Mueller Record

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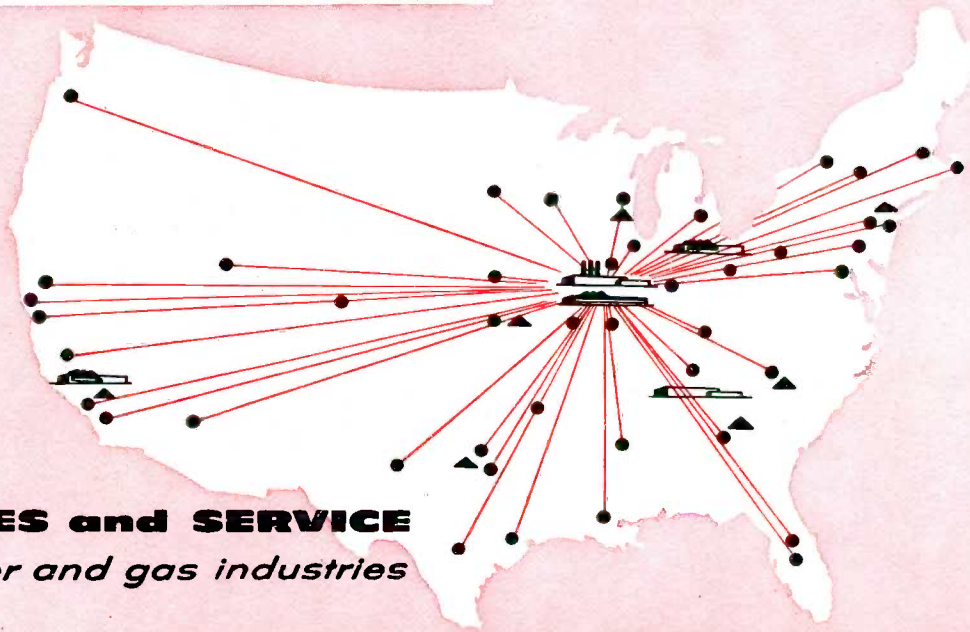


Local Technical School Becomes International

Army Facilities Converted To Campus for Water, Sewerage Plant Operators

Waterworks men from around the world meet in this chemical lab, where they actually run tests at the Water and Sewerage Technical School in Neosho, Mo.

Schools throughout our nation have been experiencing growing pains during recent years.

Our schools and colleges have been faced with the need for more facilities and teachers to cope with exploding enrollments and requirements for broader curricula. More funds are needed to provide the classrooms, equipment and teachers for our society which is becoming more education minded and skill conscious.

Five years ago in Neosho, Missouri, Water Superintendent Lloyd Caughran literally went begging and borrowing to find facilities and equipment to start a school for water and sewage treatment plant operators in Missouri. It was started on a local basis as a supplement to a University of Missouri course for operators.

College presidents and school superintendents haven't known growth which compares with that at Neosho.

In five years this school which was "local" in nature has provided training for students from 26 countries; spread from one building on an army installation at Fort Crowder to six buildings and 19 acres at the same location; provided training for about 2,000 men and recently introduced a 36-week program which is in addition to the week-long courses that have been offered since the school started.

Missouri Water and Sewerage Conference, original sponsors of the school, also backed an annual short course in January at the University of Missouri. It consisted mostly of lectures, and laboratory facilities were limited. In addition, there was no industry equipment on hand. Since it was held only once a year, many members were not able to attend.

This condition prompted the conference, an organization of 900 waterworks and sewage plant operators, consulting engineers and equipment manufacturers, to turn to something else.

This classroom scene (above) was taken on the school campus (right) which now includes six permanent buildings at an old army installation. This grouping of buildings includes classrooms, a snack bar, a dormitory, a maintenance shop, laboratories and offices.

Mr. Caughran explained the need for the school this way: "A lot of fellows have been pushing red button 'A' or closing valve No. 2 because the man on the job before them showed them how. But they didn't have the vaguest idea of why it was done or what went on inside the machinery."

Most of the year of 1959 was spent in making preparations for the school by contacting various members of the industry, arranging for instructors and finding a home, he said.

For the first year of operation, the technical school raced ahead on little more than enthusiasm, contributed time and equipment and a strong endorsement from those in the industry who recognized the need for such a school.

Finally in January of 1960 the school opened its doors and the first water works course was introduced to an enrollment of 15 students.

According to Mr. Caughran, the school continued to be held during the year and great efforts were made to develop a satisfactory curriculum. "Being the first school of its kind in the United States it did not have a precedent to follow or historical experience to guide it. We had to blaze our own trail."

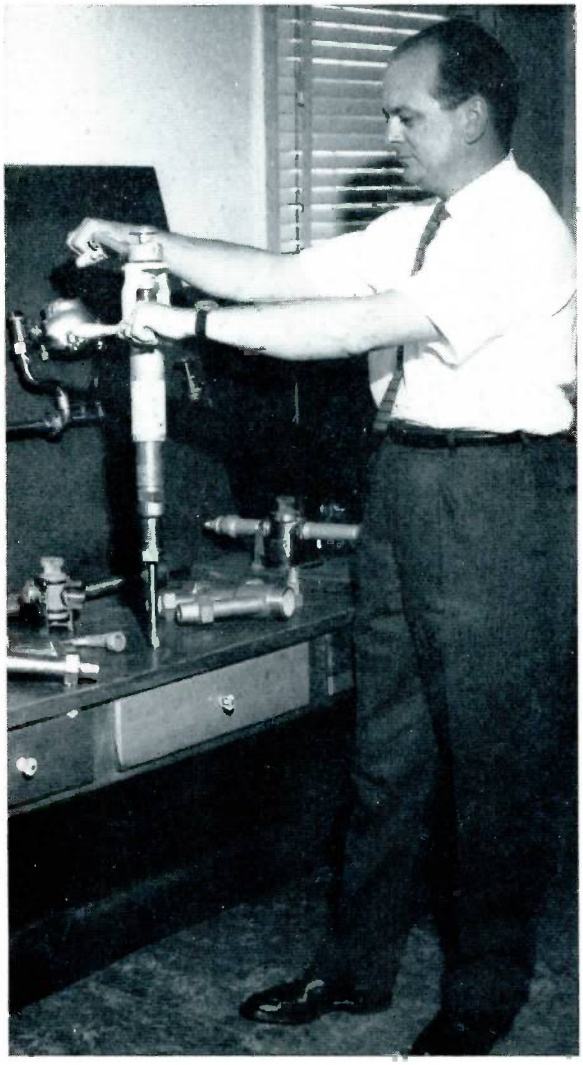
While Mr. Caughran was busy giving lectures to students and scheduling visits by manufacturers' representatives to give technical talks on particular products, Mrs. Caughran was handling correspondence, other paper work and managing the burgeoning library.

In addition to the sales representatives who lecture on products, consulting engineers and members of the Missouri Board of Health were enlisted to serve as faculty members.

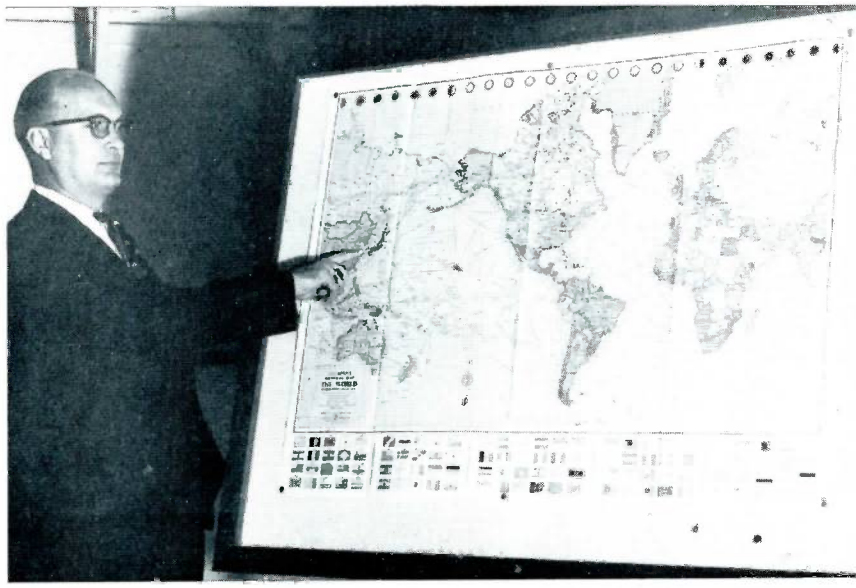
The popularity of the course grew quickly and waiting lists were established. The classes were held on alternating weeks with one week devoted to water plant operations and the next week's study focused on sewage treatment.

The school uses lectures, demonstrations and student participation to get across the technical data and information.

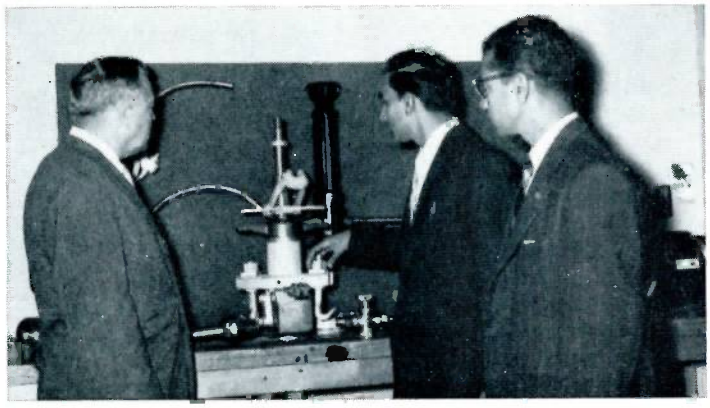
Lectures and demonstrations are given by outstanding people in the water and sewerage industry, consulting engineers, public health personnel, equipment specialists and sales representatives. The guest lec-



Tom Hendrix, Mueller Sales Representative in Missouri, checks over a Mueller drilling machine prior to instructing a class. Salesmen, consulting engineers, health department representatives and plant operators all participate in the classroom instruction.



Lloyd Caughran, school director, points to one of the 26 foreign countries which has been represented at the school during the past five years.



Two foreign students (right) examine part of a Mueller B-100 tapping machine in the mechanical laboratory. Hundreds of pieces of equipment, including cut-away models, are available for the students to examine, tear down and rebuild.

turers are not permitted to single out any particular product or line and they must present their material in a nonpartisan manner.

A complete chemical and bacteriological laboratory, complete with testing equipment, necessary for instruction in routine chemical analysis, is available.

The demonstrations and the student participation portions can also take place in the mechanical laboratory which has been outfitted by manufacturers and suppliers. These demonstration items include: brass goods, cut-away models of valves and hydrants, pumps, meter testing equipment, chlorinators, leak detectors, pipe cleaning equipment, telemetering equipment and many other items which fill a large laboratory.

Under the watchful eye of the instructors, the students run tests and disassemble and reassemble pieces of equipment and completely familiarize themselves with procedures.

As word of the value of the school spread beyond the states surrounding Missouri, enrollments increased and today students from 26 countries have completed a course. The foreign student program, which has been conducted in cooperation with the Office of International Health, has been most gratifying, according to Mr. Caughran. He said the students from foreign lands have had a variety of backgrounds. They include: a sanitarian from Thailand, an engineer from Nigeria, and a doctor from the Island of Tonga. The course which ran in mid-July included registrants from Jordan, Taiwan, Brazil, Thailand, Peru, Venezuela, Iran and Nigeria.

Today this school, which is now international in scope, has a "campus" of six buildings at Fort Crowder. This includes classrooms, a snack bar, a dormitory, a maintenance

shop, laboratories and offices. The deed to this property is expected to be handed to the board of the school any day.

The material covered in the basic waterworks classes includes math, chemistry, distribution systems, equipment, filtration, hydraulics, blueprint reading and a multitude of other points which are found in day-to-day operations of a water department. The basic sewer treatment course covers everything from filters to chemical composition of sewage. Advanced courses are available as the classes delve deeper into similar subjects and enter new fields like odor control, water softening and laboratory analysis for sewage.

These courses are available for the man who has been working in these areas but needs and wants a broader technical background.

In June of this year the school embarked upon a new and enlarged program. This 36-week course was designed for men who have no previous knowledge of water and sewer plant operations. Tuition for this class is being paid by the government under the auspices of the Manpower Development and Training Act. This program is designed to provide plants with trained technicians as they graduate from school.

Although the above course is paid by the government, about 85 per cent of the cost of the regular school is paid by yearly contributions by various groups which comprise the water and sewage works industry. The cost of registering and tuition for the basic course is $25 a week.

In recent years organizations such as the American Water Works Association have been striving to up-grade the technical background of its members. The AWWA has given its formal endorsement to the school's training program, recognizing the job this school is trying to do.

As the record of growth indicates, the Water & Sewerage Technical School at Neosho, Missouri, has been doing an outstanding job.

Chemistry and the chemical tests necessary for controlling and checking water and sewage plant operations are stressed heavily in the classroom and lab. In these photos, the students conduct experiments and run chemical tests.

Mobile, Alabama

Water Superintendent's Son Named Astronaut

Clifford C. Williams, Sr., Water Superintendent at Mobile, Ala., has been flying high recently, but Cliff's son may be soaring higher and farther if things develop for his future.

Cliff, Jr. recently was named an astronaut and will take part in the government's moon shot program. He possibly could be the first man on the moon.

"Adjectives haven't been written which can describe the feeling of pride Mrs. Williams and me hold," the senior Cliff Williams said. "He has always had the desire to do the unusual as well as the determination to follow it through," the elder Cliff Williams added.

Mr. Williams said his son started to college with the thought of becoming a dentist. While at Auburn University he entered the NROTC program and upon graduation was given a commission in the Navy. From college he went into the naval flight program at Pensacola, Fla. "When he started flying jets, we knew he had found a home," Mr. Williams said.

The elder Mr. Williams says that he enjoys flying himself, but that he has no hidden ambition to accompany his son on any space trips if they should be forthcoming for his son. "I told Cliff that if he went to the moon he would have to come back to visit us, because we would not go to see him," he said.

Capt. Williams, a robust 187 pounds and six feet tall, is the older of two sons. The younger son, Richard, lives in Mobile and has three children. According to Cliff, Richard serves as his brother's self-appointed press agent in Mobile. The senior Mr. Williams says that friends, relatives, neighbors and acquaintances have taken a special interest in the space program since his son has joined this select group of 30 young men from all over the country.

The activity at the Williams household over Christmas is expected to take on gigantic proportions with Capt. Williams home for the holidays. Recently he was stationed at Quantico, Va., as a Marine Corps fighter pilot. Early in 1964 he is scheduled to move to Houston, Tex., which is the center of the U. S. space program, and take up his training with the other 29 members of this space team.

Cliff (senior) says the activity of running a water department is a long way from the excitement of a space flight, but he adds: "I have been a lucky man. I have had a wonderful bride for 34 years to keep me straight, two good sons and a good job. The Lord has been good to us."

The elder Mr. Williams was born and raised in Mobile. His first job was with the Gulf, Mobile and Northern Railroad, but during the depression he worked on river boats as a deck hand and an engineer.

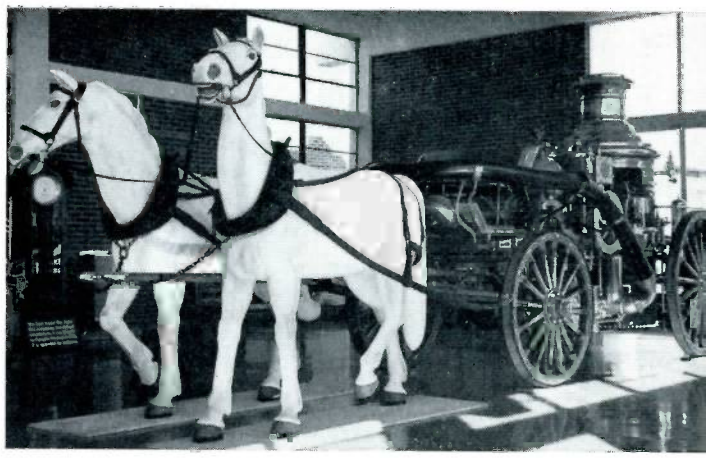
Twenty-two years ago he joined the City of Mobile Engineering Department. During that period he served in many jobs and eight years ago he was made assistant superintendent for water distribution under E. M. Stickney. Just recently he was named superintendent, succeeding Mr. Stickney who retired.

In response to a remark that Capt. Williams is quite a man for 31 years of age, the proud father replied: "That's my boy." And quite a boy he must be.

Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Williams welcome their son on a recent visit to Mobile, Ala. Capt. Williams, a Marine jet pilot, recently was selected as an astronaut and will participate in the U. S. government's space program.

Memphis, Tennessee

Reception Warm For Fire Chiefs



This horse-drawn fire wagon is on display in the Memphis, Tenn. Fire Department's museum.

Memphis, Tennessee is best known for its Cotton Carnival, Barbecue, Beale Street and the Mississippi River which meanders beside the city, abruptly separating Tennessee from Arkansas.

To fire fighters around the nation it is all of the above plus being a "fireman's town." For the past 28 years, thousands of fire chiefs and department instructors have come to Memphis to attend the annual Fire Department Instructor's Conference. In addition, the Memphis Fire Department, under the able leadership of Chief Edward A. Hamilton, has become a "fireman's fire department" and is envied and emulated all over the country.

As a climax, in October about 3,000 fire chiefs and their wives converged on Memphis to attend the 90th annual conference of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC).

The members of the IAFC found typical Southern hospitality at Memphis' Peabody Hotel which headquartered the three-day meeting. They also found more than a million dollars worth of the latest fire fighting equipment on display at Ellis Auditorium. The auditorium was also the site for the business sessions of the conference and a tremendous one-woman show staged by Memphis' own Marguerite Piazza.

The warmth and charm of Chief and Mrs. Hamilton, who served as official host and hostess, pervaded the convention committee which was made up of nearly every one of the 900 members of the Memphis Department.

One of the highlights of the session was a live equipment demonstration at the Claude A. Armour Training Center.

This modern center, itself, was a delight for the chiefs to see. The facility, which is as up-to-date as the fire department, is used jointly by the police and fire departments.

This training academy, opened in 1958, has been the life-long dream of its namesake—Fire and Police Commissioner Claude A. Armour. The 18-acre, $1,274,000 facility includes a fire and police training and communications building, a physical education building which includes a museum in its entrance, kennels for training members of the dog squad, and a five story drill tower combined with a 2½ story fire fighting building.

The main building has about 50,000 square feet and houses classrooms and training division facilities on the second floor. The classrooms can be converted to an auditorium which is able to seat about 600 persons.

A large area on the ground floor is used for instruction in hydraulics, pumps, sprinkler systems, pumper tools and appliances. This part of the building is equipped with hydrants, sprinkler valves, various alarm systems, and facilities for pump operation, instruction and testing. Four pieces of rolling equipment assigned to the training division are kept in this area and are available for fire fighting on a stand-by basis.

Mueller Sales Representative Charles Freeman (left) and Section Manager Bill Cessna (center) talk to a registrant at the fire chiefs' convention held in Memphis recently.

The first floor of the building also houses the fire prevention bureau and records office. Included in this vast record-keeping set-up is a file card on each of the system's 9,000 hydrants.

The main building is also the center of the modern, high-speed alarm, dispatch and control center. The operator's console is custom made to incorporate the most modern features for the efficient receipt of alarms and for the dispatch and control of fire equipment. In conjunction with the console, a visual, color-coded control board was installed to allow the fire alarm operators to know the disposition of all equipment at a glance and in detail. In 1962 this new alarm system was installed. It has some 985 street boxes and a vocal alarm system to all stations.

The physical education building provides a modern gymnasium complete with basketball, volleyball and handball courts, and exercise rooms to help keep the men in top physical condition. The basement of the building contains an indoor pistol range for police training.

The 53-foot high training tower and building contains the normal facilities and is able to simulate conditions that fire fighters find in an actual blaze. Included in this building is a system which controls heat and smoke intensity.

The fire fighting building has a full basement, two floors, and an attic. This too can be filled with smoke and by the time the recruit fireman finds his way through a dark corridor filled with smoke, extinguishes a blazing mattress in a "bedroom" and returns to the fresh air, coughing, spitting and eyes watering, he knows he has had the course.

One training officer said that this might seem like rather harsh treatment for the rookie, but once he has gone through the course he has seen the worst and come through it. "It rids him of the fears of the unknown," he said.

While the work of repairing, repainting and rebuilding is a longstanding tradition with the Memphis Fire Department, it wasn't until 1955, when a block-long Maintenance and Property Division building was completed, that the department was able to begin a program of preventive maintenance and modernization for all apparatus.

The program includes a periodic stripping down of the apparatus, installing new engines, rebuilding pumps, installing new electrical systems and hydraulic brakes, doing a complete body job, repainting, and chrome plating bright metal parts.

There are now 30 station houses in the Memphis network and the department's 925 men make up 57 front line companies. During 1962 the individual companies responded to more than 33,0000 calls.

Guiding this outstanding combination of men and equipment is Commissioner Armour and Chief Hamilton.

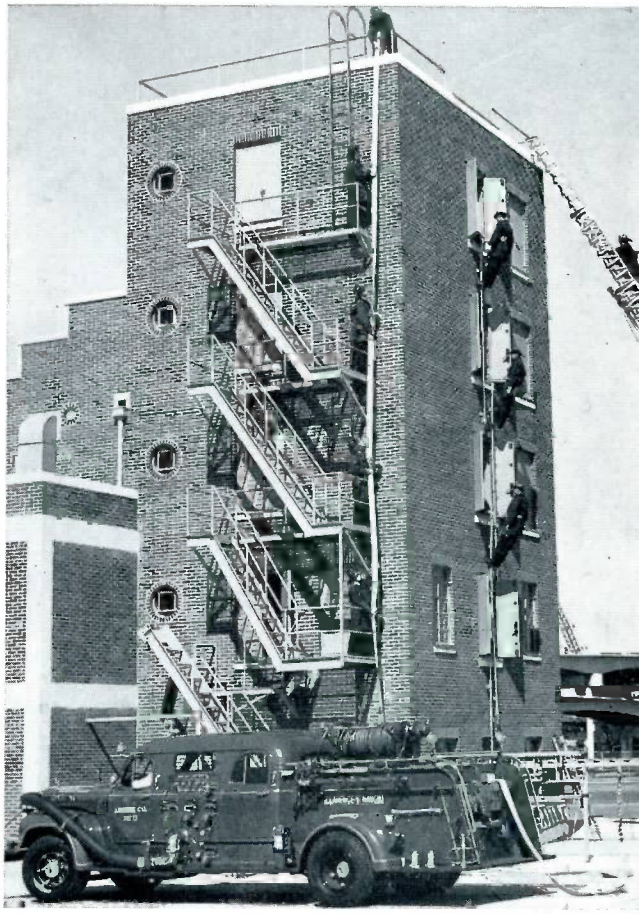
After serving as Chief of Police for two years, Commissioner Armour was appointed in 1950 to fill an unexpired term as vice mayor and commissioner of fire and police. He is now serving his fourth term as elected commissioner. He started his public service career in 1941 as a police patrolman, and he advanced through the ranks to that of police chief in 1948.

Chief Hamilton has been a member of the Memphis Fire Department for 28 years. He became chief on June 1, 1960, succeeding Chief John C. Klinck. At the time of his appointment, he was one of the youngest metropolitan chiefs in the nation. His ideas are just as fresh and new as the youthful appearing, but experienced, man who presents them.

The Memphis Fire Department is young in both the ages of its personnel and its thinking. The current generation of Memphis fire fighters may have missed some of the romance of fire fighting of the earlier years, but today they are doing a better job in a more efficient manner.

Memphis Police and Fire Commissioner Claude A. Armour (left) welcomes the 3,000 fire chiefs and their wives at the 90th annual conference of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Chief and Mrs. D. A. Burros (center) of Battle Creek, Mich., are greeted by Chief and Mrs. Edward Hamilton of Memphis.

Hundreds of fire chiefs from around the world gathered at the Claude A. Armour Police and Fire Training Center (above) to see equipment demonstrations. In the photo at the lower, left, someone didn't forget to turn off the bubble machine; it is a demonstration of foam-making for fighting fires.



Above is the Memphis fire and police training and communications building, while at the upper right is the fire training tower. At the right is the gymnasium and physical training building.

Wiant Retires; 36-Year Term Ends for VP

Leo Wiant

Leo Wiant, Mueller Co. Vice President, retired recently after more than 36 years with the company.

At the time of his retirement, he was Vice President and Director of Purchases and had served as a company officer for the past 13 years.

During this period as a company officer, he had served as industrial engineering vice president, administrative vice president, a member of the Mueller Co. Board of Directors and as a director of Mueller, Limited.

Mr. Wiant started with Mueller Co. in 1927 as a brass polisher and four months later he was promoted to departmental time clerk. A few months later he was named clerk in the Standards Department and during the next six years he advanced to various jobs until he was named Standards Engineer and headed the Decatur department.

In 1948 he was named Industrial Engineer for all Mueller Co. plants in the United States and Canada and two years later he was promoted to Industrial Engineering Vice President.

He became Administrative Vice President and a member of the company's management committee in April, 1953. He was elected a Director of Mueller, Limited in 1951 and became a Director of Mueller Co. in 1952. He served as a Director of Mueller Co. for about 10 years.

In 1961 Mr. Wiant spent about eight months in Sarnia, Ontario, as Executive Officer Pro Tem for Mueller, Limited and was in charge of the Canadian operation.

Shortly after his return from Sarnia he was named to his most recent position.

The Wiants plan to remain living in Decatur.

Gene Graeber Retires as Salesman

Gene Graeber

Eugene P. Graeber, Mueller Co. Sales Representative, is retiring Jan. 1 after nearly 20 years of service with Mueller Co.

At the time of his retirement he covered the eastern one-third of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, and a portion of Delaware. Mr. Graeber is being succeeded by Edmund C. Fenstad, who has been Mueller Sales Representative in upper New Jersey.

Benjamin C. Lentz, who has been the Mueller representative in western New York, will move into Mr. Fenstad's former territory. Mr. Lentz, in turn, will be succeeded by Raymond N. Gentry.

Mr. Fenstad joined the Mueller Co. sales organization in 1953. He is a graduate of Stanford University and prior to joining Mueller, he worked as an engineer for Bechtel Corp. of San Francisco. His headquarters address is 829 Nathan Hale Road, Berwyn, Pa. 19312.

Mr. Lentz is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. Prior to joining Mueller Co. in 1961, Mr. Lentz had been in sales work in a related field which included Mueller products. A native of Pennsylvania, he is married and has one daughter. His headquarters address is 31 Grove Ave., Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950.

Mr. Gentry, like Mr. Lentz, is a native Pennsylvanian. He joined Mueller Co. in 1961 and has been covering Maine and other upper New England states. He is married and has two sons. They will make their home at 1774 Baird Road, Penfield, New York 14526.

Milligan, Penne In New Positions

Jim M. Milligan, Mueller Co. editor since 1957, has been promoted to Manager of Communications for the company. Joseph C. Penne, assistant editor for the past three years, succeeds Mr. Milligan as editor.

In the newly-created position, Mr. Milligan will be responsible for the development of community relations programs for the firm's multiplant organization, and will also handle the institutional advertising, and other corporate public relations activities.

Gas Service Extended To Islands At Savannah

Rapid changes in Savannah, Georgia's economic picture have accelerated the expansion program schedule of the Savannah Gas Company.

A $576,000 project which will carry gas service to Wilmington Island, and to Oatland, Talahi and Whitemarsh Islands was announced this summer by Savannah Gas and is now well toward completion.

The project will require some 26 miles of pipe extension, according to announcement by John F. Pidcock, President of South Atlantic Gas Co., parent organization for Savannah Gas.

The natural gas extension was programmed by Savannah Gas for 1965-66 but the company management moved the schedule ahead be-

Many miles of eight-inch pipe are stored prior to their installation by the Savannah Gas Company. Before gas service could be extended to nearby islands, an eight-inch tee and valve were installed with the help of Mueller machines and equipment.

cause of the rapid change in the community's economic developments. These include assignment of the Military Air Transport Service to Hunter Air Force base, announcement that Armstrong College would become a four-year school, the stepped-up highway program throughout Chatham County and the increased interest by the missile industry in the coastal area.

"This decision comes as another expression of our company's faith in 'Forward Savannah'," Mr. Pidcock stated. "We have received many requests from home owners and businessmen to extend natural gas to the islands and we are pleased the growth and potential of the area justifies this investment."

Latex Construction Co., specialists in laying natural gas lines across river basins and tidal marshlands, are working with Savannah Gas construction crews.

The building program brings the distribution lines of Savannah Gas to 514 miles, or 380 more miles than the Company had at the end of World War II.

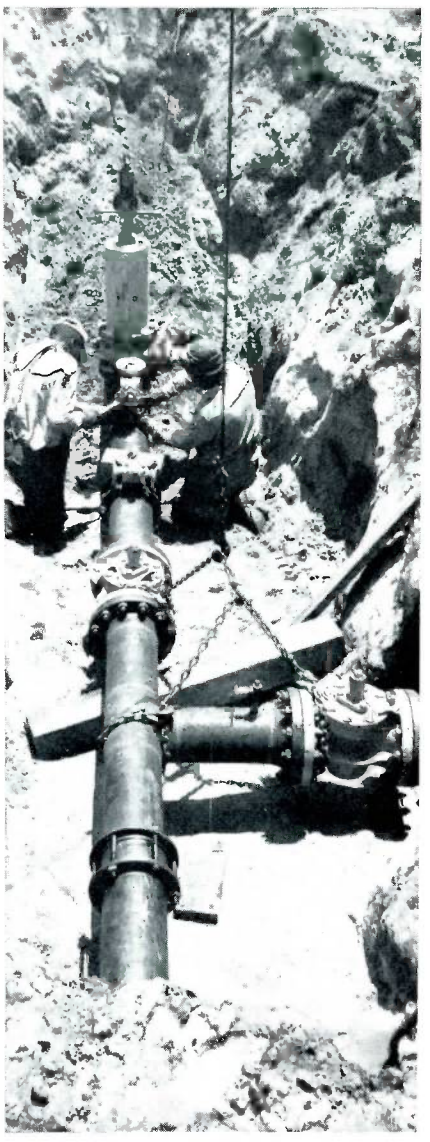
Pidcock added, "We anticipate a good, solid growth for Savannah and the Coastal Empire area in the next 10 years." Savannah Gas, the oldest of the three utility companies in the city, won a national award the last two years for its activities in the industrial and civic life of Savannah.

The number of natural gas customers in the area increased from 18,000 in 1953 to 35,000 at the beginning of this year. By 1970 it is estimated that the number of customers will exceed 41,000.

During the decade gas facilities have been extended to 96 subdivisions or neighborhood areas in addition to expansion of the program in Garden City, Port Wentworth, Rincon, Springfield and Guyton.

In 1953, the South Atlantic Gas Company did not have a single large industrial user. Today there are a dozen under contract using natural gas to generate electricity, and to heat, bake, cut, harden, dry, and purify.

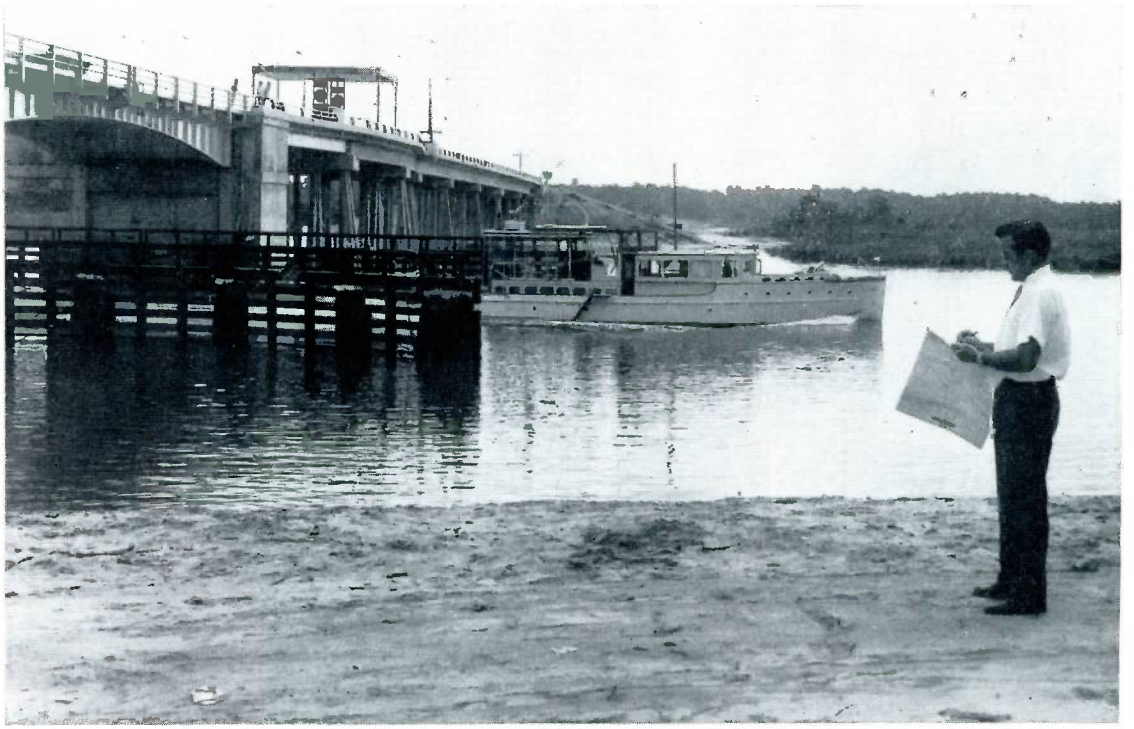
The Mueller Unit No. 3 line stopper is in place at the top of the photo and workmen have cut the line and started to install the tee and valve.



In the photo at the left, a gate valve has been bolted to the line stopper fitting. In the photo at the bottom, the Mueller Cl-36 drilling machine begins making its cut.

After the tee and valve are coupled in place (left), the line stopping unit was removed and the completion machine used to insert the completion plug shown above. The gate valve is being removed so that the cap can be put on the fitting.

With the cap in place (right), the job is nearing completion as a workman applies a coating to the new installalation. Savannah Gas Company's Robert Smith, a project engineer (below), checks the site for a water crossing.



Satellite Service Center in St. Louis

Service Station To Service Center

A working arrangement among operators of particular automobile service stations in the outlying areas of St. Louis and Laclede Gas has provided the utility with "satellite" service centers.

Laclede locates its sub-centers in areas of substantial customer service which are inconveniently far from a service center.

At each location about 18 men report for work and 15 trucks are maintained on an overnight, week-to-week basis. Vehicle servicing and minor repair work is taken care of at the various satellite locations, while major repairs are made at one of the company's regular garages.

Desk space for a work supervisor is provided by the gasoline station. Parking places for employees' cars are made available and space for equipment and materials is also provided.

To take care of materials storage, Laclede has adopted a type of temporary building which is pre-fabricated of galvanized steel and portable enough to be lifted onto a trailer by service truck cranes.

This decentralization of service department employees through the use of these "satellite" centers is eliminating hundreds of hours of travel time. The only time any of the men go near the major operating centers is to get more supplies or for special equipment. The arrangement brings Laclede service employees closer to their customers, allowing them to give faster service and spend less time on the road.

An Open and Shut Case

An interesting and kind letter comes to us regarding the performance of a Mueller ¾" corporation stop which was estimated to have been in service more than 60 years.

According to a letter from S. W. Lipson, Vice President and Plant Manager of the Capitol Manufacturing Co., Columbus, Ohio, the stop worked admirably, and prompted him to write a letter to the company.

During excavation for a retaining wall near Capitol's plant, a contractor broke a water line with some equipment. The contractor smashed the end of the lead pipe to retard the flow, but it continued to leak about 40 feet from the Capitol building. Fearing that water would ultimately seep into the firm's basement, the water company was called to locate the stop so the flow could be cut off at the main.

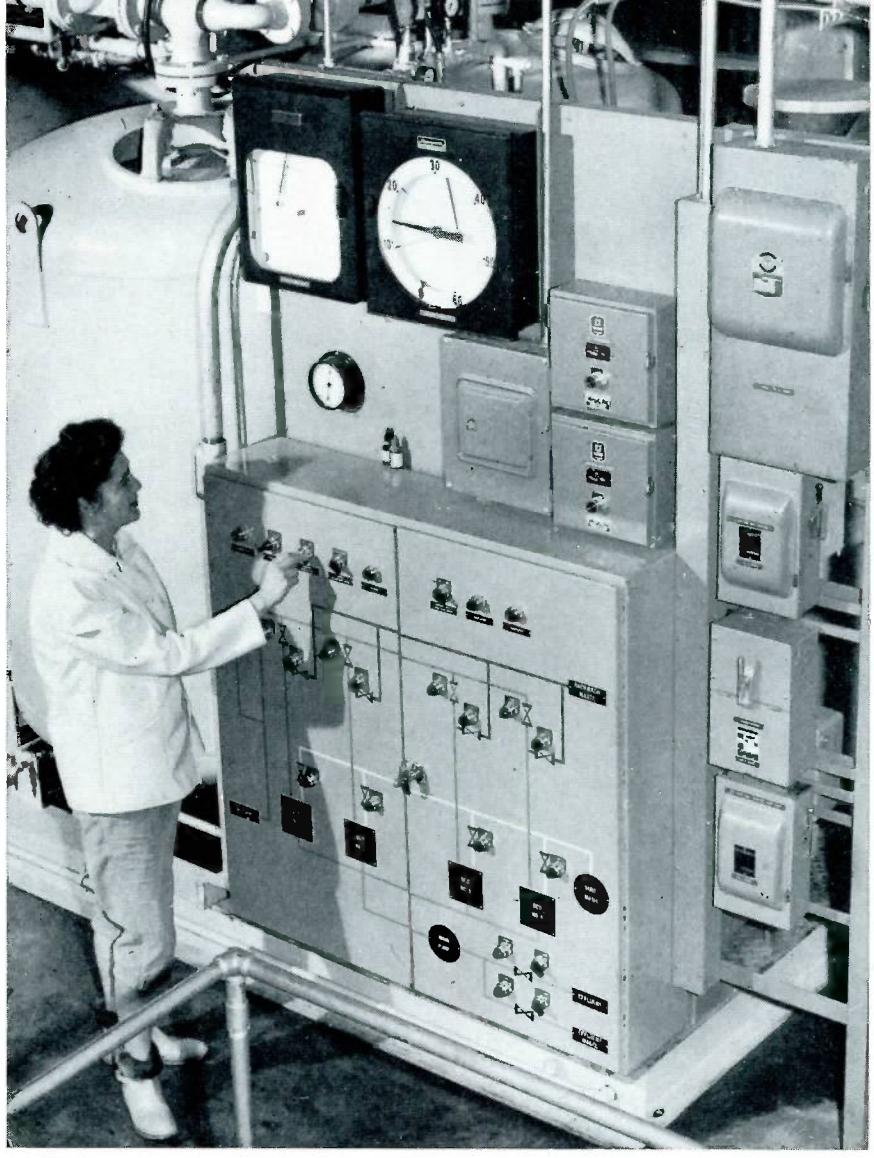
"When the stop cock was located, a 12-inch crescent wrench was tossed down to the worker in the pit. He closed the valve cock without any apparent effort. The lead pipe was cut and the stop cock was fully closed. We normally have 78 psi water pressure from the main," the letter continues.

Mr. Lipson said the home serviced by this water tap was built around 1900. "We have no way of knowing when the water service was installed. We do know, however, it was a long, long time ago. We were amazed at the ease with which the cock was closed after these many years in the ground," the letter concludes.

Our thanks to Mr. Lipson for sending this kind letter to Mueller Co.

Mrs. Cherry Runs House, Filter Plant

(Editor's Note: In a recent issue of the MUELLER RECORD we carried a story about a lady mayor in Bloomington, Ind. She wasn't selected as the only woman mayor but rather as an example of one of the jobs women are filling in various capacities today. A series on women in industry is proposed for future issues so that we can spotlight their activities in the water and gas distribution industries.)



Even though it obviously is not a kitchen range, this control panel receives a woman's touch from water filter plant operator Mrs. Gene Cherry.

"I was impossibly green. Once I got started and found by trial and error that it was possible to control this monster, I really found great enjoyment," says Mrs. Gene Cherry of Oakland, Oregon.

Mrs. Cherry is in complete charge of the pumping and filtration of a system supplying water to about 280 metered customers in Oakland. The monster she refers to is her Micro-Floc filtration system that had her buffaloed during her training days.

Today, Mrs. Cherry is the sole operator of the plant and also makes connects and disconnects, and handles customer collections with the familiarity of a woman working in her own kitchen. Maintenance and administration are handled by the Oregon Water Corporation which is at Roseburg, Oregon, about 17 miles away.

According to her boss, Alton R. Andrews, Manager of the Oregon Water Corporation, Mrs. Cherry holds a Purification Plant Operator II certificate from the Oregon State Board of Health and is the first woman in the state to qualify under this program.

The 39 year old, attractive mother of three children says, "I really find great enjoyment in the challenge of trying to outguess the filter process and to keep ahead of the rapidly changing water. I call this particular feeling 'filter fever' and I seem to have a continuing attack of this disease as there seems to be something new happening all the time—never the same condition twice; so the battle continues and I enjoy it no end."

Mrs. Cherry's interest in water treatment goes back about 12 years. At that time her husband worked weekends filling in for the regular water plant operator. After the regular operator retired, Mr. Cherry took on the operation of the plant which was a part time job. During this period Mrs. Cherry became familiar with pumps and the chlorination process and also helped read the meters. Mr. Cherry became too busy to do the job so another man was hired. He died in 1961 and the Cherry family was called upon again to fill the interim. About this time the new filter was to be installed and Mrs. Cherry agreed to take the job of operating it providing the installation engineers would be willing to help a woman learn the operation of the intricate electrical panel which controlled the filter.

Mr. Andrews said that Mrs. Cherry's knowledge of short wave radio operation helped her quickly master the extensive electrical control system. At the time she took on the duties of operating the water plant, she held a novice amateur radio operator's license and she was working on the requirements for a general license.

She said she discontinued her radio hobby to devote more time to her work and family. Her family

includes a daughter who is 12 years old; a nine year old son whose interests run toward that of an electrician rather than water plant operations; and five year old Maureen who accompanies her mother on meter reading rounds.

Modestly, Mrs. Cherry says that any of her success as an operator is due to the understanding and patience of her husband and Mr. Andrews.

"Gene is rare in that he allows me such freedom and is patient with me when I get the worries over 'Reub'. (Reub is the name she has given the filter.) I'm sure he must get sick of my continuous talk of turbidity, but he rarely says so," she said.

Mrs. Cherry fondly recalls her first visit to the Water Works Short School at Oregon State University. She said that since it was a meeting of all men, she felt that it would be more proper to have her husband accompany her to the school. "I think the men thought a poor, henpecked husband was being trailed by his wife when I registered for the course. One man expressed dismay that the field was being invaded by women, but I hope he was kidding.

As for her boss, Mr. Andrews, she says he leaves her alone and encourages her to try new things. "He has always done me the favor of assuming that I was capable of thinking for myself," she said. As an afterthought she added: "I find that all men do not take this attitude."

Mr. Andrews is very high in his opinion of Mrs. Cherry, also. He writes: "She is a very skilled, conscientious and loyal employee who is well liked in her community."

Like many water works people, Mrs. Cherry found it difficult to harden herself to the need of suspending water service for delinquent accounts. "No one has punched me in the nose, although I'm sure one young man was tempted to do it," she said.

By the sound of things Mr. and Mrs. Cherry lead busy lives. The height of activity comes when the town's fire siren blows, however.

Gene Cherry runs to the fire house to assume his duties as assistant fire chief. At the same time Lois runs to the water department to assume her duties as operator.

Chief Ayers and his unique mailbox holder.

Instead of Water, Hydrant Holds Mailbox

There are hundreds of variations available when it comes to specifying fire hydrants. One hydrant, however, which can be seen near Birmingham, Alabama, is not stocked, is not available by special order and is not a recommended use for a hydrant.

This Mueller hydrant is used as a base for the mailbox for Vestavia Hills Fire Chief Hartley Ayers.

We must admit that it makes an appropriate stand, but in most cases it is a little expensive. The history of this waterless hydrant is about as unusual as its unique use.

According to an account in *The Birmingham News,* a family moved into a new home in Homewood, which is also in suburban Birmingham, and found an honest-to-goodness hydrant in the middle of the basement of the home.

Having no use for the hydrant, not even as a base for their mailbox, they, logically, called the Homewood Fire Department for instructions. Homewood Chief E. H. Knox said he didn't believe the call, but he went out to investigate. Sure enough, he found a damaged hydrant.

He took the hydrant to the Homewood fire station and tried to find the owner of this stray, but without success. While checking with other fire departments, he talked to Chief Ayers. Although Chief Ayers didn't lose the hydrant, he offered to take it for his mailbox.

According to *The News,* the hydrant was damaged so that it couldn't be used and Homewood Chief Knox was glad to get it off his hands.

Chief Ayers said he sees just one disadvantage to this use for the hydrant. In case of a fire in his area, he hopes the firemen won't try to hook up to his mailbox base.

New Manufacturing Manager Is Named

Paul Hickman, Easton, Conn., formerly of General Dynamics Corp., has been named Manager of Manufacturing for Mueller Co., according to an announcement by Frank Speer, Vice President for Manufacturing.

Hickman, 55, fills a vacancy created by the recent promotion of Harlan A. White, who was named General Controller for Mueller.

In the new position, Hickman is responsible for coordinating, planning, and special projects relative to manufacturing administration for all plants.

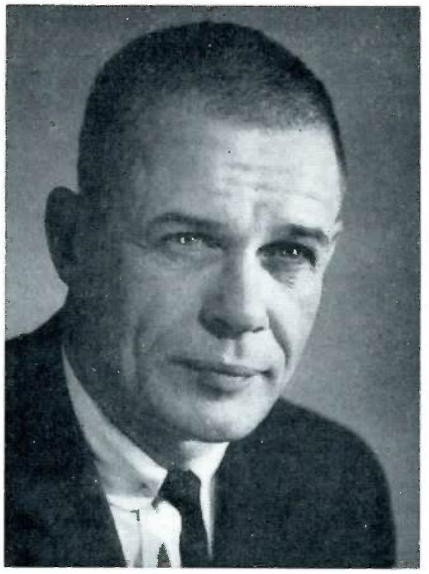
Hickman, a native of New Jersey, is a 1930 graduate of Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa. He has both B. S. and Professional Degrees in Civil Engineering.

His first job was as field engineer on the George Washington Bridge, New York. In 1935 he joined Ingersoll-Rand Company and for the next five years he sold and erected mining and drilling equipment in South America.

From 1940 to 1942 he was with ARMCO International Corporation. From 1942 through 1959 he was with the Remington Arms Company, Bridgeport, Conn., where he was in foreign sales, manufacturing and new product development. He served as chairman of the company's Operations Committee.

In 1960 he joined General Dynamics in New York as a member of the corporate staff. During this time he served as Manager, Special Projects and was involved in merger evaluations and planning, manufacturing, marketing, and licensing of new products in the United States and abroad.

The Hickmans, who have been living in Easton, Conn., have a daughter who is married, and another daughter who is a senior at the University of Connecticut.



Paul Hickman

Gas Industry Expects To Set Safety Record

A 16.9 per cent drop in disabling injury accidents among employees of gas utilities and pipelines during the first nine months of 1963 was reported by the American Gas Association. A. G. A. said this indicated the industry would establish another record low safety mark for 1963.

An accident frequency rate of 5.27 injuries per million man-hours resulted from a sampling of 84 representative companies. This compares with 6.34 disabling injuries per million man-hours during the first three quarters of last year.

Because of seven fatal accidents in the sample companies during the first nine months of this year, the severity rate increased 44 per cent. This meant there were 465 days lost per million man-hours worked, compared with 323 in 1962.

Strictly *Off the Record*

Little Johnny trembled with excitement—since such a project had never occurred to him before. "I'll go alone, Mother," he said. "I'm not afraid. You nursed me through childhood. Golly, I'll never forget—but I'm something of a man now. Yes, sir, one of that seething mass called youth—and what's more, I'm game! I don't need your help as I once did. Gee, Mom, don't start crying! We men gotta stick together. I won't be long—now just wait a minute." And little Johnny's face beamed with angelic nonchalance as he pushed open the door to the men's room!

* * *

A scientist rushed madly into the control room of the missile center and proudly announced a new discovery. "Men," he shouted "there are women on the moon! We just shot up a communication rocket and got a busy signal!"

* * *

School teacher: "Not only is he the worst behaved child in my class—but he also has a perfect attendance record!"

* * *

A young lady sat in her stalled auto awaiting help when two young men walked up and volunteered their aid. "I'm out of gas," she explained. "Could you push me to a gas station?" They readily put their muscles to the rear of the car and rolled it several blocks. After a while, one fellow looked up, exhausted, to see that they had just passed a filling station. "How come you didn't turn in at that one?" he called. "I never go to that station," the girl shouted back. "They don't give trading stamps."

* * *

"Son, after four years at college, you're nothing but a drunk, a loafer, and a nuisance. I can't think of one good thing it's done."

The son was silent for a moment. Suddenly, his eyes brightened and he replied, "Well, it finally cured Ma of bragging about me."

* * *

A cynic is one who wants to know why Noah didn't swat those two flies when he had the chance.

* * *

The lion stalked the jungle looking for trouble. He grabbed a tiger and asked, "Who is king of the jungle?" "You are, O mighty lion," answered the tiger. The lion then grabbed a bear and asked, "Who is the king of the jungle?" "You are, O mighty one," answered the bear.

Next the lion met an elephant and asked, "Who is the king of the jungle?" The elephant grabbed him and with his trunk whirled him around and threw him against a tree, leaving him bleeding and broken.

The lion got up feebly and said: "Just because you don't know the answer is no reason for you to get so rough!"

* * *

The local weatherman was so often wrong in his predictions that he became the laughing-stock of the community. He therefore applied for a transfer.

"Why do you wish to be transferred?" came the question from headquarters.

"Because," the forecaster replied, "the climate doesn't agree with me."

* * *

Stranger in town: "Did you see a pedestrian go by here awhile ago?"

Villager: "No, sir. I've been here for an hour, and there hasn't been a thing go by except one man, and he was walking."

* * *

Husband: "Let's talk this thing over, and maybe we can figure out what the problem is."

Wife: "I already know what the problem is. It's having too much month left over at the end of the money!"

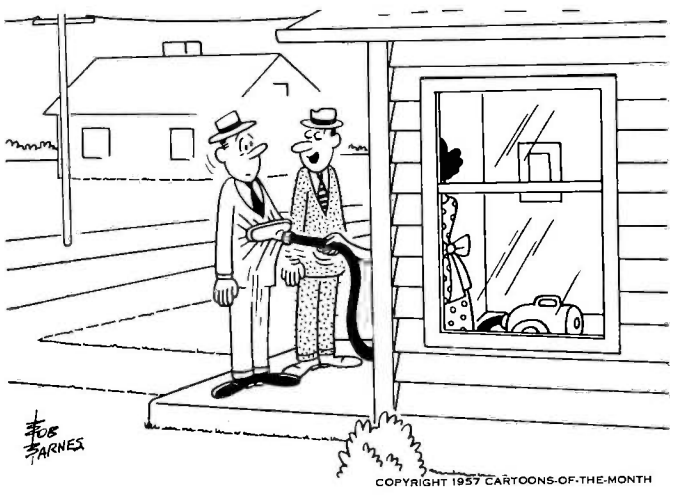
* * *

A frightened householder excitedly reported to police headquarters that he had been struck down in the dark outside his back door by an unknown assailant. A young policeman was sent to the scene of the crime to investigate and soon returned to headquarters with a lump on his forehead and a glum look on his face.

"Well," reported the officer, "I've solved the case."

"Amazingly fast work," commended the chief. "How did you accomplish it?"

"I stepped on the rake, too," replied the young cop.



"It's nothing personal, Ed. Louise is just a fanatic about a spotless house"

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Mueller Co wishes to extend to all of our good friends in the waterworks and gas industries, and related fields, our warmest wishes for a Happy Holiday Season.

We are grateful for the many considerations shown us during the past year, and we look forward to 1964 and its opportunities for continued association with our many friends.

To you and your loved ones . . . . .

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS 1964!