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e** **WEsterner**

*Omaha Works*

*November 10, 1972*

**JOBS '70**

*see story page 7*

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# the **WE**sterner

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Member

Nebraska Association of Business Communicators  
International Association of Business Communicators

service anniversaries,

## Omaha employees mark anniversaries



Richard Cummings  
10-25-47  
**25 years**

**20 YEARS - October, 1972**

V.D. Janecek	10-20
E.J. McLean	10-20
F.M. Waniska	10-23
J.R. Hinkle	10-27
V.S. Chrastil	10-28

# Omaha reaffirms EEO commitment

During its 103 years as a business, Western Electric has taken an active interest in fair employment practices. In 1961, the Company reaffirmed its commitment to equal employment opportunity when it was one of the original signers of the "Plan for Progress."

To Western Electric Company, EEO is action. It is much more than signing a document that puts down on paper what we have been doing. EEO means doing something when something needs to be done.

The Western Electric Company believes in the fairness and rightness of equal opportunity. It is fully committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all employees. In matters affecting employment, Western Electric treats employees and employment applicants without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age or national origin. In addition, the Company is taking affirmative action to increase the number and utilization of minority and female employees in all classifications. Affirmative action goes beyond the practice of nondiscrimination.

Affirmative action guarantees you equal treatment in recruiting, hiring and promotion.

## three employees end long careers



Larry Lyons

During the months of September and October, the Omaha Works bid farewell to three long term employees.

Larry Lyons, a 28 year employee of Western Electric Company, ended his career on October 1. Larry began his time with the Company at Eau Claire, Wisconsin in February, 1944. At the time of his retirement, he was a Section Chief in Department 343.



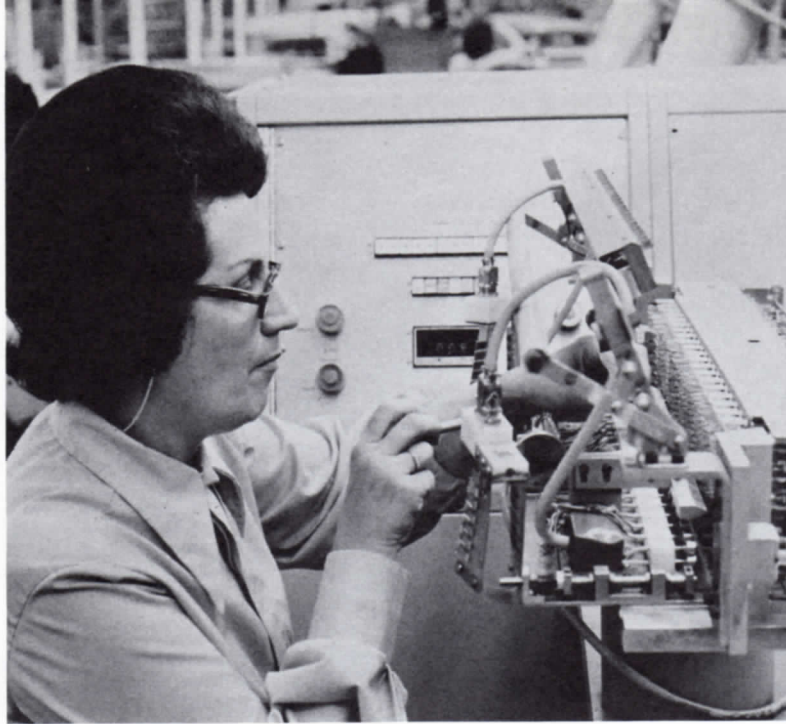
Vern Elge

Vern Elge, who began his career with Western Electric in November, 1944 at the Hawthorne Works, retired effective September 1, 1972. Vern was transferred to the Omaha Works in 1957. At the time of his retirement, he was Plant Inspector in Department 501.



Richard Gardner

Richard Gardner retired from active service with the Company on September 26. At that time he was Section Chief, Unit Mount and Stamp, and Surface and Cable Wiring. He joined the Company at the Lincoln Shops in May, 1944. Rick was transferred from the Lincoln Shops to the Omaha Works in 1959.



*Eleanore Graskowiak, Switch Tester in Dept. 132, is one of 74 employees currently working on the Small Switch.*

# The New Small Switch

What began in July, 1971 as a small pilot project has grown into one of the major lines of apparatus at the Omaha Works, and it has the potential of becoming, according to its engineers, the major apparatus component of the Omaha Works.

"The Small Crossbar Switch," Senior Engineer Marty Thomas said, "might be the product of the future. In the next twenty years, it could replace the Standard Crossbar Switch now being produced. If this happens, the standard switch would be manufactured only on a replacement basis."

What makes the Small Crossbar Switch better than the standard model? To begin with it

is smaller. Take this 20 percent reduction in frame size and couple it with a substantial increase in call capacity and you have two good reasons. There are others. The Small Switch will provide faster service, on fewer frames, with less auxiliary equipment, requiring less current to operate than the standard frame. The Small Switch offers an increased trunk line capacity of 200, up from 160 on the standard switch.

Following the Columbus Works, Omaha became the second Western Electric location to manufacture the Small Switch. Consequently, many of the materials needed to build the switch is provided by the

Columbus Works, while some is purchased from outside suppliers. The remainder is supplied from within the Omaha Works.

The Standard Crossbar Switch has been the basic building block in the Bell System crossbar switching system since its introduction in 1937. Up to now it has remained essentially the same in size, weight, and operating characteristics. But now with the ever increasing demand for dependable compact telephone switching equipment, the new Small Crossbar Switch seems to be one of Western Electric Company's answers to the communications needs of America in the future.



**Sandra** "I have the pleasure," General Manager Frank Lefebvre said above the anxious silence of the six hundred people attending coronation ceremonies, "of presenting to you your new Miss Weoma." And so he did.

**becomes  
a Queen** On that evening October 7, the flowing regal robe and sparkling crown, worn proudly by 14 previous girls, passed from Jan Moore to Sandy Baker. For the forthcoming year, Sandy, now Miss Weoma XV, will reign as the new queen and social representative of the employees of the Omaha Works.



Sandy Baker



Darlene Wilhelm



Linda Whitehouse

Miss  
WEOMA  
XV



"If a father doesn't get involved with his children, they'll grow up and he won't know them."

Don Kuta, Reel Repairman in Department 252, believes what he says and proves it by being the kind of father that more children need.

In 1970, Don ran and was elected to president of the Norris Elementary School Parent Teachers Association. Three years ago, Don and his eight-year-old son, Kevin, joined a YMCA sponsored father and son club called the Ponca Indian Tribe. Since joining, Don has gone on to assume a leadership role by becoming Chief of this father - son organization.

Don has also stepped in to take over coaching duties of a Millard Little League baseball team. His involvement with the community and his family are coupled with his church activities. As an usher at Mary Our Queen Church, he greets his fellow parishioners each Sunday morning. Tuesday evening, again, finds Don in church helping his wife present audio-visual programs to children who do not attend parochial school.

Not only can Don be recognized as an Omaha Works community builder, but he has demonstrated ingenuity on his work assignments. Don has the distinction of receiving one of the largest single suggestion awards presented at the Omaha Works. In 1969, he was awarded \$1,325 for his suggestion of a means to refurbish cable reel drums.

Asked about his most rewarding experience as a community builder, Don replied, "It has given me the opportunity to watch my son mature and given us (father and son) time together, just to get to know each other."

Don is the kind of Omaha Works community builder, employee, and father that Omaha needs.



# Don Kuta: Community Builder



## Omaha becomes first WE location to hire in JOBS '70 program

The Omaha Works has joined with the U.S. Department of Labor and the National Alliance of Businessmen (NAB) in a program that will hire and train 50 disadvantaged for fulltime employment.

The NAB JOBS '70 program is an employment and development concept designed to provide jobs and skills to men and women, whose circumstances make it difficult for them to find work. The federally funded program was initiated at the Omaha Works in September at which time 8 employees were brought on roll. As now structured, a total of 50 will be hired by mid-December.

Although the Western Electric Company has participated both nationally and locally in similar work programs, this is the first federally funded NAB program to be undertaken by any WE location.

Everyone hired through the program will receive the standard on the job training required for any one of 13 different work assignments in three areas for which they were hired: Wiremen, Stamper, and Assembler. In addition to this training, each JOBS '70 employee will receive an extensive orientation into the world of work, including personal counseling, if required, during the time they participate in the JOBS '70 employment and work program.

Designed to give participants the best possible chance to become productive employees, the JOBS '70 program will be administered by Dan Albertus, Training Associate, Department 522. Among Albertus'

responsibilities will be to help the JOBS '70 employees overcome personal or job related problems that may arise. He will also act as liaison between the Company and the Department of Labor.

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## Wayne Hunt named to Omaha director post

On December 1, Wayne L. Hunt will become Director of Engineering and Manufacture at the Omaha Works. Mr. Hunt began his Western Electric career in 1957 at the Omaha Works, and in 1959, he became a Section Chief. Two years later, he moved to Kansas City. He was promoted to Department Chief at the Kansas City Works in 1962.

Three years later, he was promoted to Assistant Manager and transferred to the Kearny, New Jersey Works. In 1966, he was selected for the Company's Management Training Program, and a short time later was promoted to Manager of the Northeast Region, in the Company's Service Division.

In 1970, Mr. Hunt became Manager of the Manhattan Service Center, and in February of 1971, he was promoted to his current posi-

tion as Director of Division Staff for the Manufacturing Division, Electronic Components in Newark, New Jersey.



*A husband and wife on the verge of divorce recognize their need for professional counseling to save their marriage and keep their family together.*

*A father has desperate financial problems and wants to keep from losing his home and job.*

*A young man or woman experimenting with drugs wants some answers about them.*

*A family suffering as a result of an alcoholic parent needs guidance as to where to go for help.*

*Where will they go? How much, if any, will it cost? Can they afford it? How can they keep it personal?*



*Dave Jacobson*

Whenever you need help, Dave Jacobson, Employee Assistance Coordinator, will be ready to assist. When you call, your name and any information you divulge will be held in the strictest confidence. *Anonymity is guaranteed.*

**Employee Assistance is for you. It will handle each problem individually with assistance varying according to need and the situation. Employee Assistance is able to assist in solving almost any personal problems with more than 350 referral services available for Western Electric families in the Omaha and surrounding area.**

Employee Assistance, simply stated, is a service where everyone wins and no one loses.

# Employee Assistance: a program to meet your personal needs

You recently received a letter detailing a new employee service being offered at the Omaha Works. Please take time to read the rest of this article, which will tell you more about the Employee Assistance Service and how it can benefit you.

In the past, possibly at this very moment, or maybe at some time in the future, you may need some form of help. This need could stem from personal matters relating to your family, alcohol, drugs, finances, etc. It, on the other hand, could come from a need to know where to go for legal advice. You may need to know what kind of services are available through governmental and social agencies.

**You now have a telephone number to call for answers to almost any situation or question that may arise: from within the plant dial ext. 4008; from outside, 334-4008.**



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U S POSTAGE  
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Omaha Nebraska  
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