

"Product Preview"

## Feature to Highlight Omaha Works Products

So you work at Western Electric. And when people ask you what you do, you tell them. You're a cable former or a coil winder or a unit tester or a layout operator. That's what you do and, admittedly, it's pretty important to you. But what about the remainder of the 6,700 Omaha Works employees? Do you know what they do, what products they're helping to make?

Beginning in subsequent issues of THE WESTERNER, the products made at the Omaha Works will be covered in a feature called "Product Preview."

By means of this feature, you'll gain a little better insight into what exactly are the Omaha Works' products. And hopefully, you'll gain a little better insight into what everyone else at the Omaha Works is doing to "bring people closer."

the  
**westerner**  
Omaha Works June 15, 1973

# Predict your future



## Buy U.S. Savings Bonds



Clair's daughter shot this photo in the Newark airport while her father was being frisked by authorities.

## Engineer Flunks Test

Things didn't go too well for Clair Poulson the last time he was in the Newark, N.J., airport.

While passing through the metal detector common today in most airports due to a rash of hijackings, Clair, a senior engineer in Department 175, **FLUNKED THE TEST!**

No matter what he emptied from his pockets, Clair still tripped the buzzer when he attempted to walk past the detector.

By this time he was getting some strange looks from the airport personnel. Finally, following a thorough frisk for concealed weapons, Clair was cleared for takeoff. But the mystery of the buzzer remained.

It wasn't until Clair was relating his experience to some fellow employees during lunch one day that the truth finally came out. Safety-conscious Clair was wearing his safety shoes on his trip. The metal tips on the toes had caused the alarm to sound.

Clair's experience is a humorous way of reminding all employees of the need to be safety conscious.

According to data released by Department 524, there were 75 days lost from work last year as a result of four cases of broken toes.

Commented Department Chief Dick Veach, "Had these four been wearing safety shoes, they no doubt would have escaped injury or at least would have minimized their injuries. The four individuals must have encountered considerable pain as a result of this type of injury."

Currently, the Safety Shoe Store has some older, overstocked and obsolete styles of shoes they are clearing out at wholesale prices. Interested in safety and economy? Then stop by the store sometime soon.

## "I'm more than willing to listen..."

*My husband beat me up to night. I'm afraid. He drinks too much and then goes berserk. What can I do?*

In October 1972, the Omaha Works established Employee Assistance, a program offering assistance and help either by phone or in person for employees as well as for members of their families.

The service averages 75 calls a month, night and day, work day and weekend. When an individual dials 4008, the voice on the other end of the line is usually that of Dave Jacobson, a professional in the field of human services.

*My mother works at your plant. I'm not sure, but I think she's seeing another man. Can you talk to her about it?*

If Dave is in the midst of talking to someone in his office or if he is out of the office on a professional visit, a private answering service will take the call and forward all messages.

"I can't stress enough the fact that

anonymity is guaranteed," Dave noted. "The only way any other individual is going to know that someone called Employee Assistance is if that someone spreads the information him or herself."

Dave also explained that calls are handled on a priority basis rather than first come, first served.

"It's obvious that a person who calls with some questions regarding property taxes can be placed next in line after a person whose child has become a disciplinary problem and has run away from home."

*The guy who works down the line from me has been acting pretty depressed lately. I think he has gotten himself into some bad financial problems. Think you'd have time to talk to him?*

Why Employee Assistance? Dave lists a number of reasons why the service is capable of achieving better results than could the individual involved.

"First of all, I don't solve problems. I aim the person in the direc-

tion where he or she can receive the best type of help for the particular situation.

"And it's only human," he added, "that when you're emotionally involved in a situation you sometimes can't remain rational in order to understand all the possible solutions."

*My wife and I don't get along. I don't think I love her any more and I know she doesn't love me. We stayed together for the sake of the kids, but it's just not working out. Would you be willing to talk to us?*

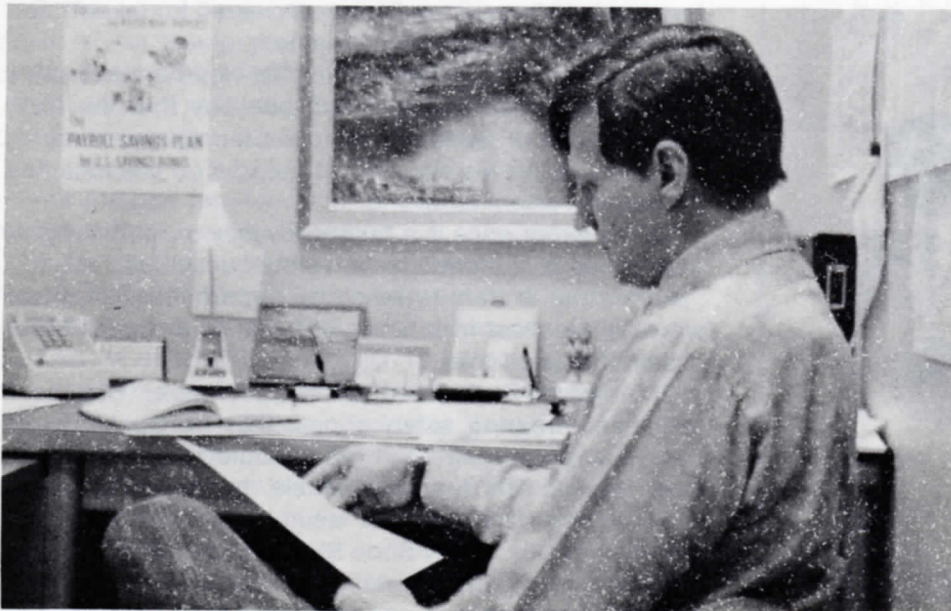
Dave notes that with his knowledge of available services, he can more often than not steer the employee to an agency that will assist people with minimal charge.

In order to increase the availability of Employee Assistance to all employees, Dave has extended his hours into second shift.

"I'm going to have my office open for consultation until 11 p.m. if necessary," he said.

Dave also stressed, "I'm not a miracle worker. If a person has a problem, I'm more than willing to listen and offer what help I can.

"Maybe some people won't be willing to accept my advice, but they won't know what that advice is unless they ask."



Dave handles approximately 75 calls a month.

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Western Electric - Omaha Works

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## Service Anniversaries

40  
Years



Maurice R.  
Mulligan  
522  
7-1-33

35  
Years



James J.  
Bezdeka  
137  
6-21-38

### 25 Years

Bert H. Mason 481 6-23-48

### 20 Years

Anthony T. Visocky 146 6- 3-53  
Blanche Z. Hofmann 400 6- 6-53  
June S. Schuster 257 7- 8-53  
Glenn E. Hunt 143 7-12-53

### 15 Years

Roy L. Baker 791 6- 2-58  
Ferril D. Quick 244 6- 9-58  
Donald J. Harris 241 6-16-58  
Gary L. Kahler 755 6-16-58  
Richard W. Laughlin 241 6-16-58  
Leon J. Nigh 245 6-16-58  
Dale B. Sundquist 795 6-17-58  
Dean I. Davis 171 6-18-58  
Homer L. Keim 245 6-18-58  
Clen D. Cash 245 6-23-58  
George P. Christensen 241 6-23-58  
Carl R. Colofiore 246 6-23-58  
Robert F. Hardin 3451 6-23-58  
Jay E. Stewart 271 6-23-58  
Clarion F. Zoucha 755 6-25-58  
Jerome A. Gau 241 6-27-58  
Kenneth E. Wild 244 7- 7-58  
Verna H. Brown 433 7-11-58  
Irvin L. Schroeder 244 7-14-58  
Marie S. Olson 433 7-19-58  
Theresa S. Swierczek 144 7-19-58  
Donald K. Moore 251 7-21-58  
Frank C. Brisbane 241 7-28-58  
Albert L. Johnson 6351 7-31-58  
Fredrick H. Minor 253 7-31-58

### 10 Years

Marvin H. Eatinger 751 6- 3-63  
Donna T. Hoffman 432 6-15-63  
Ida P. Flott 423 7- 6-63  
Dolores M. Muzzarelli 334 7- 7-63  
Esther K. Wegner 142 7-15-63  
Sharon W. Miller 334 7-18-63  
Loretta B. Thimgan 142 7-23-63  
Danny R. Allen 331 7-29-63  
William C. Tates 483 7-29-63

## Retirements



Hal  
LaLone



Carl  
Ahlberg

**Hal LaLone** has retired from the Omaha Works following 44 years as a Western Electric employee.

Hal began his career in 1929 as a final inspector at the Hawthorne Works. During his years at Hawthorne he served in the positions of material inspector, group chief and section chief.

In 1953 Hal transferred to the St. Paul Shops. In 1957 he was transferred to the Omaha Works where he was section chief in Department 263 at the time of his retirement.

**Carl Ahlberg**, who began his Western Electric career in 1948, has retired from the Omaha Works.

Carl started his career in the Duluth Shops as a cost and accounting clerk. At Duluth he also served as disbursement auditor and accounting analyst.

In 1959 Carl was transferred to the Omaha Works. He was named a wage practices associate in 1965. At the time of his retirement, he held the position of wage practices specialist, Department 311.

## Pioneers

The **A.B. Goetze Council** induction of new officers was conducted at a June 15 banquet at Anthony's Restaurant. The new officers are John Jacobson, president; Gerald Alfons, vice president; and Gay Darwin, secretary.

Plans are being made for a June luncheon for active women Pioneers.

The audio ball, a beeping softball produced by the Telephone Pioneers of America for use by the sightless, is now on display at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. The Hall of Fame accepted a display featuring the ball at a ceremony on May 10.

# Suggestion Awards

G.H. Ray	246	\$245
W.J. Heskin	241	175
P.A. Traynor	245	145
A. Anthone	246	100
R.D. Kilmer	245	75
J.J. Frum	245	
B.D. Coffman	433	75
E.H. Thomas	433	
L.W. Rockhold	245	60
K.L. Parker	246	50
D.L. Miller	245	40
R.J. Pohlmeier	251	40
C.J. Gardner	251	
W.J. Heskin	241	35
R.J. Krupa	252	35
M.A. Eckert	241	35
F. Holecek Jr.	241	35
P.H. Wefelmeyer	244	30
J.L. Detwiler	245	
D.L. Miller	245	30

W.J. Heskin	241	30
E.F. Krumel	241	
P.K. Krebs	132	30
I.C. Cheers	431	30
D.S. Norquist	137	30
S. Palermo	245	30
U.W. Laubert	246	30
K.L. Parker	246	30
D.K. Ludwick	132	30
E.M. Dixon	246	30
C.G. Chiburis	246	
R.G. Mach	251	30
M.S. Arends	257	25
D.R. Jones	252	25
F.J. Schleimer	132	25
W. Strack	241	25
T.L. Moore	133	25
J.A. Bonaiuto	144	25
R.E. Brown	142	25
V.H. Ruckman	141	25
S.J. Marasco	252	25
M.A. Eckert	241	20

D.S. Norquist	137	20
G.L. Faller	141	20
G.A. Colton	244	20
A.J. Kallhoff	251	20
G.D. Callahan	246	20
F.R. Payne	146	20
V.J. Dunn	252	20
G.D. Callahan	246	20
G.C. Woodard	252	20
F.J. Schleimer	134	15
E.J. Sindelar	132	15
B. Satcher	141	15
G.C. Woodard	252	15
C.L. Winn	411	15
J. Puente	266	15
R.J. Martens	251	15
M.D. Humston	242	15
J.A. Elliott	241	15
D.L. Hamlet	412	15
R.L. Coleman	252	15
S.R. Vachal	141	15
R.L. Coleman	252	15

## ATTENTION CHESS PLAYERS

Have you ever played chess by mail? You can relax at home and spend one minute on a move, or one hour or more. The Bell System Postal Chess Tournament affords the opportunity for all the fun of across-the-board play without the strain and necessity of giving up a whole evening and with the added pleasure of making new Bell System friends across the country. Some 1200 Bell System people are currently participating—men and women, retired and active, novice and expert.

Players from different Bell Companies are grouped into Sections of relatively the same skill. Each player in a Section plays all the other members of the Section simultaneously (about 8 games at once). A Victory Certificate is awarded to the winner of each section. A

point system is also used so that players may progress to a higher rated Section in subsequent annual Rounds. The top Section is known as the Championship Section and the winner thereof is declared the Bell System Champion and is presented with a suitable trophy.

The twenty-seventh annual Round will get underway early in the fall. Entries close, however, July 13, 1973. Novices as well as experts are welcome. **All entrants should have a knowledge of the rules of chess, ability to read chess notation, and the interest and time to keep seven or eight games going at one time.** There is no entry fee. Present participants will be sent an entry blank about the middle of June. New participants desiring to play should send the following information to:

Lynn Caprossi  
Western Electric Company  
195 Broadway—Room 1600  
New York, New York 10007

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Street and Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Department-Room)

(City and State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip Code) \_\_\_\_\_ Business Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ (Area Code)

Mailing Address (Home Address Preferred) \_\_\_\_\_ (Street and Number)

(City and State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip Code)

For those who have not previously participated:

I should like to play in a Section of:

Above Average Player \_\_\_\_\_ Average Player \_\_\_\_\_ Below Average Player \_\_\_\_\_

For those **who have participated** in previous Rounds of this Tournament:

My code number was \_\_\_\_\_ (if not known, indicate Company affiliation at that time: \_\_\_\_\_)



**Western Electric**

Frank J. Lefebvre  
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Omaha Works

120th & "I" Streets  
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Omaha, Nebr. 68114  
402 334-3001

MR. JEROME T. ERDMAN  
Executive Director  
Metro Area Transit  
2615 Cuming Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68131

May 30, 1973

Dear Mr. Erdman:

This is in reply to your letter dated May 14, 1973, to Mr. J. O. Bosworth requesting permission to operate transit vehicles over the Company's private road that parallels the southerly portion of our manufacturing complex between 120th and 132nd Streets.

This permission is granted with explicit rights by the Western Electric Company to revoke at any time for whatever reason upon written notice to the Transit Authority of the City of Omaha.

Permission is granted with the added understanding that you agree to indemnify and save us harmless from any loss or damage to our property and from and against any and all liabilities, claims, demands or payments, including Court costs and attorneys' fees, directly or indirectly resulting from the loss of or damage to the property of any other person and injury to or death of any person or persons including our agents, invitees, licensees or employees, which in any manner arises or grows out of your exercise of the rights herein accorded.

We sincerely hope our employees will utilize the service of Line #34. It is our hope that you will explore the possibility of extending the service to accommodate our afternoon and night shift employees.

If you agree with the above conditions, would you please acknowledge by signing a copy of this letter, and returning to me. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Acknowledged

J. T. Erdman  
Metro Area Transit



# Here Comes *MAT*

What's blue and white and rode all over? The Metropolitan Area Transit (MAT) buses.

In an all-out campaign to provide comprehensive bus service to a majority of Omaha residents, MAT is broadening the areas covered by its fleet of buses.

In doing so, MAT has extended its service to the Omaha Works. Service to the plant is being provided on a Monday through Friday daytime schedule. All buses are on the #34 line.

The following schedule follows a route from 24th and "N" (first time listed) to 72nd and "F" (second

time listed), then to the Omaha Works (third time listed):

6:00 a.m.	6:25 a.m.	6:44 a.m.
6:41 a.m.	7:06 a.m.	7:25 a.m.
7:23 a.m.	7:48 a.m.	8:02 a.m.
2:38 p.m.	3:03 p.m.	3:21 p.m.
3:20 p.m.	3:45 p.m.	4:05 p.m.
4:02 p.m.	4:27 p.m.	4:46 p.m.

Bus service is also being provided from the Millard area to the Omaha Works. Arrival times for these buses at the Omaha Works are:

6:47 a.m.,	7:11 a.m.,	7:44 a.m.,
8:24 a.m.,	3:45 p.m.,	4:45 p.m.,
5:25 p.m.		

The Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) says Omaha averages 1.2 persons per car. Reliable

sources indicate that it takes five buses burning diesel fuel to equal the amount of pollution put into the atmosphere by one car.

One bus could feasibly remove 40 cars from the now congested commuter routes. Forty cars equal the amount of pollution put into the air by eight buses, but eight buses could take 320 cars off of the congested commuter routes.

Whichever way Omaha Works employees choose to look at the situation, the fact remains that there is now bus service to the Omaha Works during the day for those who want to take advantage of it.

# He Knows What "Busy" Really Means

Ask John Tyrcha what he does in his spare time to keep busy, and he's likely to keep you busy for a good amount of time just telling you.

To begin with, John, a section chief in Department 242, has the distinction of being "one in 12 million." In simple terms, he is one of approximately 12 million Americans of Polish extraction. This fact alone explains close to 100% of John's extracurricular activities.

On Sunday mornings, when a good portion of the local populace is still breakfasting over the Sunday funnies, John is hosting his 15-year-old radio program on local station KOOO.

Explained John, "I usually plan the program on the preceding Friday and Saturday. It runs for a full hour and consists entirely of Polish music."

Also indicative of John's active participation in his Polish heritage is the fact that he is currently serving as president of the Nebraska Division of the Polish American Congress (PAC).

"The group was organized in Chicago around 1945," John noted. "At that time, it was formed to help the people in Poland. We sent millions of pounds of clothing to Poland during the war. Today PAC serves as a political representative for the Polish people in the United States."

John's most recent endeavor in behalf of his Polish ancestry revolved around the first-day issue of the Nicolaus Copernicus commemorative stamp. The stamp was issued in ceremonies in Washington, D.C. in observance of the Polish astronomer's 500th birthday.

Fifty seven hundred stamps were purchased by the Polish American Congress of Nebraska. As president of the state division, John was given

the privilege of drawing up a list of names to whom special first-day issue letters were sent.

Inevitably, when speaking to someone as proud of his heritage as John is, the question arises concerning the derogatory jokes much in use today regarding Polish people.

"It's in organizations like PAC that we can fight these jokes," John stressed. "We write to radio and television stations requesting they stop telling what we consider to be derogatory jokes against Polish people."

John estimates that approxi-

mately 55,000 Poles live in Omaha itself. While his parents were born on Polish soil, John claims Chicago as his birthplace.

It was at the Hawthorne Works that he began his Western Electric career in 1929.

John and his wife, Rose, have four children. The youngest and only daughter, Danita, is currently enrolled at the College of St. Mary.

All three Tyrcha sons work for Western Electric. Tim and Gene are employed at the service center and John, an engineering associate, is employed in Department 751 at the Omaha Works.



John played a primary role in the issuance of the Copernicus commemorative stamp.

# Your WE Benefits: The Death Benefit

**This is the fifth in a series of articles prepared by the Headquarters Benefit Organization describing the highlights of the Western Electric Benefit Program. The articles are intended to promote a general understanding of the various plans and cannot cover all of their terms and conditions. Full details are available, however, in booklet form from your local Benefit Department.**

There was a time when the primary interest of new employees was the kind of job available and how much it paid. Only the "old-timers" — employees with 10 or 20 years of service — were interested in company-provided benefits.

But today, even the youngest employees realize the value of a good benefit program. They know that disability, medical, and survivor benefits are sometimes as important to the young person just beginning a career as they are to the older employee who has had time to start building a private family security plan.

The Company's sickness benefit and health insurance programs were described in previous issues of THE WESTERNER. Our benefit program also includes several forms of survivor benefits: the Company Death Benefit payable under the Benefit Plan; Group Life Insurance; and an Annuitant's Pension.

Your family is protected by the Death Benefit provisions of the Plan from your first day on the job. The Death Benefit is paid for completely by the Company; there is no employee contribution.

The amount of the Death Benefit and provisions for payment are set forth in the Benefit Plan. The Sickness Death Benefit which may be paid in case of death due to sickness or off-the-job injury is equivalent to one year's wages at the time of death.

An Accident Death Benefit may be paid whenever death is due to injury which results solely from accident during and in direct connection with the performance of an employee's assigned Company duties as determined by the Benefit Committee. The Accident Death payment is equivalent to 3 year's wages. (Accident Death payments include any workmen's compensation amounts awarded or due under the law.)

Under the terms of the Benefit Plan, a Sickness or Accident Death Benefit must be paid to a husband or wife living with the employee at the time of death, or to a child, or children, under age 18 being supported by the employee at the time of death (or *over* age 18 if the child is mentally or physically incapable of self-support and is being supported by the employee).

If the employee has no one who qualifies for payment of a Death Benefit under the above circumstances, then other relatives receiving or entitled to receive support from the employee at the time of death may be considered for a Death Benefit. In this type of case, payment is at the discretion of the Employees' Benefit Committee

and both the decision to make a payment and the amount of the payment are based on the circumstances of each case.

Group Life Insurance, which is in addition to the Death Benefit payable under the Plan, is available to all employees upon completion of 6 months of Company service. The Group Life Insurance Program will be covered in a future issue of THE WESTERNER.


The third survivor benefit, the Annuitant's Pension, is included in the Survivor Option provisions of the Benefit Plan. Under these provisions, an Annuitant's Pension is paid automatically to an employee's spouse if the employee dies in active service while eligible to receive service pension.

An employee may elect the Survivor Option prior to retirement on a service pension, naming his or her spouse or a parent as annuitant. The designated annuitant will then receive an Annuitant's Pension if the employee dies during retirement. This benefit, too, will be discussed in detail in a future issue.

As you can see, the Company's benefit programs afford good financial protection for your survivors and are a strong foundation on which to build your own private security plans.

Watch for the special Open House issue. You may see your spouse, your mother, your father, your daughter, your son or yourself!

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U S POSTAGE  
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Omaha Nebraska  
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 Western Electric