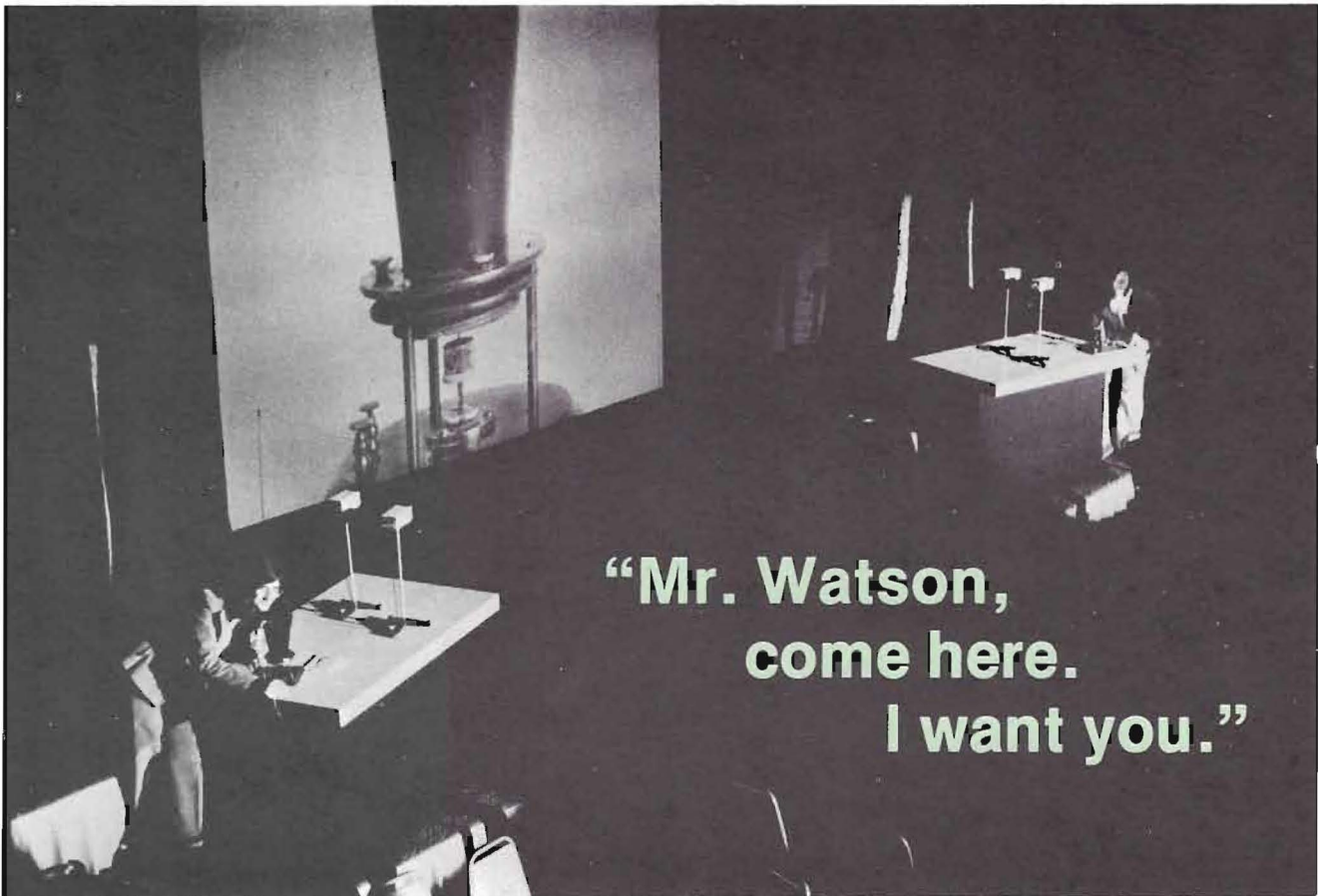




## TELEPHONE CELEBRATES 100th BIRTHDAY



**“Mr. Watson,  
come here.  
I want you.”**

Every telephone in the entire world buzzed with the news on March 10, 1876.

One hundred years ago this month a young Scottish speech therapist-inventor and his assistant succeeded in an experiment, transmitting the human voice over wires by electricity.

Every telephone in the world certainly was in use at the moment Alexander Graham Bell made history with the words “Mr. Watson, Come here. I want you,” for the world’s tele-communication network consisted of two telephones and stretched as far as the room downstairs in Bell’s Boston laboratory.

The entire Bell System, a million people, celebrated the telephone’s

**IN THE SPOTLIGHTS,** Sandra Grosvenor, (left) the great-great-granddaughter of Alexander Graham Bell, and Fred Cheever, Thomas Watson’s great-grandson repeat the famous message transmitted 100 years ago when Bell spilled acid on himself and unintentionally summoned his assistant with the world’s first telephone call. However, this time the message was transmitted over a laser beam, rather than wires.

centennial this month, as corporate leaders and scientists met in Boston to pay tribute to the accomplishments of the past while discussing the system’s responsibilities for the future. Representatives from the operating telephone companies, Western Electric, and Bell Labs joined with AT&T’s management in seminars at M.I.T., the place where Bell studied several devices which he thought would be helpful in speech therapy, but which actually illustrated some of the principles he would apply to his invention.

Later, the same evening, a symbolic birthday party was held - a brief homage to one man’s labors that has meant so much to the many millions of people who depend on the telephone.

But even while the celebration went on, the sense of responsibility and efficiency that has marked the Bell System’s hundred-year history prevailed, with business as usual . . . providing service that couldn’t be interrupted, even for its own birthday.



## PLAN WITHOUT ACTION . . . WORTHLESS

by Helen Lang, Department Chief, Personnel

As society changes, placing more emphasis on Equal Opportunity, so too have the laws which affect each of us. Among these laws, the most important is Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

What does Western Electric's response to this law mean to you? Basically, in order to comply with the law, Merrimack Valley's Personnel organization has had to develop and enforce what is called an Affirmative Action Program. In other words, we have written a plan to eliminate discrimination in every area of our business, at each level and grade, and among all the different groups that make up our workforce.

But a plan, no matter how fine it sounds, is worthless without action.

We had originally set specific goals and had made substantial progress towards meeting them . . . and then, in the face of the recession's production cutbacks and layoffs, watched our most recent progress washed away. However, in spite of these setbacks, we are still not too far from our goals.

In broad terms our Affirmative Action Program should result in a workforce that closely mirrors the racial and sexual makeup of the local labor market; and because of our personnel policies, in effect long before Title VII, this goal remains within our reach.

However, neither the company nor the government is happy with the unavoidable delays in making Affirmative Action work. We cannot afford to accept what we have lost as a permanent situation. Everyone here at the Works is

going to have to be more conscious than ever of Equal Opportunity, for as soon as we are able, we will act quickly to recover from the effects of the recession.

This does not mean that Western Electric is setting aside jobs for specific individuals in certain categories . . . likewise, we maintain that no person will ever be placed in a job that he or she is not qualified to hold, despite our immediate goals. This too would be a violation of the law.

But there is no dodging the issue. Our work force will never mirror the relevant labor market unless we adopt work policies and practices that essentially give qualified women and minorities - on an individual basis - the chance to compete for jobs they have not had an opportunity to compete for before.

We are required to make a "good faith effort" to search out people who can perform effectively. We have to prove to government compliance officers, either by reaching our objectives or by justifying our failure, that we have made the effort. We are not required to hire or promote unqualified people to meet objectives . . . we do not intend to do so.

We all share a social responsibility to make Equal Opportunity a reality . . . and many of us share a legal responsibility. So we are all involved, just as we are all involved in production, efficiency, quality, or safety. Western Electric sees Equal Opportunity as a major goal of our company and of our society, and a national policy.

We have made the commitment, and in the future, we will need your understanding and assistance.



Helen Lang, Personnel Department Chief, offers her explanations of Merrimack Valley's Affirmative Action Program and the goals that are still within reach despite the past year's sequence of layoffs and limited opportunity.

## CALLBACKS AND LAYOFFS

During the month of March, 30 shop employees who had been laid off returned to work here at Merrimack Valley. The callbacks were not indicative of any upswing in manpower needs, however, but were required to replace people who had left the workforce through resignations or retirements.

At the same time, four office employees were laid off as the Works sought to bring the workforce into balance with 1976's production requirements.

## Explorer Post 90 Wants Your Boy

If you have a son or a nephew between the ages of 14 and 18, the Works - sponsored Explorer Post can offer him an education in electronics, all the enjoyment of the great outdoors, and the competition of sports in the Explorer Olympics. Call Post Advisor Jerry Prime on extension 3805.

### MERRIMACK VALLEY WORKS NEWSLETTER

Published By



**Western Electric**

ARTHUR BELLEVILLE  
Editor

Photographer  
JAMES P. CHASSE

For the information of employees of the  
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Recycled Paper



# Anniversaries

## THIRTY-FIVE YEARS

Name	Dept.	Apr.
Walter J. Barlow	21580	5

## THIRTY YEARS

Arlene C. Lyons	89660	1
John A. Zukas	89360	3
Ethel Frangedakis	89440	9
James V. Kiernan	27490	16
Willard E. Green	89670	22
Lena G. Sarcione	89450	24

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Beatrice T. Samoissette	89660	2
Evelyn B. White	80460	2
Elizabeth Q. Denney	89810	9
Ellis T. Winch	89660	9
Phyllis M. Ferrara	89610	10
Charles J. Groves	89330	16
George A. Horner, Jr.	21380	16
Elaine R. Madigan	89840	16
Anne M. Marcinkevich	81920	16
Peter J. Campbell	89240	17
Jordan F. Spofford	21350	17
Elinor K. Carrier	89660	19
Everett F. Bailey	89840	23
Clifford E. Connor	89450	27
Ernest J. Bergeron	89210	30
William T. Harter	13300	30

## TWENTY YEARS

George J. Craig	89230	1
Ronald B. Wilkinson	21570	1
Shirley Bazinet	89330	2
Rita R. Bennett	89630	2
Roland E. Demonceau	21970	2
Walter L. Durant	81950	2
Harold J. Jennings	89640	2
Richard A. Sullivan	27160	2
Lottie H. Burnes	81140	4
Mary S. Callahan	89660	4
Doris B. Dow	81110	5
Pearl G. Marshall	81180	5
Wilfred R. Valcourt	89360	5
Edward T. Wayland	89230	5
Thomas A. Cook	84560	8
Albin R. Anderson	27480	9
Roland E. Boucher	81950	9
Alba C. Butler	02130	9
Theresa K. Frechette	80420	9
Earl J. Gallant	89270	9
Armand H. Gelinas	81140	9
Rose R. Giard	89670	9
Ernst A. Gutbier	27500	9
Joyce L. Johnson	51420	9
Kenneth A. Lavalley	84960	9
Joseph E. LeBlanc	89340	9
Helen M. Moran	81910	9

Continued on page

## Handshakes and Hellos Mark Candidates' Passing

Three more Democratic Presidential candidates stopped at the Merrimack Valley Works, campaigning before the Massachusetts primary.

Congressman Morris Udall, himself blind in one eye, was pleased to meet Robert Murphy who in spite of being totally blind is an Assembler in the Multiple Wound and Spool Coil Department.



Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp visited the Works at lunchtime, and swung through the cafeteria reminding both supporters and non supporters to vote in the primary.

Senator Fred Harris, parked the camper from which he is mounting his campaign in front of the Works, and visited the shops with his daughter and other campaign workers.





## ENGINEERS ESTABLISH BICENTENNIAL COST REDUCTION GOAL

Harry Heilig, Engineering Director, stood before his engineers with a puzzled look, claiming that after exhausting his statistical and engineering know-how, he was unable to decide on a cost reduction goal for 1976.

"Is there anyone out there who can help me?" he asked with mock concern. And with a bicentennial flourish the answer appeared, carried in by Charlie Higgins, the Works Cost Reduction Coordinator.

The goal? For the Bicentennial year of 1976, Merrimack Valley will attempt to rack up \$19.76 million in engineering cost reduction.

The new goal, along with reports on 1975's cost reduction performance, were part of the annual engineers meeting. At that meeting it was revealed that Merrimack Valley's cost reduction effort for 1975 reached \$19.4 million. The Hawthorne Works in Chicago reported \$19.5 million in cost reduction; however, Merrimack Valley was declared to share the "gold medal" in the cost reduction "Olympics."

"We are especially happy about last year's savings," commented Charlie Higgins. "When you consider that the goal was based upon a much higher level of production than was actually the case, the fact that we set a new record here at Merrimack Valley is almost miraculous.

Over 80% of the Works engineers participated in cost reduction cases at some time during 1975.

The top department for cost reduction was the D1-D1D and D3, D4 Digital Systems Engineering Department, headed by Howie Hamilton. This one group alone was credited with saving over \$2 million in 1975. Seven other departments also saved over \$1 million apiece.

The largest cost reduction cases included work in the hybrid integrated circuits used in the T-1, D-3, and A-6 product lines, and work with integrated circuits in the D3 Channel Unit. Also, the men who were personally credited with the highest cost reductions during the past year were Phil Campaigne, Art Compagnone, Burt Ehrlich, Larry Hodes,

Harry Heilig and a partially obscured Dave Hilder donned colonial tricorns to raise the cost reduction flag of \$19.76 million for 1976.



John Hovan, Al Marzioli, Kirit Parikh, Joe Salvo, John Shaffer, and Bob Zingali.

In commenting after the meeting Mr. Heilig complimented everyone involved in the cost reduction program, saying: "Charlie Higgins' slogan; cost reduction is everybody's business' was never more fully demonstrated than during 1975.

"To the engineers who conceive the ideas, the accountants who calculate the savings, the ordering and purchasing organizations who buy the materials, the operating organizations who put it all together, and the inspection organizations who make sure the quality is high - you are a great team - you *are* number one!"

### Fans Plan Open Meeting April 14

The Merrimack Valley Works will open its doors to the general public for a "Super FANS" meeting at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 14.

FANS, Merrimack Valley's own Fresh Air for Non Smokers group, expanded its membership only last month to over 200 people. Together with FANS from other chapters in Essex County, the Merrimack Valley Chapter is presenting a public program in the Works auditorium for smokers and non-smokers alike.

The program, which is free of charge, includes: Professor David Wilson of M.I.T. speaking on campaigns for non smokers' rights

MVW Medical Director, Dr. C.J. Kokulis giving a medical viewpoint on the effects of nearby smokers on non-smokers, and

The Bell Labs Rocky Bottom

Ramblers who will entertain before and after the meeting.

Larry Scannell, formerly of the Works Training Department, will be the master of ceremonies for the meeting.

The group, which emphasizes that it is not attempting to prohibit smoking, but rather educate people about non smokers' rights, invites all MVW people, their families, and friends to attend this meeting. The main objective of FANS is to promote an attitude of respect for individual rights, especially a right to health. As an additional service they are also promoting classes beginning April 20 for smokers who wish to quit.

Information will be available at the FANS Meeting.



## Rembis Chosen For Engineering Excellence

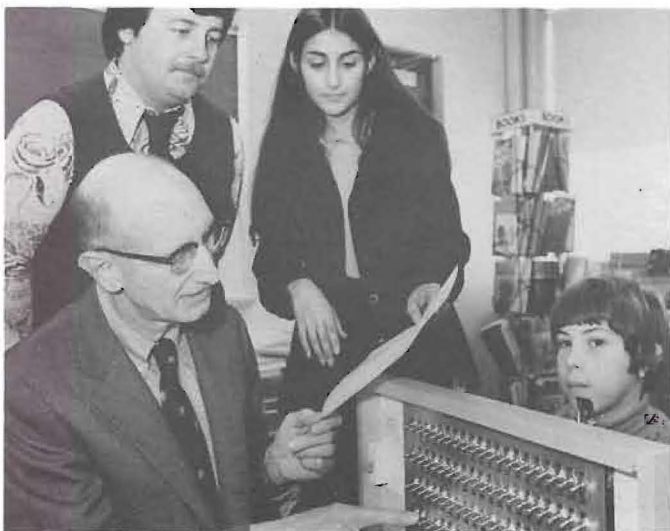


Barbara and George Rembis

Engineering Associate George Rembis was named to the Merrimack Valley Works Engineering Excellence Society, as the sole winner of the 1975 Engineering Excellence Award.

George was honored during National Engineers Week, at the annual meeting of the Works technical professional personnel where Dave Hilder presented him an award for his personal contributions to Bell System radio transmission systems. George, his wife Barbara and his family later joined Dave and Engineering Director Harry Heilig for a luncheon to commemorate his award.

## THE BUZZ MEANS A RIGHT ANSWER



Pioneer Life Member Jack Levergood demonstrates a programmable teaching machine, which he designed and built, to two instructors in the Special Education Department at the Consentino School in Haverhill. The machine, which young Steve Bucuzzo is about to use, presents the child with ten questions, each with ten possible answers. The student connects questions and answers with electrical probes, and when he makes a correct association, the "teacher" buzzes in approval.

The switches Jack is operating allows the machine to be easily programmed with different questions and answers.

## Annual Report Cites Accomplishments Despite Drop in Company Sales

On March 10, the same day as the centennial anniversary of the telephone, Western Electric released its annual report which expressed on a national level what most Merrimack Valley people had already realized on a local level. 1975 was not an easy year for Western Electric.

### Sales Decline

Last year's sales totalled \$6,590 million, a drop of 11 percent from 1974. In reality, company president Don Procknow said that the physical volume of sales was actually 16 percent. However, Mr. Procknow added that he believed "... the worst of the current downturn in our business is behind us, and we expect a positive trend to begin in 1976."

While most of the 1975 decline was attributable to reduced orders from Bell companies, another significant part was due to the continuing drop in Western Electric's government sales resulting from a major cutback in the SAFEGUARD program.

The combination of sagging sales volume and increasing fixed costs severely affected profits, as the company's return on average investment fell to 4.4 percent from 9.6 percent in 1974.

### Costs And Efficiency

Despite a business slowdown, Western Electric's operations continued with

both cost consciousness and efficiency. Engineering cost reductions reached a record high of \$198 million in first-year savings - topping 1974's record by \$34 million. Additional savings of \$176 million were also achieved by major economies in the purchase of materials and services through price reductions and cost avoidances.

### Purchases Here And Nationally

In 1975, Western Electric purchased approximately \$2.5 billion in supplies, manufacturing materials and transportation services from over 47,000 suppliers in 4,400 cities. In Massachusetts, the company paid \$125 million to 2,415 suppliers in 215 cities and towns. More than 91 percent of these suppliers were small businesses having fewer than 500 employees. The company also continued to expand its business with minority-owned businesses. During the year, the number of such suppliers grew from 700 to over 800 with commitments to them of more than \$34 million.

In 1975, Western Electric also:

- Opened three new material management centers to serve the Eastern, Southwestern and Central Regions.

- Completed installation in Chicago of the first all-electronic digital switching system for long-distance service. Known as No. 4 ESS, and under development by Bell Laboratories and Western Electric for five years, the system became operational in January, 1976.

- Began manufacturing the Transaction telephone, which allows banks and stores to verify credit transactions via computer links.

- Introduced into production the Touch-A-Matic<sup>®</sup> telephone with a built-in memory which remembers 15 telephone numbers and dials any one of them instantly at the touch of a button.



## Suggestions Reap Two-Month Total of \$1122.50

Al Gallant (right), Digital Data Systems (DDS), 1A-Radio Digital Systems (DUV) Plug-in Unit Department, leads the suggestion award winners for January and February with his \$275 idea to recycle a solvent used to clean residue from printed wiring boards. Assistant Manager Lance Dockray presented the check.

Other winners for the two months were:

James F. Lessard	\$85.00	Carol J. Butler	\$25.00	Joseph C. Kozdra	\$18.75
L.R. Champagne	\$56.25	Merlon P. Gill	\$25.00	Theodore W. Lavalley	\$18.75
Antonio Talarico	\$56.25	Henry Chabot	\$18.75	John T. Meade	\$18.75
Wesley F. Bishop	\$37.50	Robert A. Dunbar	\$18.75	John A. Pagnotta	\$18.75
Robert E. Bombard	\$37.50	Lawrence O. Faye	\$18.75	Ernest Pelleren	\$18.75
Robert L. Caron	\$37.50	Dorothy K. Frost	\$18.75	Evelyn R. Sawyer	\$18.75
Gordon H. Hamilton	\$37.50	Merlon P. Gill	\$18.75	Glenn T. Schena	\$18.75
Leslie O. Kus	\$37.50	Michael T. Halkiotis	\$18.75	Laurence M. Student	\$18.75
Hector G. Sevigny	\$37.50	Gordon H. Hamilton	\$18.75	Alexander J. Zube	\$18.75
Frank M. Taillon	\$37.50				
Richard J. Winmill	\$37.50				



## Islanders Offer Favorite Songs

The Islanders and their leader, Steve Korba, will take a break from lying under palm trees and sipping fermented coconut milk to offer a free concert in the Works auditorium on Tuesday, April 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The free concert, sponsored by the Works Guitar Club, will feature standard popular songs and favorite melodies combined with the Islanders' familiar forms of humor.

## In Memoriam

Armand J. Vallante, D1, D1D, D2 Channels and Systems Department, March 2, 1976.

Joseph Mahoney, retired, March 5, 1976.

Anthony C. Kopco, retired, March 9, 1976.

Catherine S. Janvrin, retired, March 17, 1976.

Dorothy L. Davoli, retired, March 26, 1976.

## Junior Achievers Place 1st

The Bicentennial Firecracker, the Western Electric sponsored Junior Achievement company, recently won first place in a businessman's competition for the North Shore and the Merrimack Valley.

The occasion was a J.A. festival at the Methuen Mall, where 17 companies displayed and sold their wares and were judged according to their products and displays, by the managers of the Mall stores. Marty Fitzgerald, Shop Accounting, the company advisor, also revealed that the fourteen teenagers racked up the highest sales of any of the exhibitors. The products were down-Maine-doorway-draft-stoppers (ask Marty to see one), specialty candies in apothecary jars, and bicentennial commemorative wreaths.

Ivy S. Proctor	89630	18
Jacqueline C. Stanley	89640	23
Ruth O. Lontine	89640	27

### Anniversaries, from Page 3

Name	Dept.	Apr.	Name	Dept.	Apr.
John J. Phaneuf	80420	9	FIFTEEN YEARS		
Hector G. Sevigny	89440	9	Lorraine P. Davies	89680	3
Edward H. Watson	89210	9	Michael Kentopian	89850	3
John H. Wolfenden	21550	9	William A. Paquin	81930	3
Jacqueline A. Cocchiaro	81910	10	Effie S. Quickley	81120	3
John M. Solak	81940	12	John B. Makus	21940	6
Thomas L. Young	89270	12	Leo Desando	89270	9
Helen C. Buzzell	89360	16	Robert L. Vanesse	21980	11
Kenneth E. Folsom	27410	16	David J. Huberdeau	81920	12
Claire C. Giarrusso	27460	16	Barbara H. Brown	89630	14
Henry J. Gorski	81190	16			
Richard M. Hayes	89320	16			
Barbara M. Healey	89850	16			
Walter L. Johnson	27410	16			
Elizabeth Boisse	81950	17			
Stella Kavazis	81190	17			
May R. Koza	81910	17			
Harold A. Lambert	84560	17			
Leo J. Glynn	80420	18			
Nathan N. Ilsley	81910	18			
Richard C. Littlefield	84930	19			
Catherine B. Castricone	80460	23			
George F. Colloten	89440	23			
George H. Garlick	21220	23			
Margaret T. Jowdy	03570	23			
Edward J. Walak	21320	23			
Irene M. Warchol	02320	24			
Irene M. Mailly	51420	25			
Robert H. Carter	21240	30			
Dorothy H. Detora	84960	30			
Arthur E. Fernald	03720	30			
Anthony L. Galvagna	27440	30			
Armand J. Roy	21520	30			
George H. Wallace	80460	30			

## Post 90 Chartered With Pheasant in Attendance

THE STAR OF THE SHOW wasn't Section Chief Don Dow (left), the guest speaker at Explorer Scout Post 90's Charter night. The real star was a young golden pheasant in full multi-colored plumage, which Don used to illustrate his Speakers' Bureau presentation on animal husbandry and exotic birds. The caged bird was hidden during the speech and was brought out in a surprise demonstration.

The explorer post which is sponsored by the Merrimack Valley Works received its Charter in the evening here in the Works from the Boy Scouts of America. Manager Elmer Lenk accepted the Charter.



## Retirements

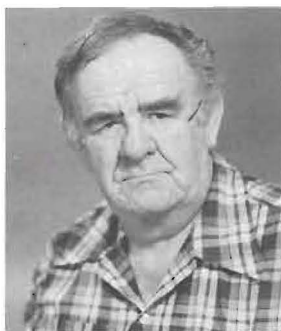


Natalie G. Williams retired on February 16 after over 26 years of company service. Mrs. Williams was a Layout Operator in the Multiple Wound and Spool Coil C56 Department and lives on South Pleasant Street in Bradford.

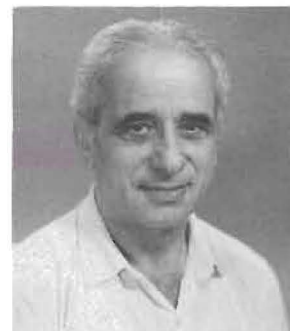


George S. Roman retired on March 12 after 20 years of company service. Mr. Roman, a Senior Engineer in the Industrial Engineering, Advanced Planning and Development Department, lives on Downing Street in Andover.

Joseph S. Dobrowski will retire on April 2 after 20 years of company service. Mr. Dobrowski is a Machinist in the Machine and Plant Maintenance Department, and lives on West Lowell Avenue in Haverhill.



Joseph Girgenti will retire on April 30 after 18 years with Western Electric. Mr. Girgenti lives on Brook Street in Methuen and is a Machine Operator in the A6 Monolithic Crystal Filter Department.



Corinne R. Conte of 30 Julian Street in Haverhill will retire on April 22. Mrs. Conte, a Wireman in the T-1, T1C, M1C Panel and Bay Department, has been with Western Electric for over 20 years.

Nubar Esaian, a Planning Engineer in the Material Handling Design and Engineering, Packaging Merchandise and Receiving Engineering Department, retired on March 22. Mr. Esaian lives on Wayne Street in Haverhill and had worked for the company for over 24 years. (Photo not available)

Wilfred J. Menard of Lowell Street in Methuen retired on March 19. Mr. Menard was a Dispatcher in the Quartz Crystal Growing, Cutting, and Grinding Department, and had worked for the company for over 25 years. (Photo not available)

Mary S. Callahan, a Bench Hand in the Multiple Wound and Spool Coil C56 Department, will retire on April 4. Mrs. Callahan lives on Madison Avenue in Georgetown and has worked for the company for 20 years.



Yolande C. Dube, a Process Checker in the Printed Wiring Board Department, retired on February 23. Mrs. Dube lives on Hearstone Road in Pelham, New Hampshire, and had worked for Western Electric for over 21 years. (Photo not available).

Marie G. Eskel, a Bench Hand in the Multiple Wound and Spool Coil C56 Department, will retire on April 23. Mrs. Eskel lives on Haverhill Street in Lawrence and has been with the company for 21 years. (photo not available)

Eleanor M. Whitmore will retire on April 19 after 24 years of company service. Mrs. Whitmore lives on Main Street in West Hampstead, New Hampshire, and is a Repairman in the Crystal Filter Department. (photo not available)

Evelyn S. Abbott of School Street in Groveland retired on February 27. Mrs. Abbott had been with the company for over 20 years and was a Tester in the Quartz Crystal Unit Assembly Department. (photo not available)

Frederick W. Seifert will retire on April 30 after over 20 years of company service. Mr. Seifert is a Warehouseman in the Packing, Shipping, and Warehousing Department and lives on Saunders Street in Lawrence. (Photo not available)



# Kaleidoscope

## **Cabbage and Lettuce Growers Get Head Start**

You can get a head start on your vegetable gardens by avoiding the frost and growing seedlings indoors now . . . vegetables like peppers, lettuce, broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower, as well as tomatoes, do very well when started indoors and transplanted later in the season . . .

To be successful with indoor growing, keep the seeds moist in the soil and maintain the temperature between 70 degrees and 75 degrees during the day . . . also, don't let the temperature drop below 60 degrees at night . . . if you use sunlight, put your baby vegetables in a window with a southern exposure . . . or, if you're more technologically inclined, use a grow-light.

## **Operator, Get me noplacel**

Ever notice the telephone numbers in a movie or on TV?

The telephone exchange is always the same . . . 555 . . . in addition the area code is 311 . . . The reason is so that people who watch these films and dial the telephone numbers in the shows will get nowhere. No, nowhere is not the name of a small hamlet in the Rocky Mountains . . . the fact is that there is no 311 area code or 555 central office in the entire country . . . so just like the rest of the show, the phone number is only make-believe.

## **Talk of Trends Never ends**

A professional publication, dedicated to clarity in communications, recently published this economic analysis making the rounds . . .

"The U.S. economy is improving. The rate of increase of the decrease in employment has decreased. This, coupled with a decrease in the rate of increase of inventory liquidations suggests an increase in the already evident increase of forward commitments which in turn suggests a general slowdown of the downturn with a slightly perceptible upturn of the downturn now occurring or about to occur. If you are concerned about the low level of the economic indicators today, you should be . . . but remember . . . an upturn only occurs at the bottom of a downturn."

Economics has always been a difficult subject . . . but there's no reason to make it impossible.

## **Vandals have a Blast at Telco Expense**

The Associated Press recently documented what has been known for a long time . . . Ma Bell is a tough old lady . . . the story goes on that vandals blew up a Portland, Oregon, telephone booth as part of a celebration; and it was no small celebration, as the blast hurled pieces of the booth 120 feet . . . but when police arrived at the scene, the phone was still in working order.

## **There will be a Slight delay . . .**

"Never do today what you can put off until tomorrow" is the motto of the Procrastinators Club, which will not celebrate the American Bicentennial until 2076 . . . at least.

The Philadelphia based group will celebrate the nation's centennial on May 1 . . . but in spite of the last minute . . . and sometimes late . . . preparations . . . the club will remain as inactive as possible. How many numbers does the Club have? No one is sure as the membership is notorious for putting off paying its dues.

## **Post Office gives Telephone stamp of Approval**

It's probably too late to get one now, especially if you're a charter member of the Procrastinator's Club, but if you went to the post office on March 10, you could have purchased a limited edition commemorate stamp honoring the invention of the telephone a hundred years ago . . . the stamp reproduces the schematic drawing that Bell filed with his patent application on February 14, 1876.