

# The Valley Voice



Western Electric  
Merrimack Valley Works  
December 1981





## Holiday Greetings from the General Manager

As this holiday season approaches with its spiritual significance and cheerful atmosphere, I would like to extend my wishes for safe and healthy holidays as well as a healthful New Year for you and your families.

It is also appropriate at this time to reflect on this past year which was a particularly challenging one at the Merrimack Valley Works. Your dedication in meeting these challenges was recognized and appreciated.

May this holiday season be a most memorable and meaningful one for each one of you.

**Wayne L. Hunt**  
General Manager

# What do you make at Western Electric?

How do you answer when someone, such as a relative, asks what you do at the Merrimack Valley Works? What do you make?

It's a very difficult question. A problem with a highly technical company such as ours is that it is so technical.

Don't feel that you're stupid if you don't know the answers. Very few do. Sure, it's easy enough to say you work with Widgets 32-A4 or solder this to that. But what does the widget do? Why do we make them?

Even an engineer with a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology may have problems answering his or her spouse's question at the dinner table, "What did you do today?"

Well, the engineer might say, I worked on an innovative system that synchronizes cross connect systems with remote access with interface capabilities to digital and analogue systems...

Huh?

Well, ah, when the SMAS 2W, 4W or 6W access points are cross-connected at the IDF only for...

Pass the peas.

We work on very complicated projects that make our country's communication system the envy of the world. At the Merrimack Valley Works we literally make it the best. Our products are fascinating as well as highly technical.

I believe a purpose of this publication is to tell what we make and why we

make it. So when you see a technical article, don't ignore it. I'll do my part by reducing the trade jargon.

The next time you're asked what we do here you'll have an inkling.

It's our business.

**Tim Donovan**

## Company pays \$300,000 for tuition

For the academic year ending August 31, 1981, some 461 Merrimack Valley Works employees participated in the tuition Refund Plan. Total tuition and fees reimbursed to these employees during that period was more than \$300,000.

A number of employees completed their studies towards a degree or certificate. Five employees received master's degrees; four received bachelor's degrees; six received associate degrees, and three acquired certificates in technical training.

Since a new school term will be starting in January, the Tuition Refund Committee would like to remind employees who are planning to participate in the plan that applications must be received by the Committee

within 30 days of the **start** of each term.

All regular full-time employees are eligible.


Refunds are made to employees for up to nine credits each term after the committee determines that:

1. Institution selected is unconditionally accredited.
2. Courses and fees are eligible.
3. Employee has paid the school for tuition and fees.

Each applicant is required to sign a repayment agreement when the application is submitted. In signing this agreement, the employee acknowledges that if he or she does not achieve at least a "C" grade in each course, the full amount refunded under the plan must be repaid to the Company.

**The Valley Voice**

Published for the employees of  
Western Electric's  
Merrimack Valley Works  
North Andover, MA 01845  
617/681-2307



**Tim Donovan**  
Editor

**Cover**

*Our cover this issue was an original sketch by Denise Stewart who captured the spirit of the holidays for the Valley Voice.*

*On behalf of the correspondents, the editor would like to extend our wish for happy holidays. We hope Santa won't be too busy with a Rubik's cube to visit your homes.*



# Pioneers make holidays merrier

## *...making presents*



*Simulating candles made from soap and face cloths are (l. to r.) Gen Kus, Martha Low, Angie Cavanaugh, and Ronda Oulette. These are just some of the Pioneers and Future Pioneers who are making gifts to be distributed at nursing homes before the holidays.*



*Each year at this time, the Pioneers give hundreds of knitted and crocheted items to nursing home patients. Not all those who make the gifts are Pioneers. In fact, some are made by people who are not employed at the Works but who have learned of our holiday projects. Knitting and crocheting are (l. to r.) Ruth Rogers, Esther Patridge, Loretta Marcello, Ethel Sirois, Ruth Bouchard and Gini Medici.*

## *...sending cards*



*Some 40 Pioneers and Future Pioneers send cards to more than 300 nursing home patients. Each member of the card program writes to individual patients in 23 homes — not just at Christmas but other holidays as well. Some members of the card program are (l. to r.) Jayne Kemp, Nancy Woundy, Bernadette DeAdler, Faith Janvrin, Kay Sarcione and Janice Clevesy.*

## *...wrapping gifts*



*Besides making presents, the Pioneers also donate items such as after-shave for male patients and powder for the women. And, of course, each gift from the Pioneers is wrapped. Wrapping gifts are (l. to r.) Rita Braley, Theresa Palmeter and Janis Barry.*

## Chapter president: Our story will be told

Since assuming office I think the comment I've heard most often has been, "I didn't realize the Pioneers were so involved. Why don't you do something to tell their story."

Well, we're trying. Newspaper coverage, Valley Voice articles and all other available means, will be used to get the word out.

I thought it might be helpful to list some of the activities our Pioneers are involved with. There are three reasons for doing this — (1) to inform you (2) to solicit help (3) to ask you to pass on the Pioneer story to others.

This is not a complete list but rather a cross section of our activities.

Chapter 78 Telephone Pioneers - Active and Life Members

- provide over 200 Xmas presents to residents of nursing homes each year, including hundreds of knitted goods.
- provide labor (painting, nail banging, etc.) as required.
- cosponsor Handicapped Special Field Games.
- sponsor a Santa's weekend at Cape Cod for Cerebral Palsy children
- provide equipment and a variety of assistance to handicapped schools
- manufacture and distribute Audio Ball; over 6,000 thus far,
- donated handicapped bicycles, talking bears, Audio Balls, audio-visual equipment, and various other handicapped aids to those in need
- developed a variety of handicapped aids for Cerebral Palsy clinic
- provide entertainment at nursing homes monthly
- send birthday and holiday cards to residents of nursing homes
- provide daily assistants to Lawrence General and Hale Hospitals
- sponsor deep sea fishing trips for handicapped
- send cards and gifts to Pioneers on disability
- provide baby clothing to hospitals to be used for needy newborn babies

If all 5,000 MVW Pioneers and all 5,000 MVW non-Pioneer employees supported activities, in some little way, we could triple our activity list. We have the potential to be the biggest totally volunteer community service organization in the state.

Will you help?

**John Connors**

A special thanks for the money and clothing received to support the baby clothing project — we're on our way.

## *Alas, Someone Else is gone but not forgotten*

The club was saddened to learn of the death this week of one of the club's most valuable members, "Someone Else."

Someone's passing created a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. "Else" had been with the club since its beginning. "Someone" did far more than a normal person's share of the work.

Whenever there was a job to be done, a class to teach, a committee to be chaired, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list — "Let Someone Else do it."

It is common knowledge that "Someone Else" was among the largest contributors of his time to the club; whenever there was a need for volunteers, everyone just assumed that "Someone Else" would volunteer.

"Someone Else" was a wonderful person — sometimes superhuman — but a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everyone expected too much of "Someone Else."

Now "Someone Else" is gone! We wonder what we are going to do. "Someone Else" left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to do the things "Someone Else" did? When you are asked, remember we can't depend on "Someone Else."



'Tis the season

*Rehearsing for the Christmas concert is the WEValley chorus. The group serenaded employees during their lunch breaks on December 16 and 17. The next concert will be in the Spring.*



## *Pioneer of the Month volunteers at hospital*

*by Pauline Sullivan*

After spending several weeks in the hospital, Ray DeJonker recognized the need for volunteers to indirectly aid the nurses and other staff. Ray joined the volunteer program in 1974 at Lawrence General Hospital and has become one of the coordinators.

Ray is one of six captains who organize the volunteer corps. Besides coordinating, however, he substitutes regularly when others cannot work. An active volunteer only has to donate about one and one-half hours each month. New volunteers are always welcome, Ray said.

The work is mundane but greatly appreciated. Volunteers perform such tasks as delivering mail and flowers to patients. Their work allows the medical staff to concentrate on treating patients.

At the Merrimack Valley Works, Ray is a complaint investigator in quality control. His wife, Toula, is also employed at the Works.

Despite the time spent in volunteer work, he still finds time for his hobbies which include swimming, canoeing, fishing and surf casting. Ray admits he and his wife find it hard to pass a yard sale.



Besides yard sales, Ray also finds it hard to pass a worthy cause.

## **Clothing newborns is first project in Year of the Partner**

The current year has been designated the Year of the Partner by Bob Kleinert, Pioneer president.

In that spirit two local Partners have undertaken a project to provide baby clothing for newborn infants who otherwise would not have the bare necessities to leave the hospital.

Credit for bringing this need to the attention of our Pioneer Chapter goes to Partner Connie Hosford. Her persistence in getting the project under way paid off.

In the fall of this year Connie teamed up with Partner Connie Connors and the two met with Executive Board member Bob Gagnon. A decision at that meeting was made to ask the area senior citizens to help them out. What better combination — Pioneers helping senior citizens to help newborns.

The need is very real. People simply do not expect new mothers to be so poverty stricken. After all, there is sometimes welfare although some choose not to apply. And if they do apply, mothers wait about three weeks to receive money to buy layettes.

The plight of the unwed mother is even more pathetic. The mother is often disowned by her family and is sometimes no longer on speaking terms with friends.

The Pioneer Partners discovered that it is not uncommon for newborns to leave the hospital with only a diaper or perhaps one nightgown. The Pioneers aim to change this situation.

Just as important as the clothing will be the implied message that someone cares. Enclosed with each kit will be a card congratulating the mother. Together, the gift and the card, will offer encouragement.

The layettes will include three undershirts, nightgowns, and receiving blankets, a sweater set and a heavier blanket.

So far, the Partners report reception to the project has been heartening, especially from senior citizens. Contact with the Haverhill Citizens' Center and the North Andover Citizens' Center has already produced great results. The

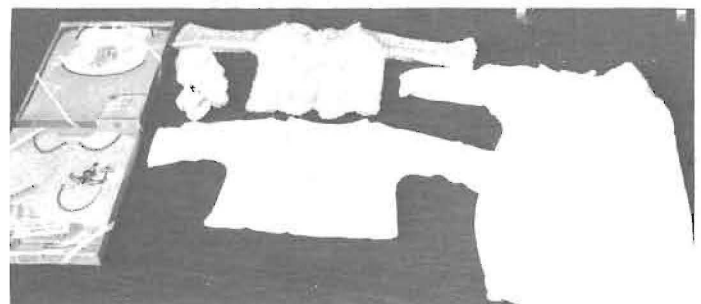
senior citizens are truly excited about being needed and helping someone else.

The Pioneer Partners will first distribute to three area hospitals — the Hale, the Lawrence General and the Bon Secours. Five more hospitals in the Merrimack Valley will be added as the clothing inventory increases.

Material and yarn will be supplied by Pioneer Chapter 78. Anyone interested in supporting the project either by knitting, sewing, cutting or donating money is asked to contact the Pioneer office. You may call Connie Hosford's husband, Pioneer Administrator Dick Hosford, or Jan Francescone on x2311 and they will sign you up.

"We would like this project to involve the community and let our neighbors know that we care," Connie Hosford said.

*The first project of the Pioneer Partners will be making layettes for needy newborns. The layettes will include T-shirts, nighties, blankets and booties. Several donations have already been made.*



## Works receives national award for microelectronics



General Manager Wayne Hunt (left) receives award from Joseph Marcotte who accepted the plaque on behalf of the Merrimack Valley Works at the annual convention of the International Society of Hybrid Microelectronics in Chicago, Ill. The National Corporate Recognition Award was presented "in recognition of (our) joint pioneering efforts with Bell Labs in developing and adapting high volume manufacture, thin and thick hybrid integrated circuits for the telecommunications industry." Annual production of these circuits at MVW now exceed 16 million.

## Suggestions

Some 33 suggestions totalling \$4,355 were awarded to employees in October.

Joseph G. Curtis	\$1,885.00
Margaret T. Jowdy	325.00
Carol F. Goudreau	325.00
Hubert J. Deveau, Jr.	162.50
Robert L. Lavoie	162.50
Evelyn G. Fraize	135.00
Blanch G. Bonneau	135.00
Richard L. Farr	100.00
Richard W. Merrill	75.00
Gerard J. Mailloux	75.00
George C. Fitton	75.00
Joseph J. Faro	50.00
Joe M. Apitz	50.00
Ann L. Lantry	50.00
Marjorie P. Linnehan	50.00
Steven A. Chooljian	50.00
Francis X. Dugan	50.00
Robert J. Hanagan	50.00
Terry E. Venne	50.00
Richard F. Jackman	50.00
Bradley L. Mayer	50.00
Howard F. Channell	50.00
Jeanne C. Ninteau	50.00
Jane Z. Robershefski	50.00
Edward Mannion	50.00
Sandra O. Dennis	25.00
Richard E. Dickey	25.00
Paul Giroux	25.00
Dennis M. Robichaud	25.00
Mervin A. Locke	25.00
Michael A. Jacques	25.00
Carol F. Goudreau	25.00
Leon J. Gosselin	25.00

Some 37 employees received 41 awards for their ideas in November. The total amount awarded last month was \$6,325.

Scott D. Arena	\$1,545.00	Robert R. Desjardins	25.00
Dave R. Ketchen	735.00	Michael A. Deloge	25.00
Newell J. Hayes	332.50	Rose S. Lucchesi	25.00
Phillip A. DeMarco	332.50	Mark S. Jillson	25.00
Joseph A. Hadley	320.00	Richard J. Winmill	25.00
Phyllis L. Desmet	310.00	Arthur F. Smith	25.00
Marlene G. Hannagan	306.67	Bruce T. Baril	25.00
Leo J. Glynn	306.67	Edith M. Doucette	25.00
Joseph E. Comeau	306.67		
Kevin M. Higginbottom	275.00		
Stephen R. Bennett	265.00		
Richard P. Esposito	100.00		
Edith M. Doucette	100.00		
Robert M. Belmont	75.00		
Girard J. Mailloux	75.00		
Joseph C. Kozora	50.00		
Arthur F. Smith	50.00		
Rose P. Craine	50.00		
Joseph F. Casey	50.00		
George C. Fitton	50.00		
Michael P. Costas	50.00		
Richard B. Carty	50.00		
Paul E. Magnan	50.00		
Phyllis L. Desmet	40.00		
Phyllis R. Lowther	25.00		
Judith B. Gagnon	25.00		
Richard G. Kane	25.00		
Marguerite G. LaCroix	25.00		
Ann M. Ray	25.00		
Jeanne R. Mattinson	25.00		
Dave R. Ketchen	25.00		
Phyllis R. Lowther	25.00		
David N. Blumberg, Jr.	25.00		

## In Memoriam

June M. Lamontagne, production service clerk, October 25

Michael A. Rurak, retired machine and equipment mechanic, November 3

Garabed Papazian, stock selector, November 6

John M. Seremet, retired assembler, November 15

Evelyn R. Sawyer, retired tester, November 17

Andrew S. Dozibrin, retired millwright, November 26



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## Suggestions continued

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### \$995 award split among three employees



### *Suggestions received on same day*

*Occasionally employees share their ideas for improvements and submit joint applications for suggestion awards. But sometimes several employees individually submit the same suggestion. In that case, the employee who submits the suggestion first receives the award. In this case, however, three employees submitted the same suggestion on the same day to eliminate leads on certain cables. They shared the \$995 award. Clockwise from left, Leo J. Glynn (l) discusses his award with department chief Dave Penkus; Marlene G. Hannagan receives her share of the award from manager Ron Lindquist; and Joseph Comeau accepts his check from assistant manager John C. Souter.*



### *...and a double split*

*Newell J. Hayes (l) and Philip DeMarco (r) accept their joint suggestion award of \$665 from manager Zach Fluhr. Newell and Philip suggested a method of repairing defective amplifiers in a joint suggestion application.*

# Suggestions continued

## Suggestion to change assembly earns \$1,545



Scott D. Arena suggested that the assembly procedure of the HL-195 circuit pack be modified by eliminating two malco terminals and machine inserting the test directly on the board. Arena received \$1,545 for his idea. Manager Ron Lindquist presented the award.



## General Manager presents employee with \$1,885 award

Joseph Curtis (I) accepts his suggestion award for \$1,885 from General Manager Wayne Hunt. Joseph had received a junk ticket which contained several items to be scrapped. One of the items, a chemical called Potassium Hydroxide, had inadvertently been placed on the junk ticket. Joseph not only noticed the error but also located the department where the chemical could be used. His suggestion called attention to a breakdown in our normal routine of verifying junk tickets. His award was based on the amount of the chemical which would have been junked.

## Lot increase merits \$735 award

Dave Ketchen accepts his suggestion award for \$735 from assistant manager Tony Lazzaretti. Ketchen proposed increasing lot sizes of various codes of equalizers in shop C69 (filters, equalizers and network shop). It was determined that an increase in lot sizes from 50 to 100 was feasible for three codes. Equalizers basically boost current which has weakened between two points.

### Retirements

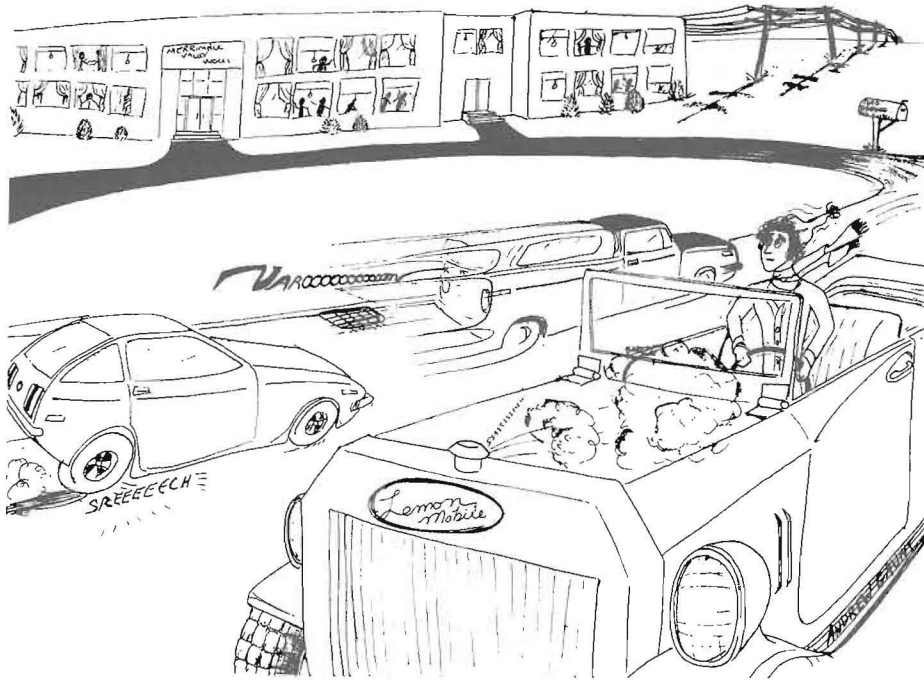
Clyde E. Frost	October 30	20 years
Henry A. Hanna	October 30	26 years
George W. Johnston	October 30	39 years
Anita F. Ouellette	October 30	21 years
Bernice M. Ulbin	November 13	21 years
Robert W. Davis	November 19	15 years
Dorothy D. McCarthy	November 27	20 years
Sophie B. Callan	November 30	20 years
Mary B. Shamberger	December 1	30 years
Stella Y. Wagner	December 12	21 years

The following are the October results for the Bell System Savings Plan as released by the trustees.

	Unit Value	Units Credited Per \$
AT&T	2.6909	.3716
Government Obligations	2.4691	.4049
Equity Portfolio	1.8501	.5405
Guaranteed Interest	1.2049	.8298
SSP		
AT&T	1.2567	.7957
Guaranteed Interest	1.2986	.7700

Results for November are expected the last week of December.





## Bus ridership reaches 'catch 22' after first year of MVW service

Increased ridership on the buses to and from the Works has caused a type of "catch 22."

Fewer than a dozen people were riding the buses when the service started one year ago. There is now "standing-room-only," according to William "Bud" Hart, Jr. of the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority.

"We may be in the position to put on another bus but we can't afford the luxury of carrying just three to four people. We have to go with some standing," Hart said.

Hart acknowledged that standing may discourage the increased ridership needed to justify more buses. "It's a catch-22 situation," he said.

The number of riders will determine if more buses will be added at a time when financial constraints forced cancellation last month of four buses to and from the Works at less popular times.

These financial constraints caused by Proposition 2½ will also reduce the chances of testing a route to and from Lawrence. "Some time in the future it may be possible," Hart said.

It was such a test which eventually proved successful with the Haverhill routes. By February ridership had increased by 51 percent. Ridership continued to grow through the spring and by June about 45 people were taking the bus.

Most of the riders, however, were on the routes arriving here at 6:15 a.m. and 7:20 a.m. and leaving at 3:15 p.m. and 4:20 p.m. Cancelled were buses arriving at 6:40 a.m. and 7:50 a.m. and leaving at 3:50 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

City officials in Haverhill encouraged the start of buses to and from the Works, Hart said. There are many reasons, however, for its success.

The situation at the Works, he said, is "ideal" for mass transit: Many people want to go to the same place at the same time.

For the riders, a bus ride is economical — only 50 cents.

"A reliable continuous bus service can even allow some to do away with a second car," Hart said.

Another benefit is peace of mind. According to Hart, several employees have commented they would rather take the bus than drive in the hectic traffic.

## Western Electric Develops Magnetic Bubble Memory Unit

Just when computers have become so much a part of our lives, a new generation of computers is emerging from the laboratory that may make them even more useful.

Instead of electricity, the heart of this advance is another fundamental force of nature — magnetism. Using magnetism in the form of microscopic "bubbles" allows computers to store unbelievable amounts of information and become even smaller and smarter than their current counterparts.

Magnetic bubble technology was invented by Bell Laboratories in 1968 and seen immediately as having great potential. Since then Western Electric, the manufacturing and supply unit of the Bell System, has been working on practical applications.

The bubbles got their name because they look exactly like tiny spheres of air floating in water when viewed through a powerful microscope. Actually they are not physical entities at all, but rather tiny mobile regions of magnetism different from the magnetism of the surrounding material. They are incredibly small — one hundred equal the thickness of a human hair.

What has hindered progress until now is that these bubbles could not be controlled properly because they were not always the same size. Exhaustive research by Western engineers has produced an integrated circuit that compensates for the size difference so the bubbles can be moved in a uniform manner and information retrieved in milliseconds.

One of the first products using this technology is a Magnetic Bubble Memory (MBM) unit that the U.S. Air Force will use to run automatic tests on parts of our nation's defense system. Western has also developed an automatic announcement system that Bell companies use to announce telephone number changes.

"The MBM unit is much more rugged than computer disks," said Frank Herring of Western's product planning and analysis group in Greensboro, N.C. "It is solid-state and non-volatile, which means that it retains its memory even when the power goes off.

"Unlike most electronic computers that are programmed to read only their memories, the MBM unit can read, erase and let you insert information at any time."

# New radio systems are smaller, more efficient

by *Charlie Cote*

Merrimack Valley Works has been shipping new Microwave Radio Systems known to us as DR 6-30, DR 11-40, and FR 6-30. These new Radio systems are being manufactured in Bud Sayers' Department 85510.

The DR 6-30 and DR 11-40 Digital Microwave Radio Systems provide low cost and superior transmission in certain bands called 6 and 11 GHz. Let us examine how high a frequency 6 Gigahertz actually is. The normal human hearing response is somewhere between 20 hertz (one hertz is one cycle per second) and 20,000 hertz. Six Gigahertz is actually six thousand-million hertz.

DR 6-30, and DR 11-40 are short haul Digital Transmission Systems capable of carrying 1,344 message circuits over each Radio Channel. These new DR radio systems are compact and require very little maintenance. The DR 6-30, DR 11-40, and the FR 6-30 Radio Bays are housed in seven feet high by ten and one-quarter inch bays. The Digital Terminal Bays, although somewhat wider, include integrated protection switching, order wire, and multiplexing systems.

The FR-30 Radio Microwave System is a long haul, analog system capable of carrying 2400 voice circuits over a single Radio channel at a very low cost and with very low power consumption. This system features modular construction which simplifies additions and maintenance.

These new radio systems make use of the latest proven new technology, gallium arsenide field effect transistors, microwave integrated circuits, and microprocessors.

"This is a new radio system and requires the full cooperation of the manufacturing engineers, Bell Labs engineers, and all shop personnel to resolve problems as they arise," said Bud Sayers, department chief of the microwave manufacturing shop. Since January of 1981 the shop output has grown by a factor of four. By the end of next year, the shop output is expected to double.

Joe Lyons' department 21210 provides the necessary Product and Test Engineering support for the shop. Joe said, "We anticipate a great deal of Digital Radio Business in the future and therefore are concentrating on establishing a strong manufacturing capability for these systems here at Merrimack Valley."

Bob Busick's Engineering department, 21240, provides the technical support required for the installation and testing of this equipment at the job site. Bernie Sullivan is a Senior Engineer in the installation department.

Bernie said, "DR radio systems are being turned up right now between Norfolk and Hampton, Virginia, Parley Summit and Park City, Utah, and also in the state of Colorado to satisfy the Operating Telephone Companies' customer demands.

## *Some have an appetite for chess at lunch*

by *Coleen Collins*

"Chess is not an intimidating game. We just have good time during our lunch," said Bob Murphy, a Western engineer who is president of the Bell Labs Chess Club.

Many employees spend their lunch breaks playing cards or reading. Others walk around the building. Some even eat lunch. Members of the chess club relax by hunkering over chess boards and diverting their minds from work.

The club is now in the midst of a tournament with prizes and trophies sponsored by Bell Labs. Yet the group is not highly competitive. In fact, even those with no knowledge of the game are encouraged to join.

Bob said members are eager to teach the game to beginners and to coach novices. In existence since 1970, the club now has 35 members with about a dozen active members. "No experience is necessary to belong — only the desire to have fun," he said.

Choice of partners for the games is based on ability. The club does, however, adhere to the rules and

regulations of the U.S. Chess Federation.

The Open Chess Championship will conclude this month. The tournament began in September and was supposed to end within eight weeks under the assumption that all participants would

play one game each week. But no pressure is on members who do decide to eat lunch away from the chess table.

If you are interested in learning, improving, playing or just watching, call Bob on extension 3148 or Bill McNally on 3018.



*Wayne Curtis (left) challenges Dick Quimby, defending champion, in one of the final games of the Bell Labs Chess Tournament. In the foreground are Carmy Connerton and Bob Murphy, chess club president. Western employees are welcome in the chess club which is sponsored by Bell Labs.*



# Couple wed in style of 18th century

The bride wore an Indian dress made from nine doe hides and embroidered with 3,500 beads. Leggings protected her from snake bite as she made her way down a grassy aisle in moccasins.

The wedding gown was unusual but this was not an ordinary wedding. The ceremony was an authentic reproduction of an 18th century wedding as well as a genuine marriage for Marla (Bohne) Sorenson, a bench hand in Dept. 81741, Shawsheen.

The time was the summer of 1759 in Fort Number Four in the western frontier of New Hampshire when the British were fending off French intrusion. The groom, Neil Sorenson, was an officer of Roger's Rangers assigned to spy on the French. Marla was an Indian from the New Hampshire region.

"It was authentic to the last detail," Neil said.

The details included the ceremony performed by a minister who drove seven hours to officiate and to bring a 200-year-old silver goblet for the toast. Authenticity required both research and replicas such as Marla's earrings.

"Practically everything in the wedding was made by Neil or me," Marla said. She even made the silver and brass wedding bands. Marla also finger-wove, without a loom, her belt.

Each of the 3,500 beads were hand-sewn onto the gown and moccasins. The Sorenson's were able to obtain the beads because of a mistake made nearly 200 years ago.

For some unknown reason, Neil said, the beads which were commonly used for trade with the Indians were placed in a warehouse in Italy and never claimed.

About 1,000 guests attended the wedding on July 26 near Claremont in a replica of the original fort.

The Sorensons chose this type of wedding because of the nature of their hobby. "It's one of the few hobbies that can involve the whole family. It also gives you the chance to divest yourself of the 20th century," said Neil who has been in 18th century re-enactments for seven years.

Marla joined the activities two years ago. "Most of our friends are involved in it." So it was appropriate that the couple be wed in this fashion.

Visitors from six different states brought tiers of the wedding cake which was cut with a sword in the military custom of the era.

After the wedding, both Neil and Marla survived the re-enactment of the battle which was won by the British. The couple honeymooned in October in Yorktown, Virginia — site of the last major battle of the American Revolution. Some 50,000 people and international dignitaries attended the re-enactment.

Everyone knows the result of that battle.



*Marla and Neil Sorenson pass under raised swords at honor guard reception following their wedding. Everything down to the last bead on Marla's gown was authentic.*



*Charlie Turner received Silver Beaver award*

## *Engineer honored for service to youth*

Charles W. Turner, senior engineer in dept. 29430 was recently presented the Silver Beaver award at the annual recognition dinner of the Lone Tree Council, Boy Scouts of America.

The Silver Beaver is the highest award a scout council can bestow to a volunteer for distinguished service to youth.

Charlie served several years as cubmaster and nine years as scoutmaster for scouting units sponsored by Sacred Hearts Parish, Bradford.

He also conducted several camps and the Scout-O-Rama in 1979. Charlie is now serving as Whittier District vice chairman in the Lone Tree Council.

Some 15 employees at the Works and Bell Labs have been honored with the award since 1949 in Lone Tree Council (Haverhill and surrounding communities) and the North Essex Council (Lawrence and surrounding communities).

# What will you buy for that special someone?

by Claire Foucher

Buying gifts reflects the type of imagination you have.

Is there a difference in the types of gifts a married person and a single person would buy? After asking the following question at Merrimack Valley the other day, we think you'll agree there is a difference.

Can you tell which ones were married and which were single?

Question: "Assuming that money is no object, what would you buy your loved one for Christmas?"

1. An Alpha Romeo
2. Vacation cabin on the lake
3. Two horses
4. Trip to the Bahamas
5. A farm...then steal her shoes
6. A house with a heated indoor pool
7. London for dinner
8. Vacation house in the Carribean
9. Leather underwear
10. Two Cars — the biggest one and the smallest one
11. House at the ocean
12. Seiko watch
13. Two tickets to Paradise
14. Two tickets on Pan Am's Flight No. 2 Around the World
15. An Arab oil well
16. Rent Disneyworld for a month
17. The Hope Diamond
18. Send her away for one year
19. A winery in Paris
20. Reserved seats on the next Space Shuttle flight
21. Hugh Hefner's Playboy mansion furnished with animate and inanimate objects
22. A stereo tape deck
23. A complete wardrobe from Frederick's of Hollywood



"I don't care who he is. He's not going to cut in line." Peter Nizza

24. Food processor
25. The Bell System (so I could "reach out and touch someone")

The answers clearly revealed that there is more romance and imagination in the hearts of the single people than in the married people. Escape trips and vacation houses led the way for married folk while single people leaned more towards the frivolous.

Last year, the Neiman-Marcus catalog had a special Christmas offering (for those on your list who have everything) — a pair of matching pink ostriches — his and hers... We think our people at Merrimack Valley made better use of their imagination.

Incidentally, if you want to check your score on married vs. single, all odd numbers were single and all even numbers were married.



## Next Issue...

This issue we present a three-generation Western family — a 26-year employee with her daughter and granddaughter. The family is Mary Blinn (left), Evelyn Royer and Karen Royer. However, we think there may be a few more three-generation families at the Merrimack Valley Works. In fact, we may even have a four-generation family. (It's possible but unlikely.) If you know of other three-generation employees, please call the Valley Voice at 2307.