

On Thursday, September 6, Western Electric will be the sole sponsor of a new National Geographic adventure special, "Wind Raiders of the Sahara." The program features an expedition of wind-driven land yachts on a 1,500-mile odyssey across a desolate ocean of sand and gravel in the western Sahara Desert. The program will be aired, locally, on the ABC affiliate, KETV, Channel 7, from 7 to 8 p.m. CDT.

NSN Traveling Trophy Begins Trip

Rilma Jensen, an order analyst in Department 133, and Don Stalker, a section chief in Department 135, are the first recipients of the NEVER SAY NO traveling trophy.

"Both individuals exemplify consistently friendly and understanding attitudes in their job-related service efforts," noted Virg Jochimsen, department chief, 341.

Virg explained that Rilma and Don were among several nominees for the honor. Jointly named on one nomination, they were selected by balloting among service personnel.

Rilma and Don were cited for instances in which they have gone out of their way to give the best possible treatment to special requests for emergency orders. It was the extra effort on their parts that brought them this recognition.

Although the trophy will eventually go to succeeding winners, neither Rilma's nor Don's service efforts will be forgotten. Theirs are the first names to be listed on a special honor roll plaque on display in merchandise service.

Service efforts of people like Rilma and Don are of incomparable value to the Omaha Works. And during

standard vacation, that service never stopped.

Virg explained, "While almost everyone else was on vacation, merchandise service remained active and continued to ship from the warehouse. Crews were in the reel yard to handle any emergency orders."



Don, left, and Rilma, right, received the trophy from Works General Manager Frank Lefebvre.

George Rogers

Looking Back, Planning Ahead

In a small green leather-bound notebook, George Rogers recorded his activities while working on the Western Electric pilot plant operations in Omaha in 1956.

Although the pages are now yellowing and the pencil markings are fading, the memories George has retained through his "diary" are as crisp and readable as ever.

Department chief, 753, prior to his retirement on July 12, George was first employed at the Lincoln (Nebraska) Shops in 1946 as a planning engineer. He was promoted to department chief and transferred to the Omaha Works pilot operations on May 1, 1956.

But George's knowledge of the Omaha Works began prior to his

official transfer. On one of the first pages of his diary is this notation: Mon. Mar. 19, 1956. Met R. F. Born at Athletic Club 9:00 a.m. Got 3 bids on desks and talked to telephone men about service. Returned to Lincoln.

(Editor's note: R. F. Born at that time was an assistant manager assigned to Omaha. Today he is manager, Plant Engineering and Technical Services, at the Hawthorne Works.)

Explained George in an interview prior to his retirement, "I came to Omaha during the months of March and April to work with Mr. Born in setting up the pilot plant. The Company felt it would be best for two of us to be aware of the activities

surrounding the set-up of the plant."

George's activities during these months included working with the heating, plumbing and electrical contractors on the downtown buildings. On August 15, 1956, he was transferred to the Hawthorne Works.

"I spent about 11 months at Hawthorne working on specifications and layouts for the Omaha Works permanent plant. I transferred back to Omaha in July 1957 and over Labor Day 1958 we moved from the pilot plant into the permanent plant."

Being one of the "original" Omaha Works employees, George perhaps has the ability to make comparisons on the plant as it was then, as it is now.

"Actually, the changes that I see are not in the physical plant itself but in the personnel relations," George noted. "Today the Omaha Works has many more female supervisors and minority groups on its payroll."

He added, "Over the years, the Company has developed an understanding of its employees and their needs and is acting on these needs."

What does the future hold in store for retiree Rogers?

"I'm telling everyone I'm going to become an artificer," George said explaining that the term means craftsman. "I'm renovating a 90-year-old home in Fremont, Nebraska. It was the old family home where I was born."

And what does George's wife, Virginia, have planned?

"Well, she's making a list," George laughed.

The Rogerses also have three children and seven grandchildren to keep them busy during the retirement years.

And what does George himself think about ending his 27-year Western Electric career?

Well, what he's probably thinking as he puts the top down on his convertible and slips on his driving cap is that he still has a lot of life left to be lived and that little green diary still has a lot of empty pages left to be filled.



George has said "goodbye" to WECO, "hello" to leisure living.

*Service
Anniversaries*

35



Hal Teteak
431
8-27-38

30



Glenn Miller
171
8-6-43

30



Hank Mottel
261
8-16-43

25



Don Hanrahan
411
8-11-48

25



Marie Sitzman
331
8-16-48

20 Years

Robert E. Kellett 9961 9-08-53
John D. McLaughlin 313 9-27-53

Terry D. O'Neill 253 8-25-58
Jerry D. Van Stratton 253 8-25-58
William J. Wallace 244 8-25-58
Thomas M. Mentzer 244 8-26-58
Gerald A. Colton 244 8-27-58
Waldo S. Leander 421 8-27-58
Michael L. Lewis 253 8-27-58
Leslie A. Irvine 242 9-01-58
Dona M. Hillman 422 9-02-58
James L. Jensen 344 9-02-58
Donald E. Norskov 135 9-02-58
Stanley K. Scebald 423 9-02-58
Charles L. Sipe 433 9-02-58
Dennis D. Swartz 253 9-02-58
Charles C. Cooper 251 9-03-58
Joseph R. Leyendecker 242 9-03-58
Vera H. Bowersox 143 9-04-58
Marjorie F. Donovan 253 9-04-58
Rodney E. Bird 251 9-05-58
Carl J. Bachenberg 244 9-08-58
Donald R. Bryant 244 9-08-58
Maldon B. Dawson 246 9-08-58
Claire M. Enstrom 244 9-08-58
Stanley E. Marshall 272 9-08-58
Vernon E. Shelton 246 9-08-58
Robert H. Walter 245 9-08-58
Ronald L. Brock 422 9-09-58
Lenis C. Campbell 253 9-09-58
Paul E. Dicker 253 9-09-58
Melvin C. Finley 263 9-09-58
Charley C. Johnson 753 9-09-58
Dennis D. Behrens 257 9-10-58
Robert H. Svendsen 246 9-10-58
Kenneth Kucera 251 9-11-58
John Schmidt 242 9-12-58
Kenneth L. Adams 246 9-15-58
Stanley E. Anderson 245 9-15-58
Helen S. Bellinger 142 9-15-58
Albert R. Combs 253 9-15-58
Donald L. Evans 244 9-15-58
James Griffin 246 9-15-58
Wanda R. Houska 134 9-15-58
Roy E. Lafferty 341 9-15-58
Donald J. Melichar 251 9-15-58
Richard A. Sudyka 241 9-15-58
Darwin G. Robbins 412 9-16-58
Egon Viola 253 9-16-58
Francis A. Campbell 251 9-17-58
Ivo J. Rauterkus 252 9-18-58
Robert L. Belter 481 9-22-58
James E. Black 246 9-22-58
Carl L. Kuiper 246 9-22-58
Joseph J. Palmesano 433 9-22-58
William J. Rohmeyer 244 9-22-58

Thomas R. Rudd 242 9-22-58
Thomas J. Hazuka 253 9-24-58
Gary H. Drehsen 176 9-29-58
Betty W. Hendrix 421 9-29-58
Robert S. McKulsy Jr. 141 9-29-58
William J. Reynek 246 9-30-58

15 Years

Duane A. Desler 176 8-03-58
James D. Andrews 253 8-04-58
Bert R. Bessey 246 8-04-58
Larry D. Duros 143 8-04-58
Jimmy L. Meek 246 8-04-58
Ronald T. Swift 252 8-04-58
James B. Williams Jr. 333 8-04-58
Eugene R. Wolski 253 8-04-58
Arnold C. Fiala 251 8-05-58
Jerald A. Mallory 252 8-05-58
Robert E. Tjarks 253 8-05-58
Ralph E. Head 133 8-06-58
Gary L. O'Connor 251 8-08-58
Richard L. Scott 6351 8-08-58
Gary J. Blohm 252 8-11-58
Joseph A. Deckert 246 8-11-58
Joann Egenberger 254 8-11-58
Harold J. Ernisse Jr. 245 8-11-58
Laurel E. Fletcher 134 8-11-58
Joseph E. Kocsis 246 8-11-58
Robert W. Latimer 251 8-11-58
Douglas R. Reed 244 8-11-58
Leona W. Riter 137 8-11-58
Michael E. Saner 246 8-11-58
Douglas A. Study 252 8-11-58
Dominic S. Sacca 241 8-12-58
Jack L. Sedlacek 253 8-12-58
Thomas J. Dountas 246 8-13-58
Robert L. Johnson 241 8-13-58
Larry G. Charron 252 8-18-58
Keith E. Ostrand 421 8-18-58
Daniel J. Hegarty 481 8-19-58
Vera M. Tridle 134 8-20-58
Ted L. White 252 8-20-58
Alfred L. Balkovic 253 8-25-58
Harold J. Cook 412 8-25-58
Charles H. Gerhard 246 8-25-58
Marion L. Hansz 246 8-25-58
Lloyd D. Jensen 248 8-25-58
Martin R. Kearns 253 8-25-58
Donald A. Krom 343 8-25-58
Ivan J. Mascher 253 8-25-58
Dennis L. Neubaum 244 8-25-58

10 Years

Wendell D. Bamsey 434 8-05-63
Julia A. Wacker 242 8-05-63
James V. LaRocca 132 8-06-63
Loren C. Simonson 251 8-06-63
Evelyn B. Suverkrubbe 257 8-06-63
Ohala W. Townsend 134 8-06-63
Larry V. Christensen 254 8-07-63
Myra S. Krahrmer 432 8-10-63
Ernest J. Belik Jr. 241 8-12-63
Michaela S. Daly 423 8-12-63
Lucretia E. DeLong 482 8-12-63
Robert D. Madison 432 8-12-63
Harold H. Dickman Jr. 251 8-13-63
William D. Zaner 481 8-13-63
Jeanette S. Elliott 144 8-15-63
Lloyd Felthausen 251 8-19-63
Donald E. Trimble 253 8-19-63
Dorothy S. Udron 135 8-19-63
Leslie B. Wigg 241 8-20-63
Danny M. Weddle 251 8-22-63
Raye D. Kraft 431 8-26-63
Freddie M. Stewart 257 8-27-63
Gordon L. Hecker 133 9-03-63
Roger G. Lamb 146 9-03-63
Siegfried A. Priebe 137 9-03-63
Helen L. Rauth 432 9-03-63
Viola N. Byrom 432 9-05-63
Gerhard G. Peuckert 135 9-08-63
Rosie B. Talton 134 9-11-63
Lupe Zabala 432 9-11-63
Darlene M. Davis 144 9-12-63
Alfred J. Fey 245 9-15-63
Richard M. Crouch 332 9-16-63
Gary A. Lueders 261 9-16-63
Linda S. Fitzgerald 134 9-17-63
Jay L. Wheeler 132 9-17-63
Diana R. Beltz 312 9-18-63
Robert F. Christian 422 9-18-63
Luella B. Schroeder 261 9-19-63
Peter M. Brennan 251 9-22-63
Lorene A. Booker 144 9-23-63
Irene Z. Schmidt 432 9-25-63



Jack McKinnon



Glen Bodinson



Mary Ann Conner

Promotions

Jack McKinnon has been promoted to assistant manager, 310 (industrial engineering, wage practices).

Associated with Western Electric since 1962, Jack started at the Merrimack Valley Works as an industrial engineer. In 1966 he transferred to the Indiana Service Center where he held the positions of planning engineer, then section chief.

Jack was promoted to a department chief, Indiana Bell Telephone Company, in 1968. In 1969 he returned to the Indiana Service Center as a department chief.

From July to December 1971, Jack attended the Management Training Program at the Corporate Education Center, Princeton, N.J. He then transferred to the Omaha Works where he was serving as department chief, 141, prior to his promotion.

A graduate of Merrimack College, North Andover, Mass., Jack also holds a masters degree from Butler University, Indianapolis, Ind.

Glen Bodinson has been named product service and warehouse manager at the 613 building.

Glen started his Western Electric career in 1965 as a management associate at the Kansas City Works. At Kansas City he also held the positions of section chief and department chief. In 1969 he moved to the Western Electric office in Newark, N.J., as a department chief.

Glen went to the Northern Illinois Works in 1970 as a department chief, a position he held just prior to his recent promotion. He holds a bachelors degree from Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., and a masters degree from Michigan State in East Lansing.

Mary Ann Conner, who holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, has assumed the duties of department chief, 264 (statistical quality control engineering and appraisal).

Mary Ann joined the Omaha Works in 1964 as a planning engineer. Prior to that she had worked part time for the Company both in Chicago and Omaha while attending school.

In 1972 she was transferred to the shops as a section chief. Prior to her recent promotion, she was serving as a results coordinator for Departments 432 and 433.

Retirements



Bob Carlson



John Kahler



Wally Pech



Fred Pethes

Bob Carlson has retired from the Omaha Works following 29 years of Company service.

Bob's career began at the Lincoln (Nebraska) Shops in 1944. He started as a production analyst and subsequently held the positions of personnel investigator in Industrial Relations and service clerk in Accounting.

In 1960, Bob was transferred to the Omaha Works as a stock selector. At the time of his retirement he was an output tracer in Department 142.

John Kahler has ended his Western Electric career following nearly 21 years with the Company.

His service began in 1952 at the Lincoln Shops where he was employed as an adjuster. At Lincoln, John also held the positions of bench hand and junior tradesman.

In 1958, he was transferred to the Omaha Works as a bench hand and then held the job of layout operator. Prior to retiring, John was a machine setter in Department 135.

Wally Pech, who began his career at the Hawthorne Works, has retired following over 30 years with Western Electric.

Wally started as a bench motor operator and then was a skilled detail maker. He left the Company for five years and, in 1946, was reemployed as a tool maker.

In 1956 Wally was promoted to training class leader and in 1959 he was transferred to the Omaha Works as a section chief. He was serving as a section chief in Department 248 at the time of his retirement.

Fred Pethes has retired from the Omaha Works after 31 years as a Western Electric employee.

Fred began his career in 1942 as a detail maker at the Hawthorne Works. At Hawthorne he also held the position of group chief.

Following service at the Indianapolis Works, Fred came to the Omaha Works as a section chief. He was serving as a section chief in Department 481 when he retired.

Weoma Club

Sunday, September 9, is the date scheduled for the Annual Weoma Club Picnic at Peony Park, 81st and Cass.

Admission this year is 65c for adults, 40c for children. And once inside the park, all the great rides are free. These include the fabulous Galaxy Roller Coaster and the new Spook House ride.

In addition to the rides, there will be bingo, a horse-shoe contest, a number of field events for the adults and

dancing to the rock combo, **Trolley**, in the ballroom.

And this year, some lucky boy or girl will take home a 10-speed bike if his or her name is drawn from among the entrants who have filled out a coupon like the one shown.

Your child can fill out the accompanying coupon and bring it to the park. Additional coupons will be available at the park if there's more than one child in your family. Only one entry per child, please.

See you at Peony Park, September 9. Gates open at 11:30 a.m. and the day's activities will continue until 6 p.m.



WEOMA CLUB PICNIC

Drawing for 10 speed bike

Name _____ Age _____

Dept. No. _____

Entrants must be 16 yrs. or younger, and member of W.E. family to qualify.

Miss Weoma Finalists

THE THREE FINALISTS in the Miss Weoma competition were selected on Friday, August 17.

Competing for the title of Miss Weoma XVI are Shirley Mines, an invoice clerk in Department 332, Kay Subbert, a wireman in Department 432 and Charlene Wilkins, a distribution clerk in Department 9961.

Shirley, Kay and Charlene took a trip to Peony Park and a ride on the Galaxy Roller Coaster to remind everyone of the big Weoma Club Picnic coming up on September 9. You can tell by their faces in the adjoining photo that lots of fun is in store for you and your family in the way of rides, games and socializing.

Join our three Miss Weoma finalists, Sunday, September 9. Bring the family. There'll be lots of fun for everyone.



Shirley



Kay



Charlene

A Product Is Only As Great As The "Quality" of Its Parts

Laboratories can prove to be rather fascinating locations for some equally fascinating discoveries.

Through either fact or fiction, they have provided the environment for the creation of everything from life-saving serums to science fiction creatures.

And while the Omaha Works can boast of neither discovery, it can

lay claim to two of its own materials laboratories where ongoing sampling, testing and experimenting result in a pretty impressive discovery all its own—quality materials for quality products.

Engineers in the 170 sub-branch oversee operations in the two raw materials labs—one in crossbar and one in cable.

Commented Curt Nading, engi-

neering associate, 171, "The raw materials engineer works with the raw materials and the purchased parts coming into the shop. This also includes the operations of the RM labs."

Curt, who is currently working in the capacity of RM engineer, explained that his job encompasses providing testing facilities to the lab personnel as well as giving them direction on how to use the equipment and telling them the requirements (specifications and standards) of the material they're testing.

"The labs stop a lot of bad piece parts and raw materials from getting into the shop," Curt stressed. "They help the shop do the job faster, easier and cheaper. The cost of an RM inspection is a lot less expensive than taking the material to the shop, running it and then discovering that it's bad."

Vern Dill, a set up man in the crossbar lab and employee of Department 262-7, further explained, "The labs operate on a sampling system. Anything that goes into the product, we automatically inspect by sample, taking portions of the total shipment and testing them.

"Through this sampling system, parts are inspected. If they're good, we ship them to the shop. If not, then they're put on an OSL (outside limits) or non-conformance basis. (continued on next page)



Curt, left, and Vern use a Kodak Comparator to determine if a piece parts meets specifications.

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General Manager
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CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER for employees of Department 421 who recently chalked up 1,000,000 man-hours on the job without a disabling injury. Accepting the award from Works General Manager Frank Lefebvre are, from left, Max Strong, department chief; Virginia Smolinski, employee representative and Herman Junge, union representative.

Quality

(continued from preceding page)

At this point, the rejected parts will go to the engineer who decides if the shop can use the part or if it has to go back to the supplier."

"One of the reasons material is often accepted on an OSL basis is that it's too costly to send back," Curt explained. "The product engineer has the final say. If a deviation won't cause a major problem, then we'll use the material. Sending material back that doesn't meet our requirements but could be used just raises our costs."

Curt also noted, "Our suppliers know we have a lab. That in itself increases the chances that the material we receive will be good."

Vern added, "I don't think people realize the amount of material we return to the supplier. A card is kept on every supplier. This record includes such information as the number of times a shipment has had to be returned due to defects. We operate with the buyers using this type of information."

"Right now, on 250 OSLs written so far this year, 85 or 34% were

rejected and returned to the supplier. I honestly believe we would end up with very poor quality if not for the labs."

It was also noted that, based on previous good experience with reputable suppliers, some shipments are used without inspection. In such cases, the Company has received a suppliers' Certificate of Compliance or the product has been inspected by the Purchased Products Inspection Organization (PPI) on the suppliers' premises.

Vern explained that such items as plastic, nuts and bolts are inspected on what is termed a skip lot basis.

"We'll inspect six or eight consecutive shipments and, if no defects have been found, we'll automatically begin to skip three, inspect one until any defects are found. Then we'll inspect each shipment again until we have six or eight without a defect."

"There's no way in the world we can catch every defect," Vern emphasized. "Even if we were to go to a 100% sampling system, statistics indicate that due to human error, approximately 20% of the defects would still be missed."

Vern and Curt both noted that 100% sampling could seriously hamper the flow of materials and parts to the shop.

And while the Omaha Works through this sampling system can't boast of laboratory discoveries the caliber of serums or science fiction, it can boast of the continuing effort to insure quality in the products we make and ship.

Enrollment Up Savers Increase As Drive Ends

The 1973 U. S. Savings Bond Drive, conducted at the Omaha Works June 4-15, has resulted in an additional 526 savers.

Employees enrolled in the Payroll Savings Plan now number 4,296 or 66.7% of the total work force.

At campaign's end, the total monthly deductions added up to \$51,159. Computed on a yearly basis, the total Payroll Savings Plan deductions add up to \$613,908. Gene Tingwald, assistant manager, 130, chaired this year's in-plant drive.



"LOOK BOTH WAYS," Lu Windels, an adjuster in Department 142, cautions her sons, Patrick and Michael. For the five-year-old twins, school will be an exciting new experience. But along with the excitement come a lot of other things, like being careful crossing streets. Patrick and Michael are among an estimated 110,000 children of grade and high school age enrolled in Omaha and surrounding area schools this fall. Do your part in the **Back To School** safety campaign. Drive carefully—PLEASE!

BULK RATE
U S POSTAGE
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Omaha Nebraska
Permit No. 50

 Western Electric