



In-plant drive successful

United Way pledges exceed goal

Maybe it wasn't magic, but it certainly was an amazing feat.

This year, employees of the Omaha Works pledged a total of \$346,649 to the United Way of the Midlands campaign. That's almost \$10,000 beyond the \$337,000 goal for this year's drive.

In presenting the gift-wrapped check to United Way, Works general manager Chuck Meetsma mentioned that today's economy has everybody strapped for

funds. What makes the in-plant campaign so amazing is that it was successful despite these difficult financial times, he said.

Accepting the check was the executive director of United Way, Martin Covitz. He expressed his appreciation to Works employees, saying that the Omaha Works repeatedly has been an important contributor to the United Way.

Seated in the Works Product Display Room for the presentation were employees who helped make the campaign run smoothly. Among them were Ken Stasiek, engineering manager for network distribution apparatus (Organization 470), who chaired this year's in-plant drive, and his co-chairmen: Tom Welchert (Dept. 333), representing Local 1614, and Terry Moore (Dept. 439) and Jim Hardick (Dept. 253), representing Local 1974.

Outstanding in-plant solicitors also were recognized from the audience. Solicitors responsible for bringing in the greatest percent of dollar increase were Vi Winnicki (Dept. 439) for Building 30; Mary Welch (Dept. 287) for Building 50; and Leo Thietje (Dept. 413) for Building 20. Solicitors responsible for the greatest increase in the number of fair share contributions were Jess Perryman (Dept. 746) for Building 30; Jim Meek (Dept. 746) for Building 50; and Hugh Wells (Dept. 333) for Building 20.

For the fifth year in a row, employees in Organization 430, headed by Bob Dunn (manufacturing manager of network distribution apparatus), were recognized for their extraordinary sup-

port of the in-plant drive. Ken Stasiek said, "These people set a fine example for the rest of us."

Hospital tests? Check coverage

Has your doctor sent you to the hospital recently for two or three days of testing? If he did — and you went — an unexpected bill may have confused you.

You should know that our current contract with Blue Cross does not cover payment for a hospital room charge. The average hospital room charge these days is \$141.34 — the amount you yourself would be expected to pay. Therefore, diagnostic tests can and should be done as an outpatient whenever possible, if you want to avoid paying for a hospital room.

Remember, your doctor probably isn't aware of your insurance policy coverage. If he suggests hospital tests, call your local Blue Cross office at 390-1800. Always write down the name of the clerk helping you and ask if your Blue Cross plan covers you as an inpatient for the tests your doctor has recommended. If you need further assistance, call Chere Hunt at the Works to help you with your coverage, Ext. 3641.



FOR ME? . . . United Way's Martin Covitz could be telling Works general manager Chuck Meetsma that the gift inside the box is a perfect fit — the Work's campaign pledge check of \$346,649.

Meetsma goes to Allentown

The general manager of the Omaha Works, Charles R. Meetsma, has been named general manager of the Allentown Works in Allentown, Pa. The appointment is effective Nov. 1, 1981.

Meetsma came to the Omaha Works in April 1979 from the Northern Illinois Works in Lisle, where he was director of engineering and manufacturing. His career with Western Electric began in 1956 as a planning engineer at the Hawthorne Works in Chicago.

Later, he was transferred to the company's pilot plant in Columbus, Ohio. He was selected to participate in the company's management training program at headquarters in New York City.

The Muskegon, Mich., native holds a bachelor's and a master's degree from

the University of Michigan, and has been active in various Omaha community organizations. Among those are the Mid-America Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Ak-Sar-Ben and United Way of the Midlands.

Charles R.
Meetsma



the Westerner

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Editor

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Western Electric

service anniversaries october

35 years

E. A. Bartunek	437	10/9
R. W. Dunn	430	10/28
H. G. Jordan	723	10/14
W. E. Sherman	251	10/1
S. W. Wheeler	445	10/7

30 years

G. T. Elafros	476	10/3
R. R. Gerlach	253	10/29

25 years

H. D. Abraham	746	10/24
E. T. Bald	725	10/22
M. G. Borden	253	10/15
R. A. Burgett	437	10/15
D. A. Burrell	253	10/8
J. R. Canterbury	728	10/22
R. D. Carter	413	10/1
R. L. Daharsh	253	10/8
R. C. Fick	726	10/10
W. R. Fiedler	253	10/22
R. E. Gerry	744	10/10
M. J. Glismann	746	10/15
R. J. Gorackowski	253	10/1
L. M. Hansen	510	10/8
E. W. Hofmann	745	10/15
W. Hofmann	746	10/10
K. W. Holz	746	10/8
G. F. Huff	361	10/16
E. E. James	361	10/9
D. E. Karloff	744	10/30
R. F. Kemler	744	10/15
J. Knudsen, Jr.	744	10/22
L. L. Lamb	273	10/15
G. G. Larson	735	10/29
D. A. Mares	725	10/22
C. W. Mathis, Jr.	728	10/25
E. J. McCarthy	0324	10/22

W. J. McCormick, Jr.	753	10/4
L. D. Moody	273	10/15
J. J. Novak	333	10/2
J. C. Ogden	746	10/14
R. G. Otte	746	10/1
J. J. Peroutka	746	10/2
J. P. Phillips	741	10/15
J. L. Proctor	728	10/15
C. H. Scoles	728	10/22
R. A. Seaman	252	10/24
L. B. Spanel	728	10/29
J. C. Spencer	741	10/29
E. E. Stacey	475	10/22
J. A. Stenstrom	731	10/22
P. T. Stubbe	472	10/1
G. A. Ujdur	521	10/17
W. B. Upton	741	10/14
M. E. Weberg	726	10/29
J. D. Wermuth	361	10/10

20 years

W. H. Adams	251	10/23
M. P. Ardery	728	10/17
D. H. Cemer	723	10/2
E. G. Chleboun	439	10/2
J. M. Cox	439	10/25
E. J. Fleming	728	10/16
L. W. Frye	282	10/30
M. S. Grzebielski	728	10/5
M. H. Hecker	441	10/26
W. A. Hosford	253	10/3
M. L. Hrdy	746	10/13
J. D. Kajdasz	251	10/2
A. J. Kallhoff	252	10/23
W. T. Krum	751	10/4
N. L. Oltman	437	10/16
D. R. Otte	728	10/10
C. M. Reitan	251	10/24
T. W. Riester	726	10/2
R. E. Shafer	746	10/4
H. H. Sheldon	741	10/23
G. A. Simonson	746	10/26
L. S. Slater	443	10/18
R. S. Sobczak	361	10/2
L. A. Stork	745	10/16
J. R. Symonsbergen	441	10/23
T. V. Vancleve	413	10/23
R. D. Warren	746	10/4
M. E. Whitehouse	741	10/12

BSSP/SSP results

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

BSSP

	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T	2.4987	.4001
Government Obligations	2.3563	.4243
Equity Portfolio	1.8556	.5388
Guaranteed Interest Fund	1.1826	.8455

SSP

	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T	1.1668	.8569
Guaranteed Interest Fund	1.2757	.7838

suggestion box

Nobody likes to make needless repairs.

In **Glen Ray's** case, one repair too many was enough to prompt him to come up with an idea to solve the problem. As a result, he has been awarded \$1,230 in the employee suggestion program.

Glen, a pipefitter in Dept. 746, suggested that fiberglass piping used in the central tin plater be replaced by a special heat-resistant plastic piping. Plastic piping would eliminate the problem posed by chemicals used in plating copper wire. The chemicals used to eat through the fiberglass, Glen said.

"I got tired of replacing all that (fiberglass) pipe," he said, "and figured there must be a better way." Glen's "better way" adds up to \$8,200 the company will save in a year's time.

Glen also thinks he benefits two

ways from the suggestion. First, his job becomes a little easier, and second, his award will allow him and his family to take a plane trip this spring to the back country of Canada for walleye fishing.

Other Works employees who have received suggestion awards include:

Philip Traynor and **Mickey Owens**, Dept. 745, joint award of \$505 each.
Margaret Abrams, Dept. 445, \$170.

Glen Ray



15 years

R. R. Alf	741	10/16
J. S. Connelly	437	10/30
R. M. Crawford	437	10/11
R. V. Delgado	282	10/3
K. W. Drake	252	10/26
R. R. Endorf	723	10/27
K. E. Harper	723	10/18
M. W. Kostszewa	287	10/10
D. P. Leitner	723	10/8
M. G. McAleer	1230	10/22
V. K. Milne	728	10/6
H. K. Plisek	723	10/6
P. M. Rochford	435	10/10
A. P. Seals	282	10/24
G. F. Sims	439	10/17
J. Skubisz	723	10/10
G. C. Starks	287	10/14
D. Wiggins, Jr.	437	10/10

10 years

K. M. Landrum	723	10/4
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Local history reveals roots

Many a family tree bears relatives' names unfamiliar even to those members who are tracing their roots.

Imagine, then, if you traced your roots and uncovered names you once memorized for a fourth-grade history lesson. What would you say if the famous Jesuit missionary, Father Peter John DeSmet, ministered to the needs of your forebearers, and if Kit Carson had been a close family friend? And what if you learned that your great granduncle was a well-known chief of the Omaha Indians?

You would react much like Logan Fontenelle, a machine operator in Dept. 723 who bears the name of Chief Logan Fontenelle, his great granduncle. You'd want to know more.

Until a few years ago, the 22-year Works employee knew very little about Chief Fontenelle. He knew that various landmarks in the Omaha and Bellevue areas were named after the chief — Fontenelle Forest, Fontenelle Park, Fontenelle Hotel — not to mention a school, boulevard, housing development, and even a home for the elderly.

"I was interested in learning more about my heritage," Logan said, so he began participating in activities sponsored by the American Indian Center at 16th and Jackson streets. Today, he is chairman of the center's board of directors. Gradually, he's piecing together bits of history which explain why Chief Fontenelle was so respected by

both the Omaha Indians and the American government.

CHIEF Fontenelle was the son of Lucien Fontenelle, a French fur trapper, and Bright Sun, daughter of Omaha Indian Chief Big Elk. Lucien operated one of the most successful fur trading companies in the area, located on the Missouri River north of Bellevue (believed to be in the vicinity of Fontenelle Forest).

He became good friends with other fur traders who helped shape the history of the region, Logan said. Among them were Kit Carson and Peter Sarpy.

As a successful businessman, Lucien was able to afford a large, comfortable home near the trading post and to send his children to school for formal education. Lucien's oldest son, Logan, was schooled in St. Louis until he was called home upon the death of his father in 1842.

The details of his great-granduncle's life between 1842 and 1855 (when he died) are sketchy, Logan said. It appears, however, that the elder Logan was hired as a United States interpreter after Lucien died. He was fluent in the native French of his father and the Omaha language of his mother, as well as English. In addition, as a child he had accompanied his father on fur trapping expeditions, learning the dialects of many Indian tribes along the way.

He was well-suited for the role as interpreter because he had become acquainted with the needs of the Indian people as well as become educated in white society, his great grandnephew said. Most important, the elder Logan was trusted by both sides, a factor crucial during the signing of treaties.

It was during this time that white settlers were making their way into the land which, by an Act of Congress in 1834, had been declared "Indian country." Large numbers of white settlers descended upon Omaha Indian territory when the Mormons asked permission to stay temporarily before

heading further west.

The Omaha Indians liked the Mormons, Logan said, because they seemed to be a peaceful people and because of their "strict attitudes prohibiting the use of liquor." The Indians felt that these white people could be trusted, he said.

BUT THE course of events were changing drastically as more and more settlers and squatters moved onto Omaha land. In 1853, the American government sought to buy Omaha land to open it up legally to settlers. The Omahas' council of chiefs had to make a decision.

Accounts are unclear, Logan said, but it appears that his great granduncle was chosen by the council to act as principal chief in treaty negotiations with the government. Actually, Chief Fontenelle was a "paper chief," Logan said, because he was not a chief by inheritance or adoption. It was Chief Fontenelle's fairness, trustworthiness and education, rather, which made him an appointed leader among his people.

A treaty was signed in 1854, leaving the Omahas with Fontenelle Forest and rich farmland that is now a reservation in Macy, Neb., Logan said. A year later provisions promised by the government hadn't been received, and the Omahas had low food supplies. Chief Fontenelle led the Omahas on a buffalo hunt where ultimately he met his death.

A band of Sioux Indians ambushed the hunting party (perhaps for trespassing on Sioux land) and killed Chief Fontenelle, Logan said. He is said to have been buried somewhere in Fontenelle Forest, but historians disagree. Even Logan's own information passed on through his family generations is limited.

"Now I've been told that he's really buried in Macy," Logan said. Supposedly, Chief Fontenelle's remains secretly were stolen by the Omahas, who feared enemies would disturb the grave in the forest.

On the cover

Just off of History Trail in Fontenelle Forest is a monument erected in memory of Chief Logan Fontenelle. His grave site is said to be in the vicinity, but some people believe he is buried in Macy, Neb. The cover photo of the chief's great grandnephew, also named Logan Fontenelle, was taken by Rog Howard.

LOGAN HIMSELF isn't sure, he said, but then, he's still trying to piece together his past. "I didn't even know I was an Indian when I was a kid," he said with a smile.

He recalled how he attended St. Peter's Grade School in Omaha as a child. At the time, the student body consisted largely of children of Italian ancestry, he said.

"Everybody had an Italian name," he said, "and I was called 'Fontenelli.' I figured I was Italian, too."

One day, a parish priest came into Logan's classroom to give a catechism lesson. Logan remembered how the priest called attention to him in front of the class, asking, "Do you realize you have a classmate who is a descendant of a great Omaha Indian chief?"

"That's when I found out," Logan said, as did his sister, Pat (now Pat Wentz, an assembler in Dept. 728). His mother verified what the priest had said, "and I found out she was an Ogallala Sioux. Probably her ancestors were among those who raided the hunting party."

Now that he's an adult and taking a greater interest in his heritage, he's learning more about his great grandpa's ideals through information gathered at the Indian center. Logan now knows that Chief Fontenelle wanted the Omaha Indians to receive formal education, and hoped they could learn to be farmers.

"I think he saw how things were certain to change," Logan said. They needed education to adapt to a new culture, and they would have to live by hunting because wild game hunting would end.

IN DELVING into his past, Logan became involved in some of the projects at the center, currently remodeling recently expanded office space, he said. The center offers services to the community's Indian population, including help with education, employment, health and nutrition, legal problems and alcoholism treatment.



GREAT GRANDNEPHEW . . . Logan Fontenelle was surprised to learn his great grand-uncle was an important Omaha Indian chief.

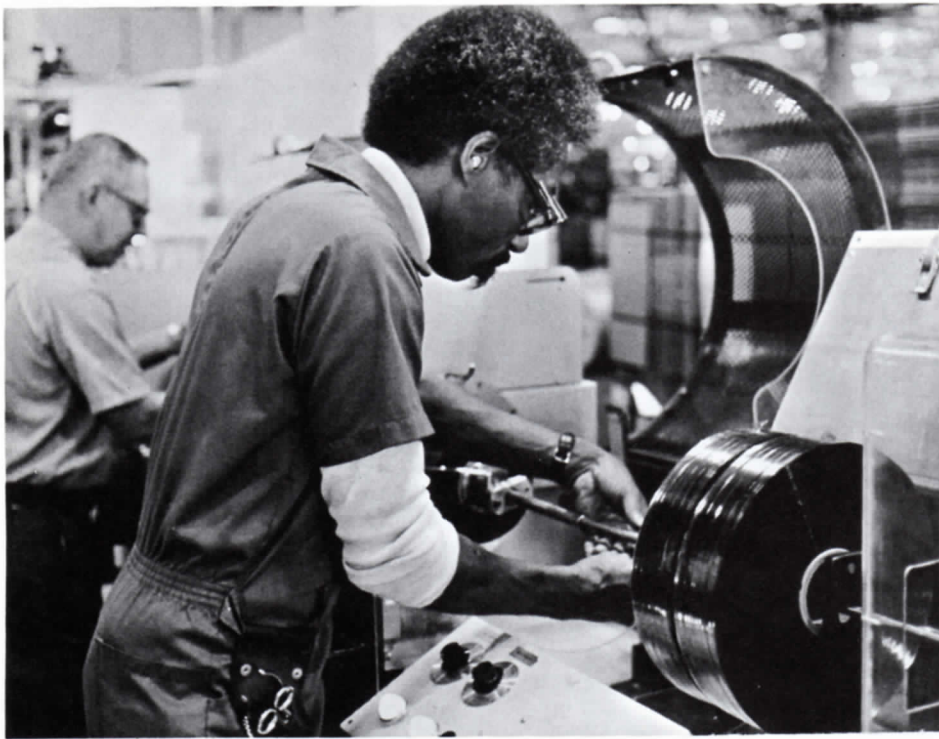
Logan and the center's staff are most excited about a proposed "Indian Village," to be built close to the Missouri River near Henry Doorly Zoo. Plans haven't been firmed, but besides replicas of Indian villages, other structures to be included would be a restaurant, museum and education center, and possibly a trading post identical to the one Lucien Fontenelle operated.

The village, Logan said, would serve to inform all Omaha-area citizens about their community's history. That history may have been different had Chief Fontenelle lived, Logan noted, particularly with regard to the future of the Omaha Indians.

"Maybe he could have been a governor or senator," Logan speculated, adding that the chief was equally comfortable dressed in buckskins astride a horse, or in broadcloth and fine linen talking politics in Washington.

But Logan doesn't like to dwell on what might have been. What matters, he said, is that today's American Indian live with pride and dignity. What Chief Fontenelle wanted for his people — educated, self-supporting individuals who contribute to society — really isn't unlike the modern goals of the American Indian Center, Logan said.

The spirit of Chief Logan Fontenelle lives.



TAPING LINE . . . Jimmie Howard (foreground) and Joe Schweigart, machine operators in Dept. 282, carefully wrap transparent yellow polyimide tape around a plenum cable core, prior to starting up the taping line.

New cable and cabinets are shipped

The first shipments of two of the Omaha Works' newest products have been sent to their respective destinations in the country. Plenum cable and 80-type FDI cabinets are two more examples of the technological innovations Western Electric has introduced during its almost 100 years as a Bell System company.

Plenum cable is a low-smoke and fire-resistant cable used inside office buildings above dropped ceilings. It needn't be installed inside conduit. The first 10,000 feet of Omaha Works-manufactured plenum cable was shipped to New Brunswick, N.J., to be used in a new Johnson & Johnson building under construction.

Seven 80-type cabinets were sent to a resort area near Duluth, Minn. The cabinets are designed to blend in with the environment, to be more aesthetically pleasing.

100 years in the System

There were sceptics, to be sure, who thought the marriage would never last — the union between Western Electric and the Bell System which marks 100 years in November.

The country was vastly different in 1881 and so was the Bell System, or its early forerunner. Theodore Vail's American Bell Telephone Company clearly had a tiger by the tail with the popularity of the telephone. But the Bell System was still a loose confederation of telephone companies recruited by Vail. Western Electric, by contrast, was already established as the nation's leading manufacturer of electrical equipment.

The company had been started as Gray and Barton in 1869 in Cleveland. Elisha Gray, a college professor, and Enos Barton, a former telegraph operator, went to General Anson Stager looking for financial backing and ended up with a partnership. The new firm was then moved to Chicago.

The firm underwent its most important changes in 1881. American Bell Telephone acquired a controlling interest in Western Electric. It was incorporated along with Gilliland Electric of Indianapolis, a Western Electric subsidiary, and the Charles Williams Company of Boston, which had been bought out by American Bell.

The consolidation of these three firms

under the ownership of American Bell in November of 1881 generally is considered to mark Western Electric's debut as a Bell System company. Fueled by the Bell System, telecommunications technology would expand dramatically during the next 100 years, as would the American Telephone network and Western Electric.

Invention of the high-vacuum electronic amplifying tube by a Western research scientist in 1913 paved the way for the reliable transmission of long distance calls. It provided a critical building block for the development of radio broadcasting, sound movies and eventually television.

The legendary research and develop-



OUR PREDECESSORS . . . The 1873 work force of Gray & Barton posed for this picture outside the company's Kinzie Street headquarters in Chicago. Gray sits at front row center, holding one of the company's products.

Two senior engineers who have been involved in the plenum cable program, Ed Burek of Dept. 276 and Jack Slominski of Dept. 273, are enthusiastic about the new product's potential.

"Locally, initial interest has been shown in plenum cable," Ed said. Because of plenum cable's high degree of thermal resistance, the need to install costly and time-consuming conduit is eliminated. With installation thus made easier, there is less disturbance to office personnel where plenum cable is being used. All that is attractive to a customer, Ed noted.

The core of plenum cable is the same as that in our vinyl inside wiring cable, Jack said, but how plenum is wrapped gives it its special features. The core is surrounded by fiberglass tape, followed by polyimide tape, corrugated aluminum and then two wraps of heat-sealed polyimide. "The whole construction gives it a high-temperature, heat-resistant core," Jack said.

Installation of equipment for the plenum program began back in April and was completed in August. It consists of a taping line to apply the various wraps around the core, and a sealing line to heat-seal the outer polyimide wraps.

The two operators who run the

machines on one shift have undergone special training, Ed said. Currently, the Works manufactures 25-pair B-plenum cable, with a capacity to produce 10 million linear feet per year. Manufacturing at capacity level on three shifts is forecast to occur sometime in the second quarter of next year.

The 80-type cabinets also are being well-received by the customer, according to planning engineer Larry Bailey of Dept. 475. Besides their "designer" look, the cabinets can provide the same function as the 40-type cabinet, but in a larger pair size capacity. They also can be equipped to handle the Subscriber Loop Carrier System (SLC-96), permitting multiple handling of telephone subscribers on one pair of wires.

"They're easy to install, too," Larry said. The last of the seven cabinets shipped to Duluth was installed in just eight minutes.

The cabinets will be classified in a "ready to manufacture" mode in December or January. About 1,000 cabinets will be manufactured during the initial year. Earlier in 1981, the Works assembled 10 prototypes of the cabinet for display, Bell Lab testing and Bell telephone company use.



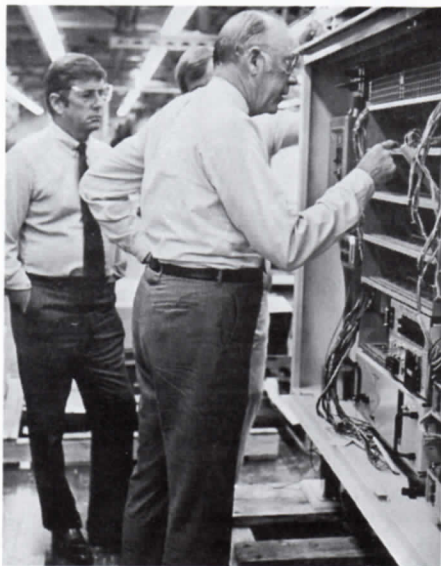
PACKAGING . . . Mike Huerta (right) and Dewey Brittell of Dept. 445 specially packed 80-type cabinets for shipment to Duluth.

ment work of Bell Laboratories began when that organization was formed from the Western Electric Engineering Department in 1925. The partnership between Bell Labs and Western would endure the Great Depression and meet unprecedented production demands World War II put on the Bell System. Among their contributions would be automatic anti-aircraft gun directors and some of the world's most advanced radar systems.

Postwar demands for crossbar switching systems, microwave transmission equipment, alpeh cable and other new-products for the network built Western Electric into one of the biggest companies in America. With the first electronic switching system (ESS) installed in 1965, Western moved into the world of electronic components. And to meet the transmission demands of the system, W.E. evolved as the world's largest manufacturer of conventional communications cable. Today, Western also manufactures lightwave cable.

The technology of our industry is changing faster than at any time in history. Even the very shape of the Bell System is changing, and W.E. will change with it. However, no matter how we may be restructured, Western always will pursue excellence in its work.

There are a few things that even a hundred years can't change.



INSPECTION . . . John Brown (right) and Frank Heffron had a chance to view one of the Works' 80-type cabinets before a scheduled shipment to Duluth, Minn.



ELOCUTION . . . Nebraska's governor, Charles Thone, met with Works supervisory personnel in the auditorium.

Brown, Heffron, Thone are guests

The latter part of September brought a number of visitors to the Omaha Works. The Works was host to John Brown, executive vice-president of manufacturing; Frank Heffron, vice-president of manufacturing, Cable and Wire Products Division; and Charles Thone, Nebraska governor.

Brown and Heffron met with the Works staff for updates on the network distribu-

tion product line. Later, they toured shop areas, accompanied by Hank Snyder, general manager of Product Line Planning and Management — operations systems, and Don Liedberg, manager of Product Line Planning, loop transmission apparatus, from Atlanta.

Thone addressed members of the supervisory staff during a meeting in the Works auditorium.

Picnic, run mark the end of summer

The last days of summer 1981 weren't about to fade out without a proper send-off, if Works employees had their way.

On Sept. 27, employees and their families were soaking in a few more of the sun's rays at the annual WEOMA Club picnic at Peony Park. If all the food, entertainment and sporting contests weren't enough to keep one busy, numerous free rides were ready to test how young a person really feels.

A week earlier, the young (and healthy) at heart could compete in the Omaha Corporate Cup Run to raise funds for the American Lung Association of Nebraska. The Omaha Works paid the entry fees for employees who wanted to run.

Of the 22 Works employees who ran in the 6.2-mile race, all crossed the finish line. One of them, Al Weaver of Dept. 331, earned a trophy for his second-place finish in his age group (50 and over).

Approximately 750 entrants began the run, with 688 finishing. Works runners placed 12th among the 29 corporate-sponsored groups. Mike Fager of Dept. 735 was captain for the company group.

The Works runners and how they placed were: Del Wilke, 37; Ken Deman, 53; Al Weaver, 58; Mike Fager, 83; Marvin



WE DID IT! . . . Del Wilke (left), Ken Deman and Al Weaver could hardly stand still for a photograph after participating in the Corporate Cup Run.

Abramson, 96; George Koziol, 106; Stephen Ruggles, 145; Mike Black, 153; Gary Todd, 155; Ted Killham, 189; Dick Skrok, 216; Gerry Odell, 228; Mondo Marcuzzo, 281.

Dwight Lockhart, 338; John Maun,

367; Don Madsen, 376; Lonny Weaklend, 396; Gerry Pote, 417; Leona Alvarado, 563; Nicki Madsen, 564; Del O'Neal, 589; Skip Vencil, 603.

The run helped raise nearly \$4,000 for the lung association.



HANG ON . . . All the free rides your heart could stand were part of the annual WEOMA Club picnic fare.



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