

# the Westerner

Omaha Works  
May/June 1982



One for the road — Page 4

# for your information

The great race continues!

Winners in the second and third two-week periods of the "Safety's a Winner" safety contest have been named.

Hourly employees become eligible for prizes if their departments remain free of disabling injuries during a given two-week period.

Those selected from eligible employees during the contest's second two-week period are Mike Boruff and James Geiger, Dept. 252; Lucy Noble, Dept. 441; Dolores Karnish, Dept. 443; Richard Zook, Dept. 445; Carl Wright, Dept. 748; and Raymond Warren, Dept. 746.

Employees who won prizes for the contest's third two-week period are Bill Sucha, Dept. 445; Ida Baratta, Dept. 441; and Marjorie Lawrence, Dept. 447.

They had their choice of one of two prizes — binoculars or an AM/FM radio...

... Five more quality circles have been formed at the Works, giving us a total of six. They consist of employees who have volunteered to meet for one hour a week to identify problems affecting their work and to explore solutions.

The work areas the new quality circles represent and the employees forming them are: Dept. 437-8 — Sparky Bruning, Evelyn Dawson, Dottie DeBoer, Darleen Veylupek and Toots Willcoxon; Dept. 435-1 — Dorothy Bayliss, Sharon

Brown, Dan Dehning, Donna Erickson, Keith Fink, Lynn Hapke, Vicki Luther and Marvin Seitz.

Dept. 437-4 — Lucy Christiansen, Ron Erickson, Gary Hall, Wayne Harris, Denny Laaker, Charlie Stewart, Ron Yearsley and Gordon Viner; Dept. 445-8 — Dewey Brittell, Joan Durbin, Mick McGuire, Cyndi Gall, Bill Sucha and Elia Troia; Dept. 283-4 — Betty Desterhouse, Connie Garretson, Millie Johnson, Pat Patterson, Lula Perryman and Stan Vachal.

The Works' first quality circle was formed last year in Dept. 312-1...

... With this year's theme being "Rainbow Reflections," the annual WEOMA Club talent show will be presented June 11 in the Works auditorium. Employees and their children have prepared a number of acts to entertain the audience. The WEOMA choir also will perform.

The show, which begins at 7:30 p.m., is open to employees, their families and friends. Refreshments will be served...

... A six-member team made up of Works employees raised more than \$27,000 for Nebraska Public Television (NPTV) in a televised auction. Team members arranged for local businesses to contribute merchandise for auction, and the public was invited to bid on the items.

When the auction was over, the team had raised 129 percent of its goal, which was set at \$21,000. This added to the more than \$250,000 that was raised across the state...

... Works employees are among those in all of Western Electric who are participating in the company's sixth annual survey conducted by an independent research agency. The survey asks employees

that they think about major issues facing the company and the Bell System. Arrangements are being worked out so participating employees may complete the survey on company time.



TESTING... Jeanette Elliott was testing connector cable when Frank Heffron stopped by.

## Heffron visits Works

A shop tour by the vice-president of the Cable and Wire Products Division took him to Dept. 287 when he visited the Omaha Works in mid-April.

Frank Heffron stopped to chat with Jeanette Elliott, a floor hand in the department. He was interested in seeing how she tested connector cable, which is manufactured in the mezzanine area of the cable shop.

Besides touring the shops, Heffron met with the Works staff and spoke to gatherings of department chiefs, section chiefs, technical professionals and professional administrative employees.

## Warwick is vice-president

The general manager of the Omaha Works, William J. Warwick, has been named vice-president of Business and Residence Products, effective June 1, 1982.

Warwick became general manager of the Works in January of this year, transferring from the Montgomery Works in Illinois where he was general manager.

He joined Western Electric in May 1958 as a staff trainee in what was then the Defense Activities Division in Burlington, N.C.

After working in government contracting, labor relations and at the Indianapolis Works, Warwick moved into the Bell Sales Division in 1973 as manager, Cincinnati distribution and installation area. He spent the next six years in different

areas of Bell Sales before becoming director of operations and regional services (New Jersey Bell) in the North-eastern Region in 1979.

In March of 1980, he was promoted to general manager of the Montgomery Works.



William J. Warwick

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Editor

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 **Western Electric**

# service anniversaries

may/june

## 35 years

R. C. Hanner	252	5/27
P. K. Klippert	713	5/8
C. E. Lange	253	5/22
R. P. Schuster	713	5/14
C. R. Morse	749	6/30
N. J. Perry	253	6/27
R. D. Pritchard	285	6/25
R. K. Reid	431	6/13

## 30 years

M. A. Engler	311	5/12
F. O. Ienn	311	5/19
W. C. Kemp	441	5/22
G. L. Schuerman	312	5/3
W. F. Thompson	748	5/5
E. H. Valenta	712	5/5
A. D. Carpenter	251	6/23
T. F. Filipski	746	6/30
H. E. Kriz	441	6/3
C. M. Madsen	441	6/30
W. N. Reeve	713	6/16
R. E. Zook	445	6/9

## 25 years

H. G. Andersen	333	5/20
R. V. Bishop	441	5/6
V. L. Carlson	443	5/13
R. J. Coufal	741	5/6
K. R. Deman	745	5/20
D. S. Engel	431	5/13
E. M. Hansen	1231	5/27

D. F. Hartung	712	5/8
A. R. Head	475	5/14
F. C. Herre	253	5/16
D. M. Jurgena	748	5/13
J. E. Leonovicz	431	5/20
G. A. Melcher	435	5/7
R. T. Michaelsen	741	5/6
L. D. Nelson	122	5/1
A. L. Nielsen	441	5/20
M. Owens	437	5/27
D. J. Pfeifer	746	5/13
W. J. Thraen	746	5/13
K. R. Wadum	741	5/20
D. P. Bailey	732	6/24
T. J. Bolton	275	6/24
C. R. Campbell	745	6/10
D. D. Dirks	741	6/24
L. U. Howell	431	6/12
O. C. Jensen	713	6/3
A. M. Knight	441	6/20
J. E. Lovely	748	6/3
B. J. McGrath	311	6/10
A. M. Moss	289	6/17
J. C. Nielsen	741	6/10
R. E. Payne	745	6/17
J. A. Sanduski	514	6/25
D. G. Stickman	253	6/17
R. R. Yates	122	6/3

## 20 years

V. A. Bazant	447	5/28
T. L. Hummel	312	5/18
W. F. Lepley	313	5/8
J. I. Nelson	443	5/26
M. S. Perry	437	5/23

L. E. Reinke	251	5/19
M. M. Rutledge	437	5/27
P. G. Siderewicz	437	5/2
J. P. Stark	437	5/30
M. H. Thornton	282	5/31
S. V. Toepfer	437	5/17
C. R. Wright	748	5/21
M. P. Daneff	437	6/25
P. I. Giglia	282	6/5
D. W. Krutina	283	6/26
S. F. Kull	252	6/25
V. M. Potter	431	6/7
C. G. Spreier	435	6/11
W. Strack	741	6/24
M. E. Yearout	123	6/4

## 15 years

M. N. Bunting	441	5/13
G. F. Hacker	122	5/1
J. L. Heinzman	313	5/11
V. S. Luther	435	5/3
G. L. Scharton	252	5/1
U. B. Stinson	252	5/1
J. J. Zych	441	5/5
C. E. Best Jr.	287	6/26
P. J. Broderick	252	6/30
C. H. Comstock	437	6/22
M. A. Fischer	439	6/11
B. K. Grap	443	6/7
E. W. Hobbs	431	6/16
M. J. Huerta	445	6/19
J. L. Pedersen	252	6/27
J. C. Persinger	439	6/21
J. R. Welker III	746	6/14
S. T. Zerbs	271	6/5

## suggestion box

A suggestion here and a suggestion there really can add up.

Suggestion awards (of \$100 or more) that have been presented to employees in the past weeks have amounted to \$2,680. The ideas they submitted will save the Works a total of almost \$18,000 in a year's time.

The process for submitting ideas for consideration is simple. Pick up a form for the employee suggestion program at displays that are placed throughout shop and office areas. Write down your idea and drop it in the company mail.

Who knows? Maybe your name will appear here next for having received an award of up to \$10,000.

Employees who have received awards recently include:

**Pauline Lieth**, Dept. 439, \$570.

**Don Carstens**, Dept. 746, \$540.

**Mary Baker**, Dept. 333, \$340.

**Judy Nebe**, Dept. 331, \$275.

**Jack Reed**, Dept. 441, \$265.

**Jerald Hopkins**, Dept. 745, \$260.

**Eugene Bartunek**, Dept. 437, \$120.

**Paul Challengren**, Dept. 282, \$110.

**David Howell**, Dept. 746, \$100.

**Dorothy Verbocy**, Dept. 283, \$100.



Call **341-POOL** (7665)  
for free matching service.

# Getting the show on the road

You couldn't really call it a custom-ordered theme song, but Willie Nelson's "On the Road Again" certainly is applicable.

Two Omaha Works Product Display Center staff members have been on the road much of the past three months, participating in Western Electric-sponsored product shows throughout seven states.

Tom Bowman and Art Meier have done everything from packing Works products, to setting up booths, to driving a rental van bringing displays to the show in the next town.

The product shows are the idea of Western's Account Management teams. Their purpose is to present a collection of our products to customers in various areas of the country. Although Western has conducted such shows in recent years, this year marks the first time a concentrated effort is being made to present shows all over the United States.

The Omaha Works became significantly involved when the account teams for Michigan Bell and Indiana Bell wanted to set up a series of product shows for customers in those states, Tom said. The shows were to focus on network distribution products, of which the Works is a major Western Electric manufacturer.

As a result, what we provided included 710 connector products and tools, closures, 80 and 40 type cabinets and cable samples for display. From March 16 through April 15, Tom and Art alternated going to the shows as they were held in

Southbend, Evansville and Indianapolis, Ind., and Troy, Plymouth, Saginaw, Traverse City, Grand Rapids, Lansing and Kalamazoo, Mich.

**THE ONE-DAY** shows were held from 8 o'clock in the morning until 4:30 p.m. Invited to attend were personnel from Michigan and Indiana Bell companies, ranging from splicers and clerks to engineers and executive staff members. The idea was to expose network distribution products to as many levels of operating company employees as possible.

"This was a great convenience to our customers," Art noted. "You're able to get all the customers together at one time to view our products."

A total of more than 1,000 people visited the product shows in the 10 cities, which are located in a highly competitive section of the nation, Art said.

Their reactions to Omaha Works' products — particularly newer products — were very favorable. Tom said Omaha's 80-type cabinets, the new non-pressurized 50 and 51 type closures, an AGES kit for cable rehabilitation and 85-type cable terminal were among those well-received.

In some cases, display show guests indicated they were unaware that Western Electric even offered certain products.

If the Michigan and Indiana Bell product shows were so successful, a series of product shows sponsored by the Southwestern Bell account teams through June 9 is drawing even more attention. These shows are being held in eight major cities: Oklahoma City, Topeka, St. Louis, Kansas City, Dallas, Houston, Little Rock and San Antonio.

**MUCH LARGER** than the Michigan and Indiana Bell product shows, Southwestern's shows feature the integrated services digital network (ISDN). It includes not only network distribution products, but also switching and power, digital transmission, energy and network operation systems.

Omaha teamed up with other manufacturing locations, Corporate Account Management, Product Line Planning and Management and regional personnel to provide and staff displays. The

shows cover 12,000 square feet of space and are designed to show the operating companies how Western products can augment their current network to enhance the offering of new digital services.

Many of the displays are "working" displays. Visitors actually can use a product displayed and see how it operates.

"People commented to me how they never realized how comprehensive our systems and offerings are," Art said of the shows he has helped conduct. "One vice-president (of Southwestern Bell) even came back the second day with his secretary so she could see the show," and had urged his entire staff to attend, he added. (Several Southwestern Bell shows span two days.)

Art said the impact of such product shows on our customer relations can only be beneficial. "The people staffing our booths are professional, they know their material and can answer questions without hesitation. And they make the customers feel welcome, as if they're part of Western Electric."

## On the cover

Process checker Kathy Smith of Dept. 445 tests the SLC 96 components of an 80-type cabinet before the next step of assembly. One of the Works' newest products, the 80-type cabinet has been attracting attention and favorable comments from visitors at Western Electric product shows being held in various locations of the country.



All of this helps sell products. And those benefits should be magnified when similar product shows are held by joint teams in other areas of the country later in the year, he said. That includes a show by Northwestern Bell account teams sometime in August or September.

Tom mentioned that our assisting Account Management teams with such shows will continue to be important in the years to come. "It's one way we can show them that we understand how difficult 'selling' can be and that we're ready to help them in any way we can. And helping them really is helping ourselves," he said.

There is one more advantage to conducting these shows, although it probably affects solely Western Electric employees. Art explained: "When you work one of these shows, you realize just how professional we are and how many talented people are associated with Western. You really feel proud to be part of it."



Photos by A. K. Yoshimura

IN DALLAS . . . Art Meier, in photo at left, answered questions about the Works' 40-type cabinets that were displayed. In the photo above, Gerry Monsivaiz (left) explained the features of Omaha's new AGES kit for cable rehabilitation to one of the show's visitors. Gerry is a Western Electric account representative in Texas.

# retirements

Not pictured:

Blanche Jones  
25 years

Margaret Lubash  
21 years

Walt Goodbrod  
25 years

Olinda Rothery  
24 years

Marion Baird  
23 years

Ida Baratta  
23 years

George Murphy  
30 years

Bertha Heavican  
23 years

Miroslav Hanzlik  
26 years

Euline Holubar  
21 years

Ethel Maw  
25 years

Lorraine Slater  
20 years

Paul Rudolph  
23 years

Ann Biben  
21 years

Mary DeSive  
23 years

Ed Hamell  
25 years

Gerald Callahan  
22 years

William Mitchell  
23 years

Lillian Pekarek  
23 years

Harlan Purcell  
25 years

Tom Phillips  
22 years

Lucille Noble  
20 years

Marian Tomsu  
22 years

Frances Barnhart  
22 years



Richard Kobza  
30 years



Marjorie Pallas  
21 years



Henry Groleau  
22 years



Doris Widfeldt  
20 years



Joseph Hessner  
31 years



Eleanor Vessell  
20 years



Mel Whitehouse  
20 years



Leroy Roth  
30 years



Dick Reida  
26 years



Kenneth Sanders  
25 years



Chester  
Simmons Jr.  
22 years



John Smith  
29 years



Lillian  
McCumber  
25 years



Calvin Leeder  
24 years

## Wirth bill: Provisions and effects

The Telecommunication Act of 1982 (H.R. 5158) still is pending in the House of Representatives. Thousands of letters from AT&T employees and shareholders reportedly have been received by Congressmen, expressing opposition to the bill.

In a statement issued May 20, Nebraska 2nd District Rep. Hal Daub said, "I oppose H.R. 5158 as written and passed by Rep. (Timothy) Wirth's subcommittee. We all agreed that there are changes that need to be made in the 1934 Communications Act, but the settlement achieved between the court and AT&T provides a good basis for AT&T's role.

"The bill Mr. Wirth produced is a re-regulation bill that does not provide the level playing field that will allow AT&T and the Bell operating companies to compete fairly and equitably to provide the outstanding service and new technology development that Americans have come to expect."

Employees and shareholders are urged to continue to write to their elected representatives. A synopsis of the bill's provisions (as of mid-May) along with an explanation of their effects on the Bell System follows:

**Provision**—Revokes the FCC's Cellular radio decision, allocating one of two local franchises to the local operating company.

**Effect**—Jeopardizes Bell operating company participation in one of the

### 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:

	<u>BSSP</u>			<u>SSP</u>	
	<u>Units Value</u>	<u>Units Credited Per Dollar</u>		<u>Units Value</u>	<u>Units Credited Per Dollar</u>
AT&T	2.6705	.3744	AT&T	1.2482	.8011
Government Obligations	2.6177	.3820	Guaranteed		
Equity Portfolio	1.7069	.5858	Interest Fund	1.3646	.7328
Guaranteed					
Interest Fund	1.2662	.7897			



Bill McNabb  
36 years



Dick Petty  
36 years



Rita Sobczak  
20 years



Lorna Jelinek  
30 years



Harold Jordan  
35 years



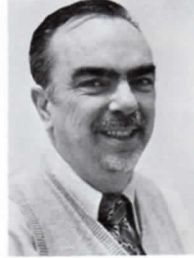
Bob Miles  
24 years



Frank Logan  
38 years



Dick Branecki  
40 years



Al Dodge  
27 years



Gladys Lang  
20 years



Vere Belle Epler  
24 years



Milton Baker  
33 years

most promising new markets, even though the technology was developed by Bell Laboratories.

**Provision**—Neither AT&T nor Bell operating companies may provide alarm services or environmental sensing services.

**Effect**—Keeps local companies out of emerging markets by denying them application of their own technology. Effectively gives existing suppliers a cartel, and keeps innovative services from the public.

**Provision**—Prior to Jan. 1, 1993, Bell operating companies cannot share centralized equipment procurement or evaluation services.

**Effect**—Each company would have to do those things for itself, duplicating common procedures and expenses. The cost will show up in rates to consumers.

**Provision**—The Bell operating companies would retain existing customer premises equipment, and would be forced to offer it for sale after it is depreciated. Companies could not offer new equipment after two years. After five years they once again could offer new equipment but then only through a separate subsidiary.

**Effect**—The most obsolete part of the customer equipment market — embedded equipment — would be allocated to the operating companies. Even this would have to be sold once it is fully depreciated although it still has revenue-producing potential. And operating companies would be temporarily locked out of the newest equipment technology until others have solidly established themselves as the market leaders.

**Provision**—The Bell operating companies would keep Yellow Pages.

**Effect**—Mixing a competitive offering

— Yellow Pages — with regulated offerings leaves the operating companies once again with one foot in the marketplace and the other in the courthouse. AT&T has agreed to a four-year phasing down of imputed Yellow Page revenues to avoid such an outcome.

**Provision**—A "transitional joint board" would recommend to the Attorney General for approval AT&T/Bell operating company asset valuations using guidelines in the bill.

**Effect**—If AT&T refuses to take assets at inflated prices called for in the bill, operating companies could be left with facilities they are not permitted to use and could be subjected to sizable financial loss.

**Provision**—Local companies must give equal interconnection to all long distance carriers, starting Jan. 1, 1986. Regulated carriers, like AT&T, would pay full, cost-based access charges im-

mediately; deregulated competitors, like MCI and Southern Pacific, would pay less for three years.

**Effect**—Local companies will be forced to make up required revenues from higher rates for exchange services; in effect, local customers would subsidize long-distance competitors.

**Provision**—Federal courts could review tariffs even before the Federal Communications Commission rules on them. The FCC and the Security Exchange Commission would share authority over securities of separate subsidiaries. The FCC and states would share authority over state interexchange rates.

**Effect**—Regulation would be increased tremendously, making operations less efficient and bogging companies down in additional regulatory paperwork.

(Continued on Page 8)



FIRSTHAND VIEWS . . .  
Second District Rep. Hal Daub had a chance to hear what employees thought about H.R. 5158 when he visited the Works recently.

# retirements



Dick Joppa  
25 years



Jim Goodbarn  
25 years



Virginia Byrnes  
32 years



Roy Schuster  
35 years



Doris Engel  
25 years



Bob Muhle  
25 years



Laddie  
Kvetensky  
22 years



Dorothy  
Johnson  
20 years



John (Dick)  
Hinkle  
29 years



Evelyn  
Stootsberry  
25 years



Goldie  
VanAckeren  
23 years



Neil Murray  
31 years

## Sludge cake better than 'pea soup'

They've taken pea soup off the menu at the Works' waste treatment plant.

The "soup" is the nickname given to dewatered sludge before a new filter press was installed last fall for dewatering clarifier sludge. The new filter press removes enough water from sludge to give it the consistency of yeast cakes.

A sludge and water mixture is piped from the Works' plating room operations. It must be processed—water removed from the sludge—to meet environmental standards before disposal in a landfill.

John Peterson, a senior engineer whose responsibilities include the waste treatment plant, said a basin type sludge thickener method was used before the filter press was installed. That method reduced sludge to 6 percent solids (or sludge particles) and 94 percent water. Looking much like a thick pea soup, the sludge was suitable for disposal in a landfill.

But regulations governing the disposal of hazardous waste were due to be tightened, Peterson said. Under new guidelines, the 6 percent sludge would not be acceptable in local landfills, and it would cost the Works more money to ship it to a designated landfill outside of the state.

Thus, the filter press was installed to process sludge acceptable for local dis-

posal, Peterson said. "Looking at other systems, this one was the easiest to install, it's economical to operate and it compares well to other dewatering methods," he said.

Sludge and water is forced through a series of membranes of woven fiberglass in the filter press. The membranes trap the sludge, forming "cakes," and the water proceeds through the waste treatment plant system for disposal in Hell Creek.

The cakes consist of 37 percent sludge and 63 percent water. That meets more stringent landfill disposal standards, and the Works can continue to deposit the sludge locally, he said.

Hazardous waste in the form of yeast cakes has an even less likelihood of absorption by the soil than does the thick-



PIECE OF CAKE . . . A new filter press transforms plant sludge into the consistency of yeast cakes. So long, pea soup.

ened "pea soup," Peterson noted. The cakes also take up less space in landfills.

"The total volume of sludge we are now putting into the landfill represents an 88 percent reduction" over the previous sludge form, he said. It also means fewer trips to the landfill.

By the end of last year, the filter press had exceeded all expectations, Peterson said.

And there's even icing on the yeast cake method. By choosing to install a new filter press instead of shipping our sludge to an outstate landfill, Peterson figures the press saves the Works about \$212,000 a year.

## How the Wirth bill would affect System

(Continued from Page 7)

**Provision**—AT&T would be the only carrier not permitted to bypass the operating companies' local facilities.

**Effect**—Long Lines already is and would continue to be regulated. Its market is competitive, but competitors would not have similar burdens.

**Provision**—Any non-affiliated company entering into a venture with AT&T would be treated like a dominant carrier, with all restrictions placed on AT&T.

**Effect**—That would virtually eliminate the willingness of others to join with AT&T. For example, a newspaper that wants to supply the information in a videotex project in which AT&T would provide transmission would be discouraged. Consumers would lose the innovation inherent in such joint ventures.