

**Northwestern**  
SINCE 1879  
**Sterling**

January, 1987

# ***The Lightning Bolt***

NORTHWESTERN STEEL AND WIRE COMPANY · STERLING, ILLINOIS 61081

## **Cooperation, Teamwork Get 24-Inch Mill Rolling**

Coordination with suppliers and outside contractors and cooperation of Northwestern's various departments got the 24-Inch Mill rolling again in just 20 days, after an 80-foot span crane girder collapsed and came to rest on the roll line, threatening to shut down the mill for a month or longer.

"This was just a monumental effort by a lot of people, not only the mill supervisors and hourly employees, but outside contractors and suppliers," **Don Morgan**, Project Engineer said.

The crane was carrying a 60-ton mill stand when a support girder on the south rail fatigued and slowly collapsed, laying the crane to rest on the roll line.

"Our first and most difficult task was to get the crane back up," Morgan said. Heavy Lift Systems from the Quad Cities came in with an 800 ton capacity 4-point lift system.

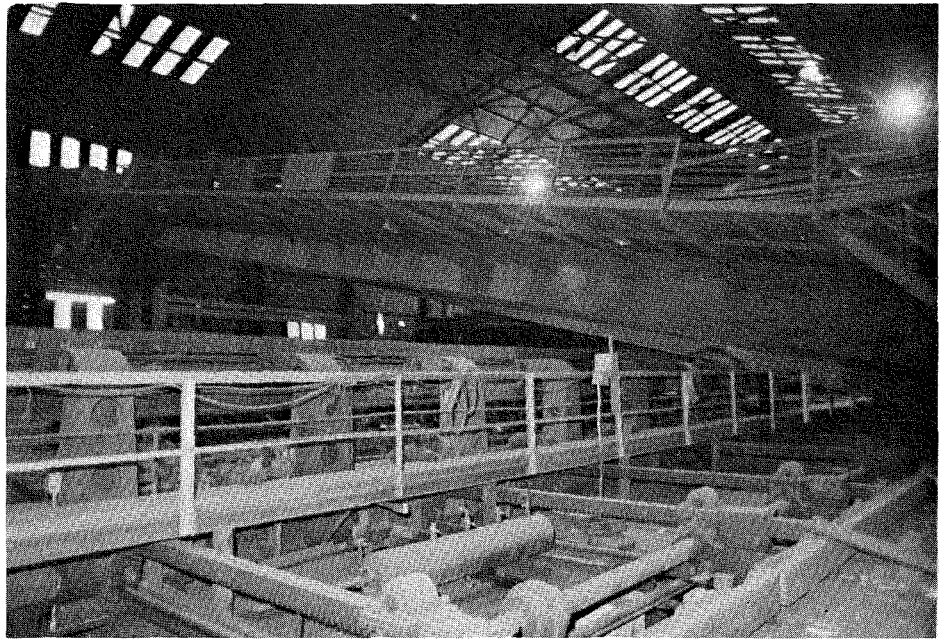
Austin Engineering from Chicago made special arrangements to have replacement girders and columns fabricated by a very good customer of Northwestern's, Liebovich Bros. of Rockford, and they were amazingly completed in just five days.

Bob Prophet Construction immediately began excavation for three new concrete foundation piers and Northwestern's carpenters did the actual forming and pouring.

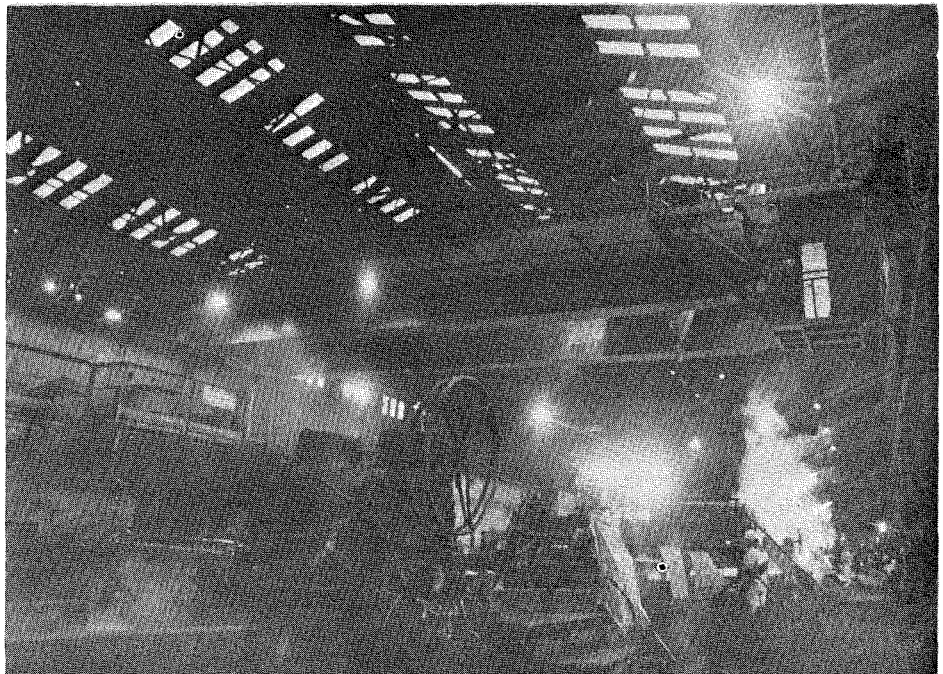
"Work on the mill proceeded around the clock even through Christmas and New Year's. There were a lot of dedicated people who got that mill rolling again in an incredibly short amount of time," Morgan said.

Alliance Corporation, manufacturer of the crane, was called in to supervise the crane's repair and to x-ray the welding on the crane girder.

Minor work on the mill building continues as welds are checked and bolts are replaced. Wiss, Janney, Elstner & Associates, Inc., a consulting and research engineering firm is inspecting the 24-Inch Mill buildings and Conditioning Yard runways to determine if we have any additional building problems.



**When disaster struck the 24-Inch Mill in the form of a fallen 80-ft. crane, Northwestern personnel and outside contractors worked around the clock to get the crane and its track repaired and operational.**



**Today, the crane, and the rest of the 24-Inch Mill is once again operational. It took just 20 days to get the mill rolling, thanks to Northwestern personnel and outside contractors who rushed to repair the crane and its track.**

## Cooperative Efforts Benefit West Michigan Nail & Northwestern Steel

As a distributor of nails to the Eastern portions of the Midwest it would be easy to mistake West Michigan Nail Company and its National brand of nails as a competitor of Northwestern's.

Indeed, West Michigan Nail is a major distributor of nails (including specialty nails) in the Midwest. The specialty nails are produced at their Grand Rapids, Michigan plant.

The company is also becoming an increasing force in the manufacture of aluminum doors and windows which are distributed throughout the Midwest.

The association of Northwestern Steel and West Michigan Nail began only one year ago, but has grown at a remarkable pace.

In that one year the company has developed into one of Northwestern's largest nail accounts. Sold under the National brand label are a wide variety of Northwestern nails, which are purchased by West Michigan Nail in both 50-lb. cartons and bulk containers.

Similarly, Northwestern purchases specialty items such as concrete nails and plastic cap nails from West Michigan Nail.

According to **David Oberbillig**, Manager of Sales, Wire Products Division, the relationship is a particularly beneficial one for both companies. "It allows our customers to buy a full line of nails from one source. We are actually helping each other to obtain a larger share of the current markets served, and to edge into new markets."

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A fleet of 20 trucks services West Michigan Nail's customers in a three-state region consisting of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana.



West Michigan Nail's Grand Rapids facility comprises 100,000 square feet of space, with 25,000 square feet of this area devoted to the production of aluminum storm doors and windows. Their branches have a total of 75,000 square feet.

**David Rodenhouse**, Sales Manager for West Michigan, expressed similar feelings, "We enjoy the relationship between our two companies as it grows. We are excitedly looking to the future with Northwestern. It is a real asset to our organization to have a relationship with a major steel mill."

West Michigan's nail market consists of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. The National Executive offices and nail packaging facilities are located in Grand Rapids, MI, with warehouses in Syracuse, NY and Cincinnati, OH. In all, the company, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, employs 140 people, including 16 salesmen, who service their 4,500 accounts.

The Grand Rapids facility comprises 100,000 square feet of space with 25,000 square feet of this area devoted to the production of aluminum storm doors and windows. Their branches have a total of 75,000 square feet.

A fleet of 20 trucks services National's customers in the three-state region, while specialty nails are distributed across the country via common carrier.

Rodenhouse said he feels that West Michigan Nail has thrived through the last quarter century due to its concentration on manufacturing and

distributing just two commodities and by providing good service to its customers.

"We have concentrated on just two commodities and have tried to excel in these areas. We are very sensitive to our customers' requirements. By shipping on our own fleet of trucks we are able to concentrate on servicing our customers," Rodenhouse said.

Northwestern fits into West Michigan Nail's plan for offering good service to its customers. "We are very dependent on good sources of supply. We feel Northwestern offers us good cooperation and dependability."

Oberbillig said he has been impressed with West Michigan's willingness to work together and cited the fact that **Robert Rodenhouse**, Sales Manager, came to Sterling in August to speak at Northwestern's Wire Products Sales Meeting on the advantages and usages of specialty nails.

"We are extremely pleased with the results which have developed from this relatively young business relationship," Oberbillig said.

The inside sales people handling the West Michigan Nail account are **John Asumendi** and **Mike Dunn**, while the territorial salesman involved is **Ed Sanders**.

# NSW Employees Dig Deep For Christmas Fund

Employees of Northwestern Steel and Wire Company collected a record \$7,219 for the Needy Families Christmas Fund in 1986, nearly double the amount collected a year ago.

Each year the fund has grown. In 1985 the fund drive netted \$4,940, and the 1984 fund drive took in \$3,664.

The money, donated by hourly and salaried employees of Northwestern Steel, was used to purchase clothing, groceries and toys for 35 families in the Rock River Valley, including 88 children.

Northwestern's traveling trophy, which is awarded to the plant whose employees donate the largest amount of money, finds a new home for 1987. The Primary Steel Division dug deep and collected a total of \$3,076 for the Christmas Fund, the largest amount ever collected by a single plant.

The Primary Steel Division's achievement represents the first time in the 10-year history of the Christmas Fund that the 14-Inch Mill did not receive the traveling trophy for the largest donated amount.

"We'd like to thank the members of the Primary Steel Division for their generosity as well as all other Northwestern employees who donated money or shopped for the families," **Bill Boesen**, administrator of the fund said.

"We'd like to also thank the members of the 14-Inch Mill for their support throughout the years. It has been the 14-Inch Mill that carried the Christmas Fund for all these years."

The traveling trophy for the largest average donation per employee will remain on familiar ground as the Plant 2 Machine Shop wins the award for the third straight year.

This year, for the first time, Northwestern Plants 1 and 4 participated in the fund drive, collecting \$1,375.

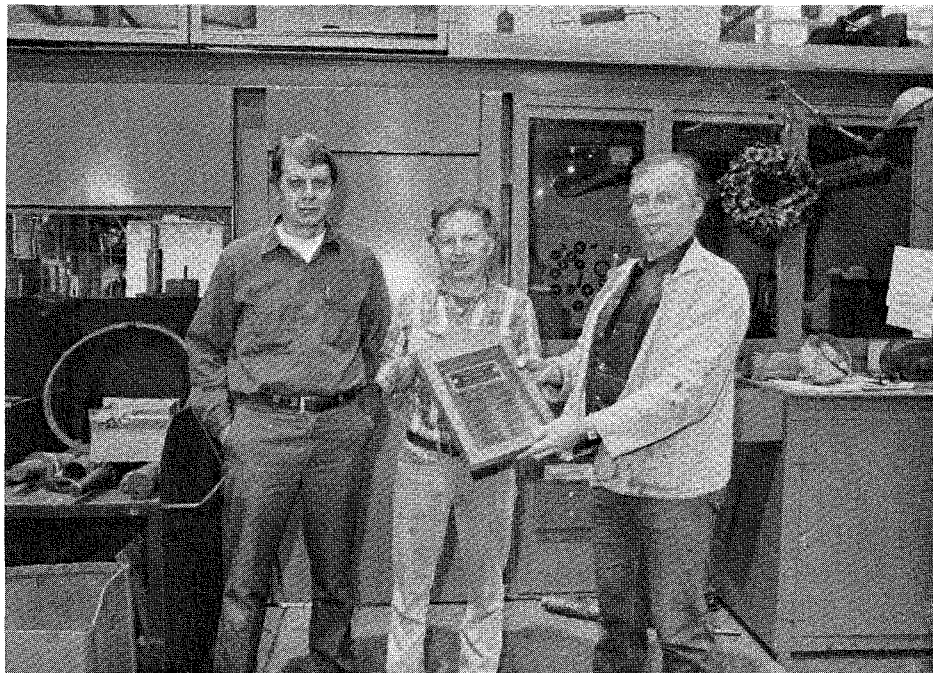
## *Christmas Party Thanks*

Thank you to all who attended the Christmas Party of December 12. A total of \$150 was collected and used to buy food stuffs for two local charities.

C.R. Wise  
R. Sheldon



**Lyn Tarrant (second from right), Assistant Manager, Primary Steel, accepts for the Electric Furnace Department the traveling trophy for the top donor to the NSW Christmas Fund. Surrendering the trophy for the first time since the Fund's inception 10-years ago is Dick Frasor - 14-Inch Mill Manager. Christmas Fund organizers are Dave DeVries (far left) General Foreman, Primary Steel, and Bill Boesen, General Supervisor, 46-Inch Mill (far right).**



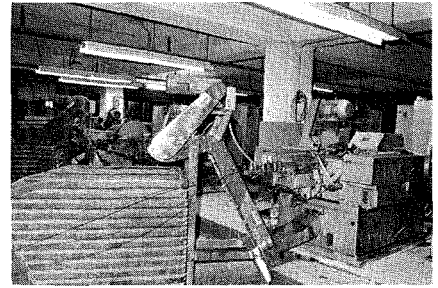
**Doug Martin and Terry Williams, representing the West Plant Machine Shop, are congratulated by Bill Boesen, Director of the NSW Christmas Fund. The West Plant Machine Shop retains the traveling plaque for the highest average donation per employee.**

# What's New At NSW

## 8 Nail Machines Transferred To Plant 1

Eight nail machines were transferred from Northwestern's Westwood Nail Facility to the nail department at Plant 1 in mid-December. Six machines produce 16d nails while two machines are capable of producing 8d, 10d, 12d, or 16d nails.

The machines were moved to the Plant 1 nail department to save on materials handling and packaging costs.

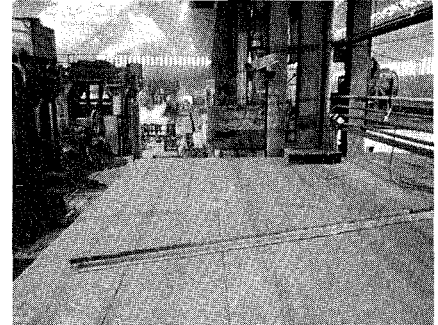


Nail machines transported from Westwood to the Plant 1 Nail Department.

## Speed Control Unit At 14-Inch Mill Proceeds

Transformers are being installed and electricians are running conduit as progress proceeds on the 14-Inch Mill ASEA Speed Control Unit. The unit, which is expected to be in operation in July, is similar to the speed control device installed on the 12-Inch Mill roll line.

Such a speed control unit utilizes computers to monitor the speed of billets through each of the stands and can adjust each stand as needed to help avoid cobbles.



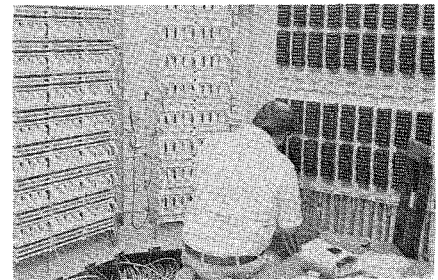
Platform for the ASEA Speed Pulpit at NSW's 14-Inch Mill

## New Phone System Installed

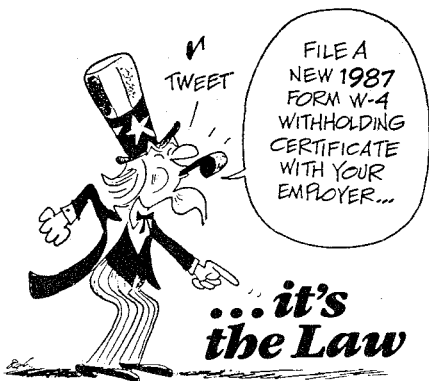
Northwestern's new phone system, which features new, state of the art telephones, became operational January 30.

The new phones have been installed alongside existing phones on employees' desks and can now handle calls both inside and outside the plant. The old phones will be removed in the near future.

The new phone system features a "hunt" system, which allows calls to be automatically transferred to other phones if the called party is away from his or her phone.



A maze of wiring for NSW's new phone system



Give your employer a new W-4 form AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so that your 1987 withholding can closely match your 1987 taxes. If you don't give your employer a new W-4 form before October 1, 1987, your employer may have to withhold more tax than necessary, which would lower your take home pay. You can get a W-4 form from your employer. These W-4 forms are for Federal Withholding only.

W-4 forms are available from the Employment or Payroll Departments, or ask your supervisor.



Roy Boyer is shown holding a cake given him by fellow employees at the Caster Department on his last day at Northwestern. Boyer retired following 31 years of service.



## Larry Rosenberg Enters Sterling Mayoral Race

Larry Rosenberg, Supervisor in the Galvanizer Department, has entered the Sterling mayoral race.

He joins incumbent **Bill Durham** and Alderman **Mae Zemke** in the mayoral race.

The non-partisan primary election will be held February 24. The two top vote-getters will advance to the April 7 general election.

Rosenberg, who has been employed at Northwestern for 16 years, said he was encouraged by friends to run for mayor.

"The first thing I did was check with Mr. Wilthew (Company President and CEO). When he said he didn't see a conflict I went into this thing with both feet."

## Dr. Christofersen Finds Retirement Niche With Northwestern's Safety Dept.

The prognosis for a retired physician who is active, healthy and still wishes to practice medicine, is part time employment, working with people in a medical context. At least that's the prescription for Dr. Howard Christofersen, MD, now keeping regular office hours at Northwestern as the Company's staff doctor.

Though he has worked with the Company on a limited basis for 15 years attending to the needs of special injury cases, it has been only since his retirement from the Sterling-Rock Falls Clinic in mid-1986 that he began holding daily office hours at Northwestern.

At the turn of the new year, Dr. Christofersen began expanded hours at Northwestern's First Aid Department. His office hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to noon on Friday.

Dr. Christofersen treats Northwestern employees who suffer minor work-related injuries and assists area practitioners in their follow up of patients with mill-related injuries.

"Our goal is to keep people working. I work with physicians to let them know the types of light duty that are available. This helps them make knowledgeable decisions," Christofersen said.

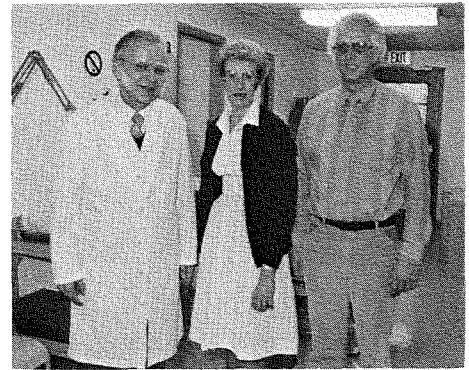
Most of the patients Dr. Christofersen sees at First Aid are either follow-ups or those with minor work-related injuries. A serious illness or injury is referred directly to the hospital emergency room.

"My hope is that with more time spent here I can become more involved with safety programs and health and fitness." Christofersen encourages wellness and fitness programs for employees.

"One of the problems I have seen is that inactive people tend to have the most illness and injuries. We often see this after lay-offs. People come back to work and their muscles aren't tuned to the job the way they once were. This sometimes causes physical problems," he said.

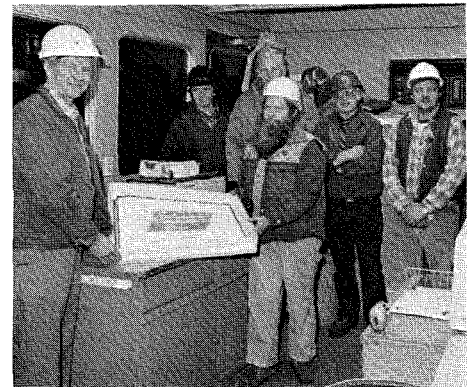
Dr. Christofersen credits the staff at First Aid for their efficient handling of patients. "We are still developing a program here. We're all working towards the goal of keeping more people working more of the time."

In charge of Northwestern's First Aid Department, Dr. Christofersen, and the six staff nurses is Medical Supervisor **Dennis Fritz**. Staff nurses are **Marge Bushman**, **Sharon Wolfe**, **Irene DeVenney**, **Kathy Wasson**, **Nancy Padilla**, and **Sally Sandoval**.



Dr. Howard Christofersen (left), Day Nurse Marge Bushman and Dennis Fritz, Medical Director, pause from their busy schedule at Northwestern's First Aid Building.

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Bob Czuprynski, Shipping Foreman at the 14-Inch Mill (far left), was honored recently by fellow employees on his 30th anniversary with the Company.

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## Six Employees Receive Suggestion Awards In January

**Earl Stevens**, Electric Furnace Millwright, was awarded \$1,127 for a suggestion to make furnace panel water returns out of rubber hose instead of penflex.

The suggestion is expected to save the Company \$11,271 a year. Northwestern employees receive suggestion awards based on 10% of the estimated one year's savings. Awards are also given for merit and safety suggestions.

**Carl McDonald** and **Edward Eubanks**, 14-Inch Mill Millwrights, received merit awards totaling \$75 each for a suggestion to install deflector plates on 14-Inch Mill straightener run-out roll line shuffle bars.

**Harold Jackley**, Plant 5 Electrical, received a \$25 merit award for a sug-

gestion to install a double throw switch on the 14-Inch Mill hot beds to assist millwrights in changing and repairing chains.

**Ralph Charleston**, Plant 2 Welder, received a \$25 safety award for a suggestion to build a grated floor outside the Plant 2 Pipe Shop to eliminate a make-shift step.

**Thomas Wessels**, 12-Inch Mill Finishing, received a \$25 safety award for a suggestion to fasten down stems for the 12-Inch Mill scrap rod, so it is not necessary for workers to get under to pull the stems out when picking up rod.

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## New Appointments

The following organizational changes were recently made in the Human Resources Division:

**Steven Johnson** has been appointed Employment Supervisor.

**Dennis Fritz** is now Medical Supervisor.

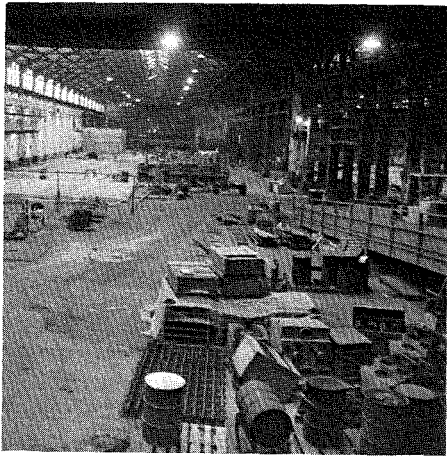
**James Hale** has been appointed Plant Services Supervisor.

**Bruce Stevens** was appointed Chief Security Supervisor.

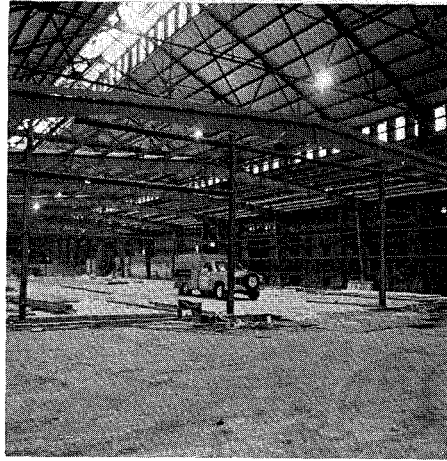
**Ricky Balsley** is now Safety & Health Loss Control Engineer.

**E. Paul Johnson** was appointed Employee Benefits Clerk.

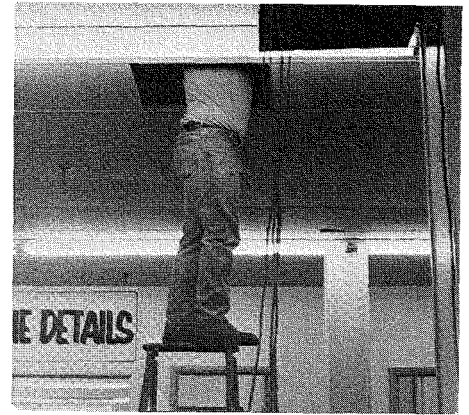
# Scenes From Around The Mills



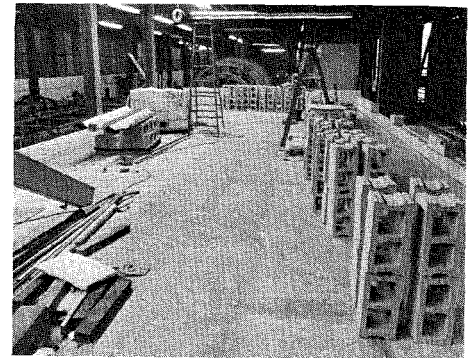
Progress continues on Northwestern's Cleaning House Project where the old rod train at Plant 1 used to be located. The Cleaning House for rod produced on Northwestern's new rod train will allow the Company to maintain a high quality surface on the rod.



Framework for the new drawing room adjacent to the new Cleaning House at Plant 1 is erected. New wire drawing machines will soon be installed in the building.



A workman reaches into the depths of darkness as he works on wiring for Northwestern's new phone system.



Shown is where the new ASEA speed control computers for the 14-Inch roll line will be housed.

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## Northwestern Benefits Report

Group Insurance expenses during the first quarter of Fiscal 1987 totalled \$2,296,877. This total includes money spent for hospitals, major medical, dental and vision coverage for Northwestern Steel and Wire employees, pensioners and dependents.

This total is 8% higher than the expense during the same period last year. Also during the first quarter, \$1,027,248 was spent on Worker's Compensation. In Fiscal 1986, Worker's Compensation added nearly \$5 per ton to Northwestern Steel and Wire's cost of steel, with Group Insurance adding another \$9 per ton.

A recent study of last fiscal year's Group Insurance costs showed \$3.6 million spent on hospital care, with another \$4.1 million spent on health care outside the hospital. Dentists also received over three quarters of a million dollars from Northwestern Steel and Wire's Group Insurance Program.

Prescription medications costing just under \$1 million were also submitted to Northwestern Steel and Wire for payment. These Group Insurance costs are paid by Northwestern Steel and Wire's insurance carrier, Northwestern National Life, under an arrangement

where Northwestern National is reimbursed by Northwestern Steel and Wire for these expenses plus an administrative fee.

With the rising cost of Health Care, the Company and Union agreed during the 1986 negotiations to establish a joint Health Care Cost Containment Committee. This Committee is charged with developing ways to reduce Northwestern's health care costs. Twenty percent of any savings from this committee's work will be shared with the employees. The Committee has met and is actively pursuing several options designed to reduce Group Insurance expenses while not reducing benefits.



**John Atilano, who recently retired from the West Plant Crane Mechanics Department, proudly displays the cake given him in honor of his 40 years of service at Northwestern.**

## Best Retirement Wishes

Best wishes for a long and happy retirement are extended to the following employees who have completed their years of service with Northwestern Steel and Wire Company, effective January 1, 1987:

**John Atilano, Plant 2 Crane Mechanics, 40 Years.**

**Keith Coats, Weld Shop, 25 years.**

**John Delgado, Nail Room, 40 years.**

**Richard Gors, Guards, 30 years.**

**Walter Pitts, Electric Furnace Cranes, 31 years.**

**William Surratt, 24-Inch Mill Pipe Shop, 31 years.**

**Floyd Boyer, Caster Department, 31 years.**

**Ralph Courtright, 14-Inch Mill Finishing, 31 years.**

**Charles Elder, Rod Crew, 31 years.**

**James McBride, Roll Shop, 37 years.**

**Justo Sanchez, Carpenter, 30 years.**

**Richard Thielen, Plant 2 Weld Shop, 31 years.**

## January

### 35 Years

**Dean Clary**, 1/1/52, Plant 2 Electrical.  
**George Saathoff, Jr.**, 1/16/52, Rock Falls Millwrights.

### 30 Years

**Robert W. Czuprynski**, 1/7/57, Salaried, 14-Inch Mill Shipping.  
**Charles J. Rhode**, 1/19/57, Salaried, 14-Inch Mill.

### 25 Years

**Robert H. Walsh**, 1/2/62, Plant 1 Pipefitters.  
**William H. Blevins**, 1/4/62, Nail Department.  
**Juan DeLa Fuente**, 1/6/62, Electric Furnace.  
**Billy Warling**, 1/7/62, Wire Mill Drawing.  
**Donald Ludwig**, 1/8/62, Plant 3 Inspection.  
**William King, Jr.**, 1/8/62, Steel Plant Crane Operator.  
**Jerry Earl**, 1/8/62, Salaried, Electric Furnaces.  
**Norman Nelson**, 1/8/62, Salaried, Caster Department.  
**Glen Palmer**, 1/10/62, Plant 2 Electrical.  
**Arnold Allen**, 1/15/62, Plant 3 Millwrights.  
**David Wagner**, 1/15/62, Electric Furnace.  
**Gerald Wiebenga**, 1/15/62, Nail Department.  
**John Henson**, 1/15/62, 12-Inch Mill Finishing.  
**Robert Krepfle**, 1/15/62, Plant 2 Machine Shop.  
**William Sivits**, 1/15/62, Wire Mill Drawing.  
**Thomas Hughes**, 1/17/62, Plant 2 Electrical.  
**Regis Dahlstrom**, 1/18/62, Salaried, Wire Galvanizer.  
**Arlyn Cain**, 1/18/62, Bale Tie.  
**Charles Boucher**, 1/18/62, Plant 2 Pipefitters.  
**Jimmie Pack**, 1/18/62, Trial Crew West.  
**James Stephens**, 1/21/62, Scrap Yard.  
**Allen Carr**, 1/23/62, Steel Plant Crane Operator.  
**James Ohda**, 1/23/62, Plant 2 Electrical.  
**Richard Santos**, 1/23/62, Wire Mill Drawing.  
**James Hicks**, 1/28/62, Plant 3 Welders.  
**Cecil Seeley**, 1/29/62, 20-24-Inch Shipping & Finishing.  
**Harry Unterzuber**, 1/29/62, Electric Furnace Brickmasons.  
**Richard Barnum**, 1/29/62, Nail Department.  
**Jesse Lopez**, 1/30/62, General Millwrights.  
**John Engel**, 1/31/62, Plant 3 Welders.  
**Thomas Ramirez**, 1/31/62, Steel Plant Crane Operator.

## Monthly Management Meetings Set

The following dates have been set for the monthly meetings at the Rock Falls Civic Center:

January 24th  
 February 21st  
 March 21st  
 April 25th  
 May 30th  
 June 20th  
 July 25th  
 September 26th  
 October 31st  
 November 21st

**William Johnson**, 1/31/62, Plant 3 Welders.

### 20 Years

**Kenneth Tabor**, 1/1/67, Billet Caster.  
**Sergio Vivarelli**, 1/2/67, Scrap Yard.  
**William McDonald**, 1/16/67, Salaried, 14-Inch Mill.  
**Joseph Fiorini**, 1/16/67, Plant 2 Millwrights.  
**Robert Delgado**, 1/17/67, Plant 5 Crane Mechanics.  
**Alfred Leal**, 1/25/67, 12-Inch Mill.  
**Donald McCallister**, 1/25/67, Brickmasons.  
**Douglas Harms**, 1/30/67, Plant 2 Millwrights.  
**Richard Larkins**, 1/30/67, Plant 2 Pipefitter.  
**Samuel Hess**, 1/30/67, Plant 2 Machine Shop.

### 15 Years

**Jose Martinez**, 1/6/72, Billet Caster.  
**Paul Shenefeld**, 1/6/72, Plant 2 Machine Shop.  
**Terry Heller**, 1/6/72, Wire Mill Shipping.  
**Dean Reul**, 1/9/72, 14-Inch Mill.  
**John Thompson**, 1/11/72, 14-Inch Mill Finishing.  
**Joseph R. Mathews**, 1/12/72, 24-Inch Mill.  
**Michael Smith**, 1/12/72, 14-Inch Mill.  
**James Mallicoate**, 1/12/72, Salaried, Plant 3 Mechanical.  
**Jesus Rascon**, 1/14/72, Guards.  
**Lyle Fuller**, 1/17/72, Over-The-Road Truck Driver.  
**Dale Turney**, 1/19/72, 12-Inch Mill Finishing.  
**John Reynolds, Jr.**, 1/19/72, Salaried, Nail Department.  
**David Herbon**, 1/19/72, Billet Caster.  
**Gary Maycher**, 1/22/72, Salaried, Wire Products Salesman.  
**Barry Collinson**, 1/24/72, Netting Department.

**Lloyd Fulkerson, Jr.**, 1/24/72, Wire Mill Drawing.

**David Gray, Sr.**, 1/25/72, Wire Mill Shipping.  
**Gary Seidel**, 1/25/72, 14-Inch Mill Finishing.  
**Steven Reul**, 1/25/72, 14-Inch Mill.  
**Kenneth Wiresema**, 1/26/72, Plant 2 Welders.  
**Owen Harrell**, 1/26/72, 24-Inch Mill.  
**Ronald Reglin**, 1/27/72, Mat Department.  
**Steven Grobe**, 1/27/72, Rock Falls Drawing.  
**Michael Fortney**, 1/30/72, Electric Furnace.  
**Gene Unger**, 1/31/72, 46-Inch Mill.

(continued on page 8)

## Wilthew Named Among 10 Best Executives

**Robert M. Wilthew**, president and chief executive officer of Northwestern Steel and Wire Company, has been named among the 10 best executives of 1986 in the medium and small business category (under \$1 billion in sales) by *The Gallagher Report*.

Wilthew, former head of Copperweld Steel Co. in Warren, Ohio, was cited by *The Gallagher Report* for returning Northwestern Steel to "black ink" in fiscal 1986 with \$6.1 million net profit on \$356.2 million in sales despite softness in the U.S. steel industry. Northwestern lost \$40.8 million in fiscal 1985.

## Tips For Safe Winter Driving

**Starting and warmups.** Consult your owner's manual to verify the proper cold-weather starting procedure for your vehicle. Unless your car has Electronic Fuel Injection, it is usually suggested that you depress the accelerator pedal once completely (twice, if it is below zero degrees Fahrenheit), release it, and then turn the ignition key. Don't crank the engine for more than 15 seconds at a time. Wait 10 to 15 seconds between tries, to help prevent damage to the starter. Once the car is running, put the transmission in gear and pull away slowly, building up speed gradually.

Warming up the vehicle by allowing the engine to idle is not a good idea. Idling merely wastes gasoline. To be properly warmed up, a vehicle should be driven, preferably at low speeds for the first few minutes. After starting a cold vehicle, try to make a trip of more than one mile since, on shorter trips, the battery discharges more than the charging system will replace.

**Driving on wet roads.** During dry

weather, an oil film builds up on the highway. When it first starts to rain, this oil film mixes with water and produces a thin, greasy solution that cannot be seen, but is as slippery as ice. The oil film is washed away after 20 minutes of hard rain, but until then the roads are dangerous. Reduce speed and avoid sharp turning or braking.

Wet leaves can cause dangerous skids. Even if the roads dry out temporarily, watch out for leaves which may still be wet underneath.

**Driving on ice, sleet, and snow.** When driving on ice or sleet, do everything at a moderate pace - accelerating, braking, and steering. If the road has a crown, stay on it. Steer with the fingertips. Try to stop on a level area or a downward slope. Don't jam down on the brake; pump it gently until the vehicle is safely stopped. Allow three times the stopping distance you normally need on dry pavement. If the vehicle starts to slide, steer into the direction of the skid. Then make a gradual correction.

## Wilthew, Reed Named To United Way Board

President and CEO of Northwestern Steel and Wire Company, **Robert M. Wilthew**, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of United Way of Sterling and Rock Falls.

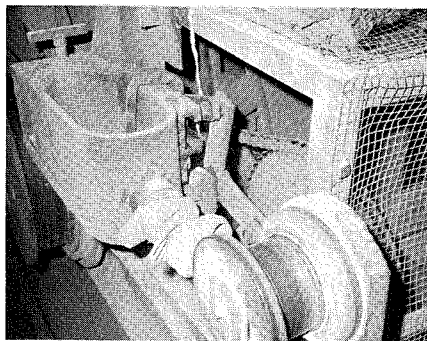
Mr. Wilthew will serve for a term of three years and at the end of his term, will be eligible to serve for another three years. In the past, a board member could serve for only one term, however, a recent policy change allows a member to serve a second term.

As a new member of the United Way Board, Mr. Wilthew will serve as the liaison between the United Way and the Whiteside Hospice, one of the newer agencies served by the United Way, and, in addition, will serve on the Campaign Committee.

Also elected as a United Way board member was **Noel Reed**, Vice President of Local 63 of United Steelworkers of

America and President of the Steelworkers Charities Board of Directors. Noel, who is an employee of the 14-Inch Mill Pipe Shop, will also serve for a term of three years and will act as the liaison between the United Way and Sterling-Rock Falls Day Care.

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Soap stirrers, such as the one shown on the soap box above, would keep soap from hardening and thus facilitate the lubrication of wire through the wire layers.

### *U.S. Savings Bonds Remain Attractive Option*

The market-based interest rate for Series EE Bonds issued between November 1986 and April 30, 1987 is 6.06% for their first semiannual interest period.

The minimum rate for bonds issued November 1, 1986, and held five years or longer is 6%. Older bonds will retain their previously-guaranteed minimums until the end of their original or extended maturity period in effect October 31, 1986. These bonds assume the minimum rate in effect for new issues when they enter their next extension period.

Bonds may be purchased directly by payroll deduction. Anyone interested in participating should contact Northwestern Steel and Wire Company's Employment Office.

Series EE Bonds still enjoy the familiar advantages of safety, convenient purchase and redemption, freedom from market risk, guaranteed replacement if lost, stolen or destroyed, choice of registration, exemption from state and local income and property taxes, and federal income tax deferral on interest.

Series EE Bonds are still sold at half their denomination and guaranteed to reach face value at maturity. Bonds will reach face value before maturity if the market-based rate is higher than the guaranteed minimum.

### Two LMPT Teams Tackle Projects

Two Labor Management Participation Teams (LMPT) are currently working on specific projects at Plant 4.

The S.T.E.P. Team is looking into the possibility of altering an electro-weld machine or designing a new machine for the purpose of introducing a new wire product.

The Team is still in the design and planning stage. A patent search for the proposed new product has been made and the results were favorable.

The H.O.P.E. Team is pursuing a project to install stirrers on soap boxes for wire layers in the Drawing Department. Dry soap is used as a lubricating agent for wire being drawn through the machines.

The stirrers would keep the soap in a powdered state to facilitate drawing. Currently, the soap tends to cake and harden when not stirred.

The H.O.P.E. Team is also working on organizing a Plant 4 tour and breakfast or brunch for employees and their wives.

Generally, LMPT projects have been hindered lately due to the large number of maintenance projects in progress at Plant 4.

The 12 agencies served by the United Way are: American Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Catholic Social Services, Girl Scouts, Lutheran Social Services, Rock Falls Civic Fund, Salvation Army, Sterling-Rock Falls Day Care, Whiteside County Hospice, Volunteers in Probation, YMCA, and YWCA.

During their recent fund drive, in addition to donations from the Steelworkers Charities and NSW salaried employees, the United Way for the first time in many years received a corporate donation from Northwestern.

### NSW Anniversaries

(continued from page 7)

#### February

##### 35 Years

**Robert O. Hoeg**, 2/18/52, Salaried, Administrator - Facilities Planning.

##### 30 Years

**Gerald Johnson**, 2/4/57, Plant 2 Electrical.

##### 25 Years

**Douglas Morthland**, 2/1/62, Plant 3 Inspection.

**Ronald Kalas**, 2/8/62, Wire Mill Millwrights.  
**Jack Hepker**, 2/19/62, Rock Falls General Works.

**Michael Knapp**, 2/22/62, Scrap Yard.

**James Nelson**, 2/23/62, Electric Furnace.

**William Allen**, 2/26/62, Roll Shop.

**Robert Goodwin**, 2/27/62, Plant 2 Electrical.

**Donald Egan**, 2/28/62, Plant 5 Welders.

##### 20 Years

**Jerry Sanders**, 2/2/67, 14-Inch Mill.

**Richard Keefer**, 2/2/67, 14-Inch Mill.

**Elon Shore**, 2/5/67, Wire Galvanizer.

**Carl Lundquist**, 2/6/67, Plant 5 Crane Mechanics.

**Kent De May**, 2/10/67, 14-Inch Mill Finishing.

**Dale Laws**, 2/13/67, Billet Caster.

**Lester Pratt**, 2/14/67, Nails.

**Ventura Valdez**, 2/15/67, Wire Galvanizer.

**Alberto Castenada**, 2/16/67, Mat Dept.

**Allan Morthland**, 2/24/67, Wire Galvanizer Tractor.

##### 15 Years

**Brian Hurd**, 2/1/72, 14-Inch Finishing.

**Clyde Cardwell**, 2/2/72, 12-Inch Mill Finishing.

**Manuel Rascon**, 2/3/72, Nail Department.

**Frank Lilly**, 2/4/72, Wire Mill Shipping.

**James Gallentine**, 2/4/72, Plant 5 Pipefitters.

**Larry Rippy**, 2/4/72, Plant 2 Millwrights.

**Tony Cook**, 2/4/72, 46-Inch Mill.

**Reginaldo Gomez**, 2/6/72, 14-Inch Mill.

**Richard Bechdolt**, 2/6/72, 14-Inch Mill.

**Ricky Gaskill**, 2/6/72, Salaried, Caster Department.

**Mario Montanez**, 2/7/72, Nail Dept.

**Ricky Stange**, 2/23/72, 14-Inch Mill.

**Robert Bertolozzi, Jr.**, 2/23/72, Billet Caster.

**Guillermo Sifuentes**, 2/24/72, 24-Inch Mill.

**David Kendrick**, 2/28/72, Plant 5 Electrical.