

the Westerner

OMAHA WORKS

MAY 22, 1978



As the sun sinks slowly in the Westerner sky . . .

A solitary runner logs another mile. John Maun is among the growing number of persons who have found that running gives them a "natural high."

Pages 4, 5

Also inside:

Three longtime Works employees trade their Western Electric ID cards for permanent passes.

Page 7

How can something old be something new?

Page 8

for your information

... The annual in-plant U.S. Savings Bond drive will be conducted at the Omaha Works June 5 through 16. Employees will receive information about how they can begin to buy bonds through the Payroll Savings Plan or increase the number of bonds they already are purchasing. If an employee wants to purchase bonds for a child, remember that the child must have his or her own Social Security number. Chairman of this year's campaign is Dr. Charles Kraul, Works medical director...

... The Omaha Works will be host May 24 and 25 for the monthly conference of the general managers in the Cable and Wire Division. Art Foster, vice-president of the Western Electric Cable and Wire Division, will attend as will general managers from the Atlanta, Phoenix and Baltimore Works and the president of the Nassau Recycle Corp. Peter Woog is chairman of the committee making plans for the conference.

Program focuses on customer need

On June 9 the Works will be host to special visitors as the new "Know Your Customer" program gets under way. Among those visiting from Northwestern Bell will be C. L. Pierce, assistant vice-president — facilities, and R. M. Sinks, assistant vice-president — construction planning. They will speak to the technical-professional staff and management of the Works about Northwestern Bell's product needs. Also acting as host will be Vic Kassel, Account Management director of operations serving Northwestern Bell.

With increased emphasis at the Omaha Works on the manufacture of outside plant apparatus, the "Know Your Customer" program is designed to help us learn more about our customers' needs. Through dialogue with representatives of various operating Bell telephone companies, the Omaha Works seeks to build better customer relations, increase awareness of its products, and generally improve loop transmission apparatus business.

Representatives from different telephone companies will visit the Works each month, accompanied by account management executives.



Daylight eye-saving time

WHOEVER CHOSE to move the Pioneer lounge and workroom from the lower level to the northeast end of the cafeteria had a bright idea, as far as Dolores Hanner (pictured) is concerned. Here she's in the workroom sewing a teaching aid for handicapped children. She works by the light of a window, one of the benefits of the new workroom. The workroom also is more spacious, say the volunteers who gather there every Tuesday to work on Pioneer projects. Dona's husband, Richard (Dept. 253), is a member of the A. B. Goetze Council of Telephone Pioneers. Council members should find the lounge, adjacent to the workroom, more convenient than the lower level location. The Pioneer rooms were moved from the lower level to help make room for laminated terminal strip production.

Corgan arrives at Works

The welcome mat is out for the new general manager of the Omaha Works, Warren G. Corgan. He succeeds retiring General Manager Frank J. Lefebvre.

Corgan comes from Gateway II in Newark, N.J., where he was general

manager of the Pricing and Corporate Account Management Division. His 22-year career with Western Electric has included service at the Allentown (Penn.) and Kansas City (Mo.) Works; at the Engineering Research Center; and at company headquarters in New York City.

Corgan is a graduate of Fordham University and did graduate work at Northeastern University. The New York state native and his wife, Elizabeth, have three sons and three daughters.

Corgan



A chance to give

Are you all wearing your short-sleeved shirts or sleeveless blouses? Good. It will make it just that much easier when you give blood in the Works auditorium June 8 or 9. Red Cross personnel will be on hand June 8 from 12:15 to 6 p.m., and on June 9 from 6:30 a.m. to noon. After you give a pint of blood, you can sit down to doughnuts, cookies and liquid refreshments.

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 **Western Electric**

service anniversaries

June

20 years

C. D. Cash
G. P. Christensen Jr.
C. R. Colofiore
J. A. Gau
R. F. Hardin
D. J. Harris
G. L. Kahler

R. W. Laughlin
L. J. Nigh
F. D. Quick
J. E. Stewart
D. B. Sundquist
C. F. Zoucha

15 years

S. C. Carpenter

10 years

G. L. Brummett
R. E. Glondys
M. S. Hollinger
D. S. Johnson
M. M. Nootz

M. S. Reick
G. W. Schabloske Jr.
L. I. Slizoski
L. P. Stamp
B. F. Vespucci



Blanche Hofmann
25 years 6/6/53

(Not pictured)
Bert Mason
30 years 6/23/48

retirements



Edward O'Donnell
37 years



Ervin Nejd
32 years



Santo Livolsi
30 years



William Kirk
21 years



Irene Wallace
18 years



suggestion box

The going rate may be "a penny for your thoughts," but it's much more for a worthwhile idea. Leonard Perkons of Dept. 741 could tell you that, and he ought to know. He earned \$1,480 in addition to \$595 awarded late last year for a suggestion he submitted. Perkons proposed design changes for stripper and die inserts of 710 connector element separating punch and dies.

Another suggestion award winner, Sterling Stuart of Dept. 411, recently received \$435 for his idea. He suggested consolidating delivery truck services when shipments are less than truckload.

The best of the 'Tom Swifties'

It's a good thing no prize was promised for the best "Tom Swiftie," because choosing a winner would be difficult. While the public relations office wasn't exactly swamped by contest entries, those received were top quality all the way. So, lend an ear to what Tom says:

"Have you seen 'Jaws'?" Tom said superficially. (Bob Urban, Dept. 362)

"I'd like a cup of coffee," Tom said perkily. (Mary Jane O'Kane, Depts. 511-513)

"He drank my beer," Tom said gusto-ly. (Dick Barnes, Dept. 1231)

"Don't add too much spice," Tom said gingerly. "I don't mind being crippled," Tom said lamely. (Sandy Ryder, Dept. 761)

One entrant, associate medical director Dr. Donald Perkin, really got into the spirit of the contest: "Shall we camp

here?" Tom said tentatively. "Look at that cataract," Tom said rapidly. (The clue is cataract — it's not what you think.) "Which way to the men's room?" Tom said candidly. "Stop!" Tom said haltingly.

Some contestants preferred to remain in anonymity. Their reasons are their own, but their "Swifties" are too good to ignore:

"They have stolen the most famous diamond in the world," Tom said hopelessly. (From an employee in Dept. 446.)

"Where did you hide the Kleenix?" Tom said nosily.

"I've been told I have a golden tongue," Tom said brazenly.

"I wish our general manager a happy retirement," Tom said Frankly.

"I hate left-handed people," Tom said righteously.



Photos by Rog Howard

THREE TO GET READY . . . Runners John Maun (from left), Del Wilke and Don Wiczorek train for marathons.

See how

Their numbers are increasing. Especially when the weather warms up you see them, like so many bees in clover blossoms. Like the bees, they are devoted to their purpose, eager to share their discovery with all who would listen. They are runners.

Some would call themselves joggers, but the serious ones among them prefer the term runners. John Maun, Del Wilke and Don Wiczorek, all of Dept. 251, indeed are runners. You know they take their sport seriously because all three talk about entering marathons. Wilke was to have entered a marathon (that's 26 miles, 385 yards) in Lincoln May 14, and Maun and Wiczorek are training for Omaha's August marathon. Wiczorek, in fact, entered a half marathon last month in preparation for the August competition. He came in 295th out of 322 runners.

"Jogging has a bounce to it," Maun said, while running involves more of a "pulling" action. Whether one jogs or runs will make a difference in the long-term effects of the sport. Running is less apt than jogging to jolt the spinal column and knee joints. The jolts can cause



A TRANQUIL SPORT . . . Wiczorek (left) and Wilke enjoy one of the fringe benefits of running — Nature's beauty.

they run

problems, he said. Maun, who has had back surgery, even credits running with improving his back: "I remember how it hurt and now it feels so good."

FEELING GOOD is what running is all about. Maun, Wilke and Wiczorek insist that running gives a person a "natural high." After a good run, a person may be physically exhausted. But in the long run (e.g. the pun), he should be more energetic and mentally alert, they said.

Maun, now 39, began running to keep in shape to play hockey, and "I got hooked," he said. When the winter hockey season ends, Maun begins running daily along bike paths or on school tracks. He gradually builds up the time spent running, until he averages about an hour each day. In 30 minutes, he can run three miles.

It really has kept him in shape. During a medical exam, Maun's pulse rate at rest was 40 (60 to 80 is normal). "The doctor called me back because he thought something was wrong," Maun said.

Wilke, 35, became serious about long-distance running about three years ago, he said. He had been studying karate for a number of years, and when a bad knee posed problems, a doctor suggested

that Wilke run "so my knee wouldn't get stiff."

He can run five miles in 30 minutes, Wilke said. He runs every day and averages from seven to 10 miles daily during the week and from 12 to 15 miles on weekends.

WIECZOREK runs every other day, he said, and never for less than 30 minutes (about three miles). He began running because he wanted to quit smoking, and "quit within about two weeks' time," he said. People become dependent on smoking because they actually don't breathe enough air, Wiczorek theorized. "Running makes you breathe better," and one no longer must depend on cigarettes. (Wiczorek occasionally smokes cigars, but "I don't inhale.")

The 37-year-old runner began running in a graveyard, sometimes with his young son beside him. Once, the youngster grew tired, so Wiczorek put the child on his shoulders and continued running.

Wilke suggested that if one is skilled in "recreational sitting," he ought to check with a physician before taking up running. Then, it's beneficial to invest in a pair of good running shoes. Good shoes are "absolutely necessary" to support the ankle and the whole body, all three runners agreed, because they help absorb the strains on one's joints.

Maun and Wiczorek both lift leg weights to strengthen their muscles, and Maun has begun a different diet to help improve his running capacity. He hasn't eaten meat in a year, and his diet is high in carbohydrates — consisting of vegetables and fruits. "Carbohydrates are

what carry the oxygen to the lungs," Maun said.

Maun also eats less since he began running, but not Wiczorek, who said, "I like to eat too much to cut down." Fortunately for a food lover, eating hearty is one thing a runner should do before a marathon. For example, before he ran the half marathon, Wiczorek began stocking up on carbohydrates a week before the contest. He recalled eating two huge bowlfuls of spaghetti one night. The more carbohydrates stored up, the longer a runner can go before he hits the "wall" — that point where energy is painfully low.

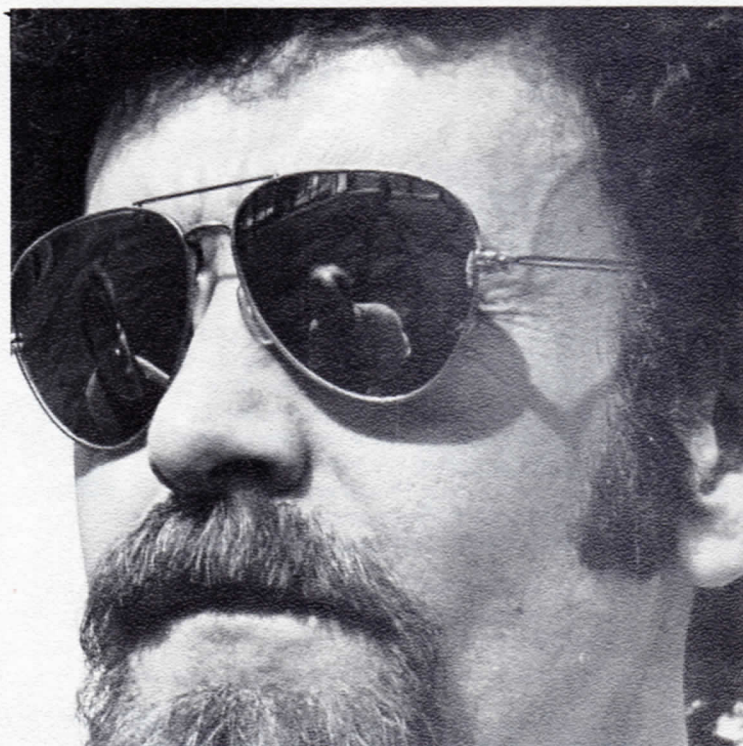
AT FIRST, it's not easy to stick with running, all three said. There are hecklers (that's why Maun first began running after dark), hills and dogs.

"Myself, I like the hills," Wiczorek said. "The biggest problems are the dogs. Once I picked up a garbage can and chased a dog" while running one night, he said.

There is pain, too. Experts say the last six miles of a marathon are excruciating. Wiczorek experienced some of that pain the last three miles of the half marathon. "You begin to think, 'Boy, I really feel like a dummy,'" he said, and the pain makes you wonder if running is worth the effort. "Your mind starts playing tricks when the pain really gets bad," and a person must convince himself to keep running — not to give in.

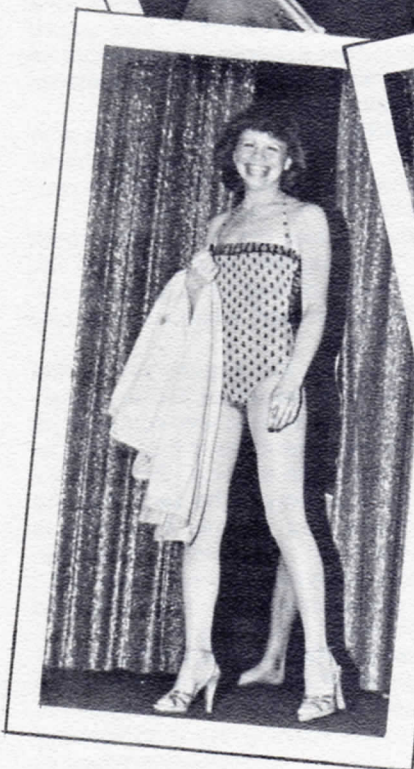
So, why bother? Again, it's that "natural high" feeling one gets from running. It's being alone with one's thoughts (all three prefer running alone to running

(Continued on Page 8)



Spring party scrapbook

An evening of entertainment, dinner, prizes and a style show made up the annual WEOMA spring party held last month at the Peony Park ballroom. This is "The Way We Were." Pictured are party-goers, including (below) several of the fashion show models: Rachel Hartley is ready for the beach, while Wayne Andersen strikes a muscle man pose. Jack Philby and Emily Pre-rost wear outfits that recall the malt shop days. Helen Solomon directed and Marie Cook chaired the spring party committee.



Time for travel, fish and 'soaps'

The three of them have a combined 84 years of service with Western Electric. People just don't put that many years into a company without taking something with them when they retire.

And so it is for Works medical director Dr. Charles Kraul, and assistant managers John Bourke and Bob Metz, who are retiring within days of one another. All three have said they are taking with them many good memories and countless friendships from their days with the company.

For John Bourke the days added up to 40 years of service that began at the Hawthorne Works in Chicago. It was during the Depression, and Bourke recalls being thankful for getting a job. He had no idea it was the start of a 40-year career with Western Electric, but then in those days getting a job with Western "was like church," he said.

"If you got a job with Western Electric, you were set for life," Bourke said. "And you didn't miss a day of work either, because missing work was like missing church on Sunday."

FOR MUCH of Bourke's career, he was busy helping open up new plants: the Duluth plant in 1948 and Indianapolis in 1949. He came to Omaha when the Works was just starting in 1959. "It was a real challenge" opening up plants, hiring and training employees, he said. "I like working with people, and I learned something new every day.

"The hardest part was closing a plant," Bourke said, referring to the closing of the Duluth location, "especially after the people had given their best effort."

Bourke's last day at the Works was May 17. He and his wife, Helen, will make their home in Arkansas, where Bourke plans to learn how to fish ("I'm old enough now") and to play golf. The Bourkes plan to tour the states, with their first excursion being by boat to Hawaii and Alaska.

But mostly, Bourke wants to adjust to the slower-paced, Southern way of living. After all, he quipped, "I'll have half as much money and twice as much time."

Bob Metz also will be getting used to new surroundings when he and his wife, Verna, move to a home in the Colorado Rocky Mountains. It won't take much adjusting, however, because he's been planning this moment for the past two years, he said. His eyes reflect the

sparkling waters of the Poudre River just 45 yards from his back door, when he talks about trout fishing.

EXCEPT FOR a year with Teletype Corp. in Chicago, Metz worked at the Hawthorne plant, where his 36-year Western career began for \$30 a week. He came to Omaha in 1956 to work in merchandise. Just 144 employees were on the payroll then at the two pilot plants in downtown Omaha, and the present cable plant was under construction.

"I saw the plant grow from scratch," Metz said. "It's been a beautiful experience, and I've had the opportunity to meet so many people." On a shelf in Metz's office sit books that contain the names of every employee who ever worked with Metz. He's kept the books over the years because "it's the people who make the job," he said, and he refers to them often when reminiscing.

After 36 years, he's going to miss Western's people when he leaves May 26, but as he said, "I'm not retiring — I'm graduating." Retiring is no different than his graduation from sixth grade, high school and then college, he explained. "And when you graduate from college you're ready to set the world on fire."

Did he set the world on fire?

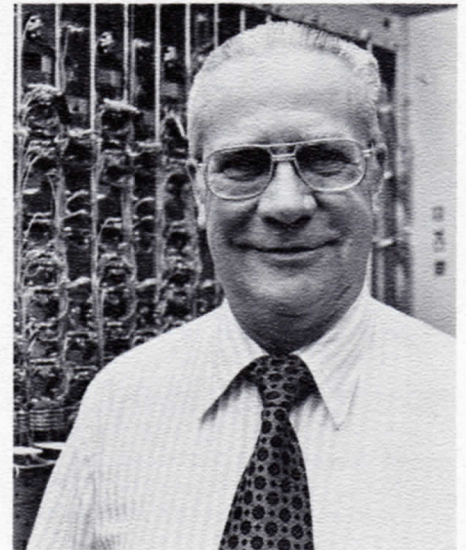
"No," Metz replied, "but I sure had one hell of a good time."

Dr. Kraul has the least time of the three with the company, nine years. Still, nine years has been long enough that "I'll miss the work — and the people," he said. "It's been like a cross section of any town" working at Western. "I used to think of Western Electric as being the 10th largest city in Nebraska," he said.

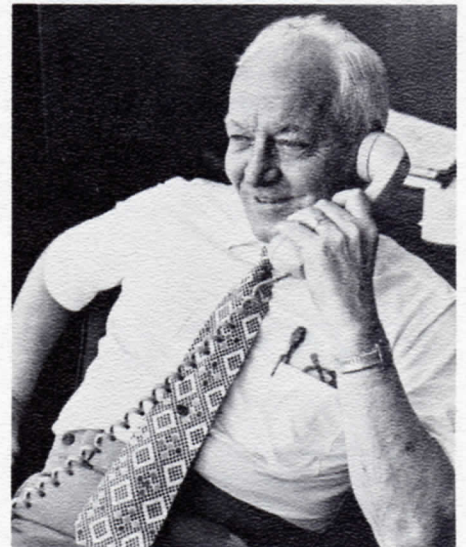
DR. KRAUL's medical career began only after he was an advertising agency employee for four years in Philadelphia during the Depression. He devised such slogans as "Tomorrow's news today" and "Johnny on the spot" for the local morning paper.

Then he was hired by the University of Pennsylvania where he earned his bachelor's and medical degree. He was an assistant to a doctor at the university, Dr. John H. Gibbon Jr., who devised the first heart-lung machine, and published an article on the invention with Dr. Gibbon. The machine later was miniaturized and today is used during surgery on humans.

Dr. Kraul later joined the Army, in
(Continued on Page 8)



JOHN BOURKE . . . Old enough to fish.



BOB METZ . . . Consider it a graduation.

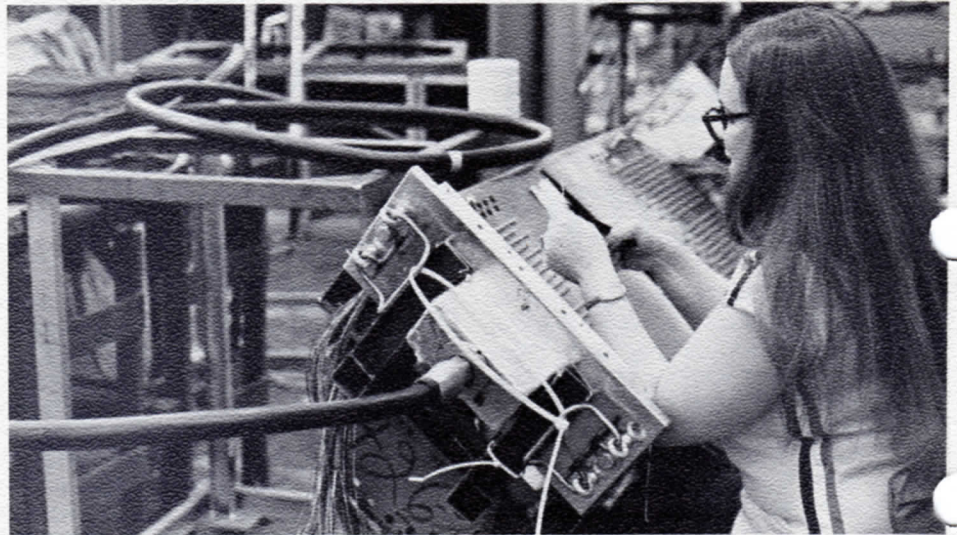


DR. CHARLES KRAUL . . . Bring on the soaps.

B-type cable terminals new to line

It's "old" but it's new. When the Westerner went to press, 28 employees were working on the assembly of B-type cable terminals, a product that's been around for a while but nevertheless is new to the Omaha Works. By the end of the year at least 54 persons are expected to be working on the assembly end of production. In June, about five more employees should begin making the parts for the cabinets. Currently, outside suppliers provide the materials needed. It is forecast that at year's end 17 persons will be involved in the fabrication end of production.

The B-type cable terminals are being shipped to material management centers. The first cable terminals out of the Works were shipped on schedule the last week in April — 47 in all, said Max Strong of Dept. 431. He expected an average of 50 terminals to be produced per week by the end of May, but forecast about 100



PROCEDURE . . . Deanna Zach works on one of the B-type cable terminals.

cabinets per week will be manufactured during the fourth quarter.

That adds up to about 5,000 B-type cable terminals to be produced this year. Once installation of the new production line is completed and employees have adjusted to the job, Strong said, it is projected that 8,000 terminals will be manufactured annually.

B-type cable terminals are used to

connect distribution cables (like those that go to your home) to feeder cables (those that come out of a central office — a building of switching equipment). The manufacture of the cabinets is an opportunity to make better use of the Works' cabinet-making facilities, said Tom Bowman of Dept. 401. They also are a logical addition to Omaha's line of interface cabinets, he said.

Works trio all set for retirement

(Continued from Page 7)

which he served 24 years before retiring as a colonel in the Medical Corps. "My biggest thrill," Dr. Kraul said of his Army career, "was on Good Friday in 1957." He had gone to Hong Kong to collect data from which the Hong Kong flu vaccine was identified and made.

It was in the Army that Dr. Kraul learned "the whole concept of occupational medicine — both the clinical and environmental aspects of treating people on the job," he said. Now all that will be behind him when he leaves the Works June 30.

His retirement plans include traveling this summer, throughout the Southeastern states with his wife, Betty. The Krauls plan to continue living in Omaha where, said Dr. Kraul, "I'm looking forward to the time when I can wear my bathrobe and watch the soap operas and do nothing else."

BUT DON'T take that last statement too seriously. Dr. Kraul, like Bob Metz, is a known storyteller around the Works. In fact, their retirements wouldn't be official without a last favorite story from each:

Dr. Kraul: The Husker quarterback was on the 10-yard line when he looked to Coach Tom Osborne for the next play. The play was off to the right tackle — and

the quarterback made a yard. The second play Osborne ordered was to the left tackle — and the quarterback made another yard. For the third play, Osborne was inspecting the score sheets and gave no signal. The quarterback acted on his own and made a touchdown and the Huskers won the game. Afterward, Osborne asked the quarterback why he chose that winning play. Quarterback: "I added play No. 7 and No. 6 and got play No. 14." Osborne: "But 7 and 6 are 13, not 14." Quarterback: "Gee, if I was as smart as you I'd have lost the game."

Bob Metz: There was a rich Texan named McPherson who loved to boast how he knew so many important people. A fellow Texan called his bluff and bet McPherson \$1,000 he didn't know Franklin Roosevelt. Off to Washington they flew. When they knocked on the White House door, FDR greeted them with open arms and said, "McPherson, where have you been? I haven't seen you in ages." The fellow Texan admitted defeat, but bet McPherson \$5,000 he didn't know Winston Churchill. Off to England they flew, and when they knocked on Churchill's front door, Winnie greeted McPherson with open arms and invited him in for drinks. The fellow Texan tried once more and bet McPherson he surely didn't know the Pope. Off to Rome they flew, but halfway over the Atlantic,

McPherson said there may be a problem in proving he indeed knew the Pope.

The Pope granted audiences only to one individual at a time, so how would his friend know that the Pope had recognized him? McPherson decided that he would convince the Pope to bring him out on the balcony to greet the people in St. Peter's Square. That would prove the friendship. So, while the fellow Texan waited amid the crowd in the square, he made friends with an Italian youngster who happened to speak English. When two figures appeared on the balcony, the short-sighted Texan asked the child to identify the persons. Said the youngster: "I don't know the man in the beanie, but the other guy is McPherson."

See how they run

(Continued from Page 5) with friends), or taking in the country side as Wilke does near his home in Wahoo.

But most of all, "It's you," Wiczorek said. It's the one sport in which a person doesn't need to engage a partner or team. A person runs when he wants and where he wants. It isn't even important to come in first in a marathon. What matters is that he makes and meets his own goals, Wiczorek explained. That way, "You'll never be last."