 Western Electric

the **WEsterner**

Omaha Works

October 19, 1970



Omaha at Night

BECK-ON... the Metric System

by *Jim Beck*
Editor

Imagine, if you will, a future Westerner headline . . . "Mary Doe - 91-60-91 - Named Miss Weoma." In the not too distant future, the numbers above may well represent the new desired standard for comparing the "vital statistics" of beauty queens.

This does not mean that girls of the future will be changing their shapes but, according to various reports, the United States may be changing its way of measuring them.

In August, 1969, Congress authorized the Department of Commerce to make a three-year study of the practicality

and desirability of using the metric system in this country.

The history of our current system goes back to when the American colonies separated from England and retained the traditional English system of weights and measures. The inch-pound system remains relatively unchanged today.

The English measurements have no scientific basis. The yard is reportedly originally set as the length from one's nose to the top of one's thumb. An inch was three barleycorns laid end to end. The rod is reportedly the combined length of the left feet of 16 men lined up to go to church!

For many years, there was no uniformity of measurement on the European continent until, in 1790, France led efforts at standardization with the metric system. The meter was set to represent one ten-

millionth of the distance between the North Pole and equator. All units in the system and their multiples are related to each other by a factor of 10. Calculating is easy - just move the decimal point.

No one disputes the fact that the metric system is better than the English system of weights and measures. With metrics, there is only one unit for each physical quantity to be measured. Prefixes such as milli-, centi-, kilo-, and deci-, are used with meters, grams, and liters, so as to eliminate large numbers,

An advantage of metrics is the convenient linking of large numbers. Another advantage is the convenient linking of size and weight. In the United States, there are now more than a dozen different units of linear measure alone. Some

English units have the same name, but are different in size. For example, the pint is not the same in dry as in liquid measure.

What would be the impact of this conversion on the Omaha Works employee? Not to mention considerations and complications at work, a typical employee might have to drive 16 kilometers of work; the speed limit might be 95 kilometers per hour; he could expect to pay 11 cents a liter for gas.

Even the employee identification cards would have to be changed. A six foot man would find his height recorded as 1.828 meters or 182.8 centimeters, if you prefer. Regardless of whether the English system is retained or the metric system is adopted, that still beats being measured as 216 barleycorns tall!

Graf Named Assistant Manager to Replace Rinehart, Retiring with 43 Years Service

John A. Graf, Department Chief, Quality Assurance Omaha Works, has been promoted to Assistant Manager, Quality Assurance Omaha, Phoenix, Denver and Mountain Northwest Region. Graf's promotion will fill the position to be vacated by the retirement of V. E. Rinehart.



Graf

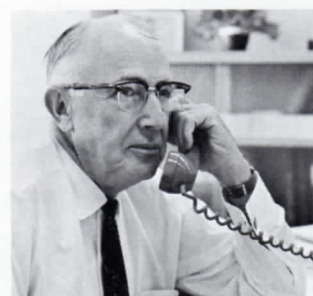
John began his career with Western Electric in 1957 at

the Omaha Pilot Plant as a Product Engineer in Coil Winding and Finishing. From this position, John moved to Section Chief in Surface Wiring and to Department Chief, Statistical Quality Control. After two subsequent lateral transfers, John became Department Chief, Quality Assurance Crossbar, which he held until his October 1 promotion.

John holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Nebraska.

John and Nancy Graf have two children. In his civic activities and involvements, John has been pack leader in the Cub Scouts and scout master in Boy Scouts, and is a Shriner.

Vene Rinehart will retire on October 30 with 43 years with one month of service with the Company. He began his career in 1927, after graduating from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering, as an engineer on the technical staff of Bell Laboratories in New York City.



Rinehart

Vene spent his first 30 years with Western Electric in New York City, most of it in Corporate Headquarters. In 1957, he was transferred as a Department Chief in Quality Assurance to the Kearny Works. Then in 1961, he went to the Oklahoma City Works also as a Department Chief in Quality Assurance, and finally, 1962 as Assistant Manager, Quality Assurance.

Vene holds memberships in three professional fraternities and is a senior member of the American Society for Quality Control.

Mr. Rinehart will spend his retirement years in his hometown, Lakeview, Oregon.

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Winnebagos and Western Electric Work Together Giving Community First Industry

Set back in the hills and rolling farmlands of Nebraska is a town most of us have never heard of and a people we may have forgotten.

The town is Winnebago and the people are the Winnebago Indians. They are struggling to keep up with a fast-moving society that seems to have forgotten them and left them behind. It was less than 100 years ago that the last Indian wars

were fought; the Indians were moved to reservations and were left to scratch their living from the soil.

In time, the town deteriorated, jobs became scarce and money even more scarce. Then talented young Indians began to leave their home town and the reservation to find jobs and money elsewhere. The other, not-so-lucky, young people just stayed, becoming part of a contin-

uing problem.

Stepping into the picture now at Winnebago is a 28-year old Indian, Louis LaRose, who wants to stop the talent drain. His plan is to change the agricultural base of the community to an industrial base. This, he said, will provide jobs and money so the talented young people will stay in Winnebago, building a better community.

Western Electric is helping

LaRose put his ideas into practice. In June, the Omaha Works sub-contracted the Cable Lead Assembly job to the Winnebago Indians, giving the rural community its first bit of industry.

LaRose set up his shop in a new garage on the edge of Winnebago. He hired two local youths and began processing cable lead assemblies. The job is ideal for Winnebago. It requires no sophisticated equipment, yet it provides jobs for the unskilled.

LaRose plans to build a small industrial park in Winnebago. He hopes to bring in a tannery, a medical warehouse and other electronics businesses.

The Winnebago Project is the result of a cooperative effort between Western Electric and the Winnebago Indians.

For the Winnebagos, it means jobs, money and, at least, the beginning of community industrialization. To the Omaha Works, it means a supplier for cable lead assemblies, no longer produced at the Hawthorne Works, and a chance to provide jobs for unskilled and unemployed Winnebago Indians.

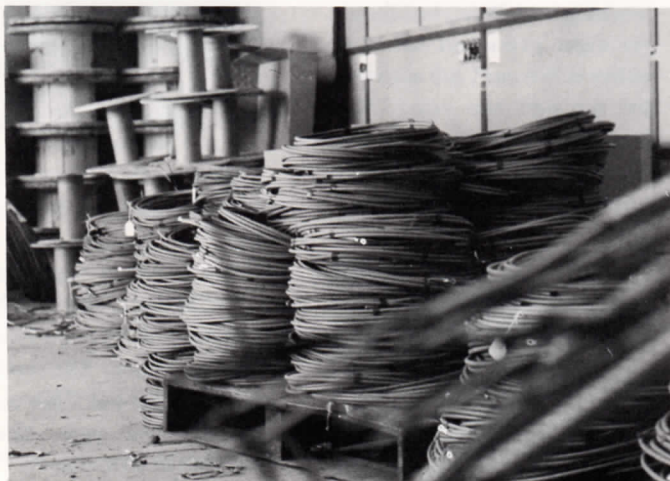
The project may not be big, but it is a beginning—a beginning benefiting both Western Electric and the Winnebago Indians.



Winnebago, Nebraska, a town looking to the future.



Richard LaRose and Robert Thomas cut the cable before adding leads.



Completed cables in the foreground are one of the products assembled by LaRose in his small shop.

**Firemen
can put out your fires---**

**But only you
can prevent them!**

**October is Fire
Prevention Month.**

Cable Shop Section Sets Wire Record; 71.9 MCF

A group of second shift high speed wire twisters in Department 251 have set a new record at the Omaha Works.

On September 21, they produced 71.9 Million Conductor Feet of twisted wire in a night operation, exceeding an earlier record of 68 MCF set by Section 251-4 on September 17. Don Harrison, Section Chief of the

record setting 251-5 said, that normal production of twisted wire during a one shift operation is 60 MCF.

Harrison said his section set the new record while working under a handicap.

"My section," he continued, "normally has 19 men covering the machines assigned to us, but on that night we had only 16 men covering the same number of machines."



Section 251-5: Kneeling (L-R) M. Wilson, G. Gage, L. Weidaman, V. Temple, D. Branch, H. Hampton, D. Flusher; Standing (L-R) B. Wietfeldt, S. Mohr, C. Perryman, L. Lieneman, E. Ries, B. Prohaska, L. Mitchell, L. Gosch, D. Lubash, L. Woodruff, M. Boruff, R. Alves, D. Lamb, S. Fornoff, J. Schweigart, D. Gosch, F. Dlugosz, R. Schmidt, A. Fiala.

Whale, Clarke, Whitbeck and Van Nortwick Selected as Weoma Club Representatives

Eldon Whale is your Weoma Club Representative in Department 245. Eldon has been working for Western Electric for ten years. He has been with the Weoma Club for three years. He is married and the father of two children. If he has some spare time, Eldon said he spends it reading. He works the 7:30 to 4 pm shift

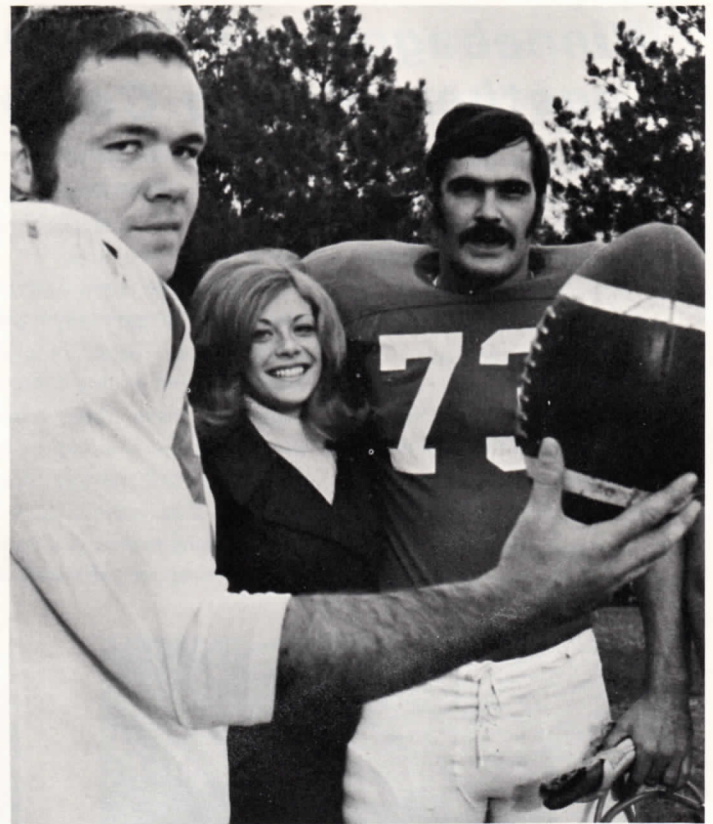


Whale



Clarke

Jo Ann Clarke, a General Purpose Relay Adjustor in Department 142-6, is your Weoma Club Representative on the 8 - 4 pm shift. Jo Ann has been working with Western Electric for 11 years. She has been active in Weoma Club Activities for seven and one-half years. Jo Ann is the mother of two sons and her hobbies are sewing and wood-working.

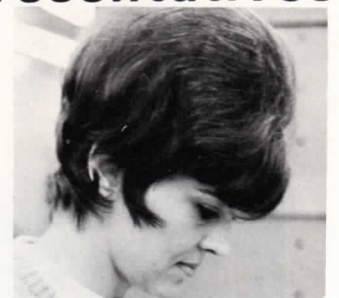


It is a whole new ballgame when Miss Weoma goes to Boystown to watch the Omaha Mustangs practice. The old pigskin is forgotten and Pat Just becomes the center of attention.

Discount tickets to the October 17 and 31 Mustang football games are still available in the Weoma Club Office. Reserved seat tickets normally selling for \$5 are available for \$4, and \$4 reserved seats for \$3. The seats are on the west side of the stadium near the 50 yard line.

Tickets must be purchased by noon on the Friday before each game.

Barbara Whitbeck is your Weoma Club Representative in Department 141. Barbara works the 8 - 4 shift as a Benchhand. She has been working with Western Electric for eight years and has been active in Weoma Club activities for the past two years. Barbara lives in Council Bluffs. She has two children and her hobbies are bowling and sewing



Van Nortwick

Sherry Van Nortwick is your Weoma Club Representative in Department 422. Sherry is a Shop Clerk on the 7 - 3:30 shift. She has been working with Western Electric for four years. She has been active in Weoma Club activities for one year. Sherry, who lives in Bennington, Neb., is married and the mother of two children.



Whitbeck

Omaha agency lends help in family planning

Editors Note:

In the Omaha metropolitan area there are many service agencies that exist to serve you. The following article is provided to make you aware of one of those agencies.

Planned Parenthood is a voluntary health agency that is available to help parents plan the size of their families. It is a private, non-profit health agency established in Omaha in 1935. It places its emphasis on family well-being, and quality life and opportunity for everyone.

"It is my view," said President Richard M. Nixon, "that no American women should be denied access to family planning assistance...I believe, therefore, that we should establish as a national goal the provision of adequate family planning services to all those who want them...."

In Omaha, Planned Parenthood operates six family planning clinics that are staffed with obstetricians-gynecologist, registered nurses and volunteer workers. At its clinics, Planned Parenthood also offers counseling to childless couples wanting to become parents.

Among its other services, Planned Parenthood offers premarital counseling to couples who desire professional guidance in family planning and the emotional and social aspects of marriage.

The main Planned Parenthood clinic is located at 510 South 41st Street. Additional information may be obtained by calling 342-2400 between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

Vote Nov. 3

More Omaha Works Employees Earn Gallon Club Certificates

After each Bloodmobile visit to the Omaha Works, some employees attain new status in the Red Cross Gallon Club. Listed below are some of the employees who have reached new gallon marks. Some have just given their first gallon, others have given two, three, four or five gallons of blood.



Front: (L-R) L. Maxsen, B. Fleming, E. Hester, W. Psota; Back: (L-R) B. Wolkins, S. Beck, E. Waldron, R. Willms, L. Williams.



Front: (L-R) J. Brainard, G. Velez; Back: (L-R) G. Bowman, M. Rohwer.

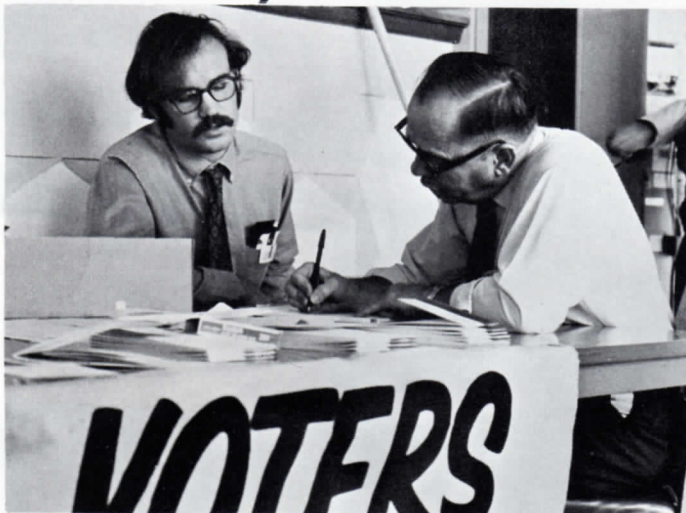


Front: (L-R) W. Martin, G. Neujahr; Back: (L-R) G. Flagle, M. Whitehouse, B. Salvata.



Front: (L-R) F. Holz, L. Kousgaard; Back: (L-R) H. Kline, J. Frank, J. Vochal, C. Gallop.

Voter Registration Offered As Public Service by Western Electric Omaha



W. H. Mitchell registers an Omaha Work's employee to vote in the 1970 general election.

In accord with Western Electric's public affairs policy of encouraging employees to take an active interest in political affairs, voter registration was held at the Omaha Works on October 1 and 2. One-hundred and ninety-two employees registered at that time.

The 1970 general elections will be held on November 3.

You may still register at the Douglas County Court House October 19-22 from 8:30 am to 8 pm and October 23 from 8:30 am to 6 pm.

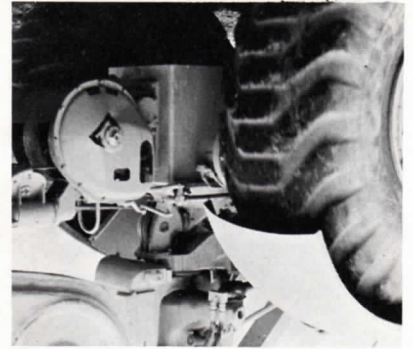
If the weather continues favorable

132nd Street Construction Proceeding on Schedule

*the
wheels
of progress ...*



The old concrete is removed to make way for a new surface.



The old cobblestone street gives way to a modern four-lane street running from West Center Road to "L" Street.

Although construction on 132nd Street began in September, it is very likely, according to Ralph Smith a Project Engineer for the City Public Works Inspection Division, that work will not be completed until next year.

At that time 132nd Street from West Center Road to "L" Street will be widened and resurfaced, and the viaduct over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks will be finished.

Smith said, "Detours should be open within a week to permit traffic to go north out of the Western Electric Plant."

At the present time, traffic is barred from turning north at the "F" Street gate, because a temporary crossing over the U. P. tracks is being built. The temporary crossing will be used by 132nd Street traffic until the viaduct is completed next year. Smith said that unless rainy weather and freezing temperatures interfere with scheduled work, all paving of 132nd Street, from the "F" Street gate to "L" Street will be completed this fall and opened to traffic.



BULK RATE
U S POSTAGE
PAID
Omaha, Nebraska
Permit No 262



Omaha Works