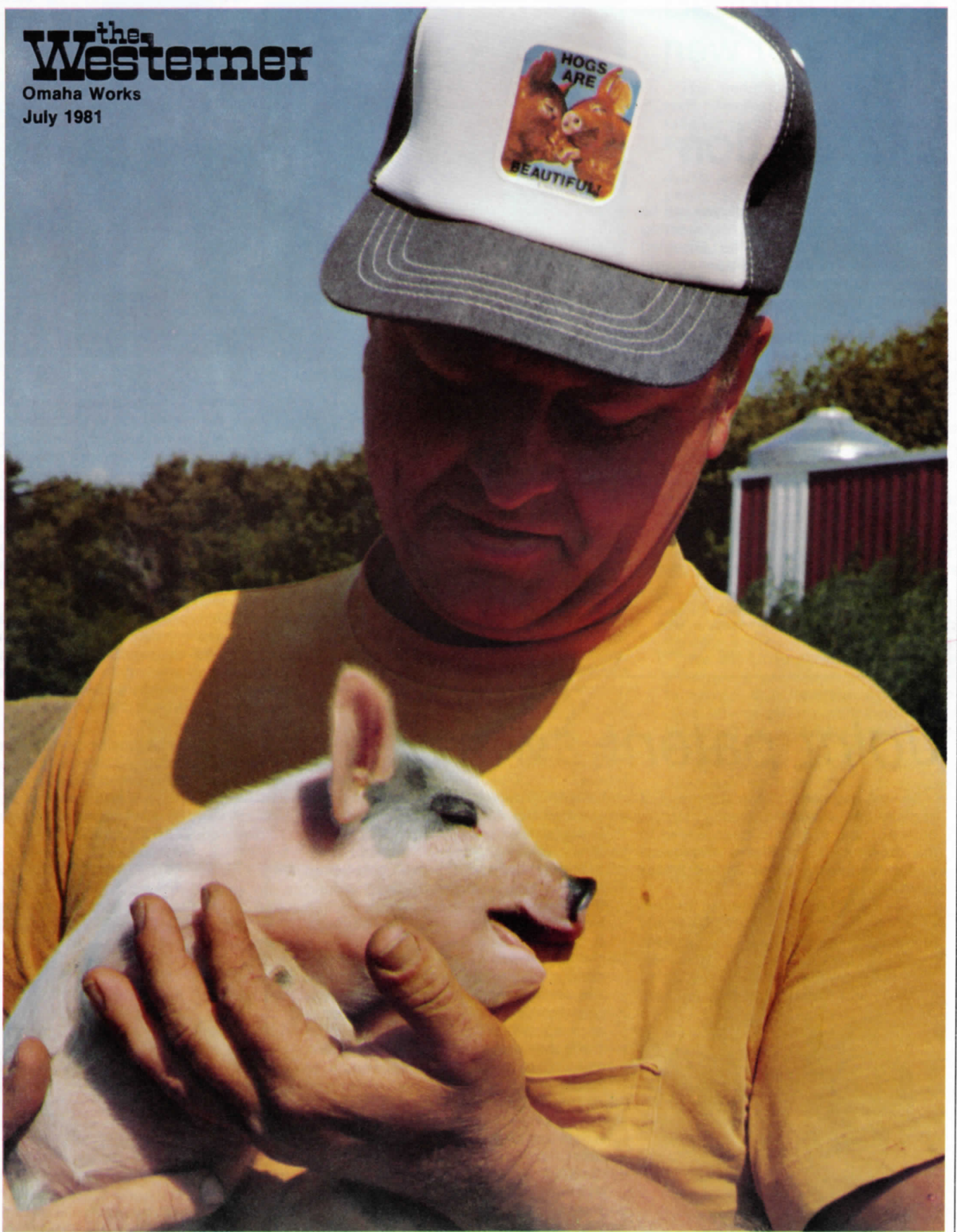


**the
Westerner**

Omaha Works
July 1981



for your information

The son of a Works employee will be part of a 12-member team representing the United States in the Disabled Children's Invitation International Games at Newcastle upon Tyne in England.

Kevin Bizal, son of Mike Bizal of Dept. 728 and his wife, Julie, will be overseas Aug. 2 through 14. He and his team, which was organized largely through the

efforts of Judy Gerard who teaches at J.P. Lord School, will compete against teams from 25 other countries.

Events include track, discus throw, swimming, basketball, archery and horseback riding. Kevin, who is visually handicapped, probably will compete in the swimming events, according to his father, Mike.

Youths ages 14 through 16 make up the teams. The opening events are patterned after the Olympics, Mike said, and will be covered by British television.

Fourteen-year-old Kevin will be a student at Marrs Junior High this fall . . .

. . . The American Board for Occupational and Health Nurses has awarded Anita Shaddy the designation of certified occupational health nurse. Anita has been a nurse in the Works medical department for 14 years.

Just five nurses in the state of Nebraska have been so certified. Among them is Ronnie Ahrens, nursing director at the Works. The certification means the nurse is a specialist in the occupational health field, being up-to-date on treatment methods and legislative rulings involving occupational health care.

Anita has been studying for the past couple of years in advance of comprehensive testing. Certification tests are given regionally, and Anita went to Milwaukee to take the all-day exam. Certification must be renewed every five years . . .

. . . Are you a misunderstood runner? Does no one understand that despite the rain or snow or the humidity, you will jog every day?

Show them your stuff and take a healthy challenge. If enough employees are interested, the Omaha Works will pay their team entry fee in the Omaha Corporate Cup on Sunday, Sept. 20. Participants will have the opportunity to test themselves against other teams and help raise funds for the American Lung Association of Nebraska.

The 6.2-mile run will take place in downtown Omaha. The format is based on competition among corporations, with a minimum of three runners needed per team.

Each team may have two divisions: male and female. Men and women of all ages and employed by a company are eligible. If you would like to represent the Omaha Works in the run, entry forms are available in the WEOMA office . . .

. . . Rita Mach, wife of Rod Mach of Dept. 201, is the owner of a 1981 special edition of a Buick Riviera, which she won in a local radio station promotion. Rod didn't say how often his wife lets him drive the \$17,000 vehicle.

BSSP/SSP results

The following are the May unit values for both the Bell System Savings Plan (BSSP) and the Savings and Security Plan (SSP) for non-salaried employees:

<u>BSSP</u>			<u>SSP</u>		
	<u>Units Value</u>	<u>Units Credited Per Dollar</u>		<u>Units Value</u>	<u>Units Credited Per Dollar</u>
AT&T	2.5490	.3923	AT&T	1.1901	.8402
Government Obligations	2.3342	.4283	Guaranteed		
Equity Portfolio	1.9843	.5039	Interest Fund	1.2418	.8052
Guaranteed					
Interest Fund	1.1497	.8697			

Joint patent awarded

Senior engineer Glenn Lange and engineering associate Denny Lynch, both of Dept. 476, have been added to the growing list of Works employees who have been granted United States patents.

The joint patent they received for their terminated inductive coil assembly brings to 48 the total number of patents employees here have earned since 1964.

Glenn, a graduate of the University of Kansas, and Denny, who is working

toward a degree at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, designed the coil assembly basically to provide a means of solderless termination for load coils.

The old method of assembly required that the coil wires be wrapped around terminals and soldered. Wires from a cable then were wrapped and soldered to the same terminals.

Glenn and Denny devised a new, interlocking plastic casing or "spoolhead" to house each load coil, allowing termination by simply inserting a connector element over the coil wire and inserting the cable wire into the same element. They also realized another benefit to their new assembly: It minimized damage to the coils in handling.

The solderless termination method is a time and money saver. With the Omaha Works currently making 6 million load coils per year, an estimated \$913,300 in savings is expected this year by using the new coil assembly. For example, it used to take 18 hours to wire load coils for a 900-coil load coil case; now it takes just eight hours.



Denny Lynch



Glenn Lange

**the
Westerner**

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Linda Ryan
Editor

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Western Electric

service anniversaries

july

40 years

A. J. Ciullo (523)

35 years

J. A. Bell (101)
R. E. Dunlap
(411)

30 years

E. A. Burek (276)
A. R. Kielma
(736)
R. A. Krystof
(289)

A. J. Mackie
(282)
B. R. Nielsen
(413)

25 years

C. R. Meetsma
(1)
H. J. Allen (333)
K. L. Batchelder
(735)
E. J. Hundt (511)

C. C. Judds (435)
W. F. Lewis (333)
E. T. Saab (413)
J. A. Trenerry
(735)
I. A. Werth (253)

20 years

J. L. Ellis (253)
J. C. Jansen
(253)
P. A. Lochren
(736)
W. H. Mason
(445)

I. W. Merrick
(331)
S. O. Tedford
(435)
L. F. Tritsch (287)
J. W. Tyler (3443)

15 years

R. M. Griswold
(439)
R. L. Hynes (728)
D. R. Landholm
(439)
M. D. Mejstrik
(725)
B. S. Miller (253)

L. S. Osby (282)
G. E. Rezek (725)
M. M. Van
Arsdale (728)
J. E.
Vanderheiden
(252)

10 years

E. L. Brown (287)
M. B. Contreras
(443)
P. F. Johnson
(728)
B. R. Kleinbeck
(443)
E. S. Payton
(439)
J. H. Piechota
(728)

R. F. Schueth
(435)
J. G. Sullivan
(435)
A. G. Walters
(435)
S. P. Ziccardi
(437)

suggestion box

Does the face of the suggestion award winner featured here look familiar?

It should. Steve Smith of Dept. 741 is no stranger to participating in the Works employee suggestion program. Not too long ago he received the largest suggestion award presented — \$10,000 — for an idea he submitted.

This time, Steve's a big winner again. He was awarded \$3,060 for a suggestion involving the redesign of the 710 connector bridge bottom molding tool to prevent excessive breakage.

While Steve's a big winner, so is the company. Because of his most recent and past suggestion, Steve has helped save the Works more than \$87,000 a year.

Steve said he already has put his recent suggestion earnings to use. He's putting in a new patio deck at his home.



Steve Smith

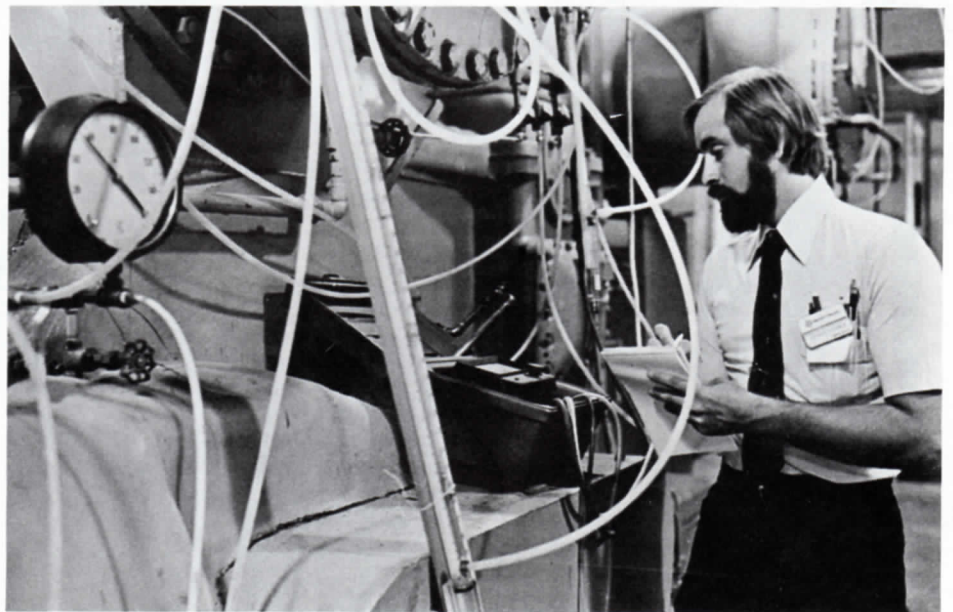
energy...

less is more

The chillers used to cool principally Buildings 20 and 30 get a workout especially during hot spells like the one experienced in mid-July. The Works has three 600-ton chillers and one 2,000-ton chiller, the use of which depends on how high the temperature soars. During recent 100-degree heat, all three 600-ton chillers were in operation while the large chiller was being repaired.

Because the energy required and costs involved are substantial, John Peterson and Denny Horner of Dept. 743 have begun a series of tests in an effort to use the chillers at optimum efficiency. Denny said 40 different tests are conducted at varying intervals. As conditions vary or are varied, changes in efficiency are noted and the chiller is adjusted for the best operation.

The chillers are complex equipment: They're powered by a steam-driven turbine; freon cools the water that is pumped throughout the buildings for



NOTATION... Denny Horner collects data as part of tests being conducted on one of the Works' chillers.

cooling; and the freon itself is chilled by processed water cooled by the Works cooling tower.

When the tests and adjustments are completed, energy savings on cooling are expected to be considerable.

They bring home the bacon; raise it, too

You're apt to find them out in the fields after work hours, or up before dawn to feed their stock. Often they must pass up dinner and a show or a golf game, because there is too much work to be done at home. A number of Works employees have chosen an agrarian lifestyle despite economic times that make the small family farm a vanishing breed. Sonny and Glenna Oltman are two such employees who have relied on their "city jobs" to make their dream come true.

Should a stranger happen to drive past the Oltman farm near Louisville at 1 o'clock in the morning, he might be surprised to see lights coming from a tractor out in the field.

It's nothing unusual to Sonny Oltman, the man behind the tractor wheel. A farmer must tend to his land when the

time is right. If that means out of the scorching sun and in the dead of night — and after working the second shift on FDI cabinets in Dept. 437 — so be it.

The small farmland Sonny works is to grow crops to feed mostly the hogs and some cattle he and his wife, Glenna, raise. Farming is something Sonny has wanted to do since he was a farm boy in Pickrell, Neb.

But for town-raised Glenna, a labor relations investigator in Dept. 513, she "never dreamt we'd ever be farmers, even though I knew he really liked it," she said. Both Glenna and Sonny have found that although their dream farm is now taking shape, it hasn't been without an extraordinary amount of hard work and rearranging of priorities.

THE INCLINATION toward farming surfaced after Sonny and Glenna were married in 1967. They had bought a few acres of land in Weeping Water, Neb. Glenna remembered Sonny saying, "It's kind of a shame to let all that land go to waste. Maybe we should buy some calves."

At the time, both were employed at the Omaha Works. Glenna didn't worry that raising a few calves would be too much of a strain on her husband after work hours, because farming to Sonny was an enjoyable pastime — much like others play golf or tennis. "And he's the kind who always wants to be doing something constructive," she said.

Glenna really hadn't given farming much thought, even when Sonny came home with a "beat-up old grinder" to grind their own feed for the cattle. One day in 1970, however, Sonny told Glenna about a farm for sale near Louisville. Before long, "just looking" turned into "we'll buy it."

Thus began a lifestyle of two full-time jobs for each of the Oltmans. After full working days at the Works, they would return to their farm to clear out numerous trees and brush that had been left unchecked by the previous owner. Their small frame house had no indoor toilets or running water. "Everything in that place was about ready to fall apart," Glenna recalled.

Improvements to the house were suspended (after plumbing was installed) because of other pressing needs on the farm and because the Oltmans decided to raise pigs. Theirs is a small farm without much room to raise cattle,



ARE THEY TICKLISH? . . . As Sonny Oltman watches, Glenna tries to get the pigs in the "finishing building" to strike a better pose for the photographer.



A PETUNIA IN THE FIELD . . . When Glenna's out in the field loading bales of hay, she can reach Sonny at home base by CB radio. Sonny's handle is "Pig farmer" and Glenna's is "Petunia." (But at the plant, her co-workers call her "Miss Piggy.")

who need considerable pastureland. Pigs can be raised in a much more confined area, and the Oltmans had just the spot. An old horse barn would do nicely. At first the Oltmans had to clean out many years of accumulated manure.

SONNY bought a used tractor from his grandfather and began planting crops for feed. Gradually, other farm implements were acquired, but they were old and frequently needed repairs. "I think Sonny spent more time fixing the equipment than farming," Glenna said.

Glenna became increasingly involved working the farm because the chores were overwhelming. So, while Sonny did all of the veterinarian work on the farm animals (cutting teeth of newborn pigs, applying medication, etc.), Glenna might be on the tractor loading and stacking the bales of hay Sonny had prepared.

There was one chore Sonny preferred Glenna not do — feed the large sows.

But one day Glenna picked up two pails of feed and entered their pen. A sow came up from behind Glenna, poking its head between her legs and lifting her off the ground.

"I spilled the buckets of feed and fell to the ground," she said. "All the other sows were coming toward me. I was screaming and Sonny was laughing" as he rushed to get her out of the pen. She learned the hard way how aggressive hogs can be, she said.

Sonny and Glenna recalled, too, how difficult it was to part with the first pigs they raised and brought to market. "The tears were just coming down my face," Glenna said, describing how the man who bought their pigs was unsuccessfully loading them onto his truck.

"So I got on his truck and called, 'Here, piggy, piggy,' and they came right up," she said.

THE YEARS of just the two of them

working their farm are now beginning to show results. In June, the Oltmans moved their pigs out of the old barn and into two new confinement buildings.

One is enclosed to keep temperatures at 90 degrees for farrowing and at 72 degrees in the nursery area. The other is equipped with an overhead water spray system to keep maturing hogs comfortable in summer heat. Waste falls through a slatted floor to a pit from which it is pumped periodically. A visitor must wear (Continued on Page 6)

On the cover

Sonny Oltman demonstrates how cows aren't the only animals who can be contented. Pigs are contented, too, especially when their bellies are being rubbed. This little "weaner," so called because it eventually will be weaned, is only one week old.

United Way drive starts Aug. 24

If you think the United Way helps only agencies whose services you are not likely to use, think again.

When the Omaha Works begins its in-plant campaign for the United Way of the Midlands on Aug. 24, an employee's contribution will help himself as well as others in the community.

Contributions go to such services as the Information and Referral Service. By calling 444-6666, a person can receive information ranging from where to get help for an abused child to consumers' assistance.

According to the director of the service, Fran Condon, well over 1,000 calls are received per month. Of those people who are referred to an appropriate agency for help, approximately 87 percent receive the service they need.

The referral service has a wealth of information to give out involving six basic areas: income and economic opportunities; material needs, protection and environmental conditions; health services; education; personal, family and social well-being; and community and social support.

Quite often, the referral service's staff researches matters to get answers a caller needs, and following up on a request for service is common, Fran said.

THE VOLUNTEER Bureau, at 1805 Harney St., is another United Way-funded service that affects everyone in the community at one time or another. The bureau serves as a kind of clearing house for volunteers, said its director, Alice King.

Through the bureau, a person interested in volunteer work is matched with agencies and programs who need them — hospitals, nursing homes, children's homes, crisis lines, and such.

While the bureau is helpful to those people interested in volunteer work outside of their normal jobs, Alice said, it benefits a community's citizens in another way.

By providing volunteers to those groups who need them, the service of those groups to the community is greatly enhanced, she explained. "It makes that agency that much more valuable."

The Volunteer Bureau places from 50 to 70 volunteers per month. In addition, "we offer training programs for agency staffs and their volunteers," Alice said.

Calls to both the referral service and Volunteer Bureau are on the increase, but their coordinators and those of other United Way-funded agencies are worried about having enough money to provide services to meet demands. Recent cuts in federal funds and grants to these agencies are creating a greater dependency on help through the United

Way.

THE IMPACT of reduced federal funds is reflected in an increase in the United Way of the Midlands overall goal for this year's drive: \$7,468,322.

What that means to the Omaha Works as a pacesetter firm is that employees here must set the example in contributions to make that goal, said Tom Bowman, who is coordinating the in-plant drive. "That will present a difficult challenge in itself," he said, especially if one considers that employee rolls are down by more than 200 people since the last drive. The in-plant goal for this year has been set at \$337,000.

Tom said keys to the success of the drive are those employees who aren't fair-share givers or who do not participate in the United Way appeal. "We need their help more than ever this year," he said.

Ken Stasiak, engineering manager for network distribution apparatus (Organization 470), is chairman of the in-plant drive. He is being assisted by co-chairmen Tom Welchert (Dept. 333), representing Local 1614, and Terry Moore (Dept. 437) and Jim Hardick (Dept. 253), representing Local 1974.



"MAY I HELP YOU?" . . . Mila Paniamogan is an information specialist who helps people who call the Information and Referral Service.

Pig farm fulfills a dream

(Continued from Page 5)

plastic boots to prevent introducing disease-causing organisms into the buildings.

The Oltmans still aren't without their share of worries. If their electricity should fail, they must start a generator



THIS LITTLE PIGGY . . . Now, aren't pigs beautiful?

to supply power, or the pigs in the enclosed building will die within a couple of hours. Although the new buildings greatly diminish the chance of disease, a serious outbreak is still a possibility, Sonny said. And, of course, there are ever present bills.

With Glenna working days and Sonny now working nights, tending to chores has required some major adjustments. Still, Sonny doesn't regret that he never completed studies toward a degree in agriculture so that he might teach.

He dropped out of college about 20 years ago seeking a job to pay school expenses, planning to return and complete his schooling. Instead, he began working at the Omaha Works (as did Glenna, later), which has enabled the Oltmans to begin farming. Sonny has hopes that someday soon the farm will become his only full-time job.

They look back at their farm's beginnings and marvel how it used to take Sonny two hours daily to feed the pigs. Now it takes but a push of a button.

Sure, they still have a considerable drop-off where the front porch should be on their small farmhouse, and some interior remodeling remains to be done. But the way the Oltmans see it, what they already have is a dream come true.



CONNECTION COMPLETE . . . Terry Fuller teaches Lisa Prochaska how to use the chin switch he designed.

Right connections aid Lisa

As a manufacturing plant, we're already aware of how important it is to have good connections with our account representatives if we are to serve the needs of our customers.

But sometimes those good connections between the account reps and employees pay off in a different way. Terry Fuller, an account rep in transmission special services, responded to a chain of inquiries which eventually helped the daughter of LeRoy ("Bud") Prochaska (Dept. 252) accommodate her learning handicap.

The connections began when George Nelson, an account rep in network distribution services, was approached by his cousin, a Millard Public Schools employee. She explained a need within the Millard Development Center, a district classroom for severe and profoundly handicapped students.

Although they were not soliciting help, teachers at the center could benefit from outsiders developing learning devices for their students. One girl in particular — Lisa Prochaska — needed a conditioning mechanism to help her communicate with others.

George then explained the situation to Terry, who agreed to help 14-year-old Lisa. A cerebral palsy victim who can't talk, Lisa needed a simple procedure to indicate her desire for food or music.

With George's assistance, Terry developed an electrical device which Lisa's teacher, Laura Blevins, calls the chin switch. Constructed from Western Electric components, the switch comprises Lisa pressing a metal plate with her chin to activate one of three lights in a box set before her. Each light

indicates Lisa's desire: red — solid food, yellow — liquids, and green — music.

Because of his previous employment as an electrical engineer at the Omaha Works, the chin switch was an easy design task for Terry. He said the complete project totaled about 50 hours to design, locate parts and construct. Included in the parts were a station cord, a tool kit for an 835 tool, a B-customer service closure, a micro switch mount, batteries, integrated circuits and an old lamp stand.

Mike Linn, a speech and language therapist at the center, said the chin switch has been successful for Lisa and that she has gained "definite understanding" of its purpose. Before building the switch, Mike made suggestions to Terry about what type of device would benefit Lisa the most. A communication method used prior to Terry's invention didn't allow her enough response time, so they made certain the chin switch would.

Lisa's teachers use the switch primarily during lunch and snack times.

An added reward for Terry's efforts was discovering that in assisting Lisa, he also helped another Western Electric employee. Both Bud and Bonnie Prochaska are pleased with Terry's contribution to their daughter's care.

Lisa has attended school at the center since it opened in 1976. Linda Matthesen, supervisor of special education, said it's difficult finding people outside the school system who will make contributions to the students.

For Terry, this difficulty is just one more reason he's glad the connections to him worked and hopes they will again.

—Judy Couchman

Benefits trio new to staff

The benefits office has three new staff members ready to help you: Eleanor Hundt, Jim Williams and Bob Eggert.

If you have questions about workman's compensation, Eleanor is the person to see. She also handles three-day sick pay verifications, verifies perfect attendance records for monthly graded and hourly graded employees, and classifies hospital passes.

If retirement is in your future, see Jim Williams about your pension. He also handles dental insurance and oversees garnishments.

Bob Eggert is the man who investigates accident cases, handles special benefits studies, and also keeps track of ideas turned in to the company's employee suggestion program. Questions about a suggestion that has been submitted for consideration should be directed to him.

Although these are the basic duties assigned to each for now, the three will share their duties so "each will have a working knowledge of the other's job," said Bob Peterson, section chief for Dept. 511.

The purpose of sharing jobs is to enhance efficiency and service in the benefits office.

"We want people to know that we're a service organization and we're here to serve," Bob Peterson said. "If you have any questions concerning benefits, don't be afraid to give us a call or stop by."

The benefits office is located just opposite the front lobby of Building 20. Eleanor can be reached on Ext. 3605; Jim, Ext. 3598; Bob, Ext. 3616.



Jim Williams



Eleanor Hundt



Bob Eggert

Heffron presents safety award

To a gathering in the auditorium of representative employees and supervisors from all departments, the new vice-president of the Cable and Wire Products Division explained that corporate headquarters was in a quandary over how to present the division's Environmental Health and Safety Award in a new and different way.

After all, the Omaha Works was to receive the award for the second year in a row, having first earned the honor for its 1979 safety record. Receiving the award a second successive year is "quite an achievement," Frank J. Heffron said.

Heffron told the group that although the company is experiencing uncertain times, "one thing about our company will never change — our strong emphasis on safety. Innovative product lines lose their value if our people are not safe."

He praised Works employees for achieving a million man-hours without disabling injuries on two separate occasions during 1980. Overall, the Works reduced lost time injuries, total OSHA recordable cases and days away cases.

He then presented a plaque to general manager Chuck Meetsma in recognition of the Omaha Works' fine safety performance during 1980. The plaque is displayed in the main cafeteria, just outside the entrance to Building 30.

The division's new vice-president also toured the cable and apparatus shops during his two-day stay in Omaha. Accompanying him on this visit was J. A. Heck, director of division staff.

Mayor and state senator visit plant; Daub scheduled

Omaha's new mayor and a new senator in Nebraska's unicameral were among visitors to the Omaha Works in recent weeks.

Mayor Mike Boyle and State Sen. Steve Wiitala of District 31 were guest speakers at staff luncheon meetings on two separate occasions. Sen. Wiitala also toured the shop areas after his presentation.

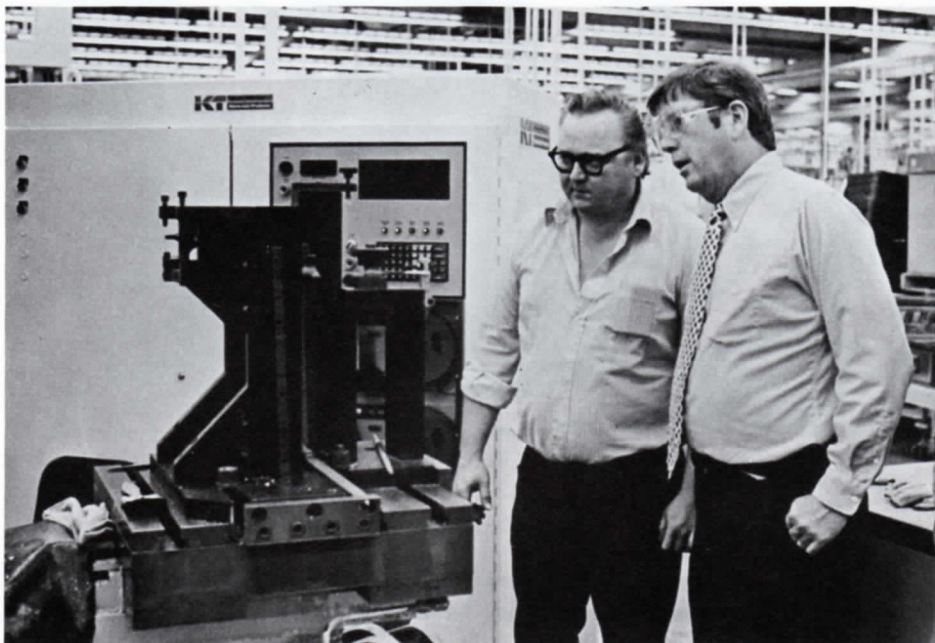
On Aug. 11, 2nd District Rep. Hal Daub will visit the Works. From 11 a.m. to noon he will be in the main cafeteria to speak with employees before he addresses a meeting of the large staff.



Mike Boyle



Steve Wiitala



OFFICIAL VISIT . . . Vice-president Frank Heffron (at right, above photo) talks with Mike Du Rae of Dept. 441. Mike operates the Kearney Trecker, used to make 890A cutter presser tools. At left, the vice-president presents the division's Environmental Health and Safety Award to Chuck Meetsma, general manager.

Calendar art to be chosen

As in past years, any art medium could be used, with drawings no larger than 8½ by 11 inches. Only one drawing per person could be submitted, with no joint entries allowed.

Last year there were 119 entries in the poster contest. The winning posters depicted safety themes ranging from "Safety first — no horseplay," to "The key to safety is me."

This year a panel of three judges affiliated with art instruction in Omaha area schools will select the winning entries.

The winners of the fourth annual

safety calendar poster contest at the Omaha Works will be announced soon — Aug. 12, to be exact.

With an entry deadline of July 31, thirteen of the best posters submitted will be selected to illustrate the cover and months of a 1982 calendar to be distributed to all Works employees.

Open to Works employees' children or grandchildren — preschool age through 12th grade — contest entrants were to depict safety practices at home, work or play. Those whose posters are chosen each will receive one share of AT&T stock.