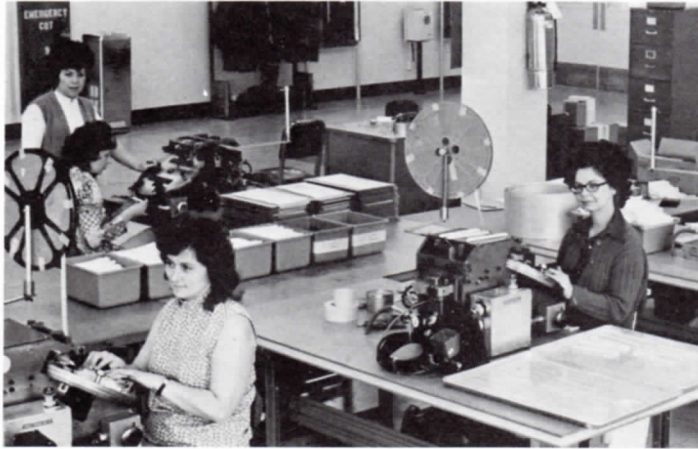


the Westerner

OMAHA WORKS FEBRUARY 7, 1975



A New Product

Production Begins On 710 Connector

Within the past several weeks, the "Room With a View" has acquired something new to look at.

For those unfamiliar with the "Room," it's located between the administration building and the Cable Plant, just south of the Cable Plant cafeteria. It was in fact once used as a cafeteria.

Now the "Room" houses Section 435-1 and the 710 connector job. The 710 connector is the first product of a growing new line coming to Omaha — loop transmission apparatus.

The 710 is used to bridge, tap or splice both PULP and PIC cable. It has the capacity to bridge or connect 25 pairs of cable per connection. It will normally be used for the splicing of large 600, 1200 or 1800 pair cables either above or below ground. In the field or in a central office, the installer can splice into an existing cable without cutting off the power to that cable.

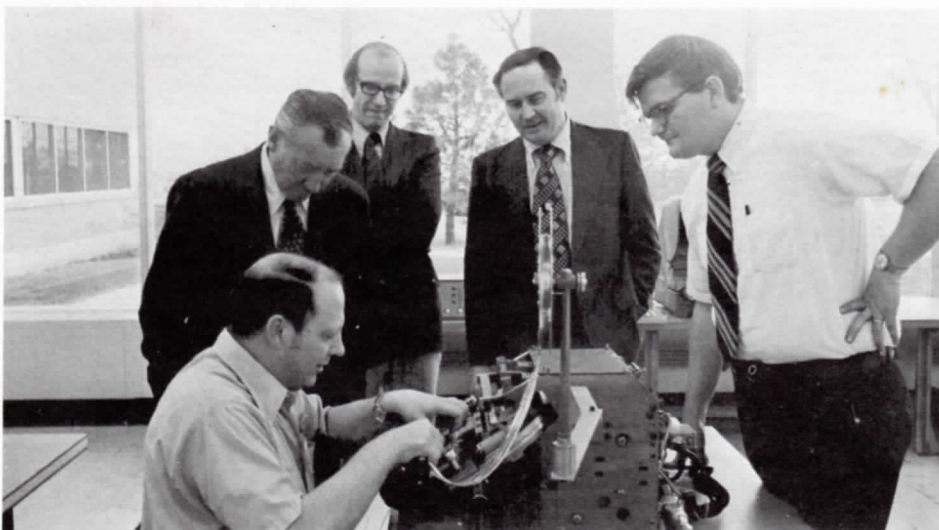
The spliced cables are encased in one of several kinds of splice boxes, also a part of loop transmission apparatus.

The molded forms for the connector are shipped to Omaha. At the Omaha Works, employees working on this job attach the module base and the terminals. Prior to this phase of production, the terminals are run

(continued on back page)



Top: Assemblers working on the connector include, in the foreground, Donna Hoffman, left, and Ruth Engler. In the background are, standing, Sharlene Kuhr, and Vi Byron. Right: A close-up of the connector itself. Below: Layout operator Ken Watkins works on a connector under the observation of General Manager Frank Lefebvre, left, Dale DeBoer, assistant manager, 430; J.C. Stewart, manager, 400; and Marsh Meiman, section chief, 435-1.



Wengel Wins In '74

Engineers Set \$6 Million As Cost Reduction Goal

Omaha Works engineers have established a target of \$6 million in engineering cost reduction savings for 1975. The goal was announced during the first 1975 cost reduction meeting, held in the Works Auditorium on January 15. At that time it was announced that the 1974 cost reduction goal of \$5 million had been surpassed by \$267,160. Each of the participating sub-branches met their goal with the 170 sub-branch, headed by Assistant Manager Lou Wengel, taking top honors. During 1974, two product engineering departments (175 and 273) achieved over \$1 million each in cost reduction savings and cable engineering sub-branch 270 achieved over \$2 million in cost reduction sav-

ings. The \$1 million mark by a department and the \$2 million mark by a sub-branch are both firsts for the Omaha Works Engineering Cost Reduction Program. The 1975 theme, 6N75 (\$6 million in 1975), will be carried throughout the year with regular updates in the *Westerner*. On January 15, Wayne Hunt, Director of Engineering and Manufacture, donned an official NASA space suit and was launched in a spacecraft toward the \$6 million goal. Ground control technicians who supervised the launch and will keep the ship on target are assistant managers Lou Wengel, 170; George Rosness, 230; Bob Denton, 270; Bob Metz, 310; and Dick Iaffaldano, 470.

For Your Information...

... the in-Plant Ak-Sar-Ben membership drive will continue through mid-February. If you're a long-time Ak-Sar-Ben member, no one has to convince you what a bargain you get for your \$15. In recent years, members have been entertained by the likes of Bob Hope, George Kirby, Wayne Newton, Carol Channing and Liberace. This year the top-notch attractions continue with Jerry Lewis, Rowan and Martin, Jim Nabors, Bobby Vinton and Peter Marshall. In addition, your membership gives you the opportunity to purchase discounted tickets to the Ak-Sar-Ben rodeo and the Holiday On Ice attractions. And for the first time this year, you'll be able to attend both the races and the coronation instead of having to elect to take tickets for only one of the events. Ak-Sar-Ben in 1975. Over \$85 worth of entertainment for you and your family. Don't miss it...

... James Lovell, astronaut on the historic Gemini and Apollo space missions, will be the keynote speaker during the in-Plant celebration of National Engineers Week, February 17-23. Captain Lovell, who was the first man to twice travel to the moon, will address members of the technical-professional work force and their guests in the Works Auditorium the evening of February 19. Also included on the in-Plant E-Week agenda are a Student Day, a product display and a week-long engineering exhibit at the Westroads Shopping Center...

... and the number to call in Omaha is 4111. That's the Newscall number you can dial in the Plant for information on everything from income tax returns to Pioneer events. Newscall is recorded daily here in the Plant. If you're not familiar with the service, pick up a phone and dial 4111. It's a good habit to get into...

... nominees for the 1974 Professional Recognition Award are Gary Baltzer, Department 474; Lowell Dankof, Department 176; Duane Desler, Department 176; George Elafros, Department 176; Paul Koehler, Department 273; Tom Leahy, Department 272; George Pappas, Department 176; Marvin Rohwer, Department 235; Don Swanson, Department 231; John Tahaney, Department 474; and Bob Urban, Department 864. The recipient of the Professional Recognition Award will be announced during the in-Plant celebration of National Engineers Week.



Left: Lou Wengel gets a congratulatory kiss from Miss Weoma XVII, Sharon Redlinger, and a rose with horse collar attached. The theme of the 1974 Cost Reduction Program was the \$5 Million Derby. Above: Dick Iaffaldano, left, and Wayne Hunt in their official 1975 cost reduction uniforms.

Service Anniversaries



Max C. Kwator
6354
35 3/1/40



Loretta E. Townsend
143
30 3/24/45



Stanley B. Ross
861
30 3/26/45



Thomas O. Larson
862
25 2/5/50

20 Years

Eugene Korlaski 244 3/14/55
Marie Clausen 432 3/30/55

Robert Williams 253 2/11/60
David Smith 241 2/15/60
Elizabeth Vanderlinden 144 2/18/60
Jean Albers 132 2/20/60
James Spudich 344 2/21/60
William Simons 252 2/22/60

Lucille Paeper 252 3/ 4/60
Roger Hedin 235 3/ 7/60
Arthur Rohe 6354 3/10/60
Flo Helme 100 3/31/60

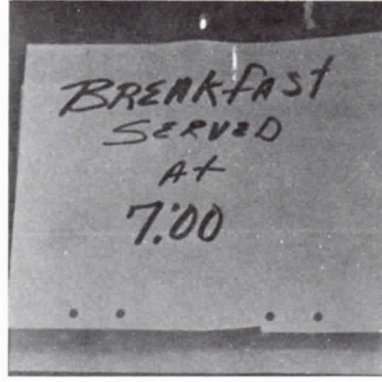
Vernon Dschaak 434 2/17/65
Mary Nordby 422 2/18/65
John Ahlborg 246 2/22/65
Joseph Dolezal 133 2/22/65
Boyd Ward 343 2/22/65
Alice Pierce 144 2/24/65
Margaret Wright 132 2/27/65
Vera Hollingsworth 433 3/ 3/65
Bernard McCarter 135 3/ 8/65
Shirley Tate 134 3/ 8/65
James Grovijohn 133 3/ 9/65
Jolene Marfisi 134 3/ 9/65
Norman Lane 241 3/11/65
Rosemarie Bott 423 3/15/65
Catherine Brown 135 3/15/65
Roger Plummer 9962 3/15/65
Patricia Shepherd 144 3/15/65
Alberta Latimer 252 3/16/65
Ruth Portalatin 862 3/16/65
Jerry Peterson 137 3/22/65
Steven Smith 241 3/22/65
Guy Davis 133 3/23/65
Judith Harris 137 3/23/65
Shirley Bruing 134 3/25/65
Susan Shaw 134 3/26/65
Olivia Ayala 422 3/27/65
Suzanne Ellis 257 3/29/65
Edgar Sohl 246 3/29/65

15 Years

Leta Briggs 141 2/ 1/60
Thomas Phillips 423 2/ 2/60
Marian Tomsu 132 2/ 2/60
Dale Thurman 143 2/ 3/60
Wallace Switzer 244 2/ 5/60
Eugene Bastian 246 2/ 8/60
Julius Sonderman 257 2/ 8/60
William Steimer 422 2/ 8/60
Joseph Vachal 253 2/ 8/60
Danny Dockweiler 252 2/ 9/60
Earl Durbin 251 2/ 9/60

10 Years

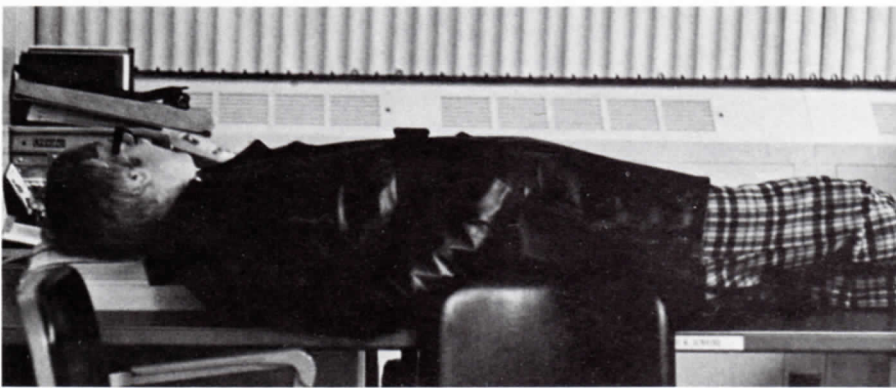
Clifford Stander 242 2/ 1/65
Jackie Campbell 144 2/ 2/65
Phyllis Sully 134 2/ 4/65
Ronald Henrichs 135 2/ 8/65
Esther Miller 312 2/ 8/65
Myrtle Haynes 432 2/11/65
Betty Brown 540 2/15/65

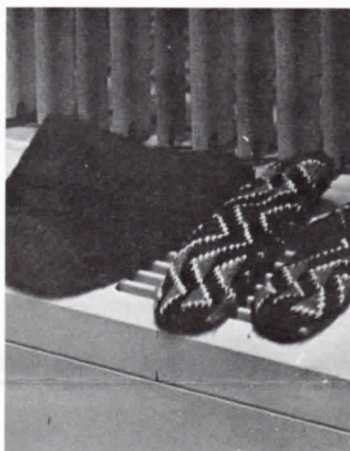
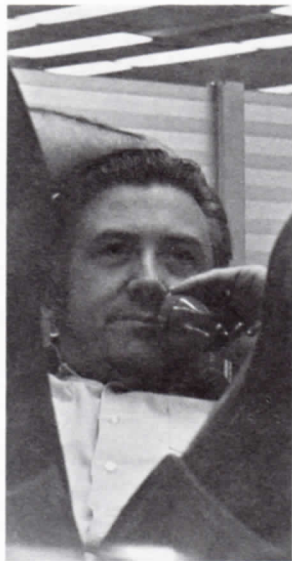


THE BLIZZARD OF '75...

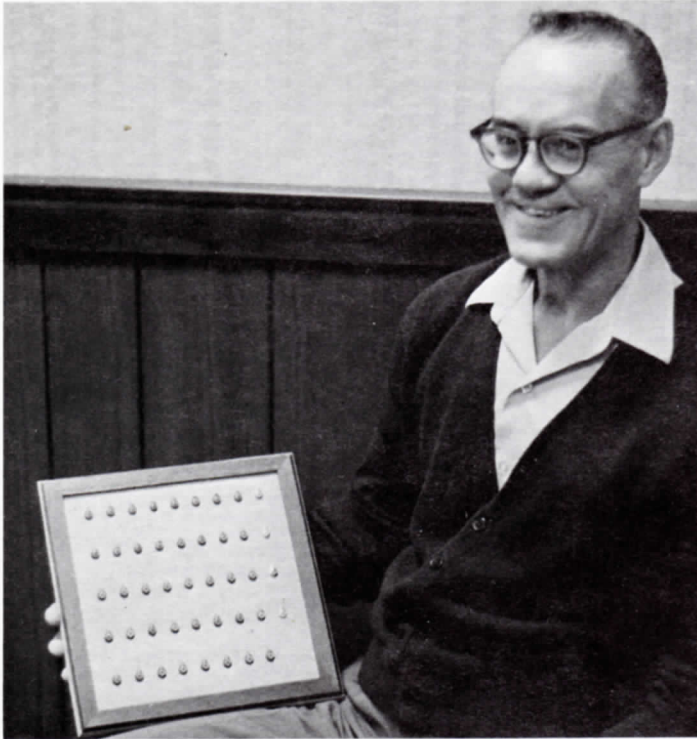
...left over a foot of snow, mountainous drifts, countless abandoned vehicles and thousands of stranded people, including nearly 3,000 snow-bound employees at the Omaha Works.

What words can't express, pictures can. Photographer Roger Howard, Department 522, roamed the Plant January 10 & 11 and the result is what you see on these two pages.





Blood Donor Days



Ken Tracy, Department 142, showed up at a Gallon Club coffee several weeks ago with an interesting plaque. A regular blood donor, Ken saved all of the one-pint blood drops he received each time he donated a pint of blood. As he reached each one-gallon level, he added the gold gallon blood drop on the plaque, following each series of eight one-pint pins. Ken has just added his five-gallon gold pin to the plaque and says he plans to start another series right away. How about you? The first 1975 Red Cross Bloodmobile visit will be February 13-14 in the Works Auditorium. As you can see from Ken's happy expression, giving blood doesn't take that much out of you. But it sure adds a lot to those good feelings you get from helping someone else.

Moves

J. F. McKinnon

from Assistant Manager, Personnel, Labor Relations and Human Resources Development and Administration, to Assistant Manager, Personnel, Labor Relations and Management Development, Switching Equipment Division Office, Chicago, Ill.

V. G. Tingwald

from Assistant Manager, Industrial Engineering, Wage Practices, to Assistant Manager, Personnel, Labor Relations and Human Resources Development and Administration

H. R. Metz

assumes the duties of Assistant Manager, Industrial Engineering, Wage Practices, in addition to his current duties as Assistant Manager, Merchandise and Service

Perfect Attendance



Doug Carlson, a fork truck operator in Department 242, completed five years of perfect attendance in December. Doug hasn't missed a day of work since 1969 and has received a dinner certificate for each year of perfect attendance. Doug's department chief, Virgil Jochimsen, left, and his section chief, Bill Foxworthy, center, presented Doug with his perfect attendance certificate. Enjoy your dinner, Doug!

Retirements



John Jacobson
423
33 Years



Mildred Hill
511
31 Years



Howard Hill
235
28 Years



Freida Gies
431
22 Years

Quality Record Set In 1974

The Omaha Works set a quality record in 1974. All products were rated normal or above normal during 1974. This record is the first in the history of the Omaha Works and is the best quality record achieved in recent years among the major locations in the Switching Division.

The Quality Assurance Organization determines quality ratings every five weeks for each product shipped from the Omaha Works.

There were no below normal ratings of Omaha products for a period of 19 standard sampling periods, each standard sampling period being five weeks.

A record-breaking performance of this kind indicates the calibre of pride in workmanship of Omaha Works employees. To achieve this enviable record, a high level manufacturing performance was required initially by all production workers. To this was added the efforts of all the support personnel along the line. Most, if not all, of the Omaha Works employees have a responsibility which can influence the quality of the cable and equipment supplied to the Bell System.

Teamwork, cooperation and dedication are the characteristics that best describe the Omaha Works quality team. And 1975 presents a new challenge. The quality record established in 1973 and 1974 gives every reason to be optimistic about the quality performance in 1975.

the Westerner

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Dick Valenta, right, and Frank Lefebvre

Valenta Collects \$4,410

The fact that it was Friday the 13th only highlighted the fact that it was Dick Valenta's lucky day. Because on Friday, December 13, Dick became the recipient of the fourth largest suggestion award ever presented at the Omaha Works.

A layout operator in Department 251, Dick received the news from General Manager Frank Lefebvre in stunned silence, finally managing to utter the words, "Am I awake?"

But to his extreme satisfaction and that of his department chief, Harlon Harvey, and his section chief, Don Mueller, Dick was experiencing the real thing and was, indeed, the recipient of \$4,410.

His proposal involved the more efficient and less costly manner of cleaning color particles out of the extruders prior to shutting the machinery down at shift end. This in turn makes for an easier, less expensive start-up.

After the excitement had subsided, Dick shared some of his thoughts on his award and his work.

With Western Electric for 22 years, he commented, "I'm just not one of those people who are here for eight hours a day. If something isn't work-

ing right then I'll take the time to try to find a solution. It's for everyone's benefit."

Dick explained that his section chief and department chief have always given him the encouragement to pursue an idea to a satisfactory conclusion.

"They have confidence in me and let me go ahead and pursue something. The keen interest they have in the job rubs off on me."

At the time Dick received his suggestion award, Harlon Harvey explained, "He's the type of individual who's not afraid to work with anyone or anything to get a job done."

As for Dick, once he had been convinced that he was on the receiving end of \$4,410, he made immediate plans for its use. The money will help send his daughter to a private girls' high school, something Dick had sorely wanted to do. Now it's something he can do because he took the time to pursue his job past the ordinary.

"You know, it's just like it says on the back of the suggestion form," he smiled. "The simplest ideas pay the best."

Merrill Wins \$2,185 Award

Steve Merrill is in the news again, collecting another sizable suggestion award.

A stock maintenance clerk in Department 254, Steve was the recipient approximately one year ago of a \$1,790 award. Just recently, Steve cashed in on another idea, collecting \$2,185.

His most recent proposal concerned the routing of steel reels from

Steve Merrill



the Omaha Works to U.S. Steel in Waukegan, Ill. Steve suggested that the empty reels be shipped to U.S. Steel from the Hawthorne Works, much closer to Waukegan. The result is a sizable decrease in shipping charges.



613 BAKE-OFF: Al White and several other men employed in the 613 Building had a baking contest over the holidays. Al was voted the winner and was presented with an appropriate gift. Betty Evans, who made the apron, had the honor of tying it on the winner.



OFFICERS FOR '75: The Weoma Club officers for the year 1975 are, seated from left, Mary Ann Conner, Department 864, president; Phil Warren, Department 9962, first vice president; Charlene VanHooser, Department 132, second vice president; and Lee Tweedy, Department 412, treasurer. Standing from left are Jim Gruidel, Department 241; Carolyn Hodges, Department 251; and Frank Markesi, Department 864, all directors for a three-year term; Virginia Holmquist, secretary; and Dick Reida, executive vice president. Virginia and Dick, both from Department 522, hold their positions on a non-elected, permanent basis.



PROUD FATHER: Bill Thompson, section chief, 137-2, is justifiably proud over the fact that his daughter, Jan, has been nominated by the University of Nebraska College of Nursing for inclusion in the 1974 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. The Who's Who Award gives national recognition to student leaders for their contributions and service to both community and school. Jan has a 3.85 average on a 4.0 scale and will graduate this spring with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

710 Connector

(continued from front page)

on a continuous strip through a punch press where they are separated and placed on an adhesive strip. On the production line, the terminals are slid off the tape, into the module. The form is hot stamped and then, if needed, goes to the filling process for waterproofing (for PIC cable connectors). These connectors are then sealed in small plastic bags, one set per bag. All of the connectors are then packaged in boxes for the installer.

The production forecast for 1975 is slightly over two million connectors. It's anticipated that the Omaha Works will become the sole source for these connectors by the fourth quarter of 1975. The forecasted program for 1976 is four million connectors. It is expected that approximately 70 people will be employed on this job by the end of September.

Omaha's first 710 connector was manufactured on December 11. A plaque commemorating the event was presented to Works General Manager Frank Lefebvre.