

# the Westerner

Omaha Works

May, 1980

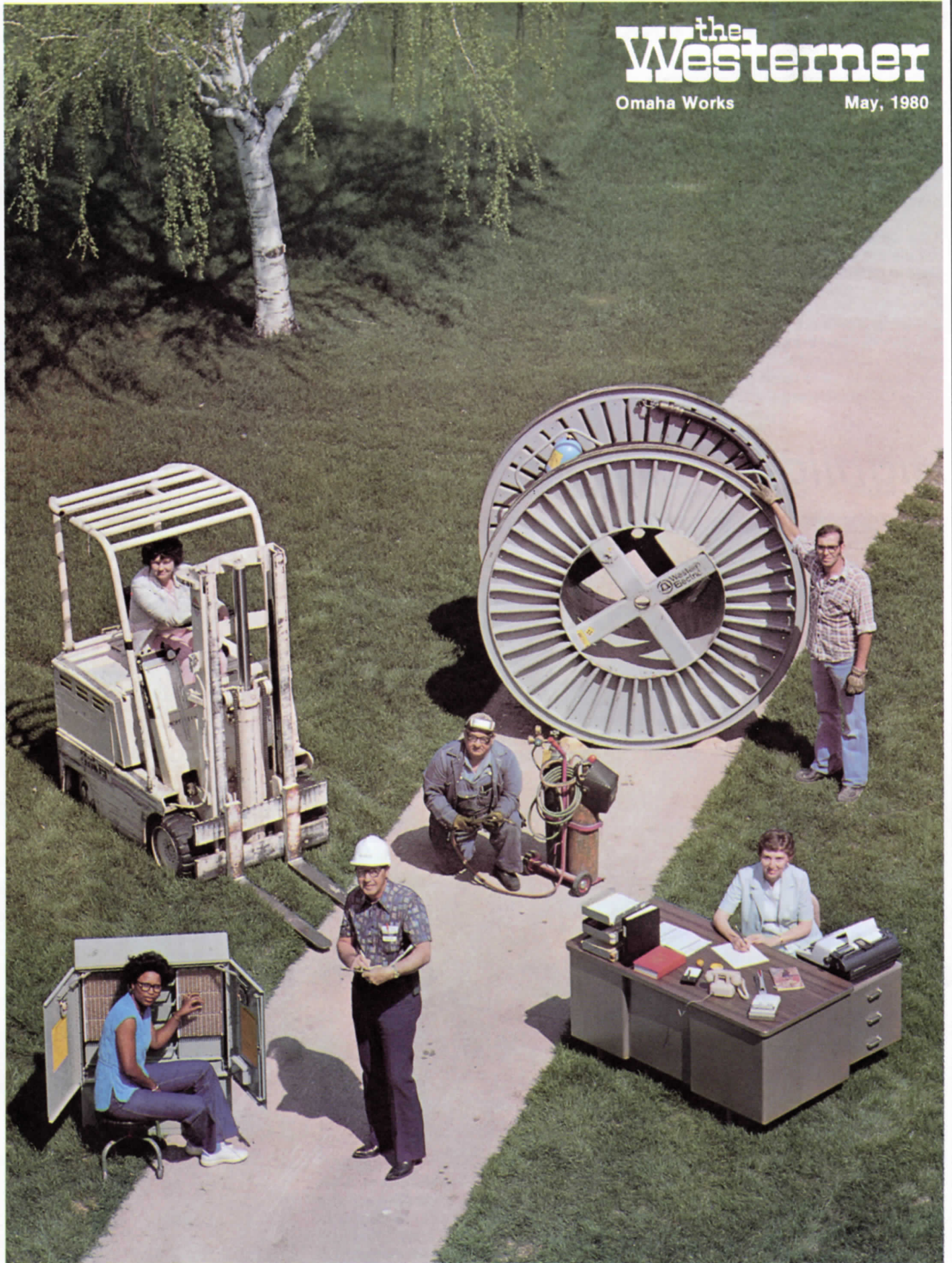


Photo by Larry Larson

# Omaha Works wins safety award

General manager Chuck Meetsma holding the copper and walnut plaque proudly over his head said it all: The Omaha Works has won Western Electric's Cable and Wire Products Division Environmental Health and Safety Award for 1979.

The award was presented in the auditorium on the morning of May 8 by Art Foster, vice-president of manufacturing in the Cable and Wire Products Division. The plaque will be displayed at different times in cafeterias throughout the plant.

Two representatives from every department at the Works attended the presentation. They were served coffee, juice and rolls and had the opportunity to chat with the vice-president.

In his remarks to those attending, the vice-president praised the "countless in-

dividual minutes of concentrated effort" that went into the Works' 1979 safety campaign. Mentioning the awarding of prizes and other special events that were part of the campaign, what appeared to be a fun effort among employees made him "wish I had been here," he said.

He also termed the contributions by safety and engineering personnel as "what I'd call the real meat of the total safety endeavor . . . All those seemingly endless minutes for safety were worth their while if just one employee was spared the pain of a non-disabling injury," he said.

The vice-president also said Works employees have reason to be proud not only for winning the divisional safety award but for the plant's excellent operating results.



PROUD MOMENT . . . Art Foster praised employees' efforts at the safety plaque presentation in the auditorium.

## Highlights of a safe '79

Many factors contributed to the Omaha Works' winning the Cable and Wire Products Division Environmental Health and Safety Award for 1979. Included among the year's safety highlights were the following:

- A drop in serious disabling injuries: from 41 in 1978 to 22 in 1979.

- Fewer lost workdays: from 869 in 1978 to 403 in 1979.

- The Works achieved a million man hours without a lost-time injury on the job on two occasions in 1979.

- Serious non-disabling injuries were

down 16 percent.

- Prizes were awarded monthly to employees in departments with clean safety records. At year's end, five grand prize color televisions were presented.

- More than 100 employees won a total of almost \$6,000 in the Safety Pays game during 1979.

- Engineering additions and modifications throughout the plant were extensive. Biomechanics, noise control and industrial hygiene were among the many areas analyzed for problems and solutions provided.



TOUR STOP . . . During Art Foster's stay, he had time to visit the Work's new gold and solder plating room, where a method of measuring the thickness of gold plate was explained. From left are Bob Kinney, one of three utility operators for the operation; Chuck Meetsma; Clayton Block, a senior engineer in Dept. 472; and Art Foster.

### On the cover

Representatives of employees from each Omaha Works organization — the people who made winning the divisional safety award possible — assembled in the mall area for the cover photo. In front (from left) are Ethel Payton, who is a 108 wiring block assembler for FDI cabinets in Dept. 439; Rex Zeller, a safety adviser in Dept. 524; and Thelma Cronin, a secretary in Dept. 333. In back (from left) are Elaine Koch, a forklift operator in Dept. 411; Bill Bartak, a welder in Dept. 744; and Tim Aken, who works in the reel yard for Dept. 201.

**the Westerner**

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Editor

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**Western Electric**

# service anniversaries

may

## 20 years

D.H. Beardsley	R.R. Plante	R.D. Ferrucci	D.M. Wiczorek
M.C. Goodell	D.D. Dennis	D.L. Morris	R.L. Feierman
S.H. Klabunde	D.J. Hancock	L.A. Tietz Jr.	E.J. Mach
D.P. Schreiber	N.B. Landon	V.J. Brantz	K.D. Saar
M.E. Sponsel	A.S. Schreiber	S.C. Marchello	P.D. Kempkes
D.B. Luben	A.R. Carbonell	E.L. Sylvis	M. B. Cudly
L.D. Shandera	O.J. Jurgenson	D.A. Anderson	N.S. Harder
G.D. Smith	B.A. McCall	R.D. Knudtson	C.H. Hadgwick
H.R. Kalasek	F.W. Sanders	R.S. McDaniel	D.E. Schaaf

## 15 years

J.F. Limpp	L.A. Klusaw	J.L. Prokupek	H.D. Baratta
R.A. Nelson	D.T. Street	G.C. Wilson	D.C. Brechbill
T.L. Sisson	G.L. Babel	P.P. Beiter	N.C. Pope
A. Starks	R.E. Young	D.S. Dubas	J.F. Bernady
R.A. Schmidt	D.C. Harrington	D.R. Curry	S.R. Vachel

## 10 years

J.K. Paseka	V.P. Todero	G.M. Osborne	T.N. Lathrop
G.L. Reynolds	P.L. Hearn	J.B. Nelson	P.H. Murray
J.H. Winters	C.M. Thinnes	K.I. Teller	J.L. Jones



Bud Busch  
30 years  
5/6/50



Theodore Bulling  
25 years  
5/23/55



George Maul  
25 years  
5/2/55



Loren Wacker  
25 years  
5/5/55

## retirements



Rudy Rudolfo  
23 years



Ruth Czaja  
23 years



Nettie Harder  
20 years



Marie Cudly  
20 years



Shirley Klabunde  
20 years

Not pictured:

Tom LaRocca  
22 years

Angie Jech



## Teens will vie for scholarships

Two Omaha Works employees have reason to be proud of their offspring.

Dan Jaixen, the son of Cheryl Jaixen in Dept. 439, has won a trip to Washington, D.C., all expenses paid. He will be competing there in August in the national Junior Bowling Scholarship Tournament. If he does well enough, he could win a \$1,000 scholarship for college.

The 15-year-old sophomore at Gross High qualified for the event in April when he competed in the state tourney, his mother said. Dan placed third in the state's first-day, roll-off handicapped event for boys, then went on to earn first place the second day of competition.

This is the first year Dan has entered competition, Cheryl said. She's not sure where he gets his bowling talents, although she herself bowls. She added, however, referring to her son's wins, "I've never done anything like that."

Another employee, Joe Jech of Dept. 745, is hoping his daughter, Angie, will do well in the 1980 Miss Nebraska Na-

tional Teen-ager Pageant, June 13-15 in Seward, Neb. As a finalist in the state competition, the 16-year-old Central High junior will vie for an all-expense paid trip to the national pageant in Atlanta, Ga. There she would compete for scholarships and other prizes.

Angie's interests include ballet, gymnastics and drama.

### BSSP/SSP results

The following are the March unit values for both the Bell System Savings Plan (BSSP) and the Savings and Security Plan for Non-Salaried Employees (SSP):

	BSSP	
	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T	1.8895	5292
Government Obligations	2.0860	4793
Equity Portfolio	1.4137	.7073
Guaranteed Interest Fund	1.0213	.9790
SSP		
	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T	8838	1 1314
Guaranteed Interest Fund	1.1057	9043



**COLD INVENTORY . . .** Among Rudy Calbetti's duties is keeping tabs on food stored in the kitchen's walk-in freezer.

# Food for the masses

How would you like to pick up a few items at the grocery store on your way home?

The list calls for 300 pounds of hamburger, 144 heads of lettuce, 120 dozen eggs and 104 pounds of cheddar cheese. Don't forget the 18-pound chunks of bologna and 100 loaves of bread for sandwiches tomorrow.

What may sound like a shopping list for a family of four hungry teenagers is actually the weekly grocery list for ARA Services, Inc. Works ARA manager Bill Sherlock and his crew of 18 feed about 900 plant employees daily in the main cafeteria or through vending machines. ARA also provides food needed at special luncheons, numerous in-plant meetings and retirement functions.

Feeding the Works' employees isn't much different from feeding a family, Bill said, except that the quantities involved and the challenges are on a much larger scale. Rising costs of food and related items (prices of disposable plates and place settings have skyrocketed) affect what will be served, he said. And like the home cook, ARA tries to avoid having any leftovers because "you have to decide what to do with them," Bill said.

**WHILE BILL** handles administrative matters, assistant manager Rudy Calbetti oversees production. He plans menus, orders and keeps inventory on food items and is the "head taster" in the kitchen.

It's not unusual to see Rudy sampling a dish head cook Camille Biondo has just prepared, or checking Dorothy Arrasmith's salads. Rudy, who used to cook for Gen. Curtis LeMay when he was the head of Strategic Air Command, occasionally whips up some of the dishes himself. A popular choice in the cafeteria, Taco Casserole, is one of his own creations.

"I just happened to have a bunch of broken taco shells one day," Rudy recalled, when the casserole idea came to him.

"It will never sell," Bill told him. Now whenever the casserole is on the menu, ARA can barely keep from running out, Bill admitted.

The bulk of ARA's cooking is done in a kitchen on the east side of Building 30, then transported to the main cafeteria. The kitchen's refrigeration, stove and oven units recently were replaced.

"The new equipment should allow for faster and better preparation," Bill said. Now the ARA crew can cook in batches quickly, thus eliminating making too much or too little, he explained.

**MENUS ARE** planned four weeks ahead, with room to make last-minute changes, Bill said. They're "tailor-made for the clientele," which means in Omaha's case that menu favorites frequently include fried chicken, Western burgers and fried chicken livers.

"We go through 80 pounds of chicken

livers a week," Bill said, "making us by far the largest single chicken liver user in Omaha."

Bill particularly is proud of ARA's "extra specials" such as prime rib, offered on occasion. "We don't sell a lot and we don't expect to, but it seems to add a certain amount of class or elegance to the operation," he said.

Bill is also proud of the homemade pies, cakes, cookies and puddings ARA offers, the work of head baker Cliff Clem. Making 30 pies in one day is routine for Cliff, who has been a baker for more than 30 years. A couple of weeks before the

(Continued on Page 6)



**SCOOPED AGAIN . . .** Flora Fox (left) and Dorothy Arrasmith put the finishing touches on luncheon salads.



**THE DAILY GRIND . . .** First cook Camille Biondo prepares yet another dish calling for fresh ground meat.



**PAPERWORK . . .** Bill Sherlock's crew includes Louise Seaman (left) and Gloria Garrens who assist in the office and work at the cash registers at lunchtime.

# Feeding the crowd

(Continued from Page 5)

annual Works Christmas party, Cliff starts baking cookies — six or seven thousand — then freezes them until use.

The kitchen also is where food selections for vending machines are prepared and wrapped. An ARA crew of three reports to work at 6 a.m. daily to tackle the chores.

The early work hours ARA personnel have (baker Cliff starts at 5:30 a.m.) apparently aren't a problem. It means the staff can leave in the early afternoon at day's end, with a considerable amount of daylight hours for their leisure time.

**WHAT CAN** be a problem, however, is determining how much food to have on hand for late noontime diners — especially with regard to salads. "It's hard to tell who will want a lettuce salad on a given day," he said. Salads are perishable: If all are not eaten they cannot be saved for the next day.

It's also a challenge to keep up with the heavy lunch period between 11:30 and 11:50 a.m., when ARA conducts about 70 percent of its business.

"But one of our biggest problems," Bill said, "is people not complaining enough."

Most employees don't hesitate to seek refunds at the ARA office for malfunctioning vending services, he noted. But when employees are unhappy with food served in the cafeteria, they don't seem to be as outspoken.

"They may be embarrassed to bring it up," Bill theorized. "But unless they do, how am I going to correct it?"



**SCOUR POWER . . .** Cook David Branscum washes out a giant steam kettle.



**IN THE DOUGH . . .** Chief baker Cliff Clem starts his workday early — 5:30 a.m. — to make all those pies, cakes and puddings.

## Rudy's "It Will Never Sell" Taco Casserole

**NOTE:** This recipe was adapted from ARA directions to yield a smaller batch.

### Casserole

- 1½-2 large bags Doritos, crushed
- 1 head lettuce, shredded
- 12 oz. shredded cheddar cheese
- 4 medium tomatoes, diced
- Taco meat mixture

Prepare taco meat mixture according to recipe. Keep hot.

In casserole pan, spread half of Doritos evenly. Top with half of meat mixture, half of the shredded lettuce then half of cheese. Repeat layers with remaining ingredients. Keep on warmer before serving, topping with diced tomatoes. Serve with hot sauce. Serves 12.

### Taco meat mixture

- 2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 onion, chopped fine
- ½ tsp. garlic powder
- ¼ C. flour
- ¼ tsp. cumin
- ½-1 tsp. paprika
- 1½ T. chili powder
- pinch of red pepper
- 1½ tsp. salt (or to taste)
- ⅛ tsp. pepper
- 6 C. beef stock

Add onion and garlic powder to meat in fry pan; brown and drain grease. Add flour and blend well. Stir in remaining ingredients. Cover and simmer for 30 to 45 minutes, until liquid cooks down.

## suggestion box

Some people try to make their money at the racetrack. Others, like **Al Anthon** of Dept. 746, do just as well — if not better — through the employee suggestion awards program.

Al's no newcomer to submitting suggestions, and his ideas have earned him money in the past. None of his awards, however, have been as large as his most recent one: \$2,515.

His idea was simple: That flame-hardened sheaves be used in place of aluminum sheaves at the four IPVC vaults. An adaptation of his idea will cut maintenance costs considerably.



Al Anthon

A number of other Works employees have found themselves in the money, too, when their ideas also were accepted. Those people include:

- Charles Syslo**, Dept. 741, \$790.
- Carmen Vacanti**, Dept. 511, \$730.
- David Howell**, Dept. 746, \$590.
- Robert Fleming**, Dept. 441, \$430.
- Sharon Allas**, Dept. 437, \$230.
- Ralph Burgett**, Dept. 437, \$132.50.
- Neil Zimmer**, Dept. 746, \$115.
- Keith Fink**, Dept. 435, \$110.
- Richard Seaman**, Dept. 252, \$100.
- Darrell Lieber**, Dept. 251, \$100.

# Staff changes announced at Works

Two staff members who joined the Omaha Works within a few months of each other in 1976 are leaving the Works now within weeks of each other.



Charlie Higginson

Charlie Higginson, Omaha Works director of engineering and manufacturing since Oct. 1, 1976, will become director, administration — manufacturing, at Western Electric's New York headquarters, effective June 1.

Peter Woog, formerly engineering manager of loop transmission apparatus at the Works, has gone to Nassau Recycle Corporation in Gaston, S.C., where he is now manager, product line planning and management. His appointment was effective May 1.

Charlie Higginson began his career with Western Electric in July 1951 at the Kearny Works in New Jersey as a central office engineer. Subsequent appointments took him to headquarters, San Francisco and Burlingame, Calif., and Chicago, where he served in various capacities.

The Rhode Island native previously was assigned to Omaha in November 1965, serving as manager of the crossbar shops for four years. Prior to becoming director at the Omaha Works, he was director of operations for Northwestern Bell and AT&T Long Lines.

Peter Woog also began working for Western at the Kearny Works. From a special technical assistant in June 1963, he worked his way through various positions. In 1971, he was transferred as a department chief from Kearny to Princeton in the Management Training Program, and later to Greensboro, N.C., and Boston. He served as an assistant

manager at the Buffalo Works prior to coming to Omaha in July 1976 as assistant manager, engineering — station cords, fine wire drawing, enamel wire materials development.

In addition to Peter Woog, another on the Works staff has been promoted. Tom Korpela, formerly a computer services analyst in Dept. 122-1, is now section chief of the department data services night operations.



Peter Woog



Tom Korpela

## energy... less is more

**ENERGY RIDDLE:** What's going to save the Omaha Works about \$6,000 a year and make the world a brighter place in which to live? Answer: The 24 new high-pressure sodium lights that have been installed in Building 50's parking lot. The lights, which shine with a golden glow, replace the lot's old mercury vapor lights. Because the new lights are more energy-efficient than the old, they'll prove to be both an energy and money saver at the Works. And because each new light gives off more lumens per watts compared to the old lights, they will burn brighter for nighttime safety.



## NWB executive guest speaker

**LIGHTGUIDE** was the topic of discussion in the Product Display Center the day Bob Runice (right) visited the Omaha Works. He is senior vice-president — business, for Northwestern Bell. As guest speaker later in the day at a general manager's meeting for supervisors, technical-professional and professional employees, he talked about his company's internal reorganization within the changing Bell System structure. With the visitor in the display center are Chuck Meetsma (left), general manager, and Tom Bowman, department chief of new product administration.

# Advanced manufacturing final exam

The following is a multiple choice exam to test your knowledge of Omaha Works manufacturing. Circle the correct answer to each question. Only one of the choices per question is correct. The correct answers are given at the bottom of the page.

1. Define a 710 connection:
  - (a) A movie that's a sequel to The French Connection.
  - (b) Changing from one plane flight to another on time.
  - (c) A type of wire connection made by using a modular splicing device called a 710 connector.
2. What is an FDI cabinet?
  - (a) A group of people who, as an arm of the FBI, advise the president of the United States.
  - (b) A feeder-distribution interface cabinet in which cable from the central office and from subscribers' homes terminates.
  - (c) A cabinet in which FDIs are stored at exactly 47 degrees Fahrenheit.
3. How many conductor feet does Omaha produce?
  - (a) None: The railroads are responsible for producing conductor feet.
  - (b) Two per conductor.
  - (c) It depends: A billion conductor feet (BCF) is a unit of measurement for all cable products (except connector cable). For example, in 1979 the Works produced 45.35 billion conductor feet or BCF of exchange cable.
4. LTA stands for:
  - (a) Loop transmission apparatus.
  - (b) Lettuce, tomato and avocado, a variation on the summertime favorite BLT sandwich for people allergic to bacon.
  - (c) League to taboo acronyms.
5. CONECS is:
  - (a) Read and enjoyed by many people; also known as the Sunday funnies.
  - (b) A time-saving method of wiring whereby 710 connectors are spliced to the ends of finished cable reels before shipment to the field. CONECS stands for connectorized exchange cable splicing.
  - (c) A new TV show about divorced prisoners.
6. How many different colors of spring cords does the Works manufacture?
  - (a) Any color you want as long as it's black.
  - (b) 16.
  - (c) One for each day of the year and by popular request on the extra day during leap year.
7. SCRAM is:
  - (a) What a man does when his lover's husband catches them together.
  - (b) A way to fix eggs with half the calories.
  - (c) Short for straight cord revised automatic machine, which cuts line cordage to length, puts plugs and blades on both ends and tests it.
8. SAM is:
  - (a) The husband in the previous question.
  - (b) Short for spring cord automatic machine, which puts the curl in spring cords.
  - (c) Everybody's uncle.
9. How much does a load coil weigh?
  - (a) More than Maurice Johnson but less than Charlie Bystrek and Denny Lynch together.
  - (b) A lot less since going on a low-carbohydrate diet.
  - (c) Depending on pair size, anywhere from about one pound to 190 pounds.
10. What is a B cable terminal?
  - (a) A device having terminals to interconnect cables.
  - (b) The place where the B cable car picks up passengers.
  - (c) I don't know.
11. A mini relay is:
  - (a) A relay race in which all contestants must wear mini skirts.
  - (b) A very short race for runners who didn't have time to get into shape.
  - (c) Short for miniature wire spring relay, apparatus used in crossbar switching equipment.
12. Why does the Works use a No. 1 wire draw?
  - (a) To draw thick copper rod through a series of carbide dies until it is the proper diameter wire for use in making cable.
  - (b) Because we use only the best.
  - (c) Because there is a shortage of No. 1 pencils.
13. Define Z-screen:
  - (a) A screen used to keep out pesky Z-bugs in the summer.
  - (b) A new kind of deodorant.
  - (c) A screen material used to separate two cables within one jacket.
14. Why do conductors come in pairs?
  - (a) Just in case there's another Great Flood.
  - (b) They connect to positive and negative terminals to provide a current so we can talk.
  - (c) To discourage muggers.
15. What is a 50-type closure?
  - (a) A device used to enclose splicing materials to protect them from the elements.
  - (b) A special garage door opener for exceptionally wide doors.
  - (c) A closure designed to keep type from going beyond the margins.
16. DEPIC is:
  - (a) What you use to chop de ice to make de drinks.
  - (b) What you use instead of dental floss to clean teeth.
  - (c) A type of wire insulation involving a layer of foamed polyethylene coated with a polyethylene "skin."
17. What is top coating?
  - (a) A second extrusion process which puts a polymer on station cords for scuff and stain resistance.
  - (b) What no native Nebraskan would be without in the dead of winter.
  - (c) The final layer of paint applied to a surface.
18. Computervision graphics is:
  - (a) A collection of porno movies about computers.
  - (b) An affliction of the eye often suffered by computer programmers.
  - (c) A computerized system used in machine and tool design by design engineers and draftsmen.

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## Exam answers:

17-a; 18-c;  
10-a; 11-c; 12-a; 13-c; 14-b; 15-a; 16-c;  
1-c; 2-b; 3-c; 4-a; 5-b; 6-d; 7-c; 8-b; 9-c;

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