

Larry Arp: Volunteer  
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the  
**westerner**

Omaha Works

March 9, 1973

# Volunteer Fireman Larry Arp: Giving More than His Share

"Self-satisfaction is the biggest payment you receive," commented Larry Arp on his work as a volunteer fireman.

Larry is one of a number of men and women at the Omaha Works who participate in some type of volunteer work within their particular communities.

For the past nine years, Larry has volunteered his time and, on occasion, risked his own safety to assist in fires and rescue efforts through the Bennington (Nebraska) Volunteer Fire Department.

Larry currently serves as captain of the squad. When he leaves the Omaha Works where he is a third shift unit tester in Department 422, chances are that he won't go home to a full eight hours' sleep.

"We average three or four calls a week," he explained. "All of the volunteers have radios in their homes so they can be alerted to an emergency immediately. If you're available, you go.

"Our rescue calls range from minor cuts to situations where we have multiple injuries and multiple patients."

Larry has recently been involved in the Emergency Medical Technician-Ambulance (EMT) training program at the Nebraska Methodist Hospital.

"Basically," he said, "the training will enable members of our squad to recognize and diagnose certain medical conditions so that the hospital can be alerted to the situation prior to our arrival with the patient."

Admitting the fact that a generous share of his free time is dedicated to the volunteer squad, Larry noted, "My wife, Karen, backs me wholeheartedly. It would be pretty hard to do this without the understanding I get from her."

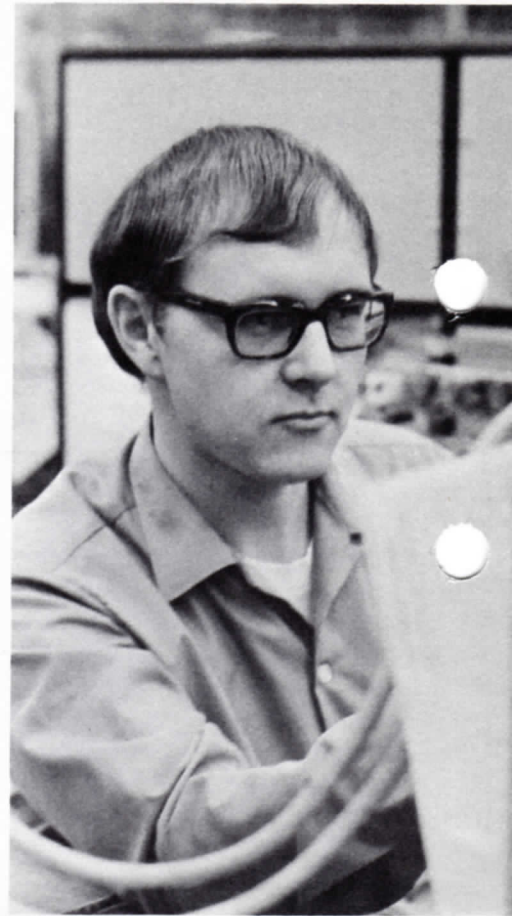
Vice president of the Missouri Valley Rescue Association, Larry has completed approximately 300 hours of first aid training. His ambition is to reach the status of a volunteer paramedic.

"I would like to be a paramedic, but it's not my ambition to go into that profession full time."

Since none of the members of the Bennington V.F.D. are paramedics, they are not allowed to treat their accident or fire victims to the extent that shots can be given or the skin can be broken in any way.

But hopefully, through the training they continue to receive as well as through the continued dedication of the volunteers, the Bennington V.F.D. will someday boast of its very own paramedic.

And chances are good that his name will be Larry Arp.



*On the job in 422.*



*Checking out equipment.*



*Larry's volunteer work gets 100% approval from Karen and two-year-old Lance.*

# Omaha Works Concludes E-Week Activities

Remember "Kick The Can"? It's a game kids used to play — bouncing a tin can down the street, chasing it, kicking it and chasing it again as it rattled down the pavement.

Today the rattle has become a deafening roar as hundreds of thousands of cans are discarded by the American public each year. Where do they end up? On our highways, urban alleys and even suburban streets.

But as Americans become more conscious of pollution problems, they have in turn become more conscious of the available solutions.

Due in part to this growing consciousness as well as to this year's National Engineers Week theme — "Engineering: A Better Environment Through Technology" — engineers at the Omaha Works chose to undertake the task of designing a can crusher to be donated to the Keep Omaha Beautiful Recycling Center at 20th and Center Streets.

The compactor handles approximately four tons of cans per day, crushing them into bread box size cubes weighing about 25 pounds each.

On February 19, the can crusher was formally presented at the Recycling Center by General Manager Frank J. Lefebvre.

Throughout the week of February 18-24, Omaha Works technical-professionals participated in numerous programs ranging from an environmental panel discussion moderated by local television newsman Lee Terry to an engineering display staffed by Western Electric employees at the Crossroads Shopping Center.

Approximately 150 senior high school students toured the plant and ate lunch with their engineering hosts on February 20.

That same day the Professional Recognition Award for Outstanding Achievement was presented to Reg Yates, an Information Systems staff member in Department 318.

Commenting on his receipt of the award, Reg noted, "I'm very proud, very thankful to have received this recognition. But I would like to credit Don Washburn and Betty Orley (both of Department 318) who were on the team which helped me to this success."

Reg's selection was based on the fact that he designed and supervised the development of a new Cost Bulletin System to set costs for all products manufactured at the Omaha Works.

"It's a much more efficient system and will save computer time," he explained.

A gold plate bearing Reg's name has been added to the Professional Recognition Award plaque hanging in the technical library.

During the local celebration of National Engineers Week, the Eastern Chapter of the Professional Engineers of Nebraska presented their 1972 Annual Achievement Awards.

In addition to awarding their usual first and second place honors,

the Committee this year chose to include an honorable mention category following their appraisal of Project "Mini-Computer Controlled Test Set for Central Office Equipment," submitted by the Omaha Works.

"Basically, the mini-computer was designed to be used in the shop to test crossbar switching equipment," commented David Buddenhagen, a planning engineer in Department 474, who originated this computer concept and designed the prototype.

"In the final design, the fact that the computer would speed up testing time became secondary to the fact that the computer would help the tester in the amount of time it takes to locate a trouble area."

The Omaha Works celebration of National Engineers Week concluded with a banquet at the Holiday Inn.

Guest speaker at the dinner was Professor Dwight A. Nesmith, Engineering Experimental Station, Kansas State University.



General Manager Frank J. Lefebvre, left, presented the safety plaque to Clark Schroeder, employee representative; Tom Conners, union representative; and Herb Rhodes, Department Chief.

## Safety Is An "Attitude" In 137

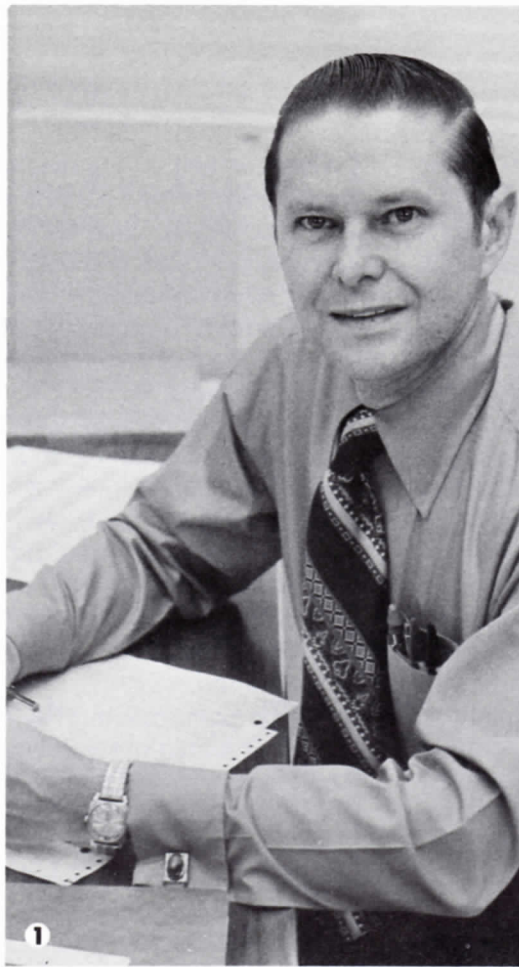
Department 137's heavy presses produce crossbar switch piece parts. And a high percentage of the over 200 people in the department work with or near this heavy machinery.

On January 29, the department reached an important milestone — one million man-hours worked without a disabling injury. The period of achievement began on September 17, 1970.

Commented Department Chief Herb Rhodes, "Safety is an attitude. The people in the department have been motivated to think safety. This has been accomplished by word and example."

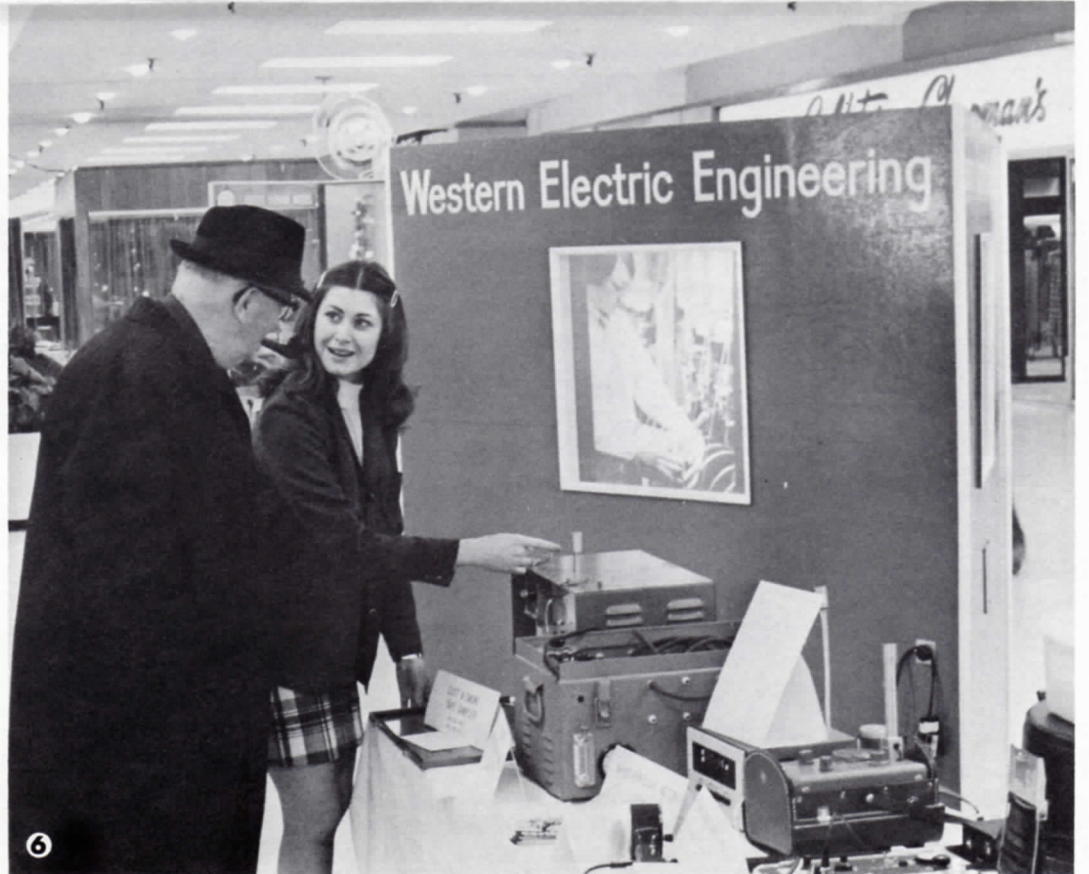
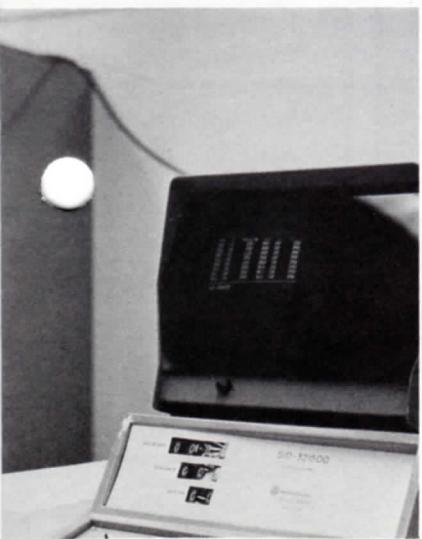
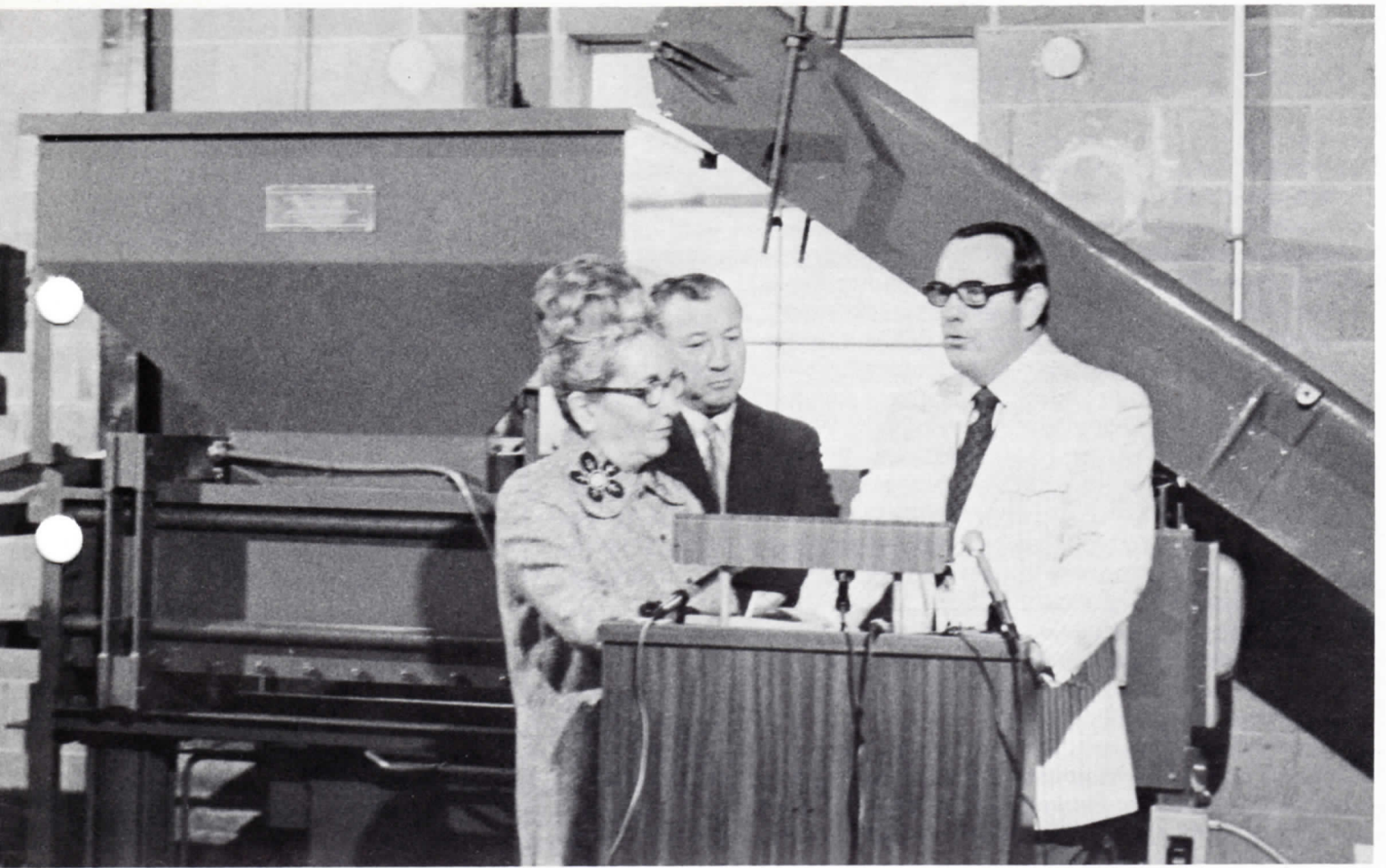
"These people are the primary reason why the department won this recognition. It's due to their positive safety attitudes."

# YEAH MAY SPEAKERS ENGINEERING



1. Reg Yates, Professional Recognition winner.
2. Can crusher presentation with Keep Omaha Beautiful Chairman Mrs. Les Anderson, left, Mr. Lefebvre and Mayor Eugene Leahy.
3. Guest Speaker Professor Dwight Nesmith
4. Don Olson, Omaha-Douglas County Health Department, left, Mrs. Anderson and Lee Terry participate in panel discussion.
5. David Buddenhagen with mini-computer prototype.
6. Omaha Works display at the Crossroads with Miss Weoma Attendant, Linda Whitehouse.





# Your WE Benefits

This is the first 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.

Security, as Charlie Brown might define it, is always carrying your umbrella when it looks like rain. Or looking both ways before crossing the street. Other well-known philosophers say there is no real security. And in the broadest sense, they're right. We are all subject to the effects of natural disasters, to illness, and death.

But there is a middle ground between these two philosophies. While we can't foresee or prevent many of the hardships we all must face at one time or another, we can use some of Charlie Brown's common sense to provide a measure of financial security to help us and our families through the difficult times.

Anyone who has been disabled for any significant period of time is aware of the importance of a continuing income and medical insurance. If you have ever lost an adult member of your family, you probably realize the importance of survivor benefits. And, although far too many of us may leave our retirement planning until the last minute, we are being reminded constantly of the need to start retirement plans early in our working careers.

These forms of financial security—disability insurance against loss of income, medical insurance, death benefits, and a guaranteed retirement income—can usually be purchased, but at considerable expense. However, as a regular employee of Western Electric, you are eligible to all of these benefits after a specified period of time, at no cost to you.

You should know what your Company benefits are in order to derive the greatest advantage from them and to use them as a foundation for your private security plans.

In the coming months **The Westerner** will present a series of articles on your Company benefits. We hope you will read the articles and

*(continued on back cover)*



**Helen Rawlings, an inspector in Department 262, was covered by WE benefits when she underwent recent surgery.**



**The switchboard** behind Liz Fleming was used to service the community of Ewing, Nebr., a number of years ago.

At the time this photo was taken, Liz often assisted the switchboard operator in channeling the right calls to the right people.

Liz recalled, "There were as many as 17 phones connected to one line. When one phone rang, all 17 phones would ring.

"Each phone had its own distinct ring such as three longs and two shorts. That way, when the phone rang, everybody on the line knew whether or not it was for them."

Liz explained, "When this photo was taken in 1946, it took at least five minutes to call Omaha from Ewing. That was because the call had to go through the Ewing operator who went through the O'Neill operator who in turn went through the Norfolk operator who finally went through the Omaha operator."

What does Liz think about modern day telephone service? See the back cover.

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**Gloria**



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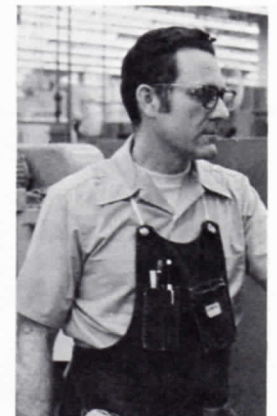
**Leona**



**Mattie**



**Shirley**



**Ivan**

### 140 Sub-Branch

# Quality Has Numerous Interpretations

"Self-satisfaction motivates me," explained Mattie Williams, a bench hand in Department 144.

Mattie is one of eight employees in the 140 sub-branch who discussed their thoughts on quality.

The employees interviewed are representative of those people in the 140 sub-branch who, under the direction of Assistant Manager Jack Ruzthoven, have established a fine quality record.

"To me quality means the best," Mattie added. "As it applies to my job, it means putting my whole self into it."

For Ivan Fetherkile, a machine setter in Department 143, quality can be maintained by being "alert, aware of what you're doing."

"I was raised that way," Ivan said. "Do it the right way or don't do it at all."

Judy Cartwright, a relay assembler in Department 142, expects to get her money's worth when she purchases a product.

"If you're going to pay for something, you should get quality," she noted. "If I'm not concerned about quality on my job, then I'm causing a lot more work for other people."

"I honestly think quality is necessary or I wouldn't pay any attention to it," said Kelly Fuller, a punch press operator in Department 141.

"I think about how irritated I get when I buy something that doesn't work," he explained. "It stands to reason that if each person is conscious about quality, then it will be easier down the line for everybody else."

Marie Biga, a utility operator in Department 146, believes the desire for quality is a part of every person.

"You can't put a bunch of bad parts together and get a good one. When you botch something up, the final product doesn't look like much. And that affects both quality and quantity."

"I know myself that when the work is good, you can work your

head off," stated Gloria Grimm, an assembler in Department 144.

"There's the urge to really go ahead and do it. If I see something that's bad, I just don't put it together.

"I'm saving the group time by taking it off the assembly line rather than sending it on where someone else will eventually have to repair it."

Leona Dean, a process checker in Department 141, commented, "If you don't have quality, you really don't work for anything. If you have quality, you have money," she explained.

"A lack of quality means that on down the line people will have to work even harder in order to bring quality back into line."

"As long as you do your work the right way, you can have quality," said Shirley Wagoner, a relay adjuster in Department 142.

Shirley is quality-conscious for a very simple reason.

"I don't like to do things a second time," she said.

## Benefits *(continued from page 6)*

discuss them with your family so they, too, will be familiar with our benefit programs and the financial protection they provide for you and your dependents.

We are starting the series with this issue by covering a benefit that is of major importance to all employees—whether they have four years of service or 40—sickness disability payments under the Benefit Plan.

You become eligible to sickness benefits under the Plan as soon as you attain six months of service. They begin on the eighth calendar day of absence because of disability due to sickness or off-the-job injury and continue at full- or half-pay for varying lengths of time depending on your term of employment, as follows:

Period of Credited Service	Sickness Benefit Eligibility Under Plan	
	Full Pay (Weeks)	Half Pay (Weeks)
6 mos to 2 years	None	52
2 to 15 years	4	48
5 to 15 years	13	39
15 to 20 years	26	26
20 to 25 years	39	13
25 years or more	52	None

You are eligible for your full schedule of benefits again whenever you have been back on the job for 13 consecutive weeks. (Accident Benefits under the Plan, which are paid when an employee is disabled because of injury resulting from and in direct connection with the performance of his or her job, are paid according to a different schedule. They will be discussed in a future article in this series.)

There are requirements that must be met before you can receive sickness benefits under the Plan. They include measures one should always take, regardless of benefit eligibility. Many people are reluctant to visit a doctor when they get sick. They keep waiting, hoping the illness will just disappear. But a minor ailment if ignored can become a major problem, sometimes resulting in a chronic condition affecting not just our employment, but every other area of our lives.

Unfortunately, too many of us have to get really sick before we realize the value of good health. So by observing the following rules, you will insure prompt payment of your disability benefits, but more importantly, you may avoid needless discomfort and pain, and possibly prevent a more serious illness from developing.

- Notify your supervisor as soon as you know you will be unable to report to work.
- Visit your doctor right away. Ask him to furnish the Company with evidence of your disability and treatment. The Company will provide a physician's certificate for this purpose.
- Report for a medical examination when requested by the Company.
- Obtain prior approval from the Company if you must leave, or wish to leave, the vicinity of your home during your disability and continue to furnish the Company with proof of disability and treatment.

A steady income is just one of the Company benefits you can count on if you are disabled. The Company's basic and major medical health insurance plans (HSH and EME) will help pay the cost of medical care.

In coming issues of **The Westerner** we will discuss these plans and the medical coverage they provide.



**Today, Liz**, a wireman in Department 423, still marvels at the progress in telephone communications.

"When I think about the dial telephone, I remember the days when we had to crank the switchboard by hand if the power went out.

"It's marvelous that today I can pick up the phone, dial it and in a matter of a minute or so my brother in Ewing will answer."

**March is EYE SAFETY Month  
Protect Your Eyes  
Wear Your Safety Glasses**

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