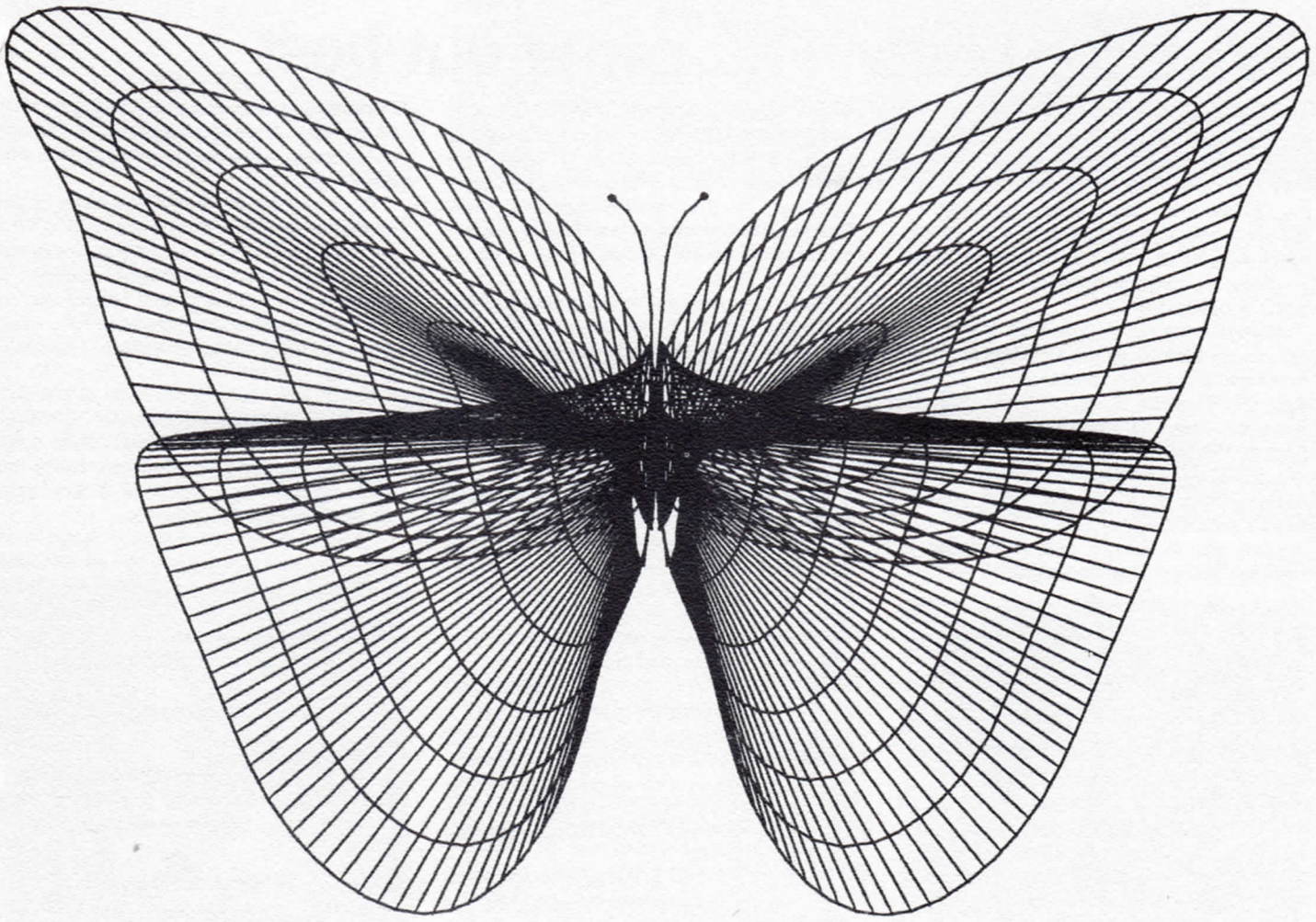
the Westerner

OMAHA WORKS

JUNE 15, 1978



A butterfly that doesn't flutter

Would you believe that computers can draw? With human help, of course. Gary Kahler designed this butterfly using a computer graphics system. Look inside for more on the system.

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Also inside:

This summer, give your feet a helping hand.

Page 6

The Works' Pioneers reach a milestone and acquire a new name along the way.

Page 8

for your information

. . . Are you participating in the Works' automatic pay deposit plan? It permits you to authorize your payroll earnings to be sent directly to a bank. With vacation season upon us, it really can be handy, because just prior to vacation, your paycheck could be deposited in the bank. That way the money is there when you need it. Besides the advantage of a prompt deposit into your account, the plan also provides safety. No more lost paychecks and the inconvenience of replacement. You no longer will have to spend time in long bank lines, and you still will receive from your bank a statement listing income and disbursements. If you are interested in signing up for the plan, simply fill out form OH 92-1308-CP, "Disposition of Employee's Check and Statement," available through your department secretary. The department supervisor or secretary will forward the completed form to the financial department . . .

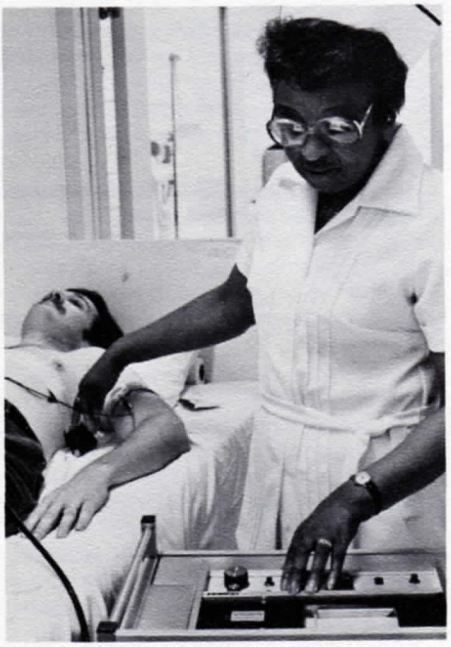
. . . 'Tis the season for graduations and honors. John Schanbacher of Dept. 524 has special cause to be proud of his son, Mark. Recently Mark was graduated "with high distinction" from the University of Nebraska School of Medicine. He was one of three students out of 130 to be so honored. Mark will intern at Erie, Penn., before he goes to Mexico for a year to administer to the Mayan Indians.

Strive for better and come out best

The key to why Betty Ann Brown recently was named Nebraska occupational health nurse of the year is in the way she describes the most difficult aspect of her job: "The hardest part is to be able to know I've done my best. It's hard to know you've made the right decision . . . I'm always thinking how I could have done a better job."

Always looking to improve is Betty's nature, even though "she gives every job her best shot, and she's damn good," said Dr. Charles Kraul, Works medical director. Such devotion is one of the criteria the Schering Drug Co. considers in presenting the nursing award through the Nebraska Occupational Health Nurse Association.

Last month Betty was presented a framed citation "for outstanding service to occupational health," and the nurse association (of which Betty is president) received $50 from Schering. It was the second such award to be received by a member of the Works' nursing staff. Ronnie Ahrens was named Nebraska occupational health nurse of the year in 1975.



ON DUTY . . . Nurse Brown runs an electrocardiogram (EKG) on Verl Burkart of Dept. 258.

Betty has been a nurse at the Works for 13 years. For 9½ of those years, she has worked her current shift — from 4 p.m. to midnight. During her 20-year nursing career, she had been a hospital nurse in Cleveland, Ohio, and in Omaha. She's partial, however, to occupational health nursing at the Works.

FOR ONE thing, she likes the responsibility. By working a night shift, "you're treating the emergency medical needs of the employee independent of a physician on duty," Betty said. "In a hospital, everything requires a doctor's order, whereas here we're able to treat an employee to the best of our ability."

Betty explained that the nursing staff must follow certain guidelines, and a staff doctor always is on call during night shifts, should a nurse need assistance. "There's always a lot of good communication, too," among the nurses in the department, she said. "You can always call on them to help."

There's a lot of good communication with the employees who come in to see Betty, too, if one were to watch the nurse at her work. Sometimes she forgets a first name, she admitted, but she always remembers an injury. Taking such an interest is important in putting an employee at ease and to "send them back with a positive attitude for working," Betty said. "I love it — and I have a lot of fun too. I love the employees even when they fuss."

ONE MIGHT expect a person working a night shift to sleep in late in the mornings. In Betty's case, her spirited approach on the job carries over to after hours, too. Although she's off work at midnight, she awakens at 6:30 a.m. with her family: husband Eugene, an Omaha policeman, and daughters Natalie and Daryl.

During the day, Betty has been active in the community, including visiting high schools to discuss nursing as a career. She also has instructed nurses at Creighton University and helped set up continuing education classes for industrial nurses at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

She's even taking courses at the University of Nebraska at Omaha "to broaden my horizons," she said. With a full load of courses, sometimes Betty the sophomore stays up until 3 a.m. after work to do her homework.

"The kids help out a lot," Betty said, and they like being able to commiserate with Mom over homework. Mom likes the idea, too, especially when it comes to math. Fifteen-year-old Daryl, Betty confided, helps Mom with her algebra.

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Western Electric

service anniversaries

july

20 years

. C. Brisbane
V. H. Brown
F. H. Minor
D. K. Moore
M. S. Olson
I. L. Schroeder
T. S. Swierczek
K. E. Wild
A. L. Johnson

15 years

D. R. Allen
I. P. Flott
S. W. Miller
W. C. Tates
L. B. Thimgan
E. K. Wegner

10 years

L. J. Alexander
M. B. Anderson
B. C. Armendariz
M. E. Boruff
G. O. Dyke
H. R. Findeis
T. G. Furst
S. R. Gunia
H. W. Hampton
M. L. Jensen
W. Levy
D. J. Mraz
C. L. Perryman
E. A. Walde

Glenn Miller
35 years 7/10/43

Henry Mottel
35 years 7/20/43

Robert Albers
30 years 7/23/48

June Schuster
25 years 7/8/53

retirements

William Egr
25 years

Product awareness display shows how ours compares to theirs

Coming soon to a cafeteria near you! A special product awareness display has been assembled to show employees products made at the Works compared to similar products made by general trades manufacturers. Purpose of the display is to promote a better understanding of the kinds of products manufactured at the Works, and of how they size up to the competition, according to Tom Bowman of Dept. 401.

A number of LTA products have been selected to be displayed alongside competing products. Each display item is described in respect to function, features and quality.

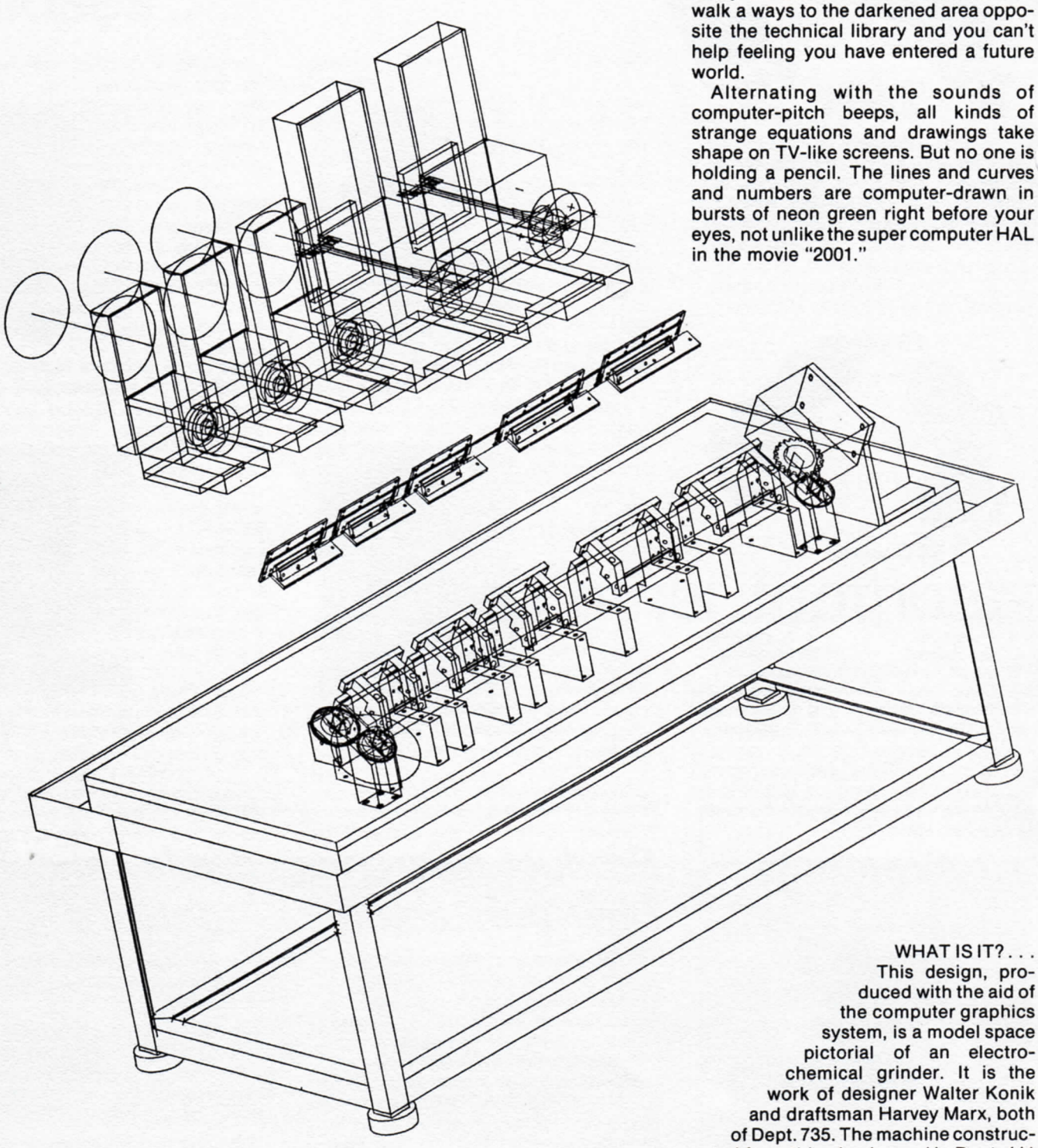
The display will be rotated to various locations throughout the Works. Watch for it in the main cafeteria, in either of the two cafeterias in Building 30 and in the cable building.

Stop and take a look at the display. It will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about LTA products at the Works, but were afraid to ask.

A PICASSO FOR THE

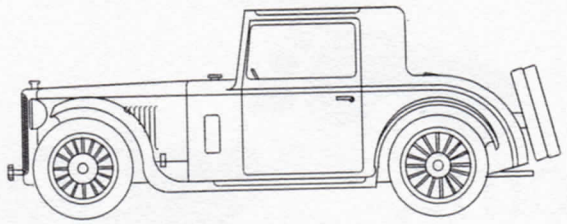
It's like entering "2001." Get off the lobby elevator on the second floor and walk a ways to the darkened area opposite the technical library and you can't help feeling you have entered a future world.

Alternating with the sounds of computer-pitch beeps, all kinds of strange equations and drawings take shape on TV-like screens. But no one is holding a pencil. The lines and curves and numbers are computer-drawn in bursts of neon green right before your eyes, not unlike the super computer HAL in the movie "2001."



WHAT IS IT? . . . This design, produced with the aid of the computer graphics system, is a model space pictorial of an electrochemical grinder. It is the work of designer Walter Konik and draftsman Harvey Marx, both of Dept. 735. The machine constructed from this plan is used in Dept. 441 to grind the core for miniature wire spring relays.

FUTURE



You remember HAL: He was the talking computer who doubled as the mechanical genius behind a fantastic space odyssey and as a part-time art critic. The Works' graphic computer neither talks nor critiques art — but it certainly can draw. That includes something as artistic as the butterfly on the cover, or the complex design of a machine pictured left.

THE COMPUTERVISION computer graphics system was installed in June 1976, and is used by Dept. 735 in machine and tool design. Its purpose is defined by the acronym CADCAM, which stands for computer-aided design, computer-aided manufacturing, said engineering associate Gary Kahler of Dept. 735.

Kahler and senior engineer John Tabaney of Dept. 733 were specially trained in the operation of the computer graphics system. In turn, they trained the Works' designers and draftsmen who would use the system. The graphics system may be able to produce drawings, but behind every computer there still is a human directing it.

The computer graphics system has its own language that its users must learn. Certain geometric functions, such as lines, arcs and circles, already are programmed into the system. By touching a symbol on an electronic tablet called a "menu", a user tells the computer how to produce a drawing which appears on a monitor — a line here, an arc there. The user also can type instructions into the system and even make up his own symbols to be added to the menu, Kahler said. Such symbols are shortcuts which eliminate having to feed in a number of directions to get a single result.

At the present time, CADCAM represents two functions — designing and numerical control machining. When used for designing, the system's four terminals at the Omaha Works may be used simultaneously by either draftsmen or designers. Three of the terminals each consist of a menu, a special typewriter and screen to view drawings and equations. A fourth terminal electronically plots finished designs on paper.

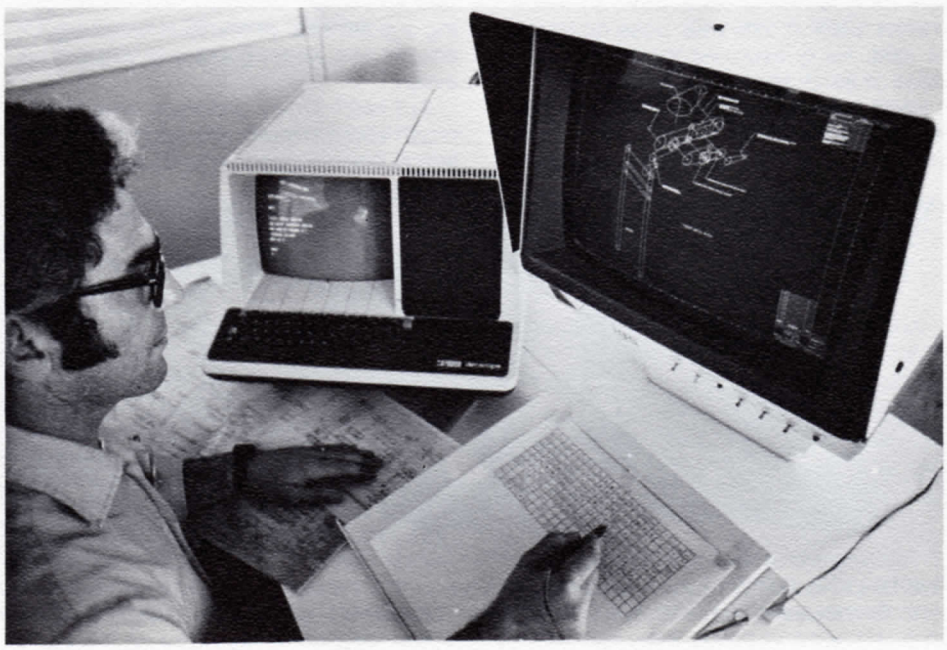
WHEN USED for machining, the system provides a numerical control tape which may be fed into one of several machines at the Works. Based on data on the tape, those machines automatically turn out machined parts. A traveling wire EDM is one such machine into which numerical control tape can be fed. It cuts pieces from steel by using a traveling wire that has an electrical charge. Tapes also can be fed into three milling machines to make a machined part or tool. Lyle Hermanson, department chief of Dept. 735, said that in the future a lathe that accepts the tapes also may be installed.

Computer graphics has proved to be a real time saver, Kahler said. For one thing, the system "relieves a designer so he can devote more time to design," rather than having to do the drafting work, too, he said. For the eight draftsmen who regularly use the system, it means efficiently laying out plans. For example, the system's memory allows draftsmen to reproduce identical parts of a plan when necessary, without repeatedly feeding in the dimensions for each identical part.

Because completed drawings are stored on magnetic tape, they can be changed, edited or reproduced very easily. This eliminates tedious drafting work, Kahler explained.

Although the computer graphics system is used mostly by draftsmen now, Kahler expects it will be used more for design work in the future. It's possible, too, that more terminals will be added to the system later. But even before that happens, the Omaha Works is likely to be now "one of the Western Electric locations making the most advanced use of CADCAM," he said.

NO DRAWING BOARD . . . Fred Cormaci of Dept. 735 works at one of the terminals of the computer graphics system.



Corns, calluses . . .

Let's get down to earth. What do you see? Feet . . . all shapes, sizes and colors. Look a little closer and you'll see some feet aren't doing as well as others, and what a pity. Just when a person wants to put his best bare foot forward during the summer months.

Somehow those nasty corns and calluses have a way of cropping up at the most inopportune times. (Is there ever an opportune time?) But who can afford the luxury of sitting out the pain? You've got to take a stand.

"When your feet hurt, you hurt all over," said Dr. Charles Kraul, Works medical director. Ill-fitting shoes seem to be the biggest cause of foot problems, he said, but that doesn't mean he advocates blissful barefootedness. "Even the Indians wore moccasins," he pointed out. Shoes aren't meant just to adorn the feet: They protect, too.

A person can take basic steps to avoid foot problems, Dr. Kraul said. Make sure shoes fit properly — not so tight that they pinch or so loose that the foot slides around and becomes irritated. Also, a shoe constructed of a porous material such as leather lets the foot breathe. A perspiring foot in a non-porous shoe is inviting trouble, he said.

Cushioned-sole shoes aren't necessary for good foot health, but if a person prefers such shoes, they pose no harm, he said. He questioned the therapeutic value of earth shoes, however.

Earth shoes, with their negative heel, "stretch the Achilles tendon," Dr. Kraul said, while high heels tend to shorten the tendon. "I think most people find comfort with a little heel."

It's a good idea to wear a different pair of shoes each day so that shoes dry out between wearings, he said. Again, dry feet ward off fungus infections, and a person may want to use foot powder to help stay dry.

Socks should fit well, too, Dr. Kraul noted, and if a person is having trouble with his feet perspiring, he may want to switch to absorbent cotton socks from nylon or manmade fiber stockings. For some persons, white cotton socks are the only kinds their feet will tolerate, because the dyes in colored socks give them a rash.

Foot soaks may provide relief after a long day. A soak in warm salt water soothes and improves circulation, he said, while a soak in a Domboro solution, which contains salt, helps dry lesions.

Dr. Kraul listed common foot ailments and causes, and suggested the following treatments:

Corns: Form at pressure points; shoes may not conform to the foot, and foot slips and slides in walking. A soft corn that forms between toes may be complicated by fungus. Corn pads can help relieve pressure, or a podiatrist can shave down a corn. However, corn may return if pressure is renewed

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. . . and other footnotes

It's easy to remember to wear safety glasses. The eyes are out there in the open, alone and unprotected from splinters and what have you on a job involving a great deal of material handling. Of course one wears glasses to protect his eyes.

But feet? That's different. Who thinks much about his feet anyway? The problem is people don't — until an accident happens, at least.

"Foot injuries are common in a plant with a lot of material handling," said Russ Queen of the safety department. Pans of parts, fixtures for machines, rolling reels of cable or wire and transporters all have the potential to pose hazards to feet if a person isn't careful.

Foot injuries at the Works have ranged

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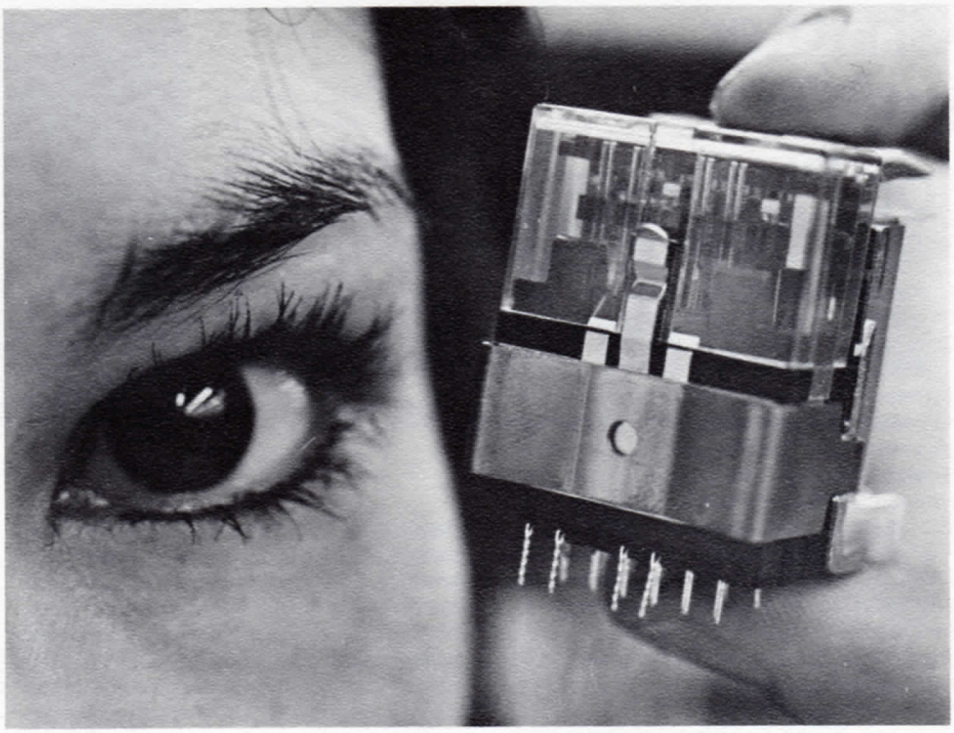
THESE LITTLE PIGGIES . . . How many toes in this picture? They belong to Bill McNabb, Dept. 511; Barb Giesing, Dept. 439; Lynn Bohannon, Dept. 443; Mary Hunt, Dept. 745; and Virg Orso, Dept. 745. Or is that Mary, Virg, Barb, Bill and Lynn? Maybe it's Barb, Mary . . .



SMALL BUT MIGHTY . . . Compared to the eye of Shirley Kolo, a repairman in Dept. 446, a miniature wire spring relay isn't much bigger.

The 'mini' that's very much in demand

ASSEMBLY . . . Julie Keller puts together a miniature wire spring relay in Dept. 446.

How can a device so small be so durable? Western Electric's miniature wire spring relay isn't much larger than a person's eye. Yet, as a switching device, it provides long-lasting performance, especially when compared to competitors' miniature relays, said Maurie Johnson of Dept. 476.

Mounted on printed circuit boards, miniature relays may be used in PBXs or central offices to switch various kinds of signals. Western's miniature wire spring relays can handle about 200 million such switching operations in its lifetime. Similar relays by competitors can handle just from 1 million to 20 million switching operations, Johnson said.

Quality standards require that there be no more than three-quarters of one demerit associated with every relay manufactured at the Works. To meet that requirement, constant surveillance of the relay's quality is a necessity.

One of the reasons why Western's relay is so durable is because it is a wire spring relay, not a flat spring relay like competitors make, Johnson said. In fact, Western Electric is the only manufacturer of miniature wire spring relays.

The Omaha Works began making the relays in 1972. That first year of production, 40,000 miniature wire spring relays were manufactured. Today, the Works turns out an average of 75,000 to 80,000 such relays a week, despite the fact that our installed capacity is 60,000 a week.

"The demand (for wire spring relays) so exceeds our installed capacity," said Charlie Bystrek of Dept. 476, "that we have been working a lot of overtime on Saturdays and Sundays" to meet orders.

Johnson pointed out other advantages to the miniature wire spring relays besides durability: They take up less space than GP wire spring relays (formerly manufactured at the Works), and they are flexible in their uses. Also, since the relays first were produced at the Works, there has been a 30 to 44 percent reduction in bulletin cost.

The Works' miniature wire spring relays, which are sold only within Western Electric, go primarily to the Dallas plant and to the Merrimack Valley and North Carolina Works.

Chapter status for Pioneers

PLAY AND LEARN . . . Pioneer volunteers Lil Tvrdik (left) and Blanche Dunn helped make the teaching aid used by youngsters at the Sunset Hills Early Childhood Center, 4-year-olds Michael Hanson and Angie Weaver.

The Telephone Pioneers A. B. Goetze Council has come of age. Effective July 1, the council will separate from the Casper E. Yost Chapter and become Cornhusker Chapter No. 92.

The chapterhood status follows the tremendous growth the Goetze Council has realized since it was formed almost 20 years ago. Since July of last year, Goetze Council membership has increased by 800 persons, for a current total membership of about 1,900.

A full-time chapter administrator, Gerry Alfons, has been appointed to oversee Pioneer activities — both social and in the community. "Before, everyone kind of chipped in" helping with various projects, said Ed Wigg, president of the new chapter.

Having Alfons in charge will serve as "a better communication vehicle for our employees," Wigg said. Alfons will have an office in Building 20 where all records will be kept, and where employees may come or call about information regarding the Pioneers.

The charter for the Cornhusker Chapter was presented June 6 during a banquet at the New Tower. The charter was presented by Robert Timothy, who is president of both Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Co., and of the Association of Telephone Pioneers of America. Special guests for the occasion were Armin Fick, Western Electric executive vice-president; Art Foster, vice-president of the Cable and Wire Division; Wyllys Rheingrover, general personnel director; Curtis Campbell, department chief in charge of Telephone Pioneers activities at the Guilford Center; and Jerry Laughlin, vice-president of Telephone Pioneers Region 3.

New officers, in addition to Wigg and administrator Alfons, were inducted at the banquet: Robert Olson was sworn in as senior vice-president, and Tony Ciullo, vice-president. Barney Keppers will serve as a life member representative.

Highlighting the evening was the presentation of a special community service award to Kay Travnicek, a volunteer who works on Pioneer projects. She was honored for the many hours she devotes to transcribing textbooks into Braille. The Casper E. Yost Chapter also presented a service award to all volunteers in the Goetze Council for their help on projects this past year.

Those projects included repairing tape players; collecting eyeglasses for the needy; constructing three-dimensional teaching aids for children; visiting hospitals; and arranging entertainment for institutionalized individuals.

When the Pioneers aren't busy rendering service to the community, they take time out for fun. Dinner dances, picnics, excursions and golf meets are among the diverse activities available to Pioneer members.

How to put your best bare foot forward

(Continued from Page 6)

Calluses: Form at pressure points. Rub calluses with pumice stone after bathing or cut them (but carefully), then apply moleskin pads that prevent friction.

Bunions: May result from poorly fitting shoes, especially pointed shoes that squeeze toes and cause them to overlap. In extreme cases, an orthopedic surgeon may have to operate on deformed bones to relieve pain. Make sure shoes have proper fit.

Ingrown toenails: Results when nails aren't clipped square and pressure causes the nail to grow into the toe. Do NOT "dig around" the ingrown nail; infection could result. Consult a doctor for treatment.

Fallen arches: Frequently, this is "a developmental thing. You don't get fallen arches from bad shoes," Dr. Kraul said. Exercises can help strengthen arches, such as by picking up marbles or pencils with bare feet. He doesn't think shoes with arches can improve a fallen arch, "but if they feel good, wear them."

Athlete's foot: A fungus condition encouraged by damp conditions. "Under the proper conditions, everyone would get athlete's foot," Dr. Kraul said. The area between the fourth and fifth toes especially seems to be susceptible. Always dry feet thoroughly after bathing; use foot powder; soaking can help heal lesions.

A footnote: Don't forget your feet

(Continued from Page 6)

from bruises to fractures, Queen said, and too often they have resulted from carelessness. "In the everyday manner of doing things, you become lax, and you forget to look out for your feet," he said.

Queen said simple precautions can help decrease the number of foot injuries on the job. "Keep aisles clear and pallets out of the way of traffic," he said. Be sure to stack pallets and pans of parts properly so they won't topple to the floor — and on one's feet. Exercise careful handling when picking up pans of parts or fixtures, too.

"It's a good idea not to wear tennis shoes or sandals" on the job, Queen said. A person should wear substantial shoes "that give the foot the support it should have." That includes not wearing shoes with thin soles or with holes, or shoes with run-down heels.

He mentioned that the safety store carries a variety of shoe styles for men and women, and all have steel-capped toes and arch supports. "These shoes will provide protection against the most common form of injury to feet — that being injury to the toes," Queen said.

Foot injuries, particularly injuries to toes, are not to be taken lightly, he added. If, after a serious injury, one were to lose his big toe, a person "would have to learn how to walk all over again," he said.