

the Westerner

Omaha Works
December, 1979



for your information

The payroll and financial offices will be closed during the holiday period of Dec. 24 through Jan. 1. Wages for Dec. 24 through Dec. 30 will be advanced to hourly rated employees on Dec. 20. Included with that payment will be wages for the week of Dec. 10 through Dec. 16. Checks will be distributed in the normal manner. If an employee will be absent Dec. 20 and if he normally receives his check at work, he should have requested in advance that his check be mailed to reach his home on payday. No checks will be distributed Dec. 27. On Jan. 3, hourly rated employees will be paid for the week of Dec. 17 through Dec. 23.

Salaried employees will receive their end-of-the-month payment on Dec. 21. Overtime for the week of Dec. 3 through Dec. 9 will be included on these checks. Any overtime for Dec. 10 through Dec. 31 will be included with the mid-month advance on Jan. 15 . . .

. . . Word comes from Metro Area Car-pool (MAC) that the organization has been granted funds to stay in operation at least through March 1980. That means MAC may continue to provide the free service of matching up people interested in forming a car pool. Potential car poolers can pick up forms in the WEOMA office to fill out and send to MAC, or they may call the agency (341-POOL) to provide match-up information. Within a week or two, would-be car poolers receive a list of names of people interested in "pooling it." Even if a match can't be made, names are kept on file for future reference . . .

. . . Imagine 854 eyes staring at you and never a blink. If you passed through the first floor hallway of the administration building last month, you couldn't help notice row upon row of stylishly dressed dolls. Every year Works employees or relatives and friends of employees dress the dolls which the Salvation Army distributes to needy children at Christmas. This year Works personnel dressed almost 450 dolls for the project. Employees also participated in the Works' annual Christmas toy collection, whereby new toys were donated for distribution to the needy by the Salvation Army.

"Tumultuous" is just one of the words being used to describe the '70s, and it's no wonder. Inflation, recession and increasing crime have been major topics in news reports. Political crises have commanded our attention and concern: Refugees seeking shelter in our country; Americans under attack in foreign lands; hunger we find difficult to comprehend.

We've had our ups and downs at the Omaha Works, too, these past 10 years. It hasn't always been easy, but we've pulled together so that the

1980s should treat us quite well as Western Electric employees. If only such a hopeful future could apply to the rest of the world.

That's why, in wishing you and your families a joyful and safe holiday season, I ask that you take just a moment to reflect on the many gifts we too often take for granted. Maybe you will join me in a prayer that the new decade will be one of peace and cooperation among all peoples to meet the immense challenges ahead.


General Manager

Pioneers show crafts



A REAL FIND . . . Colleen Lamb of Dept. 331 finds a treasure chest of handmade jewelry an interesting display during Pioneer Days.

All sorts of treasures caught the eyes of visitors in the auditorium last month during Pioneer Days. On view were exhibits depicting the Cornhusker Pioneers' work in the community, as well as examples of their leisure-time hobbies.

Fortunately, the event lasted two days, so that people who didn't have time to see all that was displayed could return later. Handmade quilts, intricately carved wooden objects, mosaics, paintings, jewelry and photographs were among the many examples of the Pioneers' skills.

The days included refreshments for all Pioneers and a luncheon for life members who, by the way, were to attend another luncheon at the Works on Dec. 19.

**the
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Linda Ryan
Editor

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Western Electric

On the cover

The interior of St. Robert Bellarmine Church at 119th and Pacific streets was the setting for the cover photo of this month's *Westerner*. Rog Howard photographed the trio of singers, who are members of the WEOMA Club Chorus. From left, they are Wanda Beasley, Dept. 445; Roland Michaelsen, Dept. 741; and Nancy Hume, Dept. 274. For more about the chorus, turn to Page 8.

service anniversaries

december

20 years

N. C. Anson
H. F. Asmussen
V. G. Beisch
D. C. Bucknam
D. H. Cain
A. B. Cernius
E. A. Dawson
E. O. Freitag
D. E. Herman
F. K. Holz
P. R. Jenkins
R. D. Jenny
E. L. Kritenbrink

A. R. Madsen
D. B. Madsen
D. L. McKinney
J. A. McManigal
J. K. Murphy
P. G. Nowak
W. H. Ott
J. R. Pinkerton
M. D. Quinlan
B. K. Rogers
J. D. Rosno
B. F. Sabata

W. L. Sanford
F. C. Scott
P. L. Segobia
L. L. Slaughter
G. E. Thoms
S. J. Toscano
D. L. Vosler
J. E. Westpheling
H. B. Willcoxon
G. L. Williams
W. W. Woodrum
R. G. Yearsley



Paul Arctander
40 years
12/20/39



Paul Lange
35 years
12/11/44



Dave Enterline
35 years
12/20/44



Floyd Heranson
25 years
12/28/54

15 years

D. J. Brabec
B. B. Clark
D. D. Dirks
D. R. Fiscus
P. P. Fleming
E. L. Haubensak
H. D. Johnson

D. P. Kerr
J. F. Martin
V. W. Moore
G. W. Pfund
N. E. Rodrigues
M. H. Roehr

W. S. Romer
B. J. Salkeld
H. E. Suter
D. L. Tyler
J. L. Wajda
J. P. Willey

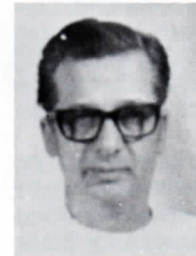
10 years

C. B. Allen
R. R. Barrett
D. B. Bayless
M. J. Bouc
L. D. Brown
M. B. Colon
R. R. Desautels
J. R. Desoe
L. N. Elfeldt
J. A. Forrester
D. E. Frye
B. R. Giesing
R. L. Guyton
L. F. Haverman
S. L. Heneger
F. B. Hernandez
M. S. Hoelscher
M. A. Hosch

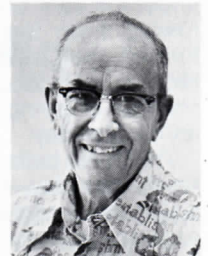
R. S. Jantzson
J. B. Kerwin
E. P. Kojdecki
D. H. Kracht
L. J. Kriegler
D. A. Kunze
C. H. Lipert
W. B. Luce
T. C. Marvin
F. C. Meyers
H. P. Miller
B. N. Mitzlaff
G. F. Molt
J. T. Murph
G. T. Nick
P. Y. Olsen
G. A. Petereit
R. J. Pilus

T. F. Price
H. C. Rief
C. M. Schrum
J. D. Schwenck
J. L. Stark
B. S. Sukstorf
V. H. Thacker
E. Troia
T. M. Vanroy
E. B. Vendetti
A. E. Vincent Jr.
D. W. Walter
D. E. Washburn
B. D. Wiersema
C. A. Williams
C. R. Williamsen
D. H. Willie

retirements



John Lennon
32 years



Wilkie Pedigo
19 years

BSSP and SSP values

The following are the October 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	1.9606	.5100
Gov't Obligations	1.9899	.5025
Equity Portfolio	1.3738	.7279
	SSP	
	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T Shares	.9149	1.0929
Guaranteed Interest Fund	1.0636	.9401

suggestion box

A little short on cash this month?

Take a cue from two employees whose ideas earned them extra money through the employee suggestion awards program.

Donald Harrington, of Dept. 282, suggested that two pieces of metal strips be welded to the floor of rewind

machines to provide reel alignment. His idea earned him a \$530 award.

Karen Moser of Dept. 273 received \$340 for his idea. He came up with a better way of recording the transfer of overrun orders, which would result in clerical cost savings.

On Dec. 25, American families across the country will attend religious services, gather for festive meals and exchange gifts in celebration of the holiday.

Each family has its own way of observing Christmas, but some families still incorporate traditions their ancestors followed in the Old Country. Such is the case of three Works employees and their families. On these pages they share their special celebrations of the season.

Christmas has Old World charm

From Holland

Hank Hendrix, an electrician in Dept. 744, and his wife Coby left their native home in Holland about 20 years ago to live in the United States. They raised their three daughters in the American way of life, which included American Christmas customs.

In the last two years, however, Hank and Coby have become active in a group that is prompting them to reintroduce some of the Dutch traditions in their Christmas celebrations.

The group is one Hank helped form: The Holland-America Society. Its members are of Dutch ancestry who gather to socialize and to preserve their cultural heritage.

The custom of exchanging gifts, for example, is not considered part of Christmas, Hank said. Instead, Dutch custom prescribes that gifts be given on Dec. 6, the feast day of St. Nicholas.

At one time in history, Holland was under the control of Spain, he said. Borrowing from the Spanish, the Dutch formed their own tradition about St. Nick, a Spanish bishop who made a practice of giving gifts to poor children on his birthday.

The Dutch believe that on the eve of St. Nick's birthday, the kindly saint visits their country riding his white horse and accompanied by his assistant, Black Peter. He brings gifts for the good children.

"As a child, I used to leave my wooden shoe by the fireplace, filled with carrots, hay or bread" for St. Nick's horse, Hank said. In return, if he had been good he would receive marzipan treats (candy), large chocolate initials and other gifts.

Members of the Holland-America Society mark this custom together, he said. With one member dressed as St. Nicholas and Hank dressed as Black Peter, gifts parents have provided are distributed to a gathering of members' children.

Christmas Day itself, as the Dutch celebrate it, is strictly a religious holiday, Hank said. After they attend church services, families dine on a traditional meal including rabbit and butter cake.

Holland is not a farming country, Hank said, and "meat is scarce. Domestic rabbit is inexpensive, and many people who live in the city used to raise their own."

In lieu of sending Christmas cards, Dutch people visit each other's homes after their meals. That custom especially is one that Hank and Coby Hendrix would like to revive.

From Lithuania

Terese Lesley of Dept. 331 and her sister, Ramute Mitchell of Dept. 445, have fond memories of their Christmases celebrated in the traditional Lithuanian manner. Both are natives of Lithuania, and their families brought their

holiday customs to this country.

Preparations for a 12-course Christmas Eve dinner begin at least two weeks in advance, Terese said. Christmas Eve is considered a day of fasting, and no full meal is eaten until the first star comes out at night (the Star of Bethlehem). Also, no meat is allowed.

Under the tablecloth is hay in remembrance of the manger setting, Ramute said. On top is an array of foods ranging from herring, poppy seed milk, "vinigretas" (a kind of vegetable salad) and "la-zankos" (a pastry ball dunked in poppy
(Continued on Page 6)



SHARING THEIR GIFTS . . . Phil Abdouch and his mother, Esther (left), and sister, Donna Black, carefully pack food items they will present to a needy family on Christmas Eve, in lieu of exchanging gifts among themselves.



FRESH CARROTS . . . Just in case St. Nicholas pays a visit, Mary Hendrix and her father, Hank, leave carrots in their wooden shoes for the generous saint's horse.



HAY AT THE TABLE . . . Terese Lesley (left) and Ramute Mitchell place hay under the tablecloth, a Christmas Eve Lithuanian custom.

Good eating from other lands

Boterkoek (Dutch butter cake)

- 1 c. butter
- 1 c. sugar
- 2 c. flour
- 1 egg
- Pinch of salt

Cream butter and sugar. Add flour, salt and all but about 1 teaspoon of the slightly beaten egg. Press into greased and floured 8-inch pan. Add a few drops of water to remaining egg and spread on top of cake. Bake at 350 degrees for about 1 hour.

Silkes (Lithuanian herring)

- 2 herring
- 2 medium onions
- 1 T. tomato soup
- oil
- catsup

Soak herring in water for 4 to 6 hours. Skin, debone and slice it into bite-size pieces. Peel onions and slice thinly;

Sumbusic (A Lebanese pastry)

- Dough:**
- 3 c. flour
 - 1 c. margarine
 - 1 tsp. salt
 - ½ c. water

Sift together flour and salt. Cut in margarine. Add water very slowly, just enough to make dough stick together (you may not use all of it). Blend well, then roll out to about ⅛ inch thickness. Cut out round shapes with cookie cutter.

place onions in skillet and cover with oil. Cook over low to medium heat until onions are soft.

Blend in one tablespoon of tomato soup and catsup to taste. Remove skillet from heat and let mixture cool. Arrange layer of herring on platter, topped with onions, then another layer of herring and onions on top. Excellent as part of meal or as appetizers.

NOTE: Esther Abdouch is an excellent cook who rarely measures ingredients for favorite recipes. Quantities given are approximate. Pie crust recipes also may be used.

Filling:

- 1 c. crushed walnuts
- ¼ c. sugar
- 1 tsp. lemon juice

Mix ingredients. Put small amount of walnut mixture in each dough circle. Fold the dough in half and seal edges. Bake at 400 degrees for about 15 minutes or until golden brown. Cool slightly.

Syrup:

- 1 c. sugar
- ½ c. water
- 1 T. lemon juice

Mix ingredients over low heat until mixture is slightly stringy. Dip individual pastries in syrup and drain on waxed paper. Sumbusic keeps for about one week without refrigeration.

Holidays rich in Old World ways

(Continued from Page 5)
seed milk for dessert).

Those who cannot be present for the meal are remembered during grace, Terese said. A special wafer-like bread is broken and shared by each at the table. "If you have been fighting with some family member especially during the year, you share an extra big piece in friendship," Ramute said.

Also, unmarried members of the family are careful not to sit at the corners of the table — "It means they won't marry for yet another year," Terese said. After eating, each person at the table draws straws from under the cloth. He who draws the longest straw will live the longest.

Sometime during the meal, the father of the family slips out to place gifts under the tree. Usually, he makes some sort of racket to make the children think "Kaledu Senis" (the Christmas man) has arrived.

The family opens gifts after the meal and visits. At midnight, if the young ones can stay awake, they listen very carefully to their dogs and cats. It is said that at midnight on Christmas, animals around the world have the gift of talking.

The celebration culminates with attendance at religious services on Christmas Day.

From Lebanon

Members of the Eastern Orthodox Church, of which Phil Abdouch of Dept. 333 is a member, normally celebrate Christmas according to the old Julian calendar. That would put Christmas sometime in January, Phil said.

But because the Western world observes the holiday in December and businesses and schools assign vacation days at that time, Phil and his family plan their large Christmas meal together for Dec. 25.

The practice of exchanging gifts that day has been omitted by Phil, his mother, father, sister and brother. Instead, the family contributes to a food basket to be given personally to a needy family. Included with the meats, vegetables and canned goods are toys for the children.

"I'm quite disturbed about all the materialism that exists at this time of the year," Phil noted. The food basket is one way Phil's family is able to keep Christmas in its proper perspective, he said.

The Abdouch family also participates in the celebration of St. Nicholas's feast day, Dec. 6. Through their church, gifts are given to the church school children, Phil said. The occasion is complete with a costumed St. Nick.

On Christmas Eve, the family attends midnight religious services, followed by a brunch at the church. Then, members

catch a few winks before the Christmas Day meal, rich in Lebanese tradition.

Phil's mother, Esther, prepares a variety of Lebanese dishes, including "kibbie" — ground lamb, beef and cracked wheat made into a meatloaf. Also adorning the table may be "tolemie," inch-thick circular bread; grape leaf rolls or stuffed cabbage rolls; and pastries such

as "baklava" and "sumbusic."

The most important religious day of celebration for the Abdouch family, however, is Jan. 6, the Epiphany. On that day their priest blesses water of which church members drink. Over the next 40 days, the priest visits the house of each parishioner, blessing each home with the holy water.



DYNAMIC DUO . . . Frank Markesi (left) and Ken Korinek were honored as outstanding loaned executives of the year by the United Way.

United Way honors four

Work done by Omaha Works individuals in this year's United Way campaign will be a tough act to follow when the 1980 drive rolls around. At its victory dinner last month, the United Way agency presented awards to four Works employees for jobs exceptionally well done.

Frank Markesi, Dept. 362, and Ken Korinek, Dept. 514, were two of six citywide loaned executives who tied for the Outstanding Loaned Executive of the Year award. It was the second time that Frank had been so honored in six years.

Gene Tingwald, Dept. 510, was named Outstanding Division Chairman. Gene headed the Business and Industry Division II, made up entirely of Omaha Works loaned executives. The division raised \$1.186 million, more than any other division has raised in past campaigns. (Members of the division, by the way, voted among themselves and named Mary Jane O'Kane, Dept. 511, as their own top loaned executive.)

United Way presented a special volunteer award to Max Strong, Dept. 736, for his work in the past six campaigns, during which time he helped raise a total of

\$4.5 million. The award is the first of its kind.

Frank and Ken, who worked as a team in helping various firms organize their United Way campaigns, said the drive required many hours of effort on everyone's part. In their case it meant making speeches, giving slide presentations and training solicitors, among other duties.

Much of the time spent contacting their assigned firms was during evening and late night hours and weekends, too. Apparently, it made the difference in meeting their goals so successfully because, as Ken explained, "Nobody had ever taken the time to meet personally with employees on late shifts."

Neither Frank nor Ken objected to the extra hours working on the campaign. Both enjoy working and communicating with people, they said. They also are grateful for the support given loaned executives by management at the Works.

"They really backed us by allowing us to do whatever was necessary to service the firms we were to contact," Frank said.

Betzer's CPR training tested in emergency

Ed Betzer was sitting in the lounge of the Rodeway Inn with some of his co-workers one day after work, when a request was made over the loudspeaker. An emergency had arisen, and the help of a doctor was needed immediately.

Maybe it was instinct that made Ed, a packer in Dept. 722, go to where the voice had instructed. "I thought that I could help," he said.

He was right. On the floor in the doorway was a man who had suffered a heart attack. Leaning over him was another man who was administering CPR — cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Because Ed had learned the CPR technique in a class he took at the Works last spring, he checked for a carotid pulse and began mouth-to-mouth respiration, alternating with the other man who administered chest compressions. CPR can be physically demanding when two people work together, but it is less so than when only one performs CPR.

The two men continued administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation for about 10 minutes before an ambulance crew arrived and took over.

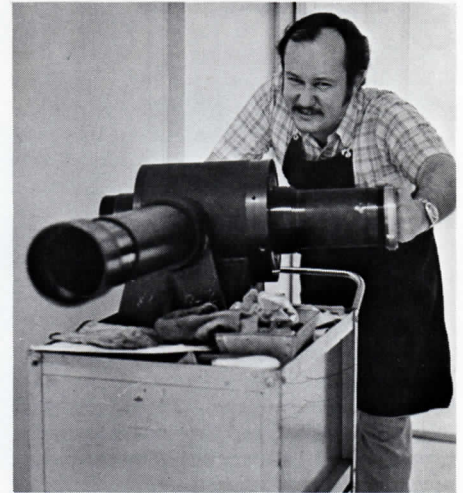
Unfortunately, the victim didn't live, but Ed has no less regard for the value of knowing CPR. If anything, he's even more thankful that he took the time to learn the technique.

"I was apprehensive going down to help," Ed recalled, and afterward "I was shook." Not once during the ordeal, however, did he hesitate trying to remember the number of breaths to give or the timing. Perhaps that is because Ed regularly reviews the technique mentally, he said.

When he learned about the man's death later, "I felt as if I didn't do everything — and yet I knew I did," Ed said. What matters is that he was able to give assistance when it was needed.

"I hope I never have to use CPR again, but if I do, I know now I can handle it," he said. "I think everyone who cares should take a course in it."

Editor's note: The Omaha Works offers classes in CPR after working hours. Interested persons should call the WEOMA Club office, Ext. 3617, for a schedule.



Ready, aim . . .

IF HE ORDERED you out of his way, would you argue with Jerry Hopkins of Dept. 745? You might if you knew that "cannon" he's aiming wasn't loaded. In fact, it's not a cannon at all, but a binder cop supply holder and cable guide. Jerry machined the device and was transporting it from his work area to the cable shop, where it was to be installed as part of a new core repair line in the stranding area. The additional repair line should be operational sometime after the first of the year. It will be used to make repairs on cable core we already manufacture, and has the capability of handling larger cable core in the future.



WORTHWHILE . . . Ed believes the time spent in CPR training is well worth it.

IMA KLUTZ



Song makes rough day hum along

To borrow from an advertising slogan, "Things go better with song." If you don't believe it, ask any of the 36 members of the WEOMA Club Chorus. As one member put it, "Singing together really makes you feel good if you're having a bad day at work."

Members represent all three shifts, and every week they get together during lunch or dinner breaks to practice choral singing. Dick Runnels (Dept. 731) directs the day shift singers; Gloria Grimm (Dept. 439) directs second shift singers; and Bob Ackley (Dept. 361) directs a midnight shift group.

Anyone passing by the auditorium during practice sessions in recent weeks may have heard a sampling of the chorus's repertoire for the Christmas season. Christmas is the busiest time of the year for the chorus, which schedules performances before groups both inside and outside the Works.

This year's schedule has included singing at the annual Christmas party Dec. 8, at the luncheon for retired employees Dec. 19; and in the main cafeteria Dec. 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 7 to 8 p.m. On Dec. 2, most of the chorus members participated in a tour of six nursing homes throughout the city. Even on Christmas Eve, several members plan to perform at yet another nursing home.



ONE MORE TIME . . . Chorus practice sessions are very informal, says day shift director Dick Runnels. Lunchtime harmonizers here are (from left) Frank Kennedy, Kenny Wild, Dee Nibbe, Dick Runnels, Pat Redding, Virginia Barker, Delores Karnish and Wanda Beasley. Nancy Hume is accompanist.

The opportunity to sing at the nursing homes apparently is a major reason why employees join the chorus, said day shift director Dick Runnels. "It's really satisfying to be able to brighten the day for a home's resident," he said.

"We do some really neat things in the homes that let us mingle with the people and get them to participate." That includes entering a room singing while personally greeting each resident in the audience.

On special occasions during the rest of the year, the chorus may sing at homes upon request, Dick said. And every year, the chorus club is responsible for planning and staging the Works' talent show early in the summer.

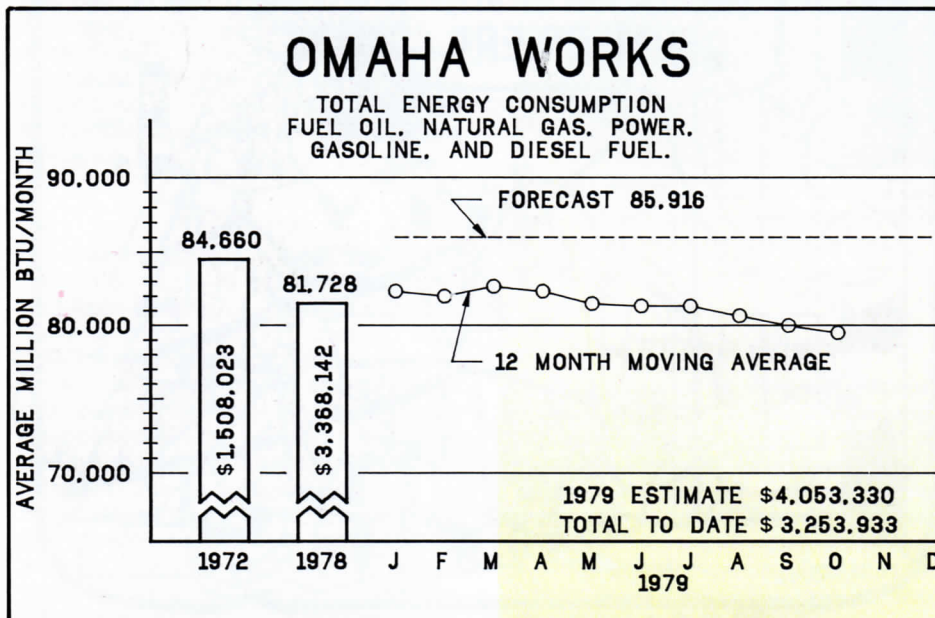
Dick encourages employees interest-

ed in joining the chorus to show up at one of the practices. It's not necessary to know how to read music, he added. Many of the members learn songs by listening to others sing their parts.

"We have lots of fun," said chorus member Nancy Hume of Dept. 274, who admits to singing at home while she vacuums — "That way no one can hear me."

Whether they are singing rock, traditional or gospel music, "It's very relaxing, and you meet people," said Wanda Beasley of Dept. 445.

"It gets you away from the routine of work," said Roland Michaelsen of Dept. 741. Referring to the lunchtime practice sessions, he said, "Some like to play cards; we like to sing."



energy . . .

less is more

HAVE YOU been wondering how much good it really does to conserve a little energy here and there? The chart shown here should give you an idea of what it means at the Omaha Works. All those months of doing such things as checking for air leaks and replacing incandescent light bulbs with fluorescent fixtures are paying off. As of the end of October 1979, the Works' total energy consumption (measured per million BTUs) was at the lowest it has been all year. Energy usage not only has decreased fairly steadily all year long, but also it is below what was forecast for the year. Note how estimated cost of energy for all of 1979 is three times what we spent in 1972, yet we are using less energy.