

the Westerner

OMAHA WORKS September 26, 1975



MINORITY BUSINESS AWARD: The Omaha Works has received the Omaha Urban Business Development Center's 1975 Corporate Involvement Award. Presented during the second annual Minority Business Awards and Recognition Luncheon, the award was given in appreciation to the Omaha Works for providing equal business opportunities. Hank Davidson, resident purchasing manager, accepted the award. He's pictured above with the plaque which was presented at the luncheon.



New location, price rollback draw a big crowd to the Weoma Club Picnic — see story inside

For Your Information ...

... competition for the 1977 Western Electric Fund Merit Scholarships begins this fall when the 1975 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) will be administered in over 17,000 high schools across the country. Competition for the 1977 scholarships is open to all Western Electric employees' children who will complete high school and enter college in 1977. The PSAT/NMSQT will be administered on October 21, 1975, or October 25, 1975, depending on local scheduling. Students qualifying as semifinalists based on the results of the 1975 exams and advancing to finalist standing, will be candidates for 1977 Western Electric Fund Merit Scholarships. Booklets describing the Western Electric Fund Merit Scholarship Program are available from the Works Public Relations Organization, Ext. 3604 ...

... it may not be on the best seller list, but it could save you from a serious financial setback. It's the Internal Revenue Service's publication, "A Workbook for Determining Your Disaster Loss." Available at local IRS offices, publication 584 has separate sheets for the various rooms in a home, listing the items normally found in each place. Once completed, it's a good fact sheet to retain in case you need to detail the items you had in your home prior to a major loss due to theft, fire, tornado, etc. ...

... on October 9-10, the Weoma Club will host the third and final 1975 Bloodmobile visit to the Omaha Works. All employees, whether regular or first-time donors, are encouraged to participate and make this another successful visit.

18th Annual Event

Picnic Attracts Over 4,000

On Sunday, September 7, over 4,000 Omaha Works employees, their families and friends met at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Waterloo, Nebraska, for the 18th annual Weoma Club Picnic.

Before the day was over, the crowd had consumed 6,000 hot dogs, nearly 250 gallons of pop, 352 gallons of beer, 7,000 ice cream bars and 20 bushels of popcorn.

In addition to the low-priced food, there were free carnival rides, games, Bingo, horseshoes, a live band, a square dance exhibition and a radio-controlled airplane show.

"Sure, we encountered some problems with the new location," noted Weoma Club director Frank Markesi, Department 364.

"Since this was our first picnic at the Fairgrounds, we weren't too sure about the size of the facilities we'd need. Now we know that next year we'll have to make provisions for additional food and indoor facilities, larger quantities of food and an

increased number of amusement rides."

The 1975 picnic was the first in recent years to draw a crowd that nearly equaled the number of employees on roll.

"I have to compliment picnic chairman Elmer Johnson and his task force who worked so diligently to give the employees a new picnic location at a bargain price.

"It was through their dedication and that of the 250 volunteer workers that this picnic went over as well as it did. I'd also like to thank the many people at the picnic who volunteered their help. It was greatly appreciated."

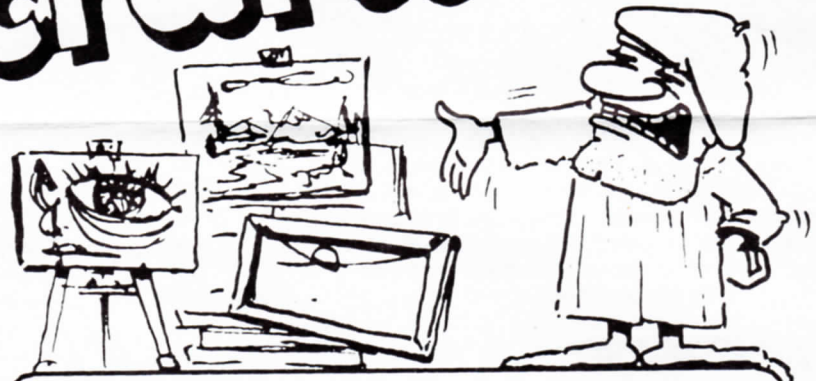
Frank stressed, "But most of all, I'd like to thank all the employees who supported our efforts by attending the picnic. They're the ones who really made it a success."



Above: Art Rymill, alias George Washington, helped distribute Bicentennial flags and ice cream coupons to eager youngsters.

On the cover: Tots run to mama in one of the many field events held during the picnic.

artists and craftsmen



SHOW YOUR TALENT AT THE
2ND ANNUAL ARTS & CRAFTS
EXHIBIT IN THE COMPANY AUD-
ITORIUM - OCT. 27, 28, 29, 1975.
DRAWING - PAINTING - SCULPTURE
CERAMICS - PHOTOGRAPHY - ETC.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT:
CHARLENE VAN HOOSER DEPT. 132 X-3889
JIM CURRAN DEPT. 244 X-3953



GARDEN GIANT: It's not your average backyard variety pumpkin, but that's what Bob Eggert, Department 9961, has been cultivating in his home garden. The mammoth pumpkin Bob and his daughter Brenda are pictured with measured nearly 72 inches around when this photo was taken. At that time, Bob estimated the potential Jack-O-Lantern weighed close to 100 pounds.



DEGREE ATTAINED: Jim Jefferies, department chief, 175, has been awarded a masters degree in engineering science from the Clarkson College of Technology, Potsdam, N.Y. Jim has studied at the college for five weeks every summer from 1971-1974. He returned to the college this year for the commencement ceremonies which were attended by Western Electric President Donald Procknow, a member of the College's Board of Trustees. The on-campus summer program is sponsored by Western Electric for selected employees and is oriented towards the needs of the company. Pictured above at the commencement ceremonies are WE employees D. E. Cowan, Reading Works; W. L. Boehm, Baltimore Works; Mr. Procknow and Jim Jefferies. Boehm and Cowan also received Master of Engineering Science degrees. During the past few years, Works employees Don Bailey, Lowell Dankof and Floyd Morlan have also received masters degrees as participants in the program.



CLOSE COUPLE: The past 20 years of Sam and Evie Keyser's 31 years together have been spent at Western Electric. They both joined the company at the Lincoln, Nebraska plant on the same day. When the two recently celebrated their 20 year service anniversaries, they received special congratulations from Dale DeBoer, assistant manager, 420/430, and John Bourke, assistant manager 410.

IRS Rules On Sick Pay

If you are absent from work for illness or injury, the payments you receive while absent may entitle you to claim excludable sick pay on your income tax return.

In the years prior to 1975 all you had to do was take the amount identified on your Form W-2 as excludable sick pay and show it on your tax return as an adjustment to income without further explanation.

The Internal Revenue Service found that some employers (other than Western) were entering amounts that were not supported by proper records, which resulted in erroneous exclusions of income from individual returns.

Because of this, beginning with the year 1975 (that is returns filed in 1976) you will be required to substantiate the amount shown on Form W-2 and claimed as excludable sick pay on your tax return by submitting a statement showing the computation of excludable sick pay and indicating the period or periods of absence, nature of illness or injury and whether hospitalized.

In order to comply with this requirement it would be advisable to keep a record of your days out sick and the amount paid as sick pay, so the information will be available at tax return time.

If you are entitled to claim an exclusion, the information you will need to compute excludable sick pay is as follows:

| | |
|---|--|
| Nature of illness | |
| Were you hospitalized? | |
| First day of absence | |
| Last day of absence | |
| Total work days during sickness | |
| Total amount received as sick pay | |

A complete explanation of excludable sick pay may be found in Publication 522, a pamphlet entitled, "Adjustments to Income for Sick Pay" for use in preparing your return. IRS Form 2440 may be used for computing sick pay exclusion. Both may be obtained from the Internal Revenue Service.



Western Electric

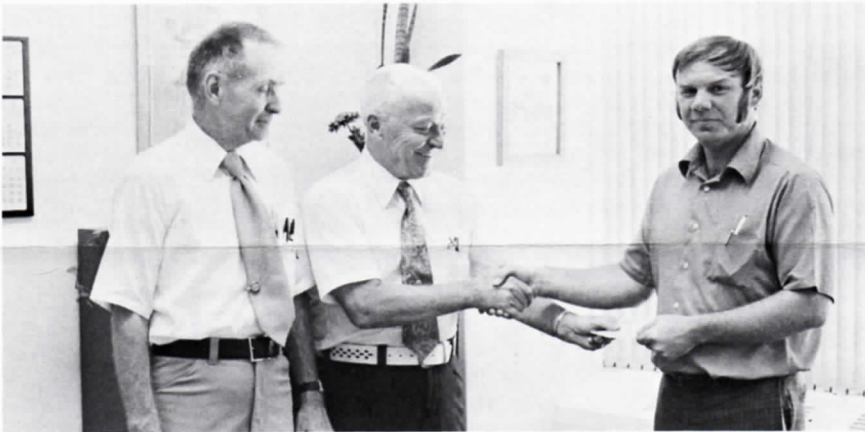
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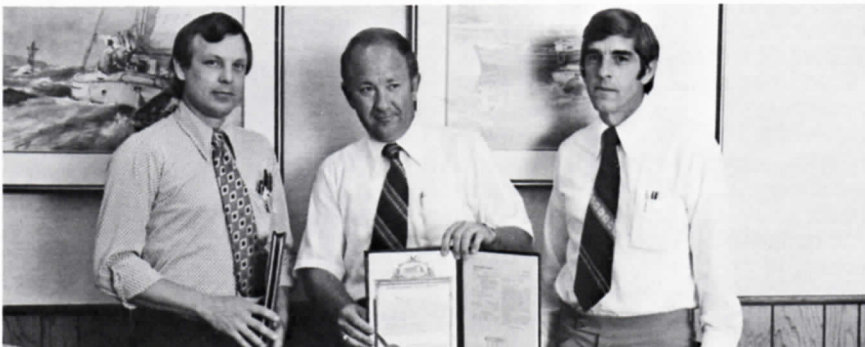
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TEAM PLACES IN TOURNAMENT: The **Wizards**, members of the Weoma Club Men's Softball League, have placed third in the Regional Softball Tournament held in St. Louis. The team won the right to play in the regional tournament when they finished second in Omaha's Industrial Softball competition. Members of the winning team are, standing from left, Russ Newton, Wally Neneman, Tom Anderson, Don Myhrberg, John Langerman, Tim Huth, Larry Blanke and Luis Canal. Kneeling from left are Leroy Miles, Dave Ernst, Dick Molden and Gary Hennessey. Not pictured is team member Ron Dickmeyer.



AWARD WINNER: Ben Stuart, Department 343, has received a \$340 suggestion award for proposing that self-adhesive labels be used on customer order shipments. Previously, the shipments had been hand-addressed or a non-adhesive label was taped to the package. Ben's award for his time-saving idea was presented by Bob Metz, assistant manager, 310/340. Also pictured is Ben's section chief, Bud Hayes.



PATENT PRESENTATION: The joint efforts of planning engineers Larry Moody, Department 271, left, and Bill Kinsley, Department 273, right, have again resulted in a patent for the two. Last year the men won a patent for a cable waterproofing process they jointly developed. The patent the two recently received from Wayne Hunt, director of Engineering and Manufacturing, covers another portion of this same waterproofing process.

Changes Announced For Savings Plan

On September 1, the Bell System Savings Plan for participating employees was changed in order to provide a greater degree of flexibility and to improve BSSP usefulness to participants.

The following are the five changes in the plan with a brief description of each:

TRANSFER PAST INVESTMENTS from one fund to another once within a plan year. In other words, the value of the units can be taken from one account using current unit values and invested in either or both of the other accounts. An employee participating in all three funds also has the option to put his or her account all in one fund.

PERMIT A CHANGE IN FUTURE INVESTMENT direction any time once within a plan year. Employees previously could only redirect their investment choices in November. However, if an employee did exercise a change of investment direction last November to be effective January 1975, another change cannot be exercised until January 1976 or later in that year.

ELIMINATION OF 30 DAYS ADVANCE NOTICE upon withdrawal from the plan. This provision will shorten to six weeks the time from request to receipt of the distribution, a process that previously took from two to three months to complete.

EXTEND THE MAXIMUM PAYOUT period allowed from five annual payments upon retirement to 20. At retirement, participating employees may now elect to take the distribution of their accounts in any number between two and 20 payments. Employees will also receive a subsequent payment each year on the anniversary of the first installment.

TRANSFER FUNDS TO AN ANNUITY UPON RETIREMENT. Employees wishing to discuss annuities and all the options which become available to retiring employees should contact our local Benefit Office, Ext. 3592.

Any other questions regarding BSSP changes should be directed to the Payroll Organization, Ext. 4058.