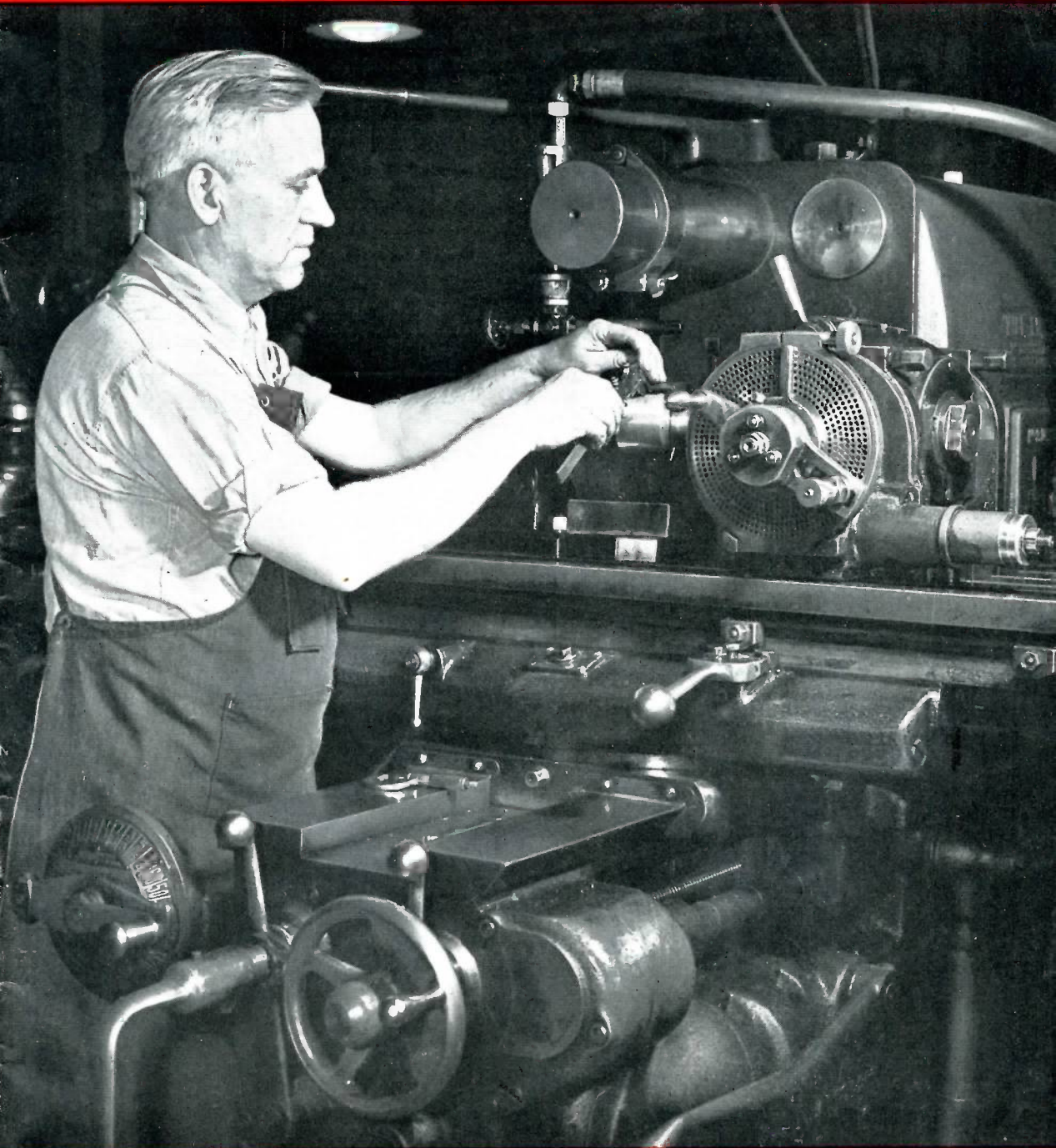


# MUELLER RECORD



# MUELLER RECORD

May, 1949

No. 151

GENE J. KUHN, Editor

Published in the Interests of  
Employees of the

**MUELLER CO.**

PLUMBING, WATER AND GAS PRODUCTS



FACTORIES  
DECATUR, ILL. LOS ANGELES, CALIF.  
SARNIA, ONT. CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

BRANCHES  
NEW YORK CITY SAN FRANCISCO

TRADE MARK  
**MUELLER**  
Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

## This Month's Cover

**B**ILL KUNTZ, CLASS A toolmaker, is shown operating a Milwaukee milling machine, one of the most versatile and precise machines in the tool room. The piece being machined is a finishing reamer to be used with a New Britain automatic machine in department 9.

Bill has been a Mueller Co. employee for almost 28 years, having started at the Decatur plant on June 6, 1921.

■ ■ ■

## Family Day

**F**AMILIES OF Mueller Co. employees have been invited to attend a Family Day open house, which will be observed at both Decatur plants on Thursday, June 16. The main plant will be open to visitors from 8 to 10 o'clock Thursday

morning and from 12 until 2 o'clock that afternoon. Plant No. 2 will be open to visitors from 1:30 to 2:45 o'clock in the afternoon, so that they will have an opportunity to watch pouring operations in the iron foundry.

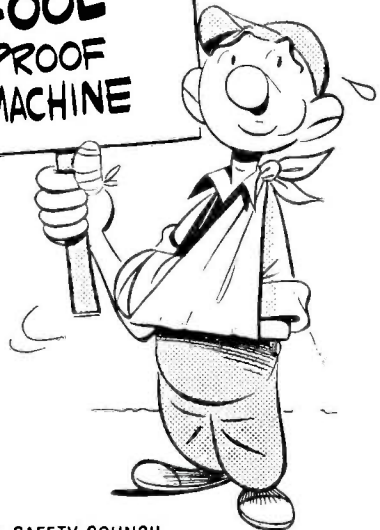
All departments of the plants will be open to the families of employees. The committee in charge has emphasized the fact that an opportunity will be given families to visit employees at their work stations, so that they will be able to see for themselves how the individual fits into the production picture as a whole. It was solely for this reason that the open house was scheduled during regular production hours.

Employees and their families also will have a chance to go on the air. WSOY will interview employees and their families in various departments of the plant, and the transcription will be broadcast.

The committee in charge of arrangements hopes that all members of families of Mueller Co. employees will be represented at the open house.

## HAP HAZARD

THERE IS NO SUCH  
THING AS A  
**FOOL**  
PROOF  
MACHINE



NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

# H. MUELLER PLUMBING AND HEATING CO.,

237 NORTH MAIN STREET, DECATUR, ILL.

## Combination Folding Bath,

With Improved Bath Heater Attached.

OVER 10,000 NOW IN USE.

### BOON TO HEALTH.

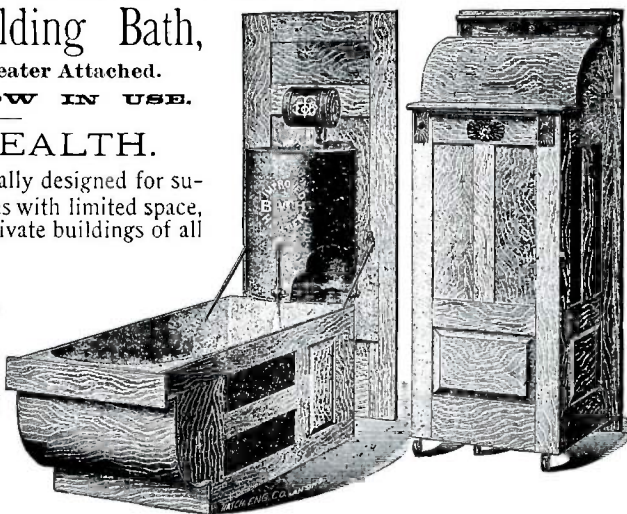
This popular tub is especially designed for suburban residences, flats, houses with limited space, sanitariums and public and private buildings of all kinds.

**DEALERS IN**

Iron and Lead Pipe, Iron & Brass Fittings, Sinks, Bath Tubs, Sewer Pipe, Flue Lining, Etc., Etc.

We make a specialty of High Art Plumbing, Heating & Lighting Plants.

**H. MUELLER**  
Plumbing and Heating Co.



# Finds Old Mueller Ad

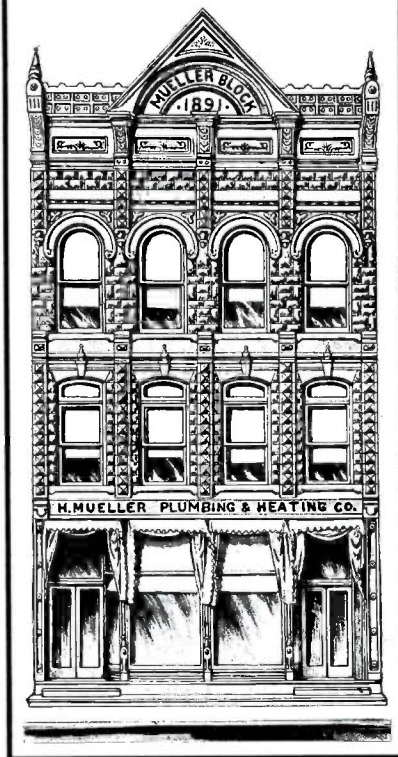
Dates back to 1891-96, when company was at 237 North Main Street.

**A**N ADVERTISEMENT of the H. Mueller Plumbing & Heating Co., one of the fore-runners of the present Mueller Co., was recently brought to light in an old cook book, which was found during a St. James school scrap paper drive.

Bobby Welch, seven-year-old nephew of Otto Dannewitz, department 8, was sorting magazines and newspapers when he came across the book. The youngster took the book home to his mother, Mrs. Ambrose Welch, who saw the ad as she was looking through it.

The cook book, published by King & Wood, former Decatur druggists, is undated, but was probably printed some time between 1891 and 1896, the period in which Hieronymus Mueller operated the store.

The plumbing business was located in its own building at 237 North Main Street at the time. Increased business had forced the company to move into larger quarters from 249 East Main Street. The Mueller interest in the plumbing business was disposed of in 1896, and the gun store, located at 134 Prairie Street, was sold the following year.



Site of the H. Mueller Plumbing & Heating Co. from 1891 to 1896, during which time the ad above appeared.

## *Two Veteran Mueller Co.*



Bill Jett, veteran West Coast salesman, is shown admiring a wrist watch, which was presented by Mueller Co. in honor of his forty-five years of service with the company.

**B**ILL JETT, veteran Mueller Co. salesman, retired April 30 after completing his goal of 45 years of service with Mueller Co.—with a week to spare. Bill started with the company in the shipping department of the Decatur plant on April 22, 1904, and his service was continuous until his retirement. On April 21, the eve of his forty-fifth year of service, he was honored with a dinner party at Los Angeles. Herman M. Dash was master of ceremonies, and presented Bill with a travel clock and an electric razor on behalf of the Los Angeles office. J. L. Logsdon then read a number of letters from company officers and others, recalling many of the experiences that had made Bill something of a legend in the Mueller organization. West Coast salesmen presented him with matched luggage, and Mr. Logsdon presented a wrist watch from the company in honor of his many years of service.



J. L. Logsdon, general manager of Mueller Co.'s Los Angeles factory, is shown making one of the presentations at a party on the eve of Bill's 45th year with the company. Mrs. Jett is at the left.

## *Employees Retire April 30*

**G**EORGE A. KRAG, foundry engineer, retired April 30 after more than 21 years of service with Mueller Co. A foundryman's foundryman, George had been connected with foundries for about a half-century. He was an old-timer in his field, but he constantly studied new developments in the field and kept himself abreast of modern trends. He was responsible for many innovations in the company's brass and iron foundries which resulted in the adoption of a considerable number of time and labor saving practices. At one time he had his own foundry and he had also held responsible positions with other foundries before coming to Mueller Co. in December, 1927. Two months later he was made foreman of the metal pattern and corebox department and in January, 1930, he was appointed foundry engineer and foreman of the pattern shop. He became general foreman of the brass and iron foundries in 1935.



George A. Krag, left, received a Parker pen and pencil set from pattern shop employees. Those looking on are Harold Munsterman, Carleton Hackman and Richard Dannewitz.



George received a luggage gift and the first can of beer at the first social meeting of the 4X Club, composed of foremen and executives. Mel Chaney, left, and Ollie Fortschneider did the honors.



Members of the Department 9 team, which finished out front in the Mueller Bowling League, are, left to right: Athie Thompson, Wilbur Davidson, W. L. (Lefty) Adams, Preston Ruthrauff and Wilbur Edwards. Bob Salogga, not shown, also is a member of the Department 9 team.

## Department 9 Wins Title

**Ground Key, Mueller Bowling League champions for the past two years, finishes season in second place.**

**D**EPARTMENT 9 emerged with the championship and a four-game advantage over the second-place Ground Key team, title-holders for the past two consecutive years, with the end of play in the Mueller Bowling League May 10. Specialty Division and Tool Room teams were in a tie for third place.

Ground Key jumped from third to second place on the last night of league play, neatly by-passing the Specialty Division and Tool Room teams, which were tied up for second place a week before.

Ed Hartwig, Specialty Division, ended the season with the high individual average for the second straight year. His average for 105 games was 190. Last year he had an average of 182.

Anthony (Buddy) Grossman, Tool Room, was the high money winner in the Mueller sweepstakes, which was held May 17. Grossman received \$10 for finishing first in the sweepstakes, and then picked up \$2.50 for high natural

game and another \$2.50 for high natural for three games.

Others who finished in the money were Leo Wiant, Works Manager's Office, \$7; Henry Stratman, Specialty Division, \$5; Wallace Gould, Product Engineers, and Martin Riewski, Ground Key, each \$2.50 (tie for fourth); Merlin Coates, Works Manager's Office, \$1.50; Robert Armstrong, Works Manager's Office, \$1.50; and W. L. (Lefty) Adams, Department 9, \$1.50.

The final standings:

Team	W	L	Pct.
Department 9	61	47	.565
Ground Key	57	51	.528
Specialty Division	56	52	.519
Tool Room	56	52	.519
Main Office	55	53	.509
Pattern Shop	55	53	.509
Products Engineers	54	54	.500
W'ks Manager's Office	52	56	.481
Experimental Shop	49	59	.454
Brass Finishers	45	63	.417



The ten high bowlers in the Mueller Bowling League included, left to right, Edwin Naleski, Al Degand, Jack Bain, Wilbur Edwards, Al Hill, Ed Hartwig, Henry Stratman, Ben Taylor and W. L. Adams. Bob Salogga not shown. Hartwig won high individual honors for second straight year.



The Mueller womens bowling team finished first in the 4-team Minor Ladies League. Members are, left to right, Ellen Jane Stevenson, Aline Moore, Betty Dehority (captain), Betty Walker, and Catherine Bauer. Wilma Maleska, not shown, also is a member of the team. Aline finished in second place in the league's sweepstakes event and Ellen Jane was in fourth place.

ESTABLISHED 1887  
**MUELLER CO.**  
PLUMBING WATER AND GAS PRODUCTS  
SINCE 1887  
**MUELLER**  
REGISTERED  
DECATUR 70, ILLINOIS

TO THE FAMILIES OF  
MUELLER CO. EMPLOYEES:

You are cordially invited to visit  
us during our FAMILY DAY Open House June 16.  
We have purposely scheduled FAMILY  
DAY during regular working hours, so that you  
will have an opportunity to visit the member of  
your family employed with Mueller Co. at his job.  
We are looking forward to your visit  
with the greatest pleasure.

Cordially yours,  
*C. C. Roarick.*  
C. C. Roarick,  
Factory Manager

FOR THE FAM

FAMILY

JUN

HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO

This is your invitation to visit both Decatur plants of Mueller Co. under actual production conditions . . . to watch the complete manufacturing process of Mueller quality products from ingot metal to finished goods . . . and to see the part the member of your family has in making these products. You'll see patterns, cores and molds being made, the first steps of

the process — the molten rough castings being machined to exacting standards pass along the conveyor certain they conform to finally readied for shipment lages throughout the

### ABOUT YOUR VISIT TO MUELLER CO. PLANTS DURING THE FAMILY DAY

**DATE:** Both plants will observe FAMILY DAY Open House on Thursday, June 16.

**TIME:** The main plant will be open to visitors from 8 to 10 A.M. and from 12 to 2 P.M. Plant No. 2 will be open from 1:30 to 2:45 P.M.

**LOCATION:** Visitors to the main plant, 512 West Cerro Gordo, are requested to register at the Mueller gymnasium on Monroe Street, just north of Eldorado. Visitors to plant No. 2 will register at the office, 1942 East Eldorado.

**PARKING:** The parking lot just south of the garage and gymnasium building, between Monroe and Mercer streets, will be reserved for visitors' parking. A guard will direct you.

**TOURS:** All tours will be in the Mueller gymnasium. Each tour of the main plant. Tours of plant No. 2 will be in the Mueller gymnasium. Foremen will be glad to point out the part of your family so that you can see him at his job. Refreshments will be served.

For the safety of employees and their families, children between the ages of 5 and 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Supervised entertainment will be held in the gymnasium for children under 12 years of age. Attendance is free.

WSOY will broadcast interviews with employees and families attending the Family Day Open House.

**MUELLER CO.**  
DECATUR, ILLINOIS

**OTHER FACTORIES**  
LOS ANGELES



**LIES OF MUELLER CO. EMPLOYEES...**

# **Y DAY open house**

**E 16 BOTH DECATUR PLANTS**

**VISIT THE MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY AT HIS WORK**

metal being poured — the ground — then precision standards — assembled as they line — tested to make doubly Mueller specifications — then sent to cities, towns and vil- untry.

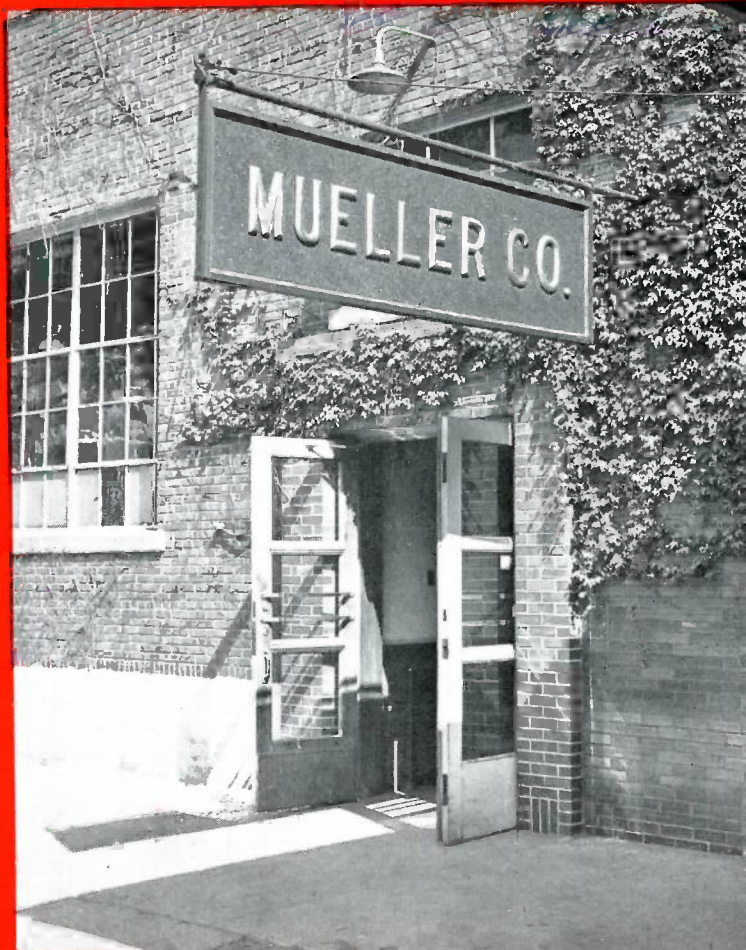
## **Y DAY OPEN HOUSE ..**

n and end at the Mueller gym- n plant will last about 1½ hours; about one-half hour. Guides and out the work station of the member have an opportunity to visit him be served at the end of each tour.

and their families we must stipulate s of 12 and 16 be accompanied by nment will be provided at the r 12, and a registered nurse will

Open House.

**ES: CHATTANOOGA,  
SARNIA, ONTARIO**



# This Year's High School Graduates



James E. Rambo



Florence Tauber



Donald W. Ferry, Jr.



Martha Fleckenstein



Clara Luka



Donald D. Butler



Joyce Anderson



Clayton Walters



Yvonne H. Jones



Edward Hinderer



Norma Lee Stark



Dale Fleischauer



Jack Garver



Betty Blankenburg



Gerald Hettinger



Barbara Fonner

# Decatur

**T**WENTY-ONE sons and daughters of Mueller Co. employees are included in high school graduating classes this spring. Schools represented are Decatur, Blue Mound, Mount Zion, Atwood, Lovington Township, Macon and Moweaqua.

The graduates include:

Joyce Anderson, daughter of George Anderson, core room, Decatur high school.



Rea Del Boggs

Betty Blankenburg, daughter of Eric Blankenburg, tool room, Decatur high school.

Rea Del Boggs, daughter of Faye Boggs, plant No. 2, Blue Mound high school.

Donald D. Butler, son of Dean Butler, plant No. 2, Decatur high school.

Wanda Lou Cunningham, daughter of Merle L. Cunningham, department 300, Decatur high school.

Anna L. Edwards, daughter of Frank Edwards, department 300, Blue Mound high school.

Nelda Epperson, daughter of Leslie Epperson, brass foundry, Macon Community high school.

Donald Ferry, Jr., son of Donald Ferry, head draftsman, Decatur high school.

Martha Fleckenstein, daughter of Roy Fleckenstein, ground key foreman, St. Teresa high school.

Dale Fleischauer, son of Carl Fleischauer, maintenance department, Lovington Township high school.

Barbara Fonner, daughter of Marion (Pat) Fonner, core room, Mount Zion Community high school.

Jack Garver, son of Ernest Garver, garage foreman, Decatur high school.

Gerald Hettinger, son of Helen Hettinger, billing department, Decatur high school.

Edward Hinderer, son of Orville Hinderer, department 300, Blue Mound high school.



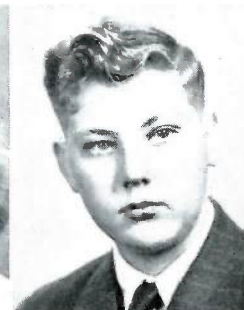
Nelda Epperson



Wanda Cunningham



Anna L. Edwards



Earl E. Talley

Yvonne Jones, daughter of Roy C. Jones, department 8, Atwood Community high school. Yvonne was elected to membership in the National Honor Society, high school scholastic award organization. She was also named valedictorian of her graduating class.

Clara Luka, daughter of Henry Luka, plant No. 2, Decatur high school.

James E. Rambo, son of Wade Rambo, garage, and Emma Rambo, core room, Decatur high school.

Norma Lee Stark, daughter of Edgar Stark, department 300, Decatur high school.

Earl E. Talley, son of Creo Talley, shipping department, Moweaqua high school.

Florence Tauber, daughter of Robert Tauber, methods engineer, Decatur high school.

Clayton Walters, son of Emelie Walters, core room, Decatur high school.



Marva Witts, center, tool room office, whose marriage to Joseph Moore took place February 18, was honored with a shower at the Blue Mill April 27. Others in the photograph are Ethel Turley, Edna Johnston, Nalda McCollough, Pauline Harris, Ruth Brownlow and Louise Whitehead.



Marlene Chicoine, who became the bride of Harold Munsterman, pattern shop, on May 14 at St. Thomas Catholic church, Decatur.



Jacqueline Morford of the personnel office and Dean DeVore were married May 13 at the Central Christian Church in Decatur.

The traffic division of the police department recently completed the painting of pedestrian warnings, a crossing zone, and no parking signs from the Monroe street underpass to the Mueller garage.

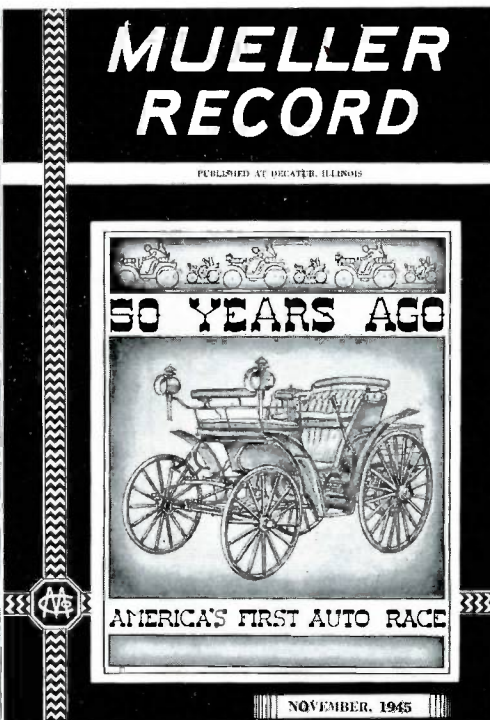
The crossing at Cerro Gordo and Monroe streets has been recognized as a traffic hazard for some time. Employees regularly cross at the point at lunch time, enroute to the cafeteria, and at quitting time, and the underpass has served to encourage speeders.

Roy M. Workman, department 300, was fatally injured March 5, when he

was struck by a car as he started across Monroe street at the site of the present pedestrian crossing zone.

■ ■ ■  
Nature note: a sparrow was found hanged from a thread from his nest under the shipping department canopy. A self-appointed coroner called it suicide.

■ ■ ■  
Mel Chaney, plant engineer, has estimated that the foundry division improvement program now is about two-thirds completed. The grinding department has been in operation in its new quarters for



**J**AMES R. WEILEPP, Decatur realtor and builder, is shown above with a model of the Mueller automobile, based upon the cover drawing of the November, 1945, issue of the Mueller Record. Mr. Weilepp received the copy of the Mueller Record through the reference department of the Decatur Public Library. Mr. Weilepp switched from his hobby of building model trains to models of old-time automobiles several months ago, and in addition to the model of the Mueller automobile, which he recently completed, he has also made models of a

1911 Maxwell, a 1904 Oldsmobile, and a 1909 Ford. The Mueller car dates back to 1895. Hieronymus Mueller and two of his sons, Philip and Oscar, were granted patents for improvements which are incorporated in today's automobiles. These included the variable speed transmission, steering gear and body suspension, water cooling radiator, an improvement to the variable speed transmission in which a friction disk was used, the spark plug, and the original patent on the "make and break" circuit used in the distributors of modern cars.

the past several weeks, and most of the machines from the pattern shop on the second floor will have been moved and in operation this week on the main floor. All machines will have individual motors, thus eliminating the overhead line shaft which has been a pattern shop trade mark for many years. The pattern shop is adjacent to the grinding room, but will be separated by a partition when the elevator is removed to make way for a conveyor from the core room to the foundry beneath Cerro Gordo street. The conveyor equipment has been ordered but has not arrived as yet.

The former grinding room will be used as a metal storage room, and concrete bins will be installed.

■ ■ ■

Hugh R. Mooney, 44, assistant power plant engineer, was fatally injured early Saturday morning, April 23, when his pickup truck struck the center pier of the North Oakland avenue subway. He had been a Mueller Co. employee for 19 years. Survivors are his wife and three children, Patricia, Ancil Allen and Car-



Mrs. C. E. Newlin, nee Betty Scheibly, whose marriage took place April 30, was honored with a shower at the cafeteria on May 10. Interment was at Macon County Memorial cemetery.

## Chattanooga

Marcella Lykins, Correspondent

On May 11 the members of the Foreman's Club met for the monthly meeting at the Maypole dining room. This was a dinner meeting and L. W. (Duke) Mueller of Decatur was a guest. The election of officers for the coming year was held. Two new members, Merle Van Vleet and Jack Malone, were voted in. The new officers are Walter Coventry, president; Russell Davis, vice-president; Marion Eckman, secretary; and Odie Walker, Jr., treasurer. From the comments the food was very good and everyone enjoyed an unusually nice evening.

■ ■ ■

Robert Parsons, 55, machine repair man in the maintenance department, died at his home April 2 after several months' illness. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Parsons; one daughter, Roberta; and one son, Robert.

Bob was employed by Columbian Iron Works in 1915. In 1918 he quite and went into business for himself but re-

turned in 1920. With the exception of these two years was employed continuously until his death.

■ ■ ■

The Mueller bowling team, consisting of Wayne Walker, Bernia Fischer, Capt. Marion Eckman, Vance Riddle, Leslie Higdon, and Ben Long, automatically won the league championship for the Lookout Bowling League after winning both first and second halves of season's play. Wayne Walker had the highest average in the league, and took top honors in this respect. The prize money of over \$70 is by this time all gone.

■ ■ ■

As of March 31 another of our men left us to take it easy. Elbert W. Warren of the maintenance department was eligible for retirement on age. Mr. Warren has been one of our faithful guards since he was first employed in 1937. We sincerely hope that he will enjoy the coming leisure years to the utmost.

# Los Angeles

William Baker, Correspondent

Norma Hanna, dictaphone operator in the sales office, has gone from the fold to take a position with her former employer, the Runion Engineering Co. She will be located in Louisville, Kentucky, suh. Her former fellow employees wish her luck and success and would like to hear from her.

■ ■ ■

Milton Brandolino will leave June 15 for Caramanico, Italy. He will accompany his brother aboard a T.W.A. airliner. Milton has not seen his mother since 1926, so, needless to say, the trip holds great promise. The boys intend to see Rome, Venice, Milan, and Florence.

■ ■ ■



Dorothy Stach

The lovely young lady smiling out of the page is Dorothy Jean Stach, who will graduate from Inglewood High. She will continue her education at Pepperdine College in Los Angeles. Her father, Val Stach, is one of our veteran employees.



Barbara Mooring

Gene Mooring

Barbara Mooring, pretty daughter of Inez Mooring of the sales office, is graduating from Ramona Convent in Alhambra, where she has studied for the past four years. She will go on to Pasadena City College.

The accompanying photo is that of Gene Mooring, who will receive his B.S. degree in applied chemistry from California Institute of Technology. Gene, by the way, has also served five years in the U. S. Air Force.

■ ■ ■

Ralph Korte, draftsman, and his family are now happily ensconced in their new home in the Montebello hills.

# Sarnia, Ontario

Almeda Reeve, Correspondent

Our congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. John B. Woolley, a son, Paul Norman, April. John is employed in department 11.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Kapala, a daughter, Jean, May 5. Dan is employed in department 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Higgins, a son, Stewart Michael, May 6. Michael is employed in department 7.

■ ■ ■

Our sympathy is extended to:

Mr. and Mrs. Garnet Denomy, department 11, in the recent passing of Mrs. Denomy's mother, Mrs. Clydesdale.

Jacob Vollmer, department 10, in the loss of his brother, George.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Preece, department 9, in the recent passing of Mr. Preece's mother, Mrs. T. B. Preece.

Robert Gillson, department 2, in the sudden passing of his wife, Margaret.

Charles Harrison, dept. 6, in the death of his mother, Mrs. A. Harrison.

■ ■ ■

TROPHIES AND CASH awards were presented to teams and individual members of the Mueller Bowling League at a banquet held in their honor April 21 at the Sarnia Riding Club.



Championship team of the Mueller, Ltd., Bowling League included, left to right: Pete Krywicki, Alf Kemp, Grace Campbell, Fred Cuthbertson (captain), Eunice Smith, Alex Hodges and James Facer. The Mueller-Werdes-Parker cup was presented to the winning team.

Following the dinner, George W. Parker, president of Mueller, Ltd., presented the Mueller-Parker-Werdes cup to the championship team of the league, the Showerheads, captained by Fred Cuthbertson and had as members Pete Krywicki, Alf Kemp, Grace Campbell, Eunice Smith, Alex Hodges and James Facer.

The next presentation was made by R. L. Bevan, former chief engineer of The Union Gas Company of Canada, from Chatham, who presented the Bevan Cup to Grace Campbell, winner of the

ladies' high average award with a score of 181.

The French Cup for the winner of the men's high average was presented by R. L. French, industrial representative of The Union Gas Company of Canada, from Chatham, to Max Fletcher who bowled a 199 average.

Two other presentations were individual trophies to the personnel of the championship team by Murray Taylor, and then cash awards were presented to the three top teams in the league, the Showerheads, Pop-Ups and Ferrules, by Jack McClure.



Those who presented trophies and the two high average scorers for the season were, left to right: George W. Parker, president of Mueller, Ltd.; R. L. Bevan, former chief engineer of Union Gas Company of Canada, Chatham; Grace Campbell, who bowled the ladies' high average; Max Fletcher, men's high average winner; and R. L. French, industrial representative of Union Gas Company of Canada. Grace's average for the season was 181; Fletcher's, 199.