

Published by and for the Employees of the

## MUELLER CO.

Editor, Walter H. Dyer  
DECATUR, ILLINOIS MAY, 1954

### In This Issue:

- 42 pictures and stories giving an inside view of our Chattanooga Plant.
- High School Graduates (Sarnia will appear in August issue)
- Final bowling results at Decatur and Los Angeles.
- Personal chatter from each plant



William H. Hipsher (left), executive vice-president of Mueller Co., and Mrs. Hipsher were wished a bon voyage by President A. G. Webber, Jr., and Leo Wiant, administrative vice-president, as Mr. and Mrs. Hipsher boarded the Wabash Bluebird on May 6 for a six-week European journey. Mr. Hipsher is one of the 175-member U.S. delegation to the second international conference of manufacturers in Paris, France, May 23-25.

### Dern Yankee

Wayne Heyer, who left Decatur earlier this year to become plant controller at Chattanooga, is now convinced that Southern Hospitality is everything you hear it is—but he had a shaky start.

He tells this story.

On his first day to the city, he parked his car downtown and stepped to the sidewalk.

A young cowboy about seven years old took one look at the Illinois license, reached for his water gun, and drew. After drilling Wayne thoroughly, the youngster walked off dejectedly. "Criminy," he said. "Another Yankee."

## Dolores Johnson Is Contest Winner

### MAIN CONNECTIONS!

That's it. The name of this newspaper is Main Connections, a title chosen over 289 names that were submitted by 66 employees who represent all four Mueller Co. plants.

The creator of the name is Dolores Johnson of Decatur. She is secretary to Traffic Manager J. A. Staudt. Main Connections was one of five thought-provoking titles submitted by Miss Johnson, whose winning name was chosen by unanimous vote of the judges.

It was not known who submitted the winning name until after judges had picked the winner.

Here's how the judging took place. Four employees were appointed by the Manufacturing Committee at Decatur to judge the contest. They were Cecil Coffin, personnel director; R. K. Duncan, tool engineer; Jim Cusins, catalog department; and Walter H. Dyer, editor.

As the suggested names arrived, they were given to Mrs. Shirley Spitzer, secretary to O. E. Walker, vice president and works manager. Mrs. Spitzer allowed no one to see the names. When the deadline for submitting names was past, she typed four complete lists of the names. The lists DID NOT include the name of the sender nor the plant from which the suggestion came.

Judges met and each was given a list of the 289 names. They took the lists home, studied them carefully and each chose the ten names he liked best.

When they met again any name on a judge's list of ten which was not on the list of at least one other judge was automatically eliminated. Through such elimination, the list was eventually cut to six names.

For final voting, each judge listed the six names in the order of preference with six points going to a first place vote, five to the second and so on. On the first vote, Main Connections was



DOLORES JOHNSON  
She wins \$\$\$

chosen in first place on the ballot of each judge.

It is interesting to note that of the final six names, two were submitted by Decatur employees, two from Chattanooga, one from Los Angeles and one from Sarnia.

The chief merit of the name, Main Connections, which is replacing the inside issue of the Mueller Record, is that it serves the very purpose desired in a company publication. First, it fits our products as nearly as possible. Everything we manufacture in both the gas and water line of products is in some way connected to a main. Secondly, the purpose of this publication is to serve as the connecting point for communication between the four plants and between management and employees. It is in the true sense, the Main Connections of our company.

Miss Johnson, for having submitted the winning name, will receive a check for \$25. It should be pointed out that although the name has been selected rights are reserved to change the name, should a better choice be made in the future.

## Chattanooga Trainee Plan Results Seen

A foreman training program established at Chattanooga in 1945 when nine ex-G.I.s were named as understudies to regular foremen today is paying off with a young, aggressive and well trained organization.

Proof of the success of this program is that five of the original nine are now serving as heads of departments. Two of that group are the plant's general foremen, both of whom serve on the plant's Management Committee.

Object of the program is to prepare a replacement for a foreman when the time arrives for his retirement or have a man ready to replace him should the foreman be further advanced in the company.

When the plan first was placed into effect, the trainees were voted into the Foreman's Club and were recognized throughout the plant as holding the position of foreman trainee. Each man took an active part in the Foreman's Club and other such functions from the start. Considerable time was spent with each trainee on an individual basis by local management. These men felt that they could come to management at any time for consultation. There was never any friction between foremen and foremen trainees.

Each foreman trainee was selected by local management on the individual's past history, his education, practical experience, service record and personality.

Today, the majority of all Chattanooga departments is operating with a foreman and foreman trainee. The program has existed and proved to be beneficial during the past nine years.

## Harrison Myers' Specialty Is Building Large Valves

One of the many specialists at the Chattanooga plant is Harrison Myers who for the past five years has been charged with the responsibility of assembling all large valves sold by our company.

He has the assistance of several helpers whom he may call upon at any time, but it is Myers who is responsible for the final product. His skill in building large valves is attested by the fact that his percentage loss on tests of his assembled valves is extremely small.

In the photo, Myers stands beside two 42-inch valves he has just built. The picture was taken prior to the time the valves were tested and painted for shipment. Each valve shown weighs 12,652 pounds. These valves are bevel

geared with grease case and a bottom by-pass which isn't installed until the valve is tested and on its side. A by-pass is a six-inch valve placed on the bottom of the large valve to equalize pressure which will enable workmen to operate the larger valve. By-passes are installed prior to shipment of the valves which are placed in the ground on their side, not standing upright as shown in the photo.

Harrison Myers is one of the few men around today who were with the Columbian Iron Works in 1933 when Mueller Co. purchased that plant. He first was employed on August 5, 1918, as a foundry inspector. In December, 1934, he was transferred to the Assembly Department and has been assembling valves and hydrants since that time.

Our Chattanooga plant makes one valve larger than the one shown in this picture. We also manufacture a 48-inch valve.



Harrison Myers,  
Valve Assembler

## Plant Vacation Periods Set

The periods during which our factories will be closed for vacation have been announced. Both the Sales Division and Shipping Departments of all factories will remain at normal strength during the vacation period so that service to our customers will not be interrupted.

Factories at Decatur, Sarnia, and Los Angeles will close. The Chattanooga plant will not close

for the vacation period this year and employees will take vacations at scheduled times throughout the vacation period. Others will close as follows.

Decatur—Plant will close Thursday evening, July 1 and will re-open Monday, July 12.

Los Angeles—Plant will be closed the week of July 25.

Sarnia—Plant will be closed two weeks beginning July 26 and re-opening August 9.



**ODIE WALKER, JR., GENERAL FOREMAN**

Born October 31, 1922, in Decatur, Illinois . . . graduate of Centralia, Missouri, High School . . . attended Rolla, Missouri, School of Mines . . . studied extension courses in industrial management from University of Tennessee . . . served with Navy during World War II . . . held civil service job at San Pedro, California, nine months after Navy discharge . . . moved to Chattanooga and in October, 1946, became personnel director for Chattanooga Implement and Manufacturing Co. . . left in May, 1948, for job as time study engineer with Mueller Co. . . later promoted to standards engineer . . . today is general foreman of Machining and Finishing Division . . . married, has three sons.



**J. H. WALL, PLANT MANAGER . . .**

Born in Danville, Illinois, September 14, 1907 . . . graduate of Danville High School . . . joined Mueller Co. in Decatur October, 1925, working night shift in polishing room . . . moved to Tool Room, later became clerk in Plumbing Division . . . promoted to Main Office in accounting . . . transferred to Chattanooga January 4, 1937, as accountant and paymaster . . . became assistant secretary of the then Columbian Iron Works in December, 1944 . . . later advanced to position of plant controller and assistant to the vice president in charge of the plant . . . promoted to plant manager in August, 1953 . . . married, no children



**COY JONES, GENERAL FOREMAN . . .**

Born June 6, 1923, at Pisgah, Alabama . . . joined Mueller Co. in Chattanooga Iron Foundry in March, 1942 . . . left December, 1943, for Army service . . . returned to Mueller Co. in April, 1946, after discharge from Army and employed as foreman trainee in Iron Foundry . . . was named assistant foundry foreman in August, 1948, and in June, 1950, was again promoted, this time to assistant general foreman of Foundry Division . . . in November, 1953, he was advanced to the number one spot in the division, general foreman of the Foundry Division . . . married, has one child . . . member Chattanooga Kiwanis Club, Industrial Personnel Club and American Foundry Society.



**W. A. COVENTRY, ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER . . .**

Born at Findlay, Illinois, in 1903 . . . graduated from Findlay High School . . . moved to Decatur in 1922 and worked in meat market one year . . . joined Mueller Co. in 1923 in Assembly Department where he assembled plumbing and water distribution products . . . advanced to Sales Division in 1926 as junior sales representative in Oklahoma and Northern Texas . . . made product demonstration tour in western part of United States . . . in 1929 was named assistant sales manager, Dallas branch . . . returned to Decatur in 1933 and in 1937 was transferred to Chattanooga as first assistant to assistant sales manager . . . promoted to assistant sales manager in 1945.

## These Men Head Plant Operations At Chattanooga

*The eight men shown on this page are at the top of the table or organization for our Chattanooga plant. It is these men who coordinate the activities of the plant and upon whose shoulders the responsibility of the plant rests.*

*Every man on this page has worked his way through the ranks of our company. As an example, our plant manager, J. H. Wall, began on the night shift in Decatur's polishing room.*

*Two of the men are products of a foremen's training program that began just nine years ago. Today, both men are general foremen.*

*They understand the worker and his problems. They have, for most of the years of their career with Mueller Co., experienced these same problems.*

*Most employees will agree, we believe, that these men still are meeting and solving problems, and the chances are that those problems are greater now than at any time during their climb up the company ladder.*



**WAYNE HEYER, PLANT CONTROLLER . . .**

Born October 15, 1914, at Fisher, Illinois . . . graduated from high school and attended the University of Illinois where he studied accounting . . . has taken additional courses in accounting by correspondence . . . spent 12 years in factory and cost analysis and system work before joining Mueller Co. at Decatur in 1948 as cost accountant . . . promoted to assistant plant controller at Decatur in 1951 and held that position until March 1, 1954, when he was named plant controller at Chattanooga plant . . . in Decatur, he designed new cost system now being put into effect . . . married and has four children.



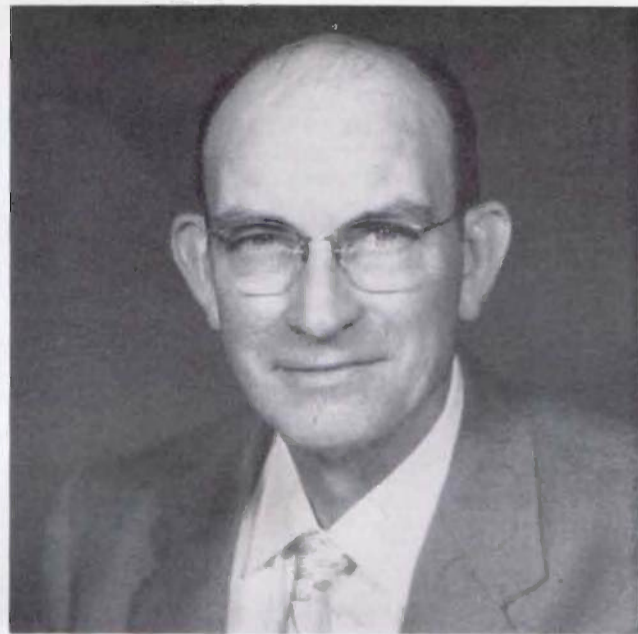
**JOHN MARION ECKMAN, CHIEF ENGINEER . . .**

Born June 26, 1903, at Springfield, Illinois . . . joined Mueller Co. at Decatur in autumn of 1925 after graduation from high school . . . first employed as electrician, but later was named to watchman's job . . . transferred to Chattanooga on January 16, 1934, as maintenance foreman . . . promoted to foreman of Machine Shop in March, 1937, but returned to Decatur's Plant 2 shortly after start of World War II . . . returned to Chattanooga in May, 1943, and was appointed chief engineer . . . has held that position since then . . . married and has one daughter.



**HOMER J. VAN VLEET, PRODUCTION CONTROL MANAGER . . .**

Born October 5, 1898, in Atwood, Illinois . . . graduate of Atwood High School . . . started with Mueller Co. in Decatur as receiving clerk in April, 1923 . . . assigned to Production Control Department in 1924 as order drum clerk . . . advanced rapidly, becoming assistant production control manager and later production control manager of Decatur's Plumbing Division . . . in 1934 was transferred to Chattanooga plant as production control manager . . . has seen this department grow from one man and three girls to present size of four men and eight girls . . . married and has three married sons . . . two are in the service.



**CHARLES ERNEST CAMPBELL, CHIEF INSPECTOR AND SERVICE ENGINEER . . .**

Born November 20, 1900, in Walker County, Georgia . . . joined Mueller Co. in Chattanooga in May, 1919, as assembler in Assembly Department . . . made working supervisor of Assembly Department in January, 1934, and on March 1, 1934, was promoted to foreman of Assembly Department . . . held this position until June, 1950, and during this period saw production in the plant increase many times . . . was advanced to chief inspector and service engineer for the Chattanooga plant in June, 1950 . . . serves as trouble shooter for entire plant . . . inspects products before and after testing.

# This Is Your Chattanooga Edition

This issue of MAIN CONNECTIONS was designed to acquaint employees throughout Mueller Co. and Mueller, Limited, with our plant at Chattanooga.

Although we realize it is impossible to introduce all of our more than 500 employees

through pictures and stories, an effort was made to show as many as possible. The result is that you are reading a newspaper that perhaps might be more closely linked with a picture magazine.

We have approached this goal in three directions: (1) Top

management at Chattanooga has been introduced with a picture and brief history of their career with the company; (2) The path of an order received by our Sales Division has been followed throughout the plant until it is shipped to our customer. This, of course, is a hypothetical case,

but either a hydrant or valve, our two major products made at Chattanooga, would follow such a course; (3) We are presenting a number of well-known employees in separate features, and in addition we have included pictures and stories about some of our new equipment that has

been part of the company's recent expansion program.

Obviously, space doesn't permit us to tell in great detail the operation of each department. Therefore, the product story on pages three, four, five and six briefly tells what is taking place.



Products manufactured and sold by our Chattanooga plant originate in the Sales Division where an order is received from a municipality, contractor, jobber or industrial plant. When an order arrives, it is first checked for credit and then interpreted. After being written up, the order is distributed to several points in the plant so that manufacture and shipment may be accomplished as soon as possible. Members of the Chattanooga Sales Division are: standing, left to right, W. A. (Chuck) Coventry, assistant sales manager; Ione Mulkey, Geneva Combs, Irene Manley, Doris Skiles, Frank Puffer, Nadine McCaullie and Glenda Wilson. Seated, left to right, are Beatrice Vaughn, Ronald Rogers,

Beatrice Compton, Jane Keeton and Louise Procton. Not pictured is Frank Kelllett, assistant to Mr. Coventry. In the photograph at right, the Chattanooga plant's Engineering Division pauses while their picture is made. Their many duties include such assignments, as checking all specifications when a question on a customer's order arises and making product drawings. From the front, left to right, Mary O'Kelley, draftsman; Dolores Hughes, clerk; Leonard Moore, draftsman; W. R. Davis, products and sales engineer, and O. E. Brown, developing engineer.



If the designing of new tools and fixtures is necessary, the Engineering Division passes on the information to Tool Engineer R. W. Lusk whose department handles the problem. Standing, left to right (in the photo at left), are J. M. Eckman, chief engineer; Johnny McFadden, draftsman, and R. W. Lusk, tool engineer. When all preliminaries are completed, the Sales Division sends the customer's order to the Production Control Department. Homer Van Vleet is production control manager. His assistant is Jack Malone. Clerks are Jim

Tolbert and Wheeler Cage. A staff of eight girls help keep records posted, record production records and perpetual inventories. Production Control notifies the foundry and core room as to what product to make and they inform the Purchasing Department as to what parts to purchase. Shown above in the department's office are, front to rear and left to right, Lois Trotter, Martha Farley, Augazell Stone, H. J. Van Vleet, Jack Malone, Grace Matlard, Laura Tant and Pauline Dutto.



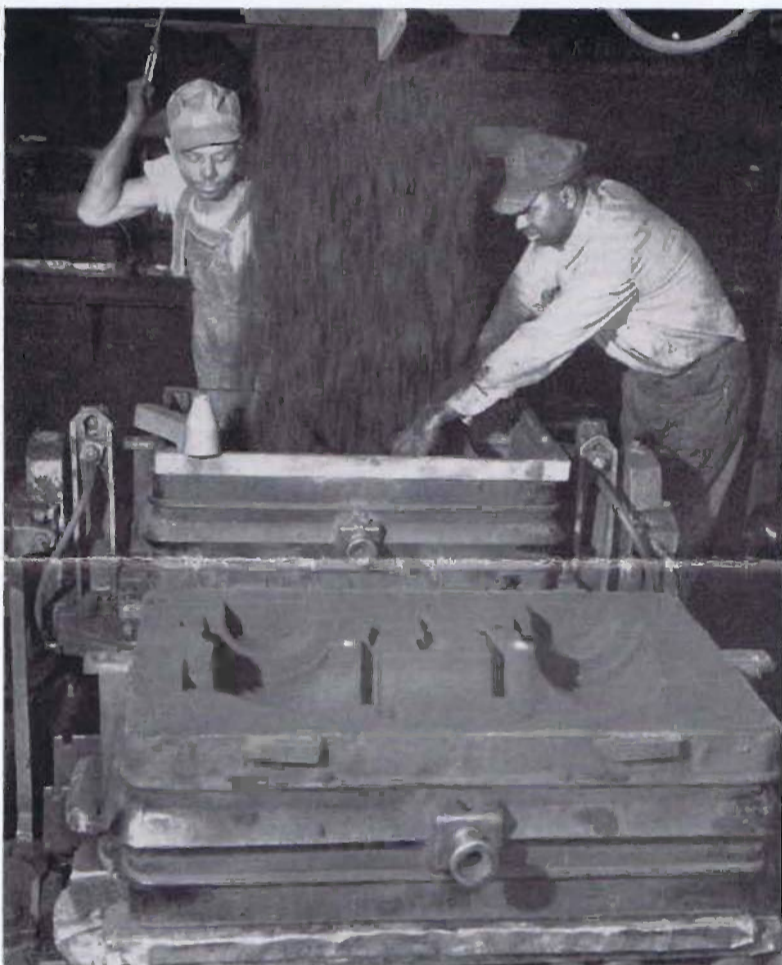
All capital expense items including raw materials and purchased parts necessary for the manufacture and production of our products are purchased through our Chattanooga plant's Purchasing Department. Members of the department are shown in the photo at left. Jack Barker, purchasing agent, is standing. Members of his staff are Jean Mavity, Gladys Weaver and Katherine Gann. The photo at right shows the start of what is the first step made after the product order is released from Production Control to the Foundry Division.

The pattern and core box are taken from storage, checked and issued to the Core Room by the Pattern Shop. The picture at the right shows Billy Andrews, left, and Roy Smith, right, checking the pattern under the supervision of Hugh Churchill, Pattern Shop foreman. In the foreground, three other pattern makers are at work. They are, left to right, Dick Anderson, John Graves and John Howard.



The picture at the left shows one of our large core blowers in the Chattanooga plant's Core Room. Hood Langley, right, Core Room foreman, checks the core that John Allen has just blown. This core weighs approximately 45 pounds and is blown in one piece. A blown core means that sand is blown under air pressure into the core box and forms the design of the particular core box. The sand is baked and cleaned and made ready for the molder. Blown cores weigh up to 60 pounds. Cores weighing over 60 pounds are made by hand or they are bumped. Cores made in Chattanooga's Core Room range from a few ounces to

about 7,000 pounds. The core in this photo is a six-inch hub-end valve body. The photo at right shows our brass foundry which is housed in a new, well lighted and ventilated building. Though our principal items are made from cast iron, we use brass or brass lining for working parts in order to keep the movable parts from rusting. Left to right are James Brown holding the shank, LeRoy Hampton, molder pouring his own mold, and Brass Foundry Foreman Clyde Slater skimming the brass. The brass is cleaned and ground in the Brass Foundry and then sent to the Machine Shop for machining.



## Where Credit Is Due . . .

The editor would like to thank publicly all the fine people at Chattanooga who cooperated in helping him gather and compile information for this special Chattanooga issue.

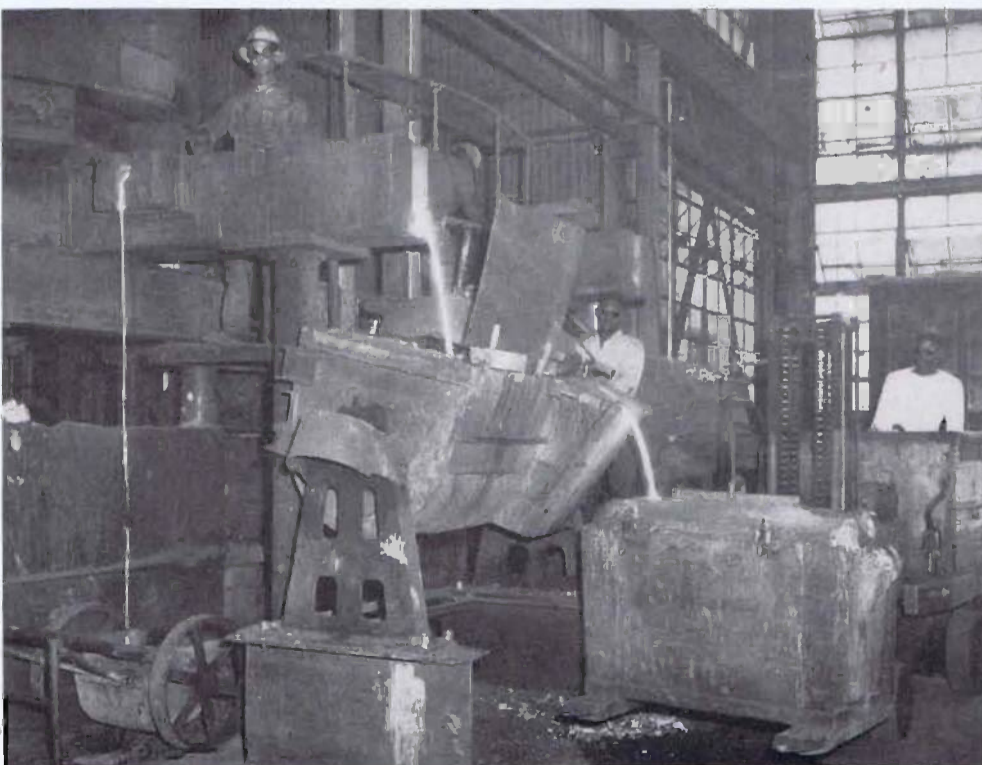
To all the employees who gave their time while posing for photographs and who offered helpful information, we are deeply grateful. Thanks are due O. E. Walker, vice president and works manager, and J. H. Watt, plant manager, for their advice and assistance, and to Coy Jones, general foreman of the Foundry Division, and Evelyn Wilbanks, personnel assistant.

A special note of thanks, however, must go to Odie Walker, Jr., general foreman of the Machine Shop, who worked directly with the editor in arranging for pictures and who spent the most of a week explaining various operations in the plant and suggesting feature stories.

Without the help provided by Odie, Jr., this issue would not have been possible.

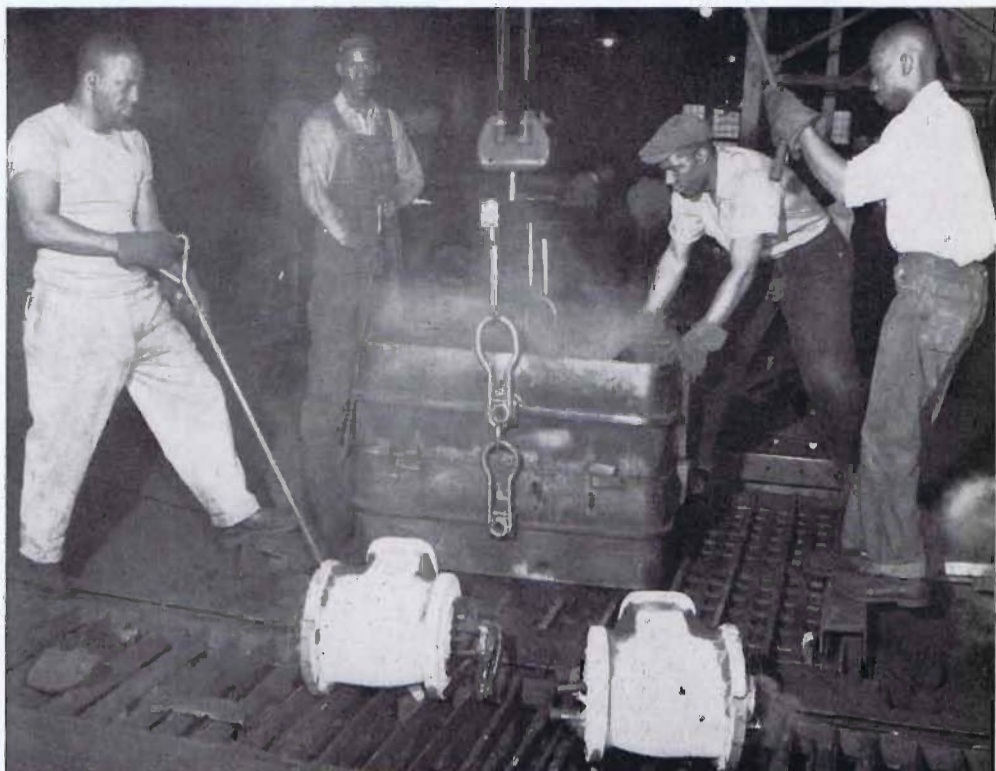
In the Iron Foundry we mold by squeezers, tabor, stripping plate, floor molding and 4,000 pound and 1,500 pound Herman Rollover machines. The photo at left shows molders Marvin Davis, left, and Ulysses Read filling the cope half of the mold on a 1,500 pound Herman Rollover.

machine. Also shown is the half that they have just finished. At right, three 4,000 pound Herman Rollover machines are shown with two molders butting off the cope of the mold. Molders are Charley Kyle, left, and Clifford Thorton, right, with Group Leader Au'ta Fant looking on.



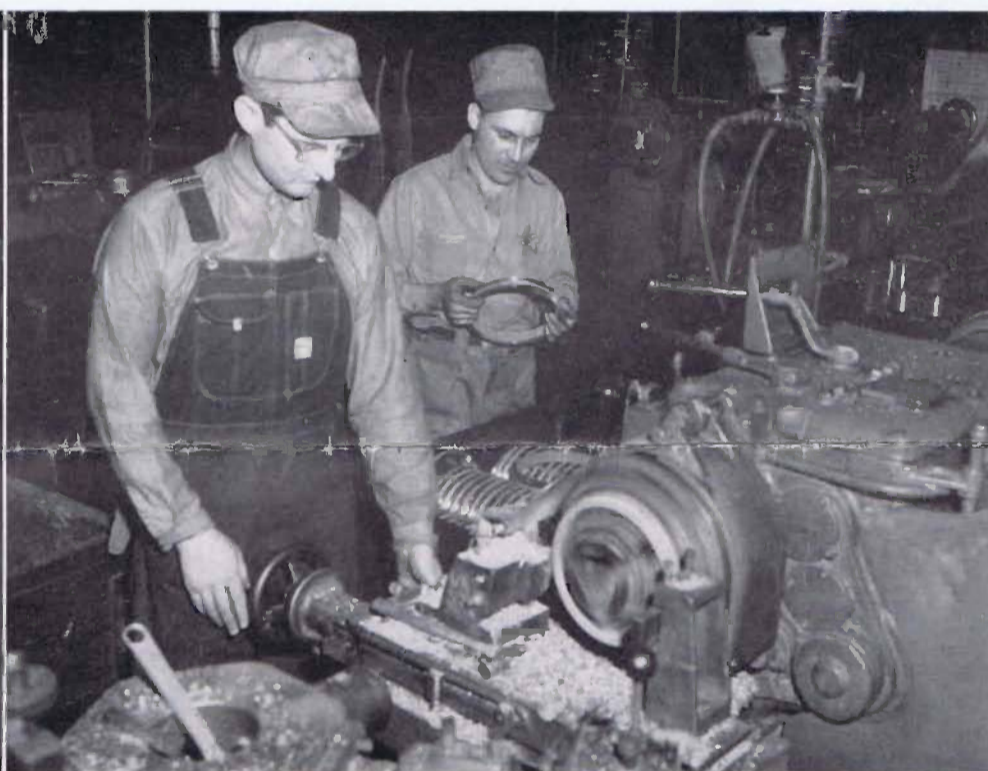
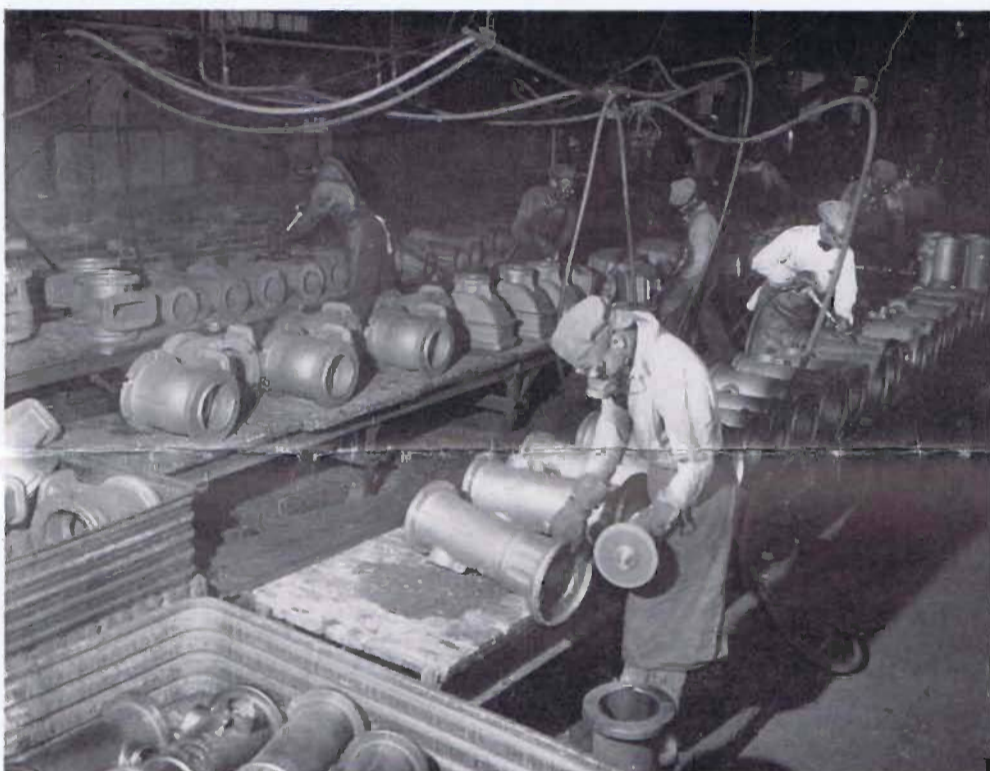
Our Chattanooga plant has two new 72-inch cupolas which alternate in operation. They are used on alternate days with one in use while the other is repaired and made ready for the following day. We employ a continuous pouring operation beginning at 8:15 a.m. and continuing through 5:30 p.m. The photo at left shows Murphy Paris, cupola tender, Marvin

Brooks, in background, repairing cupola for next day's operations, and Jimmy Readus pouring into the ladle which is driven by Charlie Jackson. At right, Iron Pourer Chester Mason pours with a Yale fork-lift truck from a 2,000 pound capacity ladle.



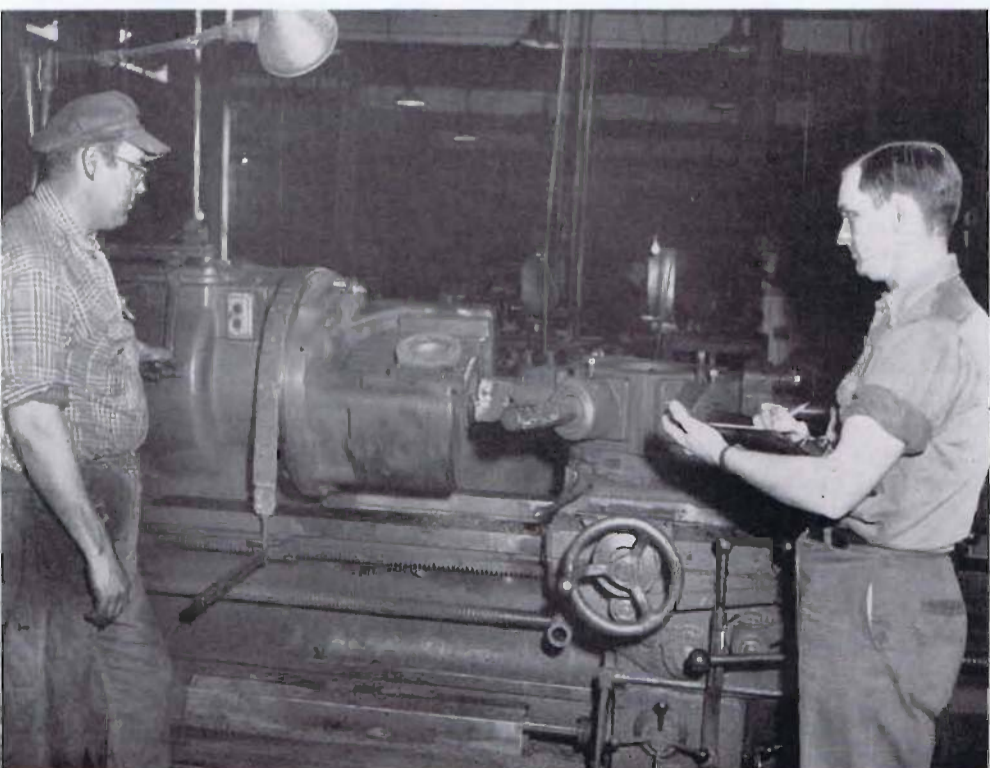
With a tremendous vibration, the sand is removed from the casting and mold in an operation known as the shakeout. The action shown at left is technically known as a simplicity shakeout. When the shakeout goes into action, it vibrates and causes the sand and casting to fall out. The sand drops from the flask through the grating of the shakeout onto a conveyor. It is carried to the sand system for remixing. The castings are placed on a conveyor and taken to the cleaning room to be cooled and cleaned. Operators, left to right, are Ed Nelson, Hunter Cody, Leslie Hill and Eugene Matheson. After the casting is shaken out and conveyed to the cleaning room, the core is removed by a core knock out machine and the

castings are run through the Pangborn cleaning machine which is shown at right. Castings in the Pangborn bucket on their way up into the machine have just left the core knock out machine. Castings in the tray have just come from inside the Pangborn. You will notice the difference in appearance of the two groups of castings. Inside the Pangborn, the cleaning operation takes place by steel shot smaller than BB shot being thrown at the castings at a terrific force while the castings are rolled over and over. The operator at the left is Jeb Thorton. The two men loading are Mitchell Love, left, and Henry McKibben. From the Pangborn, the castings are sent to the cleaning and grinding production line.



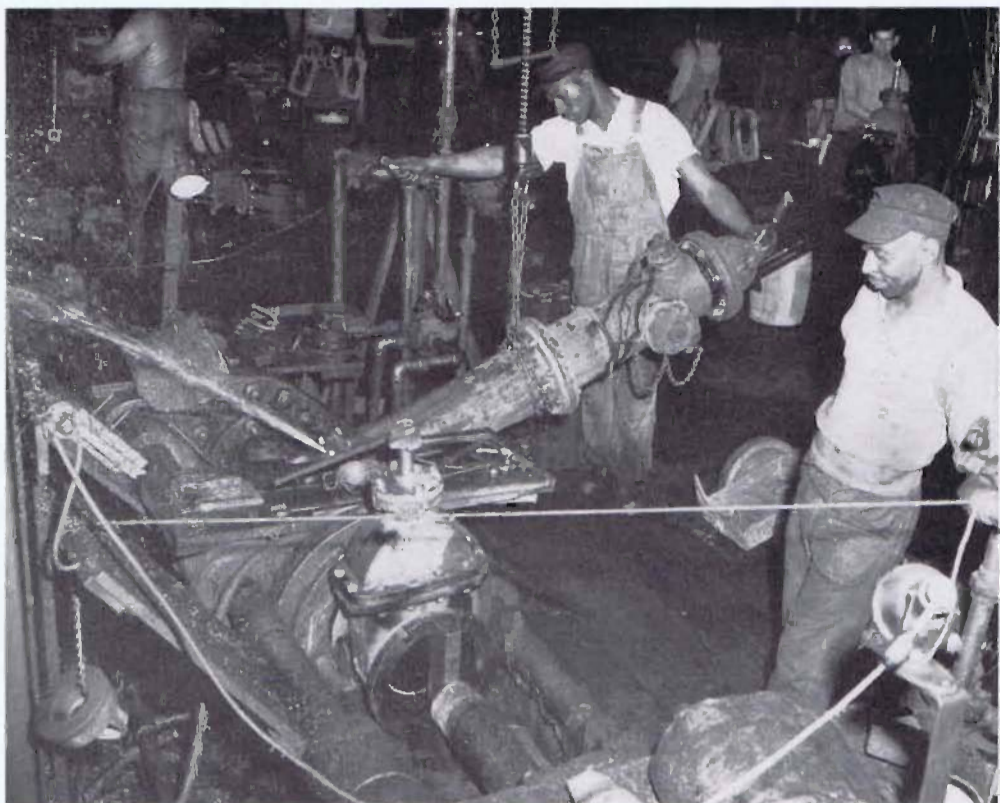
When castings leave the Pangborn, they are taken to the cleaning and grinding production line where workmen grind and chip the rough parts from the castings. In the photo at left on the first conveyor from the wall is Mitchell Robinson. Second conveyor, left to right, are Booker Toney and Dewey Careuthers. Third conveyor, front to back, are Oliver Hines, Izear Tyous, Mitchell Foster and Willy McCurdy. All are chippers and grinders. Men in the background are (at table) John Harp, training foreman, and Gable Tony, trucker. After the casting has been cleared by the Foundry Division, of which Coy Jones is general foreman, it is then machined and prepared for assembly. Odie E. Walker, Jr., is general foreman of

the machine, assembling and finishing and shipping departments. Due to the similarity of the machining of all our valves, we are only showing the procedure for machining iron and brass. Three solid shifts are operated in the Machine Shop with Leslie Higdon, foreman day shift; Ben Roy, foreman second shift, and Wilbur Irwin, foreman third shift. The photo at left shows machine operator Curtis Bartlett machining a valve brass seat ring while Foreman Leslie Higdon inspects a finished ring. Two brass rings are assembled in the iron valve body, thus providing a brass seat in the valve body.



The 3-L Gisholt turret lathe in the photo at left is machining a small valve body. The machine operator is Walter Kent. Observing the operation at the right of the valve body is Stanley B. Kuhne, standards engineer at our Chattanooga plant, who is taking a time study of the operation. The purpose of the time study is to arrive at a production rate for the operator and to provide our Cost Department information needed in determining the production cost of the product. The photo at right shows six of our valve builders at work in the Assembly Department. They are, left to right, Charles Snyder, James Grant, Gene Gann, Milton Miller, Smith Wooden and Paul Hinkle. The Assembly Department operates two shifts

daily. Jack Moss is day shift foreman. Lem Warren is assistant day shift foreman and Joe Gibson is second shift foreman. Our products must meet various specifications to fit the needs of our customers. There are several pipe connections on our valves such as the hub end, flanged end, universal end, mechanical joint end and valve opening either to the right or the left. Since orders specify one of these several pipe connections, it is necessary that finished parts for valves be stocked in the Assembly Department and built as per customer's orders and specifications.



Once assembled, valves and hydrants are tested and must meet American Water Works Association and underwriter specifications before being released for painting. The photo at left shows James Owens testing a fire hydrant while Willie Gunn tests a valve. There's a reason for that stream of water escaping from the hydrant. The hydrant is first filled with water. After the water pressure test, the valve on the hydrant is closed thus causing the water remaining in the hydrant barrel to automatically drain out through two drain holes at

the hydrant's base. The purpose of this draining procedure is to prevent water from standing in the hydrant after it has been in operation. The danger of water remaining in the barrel is apparent, especially in the winter when it probably would freeze. After they are tested, our products are spray painted in the manner shown in the photo at right. Hydrants are painted by hand according to customer specifications. Here, Lucius Jones is spray painting a tapping sleeve. Luther Hill is waiting to remove the sprayed material to the warehouse for shipping.

# Here Our Products Are Prepared For Shipment

## Chattanooga Guard Force Is Made Up of Four Men

Four men comprise our guard force at the Chattanooga plant. Three guards work a regular five-day week and a fourth man who handles the swing shift works six days.

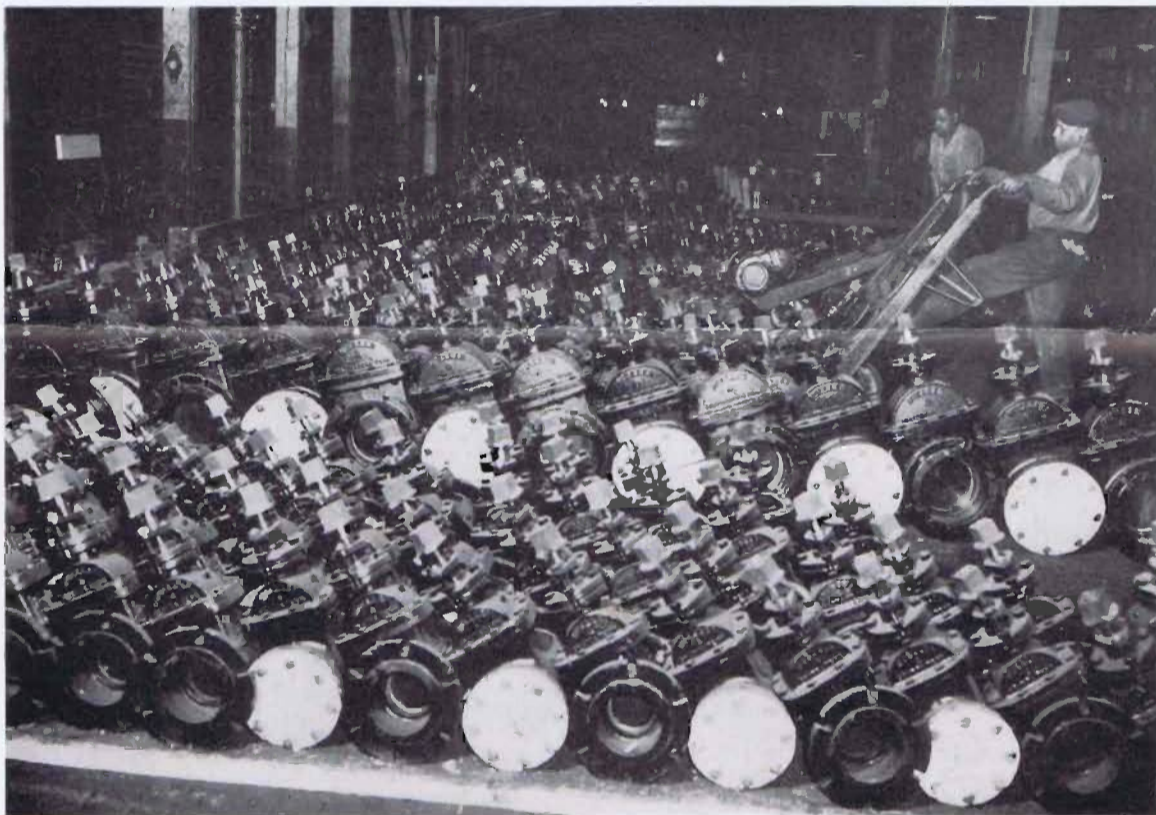
Guards are John M. Tate, Herman Childress, Ray Jackson and H. T. Foster.

Tate works the day shift from 6 a. m. to 3 p. m. Childress is on the second shift working from 3 p. m. to 1 a. m. and Jackson has the third shift working from 10 p. m. to 7 a. m. Foster has the swing shift and works each man's shift twice.

The schedule is arranged so as to have two guards on duty from 10 p. m. to 1 a. m. and 6 a. m. to 7 a. m.

Duties of the day-shift guard differs from others in that he does not make regular rounds through the plant. This, of course, is not necessary during the day shift since every department is in operation. All others make regular rounds except the swing shift man when he relieves Tate.

Tate issues gasoline, checks workers' badges and keeps order on the grounds.



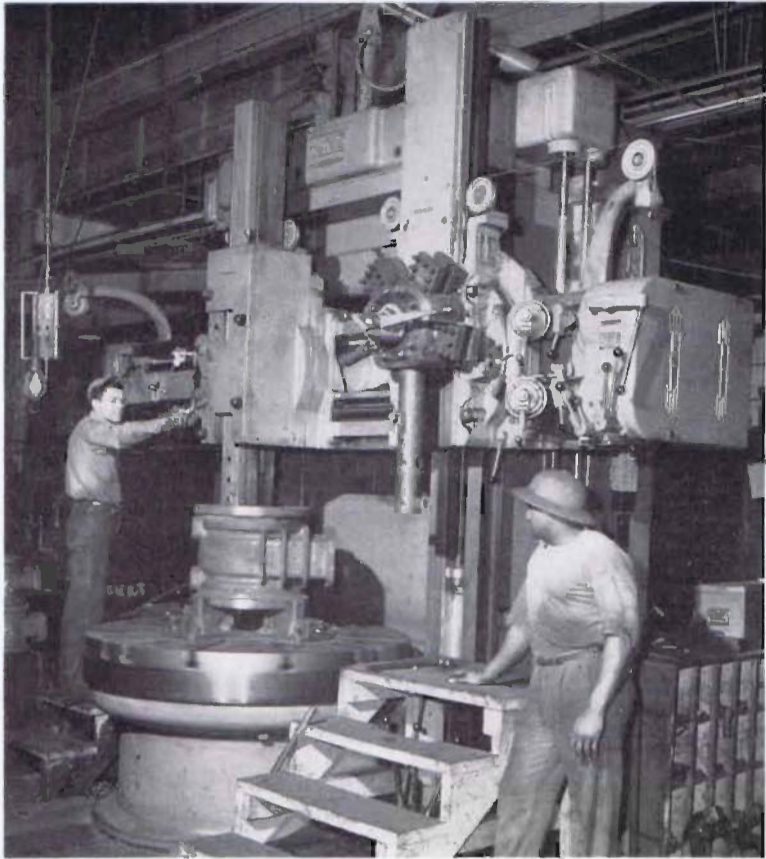
This is a view of our warehouse at the Chattanooga plant. Valves, hydrants and other products manufactured at Chattanooga are stored here while waiting shipment to our customers located in every state and abroad. This impressive view was taken while warehousemen were loading the valves shown above for shipment. The two warehousemen at work are Will D. Moore, left, and Herston Russell.

Shipping Clerk Raymond Baker records a shipment of hydrants being loaded by John Simmons, left, and Charley Boston. Hydrants are placed on one of our new trailers which will carry them to the railroad terminal for shipment. The Shipping Department is supervised by Foreman Roy Hollingsworth. His assistants are shipping clerks Baker and Ray Claridy. The Receiving Department is taken care of by Gene Fredericks.



Now that the product is enroute to our customer, it is necessary to supply our Sales Division with cost information on all orders shipped. Employees must be paid, and general accounting of all company business must be performed. These three tasks fall to Plant Controller Wayne Heyer and three departments under his supervision, cost, payroll and general accounting, which are shown above. In addition, Alice Tribble is at the switchboard. Alice is the plant's official switchboard operator and handles both inside and outside calls. Others in the photo are, from left to right, Carolyn Gilliam, Helen Ramsey, James Potter, Lucille Smith, Gene Racz, Wayne Heyer, Marguerite Barker, Phyllis McDonald and Virginia Pars.

## 60-Inch Boring Mill Speeds Up Work Done by Bullards



John W. Hixon, Jr., left, operates the lever which controls the machining of an iron valve body. James Penny, Hixon's helper, is at the right. The machine is the King Vertical Boring Mill at our Chattanooga plant.

In an effort to relieve the pressure of orders and to reduce the machining time spent with larger valves, a 60-inch King Vertical Boring Mill was installed in our Chattanooga plant in December, 1952.

The King Vertical does the same work as our Bullard machines; however, it speeds up machining time on larger equipment. It does boring, threading and facing operations on 14 through 30-inch valve bodies and small sluice gates. Before it was purchased our other Bullards were loaded to capacity at all

times and unable to maintain the required pace of operations.

Valve bodies 36 through 48 inches are machined on a 16-foot vertical boring mill.

John W. Hixon, Jr., is the day shift operator of the King Vertical Boring Mill. His helper is James Penny.

Raymond Bible operates the King Vertical on the second shift. Both Hixon and Bible were Bullard operators prior to taking over the King Vertical. Both men had to be specially trained for the job.

## Shipping Department Gets New Vehicles and Ramp



Two drivers and the Shipping Department Foreman stand by one of Chattanooga's new trailers and the Ford tractor. The company's station wagon is at left. Another firm's truck is at right. Roy Hollingsworth, foreman, is in the center. Drivers are Melvin Conner, left, and Charley Boston.

With the volume of products ordered from our Chattanooga plant increasing almost daily, it became necessary last November to enlarge our shipping facilities to keep pace with business growth.

A new ramp was built that month which gave our Shipping Department considerably more work space. In addition, four new vehicles were purchased. These included a two-ton Ford tractor, two 24-foot Nabor trailers and a two-ton Ford dump truck with a Marion dump body. The old Federal dump truck was traded for the new Ford and a Federal stake-body flat bed truck

was traded for the new tractor and two trailers.

The new transportation was purchased so that a shuttle system could be placed into effect. While one trailer is carrying a load of products to the railroad station or some other shipping point, the second trailer usually is being loaded.

Roy Hollingsworth, Shipping Department foreman, says the new transportation saves his department considerable time. Formerly, time often was lost during rush orders because men were forced to wait until the old truck returned empty after carrying a load to the station before they could load another order.

## Reporters Named To Gather News In Each Factory

MAIN CONNECTIONS will have an editorial staff that will rival our large daily newspapers—in size at least.

In the past, one correspondent has represented each plant while the editor has gathered news at Decatur for the inside publication.

This system is hardly satisfactory since it is impossible for one person to know all the news about fellow employees. Therefore, we are setting up a departmental reporter system which should go a long way toward helping this newspaper be just what it is intended to be—a publication chucked full of news about employees from every plant.

Staffs are complete at Decatur and Chattanooga; however, at Los Angeles it has been necessary to appoint temporary reporters at the present. A larger number of permanent reporters will be named before the next issue. The staff at Sarnia also will probably be increased.

Present reporters are:

At Decatur—Dorothy Stratman, Shipping Department; Helen Campbell, Ground Key Division; Ethel Turley, Specialties Division; Louise Whitehead, Plant Engineering and Maintenance; Sue Craig, Personnel Department, Standards and Catalog Department; Dorothy Colclasure, Plant 4 general; Ruth Miller, Plant 4 Core Room; Gene Smith, time clerk, Foundry Division; Dean Butler, time clerk, Plant 4 Machine Shop; Helen Lee, Departments 33, 34, 44 and Methods; and Mae Gallagher, Main Office.

Chattanooga—Ione Mulke, Sales Division; Mary O'Kelley, Engineering; Lois Trotter, Production Control; Gene Racz, Payroll, Cost and Purchasing; John Graves, Pattern Shop; Ray Claridy, Shipping Department; Charles Bynum, Core Room; Harold Roberts, Brass Foundry; John Sparks, John Harp and Edgar Bryand, Iron Foundry; Izeur Tyous, Cleaning Room; Arvel Black, Machine Shop; and George Wright, Assembly Department.

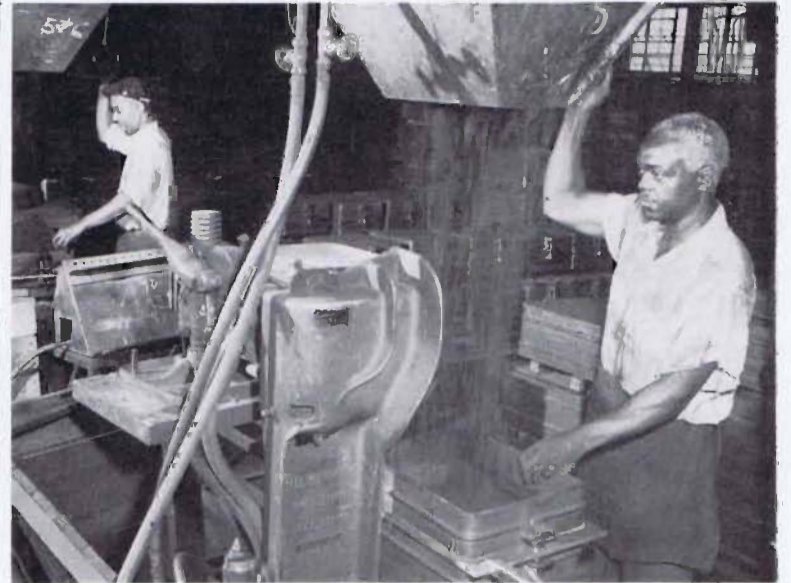
Miss Evelyn Wilbanks who has been correspondent in the past will continue as chief correspondent. All reporters will give their copy to Evelyn who will prepare it before mailing to the editor at Decatur.

Los Angeles—George Knudsen will continue as chief correspondent at our California plant. Temporary reporters are Hazel Rice, Department 60; Ben Piot, Foundry Division; and Carol Payette, office.

Sarnia—Almeda M. Reeve is chief correspondent. Reporters are: Bruce Robertson, Departments 1 and 2; Ray Hazzard, Departments 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 28; Murray Taylor, Departments 9, 14, 15; Ron Dagg, Sales Division, and Kathryn Forbes, Main Office.

Even with unemployment currently at about three million, we have 60 million persons employed—over five million more than were working during the massive production period of World War II, the Chamber of Commerce of the United States points out.

## Johnnie Watkins, Napoleon Gaither Hold Mold Records



Johnnie Watkins, left, and Napoleon Gaither are shown during the course of a regular workday. Both Johnnie and Napoleon hold records as machine molder operators.

Back in the days before the automatic sand system was installed, Napoleon Gaither took his cue from the Iron Foundry foreman and then worked 57 furious minutes. At the end of that time, he had established a record for Chattanooga—60 molds the hard way. That's better than one a minute and he was shoveling sand.

Not more than twenty feet from Napoleon is another machine molder operator—Johnnie Watkins. Johnnie also holds an iron man's record that has yet to be broken in Chattanooga. Johnnie, with the entire plant waiting for the outcome, set a record that still stands. He made 427 molds in eight hours.

The fame of these two men rests not only in their ability as workers, but also in the fact that they are respected by fellow workers and management alike. They are proud of the fact that both were personally hired by O. E. Walker, Sr., now works manager and vice president, who at that time headed the Chattanooga plant.

Napoleon proudly says that he was hired by Mr. Walker in July, 1934. "I quit in July, 1936," he says, "but came back in August, 1936. I quit again in August, 1941, but asked to come back the same month, and they let me return. I've been here since that time."

Watkins came to Mueller Co. in December, 1938, and has been with the company ever since. He was born September 17, 1913, at Coma, Georgia. He is married and has eleven children.

Napoleon was born August 27, 1911. He is married and has six children. He has a brother, Harry, and a step-brother, William J. Farrow, at our Chattanooga plant.

Napoleon has one son in the Air Force and one daughter is married. Two boys and two girls are at home.

He is proud of his scrap record which is less than three percent, which means that 97 per cent of the molds he makes meets the company's requirements.

### Man With a Memory

## Thousands of Patterns Stored; Sam Foster Knows Where Each Is

Sam Foster is a man with a remarkable memory.

Sure, Sam has a filing system indicating where old and new patterns are kept. But that's for other people, Sam says.

There are thousands of patterns stored at the Chattanooga plant, but Sam, the company's pattern storage clerk, knows the location of each pattern from memory. Just walk in, ask for a pattern of the smallest product we make, and Sam will walk without hesitation to the shelf where it is maintained.

How did he get that way? "I've been in the Pattern Shop since 1935 and pattern storage clerk since April, 1940," Sam explains. "You get to know where everything is after a few years."

He was born July 6, 1902, at Marietta, Georgia, and came to Mueller Co. in December, 1933, as a yard laborer. In 1935, he was transferred to the Pattern Shop, and has been there ever since.

An active church worker, Sam and his wife, Elizabeth, have been members of the Mount Paron Baptist Church, 20th and Coward Streets, in Chattanooga for 36 years. Sam is a deacon in

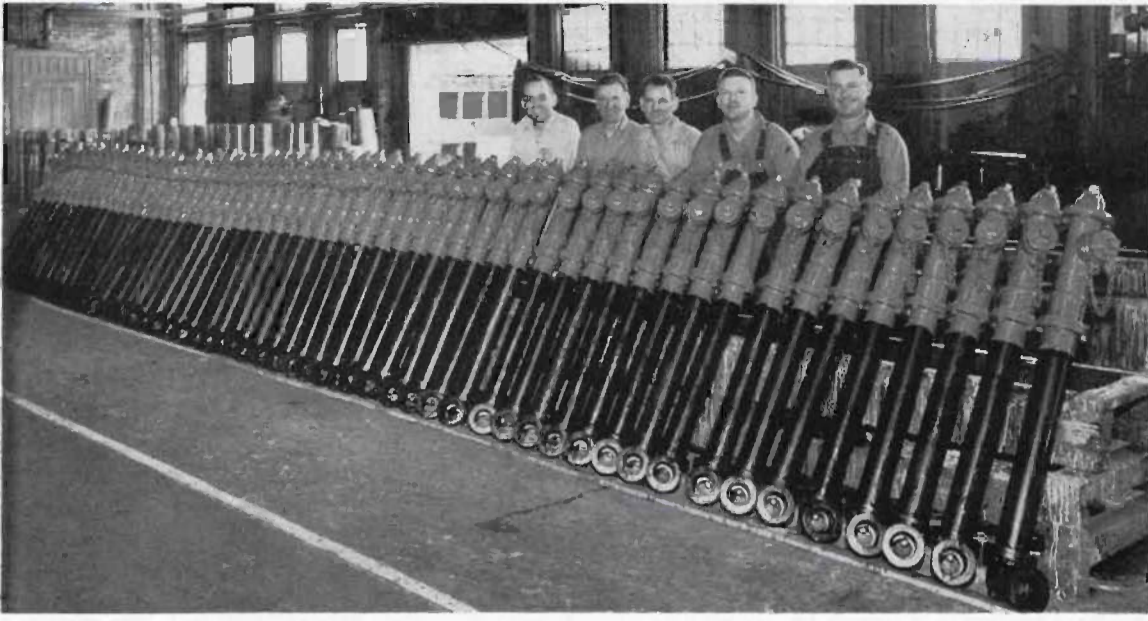


SAM FOSTER

the church, and Mrs. Foster is an active church worker.

"I'm proud of my job," he says. "I've been on this job for 21 years and that's the longest I ever stayed on any job. Mueller Co. is a wonderful company to work for. Employment has always been steady for me. Why even during the depression, I put in five and one-half days a week. They have to keep a pattern shop going, you know."

## Assemblers Pose With Sprinkler Hydrants



Members of the Assembly Department at Chattanooga are shown with part of an order of 68 sprinkler small hydrants. The order is considered unusual in that it is seldom that that many are purchased at one time. Standing beside the hydrants, left to right, are Jack Moss, Assembly Department foreman; Thad Drennan, Lee Webb, Lige Daniels and Early Suggs, all assemblers.

When a Mueller hydrant is the topic of conversation, one usually thinks of the standard model with the 4 1/4 inch or larger valve opening. That's the type you usually see in cities everywhere.

However, our Chattanooga plant also manufactures a smaller hydrant, a 2 1/8 inch valve opening style called a sprinkler hydrant. This product will be found at the end of water lines of a distribution system where its purpose is to flush the lines. It is also placed near school buildings, churches, industrial plants and other buildings in outlying districts where regular city fire protection may not be maintained.

Oftentimes, these hydrants are placed by private individuals or businesses for the purpose of additional fire protection.

It is seldom that they are sold to any customer in great quan-

tity. That's why an order for 68 sprinkler hydrants for the city of Thibodaux, Louisiana, created considerable interest among our Chattanooga employees recently.

The hydrants were sold to the LaFourche Parish Water Works District No. 1.

Jack Moss, Assembly Department foreman, and three assemblers are shown in the accompanying photograph with a part of the 68 sprinkler hydrants. Others in the photo are Thad Drennan, Lee Webb, Lige Daniels and Early Suggs.

Moss joined Mueller Co. in 1940 in the Assembly Department and Stock Room. He left in 1942 for a four-year hitch in the Merchant Marine and returned as foreman trainee in 1946. He was later promoted to foreman. He is married and has two children. His wife is a former order interpreter in the Sales Division.

Lee Webb joined Mueller Co. on October 5, 1953, in the Machine Shop. He later was transferred to the Assembly Department. He is a recent bridegroom; he is an army veteran, World War II.

Lige Daniels was hired in the Assembly Department on September 3, 1940, and has been an assembler since that time, except for service in the Army during World War II. He is married and has three children.

Thad Drennan was around when Mueller Co. purchased the old Columbian Iron Works. He joined the Assembly Department in 1926 and has been there ever since. He is married and has four children.

Early Suggs has been with the Chattanooga plant since Oct. 16, 1925, as an assembler. He is married and has nine children and six grandchildren.

## New Crane Way Most Recent Addition at Chattanooga



Here is our new Crane Way, most recent addition in the expansion program at our Chattanooga plant. The Crane Way has an 80-foot span and rises 35 feet from the ground to the top rail.

In line with Mueller Co.'s expansion program at our Chattanooga plant, a giant Crane Way with an 80-foot span and a 15,000 pound load limit was installed last March 16.

Reaching 35 feet from the ground to the top rail, the Crane Way unloads pigs and steel with a magnet and carries raw materials and coke to the charging bins in an electrically operated clamshell bucket.

Alexander Hill operates this newest addition to the plant from a glass enclosed cab. The ground work is done by James Young who normally handles this job alone. He may, however, call in additional help to assist with an unusual loading job. Young changes the operating equipment from the magnet to the bucket and does the neces-

sary house cleaning after an assignment is completed.

The Crane Way, manufactured by the Whiting Company of Harvey, Illinois, eliminates much of the work formerly done by hand. Previous to its installation, material was unloaded from the ramp with an old crane car. After unloading by the crane, the men loaded material by hand into a skid which was then carried to the charger station. There also was a shortage of storage space under the old system.

The new system saves much time and work. It also provides for additional work storage in the foundry because large flasks not in use now are stored in a space provided under the crane way.

## Richard Lusk Wed To Gail Wilhoite At Bride's Home

Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Wilhoite of Ooltewah, Tennessee, announce the marriage of their daughter, Miss Gail Wilhoite, to Richard Wesley Lusk, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Lusk, on March 20, at the home of the bride's parents in Ooltewah.

The bride is the granddaughter of Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Wilhoite, and the late Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Brown. She is a graduate of Central High School and attended Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Lusk and the brother of William R. Lusk, Larry J. and Marilyn Lusk. His grandparents are R. W. Lusk, Sr., of Decatur, Illinois, Mrs. J. W. Bowman of Springfield, Illinois, and the late J. W. Bowman of Maroa, Illinois. He is a graduate of Central High School, a member of the Tennessee National Guard and is employed at Combustion Engineering Co. in Chattanooga.

Mr. and Mrs. Lusk are living on Tallant Road in Ooltewah.

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States points out that money in circulation in America in 1939 was less than \$5 billion, or about \$41 per capita. Today, money in circulation runs at about \$30 billion. That is about \$200 per capita.



Ora Hollingsworth is shown removing a splinter from a finger of John M. Tate, day shift guard at Chattanooga. Such cases are commonplace to Ora, a typical industrial nurse. Her time is divided between the plant and homes of sick employees where she makes daily visitation tours. She goes to the home of the sick, advises them as to proper treatment and calls a physician if necessary. Her basic interest is to get the employee well and back on the job again. At the plant, she administers first aid and gives emergency treatment. If a physician is needed, she calls him in on the case. Ora came to Mueller Co. in April, 1950. She resigned in April, 1952, but returned as nurse again in March, 1953. She is a graduate of the Erlanger School of Nursing at Chattanooga.

## Just One Big Family

## Don't Gossip at Chattanooga; May Be Speaking to His Brother



Chattanooga's Jones family, two brothers and two sisters, get together for the photographer. They represent the largest family at the plant. Left to right, they are Robert F. Jones, Mrs. Gladys Jones Weaver, Mrs. Clatice Jones Hill and Coy Jones.

If a company can be judged by the families it keeps, then Mueller Co.'s Chattanooga plant rates high with employees as a good place to work.

Of all the employees who work at our Chicago plant, 101 persons have a brother, sister, father, son, husband, wife or mother working there.

In addition, there are numerous cases of cousins and in-laws at our Tennessee plant—far too many to mention here.

The honor for the largest family goes to a good old American name—the Jones family. Two brothers and two sisters represent the Joneses. They are Coy Jones, general foreman in the Foundry Division; Robert F. Jones, apprentice floor molder; Mrs. Clatice (Jones) Hill, secretary to J. H. Wall; and Mrs. Gladys (Jones) Weaver, head accounts payable clerk.

Other close relatives at Chattanooga are:

### BROTHERS

Charles, Raymond and James Bible  
Walter, Murphy and Charles Paris  
Napoleon and Harry Gaither (Step-brother) William J. Farrow  
William, Joe and John W. Hixon

Jesse and William Holloway  
Arnold and Harold Johnson  
J. B. and L. S. Jordan  
Hood and William Longley  
Sam and William Adair  
Curtis and Joseph Bartlett  
Tom and Jack Brady  
I. V. and Burpie Brown

Henry and J. C. Rutledge  
Charlie Lee and George Smith  
Herman and Oscar Strawter  
John L. and Robert J. Taylor  
Billy and James B. Thomas  
Frank and Ralph Tolbert  
Thomas L. and Ira Warren  
Carl B. and James E. West  
Roy Lee and Perry Caudle  
Elmer and Joe Coffman  
Boyd and Charlie Copeland  
Richard and Will Goodlow  
Charles and Earl Hayes  
Curtis and Junior A. Hicks  
Archie and Samuel Marsh  
Milton and William R. Miller  
Reginald and Edward McGhee  
Henry and R. B. McKibben  
Jack and Vester Pope  
C. N. and J. H. Pursley  
Jimmie and Walter Readus

### FATHERS AND SONS

Donald M. Andrews and Billy G. Andrews  
Willie Benford and Willie Benford, Jr.  
Dave Rice and Jake Rice  
Charles and William Richmond  
Hiram and Claude Ridge  
James D. Roberson and Albert Roberson  
Otto Glass and Otto Glass, Jr.  
Monroe Hudson and Monroe Hudson, Jr.  
James E. Johnson and James E. Johnson, Jr.  
Jesse C. Jones and Kenneth Jones

### MOTHER AND SON

Marguerite Barker and Clyde B. (Jack) Barker

### HUSBAND AND WIFE

Joe and Gene Racz

### SISTERS

Delores Hughes and Phyllis Hughes McDonald



**Personnel Assistant**

**Evelyn Wilbanks' Job Acquaints Her with Operations, Employees**

The first person a job applicant at our Chattanooga plant meets usually is Evelyn Wilbanks who has been personnel assistant since her appointment to that post in August, 1952. Prior to that time, she served almost 11 years as secretary to O. E. Walker, who at that time was vice president in charge of the Chattanooga plant.

With a background of these two positions, Evelyn has an excellent knowledge of company operations and of the employees who work at our Chattanooga plant.

Although she interviews each job applicant, the prospective employee also is interviewed by the supervisor of the job he seeks before he is approved for employment.

Evelyn came to Mueller Co. in December, 1942. She has been with the company since that time. Her present position includes the responsibility of keeping all employment and insurance records. She also takes care of starting insurance payments for an employee when he or a



**EVELYN WILBANKS**

member of his family is eligible to draw insurance money.

She is a member of the Chattanooga Personnel Club and the Chattanooga Industrial Editors Association. She is chief correspondent at the Chattanooga plant for "Main Connections."

**'Keeper of the Paint'**

**Pete Ramsey Wishes Nation's Hydrants Were the Same Color**

If Pete Ramsey had his way, every fire hydrant in the nation would probably be the same color. It would make Pete's job a lot easier, anyway.

Pete, you see, might unofficially be called the "keeper of the



**PETE RAMSEY**  
**"Keeper of the Paint"**

paint." He has the responsibility of seeing that the proper paint is delivered to the men who paint fire hydrants according to a city's specifications.

What color are hydrants? Just about any color or combination of colors you can imagine. They are red, yellow, green, orange, aluminum and solid black. There are color combinations such as red and aluminum, black and orange, green and red, yellow and red and many others.

The painting is specified by the customer the same as he specifies what size nozzle, threads, direction of opening valve for the hydrant, etc.

Pete makes certain the proper paints are on hand and are maintained. He has had this job since 1950, at which time he was promoted from the Assembly Department. He came to Mueller Co. January 28, 1943, as a helper in the Assembly Department and has been at the Chattanooga plant since that time.

He is 66 years old.

**What's New at Sarnia**

By **ALMEDA M. REEVE**

**Congratulations**

To Marie I. Hubbard, Department 14, and Norris Demeray, who were married February 19 in the St. Joseph Rectory.

**New Muellerites**

To Mr. and Mrs. Peter Krywicki, a son, Paul Andrew. Peter is employed in Department 9.

To Mr. and Mrs. John Burns, a daughter, Kathleen. John is foreman of Department 10.

To Mr. and Mrs. Milton Ellenor, a son, Robert. Milt is employed in Department 28.

To Mr. and Mrs. William John Payne, a daughter, Sharon Kay. Bill is employed in Department 2.

**Sympathy**

Donald Whitley, Department I, and Jack Whitley, Department 15, in the death of their mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Whitley, on March 30.

John Agar, Department 10, in the recent death of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Agar, of Seaforth.

Leslie Crooks, foreman of Department 6, in the death of his father, in England.

**Elected President**

Leslie J. Crooks, foreman of Department 6, was elected president of the American Electro Platers Society (Western Ontario Division) at its annual meeting in Chatham March 19.

**113 Years Old!**

Mrs. Annie Firlotte of Jacquet River, New Brunswick, who celebrated her 113th birthday on March 11, has two nephews and one great nephew employed at our plant. Manuel Firlotte is in Department 14, Alphonse Firlotte is in Department 11, and Claude Firlotte is in Department 9.

**Armand Thibeault Retires**

Armand Thibeault, a member of Mueller, Limited's, Sales Division for thirty years and for the past twenty-eight years a sales representative in the Canadian plant's Eastern Quebec territory, has retired effective February 28.

His headquarters has been in the city of Quebec.

Born in Griffintown, a suburb of Montreal, he left school at an early age to work with his father, a plumbing and heating contractor. After a few years, the urge to see the world caused him to succumb to the lure of the Northern wide open spaces where rumor was that silver could be picked up from the streets of Cobalt.

A few days in that city, however, convinced Mr. Thibeault that the life of a miner was not for him. He applied for and received a position with the George Taylor Hardware, Limited, in Cobalt as a clerk. Four years later he returned to Montreal and secured a position with the Thomas Robertson Co., Limited, where he first became aware of Mueller products when he noticed the large red labels used by Mueller, Limited, at that time.

Some years later he answered an advertisement and was selected to represent Mueller, Limited, in the Montreal area, working with sales representative Arthur Bailey. Two years later, the many important developments in Eastern Quebec warranted the establishment of a fulltime representative; Mr. Thibeault was transferred to that territory.

On February 26, Mr. Thibeault was honored at the Sarnia plant's main office when George W. Parker, president and treasurer, presented him with a thirty-year service pin, and Ron Nicolson, vice president and sales manager, presented a silver tea service to him on behalf of members of the plant's Sales Division.

Main Connections joins our employees and friends in sending Mr. Thibeault best wishes for a pleasant and satisfying retirement.

**Louis Boulanger Is Named To Sales Staff**

Louis Boulanger, with seven years' experience in the plumbing supply business, has been appointed sales representative for the Sarnia plant and will take over the territory vacated by Mr. Thibeault.

He has just completed an extensive period of instruction at the head office and plant of Mueller, Limited, and will make his headquarters in Quebec City. He will call on architects, plumbing contractors, jobbers and industrial plants formerly contacted by Mr. Thibeault.

This territory extends from Three Rivers to the Lake St. John district on the North Shore and from Sherbrooke to the Gaspé Peninsula on the South Shore. Mr. Boulanger's home address will be 390 Montmagny Street, Quebec City, P. Q. He served three years with the Merchant Navy during World War II. He is married and has one son.

Uncle Sam is the nation's biggest landlord, owning 500 million acres or nearly one-fourth of the total area of the continental United States, according to the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.



Mueller, Limited executives were host to Armand Thibeault, seated second from left, prior to his retirement from the company's Sales Division. He has been with Mueller, Limited for the past 30 years. His retirement became effective February 28. His Quebec territory has been taken over by Louis Boulanger, standing at the right. Shown in the above photo, seated, left to right, are John Milne, Mr. Thibeault, Ron Nicolson and George W. Parker. Standing, left to right, are C. S. Browett, R. J. Skippon, E. B. Mueller and Mr. Boulanger.

**Douglas Rink Wins Trophy At 25th Imperial Bonspiel**



Mueller, Limited cup winners at the 25th Imperial Bonspiel pose following their thrilling 11-9 victory in the final game. They compose the Douglas Rink and lost but one game in the first round of the Sarnia Curling Club's tournament, then went on to take second honors and the Mueller trophy. Left to right, they are Bill Reid, Jack Lewis, Logie Allen and Hugh (Red) Douglas, skipper.

One of the sporting highlights of the year for the Sarnia Curling Club was the 25th Imperial Bonspiel. Once considered an old man's game, curling in recent years has become a hotly contested sport among both younger and older men in Canada and calls for much concentration and coordination. Originally a Scottish game, four persons make up a rink (team). Smooth, flat stones weighing about 40 pounds are made to slide over ice at a mark. Contestants slide the heavy curling stone over the ice with a broom. At this year's annual event there were 28 rinks (teams) from outside cities entered in the Bonspiel and eight from the Sarnia club. The Mueller, Limited, trophy was won by Douglas (Sarnia) Rink and was presented to Hugh Douglas, skipper, by George W. Parker, president of Mueller, Limited. Members of the winning team are shown above. Curling enthusiasts around the plant include Mr. Parker, Ron Nicolson, John Milne, R. J. Skippon, Charles S. Browett, George Lucas, Merlin Coates and Carl Smith.

**Interesting Facts**

Domestic lead and zinc industries can trace their present price troubles to the fact that domestic prices were controlled during World War II and the Korean emergency, while foreign producers were encouraged by high prices to develop new supplies, the Chamber of Commerce of the United States points out. When the emergency ended, England dumped its stockpile on the market, and imports of foreign ore zoomed. Zinc, which sold for 19½ cents a pound in October, 1951, now brings only 9¼ cents. Lead met a similar "controlled fate," causing hundreds of domestic mines to close.

Slums cost a city much more than they contribute in tax revenue, the Chamber of Commerce of the United States points out. A single major city recently paid out in fire, police, welfare and other services, seven times more than revenues collected from its slums.

There's a boom in home repairs, and it's likely to go higher next year. Estimates are that last year's \$6 billion fix-up market may go up 30 to 50 per cent in 1954. The demand is as broad as the nation's 40 million stock of houses.

# News of Interest From Over Plant 4

By DOROTHY COLCLASURE

The Iron Foundry move to Plant 4 gave us three additional people in the office—Paul Parson, Otto Peake, and Harold Whitacre. Glad to have them with us.

Shirl Tish has been absent from work more than a month due to a back injury, and was in the hospital about a week. Hope he gets to feeling better soon.

There are so many people from Plant 1 working out here that it is hard to tell where their permanent working place is. Charlie Johnson came out the other day and tried to help a lady in the Core Room raise a window. She got fresh air all right. He pushed one of his hands through the glass. So he has decided he won't be so "good-hearted" the next time.

And speaking of fresh air, Gene Cash was almost "de-seated" by an employee in the Grinding Department and had to go home at noon that day for a trouser change.

Henry Leipski started growing a beard in January, but he couldn't stand it any longer, so he paid his fine to the City of Maroa, and had the beard shaved off April 9.

Otto Peake, of Iron Foundry Production Control, was in the

Nichols Sanitarium, Savannah, Missouri, for three weeks in March.

Richard Tish is practically living at Plant 4. He is learning all the techniques of the time clerk's jobs.

John Smith has always called "Chuck" Schroeder by the name of "No Blood," but he is going to change it as he has found out it is oil that Chuck has in his veins. Chuck has oil wells as a side line now. Every 64th barrel that comes from the wells belongs to Chuck and, believe me, he's there when that 64th one comes out to make sure he gets it.

Richard "Red" Dannewitz has been wearing one regular slipper and one house slipper for several weeks. When asked why he just says, "It feels better that way." What'll we see next?

Richard (Dick) Thudium, of the Chemical Laboratory, recently exchanged school pins with a girl at Millikin.

Several fellows are sporting new cars these days: Clay Ramsey, Bob Leake, Ollie Fortschneider, and Bob Wally all bought new Chevrolets; Paul Parsons has an Oldsmobile, and John Willis and Shirl Tish have new Mercurys.

The Pattern Shop has two temporary employees from the

Tool Room. They are Robert Leipski and Robert Dodwell. It is rather confusing having four "Bobs" in the Pattern Shop.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Woodruff made an interesting tour of Audubon State Park at Henderson, Kentucky, on Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25. Several members of the Decatur Audubon Club made the tour. Margaret reports that the park is beautiful with so many kinds of flowers and birds, and that it would be a good place for anyone to go for a week-end.

The time finally came when we all had to lose one hour's sleep due to the change to Daylight Saving Time. The only person I know it helped was Odin Woolley, third shift guard, who worked seven hours instead of eight.

Dave Brown, of Core Storage, has just recently purchased a home at 953 E. Prairie. He had previously lived at 744½ E. Clay.

Ernie Hetzler and wife had an accident with their '50 Buick, so instead of getting it fixed, Ernie bought another car, a '52 Buick.

Anthony (Tony) Schultz of the Sand Lab. recently purchased a home at 1504 E. Hickory, he thinks. He isn't sure of the address, as he hasn't moved

in yet. So neighbors, in that vicinity, watch out for him.

Mrs. Gene Cash was in the Macon County Hospital a few days for observation.

Richard Ross, Brass Foundry, is busy these days. He farms when he goes home, and has just recently been married.

Henry Masey has been finding lots of fishing worms and mushrooms while cleaning the yard at Plant 4. He figures he can go into "Fishing Bait" business.

Everyone has reminded me not to forget to tell about my falling down four steps near the second floor the other day. I broke off one of my heels from my slipper, but the Pattern Shop came to the rescue and repaired it.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest C. Griffith on April 2, named Kathy Sue. She weighed nine pounds, four ounces. Griffith is in the Iron Foundry.

Creo (Buck) Talley was absent for about five weeks due to a hand injury.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Kramer have a new son, born March 30, named Clyde Joseph. He weighed seven pounds, nine ounces. This is the Kramers' fifth child.

Barney Riley has been absent due to a heel injury received a few weeks ago.

NOTE: Gene Smith, Dean Butler, Ruth Miller and Dorothy Colclasure have been named as reporters from Plant 4 for this paper. For future issues, will you please cooperate by telling one of them any news items you might have.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE—1942 Cadillac, 4-door, with radio, heater, and signal lights. Straight drive. Motor in good condition. See Ray Donaldson or call 2-6808.

FOR SALE—New—Never been used—Airline radio for 1949, 1950, or 1951 Ford. Also, an RCA Cabinet Model radio in good condition. Will take \$15.00 for RCA. See Robert Ridgeway, Dept. 38.

FOR SALE—4-room Ziegler oil heater. Used approximately 3 months. Electric blower. Guarantee. See Harold Whitacre at Plant 4 Office or call 3-5928.

FOR SALE—6 screens for large windows and 2 storm windows for average sized windows. Contact Max Dukeman or call 8-3243.

FOR SALE—Two Western type saddles, and two girls' 26-inch bicycles—fair condition. \$12.50 each bicycle. Contact Dale Pottorff, Dept. 38 or phone 8-2705.

WOULD LIKE TO BUY—Good used lumber. See Otto Peake, Plant 4 Office.

Toll roads now stretch into ten states and promise to expand ten times within the next few years, according to a survey by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. Right now, almost 1,000 miles of turnpikes—representing a \$1 billion investment—are operating and another 1,000 miles are under construction.

## Around the Plant . . . At LOS ANGELES

By GEORGE KNUDSEN

### Shower for Gail

A wedding shower was held at the home of Barbara Liddell for Mrs. R. Chuba (Gail Sutton). Gail is employed in the office. Hostesses were Barbara Liddell, Alice Innerarity, Joan O'Neil, Roberta Youngs. Guests were: Katie Thompson, Marie Simonson, Stella Rodak, Kay Worley, Caroline Payette, Fay Purinton, Hazel Lehman, May Harris, Mrs. Chuba (mother-in-law), Mrs. Chase and Anne Headden. Gail reported a wonderful party and thanks everyone for the wonderful gifts.

### New Grandfather

Eddie Schlegel, foreman of the Shipping Department, is displaying a tremendous smile. There is a reason. He is a grandfather.

### New Home

May Harris of the Production Department office is now living

in a new home. Quite an anniversary present. We wish you a lot of happiness in your new home, May.

### Sick and Well

Condolences to Lillian Alfrano, Dot Reneau, and Charlie Portee, who have been ill. We are pleased to have Johnny Livingston and Roy Estep back to work.

### Donna Is Back

Lillian Alfrano, our packer of aircraft parts, has taken over the job of packing meter risers, replacing Donna Jolly. The story goes, according to Chuck Musmecci, that Donna and Lillian were together in Lillian's car and an accident occurred. The result, Lillian had two fingers on her right hand fractured. This incapacitated Lillian and put Donna back on her old job. That is getting back, Donna, but you didn't have to be so rough! Lil-

lian will be on the shelf for at least a month or more.

### Robert Hughes Resigns

We are sorry that Robert Hughes terminated his position with our organization. Bob is a pitcher by profession. At present he is being farmed out by the Seattle club of the Pacific Coast League. He was with the San Diego Padres last year. Good luck, Bob. His ambition is the Cleveland Indians. We are certainly pulling for him, and we know he will make it.

Speaking of baseball, our plant does have some very definite Hollywood and Los Angeles fans. When Hollywood wins Ray Dawkins of the Purchasing Department broadly beams, but he certainly is a "sad sack" when they lose.

## Assemblers Edge Specialties One Game for Bowling Title

The Assemblers, a team that rested in fourth place at the mid-season mark, fought a dramatic uphill battle to win the bowling championship at our Los Angeles plant. The winners were not assured of their title until the final day of the season. Specialties, the runner-up team, finished just one game behind the champions.

Members of the Assemblers are Bob Hughes, Edith Overley, Tom Overley, Zora Aldabe and Rich Richard.

### Sweepstakes winners:

Ray Ballesteros, 1st place...659  
Cliff Walker, 2nd place...588  
Jim Holmes, 3rd place...582  
Rich Richard, 4th place...554

High individual average for the season was shared by Gill Young and Geo. Knudsen, 165.

High average for the ladies was Dot Reneau with 142.

High series was awarded to the Forge Department, 2820.

High team game went to the Shipping Department, 998.

High men's game, John Staley with 259.

High women's game, Patty Anderson with 197.

### FINAL STANDINGS

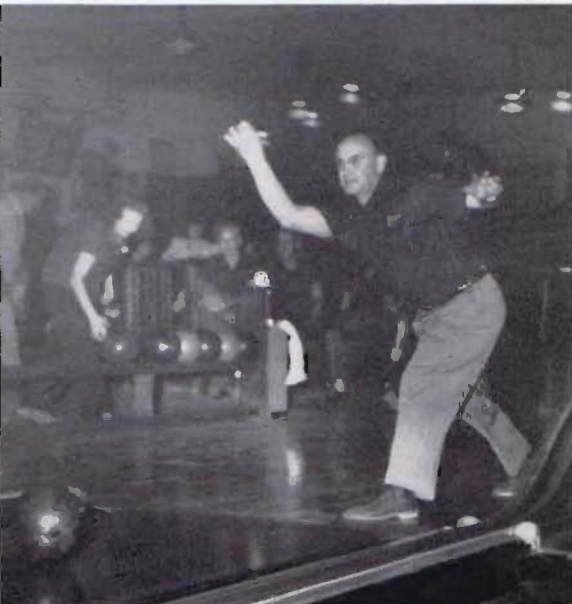
	W.	L.
Assemblers . . . . .	50	34
Specialties . . . . .	49	35
Production . . . . .	46	38
Timekeepers . . . . .	44	40
Forge . . . . .	44	40
Shipping Dept. . . . .	43½	40½
Aircraft . . . . .	36	48
Tool & Die . . . . .	35½	48½

Our need for new merchant ships is urgent, according to the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. Eight out of every ten ships in our present merchant fleet were built during World War II and will need replacement within the next ten years.

### Between Frames

### Good Bowling Form

### New Champs



Four high scoring bowlers pose nonchalantly for the photographer during the Los Angeles plant's recent bowling campaign which was won by the Assemblers. The four in the photo at left are, from the left, Helen Walker, George Knudsen, Chuck Musmecci and Joyce McKinnon.

The center photo shows John Hesselback display his best bowling form on the alleys during the season. At right, the champion Assembler s pose happily after winning the 1953-54 title. Left to right, Bob Hughes, Edith Overley, Tom Overley, Zora Aldabe and Rich Richard.

# George Wilson Retires . . .



George Wilson, a member of our Decatur plant's Shipping Department since October, 1947, was honored by fellow workers on his retirement February 26 when members presented him with a billfold. Assistant Shipping Department Foreman Chuck Girard presents the billfold to Mr. Wilson while members of the department look on.

## What Goes On In Depts. 33, 34, 44, Methods

By Helen Lee

Miss Carolyn Duncan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Duncan, and Jack J. Pensinger, son of the G. J. Pensingers of Canton, were married March 28, in Grace Methodist Chapel, with the Rev. J. Fred Melvin officiating. Carolyn worked in the Catalog Department of Mueller Co. before leaving to finish college. She and her husband are living in Riverside, California, where her husband is serving in the Army Air Force.

We are happy to welcome back Dolores Petersen, stenographer in Dept. 44. Dee was off for one month for an eye operation. We are glad to report she is back at work and feeling fine.

We are also glad to report that Fred Tratzik has recovered from an eye infection which kept him from work for several days.

Norman Wilcox of the Experimental Shop in Department 44, is the proud father of a baby boy born April 20. The baby weighed nine pounds, one ounce and has been named Michael Edward.

Carlton Price, draftsman in Department 34, is the proud father of a baby boy born April 22. The baby weighed seven pounds, nine ounces and has been named Thomas Ray.

William F. Johnson, formerly a draftsman in the Tool Room, and now a company salesman in Tyler, Texas, has informed us that he and his wife have adopted a nine months old baby boy. The boy has been named Delbert Ross.

John Moma of Department 34 is making plans to attend his brother Lloyd's graduation from Normal in June.

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Blankenburg and sons visited their daughter and husband, and young grandson in Greenville, South Carolina, over the Easter holidays. They went by the way of Smoky Mountains National Park.

Mabel Herrick, stenographer in Methods Department, left us May 1. She and her husband moved to St. Louis. We are sorry to see her go, but wish her the best of luck always. Fellow workers presented her with a Sunbeam steam iron as a farewell gift.

We want to welcome Joanne Richards, new stenographer in the Methods Department.

## Goodbye, Miss Addie



Miss Addie Hambleton ended 14 years association with Mueller Co. on May 1 when she retired. On her last day at the office, members of the Purchasing Department of which she was a member and other office employees surprised her at noon with a blouse and a Sunbeam Coffee Master. The photo shows her accepting the Coffee Master from Purchasing Agent R. C. Kileen. Those in the photo are, left to right, Eilene Gogerty, Andy Heitman, Mr. Kileen, Wilma Poe, Alice Wier, Maxine Griffith, Miss Hambleton, Betty Dehority, Barbara Diehl, Carolyn Berry (who is replacing Miss Hambleton) and Gertrude Hedges. Previous to joining Mueller Co. in December, 1938, Miss Hambleton was with the Mueller Fountain & Fixture Co. since 1919.

## Behind the Seens . . . At PLANT 1

Bill Leake returned to work March 24 following a tonsillectomy. Bill is time clerk in Department 90.

After having tried all makes and colors of cars, Lefty Adams drove a brand new red Buick to work on April 12.

Aubrey Duncan checked out Friday, April 9, 1954, to go to the farm. Aubrey was a production tool grinder in Department 70.

Bill Boyd started to work in Department 70 as bellhop on April 13.

Herman Jackson has a new grandson, Marty Edward Phile, born March 17 at Bay City, Tex.

James McClintick has a new daughter born April 11. She has been named Susan Geralyn.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Melvin Whittington and his bride of April 17. The Rev. C. E. Francisco officiated in the First Christian Church. Mrs. Whittington was the former Melbaline Adams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Adams, of Herrick, Illinois. She is with the Illinois Bell Telephone Co. and Melvin is with Department 80. They are at home at 959 N. Main St. after a honeymoon of two weeks in Florida.

John "Fire Ball" Smith, electrician, is driving a new blue Pontiac.

Delbert Ray is the new son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Rollinson, Macon, Illinois. He was born on March 3. Mr. Rollinson is a member of the Maintenance Department.

M. K. Chaney, plant engineer, vacationed the latter part of April in Pennsylvania.

Porter Ashford, Jr., is driving a new Buick.

Mrs. Robert Jesse was a recent patient in St. Mary's Hospital. She is the wife of Robert H. Jesse, time clerk in the Construction and Maintenance Department.

Mrs. E. J. Paslay was a patient in Macon Co. Hospital. She is the wife of E. J. Paslay, tinner, in the Construction and Maintenance Department.

Carl Maurer has returned to work. He suffered a right arm injury after being struck by a car on East Eldorado Street.

Don Lowe, painter, hobbled around for a few days due to a foot injury.

John Holbert, yard man, is at home again after spending some time in Macon Co. Hospital for surgery.

Marvin Black is a patient in St. Mary's Hospital.

Rex B. Smith was off duty a few days, playing nurse maid and chief cook, while his wife was ill with the mumps.

### ROSS-WESTENHAVER

Richard Ross, Brass Foundry, Department 60, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ross, Route 3, Shelbyville, Illinois, was married to Miss Catherine Ann Westenhaver, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Westenhaver, Route 4, Shelbyville on February 28. The wedding took place at Cornith, Mississippi.

## Ground Key Division Snares Bowling Crown

The Ground Key Division, almost always in the thick of the fight for the bowling championship at our Decatur plant, won the crown again this year, finishing three games ahead of second place Regulator Division.

Paced by Eddie Nalefski, who tied for the top bowling average in the league, Ground Key was in first or near first place all season. The race was close to the finish, however, and the outcome was in doubt until the final pin had fallen the last game of the season.

Members of the championship team and their average and high game for the year, are:

	Ave.	HG
E. Nalefski	178	233
M. Riewski	173	246
G. Jenkins	162	234
D. Wilkins	160	222
R. Adams	160	216
M. Davidson	157	234

Final Standings:

	W.	L.
Ground Key Division	64	44
Regulator Division	61	47
Works Manager	59	49
Pattern Shop	57	51
Specialty Division	56	52
Experimental Shop	56	52
Plant 2	48	60
Brass Finishers	47	61
Tool Engineers	46½	61½
Product Engineers	45½	62½

## Decatur 4X Club Sets New Record In Polio Campaign

The 4X Club at Decatur this year was in charge of distributing polio containers throughout the business district.

A. C. Werdes, chairman, Polio Collection Containers Committee and plant controller at Decatur, has announced that a total of \$3,554.82 was collected in containers set out by our group. The amount collected this year compares to \$2,200 for last year at which time it was thought some sort of a record had been established.

"Personally, I want to thank everyone who assisted in the distribution and the collection of these containers," Mr. Werdes said. "With an organization such as the Mueller 4X Club, where everyone is willing and anxious to help, it is not a task but a pleasure to have a part in directing their efforts in such a worthy cause."

In connection with this statement, Main Connections would like to point out that Mr. Werdes' part in the drive was one of more than mere direction. He spent many hours on the project and many of his evenings were devoted entirely to the drive. At his own expense, he made numerous trips throughout the city collecting containers filled before the drive was completed and replacing these containers with empty ones.

Industry now must spend roughly \$11,000 per worker to provide the necessary capital for plant, tools and supplies to produce goods. As industry becomes more highly developed, the necessary capital investment per worker will increase.

The league's five top bowlers were: Eddie Nalefski, Ground Key, and Robert Leake, Pattern Shop, tie for first with 178 average; Dale Reidelberger, Regulator Division, third with 177; Lefty Adams, Tool Engineers, and Al Degand, Specialty, tie for fourth with 176.



Miss Marilyn McQuality and Larry Whitehurst were married December 19 at the Central Christian Church in Decatur. She is employed in the Traffic Department at the A. E. Staley Manufacturing Company and the groom is stationed in Korea with the Air Force. Mrs. Whitehurst is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl McQuality. Mr. McQuality is employed by Mueller Co. and works in our Boxmaking Department. Larry is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Whitehurst of Decatur.



Five Plant 4 employees whose home towns are observing centennial celebrations this year join in the spirit of the observance by growing beards. The men are, standing, left to right, Everett Riley, Floyd (Curly) Walton and Gus Fyke, all of Niantic, Illinois; and kneeling, left to right, Henry Leipski, Maroa; and Lawrence (Babe) Grider, Niantic.



TONEY GAITON, JR., son of Mr. and Mrs. Antonio C. Gaiton, graduated from Garfield High School with honors, now studying at East Los Angeles College. Father works in Machine Shop.



ARLENE DASH, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman M. Dash, will graduate from Eagle Rock High School. Father is office manager and cost accountant, at Los Angeles.



EUSEBIO STEVE GOMEZ, JR., son of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Gomez, Sr., graduating from Garfield High School. Father is working in the Steel Machine Shop, at Los Angeles.



MARILYN FOLTZ, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Foltz, graduated from Alhambra High School in February, and now attends Pasadena City College. Father is engineer.



JOE GAITON, brother to Tony and son of Antonio, graduated from Garfield High School, and is continuing studies at East Los Angeles College. Both Joe and Tony are good athletes.



ELSIE LOU SIMPSON, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Howard, is graduating from Assumption High School. Father is in Department 80.



SYLVIA A. STAUDT, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julius A. Staudt, is graduating from Maroa High School. Father is Traffic Manager.

Best Wishes  
to our  
High School  
and College  
Graduates  
of 1954



ROBERT L. KILEEN, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Kileen, 15 Western Drive, is graduating from Millikin with a B.S. degree in Business Administration. Father is purchasing agent for our Decatur factories.



B. R. SEFTON, son of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Sefton, 545 Virginia is graduating from Millikin with a B.S. degree in Engineering Administration. Mr. Sefton is production superintendent of our Decatur factories.



DORIS MARIE WHITE, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse White, is graduating from Mt. Zion High School. Father is in Department 80.



GLEND A MEADOR, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Meador, will graduate from Cumberland High School. Father is in Department 70.



MRS. HELEN MUSGRAVES McROBERTS, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Musgraves (father in Maintenance Dept.), wife of Wendell McRoberts, Dept. 70, is graduating from Warrensburg-Latham High School.



MARILYN RUTH HAKE, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willard E. Hake, is graduating from Mt. Zion High School. Father is Up-keep Stock and Order Department supervisor.



MARGARET SHASTEEN, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Shasteen, will graduate from Decatur High School. Father is in Department 44.



DALE E. WOOLLEY, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Woolley, will graduate from Decatur High School. Father is in Department 32.



SUSANNA CARTER, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Carter, will graduate from Decatur High School. Father is in the Core Room at Plant 4.



KEITH D. ROBBINS, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Robbins, will graduate from Decatur High School. Father is in Department 70.



BARBARA JEAN ALBERT, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Albert, will graduate from Decatur High School. Father is in Department 60.



RICHARD D. FORD, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Ford, is graduating from Decatur High School. Father is employed in Department 70.