

Published by and for the Employees of the

MUELLER CO.

Editor, Walter H. Dyer

DECATUR, ILLINOIS SEPTEMBER, 1954

In This Issue:

- 32 pictures giving an inside view of Decatur's new Plant 4.
- Personal chatter from each plant.
- Sarnia bowling champs get trophies.
- Water skiing, and a man who makes the "hickories."

HE SERVED COMPANY 42 YEARS

John A. Bixler, life long resident of Macon County, Illinois, and an employee of Mueller Co. most of the time since April, 1903, retired recently. He and Mrs. Bixler plan to make their home with a daughter in California. Mr. and Mrs. Bixler have just returned from a seven week vacation in Washington, D. C., and said they plan to sell their Decatur property before leaving for the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Roarick, in Brea, California.

Except for the years 1910 to 1911 and 1918 to 1926, Mr. Bixler had been a member of our Sales Division since 1903. He held a number of positions including head of the Billing Department for five years, order interpreting and transcribing, credit department, order expeditor and assistant sales manager of Mueller service pipe. He was a price checker at the time of his retirement.



JOHN A. BIXLER

Mr. and Mrs. Bixler have two daughters, and the entire family are former Mueller Co. employees.

Mr. Bixler was presented two pieces of luggage by main office employees.

Plant 4 Is Featured In This Issue

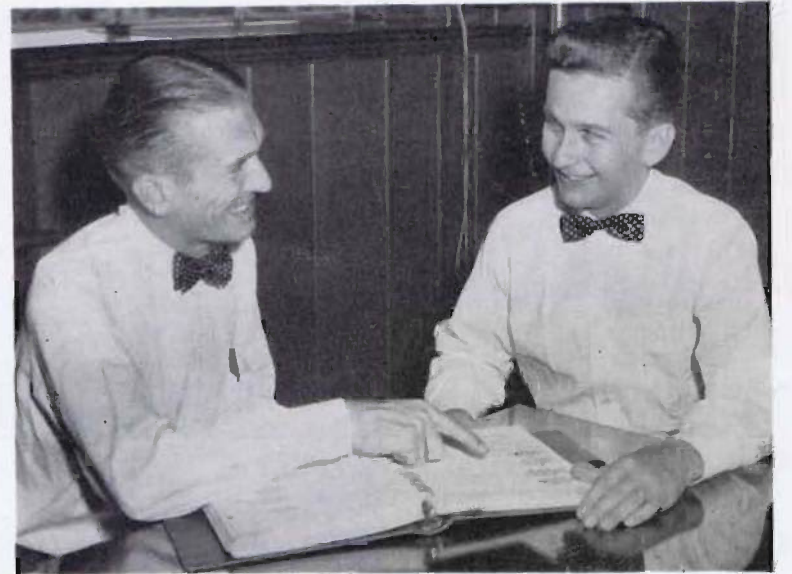
For most Mueller Co. and Mueller, Limited employees, this issue of MAIN CONNECTIONS offers an introduction to our new Plant 4 in Decatur. Since the plant only recently was completed, the pictures in this edition are the first inside photographs to be published.

You will be taken on a tour of the plant via 32 pictures, each of which is accompanied by the maximum information space permits.

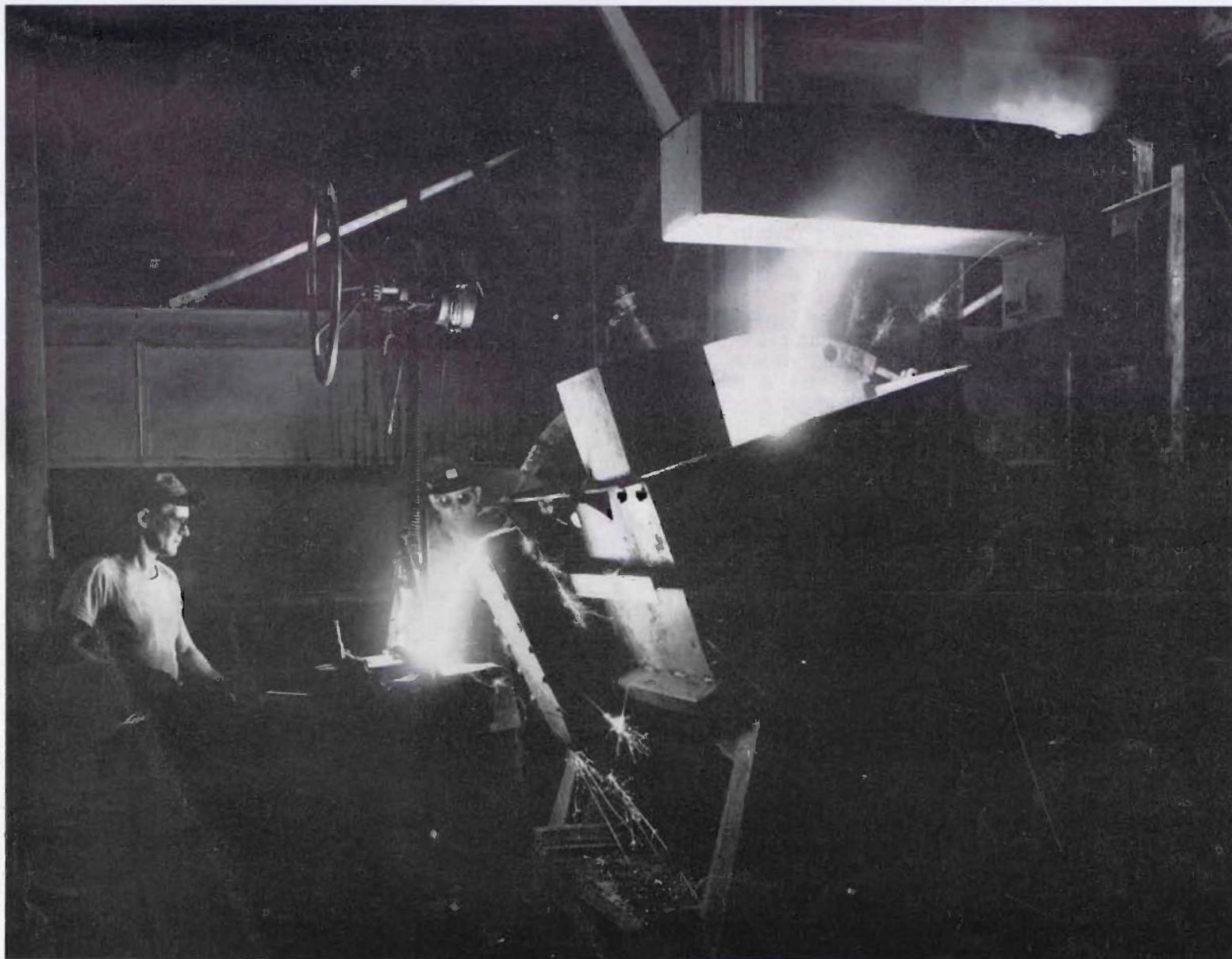
Much credit must go to Charles Moore, Standards engineer, and Verle Utzinger, foundry engineer, who gave their time to help plan photographs and to explain the plant's various operations to the editor.

Thanks are also due all plant foremen and employees who kindly assisted the editor in preparing this issue.

SALES EXECUTIVES CONFER



Walter F. Grassman, right, manager of the Latin-American Division of Brown and Sites Co., Inc., New York City, recently spent the day in Decatur visiting with members of our Sales Division. Above, Grassman studies our new water works catalog with Robert K. Levey, assistant general sales manager, who points to one of our products. Brown and Sites Co., Inc., is an exporter firm. They handle our line of products, and most of their activity is in Central and South America.



The illuminating light cast upon the faces of these two Iron Foundry workmen by white hot molten iron pouring from the cupola makes this scene in silhouette a dramatic picture. Molten iron splashes from the cupola into the holding ladle and again from the holding ladle into a 300-pound pouring ladle. Ellis Boles, left, catches metal from

the holding ladle, and Dale Streight pours from the holding ladle. In addition to the cupola shown here, a second one is being prepared for the next day's operations. Cupolas are used on alternate days, one for pouring while the other is repaired.

Jackson Is Elected To High Post

Herman E. Jackson of the Catalog Department recently was elected international vice president and a member of the Board of Directors of the Dale Carnegie Club International. In his new post Jackson will be responsible for club activities in the Central Area which includes most of the states in the Midwest. Only four persons are elected to this high post.

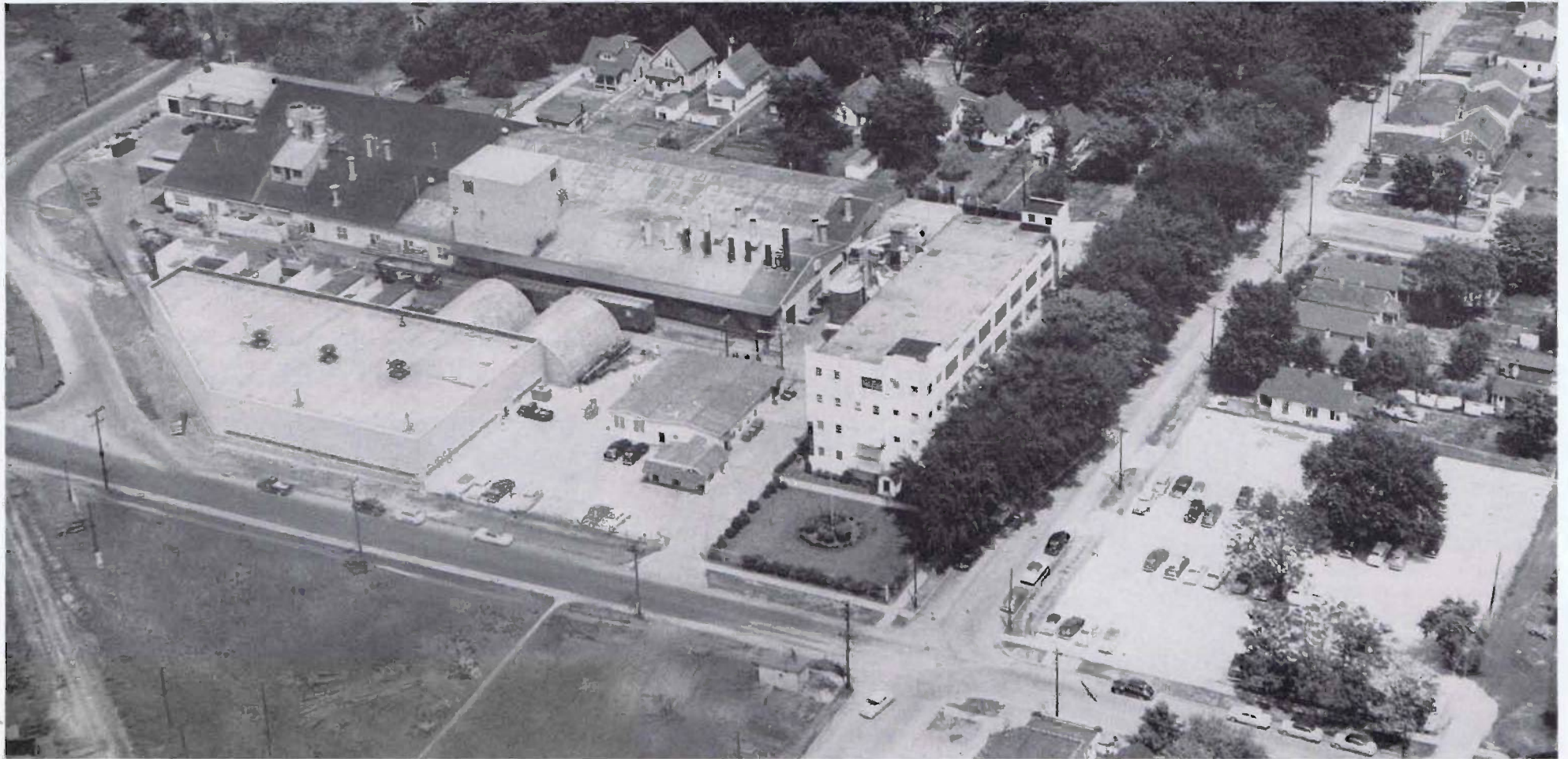
The election took place at the annual convention of the club in New York City last July. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jackson attended as delegates of the Stephen Decatur Chapter.

Jackson has had considerable experience in Carnegie Club work. In addition to holding chapter offices, he also was district governor for Central Illinois and division governor for Division 10 which includes Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois. He currently has been serving on the International Program Committee.

Dale Carnegie Club International is an organization dedicated to better human relations everywhere, leadership training and effective speech.

He is a charter member of the Stephen Decatur Chapter, having helped organize this club in 1950. His local positions have included progress chairman, program chairman, lieutenant governor, vice president and president.

Here's Plant 4 as Seen From 1000 Feet in the Air



Here's Plant 4 as viewed from nearly 1,000 feet in the air. The small number of cars in our parking lot at the right bordering Garfield and Jasper Avenues is due to the fact that this air view was taken on a Saturday when only part of the plant was in operation. The four-story building left of Garfield Avenue is occupied by the Core Room, Pattern

Shop, Production Control, Chemical laboratory, Core Storage and a number of other departments. The long building attached to the rear of the four-story building is the Iron and Brass Foundries. The new building in the front left is the Iron Machine Shop. A spur track bisects the machine shop and foundry building where freight cars are spotted.

Production Control Schedules Orders



The Production Control Department for our Brass and Iron Foundries and Iron Machine Shop is located at Plant 4. Orders from customers are directed to the Sales Division which notifies Production Control. The latter schedules orders through the Iron and Brass Foundries and the Core Room. Besides posting orders, the department keeps an inventory of all materials and supplies used at Plant 4 and also orders materials and supplies through the Purchasing Department. In addition, Production Control is responsible for shipping goods completed at Plant 4. This includes all iron products such as stop boxes, rims and service clamps. Members are, seated, Roy Woods, left, and Paul Parsons. Standing left, Harold Whitacre, Richard Roarick, Otto Peake, Don Wakeland, Gene Cash and Dean Albert. Wood has been with Mueller Co. for 44 years and is in charge of Production Control for the Brass Foundry. Parsons is in charge of Production Control for the Iron Foundry.

Flossie Poe Concludes 35 Years Service

Miss Flossie Poe ended 35 years association with Mueller Co. recently when she retired.

Miss Poe, who makes her home at 222 North 16th Street, Decatur, was first employed by Mueller Co. on September 29, 1919. Her first position was in the grinding room in the days when women and girls held light jobs on lathes and other machines in the factory.

She recalls that in 1926 the policy of employing women in that part of the factory was changed and she was transferred to the box department. Since that time, except for three years during World War II when she was a matron at Plant 3, she was a paste board box maker.

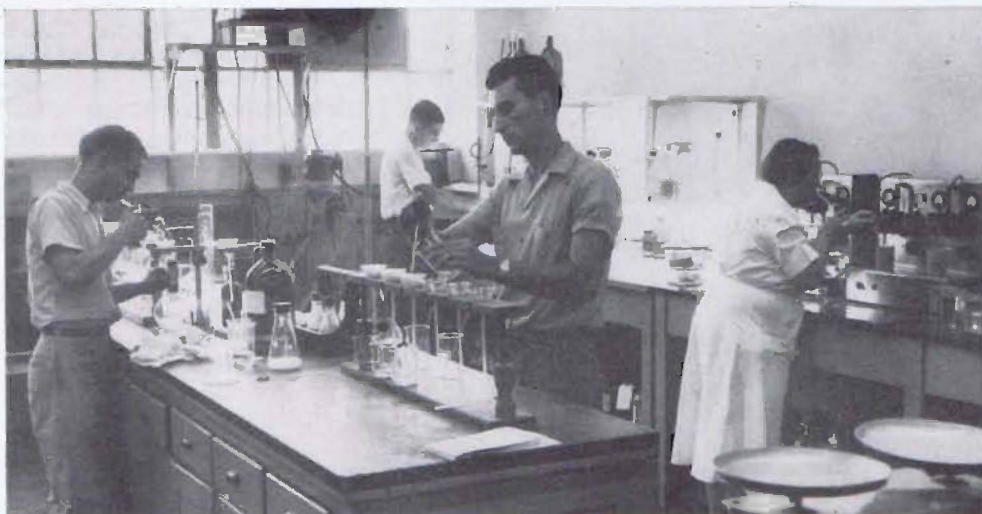
Employees presented her a bill fold with money and a vase the day of her retirement.

Verle Utzinger Is Foundry Engineer

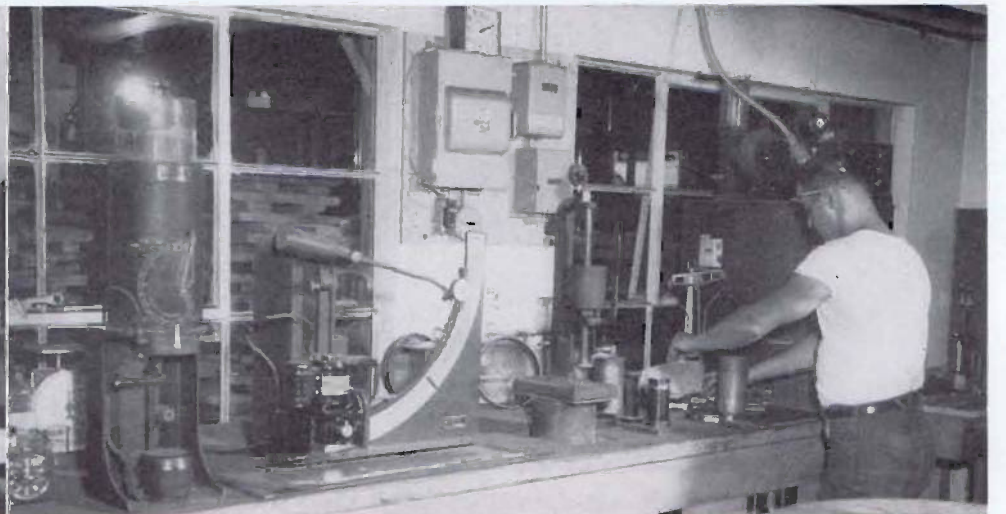


In order to maintain the highest quality in Mueller Co. products, a close inspection is made on all incoming materials for the Brass and Iron Foundries. Verle Utzinger, a graduate of the University of Illinois School of Metallurgical Engineering, is foundry engineer and is responsible for this inspection. Verle is in charge of the chemical and sand laboratories which run chemical analysis on material and makes necessary sand testing for the foundry's operations. Other duties include his working with the Foundry and Pattern Shop foremen in developing new processes for foundry operations. As a trouble shooter for the plant, it is his responsibility to get to the source of any disorder and see that the problem is corrected as soon as possible. Above, Verle is shown at his desk with Dorothy Colclasure, stenographer and first aid attendant for Plant 4. Dorothy does stenographic work for Verle, Production Control and other departments needing clerical assistance.

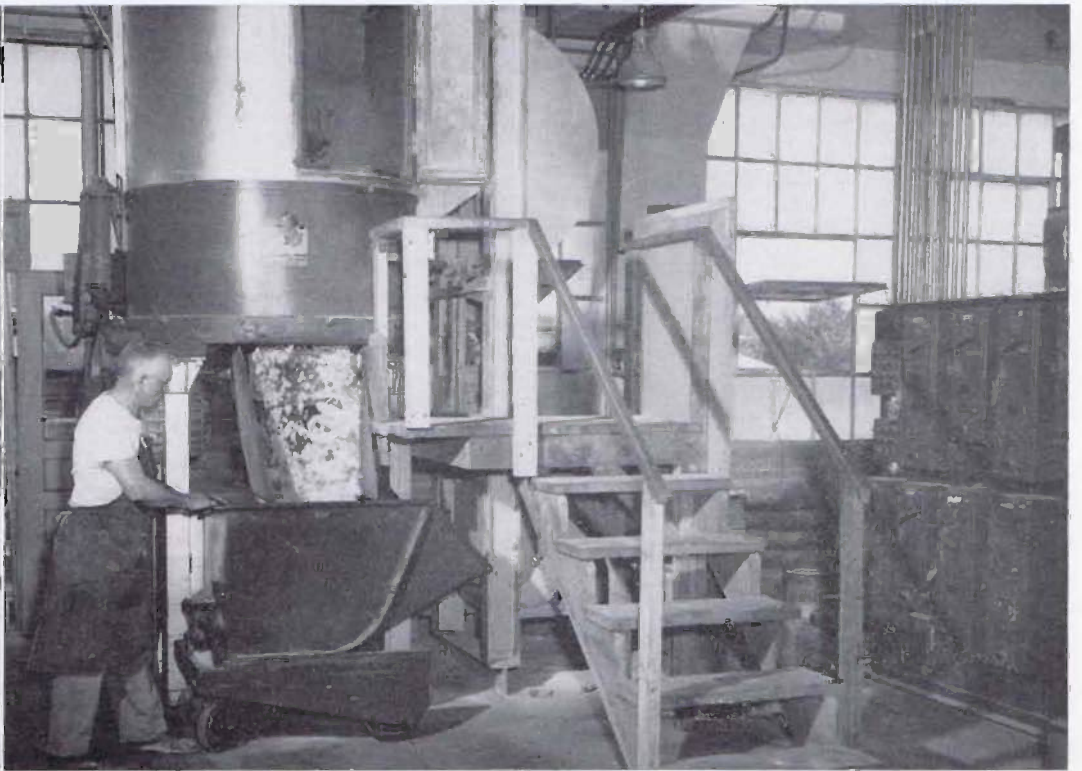
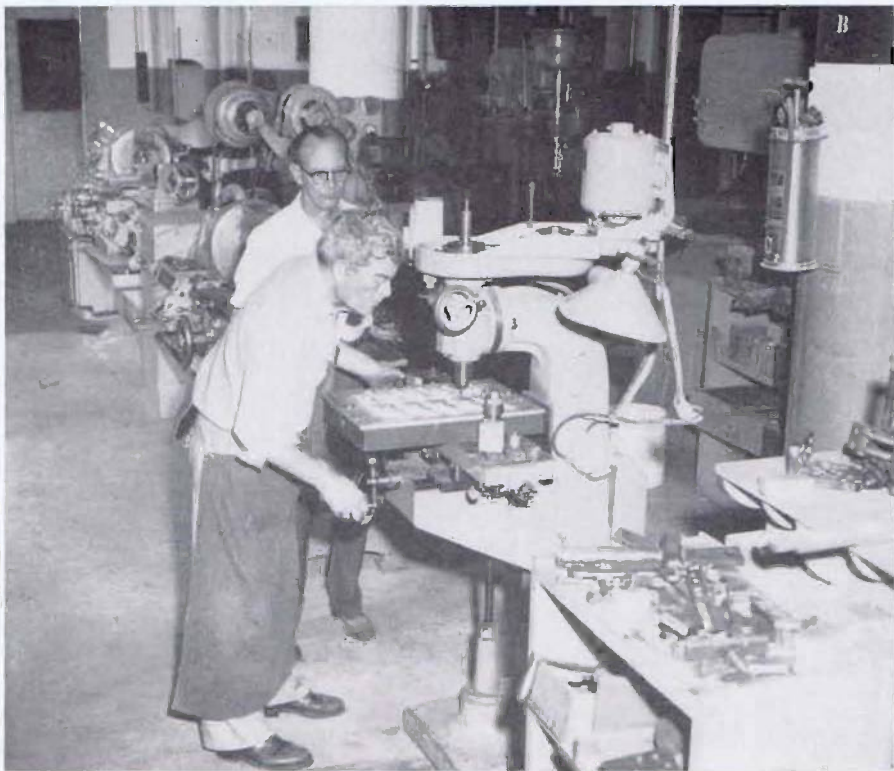
Laboratories Play Important Role in Manufacture of Our Products



The person unfamiliar with a company such as ours may be surprised to learn that the chemical laboratory plays an important role in the manufacture of our products. To guarantee that proper materials are used in the manufacture of products at Plant 1 and Plant 4, our laboratory staff runs routine daily analysis for our Brass and Iron Foundries. Staff members shown in the photo at left are Guy Shumard and Richard Thudium, front



table; and Jack Parsons and Mrs. Margaret Woodruff. Mrs. Woodruff is chief chemist. Shumard and Parsons are senior chemists and Thudium, a part time employee, is a Millikin University student. At right, Anthony Schultz, sand technician, is at work in the sand laboratory. His duties are to check incoming sand and to make routine daily tests on the sand system for the Brass and Iron Foundries and for the Core Room.



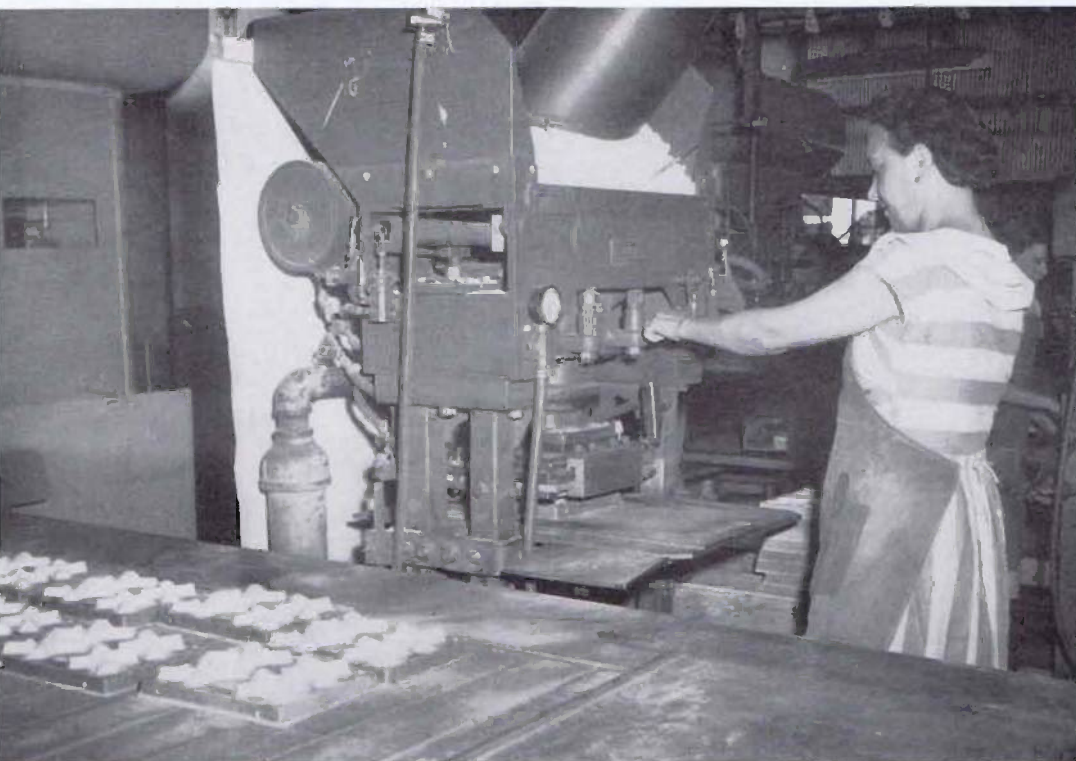
The Pattern Shop creates the necessary pattern and core box equipment so that new products may be placed in production. Other functions are maintaining equipment and estimating the cost of developing new equipment. They work with engineering groups in the development of new processes such as shell moldings and plastic core boxes for the foundries. At left, Ollie Fortschneider, Pattern Shop foreman, observes Lester Skelly as the latter works on a new aluminum pattern. Skelly has been with Mueller Co. since March 26, 1907, and has spent most of those years in the Pattern Shop. The department

has 17 employees. At right, Henry Luka, Muller operator, is engaged in a core sand mixing operation. This automatic Muller mixes and tempers the various blends of sand for use in the Core Room. Sand from silos near this building is drawn through hoppers by regulating the control panel shown at right. By turning a dial, the operator may secure the type sand he desires from either silo. Sand being released to the hopper in the above photo is conveyed to the core makers via chutes from this floor to core blowing machines.



Here is a typical work bench in our Plant 4 Core Room where hand cores are made. George Anderson is leveling off sand on a core for a Y-branch connection. This core is made in halves and is one of many cores made by hand. The hand core maker naturally does not work with the speed of our modern machines, and therefore is mainly concerned with special assignments and cores for products not under a high rate of production. The hand core maker in the rear is Carl Fleischauer. At right, three operators of the Champion

C-B-5 core blowing machines located along the 30-kilowatt dielectric core oven are blowing cores on these machines from metal boxes. Cores later are sent through the oven on wooden plates. Sand for these machines falls through a chute from the above floor. C-B-5 operators above are Fedora Tish, Dorothy Cooper and Gladys Turner. All C-B-5 operators are women.



Marie Adams, operator, stands at a Redford 4-D core blowing machine in which cores are blown in plastic dryers. Blown cores in plastic dryers are shown as they are moved automatically to the 60-kilowatt dielectric core oven. This machine blows several cores at one time instead of single cores formerly blown in metal boxes. Cores are baked in ovens in a matter of minutes as compared to former procedures of an hour or more. At left is a view of three ovens in which cores emerge after being baked. As the cores leave

the ovens they are panned and temporarily stored on a roller skate conveyor. Cleaners and inspectors shown at work remove the cores from temporary storage to their work bench to clean and inspect them. When a pan of cores is cleaned and inspected, the pan is placed under the table on a roller conveyor which takes the cores to the core storage area. Jack Bain is Core Room foreman. Richard Ferrill is foreman trainee.

GATES-LINTON

Miss Mabel E. Gates and Harold Linton were married July 6 in the home of Dr. E. H. Barrett in Gainesville, Mo.

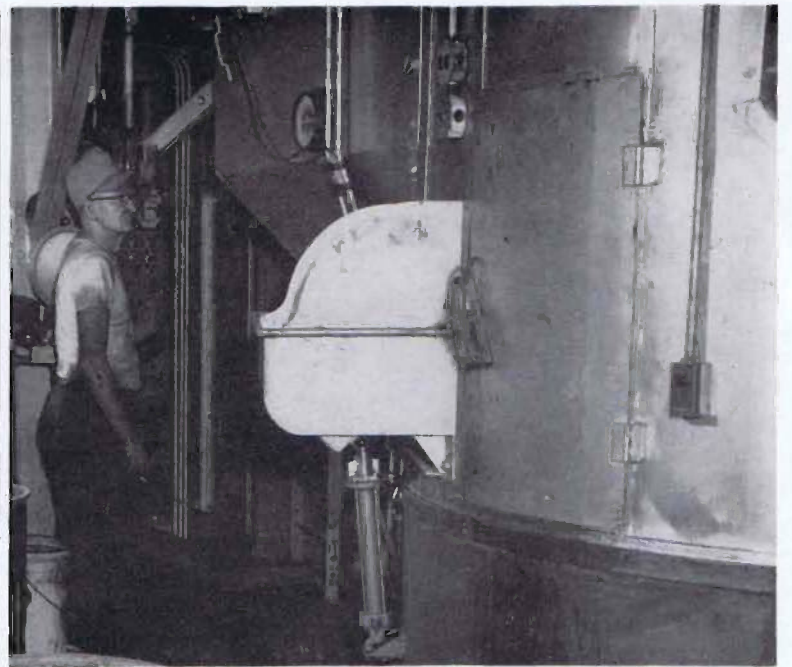
Mrs. Linton formerly was employed by Mueller Co. in the Stationery Department at Plant 1. She presently is employed by Murphey and Nash and Jones in Decatur. Harold is Production Control manager in Department 70.

SHE'S ENGAGED

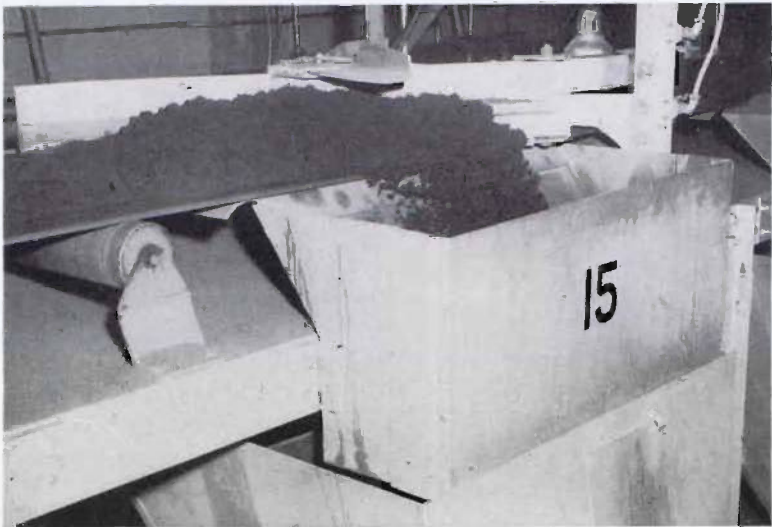
Beverly Elliott, Personnel Department stenographer, has announced her engagement to Richard McGinnis, an employee of the Lyon Lumber Company in Decatur.



Pans of cores are delivered from the Core Room to Core Storage by roller conveyor and are placed in storage racks. As Production Control issues an order to the foundries, Edward Ellis, foundry order dispatcher, sends the proper cores to the Brass and Iron Foundries. Above, Houston Hagan, core deliver, prepares to take several pans of cores to the foundry as Ellis records the necessary data for record keeping.



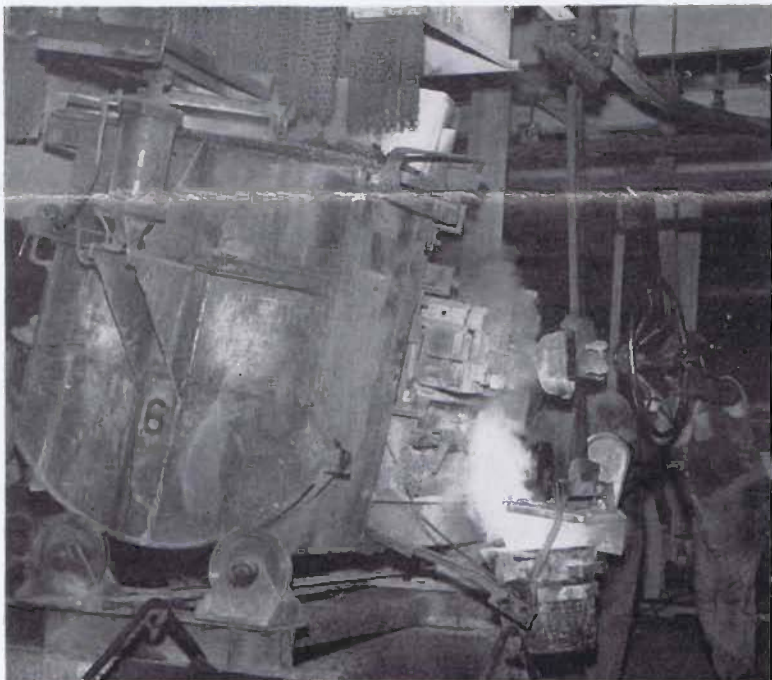
In the Brass Foundry we mold by squeezer machines, bench and floor molding. Above, Orville Brown, Muller operator, takes the first step toward the making of molds. Sand used to make molds first is muller by the sand muller. Brown keeps each molder supplied with sand through a system of pilot lights which automatically signal when a molder needs sand.



After being elevated, aerated and conveyed from the muller, sand is automatically plowed into the molder's hopper. Above, sand is entering hopper No. 15 where it will be used in the making of molds for the Brass Foundry.



Machine molders in the Plant 4 Brass Foundry operate Milwaukee jolt-squeeze machines. The photo above shows 16 machine molders each of whom makes molds and places them on the individual cars of the train. This train indexes every six minutes, and has space for six molds for each of the 16 molders or a maximum of 96 molds for each train. While molds are being placed on one train, they are being poured on the second. The third is in a cooling section and the fourth is going through the shake out area where the sand and castings are shaken from the flasks. Note the tray of molds being dumped in the background. The first three molders in the above picture, each with assembled flask and pattern, are, front to rear, Thomas McCoy, Ronald Rutledge and James Meyers.



Charles Brown, furnace operator, is shown pouring molten brass from a Stroman furnace into the 300-pound ladle of Howard Plummer. The metal is taken from here via a system of monorails to the pouring section.

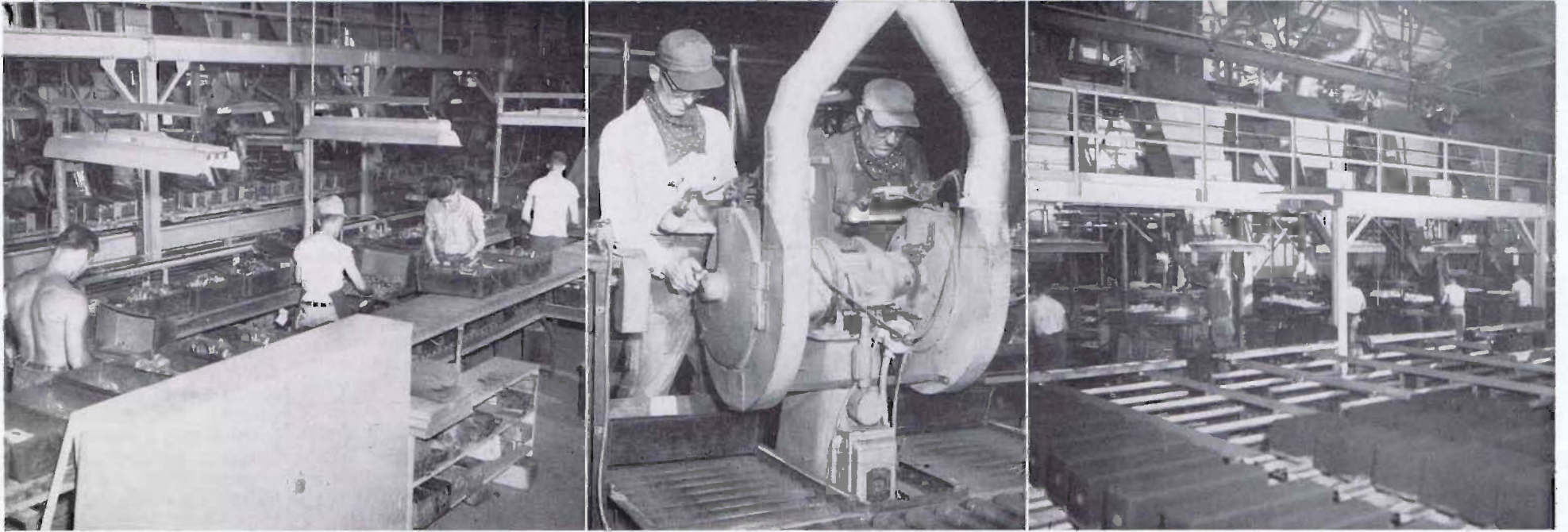


At left, Leland Hartwig, Brass Foundry foreman, observes Clarence Albert, ladleman, pour molten brass into a train of molds shortly after they were made by the machine molders. The train is in the pouring zone. Note the mold weights which are automatically lowered onto the mold to prevent metal from leaking out. After pouring, the train leaves this section and is pulled to the cooling site before being dumped. Once molds are dumped, the castings are separated from the sand by a Simplicity Shakeout which is a large vibrating machine that allows sand to go through it down on a belt conveyor. Castings go from the shakeout onto a metal conveyor where they are removed and stacked on skids



to be left for cooling. Castings are then cut off from the gates and placed in the Wheelabrator which removes adhering sand and cores. They next are placed in the Ransohoff, a large wet tumbling barrel. This gives castings a golden bronze appearance for which our products are well known. The photo at right shows castings coming from the tumbling barrel onto a round sorting table where they are sorted and placed in pans. From left around the table are Sam Jolly, Stanley Ashby, foreman; Colva Mayberry, David Isome, Pearl Kemper, George Shotton and George A. Hill.

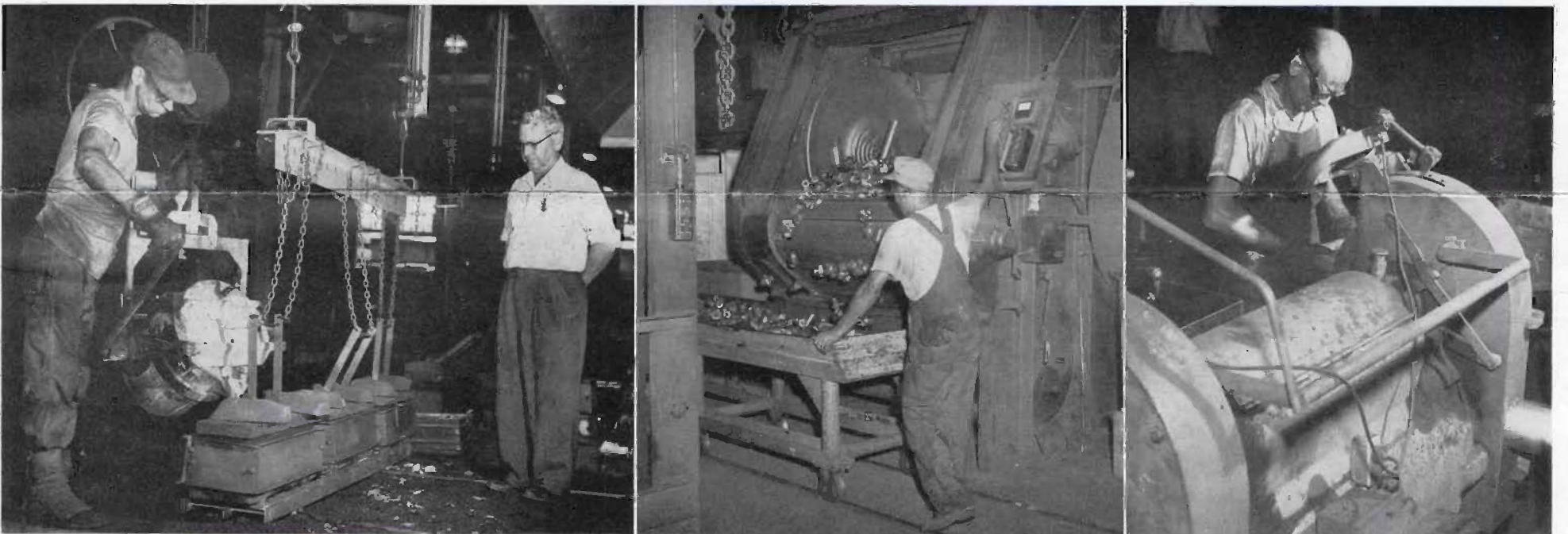
Panned Castings are Inspected and Sent to Grinders



Panned castings travel on a conveyor to the four men shown above who inspect each casting and remove any with visible defects. The men are, left to right, Curtis Tabor, Alexander Kerr, Loyal Belton and Tom Autey. While traveling along the conveyor, castings are identified by part number and tagged. Once inspected, castings continue their journey to the grinder. The center photo shows two of our grinders, Keith Williams, left, and Gilbert Sanders, grinding gates and fins from castings. All large brass and aluminum castings are cut off and ground at a separate section in the cleaning room. The entire grinding room operation is conveyerized so that no man has to lift a pan of castings. From this point, castings are taken to Plant I for machining. The photo at right is an

over-all view of the Iron Foundry Pallet system. This view shows the storage of molds on pallets where they remain until the pouring operation begins. The pouring operation begins after one and one-half hours of molding and continues through the rest of the day. Sand conveyors and molder hoppers are shown at the top of the photo. Below, six of the eight iron machine molders are at work. They are, from the left, Marvin Davis, Herbert Deibert, William Brownlow, Ernest Ray, Robert Workman and Charles Brownlow. Not shown are molders William Clutter and Lewis Nash. After the molds are dumped the pallets and bottom boards are returned by conveyor rails immediately beneath those shown in the picture.

From Pouring to the Wheelabrator and Grinder



At left ladleman Amos Bailey pours molten metal into the mold while Iron Foundry Foreman Elwood Potts looks on. Mold weights with attached chains are shown lowered into position on top of the mold. This device is raised and lowered by air cylinder. Following the pouring operation, castings are shaken from the mold and placed in hoppers where they are cooled. After cooling, the core sand, gates and sprues are removed and castings are loaded into the Wheelabrator where they are tumbled and

blasted with fine iron shot which removes adhering sand. The center photo shows castings being removed from the Wheelabrator onto a large sorting table. They are inspected and identified and then placed in containers in preparation for grinding. At right, Robert Ross, grinding operator, grinds off the gate of an iron casting. He is using a 24-inch snagging wheel. From here, castings are counted, weighed and sent to the Iron Foundry Machine Shop.

Three Scenes from Our New Iron Machine Shop



Drilling and tapping of the inlet and outlet ends of iron ground key bodies is the main purpose of this New Britain (365) automatic double end machine which is located in our Iron Machine Shop at Plant 4. The operator is William A. Hayes who has been with Mueller Co. since March 19, 1924. The center photo shows the Sun-Strand semi-automatic lathe in the Iron Machine Shop being operated by Cecil Wilson. Charles Mucray, Iron

Foundry and Machine Shop inspector, checks completed iron bodies. This machine is used to counterbore, face and chamfer LubOseal iron bodies. At right is a drill press which is operated by Russell Armstrong. Milo Wright, Machine Shop foreman, is using a gage to check the threads of a service clamp.



Brass castings in wooden tote boxes are being loaded into this semi-trailer truck by Benjamin Massey, Plant 4 material handler and hi-lift operator. The trailer, parked at our Plant 4 loading dock, brings the castings to Plant 1 for machining and assembly. Galvanized iron castings are stored in the background.

Shipping Dept.

By DOROTHY STRATMAN

Richard Green, Shipping Department, was married to Miss Kay Patzwitz on Sunday, May 9 in the St. John's Lutheran Church in Decatur. The Rev. George Albers officiated. They are living at 749 West Decatur Street. Ralph Handley, Shipping Department, was best man.

Robert Fulk, Shipping Department, was married to Miss Peggy Grosike on July 3. They are making their home at 2727 North Church Street in Decatur.

J. A. Staudt, traffic manager, was host to members of the Traffic Office and their families at his home recently. Home made ice cream was served. Those attending were Dolores Johnson and her mother, Mrs. Florence Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hendricks and two children, Rickey and Terry, Mr. and Mrs. Staudt and children, Jimmy, Fred and Silvia, and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fleckenstein and daughters, Pam and Sally.



You're looking at a champion, the man who holds the record for making the most molds in an eight-hour day at the Brass Foundry in Plant 4. He's Richard Ross who on July 30 this year set the record with 583 molds. Richard keeps in condition for his job by farming when off duty on a farm west of Shelbyville. He is married and is well liked by fellow employees. Richard started working for Mueller Co. on February 14, 1950. He entered service in November, 1951, and returned in November, 1953. He has been in the Brass Foundry since that time. He is 26 years old.

News of Interest . . . From Over Plant 4

By DOROTHY COLCLASURE

Richard Roarick and Gene Wakeland are now working in Production Control.

Kenneth Moore of Brass Foundry, Jack Parsons of the Laboratory, Harold Musterman and John Hackl of the Pattern Shop underwent surgery during the annual plant vacation shut-down.

"Bud" Ellis, Homer Hooker, and John Maxwell are driving new Mercurys and O. T. (Doc) Brown a new Chevrolet.

Elwood Potts started out in the foundry with a respirator on and nearly suffocated. He had forgotten to remove the paper from the air cleaner.

Frank Ridgway had a week's vacation in June. He and his family drove Roy Whitacre to Richmond, Kentucky, to visit relatives there.

Don Matthews, son of Wilfred Matthews, was married July 4 to Carolyn J. Pursell in the Bethel Tabernacle Church. They went to Wisconsin on their honeymoon. Don has been working at Plant 4 for several weeks.

Here's some old news! While moving patterns from Plant 1 to Plant 4, Dave Brown found a Decatur Herald dated April 5, 1918, with headlines concerning the First World War.

Bob Leipski and Bob Dodwell left the Pattern Shop a few weeks ago to return to Plant 1.

Clarence Rush has been away from work for several weeks, due to illness.

Ernest Hetzler's wife recently underwent surgery in Champaign.

George Hill was surprised the other day when he shook a little tiny mouse out of his tobacco can. Must have been packed in there by the tobacco manufacturer (or more likely some prankster in the grinding department).

Leona Hooker and Irene Benton are now working in the Core Room.

Ten-year old Robert Johnson, son of Charles and Mildred Johnson, made a bus trip alone to Evansville, Indiana, to visit his aunt, Virginia Jarrett, and then to Hardinsburg, Kentucky, to visit his grandmother, who came home with him.

We hear that Clara Fredricks, Margaret Behrend and Emilie Waltens are consistent winners at bingo.

Irmgard Moldenhauer went to Alaska to visit relatives.

David and Leland Baker, sons of Elmer and Flossie Baker, won high honors at the Taylorville Christian County Fair. David had two gilts that won two first prizes in 4-H and fourth prize in open class. Leland had two barrows that won first and second prizes in 4-H, and 2nd and 3rd in open class.

New Arrivals

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Berner, Jr., a daughter born July 3, 1954, named Betty Jo.

Mr. and Mrs. David Rauch, a daughter born July 9, named Judy Ann.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cook on July 14, and named Jerry Lee.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Gene Wakeland on July 26. She has been named Shawna Dawn.

Mr. and Mrs. Earney Black had a son, Michael Gail, born on June 17.

VACATION NOTES

A lot of people from plant 4 took advantage of the plant shut-down to take trips. A few were:

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Woodruff went fishing in Wisconsin.

Dean Albert and family to Kansas.

Dean Butler and family to Florida to visit son in Service.

"Lefty" and Mickey Adams and the Elmer Baker family to Trade Lake, Wisconsin.

Emilie Waltens and the LeRoy Carter family went to Detroit. Vera Tippitt to Florida.

Marion (Pat) Fonner family went to Baldwin, Michigan, to visit Pat's folks.

Carlyle and Dorothy Cooper to St. Louis, and took a boat trip on the Admiral.

Louis and Ina Banning to Little Rock, Arkansas.

Willie and Lou Nash to Kentucky.

"Mike" Wright to Niagara Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brownlow and son, Lloyd, and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Mills went sight-seeing in Tennessee. They saw Look-Out Mountain, and visited Wayne Heyer, who took them through the Chattanooga Plant. Carl Schuman was also through the Chattanooga Plant on his vacation.

Plant One Maintenance

By LOUISE WHITEHEAD

Clarence (Jack) Curlin, former employee of the Maintenance Department Tin Shop, retired because of physical disability on May 27, 1954. As a parting gift, his fellow employees presented him with a portable radio, which Jack says he will take with him on fishing trips. Jack is 50 years old, and had been with Mueller Co. for eighteen years.

Several new automobiles have made their appearance in the Maintenance Department. Monkota Karnes and Charlie Johnson have Chevrolets, and Rex Smith

Depts. 33, 34, 44, Methods

BY HELEN LEE

F. C. Hackman spent his vacation in Oregon this year.

Ruth Brownlow, Dept. 33, spent a few days at Sheaffer's Lake in Monticello, Indiana, with a group of 25 F.H.A. girls. She enjoyed being chaperon and said the girls had a good time even though it rained every day they were there. Ruth is now looking forward to moving into her new home in Macon.

Lowell Wellman and his wife are the parents of a boy born June 8. The baby has been named Gregory Allan.

David Dickey and Rosalyn Johnson were married June 27 in First Christian Church. David is a draftsman in Dept. 33.

Sue Bence started to work in Dept. 33 in July.

John Moma, Dept. 34, was an usher at his brother's wedding August 21.

Dave Resler, draftsman in Dept. 34, enlisted in the Army and resigned his job August 6.

John J. Smith and his wife visited Canada on their vacation this year.

Bill Doherty spent his vacation sitting in the back yard watching other people work.

Earl W. Lowe and his wife visited Washington, D. C., Florida and other states on their vacation.

Carlton Price finally broke down and bought a television set. He said he did it to give his neighbors a rest.

Fred Tratzik has returned from a vacation in California. He went through the Los Angeles plant while there.

gave way to a Ford after having driven Studebakers for a number of years.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Black are the parents of a son born in St. Mary's Hospital on July 17. He has been named Jerry Lee. Mr. Black is employed in the Maintenance Department.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Gilbert are the parents of a daughter, born June 26. Her name is Debra Lynn. Mr. Gilbert is an employee in the Maintenance Department.

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Garver have returned from a trip to Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Chaney and daughter spent three weeks vacationing in Pennsylvania. Mr. Chaney is our Plant Engineer.

Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Scott returned home after a two weeks' vacation. They traveled through Iowa, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, and Missouri.

Louise Whitehead, of the Plant Engineer's Office, has returned to the office after a vacation of ten days in Dallas, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Guin spent their vacation in Missouri. Delbert is a tinner in the Maintenance Department.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Hazen vacationed in and around Kenora, Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl O. Smith have returned from their vacation. They visited friends in Bay City, Michigan, and went fishing in Saginaw Bay and St. Helen, Michigan.



One of the most capable machine molders in the Iron Foundry is Charles Brownlow who has been in that position since November, 1945. Charles came to Mueller Co. as a laborer on October 25, 1939. His efficiency as an excellent molder is borne out by his low percentage rate loss on molds. Mr. and Mrs. Brownlow are the parents of two children, a son and daughter.



Dorothy Colclasure who acts as first aid attendant at Plant 4 along with her other duties as stenographer, cares for the injured finger of Albert Griffith. Dorothy has been with Mueller Co. just one year—she was employed in September, 1953—but she has proven herself to be a valuable employee. She acts as stenographer for most of the departments at Plant 4, and in addition is chief correspondent at that plant for MAIN CONNECTIONS.

What They Say at L.A.

By **GEORGE KNUDSEN**
Chief Correspondent

Lots of luck to Marilyn Foltz, daughter of Cecil Foltz, engineer. Marilyn recently was married to Richard Lee Moore. Marilyn is working in our office at present, but will continue her studies at Pasadena College this September. Congratulations, Richard!

In the Monday night bowling league Mueller Co. teams No. 1, 2 and 3 are battling nip and tuck with No. 2 out in front, but anything can happen in the final weeks. High average to date is Bill Young with 164. Bob Lugo is showing the most improvement.

Thanks for the black top. The employees returned from a week's vacation and were pleasantly surprised to see that black

top parking lot. It's beautiful and are we happy.

Bob Hughes, who worked in the Meter Riger Department, is now manager of the Visalia baseball team in the California League.

Bob Lugo, Sales Division, doesn't worry about cutting the grass anymore. He has taught his boy Jimmy, just seven months old, how it is done, or so Bob says. Could be that Jimmy gets a free ride while Dad pushes.

Bruce Stotler, head of production, outgrew his old home and has purchased a new one in Arcadia. The city is located near the Sierra Madres.

The appearance of the Main Office has been improved con-

siderably recently and office members now enjoy the benefits of better lighting and acoustics.

We were sorry to hear that Marie Simonson is leaving our company to return to Madison where she will live with her parents.

Sharon Adams and Mitzie Albertson, newest members of the Main Office, have enhanced that good looking and hard working organization.

Mrs. Montoya, former stenographer of Mr. Schelgel, has taken the place of Fay Purinton as supervisor, stock upkeep. Fay has retired.

OLD AGE BENEFITS

As of March, 1954, one person was receiving old-age and disability benefits for every eight persons employed. One person was receiving survivors' benefits for every 19 persons employed.

'Chuck' Musmecci, 38, Dies; Bill Young Named Foreman

Charles "Chuck" Musmecci, Assembly Department foreman at our Los Angeles plant since December 1, 1945, and an employee of Mueller Co. nearly 18 years, died suddenly on May 24 at his home from coronary occlusion.

Chuck's passing was mourned by all who knew him. He had an excellent company record and was exceptionally well liked by all personnel.

Born October 21, 1916, in Denison, Texas, Chuck attended Denison High School and Byrne Business College. He was employed by his father for three months before coming to Los Angeles to accept a job with Mueller Co. on August 27, 1936.

He began his Mueller career in the Assembly Department but on March 16, 1942, he was transferred to the Brass Machine Department as lathe operator. On February 24, 1943, he was promoted to set-up lathe man. He held this position until December 1, 1945, when he was named Assembly Department foreman.

"Chucker," as he was known to many, was considered an understanding boss by his men. He was a hard worker and an ardent sports fan. His knowledge of sports reflected his competitive spirit. He loved to fish and hunt and was always ready for the deer season. A very good bowler, "Chuck" was on top or near the top in averages at the end of every season.

William "Bill" Young recently was promoted to Assembly Department foreman, the position made vacant by the sudden death of Charles Musmecci.

Bill has been with our Los Angeles plant for 18 years. He began as a machinist's helper in 1936. He served as foreman in charge of aircraft until this department was discontinued. He



CHARLES MUSMECCI



WILLIAM YOUNG

is a World War II veteran of the Navy.

Bill's favorite sports are hunting, fishing and bowling. He is very proficient in each of them. He carries the best wishes of fellow employees for success in his new position.

Around The Plant . . . At CHATTANOOGA

EVELYN WILBANKS
Chief Correspondent

GENERAL

Our softball team which plays in the Civic Industrial League No. 1 has been playing some very good ball this year and if this good playing continues they may end up by beating the champs. Seven games have been won, three lost and they were one and one-half games in the lead with five games left to play the last of July.

Speaking of sports, we have golfers who play a very good game. Coy Jones, general foreman, Foundry Division, and his brother, R. F., apprentice molder, have been playing in some of the recent tournaments.

Production is high but if we did not have the Maintenance Department that we have this would be impossible. It is this department that keeps the machines and buildings in condition in order that we can do a good days work. Foreman of this department is Joe W. Hixon. Bob Harris is second shift foreman and Russell Miller is third shift foreman.

OFFICE

Ella Faye Dailey became the bride of Dale E. Watkins on July 9, 1954. Ella hasn't been with us too long and is in the Cost Department.

Marilyn Anderson, former employee of the Cost Department, and her husband, Andy, are the proud parents of a daughter, Deborah Lynn, born July 20 at Memorial hospital.

The voice you hear from the switchboard these days is that of Helen Ramsey, who was formerly in the Cost Department. Helen replaces Alice Tribble who resigned recently.—Gene Racz * * *

PRODUCTION CONTROL

Welcome Jane! Jane W. Brackett has come back to work with us after being away for about one year. She has been in Athens, Georgia, where her husband has been a student at the University of Georgia from where he will graduate soon. Jane will be remembered here as Jane Witt.

June was the month for the wedding of Laura Tant and E. Boyd Holbrook in Atlanta, Georgia.

Pauline Dutto resigned July 16 due to her health.

Martha Farley and husband, Gary, and their two daughters, Judy and Mary, have recently returned from a visit with friends in Corpus Christi, Texas. While there they visited King's Ranch in Kingsville, the Naval Air Station and went down "South of the Border."—Lois Trotter. * * *

SALES DEPARTMENT

We may be a little late but our congratulations to Frank Kellett—a daughter, Ginger, born March, 1954.

The room which was formerly used by the Engineering Department as the blue print room is now being used as the mail room. This greatly increases our space and we're sure Irene is proud of this addition to the Sales Department.

Two members of our department are sporting new cars—W. A. "Chuck" Coventry is driving a new Buick and Glenda Mae Wilson is driving a good looking Pontiac.—Ione Mulkey.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Bob Lusk, Tool Engineer, has been going around with a big grin on his face, and the reason—he is a grandfather for the first time. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lusk are the parents of a daughter, Carol Elaine, born May 26, at Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Lusk is the former Ann Smith. Congratulations to the new parents and also to the new grandparents, Bob and Verneil Lusk.

Incidentally, Bob and Verneil celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary July 19, 1954, so they are due double congratulations.

BRASS FOUNDRY

Our sympathy is extended to James F. Brown in the recent death of his mother.

Adam Towns, Jr. has returned to work after two years in the army.

Congratulations to Herbert Silver—a new daughter.—Harold Roberts. * * *

CORE ROOM

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Hugh Mackey in the recent death of his father and also to Milburn Carrol who lost his father.

Congratulations to Roy Ellis—daughter, born July 13, 1954. * * *

FOUNDRY

Congratulations to these men who have new arrivals in their homes:

R. F. Jones—son, July 17
Oscar Preston — daughter, June 21
Boyd Copeland — daughter, June 23. * * *

MACHINE SHOP AND MAINTENANCE

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Arvel Black of the Machine Shop in the recent death of his mother.

Joe Racz of the Maintenance Department and his wife, Gene, had as their recent guests Joe's parents and his brother of Altoona, Pa. This was the first trip south for Mr. and Mrs. Racz and they had to admit that they did like this part of the country.

Congratulations to:
Wilbur Irwin—daughter
Billy Lindsey—son
Ralph Tolbert—son.



Chattanooga softball team members are from left to right. First row: outfielder Fred Wright, Assembly Dept.; infielder Raymond Baker, Shipping Dept.; pitcher Ray Claridy, Shipping Dept.; infielder Wheeler Cage, Production Control; manager James Potter, Accounting; outfielder James Tolbert, Production Control. Second row: outfielder Buster Irwin, Machine Shop; infielder Claude Howell, Maintenance Dept.; outfielder Frank Kellett, Sales; catcher Dick Hood, Foundry; infielder R. F. Jones, Foundry; outfielder Bill Hixon, Standards Dept.; outfielder Gene Frederick, Shipping Dept.; outfielder Ralph Tolbert, Machine Shop. Not pictured is Stanley Kuhne, Standards Dept.

Party For Fay Purinton Given On Her Retirement

Fay Purinton, Stock Upkeep, retired from Mueller Co. after seeing 11 years service with our Los Angeles plant. A party in her honor was held at the Sky Room atop the Wilton Hotel in Long Beach.

Kay Worley was in charge of the affair. Those attending were Earl and Katherine Worley, Robert and Marsha Lugo, Stella and Al Rodak, Roberta Youngs, Barbara Liddell, James Wolf and Mickey Wyckoff, Kathryn Thompson, Orphia and George Barsz, Peggy and Wayne Wright,

Caroline Payette and Arthur Driscoll and Patricia Anderson.

Dinner followed by dancing was enjoyed by all. The Miss Universe Contest was taking place at the time and those present had the pleasure of seeing a number of the contestants. The Sky Room affords a beautiful view of the harbor. The boats and the lights created a beautiful picture.

Fay was wished a lot of luck from everyone. She will be leaving soon for a vacation trip to Mexico City.

Morris Cottner Retires at Decatur



Morris Cottner concluded 14 years of service with Mueller Co. when he retired recently at the age of 65. Cottner of 1260 East Willard Street, Decatur, was a member of Department 80. He has served as a janitor, fireman and drill press operator for our company. Employees presented him with a bill fold and money the day of his retirement. Above, Frank Williams makes the presentation to Cottner as fellow employees look on.

Diplomas Awarded This Quartet



MARIANNE LOUISE MULLEN, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Mullen, Courtright, graduated from St. Patrick High School, Sarnia. She will attend O.C.E. Toronto during the next term, following which she plans to teach school in Windsor, Ontario. Her father is in Department 14,

VERONICA GREENWOOD, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David R. Greenwood, 1133 Logan Street, Sarnia, graduated from St. Patrick High School, Sarnia. She has enrolled in School of Nursing at St. Joseph Hospital, Chatham, Ontario. Her father is in Department 10.

NORMA ELLENOR, graduate of Toronto Training Centre for Nursing Assistants. Daughter of Milton Ellenor, Department 8, she is one of 37 women from Canada who have had 10 months training including work in hospitals and have attained the required standard in written examinations.

SALLY SMITH, graduate of Sarnia Collegiate and Technical Institute Commercial Department, received honors in Grade IX piano and First Class Honors in Grade III Theory. She has joined a Sarnia law firm. Her father is Carlyle Smith, general shop foreman.

Brass Chips From Sarnia

ALMEDA M. REEVES
Chief Correspondent

Thomas Edward Brennan, youngest son of W. R. Brennan, merchandise manager, Plumbing and Streamline Division, recently enlisted with the R.C.A.F. Tom is at present stationed at No. 2 Manning Depot at St. John's Quebec, where he will receive his tests and preliminary training.

Miss Edna Johnston, daughter of Sam Johnston, foundry superintendent, has been appointed to the teaching staff of the Blue Water Public School, in Sarnia.

Joe Rosina recently transferred back to Department 2 from Department 5. It seems that Joe previously worked in Department 2 for about 7 years and was just a little lonesome for the old gang.

Merton Bice, supervisor in Department 2, limped into work one morning, explaining that an attempt to paint his house almost proved disastrous to him when he tumbled from his ladder with a pail of paint. Have you seen the new effect on his shrubbery and sidewalk?

Our congratulations to C. P. (Phil) Hamilton, recently appointed as assistant district commissioner in charge of Cub Scout camping. Phil has been interested in Scout work for more than eleven years and was Akela of the 11th Cub Pack at Parker Street United Church for several years.

Our sincere good wishes are extended to Eileen L. Round, Invoicing Department, who is leaving our employment shortly to enter the Salvation Army Training College, Toronto.

Ron Nicolson, vice-president and general sales manager, was recently elected to the post of vice-president of the Lambton County Association for Cerebral Palsy.

Plant Controller Charles Browett has returned to the water, having been a landlubber since his discharge in 1946 from the R.C.N. Early this spring Charlie purchased a molded plywood hull and after many hours of talk and hard work completed his 14 foot motor boat. Having a yen for speed he powered the

BROWETT SPECIAL with a 25 H.P. motor and in the evening can be found roaring up and down the St. Clair River or talking boats at the Sarnia Yacht Club.

Our sympathy is extended to: Calvin Turnbull, Department 7 and his three children, Donald, Mary and Keith, in the sudden passing of his wife and their mother.

Keith Stirling, Department 5, in the death of his grandfather, Joseph L. Foster, Bayfield, who was 86.

Michael and Mrs. Higgins, Department 7, in the passing of Mrs. Higgins' mother, Mrs. S. Donald.

New Muellerites:
To Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Walsh, a daughter, Frances Clare. Clarence is in Department 8.

To Mr. and Mrs. William Currie, a son, Rodney William. Bill is in Department 3.

To Mr. and Mrs. Morris LaBelle, a son, Daniel Joseph. Morris is in Department 2.

To Mr. and Mrs. William Ryan, a daughter, Jean Catharine. Bill is in Department 1.

To Mr. and Mrs. Marcel St. Jean, a son, Victor Charles. Marcel is in Department 8.

To Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Snyder, a son, Leonard, Glenn is in the streamline section of Department 15.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Harrett, a daughter, Shirley Jean. Ralph is in Department 8.

To Mr. and Mrs. Michael Higgins, a son, Randall Thomas. Michael is in Department 7.

Dennis Tilley, First Aid Man, at Conference

Once more the annual conference of the Industrial Accident Prevention Association is a matter of record—and a pretty good one.

Some 3,650 people including the first aid attendant at our Sarnia plant, Dennis Tilley, attended this conference. There were people from 158 towns, eight Canadian provinces, 11 American states, England, Scotland and Brazil registered during the two days of the conference at the Royal York Hotel.

From the opening session at the annual meeting and the report of the president to the conclusion of the outstanding address by Dr. Elton Trueblood, new director of religious policy for the Voice of America, every session was attended by an interested audience.

Many presidents of large Canadian companies were on hand to study and search for answers to accident prevention problems.

One of the chief items of interest brought to light was the fact that in 1952, 3.1 per cent of all injuries reported to the Workmen's Compensation Board were eye injuries. There was a total of 1,558 cases of which 184 resulted in permanent disabilities ranging from disfigurement to total blindness.

In view of this, it is interesting to know that there has been no serious eye injuries at our Mueller Co. plants in Decatur, Los Angeles, Chattanooga, or at Mueller, Limited in Sarnia for several years, a record of which our company is particularly proud.

Joyce Fischer Married to Neil Howson



MR. AND MRS. HOWSON

On Saturday, June 5, Miss Joyce Fischer became the bride of Neil F. Howson. The marriage took place at St. Joseph's Rectory in Sarnia at 9 o'clock, the Rev. Callaghan officiating.

The bride was attractive in a navy blue suit with white accessories and carried a white prayer book topped with French rosettes and streamers. The bride was attended by her sister-in-law, Mrs. Kathryn Fischer, and the groom was attended by Reinhold Fischer. Following the ceremony a reception was held at the Colonial Hotel for the immediate members of the families.

Previous to her marriage, Miss Fischer, receptionist for our Sarnia plant, was presented with a blanket from the office staff by C. S. Browett, our plant controller. The girls of the office staff gathered at the home of Mrs. Jane Racz where the new Mrs. Howson was entertained at a linen shower. Co-hostesses were Miss Kathryn Forbes and Mrs. Jane Racz.

Avid Skier Garnet Denomy Builds 'Hickories' at Home

Water skiing is currently the most popular sports attraction in the St. Clair River resort town of Corunna, a community south of Sarnia. It all started about five years ago when a few young men of the district, including Garnet Denomy, scheduling clerk, Department 11, decided to copy their American cousins, pooled their boats and bought some skis. Then Mr. Garnet opened a small shop in his garage and began manufacturing skis, spending most of his spare hours during the winter season making skis for the summer season and has supplied most of the amateurs in this vicinity.



Mrs. Gladys Denomy, wife of Garnet Denomy, scheduling clerk, Department 11, is shown with samples of the various types of skis used on the St. Clair River.

Mr. Garnet and his wife, Gladys, are both avid skiers. He captured a fourth place award in the Canadian Jump competition at Peterborough against 36 competitors last summer. He estimates that there are nearly 75 skiers, from six-year olds to adults, keenly interested in this sport, at Corunna. Several are reported ready for national and international competition.

To equip oneself for a skiing expedition, an outlay of about \$800 should do the trick according to Garnet. An ordinary motorboat with a 25-horsepower motor is the major expenditure. Knowing how to snow-ski helps the water skier as far as balance is concerned, but the sports

are as different as day is from night in other respects. On snow, one leans ahead on the hickories for propulsion, but on water skis the tendency is to lean back.

A ski jump is being made ready and it is expected that during the summer season the town of Corunna will become a veritable Cypress Garden.

Mueller, Werdes, Parker Trophy Won by 'Pop-Ups'



The top bowling team at Sarnia is the "Pop-Ups" whose six members pose with their trophies in the panel at left. They are, front row left, Sylvia Shortt, Leona Addy; back row left, Lyle Izzard, Wilbur Nesbitt, James Chaytor and Alvin Smith. The panel at right shows the high average bowlers the past season for both men and women at our Canadian plant. Grace Campbell held the high women's average and Eric Wood won men's high average.

This year the annual bowling banquet was held at the Sarnia Golf Club.

Honored guests included Hugh Kilbreath, representing Lloyd French of the Union Gas Co., and W. B. Campbell, Mueller, Limited purchasing agent, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Don Graham, proprietors of Graham's Bowling Alley.

Following the dinner, Eric Wood, president of the league, introduced Mr. Campbell, who presented the Mueller, Werdes and Parker Trophy to Wilbur Nesbitt, captain of the "Pop-Ups," the top bowling team. Mr. Graham presented the individual trophies to the members of the winning team, Sylvia Shortt, Leona Addy, James Chaytor, Lyle Izzard, Alvin Smith and Wilbur Nesbitt.

Mr. Kilbreath presented the Union Gas Cup for the Women's

high average to Grace Campbell and also did the honors in presenting the French Trophy for the men's high average to Eric Wood.

Sam Round, league treasurer, presented the prize money for the individual bowler awards as follows:

Women's High Triple—Doris McLaughlin

Women's High Single—Grace Campbell

Men's High Triple—Eric Wood
Men's High Single—Eric Wood

Following the presentations dancing was enjoyed by the bowlers and guests.

TB is curable... bed rest, used with drugs and surgery when necessary, is still our No. 1 treatment.