

AT&T employees at the Omaha Works won't be spending as much time on the road and in the air on business thanks to significant advances in telecommunication technology.

A new high-tech video teleconferencing system linking Omaha and Bell Labs in Whippany, NJ is changing the way AT&T engineers communicate with each other.

Employee Involvement

Today

October 15
1990
Issue 23

Omaha
Works

Video Teleconferencing facilities now available at the Omaha Works

The need for airline tickets and rental cars is being reduced by an in-house system that transmits live audio and video of a meeting without either party leaving their office buildings.

Bell Labs Technical Supervisor **RANDY DUELL** says "AT&T employees make dozens of trips between Whippany and Omaha each month. Each one of those trips cost around \$1,000. If we had only one video conference each month, it would more than pay for the cost of the equipment."

New technology has made the cost of video teleconferencing a fraction of what is once was. High flexibility and low cost of phone lines and equipment have made video teleconferencing more and more affordable.

Two video cameras and microphones have been set up in Omaha's teleconferencing facilities on the third floor of Omaha's Bldg. 20. Similar facilities have been set up in Whippany. Two long distance lines transmit the live audio and video signals which are activated simply by flipping two switches. One camera provides low-resolution pictures of people participating in the conference while another shows closeup shots of charts, graphs—even actual parts and products.

The \$50,000 setup is being rented for a
(cont'd. on pg. 4)



AT&T's **RANDY DUELL** (left) and **BRIAN UNDERWOOD** hold a videototeleconference with AT&T's **BRIAN BANCROFT** in Whippany, NJ.



Brian shows the **PICTUREPHONE**, an early forerunner of video teleconferencing introduced at the World's Fair in New York in 1964. The Picturephone transmitted a semi-moving picture over phone lines. The Picturitel didn't catch on and the project was discontinued in the early 1970s.

Is Your Best Defense Against Fire Working?

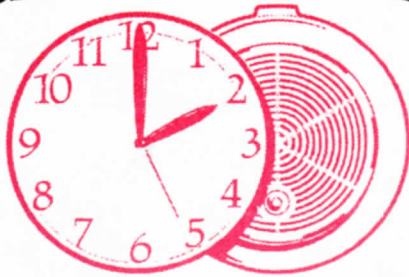
As many as half of all smoke detectors don't work because of old or missing batteries.

On Saturday, Oct. 27, start a new habit that could save your life.

When you change your clock, change the batteries in your smoke detectors and flashlights, too.

(fall back!)

CHANGE YOUR CLOCK



CHANGE YOUR BATTERY

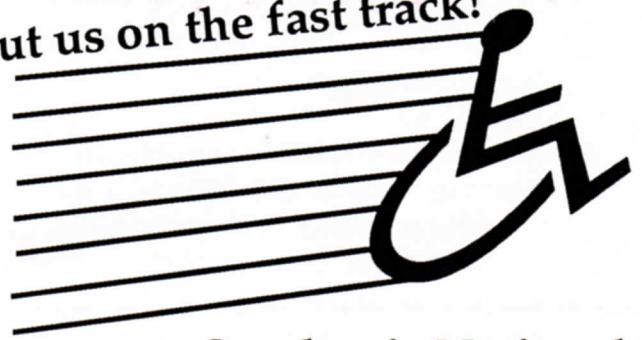
A message from your safety organization during October is Fire Prevention Month.

One ring-y ding-y...

It's about time for the Christmas ads to appear, which is a big hint that retailers want us to think shopping. Don't forget **AT&T's Phone Center** in the lower level of the Westroads, where employees enjoy a big discount. AT&T offers a full line of products to meet residential needs as well as fine telecommunications systems for small businesses. Long distance gift certificates make great gifts, too! Tell your friends and come on down!

EMPLOYEE INVOLVEMENT TODAY is a publication of the public relations group and is written by **LINDA ENTERLINE** and edited by **GENE SAAB** and is printed in the Omaha Works print shop. To submit story ideas and suggestions, please call ext. 3714.

Put us on the fast track!



October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Your Pioneer dollars really do matter!

Chapter 92's officers recently returned from a Pioneer general assembly meeting in Atlanta. Administrator **BOB MILLER** reports a touching message from the president of the South Carolina chapter talking about Hurricane Hugo relief efforts. Bob says "after listening to her, we wish we could have done more." Chapter 92 contributed \$5,000 of the \$138,000 raised for relief efforts. Many individuals suffer on-going stress-related mental problems, so the need for financial assistance continues.

A good part of the \$5,000 raised here for the Hurricane Hugo effort came from Pioneer Parking Lot Sales. Another Parking Lot sale is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 21, 10:30 a.m. Proceeds will be given to various charitable groups.

When is a cold the flu?

The flu differs from a cold in three basic ways. It usually hits more quickly than a cold. It's usually accompanied by a fever of at least 100F. AND, OH, THOSE ACHES AND PAINS. Colds focus most of their misery on the respiratory tract, but flu can clobber you all over.

Where were you...

the afternoon of the 1989 San Francisco earthquake?

The quake's first anniversary is Wednesday, Oct. 17. Omaha's **SHIRLEY INGRAM** of the Safety Organization remembers the experience as if it happened yesterday.

Shirley had just finished a day of training at AT&T's Sunnyvale, CA training center (southeast of the Bay area, toward San Jose), when the quake hit. It was 5:04 p.m. Shirley was sitting in her hotel lobby when it happened. The killer quake registered a 7.0 on the Richter scale.

Fortunately, Shirley wasn't injured but the experience was traumatic, as are her memories, Shirley has kept a journal of her thoughts and experiences and says "I know one thing for sure. I never want to go through one of those again!"

Focus on the folks at the Omaha Works

Be sure and catch the article on Omaha's MFCS system in the September issue of FOCUS magazine. On page 6, **TOM ABBOTT**, 584-2, demonstrates how the material management system works. Pages 8 and 9 include an article on the fourth annual National Hispanic Conference of AT&T Employees held in Orlando, Florida in August. Omaha employees attending included **RICHARD CARMONA**, 584-2; **JOE ALVARADO**, 597-6; **JESSE CARDENAS**, 033-0; **PAUL PEREZ**, 725; **CATHE VELASQUEZ**, 722; **CHRISTINE CUNNINGHAM**, 592-4; **VINCENT TOLEDO**, 597-9; **TANGE TOLEDO**, 532 and **MANUEL ALBA**, 552-6. Attendees representing AT&T Operator Services included **MARILYN PEREZ** and **BECKY VERA**.

Shaw's Substantive

(From *1,001 Logical Laws* by John Peers):
To err is human, but when the eraser wears out before the pencil, you're carrying it too far.

1-800-CALL-ATT

24 hours each day, 365 days a year
For AT&T news!

LET'S TALK CABINETS!

FRANK MARKESI of Omaha's Product Display Center (PDC) hosted AT&T reps at a cabinet IBU workshop Tuesday through Thursday, Oct. 9-11 at the plant. Frank says "if it has anything to do with cabinets, we'll be talking about it!"

TJERK VAN RIJK, AT&T's Field Support Rep from Holland, has been at the Omaha Works learning about our product lines. When he returns home to the Netherlands in early 1991, he'll provide field support to AT&T's sales reps throughout Europe.

The bathtub was invented in 1850, and the telephone in 1875. Had you lived in 1850, you could have soaked in the tub for the next 25 years without the phone ringing once!



Quality

means
dotting the **i**s
and
crossing the **t**s

October in National Quality Month

A little boy came home from baseball practice with a bleak expression on his face.

"I got traded," he complained to his father.

"Oh, that's O.K.," the father said, attempting to soothe his son's feelings. "Lots of big league players get traded."

"Yeah," the boy sulked, "but they traded me for a glove!"

Video teleconferencing (cont'd. from pg. 1)

trial period from Picturitel, a joint venture business partner of AT&T.

AT&T Bell Labs Engineer **BRIAN UNDERWOOD** has been in charge of the Omaha installation. Underwood points out this on-site system is much more cost effective for many businesses when compared with renting commercial teleconferencing facilities that often cost \$500,000 to build and charge customers nearly \$800 per hour.

Underwood goes on to explain that technology has brought down the cost of this form of communication. "The big difference, and advantage, for us is that we're using two 56 kb Acunet lines versus the old 1.5 megabit system. In other words, rather than using the equivalent of 24 phone lines, we're using only two Acunet lines so a conference costs the same as a couple of long distance calls."

Brian's counterpart in Whippany is **BRIAN BANCROFT**, who, via the video teleconferencing system, told us "We're getting video in a way they said was technically impossible ten years ago."

Plans are also underway to link employees in Atlanta, allowing for 3-way video teleconferencing. A 3-way video teleconference would then be possible between Omaha, Atlanta and Whippany. That shouldn't be too hard, according to Underwood.

"You can call anybody that has this same equipment. All you have to do is dial them up."

(Randy Duell is encouraging other AT&T employees to take advantage of the teleconferencing facilities. Duell says the meeting doesn't have to be a large one and the usage cost is low. Reservations can be made by calling LOUISE KUSH-INSKY on ext. 3691. And there's a bonus! Through October, **RAY SWARTZ**, copper apparatus engineering manager, is providing free refreshments for your meeting.)

Have you ordered your AT&T Universal Card?

The offer is good until the end of the year...No annual fee for the life of the AT&T Universal Card if you sign up before the end of 1990. Visa and Mastercard are available and AT&T employees enjoy a 3 percent reduction in the annual interest rate as well as a 10 percent reduction in all long distance calls charged to the card. (The long distance discount and no annual fee is available to everyone who signs up.) Call now: 1 (800) 423-4343. Copies of AT&T's Universal Card Directory of Services are available in the Omaha Works PR office or by calling ext. 3714.

AT&T Idea Process Results

as of October 5, 1990

Ideas Submitted	Current week	Cumulative	
—Tangible	9	1,260	
—Intangible	5	720	
Ideas Approved			
—Tangible (app)	6	111	
—Tangible (imp)	27	241	
—Intangible	9	329	
Ideas Not Approved			
—Tangible	26	691	
—Intangible	7	315	
Ideas Pending Test	Last Wk. Cum	Curr. Wk.	
—Tangible	173	163	
—Intangible	38	34	
Ideas Pending Return			
—Tangible	29	21	
—Intangible	17	16	
Performance Shares Issued	CURR WK	CUM	
—Tangible	5,757,388	81,500,398	
—Intangible	139,150	3,614,300	
TOTAL	5,896,538	85,114,698	

Have you submitted your entries for the **Quality Month Motto Contest**? They're due by Thursday, Oct. 18 to **PAUL BAUMANN**, ext. 3999. You could win \$800 in airline tickets and other wonderful prizes!

Question: How is worry like a rocking chair?
Answer: It gives you something to do, but it doesn't get you anywhere!