

Shop Talk

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Building Around The Buildings

Take a quick 360-degree tour of your workplace. Most of what you see, if not all of it, involves the handiwork of The Post's own Carpenter and Paint Shop. Partitions, floor and ceiling tiles, mirrors, message boxes, pictures, doors, bookcases, all hanging artwork, windows, cabinets, carpets, computer desks, chairs, file cabinets and work counters—you name it—are the collective works of this 10-person department.

At the Northwest plant, **STEVE ERNEST**, **BOB FLYNN**, **BILL HOLLISTER**, **JULIUS KELLY** and

JAMES SLAVEY base themselves in the mini-hardware store they call "the shop" on the first floor. To complement this tool-cluttered but well-stocked hide-away The Post's two painters, **PETE CONTO** and **BUDDY JOHNSON**, have their own niche on the third floor next to the mailroom. Still other colleagues, **MIKE GAROFALO** and **RAY ODEN** at the Springfield plant and Southeast's **JIM BOGAN**, have on-site workshops ready for "PM" (preventive maintenance), alterations, repairs and special projects. At each facility the team is

poised for sudden on-call missions—anything from a stuck drawer to the rescue of an employee locked inside an office (yes, they say this happens quite frequently).

The jobs handled by the carpenters fit into four categories: call-in, work order, Security repairs (phoned in to Security on weekends and holidays) and building repairs. Chief carpenter Hollister has nicknamed the call-in requests "right now" jobs. "Most of the time, the person making a phone request for a repair
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Left to right: **BILL HOLLISTER**, **BUDDY JOHNSON**, **JULIUS KELLY**, **STEVE ERNEST**, **JAMES SLAVEY** and **PETE CONTO** are part of The Post's own ever-ready Carpenter and Paint Shop. Not pictured: **BOB FLYNN**, **MIKE GAROFALO**, **RAY ODEN** and **JIM BOGAN**.

Etiquette By Gruen

Where do I seat my godparents at my wedding? Can my fiance also be in the photograph accompanying our engagement announcement? What constitutes a wedding reception? Can my wedding dress be a color other than white, cream or ivory? **YETTA GRUEN** has been handling marriage and engagement announcements and answering questions such as these for the past 14 years. As the Wedding & Engagement Announcement representative, Gruen words the happy occasions just right and designs the Wednesday announcements page with an artist's finesse.

Gruen insists that the announcement page be handled with as much good taste and style as a formal wedding. "When I write an announcement, especially a wedding announcement,

It is an honor to be asked to be a bridesmaid, but who pays for the outfit, the hotel bill for out-of-town bridesmaids, and travel expenses?

Though the bride chooses what will be worn, each bridesmaid usually pays for her own dress and accessories. The bride's family is supposed to provide lodgings for out-of-town bridesmaids (check this with the bride), but the bridesmaids pay their own travel expenses.

I try to make it as romantic as I can because it is a romantic time," says the soft-spoken Gruen. Because of her dedication to the romance and style of the page, Gruen carefully reads every announcement written by her clients. "One young woman liked the fact that she had worded her announcement to sound as though she was married at age nine. But I would not let anything poke fun at the page, so I reworded it correctly."

Gruen's announcement page is not entirely devoted to wedding and engagement announcements. Gruen is noticing an increase in birth announcements; and she says the anniversary announcements are a "terrific" catalyst to reunite old friends. There are few announcements for debutantes, however, but Gruen says she is trying to get more. "I think debutantes would make a wonderful addition to the page," Gruen says, "but social consultants contend that the 'coming out' of a young woman is a private matter and not public like a wedding."

Over the years, Gruen has unwittingly become a wedding expert. She often finds herself doubling as a hotline wedding-etiquette consultant for her clients. She has read every book on etiquette and has spent a lot of time researching weddings, traditions and even the laws surrounding the nuptial vows. "People call and ask as many questions about wedding etiquette as they do about placing announcements," Gruen says. And her efforts to keep up with changing traditions have helped her adapt her advice to the new problems of young couples, their families and even the wedding guests.



YETTA GRUEN receives wedding invitations from many of her clients, but politely declines them all. "I feel it's best not to accept the invitations when dealing professionally with people as I do," says Gruen.

Second and third marriages were barely touched in older etiquette books, and problems with divorced parents attending their children's weddings have become more prevalent. Still others are marrying later in life—often setting up house-keeping together before the marriage—raising gift-giving questions and questions about who would foot the wedding bills.

Gruen has saved the different questions she's been asked over the years and has spent the last year and a half compiling them into a book. "I think the book will answer modern-day questions people may have about wedding etiquette," says Gruen. Her book is scheduled for publication in May or June of 1986. She has tentatively titled it "Wed-Iquette."

What constitutes a wedding reception?

The simplest wedding reception has to have a receiving line, a liquid refreshment (other than tea or coffee) to toast the bridal couple, and a wedding cake. Or it can be as elaborate a function as serving drinks and hors d'oeuvres, followed by a formal dinner with dancing and an open bar.

Among her tips on wedding etiquette, Gruen cites two frequent disasters that can be avoided: for example, unless you are engaged and your fiance has been left off of your invitation, never ask to bring a guest to a wedding; and be sure to include the groom's parents in an engagement announcement.

There is nothing about her job that Gruen doesn't like. However, she hinted that she worries about being too romantic at times. But in her line of work, why not?

*From Gruen's Weddings and Engagements booklet.

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STEVE ERNEST and **BILL HOLLISTER** look over the proposed office renovation plans for the Records Department.

needs it done quickly." A broken lock, something important dropped behind an unmovably heavy desk or missing floor tiles are considered priority work and are prefaced with a rating of A, B or C on the daily work list. "We consider anything that prevents a person from doing his or her job or threatens safety and security as an A job, and so on," says Hollister.

"Our 'To Do' list is longest on Mondays," Ernest says, "because anything that needed repair before the weekend will be called in and Security usually has a list of call-in repairs from over the weekend. But the daily maintenance and repair work helps us meet people all over the building."

Although repairs and maintenance make up a good bit of their work schedule—approximately 40 call-ins per month on top of 40 to 45 work order requests—the carpenters are also kept busy building offices, framing pictures (as well as making the frames) and making furniture. The newsroom itself is one of the major accomplishments of the carpenters and painters. Every partition, mail box, message box, cabinet, and bookcase is there thanks to them.

An increase in building/renovation requests tips off the ever-ready crew



PETE CONTO: "Cleaning paintbrushes is easy after an overnight soak in Linseed oil and a few strokes of a good steel brush."

that changes are on the way and that the paper continues to grow. "Renovation and cabinetry are what we enjoy the most," says Kelly. "Building cabinets, bookcases and the like are the most challenging jobs because we work without plans and the finished product really becomes our own creation."

Wherever the carpenters are, the painters are usually close behind. "Anytime you move a picture or take down a sign the wall has to be painted," Conto says. "Most repair work is unfinished until a new coat of paint has been applied, even if it's just a touch-up." They even paint the lines on the black-topped parking lots.



JULIUS KELLY hammers the last nail into one of Benefits' new partitions.

The painters' shop is well stocked with brushes, ladders and cans of paint for almost any occasion, but the painting crew never worries about matching the colors. With the exception of the corporate offices, The Post's walls are all the same made-to-order color—eggshell. But it's not just any eggshell color; the Bruning Paint Company mixes Eggshell Alkyd Enamel paint in huge batches for the exclusive use of The Washington Post.

Bill Hollister has seen a multitude of changes at The Post—from the establishment of its own carpentry and paint department, right down to its Washington Post paint. "It's quite a change from 34 years ago, when I just worked part-time for The Post out of the back of my truck parked in the alley—the only carpenter for the building." As the Post grew, so did the one-man department, but for Hollister one thing remains constant. "Whenever something breaks, we go fix it."

Post Scripts

BIG APPLE BOUND—On her last day at The Post, Style's **SUSAN BRADY** was given one last assignment by Fashion editor **NINA HYDE**—to be the guest of honor at her "good-bye" party. The Style staff turned out to offer their best wishes to Brady who is moving to New York.



PHOTO BY JOEL RICHARDSON.

SUSAN BRADY finishes her "last assignment" on a sweet note, under the watchful eye of **NINA HYDE**.

Rec Association

"LA CAGE AUX FOLLES"—You can still get tickets for the October 29 performance of "La Cage Aux Folles" at the National Theatre. The performance is at 8 p.m. Call **LYNN MABUCHI**, x4102, for more information.

A SHOPPING SPREE—The Recreation Association is sponsoring a shopping trip to the Vanity Fair and Moss Street outlet centers in Reading, Pennsylvania. Wednesday, October 23. The price is \$10 per person. Payments are due by October 10 (no refunds). Only 46 seats available. The bus will leave the Northwest plant at 7 a.m. and return at approximately 10 p.m. Call **LISA NIMMONS**, x6806 for tickets.

ENCORE TRIP—Because the last fishing expedition left many of the fishing enthusiasts fishless and jealous of the great catch made by Production's **PATTI GARNER**, there will be another Recreation Association-sponsored charter fishing trip on Sunday, September 22. The \$37 per-person price tag includes bait, tackle, beer and soft drinks. You are responsible for your own lunch (if you don't catch it) and tipping your boat's mate. For information and fish stories call **CHARLIE WEST**, x6560.

SUNDAY MATINEE—The West End Dinner Theatre will present "Annie Get Your Gun" on October 20. Dinner begins at 12:30 p.m. and curtain time is 2:30 p.m. You have a choice of full table service or the dinner buffet. The price is \$19 per person. Call **JEANNEANE JOYNER**, x7790, Mondays - Fridays, 2:30 - 9 p.m., for reservations.

Marketplace

BOAT—1968 MFG. V Hull, 55-horsepower Evenrude, trailer. Good condition. \$850. Call R. Hodgins, x4152 or 255-9593.

LOST—A Wilson baseball glove at the August 18 Softball game. If you have found it or know where it can be found, please call Peter Land, x7350 or 998-6463.

DATED 1809—Selling old papers, including a Washington Post dated 1894 (\$50) and old Post comics. Call Jeff, x6882, 1-7 p.m., or (703) 670-5603, before noon.

1981 YAMAHA—550 ccs Seca, 27,000 miles, new brakes, tires, chain and front sprocket. Completely tuned and in excellent condition, cover, helmet and owner's manual. Best offer. Call Dave Shweitzer, x7149 or 843-7857.

SADDLES—One Steuben Rex, with fittings, good condition, 16 - 16½-inch seat, \$325; one Lovett & Rickett, close contact and almost new 16-inch seat, \$375. Call Bill Smart, x7541 or (301) 934-3824.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?—Confidential Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at The Post. Also a new women's only meeting program. Please contact Ken Deckman, x7162, 7 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Mondays - Thursdays, for place and time in each plant.

FOR SALE—Two-bedroom condo in Cleveland Park. Top floor, park view, 1 block from Metro. Call x7529 or 244-6535.

COMPUTER KAYPRO 2—New condition, 10 programs included. Price is \$875. Call Frank Johnston, x7380 or 525-8472.

1980 DODGE VAN—B-300, white. Four captain's chairs, bed, AM/FM, cassette, clock, A/C, 4 mag wheels, customized interior. \$6000. Call Robert Spencer, x6068 or 567-3685.

SHIH-TZU PUPPIES—AKC, 9 weeks—2 males and 2 females—black and white, shots. \$175 each. Call Carla, x7344, Mondays - Fridays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. or (703) 786-4346.

WRITING IN STYLE—Convert that dust-collector on your bookshelf to cash: I'd like to buy your copy of "Writing in Style" for \$10. Call Cathy Campbell, x7631 or (703) 237-0664.

FOR SALE—Three-bedroom, 2½-bath home with fireplace, 2-car garage, patio. Lovely community. Thirty-year fixed rate available at 9.53 with 5 percent down and VHDA financing available. \$682.17 (total monthly payment). Call Jennifer Veax for details, x4483 or (703) 490-5988.

CLUB MED TRIP—For one person. \$100 less than charged by a travel agency. Must be taken by October 1985. Call Mike, x7677 or 451-4893.

GUITAR, PIANO, FLUTE—1967 Fender Stratocaster guitar, cord and case, electronically perfect, Schaller machines, \$600; 1926 Hardmann & Peck Harrington studio upright piano, reconditioned, massive mahogany case, \$950; Gemeinhardt M2 student flute, silver, new pads, \$125. Call Bob, x6319 or (703) 680-5291.

MOVING SALE—Must sell brass bed, platform bed, oak desk with 2 chairs, sofa, bureau and new sewing machine and more. Call 363-1627.

PERUVIAN SWEATERS—Throw rugs and one lady's formal coat made of long, silky Alpaca wool. Call Tere 256-3748.

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE—In community with all the amenities (golf, tennis, lakes, beaches, etc.). Montclair, Virginia, 2800 sq. ft. colonial split foyer with front porch and pillars. Five bedrooms, 3 baths, family room, living/dining room, rec. room, garage, 2 fireplaces. \$132,500. OLRA. Call x6426 or 768-7216.

FURNITURE—French Provincial tables, queen-size sleep sofa, Early American dry sink, Sears sewing machine cabinet. Call 937-6633.

SWAP APARTMENTS?—Seeking a house or apartment for two in New York for the week of October 13, and Washington for the week of October 20, or vice versa. Possibly could swap for 4-room Paris apartment near Trocadero (2 kittens). Call Fred Farris, x7418 or 966-7567.

FOR SALE—Your choice of flute or trumpet. Both in excellent condition. Great for students. \$125 or best offer. Call Whitaker, x7389 or 248-7082.

MARKETPLACE DEADLINE: Noon on Wednesday one week prior to publication date. Please include your name, extension and home telephone number. Send ads to Shop Talk, seventh floor, or call x6803. Ads will run two weeks unless otherwise requested. One ad per employee, please.