

# the Westerner

Omaha Works

September, 1980



Life Pioneers show what  
living's all about.

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# for your information

Eligibility to participate in the Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) for the year 1979 has been established.

Employees who will be eligible to participate in the plan for the first time will receive a notice of their eligibility and a copy of the summary plan description booklet. Employees eligible in any of the prior plan years (1976, 1977 or 1978) won't receive an individual ESOP eligibility letter for plan year 1979, however.

Employees who currently are ESOP participants will be eligible to participate for plan year 1979 if they continue to meet the eligibility requirements as follows:

—Received wages reportable on form W-2 for plan year 1979.

—Received credit for at least 1,000 hours of service in either the current plan year (1979) or the preceding plan year (1978), or a combination of both years.

—Had been credited with at least three years of Bell System service as of Dec. 31, 1979.

Employees who have specific questions regarding their ESOP eligibility should refer them to their immediate supervisors . . .

. . . You've probably caught yourself humming the familiar melody that's become the theme song of AT&T Long

Lines' residence long-distance dialing. "Reach Out" has a nice beat and is easy to sing. So, it's no surprise that three publishers — Shawnee Press, Inc., Hal Leonard Publishing Corp., and Warner Bros. Publishing, Inc. — have purchased the rights to publish the ad campaign song.

Various musical groups have been asking AT&T Long Lines for "Reach Out" arrangements, and now those requests can be satisfied. The three publishers are arranging music for amateur choral groups, jazz ensembles, marching and concert bands, and as a simplified piano arrangement.

All income from sales royalties of the arrangements is being donated to the Telephone Pioneers of America for activities and projects.

## Guess who comes to dinner?

He has neither a name nor a Social Security number. Still, he shows up at work all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed.

You would, too, if you were a squirrel who could count on human friends to supply him with an assortment of nuts to put away for the winter. The people in the procurement department (Dept. 748-1) have taken a liking to a neighboring squirrel, and he (or is it she?) to them.

About midsummer, the squirrel began peeking inside the windows of the

department's first floor office in Building 20. "He was looking for a soft touch," said one department employee.

Apparently, the squirrel settled for Wally Geason, an order analyst who began setting peanuts outside on the window ledge. Now and then the four-footed creature stops by for a meal.

But there's more to this than just an eat-and-run relationship. This isn't just any ordinary squirrel, the procurement people have reason to believe. The little guy is amazingly persistent, for a squirrel, anyway.

Last year about this time, they say, a squirrel much resembling their friend slipped through an open door after work hours and into the office area — presumably in search of food.

Guard Joe Leyendecker remembers it well. "I was chasing him all around the place," he said, although he wouldn't elaborate as to whether the intruder did or didn't have proper identification.

Joe chased the squirrel into manufacturing manager Bob Dunn's empty office, and locked him in before calling the Nebraska Humane Society for help, he said.

Could it be that the squirrel who feasts on peanuts today is yesterday's intruder merely awaiting the right time to steal entry again?

"Nah," said Joe, "I saw the humane society catch him and take him away in a gunnysack. It can't be the same one."

Maybe not, but the procurement folks aren't so sure. There seems to be something daring and gutsy in the eyes of this particular critter, as he chomps away and studies his benefactors. Given the chance . . .



**A GUSTY GUY . . .** Could it be this squirrel wants more than a handful of peanuts?

BSSP/SSP results			
The following are the July unit values for both the Bell System Savings Plan (BSSP) and the Savings and Security Plan for Non-Salaried Employees (SSP):			
<b>BSSP</b>			
	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar	
AT&T	2.0816	.4803	
Government Obligations	2.2099	.4525	
Equity Portfolio	1.7151	.5830	
Guaranteed			
Interest Fund	1.0541	.9486	
<b>SSP</b>			
	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar	
AT&T	.9726	1.0281	
Guaranteed			
Interest Fund	1.1415	.8759	

**the  
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Editor

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**Western Electric**

# service anniversaries

## september



**Olivia Hytrek**  
35 years  
9/17/45



**Bob Ackley**  
25 years  
9/16/55



**Bob Kemp**  
25 years  
9/1/55

### 20 years

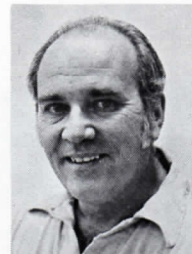
R. W. Beckman  
C. H. Brown  
F. J. Cappello  
J. R. Carl  
B. D. Chard  
R. L. Coleman  
J. M. Fitzgerald  
R. S. Haines

D. A. Hallam  
E. H. Holubar  
F. B. Kennedy  
D. Z. Livingston  
S. A. Mazur  
D. P. Mongar  
A. D. Olsen  
M. S. Pallas

B. R. Schuerman  
N. R. Schuttler  
D. J. Stivers  
L. Tyler Sr.  
L. R. Weaklend  
E. H. Welliver  
B. H. Wiblishouser  
C. B. Wiebelhaus



**Leo Sis**  
25 years  
9/22/55



**Ron Hallett**  
25 years  
9/19/55



**Mel Roth**  
25 years  
9/20/55

### 15 years

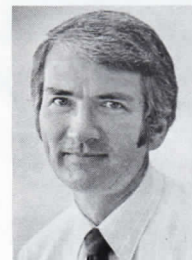
E. R. Ariza  
E. W. Arnold  
C. H. Bailey Jr.  
A. R. Buehler  
D. R. Cunningham  
M. H. Franklin  
G. L. Gage  
R. G. Giles  
J. L. Hardick  
R. A. Hassler  
A. L. Johnson

W. D. Kirtley  
J. W. Kohrt  
B. K. Kruse  
J. J. Kvetensky  
J. L. McDonald  
D. J. McNulty  
W. Morgan  
M. H. Patterson  
E. S. Reed  
H. G. Rush  
K. W. Russell

E. W. Schaecher  
R. L. Sellin  
H. L. Spangler  
S. B. Stuart  
J. M. Sutej  
M. J. Szafraniec  
G. J. Updegraff  
M. M. Vandevanter  
G. M. Wagner  
D. R. Walraven  
L. Wilson



**Dan Schrader**  
25 years  
9/13/55



**Bob Miller**  
25 years  
9/6/55



**Dick Edgman**  
25 years  
9/6/55

## Daub, Fellman visit Works

How many times have you gone into the voting booth on election day, wondering exactly how the candidates feel about particular issues? Now you have a chance to clear up some of the mystery.

Dick Fellman and Hal Daub, candidates for Nebraska's 2nd Congressional District, will be at the Works to visit personally with employees — Fellman on Oct. 13 and Daub on Oct. 15.

The candidates will meet informally with employees in the main cafeteria

during lunch periods from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The two days to "Meet the candidates" have been planned in an effort to help employees make informed choices on election day, Nov. 4. Employees are encouraged to approach the men with their questions and concerns.

Fellman is chairman of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners and partner in the law firm of Fellman and Ramsey. He earned his law degree in 1959 from the University of Nebraska College of Law. In 1972, the governor appointed him to complete an unexpired term in the Nebraska Unicameral.

Daub is vice-president and general counsel of Standard Chemical Manufacturing Company. He was graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1966. He has served on a number of committees and councils, including a current appointment to the Nebraska Environmental Control Council.



**Hal Daub**



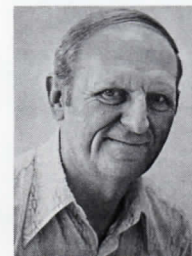
**Richard Fellman**



**Roger Swanson**  
25 years  
9/6/55



**Tom Lutzi**  
25 years  
9/14/55



**George Pasienuk**  
25 years  
9/19/55



**Gil Koppert**  
25 years  
9/12/55

# Pioneers celebrate life by giving

They aren't called "life members" for nothing.

As Cornhusker Chapter Pioneers who have retired from their jobs at the Omaha Works, active life members could teach the rest of us what living is all about.

If you equate retirement with rocking chairs, you've never met Arnold Johnson, a life member Pioneer who retired

as an engineering department chief in 1977. You've never talked to retired maintenance supervisor Herb Schober and his wife Helen — although with their busy schedules, reaching them at home isn't easy.

By "busy," we're not talking about early morning golf games and traveling the countryside. Sure, these Pioneers have time for that and other leisure time activities, too. But what puts the life in their retirement living is the volunteer work they do in the community.

\* \* \*

**ARNOLD JOHNSON** is no stranger to volunteer work. Before his retirement he often worked with youths in various Scouting and school programs.

It's no wonder that he spends every morning of the school year helping instructor Bill Kesling at the Westside Learning Resource Center, a school for special education students. He also is "on call" for Educational Service Unit No. 3, traveling to suburban schools with a portable planetarium to give astronomy lectures.

"Long before I retired, I made plans as to what I was going to do with my life," Arnold said. "Part of that was to help out in the school system."

Arnold sees his role at the learning center as one "never replacing a teacher, but augmenting a job." Instructor Kesling beams with pride when he refers to Arnold's work, asking, "How many other teachers are lucky enough to have an engineer on their staffs?"

Arnold's contributions to the center are easily visible — "We've made quite a bit of the furniture in that place," he said, including a large wall clock and a planter stand for students' plants. He and his student assistants may repair a broken desk leg one day and build shelves for athletic equipment the next.

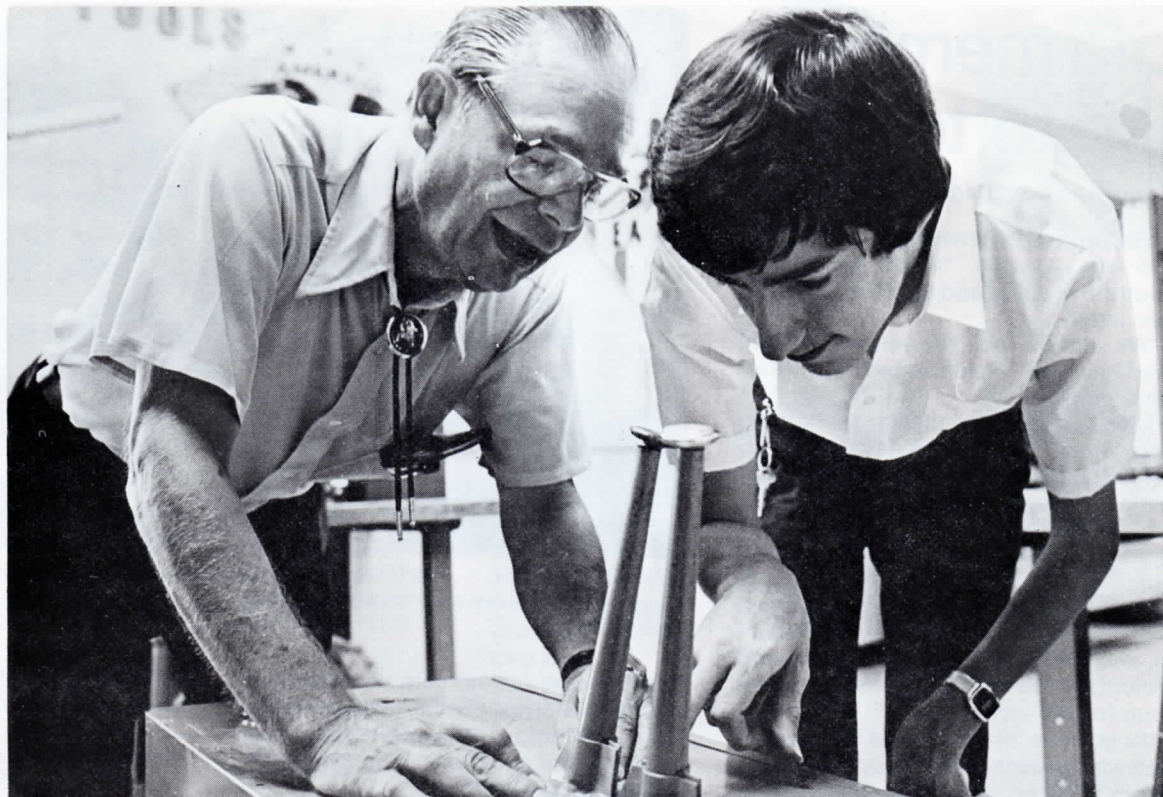
Working with students having varied handicaps, Arnold likes to identify a problem and offer his charges possible solutions. "Time and time again, they'll pick a way that never even occurred to me," he said. "And it's important not to squelch their way of doing things."

He's careful to teach the students about safety on the job, too. "Very seldom do I have to remind anyone to put on his goggles before picking up a power tool," Arnold noted.



SPLISH-SPLASH . . . Herb Schober lends his support while one of his swim students practices how to kick at the Jewish Community Center pool.

**WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?** . . . Arnold Johnson likes to explain the task first, then let the student choose the best way to solve a problem. Here he and a student from the Westside Learning Resource Center tackle a crooked desk leg to be repaired.



Since his retirement three years ago, Arnold has found that volunteer work is a perfect outlet for ingenuity and creativity. For example, although he could give prepared talks the days he visits schools with his portable planetarium, Arnold prefers to develop his own presentations.

Perhaps the biggest reason for his volunteer lifestyle, however, is a fascination with young people — “they have that special sparkle,” he said.

“I’m just delighted with them. They’re energetic, they’re polite . . . I count them among my friends.”

. . . .

**ONE THING** is certain about Herb and Helen Schober: They truly like to swim.

Three times a week they can be found at the Jewish Community Center where they teach swimming to District 66 children with mental and physical handicaps. It’s difficult to determine who enjoys the sessions more — teacher or student.

The Schobers’ involvement in the swim program began even before Herb retired in 1976. Because Herb worked the second shift, he was able to help with classes during the daytime. In all, Herb has devoted eight years to the program; Helen has 10 years.

When Helen was first asked to teach swimming on a volunteer basis, she was hesitant — “I didn’t think I could do it,” she said, “but I told them I’d give it a try.”

Recalling her early experiences with the program, Helen said, “I felt fortunate

that I was able to help someone who needed it. And when the kids hug and kiss you, you just know it comes from the bottom of their hearts.”

As the program expanded, “we became desperate for help,” she said. More volunteer teachers were needed, but at the time the volunteers were all women.

“I told them if they didn’t mind having a man teach, I’d ask my husband,” Helen said. Herb showed up for the next lesson.

Although both Schobers are experienced swimmers, neither had any training in teaching handicapped individuals.

“We learned that it’s important to treat these youngsters just like any other person without handicaps,” Helen said. (Continued on Page 6)



**HANG ON . . .** A child’s smile is one of the things that makes Helen Schober’s volunteer work so worthwhile to her.

# Life members like to teach

(Continued from Page 5)

"And you have to have patience," Herb said with a smile. "A kid will take a mouthful of water and spit it in your face, then laugh."

"We always look for volunteers with short hair, too," Helen added. "You're always wet."

Their greatest challenge is helping youngsters overcome a fear of water. The Schobers patiently show their students how to blow bubbles in the water and, often working together, hold a child until he or she gains skill and confidence.

Away from the pool, Helen finds time to do volunteer work at Methodist Hospital, and Herb helps in the VITA program (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program for the elderly).

It's obvious, however, that the two find the swim classes particularly rewarding. Not only do the classes help the children to develop physically, but they also contribute to an effort to draw the young-



**TWO TO TEACH . . .** Herb and Helen Schober paused at poolside before their enthusiastic students arrived. "We can always use more volunteer teachers," Helen said.

ters into the mainstream of family and community living. Swim outings are relaxing and enjoyable ways for families of handicapped children to do things together, explained Helen.

Most important, "it gives the kids a feeling of self-achievement," Herb said.

"They can do it themselves and hold their heads up high."

If you watch from the sidelines as those same youngsters compete in the Special Olympics, you will see they aren't the only ones with heads held high.

Steal a glance at the Schobers.

## suggestion box

# Idea men reap awards of \$41,000

There they sat. Four men worth \$41,000 more than they had been only moments before.

They could have been on the floor of the Wall Street stock exchange, counting their returns on a well-chosen investment. Instead, this scene took place in general manager Chuck Meetsma's office. The four men had just been presented checks representing the greatest total of suggestion award moneys presented at one time in Omaha Works history.

Toolmakers **Jim Phillips** and **Steve Smith** of Dept. 741 each were awarded \$10,000 awards. Toolmaker **Jim Elliott** of Dept. 741 received \$7,825 for an idea he submitted to the employee suggestion awards pro-

gram, and trades inspector **Cal Leeder** earned a \$3,195 award. In addition, Jim Elliott and Jim Phillips shared a \$10,000 award for yet another suggestion.

All of their suggestions pertained in some way to the manufacture of 710 connectors. The ideas ranged from tapered interlocks on connector tools to reduce damage, to an improved method of inspecting tool details and piece parts. The Omaha Works will save more than \$870,000 in one year because of these suggestions.

Their ideas represent "an accumulation of simple ideas to solve tough problems," said winner Jim Phillips. They stemmed from personal experience in the production of

710 connectors, and all agreed acceptance of their ideas means they can do their jobs more efficiently.

Only one of the men, Cal, knows how he will use his winnings — "Put in a cement patio," he said. Steve mentioned that plans for such a windfall "requires a little more thought."

Even while he held his check, one of the winners still couldn't believe he had just received such a sizable award. But a few things were certain.

It's a good, proud feeling knowing you were responsible for a major improvement in a company's business, explained Steve. The awards program is "an incentive to excel."

Jim Elliott pointed out that some companies don't offer the opportunity to submit suggestions and share in savings to the firm. As the other three nodded in agreement, he said this particular presentation of awards "shows we work for a pretty nice company."

Other recipients of suggestion awards include:

- Lyle Rockhold**, Dept. 745, \$215.
- Evelyn Winters**, Dept. 445, \$140.
- Albert Anthon**, Dept. 746, \$130.
- Keith Fink**, Dept. 435, \$100.



Jim Phillips



Steve Smith



Jim Elliott



Cal Leeder

# Test sets check lightguide cable

If you think lightguide hasn't come to Omaha yet, you're wrong.

Already one kind of lightguide test set is being made in Omaha Works shops, with work on another test set to begin soon.

The works expects to make 46 of the 190A test sets this year on an allocated basis, and 92 next year. The 190A test set is an optical loss test set installers will use in the field. It will permit them to detect any losses in each of the fibers of lightguide cable as it is being installed, testing up to nine-mile sections of cable.

The 191A test set, the assembly of which has not yet begun at the Works, is called an "optical time domain reflectometer." Also to be used by field installers, it will show precisely where a loss is occurring in stretches of lightguide cable, be it in a splice or elsewhere.

The production of such lightguide equipment will become more evident as lightguide cable itself grows in use. Test sets, for example, are crucial to the proper installation of the cable, said Jack Davis, an engineer in Dept. 473.

"One lightguide cable may contain anywhere from 12 to 144 glass fibers. A 144-fiber cable has the capacity to transmit more than 40,000 two-way voice channels," he said. Thus, it's important that each of those fibers be in good working order.

The first 190A test set from the Works was assembled in April from mostly purchased piece parts. Its circuit board, however, is assembled in dept. 441, using a special machine that assures uniform cutting and crimping and proper placement of components.

Next, the circuit board and other parts are assembled in a chassis which is bolted into a sturdy carrying case.



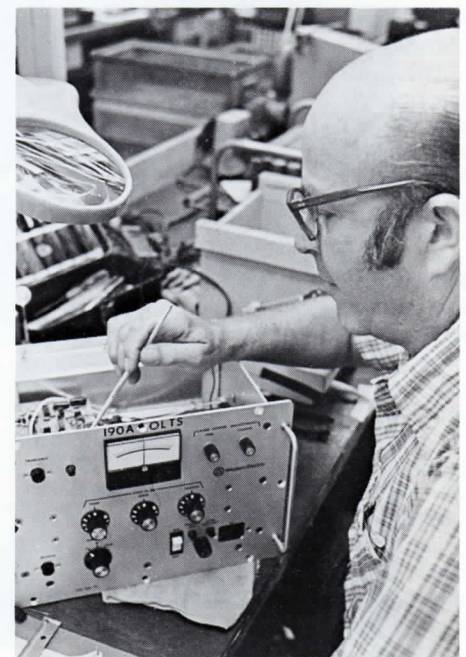
**CIRCUITRY . . .** Mary Nowak of Dept. 441 operates a machine used to assemble a circuit board for the 190A test set. The machine automatically provides the correct part and indicates where it is to be inserted.

The 190A test set is portable and battery-powered, and features an optical transmitter and receiver, Jack said. It has a built-in device which sends light through individual fibers during testing.

The light-emitting device is built for us by the Reading Works in Pennsylvania. It transmits at the same frequency as that in actual lightguide cable operations, he added, to provide more accurate readings of any loss detected.

Features like these are built into test

sets and other tools to meet the specific needs of installers, Jack noted. After all, a satisfied installer is a satisfied Omaha Works customer.



**DOES IT CONNECT? . . .** One of the things Bill Neal of Dept. 441 does when he assembles the components of the 190A test set is to make sure solder connections are properly sealed.



**energy . . .**  
**less is more**

**BEFORE LONG** we'll all feel the chill of wintry winds. To keep those winds from penetrating Works buildings, weatherstripping has been applied to overhead doors throughout the plant. Roger Ove of Dept. 744 helped put the weatherstripping on more than 60 doors. The result of the project is better seals around the doors to keep heat inside and cold out. A variety of weatherstripping materials is on the market for use in homes, too. On a home with little or no protection around doors and windows, weatherstripping could save 10 percent or more on heating costs.

**GO TEAM . . .** Preparations have been made for the 1980 in-plant United Way drive. Assisting chairman Ed Arnone this year are co-chairmen Terry Moore (from left), Tom Welchert and Jim Hardick. Judy Tyler of Dept. 1273 will help solicit donations.



## United Way drive to begin Oct. 6

Fifteen-year-old John had never had a pleasant home life. His alcoholic father had violent outbursts when he would beat John and his mother. Once during his father's drinking sprees, John's arm was broken and he was badly bruised. Eventually John's parents were divorced.

By the time John was 12, he had been involved in vandalism and shoplifting. He was behind in school and had no friends.

Then John met his Big Brother, Mike, through the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. Mike worked with John in finding ways John could repay money he had stolen. They worked on projects that accentuated John's building and mechanical abilities.

Gradually, John began to confide in Mike and decided to build a better life for himself. His grades have improved and Mike helped him find a job so he can have money of his own. The turning point in John's life was when he found out someone really does care.

**AN ELDERLY** woman lives alone in Council Bluffs. In the middle of winter, the water pipes in her home froze and broke.

Her only income was a small Social Security check, so she couldn't afford to hire a plumber to make repairs. Instead, she walked two blocks to her friend's house to get the water she needed.

Her friend had heard about the Handyperson Program of the Catholic Social Service, a United Way agency. She called the agency to see if there might be someone who could help. A volunteer came out, repaired the broken pipes, and

running water was restored to the woman's home.

**DONNA WAS** in tears one morning when she called the Omaha Area Council on Alcoholism. She thought she was losing her mind.

Her husband was an alcoholic. Not even the threat of divorce could make him stop drinking. Donna's teenage children were beginning to hate their father. Their school grades were suffering and they were embarrassed to bring friends to their home.

The council referred Donna to Coping Group and her children were introduced to Ala-Teen. Donna learned through the group to stop planning her family's life around an alcoholic and to seek help for herself.

Donna quit covering up for her husband. She told his boss exactly what was wrong when her husband was too drunk to go to work. The employer enlisted her husband in the company's alcoholism treatment program.

Today the whole family is working on the recovery from alcoholism and its effects, a step that might not have been taken were it not for much needed assistance.

**WHAT ALL THESE** individuals have in common is the good fortune of having a helping hand extended when help was needed. That helping hand is the United Way of the Midlands. Its work is made possible through the generous donations of many Midlands people.

Works employees will have a chance to help when the United Way in-plant drive begins Oct. 6. This year the Omaha Works hopes to better last year's partici-

pation level of 87 percent, said Gene Saab, who is helping coordinate the in-plant drive.

As in past years, management and union representatives will work together to see that the goal is met. Ed Arnone, manufacturing manager for Organization 440, is chairman of the drive. He is assisted by co-chairmen Terry Moore (Dept. 437) and Jim Hardick (Dept. 253), representing Local 1974, and Tom Welchert (Dept. 333), representing Local 1614.

In addition to increasing participation, "we want to significantly increase the number of fair share donors," Gene said, in order to meet the goal. To give one's fair share means a person gives the equivalent of one hour of pay per month, not including wage incentive, night bonus or seven-day coverage.

Last year, the Works raised \$314,443 — 106 percent over the goal and the highest amount ever collected here. The money raised in this year's drive will go to support 40 local human services agencies.

**Your way  
of helping.**



**United Way**  
of the Midlands