

MUELLER RECORD

INSIDE ONLY

APRIL 1934

NO. 9

THE RECORD

We think this Record will prove especially interesting to members of the organization through contributions of local factory news from Mrs. Pope, Chattanooga notes by E. H. Langdon and a breezy letter from George Leach of the Pacific coast factory.

BUSINESS IS BETTER

At a Departmental Meeting held in the gymnasium on Monday, April 16th, announcement was made by Adolph Mueller that the employees of the Mueller Co. were to have their pay increased a total of \$5,000 a month, effective April 1st.

Mr. Mueller said that gradual betterment of the company's business during the last year had made the salary raise possible. Evidence that general business conditions are better is apparent. Having just returned from a trip to the south, Mr. Mueller said that building is reviving down there, and he hopes that the wave of improvement will spread northward with the advance of the season.

P. W. A. construction of municipal water plants is expected to be an aid in the revival of water works business by early summer.

SCOUTMASTERS' MEETING AT MUELLER HEIGHTS

The Scoutmasters' Club met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, May 1st, at the Mueller Athletic Club, under the auspices of Troop 2, sponsored by the Mueller Co. Scoutmaster Howard Baldis was the host.

Dinner was served to forty or more scout-leaders on the spacious screened-in porch of the Club House. Mr. Baldis was assisted in the preparation and serving of the dinner by Assistant Scoutmaster Frank Edmondson, other members of the troop committee and their wives, and Mrs. Overfield of the cafeteria.

The discussion and announcements made at the meeting following the dinner had to do largely with the outdoor program and camping plans for summer. Dr. Hatfield, Chairman of the Camping Committee, reported on the recent camping conference which he and Scout Executive Soules attended in Chicago. Mr. Soules explained the new trend in Boy Scout camp as outlined by national headquarters, which is to minimize permanent camp struc-

tures and develop camping under canvas by Troop and Patrol Units.

There was singing and the usual wise cracking pleasantries, directed chiefly at the corpulent president of the club, Dr. Sommerville, and the "Big Bad Wolf" Scout Commissioner Andrews. Taps were sounded and the meeting adjourned with the scout benediction.

The present personnel of the Troop Committee of Troop 2 is as follows: Francis E. Carroll, Chester Priddy, John A. Bixler, Roy Vandervort, Otto C. Keil, Howard A. Baldis, Scoutmaster, Frank A. Edmondson, Assistant Scoutmaster.

The Scoutmasters' Club is a very worthwhile organization which meets once a month to discuss and interchange ideas which will advance the interest of scouting in the Decatur Area Council, and make more agreeable and worthwhile the individual efforts of the men who so liberally give of their time to the Boy Scouts of Decatur.

SCOUT CIRCUS

Seven hundred Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, and Cubs took part in the second annual scout circus held at the Armory, April 13th and 14th. Over three thousand persons attended. Indians, clowns, African bushmen, scampered gaily about, constructed villages and gave demonstrations of the many tests which a scout must pass on various subjects.

Construction of the model "Fort Dearborn" including block houses, fur trading posts, and other projects was considered one of the greatest accomplishments in showmanship ever seen in Decatur.

WEDDINGS

Kush-Johnson

Miss Marie Kush, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kush, and J. Robert Johnson were married Tuesday, May 1st, in the First English Lutheran Church. Mrs. Lowell Yarbrough, a sister of the bridegroom, and Walter Kush, the bride's brother, were attendants. The bride wore a powder blue chiffon dress and carried a bouquet of blue delphinium and sweetheart roses.

Mr. Johnson formerly worked as draftsman in Plant Engineer Jacka's department, but resigned several months ago to accept a position with the Hookless Fastener Co. in Meadville, Pa. The bride is a sister of Clarence Kush, pattern department. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson will live in Meadville, Pa.

BOWLERS TAKE A DAY OFF



Several weeks ago members of the Bowling League and friends held an outdoor celebration at the Cabin northeast of Decatur. While the majority participated in a "shootin' match" Bill Ferry played the part of a lone fisherman with good success.

INDUSTRIAL SOFT BALL

The Mueller team for 1934 under the management of Preston Ruthrauff promises to be a very fast and snappy team composed of young and ambitious players.

The League is composed of six teams, namely, Muellers, Staleys, Wabash, Morans, Junior Mechanics, and Y. M. C. A. Three games of nine innings each will be played every week on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday nights at Fans Field. The game starts promptly at 8 p. m. An admission price of 10c will be charged at the gate for any grand stand seat. Box seats will be 10c extra.

The umpires selected are W. E. Behrns and A. J. Pennington.

Coach Henry of Roosevelt High School has volunteered his service in assisting Mr. Ruthrauff in building up a winning team. A 12 inch ball has been adopted, also 60 foot base line.

Everyone is urged to come out and boost for their favorite. The games promise to be much faster and interesting than last year.

Donald Andrews of the brass foundry here has been transferred to Chattanooga where he will be foreman of the brass foundry there.

AT MUELLER LODGE

The Mueller Lodge now is resplendent in its spring glory, and many people are taking advantage of weather we've been having for the last week or ten days to get out in the open, especially the fishermen. It use to be bowling that you'd hear from all sides, but now it's fish. The fact that the fish have been biting good has lead even those usually only mildly interested to become most enthusiastic wielders of the line and rod.

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Harry Meyer and Orville Keller of the Shipping department reported on May 5th that they had been out before coming to work and caught forty.

Saturday morning, May 6th, the banks were lined from day break on with hopeful anglers.

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John Bixler and family opened the season at the Mueller Log Cabin over the week-end of April 28th. They reported the weather a little cool at night but every member of the party enjoyed their first outing.

* * *

The landscape artists are at work again beautifying the grounds at the Mueller Lodge. This time they are concentrating their efforts on the Mueller lake, around which are being set many decorative and flowering plants. Most of the work is being done at the end of the lake just west of the Lodge, where the spring comes in.

MUELLER SOCIAL CLUB

The Mueller Social Club entertained their husbands at a potluck supper on Thursday evening, April 19th, at the Mueller Lodge. Table decorations were yellow and white with spring flowers in the center of the table. Following the supper, games and contests were played with prizes being awarded to the winners.

Hereafter the meetings of the Mueller Social club will be held at the Mueller Lodge instead of the Athletic Club.

OPERATION

Mrs. Al Wilkins, mother of Mary Wilkins, was operated on April 5th for appendicitis at the Decatur and Macon County hospital. She recovered nicely and is now convalescing at her home.

Joe—"I'm forgetting women."

Blow—"So am I. I'm for getting me a couple as soon as I can."

To be content with little is true happiness.

LANGFORD COLLIDES WITH DEER

ORANGE PEELS FROM L. A.

Interesting News Items From Pacific Coast Factory.

Jean Langford arrived April 18th to take up his new duties at the Factory. Jean relates a most unusual experience which happened on the way down. It seems he was passing thru the Giant Redwoods about eleven at night and stepping along about forty-five per. Suddenly he crashed into an object, and said object was thrown clear over the top of the car. Upon investigation, he discovered that it was not a Spook as he had supposed, but a one hundred fifty pound Buck. Further investigation disclosed that the deer was quite dead, its back broken, as was also the front bumper and one headlight on the car. Jean states that he was very fortunate that the deer was thrown clear of the car, otherwise it probably would have landed in his lap. To make a long story short, he loaded Mister Buck on the car, drove to Eureka and there turned it over to the State Police, reserving one hind quarter for himself.

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Some of the fellows have decided to try their luck at growing fruit. They have planted, on the east side of the Factory, one lemon, one grapefruit and four orange trees. Each being named after its owner.

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And speaking of unusual experiences, Bill Michl and Ed Wynne went fishing off the Breakwater, in San Pedro Harbor last Saturday. Everything was lovely, but they weren't catching any fish until the tide began to come in, and with it (you can believe this if you want to, but we don't) came so many hungry fish, that the boys, in order to save their skins, were forced to take refuge in the light-house.

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Seldom does one hear of four Roy's, three Roy Baker's, and two cars in one car. Such was the case when Roy Baker of the Plating Department, Roy Baker of the General Office, his son, Roy Baker, Jr., and Roy Karr of the Shipping Dept., decided to take a fishing trip a few weeks ago.

* * *

Charles Portee and George Tolladay visited the Zoo some time ago, and it seems that in the cages where the lions are kept, the view is somewhat obstructed, making it necessary, if one were to see the occupants closely, to peer through a rather small door. George took his look and strolled on, however, about the time Charley decided to have a peek, Mr. Lion let out a war-whoop, and Charley did a fade-out, taking with him several small trees and about a half mile of hedge. Those who know Charley, will realize that this is not exaggerated.

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Jerry Preshaw has developed a fondness for Mexican peppers, of the H O T variety—Ha-Ha. The same goes for Russ Jolly.

If anyone should happen to sneak through Huntington Park about four each morning, and it was possible to see through the fog, they would see Roy Thomas and his son making an awful dust on the tennis courts. Some of the more prominent Huntington Park Natives, such as Bill Michl and Ed Wynne, claim that it isn't fog that they have down there each morning, it is the dust that Tommy raises.

* * *

Cec Foltz is very much enthused over the California climate, and from the way that he talks, we believe he has gone Native. He maintains that he doesn't like Avocados, but we are inclined to doubt this statement, because on several occasions during the lunch hour, when the avocados were being passed out free of charge, we noticed that he would eat them like a mule eating thistles.

* * *

It seems that the Jolly's and the Reedy's are spending Saturday evenings at bridge. Recently the Reedy's purchased a thoroughbred Irish Terrier as a companion for Suzanne. Noticing the long face Russell wore, one morning after the night before, and knowing Emmett as we do, we suspect that Russell may have contributed a goodly portion of the purchase price of the Pooch.

* * *

Shortly before eight one mornnig last week a terrific roar was heard, and as the noise increased in volume, the Building began to tremble. "Quake! Quake!" someone shouted, and everyone rushed for the exits, only to discover that it was Billy Dill arriving for work in his Limosine—Vintage of 1910.

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Last Saturday Emmett Reedy, Louis Wyant, Russell Jolly and George Leach, staged a four-some at Montebello Park. Louis and Emmett elected to play partners against the other two. Reservations have been made for next Saturday and we understand that the two Boys (Emmett & Louis), are getting in a lot of intensive practice nightly, in an attempt to regain their lost laurels.

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IN THE EAST

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Mueller and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mueller left Decatur on Sunday, April 29th for Washington, D. C., where they attended the annual meetings of the National Chamber of Commerce, May 1st to 4th.

May 8th was Mr. Adolph Mueller's birthday, and the Foremen's Club remembered the occasion with a beautiful bouquet of flowers sent to him at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Fredric Schluter in Greenwich, Connecticut, where Mr. and Mrs. Mueller were stopping at that time.

"So arguments between you and your wife usually end in a draw?"

"Yes. I draw the check."

CHATTANOOGA CHATTER

E. H. Langdon Contributes Interesting Gossip of Southern City.



The University of Chattanooga in many ways is an institution similar to the James Millikin University of Decatur. It has a somewhat similar arrangement of buildings and is about the same size with about the same number of students.

For nine days in April, the University sponsored the Tennessee Valley Institute on which occasion leaders of national prominence discussed the various aspects of Tennessee Valley Authority. The economic, sociological, educational, political aspects of this great experiment in a planned economy for the whole region was discussed. Most of the speakers disapproved the idea of artificial shortages and believed that the United States should develop an economy of abundance rather than an economy of scarcity.

A Real Fairyland

Among the various show places at Chattanooga is a curious rock formation on Lookout Mountain to which the owner has given the fanciful name of "Fairy Land." This spot is a little lower than the surrounding hills and the bare sandstone outcrops at the surface. It looks as though it may once have been the bed of a stream.

Cut through the area are little gorges, some only a few inches wide and others forming small canyons in which trees are growing.

The rock formation is a light colored sand conglomerate with round quartz pebbles through it. Why that kind of a formation should be found near the top of a mountain is a puzzling circumstance.

The visitor enters a gate to Fairy Land and pays fifty cents for the privilege of traveling down the "enchanted trail" which leads through small canyons, over suspension bridges, into caves, grottoes, comes out on a cliff which overlooks the valley, returns to the starting point by devious windings through this curious rock formation.

At intervals are small figures of brownies holding signs or pointing the way. In one cav-

ern a party of them have a miniature still. In an open space a foursome are playing golf. Another spot along the trail a half dozen of them have taken shelter under an overhanging rock. Little Red Riding Hood meets the wolf in a lonely glade.

At various places are to be found water birds, squirrels, and rabbits which seem to be quite at home, but which are observed not to move. These animal images and the brownies have been imported from Germany and placed about the grounds to make it interesting for children.

S. D. Waller was such an enthusiastic gardener that he blistered his hands the first afternoon and then decided to have his lot plowed.

Springtime In The South

The weather in Tennessee the last two weeks has been unseasonably cool, somewhat as it has been in Illinois, but at that, the season is about two weeks earlier than it is in Illinois. The purple iris has been in bloom for three weeks or more, and the woods were white with dogwood blossoms the last half of April. The wild honeysuckle is another flower of great beauty that was new to the Record reporter. The mountain laurel are due to bloom early in May and are said to be of extraordinary beauty. The trees are in leaf and the promise of spring is everywhere. The Tennessee mountain region is of surpassing beauty in two seasons, the spring and in the fall.

No Serious Accidents

Thus far the construction work both by the Austin Company and the Columbian Iron Works has been carried on without any serious accidents, and we hope that the job is completed without anyone being injured. Those supervising the work realize the importance of safety.

CHATTANOOGA CHATTERS

Continued from page 5

Frank W. Farmer, who has been foundry foreman for a number of years, has severed his connection with the Columbian Iron Works and has been succeeded by Jos. S. Mate, who comes to us from Birmingham.

Mrs. E. R. Hacker and daughter have joined Mr. Hacker and have taken a home on Lookout Mountain. Mr. Hacker is the comptroller.

Marion Eckman has been busy these days superintending a gang of colored men in unloading heavy machinery and moving it about.

M. E. Henderson is now a good southerner and quite at home in Chattanooga. Sure enough.

Hugh S. Baker of Decatur drove his new Hupmobile to Chattanooga last week and is visiting his son, Hugh. Both seemed to be delighted by this visit.

About twenty gardens on the land of the Southern Machine Co. have been taken by employees.

SUGGESTIONS

These fine, invigorating spring days when the world takes on new color, and we find ourselves walking with a new zeal and looking upon life with a new eagerness, is a fine time to devote some of our pep to a little serious thought on the subject of suggestions. A young man's fancy may lightly turn to thoughts of love, but thoughts of how to increase production, reduce overhead, or increase safety will pay you more satisfying dividends next December when you receive a check for your prize winning suggestions.

Suggestions have been coming in fine: many good suggestions have already been received. It is evident that the judges are going to have a real job this year, but that doesn't make them mad. The more suggestions—the more prizes to be awarded. Every adopted suggestion receives \$2.50.

Each of the three subjects: Safety, Increased Production, and Reduced Overhead, is awarded three major prizes. They are: First—\$25.00, Second—\$15.00, Third—\$10.00. In addition there is the safety slogan prize which pays \$2.50.

Let us have your suggestions now—there is no limit to the number you may submit. The more suggestions submitted—the greater the chance of winning one of the prizes.

Clarence Pippin, son of Marion Pippin, received notice that he had been placed on the honor roll for scholarship at the University of Illinois at the close of his sophomore year this spring. We congratulate Clarence and share his father's pride in this achievement.

Sylvia Barnes visited her sister in Carlinville over the week-end of May 5th.

Brass Chips

E. E. Caudle who has been ill for several months is still in serious condition.

Lloyd Flanders, formerly of the Core Dept., began work in Dept. 30 on May 5th.

Leo Siloski, who worked in the tool room several years ago, returned to that department a couple months ago.

Milo Wright, who came in from Plant 2 with Chester Hathaway, and who has been serving as clerk in Dept. 9, has returned to Plant 2.

Bert Butt, formerly of the Assembly Dept., succeeds Milo Wright as clerk in Dept. 9.

Carl Hill, Dept. 30, got a piece of steel in his hand on May 3rd, but the injury fortunately was not serious.

John Owens, watchman at the door of the main office for so many years, has been transferred to the Monroe Street gate. His cheery greeting is missed by his many friends in the office and shipping department.

Mark Stratman, formerly of Dept. 300, visited the plant recently.

Bill Groble has been to Birmingham, Alabama, and other southern cities on business.

Dorothy Gepford, Stationery Dept., attended the Passion Play in Bloomington on Sunday, May 6th.

Grace Rhodes drove to Starved Rock, LaSalle and other points in that locality on Sunday, April 30th.

Troy Roush has traded his faithful "T" model Ford for an "A" model.

Herman Dash has become the proud possessor of an automobile—a Whippet, we hear.

George White has a new Hupmobile. His new Reo was quite badly damaged when struck by another car recently. George, still protected by his lucky star or something, escaped injury.

Frank O'Dell of the Chicago office was in Decatur, May 3rd and 4th.

Don Ferry, who underwent an operation for appendicitis recently, has recovered and expects to return to work soon.

Bill Gustin was confined to his home several days on account of ill health.

George Blankenship, who broke his knee several weeks ago, is still confined to the hospital but his condition is reported as very satisfactory.

Ancil Younger was off work for a couple weeks with the measles.

A special order recently necessitated a night force working in Dept. 8 for about a week.

N. C. Washburn has returned to work in the Assembling Dept.

Barney Riley has been transferred from the Boiler Room to Dept. 8.

Wm. O'Dell and Wm. Severe have been transferred from watchmen's jobs to Dept. 8.

Clyde Hester has been transferred from the construction gang to Dept. 8.

George H. Hofmann, Mueller salesman in Texas, arrived in Decatur, May 7th, on business.

BIRTHS

McCOY—Mr. and Mrs. Wayne McCoy, April 1st, a son, Robert Wayne. The child was born on the mother's birthday, Easter Sunday, and April Fool's Day. The father works at Plant 2.

BOWAN—Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bowan, Dept. 44, April 20th, a son, Milton Wayne.

MASTERS—Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Masters, Core Dept., April 2, a son, Darrel Dean.

STRATMAN—Mr. and Mrs. Osear Stratman, March 31, a daughter, Marilyn Maxine. Mr. Stratman is in the pattern Department.

DEATHS

Mrs. Mary Offenstein

Mrs. Mary Offenstein, wife of J. G. Offenstein of the Foundry, died Sunday morning, April 15th in St. Mary's hospital. She had undergone two major operations in six weeks, the last on the day preceding her death.

She leaves her husband and two children, Kenneth Offenstein and Mrs. Lucille Etherton, both of Decatur. One child preceded her in death. Funeral services were conducted in the West Side Christian church in Atwood, and burial was in the Macville cemetery at Atwood.

Mrs. Florinda Gillespie

Mrs. Florinda Gillespie, age 74, mother-in-law of Roy Woods of the Foundry Office, died Wednesday night, April 25th. Funeral services were conducted Saturday afternoon in the First Christian church with burial in the North Fork cemetery.

THE BIG, BAD DOG

Irene Santanen likes dogs—in their place, but their place she believes is at the bottom of the lake with a rock tied to their necks. At least, that is the way she feels about them since a strange dog jumped up and bit her as she was returning to work at noon, tearing her dress and causing Irene extreme embarrassment.

One of our esteemed brass molders gave up coffee drinking. His health at once improved and he gained over forty pounds in weight.

HOME FOR VISIT

Melvin Cheney Brings Reports of Activity at Chattanooga.

Melvin Chaney, who has been working on the layout of the new plant at Columbian Iron Works, returned with Hugh Baker Wednesday evening, May 2. They made the drive from Chattanooga to Decatur in thirteen hours, starting at 4:30 a. m.

He reports that the wooden walls of the old machine shop are down and such work as the shop is doing is carried on in the new building.

The concrete floor to the new addition to the story is now being poured. The walls and continuous sash are already in place. As soon as the cleaning equipment in this department is received, it will be put in place.

After a visit of a few days with the home folks, Melvin returned to Chattanooga by train May 6th. His four year old son, Jean, and Jimmy, age six months, gave daddy a riotous welcome.

The weather in Tennessee has been unseasonably cool. Cheney and Baker started out wearing their overcoats, but by the time they reached Illinois they were down to their shirt sleeves.

MR. ROBERT PLEASSED

Mr. Robert Mueller voices his appreciation of a beautiful floral remembrance of his birthday. The flowers were sent to him while he was in Miami, Florida.

CALAMITOUS CALAMITY

Sylvia Barnes, telephone operator, lost her voice recently. Every one knows that any woman suddenly deprived of her power of speech labors under extreme difficulties, but when a telephone operator falls a victim—that is truly a calamity.

FISHERMEN



Here's the team that brings home the fish — Bill Ferry and Ed. Stille. But why does Bill always hold up the fish—does he catch em all. Looks that way.