MUELLER RECORD

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MUELLER RECORD

November, 1947 No. 142

GENE J. KUHN, Editor Published in the Interests of Employees of the

MUELLER CO.
PLUMBING, WATER AND GAS PRODUCTS



OUD 90# 180g

FACTORIES

DECATUR, ILL. LOS ANGELES, CALIF SARNIA, ONT. CHATTANOGA, TENN

BRANCHES
NEW YORK CITY SAN FRANCISCO

TRADE MARK

MUELLER

REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

This Month's Cover

COY BUTLER, a Mueller Co. employee for more than twenty years, is shown at work forging a rachet dog for tapping machines on a drop hammer at plant No. 2, Decatur. The upper and lower dies and the frame of the machine at the sides make a natural border for the photograph.

Christian Gentleman

THE SIDEWALKS near the Mueller Co.'s main factory no longer will be strewn each Thursday with small, hand-lettered cards bearing the word PRAY, for Joseph H. Breckenridge is dead. The 82-year-old eccentric, a former Mueller Co. employee, died September 13, leaving an estate valued at \$105,000, the bulk of which will remain in trust for twenty-five years and then be divided

among the Salvation Army, the Decatur public library, hospitals and orphanages.

Since 1927, when Joe was laid off, he regularly visited the Mueller Co. each Thursday to bathe at the Mueller gymnasium. His request for bathing privileges had been granted by the late Adolph Mueller, and Joe's will contained a \$500 bequest to the Mueller Co. in appreciation. He was an employee of the company from July 12, 1918, to September 17, 1927.

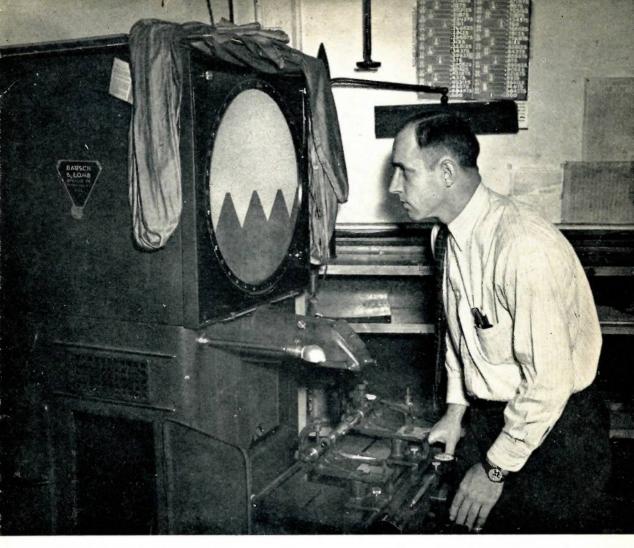
He was well known to Decatur residents for his "pray" cards and his unkempt figure.



Joe Breckenridge

However, as Major Fred L. Brewer, the Salvation Army commander in Decatur, expressed it:

"He was a fine Christian gentleman. He did his work in Christianity in what some persons thought was a peculiar way, but he did his particular job well."



Elmer Fawley, gage laboratory foreman, checks the accuracy of threads on a three-quarter inch combined drill and tap by means of a contour measuring projector. The projected section of the drill, shown in the darkened area of the screen, has been magnified 62.5 times—the equivalent of enlarging .001 of an inch to one-sixteenth of an inch.

QUALITY with a capital Q

Attention to detail in manufacture and final inspections assure customer of consistently high-grade products.

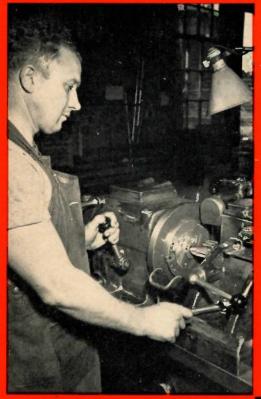
DURING THE NINETY years the Mueller Co. has been in business, quality has been the governing criterion for all products manufactured. Design, materials, workmanship, methods and tools used in the manufacture of the company's products are aimed at one main objective: quality.

One example of the care that goes into the production of all Mueller Co. products is shown in the manufacture of a three-quarter-inch combined drill and tap, which is usually

used in the field with a Mueller tapping machine for drilling and tapping cast iron mains under pressure.

Part of the precise machining process, which is accurately checked in the gage laboratory, and the final inspections before the tool reaches the hands of the customer are shown on this and the following pages.

Through attention to such details as these, the Mueller Co. has maintained its superiority in the fields it serves.



Final machining operation in the manufacture of a combined drill and tap is the thread-milling machine, operated here by Clyde Hester. The drill blank is milled by a thread-milling hob, which is accurately controlled in the machine to .0015 of an inch. Following this operation the drill and tap is stamped with the Mueller name, its size and part number, and then heat-treated to harden and toughen the metal. After that it is ground and sharpened and is ready for the final tests.

Before being shipped, each combined drill and tap is tested under the conditions to which it will be subjected in the field. The ultimate customer in the case of this drill and tap is a city water works department, and Lynn T. Harper, who makes the final tests of the drill and tap, inserts it in a drill press and drills and taps a cast iron test plate, which has the same curvature and thickness as a six-inch water main. If it doesn't pass these tests, it is summarily rejected.





After cutting its way through the cast iron test plate, the combined drill and tap is next subjected to a pull test, which determines whether its turning torque will be suitable for a hand-operated tapping machine and also, in part, whether the tap has cut a good thread. Although the amount of pull varies with the size of the tool being tested, a three-quarter-inch combined drill and tap must pass the test with a maximum of a forty-pound pull applied to a fifteen-inch lever.

Performance of the combined drill and tap constitutes the last part of the test. A brass plug is inserted in the cast iron test plate, which has been drilled and threaded by the tool, and water under a pressure of eighty pounds per square inch is applied. If the tap has done its work properly, a good thread has been cut, and a water-tight joint results. It is then ready for shipment.

Tests such as these are necessary to maintain the high quality of Mueller Co. products. Better products mean better business.





LUCIEN W. MUELLER
Chairman
Board of Directors



ALBERT G. WEBBER, JR.

President

J. W. SIMPSON

Executive Vice-President



Name New Top Management Officers

THE ELECTION of Lucien W. Mueller as chairman of the board of directors of the Mueller Co., Albert G. Webber, Jr., as president and treasurer, and J. W. Simpson as executive vice-president was announced October 21 by the company's board of directors.

Mr. Mueller was formerly vice-president in charge of administrative and sales engineering, Mr. Webber was general counsel for the firm, and Mr. Simpson has been vice-president in charge of sales for the Mueller Co. All have been associated with the company for many years. No changes in company policies are contemplated.

Mr. Mueller, a son of the late Philip Mueller and a cousin of the late William E. Mueller, has been associated with the company since his early youth, when he followed the family custom of working at the plant during school vacations.

He received his mechanical engineering degree at Cornell University in 1917, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in Army Ordnance. At the end of World War I, he became permanently employed by the Mueller Co. as superintendent of the foundry division, during which time he instituted new metallurgical processes for casting metals used in the company's products. He then went to the general engineering department, where he designed new machinery and equipment for the shops and foundries, and was elected to the office of vice-president in charge of works management in 1928, in charge of all factory operations and personnel.

In 1933 he supervised the building and organized and put into operation the Los Angeles factory and during the same year, when the Mueller Co. acquired the Columbian Iron Works at Chattanooga, he supervised the rebuilding and reorganizing of the plant there. He continued as works manager in charge of the three Mueller Co. plants in the United States until 1944, when he was elected vice-president in charge of administrative and sales engineering.

Shortly after Pearl Harbor, the Mueller Co. began making munitions and he became assistant chairman of the Shell Industry Integration Committee of the Chicago Ordnance District, continuing in that post until after V-J Day.

The research that led to the perfection of a special shell and the development of a new process for manufacturing shells were done at the Decatur plant during that time, such accomplishments winning the coveted Army-Navy "E" award in 1943.

Mr. Webber's association with the company officially began in 1934, when he was named assistant counsel for the Mueller Co. However, his father, who was first engaged as an attorney for the company in 1893 and who became general counsel in 1900, started with the company as an apprentice to Hieronymus Mueller, the company founder, in 1870. He later attended law school and was admitted to the bar.

Mr. Webber served as a second class quartermaster in the Navy in World War I, from 1917 to 1919, following his graduation from the University of Illinois school of law, and upon his return from the service he began the practice of law with his father. He was elected to the board of directors in 1944.

Mr. Simpson started to work for the Mueller Co. as a messenger boy under Hieronymus Mueller in 1899. He received consecutively higher promotions until he was serving as assistant to the president, Adolph Mueller, when he was made general sales manager of the company in 1917.

He was elected to the company's board of directors in 1928, and became vice-president in charge of sales in 1929. He continued in the dual capacity of general sales manager and vice-president in charge of sales until the appointment of Hugh L. Baker as general sales manager July 15, 1947.

In his new office, Mr. Simpson will be in a position to lend his judgment to the general management of the business, and also carry out the general policies of the founder and succeeding members of the Mueller organization.

Other Mueller Co. officers are Otto C. Keil, secretary; Robert H. Mueller, chief engineer; Frank H. Mueller, research engineer; and W. H. Hipsher, assistant treasurer. Members of the board of directors are Mrs. Addie E. Mueller, Mrs. Leonorc M. Staley, Robert H. Mueller, Lucien W. Mueller, J. W. Simpson, and Albert G. Webber, Jr.



However, as the company grew, so did the number of headaches connected with the making out of a payroll. With the introduction of incentive pay there was the matter of a bonus to be added to the salaries of many production workers. Overtime payments also had to be added to their wages. There were also certain deductions for group insurance, credit union. Blue Cross, government savings bonds, organized charity, and similar items. Then, too, deductions had to be made for the government's old age benefit and survivors' insurance tax (F.O.A.B.) and for withholding tax. The amount of paper work also increased, for it became necessary to make quarterly and yearly reports of the workers' earnings to the federal government for income tax purposes and old age benefits, and another quarterly report was required for the state's unemployment insurance

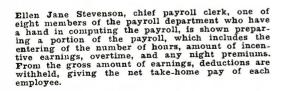
department.

Machine bookkeeping had to be adopted and streamlined accounting methods used to save the payroll department from being hopelessly snarled, and to get paychecks out on time.

The time clocks, which record the working hours of most Mueller Co. employees, serve as a baseline on which to start the initial figuring, which is done in the employees' own departments by the time clerks. Overtime and incentive pay are figured in the payroll department, the incentive pay rates being determined by the standards depart-

3855a

Alberta Bliler, right, operating an Addressograph, which prints the name, social security number and clock number on clock cards for the Decatur, Los Angeles and Chattanooga plants. The machine also is used to print payrolls, explanation of pay cards and pay envelopes. Below, Evelyn Ballard figures payroll deductions—insurance, credit union, Blue Cross, Community chest, government savings bonds.



The number of hours each employee works is checked by the payroll department from the time card, against the report from the departmental time clerks. Deductions are then entered on the payroll with the number of hours worked and the amount of incentive and overtime pay due each individual. The amount of deductions is then subtracted from the gross earnings, giving the actual amount of the pay check.

Upon the completion of the payroll, checks are written on a check-writing machine that writes the amount of the check, signs the name of the paymaster, W. S. Enloc, and runs an adding machine tape. Explanation of pay cards are filled out and placed in pay envelopes. These are then sorted by departments and delivered to the foreman for distribution to employees.

Employees are paid every other Friday. Clock cards are taken up the preceding Friday, and after the total time is added by the departmental time clerks, the cards are sent to the payroll department. Starting on Monday, unless a holiday interferes, the department devotes the week to figuring the payroll.

On the alternate week, payroll reconciliations and bank statements are prepared for the Decatur, Chattanooga and Los Angeles branches, special tabulating cards are prepared, transfers and other changes made in payroll deduction files, payroll forms and clock cards prepared for Decatur and the branch factories, and various special reports prepared, including labor reports to the government. The figuring of incentive pay is a continuous process in the department.

Despite the vast amount of detail work that goes into the paying of Mueller Co. employees, the payroll department consists of only eight persons. Besides Mr. Enloe, the paymaster, and Earl Harris, assistant paymaster, the department includes Ellen Jane Stevenson, chief payroll clerk, and Evelyn

Ballard, Alberta Bliler, Mary Easterling, Mary Gragg and June Morrison

Curtis Bauer, below, supervisor of the tabulating department, is operating a tabulator, which summarizes the amount of earnings, F.O.A.B. and withholding taxes of workers from special tabulating cards. These cards furnish an earnings record of each Mueller Co. employee.

From the completed payroll, Earl Harris, assistant paymaster, obtains the net amount of earnings, which is written on the face of the clock card with the signature of the paymaster by means of the check-writing machine he is operating. The machine also runs an adding machine tape.

Decatur Dope

A NEW COOPERATIVE group insurance plan, which provides additional benefits to employees, became effective November 1 at Mueller Co. plants at Decatur, Chattanooga and Los Angeles.

Enrollment of at least seventy-five per cent of the employees at the plants was required before it could become effective. The plan was offered to employees on October 27 and more than enough employees enrolled in the plan by October 31.

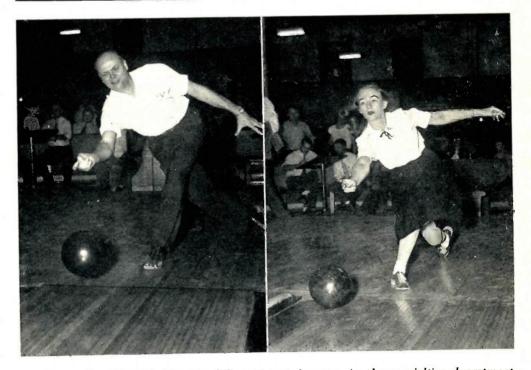
The schedule of benefits, based on the basic hourly wage rate of employees, includes life insurance from \$1,000 to \$3,000, accidental death and dismemberment \$1,500, weekly accident and sickness benefits from \$15 to \$30 a week for twenty-six weeks, daily hospital benefits of \$5 a day for seventy days, and medical and surgical benefits up to \$150.

Premiums are paid jointly by employees and Mueller Co.

Employees who were on the payroll as of November 1 may enroll in the program before November 30 without being required to submit to a physical examination. They may also elect to take either life insurance alone or the "package" program. Employees hired after November 1, if they desire to participate in the insurance program, must sign up for the complete program.

During August and September, a total of \$20,186.18 was loaned by the Mueller Co. Employees' Credit Union. Assets of the credit union as of September 30 were \$133,291.73, and the net profit thus far this year amounted to \$1,973.20. Shares in the credit union purchased during these two months amounted to \$15,034.30. The credit union listed 536 members and 252 borrowers.

Harold Munsterman, pattern shop, who is treasurer and general manager of the credit union, urged company employees who are



George E. (Peewee) Hartwig, left, assistant foreman in the specialties department, had been leading the Mueller Bowling League for seven weeks when this photo was made. However, it now appears he may be out of the running for some time, due to a knee injury suffered in an automobile accident. Wilma Maleska is captain of the Mueller women's team, which is competing in the four-team Minor Ladies League. Other members are Catherine Bauer, Betty Dehority, Ruth Liestman, Aline Moore and Betty Walker.



A mock wedding was the feature of a recent shower held at Mueller Lodge in honor of the former Betty Williamson, second from right, whose marriage to Jack R. Veech took place November 2. Among those who attended were, left to right, Vera Craft, Aileen Mosser, Jeane Otis, Barbara Marlatt, Evelyn Hindman, and Eileen Dillinger.

not members of the credit union to stop in and talk matters over if they are contemplating the need for a loan. The credit union office is at the Mueller gymnasium, and hours are from 10 a. m. to 4:15 p.m. on weekdays, except Monday and Thursday, when the office is open until 4:45 p. m.

Lewis Fagan, a Mueller Co. employee for more than forty-eight years prior to his retirement July 31, was killed in an automobile accident near Dwight, Illinois, October 17. He was enroute to Kankakee on a business trip. Survivors in clude his wife and two daughters. Mr. Fagan was formerly a clerk in the brass foundry.

Eighty-seven Mueller Co. friends of Ethel Dixon Thomason honored her with a shower on the evening of September 17 at Decatur Woman's Club. "Dixie," as she is best known to members of this organization, became the bride of Sam D. Thomason on August 28 in Central Christian Church.

Hostesses for the party were: Helen Brannan, Hazel Allen, Dorothy Gepford, Margaret Woodruff, Marjorie Tatham, Estella Stille, Erma Barth, Enola Smith,

Kathryn A. Travis succeeded Mrs. Marie Tratzik, who resigned, as industrial nurse at



the Mueller Co.'s main Decatur plant on September 9. Miss Travis, a Decatur resident, was graduated this year from the Decatur - Macon County school of nursing. Miss Travis is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Travis.

The millwrights of the maintenance department recently completed a major moving

job. A 40,000-pound 36x36 Cincinnati planer, which performed yoeman service at plant No. 3 during the war, was transferred to the machine repair department. The planer was removed from plant No. 3 and taken on a flat car to College avenue, then down Cerro Gordo to Monroe, and across Monroe to the machine repair department. Traffic was blocked off Monroe street for about one and one-half hours.

Earl E. Cline, a senior engineer on research in the products engineering department, resigned September 30 to accept a position as chief engineer with the Ernest Holmes Company of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Earl had been with the Mueller Co. since 1932, when the company acquired the Columbian Iron Works at Chattanooga. He was formerly chief engineer for Columbian and had previously been associated with the Ernest Holmes Company as chief engineer. He was transferred to Decatur in 1935.

T. M. Biggs, father of Ruth McKown, core room, died September 29 at Iowa City, Iowa.



William C. (Willie) Rohman, claims department, and Miss Esther Schultz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Schultz of Decatur, were married August 23 at the home of the Rev. V. F. Oglesby. A veteran of World War II, Rohman has been with the Mueller Co. for the past eleven years.

Chattanooga Chatter

Mr. and Mrs. George Hackler entertained the office August 1 with a watermelon feast. Guests numbered about twenty employees who indulged in pranks and games and came away grateful to Mr. Hackler for some of the best watermelons they have eaten this year.

Mr. and Mrs. John Barker and son, Jack, have had as their guest, Miss Connie Carter of Jacksonville, Florida.

Mrs. Judy Anderson entertained with a bridal shower for Miss Frances Kosky, switchboard operator, at her home in North Chattanooga. Frances received many lovely gifts for her new home in Camp Lee, Virginia.

A. C. Werdes, of Decatur, was a recent visitor in our plant.

Willie Boykin, machine shop, and wife announce the birth of a daughter born September 5, 1947.

We say goodbye to Frances Kosky who left to become Mrs. Vince J. Cimino on August

8. Frances, having given her lovely, gay smile to all as switchboard operator, is missed by all the plant and office. She was not only cordial and cooperative, but eager to do all she could to please everyone. We sincerely hope she will be very happy in her new apartment in Camp Lee and we look forward to her visits back to Chattanooga.

She is tall, slender, very neat and attractive. She possesses a shy, quiet smile and thorough friendliness for everyone. Her poise and soft voice are added assets to her graceful charm. She is the new switchboard operator, Marie Waldrep! Welcome, Marie. We hope you like us, too.

Also back on her job again is Clatice Jones Hill, cost department. Clatice has worked with us before and we are mighty happy to have her return. Included in her family now is a lovely little daughter, Sherrie, who will be one year old this month.

The report of Chattanooga - Hamilton County Health Department on the x-ray clinic held in connection with our company on July 29, 1947, has been received. Dr. Golley, director, stated that 281 persons had chest x-rays, resulting in only one per cent discovered as having tuberculosis. All of these cases were inactive and have no special significance either to the individual or his fellow worker.

Seems about everybody has enjoyed a vacation these past few months and some of those people are:

Maintenance: Robert Harris, Charles Bible, Luther O'Neal, George Hackler.

Brass foundry: Harold Roberts, Troy Weaver, Clyde Slater.

Machine shop: Dexter Haney, Vernon Horn, Russell Miller, John Hixon, Jr., Lawrence Adams, Ronald Rogers, Marcus Daniel, Homer Massey, Dave Smith, Willard Riddle, Willie Boykin, Oscar Hubble.

Shipping department: Lee Brown, Joc Lyle, Jr.

Core room: Howard Morton, Walter Paris.

Assembly: Lester Woodall, Jack Moss, Eugene Drake, Lucius Jones, Y. C. Cothran, Smith Wooden, Gene Gann, Thomas Crowell.

Iron foundry: Ira Loftin, James Allen, Jack Pope, Arlice Manning, Jimmy Wright, Eddie Edwards, Sidney Porter, Clifford Thornton, Leroy Crutchfield.

Office: Lois Trotter, Jack Malone, Homer Van Vleet, Robert Lusk, Vergie Sheffey, Charles Sutherland, Mary O'Kelly. Pattern Shop: Sam Foster.

See Mr. Walker and Arch Guth for information on "hunting clay pigeons" and blistered shoulders—particularly the sore shoulders.

Butch McClendon was so happy to have McGinnis replace him on the Natco recently that he's been riding Mac free of charge—clear from the mountain, too!

Los Angeles Report

Nuptial vows were pledged by Miss Jacqueline Anderson, order department, and Mr. Milton Frederick Strand on October 11. The double-ring ceremony was held in the Grace Community Presbyterian Church of Montebello, California.

The bride wore a lovely white satin brocade gown, and her attendants were dressed in pink, aqua, and yellow organdy. Solos were sung by Ramona Robinson, sales department. A reception was held following the ceremony.

Bernice Mahon, core department, and Glen Blize, time study engineer, were married at Las Vegas, Nevada, November 1, and spent their honeymoon at the famed Flamingo Club. The newlyweds will reside at Alhambra.

The engagement of Theresa Alfano to William Brock of the U. S. Navy has been announced, although the date of the marriage has not been definitely set.

Frank Kyoski, a polisher in department 40 for more than a year, died September 23 as the result of a cardiac condition. Our sympathy is extended to his wife and child.

Duane Driggs, a machinist in department 30, is resigning to try his skill at chicken



Charles Newell foreman of the steel machine shop, and Mrs. Newell. Mr. Newell will retire from the Mueller Co. November 30, after fourteen years of service. He is one of the last of the original old-timers who started with the company at Los Angeles before the completion of the plant there.

ranching. He has been with the Mueller Co. for more than eight years. Maybe he'll be able to figure out some way of stepping up production from those chickens.

Jack Kennedy, who worked in the factory supply department for the past four years, retired October 3. Herb Dowell, night watchman, also has retired.

A. C. Werdes from the Decatur plant was a recent visitor, and his visit here was a little more pleasant, for the famed California sunshine performed on schedule. What young man out here is being fitted for binocular lenses so that he may be able to eye the girls across the street more clearly?

Funny but not too unusual: there's a young newlywed who completes her toilette after she arrives at work.

Emmett Reedy said he caught his full limit of bass after a three-day sojourn to Silver Lake. We hear he brought them home and dumped them in the pool. Next year at this time he hopes to have a full-sized mess of fish to eat.

Sarnia Stuff



Mueller, Ltd., was the subject of an illustrated article in the September issue of Heating & Sanitary Age, a trade magazine published at Toronto, Canada. The article, "Mueller Completes Plant Change-Over," was particularly complimentary regarding the improvements made in working conditions, the modernization of the foundry and machine shop, and the first-aid department, which was termed "one of Canada's most modern plant hospitals."

W. R. Brennan, Streamline division, returned recently from an extended business trip to Quebec and the Maritimes.

Canadians celebrated Thanksgiving Day on October 9.

W. B. Campbell, purchasing agent, spent Thanksgiving Day with his father at Holland Centre, near Owen Sound.

Our congratulations to Pat Smith, accounts payable clerk, who is wearing a beautiful solitaire on her left hand.

Gwen Hill recently returned from a week's holiday in New York, which she reported was very enjoyable.

During the noon hour on October 10, the office staff gathered in the main office to honor Marian Forbes and Irene Stevenson on the occasion of their approaching marriages. On behalf of their co-workers, Charles Browett presented Marian with a linen table-

cloth, and Gordon Karr presented Irene with a wool blanket.

New Muellerites

To Mr. and Mrs. James E. Elsliger, a son, Barry James, on August 11. James is employed in department 2.

To Mr. and Mrs. George A. Foslett, a son, David George, on August 19. George is employed in department 3.

To Mr. and Mrs. Leo LeClair, a daughter, Jannetje, on August 30. Leo George is employed in department 3.

To Mr. and Mrs. George Maitland, a son, David Wayne, on September 2. George is employed in department 3.

To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Crawley, a son, David, on September 11. Thomas is employed in department 2.

To Mr. and Mrs. Walter Irvine, a daughter, Christenna Lyn, on September 18. Walter is employed in department 6.

To Mr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor, a son, Robert Mark, by adoption. Howard is employed in department 3.

Wedding Bells

On October 11, Irene Stevenson, production office, to Lewie Gowan at St. Andrew Presbyterian Manse, Sarnia.

On October 18, Marian Alma Forbes, payroll department, to William Bruce Barrett, department 9, at Central United Church Manse, Sarnia.

MUELLER OFFERS GROUND KEY GAS STOPS

*H-11001 FLAT HEAD H-11002 HEAD H-11003 SQUARE HEAD



*ALSO FURNISHED IN HEAVIER GRADE (H-11007)

H-11004 FLAT HEAD WITH CHECK 1-11005 TEE HEAD WITH CHECK



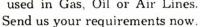
**ALSO FURNISHED IN HEAVIER GRADE (H-11010)

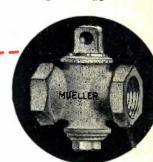
H-11024 LOCK WING





Just select the styles you need-Mueller has them all and each one has the famous Mueller Ground Key Construction!! That means each key is ground and lapped into its own body to insure easy turning and a leak-proof seal. These low pressure stops are made in sizes up to and including 2 inches and are thoroughly tested with 80 lbs. air pressure while submerged in water—your assurance of satisfactory performance under actual service conditions whether used in Gas, Oil or Air Lines.













MAIN OFFICE AND FACTORY......DECATUR, ILLINOIS

& SINCE

OTHER FACTORIES: Los Angeles, Cal.; Chattanooga, Tennes Sarnia, Ont. Canada