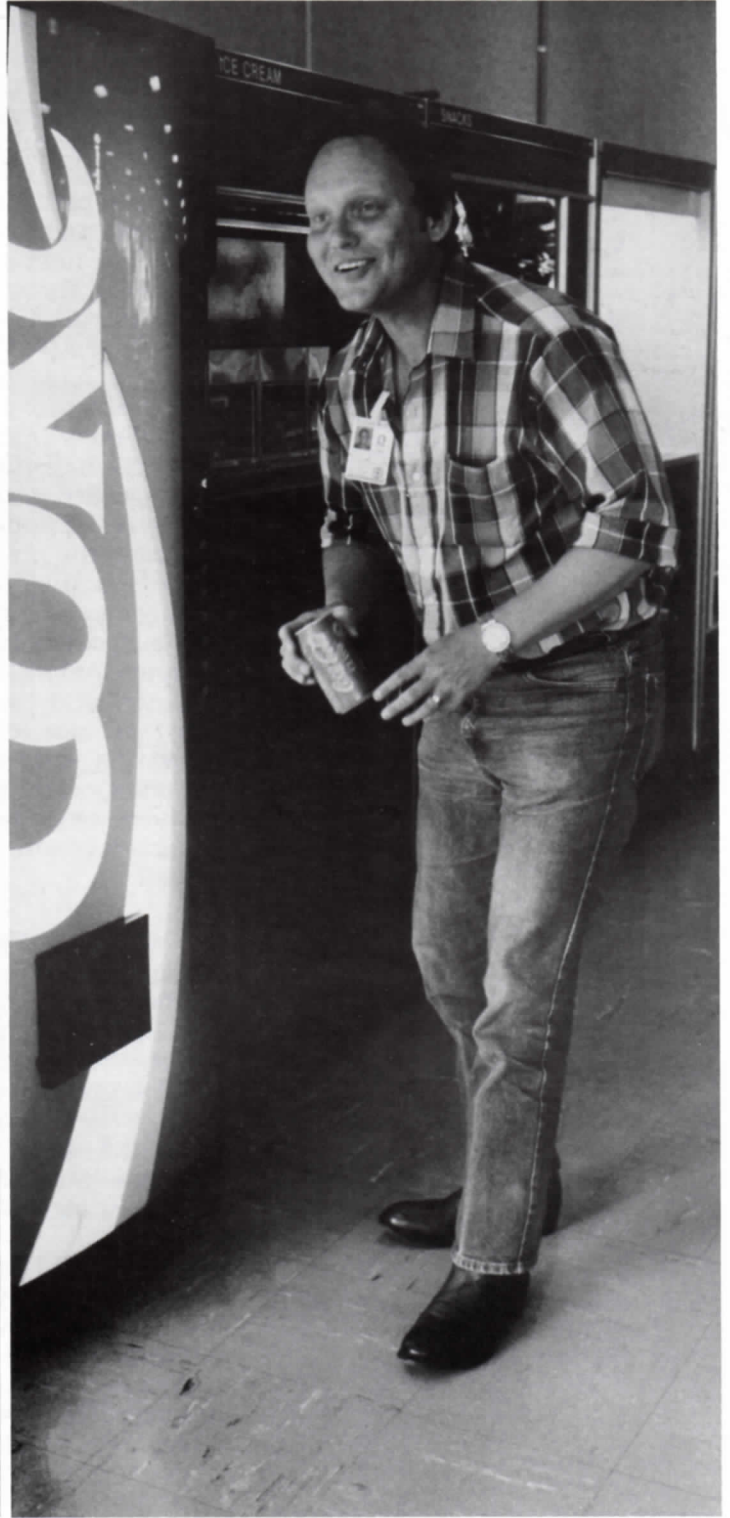


# WESTERNER

Omaha Works  
May/June 1987



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## On the cover

Let's see, you put your change in here and . . . hey, what do you know? We've got canned pop now! Dwain Miller of Dept. 263 was one of the first Omaha Works employees to use a new vending machine that dispenses canned pop in the main cafeteria. Two other machines have been located in Buildings 30 and 50 break areas. The canned pop machines have been installed on a trial basis in response to employee suggestions. If they are popular with employees, more machines may be installed. According to ARA Services, so far canned pop sales have been very good.

## WESTERNER

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# ETOP response is enthusiastic

While most youngsters were busy counting the days until school would let out for the summer, a number of Omaha Works employees began heading back to the classroom.

They are participating in the first course offering of the Enhanced Training Opportunities Program (ETOP), an introduction to personal computers. Class sessions, which total eight hours, are held at Millard South High through a school/business partnership program called Project PAYBAC. Several of the school's teachers are class instructors.

ETOP grew from the last labor contracts negotiated with salary-graded and hourly union employees. Funded by the company, the program is jointly administered by union and management representatives.

Its purpose is to enhance occupational skills, promote personal and career development, increase knowledge of the industry's state-of-the-art technology, and improve an employee's prospects for alternative employment in the event of a layoff.

## Overwhelming response

Response to the course offering was beyond what was expected, said Bill Fleming of the Works' training department. Classes which began April 27 and lasting through the end of June were scheduled to accommodate 240 students. More than 600 employees signed up for the sessions.

Fleming said employees with the most seniority are filling the first 240 slots. Overflow classes will be scheduled probably in August or September for the remaining employees.

The class provides a general overview of several different personal computer systems, including the AT&T PC6300. Ini-

tial response to the classes has been favorable.

"I think it's a good start in the program," said Frank Nagel, vice-president for IBEW Local 1974. "It will give you a good idea as to whether or not a home computer is for you."

Nagel attended one of the first sessions scheduled. He signed up because he was interested in how smoothly the first course offering would go, and because "I haven't had much exposure to computers," he said.

Etta Peck, who works in material planning in Dept. 531, took the class because she is considering buying her own personal computer. She also saw it as an opportunity to prepare herself for the future as it may pertain to her work.

"It hasn't been as difficult as I thought it would be," said Peck when she was taking the classes. The introductory course has made her feel more confident about signing up for a course in microcomputer fundamentals at Metropolitan Technical Community College, where she is working toward a business management associate degree.

"The instructor gave us a variety of information and lots of things to discuss," said Pat Hartung, who does wire wrapping for central office connectors and protectors in Dept. 261.

"And for the time we had, the

*BACK TO SCHOOL . . . Etta Peck (from left), Tom Feuquay and Pat Hartung had an overview of a variety of personal computers in their ETOP classes, including the AT&T PC6300 like those in the Works' new computer lab in the lower level of Building 20.*

hands-on opportunities were good," she said. Hartung, who has taken a computer programming course outside of the company, considers the Works' course a good review and would like to see other computer-related courses offered in ETOP.

### Dispel the mystery

Tom Feuquay, a materials management employee in Dept. 565, was impressed with his instructor and the informality of the class. It fulfilled its purpose: "to make you comfortable with

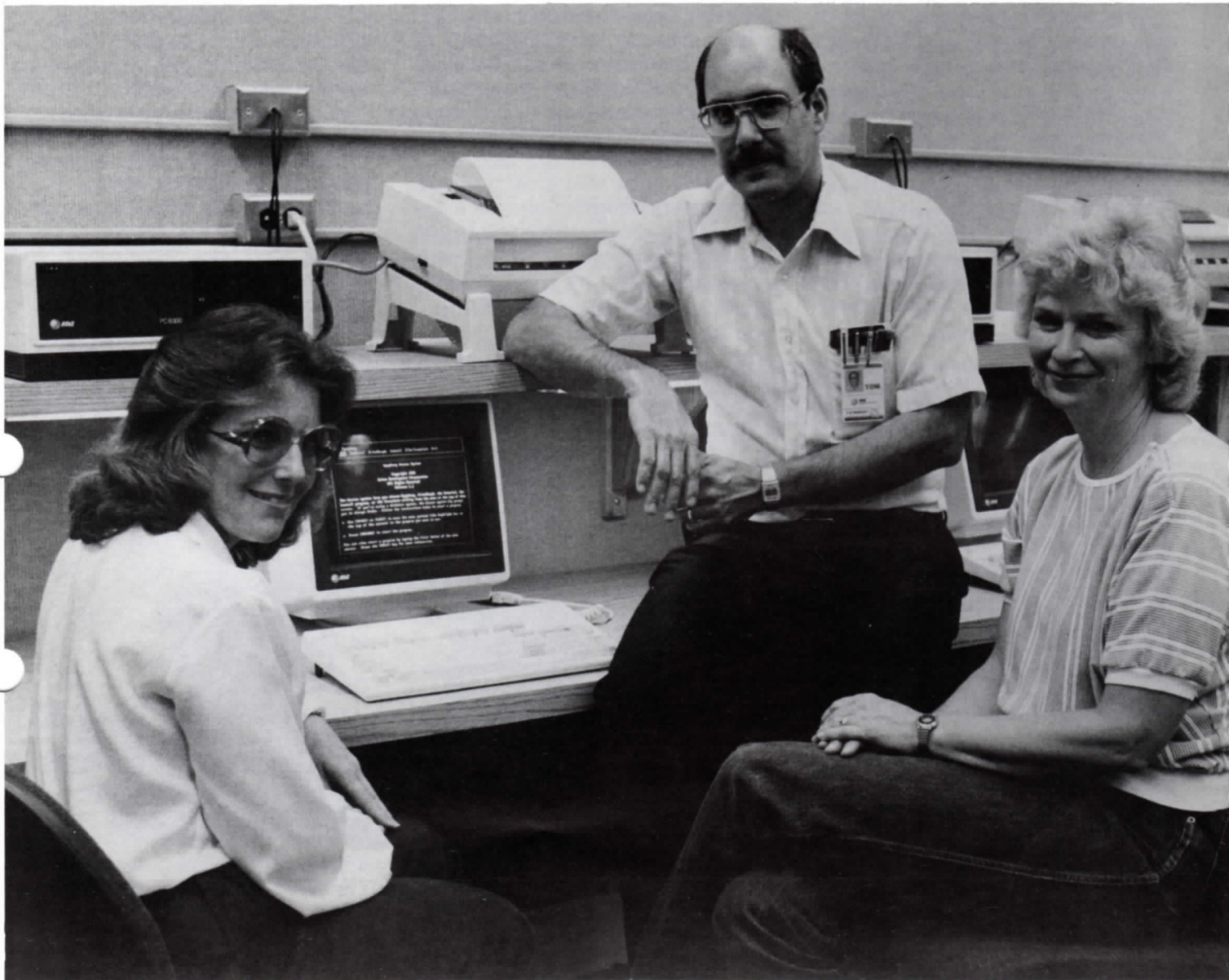
the PCs and software," he said, as it dispelled some of the mystery and fears people may have concerning computers.

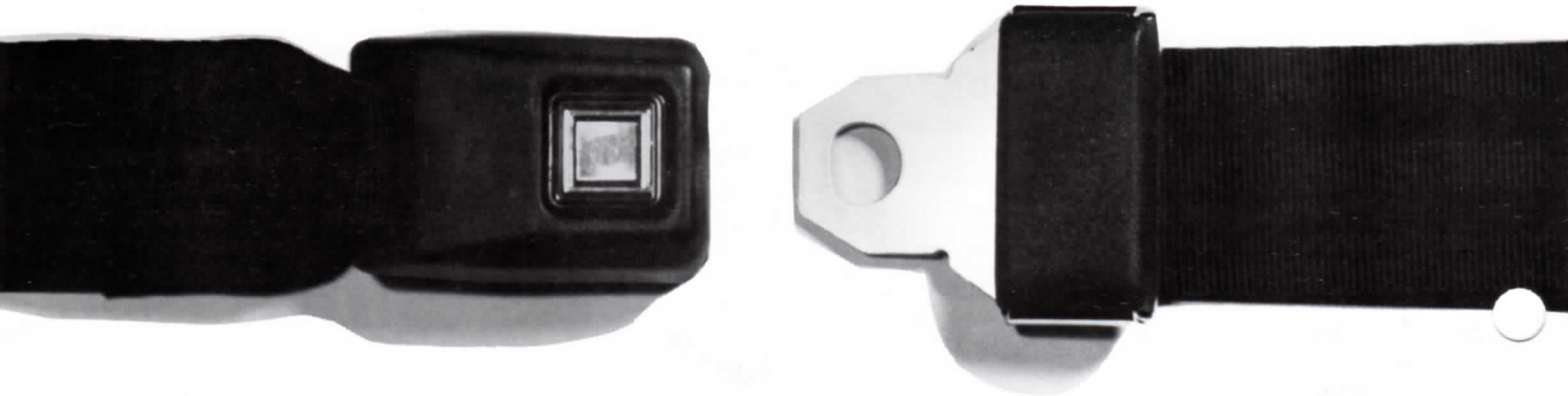
Because Feuquay uses a PC6300 in his work, the class was more of a review for him than an introduction. However, he considers the class a good base from which to go into other computer-related classes. Also, it may be the start of acquiring knowledge that one can tap in the event of a career change, he said. "It was well worth my own time to take the class."

"If people are thinking about a

career change, this class should give them a good idea of what to expect in the computer field," Nagel acknowledged. Helping people acquaint themselves with skills involved in a different career is just one way ETOP can be beneficial.

So that future classes will be as successful as this offering appears to be, Fleming and Nagel both agree that union and management members on the ETOP Committee must continually strive to be responsive to the needs and wants of Works employees.





# The choice is yours

**F**or most of last year, some Nebraskans were looking over their shoulders as they drove about town. By not wearing their seat belts they were breaking a state law, and a law enforcement officer just might have been on their tails.

That law was repealed on Dec. 1 of last year, just a little more than a year after it was enacted. Do people still wear their seat belts now that it isn't required? Does the increased speed limit to 65 miles per hour on the Nebraska Interstate prompt people to keep them buckled?

With the vacation travel season upon us, employees were asked to give their viewpoints. They were asked if they wear seat belts now, and whether it's by habit from the days when it was required.

\* \* \*

Witnessing the aftermath of a serious auto accident during the 1950s "made a believer out of me" in wearing seat belts, said Joe Sokolik who works in the boiler house (Dept. 544). Shortly afterward he special-ordered seat belts for a new "'55" and he has been buckling up ever since.

He's glad he got into the habit because not long ago Sokolik was involved in a head-on collision with another vehicle. His head hit the windshield but his seat belt prevented him from being thrown out.

Sokolik is certain that without his seat belt "I wouldn't have made it."

Mary Gilroy is another advocate of wearing seat belts. A planning engineer in Dept. 471, she credits her parents for getting her into the habit of wearing seat belts, so the former law didn't affect her one way or the other.

What did affect her is a serious, head-on collision in which she, too, was involved. "I would have been killed" without the seat belt she was wearing, she said. Now there is no way she will ride in a car without its protection.

## Always hurrying

Vera Velez, who works in the flat cable area (Dept. 284), tried to adhere to the seat belt law but admitted "after a while you slack off." Now she doesn't wear a seat belt very often at all.

She includes herself among people who are "always in such a hurry that we don't take the time to be safe," she said. "We don't like to include ourselves as one of those who will have an accident."

Ironically, she does believe wearing seat belts is a good idea. With the new speed limit, "it may cross my mind to be a little more safe" and buckle up.

Milo Borden of Dept. 540 is on the road a lot from the time he leaves for work from his home in Iowa and during his job, which is to make daily special deliveries and pickups within the city for the Works. He always wears his seat belt.

Borden said he feels safer by wearing his seat belt in city traffic because "more accidents

happen in town than they do in the country." In fact, he probably wouldn't wear his seat belt for highway driving if Iowa didn't still require its drivers to buckle up, he said.

Law or no law, Elijah Pierce of Dept. 269 always wears a seat belt, "especially if my wife drives," he quipped. It is a practice he has followed since the late 1960s when cars first came equipped with seat belts. "And I made my kids wear them, too," he said.

Sometimes it is inconvenient to wear the restraints, like in wintertime over bulky clothing, Pierce mentioned. But he figures "they can never make a car 100 percent safe, so you do whatever you can to be safer." To him, that means buckling up.

When Nebraska's seat belt law was in effect, John Beckman of Dept. 282 always wore a restraint. But now he doesn't unless he's on a long trip.

"I forget to put it on, mostly," he explained. He doubts that the 65 mph limit will give him incentive to wear a seat belt. Beckman said he tends to believe that the need to wear a seat belt has been blown out of proportion.

## Convincing film

Rose Laschansky, who works in the financial office (Dept. 0923), used to feel the same way until she saw a safety film about wearing seat belts a few years ago. That's when she started to wear one regularly.

She's thankful that she did. Some time back she was stopped

on a state highway to make a lefthand turn. The driver behind her didn't stop, and the impact "knocked the battery out of its case" in her car, she said. "I hit the steering wheel but not the windshield."

She faithfully wears a restraint, even for a few blocks to the store. "I feel naked without it," she said.

Although she thinks the decision to wear a seat belt should be left to the individual, she hopes people will consider wearing restraints more often especially in light of increased speed limits. It could really make a difference in an accident such as hers, she said.

John Donahue, who is in charge of the Works' mailroom, wore his seat belt "80 percent of the time when it was the law," he said. "I still do, but perhaps a little less frequently."

He believes the restraints serve a useful purpose and admitted he actually feels more comfortable wearing a seat belt when he drives the family leisure van. It's when he switches to his wife's car that he gets out of the

habit. "The seat belt is adjusted for her," he said.

### Teach the children

Iowa's seat belt law is the reason why Elaine Koch of Dept. 261 regularly wears one. Before that she wore it "off and on when I thought of it," she said.

In fact, "I thought it was kind of dumb, but now I really do believe in wearing them," she added. It's especially important that children wear restraints, Koch said, and the Iowa law is having the effect of getting youngsters used to the idea of buckling up. (Nebraska law does require that children age 4 and under must use a seat belt or child-restraining equipment.)

Even if Iowa repeals its law, "I'll still wear one."

The secretary to Jack McKinnon, Flo Helme, had been wearing seat belts "religiously" for about four years before it became a law in Nebraska, she said. She continues to wear one.

Helme said she made her decision to wear a restraint after

having read about the dangers of not being protected in the event of an accident. "I feel I'm just making myself a little safer' by wearing a seat belt, she said.

"The only time I don't like wearing one is on a long trip when it's rather confining and uncomfortable. But I do anyway."



Joe Sokotk



Mary Gilroy



Vera Velez



Mllo Borden



Elijah Pierce



John Beckman



Rose Laschansky



John Donahue



Elatne Koch



Flo Helme

Thank you, Pioneers . . .

# This song's for you

The single lightbulbs that were strung up while construction progressed are gone now. Instead of sawdust powdering your shoes as you walk, there is a cushy carpet to soften your step. And the new walls and ceilings appear to have been washed in sunshine, inviting all who pass through the doors.

This is the new home of the South Omaha Girls Club, a renovated church building at 30th and S streets. Its transformation from a disheveled construction site was at the hands of some 487 Cornhusker Chapter Pioneers, with help from their families and friends.

The Pioneers volunteered their time starting in November 1985 to direct plans and provide the physical labor to renovate the vacated church building. They gutted and remodeled the structure which was to provide more than five times the space club members had at their previous center.

Early in May the South Omaha Girls Club held a formal dedication ceremony at which the Pioneers were honored. For their almost 14,000 hours of labor logged during renovation, a room

in what used to be the church's bell tower was dedicated in the Pioneers' memory. Girls Club members also presented a framed photo montage to the Pioneers which now hangs in the Works' Pioneer meeting room.

The change that the new center has had on its members and the community it serves has been dramatic, said Barb Terry, director of the South Omaha branch of the Girls Club of Omaha.

"There is tremendous pride on the part of the kids and their parents," she said. You know it is a special place for the girls when they don't hesitate to admonish forgetful adults for failing to wipe their feet before entering.

Daily attendance at the center already has increased to about 50 girls, Terry said, compared to a norm of about 35 girls at their former center. "I really think it will go up to 75 girls and maybe more during the summer." Last year almost 500 girls were club members, a total Terry expects to exceed this year.

The club now is attracting membership from as far as 13th Street to the east and 40th



Street to the west, and between D and W streets, the director said. Vans pick up girls beyond walking distance of the center.

"I can't think of one room in the center that isn't heavily used," Terry noted. From the arts and crafts area in the basement to the sewing room in the former choir loft, the girls are enthusiastic about the center's accommodations.



They seem to be especially appreciative of a furnished teen lounging area where older members can do homework or just relax, she said. The old center offered carpeted bleachers off to one side of a room for the same purpose.

And although the girls had access to a piano at the old center, they have taken a new  
(Continued on Page 8)

*FROM THE HEART . . . Members of the South Omaha Girls Club singing group entertained their guests from the steps of the club's combination stage and library. Seated behind them are (from left) Mary Harvey, executive director of the Girls Club of Omaha; Harley Schrager, past president of the club's board of directors; Works Pioneer Dewey Ehrenberg who coordinated the renovation; and Sharon Emery, current president of the directing board.*



**DEDICATED . . .** Nebraska State Sen. Bernice Labeledz cut the ribbon at the dedication ceremony (top, right). In the other photos (from the top): Mary Harvey provides club history; directing board member Linda Novak readies the fruit punch; guests sample refreshments in the club's kitchen area.

## This song is for you

(Continued from Page 7)

interest in an old piano left behind by the church congregation. One member plays classical music and is teaching other members to play, too, Terry said. Now those members are teaching still other girls.

Terry mentioned that the girls' parents also share in the enthusiasm over the new center. They tend to participate in more activities, she explained.

The fact that what was a dream is now reality is still hard to believe, Terry said. The girls themselves find it difficult to comprehend that the Pioneers would do so much work in their behalf without being paid.

"I guess we can never fully express the appreciation we have for the work done by the Pioneers," Terry commented. "I miss them being here. They have become so much a part of us."



# Security measures are tightened

**"P**ssst. Wanna hear a secret?"

The comment is a pretty good hint that what follows is privileged information. Not all information, however, is so obviously a secret. That's one of the most common reasons why companies lose proprietary information, noted Herb Rhodes, manufacturing resources manager.

Many employees just don't recognize proprietary information or appreciate its value to an enterprising competitor. Yet virtually all employees have access to it, he said.

Insensitivity to proprietary information as well as the highly competitive nature of AT&T's business are major reasons behind a corporate-wide tightening of security measures, Rhodes said. At the Omaha Works it means stricter enforcement of existing rules and the introduction of new safeguards.

"The Omaha Works is very vulnerable," said Rhodes, "because many products we make are manufactured by a competitor. It's not so much what we are making but how we are making it. It may be nothing more than how employees are seated."

Such information in the hands

of a competitor can cost AT&T millions of dollars.

Works employees have access to a wide variety of sensitive material, including marketing plans and strategies (sales, financial results, production figures), planned products or services, technical details about products, customer accounts and bids and proposals.

It is important that this information isn't in plain view of non-employees, be they contract workers or visitors, Rhodes said. The "clean desk" policy initiated in early May requires that all proprietary information, including computer software, be locked in desks, files or cabinets when not in use.

Security personnel make nightly rounds to check for proprietary information that has not been secured. They don't go through files or personal papers, Rhodes said, but they do check wastebaskets for material that should be discarded in proprietary waste containers.

An employee receives a warning for a first-time violation. For a second infraction, the proprietary material is confiscated and the employee must meet with his or her manager.

Plant visitors also are being

more closely monitored, Rhodes said. A new corporate directive requires that Works retirees who visit the plant now must be escorted by employees, Rhodes said. The directive is bound to stir some resentment, he said, but the restriction stems from concern over visits by retired employees who have taken new jobs with competitors.

The resident purchasing and transportation organization also has introduced security measures relating specifically to its operations, noted assistant buyer Don Pooley. All suppliers now must sign an "exchange of information" form before we will escort them through the shop.

Basically, it asks suppliers to keep in confidence AT&T proprietary information they learn for business purposes. It supplements a similar agreement we have had on formal contracts, Pooley said.

There is a mistaken notion that corporate spying is something that happens in the big cities back East, Rhodes said, but that's not always the case. The sooner each employee takes the responsibility to safeguard information, he said, the better for business.



3:57 P.M. . . . John Blake of the transportation department works with proprietary information, such as shipping dates.



4:01 P.M. . . . Blake is gone and so is the proprietary information, which has been properly secured in locked cabinets.

# Works is honored for safety

The Omaha Works has earned the Network Systems Media Division Environmental Health and Safety Award for "outstanding achievement in the field of environmental health and safety" during 1986.

John O'Neill, executive vice-president of Network Systems Products, presented a plaque during a ceremony in the Works auditorium. Accepting the award in behalf of the Works were Jack McKinnon, Works manufacturing vice-president; Dr. Lee Grant, medical director; and Dan Langdon, who co-chairs the Works Union/Management Safety Committee with Dr. Grant.

The safety committee has been instrumental in spotting and resolving safety and environmental problems within the plant, Langdon said. It consists of five union and three management representatives.

Also during the ceremony, which was attended by a cross-section of employees, several departments were honored for outstanding safety records. Each



**PAY ATTENTION . . .** That's the key to accumulating hours on the job without having a disabling injury. Dan Langdon (holding the environmental health and safety award) meets with Ruth Young and Terry Walsh of Dept. 267.

department had accumulated an extraordinary number of work hours without a disabling injury. They were: Dept. 087, quality control, 2.3 million hours; Dept. 545, toolroom, 1.5 million hours; Dept. 541, cabinet and metal fabrication maintenance, 1.3 million hours; and Dept. 267, cabinet and sheet metal fabrication, 1 million hours.

Ruth Young and Terry Walsh of Dept. 267 think their department's safety record is an admirable achievement. Sharp edges on raw material, steel slivers, moving equipment and pinch points on machines, for example, pose a chance to sustain an injury if "you're not paying attention," they said. Young operates a press brake and Walsh a turret punch press.

## Retirements

Not pictured:

Charlotte Atchison — 21 years  
 Elaine Bald — 30 years  
 Anthony Budell — 27 years  
 Lucille Keeton — 21 years  
 Edythe Leslie — 17 years  
 Peggy Lueders — 23 years  
 Edmund Matya — 18 years



**Lorne (Kelly) Fuller**  
40 years



**Mary Weberg**  
30 years



**Robert Gulliksen**  
34 years



**Mauricette (Frenchie) Prettyman**  
27 years



**Phyllis Sully**  
22 years



**George Ujdur**  
30 years



**Lola Howell**  
29 years

# Service anniversaries

## 0 years

K. K. Reid	6/13
R. M. Gregor	7/18
J. M. Koch	7/22

## 35 years

G. L. Schuerman	5/3
T. F. Filipski	6/30
E. Kriz	6/3
C. M. Madsen	6/30
R. E. Zook	6/9
J. E. Malone	7/7

## 30 years

V. L. Carlson	5/13
R. J. Coufal	5/6
K. R. Deman	5/20
D. F. Hartung	5/8
F. C. Herre	5/16
D. M. Jurgena	5/13
J. E. Leonovicz	5/20
G. A. Melcher	5/7
R. T. Michaelsen	5/6
L. D. Nelson	5/1
A. L. Nielsen	5/20
M. Owens	5/27
D. J. Pfeifer	5/13
W. J. Thraen	5/13
D. P. Bailey	6/24
T. J. Bolton	6/24
C. R. Campbell	6/10
D. D. Dirks	6/24
L. U. Howell	6/12
J. E. Lovely	6/3
J. McGrath	6/10
M. Moss	6/17
J. B. Moss	6/17
J. C. Nielsen	6/10
J. A. Sanduski	6/25
D. G. Stickman	6/17
R. R. Yates	6/3
M. D. Almquist	7/1
J. F. Berger	7/16
J. Bystrek	7/1
H. Cornell	7/14
L. L. Dankof	7/1
H. A. Drake	7/1
G. L. Faller	7/29
R. B. Fuksa	7/1
F. H. Garey	7/1
W. E. Kelsey	7/26
D. J. Klingeman	7/1
A. C. Kummer	7/8
R. C. Micek	7/8
H. C. Mills	7/15

D. A. Mueller	7/18
T. R. Olson	7/29
J. L. Siracuse	7/31
D. W. Snell	7/11
D. M. Werth	7/10
L. E. Young	7/1

## 25 years

V. A. Bazant	5/28
T. L. Hummel	5/18
W. F. Lepley	5/8
J. I. Nelson	5/26
L. E. Reinke	5/19
M. M. Rutledge	5/27
P. G. Siderewicz	5/2
J. P. Stark	5/30
M. H. Thornton	5/31
S. V. Toepfer	5/17
C. R. Wright	5/21
J. T. Beverly	6/25
P. I. Giglia	6/5
D. W. Krutina	6/26
S. F. Kull	6/25
V. M. Potter	6/7
F. C. Tirschman	6/5
M. E. Yearout	6/4
M. D. Crow	7/30
L. C. Curry	7/30
J. L. Janulewicz	7/9
D.D. John	7/2
R. O. Justsen	7/15

S. D. Martin	7/30
M. O. Owens	7/2

## 20 years

M. N. Bunting	5/13
G. F. Hacker	5/1
J. L. Heinzman	5/11
V. S. Luther	5/3
G. L. Scharton	5/1
U. B. Stinson	5/1
J. J. Zych	5/5
P. J. Broderick	6/30
C. H. Comstock	6/22
M. A. Fischer	6/11
B. K. Grap	6/7
E. W. Hobbs	6/16
M. J. Huerta	6/19
J. L. Pedersen	6/27
J. C. Persinger	6/21
H. R. Quinn	6/7
L. H. Stewart	6/18
J. R. Welker	6/14
S. T. Zerbs	6/5
J. M. Coop	7/31
C. S. Davis	7/4
G. G. Grimm	7/13
R. J. McCarty	7/31
I. T. Palma	7/23
B. K. Schutte	7/20
A. R. Sperry	7/10
R. A. Sukup	7/6

## 15 years

T. E. Feuquay	5/17
J. M. Gilreath	5/23
J. D. Keuter	5/29
A. R. Kohls	5/29
J. H. Lively	5/25
H. P. Lyons	5/28
N. W. Turner	5/23
D. D. Stamm	6/4
B. C. Urbach	6/14
C. P. Yates	6/20
E. L. Brown	7/26
B. R. Kleinbeck	7/26
D. P. Kresha	7/6
M. P. Rohman	7/14
C. M. Thompson	7/10
S. L. Wainwright	7/10

## 10 years

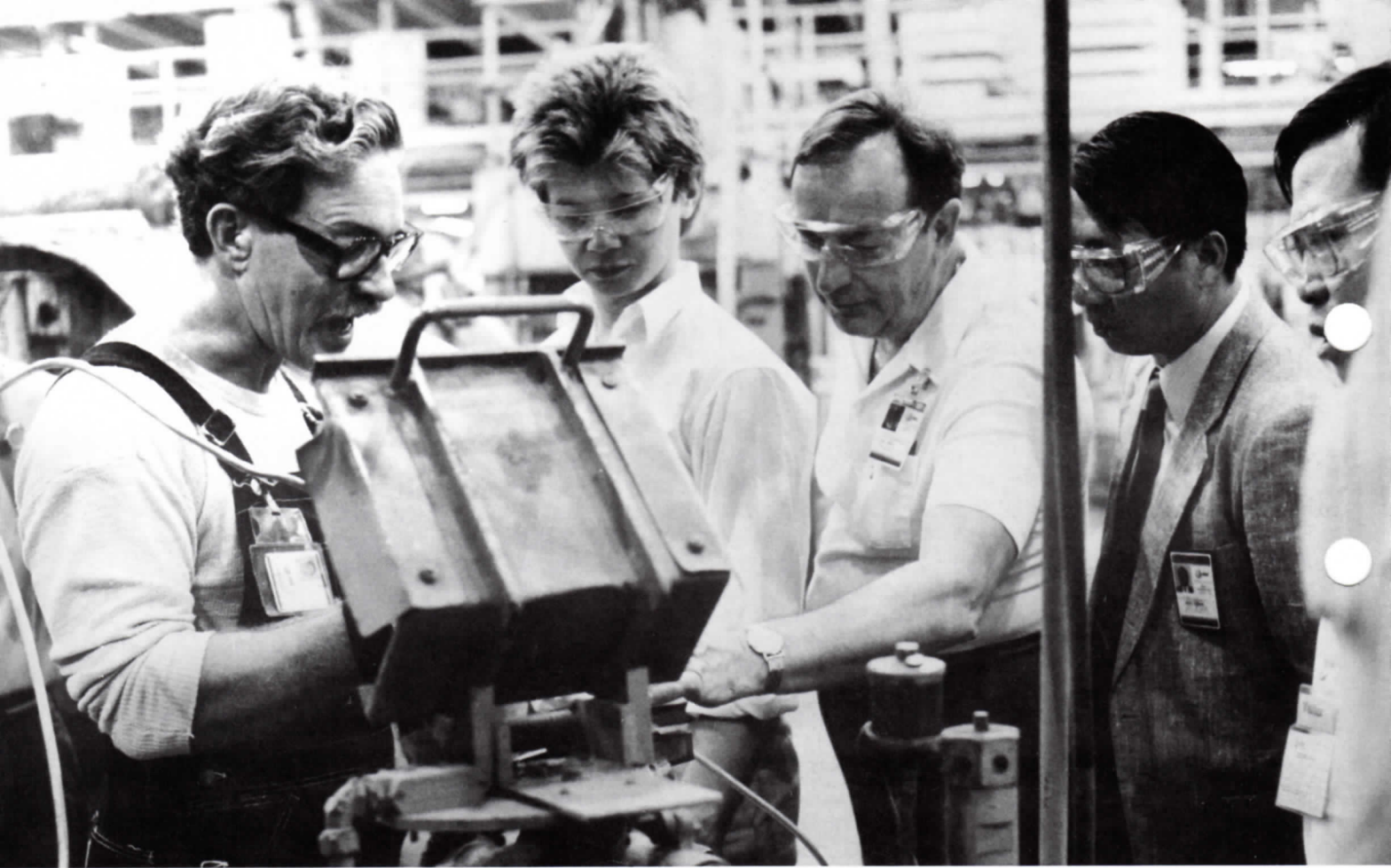
B. A. Bovill	5/22
B. D. Hollis	5/20
C. A. Boger	6/27
S. G. Spencer	6/18
M. J. Commons	7/11

## Baldwin promoted to senior engineer

William Baldwin Jr. has been promoted from a planning engineer to a senior planning engineer in Dept. 1113, quality assurance. His responsibilities include product ratings for PVC cable and wire products and metal fabrication.



William Baldwin Jr.



## Last frame

The Omaha Works was host to visitors during May who were a long way from home. They were AT&T Network Systems Account Management representatives who live and work outside of the United States, most of them overseas.

The guests came from the United Kingdom, Germany,

Spain, France, China, Japan and Canada. As account representatives, their job is to sell AT&T products to telephone companies and distributors in their respective countries.

They spent a week here in training sessions conducted by the Product Display Center staff, learning about Omaha Works products and their applications. The schedule included shop tours, demonstrations in the field and hands-on training.

When the visitors toured Building 50, they stopped at the No. 1 wire draw where they

met Charles Ferguson of Dept. 281. Ferguson showed them how copper rod is spliced together before it goes through the wire draw.

Although some AT&T account representatives who work in foreign countries are from the United States, most of the guests who visited the Works are natives of the countries in which they work. Thus, they are familiar with their countries' customs and needs, a factor that proves beneficial in selling our products there.



**AT&T**  
Network Systems

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