

# MUELLER RECORD

INSIDE ONLY NOV.—DEC. 1934 NO. 16

## CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

The annual party for children of Mueller employes will be held in the gymnasium at the Club House on Saturday afternoon, December 15, at 1:30 o'clock.

The party will be somewhat different this year than preceding years. There will be music, Christmas trees, a little Christmas play directed by Miss Margaret Clark of the Decatur College of Music, and moving pictures. This program will be followed by the distribution of candy, oranges, etc.

What we most desire is that every Mueller child will be in attendance to enjoy the occasion.

On the afternoon of December 19 the Christmas hams will be distributed at quitting time in the afternoon.

On the afternoon of the 19th service awards and suggestion prizes will be distributed.

This, in so far, as has now been decided will constitute our annual Christmas exercises.

## TO WARM SPRINGS, GA.

### Frank Mueller's Condition Warranted His Removal Last Week

Frank H. Mueller, who has been in the Decatur and Macon County Hospital for several weeks past, was taken to Warm Springs, Ga., last Thursday, accompanied by his wife.

Special plans were made for car changes at Cincinnati, Ohio, to the Atlanta train.

Duke Mueller will board the train at Chattanooga and see that his brother is transferred at Atlanta to the train for Warm Springs. Frank's many friends in the organization and in the city will be pleased to know that he has made considerable improvement. We are all hopeful that the change to Warm Springs will be highly beneficial and that Frank will come back to his duties entirely restored to his former robust health.

## CHATTANOOGA NOTES

Herman Salefski, operator of the big Warner & Swasey lathe in the Machine Shop, spent two weeks at Columbian Iron Works operating such a machine there.

Robert H. Mueller returned from Chattanooga before Thanksgiving after spending several weeks at the Columbian Iron Works.

H. J. Van Vleet writes that he and his family are now quite at home in Chattanooga.

## BOWLING LEAGUE

### Works Manager Team Now Leads—The Ten High Bowlers

Quite a few changes in the Mueller Bowling League have occurred since the last report. The Specialty Division then in first place dropped back to second, while the Works Manager's Office team moves into first place. The Ground Key Division retains third place. The Tool Room trades sixth place with the Pattern Shop for fourth place. The Utility Division still holds on the fifth place, while the Regulators and Plumbing Division cling to seventh and eighth places respectively.

Blankenburg still leads the ten high bowlers. Behrens is in second place, having passed C. C. Roarick now third. Stille passed Leipski and is in fourth place. Wiant went ahead of Morenz for sixth position. A. Flaughter, at last report the tall ender, rose to eighth place, passing B. Mason and R. Hill, the latter now being in tenth place.

Paul Jacka holds the high score for the season thus far, 257.

The statistical story up to and including December 4th, follows:

Team—	L.	W.	L.	Pct.	Ave.	H.G.
Works Mgr. Of	39	26	13	.667	828	100+
Spec. Div.	39	22	17	.564	848	972
Grnd. Key Div.	39	21	18	.538	764	906
Tool Room	39	20	19	.513	747	910
Utility Eng.	39	20	19	.513	717	964
Pattern Shop	39	18	21	.462	800	960
Regulators	39	15	24	.385	731	968
Plbg. Div.	39	14	25	.359	678	917

### Individual Averages

Works Mgr. Office	Utility Engineers
W. Behrens . . . . . 183	B. Mason . . . . . 170
L. Wiant . . . . . 174	H. Fairchild . . . . . 152
C. F. Roarick . . . . . 166	J. Morrison . . . . . 144
J. Bain . . . . . 158	W. Gould . . . . . 150
M. Chaney . . . . . 156	F. Tratzik . . . . . 114
M. Curry . . . . . 149	W. Groble . . . . . 107
Specialty Division	Pattern Shop
K. Blankenburg . . . . . 189	H. Leipski . . . . . 177
A. Flaughter . . . . . 171	C. Morenz . . . . . 172
R. Hill . . . . . 167	A. Lindamood . . . . . 162
C. Hill . . . . . 167	G. Krag . . . . . 165
A. Grossman . . . . . 157	R. Luusk . . . . . 161
E. Hartwig . . . . . 157	E. Foley . . . . . 105

(Continued on page 2)

Ground Key Division	Regulators
E. C. Stille . . . 177	W. Smith . . . 163
J. Taylor . . . 166	A. Olsen . . . 152
L. McKinney . . . 159	F. March . . . 146
H. Gragg . . . 156	J. Pollock . . . 141
F. Taylor . . . 132	G. Hutchins . . . 135
G. Edwards . . . 124	G. Pollock . . . 130
Tool Room	Plumbing Division
C. C. Roarick . . . 183	P. Jacka . . . 147
A. Radke . . . 157	A. Jendry . . . 142
M. Stratman . . . 146	O. C. Draper . . . 141
C. Rubican . . . 144	O. C. Keil . . . 141
H. Stratman . . . 132	E. Krumseik . . . 138
L. Siloski . . . 113	L. Kramer . . . 124
	C. W. Harthaway . . . 123

#### Ten High Bowlers

Player and Team—	G.	Ave.	H.G.
K. Blankenburg, Spec. Dis. . . . .	39	189	226
W. Behrns, Works Mgr. Of. . . . .	39	183	241
C. C. Roarick, Tool Room . . . . .	39	183	241
E. C. Stille, Grd. Key Div. . . . .	36	177	222
H. Leipski, Pattern Shop . . . . .	31	177	225
L. Wiant, Works Mgr. Of. . . . .	39	174	212
C. Morenz, Pattern Shop . . . . .	35	172	233
A. Flaughter, Spec. Div. . . . .	39	171	243
B. Mason, Utility Engineers . . . . .	39	170	213
R. Hill, Spec. Div. . . . .	33	167	211
C. Hill, Spec. Div. . . . .	32	167	233

#### FRANK'S PACKAGE MAIL

##### Receives Old Parts in All Kinds of Cartons Which Gives Air of Mystery.

One portion of the package mail reaching Frank Mueller's desk is something of a mystery and a curiosity. Taking a look at the packages, he finds boxes bearing names like these: "Big Ben Horse Nails," "De Lux Hair Clippers," "Cigars," "Lydia Pinkham's Vegetable Compound," "Stanley Door Hinges," "Limberger Cheese," "Smith Bros. Cough Drops," "Light Globes," "Brown Mule Chewing Tobacco," "Big Ben Alarm Clock," "Old Taylor," and "Rubber Gloves."

What would you do with a collection like this? You might consult a calendar to learn whether it is April 1, Christmas, or your birthday. You are a temperate man—there has been no new arrival at your home, and you don't know personally any one in the many towns from which these packages came. They might contain bombs, but Frank's assistant has to take a chance on that and open up the packages. Opening the box labelled "Hair Clippers", an old type Water Meter Coupling is found. Some customer wants it duplicated. The "Big Ben Horse Nail" box yields a part of an old tapping machine, vintage of 1899. The sender has worn out the rubber washers and wants them replaced. The other boxes all turn out to be perfectly legitimate articles pertaining to the business. Many of these old samples are for goods manufactured thirty to forty years ago, and the only way our customers can be sure of getting correct fitting goods is to send in samples as improvements are constantly being made and some parts become obsolete.

Water Works, Utility Companies, and jobbers are busy men. They usually take the first

box they can find to mail in these parts. Often we wonder why they use such large boxes to mail small articles, when the postage rates would be less on a more suitable carton. The economy motive may sometimes cause them to use old cartons, yet the mail remains the same in good or bad times, and it may be there is a little Scotch in all of us at times.

#### EMPLOYEE'S AID SOCIETY

We cannot, in this issue, present the detailed annual statement of the Employee's Aid Society, but we can give a few totals. The Society has continued its policy of giving assistance on those expenses which help to improve health. We are not required to do this according to the constitution and by-laws.

Below is a summary for these items ending November 30, 1934.

Relief . . . . .	\$ 85.00
Help on Doctor Bills . . . . .	132.25
Family Care . . . . .	30.00
Hospital Bills . . . . .	140.00
Dental Work . . . . .	296.00
Care of Eyes . . . . .	136.50
Foot Care . . . . .	45.36
Other items . . . . .	22.60

Total . . . . . \$887.71

Curiously enough, this figure is very close to the total of last year which was \$883.99.

On the whole, the health of the force has been good in the past year. We have had but few serious accidents.

The Los Angeles force was taken into our Society last June. Their payment of dues so far have amounted to \$194.45, and their claims so far (November 30, 1934) have been \$205.40. They had two severe cases of appendicitis and several accidents.

The Columbian Iron Works Society was organized April 1. So far their experience has been very good. At the end of October the Society had a balance of \$757.62. We congratulate them upon this good showing.

#### BIRTHS

- JONES—Mr. and Mrs. William Jones, Dept. 8, a 7¼ lb. daughter, Gloria Jean, November 16.
- NASH—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur, Dept. 8, an 8½ lb. daughter on November 16. She has been named Shirley May.
- O'DELL—Mr. and Mrs. William, Dept. 8, a 10 lb. daughter on November 18. She has been named Jacqueline Jean.
- BROWN—Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Brown, Foundry, a daughter, Joan Velora, born November 19.
- STARK—Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Stark, Plumbing Division, a daughter, Delores Eileen, born November 21.
- WIANT—Mr. and Mrs. Leo Wiant, a son, born December 7.

E. H. Langdon has been at Columbian Iron Works, Chattanooga, for a week or more looking after personnel work, social activities, etc. He will be home by Christmas.

## BARBARA ANN



1 month

Mrs. John M. Smith and her 1-month-old daughter who is just as cute as her name. The proud father is none other than John M. Smith of the polish-ig room.

## DEATHS

## John Faith

John Faith was born in Maryland, March 21, 1855. In his early life he was a blacksmith apprentice and served on a canal boat in the east. He could tell many interesting adventures of the times when canals and railroads were competing for business. While still a young man, he moved to Illinois and for many years was on a farm near Warrensburg. He came to work for Mueller Co., October 20, 1902.

He was retired on allowance at the end of April 1932. His term of service was just over thirty years.

All of this time except the last few months was spent in the foundry, where for many years he was chief furnace and repair man.

He was a hard and faithful worker and was always active. Many week ends he spent repairing furnaces so that they could be ready for use on Monday morning.

Funeral services were held at the Dawson & Wikoff home.

## J. W. (Kitty) Wilkins to Chattanooga

J. W. (Kitty) Wilkins and wife have been living in Chattanooga for several weeks and probably will remain there permanently as Kitty has gone there to fill the position of factory manager. He has had a long experience in the Decatur plant, and is especially fitted to fill the new position to which he has been assigned. His friends in the local organization wish him every success.

Billy Mason's force has been engaged in making repairs to various buildings in preparation for the coming winter.

## ANNUAL INVENTORY AND CLEAN-UP

This event is one of the milestones of the year. We used to shut down the plant nearly a week to get it done. In more recent years careful planning and improved methods have reduced the lost time to one day, or at most two.

General Supt. Roarick and Accountant Keil began preparations for our inventory several weeks ago. Mr. Keil devised a new inventory ticket with a carbon copy attachment which cut this clerical work in half and reduced errors. The tag was attached to the box and the carbon paper copy went to the accounting department.

Mr. Roarick started the count on some of the goods early in November. The boxes were sealed, and other sections of the work that could be finished in advance were done and out of the way before the end of November. This afforded work for men who otherwise would have had short time.

As Thanksgiving approached, preparations were more and more in evidence, but production went on as usual. Some departments closed for inventory on the evening of Tuesday, November 27. Most of them, however, closed Wednesday evening, to open Monday, December 3. Many of the men from the shops were used in taking inventory. Thus the time they lost from work was reduced to a minimum.

After the count is made, the paper work all has to go through the stock record books and be checked by the accounting department. From all indications, the inventory, of 1934 will be through in record time and will be the most accurate yet taken.

In the meantime, most of the departments  
(Continued on page 4)

## Look Out for Wage Assignments

A wage assignment is an order by a worker upon his employer to pay his wages upon notice to a third party, usually a "credit store" of some kind.

We find that our people have signed wage assignments without knowing it. The "credit" clothing and jewelry stores which ordinarily take such assignments on all workers do not tell their customers that the wage assignment is in the paper that they sign to get the goods.

The manager of one such establishment remarked: "Let the fools find that out for themselves."

One large concern in our line of business advises all their workers as follows:

*"Before you invest—investigate. Before you sign any papers—read them carefully, and insist upon having a copy of the paper you sign. Before signing, it might be to your interest to consult the Personnel Director."*

If Mueller people would do this simple thing, it would save no end of trouble. You have a right to a copy of the thing you sign, and it is far better to investigate first rather than have to take a day off and go to court when somebody sues you for signing something that you hadn't even read.

have had a thorough cleaning. In some places this included walls, ceilings, windows, as well as the floor. Some of the equipment was washed with kerosene to remove grease and then painted. In the core department the walls and piping were cleaned with an air blast. In the foundries at Plant 2 and the brass foundry here everything was put in first class order. Dept. 8 in particular was thoroughly overhauled. Conveyors were repainted and repaired, and all accumulations of chip and grease removed.

All factory inspectors, both from the state and the insurance companies, remark about the unusual orderliness of the Mueller plant. When they return again they will find it in even better shape than it has been in the past. The shop offices and the foundry will be more pleasant places to work because of this cleaning.

The efficiency with which the inventory was taken and the plant renovated is due to the careful planning by the superintendent, intelligent and active cooperation by the foremen, and the enthusiastic help of the workmen.

#### SAVE MONEY ON MAGAZINES

We are in a position to offer advantageous rates on magazine subscriptions to employes. Those who prefer magazines instead of ham and bacon as the Christmas present from the company will be allowed \$2.50 on any magazines they desire to order at these special rates. Those preferring ham and bacon may pay for their subscriptions and still receive the low rates.

Subscriptions will be taken at the Cafeteria during the noon hours on December 12 and 13 or they may be sent to the Advertising Dept. of the main office.

#### ADDRESS BY DR. BAKER

On the afternoon of November 12 the foremen and employes finishing work at 3:30 o'clock were invited to the gymnasium to hear a brief address by Dr. Baker, professor of political economy. Practically all foremen and heads of departments were present, together with many of those who finished work at 3:30. Dr. Baker spoke for forty minutes, and for twenty minutes answered questions by some of those in attendance. The length of time allowed him and the wide scope of his subject made it necessary for him to confine himself to the bare facts and elementary principles of economics. Even so he made an interesting talk and gave his hearers plenty of food for thought.

#### SUGGESTION PRIZES EXTENDED

Suggestion awards have been extended to include the Pacific Coast factory, the Columbian Iron Works, and the Sarnia plant. In these plants there will be one prize to be awarded for the best suggestion.

When "Pickle" Offenstein of the foundry was cleaning up iron chips from the floor with an electric magnet, he noticed that it tried to pick up his shoes also. He didn't know what was the matter with himself or the magnet until he remembered that there was a steel cap over the toe of his safety shoes he was wearing.

#### BRASS CHIPS

Jacke Masonie of the Los Angeles plant suffered an injury to his hand on October 30, which laid him up for several weeks.

Wm. I. Heddon of Plant 2, who got his foot caught in a hay bailer, returned to work November 12 after an absence of about five weeks.

L. B. Ritchie and family moved to Oregon about the middle of October, where they will make their future home. He will be engaged in horticulture.

Gordon Pollock, who has been employed in the Experimental Dept. since last July, returned to Fenn College, Cleveland, where he is taking a course in mechanical engineering. This school requires five years for a degree in this subject, and Gordon has completed three years. He started for Cleveland on November 24.

The girls of the cord department appeared November 26 in their new blue and white uniforms.

Duke Mueller expects to return from Chattanooga, Dec. 15th, with the intention of making an extended stay at the home plant.

Adolph Mueller has recently returned from New York City where he attended a meeting of the American Manufacturers' Association whose session's were held at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel.

W. E. Mueller was here for several days the latter part of November, returning to Chattanooga early in December.

Arthur Gordon of the Polishing Dept. was helping to take inventory in the Shipping room. A two-inch corporation stop slipped out of his hand and came down on his toe, and it didn't even hurt. He was wearing safety shoes. Gordon remarked: "In one second I saved much more than the cost of the shoes."

#### SOCIAL CLUB

The Mueller Women's Social Club gathered at the Athletic Club House on the evening of the 21st of November for a pot luck supper. Mrs. James Pollock was the hostess. After an excellent meal the evening was passed at cards. Mrs. Walter Auer won the ladies' prize, a flower pot holder. Paul Jacka won the gentlemen's prize.

The next meeting of the Club will be held on December 17 with Mrs. Al Bashore as hostess. This will be a Christmas party with Santa Claus in attendance.

Life is full of dangerous crossings and conscience is the flagman.—*Forbes*.

\* \* \*

Opportunity often wears overalls and looks like work.

\* \* \*

A highbrow is a person educated beyond his intelligence.