



Western Electric Plant . . . Subdivisions approach: 1—Skylark; 2—Westwood Heights; 3, Prairie Lane; 4—Sunset Hills; 5—Prairie Village and Bridgeford's Rockbrook; 6—New industry.

## City Sprouts Toward W.E.

### Area of 'Rural Plant' Soon to Be Urban

Omaha and Western Electric are growing closer together.

When the announcement was made nearly three years ago that the plant was to be built southwest of the city there were still hundreds of acres of rolling farmlands between it and the suburbs.

The gap is about to be closed.

There are:

—Clusters of new homes less than a mile from the plant on the east and northeast.

—Subdivisions ready to sprout homes immediately adjacent to the plant on the north and northeast.

### Fast Growth

When the new subdivisions are built an arm of Omaha will reach out with homes and industry to Millard.

The merging of the suburbs and Western Electric is being accomplished with a great deal more speed than planners anticipated.

The surge to the southwest was expected, City Planner Alden Aust noted Saturday.

"That is the natural direction of housing development," he said. "But the location of Western Electric has increased the speed of development and boosted land values."

### Industry Too

The accompanying aerial photo depicts graphically how some of the large housing subdivisions have crept toward the plant. The photo looks northeast.

Most prominent developments are:

Skylark (No. 1)—250 lots platted.

Westwood Heights (No. 2)—40 houses under way and between five hundred and seven hundred planned. It will cover the entire area north of the plant.

Prairie Lane (No. 3)—East of One Hundred Twentieth Street, 64 lots platted with more planned.

Sunset Hills (No. 4)—Already built up.

Prairie Village and Bridgeford's Rockbrook (No. 5)—Also filling up rapidly.

Industrial development also will move forward in the area of Western Electric, staying south of the Union Pacific tracks.

### New Firm Coming

Last week the area (No. 6) between One Hundred Twentieth Street and the Interstate Highway, the tracks and F Street was zoned first industrial.

Mr. Aust said an industrial firm, as yet unannounced but a leading national organization, is expected to locate there.

Manufacturing operations are under way, although not at full capacity yet, in both Western Electric sections.

The building to the west houses the cable operation, the one to the east houses the manufacturing of crossbar units for dial phones.