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From left: Dr. Karen Aldridge; Pat Hillebrand, CPOA; Kathy Carlin

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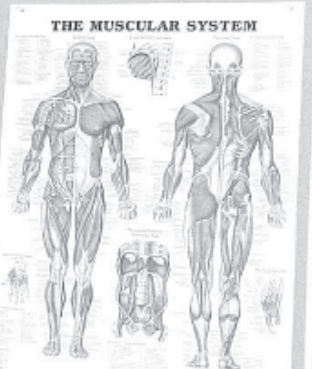
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Norma Wilhite, manager of the finishing department, cleaned a part before sending it to the quality assurance department for a final check.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Repetition of job is relaxing

By **VERONICA MONIER**

Norma Wilhite, the finishing department manager at Natoma Corporation in Norton, loves her job.

Natoma is a contract manufacturer of high precision machine parts for aircraft avionics, medical and laboratory instruments and environmental companies, among others.

In the finishing department, she said, they take off any excess metal or plastic from parts made in the plant.

"The machinists make the parts, then they come to my department where they are cleaned and polished," she said. "Then, we send them to quality assurance for inspection."

As a part of her job, she supervises the other three people in her department. She also checks quality and quantity of the parts and teaches people how to use the machines, such as the bead blaster, tumbler, and speed lathe.

"We do a lot of fine, detail work," she said.

Mrs. Wilhite has worked for Natoma for a year and has been the department supervisor for about four months.

"I enjoy the repetition involved with the job," she said. "It's relaxing to me. You don't have the stress you would in a customer service position."

But, she said, they still have customers waiting and have to get the product to them on time.

"I enjoy my job," she said. "Not a lot of people can sit there and do the same thing every day. It takes focus and attention to detail."

Her favorite part of the job, she said, is knowing that she's getting a quality part out to the general population.

Mrs. Wilhite said she's had a lot of jobs over the past 10 years, a lot of which were at production plants. She's worked in a mailing house, a print shop and an automobile parts manufacturing plant.

She's also been a bartender, waited tables and worked in cosmetology.

"I wouldn't do any of it again," she said. "I like the place I work and the people I work with. To me, it seems like a family type environment. The small business atmosphere lets you get to know everyone who works there."

Mrs. Wilhite has lived in Norton for about two years, but has been around the area most of her life because of family.

She lives with her husband of 20 years, Bill, and her son, William, 17, a senior at Norton Community High School. They also have a daughter, SkyeAnne, who is 19 and works at the *Smith County Pioneer*.