

# the Westerner

Omaha Works  
July 1982



Buckling for two — Page 7

# 'Nosy' gardener becomes a hero

In this age of plain-label commodities on the market, the Omaha Works has its own version of a "plain-label hero."

Wearing his faded jeans, T-shirt and blue Werner Enterprises cap, Cliff Heman doesn't fit the standard Superman mold. But to the folks who live near 120th Street and Pedersen Drive by a Union Pacific line, he's a hero.

Had it not been for Cliff's involvement — "just being nosy," he insists — a west-bound train might have tumbled down an embankment and landed in the yards of neighboring homeowners, according to U.P. officials.

Late in the evening of May 23, the dirt beneath the tracks had given way, blocking Hell Creek and taking the west-bound tracks out of service. The slide uprooted trees, cracked power poles and sent tons of mud and fill down the embankment.

Cliff, a reel yard worker in Dept. 313, was nearby, tending his vegetable garden that had been damaged by recent rains. While neighbors gathered below to view the fallen dirt, Cliff walked up onto the tracks.

When he spied a train approaching from the east, he knew he had to flag it down. "I didn't have anything to wave, so I took off my T-shirt," he said, waving it as he walked toward the train.



NEIGHBORHOOD HERO . . . If Cliff Heman had a red flag, he would have used it. In the background is the landslide area and the viaduct over Hell Creek.

The conductor stopped the train about six houses away from the slide. "He said he could hardly see me with my white shirt, then looked at the slide and said thanks," Cliff recalled.

"I just did what anyone else would have done," he said, shunning the hero label.

Cliff only wishes he could save his garden, too. It was hail-damaged shortly afterward.

## Safety winners

More winners in the "Safety's a Winner" safety contest have been announced.

Employees who have won prizes for the contest's fourth two-week period are Harold Sharp, Dept. 313; Joe Binko, Dept. 745; and Dennis Todd, Dept. 746.

Winners for the fifth two-week period are Jim Chaloupka, Dept. 313; Bob Jordan and Ron Micek, Dept. 431; Curtis Perryman, Dept. 444; John Faust, Dept. 445; Mel Weaver, Dept. 437; Jan Beccard and Bea Klaumann, Dept. 713.

## Jack Childs heads Works

Jack R. Childs paid an early visit to the Omaha Works in mid-June when he attended the June meeting of Cable and Wire Products Division general managers held here. His appointment as the Works' new general manager wasn't effective until July 1.

Formerly the general manager of the North Carolina Works in Winston-Salem, he succeeds William J. Warwick, who is now vice-president of Business and Residence Products.

Childs began his career with the company in Los Angeles as a staff trainee in what is now the Bell Sales Division. Later assignments included area staff superintendent in Seattle in 1963, and staff coordinator for Bell Sales Division, West, in Chicago in 1964.

He participated in the company's management training program in 1965 before becoming assistant manager of operating at the Indianapolis Works. He advanced to various management positions, including being a manager of manufacturing at the Kearny Works in 1969, and director of division staff for

Bell Sales Division, East, in 1970.

He became general manager of the Mountain-Northwestern Region, Bell Sales Division, West, in 1975, before being assigned to the general manager post at the North Carolina Works in 1977.

Childs earned a bachelor of science degree in marine transportation from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in 1953 and studied industrial psychology at California State University at Northridge.




Jack R. Childs

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# service anniversaries

## july

### 40 years

G. J. Cozette	749	7/14
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### 35 years

R. M. Gregor	285	7/18
S. E. Hultberg	741	7/29
J. M. Koch	746	7/22
N. H. Papke	444	7/2

### 30 years

C. J. Dziewa	713	7/23
R. P. Lee	720	7/22
D. L. Maaske	514	7/28
J. E. Malone	311	7/7

### 25 years

M. D. Almquist	476	7/1
J. F. Berger	435	7/16
C. J. Bystrek	476	7/1

M. H. Cornell	287	7/14
L. L. Dankof	477	7/1
H. A. Drake	441	7/1
G. L. Faller	437	7/29
R. B. Fuksa	331	7/1
F. H. Garey	122	7/1
A. J. Harris	746	7/24
W. E. Kelsey	437	7/26
D. J. Klingeman	437	7/1
A. C. Kummer	472	7/8
R. C. Micek	431	7/8
D. A. Mueller	282	7/18
T. R. Olson	331	7/29
J. L. Siracuse	287	7/31
D. W. Snell	283	7/11
D. M. Werth	251	7/10
M. T. Wolf	1231	7/31

### 20 years

M. D. Crow	746	7/30
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L. C. Curry Jr.	275	7/30
J. L. Janulewicz	441	7/9
D. D. John	437	7/2
R. O. Justsen	447	7/15
S. D. Martin	445	7/30
M. O. Owens	251	7/2

### 15 years

J. M. Coop	447	7/31
C. S. Davis	441	7/4
G. G. Grimm	435	7/13
B. T. Kinsella	282	7/6
R. J. McCarty	444	7/31
S. H. Ortlieb	331	7/8
I. T. Palma	447	7/23
A. E. Sansone	273	7/31
B. K. Schutte	435	7/20
A. R. Sperry	437	7/10
R. A. Sukup	313	7/6

## BSSP/SSP results

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

### BSSP

	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T	2.5858	.3867
Government Obligations	2.6693	.3746
Equity Portfolio	1.7761	.5630
Guaranteed		
Interest Fund	1.2792	.7817

### SSP

	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T	1.2087	.8273
Guaranteed		
Interest Fund	1.3777	.7258

## Pioneer induction

The Cornhusker Chapter of the Telephone Pioneers of America inducted new officers for the 1982-1983 year on June 11.

Don Hanrahan is the new president for the group. Guy Godios is senior vice-president and Jim Woods is vice-president-elect. Erv Tvrdik is the Life Member representative and Bill Ruge is Life Member representative-elect.

Bob Denton is past president of the Cornhusker Pioneers, and Bob Pierson continues as Pioneer administrator.

## retirements



Bernice Leslie  
22 years



Arthur Rymill  
27 years



Margaret Berg  
12 years

Not pictured:

Ruth Dages  
25 years

William Martin  
22 years

## suggestion box

Who says two heads aren't better than one?

Four employees discovered recently that putting their heads together can pay off in more ways than one. They submitted joint suggestions to the employee suggestion program, and their ideas were accepted.

**John Francavilla** and **Gino Betti** of Dept. 745 each has been awarded \$710 for their joint idea. They suggested that pulleys on wire draw machines be plasma-coated to improve wear.

**Paul Challgren** of Dept. 282 and **Thomas Filipksi** of Dept. 746 also

shared a suggestion award. Their idea was to use a storage tank near an IPVC vault to store gas. For their suggestion they received \$110 each.

Other employees who have received suggestion awards include:

**Gene Stoltenberg**, Dept. 744, \$855

**Robert Caldwell**, Dept. 745, \$415.

**James Knudsen**, Dept. 744, \$245.

**John Wolfe**, Dept. 431, \$205.

**Carl Moore**, Dept. 439, \$175.

The suggestion awards listed here total more than \$3,500. In a year's time, their incorporation into the Works' operations will save us almost \$24,000.

# 'Plugging in' to a new network

Native Nebraskans have a saying: "If you don't like the weather now, wait a few hours and it'll change."

The people who make network distribution products — the apparatus products manufactured primarily in Building 30 — easily could adapt that saying. Rapid change has become a way of life in the apparatus shops, although

change in a matter of a few hours is stretching the analogy a bit.

Nonetheless, the kinds of products made in the apparatus shops today have changed considerably from those made as little as five years ago. And the products we will be manufacturing in the future will have even shorter life cycles as technology develops replacements,

resulting in accelerated changes.

That, according to Richard Iaffaldano, is one of the major challenges confronting Omaha Works employees, specifically the approximately 1,370 shop employees who make apparatus products. As manager of the 400 branch of the Works, he oversees engineering and the manufacturing operations that take up floor space once occupied by crossbar frames, PBXs and other switching equipment.

Iaffaldano is optimistic that the Omaha Works will play an important role in creating the new telephone network — the Integrated Systems Digital Network (ISDN).

ISDN stands for the plan the Bell System has to guide the conversion of the network from electromechanical to electronic, he said. It represents a concept of a public, nationwide, end-to-end digital network with the flexibility to provide a variety of services. Those services could include not only conventional voice transmissions, but also data and video transmissions.

"I anticipate many more devices and apparatus that haven't even been invented yet," Iaffaldano said.

We at Omaha are positioning ourselves so that we can introduce these products for ISDN, he said. The Omaha Works is a likely manufacturer for these products because "we are an apparatus plant, we have the space and we have the people," he noted.

We've also demonstrated our ability to handle network products in the past with excellent performance records, and "we've proven we're able to make smooth transitions" resulting from changes in product lines.

The Works is getting its share of new product allocations, one of which is the network terminating unit or NTU. About the size of a home thermostat, the NTU is hooked up to telephone wiring on a customer's premises.

Should the customer report telephone problems, the person taking the customer's call will be able to determine whether those problems are on the customer's premises or in outside cable, thanks to the NTU. It will save time to go to the customer's home to troubleshoot the problem. Therefore, it will help cut consumer costs.

Equipment has been ordered, Iaffaldano said, and we should be manufacturing NTUs sometime in the first quarter of next year. Initially, about



NEW TO THE JOB . . . Richard Iaffaldano tries his hand at putting contact elements in 710 connectors under the instruction of assembler Helen Tibbs of Dept. 435.

o 50 shop employees will be involved, but laffaldano expects that number to climb significantly as we manufacture at capacity in two or three years.

**OTHER NEW** products slated for Works manufacture in the immediate future include the 709 connector; a fire-retardant jacket for vault closures; a new plastic pedestal closure; a new family of police closures; a family of cabinets to house electronics and repeaters; and a new closure for lightguide cable.

"We're going to become a big hardware store" for the telephone companies, providing them with the myriad of products they will need, laffaldano quipped.

But again, he stressed that many of these products will have a two- to four-year life cycle on the market. Employees must be aware that the product they're making today probably won't be the one they'll be making even two years later. They will have to adapt to the changes that come from phasing out a product and bringing in a new one, he said.

"We've already experienced this process," laffaldano said, citing the demise of the B-wire connector a few years ago and its replacement by the 710 connector. Some people were pessimistic then, he recalled, but now the 710 connector "is one of our best products."

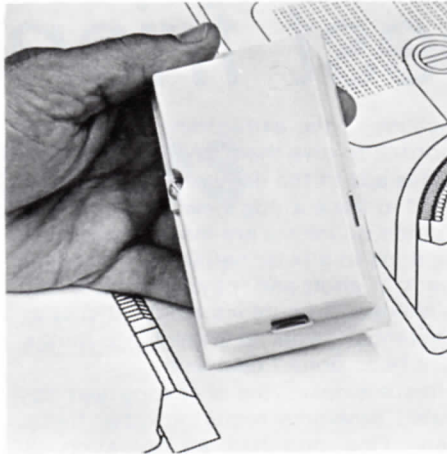
Similarly, while our load coil business is winding down, the NTUs will help pick up the slack. This kind of "trade-off" will become the norm, he explained.

With the anticipated rapid changes in product lines, another challenge will be to keep a step ahead, looking for new products to bring to the Works. "And we're going to have risks," he said, because especially in this technological age, there is no guarantee that the promising product of today will be the best-seller of tomorrow.

"We spend a lot of money in anticipation of good business," laffaldano said. But changes can be sudden. For example, an unexpected technological change can make obsolete a product on which we were depending.

"It's somewhat like giving birth to an elephant." There's a long gap between the conception of a new product, setting up for manufacturing, and seeing successful results, he explained.

**WITH DIVESTITURE** around the corner, still another challenge to the company will be increased competition. All network distribution products currently manufactured in the apparatus



**WHAT'S NEW?** . . . Manufacturing operations for the NTU (above) will be set up in the vacant area on the west side of Building 30. Pat Pinhero (right) of Dept. 441 places inserts on a 50-type closure before a press will lock them in place.

shops already are being made by competitors, he said.

Network distribution products are commodity items, he said. It really makes no difference to the telephone companies who makes them, as long as the products suit their needs. "In the final analysis, the only reason the customer is going to buy our product instead of a competitor's will be lower cost, higher quality and better service," he said.

That places increasing importance on taking a conscientious attitude toward our jobs. "Quality circles are very important," laffaldano added. "They show great promise in giving us more direction by adding the support, participation and knowledge of the people



actually doing the job."

Continued use of the Product Display Center also will be important so customers may see our product offerings as well as give us feedback firsthand. And customer tours of the shop, laffaldano said, are essential.

"I've never been disappointed" in the assistance our shop people give when customers tour their areas. "They take the time to explain how a product works or why we make it the way we do," he said.

"From the feedback I've gotten from the many visitors we've brought to the factory, when you get right down to it, the people in the factory have proven to be our best salespeople."

## Made in Omaha

What network distribution products do we make at Omaha? Here's a "generic" breakdown:

**Cabinets** — Weather-resistant metal cabinets housing devices for interconnecting feeder and distribution cables. Types include 40-type, B-type and 80-type. The 80-type, or community service cabinet, is the newest and attracting growing customer interest.

**Cable terminals** — Used in building entrance terminals, these provide mechanical and security protection on the customer premises. We make 3A/4A and 53A cable terminals.

**Closures** — Protective housing for cable splices for aerial, buried or underground systems. We make 2-type, 16-type and the newest, 50/51 type closures.

**Connectors** — Devices used to join, splice or connect cable and wires. Types: 710, 711, 88, 108, 109 and 110.

**Load coils** — Apparatus installed at specified intervals along a cable to electrically correct voice signals over long distances. Types: 710, 720, 722, 723 and 724.

**Stub cable** — Cable used to prevent the flow of air pressure between pressurized cables and unpressurized cables.

**Test sets** — Equipment used to determine and locate problems within the telephone network. Types: 188, 1188, 190, 191 and 193.

**Tools** — Equipment used to make cable splices in the field and central offices. Types: 890A, 945A, 710A tool mounting, 840A, 850A and 788.

# A dog's best friend

First, let's set things straight.

In this world, there are cat lovers and dog lovers.

Gail Bailey thinks dogs make nice pets, but if she had her druthers, she'd pick a cat.

So how does she explain that in recent years she has doled out of her pocket more than \$1,200 (by conservative estimates) in the care and placement of homeless pooches?

Gail, an equal opportunity specialist in Dept. 511, isn't sure herself, but she thinks it has something to do with an incident from her childhood. "When I was about 5, my mother and I were shopping and we had gotten off the elevator," Gail said. "She went one way and I went the other."

She's never forgotten the terror and panic she felt being "lost" for the moments that followed. Maybe, she said, that's why she feels almost compelled to help out the stray animals she's come across.

It's merely coincidence that Gail, who has a cat, has found only dogs who need help. To date, Gail has kept one stray for herself, found homes for three other dogs, and currently is caring for a fifth foundling. Two of the adoptive pet owners are Works employees.

**THE REASON** her kindness toward these strays has run up such a bill is

because of the extraordinary care Gail chooses to give them. In all cases, Gail places ads in the daily newspaper in an effort to trace a dog's owner.

When no claims are made, she brings the dogs to a veterinarian for a medical checkup, shots and spaying or neutering as needed. "I figure it's more enticing to a potential owner to know these things have been done," Gail said.

In some cases, the checkups have revealed problems requiring other treatment. One dog had an operation to remove a deeply embedded and infected burr; another was treated for an umbilical hernia.

Other expenses include dog collars, licenses, harnesses, haircuts, dog food, bedding blankets and a large cage to contain the more rambunctious of her strays in the basement of her home.

Gail especially found the cage useful for Goldie, a 35-pound beagle with a penchant for mischief. "One day, I came home and I found Goldie had dragged the cage across the floor and had torn one of my blankets she somehow managed to pull through the mesh, Gail said. "She had started in on the lining of an old coat."

By far, the dog who caused the biggest expense was Muff, the first of her foundlings and the one she decided to keep. "Of course, that meant I had to fence in

the back yard," she explained.

Still, when she does find homes for the animals — usually by word-of-mouth — she expects nothing in repayment. "But if it doesn't work out, I get the dog back," she insists.

**IT'S NOT** exactly easy to care for a temporary canine boarder, Gail admitted. To keep the peace, Gail keeps any strays separate from Muff and her pet cat, Poo. That's why strays stay in her basement.

She gets up early — four in the morning — to give special attention to a stray. "I feel guilty that I can't spend more time with them after work," Gail said.

She keeps the animals well-groomed, even when that meant picking out 75 ticks from a cockapoo stray, Sally. That same stray also kept Gail busy cleaning up after her because of a voracious appetite and sensitive stomach.

Gail had put tobasco sauce on the bark of young trees in her yard to deter squirrels. Sally found the sauce delicious, along with scattered bird seed on the ground. Unfortunately, her stomach didn't agree.

## How do you rate on the road?

So you think you're a safe driver?

Even if you regularly buckle your seat belt when you get into your car, there are many other safe driving practices a good driver must follow.

Now that school's out and people are taking to the road on vacations, being a safe driver on crowded highways is all the more important. The following quiz is designed to test how good your judgment is behind the wheel.

The quiz is reprinted from New England Telephone's employee publication, Topics. Answers are on Page 8.

(1) As you prepare to make a right turn, you swing a little to the left so there's no danger of hitting the curb. **Safe or Unsafe?**

(2) You are being passed. You maintain speed, because you think speeding up or suddenly reducing speed could throw the passing driver's timing off. **Safe or Unsafe?**

(3) You are second in a line of traffic at a red light. The car behind you is very close. As the light changes to green, the car ahead proceeds but you hesitate a



A HOUSE DIVIDED . . . A truce was in order strictly for a photography session. Gail normally must keep Muff (left) separated from her latest foundling, Noses.

Doctor's orders now have Gail cooking a special bland diet of ground beef and rice for the stray she now has, a Lhasa apso. She cooks the beef in water to eliminate all fat, and prepares packets of beef and rice in advance. In the morning, she warms up a portion for "Noses."

"I guess I just have a marshmallow middle," Gail said, referring to the inconveniences.

**THE OWNERS** didn't want Noses, Gail said, but her other strays were found roaming the streets. She picked up Gonzo not far from work by the Interstate. The long-haired "Heinz 57" now belongs to Ann Marie Stimpson, a planning engineer in Dept. 472.

"More people should take their unwanted animals to the Humane Society," Gail pointed out, or have a veterinarian put the animals to sleep. Dumping animals in the city or country is irresponsible and deplorable, she added.

Although she said she's happy when she finds homes for the strays, it still hurts to say goodbye to them, especially if she's had a dog for an extended period.



LIKE OLD TIMES . . . When Gail came to visit Sally in her new home, Sally seized the opportunity for a little belly scratching.

A person becomes accustomed to having them around, she said.

"I cried when Sally left," she admitted, recalling how the stray used to drop a

ball into Gail's hand upon command, only to grab her thumb in exchange. "You get attached."

I know the feeling. Sally's my dog now.

couple of seconds before moving. **Safe or Unsafe?**

(4) You're driving on the interstate. Your companion remarks about the beautiful scenery, but you don't see much of it. Your eyes are riveted on the road ahead so you'll be able to handle any traffic situation that develops. **Safe or Unsafe?**

(5) You have just passed a car. You wait until you can see both headlights of the car in your inside rear view mirror

before you swing back into your lane. **Safe or Unsafe?**

(6) When you're taking a curve that bends to the right, you keep as far to the right as possible. **Safe or Unsafe?**

(7) The driver ahead of you slows down and signals a left turn. You repeat the signal to the driver behind you in the interest of good will and safety. **Safe or Unsafe?**

(8) You want to turn around on a two-lane, two-way road. There's a side road

just ahead and no other traffic in your lane. You stop your car just past the side road, then back into it and pull out into the other lane. **Safe or Unsafe?**

(9) Your right wheels drop off the pavement onto the shoulder which is a few inches lower than the road. You maintain your speed and try to get back on the road. **Safe or Unsafe?**

(10) You are going to pass the vehicle ahead, so you pull up close behind it so your passing maneuver gives you a minimum amount of exposure in the opposite lane. **Safe or Unsafe?**

(11) You reduce speed before entering a curve, then about halfway through the curve you gradually accelerate. **Safe or Unsafe?**

(12) You have a blowout. You keep a firm, steady grip on the steering wheel and slam on the brakes. **Safe or Unsafe?**

(13) On any road, you generally try to position your car in the middle of a lane. **Safe or Unsafe?**

(14) The car ahead is weaving from one side of the lane to the other. Once, it swerves clear off on the shoulder and quickly returns to the road again. You poise your foot over the brake pedal to brake if necessary. **Safe or Unsafe?**

(15) Your car's rear end starts to slide on a wet road. You immediately take your foot off the gas and turn your front wheels in the direction the rear of the car is skidding. **Safe or Unsafe?**

(Continued on Page 8)

## On the cover

Even mothers-to-be should wear seat belts in cars to protect not only themselves, but their unborn children. Cathy Williamsen, an assembler in Dept. 445, shows the proper way a pregnant woman should wear a lap and shoulder belt. The lap portion of the belt should fit as low on the pelvis as possible.

Cathy is among the Works employees who signed pledges to wear their seat belts at least for two weeks during the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day. More motor vehicle accidents occur during the 101 days of this period than any other time of the year.

Pledges have been circulated throughout the Works as part of

Western Electric's participation in the National Safety Council's "Make It Click" program.

If people wear their seat belts for at least two weeks, the council theorizes, perhaps it will become a habit. Employees also are being urged to take home sign-up sheets so their families and friends can make the pledge. All signed forms should be returned to either supervisors or the safety department before July 30.

National Safety Council statistics show that you will probably be involved in a car accident in the next 10 years. So, if you haven't already signed a pledge, what are you waiting for?

# Wellness Program offers choices

Those rainbows you've been seeing aren't all the result of the sun finally peeking through Omaha's rains.

The rainbow is the symbol of ARA's Physfoods Program, which is being incorporated into Western Electric's Wellness Program at the Omaha Works.

Through the Wellness Program, "we want to make people aware of the risks to their health and offer choices to do something about those risks," said Dr. Lee Grant, Works medical director.

The importance of one's diet is the first area being addressed in the Wellness Program, which began officially last month.

"ARA has developed a national program on proper diet which is excellent," Dr. Grant said. The Works ARA service was planning to introduce the program in its lunchroom and vending machine services, and Dr. Grant considered it a timely complement to Western's Wellness Program.

Employees have begun to receive what will be a total of eight weekly letters explaining the Physfood Program and how they and their families can participate. Tent cards on cafeteria dining tables contain more information, as do posters at entrances of cafeteria areas. Another poster offers free credit card-size calorie counters.

The thrust of the Physfood phase of the Wellness Program is the labeling of

all food items — including vending foods — that meet the dietary guidelines of the program.

If the rainbow symbol shows up alongside a counter food item or vending machine window, you should know that this food will help you meet the seven dietary guidelines for Americans determined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Those guidelines are:

- Eat a variety of foods.
- Maintain ideal weight.
- Avoid too much fat, saturated fat

and cholesterol.

— Eat foods with adequate starch and fiber.

— Avoid too much sugar.

— Avoid too much sodium.

— If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation.

The importance of proper diet and weight control will be emphasized throughout July and August, although the Physfood labeling procedure will continue thereafter.

Then, Dr. Grant said, the Wellness Program will focus similarly on other important health areas — exercise, stress control and cigarette smoking.

## How do you rate on the road?

(Continued from Page 7)

Answers to the driving quiz:

(1) **Unsafe.** The driver of a small vehicle or motorcycle behind might think you were going to change lanes and be tempted to try passing on your right.

(2) **Unsafe.** You should do what you can to help the passing driver get around as quickly as possible. That is, reduce your speed.

(3) **Safe.** The driver might stop suddenly. If you're following too closely, a rear-ender could result. Use the two-

second rule before moving and maintain a two-second distance.

(4) **Unsafe.** Your eyes should be moving to get the whole traffic picture. Avoid tunnel vision.

(5) **Safe.** This technique assures you adequate clearance.

(6) **Safe.** This additional space lessens the chance of centrifugal force causing you to cross the center line into the path of a car in the opposite lane.

(7) **Unsafe.** Your signal should relate only to your car's movement.

(8) **Unsafe.** It's unsafe to back up on a roadway.

(9) **Unsafe.** This could lead to loss of control. The best technique is to slow down and come back on the pavement at an angle.

(10) **Unsafe.** You need room to see what's coming and room to pick up speed before entering the left lane.

(11) **Safe.** Moderate acceleration helps maintain traction.

(12) **Unsafe.** Sudden braking may throw you into a spin or out of control.

(13) **Safe.** This positioning gives you the best vantage point for "big picture" vision.

(14) **Unsafe.** This is delayed braking. You should reduce speed and start braking at the first sign of any suspicious movement.

(15) **Safe.** This helps neutralize the skid. And the sooner you start steering, the better your chances of getting your car back on course.

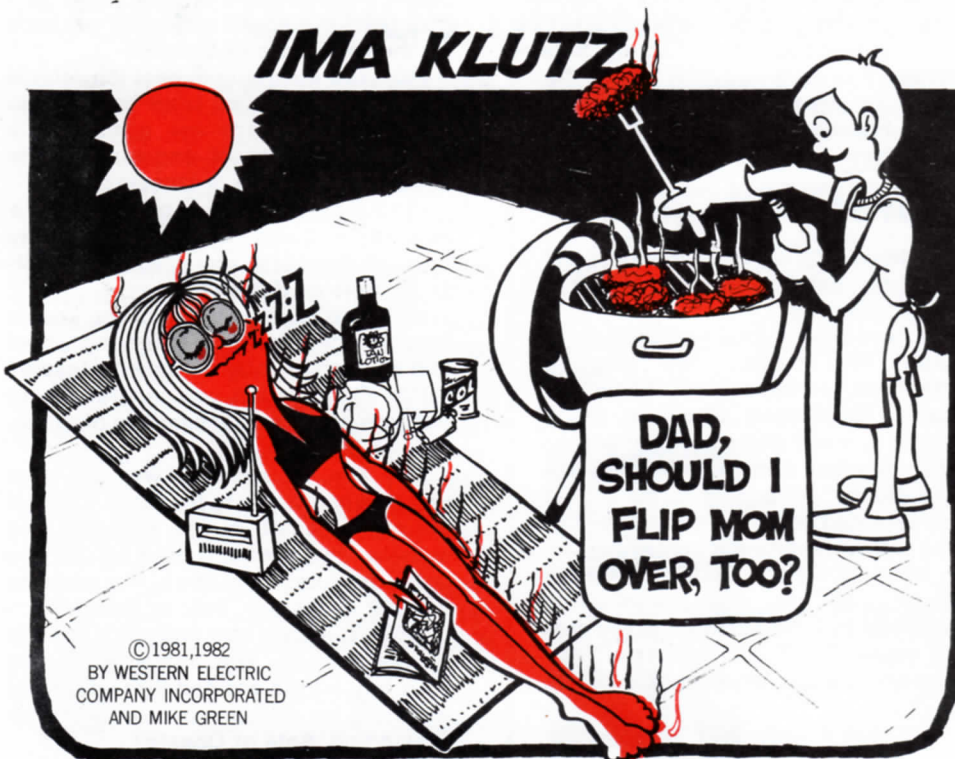
**Scorecard:** correct answers

14-15: excellent

12-13: good

10-11: fair

9 and under: Enroll in a driver's education refresher course right away.



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