

the Westerner

OMAHA WORKS

NOVEMBER 10, 1978



From corn
rows to
rows of reels

We're 20 years old, and how we've grown since the Works was built in a rural setting. Look inside for facts never before published.

Pages 6, 7

• The Pioneers are a lucky bunch.
Pages 4, 5

• The Works welcomes Mountain Bell.
Page 8

for your information

An influenza vaccine that contains antigens against three viruses expected to surface during the 1978-79 flu season will be available through the medical department starting in the early part of November. Dr. Lee B. Grant, Works medical director, said a major flu epidemic is not expected. However, individuals considered to be at increased risk are urged to be vaccinated. Such individuals are those with heart disease, including coro-

nary disease; those with lung conditions such as asthma, chronic bronchitis or emphysema; those with chronic blood conditions such as anemia; and diabetics.

Reactions to the vaccine usually are mild, consisting mainly of soreness and redness in the area of injection. Mild fever and aching may occur. Grant noted that individuals allergic to eggs should not take the vaccine. Employees interested in being vaccinated should check with their supervisors for the dates inoculations are to be administered . . .

. . . Keep an eye on the tuba players the next time you see the McDonald's All-American High School Marching Band on television. One of the marchers will be Steve Davidson, son of Hank Davidson of Dept. 410. The band is made up of two students from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, and Steve

was one of the youths selected from Nebraska. As a band member, the Millard High senior will participate in a number of functions, not the least of which will be coming up soon. Steve will take two expense-paid trips: One is to New York City where the band will perform at Carnegie Hall and in Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade; the other is to Los Angeles where the band will appear in the Rose Bowl parade . . .

. . . When Virginia Barker (Dept. 435) and her husband, James, bait their hooks, the fish can't resist biting. Early in October the couple went fishing near Lexington, Neb., and their catch qualified them for Master Angler awards. They caught four smallmouth bass whose total weight was 12 pounds and 4 ounces. They also reeled in six catfish whose combined weight totaled 99 pounds and 3 ounces.

We're 20 years old

Family open house planned

Employees, their families and friends will have the opportunity to see how the Omaha Works has grown since it was completed Nov. 15, 1958, when a family open house is held Nov. 15 and 16. Hours of the open house will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 6:30 to 10 p.m. both days.

Gene Tingwald, chairman of the open house steering committee, said no structured tours will be conducted. Instead,

various tour routes will be suggested for the visitors' choosing. Each visitor will receive a map of the Works with places of interest marked. Tour guides will be stationed along routes to answer questions.

Guests will be able to visit the Product Display Room as well as view the manufacturing operations, including the manufacture of many new products recently added to the lines. Special displays will be set up throughout the Works, and

a multi-image slide show will be presented in the newly redecorated auditorium.

"We also want to show off our refurbished main entrance to the administration building," Tingwald said, adding that comfortable walking shoes are advisable.

Visitors should park in the east office lot during daytime open house hours and in the east or west office lots during evening hours. Entrance is through the administration lobby. Refreshments will be served in the main east cafeteria, and guests should leave through the east or west exits of the administration building.



SHE'S GROWN, WE'VE GROWN . . . This young spectator came with her mother and other Omahans when ground was broken for the Omaha Works' buildings more than 20 years ago.

**the
Westerner**
VOL. 22 NUMBER 12

Warren G. Corgan
General Manager

Linda Ryan
Editor

Published for employees of the Omaha Works.
For information write: Editor, *The Westerner*,
P.O. Box 14000, West Omaha Station, Omaha,
Nebraska, 68114; or telephone 334-4132.

Member
Nebraska Association of Business Communicators
International Association of Business Communicators
Printed in the U.S.A.

 **Western Electric**

service anniversaries

november



Ann Lind
25 years
11/29/53



Bernard Borg
25 years
11/17/53



William Mathis
30 years
11/23/48

20 years

N. Adamonis
D. T. Aguilera
L. R. Ainsworth
A. C. Albin
E. O. Anderson
I. B. Baratta
J. C. Binko
F. A. Clayton
J. M. Dahlstrom
D. P. Dai
D. C. Donaldson
G. E. Drees Jr.

G. F. Ellrott
A. H. Enstrom
L. B. Graves
F. Halpenny
H. T. Heese
F. G. Henely
R. L. Hill
D. L. Hotchkiss
J. Jech
G. C. Jones
F. M. Knapp
E. J. Kosmicki

R. J. Krupa
B. L. Kunce
B. S. Kunce
W. L. Lockhart
W. E. Love
J. F. Mantich
J. J. Maun
D. W. Miller
B. Murphy
L. S. Napiorkowski
F. Nocita
A. D. Nogaj

L. J. Novak
R. J. Pohlmeier
S. L. Pokorski
E. C. Pond
P. M. Quandahl
L. C. Robbins
L. W. Rockhold
R. A. Snyder
L. J. Tweedy
D. J. Weidner
W. A. Zaugg



Robert Kautz
25 years
11/30/53



Betty Wilson
25 years
11/20/53

15 years

S. R. Doffin
R. A. Doidge
C. E. McCann
D. K. Perkin
R. J. Schmitz
R. P. Vatalaro

10 years

S. W. Bothwell
N. H. Cattano
J. B. Davis
M. J. Dewhurst
G. M. Dibble
R. J. Flynn

R. Gonzales
J. N. Goodale
D. A. Kelly
J. J. Krayneski
J. M. Larrick

J. L. Mabbitt
G. V. Romero
G. F. Sparck
V. E. Toledo
H. F. Vetter Jr.

George Henderson
25 years
11/23/53
(Not pictured)

suggestion box

Three employees recently had money-saving ideas that earned them suggestion awards.

Dennis Pickett of Dept. 446 was awarded \$980 for his suggestion which will save the Works about \$6,500 yearly. Pickett proposed that the solder fixture for single wire blocks be cleaned with thinner to decrease the number of cleanings required in the degreaser.

James Andersen of Dept. 745 suggested that the PRAM and STRAM machines be reprogrammed to reduce the number of contact blades that are scrapped. He was awarded \$310 for his idea.

An additional \$180 was awarded to Harold Dickman of Dept. 252 for his earlier suggestion that twister machine meters be made tamper proof to reduce maintenance costs.

Policy on equal opportunity

The Omaha Works, like all other locations of Western Electric, is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

It is the policy of the Western Electric Company to afford equal opportunity to all of its contractees, employees and applicants for employment. That is, all selections will be made on the basis of individual merit without discrimination because of race, religion, color, national origin, sex or age.

The employment policies and practices and all other personnel actions of WE have been and will continue to be such to ensure that all of its employees are treated equally and no distinctions are made because of the employees' color, age, religious belief, sex, race or

national origin.

Our commitment to this policy applies uniformly to all levels within the company. Further, Western Electric, in the administration of all its personnel procedures, will not discriminate against qualified handicapped individuals and disabled and Vietnam era veterans.

Our Equal Opportunity investigators (Gail Bailey, Ext. 3597, and Bob Oldero, Ext. 3594) are available to discuss our EO policy with you. Further, if you, as an Omaha Works employee, think you are not being afforded equal opportunity under the applicable laws and regulations, you are urged to contact one of these investigators for assistance.



ALL IN A PIONEER'S DAY
... Service projects and social functions keep the Pioneers busy. Counter-clockwise from the top, Ed Gembica (left) and Bill Pfeiffer, a resource teacher in Westside Community Schools, capture the attention of Michael Hanson, a student at Sunset Hills Early Childhood Center. Michael is fascinated by a beeping "Cricket," which the Pioneers presented to the school. Pioneers Tom Larsen (left) and Carl Knutson help deliver teaching aids volunteers have completed. Bill Zorko notes departure time of Joan and Gordon Harlow, car rally participants. In the Pioneer workroom, Nancy Jones — wife of Pioneer George M. Jones — prepares cutouts for teaching aids.

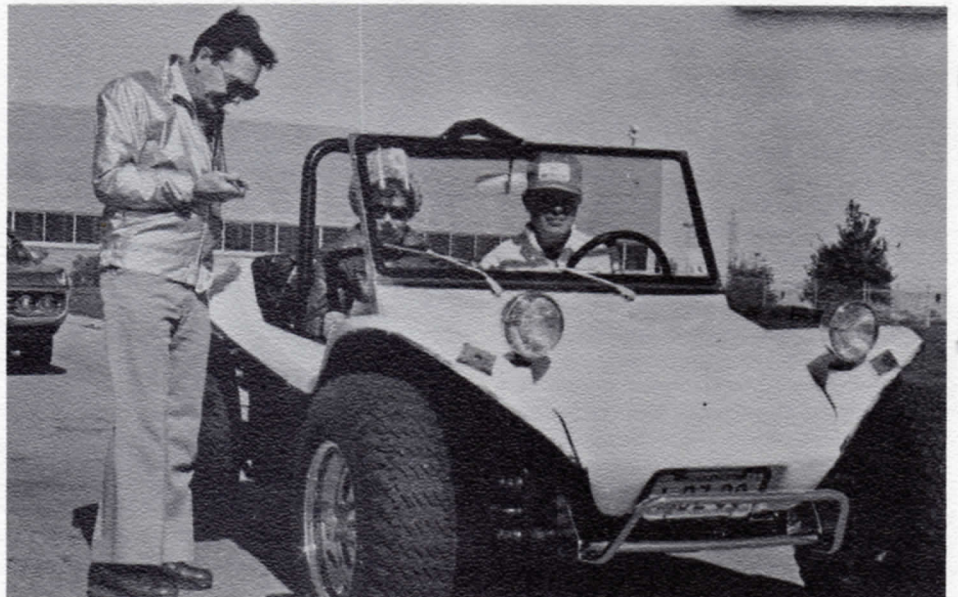


Photo by Clay Higginson

Proud to be a Pioneer

Some people consider themselves lucky to hold credit cards which allow them to purchase goods on credit anywhere in the country. They may not be as lucky, however, as those card-carrying members of an organization that guarantees friendship and assistance throughout the United States and Canada, too.

The latter card carriers belong to the Telephone Pioneers of America. At the Omaha Works, they are members of the Cornhusker Chapter No. 92, which achieved chapter status as of July 1, 1978. The group formerly functioned as the A. B. Goetze Council, officially instituted in November 1959.

What makes the bearer of a Pioneer membership card so lucky, according to one member, is that he can call on a Pioneer "and know he'll be helped anywhere." With more than 500,000 Bell System Telephone Pioneers across the country and Canada, the chances are good that a member could rely on a fellow Pioneer to render travel assistance when called upon — even help find housing for a newcomer to town.

Pioneers, you see, are big on fellowship, one of the threefold purposes of the organization. The other purposes are

loyalty to the company (readily seen in that Pioneers must have been a Bell System employee for 18 years or more) and service to the community.

IN A COMPANY the size of Western Electric, it can be difficult to get to know the people with whom one works — even if he has been with Western a number of years. The Pioneers try to bring groups of people together through various social functions, explained Gerry Alfons, who oversees activities as chapter administrator.

The chapter's current 1,700 members and 250 life members can participate in yearly golf outings, a picnic and a dinner-dance, to name a few events. A "bingo night" in Lincoln especially is popular with the many retired employees living in the capital city, Alfons said. Recently, Ed Allen of Dept. 435 and his wife, Glenda of Dept. 727, took first place in a car rally the chapter featured.

The Pioneers also sponsor seminars, one of which provided information to those members looking toward retirement. Sometimes special instruction is offered, such as a course in past years on defensive driving.

Once the ice is broken and new friends are made through the Pioneers, it's not unusual for members to take the initiative and extend the purpose of fellowship beyond social functions. For example, past president Ed Gembica noted that members regularly visit those among them who are hospitalized or bedfast and in need of extra attention. There even have been cases in which members, seeking medical treatment in cities away from home, have been taken into the homes of other Pioneers for the duration of their stay.

FELLOWSHIP is what draws people into the Pioneers, said member Gay Darwin. But fellowship also introduces members to that aspect of Pioneering which has proven to be most fulfilling: service to those in the community with special needs.

Darwin admitted to joining the Pioneers for fellowship, then she became involved in the numerous volunteer services the group provides. She was amazed at the scope of the Pioneers' volunteer activities, with requests for help coming in from all over the country. "And once you see the looks on the faces of children the Pioneers help," she said, "you're hooked" into taking an active part.

The Pioneers' service projects include

teaching aids for handicapped youngsters; reading books aloud onto tape for use by the visually impaired; making lap robes, slippers and holiday decorations for nursing home residents; and transporting visually handicapped individuals to monthly meetings of the Tri-County Federation for the Blind.

Many volunteer projects are in kit form and take "no more than 35 or 40 minutes to complete," Darwin said, yet the results can brighten someone's life. Other projects take more time, said chapter president Ed Wigg. Pioneer partners work on projects in the workroom in the main east cafeteria on Tuesdays. Other groups of Pioneers and their partners work many spare hours at home.

One year 95 women spent 162 hours converting potato chip canisters into Christmas candles. They filled the canisters with cookies (230 dozen baked in all) and presented them to nursing homes. Another Pioneer member built a wooden rocking boat which, when turned over, featured steps to help youngsters develop muscular coordination.

IF THE Cornhusker Chapter itself can't answer a request for help, assistance from other Pioneer groups is sought. Local Pioneers acquired from Hawthorne Works Pioneers two "Crickets" — devices which emit beeping sounds. One was presented to Sunset Hills School, the other to a young girl in Iowa. The device can be placed on the bike of a child with normal vision so that a child with impaired sight may ride his own bike by following the beeping sounds.

A "talking bear" came from the Pioneer Club at the Dallas Works, and was presented to the CHAP School in Bellevue. The toy bear is wired electronically, permitting a teacher's voice to come from the bear. By using the bear, youngsters who might be hesitant are encouraged to speak.

As word gets out in the community about the Pioneers' projects, an increasing number of requests come in, administrator Alfons noted. The Pioneers try to meet as many needs as possible, he said, but some cannot be met.

Darwin sees the interest shown by the community as an indication that the Pioneers' purpose of service indeed is a valid one. It also indicates that more Pioneer volunteers are needed for the future, and like she said, "It's easy to get hooked."



Nothing but the facts . . .

Twenty years is a long time to accumulate bits of information about the people and place where one works. Too often the information goes unrecorded, or maybe you aren't sure where to find the facts.

The occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Omaha Works is a fitting time to come up with a primer for employees on the little known or forgotten facts about the company. Although an incomplete guide, it just might come in handy the next time someone asks you about your work.

IT'S A FACT . . . that in 20 years the Works has manufactured enough wire to make 575 round trips to the moon.

. . . that in 20 years enough exchange area cable was made to go to the moon and back and halfway to the moon again — 636,875 miles of cable in all.

. . . that approximately 7,000 cups of coffee from vending machines throughout the plant are guzzled daily.

. . . that starting from the northeast corner of the Works' property, if every employee stood side by side with outstretched arms fingertip to fingertip (and estimating average arm span to be about 5½ feet), the last person in line would stand in the middle of Ak-Sar-Ben's racetrack.

. . . that this feat may be hazardous to one's health if attempted during May, June and July.

IT'S A FACT . . . that Dept. 273 collected \$1 million of cost reduction savings yearly for five consecutive years starting in 1974.

. . . that Walt Neneman's (Dept. 437) nose measures just a hair under 2¼ inches.

. . . that Jim Travnicek (Dept. 733) devoured 6½ banana splits one day in the cafeteria, but only after he cleaned off his lunch plate. (The half banana split was the portion left from what a co-worker couldn't finish.)

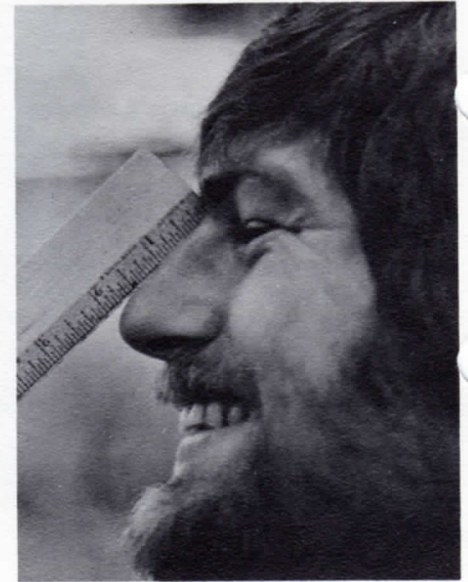
. . . that the Omaha Works' projected payroll for 1978 is about \$80 million.

. . . that it was guard Abe Abraham's suggestion to name the company paper *The Westerner*.

. . . that Jim Woods (with an "s") of Dept. 725 was named Boss of the Year for 1978-79 by the Honey Bee Chapter of the American Business Women's Association.

IT'S A FACT . . . that as of Sept. 30, 1978, the Works had manufactured 1.76 billion B wire connectors since August 1975.

. . . that a size 7½ Stetson fits Russ Ash (Dept. 122), but it doesn't fit Wayne Judds (Dept. 521).



ON THE NOSE . . . Walt Neneman answered a nosy question.

. . . that the Omaha Works conducted manufacturing operations downtown for two years before the permanent plant site opened in 1958. Manufacturing was done at the former Sidles building at 18th and Howard streets and at the former Ford building at 16th and Cuming streets.

. . . that the Omaha Works' permanent buildings were completed 7½ months ahead of the originally scheduled completion date, thus establishing a plant tradition of having all work completed before it is due.

. . . that 385,000 pounds of copper run through the No. 1 wire draw machines daily.

. . . that in 20 years 11 billion pounds of copper have run through the No. 1 wire draw machines.

IT'S A FACT . . . that Dept. 361 (product and raw materials inspection) has not had a lost time injury since November 1959. By the end of September 1978, the department had accumulated 4.3 million man hours without a lost time injury.

. . . that a safety store employee almost became a lost workday case when she dropped a box of safety shoes on her toe.

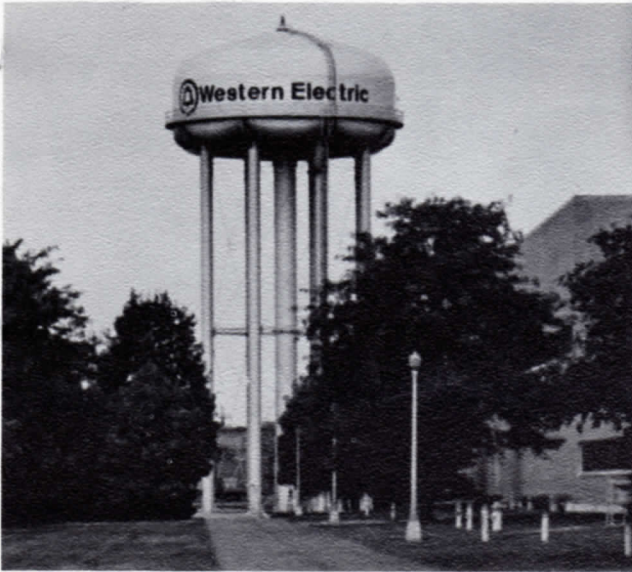
. . . that nobody in Dept. 523 knows how many hairs are left on Tony Ciullo's head.

. . . that nobody cares how many hairs are left on Tony Ciullo's head, with the

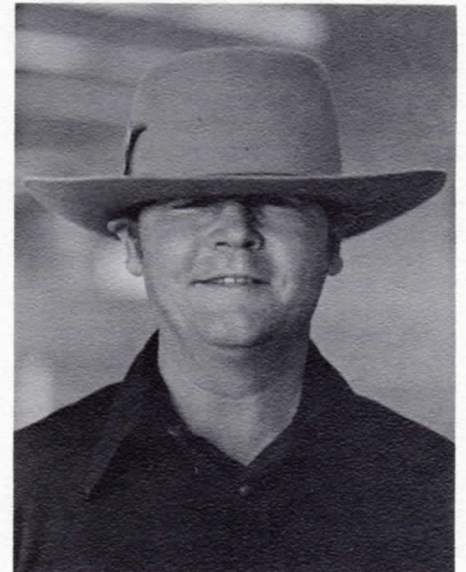


SEEING IS BELIEVING . . . Jim Woods shows his "Boss of Year" trophy to (from left) Joyce Johnson, Roberta Grimm, Clementine Burda, Dorothy Powell (hidden) and Betty Ariza, all of Dept. 725.

and occasional sundries



COLD WATER ONLY
... What the Works' water tower holds is no drop in the bucket.



ANOTHER WAYNE... But not John. It's Wayne Judds under the Stetson.

exception of his barber.

... that on a good day Nancy Carbo-nell of Dept. 724 adjusts as many as 400 vertical units.

... that the Works is situated on 339 acres of land.

... that 34.2 acres are reserved for paved parking areas.

... that in the Works' four main build-ings there is a total of 1.8 million square feet of available floor space.

IT'S A FACT ... that Johnson is the most common last name at the Works. As of Sept. 6, employees with that name numbered 34.

... that other common names at the Works include Jones, 26; Miller, 24; An-derson, 24; Brown, 22; Davis, 22; Smith, 24 and Smyth, 2.

... that there is one Plante at the Works but not one Works at the plant.

... that the Works' water tower is 137 feet tall and holds 500,000 gallons of water, 100,000 gallons of which are re-served for fire fighting.

... that none of the gallons of water in the tower is hot.

... that the Works used 198,415,571 gallons of city water in 1977.

... that 1,922 persons have visited the Product Display Center since January 1977.

... that 812.1 million terminal ele-ments were manufactured at the Works between January 1975 and September 1978 for use in 710 connectors.

... that Alan Klein (Dept. 274) won the running race for his age group three years in a row at the Buffalo Works' an-nual employee picnic.

IT'S A FACT ... that Peggy Reed (Dept. 411) is the female employee with the most years of service with the Omaha Works. She began work on Jan. 20, 1943.

... that Pete Prest (Dept. 726) is the male employee with the most years of service with the Works, joining the com-pany on Feb. 8, 1936.

... that unofficial records show that Lowell Iske (Dept. 725) is the earliest "new hire" at the Omaha Works still working here.

... that there is a total of 20,000 elec-tric light fixtures in the Works' buildings.

... that there are 2.75 million bricks in the exterior walls of the Omaha Works.

... that nearly 12,500 FDI cabinets have been shipped from the Works since June 1975.

IT'S A FACT ... that there are more blue eyes than brown, green or hazel eyes in Depts. 411 and 258.

... that the Omaha Works' total pay-ments to suppliers (for such things as raw materials, contracting jobs, etc.) to-taled about \$98.4 million in 1977.

... that own good merchandise pro-duction is forecast to be about \$242.8 million for 1978 (that's the total value of effort put into making products and in-cludes labor, load and material).

... that John Bowen (Dept. 253) stands the tallest at the Omaha Works at 6 feet 8.

... that Donna Gallagher (Dept. 724) stands the shortest at 4 feet 10.

... that The Westerner editor Linda Ryan stands corrected if any of the above facts in fact are not.



TALL AND SHORT STORIES ... John Bowen and Donna Gallagher don't see eye to eye.

Mountain Bell discusses needs

It's a sign of the times. After 20-plus years of operation, the Omaha Works is finding out that today more than ever we must acknowledge our customer's needs if we are to succeed in an increasingly competitive market.

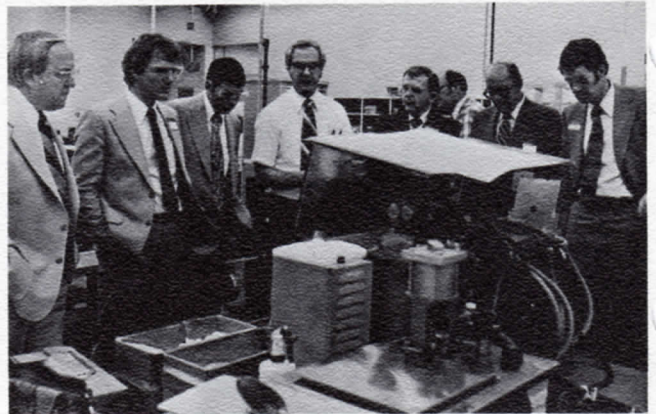
That's why the "Know Your Customer" program was begun last summer. Its purpose is to meet with representatives of the operating Bell Telephone companies in an effort to improve our understanding of their needs and to learn how we at the Works can serve them better. Tours of the plant are included, during which visiting representatives are shown a broad spectrum of all Works products, with emphasis on outside plant products.

Supervisory and technical-professional personnel came to a better understanding of Mountain Bell's needs when representatives from that company visited the Works early in October.

The Mountain Bell visitors, who spoke to Works personnel in the auditorium, were Lloyd Leger, vice-president, operations — staff; Cliff Stice, district staff manager — planning; Lee Engleking, district staff manager, general trades products; and Paul Spieker, division staff manager — facilities. Their hosts were Charlie Higginson, Works director; Bill Gannon, director of operations, Mountain Bell and AT&T Long Lines; Pete Fenner, manager, Account Management, for Mountain Bell; and Tom Deland, Account Management, department chief, outside plant.

LEGER SPELLED out Mountain Bell's needs in terms of geography. The Mountain Bell region covers 25 percent of the United States' geography and serves 5 percent of the country's population.

SHOP TOUR . . . Jim Kelly (center) talks with visitors (from left) Engleking, Spieker, Stice, Deland, Leger and Fenner.



About \$200 million is spent yearly on outside plant, which ranges from "valleys with gopher problems" to mountains, which require specially reinforced cable to withstand strain, he said.

Compounding geographical considerations is the energy boom, which is stimulating growth in the Mountain Bell region. "Seventy percent of the energy reserves are in this area," Leger said. That means that Mountain Bell must be able to meet diverse telephone needs, whether that be at mining sites miles from nowhere or in rapidly growing metropolitan areas which serve as headquarters for energy companies.

Stice pointed out that Mountain Bell must move quickly to supply new subscribers in the most economical way. Sometimes there are difficulties in accommodating unusually designed developments spawned by the area's growth. It's especially difficult to forecast cable requirements "because of such volatile growth," he said. "The

needs change on a daily basis."

When Engleking spoke, the reality of increased competition became more evident. In his position, he's responsible for purchasing telecommunications products from companies other than Western Electric, and "we're finding Western doesn't always have the best products at the best prices," he said.

Part of the reason Mountain Bell is paying more attention to general trades products is because of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) orders. In March 1977, FCC ordered the Bell System to deal with Western Electric and general trades "on an arm's length fair and equal basis" in procurement matters.

SPIEKER mentioned that Mountain Bell has launched an extensive program to cut down its expenses — everything from decreasing maintenance costs and repairs to faulty products to using the most efficient products during installation in the field. In fact, he said that Mountain Bell had on order from Omaha 500 835-A1 tools for 1978, as a more efficient splicing tool in the field. (He jokingly excused from the auditorium audience any supervisors who oversee the manufacture of the tool, so that they could assure the order is filled.)

The program to cut expenses is tight, he said, and will be no easy task for Mountain Bell. What that means to Western Electric is that Mountain Bell doesn't "have any room for manufacturing defects" if expenses are to be cut.

Good quality, good service and reasonable cost were never more important Western Electric goals, based on information given by the Mountain Bell visitors. In Lloyd Leger's words, "We rely heavily on Western Electric as a premium super supplier."

TALK OVER COFFEE . . . Tom Bowman (left) shows an 835-A1 tool to Lloyd Leger and Paul Spieker as they take a pause in the Product Display Center.

