

## Inside This Issue

### Northwestern Records

The *Lightning Bolt* has devoted nearly a full page to various production records which occurred at Northwestern's mills during the month of March.

This information can be found on page 4.

### How's Your Safety Attitude?

Northwestern's Safety Department would like to know the answer to this question. It has prepared an article addressing the issue.

The article appears on page 5, along with other safety related stories.

### QIP Teams

Several Northwestern QIP Teams have been hard at work tackling various problems.

Read page 7 to find out just how much money is expected to be saved through implementation of these solutions.

### In-House Casting Seminar Held

Northwestern's Caster, Electric Furnace, Metallurgical and 12-Inch Mill personnel recently attended an in-house seminar on continuous casting and SPC techniques.

This story appears on page 8.

## E-Zone Question & Answers

An interview with E. G. Maris, Northwestern Vice President - Finance, was conducted in order to more fully explain the E-Zone and its impact on Northwestern Steel and Wire Company.

The *Lightning Bolt* editor took excerpts from the interview and they are as follows:

*Editor: What is an Enterprise Zone?*

*EGM:* The Illinois E-Zone Act was signed into law December 7, 1982. The purpose of the act is to stimulate economic growth and neighborhood revitalization at the local level. This is accomplished through state and local tax incentives, regulatory relief and improved government services.

*Editor: How many Zones have been designated since 1982?*

*EGM:* It was announced on March 30, 1988 that portions of Whiteside County had been designated the 60th E-Zone in Illinois, and NSW's facilities were included in that zone.

Most recent legislation has limited the number to 65; therefore, we were very lucky to have acted when we did and to have been designated an E-Zone.

### Pentagon Anniversary

## Was It Really 25 Years Ago?

Northwestern's production office building known as the "Pentagon" marked its 25-year anniversary March 13.

The single story, whitewashed building, which is nestled between the 12-Inch Mill, the caster, and the 24-Inch Mill, first went into use March 13, 1963.

According to Tom McFadden, now Chief Clerk, the move to the Pentagon from the old "White House" located at the East Plant, came swiftly.

"They came with a truck and said we

*Editor: Why?*

*EGM:* From all we could find out, Northwestern was the only steel company operating in Illinois that was not within an E-Zone. As a result we were at an economic disadvantage, all other things being equal with the competition.

(continued on page 2)



Peter W. Dillon, Northwestern Chairman of The Board, addresses a group of city and county officials and the media following the announcement by the State of Illinois that sections of Whiteside County, including the Northwestern property, has been designated as an enterprise zone by the State.

had to move. One minute I was typing in one office, and shortly after that I was typing in the new office," he said.

The former production offices were located in two houses which were painted white. Northwestern's Chairman, P.W. Dillon, was asked what they should call the new West Plant production offices. Dillon, reflecting on the fact that everyone called the former production offices "The White House," decided that the appropriate name should thus be the Pentagon, ac-

(continued on page 6)

# NSW's Ed Maris Answers E-Zone Questions

(continued from page 1)

*Editor: What benefits help us become more competitive?*

*EGM:* In qualified projects an application for state approval is required to become eligible for the incentives. The project must meet a required test of creation and retention of jobs as well as significant capital expenditures. The major benefits that are available to businesses in an E-Zone are as follows:

## Tax Exemptions

- Sales Tax Exemption.
- E-Zone Machinery and Equipment Exemptions.
- Equipment/Pollution Control Facilities Exemption.
- E-Zone Utility Tax Exemption.

## Tax Credits

- E-Zone Investment Tax Credit.
- Jobs Tax Credit.

## Income Tax Deductions

- Dividend Income Deduction.
- Interest Deduction.
- Contribution Deduction.

*Editor: Please explain the dividend income deduction.*

*EGM:* Individuals, corporations, trusts and estates are not taxed (that is, state taxes) and dividend income on corporations doing substantially all their business in the Zone is also not taxed.

*Editor: Can dividends from Commonwealth Edison be deducted?*

*EGM:* No. A firm must conduct all its operation from within an E-Zone, but companies such as Commonwealth Edison, GTE, Pioneer, AT&T, Sears, and Occidental Petroleum do not fit this definition.

*Editor: What are the local incentives?*

*EGM:* The whole concept of an E-Zone is for inter-governmental cooperation at the local and state level to create elements of capital formation to promote economic growth and more importantly, the creation and retention of permanent jobs. Local governments may provide a variety of local incentives to further encourage economic growth and investment in the E-Zone. The incentives are offered and determined by the local governments. The ones listed below are the most common

and are not inclusive, but serve only as examples.

- Abatement of property taxes.
- Local sales tax exemptions on building materials and supplies.
- Homesteading and shopsteading programs.
- Waiver of business licensing and permit fees.
- Streamlined building code requirements.
- Special local financing programs and other resources.

*Editor: What are some examples of economic development through the E-Zone?*

*EGM:*

- MAGNA, a Canadian auto parts manufacturer, is building a \$40 million facility in the Nashville zone which will result in the creation of over 400 jobs.
- Keystone Steel and Wire is undertaking a \$40 million renovation of its mill in the Bartonville/Peoria County zone that will help retain over 1,500 employees.
- Mitsubishi Belting, Ltd. is constructing a new plant in the Ottawa zone. The company, which will be a major supplier of belts for Diamond Star Motors, is investing \$20 million in the Ottawa facility and will eventually create as many as 250 jobs.
- Caterpillar, Inc. continued its modernization program at facilities within five separate zones with more than \$55 million in capital investments for 1986. The company has over 15,000 employees in the five zones.
- Munson Transportation, Inc., a trucking concern, is undertaking a \$24 million expansion in the Monmouth zone for the eventual creation or retention of 812 jobs.
- Engine Medics, a small engine repair company, is making a \$300,000 investment in the East Peoria zone for the creation of 58 jobs. Annual sales for the company now exceed \$1 million.
- Admiral, a division of the Maytag Appliance Corporation, has announced a \$20 million retooling project in the Galesburg zone. The Company, which employs approximately 2,500

people in the zone, is also spending \$3 million for the relocation of its corporate headquarters to Galesburg.

- The FIOS Corporation of Scotland is investing \$3 million in the Des Plaines River Valley zone. The pillow and comforter manufacturer used a combination of state and local incentives to renovate an existing industrial facility in Joliet to train 104 new employees and purchase state-of-the-art machinery.
- In the Cal-Sag zone, a private developer spent \$300,000 to renovate the Old Lyric Theater in downtown Blue Island. Using the dinner theater concept, the developer reopened the facility as the Oscar I. The first of its kind in the midwest, the Oscar I features first run movies in a cabaret setting. The theater employs 25 people.

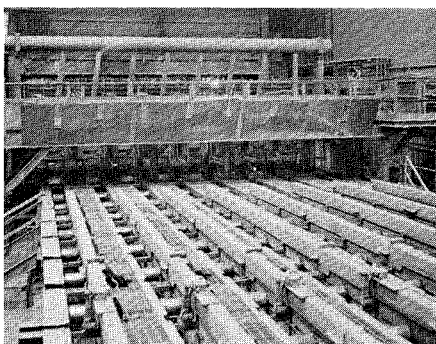
*Editor: When are these benefits available?*

*EGM:* The benefits are available effective April 1, 1988 and are in effect at the state level for 20 years. Local benefits are generally in effect for a 10-year period.

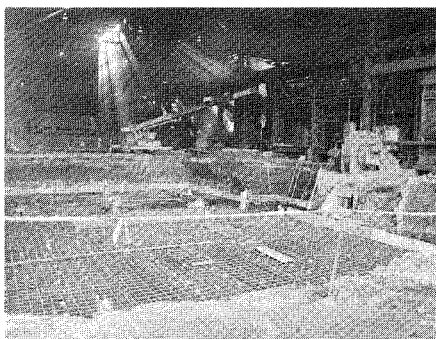
*Editor: What is your feeling on how successful our Whiteside County E-Zone would be compared with the other 59 E-Zones in the state?*

*EGM:* From the information that we have been able to see it appears that there are wide ranges and varying degrees of successes. Some Zones were created for a specific major project like Diamond Star, the \$780 million auto plant that will employ 2,900 persons in the Bloomington/Normal area. Some Zones were created in economically depressed areas of major cities and are often in areas that are known as slums or ghettos. With the quality of life and infrastructure in Whiteside County, we have an excellent base already in place to become very competitive. With our fine schools, roads and park systems we would certainly appear to be more attractive to business investment as opposed to many areas that may be less desirable from an infrastructure viewpoint.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Northwestern's Billet Caster recently was shut down for extensive maintenance, which included the rework of oscillators and straighteners; the torch approach tables are being replaced and the runout tables refurbished. Also the spray chambers are being replaced.



Northwestern's 24-Inch Mill Reheat Furnace project shows measured progress.

## What's New At Northwestern

### *24-Inch Mill Reheat Furnace*

The Walking Hearth machinery installation and structural steel setting was started April 5, 1988.

Bob Prophter is continuing with the additional foundation work for the motor control building, reject table, scale pit and storage table.

The gas main tie-in is in process and the final tie-in will be completed during the week of June 5.

### *Billet Caster*

The revamp of the 8-strand billet caster started Monday, April 4. This project is a scheduled 3 week around-the-clock downturn. The eight oscillators and eight straighteners will be reworked; the torch approach tables will be replaced with new machinery and the runout tables will be refurbished and widened.

In addition, the spray chambers will be completely removed and replaced with stainless steel structural beams and all side walls and interior partitions will be stainless steel.

Eight new support aprons will be installed at this time and the existing spray chamber piping will be removed and replaced.

### *Roll Shop*

Foundation drawings are being prepared for the new Binns lathe that will be received by the end of July. There will be an automatic chip removal conveyor as a part of this project.

### *Transformer*

The rebuilt No. 81 transformer for H-471 sub-station arrived on March 30 and was set on the foundation. The connection is underway with completion targeted for April 22, 1988.

## Northwestern's May Anniversaries

### **40 Years**

Laverne Franks, 5/17/48, Plastics.  
Ynes L. Vasquez, 5/26/48, Degreaser

### **30 Years**

Dale E. Bopes, Salaried, 5/2/58, Plant 1 Shipping.  
Leroy J. Holloway, Salaried, 5/12/58, Rock Falls General.  
Harold J. Jackley, 5/13/58, Plant 5 Electrical.  
Lewis C. Battles, 5/13/58, Rock Falls Millwrights.  
Melvin F. Berogan, 5/16/58, Mats.  
Charles C. Deyo, 5/26/58, Rock Falls Millwrights.  
Evan D. Kuhlemier, 5/30/58, Rock Falls Millwrights.

### **25 Years**

Francis D. Kierczynski, 5/2/63, Plant 2 Machine Shop.  
Gary J. Arity, 5/3/63, Plant 2 Machine Shop.  
George P. Fichtenmueller, 5/4/63, Plant 2 Crane Mechanics.

Marvin G. Wulf, 5/7/63, Bale Tie.  
Robert C. Harris, 5/7/63, Rock Falls Drawing.  
Tom J. Razo, 5/7/63, Scrap Yard.  
Curtis B. Tillman, 5/8/63, Rock Falls Millwrights.  
Odis Hudson, 5/8/63, Rock Falls Millwrights.  
Andrew Laidig, 5/9/63, Plant 5 Millwrights.  
Leroy O. Jones, 5/9/63, Rock Falls Drawing.  
Allen W. Shipman, 5/14/63, Plant 2 Welders.  
Arnold D. Quimby, 5/15/63, Plant 2 Millwrights.  
Vernon G. Elgin, 5/15/63, 20-24-Inch Shipping & Finishing.  
Thomas N. Hager, 5/20/63, Wire Mill Millwrights.  
Frank S. Leisner, 5/22/63, Over-The Road Truck Driver.  
John J. Eirschele, 5/22/63, Electric Furnace.  
Otto E. Dobbke, 5/28/63, Rock Falls Shipping.

### **20 Years**

Steven L Urrutia, 5/1/68, 46-Inch Mill.

Paul Brenner, 5/6/68, Billet Caster.  
William A. Guinn, 5/9/68, Scrap Yard.  
Evelio G. Pena, 5/15/68, Scrap Yard.  
Terry L. Pierce, 5/25/68, Billet Caster.  
Mike J. O'Brien, 5/26/68, 12-Inch Mill Crane Operator.  
Tom Walker, 5/26/68, Scrap Yard.  
Michael R. Seidel, 5/28/68, Wire Mill Millwrights.  
Mario J. Segura, 5/29/68, Trial Crew West.  
William L. Free, 5/31/68, 14-Inch Mill.

### **15 Years**

Daniel Rivera, 5/29/63, 20-24-Inch Shipping & Finishing.

### **10 Years**

Benito J. Garcia, 5/2/78, Nail Department.  
George L. Sturtevant, 5/3/78, Over-The-Road Truck Driver.  
Wesley R. Hughes, 5/5/78, Nail Department.  
Brock W. Shelley, 5/7/78, Over-The-Road Truck Driver.

(continued on page 4)

## 12-Inch Mill Sets Several Records

Three shift rolling records and a monthly rolling record were established at the 12-Inch Mill in March.

On March 14, the A Crew established an eight hour rolling record for 3/8-inch rod on the 11-7 shift by rolling 424.7 tons.

The old record was 393.5 tons, established on November 16, 1987. The roller was **G. Brown**, and the mill foreman was **Mike Mason**.

The 424.7-ton record was quickly broken the next day, March 15, when B Crew, on the 7-3 shift, rolled a record-breaking 8-hour total of 433.3 tons of 3/8" rod. Roller for this shift was **J. Jones** and the mill foreman was **E. Handel**.

On March 26, the A Crew on the 3-11 shift broke an eight hour rolling record for 7/16 rod. They rolled 553.6 tons, breaking the old record of 536.8 tons established on July 5, 1987. The roller was **G. Brown** and the mill foreman was **Mike Mason**.

These shift records contributed to a monthly record of 36,434.1 tons. The old record was 34,301.8 tons, established in October 1987.

# Record Breakers

## Barb Wire Operator Sets Three Records In Five Days

Thirty miles of barb wire is a lot of wire. But that's how much **Eric Langley**, Barb Wire Machine Operator, ran on April 11 during one eight hour shift.

Langley produced 158,400 ft. (120 spools) of wire to set a record for the third time in five days. He produced 115 spools on April 8 and 112 spools on April 7. The previous record of 108 spools was set January 1, 1988 by **Ray Hutchison**.

**Vern Schwenk**, Agri Supervisor, also gave credit to **Herman Maxey**, Barb Wire Adjuster, for his efforts in repairing the machinery in the department.

"Over the last few months, Herman has made many improvements in design as well as making repairs on the machines. This has greatly improved their production and the quality of our product," Schwenk said.

## NSW Anniversaries

(continued from page 3)

**Micheal J. Capp**, 5/7/78, 24-Inch Mill.  
**Richard A. Strobbe**, 5/7/78, Over-The-Road Truck Driver.

**Gary K. Morgan**, 5/8/78, 24-Inch Mill.  
**Ronald W. Reppe**, 5/8/78, 24-Inch Mill.  
**Rick D. Burge**, 5/10/78, 24-Inch Mill.  
**Daniel Menchaca**, 5/15/78, 24-Inch Mill.  
**Kermit L. Reins**, Salaried, 5/16/78, Accounting Department.

**Daniel L. Blum**, 5/22/78, Clerical -Draftsman.

**Scott A. Burrows**, 5/22/78, 24-Inch Mill.  
**Kris E. Ewbank**, 5/28/78, Nail Department.  
**Thomas J. Henkel**, 5/28/78, Plant 5 Electrical.

**Stephen D. Rourke**, 5/29/78, Over-The-Road Truck Driver.

**William Pennington**, 5/29/78, Wire Mill Shipping.

**Timothy J. Canady**, 5/31/78, Nail Department.

### 5 Years

**Everett C. Howard**, 5/3/83, Nail Department.  
**Bobby W. Kibodeaux**, 5/4/83, Nail Department.

**David L. Gardner**, 5/5/83, Plant 2 Inspection.  
**Santos R. Rodriguez**, 5/5/83, Nail Department.

**Duane A. Dahlquist**, 5/12/83, Wire Mill Drawing.

**John L. Bertolozzi**, 5/17/83, Nail Department.

**Jimmie L. Hubbard**, 5/23/83, Nail Department.

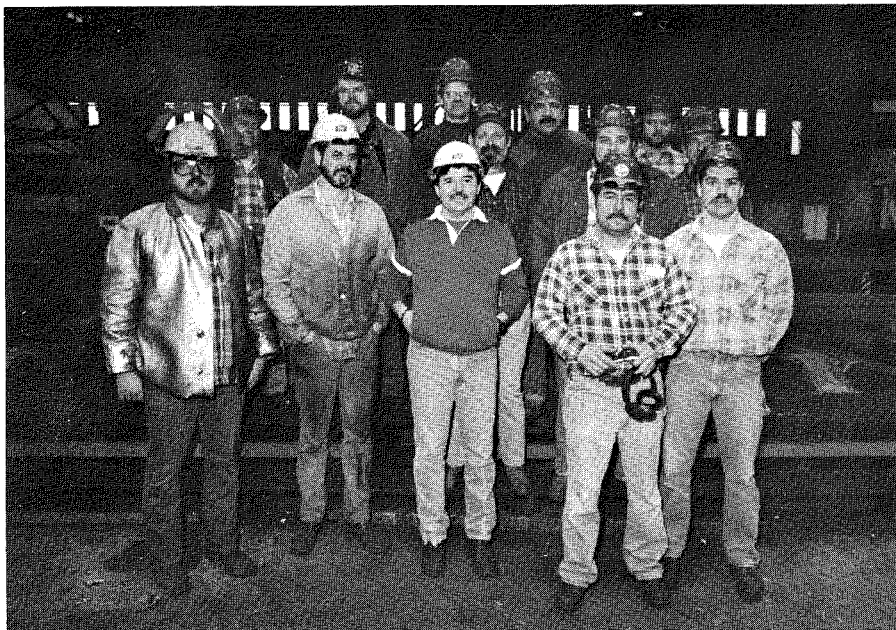
## Ken Haverland, Al Lopez Offer Ace Hardware Input

Northwestern's **Ken Haverland**, Manager of Shipping, Wire Products Division, and **Al Lopez**, Wire Products Inside Salesman, recently were invited to the Ace Hardware Warehouse in Addison, IL to offer input which would assist Ace in improving service.

Haverland and Lopez were among several groups of Ace vendors to meet with **Rick Parrin**, District Center Manager of the Addison Warehouse, to discuss package labeling and shipping.

"Ace would like to make some changes in the labeling for their products. We have the computer capability to be able to handle the request. Ace would like to use Northwestern as an example," Haverland said.

Lopez said he came away with a positive feeling from the meeting. "I think the meeting was very beneficial. This is only going to help us and our relations with Ace. There will be only a minimal cost on our part."



Members of the 14-Inch Mill pose for a photograph. These men and their fellow employees at the mill combined efforts in March to set a monthly record 35,479.0 tons produced.

## Safety

### Tornado Safety Tips

As we head into that portion of the year when tornadoes are most likely to occur, it is a good idea to become familiarized with a few safety tips concerning this natural menace.

Tornadoes occur most often when weather conditions are hot and humid with southerly winds and a threatening and menacing sky.

An hour or two before a tornado, thunderstorm clouds often have a greenish-black color and appear to be topsy-turvy, bulging down instead of up.

In most cases, a tornado moves from a westerly-southwesterly direction at a travel speed of 25 to 40 miles per hour with estimated wind speeds within a tornado of 500 miles per hour. Path length is usually up to forty miles and the path width is an average of 400 yards.

#### *What To Do*

**Tornado Warning:** A tornado warning means a tornado has been sighted. The warning will indicate where the tornado was sighted and the area to which it is expected to move and the time periods during which the tornado will move through the area warned. Take immediate cover.

**Tornado Watch:** A tornado watch is an alert of the possibility that a tornado may develop. Keep tuned to local media for latest information.

In your home, move to the southwest corner of your basement, under a heavy table or bench, if possible. If your home does not have a basement, take cover under sturdy furniture in the center of the house. A closet in the center of the house also offers good protection.

In an office building or a school, if the building is of strongly reinforced construction, remain near an inside wall on the lowest floor. Stay away from windows and avoid auditoriums, gymnasiums or other structures with wide, free span roofs.

In a factory go to the section of the plant offering the greatest protection in accordance with advance safety plans. If you have any questions as to the procedure in your plant and work area,

(continued on page 6)

What is an attitude?

Webster says it is a feeling, a point of view based on a strongly held conviction. It is the way an individual or a group of people think or believe. It often leads to a fixed way of acting.

Attitudes can be good or bad, strong or weak, safe or unsafe, and they can be changed.

It is obvious that these attitudes are not conducive to safety:

"It can't happen to me."

"The law of averages caught up with me."

"It was just one of those things."

"Accidents are the price of progress."

"When my time is up, that's it."

Unsafe attitudes will ultimately lead to dangerous, unsafe actions. There are those who ignore safety rules whenever it is not convenient to obey them or who, perhaps, do not believe the rules apply to them.

A person may remain indifferent to danger as long as he/she is unaware of the existence, but there is no excusing the person who remains indifferent after becoming aware of it, thinking that the danger is only slight, or will not cause any real harm.

Rules grow out of past accident ex-

perience, and are intended to prevent future accidents. Why learn the hard way when we can profit from past experience?

Chance-taking is usually caused by unsafe attitudes - like using a grinding wheel without eye protection, since it is just a short job and the goggles aren't handy anyway.

Life is not a wheel of chance. Are you really smarter, quicker, or luckier than others, clever enough to beat the odds?

There are three basic reasons or causes of accidents, namely:

1. Improper attitude.
2. Lack of knowledge or skill.
3. Physical defects.

Proper job training and job placement can effectively control the latter two categories, but the first category poses entirely different problems - problems for which there are no pat answers.

One of the best ways to develop and promote safe attitudes, among others, is to set a good example. If you see an object on the floor, pick it up; if you see a spot of grease, wipe it up before someone trips or slips. You will be surprised how many will follow your example.

### Alcohol And Drugs

Recent studies have found that alcoholism and chemical dependency cost American business \$40 to \$70 billion each year.

Nationally substance abuse contributes to more than 10 million on-the-job accidents annually and is a factor in as much as 80% of all job accidents. Those that abuse alcohol or drugs can expect to have medical claims up to three times higher, be absent 2.5 times more often, and get hurt three to four times more often than the average employee.

Northwestern Steel and Wire and the Sterling/Rock Falls/Dixon area are no different than other companies and communities in the U.S. when it comes to drug and alcohol problems.

Recently several employees have been disciplined for alcohol and/or substance abuse rule violations. Several others have been disciplined for absenteeism which can be traced directly to alcohol and/or substance abuse.

Alcoholism and chemical dependen-

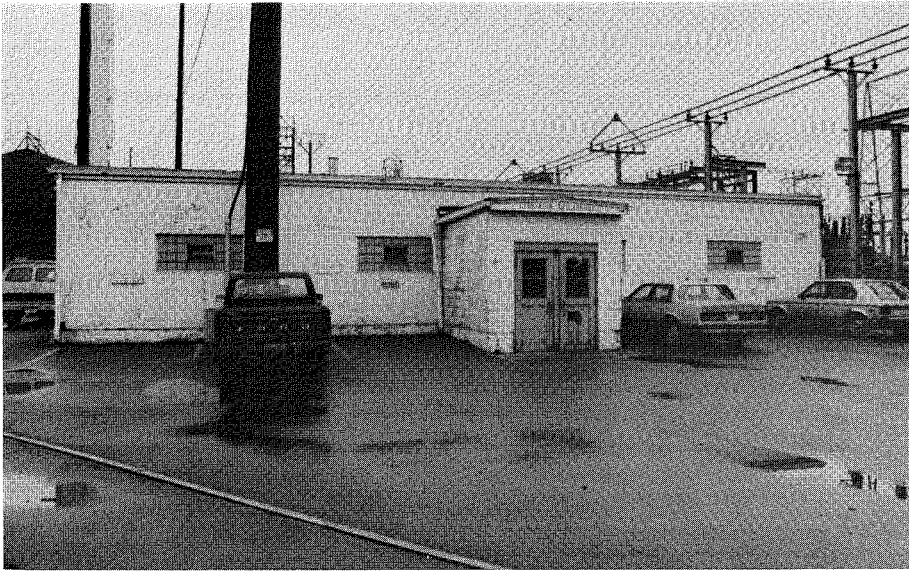
cy are diseases that can be treated successfully. Northwestern's Program of Insurance Benefits provides for alcohol and drug addiction treatment for active employees at an accredited hospital or approved rehabilitative facility.

Dependents are also covered for this treatment. With the availability of treatment it is foolish for an employee to risk losing his or her job because of a drug or alcohol problem.

Numerous Northwestern employees, both union and salaried, have sought treatment and are now able to control their dependency. These people are now some of Northwestern's most productive employees. If you or someone in your family think that they may have an alcohol or drug problem the Company urges you to seek assistance.

Your supervisor, union committeeman, or the Human Resources Staff would be happy to put you in touch with rehabilitation specialists in our area.

(continued on page 6)



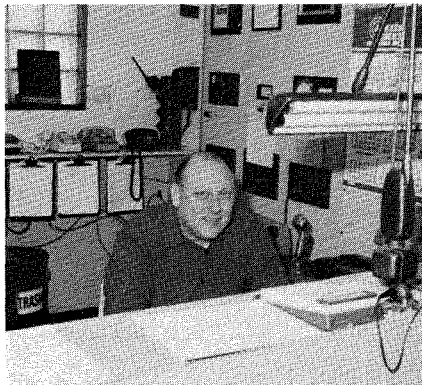
Northwestern's Pentagon, which houses the West Plant production offices, was 25 years old in March. The building received its name from P.W. Dillon because of the "high level" decisions made there.

## Northwestern Team Wins Walleyball Tourney

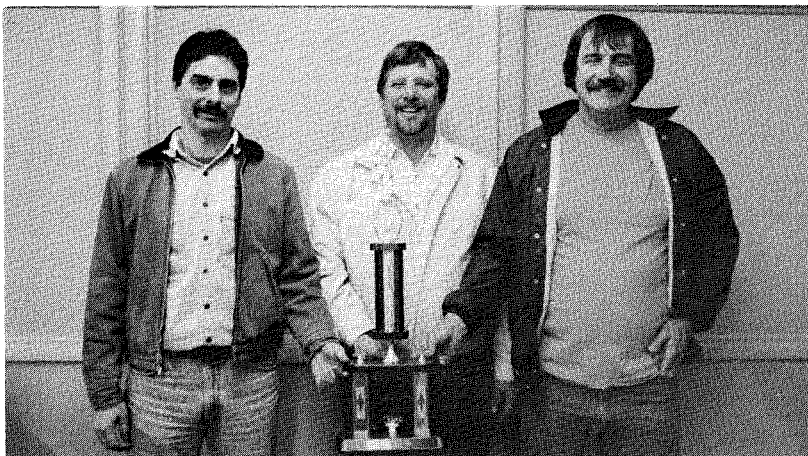
Four Northwestern Steel and Wire employees were members of a winning Walleyball team at a recent tournament held at Westwood Sports Center.

**Ron Harrison**, Plant 3 Shipping Clerk; **Wes Crow**, 14-Inch Mill Roller; **Chuck Renner**, Plant 2 Crane Operator; and **Jerry Gibson**, 24-Inch Conditioning Yard, were members of the winning team in the men's division.

Walleyball is played similar to volleyball, except that the game is played on a racketball court.



Chief Clerk Tom McFadden remembers the Pentagon during its early days 25 years ago.



This Walleyball Team, consisting of Northwestern employees Ron Harrison, Plant 3 Shipping Clerk; Jerry Gibson, 24-Inch Conditioning Yard; and Chuck Renner, Plant 2 Crane Operator; and Wes Crow, 14-Inch Mill Roller (absent from picture); recently won a Westwood tournament.

## Pentagon Anniversary

(continued from page 1)  
cording to McFadden.

Today the Pentagon holds offices for West Plant operations (though many offices have been moved to the Caster Department), drafting, conference room, and one of the Company's two major computer installations.

At its inception the Pentagon held offices for supervisory staff of the West Plant. Receiving, Central Stores and the Electronics Shop were also located in the basement.

The Pentagon was the showplace of Northwestern for a time. McFadden said there was even a stockholder's meeting held there.

**Jerry Shinville**, now Manager of Quality Control; **Bob Hoeg**, Facilities Planning; **Charlie Bosco**, Chief Electrical Engineer, and McFadden are the only employees currently working at the Pentagon who were among the original group to move there in 1963.

## Alcohol And Drugs

(continued from page 5)

One of the more successful programs serving our area is Rockford Memorial Hospital's Addiction Treatment Education Program, ATEP. ATEP can be reached at 986-6861, extension 5201 or through their Sterling branch at 626-2800.

Support groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous are also available in Sterling and Rock Falls. Other programs are available in the Quad Cities and DeKalb.

Help with an alcohol or drug problem is as close as your phone. If you suffer from these diseases seek help before it costs you your job, your life, or the life of a co-worker.

## Tornado Safety Tips

(continued from page 5)  
contact your supervisor.

In open country, move at a right angle from the tornado's path. Most tornadoes move from southwest to northeast. If no time to escape, lie flat in a depression or ditch.

Do not remain in a car or a mobile home as this may be the worst place to be. Take cover elsewhere.

Don't panic. Remain calm at all times.

## Excessive Sideloader Downtime Tackled

The 14-Inch Mill PCIC Team No. 1 developed a 31 point program to help eliminate excessive sideloader downtime at the 14-Inch Mill.

Excessive downtime on the sideloaders increases the cost of the product being shipped. The unavailability of the sideloaders results in double-handling of products, as they cannot be stored in the proper rack space.

After brainstorming the possible causes the Team developed its 31 point program which would: educate maintenance people on repairing the sideloaders; allow more efficient use of operator time by reducing delays; increase the batteries available for use; increase the battery storage area; increase the battery operating life and time between battery changes; permit repair of the most hazardous flooring.

Members of the Team are: **Joe Ryan** and **Doug Kested**, (co-leaders); **Mike Francis** and **Charles Planthaber**, (co-recorders); **Jim Hardt**; **Bill Wyatt**; **Elmer Last**; **Wes Bradley**; **Dave Branch**; and **Dave Kulas**.

Members of the PCIC Steering Committee are: **Ken Church**, (leader); **Ken Boesen**, (recorder); **Bob Elsasser**, **Jim Galloway**, **Bob Czuprynski** and **Bob Nie**.

## Northwestern Retirees

Northwestern Steel and Wire Company wishes a long and happy retirement to the following employees who retired, effective April 1, 1988:

**Leo Sinderman**, Plant 3 Pipe Shop, 40 years.

**John Reynolds**, Roll Thread, 15 years.

**Arnold Quimby**, Plant 2 Mechanical, 24 years.



**Ken Hait**, Electronics Technician (left), receives his diploma signifying completion of a home study course on Instrumentation and Process Control. Presenting the diploma is **Jim Patterson**.

## NSW QIP Teams In Action

### Team Solves Roll-Centering Problem, Saves Money

A savings of \$246,199.32 could be realized annually through reduced rejects and downtime through implementation of the 24-Inch Mill QIP Team No. 1's recommendations.

The Team developed a template to be used when setting the bottom roll in the mill housing. The template will:

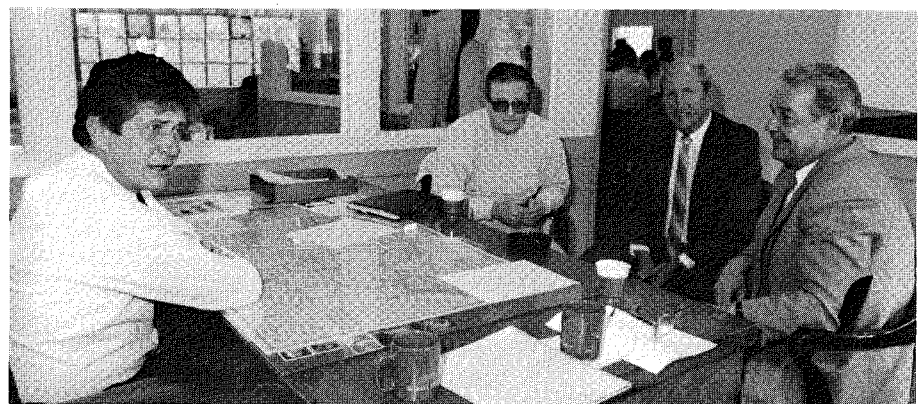
1. Point out the center line so the roll can be set at a desired height.
2. Permit a more accurate stand build-up.
3. Result in less off-center web rejects.
4. Save labor costs of one man-hour per shift.
5. Increase productivity.

The cost of installing the template was determined to be just \$802.50.

The Team also upgraded the roll building procedures and instructions were written on the use of the template. Video tapes were made of a stand being built up and the correct use of the template. These tapes will be used for instructional purposes.

Team members are: **E. Goodell**, **T. Hambley**, **D. Dace**, **G. Covell**, **W. Reyes**, **R. Smith**, **S. Shilling**, **R. Knapp**, **A. Rios**, **D. Ballard**, **R. Card**, and **E. Eubanks**.

Members of the 24-Inch Mill Steering Committee are: **Jerry Hartman**, **Jim Mangan** and **Bob Aldridge**.



**David Oberbillig**, Northwestern's Vice President of Sales, Wire Products Division, (left), has a friendly chat with **Terry Sweeney** (second from left) and **George Barnes** (far right) of Barnes and Sweeney, Co-owners of Barnes and Sweeney in Detroit, MI, a valued Northwestern Wire Products customer. **Ed Sanders** (second from right) is Northwestern's territorial salesman servicing the Company, as well as the rest of Michigan and Indiana.

### Safety Solution May Also Mean Productivity Gain

The EAF No. 2 Quality Improvement Team set out to reduce the number of accidents charged to the Electric Furnace Department due to slipping and tripping on the top of the furnaces. Their solution may also make the Furnace Department more productive.

The Team determined that build-up of lime, which is extremely slippery when wet, was the primary cause of the accidents.

By moving the lime pipe to the "B" wall on all furnaces, the lime build up would be significantly reduced.

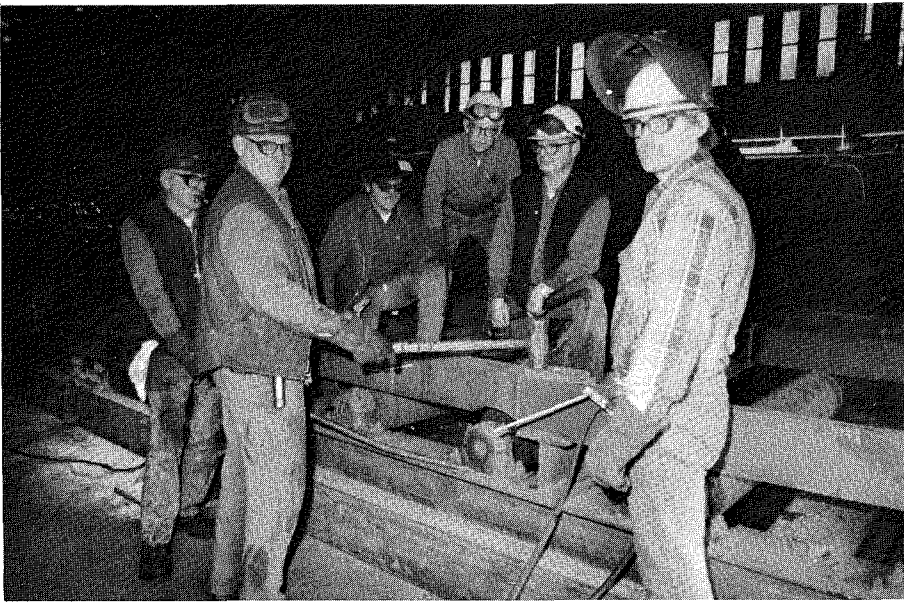
The Team also recommended better lighting of the area with 1500-watt quartz lights.

The improved working conditions should facilitate work on the electrodes, and reduce downtime.

The Team also recommended extending the platform to within 8-inches to 12-inches from the end of the spout and moving the coke and lime bins.

Members of the Team are: **Cecil Monnier**, **Jim White**, **Dave Kester**, **Bob Rippeon**, **Jim Larson**, **Frank Miller**, **Don Wiemken**, **Ed Colclasure**, **Jim Britt**, **Joe Michlig**, **Larry DeWitte** and **Marvin Finkle**.

Members of the EAF Steering Committee are: **D. Koncsics**, **B. Winn**, **D. Fullington**, **D. Willman**, **D. DeVries**, **G. DeJarnette**, and **B. Boesen**.



14-Inch Mill Millwrights stand before one of three sections of the 14-Inch Mill roll line they replaced with spare parts from the old 20-Inch Mill.

## West Plant Personnel Attend In-House Casting, SPC Seminars

Northwestern Caster, Electric Furnace, Metallurgical and 12-Inch Mill personnel attended an in-house seminar March 29-31 on continuous casting and SPC techniques.

The seminar was conducted by Dr. Keith Brimacombe, Dr. Indua Samarsekera, of the University of British Columbia, and Roy Sheldon Coordinator, Statistical Process Control at Northwestern Steel.

The intent of the seminar was to keep Northwestern personnel informed on the latest in casting technology.

"The successful implementation of the concepts discussed during the seminars will result in a substantial improvement in our product quality, competitiveness, profitability, and self-esteem," David Koncsics, Manager, Primary Operations, said.

The seminar defined to those attending the high-tech nature and complexity of continuous casting and the need for the establishment and enforcement of standard operating procedures.

About 193 Northwestern personnel attended the seminar.



David Koncsics, Manager, Primary Operations, speaks during the recent in-house seminar on continuous casting and SPC techniques held in late March.

## Millwrights Build Own Roll Line Sections

By designing and reconstructing three sections on the 14-Inch Mill roll line, millwrights saved the Company an estimated \$50,000.

When the first three sections of the 14-Inch Mill roll line needed to be replaced, Northwestern was faced with the prospect of purchasing new sections from an outside supplier.

Thanks to the resourceful 14-Inch Mill Millwrights, the sections were designed and constructed by Northwestern personnel out of spare parts from the old 20-Inch Mill.

## Extend Ladle Well Block Life

A major cause of premature refractory failures in dolomitic ladle linings is the shutting down for repairs and subsequent reheating of the ladle refractories.

In the past two years of experience with dolomitic linings, the need to replace well blocks during the campaigns has been the single major cause of repair shutdowns.

This problem is still prevalent throughout the industry.

However, our hourly and salaried personnel in the ladle area have devised a unique well block patching system that has extended well block life to the point that the need to replace them has been eliminated.

The process has greatly contributed to the Company's recent 25% increase in ladle life which translates into a yearly savings of about \$200,000, according to Bill Boesen, General Foreman, Mold Pit.

Through trial and error, brainstorming and much hard work, the people in this area have teamed up to solve a costly problem. Well done!

## Plant 2 Welders To Hold Annual Picnic

Reminder from Wayne Volkmann, Plant 2 Welder, that the annual picnic for retired Plant 2 welders, friends and co-workers will be held on July 16th at the Centennial Park Pavillion.

Food will be served at 1:00 p.m. sharp. More details will be available later.