

MERRIMACK VALLEY WORKS  
**NEWSLETTER**



DECEMBER, 1970  
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A Western Electric  
Publication



*“Backward, turn backward, O time  
in thy flight;*

*Make me a child again, just  
for tonight.”*





*It often takes a moment of silence to realize how loud the noise is; likewise the calm and spirit of good will which prevails during the holiday season emphasizes the fact that we do not live in a peaceful world. So, along with my warmest wish for the happiest of holidays, I want to join with everyone at Merrimack Valley in offering a prayer for peace on earth for years to come.*

*Dave Hilder*

Best wishes to our Vice President

**HARRY N. SNOOK**

and his staff at their new location:

**1 BOSTON PLACE, BOSTON, MASS.**

## SANTA CLAUS NEARLY 1700 YEARS OLD

The quotation on the cover from E. A. Allen's poem demonstrates the desires of most adults to relive parts of their childhood — especially Christmas Eve, waiting for Santa.

Santa has been with us a long time: longer than any of us have been waiting. He was born in the little town of Patara in the province of Lycia, Asia Minor, in 280 A. D. His name was Nicholas.

While Nicholas was still a young man, his parents died in an epidemic, leaving him a sizeable fortune. Shortly thereafter, he moved to the chief city of his province, Myra, where he was elected a bishop of the Christian Church.

Nicholas, early in life, became known for his generosity. In disguise, he would circulate among the people distributing presents to the poor, especially children. Legend tells of how, in one instance, he helped the three daughters of a destitute nobleman by secretly supplying each with a bag of gold for her dowry. He supposedly did this by throwing the bags through a window in the dark of night. It is further related that when he threw the bag of gold through the window for the third daughter, it landed in a stocking she had hung by the fireplace to dry. This is said to be the basis for the Christmas custom of hanging stockings by the fireplace.

When it became known, inadvertently, that Nicholas was the donor of these gifts, it came about that whenever unexpected gifts were received by anyone, he was given credit for it.

(Continued on Page 7)

## EDITORIAL



Joe Sweeney



Mike Grieco

With the turn of the calendar we celebrate the times of change.

A major change has been Joe Sweeney's decision not to seek re-election to the Presidency of Local 1365, CWA. With the new year, the presidency passes from Joe Sweeney to his elected successor, Mike Grieco.

During his term of office, Joe Sweeney has distinguished himself in both the union and our community.

We look for a continuation of this spirit of service as the reins of leadership passes to Mike.

Our best wishes to you both.

(For the CWA Local Election Results, see page 7.)

Beginning January 4

**"WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE"**

Leo Cloutier interviews sports and other personalities

**WHA V AM RADIO**

Monday thru Friday 5:05 p.m.

Sponsored by the Merrimack Valley Works





## A Little Philosophy A Lot of Change

An old Greek philosopher once remarked that you can't put your foot in the same stream twice. The reason of course is that as the stream keeps flowing, it changes.

Likewise, you can't enter the same Works twice, as shown by these photos.

The projects under way are the building of a new clean room near the north cafeteria and the installation of a new ventilation system. The new room, over which the welder is working, will be used in thin film manufacturing. The ventilation system, which is the cause of all the activity on the roof, will automatically exhaust fumes from a new plating process and purify those fumes while exhausting them.



### Anniversaries

#### T. PUGLISI



**J. MORROW**

#### FORTY YEARS

NAME	DEPT.	JAN.
Puglisi, Thomas	1145	11
Morrow, James E., Jr	191	14

#### THIRTY-FIVE YEARS

Ebert, John C.	231	21
Rudowski, Theodore	494	22

#### THIRTY YEARS

Waddell, Robert A.	750	6
Habif, Albert	1201	13
Levergood, James L.	1158	13
O'Brien, William J.	210	23
Bley, Arthur	1153	24
Headley, Carey B.	151	27
Bunce, Richard D.	756	28

NAME	DEPT.	JAN.
Schwarz, William J.	6333	29
Horton, Chauncey M.	197	29

#### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Jameson, James P.	541	9
McDonough, Dorothy W.	961	9
Burns, J. D.	544	23
Welch, John A., Jr.	564	23
Nalezinski, Stanley	541	25

#### TWENTY YEARS

Samoisette, David J.	545	2
Dion, Marion C.	923	7
Chick, Fred C.	541	8
Johnson, Erol E., Jr.	847	10

NAME	DEPT.	JAN.
Slye, Carroll G.	534	10
Bryant, Henrietta B.	1145	12
Burden, Joyce D.	563	17
Lapinskas, Albert	561	17
Smith, Patricia F.	493	22
Pizar, Jean B.	562	24
Welch, William A.	973	24
Carrier, Dorothea B.	563	31
McGauley, Herman A.	1221	31
Miele, Victor A.	173	31

#### FIFTEEN YEARS

Edwards, David H.	196	2
Hanlon, Dennis J.	1154	2

(Continued on Page 6)



**YEAR ROUND  
MEDICAL  
MISLETOE!**

**OR:**

**A LONGER LIFE  
THROUGH  
KISSING YOUR WIFE!**

Men: kiss your wife more often than under the misletoe and you'll live longer. This advice comes from a two-year study in Germany on the influence of kissing the wife before leaving for work in the morning.

The report determined that those who do not kiss good-bye tend to be moody, depressed, and disinterested in their work. The husband who kisses his wife before leaving for the office, however, was found to start the day with a more positive attitude.

His feeling of harmony is reflected psychologically, as well as mentally. Further, he is a safer driver en route to work and is more efficient and better liked on the job.

But, the big bonus is that kissing husbands can be expected to live an average of five years longer.

Of course, if it's your neighbor's wife you're kissing, your actuarial outlook may not be so optimistic.



Santa Claus is a Pioneer, or at least he would be if he worked for the Bell System. It isn't the grey beard that qualifies the portly gentleman, but rather his year-long campaign of giving, culminating in a Christmas frenzy, not to buy or sell, but to give.

You will find Pioneers working in hospitals and homes, clinics and classrooms all year long. They are not just Christmas givers. Even so, during the holidays, the Pioneers are even busier. What is even more impressive is the way the Pioneers have made giving contagious. This year the group has managed to involve other Merrimack Valley Works people in several major projects.

This year the Pioneers co-ordinated hospital visits and parties, tours for the elderly, visits to museums and the like for disadvantaged children, gift projects for the elderly, and knitting and doll dressing projects.

Have you ever seen a room full of knitting? Seventy-eight people worked to fill a room at the home of Jan Steer, 1217-1, with knitted goods of every shape and size.

A dozen people with no connection at all with the Bell System joined the project with over forty Westerners who described themselves as "future Pioneers."

One of the most impressive features of this project is the way the Pioneers have managed to involve the elderly in providing these handmade gifts which are distributed to other oldsters.

Hundreds of pieces were knitted and crocheted by just these few individuals, several of whom are also handicapped: Mrs. Thomas Neil, age 82,

Janet Dumas, 230-1, a "future Pioneer," presents Brigadier William Waiksnoris of the Salvation Army, with one of the dolls dressed by the Pioneers for Christmas presents, while Mrs. Waiksnoris (left) and Pioneer Pauline Boudreau pause from unpacking the rest of the donations.



mother of Robert Neil, 4912; Mrs. Zerilla Baillargeon, age 82, mother of Doris Baillargeon, 3653; Mr. Nahum Adams, age 78, father of Ethel Adams, 961-1; Mrs. Florence Moll, age 82, mother of Lucille Travis, 974-6; Mrs. Nora Benoit, age 75, mother of Pauline Benoit, 924-2; Chris Wilde, 367-1; and Mrs. Delia Burton, age 65, mother of Gertrude Burton, 961-4.

In addition to a room of knitting, the Pioneers also have a room of Christmas gifts for the lonely hospitalized elderly.

Working in conjunction with the staffs of the Rockingham County Hospital in Brentwood, New Hampshire, and the Tewksbury State Hospital in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, the Women's Activities Committee purchased nearly 250 gifts. In many cases the gifts were chosen for particular



patients who have shown a need for an item that the state cannot provide.

The gifts were delivered on December 10 by the men and women who have been visiting these same patients all year long.

The Pioneers also bring people together to help children for Christmas.

The Lawrence Salvation Army called Ruth King, 4724, of Bell Labs and asked if anyone was interested in providing clothing for dolls which would be used as Christmas gifts for needy children. Part of the result of this request was displayed in the Safety Display Window adjoining the Merrimack Valley Credit Union, as over seventy dolls were clothed in tiny handmade costumes.

Mrs. King, like all the other Pioneers interviewed, stressed that her project was not accomplished

(Continued on Page 7)



Lucille Travis (left), 974-6, and Jan Steer, 1217-1, pack the over 700 gifts knitted by the Pioneers and their friends.



Paul Hughes, 6332, Pioneer President, introduces entertainer Beverly Faro, 961, for one of the hospital variety shows run by the organization.



Swamped by a pile of presents, Lorraine Martin, 961-3 (left), Anita Jaskot, 961-4 (center), and Louise Perry, 962-1, seem to have their job all wrapped up.

Charles Hartford, 416-2, and Bob Donahue, 379-1, prepare their readings for one of the variety shows.



## WE Girls Featured In Area Parades



**WEVALLEY** Girls Debbie Comeau, Pam Czerepak, and Simone Mooers participated in the Santa Parades of North Andover, Lawrence, and Haverhill, modeling furs from Weiner's in Lawrence. Their obviously willing chauffeur was Frank O'Donnell, **WEVALLEY** Club Coordinator.

NAME	DEPT.	JAN.
Paolino, Richard C.	173	17
Simpson, Merton Z.	1145	17
Smeester, Eleanor W.	1161	18
Crepeau, Henry J., Jr.	538	19
Tyler, June A.	925	19
Doyle, Clementine R.	921	22
Fagnoli, Arthur A.	974	22
Mailhot, Elizabeth C.	1158	22
Nojuch, Josephine J.	960	22
Varezeele, Yvette L.	1169	22
Abbott, Evelyn S.	562	23
Blazonis, Joseph M.	494	23
Estes, Robert C., Jr.	541	23
Partellow, Frederick R.	424	23
Riopelle, Monica C.	1-S	23
Russo, James A.	845	23
Towne, Warren E.	1141	23
Vaillancourt, Eleanor M.	961	23
Viola, Gloria A.	495	23
Wade, Richard W.	620	23
DeRoche, Theodore A.	534	24
Ard, Glenwood W.	546	25
Fauth, Ronald R.	544	25
Gray, Richard C.	422	25
Laliberte, Rose G.	1161	25
Pallaria, Dominick J., Jr.	743	25
Sears, Joseph J.	537	25
Metzger, Charles E.	159	26
Wiley, Helen F.	1158	28
Poirier, Claire B.	1159	28
Maranda, Eleanor B.	1141	29
Berube, Mildred R.	923	30
Emery, Ernest A.	366	30
Fournier, Virginia G.	6333	30
Furlong, Carl I.	151	30
Hart, Clifford F.	973	30
Law, Lorraine L.	842	30
Nason, Charles S., Jr.	925	30
Pare, Charlotte	926	30
Roberts, Catherine D.	960	30
Roberts, Catherine D.	842	30
Ronsivalli, Grace S.	564	30
Tyback, Walter G.	1213	30
Tremblay, Edna G.	925	30

## Anniversaries (from page 3)

NAME	DEPT.	JAN.
McSweeney, John J.	741	3
Nolet, Helen M.	491	3
Putnam, Salmon W.	1222	3
Gammon, Donald E.	6332	4
Sciuto, Dorothy J.	452	5
DeVeau, Hubert J.	537	7
Bourque, Paul L.	544	8

NAME	DEPT.	JAN.
Collins, Patrick F.	1144	8
Gordon, Raymond W.	1213	8
Grenier, Pierre J.	534	8
Clueber, Cecile D.	973	8
Pineault, Anita G.	1158	8
Taylor, Winifred L.	562	8
Toothaker, Marjorie W.	973	8
Cressy, John H.	453	9
Fleming, Robert D.	534	9
Fuller, Mary E.	961	9
Nimmo, Natalie B.	212	9
Perrault, Robert E.	544	9
Scatamacchia, Donald M.	195	9
Lesiczka, Clara D.	973	10
Seaman, Earle W., Jr.	1159	10
Seymour, Frances L.	1172	10
Stewart, John E.	546	10
Salach, Julia K.	973	11
Lindquist, Ronald L.	201	12
Geisler, Anita H.	1152	13
Bilodeau, Alyce R.	564	15
Cartier, Donat A.	544	15
George, Kenneth H.	541	15
Lavoie, Albert L.	961	15
Mansor, Arthur J.	1142	15
Burrill, Irving A.	365	16
Groves, Richard A.	712	16
Laskiewicz, Stanley J.	545	16
LeMay, Ovila A.	545	16
Lyons, William A.	1140	16
O'Brien, John J., Jr.	1215	16
Sobush, Edward J.	546	16
Galvin, Luba D.	974	17

## MERRIMACK VALLEY WORKS NEWSLETTER

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**Western Electric**

For the information of employees of the

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## Retirements

Esther Tucarella will retire on January 19, 1971, with over 15 years of company service. Mrs. Tucarella, 1152-3, lives at 66A Riverdale Street, Methuen.

William Lewis, a layout operator in Dept. 541-4, will retire on February 5, 1971. A resident of 69 Buttonwoods Avenue, Haverhill, Mr. Lewis has over 26 years of service.



## PIONEER CHRISTMAS (continued)

with only Pioneer participation. Quick to give credit, she said: "People just volunteered . . . spontaneously. We practically had no soliciting at all." The result of the project was that several people have already volunteered for next year, while the Salvation Army has seventy-two gifts for those little girls.

With all that talk about what groups of women are doing at Christmas time, one wonders what the male Pioneers are up to. The answer is nothing much. The reason is that they are busy with the programs that run all year right through the Christmas season — the time they are needed most of all. Of course the men are still pressed into providing the muscle for distributing the gifts that the women have been preparing, but it's all part of Pioneering.

### SEVENTEEN CENTURIES OF SANTA CLAUS *(from page 2)*

After his death in 341 A.D., the church canonized Nicholas. Thus, he became Saint Nicholas, known far and wide for his giving of gifts.

Legend has it that Saint Nicholas' robe — his "tabard" — enables him to travel from place to place instantly. In Holland, he is said to have a horse for his journey at night over the roofs of houses. In Belgium and Holland, life-sized figures of Nicholas are frequently placed in front of shop windows and, in some places, a man dressed like the Saint goes about the streets on a white horse with presents.

The Dutch who settled New Amsterdam brought the legend of St. Nicholas to the New World. In 1822, Dr. Clement Moore, who taught in a theological seminary in New York, wrote a poem for his children entitled, "A Visit from St. Nicholas." His description of St. Nicholas inspired the famed cartoonist Thomas Nast, who pictured Santa Claus in Harper's Illustrated Weekly in 1863 as dressed in a red, fur-trimmed suit. The title "Santa Claus" is derived from the early Latin Sanctus Nicolaus.

But what really matters is that the jolly saint will be around on Christmas Eve.

The type of efforts that the "boys" get involved with usually bring them into institutions that can offer good care, but not enough love for the people who need it most.

During the holiday season the men visited Danvers State Hospital upon several occasions and donated a stereo phonograph, stereo AM-FM radio, and raw materials for handicrafts. Between visits they managed to find time to overhaul and repair one of the sewing machines used by the Hospital. As the season progressed, a room full of Pioneers and members of their families dropped in to run a variety show for the patients. The performances included the efforts of the Islanders and the C-Chords, a gay '90s group including Bob Boudreau, 758, Leo Legare, 1152-4, Paul Boucher, 538-5, and Norm Comeau, 754. The group also plays for Amesbury Nursing Home parties during the holidays.

A similar variety show was presented to the blind who gathered at the Rendezvous for an evening of entertainment. During the holiday season, just as during the rest of the year, retarded and crippled children were treated for day tours, parties were organized for the hospitalized, and a group of high school students were organized for hospital visits.

Some people don't even rest on Christmas Day, like Bob Donahue, 3791, who will bring his family to spend the morning with some of the patients at the Tewksbury State Hospital.

According to Paul Hughes, President of the Works Chapter, Telephone Pioneers of America, "there are just too many people to name, but we are still proud of all the Pioneers and their friends who are so involved with helping other people."

### In Memoriam

Simone D. Kent, Department 960-11N, November 13, 1970.



(From left) Leo Sicard, 765I, Fern Boucher, 775-3, and Steve Korba, 472I, make up "The Islanders," a group which entertains at the Pioneers shows.

### C.W.A. ELECTION RESULTS

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— CONGRATULATIONS —

### COVER:

The boys and girls visiting Santa's house are the children of Al Joncas, 1162-2; Dave Manning, 1172-1; Tom Muldoon, 1144-N; and Walter Narinkevicius, 365-2.

The little girls on Santa's lap are Gail Manning (left) and Pam Narinkevicius. Mary Beth Manning (left) and Val Narinkevicius stand next to Santa, while (from left) Debbie Narinkevicius, Todd Joncas, David Mannind, James Muldoon, and Thomas Muldoon gather in front of the hearty Saint.





*There seems to be no time more appropriate to print this story than during the holidays. Glance at the chart and play a little game. Can you beat the limits of alcohol consumption and still stay sober enough to drive?*

*It's a fun game as long as you only think about it. Play it with real alcohol and real automobiles, and there's a good chance that when your friends think about you, they'll remember the last New Year's party you ever went to.*



## HOW MUCH CAN YOU TAKE ON NEW YEARS EVE?

Drinking is socially acceptable in the United States — eight out of ten men over twenty-one and two out of three women over twenty-one drink alcoholic beverages at least occasionally. And with the holidays approaching, hosts in millions of homes will be serving drinks to friends — respectable, responsible friends. They will drink more or less modestly. And then they will drive home.

Do we understand alcohol and what it does to us? Here are some important facts we should know about it:

Beverage alcohol is a drug — a central nervous system depressant.

Alcohol is absorbed unchanged in the stomach and small intestines and is promptly distributed by the blood stream to all parts of the body, including the brain.

The depressant effect of alcohol on the nervous system is proportional to the amount of alcohol in the blood. This in turn is related to the quantity absorbed, the length of time since drinking began, the time between drinks, the nature of the beverage, body weight and the speed of absorption.

Absorption is delayed by the presence of food in the stomach and the concentration and nature of the alcoholic beverage.

Elimination of alcohol from the body involves two processes. About ninety to ninety-five per cent of alcohol is converted to carbon dioxide and water—a process that begins in the liver. The other five to ten per cent is excreted through the lungs and kidneys. Elimination is not accelerated by exercise, fresh air, cold showers, coffee or other "remedies."

The general public often uses the words alcohol, whiskey and liquor synonymously. In understanding blood-alcohol level it must be made clear that the per cent of alcohol in intoxicating beverages varies greatly, with beer usually having the lowest percentage and rum and whiskies the highest. Whiskey, for instance, usually is 45 per cent alcohol. Roughly one-half of a one-ounce "shot" glass of this beverage, therefore, would be alcohol. For comparative purposes, it might be well to point out that a 12-ounce bottle of beer and a one-ounce shot glass of whiskey both contain one-half-ounce of alcohol, but that a martini contains a full ounce of alcohol. To complicate the matter further, all alcoholic beverages are not of the same strength or "proof." The term "proof" is used most often in reference to the alcohol content of distilled spirits. The proof figure is always twice the percentage figure, 90 proof whiskey being 45 per cent alcohol.

Since a blood-alcohol level of 0.10 per cent is generally recognized as the point of intoxication, it might be helpful for purposes of comparison to think in terms of the number of commonly used drinks that will bring on that level, bearing in mind that "drinks" are not always served in the precise amounts shown in the table, and that body weight is also an important factor. A 120 pound beer drinker, for example, reaches the 0.10 per cent level with slightly more than three bottles, but a 180 pound drinker could consume five bottles to reach that limit. With whiskey, the 120 pound person again would reach 0.10 per cent with less than five shots but the 180 pound drinker could consume five shots. Drinking martinis, however, the 120 pound

### Alcohol Education Chart

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	NORMAL MEASURES DISPENSED	ALCOHOL IN ONE BOTTLE OR GLASS		APPROXIMATE BLOOD-ALCOHOL LEVEL (%) REACHED IN ONE HOUR (0.015 can be substituted for each additional hour)					
		Per cent of Alcohol	Amount of Alcohol	One Drink		Two Drinks		Three Drinks	
				Body Weight	Body Weight	Body Weight	Body Weight	Body Weight	Body Weight
		120	180	120	180	120	180		
<b>BEER</b>									
a) Malt	12 oz. btl.	7%	4 1/5 oz.	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent		
b) Ale	12 oz. btl.	5%	3 1/5 oz.	.06	.04	.08	.06	.14	.09
c) Reg. Beer	12 oz. btl.	4%	1 1/2 oz.	.05	.03	.07	.05	.10	.08
<b>WINES</b>									
a) Fortified: (Port, Muscatel, etc.)	3+ oz. gl.	18%	1 1/2 oz.	.04	.02	.06	.04	.09	.06
b) Natural: Red/White, Champagne	3+ oz. gl.	12%	2 1/5 oz.	.03	.02	.06	.04	.07	.04
<b>LIQUEURS</b>									
a) Strong: B&B, Cointreau, Drambuie	1 oz. gl.	40%	2 1/5 oz.	.03	.02	.06	.04	.07	.05
b) Medium: Fruit Brandies	2 oz. gl.	25%	1 1/2 oz.	.04	.02	.07	.04	.09	.06
<b>"STRAIGHT" SPIRITS</b> Brandy, Cognac, Rum, Scotch, Vodka, Whiskey									
	1 oz. gl.	45%	1 1/2 oz.	.04	.02	.06	.04	.08	.06
<b>COCKTAILS</b>									
a) Strong: Martini, Manhattan	3 1/2 oz. gl.	30%	1 oz.	.07	.04	.14	.09	.19	.11
b) Medium: Old Fashioned, Daiquiri, Alexander	4 oz. gl.	15%	3 1/5 oz.	.05	.03	.07	.05	.10	.08
<b>HIGHBALLS</b> with sweet and sour mixes, tonics									
	8 oz. gl.	7%	3 1/5 oz.	.05	.03	.07	.05	.10	.07

drinker would reach the intoxicating level of 0.10 per cent with about one and one-half glasses, and the 180 pound drinker with slightly more than two glasses.

You're entertaining friends, so why not be a friend first, then a host?

Have non-alcoholic beverages — coffee, soft drinks, or fruit punch — available for the final "one for the road." But remember, coffee does nothing to sober you up; only time does that.

Always respect the wishes of any guest who says, "No, thanks" to the offer of a final drink.

Encourage the "one-for-one" idea: one hour before driving for each drink, or no more than one drink an hour for a driver. And watch double shots, actually two drinks.

Make it a part of your entertainment pattern to "close the bar" an hour or so before guests are expected to leave. Just make it casually clear that this is the way things are done in your home.

If you know that someone has had too much to drink too late, turn on the diplomatic charm. Suggest, tactfully, a car pool with another guest driving. Or arrange transportation by taxi.

Don't expect this to be easy. The person least able to drive safely is usually the one who is most convinced that he's in brilliant shape for driving. But persuasion is possible.

The "First a Friend . . . Then a Host" idea may be, literally, a lifesaver at your next party.