

# MUELLER RECORD



SEPTEMBER, 1953



### THIS MONTH'S COVER

JOE YONKER, victim of a serious foot injury last year, inspects the steel toe that protects the wearer of safety shoes up to a 2,500 pound blow. Joe has some idea of what 2,500 pounds might do to a man's foot. Three cast iron pipes weighing 1,700 pounds fell on his right foot in September, 1952. Lightning may not strike twice, Joe says, but he isn't taking any chances. He was one of our first employees to order safety shoes. His choice was the dress oxford shown on the left. For details, see page 4.

# MUELLER RECORD

September, 1953

WALTER H. DYER, Editor  
Published in the Interests of  
Employees of the

## MUELLER CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF WATER AND GAS  
DISTRIBUTION AND SERVICE PRODUCTS

### FACTORIES

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

### SALES OFFICES

NEW YORK CITY SAN FRANCISCO

### TRADE MARK

## MUELLER

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

Member Industrial Editors Association of Chicago

Printed in the U.S.A.



# Recording Our Thoughts

With this issue, the MUELLER RECORD, one of the oldest company magazines in the United States, makes its first regularly scheduled appearance since December, 1952. This issue, mailed only to employees, is also the first produced by the magazine's new editor.

Former editor Herman E. Jackson, at the helm since 1950, has been transferred to the catalog department where his knowledge of company products coupled with his artistic and editorial ability are vitally needed. We will be forever grateful to Herman for his very fine assistance in acquainting the writer with the company and with the production of this magazine.

Like all first issues, this particular one has its rough spots. Mainly lacking perhaps is more news about individual employees. This will be corrected in time with, we hope, voluntary contributions by employees. It is the company's hope to make the inside Record a family publication. We are anxious to publish news and pictures of your activities. There will always be space for your baby's picture, or a shot of the big fish you caught on that week end trip. We will use all pictures space will permit.

For the fellow who looks upon anything free with suspicion, we'll tell you right now that every issue of this publication will be aimed toward selling something. For instance, this issue has safety in mind. We want to sell the employee on the idea of being more careful. Of course, just being careful doesn't make us 100 per cent safe. That's why our company has made safety shoes available at a low cost along with a lot of other items free of charge—all designed for your safety.

Safety shoes are just a part of our safety program. You'll read more about it in later issues.

# Walker To Coordinate All Factory Operations

O. E. Walker, a company vice president since 1950 and head of our Chattanooga plant since 1943, has been promoted to the position of works manager vice president. He took over his new duties at the main office in Decatur on August 1, and will supervise operations of all company factories.

Mr. Walker first worked for Mueller Co. in 1920 after serving with the U. S. Navy in World War I. He left the company in 1934, but returned nine years later as manager of the Chattanooga plant.

J. H. Wall, former plant controller at Chattanooga, has been named manager of the Tennessee plant, succeeding Mr. Walker. He assumed his new position on August 1.

Mr. Walker was widely known as an industrial executive and civic leader during the 11 years he has been in Chattanooga. He has served on the board of directors of the Rotary Club, and on the



O. E. Walker, new works manager vice-president, is shown at his desk in his Decatur office. Mr. Walker will coordinate operations of all Mueller Co. factories.

board of the Chattanooga Manufacturers Association. He also was a member of the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion, the 40 and 8 Society; and he has been active in Community Chest work.

The new works manager vice president has one son who is general foreman at the Tennessee plant.

Just before he left Chattanooga for his new post, employees gave Mr. Walker a French style Girard Perregaux wrist watch. They expressed regret at seeing him leave, but wished him the best of good fortune in his new assignment.

## RECENT PROMOTIONS

Other recent company promotions are:

Leo O. Wiant, formerly industrial engineering vice president, to administrative vice president.

C. Harry Martin, formerly general auditor, to company secretary.

L. R. Huff, formerly general controller, to general controller and assistant treasurer.

Ralph Tibbils, formerly assistant credit manager, to credit manager.

Robert Taylor, formerly night foreman at plant 2, to assistant foreman in the Ground Key Division.



J. H. Wall, former plant controller at our Chattanooga plant, has been promoted to the position of plant manager, succeeding O. E. Walker, new works manager vice-president.

# One... Two... Button Your *Safety* Shoes

Most toe injuries suffered by Mueller Co. employees are a direct result of electric goats!

Accident records reveal that an average of three employees receive foot injuries each week at our Decatur plants, and that a majority of those cases were persons who failed to jump in time from the path of moving goats.

Other common causes are burns suffered in the foundry or by dropping such objects as curb stops and pig iron on our feet. Foundry burns usually are the result of metal or hot sand burning through our shoes or seeping through the top of our shoes.

Although only four lost-time accidents due to foot injuries have occurred this year—an excellent safety record—minor mishaps have become so numerous that our Central Safety Committee has taken steps to prevent such incidents in the future.

Safety shoes have been made available to employees in an in-plant store located in the Personnel Department. Management is enthusiastic about the project, and employees, too, appear to be convinced as shown by early shoe orders. However, as Joseph Yonker, assistant receiving clerk at our Decatur plants, says, "Most of the fellows know they need safety shoes. Only thing is—many will be like the fellow who was operated on, and then decided to buy hospitalization insurance."

Our Central Safety Committee is hoping that employees won't wait until they are hurt to buy safety shoes. An ounce of prevention, you know.

Joe Yonker is one employee who plans to invest in that ounce of prevention, even though his shoe purchase comes one

Gilbert Werner, left, maintenance foreman, looks over the neat styling of a safety shoe while being fitted by Tom Harding, job evaluation engineer. Werner was the first Mueller employee to purchase safety shoes.





George Binkley, assistant personnel director at our Decatur plants, shows a selection of goggles to Robert Dodwell, a company tool maker. The goggles are a part of the safety package given to employees along with the purchase of safety shoes.

year late. Joe hasn't forgotten the most painful experience of his life.

The time was September 25, 1952. He and two co-workers stood on the loading dock at Mercer Street waiting for an electric hoist to remove three 1,700-pound cast iron pipes from a truck. Up they came to a height of about four feet. Yonker moved forward to pull the pipes toward the dock.

Suddenly, the pipes became over-balanced and slipped on their chain. Yonker moved instinctively, but the 1,700 pounds came crashing down too quickly. The pipes fell squarely on the big toe of his right foot, causing a severe injury. Joe didn't realize he was hurt, so fast had the accident occurred. Yet his co-workers stared at his mangled canvas shoe. It was torn from the top through the sole.

In recalling the weeks of hospital treatment and the time spent on crutches, one thought is foremost in Joe's mind today: "I realize that if I had been wearing safety shoes, I would have survived the accident uninjured."

It is difficult to believe that any shoe could save us from injury, should 1,700 pounds fall on our toe. However, tests on the Iron Age Steel Toe Safety Shoes, the brand offered to Mueller Co. em-

ployees, reveal that the shoe can hold up to 2,500 pounds without injury to the wearer.

The committee doesn't recommend that you drop a ton on your toes to test the shoe, but they feel certain your toes are safer under the protection of safety shoes, come what may.

They point out that the safety shoe isn't all that goes with the present safety program. When you buy your shoes, you will be given a special safety package which includes goggles, respirator (fits over mouth and nose to filter out dust), spats, leggings and asbestos gloves. These items may be worn as the occasion demands.

The entire package, with the exception of the shoes, is free. Shoes are sold to you at cost. This means you get a real bargain in this day of high prices. Thirty-three styles, including two for women, are available in work shoes, boots and dress oxfords in a price range from \$5.95 to \$9.25. The only other expense will be shipping cost and sales tax.

A specially made shoe for foundry workers is available. It is so designed that it may be kicked off as quickly as a bed room slipper. Only an experienced

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foundry worker can really appreciate such a shoe. Imagine getting hot sand into your shoe, and then have to unlace the shoe to remove the sand! Such incidents will no longer be possible when foundry employees wear their special safety shoe.

Buying safety shoes through the company has many advantages, the chief ones being a big money savings and the ability to say "charge it." Shoes can be paid for by one payroll deduction, or employees may pay cash if they prefer. In addition, once an employee is fitted for shoes, he need not be fitted again. The Personnel Department will keep a record of all shoes, styles and sizes as ordered by employees. So long as the employee wants the same size and style when re-ordering, the committee checks the records and orders accordingly.

The most common complaint employees have had against safety shoes in the past is that they have enough work to do without "carrying all that weight around." This is no longer the case. H. Childs & Co., Inc. of Pittsburgh, Pa., realized that workers objected to the old style safety shoe not only because it was unattractive but also because of its weight. So this modern thinking company has dressed up the safety shoe. Wear a pair downtown and no one suspects your shoes are different from ordinary street shoes. Drop 1,700 pounds on them and you notice a distinct difference.

To get this program underway, the Central Safety Committee is displaying in the Personnel Department a number of styles available. Employees wishing to purchase shoes may be fitted there during lunch hour or after regular working hours. Orders are sent to the shoe company each Tuesday, and the purchaser receives his shoes in about ten days.

Employees can be certain their shoes will fit properly. This is possible due to a special instrument invented by experts long familiar with the problem of fitting shoes. Safety engineers agree that a good fit in a safety shoe spells the difference between success and failure in keeping safety shoes in popular demand.

They also agree that when a man's feet are not comfortable he cannot work at his best. They know that no matter what quality of materials or workmanship go into a shoe, it will not give comfort or satisfactory wear unless the shoe fits correctly.

With this knowledge learned through past experience, safety shoe experts have made possible an instrument known as the Brannock Scientific Foot-Fitting System for safety shoes. The instrument, manufactured by the Brannock Device Co. of Syracuse, New York, is in use in our Personnel Department. Members of the department have been trained to fit shoes expertly, assuring our employees of future shoe comfort.

If by now, the reader has decided to purchase safety shoes, fine! If not, try remembering how painful a toe injury can be.

Now ask yourself just who is going to be the goat—you or the one that keeps mashing everybody's feet?

#### 400-POUND MOTOR

The following letter was written to H. Childs & Co. by the Armstrong Cork Co. of Pittsburgh, Pa., in reference to the shoe pictured below:

Dear Sir:

Believe it or not, this is one of your safety shoes—after a 400-pound motor tipped over on it. The employee didn't suffer a scratch, and the only damage to the shoe was a cut in the leather from the surface to the metal plate.

The employee had just purchased the shoes about two weeks before the accident—needless to say he considers them a worthwhile investment.



# Bowlers Set For 25th Year



Captains of bowling teams in the Mueller Co. league inspect the various types and colors of bowling shirts available for wear in the 1953-54 season. Standing left to right, they are: Lynn Edwards, Orville Spencer Jr., Edwin Nalefski, Gene Gibbs, Claude Inman, and Marshall Foster. Seated around the table left to right are: Charles Girard, Ollie Fortschneider, Ray Larus, Al Degand, Marvin Davis and Buddy Grossman.

Sixty-one bowlers participating on ten Mueller Co. teams were scheduled to open the league's 25th season Thursday, September 3, at the Eldorado Bowl in Decatur. These men, representing one of the oldest leagues in the city, will be seen on the alleys every Thursday night for 36 consecutive weeks.

Ollie Fortschneider, captain of the Pattern Shop squad, is back again as president this year. Ollie is one of the few men around who helped Mueller Co. launch its tradition-rich bowling league back in 1928.

Returning as vice president is Buddy ("No one else will take the job") Grossman. In the field of battle, Buddy will captain a strong team of Tool Engineers.

Charles Girard, playing for Specialty Division, was elected secretary-treasurer.

Fifteen new faces will be seen among the 61 team members this season. Five of the 15 are returning after a year or more out of action. A strong contender to repeat as champions will be Ground

Key. Last year's winners have four returning men to try for the title again. Edwin Nalefski is captain. Others who helped the 1952-53 crown are Ralph Adams, Martin Riewski and Galen Jenkins. Newcomers to the squad are Dale Wilkins and M. Davidson.

■ ■ ■

Members of other teams are as follows.

Specialty Division: Al Degand, captain; Henry Stratman, Ted Suhomske, John Harding, Charles Girard and Charles Taylor.

Plant No. 2: Marvin Davis, captain; Carl Schuman, Charles Brownlow, William Brownlow, Frank Grider and Earl Dilbeck.

Pattern Shop: Ollie Fortschneider, captain; Robert Leake, Cecil Coffin, Melvin Chaney, Carlton Hackman and Verle Utzinger.

Brass Finishers: Orville Spencer, captain; Fred Nash, Jesse Dailey, Glen Curry, Truman Peifer and Claude Inman.

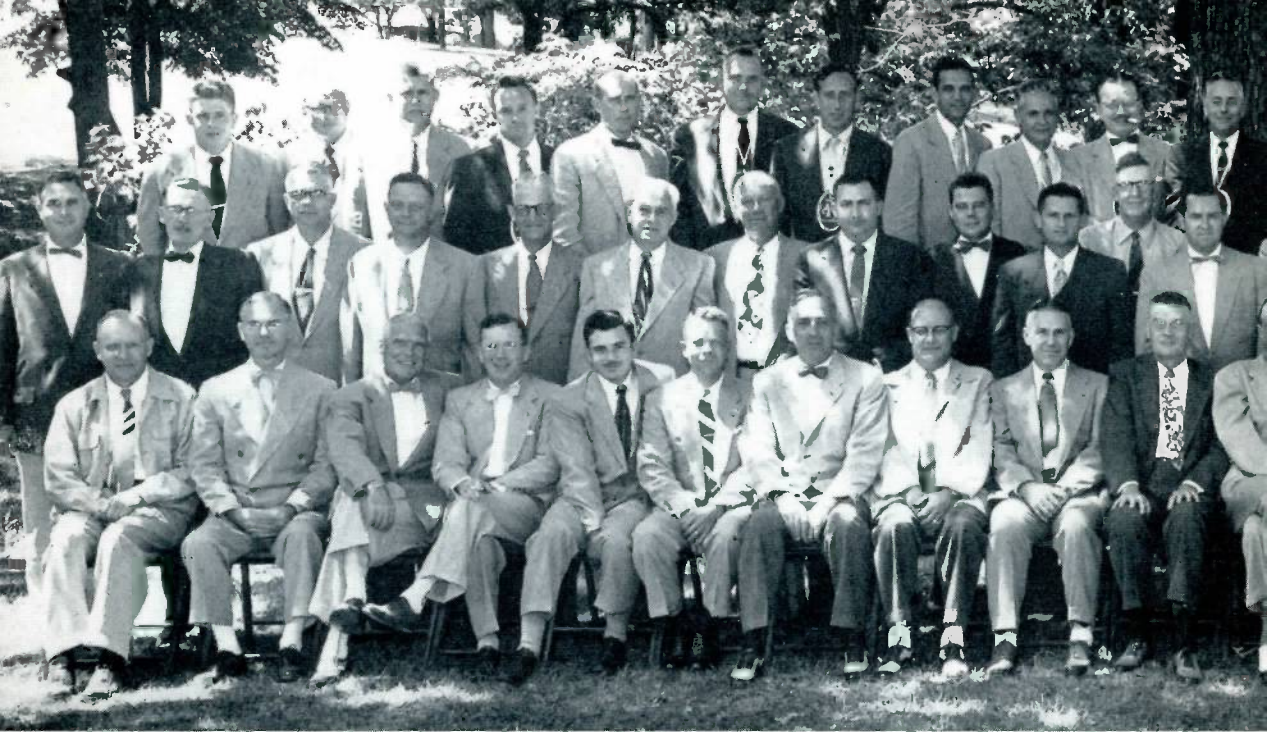
Works Managers: Marshall Foster, captain; Jack Bain, William Leake, Ted Masterson, Charles Moore and Allan Maurer.

Experimental Shop: Ray Larus, captain; Robert Taylor, Herman Chepan, Clarence Hill, Eric Blankenburg and Marvin Spencer.

Regulator Division: Gene Gibbs, captain; Dale Riedelberger, John Hackl, Hap Thompson, Pete Kelley and Press Ruthrauff.

Product Engineers: Lynn Edwards, captain; Don Ferry, Walter Bowan, Lynn Harper, William Knorr and Wally Gould.

Tool Engineers: Buddy Grossman, captain; Paul Hawbaker, Elmer Fawley, William Short, Robert Yobski and Lefty Adams.



Mueller Co. salesmen and executives attending the week-long August sales meeting posed for the above photo the opening day of the session. They are, top row left to right: F. R. Seevers, R. D. Kitchen, R. J. Cope, W. D. Crawford, F. X. Uhl, Ed D. Ayers, R. B. Herrin, R. L. Burdick, G. J. Yonker, J. C. Rubicam, K. F. Tohill, R. C. Sponsler, H. T. Huffine, H. W. Cessna, Wm. F. Johnson, G. A. Smith, C. H. Martin, E. C. Fenstad, R. E. DeWeese, G. W. Simpson and E. G. Baker. Middle row, left to right: S. B. Johnson, R. D. Fallon Sr., E. P. Graeber, J. E. Williamson, E. W. Peterson, A. C. Werdes, G. W. White, A. D. Parks R. H.

## Executives, Salesmen At



R. K. Levey, left, general sales assistant vice-president, and Robert H. Morris, general sales vice-president, right, chat with Dr. Kenneth McFarland of Topeka, Kan., following the latter's address at the August sales meeting.

More than 60 company executives and salesmen attended a general sales meeting at the Mueller Lodge in Decatur August 17 through August 21. It was the first such meeting since August, 1951.

Salesmen from every section of the United States attended the session. In addition, two representatives of Mueller, Limited, at Sarnia, G. W. Parker, general manager, president and treasurer, and R. M. Nicolson, vice-president and sales manager, were present.

Executives from our main headquarters also attended the meetings.

Company speakers who addressed the group were: W. H. Hipsher, executive vice-president; R. H. Morris, general sales vice-president; Frank H. Mueller, engineering vice-president; R. K. Levey, general sales assistant vice-president; W. A. Coventry, assistant sales manager,





Roarick, J. K. Potts, F. V. Johnson, R. P. Jett, C. W. Auer, H. K. Udell, R. G. Medick, W. R. Augustine, F. B. Miller, W. L. Draper, R. M. Nicolson, R. T. Whitehead, W. A. Arnett, W. L. DeWitt, F. V. Martin, P. L. Hines and L. W. Woodson. Front row, left to right, they are: F. E. Carroll, A. O. Yonker, Lloyd George, W. A. Coventry, Phillip Mueller, L. E. Grosboll, G. W. Parker, C. C. Roarick, Leo O. Wiant, W. H. Hipsher, F. H. Mueller, R. H. Morris, L. J. Evans, O. E. Walker, J. L. Logsdon, R. K. Levey, F. T. O'Dell, F. C. McCown, H. V. Seevers and R. L. Jolly.

## end Week-Long Meeting

Chattanooga plant; L. S. Ross president, Ross Advertising Agency; F. X. Uhl, gas sales engineer; J. J. Smith, engineer, and F. R. Seevers, assistant to general sales vice-president.

Guest speaker for the meeting was Dr. Kenneth McFarland of Topeka, Kan., educational consultant and lecturer for General Motors and educational director for the American Trucking Association. The widely known teacher, rated as one of the top seven educators in America today, is also a former guest lecturer for Readers Digest.

A buffet supper opened the meeting Sunday evening. Salesmen, company executives, their wives and families were in attendance.

The 49 Club initiated 19 new members into their organization.



"Hand me a club, you bum," Frank Miller seems to be saying to Bill Cessna, his golf caddy. Bill's lowly position during the August sales meeting was brought about by his being a 49 Club pledge. Standing nearby is Pledge E. George Baker.

Lift the Receiver, then

## Wait For the Dial Tone

Life isn't the same anymore for Mrs. Elizabeth Tolladay, chief switchboard operator for our Decatur plants.

There was a time not so very long ago when her fingers played nimbly across a manual switchboard to the tune of 1,800 calls per day. Her working day, as she describes it, was "busy" then.

So busy, in fact, that the Illinois Bell Telephone Company surveyed the situation and learned that Mrs. Tolladay was handling about 200 calls per hour. The peak hourly load during the study was 250 calls.

That's a lot of talking, even for a woman.

The telephone company advised management that a switch to the dial system was imperative if good telephone service was to be maintained. They pointed out that an efficient operator can handle from 100 to 125 calls per hour and give good telephone service. Above that, they said, an inter-plant dial system is recommended.

Management ordered a change to the dial system at the earliest possible time,

Miss Evelyn Thompson left, prepares to relieve Miss Laverne Claus at our Decatur switchboard. Both ladies are relief operators.



and Illinois Bell launched the beginning of what was to give our Decatur plants the same type telephone system employed by the City of Decatur. Ours, of course, is on a much smaller scale. By comparison, we have a one-position switchboard to the more than 50 positions at Illinois Bell's downtown Decatur office.

On this past June 1, after six months of installation, the telephone company completed the change-over and our present dial system went into operation.

We, who use telephones in our work each day, quickly forget the convenience of our present system. No longer do we lift the receiver and wait our turn—should the operator be busy—for "number please." If we are placing a long distance call, we dial "0," since all long distance calls are placed by our operator. For outside calls, we dial "9," then dial the number desired. Mueller Co. personnel are contacted by ringing a three-digit number assigned to the telephone being called.

Three persons in our company are not

Mrs. Elizabeth Tolladay, chief switchboard operator at our Decatur plants, places one of about 600 incoming calls she receives daily.





What makes our inter-plant dial telephone system function is explained to E. F. Dickey, office manager, by Tommy V. Atkins, service engineer for the Illinois Bell Telephone Company. Mr. Atkins is located in the company's Decatur office and was instrumental in our change from the manual to the dial system.

likely to forget the switch to the dial system for a long time. They are Mrs. Tolladay and two relief operators, Miss Evelyn Thompson and Miss Laverne Claus. Miss Thompson has been with our company a number of years and became relief operator at the same time Mrs. Tolladay was employed 11 years ago.

Miss Claus is a comparative newcomer, having been employed as relief operator in September, 1952. Both Miss Claus and Miss Thompson have other duties to perform when they are not on switchboard duty. It has been the custom to have two relief operators at our company for several years. This makes it possible for one operator to be on vacation, leaving two operators on duty, one to relieve the other.

These ladies remember the never-ending calls across the switchboard each day. Under the manual system, they handled all calls — inter-communication, incoming, outgoing and long distance.

Today, they handle incoming and long distance calls. Instead of 1,800 calls each day, the average is now about 600.

When the dial system went into operation, we were given a new telephone number—3-4471. The change wasn't due to a whim of the telephone company, or because management thought it was time for a new one.

To the professional telephone man, the change in numbers indicates that Mueller Co. has a telephone system known as "level hunting." Only two other Decatur companies have this system—The A. E. Staley Manufacturing Co. and the Wabash Railroad.

When Mueller Co. operated under the number discarded in June—4181—it employed what is known as the auxiliary system. In other words, it enables numbers to hunt past busy numbers for idle ones. We had eight trunk lines then. That meant we could have eight calls to

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the outside at one time. Any call over eight received the busy signal.

We are now using ten trunk lines and have ten more lines in reserve, should the time come when we need additional lines. This being the case, we are not using the "level hunting" system although we are equipped to do so. With ten lines in active use, we are still operating under the auxiliary system. However, should we connect one of our reserve lines, we will actively enter the level hunting class.

"Level hunting" means that the number will, in the event the first group of ten are busy, jump or "level hunt" to the second group of ten or any number of lines less than ten operating in the second group.

Illinois Bell keeps a close tab on our busy signals. Should too many busy signals be registered on their automatic equipment, they will recommend bringing our reserve lines into service.

One of the features of the present system is that inter-communication calls from one plant to the other can be made without first dialing "9." Calls are made from the main office to Plant No. 4 and vice versa in the same manner as inter-office calls are made.

Changing telephone systems is not new to Mueller Co. Prior to the time of our manual system, we had two switchboards. One was a company switchboard used entirely for inter-office and inter-plant calls. The second was a 30-line board installed by Illinois Bell. All calls from and to the outside went through the telephone company board. Both boards sat side by side and were operated by one person.

Old timers can remember some 30 years back when the company had just one outside telephone in a booth. Inter-communication calls were made through the company's own switchboard. Outside and long distance calls were made through the one outside telephone. The operator was informed by the caller of the number desired. Later, the caller would rush to the telephone booth where his party was on the line.

Today, telephones are located through-

out the main office and factories. They are for business use only. Calls from outside to employees in the plants are cleared through the Personnel Office. In the event of an emergency, employees are notified immediately. Only emergency calls are premitted during working hours. Permission to make personal calls during working hours may be granted in urgent cases, but company policy is that they are not to be used without permission.

This is easily understandable. The already heavy load of business calls on the switchboard does not permit time for personal calls. With only ten trunk lines for outside calls in active use, each line is constantly busy in the operation of company business.

How does Mrs. Tolladay feel about no longer doing twice the amount of work expected of an efficient operator?

"Time on my hands," she says. To prove her point, she does considerable volunteer work for the mailing room. In addition, she takes care of the routing of all magazines purchased by the company.

Although she won't admit it, we sometimes suspect she longs for the old 120-line manual switchboard.

She was "busy" then.



Mrs. Wera Colglazier waits for the technician to record her chest x-ray while three employees wait their turn. Chest x-rays were taken by the Visiting Nurses Association. Other employees shown are, left to right, Dean Cramer, Mrs. Enola Smith and Larry Barnes.

## Sarnia, Ontario

MRS. A. N. REEVE, Correspondent

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Muxlow recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Mr. Muxlow is a retired employee of Mueller, Limited. Mr. and Mrs. Muxlow are the parents of a daughter, Mrs. Lila McDougal, an employee in Department 14.

Morris Lester of Department 5 is a proud fellow these days, and rightly so. He and Mrs. Morris are the recent parents of a daughter, Janice Lynn.

Frank Petronski, Department 6, and Miss Eva Oreskovich were married on July 25.

Donald Whitely, Department 14, and Miss Norma Houghton were married on July 25.

July 11 was the wedding day for Emiel Crombeen, Department 2, and Miss Mary Warnez.

Kenneth Helps, Department 11, and Miss Phyllis Luckins were married on August 8.

Our sympathy is extended to T. Bert Brydges, Department 7, in the recent death of his wife.

W. Bert Campbell, purchasing agent, and Mrs. Campbell have returned from a trip to the Canadian Rockies and Northern United States. While in Calgary, they attended the Calgary Stampede.

Mrs. Almeda Reeve, Accounting Department, and party have returned from an interesting trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota. They attended the annual celebration of the discovery of gold at Custer. This two-day event consisted of a lengthy parade, rodeo and pageant. At Deadwood, they attended the annual celebration of the "Days of '76."

## Chattanooga

EVELYN WILBANKS, Correspondent

On Thursday, July 24, the entire Mueller Co. gang gathered in the Machine Shop and presented O. E. Walker a beautiful wrist watch as a going away present. The gift was presented by Jack Malone of the Production Control Department. Although Mr. Walker is now in Decatur, we still claim him as our own and will look forward to his visits to Chattanooga. We wish for him lots of success and happiness in his new job.

The Foreman's Club was host at a dinner party in Mr. Walker's honor on Tuesday evening, July 21, 1953, at the Maypole Restaurant. A handsome brief case was presented to the honoree. Outside guests included Mr. W. D. Spears, the company attorney, Mr. Floyd Johnson and Mr. Ray DeWeese, salesman.

Luther O'Neal, of the Maintenance Dept., recently underwent an operation.

Ruben Skipper is now back at work after recuperating from a knee operation.

C. E. Cooper, foreman of the Shipping Department, retired July 31, 1953. Mr. Cooper had been with the company since 1934 and as a going away gift he was presented a gift certificate by fellow employees.

Several of our employees are proud fathers of new arrivals, and a few of them are:

Kenneth Jones, a daughter on July 19.  
Charlie Lee Jackson, a daughter on July 17.

Paul C. Mason, a daughter on July 11.  
Charlie Freeman, a son on July 24.

Charlie Vaughn, a daughter on July 6.  
Burton Cantrell, a son on June 26.

David C. Collins, a son on June 15.

Edgar Bryant, Jr., Foundry sand technician, and Miss Imogene Gilley were married June 14 at the East Ridge Church of God. After a wedding trip to Florida, Mr. and Mrs. Bryant are at home on Chamberlain Avenue.



Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Roarick are shown shortly after their wedding Sunday, August 4, in the Trinity Lutheran Church in Decatur. Mrs. Roarick is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Salogga. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence E. Roarick.

## JOINS MUELLER CO.

Alan Maurer joined Mueller Co. July 20 in the position of industrial engineer. Mr. Maurer's office is located in the Standards Department.

He formerly was associated with Albert Raymond and Associates, Inc.—Engineers of Chicago.

Mr. and Mrs. Maurer and three children Ruth Ann, 10, Lucille, 8, and John, 2, moved from Gary, Ind., to 5 First Drive, South Shores in Decatur, where they purchased a new home.

## HAKE-DERR

Miss Beverly Jean Hake, Tabulating Department, and Byron Lewis Derr were married March 14 in the Macon Street Church of God in Decatur. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Hake. Mr. Hake is supervisor of the Upkeep Stock and Order Department.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Derr, Cerro Gordo, and is employed by the A. E. Staley Manufacturing Co.

After a wedding trip to New Orleans, the couple returned to their residence, 630 East Lawrence Street.

# Otto Keil Retires After 25 Years with Mueller Co.

Otto C. Keil, Mueller Co. secretary, retired July 31 after 25 years service, but the beloved resident of Decatur has no intention of retiring from the everyday task of remaining a good citizen.

He is an officer or member of nine local and state organizations. In addition, he is an active member of the Decatur Club, the Y. M. C. A. and the First Baptist Church. He is a deacon of the church and teaches a men's Sunday School class.

Around the city, he is best known as president of the Board of Education. He has been a member of the Board for 18 years, and has been president for the past eight years. He is also president of the Salvation Army Advisory Board, vice-chairman of the City Planning Board and chairman of the City Planning Board of Appeals.

Mr. Keil is chairman of a sub-committee for the State Chamber of Commerce Education Committee. His committee is investigating the advisability of having a single commission control our state colleges. They hope to have a report ready for the State Legislature in the near future.

He is a member of the Educational Committees of the State Chamber of Commerce and the Decatur Association of Commerce. He also is a member of the Advisory Board on Education in Decatur and a member of the Playground and Recreation Committee for the city.

He is a past president of the Community Chest and has served on the Chest budget committee. He was chairman of the 1943 tuberculosis Christmas seal campaign. He wears a 30-year Boy Scout leader service pin and was the second scouter in the Lincoln Trails council to receive a silver beaver award.

Mr. Keil was first employed at the age of 15 as office boy for the Wabash railroad general office in St. Louis, the city in which he was born. He is proud of his record of being gainfully employed for 50 years.

He worked for the Wabash 13 years, becoming chief clerk in the auditing office. He later served with an investment securities firm in Detroit before and after service as an Army lieutenant in World War I.

In 1928, he joined Mueller Co. after having been recommended as the man to put a new system of cost accounting into operation.

His number one hobby is sailing and he plans to spend a lot of time relaxing in his sailboat on Lake Decatur.

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The man who has replaced Mr. Keil as secretary is C. Harry Martin, an accountant and auditor with the firm since 1946. A native of Robinson, Ill., Mr. Martin was graduated from Millikin University in 1941. He was a member of Delta Sigma Phi Social Fraternity and the Alpha

Omega Honorary Fraternity. He was a varsity football player.

He served as a first lieutenant in the Air Force for three and one-half years during World War II, and spent 25 months in the Aleutian Islands and Alaska.

He was employed by the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States in Indianapolis prior to military service, and in 1946 he returned to that organization as assistant cashier in the Cincinnati office.

Mr. Martin joined our company in November, 1946, in the Decatur accounting department, and later was an internal auditor traveling to all company plants. He was made general auditor in July, 1952.

#### **KUHN DAUGHTER IMPROVED**

The condition of Jeanie Kuhn, daughter of Lt. Comdr. and Mrs. Gene Kuhn, who was stricken with polio in both legs on July 10, is "improved," according to word from Mrs. Kuhn, now in Japan.

Lt. Commander Kuhn is former editor of the MUELLER RECORD.

Otto C. Keil, who retired as Mueller Co. secretary after 25 years service with our firm, bids farewell to his successor, C. Harry Martin, and to Mueller Co. shortly before driving away from the office for the final time.



# New 42-inch Bullard Installed

A new 42-inch Bullard machine, designed to speed up production by taking a bigger bite into material, is now in operation in Specialty Department 70.

The machine was purchased in order that larger gas and oil goods such as gate valves and larger fittings could be produced with a minimum amount of time and effort.

Clarence C. Roarick, vice president in charge of Decatur factories, pointed out that the machine is not a replacement, but rather an addition to the department. Previously, a 36-inch Bullard, still in operation, was used for this type work. However, with the company going into larger gas and oil fittings, it became apparent that a larger Bullard would have to be installed.

Meanwhile, the 36-inch Bullard will

continue to do its share by handling most smaller jobs, and quite possibly will be called upon to do larger cuttings, should the 42-inch be tied up on a heavy assignment.

Unlike the mechanically operated 36-inch Bullard, the 42-inch Bullard is electric and hydraulic in operation. Hugh Kerwood, longtime operator of the 36-inch, has now learned to operate the 42-inch. He says working on the larger Bullard is much easier than operating the 36-inch.

Installation of the new machine proved to be quite a task, but our millwrights accomplished the job in their usual fine fashion. For the 25-ton machine, it was necessary to dig a hole four feet deep and pour in 12 yards of concrete for the Bullard's foundation.

Hugh Kerwood, left, operator of our new 42-inch Bullard machine, prepares for a "bite" in a heavy piece of material. Observing the operation is George E. Hartwig, foreman of Specialty Department 70.

