

MUELLER RECORD

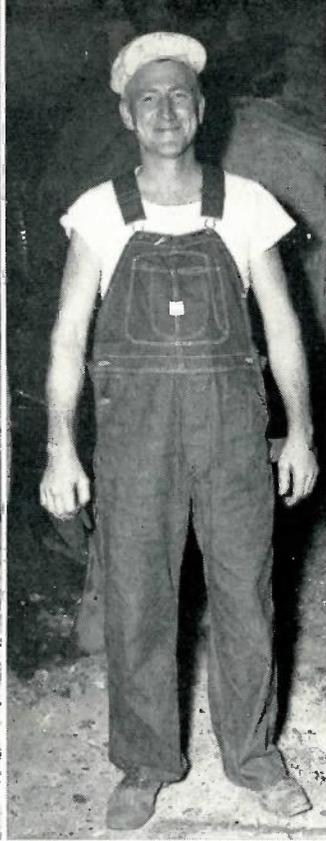




Frank Kushmer



Shirl Tish



Keith Smith



Charles Gilmore

Announce Foundry Appointments

Frank Kushmer in charge of day shift, Keith Smith on night side; Shirl Tish and Charles Gilmore, assistants.

APPPOINTMENT OF Frank Kushmer as brass foundry foreman, effective September 13, was announced by Clarence C. Roarick, factory manager. Kushmer has been a Mueller company employee for the past ten years.

In line with Kushmer's promotion from assistant foreman to foreman, he will be responsible for all brass foundry personnel and production problems of both the day and night shifts.

The factory manager's office also announced three other appointments in the brass foundry division, all effective September 13. Keith Smith was named night brass foundry foreman and will be in charge of foundry personnel and production on the night shift; Shirl Tish was named assistant foreman on the day shift; and Charles Gilmore was appointed assistant night brass foundry foreman.

MUELLER RECORD

September, 1948  No 147

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.

COVER: This month's cover shows Eldon Griffith, blacksmith, at his forge at plant No. 2, Decatur. Blacksmithing is one of scores of trades and skills required in the manufacture of Mueller Co. products.



Team captains and officers of the Mueller Bowling League are, left to right: Preston Ruthrauff, Clarence Hill, Alfred Degand, Paul Ammann, Ollie Fortschneider, Anthony Grossman, Edwin Nalefski, Albert Hill, Merlin Coates, Claude Inman, and Bill Mueller.

Play In Bowling League Underway

Schedule consists of four rounds of play in 36 weeks, continuing until May 10; sweepstakes May 17

PLAY IN THE Mueller Bowling League got underway September 7 and will continue until May 10, the schedule consisting of four rounds of play in 36 weeks. The annual sweepstakes has been scheduled for May 17.

Following is a list of this year's teams:

Specialty division—Al Degand, captain; G. Hartwig, H. Stratman, C. Girard, T. Suhomske, W. Frantz.

Experimental shop—Clarence Hill, captain; R. Taylor, H. Chepan, M. Hayes, T. Cooper, C. Doherty.

Tool room—Anthony Grossman, captain; R. Larus, J. Morrison, R. Mueller, E. Blankenburg, L. Roe, P. Hawbaker.

Main Office—Al Hill, captain; C. Draper, E. Harris, C. Bauer, C. Moore, W. Knorr.

Brass finishers—Claude Inman, captain; W. Elliott, J. Dailey, O. Spencer, Jr., J. Taylor, L. Kamer.

Product engineers—Paul Ammann,

captain; F. Mueller, R. Dannewitz, D. Ferry, F. Tratzik, W. Gould.

Pattern shop—Ollie Fortschneider, captain; F. Hackman, C. Morenz, M. Chaney, L. Skelley, C. Coffin, G. Krag.

Department 90—Preston Ruthrauff, captain; W. Edwards, R. Salogga, A. Thompson, L. Adams, W. Davidson.

Works manager's office — Merlin Coates, captain; J. Bain, Leo Wiant, L. Masterson, W. Mueller, R. Armstrong.

Ground key division—Edwin Nalefski, captain; H. Hanson, B. Taylor, M. Riewski, G. Jenkins, V. Riley.

League officers are Ollie Fortschneider, president; Bill Mueller, secretary-treasurer; and Anthony Grossman, delegate to the City Bowling Association.

Mueller Co. is again sponsoring a women's team in the Minor Ladies' League. Members are Betty Walker, Ellen Jane Stevenson, Ruth Liestman, Aline Moore and Betty Dehority.



The float entry of Local 838, U.A.W. (A.F.L.), which was built by Mueller Co., is shown as it headed north on Water Street in Decatur's Labor Day parade. Riding on the factory "mule" are Carl Maurer and Warren (Bill) Enloe, maintenance department, and Ted McKown, boiler room. The float was awarded third place in the parade competition.

Company-Union Float Takes Third

Members of Local 838, U.A.W. (A.F.L.) show Mueller Co. products during Decatur's Labor Day parade.

A COLORFUL FLOAT, built in the Mueller Co. shops for the company and Local 838, U.A.W. (A.F.L.), received third prize in Decatur's Labor Day parade, which opened a day-long celebration. The float, designed by Ray Kileen, engineering department, showed a complete water service, using Mueller products, from the main to the home. A

Mueller tapping machine was mounted on another section of water main. The float was decorated in a color scheme of red and yellow on a white background. The factory "mule," driven by Warren (Bill) Enloe, was used to pull the float. Other Mueller Co. employees who rode on the float were Carl Maurer, Ted McKown, Clarence Curlin and Charles Girard.

Clarence (Jack) Curlin, maintenance department, and Charles Girard, heat treat department, are shown in this view of the float, which illustrated a complete water service, using Mueller Co. products, from the main to the home, and a tapping machine.





A view of the IBM electric accounting machines being used in setting up a new cost control system for Mueller Co. which is expected to be available with the closing of the fiscal year. Shown above are Curtis Bauer, Ruth Liestman and Robert Armstrong. Office site is former mail room.

the IBMs are mightier than the pen

New cost control system being set up, using electric accounting machines, adds speed to detail job.

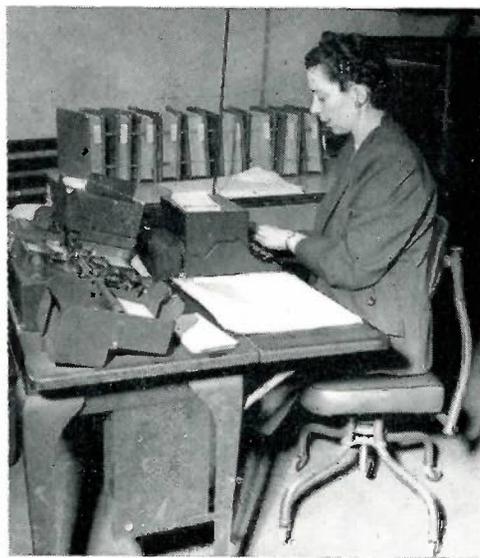
COMPLEX IBM ELECTRIC accounting machines are being used to set up a new system of cost control for Mueller Co. products which will cut the time lag involved in changes of cost from the six months required under hand accounting methods to about two weeks.

All phases of cost control, such as parts, sub-assemblies, assembly time and catalog items, are being transferred to the medium of punched cards. The punched cards are similar to the perforated tape that passes through the teletype machines used by news services, each hole permitting the completion of an electric circuit which actuates the type bar.

In itemizing parts in detail, about 150,000 cards will be used. Separate cards are required for the description of the part, its number, the material used in its manufacture, and each separate operation through which the part passes from raw material in the foundry until it emerges as a machined and finished part.

Thousands of other cards will be used for records of sub-assemblies in which

several individual parts are used, for the time necessary to assemble the parts into a sub- or finished assembly, for preparing catalog sheets, and for final, detailed cost data.



Theresa Hunter is operating an alphabetic key punch, transferring cost data to cards for the IBM electric accounting machines.



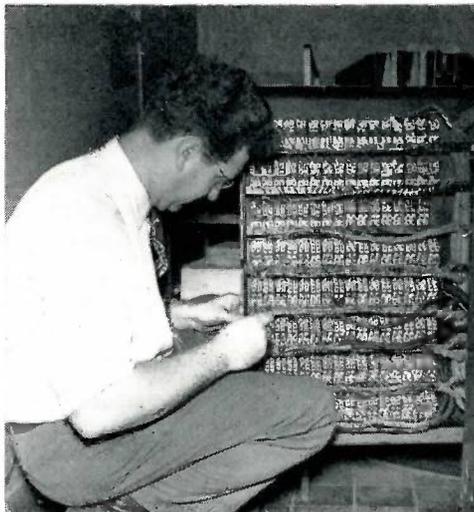
Above: Betty Dehority, left, and Jane Reed operate the automatic electric sorters. Bauer,

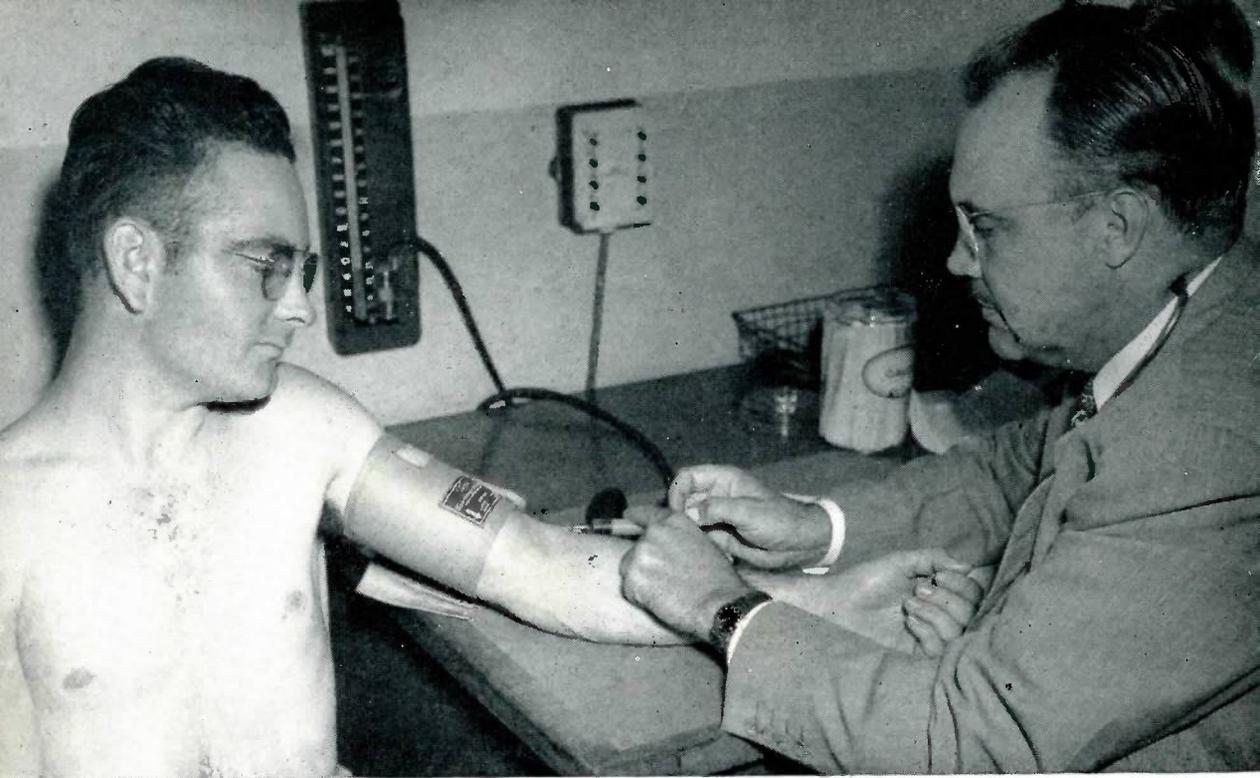
below, with a plugboard for a tabulating machine. Many combinations are possible.



Ted Hunter, IBM customer engineer, checks tabulating machine's intricate wiring system.

Fresh ammunition for the machines—a load of 150,000 of the cards used in cost system.





Physical examinations, including laboratory tests, are given to all new Mueller Co. employees. Dr. S. G. Smith, company physician, withdraws a sample of blood from a recently-hired employee.



MEDICAL DEPARTMENT



**With the medics, business is good when it's bad,
and slack times are regarded as a healthy sign.**

BUSINESS IN THE Mueller Co. medical department has been slackening off a little this year, but, unlike other businesses, such a state of affairs is regarded as a healthy sign.

Last year, for example, the medical department treated 1,453 accident cases and 1,243 personal cases—colds, headaches, and the usual run of minor illnesses. Thus far this year, 690 accident cases have been treated (for the same period last year the figure was 1,167), and 533 personal cases have received attention. With fall and winter coming on, an upsurge in the number of personal illnesses is expected, but barring unforeseen elements, the total number of cases, particularly accidents, should still be substantially below that of 1947.

The functions of the medical department have been set up to provide not only first aid but also complete medical and surgical attention for occupational cases.

For example, if an employee is seriously injured in the factory and requires hospitalization, he is immediately given first aid or whatever treatment is required by Kathryn Travis, R.N., the company nurse. She has complete authority until the employee is removed to the hospital or until Dr. S. G. Smith, the company physician, takes over. For occupational injuries, the company provides full medical care: hospitalization, medication, x-rays, and physician.

The purpose of the medical department is, of course, to render efficient and proper care in case of injury or illness. However, there are other reasons, recognized by the company and the individual alike, that have a bearing on the maintenance of the department: a healthy employee is a better workman, absenteeism is cut, and better work is produced, not to mention the fact that there's a certain amount of personal comfort in knowing the department offers a highly skilled service if and when it's needed.



Dr. Smith, center, is shown during a surgical operation at Decatur-Macon County hospital. The patient is Norman Poole, department 300. Dr. Smith was assisted by Dr. T. J. Murphy. The nurse is Audrey Waggoner of the hospital staff. Dr. Smith was retained as Poole's personal physician.



Dr. Smith is shown treating Karl (Farmer) Denson, brass foundry head furnace operator, for burns suffered in an accident.



Kathryn Travis, R.N., Mueller Co. nurse, removes a foreign particle from the eye of Herman E. Allison, castings grinder.

Decatur

W. F. Aaron, a Mueller Co. salesman for more than 41 years, resigned August 31 under the company's retirement plan. He had served continuously since 1904, with the exception of a leave of absence during World War I. Wilson R. Augustine has been assigned to the Michigan sales territory, succeeding Mr. Aaron.



Merle will be employed by an oil company at Landers, Wyoming.

* * *

Shares owned by members of the Mueller Co. Employees Credit Union amounts to an average of slightly more than \$322 a member, according to the latest monthly financial report. Shares were listed at \$198,253.50 and there were 614 members. The report showed 294 borrowers.

* * *

Four Mueller Co. salesmen attended a sales meeting at the Decatur and Chattanooga factories during the week of September 20. They were C. W. Auer, R. G. Medick, Robert H. Morris and Wilson R. Augustine. The group left for Chattanooga September 22, accompanied by Robert K. Levey, assistant sales manager, and Gene J. Kuhn, editor of the Mueller Record.



Among those attending the recent series of Advisory Committee meetings held at Decatur were, front row, J. W. Simpson, executive vice-president; L. W. Mueller, chairman of the board; Albert G. Webber, Jr., president and treasurer; Frank H. Mueller, chief products engineer; and Robert H. Mueller, chief engineer. Back row: Robert K. Levey, assistant sales manager; George W. Parker, president, R. J. Skippon, works manager, and Ron Nicolson, sales manager, Mueller, Ltd.; J. L. Logsdon, general manager, and Emmett Reedy, factory manager, Los Angeles; Odie Walker, plant manager, Columbian Iron Works, Chattanooga; and C. C. Roarick, factory manager, Hugh L. Baker, general sales manager, and Leo Wiant, industrial engineer, Mueller Co., Decatur, Illinois.



Four former members of the main office staff recently visited friends at the plant. They were Marie Slade, formerly Marie (Steve) Stephens, switchboard operator; Mary S. Judge, formerly "Billy" Van Meter, advertising department; Mary Smith, nee Roth, factory superintendent's office; and Lucille Watkins, formerly "Bob" Peel, billing department. O. J. Hawkins, purchasing agent, and Salesman Robert Whitehead "just happened" to be on hand to form a two-man welcoming committee for the visitors.

Here are four generations of the Fleckenstein family: Mike, left, who retired last year after more than 36 years' service with Mueller Co.; his son, Merle, extreme right, grinding room; and Merle's son, Joe, center, shipping department, holding his daughter, Pamela Elaine. Pamela's grandfather is Jerry Yonker, shipping department, and her greatuncle is A. O. Yonker, sales department.



Appointment of Artie Carter, former time study engineer, as standards engineer, effective September 16, has been announced by Clarence C. Roarick, factory manager. The position was formerly held by Leo Wiant, industrial engineer for the Decatur plant and director of industrial engineering for the Los Angeles, Chattanooga and Sarnia, Ont., plants.

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When Roy Coffman, department 300, retired recently after more than 26 years' service with Mueller Co., he was trading one production job for another. Roy has been raising about 300 porkers a year on his five-acre "ranch" near Forsythe, and now that he's in a position to divide his time between hog-raising and baseball broadcasts, he's planning to step up production to 500. The large production on a small acreage is possible because of his marketing technique: The young pigs are sold as soon as they start foraging for themselves. Roy also



has a large vineyard (see cut) and a number of fruit trees on his farm.

J. A. Hargis, another department 300 employee, retired July 23 after more than 23 years' service with Mueller Co.

Chattanooga

Marcella Lykins, Correspondent

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Coventry in the loss of Mr. Coventry's mother and also the couple's little daughter, Patricia Ruth.

■ ■ ■

We are happy to welcome the following newcomers: Ruth Shearer and Myra Arboczewski in the sales department; Phyllis Warriner in the production department; Claude Owens, Loy Stanley, James Murphy, and "Buck" Llewellyn, Jr., in the foundry; Clifton Farmer in the machine shop. We are also glad to have with us two former employees, Muriel Mee in the cost department and Mabel Phillips in the sales department.

■ ■ ■

WEDDING BELLS

Our congratulations are extended to: James Johnson, Jr., of the assembly department and Melba Panter in their recent marriage.

Marie Grissom, our switchboard operator, and Eben DeArmond who were united in marriage September 14 at the Trinity Methodist Church.

Pauline Nave of the Sales Department, and Joe Dutto, who were married August 1.

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FOREMAN'S CLUB

On September 8 the members of the Foreman's Club met at Edgerton's Dutch Manor for a dinner meeting and the election of officers for the coming year was held.

Four new members, Odie Walker, Jr., Jim Walker, Arch Guth, and Jacob Cobble were voted in. Reports are that the food was excellent, the weather just a trifle warm, but the evening a huge success. The new officers are: Joe Wall, president; Odie E. Walker, vice-president; Jack Moss, secretary; and Coy Jones, treasurer.

JUST CHATTER

Due to the high prices of tires and gasoline Lester Denton finds it difficult to show a profit on his paper route. Anyone wishing to see him stay in "the black" may contribute to the cause as they see fit.

* * *

Russell Davis of the engineering department is the proud father of a baby daughter born August 5. Mr. and Mrs. Davis have named the baby Patricia Cheryl.

* * *

Donald Van Vleet of the shipping department has left us to resume his

studies at Purdue, West Lafayette, Indiana.

* * *

We are very glad to have Rowdy Gann back on the job after his recent illness.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Anderson are enjoying a vacation at Wilmington, Delaware, and New York City.

The friends of Nedra Davis, who was formerly with us in the personnel department, will be glad to hear that she is at home and improving from her illness.

Sarnia, Ontario

Almeda Reeve, Correspondent

Mrs. Irene Cowan, production department, left our employ recently and is now residing near London. Our best wishes go with Irene and Louis in their new undertaking in dairy farming.

* * *

The Mueller Bowling League got away to a good start on Monday, September 13. We hear that scores averaged from 36 to 99 8/10. Some bowlers tried bowling while sitting in the alleys but it didn't work.

* * *

Beatrice Barrie, cafeteria staff; Joe Rosina, department 2; and Wilfred Scott, department 6; are absent on account of illness. We sincerely hope they will soon be back with us.

* * *

Herbert Callister, production department; has left our employ to take up a similar position with Fiberglas (Canada) Limited, a new industry in Sarnia. Prior to his departure Herb was presented with a brief case by his fellow workers. Our best wishes go with Herb.

* * *

We are glad to welcome D. W. (Westie) Westcott to our midst. He is working in our sales department and will cover a certain portion of the Western Canada territory.

We were all shocked to learn of the untimely death of J. B. (Bert) Phillips, who was drowned in Lake Huron on September 12. Bert was formerly employed in the shipping department, having left to join the staff of the St. Clair Tobacco Co. He was a veteran, having participated in the invasion of Normandy, where he received severe shrapnel wounds and head injuries. Bert was of a quiet and reserved nature and had made a host of friends during his employment with Mueller, Limited. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife (the former Mary Marciak of department 7) and his parents and sister, who reside in Forest, Ont.

* * *

Phyllis Pearce and Gwen Gill report a wonderful vacation at Milford Manor, Lake Muskoka. Phyllis says she's rested and ready for a lot of work, but Gwen is a vacation casualty, that dreamy expression with a definite heart throb.

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Rumor has it that there is a romance brewing in department 7.

* * *

James Bunda, department 6, left recently to visit relatives and friends in the Old Country.

RECENT SUGGESTION AWARDS

John Charrington, Dept. 1...	2	\$5.00
Thomas Crawley, Dept. 2....	2	5.00
Melvin Dawson, Dept. 7.....	1	2.50
Harry Morris, Dept. 3	1	2.50
Howard Taylor, Dept. 3.....	1	2.50
Felix Duffy, Dept. 3.....	1	2.50

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NEW MUELLERITES

To Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Robertson, September 13, 1948, a son, Daniel John. Bruce is employed in department 2.

To Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Furlotte, July, 1948, a son, Daniel Alexander. Joseph is employed in department 8.

To Mr. and Mrs. Leo Mackesy, August 22, 1948, a son, Donald Paul. Leo is employed in department 8.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hartley Cornell, August 13, 1948, a son, John Allen. Hartley is employed in department 6.

To Mr. and Mrs. John Chudick, August, 1948, a son John Leroy. John is employed in department 2.

To Mr. and Mrs. Percy Webb, Septem-

ber 15, 1948, a son. Percy is employed in department 11.

■ ■ ■

Our sympathy is extended to:

Albert DeKelver, department 10, in the loss of his father.

James A. Brent, department 15, and Clarry J. Brent, annuitant, in the recent passing of Mrs. Clarry J. Brent.

■ ■ ■

WEDDING BELLS

Our congratulations are extended to:

Phillip Kerrigan, department 3, and Ellen Mundy who were united in marriage on August 21 at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Sarnia, Ont.

Gordon Scott, department 6, and Margaret Jean Sinclair who were married in Sarnia, Ont. on July 24.

Mervin McDougall, department 6, and Viola Lee who were married at the United Church Parsonage in Watford, Ont., on September 4, 1948. James Bond, Sarnia, and June McDougall, Point Edward, were the attendants.



An impromptu farewell party was held in department 5 on September 3, when fellow workers gathered to say farewell to Alex Reavie who has reached retirement age in accordance with the Mueller, Limited, Annuity plan. Jack Flood, foreman, made a short address and extended good wishes, while Annie Grigorsky presented a billfold on behalf of those present. Mr. Reavie's plans for the future are somewhat indefinite

at present, but it is our hope that after a well-deserved vacation he will find time to visit the gang in department 5.

Front row: Annie Grigorsky, Alex Reavie, Lila McDougall; back row, Russell German, Jack Flood, Thomas Clark, George Baldwin, Wilbur Duggan, Gordon Wilson, Harry Jewitt, John Mullins, James Eslinger, Maurice Bryan, Neil Turnbull.

Los Angeles

William Baker, Correspondent

PICNIC CANCELLED

Due to the dread polio disease, which reached epidemic proportions in Los Angeles during August, the Mueller Employees picnic was cancelled. This action was taken on advice from the City Board of Health, which reported that although some companies were going ahead with picnics, they were to be inactive so far as competitive games were concerned.

The decision of the committee, while disappointing, was wise in view of present conditions. They feel that all who planned to attend will agree that this move was for the benefit of all concerned.

IT'S THE MAN WHO PAYS

According to the new fathers, this business of having babies is an educa-

tion. They will tell of their nocturnal chores and problems and how they meet and solve each one. Meanwhile, the old hands will nod their heads with the sage remark of "I told you that three weeks ago." Of course, each discussion is seasoned with the usual arguments regarding formulae, time of feeding and the advantages of the square fold over the triangle and vice-versa. They will all admit, however, that the Mrs. does help out a little.

■ ■ ■

P. S.

Al Hembree of the foundry is now added to the ever growing list of new fathers. A baby daughter, Susan Louise, was presented to the couple last August 19 and weighed in at 6 pounds. All three people are doing fine.



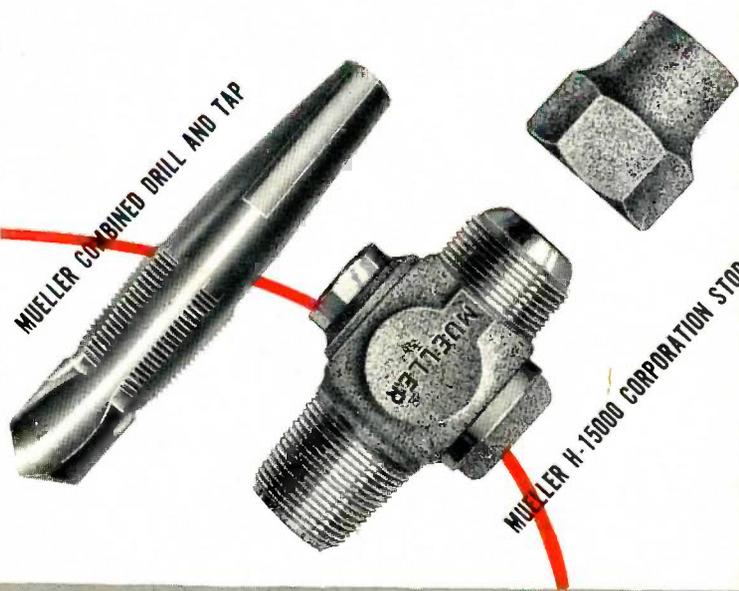
As this photo will attest, these anglers have proof of their success during the recent Albacore run off the Pacific Coast. You see before you a total of 112 pounds of fish hauled over the side by 1,230 pounds of men. The latter include, from

the left, John Hesselbach, Warren Packer, Chuck Musmecci, Si Wolff, and Mike Briock. In the foreground, John Laviguer, Rudy Gordines and Paul Packer, the shark man, who took the picture.

Pre-determined Results Through Controlled Accuracy!

The Mueller Combined Drill and Tap Threads and The Mueller Corporation Stop Threads are "mated" — They are both manufactured to the same exacting specifications! Consequently, when a Mueller Corporation Stop is inserted by means of a Mueller Tapping Machine, you are assured of accurate alignment, easy run-up to engage the maximum number of threads, and a lasting, leak-proof joint.

This assurance of easy "in the field" installation, plus the dependable, lasting connection, are some of the many reasons why most water works men depend upon Mueller equipment and products. Before you install or replace your next Corporation Stops, be sure you know all about this dependable combination of The Mueller Tapping Machine, Mueller Drill and Tap and Mueller Corporation Stops. Ask any Mueller Representative, or write us direct.



MUELLER CO.

MAIN OFFICE AND FACTORY.....DECATUR, ILLINOIS
OTHER FACTORIES: Los Angeles, Cal.; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Sarnia, Ont. Canada