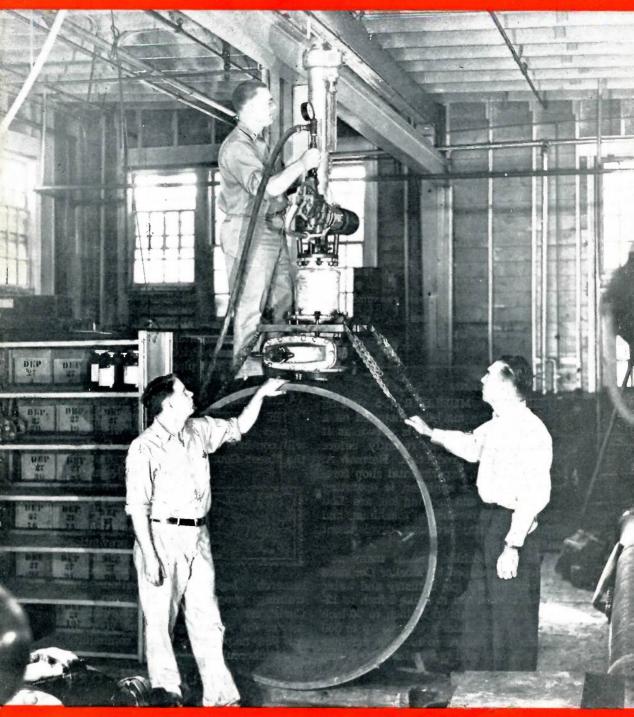
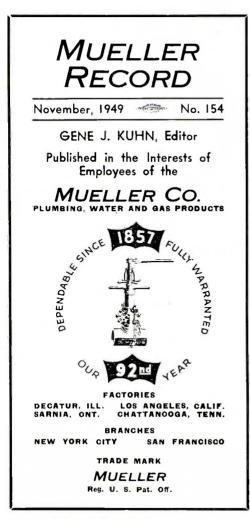
# MUELLER RECORD





### This Month's Cover

THE NEW MUELLER C-5 drilling and tapping machine, mounted on a section of 60-inch pipe, is shown as it underwent final tests recently before being placed in production. Herman A. (Jack) Chepan, experimental shop foreman and service engineer, is operating the machine and looking on are Lou Bland, left, experimental machinist, and John J. Smith, products development engineer.

The C-5 machine, one of many new products developed by Mueller Co. since the war for the gas industry and water works, is designed to make 2-inch to 12-inch diameter cuts in 12-inch to 60-inch diameter pipe under pressures up to 500 pounds per square inch. The machine also will drill and tap mains of this size

with as large as 8-inch iron pipe threads.

Development of the new machine came about as a result of the need of the gas industry to make larger cuts on larger pipe. Drilling into the large, low pressure mains under pressure permits them to be bagged off without loss of gas while repairs or extensions are being made. Use of the machine also permits extending laterals up to eight inches in diameter from the mains.

The machine utilizes the same basic engineering principles of the first drilling and tapping machine developed by Hieronymus Mueller, the company founder. However, the new machine and the others in the Mueller line of drilling and tapping machines for gas and water distribution and transmission systems incorporate vast refinements in the way of mechanical improvements.

The many new products developed during the past several years and the many more now in the blueprint stage indicate the company's policy of keeping abreast of current trends in the industries it serves.

Some idea of the huge investment utility companies have in distribution systems in such cities as New York, Baltimore and Boston, where 60-inch mains are in use, may be gained from the bill for the small section of pipe used for experimental purposes in testing the machine. Price tag for the 5-foot section of 60-inch pipe: \$300.

### Christmas Seal Sale Opens

THE FORTY-THIRD annual Christmas Seal sale opened this week and will continue until Christmas. Goal of the Macon County Tuberculosis Associa-



tion this year is \$22,500, of which 81 per cent will be used locally for the association's tuberculosis prevention program and the remainder for medical

research, legislation, education and training programs. When you buy Christmas Seals you are performing a service for your neighbor and yourself, for you help protect your community from tuberculosis.



A view of one section of the pattern shop, which includes both metal and wood working departments.

### Pattern Shop

### Requisite for employees: all the skills of a toolmaker, plus a fundamental knowledge of foundry practices.

In GENERAL TERMS a pattern maker may be defined as a toolmaker with a fundamental knowledge of foundry practices. His trade requires the same fine craftsmanship and the ability to use all types of hand and machine tools to translate a blueprint into metal or wood, and, in addition, he must be

able to determine that the pattern will prove satisfactory in the molding and casting processes in the foundry. And the machining processes which will be used to change the castings into finished products also must be considered.

Most Mueller products—and all high production items—are cast from iron



Ollie Fortschneider, pattern shop foreman, shows the evolution of a Mueller corporation stop body, from blueprint to pattern to casting. He has been with Mueller Co. more than 23 years.



Lester Skelley, the pattern shop's oldest employee. makes a layout on paper for a master pattern.

Harold Snyder cleans up a production pattern

after it has been cast from a master pattern.

or brass, and some products, like iron body gas stops, are made of both iron and brass. Each casting requires a pattern, which is actually a model of the product, and many also require a core to shape the inside cavity of the casting. The pattern shop turns out both patterns and core boxes.

Suppose, for example, the engineering department sends over a blueprint for a new curb stop, which will have a brass body and a brass key, both of which will be cast. The pattern makers make exact models of one-half the body and key, the number depending upon the size of the product, for they must be laid out to fit a 12-inch by 16-inch flask, the type adopted as standard for most production casting.

Once the individual patterns have been made and laid out on a sheet corresponding to the size of the flask, the pattern maker must also provide for the gates and sprues, which enable the hot metal to enter the flask and flow along to the cavities corresponding to the pattern.

Sand cores are set in the mold to shape the inside cavity of the castings. and these are precisely made in core boxes furnished by the pattern shop. So the pattern maker not only fashions a pattern for the outside shape of a product but for the inside as well.

Core boxes also are a part of the shop's stock-intrade. Clarence Ruch repairs a core box block.



This first pattern, the master pattern, is usually made out of brass or, in some cases, white metal. From it are made the production patterns. Generally speaking, it requires an average of 60 hours' work to transform a blueprint into a master pattern.

Wood is occasionally used for making master patterns, particularly those patterns which are for very irregularly shaped items, since it is easier to work than metal. Well-dried and seasoned pine generally is used, but wood's chief disadvantage is its tendency to warp. The pattern shop at present is trying a new plywood impregnated with plastic for some patterns. Maple and mahogany are also used.

Patterns, like everything else, wear out in production use, and keeping them in repair or making new production patterns from the master patterns, which are carefully cataloged, is part of the work of the pattern shop.

Because of the time and skill required in the making of a pattern, each represents a sizeable investment. There are more than 8,000 plates and patterns for the brass foundry alone, and these are stored in a fire-proof vault for safety.

Harold Munsterman is finishing a production plate for the key for one of the Mueller gas stops.



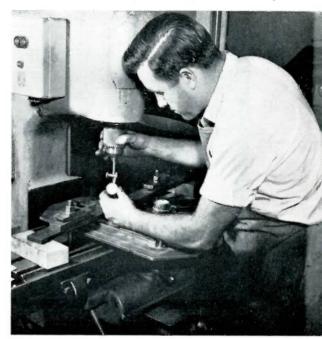
This figure does not include the iron foundry patterns which are cataloged and stored at plant No. 2. The Decatur pattern shop also makes some patterns for the other Mueller Co. plants.

Any definition of the pattern makers at Mueller Co.'s Decatur factory should include the phrase "and an employee with an average service record of 20 years." Lester Skelley not only heads up the patterns shop in years of service but is at the top of the Decatur factory's seniority list with more than 42 years as a Mueller Co. employee. His nephew, Royal E. Skelley, is the youngest employee in the pattern shop in point of service with six years.

In round numbers these are the service records of the other pattern shop employees:

Richard Dannewitz, 30 years. C. F. Morenz, 28 years. Henry G. Leipski, 28 years. Harold E. Snyder, 25 years. Clarence Ruch, 22 years. Robert Walley, 21 years. Harold Munsterman, 14 years. Eric Blankenburg, 13 years. Robert Leake, 7 years.

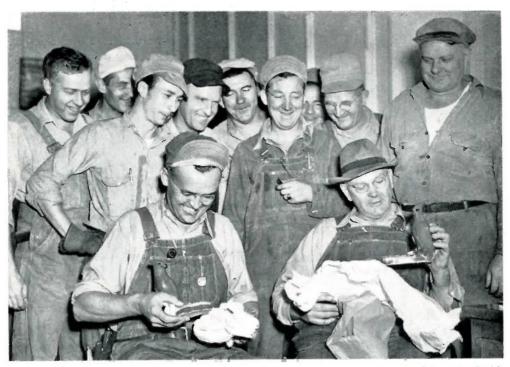
Royal Skelley is shown repairing a pattern for a regulator. He is making a check for concentricity.



NOVEMBER • 1949



Margaret Woodruff, chemist, and Gertrude Hedges, order department, are shown with a model of a Mueller fire hydrant and other products displayed at the annual "Advertise Your Job" meeting of the Decatur Business and Professional Women's club on October 12.



Consolation prizes in the form of cardinal ash trays were presented to John M. Smith and Charles Dunaway by Ted McKown, right, when the Cards were edged out the Series. Ruth McKown, Ted's wife, also gave one of the trays to Ruth Miller of the core room.



Perry Moss, left, quarterback for University of Illinois in the 1947 Rose Bowl Game with U.C.L.A., narrated a film showing the game at the October 12 meeting of the 4-X Club. Also shown are C. E. Sutherd, former Millikin athletic director, Carleton Hackman and Loyle Davis.

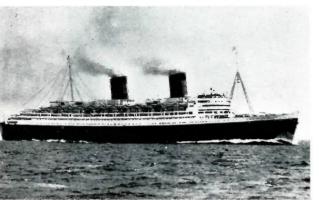


Roy S. Vandervort, plant guard is shown on duty at the Mercer Street gate just before his retirement, October 20, after more than 29 years, two months, of service with Mueller Co. Roy started in 1920, and his service was continuous since then.



When Gene Cash, foundry office, reported for work recently with an eye infection, he was given dark glasses, a cane and pencils.

Fred and Marie Tratzik at home after their trip.



The Queen Elizabeth; length: 1031 feet; beam, 118.



Trafalgar Square, London.

Below: night boat from England to Holland.

# Fred Tratzik, Mueller Co Impressions Gained On

The following article was written by Fred Tratzik, Mueller Co. engineer, who, with Mrs. Tratzik, former company nurse, recently returned from a 2-month trip to western Europe. The couple left New York September 4 and returned to Decatur November 5.

WE EMBARKED on the Queen Elizabeth shortly after 8 o'clock at Pier 90. The Queen Elizabeth is the world's largest ocean liner, a ship of 83,673 tons, and has all the conveniences of a first class hotel. An elevator takes passengers from the decks on which their staterooms are located to the main or promenade deck, and there are shops in which passengers may purchase various items. The similarity to a hotel is also carried out in the lounge and dining room, the main difference being the vibration which is apparent when the ship is underway and, at times, some rolling.

For recreation and entertainment there were a swimming pool, gymnasium and cinema, and passengers had a wide choice of sports, music and dancing. The food was good and the menu offered a wide variety. The Queen Elizabeth can accommodate 2,300 passengers and a crew of 1,200 officers and men.

Our crossing from New York to Southampton, England, with a stop at Cherbourg, France, took five days. The weather was exceptionally good, and the distance was 3,130 miles.

Upon disembarkation, a boat train took us to London, where we enjoyed several

A canal on the Island of Marken.





## . Engineer, Relates Some Prip To Western Europe

days of sightseeing, visiting quite a few of the city's fine buildings and shopping centers. Among the better known were St. Paul's cathedral, the Houses of Parliament, the Tower of London with the crown jewels, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Downing Street, Scotland Yard, Bond Street and many others. We were very much impressed with the ceremony of the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace, an event which takes place every 48 hours. We also made a tour to Windsor Castle.

A special guide took us through London's East End, where many of the city's workers live and where many factories and shops are located. We saw a sign on one of the buildings, "Wanted: 50 Machinists." This part of London bears witness to the heavy bombing it suffered from Nazi bombers.

We left London by train to Harwich and from there by boat to Hoek van Holland. From there we went to Amsterdam by train. Amsterdam resembles a large American city, except for an occasional shopper in traditional Dutch dress and wooden shoes. The city is criss-crossed by about 27 canals and 350 bridges. Leaving Amsterdam we made a tour to Vollendam and the Island of Marken. Scattered windmills, many small canals, green pastures with cattle grazing peacefully, and the dress of the people made this an interesting and picturesque trip.

From Amsterdam we traveled through Arnhem and Oberhausen to Essen, Germany. Essen, in the Ruhr valley, is in the

A view of Heidelberg Castle.



The Swiss Alps near Geneva, Switzerland,



Shafts 1 and 2, Zollverein coal mine, Essen.



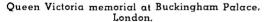
Insel Hotel at Konstanz, Germany.

Below: a view of the Tuileries, Paris.











Tabingen, a village near the Black Forest, Germany.

British Occupation Zone. It was formerly a heavy industrial and coal mining center. At present it is mostly a coal center as most of the industrial plants have either been destroyed or dismantled. We spent three weeks in Essen with my mother and my two brothers and sister and their families. This section of Germany has been badly damaged with many apartment houses, business houses, industries, churches and other buildings partially or completely destroyed. The Krupp works is a mass of rubble with steel beams and odd pipes jutting out at all angles.

Living conditions in this section have improved considerably within the past six months, we were told. The people can buy everything including food-if they have the money. Many, however, are out of work, including professional people such as doctors, lawyers, engineers and others. The young people do not see very much of a future for themselves because of the present tension between the United States and Russia. and there is a feeling that another war is inevitable. They also seem to have little faith in their present economic setup, because it offers few opportunities to make a decent living. All people are glad they at least have enough to eat, even though their diet might leave a lot to be desired. Wages and salaries are frightfully low and prices are high. The average wage earner will have to pay his whole month's wages for a suit of clothes.

A first class welder, for example, is paid at the rate of about 1.40 marks an hour, a toolmaker is paid about 1.50 marks. And 4.20 marks are equivalent to a dollar. A pair of shoes, priced at 40

to 50 marks, costs the worker almost a week's wages; shirts, which are of poor quality as compared to American goods, cost about 33 marks. A bottle of beer sells for 85 pfennig or around 20 cents, about the same as in America—but it must be remembered that wages are about four times less than here

Our next stops were at Frankfort, Heidelberg and Stuttgart, all in the American zone. Considerable building is being done in Frankfort and Stuttgart. Heidelberg was not damaged during the war. The people in the American zone seemed happier than in the British zone, according to the impression we gained.

From Stuttgart we traveled into the French zone to visit relatives near the Black Forest. Most of these people were farmers who still do their work and chores in much the same manner as they did 50, 75 or 100 years ago.

Next stop on our itinerary was Konstanz a. Bodensee at the Swiss border. This is a historical town with some fine buildings.

Crossing the border into Switzerland involved nothing more than a taxi ride, and we spent a day with relatives in Krentzlingen, Switzerland. Zurich and Geneva were next, and in Zurich we went on a sightseeing trip to the mountains. The views were wonderful.

We took a night train from Geneva to Paris and spent four days there, shopping and sightseeing.

From Paris we went to Cherbourg by boat train and then rode a tender out to the Queen Elizabeth for our return trip. After two months in western Europe and on board ship it was good to see the Statue of Liberty and our beloved country again.



Big Five of the Mueller Bowling League as play began in the second quarter were Martin Riewski, Ben Taylor, Jack Bain, Bob Leake, and Ed Hartwig. A total of 108 games will be played this year.

### **Keglers Hard At Work**

Play in the Mueller Bowling League reaches end of first round with Specialties Division team out front.

PLAY IN THE Mueller Bowling reached the end of the first round November 8 with the Specialty Division team out in front but followed closely

Betty Walker, captain of the Mueller team in the Ladies Minor League, is high individual bowler for the two company-sponsored women's teams.

by the Ground Key Division. The season's midpoint will be reached January 10.

Ed Hartwig, who has led the Mueller League in individual scoring for the past two years, again appeared to be heading for the top average this year, although he is being pushed by Martin Riewski and Ben Taylor, both of the Ground Key Division.

Betty Walker, captain of the Mueller team participating in the Ladies Minor League, is currently holding individual scoring honors for both company-sponsored women's teams. Betty's average is 150.

Lucille Moore, captain of the other women's team, which is entered in the Sunset League, is runner-up with a 148 average.

Two members of the Mueller team are holding office in the Sunset League. Kathryn Kinert is president and Betty Newlin is secretary.

The two women's team will bowl 99 games in the 33-week season, which end the latter part of April.

### Decatur

Clarence C. Roarick, factory manager, has announced the tentative dates of the annual Christmas parties for employees and employees' children.

The children's party has been scheduled for Saturday, December 17, and the employees' party, at which awards will be made for service and suggestions, has been slated for Thursday afternoon, December 22. The Thursday date was decided upon to avoid any conflict with payday, the following day.

Mr. Roarick said committee for the two parties would be named soon.

. . .

Dr. Karl A. Folkers, son of August Folkers, plant messenger, has been receiving an increasing amount of praise in the scientific world for his work with vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, which has been found highly beneficial in cases of pernicious anemia. A photograph of Dr. Folkers appeared on the cover of the October 31 issue of Chemical and Engineering News, and an accompanying article states "his list of accomplishments is such that many men 20 years his senior would be proud to claim it as their own."

Dr. Folkers is director of organic and biochemical research for Merck & Co., Inc., and he directs the research work of more than 50 chemists engaged in the study of antibiotics, synthetic medicinals, hormones and vitamins. The isolation of vitamin  $B_{\rm ic}$  was one of the achievements of Dr. Folkers and his co-workers.

Dr. Folkers attended the University of Illinois and was graduated in 1928. He then went to the University of Wisconsin for graduate work and received a Ph.D. degree in 1931. Following that he accepted a postdoctoral research fellowship at Yale University.

He received the American Chemical Society Award in Pure Chemistry in 1941 and in 1948 was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Last year he also received a presidential certificate of merit for his work as a member of the division of chemistry of the

National Defense Research Committee during World War II. He recently returned from Europe where he read a paper on  $B_{12}$  before the International Congress on Biochemistry.

Dr. Folkers is married and the couple has two children, Cynthia, 14, and Richard, 8.

Roy D. Coffman, 62, former department 300 assembler, died at his home near Forsythe October 20. Mr. Coffman had been a Mueller Co. employee for almost 27 years before his retirement August 16, 1948.

He was born July 6, 1887, in Taylor-ville and was married to Clara Ruth-rauff in Decatur March 12, 1912. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, Mrs. Thelma Ater, Decatur; three sons, Bill of Decatur, and Bob and Jack at the home; two sisters, Mrs. Fred Aufrecht, Taylorville, and Mrs. Dean Dornman, Washington, D. C., and a granddaughter. A sister preceded him in death.



Kathryn Travis, Mueller Co. nurse, and Mervin Kinert were married November 6 at Trueblood Memorial church, Decatur. Mr. Kinert is employed with A. E. Staley Co.



Johnny Linda Richard

These youngsters are the children of James Collinsworth, plant guard. Jim saw service in the southwest Pacific as an Army sergeant. He has been with Mueller Co. three years.

Mr. Coffman retired from Mueller Co. because of ill health, and he had devoted much of his time since his retirement as a breeder of Red Duroc hogs. His small farm was something of a model for other breeders in this section of the state. During the time he was employed at the Decatur factory, he had become known as one of the old-timers around the plant, and they recalled the many friendly political arguments between him and the late Adolph Mueller as the latter made his rounds through the plant each morning.

George Krag, former foundry engineer and pattern shop foreman before his retirement April 30, visited the Decatur factory November 15.

Mrs. K. O. Gile, R.N., substituted as nurse in the medical department the week of November 7.

The few game fish found in the small lake at Mueller Heights which was recently drained was disappointing and surprising news to many of the fishermen in the plant who were sure it harbored some whoppers. The state conservation department hauled away only about 50 game fish, the best being five fairly large bass. Most of the fish found were small and of a mixed strain.



William Baker, Correspondent

#### STEVE ERCOLE RETIRES

October 20 was a day of important decision for Stefano Ercole. Steve decided that, at 73, it was time to take life a little easier. He was remembered with gifts of a lounging robe, slippers, and a \$50 bill. The huge cake that was presented to him was shared with his fellow employees.

Steve started to work with us on September 20, 1942, and immediately established himself as a hard worker and

a good sport—a fellow could enjoy a joke on himself and then toss it right back. October 20 was the last day he would have to get out of a warm bed and wait on the corner for his ride. It was the last day of ringing in and out, of lifting shovels of brass, of picking up after us. It was also the last day we would have the pleasure of his company.

All of us wish the best for Steve and we'll miss him—and we think Steve will miss us, too.

#### WEDDING

Another bachelor dropped from the ranks recently, when Dick Laughten of department 30 plunged into matrimony. He took as his bride the former Miss Gwendoline Marie Nobile of Wilmar.

The ceremony was held in the Alhambra Wedding Chapel and the couple spent their honeymoon at the nearby mountain resort at Crestline. They will make their home in Alhambra.

We extend to Mr. and Mrs. Laughton our best wishes for a long and happy marriage.

#### IT'S A BOY

On the morning of October 26, Bruce Stotler, our purchasing agent, came to work with a carton of candy bars and a box of cigars. This traditional gesture bore evidence that the long and

anxious wait was over. The previous day, at the Beverly Community Hospital, a very young boy, weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces, was born to Ruth and Bruce. Little Ned and Mom are doing very nicely, Nancy and David are getting used to a new baby brother and now Pop Stotler can concentrate better on his football predictions.

### ACCIDENT

We offer sympathy and solace to Mr. and Mrs. Al Hembree on the injury of their little daughter.

The child was injured recently in an automobile accident when the car, driven by Mrs. Hembree, was struck by another automobile at a blind intersection.

We are all thankful that the accident was no worse and that the little girl is improving very well.

# Chattanooga

Marcella Lykins, Correspondent

We welcome to our midst Betty Jane McAllister, new clerk in the production control department, and also Phyllis Warriner who was formerly with us. In the cost department we have one of our old-timers, Muriel Mee, back with us for a while.

R. W. (Blue) Lusk of Decatur, Illinois, and father of our tool engineer, R. W. Lusk, Jr., was a recent visitor in our plant.

Oscar Brown, development engineer, has returned from Springfield, Illinois, where he spoke before the Illinois Water Plant Operators' Fall Conference.

Our plant manager, O. E. Walker, and J. H. Wall have returned from Decatur after attending the annual meetings.

Mary O'Kelley is back at work after spending a few days in the hospital and at home.

Emmet M. Reedy, factory manager of the Los Angeles plant, was a recent visitor in our plant. Mr. and Mrs. Reedy and friends were motoring to California from the Decatur meeting and they paid us a visit enroute.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Homer Massey of the machine shop in the recent death of his father.

A new safety committee has been appointed and the new members are:

Bill Hixson, machine shop.

Autra Fant, foundry.

Edward Parham, assembly department.

Sam Foster, pattern shop.

These men will work with our first aid man, making the regular monthly inspection of the plant, attend all safety meetings and work in any way they can for the safety of all employees.

Our office has taken on a new color for the new year. Instead of the regular tan and brown, the combination is light green, dark green dado with white ceiling. Everyone seems to be well pleased with the new look.

The Skating Vanities were here recently and many people enjoyed them thoroughly, but all the spectators at the skating party which was held by the office force Friday night. November 18. certainly enjoyed more unusual and unique skating. I certainly hope everyone was covered by accident insurance.

### arnia. Ontario

Almeda Reeve, Correspondent

#### WHAT'S A FOREMAN?

If he is pleasant, he is too familiar.

If he is sober-faced he is a sourpuss.

If he is young, he doesn't know anything.

If he is old, he is an old stiff,

If he belongs to a lodge, the members expect favors.

If he goes to church, he is a hypocrite:

If he doesn't, he is a heathen,

If he drinks, he is an old souse:

If he doesn't he is a tightwad.

If he talks to everybody, he is a gossip:

If he doesn't he is stuck up.

If he insists that the rules of the shop be kept, he is too particular;

If he doesn't he is careless.

If he looks around, he is snooping:

If he doesn't he is unobservant,

If he tries to settle all complaints, he must have the wisdom of Solomon.

If he worries about them, he'll soon be crazy.

He should have the patience of Job. the skin of a rhinoceros, the cunning of a fox, the courage of a lion, be blind as a bat and silent as a sphinx.

What a man!

Are there any good foremen?

Yes, plenty of them, and they're not all in cemeteries.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Bertie Prince, who celebrated their fortyfifth wedding anniversary recently. Bertie is employed in department 11.

Congratulations also are in order for Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Free (nee Myrtle Maxine Shaver). The couple was married at the bride's home in Point Edward on September 24. Douglas is employed in department 15.

Another marriage of interest to Sarnia employees was that of Erie Parsons. switchboard operator, to Wilbur Duggan, department 5. The couple was



Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Duggan

married October 29 at St. Paul's United Church in Sarnia, with John (Scotty) Milne, manager of the utilities sales division providing the wedding music and C. J. M. (Mac) Jay, department 9, acting as soloist.

Our congratulations are also extended to Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Cuthbertson on the birth of a son, Dale Alexander Joseph, on September 6. Fred is foreman of department 3.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Percy Knight, department 3, in the recent passing of his father, and to Andrew Ironside, department 2, in the recent loss of his brother, John Ironside.

It is necessary that the personnel department maintain up-to-date information about employees on the active payroll. This data is used for purposes of insurance, hospitalization, emergency calls, and such. Therefore, if any of the following changes occur, please notify the personnel department as soon as possible through your foreman:

Change of address or phone number. Change of marital status.

Change of beneficiary of group insurance.

Change of number of dependents.

Change of dependents under hospitalization plan.

Change of person to be notified in case of emergency.

Your cooperation in informing the personnel department of these changes as

soon as they occur should prove to be mutually beneficial.

William J. Topliff, department 28, retired recently after approximately four years of service with the company. All his fellow employees wish him a most enjoyable retirement. Bill's plans are not complete at present, but it is almost certain that he will continue to take an active part in life for many years to come, for his ancestors appear to be of the very hardy type. His grandmother, Mrs. Susan Smith of Wallaceburg, Ont., celebrated her hundredth birthday July 1, and his mother, Mrs. W. Topliff, Petrolia, is in her early 80s.

Congratulations are in order for Mrs. Doris McLaughlin, payroll department, and W. J. Flood, foreman of department 5, both having become proud grand-parents recently.

M. M. M.



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CANADA SAVINGS BOND SALES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE WELL ON THEIR WAY TO A NEW RECORD. CONGRATULATIONS TO MUELLER LIMITED. A LEADER IN SURPASSING LAST YEAR'S TOTAL. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK:

=GRAHAM F TOWERS BANK OF CDA.

2 Billion

Employees of Mueller, Limited, received the above telegram of congratulations from the Bank of Canada, Ottawa, Ont., November 1 for their purchases of Series 4 Canada Savings Bonds during a recent campaign. Bond purchases by Sarnia employees totaled \$41,750.