

the Westerner

Omaha Works

January/February, 1980



Photo by Larry Larson

Engineering isn't what it used to be.

for your information

The new officers and directors of the WEOMA Club were installed Jan. 18. Replacing Dick Reida as executive vice-president is Bill Hairston. The officers are Jim Sharp, president; Roger Neumann, vice-president; Dan Allen, treasurer; and Sieg Ortlieb, assistant treasurer. Larry Anderson, Bobbie Wilson and Hank Wnuk are new directors.

Those continuing to serve their terms as directors are Bob Ackley, Dave Burrell, Tom Korpela, Joye Scott, Helen Kirk, Darlene Wilhelm and Helen Solomon . . .

. . . From the Salvation Army comes a note of appreciation for employees' participation in its annual Christmas Toy Shop effort. Toys contributed by Works employees added to the nearly 15,000 toys that were distributed to 2,600 needy youngsters at Christmas . . .

. . . On Dec. 4, 1979, salaried-graded employees voted 150 to 148 in favor of representation by IBEW Local 1614. Temporary officers for the new local have been elected: Lee Allen, president; Tom Welchert, vice-president; and Dean Trudeau, recording secretary. The new union is in the process of establishing its organizational structure . . .

. . . The following are the November (first figures listed) and December (second figures listed) unit values for both the Bell System Savings Plan (BSSP) and the Savings and Security Plan for Non-Salaried Employees (SSP):

<u>BSSP</u>		
	<u>Units Value</u>	<u>Units Credited Per Dollar</u>
AT&T Shares	(Nov.) 2.0203	.4949
	(Dec.) 1.9668	.5084
Gov't Obligations	2.0165	.4959
	2.0370	.4909
Equity Portfolio	1.4574	.6861
	1.4854	.6732

<u>SSP</u>		
	<u>Units Value</u>	<u>Units Credited Per Dollar</u>
AT&T Shares	(Nov.) .9436	1.0597
	(Dec.) .9187	1.0884
Guaranteed Interest Fund	1.0715	.9332
	1.0798	.9260



Theirs is a clean sweep

EVERYBODY HAS A HAND in keeping Dept. 287 clean, which explains why the department earned the Omaha Works Golden Broom Housekeeping Award for the third time in less than a year. The award is presented weekly in recognition of best housekeeping practices, based on the findings of a housekeeping inspection committee. Dept. 287 — cotton insulating, laquering, winding and horizontal twisting — has been doing such a good job that the housekeeping award was presented personally to the department by general manager Chuck Meetsma. Three of the people in the department who help keep things in order are Mack Thorton (from left), a machine setter; Wally Leander, horizontal twist operator; and Larry Ainsworth, section chief. Not pictured is department chief Harlon Harvey.

Would you elect this man president?

Maybe you have, but not Charley Johnson of Dept. 733 — his look-alike.

Like his double, Charley is a native Omahan, but he swears he's never hit anyone in the head with a golf ball.

For the identity of his twin, watch for a future issue of *The Westerner*. Charley and other employees who bear resem-

blances to famous personalities will be featured.

If you think you look like someone famous, or if you know of a co-worker who does, *The Westerner* invites you to help out. Send names of employees and their look-alikes to Linda Ryan, Dept. 525, or call Ext. 3553.



IS IT CHARLEY? . . . Or is it you know who?

the Westerner

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Linda Ryan
Editor

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Western Electric

service anniversaries

January/february

20 years

F. E. Anderson
P. T. Anderson
J. L. Bacon
V. Z. Binko
S. Christiansen
N. Douglass
E. Griff
R. E. Hineline

D. J. Iwanski
T. D. Marcynski
A. B. McDonald
F. J. Nagel Jr.
G. H. Ray
L. W. Sandman
A. H. Vacek
J. L. Watkins

E. D. Bastian
F. S. Boisvert
L. O. Briggs
D. L. Dockweiler
E. M. Durbin
T. T. Phillips
J. V. Sonderman
J. J. Spudich

W. R. Stimer
W. D. Switzer
D. E. Thurman
M. G. Tomsu
J. A. Vachal
E. C. Vanderlinden
R. K. Williams



Ruth Ann Foster
35 years
1/20/45



Harold Gross
35 years
1/2/45



Tom Larsen
30 years
2/5/50

15 years

L. F. Canal
S. R. Chaffin
J. E. Cruse
C. L. Denker
L. B. Jones
W. J. Lenczowski
R. E. Nelson

W. D. Plugge
M. A. Purcell
B. D. Rochell
G. N. Rohe
M. F. Smith
R. C. Toelke
A. L. Wilson

J. C. Ahlborg
B. A. Brown
J. L. Campbell
J. E. Dolezal
V. M. Dschaak
M. W. Haynes
R. L. Henrichs

E. B. Miller
M. G. Nordby
A. P. Pierce
C. E. Stander
P. F. Sully
M. S. Wright



Gerry Alfons
30 years
1/17/50



Donald Barnes
25 years
1/10/55

10 years

J. L. Akins
L. M. Allen
L. Arterberry Jr.
A. T. Baska
N. J. Becker
L. M. Bowen
M. T. Daugherty
M. J. Fernen
F. H. Fischer
D. S. Folkerts
C. P. Garrean
E. P. Gills
J. C. Hedrick
D. G. Janda

R. J. Janssen
W. E. Jones
A. M. Kaufman
D. C. Kinsella
D. D. Koenig
S. T. Lindblad
C. E. Minor Jr.
J. L. Moeller
D. S. Nowak
E. P. Reiss
J. J. Roberts
P. S. Rolf
N. C. Rust
F. S. Sledge

J. F. Smith
R. E. Thompson
W. J. Timblin
R. L. Townsend
R. J. Wall Jr.
K. K. West
M. M. West
L. W. Woolridge
M. Alvarado
D. Bagley
L. J. Bailey
T. E. Bernemann
D. O. Borstad
H. W. Brown

B. K. Bruno
W. D. Chilcoat
E. W. Coker
T. A. Demont
J. J. Dessel
C. H. Drake
E. D. Eichner
J. S. Gardner
F. M. Gehrig
L. F. Hendrix
F. F. Heuppelsheuser
K. L. Jeanneret
R. G. Jones
M. B. Kamprath

G. L. Kieve
A. L. Knight
J. M. Krogmann
N. R. Madsen
M. L. Mainelli
L. M. Maw
M. V. Monnier
W. G. Mumm
L. J. Nelsen
R. L. Neumann
J. B. Nosek
P. J. Olds
G. J. Pendley
M. S. Pinkston

P. M. Ross
Q. M. Schiffer
P. O. Smith
B. H. Stastny
D. E. Stewart
D. P. Stewart
M. Stubblefield
P. G. Sundberg
H. R. Swink
D. E. Thompson
J. S. Tomes
H. M. Toney
R. L. Wentworth
A. K. Wilcox

retirements



Linus Dillon
35 years



Mary Dougherty
24 years



Helen Sporven
21 years



Evelyn Leaver
20 years



Carl Raygor
20 years



Mabel Nord
20 years



Grace Hike
20 years



Glen Knee
20 years

Not pictured:

Dorothy Arnold
28 years

Henry Sabata
21 years

George Casey
22 years

Clarence Peterson
20 years

promotions



Barb Vance
From accounting assistant, Dept. 333, to section chief, Dept. 725-9, SCRAM, STRAM, SAM and PRAM (cord finish and repair section).

Minding the city as if it were our business

Is this any way to run a city?
Is this any way to run a business?

Three Works employees have been looking for answers to those questions over the past few months. Since September, Tom Vierk, Gary Reimers and Ken Stahlecker have helped do the legwork for a specially formed task force designed to investigate how the city of Omaha is being managed.

The investigation was not meant to be an audit of city finances, said Tom, a Works accounting department chief. "We were more interested in how the city staffed a job and how work was being performed," he said.

The Works trio and other business representatives helping the task force approached the study from the viewpoint, "If I were running the city as a business, how would I solve problems?" Tom said. Among other firms who sent

representatives to assist in the study were Northwestern Bell, Union Pacific, Mutual of Omaha and Northern Natural Gas.

THE STUDY was undertaken in response to a resolution introduced last spring to the Nebraska Legislature by State Sen. Orval Keyes of Springfield. He asked for an investigation into Omaha's need for a half percent city sales tax, which generates about \$10 million annually.

A legislative committee headed by Ernie Chambers asked the Omaha Chamber of Commerce to find representatives from the business sector to conduct the study and make recommendations. Their findings and comments were to have been compiled and presented to the legislature by Jan. 30.

Fifty business representatives tackled the project, purposely keeping a low

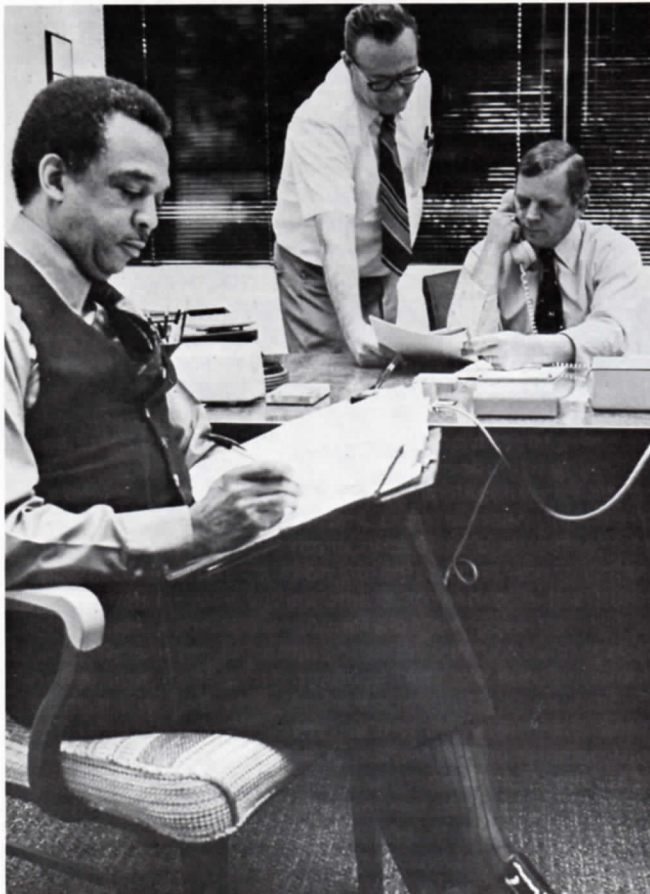
profile and avoiding publicity, said Ken, a member of the Works information systems department. (In fact, they were so protective of their findings that the Works trio refused to give *The Westerner* a "sneak preview" of their report because this paper's writing deadline was earlier than the Jan. 30 presentation to the legislature.)

The city's employees, however, were alerted in advance that a study would be conducted and that they may be questioned by the representatives. "I thought it important to make myself as visible as possible to the employees and to encourage communication," Tom said.

All levels of city workers were interviewed, including Mayor Al Veys. "The employees were very open and many of the recommendations came from them," Ken noted.

Six areas of the city were investigated: Personnel, public safety, planning and housing, human relations, parks and recreation, and public libraries. Tom and Gary focused on the Public Works Division, while Ken reported on the city's Finance Department, Data Processing Division.

The three admitted that they knew little more about the city of Omaha than what they had read in news stories. They attended a day-long session on interviewing techniques at the project's start, but otherwise learned about the city's



COUNCIL REPS . . . As members of the Omaha Regional Minority Purchasing Council, Bill Hairston (from left), Lynn Landgren and Bob Tatten seek the goods and services of minority companies that may fill the Omaha Works' needs.

A fair shake

Five years after the Omaha Works was instrumental in its formation, a civic group dedicated to giving minority businesses a fair shake has more than quadrupled in size and certainly in value to the community.

The Omaha Regional Minority Purchasing Council was formed in 1975 with 12 members. Today, membership stands at 62 and it's still growing.

Membership is made up of majority firms who together seek to provide minority business concerns an equal opportunity to compete for a larger share of the goods and services bought by majority companies.

The Omaha council, a local branch of a nationwide council, was formed largely through the efforts of a former assistant buyer at the Works, Rich Roberts, and Works material control and engineering manager, Hank Davidson. They worked through the Omaha Chamber of Commerce to interest other majority businesses in such a group and to acquire financial assistance to organize.

Today, Bob Tatten, Lynn Landgren and Bill Hairston continue to represent the Works as council members. Bob is



MEN OF FEW WORDS?

... After Ken Stahlecker (left), Tom Vierk and Gary Reimers completed their interviews of city employees, they were faced with condensing a voluminous amount of into a suitable report for the legislature.

workings on their own.

AN INDUSTRIAL engineer, Gary found the project to be an eye-opening experience. "I didn't realize all that was

involved in running a city," he said. "It takes a lot of people and a lot of capital bucks."

Tom, Ken and Gary spent every work-

day on the project, often working late into the night.

"I myself probably interviewed 60 or 70 people mostly within the first month and a half," Gary said. "You learn how to take notes fast."

After conducting their individual interviews, they would meet with their respective teams to compare notes on the areas they were studying. They collected reams of data — so much that the first draft of overall recommendations amounted to 506 typed pages of copy. The final report to the legislature was 200 pages long.

The impact their recommendations will have depends on "how much people want to pay for the services they get," Tom said. He thinks certain improvements will be made, because the city realizes responsible management stands a better chance of winning the legislature's favor regarding a city sales tax.

With pressure exerted nationwide for tax reform and better use of tax money, the city itself welcomes an investigation of this sort, Tom added. Besides, it's not as if outsiders did the study: "These were people with a vested interest in the city."

Whatever impact the report has, at least Tom can be sure he himself left a mark on the city. In the course of his investigation, he was invited by a Public Works foreman to spend a day with him and his striping crew as they marked lanes on the city's streets.

Maybe you've noticed those crooked lane stripes in South Omaha? Guess who.

for minority suppliers

Works resident purchasing manager, Lynn is an assistant buyer, and Bill is a supervisor in public relations.

Bill, who also serves on the council's executive committee, thinks there is a real need for the council in the community and that the Works is very supportive. During 1979 the Works paid \$100,000 total for goods and services rendered by 44 different minority suppliers.

"We're seeing a lot of progress in carrying out the council's goals," Bill said.

Those goals include: The voluntary participation by members made up of majority business concerns; the promotion of the policies and practices of the members to enhance the purchase of goods and services through minority business concerns; the identification of qualified minority suppliers; and provisions for minority suppliers' increased access to the majority market through various minority purchasing programs.

One way access to the majority market is increased is through annual Opportunity Fairs. At the fair held last May, 56 majority firms set up booths to disseminate information to minority company

representatives who attended. The idea of the fair is to communicate between the two groups the needs of majority firms and what the minority businesses have to offer, Bill said.

In addition, the council sponsors classes for corporate buyers and sales training classes for minority business people; publishes a new buyer's directory yearly; and assists minority firms in whatever other ways possible to compete in the majority marketplace.

Two-way communication between majority and minority companies is essential to the success of the council, said Lynn Landgren. "We're finding out that minority suppliers can do a good quality job," he said. Understanding problems minority companies face — procuring base money or not being an established firm, for example — also has improved, he said.

The council's activity has been "good for the community and good for the company," Bob Tatten said. "What we're doing is striving to find new, reliable minority suppliers who can help us do our job better."

Works safety record the best since 1975

Some people have all the luck — or a good share of it anyway.

In July of last year, Marv Abramson of Dept. 287 won the largest amount of money the Omaha Works has awarded in its Safety Pays game — \$230. In November, he was the first employee to win one of the grand prize color televisions awarded as part of the Works' 1979 "Take a minute for safety" campaign.

On Jan. 2, Dan Kirsch of Dept. 745 won a monthly prize presented during the campaign. Two days later, his supervisor told him he also had won another of the grand prize TVs.

"I didn't believe it," Dan said. "I thought it was just a joke."

It wasn't. Neither was it a joke that in 1979 the Omaha Works had the best safety record it's had since records-keeping procedures were tightened in 1975.

The Works had 22 serious disabling injuries last year, compared to 41 such injuries in 1978. That amounted to 403 lost workdays in 1979 — 869 in 1978. On

two occasions, the Works achieved a million man hours without a lost-time injury on the job. Even serious non-disabling injuries were down 16 percent.

The statistics reflect an improvement in safety awareness among all employees, said Russ Queen, a safety adviser in Dept. 524. That awareness was bolstered through special prizes and promotions that were part of the safety campaign, he added.

If employees were members of a department that had a clean safety record since Aug. 15, 1979, they were eligible to win one of the five grand prize televisions presented at year's end. The number of TVs awarded was dependent on how much better the 1979 record was over the previous year. TV winners besides Marv and Dan were Virginia Rich, Dept. 441; Dick Rall, Dept. 287; and Jean Hermes, Dept. 444.

Monthly prizes also were awarded during the campaign, from digital clocks to minute steaks. Refrigerator magnets and T-shirts proclaimed the campaign theme, and specials on Safety Store goods — from shoes to fire extinguishers — were featured. The Safety Pays game continued in 1979 with more than 100 employees winning almost \$6,000 total.



AT THE CONTROLS . . . Works director Charlie Higginson will have to settle for the TV program winner Virginia Rich wants: She holds the remote control.

There was some concern as holidays approached and the year came to an end that carelessness would mar a good record. That wasn't the case.

"The safety organization is really enthusiastic over the reaction of the employees and their involvement in the safety campaign," Russ said. "We hope this attitude will carry over into 1980."

Holiday/vacation schedule 1980

Jan. 1 — New Year's Day
 April 4 — Good Friday
 May 26 — Memorial Day
 July 4 — Independence Day
 Sept. 1 — Labor Day
 Nov. 27, 28 — Thanksgiving
 Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve holiday
 Dec. 25 — Christmas Day
 Dec. 26 — Floating holiday
 Dec. 29 — Excused workday or management personal day
 Jan. 1, 1981 — New Year's Day
 Jan. 2, 1981 — 1981 excused workday or management personal day

The company recommends that two days of vacation be retained and scheduled on Dec. 30 and 31, 1980. Otherwise, a person may observe these two days as excused workdays or management personal days, or they may take the days off (not paid and not charged under the Attendance Control Plan). The balance of a person's vacation eligibility shall be scheduled with the approval of one's supervisor and consistent with the needs of the business.



Marv Abramson



Dick Rall



Jean Hermes



Dan Kirsch

suggestion box

If one is good, three is that much better.

That may be the thinking of **Albert Anthone** of Dept. 746. He's earned awards for three ideas he submitted in the employee suggestion awards program.

For his suggestion that teflon oil seals be used on the color coders in the vinyl insulate area, he earned \$470. For two other ideas, he received \$240 and \$185. That adds up to \$895

in suggestion awards for ideas that will save the Omaha Works \$5,300 over the next year.

Other recipients of suggestion awards include:

Richard Mass, Dept. 746, \$260.
Jerry Gau, Dept. 741, \$180.
Lyle Nicholson, Dept. 201, \$140.
William Napier, Dept. 746, \$140.
Don Kohls, Dept. 435, \$135.
Edward Chereck, Dept. 361, \$100.

Engineers' Week slated

Direction changes; need persists

If the father of engineering, George Washington, took an engineering job at the Omaha Works today, before he could powder his wig he'd be off to the Corporate Education Center in New Jersey for an introductory course on minicomputers.

Engineering today is a far cry from the time when Washington surveyed a newborn country's roads and bridges. Knowledge of computer technology, for example, is almost a prerequisite for the modern engineer.

Although training for their jobs may have changed, the need for engineers has not. Engineers are here to stay, which explains why the theme for this year's national Engineers' Week (Feb. 17 through 23) is "Engineers: Our renewable resource."

As part of the Works observance of

energy...

less is more



THEY COST MORE, but the high-efficiency electric motors that have been installed in the Works powder finishing system are expected to pay for themselves in less than three years. Ralph Binkley, a senior engineer in Dept.

75, checks the guard on one of three major high-efficiency motors used to circulate hot air in the curing oven of the powder finishing system. The system is an improved method of painting FDI cabinets. High-efficiency motors can save money in the home, too. Furnace motors are on the market featuring two speeds: Lower horsepower for winter heating and higher horsepower for air conditioning.

Engineers' Week, scouts from Explorer Post 533 each will spend a day with an engineer on Feb. 19, for an inside look at engineering as a career. Throughout the week, engineers will have the opportunity to hear guest speakers, including Dr. William Scheller, director of the National Gasohol Commission, and Richard Underwood of NASA who will talk about the value of space photography.

The energy crisis alone has opened up a whole new area of need for engineers who will find suitable alternatives to dwindling fuel supplies. Computer technology also has widened the engineer's role. Today, Western Electric builds switching systems with software characteristics (computerization capabilities). Engineers and technical professionals are needed to program that software.

Continued education is a predominant fact of life, according to members of the Engineers' Week planning committee. It used to be a just-graduated engineer could function on the job for about three years without further training before his knowledge would become obsolete. Now that time frame has been shortened to about 18 months. To help stay current in their fields, engineers are encouraged

to take specialized courses offered at Western Electric's training center, the Corporate Education Center.

Closely related to the challenge to constantly improve engineering skills is applying that knowledge to produce a better product at less cost. In a talk to engineers and technical professionals last month, Works director Charlie Higginson said that inflation and competition have made cost reduction efforts more important than ever. "We have been challenged to provide our customers with the leading edge in technology through our engineering expertise," he said. "We must, of course, do that at prices attractive to them while earning a reasonable profit."

In 1979, Works engineers cut costs by \$12.4 million, exceeding a \$9.2 million goal. Engineering Organization 470, responsible for loop transmission products, collected 56 percent or \$7 million of the total cost reduction realized. With more than \$2 million saved, Organization 730 achieved 132 percent of its individual cost reduction goal. In addition, seven Works engineering departments each cut costs in 1979 by at least \$1 million.

FEED ME . . . Fred Wheeler (also on cover) of Dept. 472 programs an injection molding press used to make 710 connectors. The press is equipped with a microprocessor, a kind of small computer that monitors all variables and makes adjustments automatically. Eventually the Works will have 35 so-equipped presses which should result in a \$500,000 cost reduction over the next two years.



Cupid's classified



PAB:
Who could get along without you? — PTS

DEAR FTC:
Your decree has turned my love for you sour. — DKP

DEAR B:
I'll always remember our first Valentine's Day: Champagne by candlelight and those crazy heart-patterned shorts. Let's do it again — D

JUNIOR:
I love you even though the gift you bought me really was for yourself. — C

DEAR G:
Your inability to make a choice has me totally frustrated. — D

DEAR M:
I'm still waiting — S

HONEY:
I hope the Valentine gift is for me this year and not the house. — RENE

A:
You light up my life even though you do wet your pants once in a while. — G

DE:
Happiness is a pair of Hushpuppies and a smile — A HUSHPUDDY FAN

TO OUR MAN MEETSMA:
Head of the plant
From all of us,
Your working ants. — PM

B:
This was free. Now you don't have to worry about how much money I'd spend on a Valentine's card. — K

RJS:
Thanks for the best 16 years of my life. — JGS

JC:
Thanks for making it a beautiful day. — HD

DEAR WE:
Roses are red,
Violets are blue.
I love working for WE
When the paycheck comes through. — PI

TO JIMMY CARTER:
Whose smile is so nice,
I bet Ronald Reagan
Could give you some advice. — PM

TO DLA:
We think that we shall never see
A man more talented than thee,
Tasks so complex, solved with ease
For minds as talented as these.
Hours we spent, minds running free
To find something not done by thee.
At last, a glimmer — just a maybe,
We bet you've never had a baby. — THE DAY SHIFTERS, 362

CS:
You radiate our lives. — THE VAULT GUYS

PEPSI:
You cause a genuine REACTION. — SOS

TO MY WIFE:
A Valentine message: Cherished love is ours now, as always, to nurture each and every day of the future. — MOSES

DEAREST RL:
You are a thing of beauty; a joy forever. As always. — SS

RNB:
Valentine, let's go South together! — CB

TO ERV:
The man who helped dock the Mayflower. — VINCE FERRAGAMO

TEB:
About those letters: Too bad you don't own stock in the "White-out Corporation." I'd make you rich! — R

TO OUR TYPIST:
Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
Without our cute typist,
What would we do? — Dept. 731

AM:
You're the world's greatest skier. — UNITED WE STAND

DEAR RM:
Your stripping techniques have put new life into our home. — FM

DBM:
I hope you never go blind. — CHINAMAN

EVB:
I'm still having a good time since I called Walnut 5988. — JC

RB:
Thanks for being a professional and a friend. — YOUR RODEWAY PARTNER

TAH:
Our hearts need your CPR. — MSC, MLP AND LPL

DEAR RFW AND LFH:
Valentine: My pulse throbs for you. — ANNIE

LB:
So what if you don't own four packing plants? I'd rather meet you at Miss Kitty's Saloon than a millionaire any day. Besides . . . he's too short for me. Love you. — RB

G:
After 26 years together, I know we'll make 27! — S

DEAR LADY VALENTINE:
Hope your heart doesn't get stuck under your hood. — CW and NP

DMW:
I love the way you keep our home. There's no place else to be but there with you. — PURE WOOD

BH:
Our love is the only one. — D

TO MY LITTLE SISTER:
The miles separate us, but we're closer than ever. You're still something special. — ECW

JDB:
On Valentine's night 27 years ago, I'm glad you stopped playing pinocle and started playing with me. — VAB

MARILYN:
Bet you never expected to see a Valentine message from me! — PUFF

HGK:
To my Valentine with all my love. — LK

K:
You're my special delivery Valentine. — P

SD:
Thanks for all the Friday nights for the last year. They were well worth it . . . plus Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. — EDB

KH:
See you at the Granada! — LUV

REB:
The way to a man's heart is through his stomach, and dear, nobody cooks grits like you. — DEB

DARNY:
Grandma loves ya. — GM

TO THE DEADBEATS:
Let's try harder this year. — FC

DEAR DR. BIG RED:
I'm glad I met you and I want to see you more often. Love. — DR. BUFF

TO YOU:
If it feels good, do it! Give her a kiss. Happy Valentine's Day — FROM ME

TO MY HOT-BLOODED LOVER:
Words can't express how special you are. I'll love you always. — PATRINKA

DEAR SHEEP BEETLE:
Happiness is a wet diaper to a grandma. — GMA T

J:
Happy Valentine's Day to a husband who's also fantastic. — G

TO MY FAVORITE BIG BOY AND MY FAVORITE LITTLE GUY:
Happy Valentine's Day! — FROM YOUR REGULAR GRAM

TM:
Love is a many-splendored thing. — MAX

TO MR. CLASS:
We make good music together and we're rarely out of key. — MRS. CLASS

EG:
Let's run away. — GINGER

DEAR GABBY:
You're the greatest kisser around. (Why didn't you get those new teeth sooner?) — POOCH

TO GERANIUM JOHN:
We wish you a heart and a half and geraniums in all of your 1230 pots. — DEPT. 412

HED:
If I can be your storeroom, you can keep your heart in the right place. — DEPT. 411

TO MY FAMILY:
I'm grateful for your patience, understanding and love. My everlasting love. — J

DEAR GEL:
If you've missed my birthday, Valentine's Day is next. — RL

TO ALL OF YOU WITH A HEART:
Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
Donating your blood
Is a neat thing to do. (See you in the auditorium Feb. 14 and 15.) — BW