

the Westerner

Omaha Works
May 1981



Is Marsha Seals hanging
wind chimes? See Page 4

for your information

Starting in June, employees will have a greater variety of styles and sizes of safety shoes from which to choose. A "shoemobile" service, operated by Haney's, will be provided on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. The shoemobile will first visit the Works on June 3 and 17.

While the shoemobile service replaces the sale of safety shoes through the Safety Store, it increases the number of shoe selections in stock. Employees can choose from five different brands at attractive prices. In addition, special styles may be ordered. Payments for pur-

chases will continue to be made through payroll deductions.

The shoemobile will be parked in the mall just outside the main cafeteria. To accommodate employees on all three shifts, it will be open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. each visit. Watch the bulletin boards throughout the plant for the dates of succeeding monthly visits to the Works . . .

. . . Even if the weather isn't warm enough, the annual WEOMA Club talent show will make it seem like summertime. The theme for this year's show, planned for June 12, is "In the Good Ol' Summertime." Part of the entertainment will include medleys from the turn of the century and modern days relating to summer. Employees and their families and friends are eligible to participate in the talent show. All you have to do is show up the night of the event at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium . . .

. . . Subbranches 250 and 280 in the cable shop have achieved the most

points for quality workmanship during the third rating period, in the campaign conducted by the statistical quality control department. Five criteria relating to quality determine how many points a subbranch will accumulate in a given rating period . . .

. . . "Honorable mentions" in the news include a special award for Carl Wright, a stockkeeper in the 44 Store of Dept. 748. Carl recently was named Volunteer of the Year of the Boys Club of Omaha. For many years, Carl has devoted numerous hours working with youths at the North Omaha Boys Club. In yet another youth group, the Girl Scouts, an honor was bestowed on the daughter of Eldon Nielsen, a pipefitter in Dept. 744. Melinda Nielsen has been chosen by the Prairie Hills Girl Scout Council as one of eight girls who will attend the International Girl Scout Center in Our Cabana, Mexico, in 1983. Selections are made every three years on the basis of performance in scouting.

Works assists in KOB project

Starting in June, the Omaha Works will participate in a project in conjunction with Keep Omaha Beautiful. Keep Omaha Beautiful is the local chapter of Keep America Beautiful, the national organization dedicated to encouraging citizen support for a clean environment.

Only recently, the city of Omaha began to participate in the "Clean Community System," the major program of Keep America Beautiful. The system seeks to get at the root of litter problems — people's attitudes — by educating citizens and getting them involved in systematic approaches to litter control.

That's where the Omaha Works gets involved. The Works will serve as the first major business in the area through which employees will be urged to practice litter control in their own communities. The Works was approached by Keep Omaha Beautiful because of its ability to reach large numbers of employees.

Assisting with the project will be the Works' Jaycee subgroup, whose members are employees here. Jaycee member Gail Bailey of Dept. 511 is helping to coordinate the project at the Works.

Members of the subgroup will first meet with supervisors early in June to acquaint them with the information to be disseminated to employees. Supervisors then will conduct "mini-workshops" as part of their own regular departmental meetings with employees. Employees will learn about the harmful

effects of litter in the environment, and what they can do to clean up their communities.

The meetings will include an audio-visual presentation highlighting trouble spots in the metropolitan area, as well as showing how other cities have solved litter problems. Employees even may



STOW IT . . . The Omaha Works will be working with Keep Omaha Beautiful to urge employees to keep litter under control in their community.


receive a copy of anti-litter ordinances in lay language so they may know the law and courses of action available to them. Because the Works is a pilot business participant in the project, workshop plans are in developing stages, Gail said.

In the past, Keep Omaha Beautiful has enlisted the support of civic organizations, neighborhood improvement groups and senior citizens groups. Eventually, more businesses like the Works will be asked to join in the cause, Gail said.

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 **Western Electric**

service anniversaries

May



Wally Holm
35 years
5/20/46



Bob Hansen
40 years
5/19/41



Harold Hawkins
35 years
5/31/46



Bo Bullock
35 years
5/13/46

20 years

M. V. Abrams	C. D. Garrett
V. D. Callahan	D. G. Johnson
L. R. Campbell	B. M. Klaumann
N. J. Christiansen	P. D. Oliver
R. D. Davis	R. A. Roxburgh
H. J. Esch	

15 years

B. E. Bianchi	S. J. Michel
J. D. Butcher	G. M. Newman
P. B. Dahlhauser	R. Parks
B. R. Douglas	C. W. Rangel
T. J. Freis	G. F. Samla
L. L. Keeton	M. B. Smith
T. D. McKiddy	R. F. Staack
G. N. Meckes	L. W. Winterstein



Lee Allen
35 years
5/15/46



Carl Moore
30 years
5/31/51



Al Mierau
30 years
5/21/51



Gene Filarecki
30 years
5/31/51

10 years

J. A. Elliott	H. P. Lyons
J. M. Gilreath	M. C. Lyons
J. D. Keuter	B. M. Reuter
A. R. Kohls	D. D. Stamm
N. S. Latch	N. W. Turner

Not pictured



Roland Seaman
25 years
5/29/56



Hollis Cook
25 years
5/21/56



Dick Reida
25 years
5/7/56

Ed Kot
40 years
5/27/41

Joseph Wilk
30 years
5/28/51

JoAnne McGerr
30 years
5/23/51

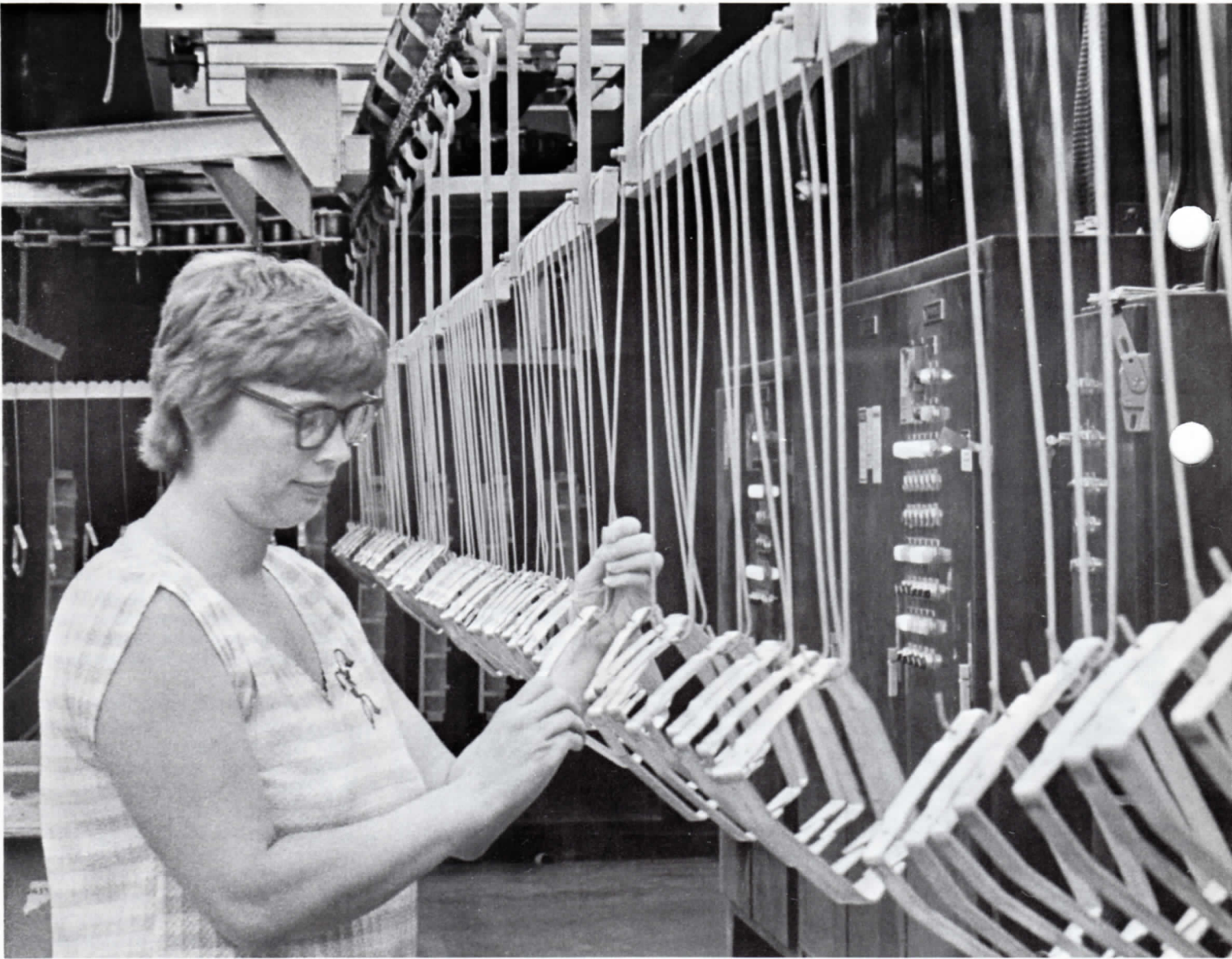
Lillie Rozmus
25 years
5/4/46

BSSP/SSP results

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

BSSP			SSP		
	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar		Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T	2.2130	0.4518	AT&T	1.0334	0.9675
Government Obligations	2.3142	0.4320	Guaranteed		
Equity Portfolio	2.0330	0.4919	Interest Fund	1.2199	0.8197
Guaranteed					
Interest Fund	1.1284	0.8861			

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Photos by Rog Howard

ON THE LINE . . . Beverly Eyestone hangs parts to be painted. The photo at right is powder paint being ejected from a booth. During 1981, the parts for about 1 through the Work's powder paint method

Look Ma, it's powder

Rumor has it that the Jolly Green Giant is alive and living at the Omaha Works.

He's left behind his tender corn and brussels sprouts. Instead, he's turned his attention to FDI cabinets, apparatus boxes and 3A/4A cable terminal sections.

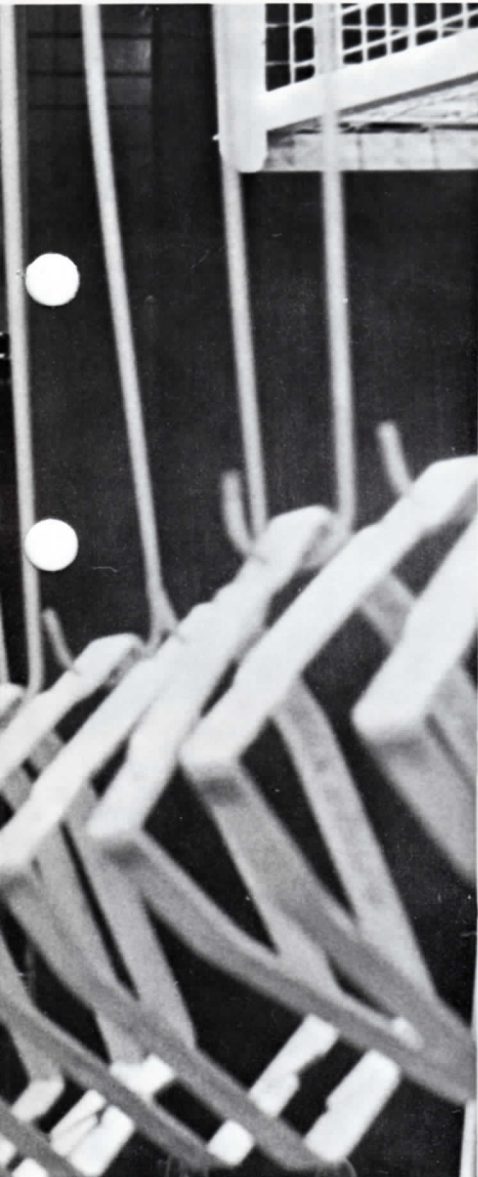
The "Green Giant" really is Jay Stewart, a senior engineer in Dept. 475. He's responsible for engineering the Works' powder paint operations which involve the products mentioned.

The color of the products painted (you guessed it) is green. But note it's a powder paint process — not liquid. And when you work with a fine green powder almost the consistency of flour, chances are some part of your body eventually will come into contact

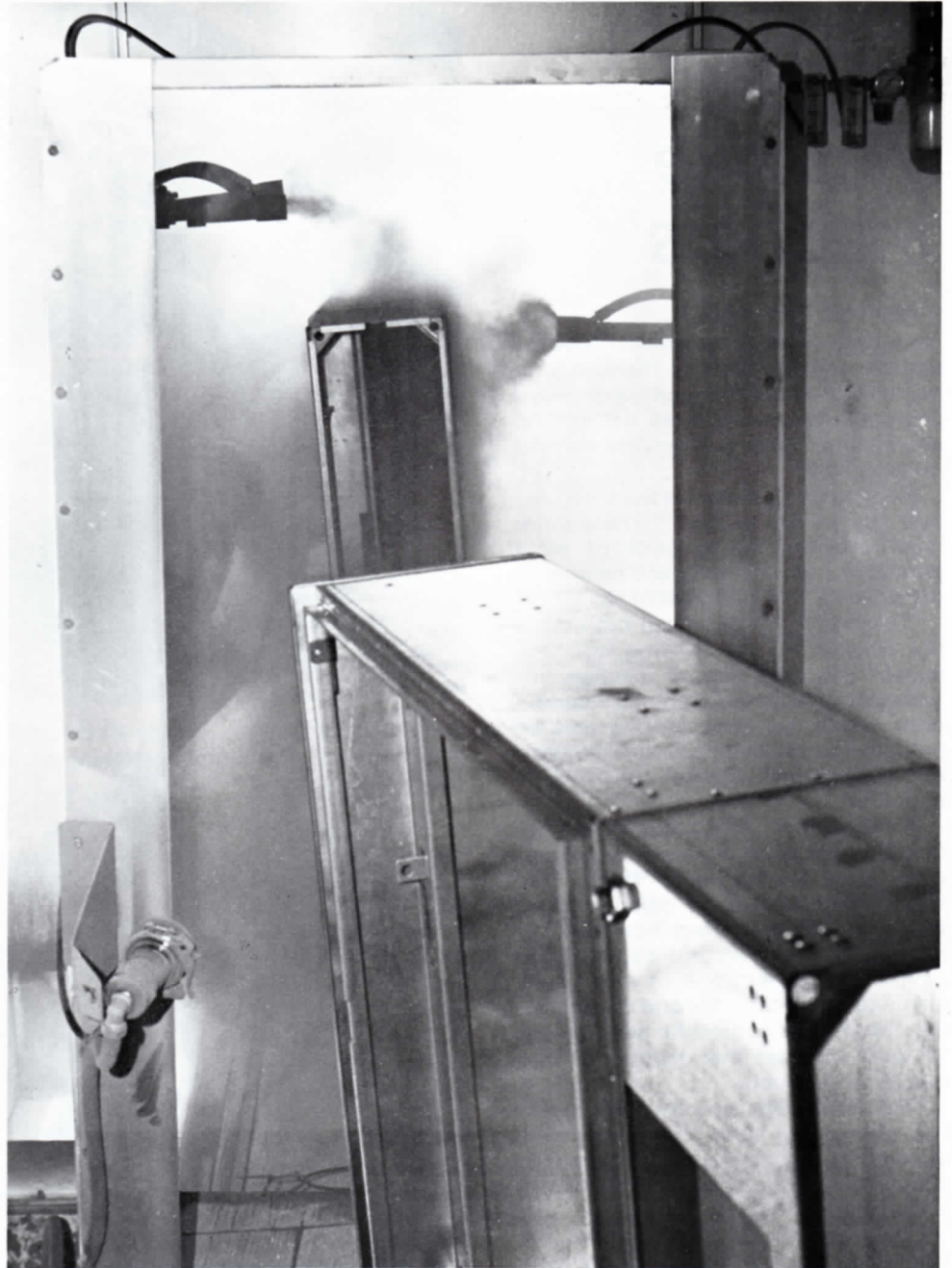
with a dusting of paint particles. That's why co-workers in Jay's department have nicknamed him the Green Giant.

One might envision powder paint as being fly-away and messy. Actually, the Works' powder paint system is quite sophisticated, employing vacuum systems within its painting booths, for example. The vacuum system helps contain the powdered paint in the booth, preventing escape to the environment, Jay said. An exacting, regulated air supply further prevents combustion of the paint particles within the booth.

"Powder paint is a big change from (liquid) spray-painting the old cross-bar frames," Jay said. "It's much cleaner." Liquid paint was messy and could be difficult to control, in that solvent carriers — the gases given off as



piece parts on the conveyor system that will "choke" that gives an eerie appearance to the system. From guns onto cabinet parts moving through the system. 100 FDI cabinets alone will have been painted



Paint dries — could escape to the atmosphere. With powder paint, the amount of solvent carriers given off is less than one percent — and even then, the majority stays in the system's oven.

IF THE POWDER paint system is beginning to sound complicated, you're right. Perhaps the only simple part of the operation is the theory on which it is based: Basically, the system involves suspending powdered paint through a gun directed at the product part to be painted. As the powder leaves the gun, the paint particles are electrically charged.

"It makes the particles act like a magnet so they are attracted to metal surfaces," Jay said. The particles literally wrap themselves around a product part prior to being baked or set

in an oven.

"If you were to hit the part before being set, the powder would fall off," Jay said.

Where the operation becomes complicated is the mechanisms and raw materials required, not to mention the skills of the people operating the system.

The Works' powder paint operation consists of two systems. The older system became operative in 1977 while the newer system was put into use in May 1980.

In the old system, product parts are first treated with a zinc chromate to prevent rusting. Then, the parts — which are suspended from a conveyor — move to a booth for painting. Guns inside the booth move automatically to paint the

parts. Next, the parts move by conveyor to an oven for curing. Depending on the parts being painted, a second painting and curing may be required, Jay said.

The new system uses a phosphating method instead of zinc chromate as a rust preventer. A conveyor takes the parts to a booth for the first coat of paint, then to a gel oven. After about 10 minutes in the gel oven, the parts continue to a second booth for another coat of powder paint, then on to a curing oven.

THE CYCLE is completed in about three hours in the old system (for one coat of paint) and in about four hours in the new system (for two coats of paint). Each system requires a crew of three to handle operations: Two floorhands to

(Continued on Page 6)

Powder paint

Particles stick like 'magnets'

(Continued from Page 5)

hang parts from hooks on the conveyor system and to remove them, and a painter to oversee the painting process. Currently, two crews work during first and second shifts, and one crew works on third shift.

Working as a painter on the crew, Jay said, "is an art in itself." The painter must monitor the amount of paint propelled from the guns and be able to determine if it is sufficient or too much.

"Too much powder given out means the powder will be repelled from the metal," Jay said, not to mention unnecessary cost of our products. Painters must watch for even coating and be prepared to adjust air pressure or clean out filtering systems for proper operation.

If the powder paint particles are not the right size, it can make everyone's job even tougher, Jay said. Things like wrong particle size or different paint base not only can affect how well the paint can be applied, but also how the paint will weather, look or hold up to electrical insulation. Jay and the operating crews must constantly be on guard for such changes that could affect the quality of products.

THE RESULTS, however, are worth the effort, Jay said, for the reasons already mentioned and also because the powder paint operation is versatile and adaptable to changes.

Changes to the old system, in fact, are scheduled which will allow FDI cabinets to be painted brown and tan — not just green — without time-consuming manual changeovers. This will accommodate the manufacture of new 80-type cabinets at the Works.

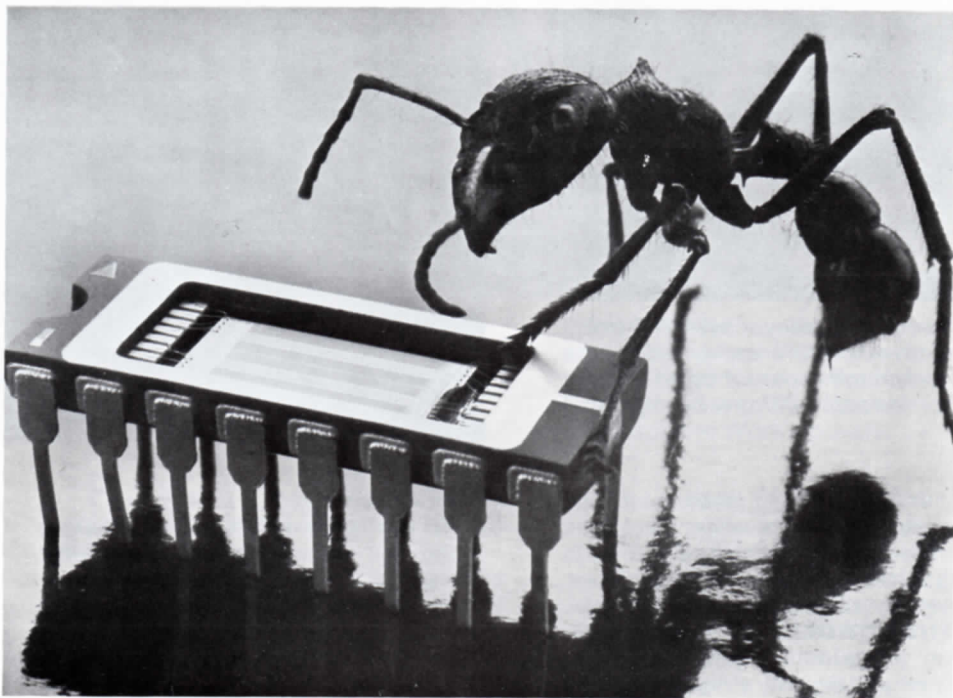
Modifications for a three-paint system will greatly cut the time required now to clean out all green powdered paint from guns, hoses, hoppers and other equipment. The green powder must be totally removed before a new powder paint color can be introduced.

It now would take from 16 to 20 hours to clean out the old system, and about 80 hours to clean out the new system, because of its greater expense, Jay said. Modifications to the old system would cut the time to about a half hour.

There's just one problem. Calling Jay the Tri-color Giant somehow doesn't seem to be very catchy.



WHAT'S SO FUNNY? . . . Herb Bass (left), a painter on a powder paint crew, and Jay Stewart must have found something amusing as they checked the paint on an FDI cabinet.

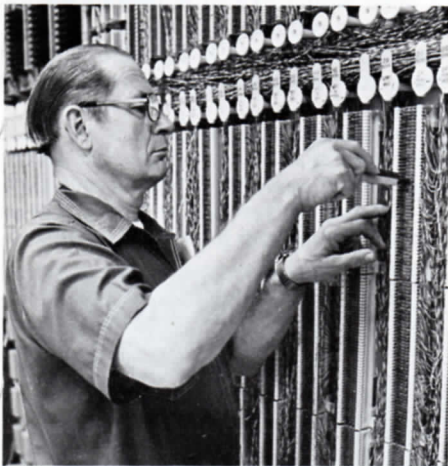


An ant to make you holler 'uncle'

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE this ant to show up at the next WEOMA Club picnic in September? Actually, the "monstrous" insect is nothing more than a South American fire ant photographed to dramatize the increasingly smaller size of one of Western Electric's sophisticated memory devices. This one, a 64-K random access memory device, is made at the Allentown Works in Pennsylvania. Inside are 152,000 tiny components such as transistors, and it can store and give access to more than 64,000 bits of data instantly. It is used in a number of W.E. products such as the Horizon® communications system, for which the Omaha Works manufactures the sheet metal framework that comprises the system's carriers. (®Registered trademark of AT&T.)

energy ...

less is more



THERE'S MORE than one way to hook up telephone cable, as Bob Nordahl demonstrates here. As an installer-repairman for Northwestern Bell, Bob is installing telephone cable on plant premises to transmit electrical impulses for a central, computerized control system that will affect Building 20 temperatures. A controller will be connected to an outside computer system via leased telephone lines to control the building's heating and cooling system as temperatures dictate. The system should be an improvement to the Works' previous timer method of turning ventilating units on and off. The new system should save the Works about \$8,800 a year in heating and cooling costs due to increased efficiency and lower operating costs.

Blood donors' card to go to President

Bobbie Wilson of Dept. 723 planned something new for the Bloodmobile visit at the Omaha Works May 28 and 29. As blood donors came to the auditorium, they were asked to sign a giant-sized greeting card which is to be sent to President Ronald Reagan.

The significance, Bobbie said, was to underscore the importance of donating blood to the Red Cross for storage in its blood banks. When the president was wounded in an assassination attempt March 30, he received blood from a Red Cross bank like the one that stores blood of Works employees and other Omaha donors.

"We just thought it'd be a neat way to show how we're glad to be able to donate blood this way so people like him can benefit," Bobbie said. Bobbie is a WEOMA Club representative who helps coordinate Bloodmobile visits at the Works three times a year.

CPR training tested in traffic emergency

"My God! Someone please help me!" shrieked the woman at the car window of a passing motorist.

The passing motorist was Barb Gray, a secretary in Dept. 472. She was driving recently in the Saturday morning traffic along West Center Road when she heard the woman's pleas for help.

Barb immediately pulled over and braked to a stop to assist the woman whose car was blocking a turn lane near the Target store. The woman was tugging at the slumped form of a man on the passenger side of her car.

"He's having a heart attack!" the woman cried.

What followed was an outpouring of assistance by several Omahans, not the least of whom were Barb Gray and later, Larry Young, a section chief in Dept. 437. Barb and Larry were among those samaritans who stopped to give cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to the heart attack victim.

Somehow, Barb and the woman — the victim's wife — lifted him to the street in the lane of traffic. "At this point I was so hyper," Barb recalled, "but I remember telling myself to remain calm."

Remembering her CPR training of more than a year ago, Barb realized the man was not breathing. She began mouth-to-mouth respiration and had determined no carotid pulse when another woman passerby relieved her so she could begin chest compressions.

She had completed a few rounds of compressions when a man offered to take over. That man eventually was relieved by Larry Young who had come upon the scene. Before a rescue squad arrived, still another man stopped to render CPR assistance.

After she was relieved, Barb was able to learn the couple's last name and that they were en route to a doctor because the 41-year-old victim hadn't been feeling well.

She later called the hospital to check on his condition. "He was in bad shape the first few days but then his condition stabilized," she said. When he was well enough for visitors, Barb stopped by at the hospital to see him.

There's no doubt he was glad to meet one of the people who tried to help him. "I found out that he had five children ages 2 through 11," Barb said.

The experience left an impression on Barb and Larry Young, too. Both expressed happiness in being able to give CPR assistance when it was needed. Both had taken CPR training in Works-



GOOD SAMARITANS . . . Larry Young and Barb Gray were able to administer CPR on a heart attack victim, thanks to a course they took at the Works.

sponsored classed that continue to be offered.

"I wouldn't have known what to do had I not taken that course," Barb said. "And if this had happened and I hadn't taken the class, I think I would have felt guilty that I hadn't taken the time for a class so easily available."

For Barb, the ordeal of administering CPR was a terrifying experience, she said, confiding that once she got home, "I broke down and cried." But more terrifying is the thought of standing by helpless when a heart attack victim could die or suffer severe brain damage.

Both Barb and Larry are grateful for the opportunity they had to learn the CPR method at the Works. Said Larry, "I'd like to see everybody take the course. This incident is proof that you never know when the training will be needed."

* * *

Editor's note: The Works WEOMA Club will sponsor CPR courses for employees after work hours during the latter part of June. Contact Hank Wnuk, Ext. 3023, for more information.

Mike runs with the best in Boston

You can't see his jogging T-shirt beneath his shirt and tie, but his running shoes give him away. Mike Fager, an engineering associate in Dept. 735, has the jogging bug.

In April, Mike fulfilled a dream shared by many running enthusiasts: He ran in the Boston Marathon. Although he was an unofficial runner, he completed the race in 3:30.36. The winning time in the race was 2:09.26.

Estimating that there were about 10,000 official and unofficial runners in the race, Mike figures he came in around the 6,000 mark. That's not exactly a sports record, but not bad for a 33-year-old man who began running only two years ago to improve and maintain his physical condition.

Mike said he participated in track during high school, "but it was never anything I excelled in." He grew up in a small Kansas town, "so it didn't take much to qualify for a sport," he said, explaining that he doesn't consider himself an athlete.

However, when he began jogging and entered his first marathon locally, Mike realized that he placed better the longer the race — a marathon being 26 miles. "That would explain why I didn't do as

well in my school's short races," he said.

His decision to run in the Boston marathon was almost spur-of-the-moment. A friend of his had entered and invited Mike to drive out with him and run in the race. "I was putting in a little over 50 miles of running a week," Mike said, "so I felt I was up to it."

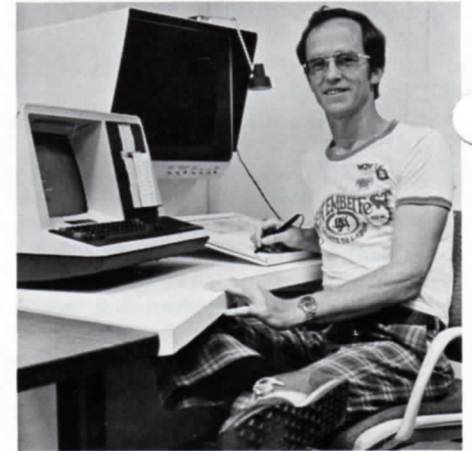
The marathon itself was greatly unlike the Omaha Marathon in which Mike had run. "The last 20 miles of the race had people standing almost continuously on both sides of the street," Mike said. The Omaha race doesn't attract that sort of following.

"And they weren't just gazing, but cheering you on," occasionally offering orange portions and cups of water to the runners. Mike didn't expect the crowd to take an interest in individual, unknown runners, but people would spot a saying on a runner's T-shirt and call out. Seeing "Bellevue" on Mike's shirt, the crowd yelled out "Go, Bellevue!"

"You know it's nothing personal," Mike said, "but it still felt good" to hear their encouragement. Actually, Mike was confident he would finish the race, and he was buoyed by the fact that "I felt pretty good, too." He had been a little sore after the Omaha Marathon.

Mike would like to enter the Boston Marathon officially in a couple of years, he said. He figures it will take him that long to improve his time so he can qualify.

He plans on logging 50 or 60 miles per week of running — even if it means running at midnight after second shift, or donning his running shoes for a brisk walk to work from his home in Millard.



ON THE RUN . . . Mike models his running shoes retired for walking purposes, and one of his many jogging T-shirts.

Works hosts CONECS meet

The CONECS Cable Conference conducted by Atlanta's Product Line Planning Management and hosted by the Omaha Works early in May has received positive reviews by customers of our products and services.

Responses were favorable concerning product updates, question and answer sessions, and factory tours which were part of the conference agenda. Attending were representatives from Bell of Pennsylvania, Pacific Telephone, Pacific Northwest Bell, Mountain Bell, Northwestern Bell, and Southwestern Bell telephone companies.

The three-day conference was designed to stimulate interest in CONECS cable and the 710 modular splicing system. It encouraged discussion of problems the telephone companies face in these and other product lines so that we may be better able to meet their needs.

In addition to 63 representatives from the telephone companies, also attending the conference were two staff members each from Bell Labs and AT&T, and 20 Western Electric-associated representatives from other locations.



THE WAY WE WORK . . . When conference participants toured the shops, they visited with employees Peggy Alexander (left, photo at left) and Pat Dahlhauser, who are assemblers in Dept. 441 (LTA tools, precision apparatus and test sets), and Don Martin (photo at right), as he injected filling compound in connectors.