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Omaha Works

July 14, 1972

Being a Big Brother is a tough part to play.
See story page six.

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to guard your car register it, today

To guard your car, register it. Beginning July 1, a new voluntary system of car registration was started at the Omaha Works.

Under the new system all cars parking in the Staff, and East and West Office lots and the reserved areas of the Cable, Crossbar and Building 613 lots are displaying parking stickers on their bumpers. Although employees parking their cars in other unreserved areas are not required to display a sticker, they may register their cars, also.

The voluntary registration will not involve the use of parking stickers but will offer protection in the event lights are left on, or in case of flat tires, fire or theft.

vacation time again

wanderlust draws Works' employees

It's that time of year again — vacation time. And again this year, as is usually the case, wanderlust is drawing Omaha Works' people to every corner of America. Some employees will travel abroad, while others will remain at home. *The Westerner* asked six employees how they were spending their vacations. Here's what they said:



Evelyn Dawson, Frame Wireman in Department 431, will spend her vacation sightseeing and visiting in Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

The call of the west will lure Jim Loukota, Cable Former, Department 434, on a sightseeing trip to San Francisco during standard vacation.



Pat Sorensen, a Department 142 Assembler, will be heading east to visit relatives in Virginia.

Miyeko Kostszewa, Connector Cable Assembler in Department 257, plans a sightseeing trip to Denver and the beautiful mountains of Colorado.



Lloyd Gray, a Twister in Department 251, will combine sightseeing and visiting on a trip through Missouri and Wisconsin.

Sightseeing and visiting will carry Charlie Struble, Inspector in Department 263, to Montana and into Canada.





Being a boy without a father is a tough part to play. You get lonely, scared, tired and discouraged. Sometimes you give up. Other times you just can't go on. You need someone to help, to listen, to care.

Kenny is 10 years old. He has no father. His mother is sick. Three older brothers who could be his "father" and friends are neither. Kenny is alone.

There is no magic formula to correct this situation, but there is something to help. His name is Del, Del Dargantes. He works in Department 433, but that's not as important to Kenny as is the fact that Del and Kenny are "brothers." About six months ago, Del found himself involved in the Big Brother Program. In May, Kenny became his Little Brother, and since that time, he has dedicated himself to being a positive influence in Kenny's life. Developing a meaningful relationship that can feed goodness, kindness and understanding into a life that is lacking them takes a long time. Del thinks about one year.

Building that relationship means spending many long hours with each other. Del and Kenny go on fishing and camping trips; sometimes alone, other times with Del's family. He is remodeling his house, and Kenny, age 10, makes a good carpenter's helper.

Being a Big Brother, though, is a tough part to play, too. Ask Del. It makes you be a friend when you don't particularly feel like it. It means being the kind of man your Little Brother can pattern his life after. It means taking time, when there is no time.

Del's task is made easier, because he has worked with boys before. Originally from the Philippines, he led a Cub Scout Pack there, until he came to the United States five years ago.

The unique thing about Del, one of the Omaha Works' community builders, is that he has only been an American citizen since March 8, 1972.

Big Brothers is a United Community Service affiliated agency supported in part by your United Appeal contributions. For more information on the Big Brother program, call 344-4241.

"His name is Del; Del Dargantes.

... Del and Kenny are brothers."

— by Dick Bachman —

The ermine powder of the Vail ski slopes reflected the brilliance of the warm November sun. Exhilarated skiers flashing down the mountain could not have known what was to come.

Don Chabon, Omaha Works Industrial Relations Associate, was one of those buffs on the mountain that day. He and four friends were gliding up on the chair lift when the storm hit.

Experienced skiers and mountaineers are familiar with the split-second weather changes that characterize the Rocky Mountains. But on November 27, they were all caught. High winds, plummeting temperatures and blizzard snowfall immediately sealed off the resort. The resort management closed the lifts and sent urgent word for all skiers to get off the slopes.

Vail was experiencing what is known as a total "white out." Snow-filled air and snow-covered ground cause persons stranded in it to lose orientation and become dizzy.

Chabon, a member of the National Ski Patrol, and his friends decided to take the fastest, shortest route down to the lodge. Even for these expert skiers, the descent was tortuous and slow.

As Don recalls, "I was concentrating on one thing, getting down in a hurry, when I saw these dark spots floundering around on the perimeter of the slope." The spots turned out to be people — in very serious trouble. Mr. and Mrs. John Jenks of Evergreen, Colorado were suffering from hypothermia when Don reached them. Hypothermia is a condition immediately prior to freezing to death. Body temperature drops severely and the body can no longer generate its own heat.

Chabon recognized this condition from his prior training as an Army Reserve Medic and holder of an Advanced First Aid Card. Mr. and Mrs. Jenks were racked by shivers and nearly incoherent. As Don and his friends tried to assist the couple down, it became apparent the Jenks would never make it under their own power. They started and fell, over and over.

Don recounts, "The first thing I did was send one of our better skiers down the mountain for help. Then I opened my jacket and used my body heat to try to thaw out Mr. Jenks. One of our group did the same for Mrs. Jenks."

As the weather turned more vicious, the exposure also began to affect the would-be helpers.

"We were loosening boots on the Jenks, when one of the girls told me her face was becoming frostbitten. I sent her down to shelter right then.

While all this was happening, another lost girl skied up, nearly overcome by the storm. We helped her."

In the meantime, the messenger for help had located a member on the Vail Ski Patrol. The two phoned patrol headquarters and reported the crisis on the mountain. The raging, bitter storm prevented a snowmobile from reaching the party for over half an hour.

Mrs. Jenks was evacuated first. Then Mr. Jenks and the girl were taken to safety.

Numbed and weak, Don and his friends started down the mountain. On the way, they stopped repeatedly to give direction and assistance to other skiers caught on the mountain.

The Vail Ski Patrol took the Jenks and the girl to a lift lodge where they warmed up and waited for the freezing winds to subside. No additional first aid was required.

When they finally limped in from the cold, Don and his party were credited with saving three lives and guiding over 35 other skiers to safety.

Documented statements of all the people involved repeatedly cite the persistent leadership, calm and quick reactions, and the complete disregard for personal safety of Don Chabon.

For his courageous actions, Don has received a Presidential Citation from the White House, as well as a Vail Certificate of Merit, recently presented by Frank J. Lefebvre, General Manager of the Omaha Works, who by odd circumstance was skiing the Vail slopes at the same time.

What kind of people work for Western Electric? Ask Mr. and Mrs. John Jenks of Evergreen, Colorado. They'll tell you.

Chabon awarded Vail certificate for dramatic mountain rescue



For dramatic and unselfish efforts on the Vail ski slopes that saved the lives of three people, Don Chabon received not only a Vail Certificate (awarded by Western Electric to employees for acts of heroism) but a Presidential Citation from President Richard M. Nixon. Don is pictured above accepting the Vail award from Omaha Works General Manager Frank Lefebvre, and at right, whisking down a mountain slope.



your July take home pay may be up

Your paycheck this month may be bigger than you expected it to be, and it could be bigger for two different reasons.

First, if you are one of the 3676 Omaha Works' employees participating in the Supplementary Life Insurance Program (SLIP), you will not be charged premiums for the next five months, beginning in July. The Supplementary Life Program provides that whenever the amount of premiums paid by employees exceeds the combined total of death claims and other operating expenses, the surplus shall be used for the benefit of the program participants.

Because such a surplus has accumulated this year, SLIP premiums will be waived for the months of July through November, 1972 for each participating employee who was enrolled as of May 1, 1972.

The Supplementary Program was initiated in November, 1966. At the end of this the fifth policy year, 123,141 active employees and 506 pensioners were participating.

Hourly rated employees received another boost to

their income during the month of July. That boost came in two forms, first a negotiated increase that ranged from 9 cents an hour for 32 Grade employees to 17 cents an hour for employees in Trades Group II. Add to this an across the board 11 cent an hour cost of living increase for all hourly rated employees based on the May Consumer Price Index and you have increases ranging from 20 to 28 cents an hour.

As a result of an eleventh hour effort put forth by the Company and the payroll and financial organization, all salary increases granted to hourly rated and monthly graded employees will be included in July pay checks that will be out before standard vacation.

While all hourly rated employees received increases, so did all monthly graded people. Monthly graded employees were awarded a three per cent general increase plus a \$20 cost of living increase. The raises ranged from \$32 a month for Grade 201 to \$51 a month for Grade 212.

benefits increased in WE health plans

Significant improvements in the Extraordinary Medical Expense, EME, and WE-65 Plans went into effect July 1. EME supplements the Company's Blue Cross-Blue Shield plan by providing coverage for major medical expenses for active employees, retirees, and their eligible dependents under age 65. WE-65 is the Company's health insurance plan that supplements Medicare by providing benefits for retirees and their eligible dependents, age 65 and over.

The EME improvements include a change in the lifetime maximum benefit that active employees and each of their eligible dependents may receive. The former maximum of \$20,000 has been eliminated; there is no longer a limit to the amount of EME benefits an active employee and his or her eligible dependents may receive.

The maximum benefit for

retirees and their eligible dependents, who are covered by the EME and WE-65 remains at \$5,000. However, after the \$5,000 maximum has been reached, the retiree and each eligible dependent may still receive benefits of up to \$2,000 a year, formerly \$1,000.

The other EME and WE-65 changes apply to both active and retired employees and their dependents. They include a reduction in the maximum out-of-pocket amount from three to two per cent of your annual salary or pension amount, with a dollar maximum of \$250.

The final, and perhaps the most significant change for many employees involves coverage of Class II dependents. Class II dependents include unmarried children (other than Class I relatives), unmarried grandchildren, brothers and sisters, parents, and grandparents and

your spouses parents and grandparents. Class I relatives include your spouse and unmarried children under 19, or under age 23 if a full-time student. Before July 1, Class II dependents had to live in your household for at least six months prior to the start of a claim period and have an income of not more than \$1,200 a year. These dependents no longer have to live with you; they may now live in the same town or neighborhood in a household provided by you. The amount of income your Class II dependents may receive from other sources has also been increased to \$2,400.

Be sure you don't miss out on any of your major medical benefits. If you need to enroll additional dependents, ask your supervisor for an enrollment card. If you have questions on either of the major medical programs, contact the Benefit Department.

one of these girls will be Miss Weoma XV

One of these girls will become Miss Weoma XV; two others will be chosen to comprise her court, but no one will know which three girls will be selected until October 7. The girls, whose pictures appear on this page (first, in the group picture, below, and individually, right) are the Miss Weoma XV semifinalists.

The Miss Weoma Selection Committee assisted by two guest judges will carefully pick three finalists, who will be announced on August 12. During the week of October 2, you will have a chance to vote for the girl of your choice.

The Fall Frolics Dance, this year to be held at the newly opened Holiday Inn Ballroom, will feature the coronation of Miss Weoma XV and her court. The dance will feature two bands for your enjoyment.



Monica Gahl



Darlene Wilhelm



Sandra Baker



Connie Croston



Kay Subbert



Linda Whitehouse

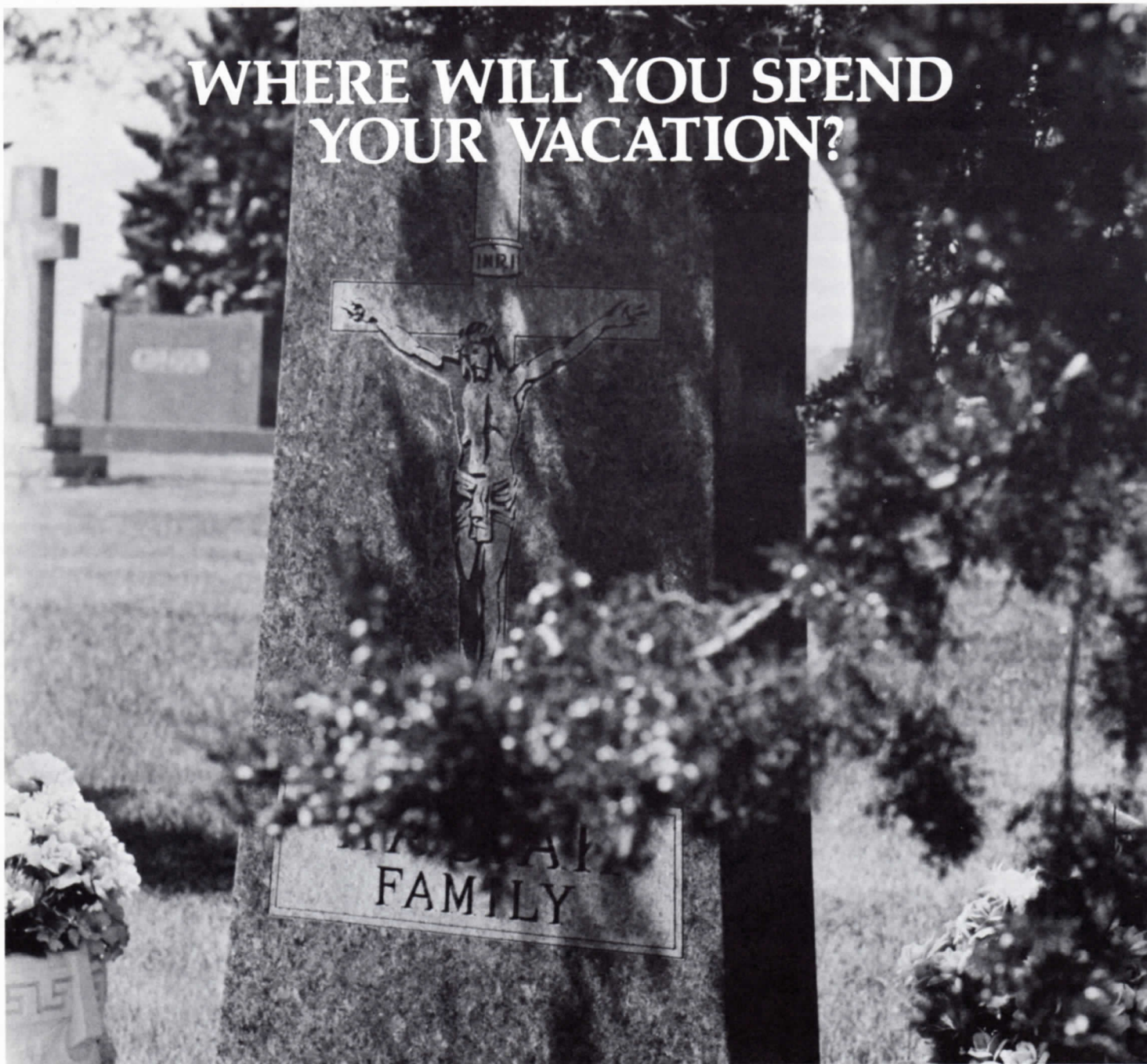


Kathy Hile



Sherry Nissen

WHERE WILL YOU SPEND
YOUR VACATION?



Drive as though your life depends on it. It does.



Western Electric

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