

# The Valley Voice



Western Electric  
Merrimack Valley Works  
July, 1979

*Special Edition*

## Safety Spring Fling kicks off new safety program

Judging from smiles and positive comments, Works employees enjoyed the Safety Spring Fling held May 21-24 in the North Cafeteria. "This is a good way to focus on safety," said Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic Bill Abraham. "It's a good time, it brings employees together, and it reminds us to avoid accidents."

Inspector Theresa Wilkinson said, "This program is safety with pleasure. It's exciting and it's different from the safety meetings we usually have."

Tony Murabito, Chief of the Safety Engineering Department said people were genuinely pleased that the Works sponsored such a gala event. "Safety was the theme, but it was also a great morale booster," he said. "It provided an opportunity for management and non-management employees to enjoy a special time together in friendship."

All Works employees participated in one of the hour-long gatherings sponsored by the Safety Engineering Organization to emphasize this year's Works safety program entitled "Win with Safety."

The WEValley Guitar Club played music for dancing the polka, the hully gully, and the Greek line dance.

Coffee and dessert kept employees refreshed while they sang the Safety Song with Super Safety Man, Senior Engineer Bob Zingali.

Dressed in hard hat, safety goggles, ear protectors, chest protector, special coveralls, and safety boots, Super Safety Man was the highlight of the event. He helped announce the songs, the dancing, the speakers, and the prize winners.

He and Win Rowell, Section Chief in the Safety and Plant Inspection organization, drew winning numbers to award employees with safety equipment, including safety shoe certificates, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and first aid kits.

Everyone attending received a flashlight with an imprinted reminder of the 1979 theme, "Win With Safety."

Director of Manufacturing Jim Dunn initiated each program. He complimented Works employees for their fine safety record and suggested everyone can do better to make the

Works the safest manufacturing unit in the Company.

Dunn said, "By treating safety in a sensible and human vein, we hope to reinforce a positive attitude regarding safety. It is a serious matter, and it reigns high in our priorities here at the Works. Let's continue to put safety first on and off the job."

Dunn announced the renaming of the Caution Game to the Win With Safety Game. He said that special bonus prizes and more prize money will be added to the game.

He also referred to the posters hanging on the cafeteria walls indicating the Works safety record. One showed that 26 eye injuries in 1978 accounting for ten lost work days were down from the 49 eye injuries in 1977 accounting for 81 lost work days. The other poster showed 1979 lost time cases: January-7, February-5, March-7, April-2 and May-1.

What the event's effect on the Works safety record will be is yet unknown.

In these past weeks the Works safety record continues to show a reduction in lost time accident cases.

"Our employees are certainly showing an increased personal interest in safety on and off the job," says Murabito.

He added that should the Works improve its safety record and become one of the top Western Electric locations for safety, "we would likely bring the employees together again in appreciation of a job well done and to initiate a new safety program."

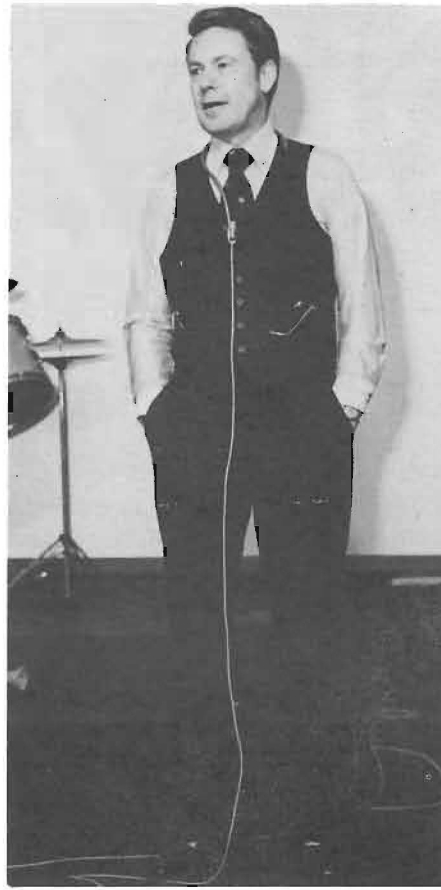
"For a future event," he said, "I see a 1980 extravaganza." ■



Clown Rita Thibeault contributed to the Spring Fling's light atmosphere with her antics.



Who's leading? Carol DeSell (right) dances with an employee from the audience.



Director of Manufacturing Jim Dunn: Safety reigns high in our priorities.

Singing, dancing, balloons, prizes, su  
dessert helped prom



Following Clown Faith Janvrin, a line of employees dan



Members of the Merrimack Valley Works Guitar Band, Ellie Rogers (left) and Carol DeSell sing "Walk Right In" to welcome employees entering the Spring Fling.



Win Rowell looks on as a safety equipment prize winner reads the number he chose for another prize winner.



Clown Rita Thibeault escorts Engineer Ed Biron to the stage to receive the smoke detector he won.

g, clowns, and  
rprises, coffee and  
note Works safety



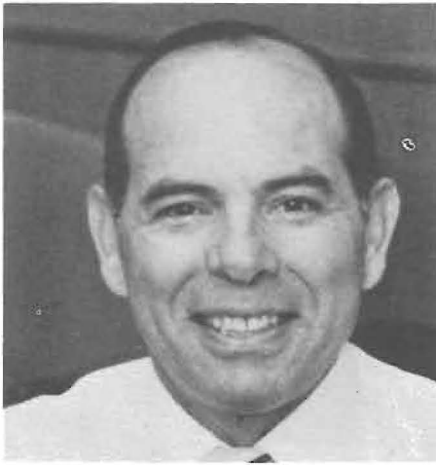
ce the hully gully.



Dancing the polka with Clown Rita Thibeault is Manager Henry Craddock.



Win Rowell shows the smoke detector he is about to give away to a lucky member of the audience.



Senior Engineer Bob Zingali



Super Safety Man Bob Zingali: a bit of a ham.

## *Super Safety Man looks back — and laughs!*

By Bob Zingali

Being “Super Safety Man” was a fun thing for me. At first I had certain reservations about doing it: What would my friends say? How would my boss react?

My friends: “This is not the stuffed shirt Bob Zingali we know.” My boss: “Never thought he had it in him, he’s in the wrong business—I think I’ll transfer him.”

But looking back, the genuine smiles on the faces of fellow workers in the crowd, the hearty laughter from voices that don’t laugh half as much as they should, or the kind and sincere comments after every performance made it all worthwhile. I may be a bit of a ham, but if I can cause people to smile a little and laugh a little, I feel I’ve made a small contribution to making this world a happier place to live in.

Some of the smiles and laughter didn’t even take place in the cafeteria. Just before one of the shows, as I was going from my dressing room to the cafeteria for my entrance, I came face to face with two women coming around the corner. They took one look at me (and my get up). One girl let out a yelp, the other clutched her friend, and they both turned tail and headed for the hills! They probably thought we had been invaded from outer space!

Back inside the cafeteria the band took my zingers, as long as they could. For 14 shows I joked about the quality of their music. They had the last laugh during the final show. Just as I was ready to roll the audience in the aisles with another one of my all time rib-ticklers, the drummer, Charles Grossman, let me have it with a good dousing of water!

The crowd loved it — even more than any of my jokes! But it made them laugh and that’s what I live on!

Speaking about living, after about the tenth show, I dragged myself home for some much needed rest before the next morning’s performance.

My wife met me at the door, took one look at me and said: “How do you like show business now, honey?” Obviously bushed, I answered, “Well, that’s show biz!”

The comments from the different audiences were also very revealing:

“I can’t believe it, I’ve been here 20 years and never had anything like this.”

“All this fun and they’re paying us too?”

“I must be in the wrong place, this can’t be Western Electric.”

“Supervisors really *can* actually smile and dance!”

“I loved the show and the coffee and the pastry and the flashlights and the prizes — when are we going to do it again?”

When we’ll do it again I don’t know, but I do know that I had a ball doing all these shows and I am very grateful for having been given an opportunity to play a small part in making my co-workers, and all my new friends, smile and laugh and sing. It was just great!

Now that I’m back to my less hectic job, pushing a pencil, I miss the spotlights and the curtain calls. Most of all, I miss the roar of the greasepaint and the smell of the crowd!

Keep smiling safely! ■

### **The Valley Voice**

Published for the employees of  
Western Electric's  
Merrimack Valley Works  
North Andover, MA 01845  
617/881-2307



Nancy Rigazio  
Editor

Correspondents:

Lena Bistany, X3071  
Mike Deloge, X3763

Andy Clancy, X3255  
Bob Zingali, X3629  
Bob Grieco, X3923