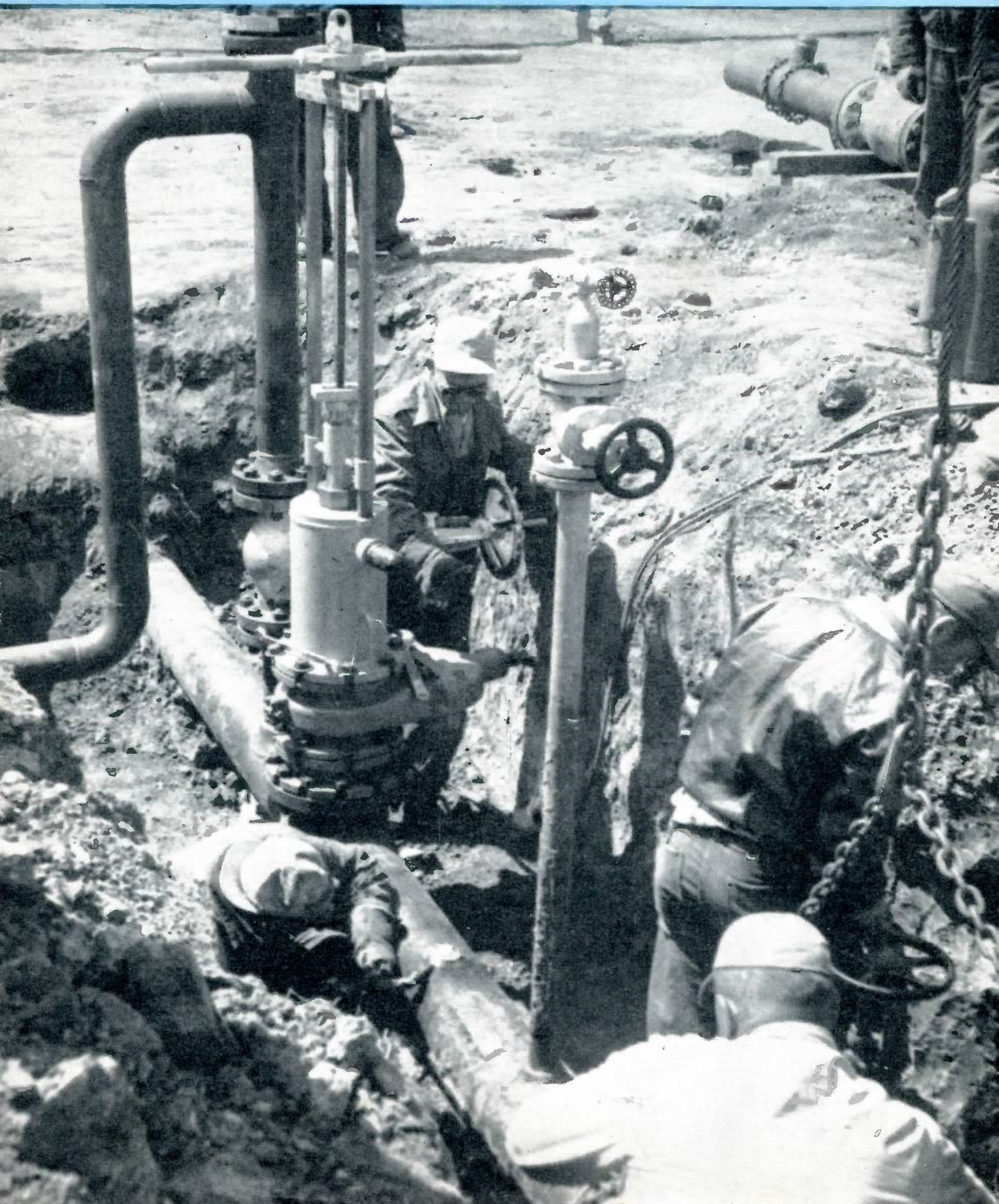
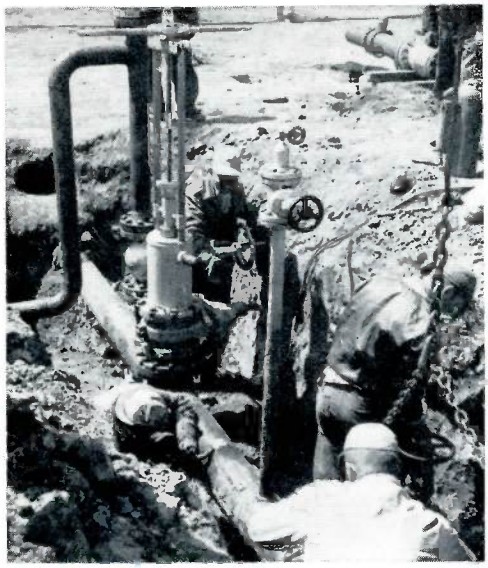
MUELLER Record

MAY • 1954





THIS MONTH'S COVER

Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Co. workmen are shown in the process of changing over a regulator station near Jacksonville, Illinois, using Mueller No. 3 steel wedge line stopper equipment. The equipment isolated the regular station allowing the work to be completed safely. A permanent four-inch by-pass line was used to carry the load around the station while the work was being done.

MUELLER Record

May • 1954

WALTER H. DYER, Editor

MUELLER CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF WATER AND GAS DISTRIBUTION AND SERVICE PRODUCTS

FACTORIES
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SARNIA, ONT. CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

SALES OFFICES
NEW YORK CITY SAN FRANCISCO

TRADE MARK
MUELLER
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Member Industrial Editors Association of Chicago and International Council of Industrial Editors

Recording Our Thoughts

A considerable amount of advertising and editorial matter in this issue of the **Mueller Record** has been devoted to our line stopper equipment. We have had this equipment for several years for lines eight inches and smaller. Recently however, we added our No. 4 line stopper unit for use on ten and twelve-inch steel pipe. This new equipment has proven highly satisfactory. Editorial matter elsewhere in this issue deals in some detail with the use of the No. 4 unit.

Because this equipment allows gas companies to completely isolate a section of the line and by-pass the isolated section while the desired operation is performed, the work can be done safely at the gas company's convenience.

This allows adequate time for the operation to be completed in the best possible manner. It's the safe and easy way to perform an operation heretofore often difficult and dangerous.

* * *

We were pleased to present Mrs. Erna Snyder, 26-year-old Pennsylvania beauty on our March cover. At that time she was the reigning Mrs. America. Last month in a contest sponsored by the American Gas Association a new Mrs. America was chosen. She is Mrs. Madison Jennings, Laclede Gas Company of St. Louis, Missouri, entrant who won top homemaking honors in the Mrs. America finals at Ellinor Village, Florida, during April.

The wife of an oil company chemist and the mother of an eight-year-old son, Mrs. Jennings triumphed over 49 other contestants.

A story describing the contest and many of the officials who took part appears elsewhere in this issue. And, of course, you'll find a picture of Mrs. Jennings as she appeared in the contest finals.

Static Electricity, An Ignition Source

By WILLIAM M. HENDERSON
Technical Consultant to Mueller Co.

Static electricity is a common phenomenon in nature as demonstrated by lightning.

The origin of static is associated with friction resulting from motion coincident with atmospheric conditions favorable to the generation and accumulation of the static charge.

In gas distribution, when gas blows to atmosphere, the conditions are favorable when the blowing gas is dry, dust in the gas stream, impingement on an insulated object or a non-conducting material and the surrounding atmosphere at a relatively low humidity.

Natural gas transmitted from the production fields is initially subject to extremely high pressure. On delivery to the distribution system the pressure drop results in expansion accompanied by reduction in humidity of the gas to a point of complete dryness.

If such a gas is permitted to blow into a dry atmosphere, the gas particles will be heavily charged with static. Should they impinge on a non-conductor, as the clothing of a workman, the static charge will be accumulated. Then all that is necessary for ignition is a static potential sufficient to "jump" the resistance gap to ground and the resultant spark is the source of ignition.

The probability of a coincidence of the factors essential to static accumulation is a risk difficult to calculate. When the gas is saturated, or the air is moist, the static may be dissipated as generated. The term moist is a variable, a sharp line cannot be drawn between a humidity that is safe and below which there is danger.

Experiments demonstrated that where the humidity of the atmosphere is in the neighborhood of 40% relative or less, then static will accumulate.

As an example . . . gas discharged through an orifice, under above conditions, impinging on an insulated object

WILLIAM M. HENDERSON

the accumulated static charge reached a potential of 30,000 volts in less than 40 seconds.

On the job there is no convenient means for determining the atmospheric conditions, unless it be raining.

A typical "set-up" for static accumulation is the exposure when "bucking" connections to a pipe line with gas blowing. In the operation the workman cannot avoid impact with the gas stream and if the atmospheric conditions are favorable static accumulates and then the source of ignition is present. This statement holds for low, as well as high pressure flow since it is the effect of motion, not pressure or volume that generates static.

Static needs to be emphasized as it is an insidious source of ignition, its presence is never apparent until it "strikes." Other ignition sources are subject to control, but require alert policing, even then ignition has occurred. It should be obvious that since the elimination of a source of ignition is never sure, the logical approach to prevention is to reduce the exposure to the escape of the combustible gas.

Tools and fittings for pipe lines are now available for making repairs free from exposure to blowing gas and making connections or cutting pressure piping under complete control, eliminating all danger from the escape of gas.

Young and Aggressive

Mississippi Valley Gas Company

Partial view of the modern Mississippi Valley Gas building which houses both general offices and Jackson District offices. Two wings at the back provide space for shops, stores, state billing and engineering offices.

Mississippi Valley Gas Company, one of the nation's youngest and most aggressive retail gas distribution companies, has compiled an impressive record for growth and service during its two short years of operations in Mississippi.

Mississippi Valley Gas Company is truly a native company in every sense. Organized under the laws of Mississippi, with state headquarters offices in Jackson, the company is entirely home-operated and largely home-owned. Its service area lies entirely within the borders of this state, where its only business is dependable, low-cost retail natural gas service.

Valley Gas has no parent holding company. The majority of its common stock is owned by citizens of Mississippi and individuals in adjoining southern states. Most officers and members of Valley Gas are native Mississippians, each having years of experience in the technical and complex business of gas service.

Minor C. Sumners, widely-known southern utility executive, heads the Valley Gas organization as president, treasurer and director. One of the nation's youngest and most able gas utility presidents, Mr. Sumners came to Mississippi in 1951 to head the new gas firm here after 21 years of practical utility experience with Arkansas Power & Light Company and Mid-South Gas

Company. He has also served as Chief Accountant of the Arkansas Public Service Commission.

Other Valley Gas officers and directors are native Mississippians, well-known in state business and industrial circles. Tom W. Crockett, executive vice president and F. M. Featherstone, secretary and treasurer, are both directors with many years of varied and practical executive experience in the field of public utility operations in this state.

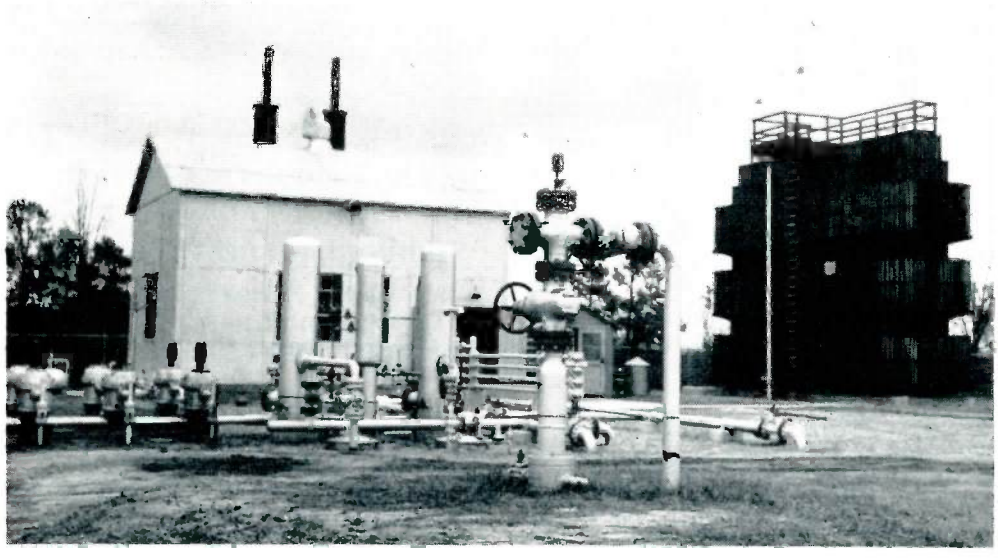
Today the company serves more than 113,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in its 104-community service territory covering a wide area of Mississippi. A retail company, Valley Gas purchases its natural gas supplies from four major pipeline companies including United Gas Pipeline Company and Southern Natural Gas Corporation.

Other officers, also Mississippians, are W. W. Pointer, Jr., assistant secretary and John E. Wooldridge, assistant treasurer.

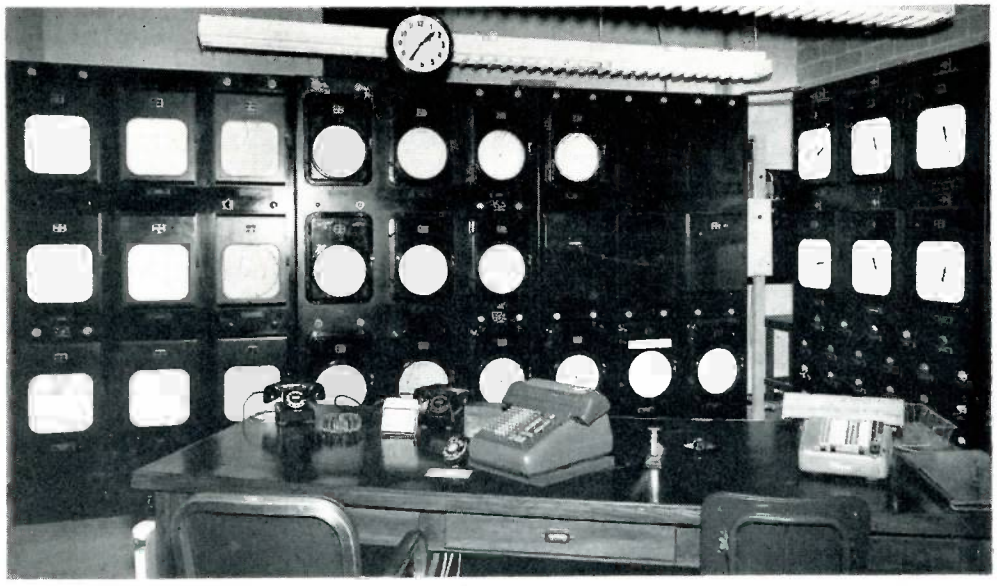
Officials and department heads of the company include Glen C. Jones, general superintendent; Charles M. Broad, general sales manager; Fred J. Guice, chief engineer; Fred E. Plummer, Industrial Development Director.

Organized on November 20, 1951, Valley Gas now serves more than 113,000 customers in 104 cities, towns and communities of Mississippi. As of December 31, 1953, total gas sales were 34,050,932 Mcf. Valley Gas now serves over 25 per cent of all state communities with populations between 2,500 and 5,000 . . . 67 per cent between 10,000 and 20,000 . . . and 50 per cent between 20,000 and 50,000. The Company also serves Jackson, only state locality with over 50,000 population. (98,271—1950 census.) Today, nearly 90 percent of all state communities with more than 1,500 population enjoy natural gas service.

Valley Gas properties consist of 1,725 miles of mains, including feeder lines from major pipelines, distribution systems, and meters and regulating equipment representing an investment of over $20,000,000—not including installations in six natural gas districts which the Company operates under lease. The Company also has the only underground



Mississippi Valley Gas Company is the state's only gas utility to maintain underground storage facilities where gas is accumulated for use during periods of peak demand. Here are regulator and compressor stations of the Valley Gas underground storage facility near Amory, where an abandoned dry gas well is utilized to store up to 900 million cubic feet of natural gas for future use along the Company's system in Northeast Mississippi. This field covers over 500 acres or the equivalent of 75 average city blocks.



The company's modern, completely automatic central control system is pictured above. Shown at right is the newly-installed Bristol Telemetering Panel which shows at a glance the exact flow and pressure of gas along the Valley Gas distribution network. This automatic panel control system enables centrally-located dispatchers to determine and regulate gas supply according to demand throughout the system 24 hours a day.

storage facilities in the state, utilizing an abandoned dry gas field near Amory to store large quantities of gas for use during periods of peak demand.

Mississippi Valley Gas Company serves nearly 900 industrial customers, including major manufacturing enterprises making substantial contributions to the immediate and long range development of the state. These include milk condenseries, cotton oil mills, tung oil and fertilizer plants, manufacturers of tires, textiles, clay products, wallboard, etc. Moreover, the Company maintains an industrial development department which works actively to secure new plants and payrolls for the state.

Valley Gas is also contributing to Mississippi's agricultural development by providing an economical and dependable fuel widely used for rice and cotton drying, water pumping for irrigation of rice, corn and cotton and dependable gas service for fertilizer manufacturing plants.

Beyond dependable service at reasonable cost, Mississippi Valley Gas Company makes direct contributions to the economic well-being of this state. All 460 company members live in Mississippi, and the $1,640,000 annual payroll goes into state trade channels. Because so many Mississippi people own shares in the company, a good percentage of dividends paid to investors stay within the state.

As its share of taxes to support functions of local, state and national governments, Valley Gas pays at the rate of over a million dollars a year.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

As a native Mississippi organization, the Company takes an active interest in the economic progress of its state and territory.

During 1953, the Company created an Industrial Development Section charged with the full-time responsibility of working to secure new plants and payrolls for the state. Although the Industrial Development Section is less than a year old, highly gratifying results have been obtained during its initial phases of operation.

Systematic contacts have been made by the Company's Industrial Develop-

ment representative with eastern and midwestern industrialists in an effort to stimulate interest in locating plants in Mississippi.

The Industrial Development program includes economic research, individual community surveys, direct mail promotions and other features. Company representatives work in close cooperation with the Mississippi Agricultural and Industrial Board, Chambers of Commerce and other organized agencies having the objective of securing new plants and payrolls .

Natural Gas is playing a major role in Mississippi's industrial development and a large number of major establishments use large quantities of gas in their operations. Typical of these are milk condensaries, cotton oil mills, fertilizer plants, pulp mills, makers of automobile tires, clay products, cement, wall board, textiles, food canning and many others.

New processes in cotton seed oil production recently have greatly increased the use of Natural Gas in many of these plants throughout the state.

AGRICULTURE

Mississippi's agricultural economy, tremendously diversified in recent years, is deriving increased benefits from Natural Gas, which is being used more and more in the commercial drying of crops such as rice, grains, hay and cotton. Abundant supplies of Natural Gas now available in the state offer a strategic advantage.

At a U. S. Department of Agriculture meeting and demonstration at the Stoneville Experimental Station in 1953, officials placed considerable emphasis on the value of Natural Gas as a partner in cotton production from a standpoint of gas drying and gas fired gins. Mechanical pickers now harvest at night and a large number of modern gins are equipped with gas dryers to reduce bulk, weight and to improve quality of processed lint. Many gins have gas fired engines.

Mississippi's rice crop, while comparatively new, is becoming increasingly important. Yields in the state have been reported from 90 to 100 bushels per acre, compared with the 40-60 bale average of other rice-producing states. Natural Gas is used by many processors and, by the 1954 season, the state expects to have at least two rice polishing plants which will require gas fuel to process the more than 100,000 acres now devoted to rice growing in Mississippi. Gas is also being used extensively for irrigating, drying and polishing rice crops. Natural Gas is the basic raw material for anhydrous ammonia and two large new plants have been established in Mississippi recently to produce this fertilizer for farm use.

Industrial Science, through research and experiment is finding many new uses for gas and, since Mississippi has a dependable supply, the state enjoys a favorable opportunity to secure major new industrial plants manufacturing synthetics from gas, including nylon, plastics, chemicals, dyes, paints, solvents and anti-freeze.

Gas Industry Facts . .

One of the first industrial uses of natural gas recorded took place in Centerville, Butler County, Pennsylvania, in 1840. John Crisswell, in drilling a salt well, discovered natural gas at a depth of about 700 feet. He burned this gas under his evaporating pans in the manufacture of salt, emulating a process used by the Chinese many centuries before.

Shortly before the turn of the 20th century, several states were using hexagonal iron mail boxes attached to the middle of lamp posts for gas lights. The lamp lighted the street as well as the mail box which hitherto had been difficult to locate in the darkness. This "postal" gas light was invented by Albert Potts of Philadelphia, and it was patented in 1858.

Introducing:

W. C. Rohman, Sales Division Assistant, Gas Department

Although only 35 years old, W. C. Rohman already has spent more than half his life as an employee of Mueller Co. Beginning as a company messenger on December 17, 1936, at the age of 17, he has in the past 18 years progressed up the company ladder to his present position of first assistant to Francis E. Carroll, assistant sales manager, gas department.

As a youth prior to joining Mueller Co. he was a messenger for Postal Telegraph, since that time incorporated with Western Union.

Mr. Rohman's first three years were spent as a messenger with our firm. This gave him an opportunity to become familiar with the many divisions and departments in our Decatur factories and main office. In 1939, he was promoted to the Sales Division as assistant order interpreter.

That same year his work schedule was arranged so that he might return to school one-half of each week day so that he might complete his high school education. Mr. Rohman was given an additional job working five evenings a week in order to make up his eight-hour day. During the winter months he was in charge of the Mueller gymnasium, and in the summer he took care of Mueller Heights which was the company athletic grounds comprising ball fields and other facilities for outdoor sports.

"Strange thing is," Mr. Rohman recalls, "that I made better grades when working eight hours daily than I did when school was my only problem."

He was graduated in June, 1941, and just one month later was called into service. Assigned to a military police company, he served in the Fiji Islands, Quadalcanal, the Philippines and Japan. He was released from service after the war in December, 1945, and returned to Mueller Co. and the position of order expediter. In the fall of 1947, Mr. Rohman was made assistant to A. O. Yonker,

W. C. ROHMAN
Sales Division Assistant
Gas Department

assistant sales manager, water department. In November, 1951, he was transferred to the gas department as first assistant to Mr. Carroll.

His duties include the handling of a vast amount of correspondence with our customers everywhere. He often is called upon to recommend Mueller Co. products best suited for the requirements of our customers, and to provide technical assistance to our customers and sales representatives. Included in the material handled by this department are gas stops, drilling and tapping machines, gas transmission and distribution equipment including line stopper equipment and our No-Blo line of service material. Also included are pressure reducing and regulating valves and pressure relief valves for water, air, gas and oil.

Mr. Rohman is married and has one son three years old. His hobby is fishing, and he prefers deep sea fishing. He owns ten acres of land outside the city of Decatur and most of his spare time now is spent in the construction of a new home on that property which he designed and is building entirely by himself.

Ohio Fuel Gas Co. Relocates 10-Inch Pipe With New Mueller Co. Equipment

(See Pictures, Pages 10 and 11)

The relocation of a ten-inch pipe line by the Ohio Fuel Gas Company of Columbus recently was necessitated by the construction of the Ohio Turnpike, a continuation of the famed Pennsylvania Turnpike. It is destined to cross the entire state of Ohio.

The Ohio Turnpike Commission was making rapid progress in the construction of the new super highway, and at a point some twenty-five miles southwest of Cleveland, the work neared an approximate two-mile stretch of ten-inch Ohio Fuel Gas Company pipe line. Plans called for the turnpike to cross this line a number of times, a situation extremely undesirable for the gas company.

It was therefore necessary to relocate the two-mile stretch in order that the line might by-pass most of the turnpike. Relocating this line presented a difficult problem. A gas flow of at least 130-pound pressure had to be maintained without interruption during the entire operation.

Mueller line stopper equipment has been available for some time for use on pipe through eight-inch at 230 p.s.i.g. However, until recently, equipment for use on larger lines was not available.

Recently, Mueller Co. developed equipment for line stopper operations on ten-inch and twelve-inch lines at operating pressures up to 500 p.s.i.g. and all tests indicated that the task could be done with a minimum of time and effort. Ohio Fuel Gas Company called upon us to help solve their problem, and this brought about the first actual use of this equipment on natural gas. It had previously been used on crude oil lines. That operation is the subject of a two-page advertisement appearing in GAS, GAS AGE, AMERICAN GAS JOURNAL during June and in the July issue of PETROLEUM ENGINEER as well as this issue of the MUELLER RECORD.

When the gas company was ready to begin that part of the project in which Mueller Co. equipment was to be used, two engineers from our company were on hand to supervise the job. They were John J. Smith and Jack Chepan of our Engineering Division. In addition R. G. Medick and F. X. Uhl of our Sales Division also were present to observe the operation. Medick is our Ohio representative and Uhl represents our firm in western Pennsylvania.

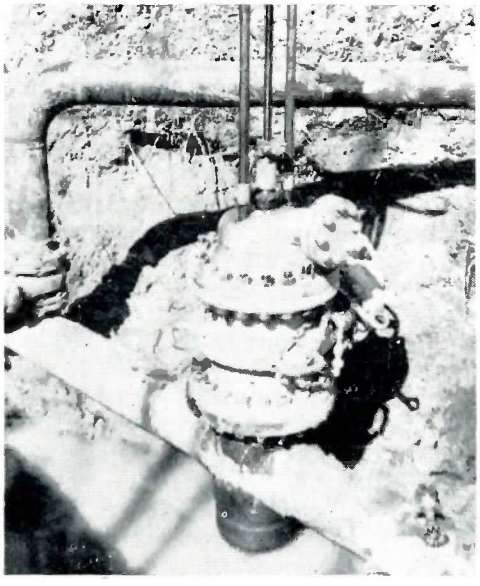
Inclement weather placed this project under severe working conditions. A twenty-inch snow had recently fallen in that area. The snow melted and resulted in about one foot of mud. Despite these extreme conditions, workers were able to complete the operation successfully in just four days. Mueller Co. representatives arrived March 15 and the job was completed March 18.

Prior to the line stopping operation, a private contractor had laid the new ten-inch line which by-passed the planned turnpike as much as possible. The approximate two-miles of new pipe line was in position on March 15.

Also completed by Ohio Fuel was the placement of four ten-inch stopper fittings, two at each end of the tie-in, and four eight-inch Save-A-Valve drilling nipples which were welded to the line for by-pass connections. The drilling nipples had been drilled and the by-pass line fabricated prior to March 15; however, Ohio Fuel's engineers believed that possible movement of the old ten-inch line when it was cut for tie-in purposes might prove dangerous since a lack of flexibility could cause a connection to break or leak.

Therefore, an expansion bend was added to each by-pass pipe line as a safety measure. Each by-pass line was all welded steel and approximately 150 feet long.

A Mueller C-1 drilling machine is drilling a ten-inch line stopper fitting through the special 14-inch gate valve. The eight-inch rigid by-pass line seen in the foreground was constructed to carry the load during the stopping operation.



A No. 4 stopping machine in position. At this point the steel wedge has been inserted and expanded stopping off the gas affecting a tight shutoff. The flow is now diverted through the by-pass line seen in the background.

The old ten-inch line (upper right) has been cut and is being removed prior to lowering new line in place. Note vapor rising from cut section. Machine in foreground is the balanced pressure completion machine, part of Mueller No. 4 line stopper equipment.

OHIO FUEL . . . .

The procedure followed on this job was slightly different from most jobs because only two stopping machines were used with no valve or shutoff operation. This caused some extra moving of equipment, but permitted Ohio Fuel men to do the job with the least number of fittings.

Perfect shutoffs were obtained at all four points permitting all joints to be welded safely. The Ohio Fuel Gas Company will abandon the two-mile stretch of old ten-inch line and the turnpike contractors may remove sections that are now in the way of construction. Two line stopper fittings and two Save-A-Valve drilling nipples on the old line will be salvaged by the company.

The problem of relocating pipe lines is a common one for gas companies throughout the United States, and will probably be more frequently necessary in the future due to the many new super highways being built or planned today.

Mueller Co. research men are continually at work seeking new and improved ways to perform this and other tasks for companies everywhere.

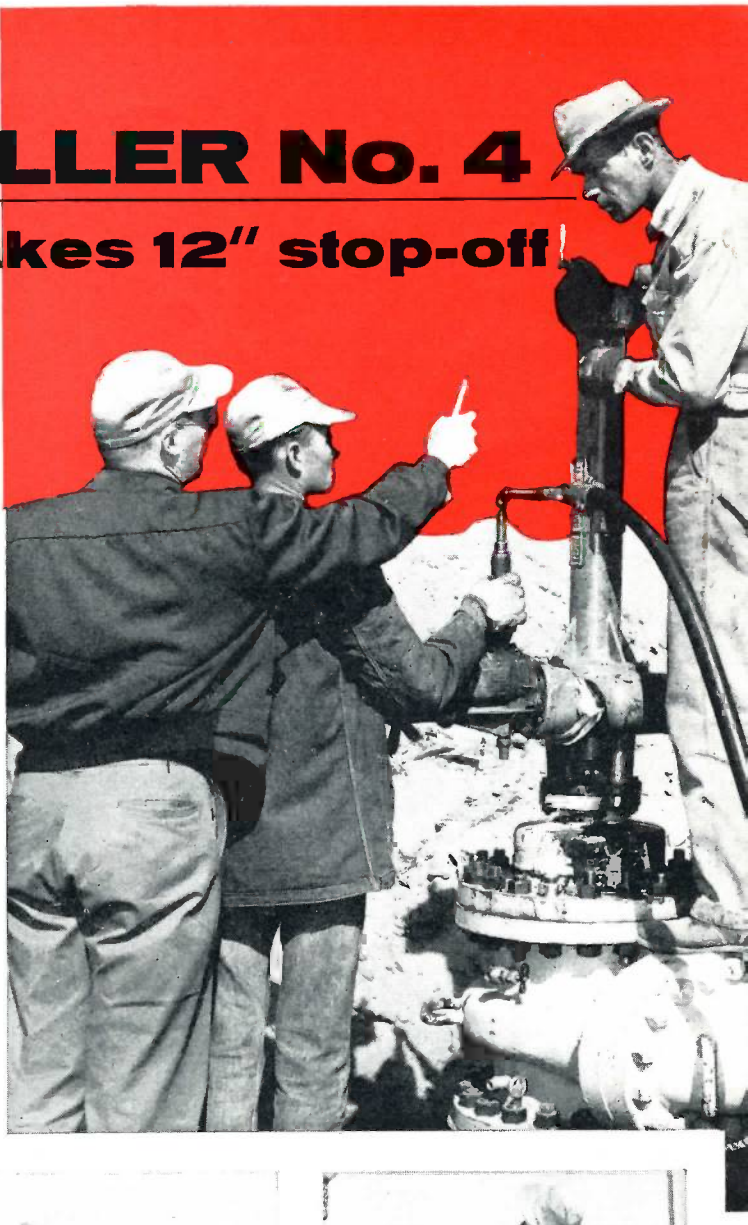
Inserting pressure equalizing completion plug using balanced pressure completion machine.

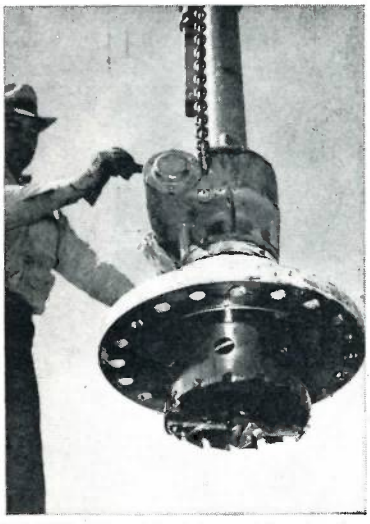
A general view of the site of operations. Note the general working conditions.

New MUELLER No. 4

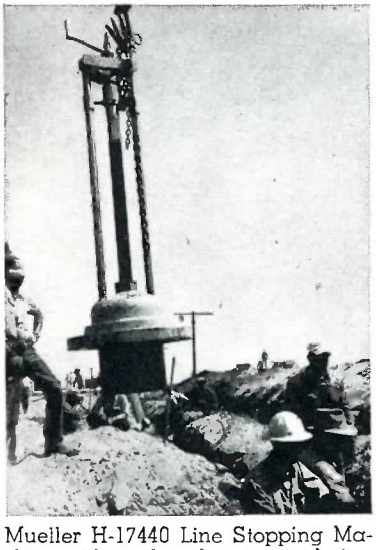
Makes 12" stop-off

Mueller "C-1" Drilling Machine with air motor drilling through 12" line, under pressure.



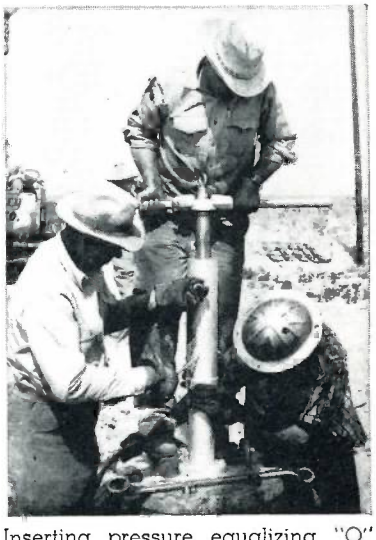


"C-1" Drilling Machine, with adaptor, removed from steel gate valve, showing section of pipe retained inside of shell cutter.



Mueller H-17440 Line Stopping Machine with steel wedge stopper being brought into position for lowering onto special 14" gate valve.

Expanding steel wedge stopper in H-17257 Line Stopper Fitting, making a complete stop-off.



Inserting pressure equalizing "O" ring completion plug into Line Stopper Fitting, using H-17445 balanced pressure Completion Machine.

Line Stopper Unit

for Phillips Pipe Line Co.

Phillips Pipe Line Co. removed long sections of their 12″ crude oil line which runs from the Permian Basin in West Texas to their refinery at Borger, Texas.
These sections were replaced with 14″ pipe to alleviate the pressure drop between pumping stations.

To keep costs and shutdown time to a minimum, the company made stop-offs, under pressure, holding the oil in the line while the 14″ connections were made.
Though the pumping stations were shut down, hill pressure varied from 25 to 100 psi.

Stop-offs were made simultaneously above and below the point of tie-in, completely isolating a short section of the 12″ line which was removed. The long section of 14″ line was then connected and line-stopping equipment removed. The line was in operation within twenty-four hours from time of shutdown.

MUELLER MUELLER NO-BLO **Method**

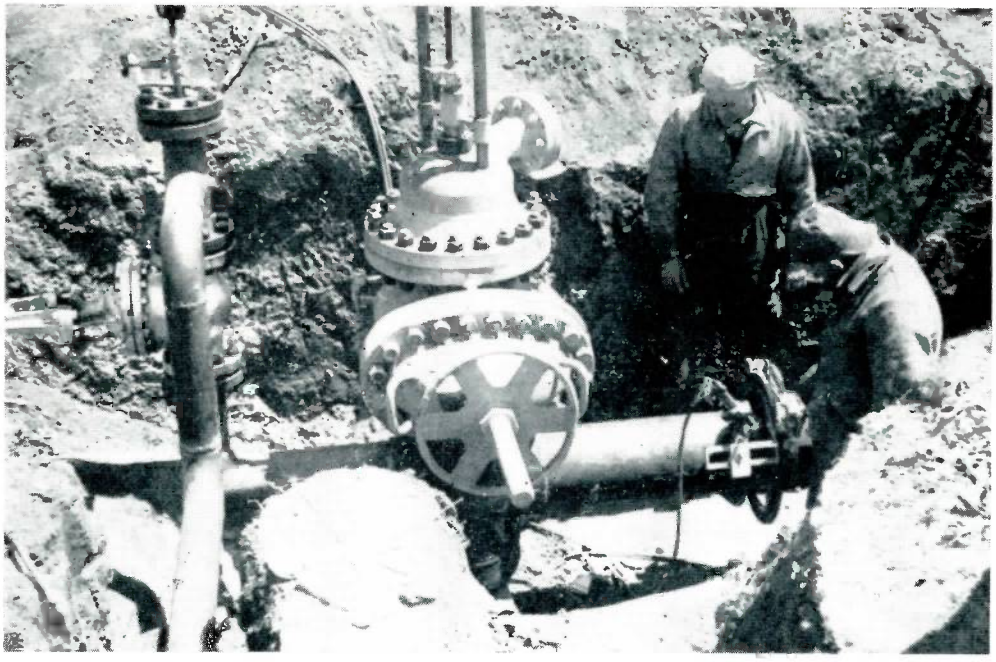
Write for complete details on the No. 4 Line Stopper Unit.

Completion Plug has been inserted into the Line Stopper Fitting and Completion Cap installed.

MUELLER CO.

Dependable Since 1857

MAIN OFFICE & FACTORY DECATUR, ILLINOIS



The steel wedge stopper is in place and expanded making tight shutoff. Pipe cutter cuts the pipe. The by-pass is shown at left center.

Complete Station Changeover

Panhandle Uses Mueller Line Stopper Equipment and Ten-Inch Fittings

Complete replacement of valves, piping and regulators prior to a proposed pressure increase at the Decatur, Illinois, Regulator Station located one and one-half miles east of Elwin, Illinois, was done by Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company on May 6 and 7. Mueller Co. equipment was used in making the changeover.

Panhandle used the new Mueller No. 4 line stopper unit and two ten-inch line stopper fittings with shutoff operations being done under 200 pounds per square inch pressure.

One ten-inch line stopper fitting was installed on each side of the station isolating it completely. A four-inch by-pass was installed around the station to carry the load during the stopoff. A complete change of valves, regulators and accessories was accomplished during the period of stop off.

The four-inch separate by-pass is now a permanent part of the station. Lateral drilling for the by-pass line was done prior to the line stopper job. A Mueller C-1 power operated thirty six-inch travel drilling machine was used in the operation.

This change was made because the valves and regulators, installed in 1932 when Decatur first got natural gas, will be inadequate pressurewise to carry the proposed load.

The old line is cut and ready for new valve.

The valve is installed. Completion in place in line stopper fitting ready for completion cap. Note 1,000-pound pressure gage attached to by-pass connection.

A. G. A. URGES U. S. NOT TO COMPETE WITH BUSINESS

Aware of the growing concern over a period of years with respect to the future of the private enterprise system in this country, the American Gas Association has adopted a resolution urging that the government should refrain from competing with private enterprise and should leave the development of public utility business and other businesses to the enterprise of individual investors.

Even though indications point toward a more constructive regulatory climate, the Board of Directors of the American Gas Association believes continued strenuous efforts are necessary to preserve and strengthen the private enterprise system.

For this reason, at its last meeting the Board declared its firm belief in and adherence to three major principles which have guided the $14 billion gas utility industry since its inception. The resolution declared first, that it is the obligation of the gas utility industry to supply gas to its customers at the lowest rates consistent with maintenance of adequate service and with fair treatment of investors and employees.

Next, the resolution stated, it is the duty of the government to provide fair and consistent regulatory procedure which will assure adequate public utility service at just and reasonable rates. Such procedure will also permit orderly development of the utility industry on a sound financial basis.

Finally, the statement of principles urges that true to the American tradition the government should refrain from competing with private enterprise and that the development of businesses should be left to those men of vision who risk their capital in the hope of reward through private enterprise.

Each member company of the Association has been requested to take whatever steps are necessary to encourage adherence to these fundamental American principles.

A New Mrs. America Is Selected

There's a new Mrs. America!

She's a blonde St. Louis woman who was selected in the first nationwide contest sponsored by the American Gas Association.

The contest finals, held at Ellinor Village, Florida, concluded months of local and state promotions by 46 participating utilities representing 7,500,000 gas meters throughout the United States and Canada.

The new Mrs. America, 28-year-old Mrs. Madison Jennings who is 5 feet, 9½ inches tall, was an entrant from Laclede Gas Company, St. Louis, Missouri. Mother of 8-year-old Mike and wife of an oil company chemist, Mrs. Jennings was singled out for her general homemaking abilities, poise and beauty. She triumphed over 49 other contestants from each state, the District of Columbia and Canada.

After state preliminaries were held mainly by local gas companies, the finals were conducted in all-gas-appliance-homes in Ellinor Village, where contestants kept house for their families under watchful eyes of judges. The four-day housekeeping and homemaking run-offs ranged from April 21-24.

Special proficiency trophies were awarded to three other gas company entrants. Second runner-up for the grand award was Mrs. June Terrell of Charleston, West Virginia, who also was selected by judges as keeping the neatest home. She won the state contest conducted by United Fuel Gas Company of Charleston, West Virginia. Mrs. Virginia, Mrs. James Baird Riggle of Roanoke, was distinguished by her accomplished sewing. And Mrs. Florida, Mrs. Mickie McDavid of Miami Beach, sponsored by Peoples Water and Gas Company of North Miami, received a trophy for meal planning.

Each contestant, housed in an individual villa with her family, kept the blue flames of gas appliances burning as she went through homemaking chores before a panel of distinguished judges. Gradually, contestants were reduced in number from 50 to 15, then to six, from whom came the winner and two runner-ups.

Tall, blonde Mrs. Madison Jennings of St. Louis, Missouri, 28-year-old mother of a son, Mike, and wife of an oil company chemist, won the nationwide "Mrs. America" contest at Ellinor Village, Florida. The contest was sponsored by the American Gas Association.

Judges, whose qualifications assured primary emphasis on homemaking abilities, included: Dr. Maud Pye Hood, acting dean of the School of Home Economics, University of Georgia; Catherine T. Dennis, president-elect of the American Home Economics Association and state supervisor, home economics instruction, Department of Public Instruction, North Carolina, and Iris Davenport, chairman of Home Economics in Business and editor of "Farm and Ranch" magazine.

Automatic gas appliances in the villas were supplied by manufacturers who tied-in with the national contest. In-

cluded were Detroit-Michigan Stove Company, Detroit-Jewel gas ranges; Servel, Inc., gas refrigerators; Caloric Stove Corporation, gas clothes dryers; John Wood Company, gas water heaters; Bowser, Inc., gas incinerators, and Robertshaw - Fulton Controls Company, thermostats and controls.

About 30 representatives of gas companies and gas appliance manufacturer sponsors observed the finals of the first national Mrs. America contest officially sponsored by the gas industry. A committee of four were official observers for the A.G.A. General Promotional Planning Committee. The group, headed by Hansell Hillyer, chairman of the board, president and general manager of South Atlantic Gas Company, Savannah, Georgia, comprised J. R. Guidroz, sales promotion manager, New Orleans Public Service, Inc., New Orleans, Louisiana; William B. Hewson, vice president, The Brooklyn Union Gas Company, Brooklyn, New York, and Frank H. Trembly, Jr., director of sales, Philadelphia Gas Works, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Around the Gas Industry

Paul F. Hoots, assistant to the president, New Orleans Public Service, Inc., has been appointed vice-chairman of the American Gas Association Rate Committee. The appointment was made by Howard F. Noyes, senior vice-president, Washington Gas Light Company, chairman of the A.G.A. General Management Section which includes the Rate Committee. Mr. Hoots will aid George A. Morgan, The Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company, Chicago, chairman of the A.G.A. Rate Committee, in conducting the operation of the committee. Its principal responsibility is to make studies of various costs involved in supplying gas to difference classes of customers and to recommend forms of rates designed to meet most equitable distribution of such costs and at the same time secure adequate and just revenue.

* * *

Tom H. Wheat, corporate secretary, Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation, Houston, Texas, has been appointed vice chairman of the Corporate Secretaries Committee of the American Gas Association. He will assist B. H. Harper, secretary, Northern Natural Gas Company, Omaha, Nebraska, who is chairman of the Corporate Secretaries Committee. The committee's function is to study and develop methods for meeting the problems of corporate secretaries within the gas industry.

Harrington A. Rose, gas engineer for Stone & Webster Service Corporation, has been named secretary of the General Management Section of American Gas Association, effective April 1. Bruce A. McCandless has relinquished the post of acting secretary of the General Management Section in order to devote full time to his administration duties as assistant to the managing director. General Management, newest section of A.G.A., was formed early last year. It includes committees on accident prevention, insurance, public information and other subjects of direct interest to top management.

* * *

For the first time in its history the American Gas Association, in cooperation with the Practicing Law Institute, conducted a symposium on "Current Legal Problems of the Gas Industry." It was held in New York City from June 7-11. The Institute, a non-profit educational institution, is highly regarded in the legal profession for its nationally significant symposia. Discussion by legal and other experts, of practical value to utility and pipeline company lawyers and executives, comprised typical gas industry legal problems from well-head to burner tip. In addition to individual speakers, there were panel and small group discussions, as well as speakers at each of five daily luncheons.

With the advances of plastic surgery, it seems they can do almost anything with the human nose except keep it out of other people's business.

J. A. Wilson Named to United Gas Post

JAMES A. WILSON

HARRY P. CARROLL

James A. Wilson of Houston, superintendent of Texas distribution operations for United Gas Corporation, has been elected vice president and operating manager of Texas distribution properties, it was announced by N. C. McGowen. president of the United Gas Companies.

He succeeds Harry P. Carroll who died April 6. Mr. Wilson joined United Gas 24 years ago. In his new position, he will manage operations of four Texas distribution divisions which serve 157 cities and towns.

He was elected to the Board of Directors of the Southern Gas Association during that organization's recent convention in Houston, and is also a member of the American Gas Association.

* * *

Mr. Carroll's death ended a career of 42 years in the gas industry, spanning the transition from coal gas to the giant natural gas industry of today. He first went to work in the industry in 1911 when as a youth of 18 he became a map maker for the old Beaumont Gas Light Company which made gas from coal and oil. Since 1930, he has been an executive with United Gas Corporation and predecessor companies in Houston.

In his climb from his first job in the days when Beaumont was a city of only 20,000 to a vice presidency of the Texas distribution division of United Gas, Mr. Carroll held many important positions and acquired a well-rounded knowledge of virtually every phase of gas industry operations. He could recall from personal experience when gas was used almost entirely for street lighting. In the early days of natural gas, he supervised the piping of many Texas and Louisiana towns, and he deserved as much credit as any other single individual for freeing literally thousands of housewives from the wood cookstove.

Although in recent years he devoted himself chiefly to executive duties, he was best known as a practical operating gas man familiar with every ramification of the intricate gas distribution business.

He was a member of the Southern Gas Association and the American Gas Association and served on many important committees of both groups.

Inspecting a Mueller LubOseal Gas Meter stop are, left to right, G. W. Stuart, assistant superintendent distribution, Equitable Gas Company; F. X. Uhl, sales representative, and A. D. MacLean, chief products engineer, both of Mueller Co., and A. F. Hoehle, superintendent distribution, Equitable Gas Company.

Equitable Gas Goes To Mueller Co. School

On March 2, thirty-seven Equitable Gas Company supervisory employees attended an all-day school sponsored by Mueller Co.

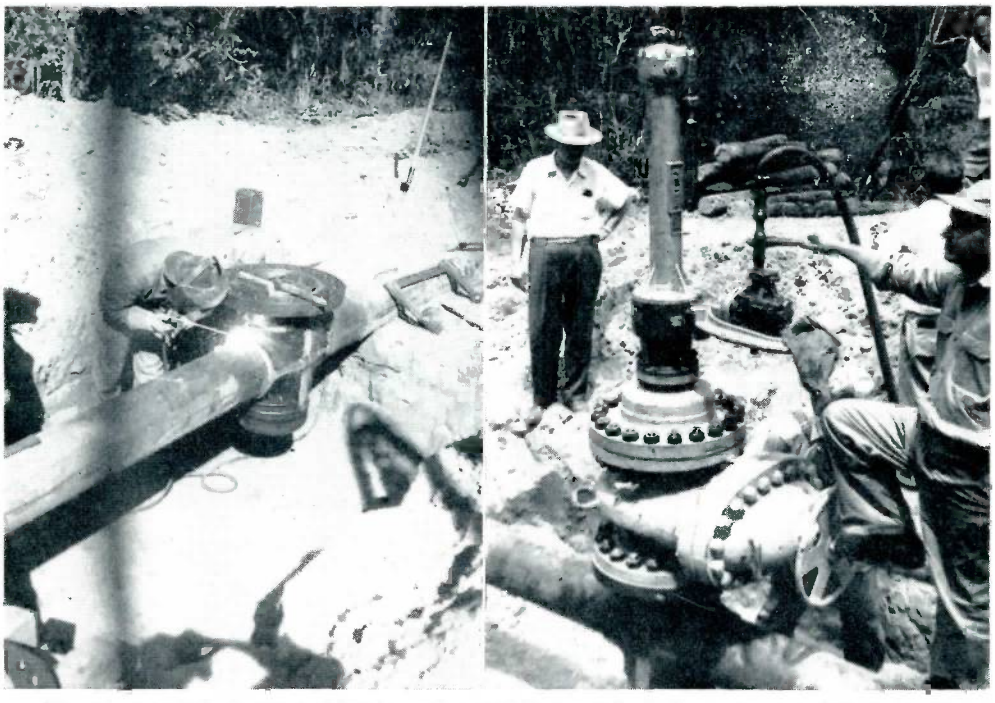
The school, which was held at Equitable's 17th and Wharton Street Shop, originated in 1952 for the purpose of training gas industry personnel on making gas service connections safely, under pressure, without loss of gas. The session was conducted by F. X. Uhl, Mueller Co. Sales Representative, who demonstrated suggested methods of solving various problems faced by gas distribution men. New equipment and safe methods of cutting and stopping off lines under pressure with maximum safety were discussed and demonstrated. A new type gas meter stop, the LubOseal stop, developed by the Mueller Co. and designed to meet the gas industry's need for a leak-proof stop, was displayed at the session.

Allen D. MacLean, Mueller Co. chief products engineer, assisted Mr. Uhl in demonstrating equipment and methods. Armand F. Hoehle, general superintendent of distribution and Gordon W. Stuart, assistant general superintendent of distribution, both of Equitable Gas Company, said they rate such training sessions invaluable in keeping key personnel posted on new products and new methods applicable to the gas industry.

F. X. Uhl addresses officials.

The damaged valves and wooden enclosure as they appeared after the fire.

Valves Replaced After Fire



The view at left shows welder in action welding ten-inch line stopper fitting in place. At right, a cut is being made through a special fourteen-inch gate valve using Mueller C-1 drilling machine. The gentleman observing the operation is R. D. Kitchen, Mueller Co. sales representative.

A C-1 drilling machine is removed with complete section of pipe retained in shell cutter.

The Mississippi Valley Gas Company whose operations are described elsewhere in this issue recently was faced with a repair job requiring the use of Mueller No. 4 line stopper equipment. Many of the gas company's supervisors, safety engineers, construction engineers and others witnessed the use of this new equipment.

Two Mueller Co. engineers, John J. Smith and Jack Chepan, were present to supervise the use of our equipment. In addition, R. D. Kitchen, our sales representative in Mississippi and Louisiana, observed the operation.

The job took place near Amory, Mississippi. A fire several months ago near the company's Tombigbee river crossing spread to a wooden enclosure covering two eight-inch control valves and two three-inch blow-off valves. The blaze resulted in considerable damage to the equipment. The origin of the fire was a nearby burning dump.

The top cover of the enclosure, after being partly destroyed by the fire, fell on the wheel handles of the control valves and damaged the stems and the stem packing. The result was that it was necessary to replace the valves.

Although the river crossing consisted of two eight-inch lines, the stop-off operation was done on a ten-inch line leading to these valves. Only one ten-inch line stopper fitting was used and no by-passing operation was necessary. Line pack was used to take care of demands while replacement of the river crossing valves was being done. A duplicate set of eight-inch valves on the opposite side of the river were closed to permit this job to be done with no additional stopper equipment.

The steel wedge stopper is expanded off the line.

The shutoff operation was completed under 350-pound p.s.i.g. giving a positive shutoff. The damaged valves were replaced and new valves installed with no difficulty.

The workmen lower the No. 4 stopping machine in place on the valve.

Award Applications Considered

Applications are being considered for five major gas industry awards, honoring individuals and companies, to be presented by the American Gas Association for technical achievements, bravery and home service. Prizes will be given to winners at the A.G.A. 36th Annual Convention in Atlantic City, N. J., October 11-13.

For the most outstanding contribution to advance the gas industry, the A.G.A. Distinguished Service Award will go to an individual. Since having been established in 1929 this award, comprising an engraved certificate and substantial sum of money, has become the gas industry's most coveted honor. It has been given for progress made in such diversified fields as labor-saving accountancy; strengthening and extending industrial use of gas; dealer cooperation; development of manufactured gas production processes; public relations; change-over from one kind of gas to another, and research. Nominations must be received by August 1.

The third annual A.G.A. Distribution Achievement Award, sponsored by the American Meter Company, will go to the person judged to have made the most outstanding contribution to the science and art of gas distribution anytime during the past five years. Entries, competing for the engraved certificate, a suitable memento and money, are due by May 31. Contributions may comprise a plan, design, program or any other work adding to safety, economy or service of a gas distribution system. Delivery of a report or paper alone will not qualify an entrant.

The sole author of the best technical paper presented at an A.G.A. meeting or printed within the year beginning and ending October 1 may qualify for the Beal Medal. A bronze medal and sum of money go to the winner.

Heroism also is honored. The A.G.A. Meritorious Service Award recognizes bravery in saving life or conserving property in a gas plant, works or enterprise connected with handling or distributing industry products, from July 1, 1953 to June 30, 1954. Conspicuous judgment, intelligence or heroic action must have been manifested by the winner. Entries, on a special form available from A.G.A., must be postmarked by August 1.

On the home front, the A.G.A. Home Service Achievement Award encourages outstanding advancements of modern homemaking through promoting interest and better domestic use of gas and modern gas equipment. This multiple award, sponsored by "McCall's Magazine," can be won by directors or individual members of A.G.A. member gas company home service departments during the year ending July 31.

Honors will cite two home service directors, one of Division A heading a department staffed by more than five, and the other of Division B heading a department comprising fewer than five persons. Three awards will be made in Division C recognizing individual members or a department head in the home service departments of three different companies. Distinctions will go for the best workable plan for demonstrating to homemakers the benefits of a domestic gas appliance. The other two awards here are for projects representing originality and advanced thinking shown by a new look in home service activities.

Requests for application forms and further information, as well as completed entries, should be addressed to the American Gas Association, 420 Lexington Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

On a little service station on the edge of an Arizona desert hangs this sign: "Don't ask for information. If we knew anything we wouldn't be here."

* * *

It's better to give than to receive. Also, it's deductible.

Facts About the Gas Industry

More than 8,000 miles of natural gas pipeline were approved last year by the Federal Power Commission. Of this total about 5,000 miles were constructed during the year, and the other 3,000 miles were under construction or about to be started at the year-end. It is now estimated that the nation's system of gathering transmission, storage and distribution lines for natural gas totals more than 394,000 miles, or enough to girdle the earth more than 16 times. With more than 50,000 additional miles of distribution pipelines serving the manufactured and mixed gas companies, the gas industry's pipeline mileage constitutes the greatest transportation system in the world.

* * *

A call to modernize gas ranges is sounded by the sixth annual "Old Stove Round-Up" nationwide promotion. During the three-month campaign last autumn $58.5 million worth of gas ranges were sold. This year the promotion, ranging from late summer through autumn, aims to have old ranges replaced by new automatic gas ranges before they are replaced by competitors' products. The campaign is a PAR (Promotion-Advertising-Research) activity, sponsored by the American Gas Association with the cooperation of the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association.

* * *

The gas industry used approximately 1,725,000 tons of steel in 1952, principally in line pipe. The tonnage for 1953 was higher, since more miles of pipe were laid in 1953 than a year earlier. However, the gas industry estimates that it will require 7.3 million tons of steel pipe for its expansion program from 1953 through 1956. The major part of this tonnage will represent steel pipe of 16 inch diameter or larger. Approximately 5 million tons of steel will be required for the large diameter pipe, amounting to about 67 percent of total steel requirements for the 4-year period.

The lowest accident frequency rate in the past 14 years was chalked up last year by the gas utility industry in the United States, according to a report issued by the American Gas Association. The report, entitled "Employee Accident Experience of the Gas Industry: 1953," contains data from 405 gas utilities and pipeline companies representing about 90 per cent of the industry's employees. For the sixth consecutive year the frequency rate has declined. In 1953 the gas industry had 12.92 disabling injuries per million man-hours of exposure, a rate that was 10.3 per cent lower than in 1952.

* * *

The Saudi Arabian Government plans to construct an ammonium sulfate and dry ice plant which will utilize natural gas from oil fields of the Arabian American Oil Company. This would be the first important commercial use of natural gas in the Middle East. The producing companies in that area now use gas within their own organizations for utilities, to drive pumps and for field use, leaving large excess quantities which must be flared.

* * *

About ten years ago there were only about 50 underground pools for storing natural gas in operation in the United States. At the end of 1952 there were 151 underground storage pools operating, with an estimated capacity of 1,290 billion cubic feet. During 1953 an additional 17 pools were under construction which would add another 282 million cubic feet to the capacity of these underground savings banks of the natural gas industry.

* * *

According to reports, the congregation was so small last Sunday that she blushed when the Reverend got up and said, "Dearly Beloved."

* * *

Jack MacSwinney was asking Sandy McTavish how he liked his new radio.

"Mon, 'tis grand for the music," said Sandy, "but the wee light's a bit hard tae read by."

* * *

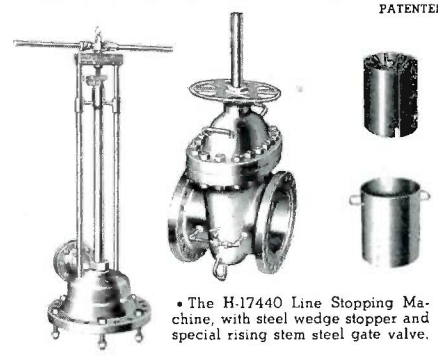
The gals are looking for the type of man who is tall, dark and has some.

MUELLER®

No. 4 LINE STOPPER UNIT

PATENTED

Stop off 10" and 12" steel lines safely, under pressure, with the Mueller No. 4 Line Stopper Unit. Equipped with series 40 flanges, the No. 4 Unit is designed for working pressures of 500 psi and temperatures up to 250° Fahrenheit with an adequate factor of Safety.



• The H-17440 Line Stopping Machine, with steel wedge stopper and special rising stem steel gate valve.

• The H-17445 balanced pressure Completion Machine.

• The H-17257 Line Stopper Fitting, sizes 10" and 12", complete with "O" ring type, balanced-pressure completion plug. Spring-loaded ball check valve in completion plug, activated by the inserting or extracting tools, assures equal pressure on both sides, allowing easy insertion and extraction of the completion plug.

Write for complete information on the No. 4 Line Stopper Unit.

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