the Westerner
Omaha Works
July, 1980

How to take the sting out of summer.

Page 6

for your information

The benefit organization has issued a reminder regarding second surgical opinions. The elective surgery your doctor recommends may not be necessary, and a second surgical opinion may be in order. It could save you unnecessary risk, pain, inconvenience and cost.

Since January 1978, a program for second opinions on elective surgery (nonemergency procedures) has been part of the company's hospital-surgical medical expense plan. It provides for full payment of a pre-surgical consultation by a certified surgeon, arranged through The Travelers, following your doctor's current recommendation for elective surgery covered under the plan.

Between July 1979 and March 1980, a total of 140 Western Electric employees and their dependents participated in the program. In one-third of the cases, the doctor's recommendation for elective surgery wasn't confirmed by the second surgeon. In those cases in which the need for elective surgery was not confirmed, an estimated 250 days of hospital confinement and the associated personal stress were avoided.

Last summer all Works employees should have received a bulletin outlining the second surgical opinion program. If more information is needed, you can call the Works benefit office or call Travelers at a toll-free number, 800-334-2400 . . .

. . . Speaking of benefits, are you aware that if you have a disability that is expected to keep you from working for a year or more, you may be eligible for Social Security disability benefits?

Those benefits can be paid to disabled workers and their families; disabled widows, widowers and certain divorced wives at 50 or later; unmarried persons 18 or over who became disabled before reaching 22 and who continue to be disabled. Benefits for those in the latter category are paid only on the record of a parent who receives retirement or disability benefits or on the record of a parent who was insured at death.

Payments to a worker or to a disabled widow or widower cannot begin until the sixth full month of disability. Payments to an adult disabled in childhood can begin when the parent receives retirement or disability benefits or dies.

A free explanatory leaflet, "Disabled? Find out about Social Security disability benefits," is available at any Social Security office .

Vice-president visits Works

The new "coach" for the Cable and Wire Products Division, Robert S. Kern, visited the Omaha Works last month during a two-day general managers' conference held here.

He's the new vice-president of manufacturing, Cable and Wire Products Division, succeeding Art Foster who is now vice-president of manufacturing, Switching Equipment.

Formerly general manager of Corporate Organization Studies, our division's new vice-president toured the Works' Product Display Center. There he was presented an Omaha Works cap to get him started with his coaching duties.

ROBERT S. KERN . . . Division's new "coach."

BSSP/SSP results

The following are the May unit values for both the Bell System Savings Plan (BSSP) and Security Plan for Non-Salaried Employees (SSP):

	BSSP			SSP	
	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar		Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T	2.1231	.4709	AT&T	.9922	1.0077
Government Obligations	2.1987	.4547			
Equity Portfolio	1.5453	.6471			
Guaranteed Interest Fund	1.0374	.9639	Guaranteed Interest Fund	1.1235	.8900

Communication goal of Perspective '80

In an effort to improve communication between management and employees, three two-day forums were scheduled at the Omaha Works during July for technical professionals and professional administrative employees (PAEs).

The forum series, called Perspective '80, was designed to foster an open discussion between management and employees concerning major issues facing the Works. The forums were patterned after Management Forums I and II conducted over the past year and a half for supervisory personnel, certain members of the technical-professional staff and upper management.

Topics of discussion included technology and competition, legal and regulatory issues, and business planning and marketing. Presentations were made by members of the management staff.

Employees in attendance were encouraged to voice their concerns regarding the resolution of critical issues. Conferees broke up into smaller groups to discuss material presented and to prepare questions and suggestions for management. Each forum ended with a two-hour dialogue with the Works' general manager, Chuck Meetsma.

Forum planners say employees should gain a better understanding of the company and they will serve as an effective communications link to others in their work environment.

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Editor

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Western Electric

service anniversaries

july

20 years

A. C. Biben
H. L. Callsen Jr.
B. N. Deeds
B. M. Fitchhorn
R. B. Hilt
L. B. Honeywell
W. C. Miller
J. J. Silknitter

15 years

R. P. Avolio
F. D. Caruso
L. K. Daubman
M. P. Frank
N. T. Johnson
C. J. Leffall
J. C. Sempek
D. M. Stika

10 years

R. R. Ambrose
E. C. Borovac
A. M. Hart
S. N. Tucker

Allan Edwards
30 years
7/31/50

Delores Dunekacke
30 years
7/31/50

Arthur Rymill
25 years
7/18/55

Irene Leszkowicz
25 years
7/21/55

Gene Pearson
25 years
7/5/55

CPR training merits honor

The Omaha Works has been honored by the Nebraska American Heart Association for having certified more employees in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in a year's time than any other employer in the city. From June 1979 to June 1980, 240 employees were certified in CPR as the result of Works-sponsored training.

A certificate of appreciation was accepted in the company's behalf by training specialist John Tompkins of Dept. 514, who has been coordinating Works CPR courses. The certificate praised Western Electric "for outstanding service in advancing the heart program and stimulating public support in the fight against diseases of the heart and circulation."

ONE PUFF OR TWO? . . . Instructor Richard Schmitz (middle) makes sure Lyle Barton (left) and Wayne Sherman properly administer two-man CPR during a refresher course for supervisors.

CPR training has been offered at the Works since 1976, John said. Originally, classes were conducted for those employees most likely to encounter life-saving situations on the job, such as supervisors, guards and cot crew members.

Interest in the instruction led to additional classes being offered through the WEOMA Club after work hours, John said. Of the approximately 400 persons trained in CPR since 1976, about 300 of them have been certified since January 1979.

"CPR is an on-going program," said John, who continues to teach the course. Assisting him with the training during different shifts are Richard Schmitz of Dept. 282; Don Dilla of Dept. 439; and Gary Williams of Dept. 745.

The four of them currently are conducting classes and refresher courses as required for selected Works personnel, John said. This fall, WEOMA-sponsored classes after work hours are expected to resume for other employees. An announcement concerning the scheduling of those classes will be made in the WEOMA weekly newsletter, according to Hank Wnuk, club director in charge of educational activities.

suggestion box

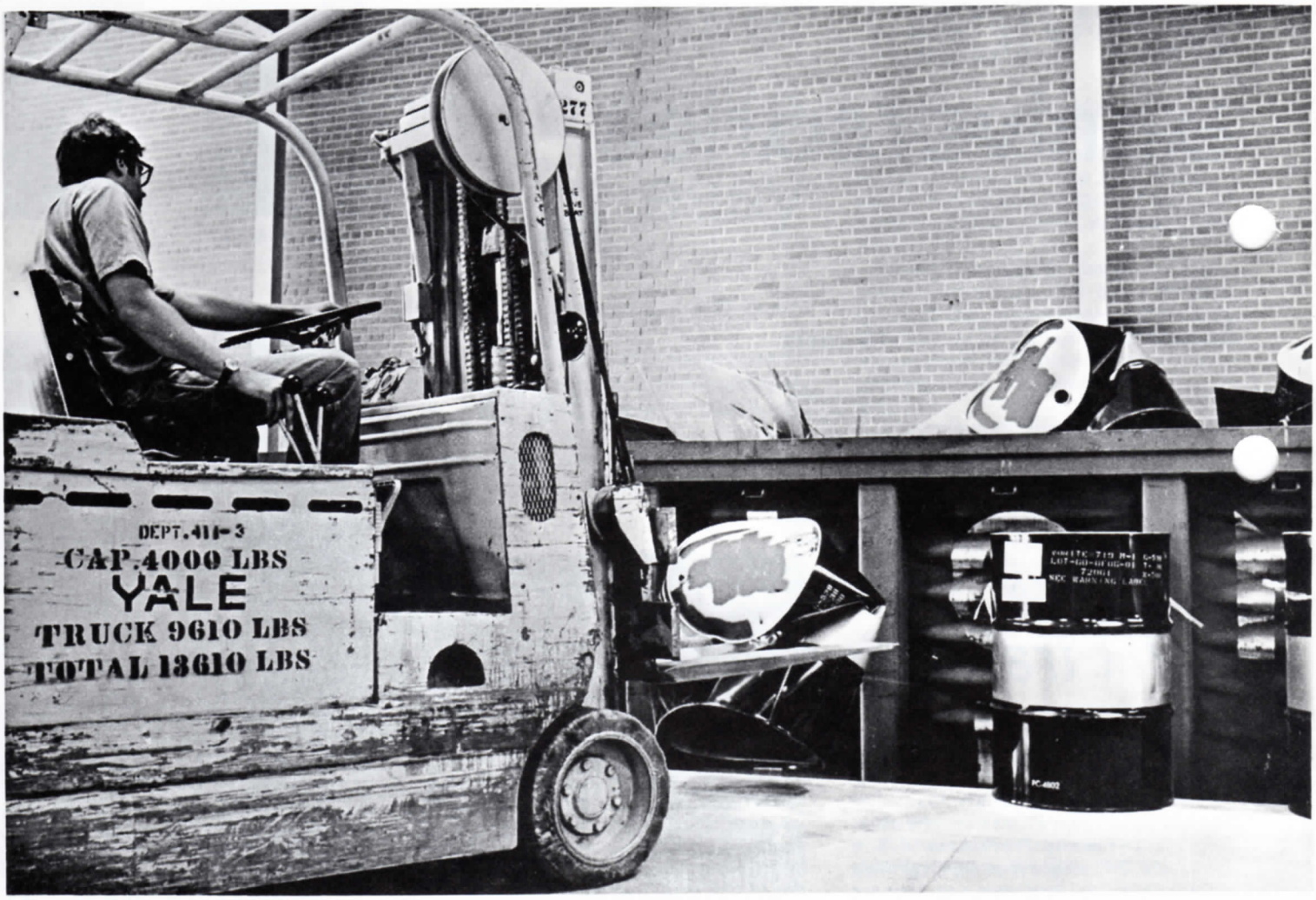
Several more Works employees have a little extra money in their pockets as the result of suggestions they submitted to the employee suggestion awards program.

Jerry Janulewicz of Dept. 437 and **Ermin Krumel** of Dept. 741 each received $575 for an idea they shared concerning small crossbar switch hold armature bump machines.

Charles Bailey of Dept. 439 was awarded $405 for his suggestion that a jib crane be installed over the compression nipple bench in the department.

A $250 suggestion award was presented to **David Howell** of Dept. 746 for his idea to modify grease zerks used on the exchange sheathing lines.

These employees' suggestions will save the company more than $12,000 in a year's time.



Treasure hidden in the junk

Never say "junk" to the folks who operate the reclamation center as part of Dept. 411.

Copper, steel, aluminum and plastic scrap from throughout the Omaha Works eventually finds its way to the center. There it is prepared for shipment to one of two Nassau Recycle Corporation locations or to companies that have purchased the scrap for reclamation. About seven truckloads of copper scrap are shipped to the Hawthorne Works brass mill each month, too.

Last June, the Works reclamation center shipped 2.3 million pounds of scrap valued at about $950,000. Half of that poundage was scrap insulated copper wire.

"June was a small month," said Gerald (Jerry) Danahy, one of two salvage analysts for the department. Last year the Works shipped a total of 33.3 million pounds of scrap worth more than $14 million, he said.

Jerry said salvaging scrap has been done ever since the Works opened its doors more than 20 years ago. He himself has worked as a salvage analyst for 20 of his 23 years with the company.

"Over the years we've upgraded the scrap" to make reclamation a more worthwhile venture, he said. For example, a granulator that was first operative five years ago makes it possible to strip off insulation from scrap copper wire before it is chopped into fine shavings and sent to Nassau for reclamation.

"We get more money for it that way," Jerry said. Because 90 percent of the scrap sent out of the Works is copper or copper-bearing material, such an improvement in scrap makes the money add up faster.

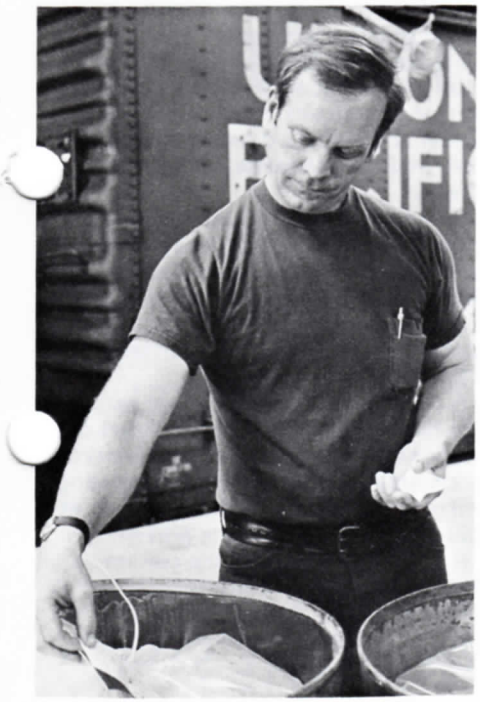
Although the granulator was not technically a part of Dept. 411 operations as of the third week in July, plans are to place it eventually under the department's jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, the reclamation center itself has moved to new quarters. It is now located in an addition built on the northeast corner of Building 30, which is more easily accessible by rail, offers more room to sort through scrap and permits improved security.

Formerly, reclamation activity centered in a long, narrow area in high bay, adjacent to the new addition. Quarters became cramped and security was difficult to maintain. Doors to the new reclamation area now can be closed to unauthorized personnel.

The new center also allows better monitoring of hazardous waste material handling. Jerry said the center's employees prepare as scrap the containers which once held hazardous materials, as well as help keep strict records on hazardous waste. The center also arranges to ship hazardous waste to federally designated landfills for disposal (none of which are local).

The reclamation center operation includes two reclamation operators, a sorter and two scrap analysts. They



DEMOLITION DERBY . . . Tom Rosencrans (left) uses a forklift to crush barrels once containing hazardous material, before he tosses them in the scrap heap. Above, Carl Jones pulls white tags from bags of granulated copper in 50-gallon drums, to check the weight and class.

ANALYZING . . . Jerry Danahy (right) pulls out mounting plates that were included in a rail car full of scrap. Below, Darlene Pegeo moves a load of scrap wire she has unloaded from yet another rail car at the reclamation center.

pile

handle everything from aluminum sheets used to wrap around cable on reels to material scrapped by contract-working at the plant.

Scrap is brought to the center in bins by forklift trucks or twice a day from the cable shop by railroad car. There's even an underground conveyor system that deposits slugs into bins from punch press operations in Dept. 437.

A visitor to the center on any given day may find a worker unloading scrap copper wire originating from Building 50 ticketing it before it goes to the granulator. Someone may be sorting steel or aluminum that comes from FDI cabinet operations in Building 30. Even plastic in the form of polyethylene or polypropylene wire insulation is considered valuable scrap.

"People bring out stuff to us and say, 'Hey, we've got some junk for you,'" Jerry said.

"Well, it's really not junk," he insisted. "It's scrap . . . and it can be reclaimed."

Summertime: How to make the living easy

You've waited all year for this vacation. Nothing to do but drift downstream in your fishing boat.

Sounds like easy living, until you notice how your skin that never burns is turning bright red. That's just about when you cast your line and the old rusty fish hook gets imbedded in your forearm. In your hasty retreat to camp, you take a shortcut through mosquito alley.

You've got troubles, the kind that ruin summer's leisure living in a hurry. On this and the next page are six ways you can take the sting out of summer.

1 If you can't stand the heat, sit in the shade

Prolonged exposure to heat or sunshine, sometimes combined with strenuous exertion, can cause heat exhaustion or heatstroke. The symptoms are similar and signal a dangerous situation. They include headache, nausea and dizziness.

Heatstroke patients also cease to perspire, have a very high body temperature, and may lose consciousness. A patient should be brought to a cool place immediately, and cold cloths or ice bags applied until medical assistance is available.

A person suffering from heat exhaustion has pallid, clammy skin, heart palpitations and weak pulse. Have him rest in an area where the air is circulating, and give him water or salt water to drink. Call a doctor if symptoms persist.

If you expect to be in the sun for very long, wear a head covering and drink plenty of water. Stop activity at the first sign of dizziness or weakness.

2 Getting a golden tan without getting fried

By now you've heard all the warnings: Too much sun causes serious, irreversible damage to the skin. The ultraviolet rays of the sun that cause you to tan also weaken the skin's elasticity, resulting wrinkles and a leather-like texture. No amount of moisturizers can undo the damage. These same rays also can cause skin cancer.

But, sports enthusiasts and gardners practically live outdoors in the summer. Others consciously seek the look of a healthy tan. Fortunately, there are safe ways to have your sun and play in it, too. Some dos and don'ts:

DO use a good sunscreen. Sunscreens work either by reflecting the sun's ultraviolet rays (like zinc oxide, a white cream lifeguards and skiers use on their nose and lips to prevent bad burns) or by absorbing some of the rays so they can't penetrate deeper skin cell layers.

A good absorbing type of sunscreen contains the agent PABA (para-aminobenzoic acid) or its derivatives. Many sunscreens are rated numerically — the Sun Protection Factor (SPF) system — from 2 to 15. The ratings tell you how much longer you can stay in the sun by using the sunscreen than you could without protection. If you can stay in the sun 20 minutes without any redness, a sunscreen with an SPF of 6 lets you stay out six times longer or 120 minutes.

Sunscreens should be reapplied frequently, and a person can switch to

one with less protection as he tans. Remember to wear an extra-protective sunscreen at high altitudes or near water, because the rays are more intense.

DO ask your doctor about any medicines you may be taking. Some medication can make your skin more sensitive to sunlight.

DO use extra protection on areas not normally exposed to the sun. Wear sunglasses with gray or dark green lenses.

DON'T use sun reflectors, wear perfume or expect makeup to act as a sunscreen. Also, don't forget that ultraviolet rays still reach you on cloudy or hazy days.

DON'T assume black skin won't burn. Ultraviolet rays can burn black skin, although not as quickly as white skin.

Use body lotions to replenish moisture lost to the sun. If you fail to take adequate protection and get sunburned, commercial ointments, wet compresses, a bland cold cream or lightweight mineral oil can reduce pain.

3 Put butter on bread, not on burns

The incidence of burns can increase in the summer as people barbecue their meals outdoors. When kettle grill lids are removed, sudden oxygen may cause coals to flare up and burn an unsuspecting chef. Also, you should light your gas grills promptly to avoid gas build-up which could explode at the touch of a match.

For mild to moderate burns (skin or blisters unbroken), immerse area in cold water or apply cold, wet towels. For severe burns (loss of skin), cover area with a clean cloth. Keep victim warm to prevent shock and get him to a hospital.

Never break blisters, remove charred clothing or try to clean burns. Don't use butter, grease or ointment on severe burns because they can cause infection.

4 No, thanks, I just had a bite

Insect bites can be painful, but usually aren't serious unless one has a severe allergic reaction which requires prompt medical attention. If a stinger is present, it should be removed. Pain and itching can be alleviated by applying cold packs to reduce swelling and by dabbing on diluted household ammonia or baking soda paste.

Ticks imbedded under the skin will release their heads if you coat them with nail polish, petroleum jelly or grease. If you are unable to remove a tick's head, see a physician.

Snake bites are rare but can be dangerous. Symptoms include immediate burning pain, sudden swelling, shock, nausea, weakness or numbness. To slow the spread of venom through the body, a victim should lie down. Apply a band above and below the bite to constrict but not obstruct blood flow. Apply an ice pack to the wound and get the victim to medical help at once.

5 To keep talking, get tetanus booster

Puncture wounds caused by sharp objects such as nails, splinters or fish hooks are very prone to infection. Symptoms of infection include increasing pain, redness at the site of injury that's warm to the touch, and swelling.

Remove the sharp object (unless it is large, such as a knife) and wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water for five to 10 minutes. Don't use a dressing over the wound.

Lockjaw (tetanus) may occur from a puncture if your tetanus boosters aren't up to date. A person should be immunized against tetanus every 10 years.

6 Let's put poisons in their place

Whether working on the exterior of your house or doing yard work, summer inevitably means using toxic substances such as paint thinners, insecticides and fertilizers.

Such substances should be stored in their original containers out of the reach of children. When you use these items, be sure you wear proper clothing to avoid contact through cuts and blisters. Don't spray chemicals on a windy day and don't eat or smoke until after you wash your face and hands.

Among the signs that a poison may have been ingested are the sudden onset of pain or illness, burns around the lips and breath odor. If poison is unknown, immediately give milk or water to dilute it and call the Poison Control Center (553-5400).

If the poison is known, induce vomiting unless the poison is a petroleum product, a strong acid or a strong alkali. Get victim to hospital.

In all cases, contact a physician. In the meantime, a universal antidote is a useful emergency measure for unknown poisons. Such a poison antidote is available at drugstores and may be stored in the event of an emergency.

On the cover

The brave woman who dares to pose with a real, honest-to-goodness bumblebee on her nose is Nancy Latch, who operates one of the offset presses in the reproduction department, Dept. 331. Actually, Nancy's only pretending to be scared, because that bumblebee is harmless. It's the pet bee of Tom Bowman (Dept. 401), who's trained it not to sting.

energy... less is more

IT WOULDN'T WORK as a shower curtain, but it's a perfect foil to keep out hot summer breezes or cold winter blasts where the elevator opens to Building 20's dock. Overlapping heavy-duty vinyl strips form a transparent and flexible partition inside the building just off the elevator. Now when Clem Minor of Dept. 331 moves items from the dock, he can pass through the strips easily with minimum outside air coming through. It was Clem who submitted the idea to the employee suggestion awards program. He received $50 for the idea, which is expected to help save on the Works' air conditioning and heating costs.

B-wire job paves the way for 710s

Maybe they don't make things like they used to. Sometimes it's a good idea that they don't.

When it comes to making telephone equipment, products must change to meet the ever changing needs of the customer. The advent of B-wire connectors and the later evolution to 700 and 710 connectors is a case in point.

Back in the 1930s, an installer out in the field used to splice cable wire by twisting them together, said Don Donze, an engineering associate in Dept. 472. It was a slow process resulting in about 150 wire pairs being twisted in one hour.

"And without mechanical aid, the method was not uniform," Don said, recalling his days as an installer. Later, installers tried soldering the twisted wires together, which only took up more time, he said.

In the 1950s, the first B-wire connector was made in Western Electric's Hawthorne Clearing Shops. The connector boosted splicing time to about 200 pairs per hour, and could be used with a variety of copper wire gauges.

The B-wire connector was somewhat of a dream come true for installers. By 1974, Hawthorne was making a billion of the connectors in a year, Don said.

When the B-wire connector job was transferred to the Omaha Works in 1975, the needs of the customer were changing again. A faster and more reliable splice was in demand, as was one that would be more water resistant.

The customer also was looking for a connector that would splice plastic insulated cable (PIC) without having to strip off the plastic coating first. B-wire connectors were designed to use with pulp and paper insulated cable. When PIC came on the scene, installers discovered that the teeth-like projections inside the B-wire connector couldn't penetrate the plastic insulation adequately for splicing.

EVOLUTION . . . While Gary Hall holds the last of Works-manufactured B-wire connectors, Laura Wilbur holds 710 connectors. Both used to work in the B-wire connector section. Now Laura operates a 710 connector assembly machine while Gary is a machine setter for the 710 job. In August, he will become an operator in the gold and solder plating room.

Thus, the company introduced 700 and 710 connectors to satisfy these needs. The 700 connector, manufactured at the Baltimore Works, splices pairs individually, like the B-wire connector. The 710 connectors, made here at the Omaha Works, are modular connectors which splice 25 pairs at once.

The beauty of the 710 connector in the field is its high efficiency in splicing large cable pair counts, Don said. The standard splicing rate is 600 pairs per hour. The 710 connector also encourages the use of CONECS — exchange cable manufactured with half of the connection already made and pretested to save the installer even more time in the field.

At the end of June, the Works shipped the last of its B-wire connectors when manufacture of the connectors was discontinued. Like the bride's parents who didn't lose a daughter but gained a son, the Works didn't lose B-wire connectors — it gained the 710 connector that is much in demand.

Today 250 employees are responsible for the production of 710 connectors. This year 22 million of the connectors will be made. That's enough to do the work of more than a billion B-wire connectors — but with much less work for our customers.

Douglas earns U.S. patent

The official document reads that Robert R. Douglas is the recipient of U.S. Patent No. 4,205,216.

But Bob, a planning engineer in Dept. 737, doesn't seem to mind that he is just among the millions who have been granted patents in the country.

"It's No. 1 to me as far as I'm concerned," he said, explaining that this is his first patent.

The patent was awarded for Bob's laser welding system and method which the company used in its small switch manufacturing operations. Application for a patent was made two years ago when Bob filed his technical report, he said.

The laser welding system and method "has the same principle as a revolving door," Bob said. While a revolving door is designed to control the penetration of outside air to the interior of a room, Bob's invention contains a laser beam for safe use. Although the Works doesn't use the system at present, the idea has application in other areas of the welding industry, he noted.

Bob has been with Western Electric for 14 years. He currently is assigned to small and large crossbar switch vertical unit assembly, and Dimension® switching apparatus and Horizon® communications system circuit pack carrier manufacturing.

Bob Douglas