

# MERRIMACK VALLEY WORKS NEWSLETTER



Vol. 2 No. 8

A Western Electric Publication

April, 1969

## Found In N. H. Barn, Old Western Radio Works Fine

### Did You Know That . . .

There were 1,344 suggestions submitted to the Western Electric Employees' Suggestion System Committee at the Merrimack Valley Works during 1968. All were thoroughly investigated, and 352 were accepted for a total of \$16,645 in awards.

While the Suggestion Awards for 1968 at the Merrimack Valley Works averaged \$47.29, the highest actual award last year was \$1,435; the lowest was the minimum award of \$15.



LISTENING to a local area broadcast over a Western Electric radio that was manufactured about forty-five years ago are Al Gynan, Planning Engineer, and Walt Wilson, Department Chief, both of Department 742. The radio, found in an Amherst, N.H., barn, has been acquired by WE for historical displays.

### Inspection Deadline May 15

Massachusetts Registrar of Motor Vehicles Richard E. McLaughlin offers the following suggestions to motor vehicle owners and operators who have not yet had their vehicles inspected. Compulsory inspection began on April 1 and runs through May 15.

- Have the front end of the vehicle checked for proper alignment. (Unusual snow, ice, and road conditions may have caused hidden damage to steering and suspension components.)
- Examine tires for splits, breaks, and proper inflation. (Ruts or holes may have damaged them.)
- Check the electrical system—headlamps, tail lamps, stop lamps, and horn.
- Clean dirt, sand, and salt from registration plates. (Reflectorization is an important safety factor.)
- Make sure windshield wipers give sufficient clear area for good vision. (Heavy snow and ice may have limited their function.)
- Make sure brakes are working properly. (Has water limited or destroyed their usefulness?)
- Check the exhaust system. (The underpart of the vehicle—especially the muffler and the exhaust pipe—may have been damaged when striking or passing

Continued Page 2

Your next spring cleaning efforts should be so productive!

Seven years ago, real estate broker Irving P. Gray of Goffstown, New Hampshire, was asked by a client to "get rid of" the contents of a barn in Amherst, New Hampshire.

Obliging his customer, Mr. Gray and an assistant set about cleaning out the barn. It was then that he came across an old radio, complete with a loop directional antenna, and a headset.

The radio was manufactured by Western Electric. Its last patent date is 1923. The earphones were patented in 1918.

Western Electric—presently observing its centennial year—manufactured a variety of household appliances, including radios, sewing machines, and fans, for a number of years.

#### A Pioneer In Radio

Western Electric was a pioneer in radio communications and did much to

Continued Page 2

A \$590 Suggestion Award has been presented to Agnes Laurretta, Department 961, for her suggestion proposing a change in a manufacturing process. The award was presented by Merrimack Valley Works General Manager Harry N. Snook. Section Chief William J. Sawyer (left), 961, attended the presentation.







**FORE!** Shown here discussing the game while looking forward to the opening of the Merrimack Valley Club Golf Leagues' 1969 season on April 28-29 are Hank Millett (left) and Stan Shok (right), Works Team Champs, and Don Lindquist, Individual Works Champ. There will be four men's leagues and one women's league in Competition this season.

**CAR INSPECTION**

(Continued from page 1)

over sharp surfaces. Fumes may be seeping into the car.)

- Watch out for excessive smoke emissions. (This would cause rejection at inspection time.)
- Check external sheet metal, bumpers, and fenders for any parts which protrude beyond the limits of the vehicle. (These must be corrected.)
- Check floor pans—especially in older cars—for corrosion and possible rust holes. (Exposure to sand and salt may have caused dangerous conditions.)

Vehicles which fail to pass inspection will not be allowed on the highways after May 15. Do not risk failing to acquire the proper sticker in time.

**W. E. RADIO**

(Continued from page 1)

equip and refine the techniques of the infant broadcasting industry. In 1922, WE's first standard transmitter, the 500 watt model 1A, was installed at AT&T's station WEAf in New York City. By the end of 1922, a year after commercial broadcasting began, the 1A was in use at more than 30 radio stations coast to coast.

On October 28, 1922, radio broadcast its first football game, using a Western Electric transmitter. The game, Princeton vs. Chicago at Chicago, was carried over long distance telephone lines to the AT&T station, WEAf, in New York City. There it was broadcast over a WE radio transmitter, picked up by a loop antenna atop a WE truck parked in front of the New York Tribune building, and amplified to an audience of thousands in City Hall Park.

In September of 1923, a demonstration

of radio broadcast reception on a train traveling between Chicago and Colorado Springs, Colorado, was held by Western Electric at the request of the Rock Island Railroad.

**It Still Works**

Mr. Gray recently notified Western Electric headquarters in New York City of the old radio he had found in the New Hampshire barn. The company this month acquired the radio for use in historical displays.

When it was delivered to the Merrimack Valley Works for forwarding to headquarters, the radio was checked over by Western Electric engineers Walt Wilson, Department Chief, and Al Gynan, Planning Engineer, both of Department 742, who reported that it is presently able to receive broadcasts from four stations in this area.

**Employee Dies In Viet Nam**

Army Spec. 4 Walter J. Lemieux, an assembler in Department 1163, was killed in action last month in Vietnam. He was serving with the 11th Light Infantry Brigade of the American Division when he was killed during a battle between his patrol and enemy forces.

He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Aurora Lemieux of Lowell, two sisters, and a brother.

*In Memoriam*

Joseph A. Corcoran, Department 531  
March 18, 1969

Robert F. Bourbeau, Department 211  
March 18, 1969

**PIONEER STORIES**

**Fellowship**

The Pioneer membership, as individuals, are remembered in the overall program with cards, gifts, and flowers in times of personal illness or family bereavement.

The post-graduate Pioneer, Life Member, is remembered on his or her birthday and company service anniversary with a card. A quarterly Newsletter is mailed to keep them in touch with Council activities. Personal contact is made periodically through visits, phone, or letter by a member of the Life Member Contact Committee—usually a friend or former close business associate.

Pioneering also has a lighter side, which includes clambakes, dinner dances, theater parties, trips, and attendance at sports events. Hobbies are highlighted at an annual show in Boston, and for the serious minded, brain stimulation is offered in a wide variety of courses in conjunction with the Merrimack Valley Club Evening School program, including a course in Braille, which may be applied readily in Community Service projects.



**MERRIMACK VALLEY WORKS NEWSLETTER**

Published By



**Western Electric**  
MANUFACTURING AND SUPPLY UNIT OF THE BELL SYSTEM

For the information of employees of the

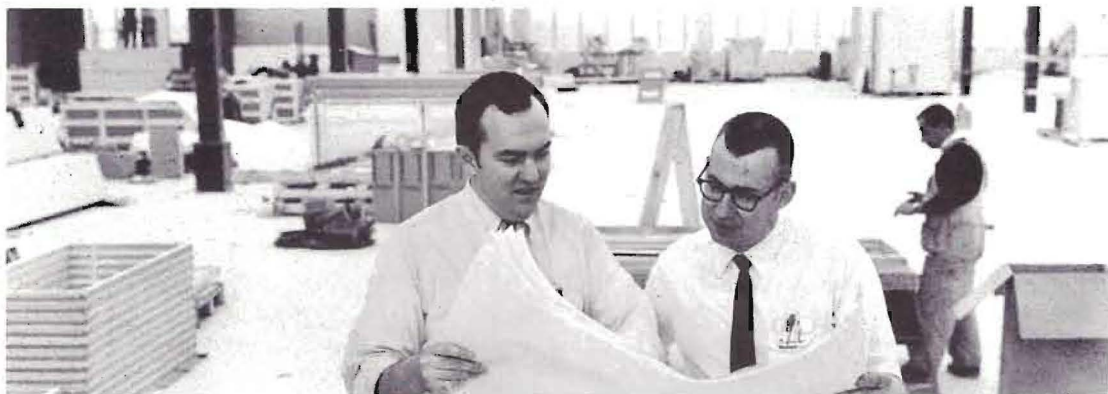
MERRIMACK VALLEY WORKS  
North Andover, Massachusetts

Dept. 240-1 Area Code 617-686-0600 Ext. 2594

BILL COLLINS, Jr., Editor

Photographers: JAMES P. CHASSE  
DANIEL R. BALSLEY





**SPACE.** Surrounded by wide open spaces on the second floor of the new addition to the office building at the North Andover Plant, Planning Engineer Sam Gray and Engineering Associate Kurt Cross, both of Department 744 are shown checking floor plans.

## New WE Facility In Newark

A new, eighteen-story office building to be constructed in Newark, New Jersey, will house a major headquarters facility of Western Electric in leased space, according to an announcement by Paul Gorman, WE president.

President Gorman said the company has selected the new structure to serve as a "centrally located major headquarters operation." Most of the people in the building will be employed by the company's Northeastern Region headquarters. Located in the building also will be vice presidents and their staffs for the firm's manufacturing and service divisions.

### From Maine to Florida

Service Division East is responsible for providing telephone equipment, supplies, Systems Equipment Engineering and Installation services to all the Bell Telephone companies from Maine to Florida. The Northeastern Region supports the Bell companies throughout the eight-state Northeastern region comprising New Jersey, New York, and New England.

The people who work at regional headquarters facilities are principally involved in Systems Equipment Engineering—the design of equipment for central offices that switch telephone calls and other communications over local and long distance routes. Western Electric will initially employ about 3,000 persons in the building.

### Modern Data Center

To assist the telephone companies and provide a major support link to other Western Electric locations, the new headquarters building will include a modern data center occupying an entire floor. About forty employees from the company's service and finance division will operate five large-scale computers, which will perform a variety of functions, including payroll, central office equipment specifications, and telephone company ordering systems.

# W.E. ANNUAL REPORT TO EMPLOYEES

(CONSOLIDATED INCLUDING SUBSIDIARIES)

**1968 gross income from sales and other sources totaled \$4,050 million**

## THIS INCOME WAS USED FOR:

### EMPLOYEES

41 cents of every dollar of income was paid to or on behalf of employees for wages and salaries and various fringe benefits including vacation and holiday pay, payments to bank trustees of pension funds, companies' share of social security taxes, premiums for basic hospital-surgical-medical plan, group life insurance premiums and premium for extraordinary medical expense.

\$1,669  
MILLION

41%

### MATERIALS AND SERVICES PURCHASED AND OTHER COSTS

Purchases for raw materials and components, selling expenses, general expenses, such as rent and telephone, purchased engineering services and other miscellaneous expenses amounted to 45 cents of every dollar of income.

1,837

45%

### TAXES

Payments to state and local agencies as well as the Federal Government, exclusive of Social Security taxes, used 6 cents of every dollar.

244

6%

### DEPRECIATION OF PLANT

Charges against current income for loss in value through wear and obsolescence of buildings, land improvements, machinery, furniture and fixtures, small tools and transportation equipment amounted to 3 cents of every dollar.

108

3%

### DIVIDENDS TO OWNER

Western paid 2 cents per dollar of income for A.T.&T.'s investment in the business.

86

2%

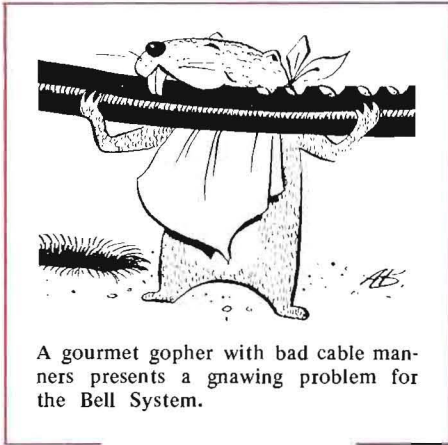
### RETAINED EARNINGS

3 cents of each dollar was kept in our business for expansion and working capital requirements.

106

3%





A gourmet gopher with bad cable manners presents a gnawing problem for the Bell System.

## Gophers Go For Cables

A gopher's front teeth grow more than forty-six inches a year. This can be somewhat inconvenient for the ten-inch-long gopher, especially if his teeth grow into his skull and pierce his brain.

What does this tense natural drama have to do with the Bell System? Since Nature also protects gophers, the burrowing creatures instinctively avoid these splitting headaches by wearing down their teeth.

Gophers do this by chewing on tougher fare than the soft vegetation that they usually eat. And what could be easier to get at and tougher to chew than freshly buried telephone cables?

Dental health-minded gophers have acquired such a taste for cable, in fact, that the Bell System now uses as much as 1,300 tons of steel a year to shield cable in areas west of the Mississippi, where most gophers can be found.

"Steel armor is necessary," according

to Richard A. Connolly, supervisor of Bell Laboratories' Environmental Protection and Corrosion Group, "because gophers will chew through almost all plastic materials and even through softer metals like lead and aluminum. Naturally, severe gopher damage can cause a cable to fail."

The scientists have been searching diligently for alternate materials that gophers either cannot chew or do not favor gastronomically.

Tests to determine gopher-deterrent materials are currently being conducted for the Bell System by the U.S. Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service in Denver on a contract basis. Bell Laboratories hopes that the tests will provide information that may lead to more effective and economical types of protection for buried wire and cable.

**HELP YOUR COUNTRY  
HELP YOURSELF  
BUY U. S. BONDS**



TV SHOW. Janet Whittaker, an Information Systems Staff Member in Department 161, holds a colorful poster announcing "A Fun Special For The Whole Family" entitled "A Look on the Light Side," to be presented by the Bell System on Saturday evening, April 26, via NBC-TV. The program, which will explore the U.S.A. in an unexpected way, will star Bill Dana as Jose Jimenez.

## RESCUE BREATHING AIDS TOT

A Merrimack Valley Works employee, who credits company programs and films with considerably increasing his knowledge of First Aid, possibly saved a baby's life recently by applying mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to the infant when it began choking.

Robert Belcher, Department 541, used his First Aid knowledge to assist a 20-day-old ward of the state who was living at his home, then rushed the infant to Exeter Hospital in Exeter, N.H. When the baby was declared to be out of danger, Mr. Belcher returned it to his home in East Kingston, where he is Chief of the Fire Department.



**SALUTE!** With National Secretaries' Week to be observed throughout the United States April 20-26, the MVW Newsletter salutes all the secretaries at the Merrimack Valley Works for their capability and charisma. Representative of the secretaries at this WE location are: Ann MacGregor, 453 (top left); Lorraine Archambault, 700 (lower left), and Rose Marie Pellegrino, 401.

