

Published for the Employees of the
MUELLER CO.
 Editor, Walter H. Dyer
 Assistant Editor, Louise Cole
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Walker Opens New Cash Gift Award Plan

Many of Mueller Co.'s Decatur employees have learned personally about the new merit awards and gift certificates since its very recent beginning under the direction of O. E. Walker, vice-president and works manager.

Decatur Plant

The five year men who have been presented awards this month are: Richard J. Caruthers, John H. Ossowski, Louis J. Seibert Jr., Vaughn H. West, Robert E. Webb and James A. Bratcher.

Winners of the 10-year-awards and the gift certificates for \$7.50 are: Robert J. Boehm, Wayne E. Lynch, Virginia A. Benton, Ernest Ray, William L. Brownlow, Robert L. Pate and Gilbert L. Sanders.

Those awarded 15-year-pins and gift certificates for \$10 are: Lew A. Miller and Pershing

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The first to realize benefits under the new award plan are shown above. Top, H. B. Whittington is shown receiving a gift certificate from O. E. Walker, vice-president and works manager, as Chief Inspector E. H. Fawley and General Superintendent Archie Sefton look on. In the center picture, Ernst Hertzler, clerk in the pattern shop, is accepting his certificate from Mr. Walker. Mr. Sefton is at left, with Ollie Fortschneider, foreman of the pattern shop, at right. In the bottom picture Plant Engineer M. K. Chaney receives his gift from Mr. Walker, and Mr. Sefton looks on from right.

Credit Union Nears \$Million

Popularity of Mueller Co.'s Employee Credit Union was made clearly evident at the annual membership meeting when it was announced that 1,062 Decatur employees have amassed a total of \$936,915.80, an average of \$833.67 per account.

Harold Munsterman, Credit Union treasurer, also reported a four percent dividend was declared, which amounted to \$29,666.55, and was credited to each member's share.

Also at the meeting fourteen

directors were re-elected and one new director, Howard Gleespen, was elected. All the officers were re-elected: president, Otis B. Fears; vice-president, Albert Spitzer; treasurer, Harold Munsterman; and secretary, Frank Ridgeway.

Members re-elected to the credit committee include Cecil D. Kelley, Harold W. Taylor, Carl I. Maner, Orville Spencer Jr. and Ernest S. Watkins; re-elected to the supervisory committee

(Continued on page 4)

Miss Louise Cole Appointed Assistant Publications Editor

In a move to further expand Mueller Co.'s publications program, Miss Louise Cole of Huntsville, Texas, has been employed as assistant editor of the Mueller Record and Main Connections.

Miss Cole, who studied journalism at the University of Texas, has had extensive experience in the weekly and small daily newspaper field, and in addition has served as correspondent for the Houston (Texas) Post, and the Houston Chronicle, two of the South's largest newspapers, and for the United Press Bureau in Houston.

A native of Roscoe, Texas, Miss Cole attended Hardin Simmons University before entering the University of Texas. She began her career in 1950 as a reporter for the Madisonville, Texas, Meteor, a weekly newspaper. She was named society editor for the Angleton, Texas, Daily Review in May, 1951, serving in this capacity for nine months before being transferred to the general news staff as



MISS LOUISE COLE

courthouse reporter. At about this same time, Walter H. Dyer, present editor of Mueller publications, came to Angleton as managing editor of the Daily Review.

In 1952, Miss Cole was appointed editor of the Angleton

(Continued on page 6)

Jackson Does Wall-Size Painting

"Jack of all trades, master of none" is an old adage definitely not applicable to Herman E. Jackson, who is a Jack of many trades and master of many.

An employee of fourteen years at Mueller Co. in Decatur, Mr. Jackson has held and successfully handled several key positions. Among others, Mr. Jackson has been advertising director, a lifetime goal for most men, editor of the Mueller Record, a related though entirely different field, and currently is an artist in the Catalog Department. Among his widely diversified extracurricular activities he is art instructor in the adult evening classes at the high school, and has done a great many major art works of his own, such as landscapes and portraits.

To add to his laurels, Mr. Jackson has just recently completed the largest painting of his career; a 12' 5" by 5' high oil painting on the dining room wall in the new South Shore home of Hugh Baker, catalog engineer.

The painting, which took a month to complete with Mr. Jackson working evenings and Saturdays, depicts a gracious 19th century Old South scene featuring Lookout Mountain, on which Mr. and Mrs. Baker lived when he was sales manager of Mueller's Chattanooga plant.

The mountain and range forms

the back drop with a gracious colonial mansion, hoop-skirted ladies and a river steamer puffing up stream in the foreground.

The Bakers chose the subject for the painting, as well as the decor for their home to capture the charm of the deep south, since they had lived there many years and liked it a great deal.

The dining room has a large picture window facing the lake, and the wall with the painting is opposite flanked on each end by corner cabinets. The space was first papered with gray matching that on the other walls, and the painting was painted on this.

Mr. Jackson used a vivid range of colors complimentary to various shades of blue and wine, introduced to blend and emphasize the colors of china in the cabinets. He also worked with the gray background in such a way as to make it an integral part of the design as well as the overall color harmony.

Throughout the month of painting Mr. Jackson had avid admirers and an eager audience in the Bakers' two children, Steve and Sally, and the painting has become a feature attraction for visitors in their home.



MR. JACKSON'S PAINTING

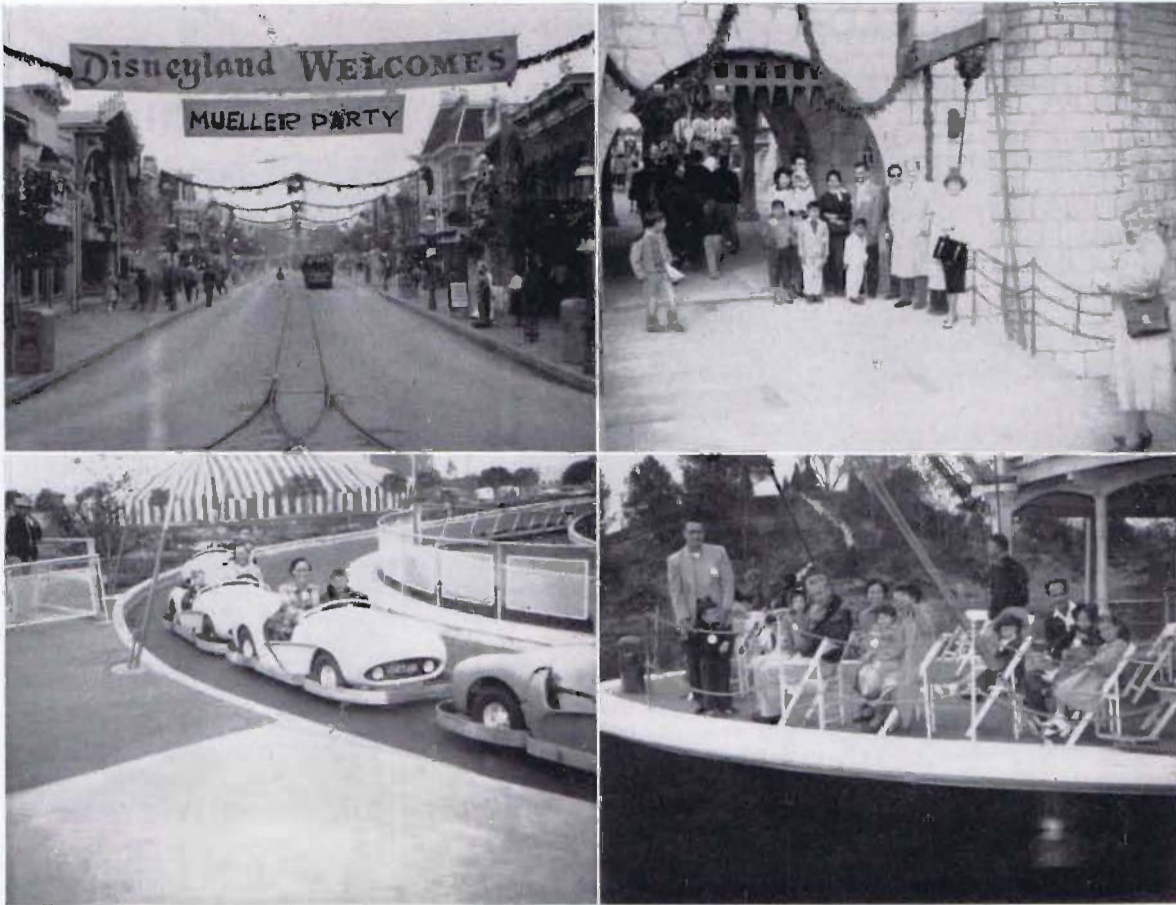
Christmas

At Mueller



W. H. HIPHER
Speaks at Christmas Party





Disneyland was the scene this year of our Los Angeles plant's Christmas party, and the fabulous little city welcomed Mueller employees with a sign hung across "Main Street." Employees' children boarded a street car, a surrey with fringe on top, or a fire wagon from this point for a Disneyland tour. Upper right shows Fantasy Land visitors Nick Chavez, Mrs. Chavez and their daughter, Rosanne; Mr. and Mrs. Ray Ballesteras with Aaron, Ray Jr. and Dorothy and Ballesteras' brother-in-law; and Mr and Mrs. Earl Bright and Randy. At lower right there are Paul Duncan with his son Ronnie, John Laviguer with Adell, and Otis Abadie surrounded by Mary, Pat, Elizabeth, Jane, Jeanne, Marg and Ethel. At lower left are Robert Newell and his wife showing Rusty and Donnie how to operate the cars.



Miss Jane Keeton is shown playing the music box she received as a gift at the Christmas party. Chuck Coventry listens to the tune.



Frank Keliatt, assistant to Chuck Coventry who is assistant sales manager of the Chattanooga plant, seems to express pleasure and surprise during the Christmas party there.



Miss Wanda Patten of the Chattanooga Sales Department takes time out for a breather after the annual Christmas party. Gifts were exchanged among the employees and each received the Mueller Co. ham and bacon.



"Boss" Chuck Coventry seems to be the man of the hour in this shot of the Chattanooga Christmas party. The smiling girls are from Plant Controller Wayne Heyer's office.



You can tell the way the photographer's camera was focused as to who he was concentrating on in this picture. She is Miss Fayrene Jones, stenographer in the Production Control Department. The others are, from left, Dave Justus, Otto Peake and Lyle Behl.

\$175 Billion Needed Yearly To Operate U. S. Industry

A total capital investment of 175 billion dollars was necessary in 1954 for the operations of America's manufacturing corporations in order to produce goods and keep people employed, according to a report prepared by the National Association of Manufacturers' Research Department from government statistics.

The report pointed out that 66.4 billion dollars of this total capital investment represents the manufacturing plants, the land on which they rest, and the machinery and tools within the plant.

"What is not generally realized," the report states, "is that manufacturing companies have to keep an even larger amount invested in what is known as 'current assets'—inventories, receivables, and cash.

The total amount invested in inventories at all stages came to 43.3 billion dollars at the end of 1954, the NAM report continued. These inventories consist of a stock of raw material, a stock of partially finished goods, and a stock of finished products. Inventories are kept, not because manufacturers like to see a stock of goods piled up, but because it cannot operate without them.

Another portion of the total capital investment of 175 billion dollars consisted of 23.8 billion dollars which represents receivables—the amount owed by customers on the orders they

have received but not yet paid for at the end of 1954.

On December 31, 1954, manufacturing corporations held 28.0 billion dollars in the form of cash or U. S. Government bonds, which is the last major part of the total capital investment. This may seem like an enormous "hoard" of ready cash, but the conduct of any business requires a substantial fund of cash, or assets readily convertible into cash, be held at all times to meet essential expenditures of various kinds—payrolls, taxes, accounts payable, and bank loans.

JUST HOW GOOD WERE THE GOOD OLD DAYS?

Men have always talked about the good old days. One hundred years ago it was the same. Give an oldtimer your ear and you will be wishing you were born at least 80 years ago.

Yet, were those so-called good old days really so good? For a closer look at conditions of 100 years ago, here's a list of Rules published by a Chicago firm in 1856.

1. Store must be open from 6 A.M. to 9 P.M. the year round.
2. Store must be swept; counters, bases, shelves and show-cases dusted. Lamps trimmed, filled and chimneys cleaned; pens made; doors and windows opened; a pail of water, also a bucket of coal brought in before breakfast (if there is time to do so) and attend to customers who call.
3. Store must not be opened on the Sabbath unless necessary, and then only a few minutes.
4. The employee who is in the habit of smoking Spanish cigars, being shaved at the barber's, going to dances and other places of amusement, will surely give his employer reason to be suspicious of his integrity and honesty.
5. Each employee must not pay less than five dollars per year to the church and must attend Sunday School regularly.
6. Men employees are given one evening a week for courting and two if they go to prayer meetings.
7. After fourteen hours of work in the store, the leisure time should be spent mostly in reading.

Lou Mautz New Salesman; Frank Kuenstler to Dallas

The appointment of a new sales representative and the transfer of another has been announced by Robert H. Morris, Mueller Co. Vice President and General Sales Manager.

Frank L. Kuenstler, sales representative in West Texas and New Mexico, joined Ward L. DeWitt, effective February 6, as a representative traveling the Dallas area. Louis P. Mautz, who has just completed the company's sales training program, will travel in West Texas and New Mexico.

Mr. DeWitt and Mr. Kuenstler form a team co-ordinating work in the rapidly expanding Southwest. The latter has a background particularly suitable for service in the utility field.

A graduate of Southwest Texas State College at San Marcos, Mr. Kuenstler was a junior

partner in a large Texas construction firm prior to joining Mueller Co. Mr. Kuenstler and his family will make their home in Dallas.

As the replacement for Mr. Kuenstler, Mr. Mautz has been engaged in an intensive sales training program since July 15, 1955. During his training period he has made a thorough study of the Mueller product line as well as field sales procedures. In addition, he has studied sales office procedures and manufacturing methods in the Decatur and Chattanooga offices and plants.

Mr. Mautz holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois and before joining Mueller Co. he was a radio announcer and sports-caster. Later he was with the sales staff of a television station.

*Merlin Coates' Son***Quick-Thinking Sarnia Boy Saves Homes From Blaze**

A responsible acting youngster is credited with probably saving two homes from fire in Sarnia, Ontario, by notifying a nearby home owner who called the fire department.

Twelve-year-old Keith Coates, son of Merlin Coates, manufacturing engineer of Mueller, Limited in Sarnia, was delivering papers on his route when he saw smoke coming from the summer home of Mrs. Emily Woolley of Toronto.

Upon investigation, Keith decided he could not cope with the fire and ran to Charles Browett, 551 Woodrowe, for help. Mr. Browett called the fire depart-

ment and trucks from two stations responded.

Fire officials said the blaze had probably been burning inside the house for some time, and when flames burned through to the cedar siding it soon burned to the ground. Cause of the fire was not determined.

Two adjacent homes were threatened, but undamaged.

In all the excitement Keith did not for a moment forget his job for The Sarnia Observer where he has worked for three years. He delivered the rest of his newspapers to subscribers as they watched the fire.

CHAYTOR LEADS YOUTH BOWLERS TO TOURNEY

Jim Chaytor, compression assembler in Department Seven at Mueller, Limited, is an enthusiastic supporter of the Sarnia Minor Athletic Association, and is now convener of the bowling league made up of some 300 boys and girls.

In the immediate future for Mr. Chaytor and his SMAA boys and girls is a trip to Toronto to play in the Canadian Junior Five Pin Tournament. The teams to represent the city will be chosen soon.

Last year the SMAA took 34 members of the league to Toronto and the girls, aged eight to 14, won the Canadian trophy.

Mr. Chaytor said various bowling leagues and lodges help in the youth program. The Women of the Moose are providing teams with sweaters, he said, and the Legion of Moose, City Bowling League and the Industrial Bowling League are also aiding the program.

Credit Union Nears . . .

(Continued from page 1)

are Charles L. Brown, Russell Armstrong and Richard J. Caruthers. Two other directors re-elected are Raymond Larns and Pershing Griffith.

The Credit Union office, next to the Personnel office, is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with Grace Glenn, who has been clerk for eight years, there to help members and future members.

*From Farm Boy***Jake Vollmer Wins Praise For Rise To Chief Engineer**

J. A. (Jake) Vollmer was featured in an article in a Sarnia newspaper recently for his rise from laborer in the Cleveland-Sarnia Saw Mills in 1900 to chief engineer in charge of the powerhouse, millwrights and electrical plant at Mueller, Limited in 1919 until his retirement in 1950.

Mr. Vollmer may well claim to be a "self made man," since his father died when his son was just six months old, and the young Jake began to earn a man's share of the living when he was 12.

Working on the farm until he was 23, Mr. Vollmer left in 1900 to work in the saw mills in Sarnia where he became a millwright and did some sawing.

From there he went to the Lawrence Lumber Company at Canondo as a sawer. In 1904 he married Miss Annie Baechler of Sarnia, and in 1915 the couple returned to Sarnia to make their home and Mr. Vollmer joined Mueller, Limited.

Mr. Vollmer's first job at Mueller was as a millwright, looking after the installation and maintenance of machinery and equipment. The next year he was made assistant to the chief engineer, then was promoted to chief engineer in 1919.



J. A. VOLLMER

Comparison between the plant of his early days with the company and the present set-up continues to astonish him, Mr. Vollmer says.

Mr. and Mrs. Vollmer had three daughters and a son. The daughters still living are Mrs. Connie Stein (Celia) of Detroit, and Mrs. J. B. Fitton (Helen) of Toronto. The son, Jack, teaches mathematics at the University of Detroit.

Sarnia Vets Get Awards

Fifteen year service pin award winners are (seated left to right) Robert Bannister, Murray E. Taylor, Bruce Barrett, William Tompkins, Eric Wood, Clyde Smith and Edgar McIntosh; second row, John Woolley, Basil Thompson, William Ingles, George Maitland, Michael Higgins, F. J. Payne, Thomas Geary, Alex Aiken, R. Jack White and Roscoe Kearney; back row, Edgar Ellenor, Fred Trumble, Fred Cuthbertson, Otto Foster, Harold Hannam, Donald Foreman and William Eady.



Winners of 35 year pins at Sarnia are, seated above left, left to right, W. John Flood, Robert Moore and Carl Smith; standing, George Schillmore and John H. Tedder. Pictured seated at right are 30-year awardees Sam Johnston, Harriet Ramsey and Gordon Karr; standing is 20-year man Norman Gilbert and Alvert Banting who holds a 25-year pin.



Pictured at left (seated) are 10-year service pin award winners Roy Parr, Bessie Olson and Marion Dennis; standing Alphonse Furlotte, John Haladey, Howard Sayman, Earl Sitter and Stanley Pulyk. Seated at right are 5-year winners Thomas Andrews, Elma Dunlop, Mary Kaban and William McLean; standing are Alfred Lane, Alberic DesRochers, Delos Dennett and George Scott.

Brass Chips From . . .*Around the Sarnia Plant*

By Almeda Reeve

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Alex Elderbroom who celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary during the Christmas holidays. Alex is employed in the Polishing and Buffing Department and the couple's daughter, Mrs. Alice Andrews, is in Department seven.

Best wishes and congratulations to: George Sazanov and Marlene Worsley who were married in Sarnia December 16. George is employed in Department seven; Kathryn J. Forbes who became the bride of Dr. Randel Williams December 16. Kathryn is employed as secretary to Mr. W. B. Campbell, Purchasing Agent; and to Cameron Wiggins and C. Florence Best of Toronto, who were married recently. Cameron is employed in Department two.

Sympathy is extended to: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moore in the recent death of Mrs. Moore's mother, Mrs. Blain; Mr. Allan McDougall in the death of his father, Mr. Dougal McDougall of Petrolia; Mr. Fred Trumble in the death of his mother, Mrs. F. Trumble; and to Mr. Walter Simko in the death of his mother, Mrs. A. Simko.

NEW MUELLERITES

More congratulations are in order, this time for new parents.

Recent births are: to Mr. and Mrs. John W. Saunders, son, Thomas Wayne, December 20, 1955. John is employed in Department two.

To Mr. and Mrs. Richard Asselman, daughter, Marilyn Ann, December 22, 1955. Richard is employed in Department ten.

To Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Wade, a son, Martin Alan, De-

cember 22, 1955. Maurice is a Foundry Foreman.

To Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hannam, a son, Richard Scott Wayne, January 3, 1956. Harold is employed in Department three.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Barrett, a daughter, Carol Jean, December 31, 1955. Bruce is Assistant Foreman of the Toolroom.

To Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. White, a son, John Thomas, January 8, 1956. Jack is employed in Department nine.

Two Decatur Men Close Quarter Century Service

Two more of Mueller Co.'s long time employees have recently retired after 25 years of service. They are Clarence Ruch of 2553 N. Main, Decatur, and Frank Kuntz of 1294 W. Decatur St.

Mr. Kuntz came to work first for Mueller Co. in 1919, leaving in 1920. However he returned to work here in 1928 in the tool room and was there until his retirement Dec. 20, 1955.

Mr. Ruch, who retired Nov. 30, came to work for Mueller Co. in 1927. Mr. Ruch was clerk and timekeeper in engineering, the tool room and pattern shop. Then in 1943 he was made pattern maker and held that position until his retirement.

DIES AFTER LONG ILLNESS

Donald E. Uhl, 31, of 922 N Church St., Decatur, and brother of Mueller Salesman Francis X. Uhl of Pittsburg, died Jan. 30 in St. Mary's Hospital after a long illness.

Besides Francis, Mr. Uhl is survived by his father, Robert E. Uhl, three other brothers, one sister and his grandmother.

90 Receive Awards In Chattanooga



Fifteen-year award winners are first row left to right, Hollis Marsh, Eugene Drake, Luther G. O'Neal, James Teeters, Henry Rutledge, and Harold Roberts; second row, Ben Long, William J. Hixon, John Hixon, J. H. Pursley, Fred Brown, Jimmy Johnson and Lemuel Warren; third row, Wesley Hicks, John Allen, Murphy Paris, Noble May, Jack Pope and Leslie Higdon.



Robert W. Lusk is the only 25-year man at Chattanooga.



Topping the Chattanooga plant award winners are Don M. Andrews and J. H. Wall, plant manager, who received 30-year pins.



Receiving 10-year pins are front row left to right, Curtis Hicks, Edward Parham, Hershel Deems, and Arthur Womble; second row, Gene M. Racz, Clatjee J. Hill, Sam Roy Smith and Mitchell Foster.

Safety Council Says You Are Responsible

The rules below were recently selected as the best by the National Safety Council from the thousands that were submitted from all over the world in a "Ten Rules" contest. They all pertain to personal habits, thereby indicating that safety is primarily a personal responsibility.

- 1—Follow instructions; don't take chances; if you don't know, ask.
- 2—Correct or report unsafe conditions.
- 3—Help keep everything clean and orderly.
- 4—Use the right tools and equipment for the job; use them safely.
- 5—Report all injuries; get first aid promptly.
- 6—Use, adjust and repair equipment only when authorized.
- 7—Use prescribed protective equipment; wear safe clothing; keep them in good condition.
- 8—Don't horseplay; avoid distracting others.
- 9—When lifting, bend your knees; get help for heavy loads.
- 10—Comply with all safety rules and signs.

Winter Driving Dangers Should Determine Speed

When winter moves in how fast is it safe to drive on ice or snow? The National Safety Council has attempted to answer that question in a report issued by its committee on winter driving hazards.

Considering only the road surface itself, the Council offers this advice: to provide the same stopping ability available on dry pavement at 50 MPH, speed on ice must not be higher than 25 MPH with reinforced tire chains, or 28 MPH with special winter tires.

The Council warns that these speeds are a measure of stopping traction only. Visibility, traffic and other varying conditions can make even those speeds hazardous, it says, so the rules of common sense should always be followed.

To determine your total stopping distance the average "reaction distance" of 22 feet at 20 MPH should be added to the braking distances.



Receiving 20-year pins are Ulysses Reed, W. R. Davis and Harry Gaither.



Five-year pins were presented to, first row left to right, Lawrence Neal, James Robinson, Joe Hill, Jr., Monroe Hudson, Jr., Percy Goines and Warren Hill; second row, Arthur Brooks, Early Lee Cooper, Allen Sadler, Sherman Matthews, Jake Rice, Will D. Moore and Charles Elmore; third row James Young, Levi Kirby, Eddie Hinton, Charlie Vaughn, Willie Gunn, Henry McKibben, Robert Walton and D. C. Randolph; fourth row, Lindsey Lawrence, L. C. Stewart, Embra Mallory, Larry Watson, Johnie Johnson, Lonnie Davis, Nathaniel Traylor, Luther Hill and Sam Roland.



Additional five-year award winners are, first row left to right, J. Martin Gwin, Arnold Paris, Claude Hawthorne, Maynard Mitchell, James West, Howard Stokes and Reuben Skipper, Jr.; second row, Fred Hixon, Walter Kent, James Smith, Dolores McFadden, Phyllis McDonald, Ione Mulkey, Fred Wright and Stanley Kuhne; third row, Pete Magin, Curtis Bartlett, Joseph Racz, Marcus Daniel, Jr., Milton Miller, Joe Gibson and James Thomas.

Chattanooga . . . Plant Chatter

By GENE RACZ

December rivaled June in the number of engagements and weddings at the Chattanooga plant.

William Hill of the Core Room was married to Miss Mary McGee of Anniston, Ala. Miss McGee is a senior at A. & M. College in Huntsville.

Thurman Griffin, employed in the Iron Foundry, and Miss Veda Henry of Hollywood, Ala., were married Dec. 31.

Then, in the payroll Department, Carolyn Gilliam and Gloria Armstrong became engaged. Miss Gilliam is to be married in a few months, but Miss Armstrong hasn't set the date.

Congratulations are in order for the following new parents: Mr. and Mrs. Claude Ridge, whose son was born Dec. 18; Mr. and Mrs. Julius Bullock, whose daughter, Cindy, came to them Dec. 16; Mr. and Mrs. George Davis for their daughter, Maxine, born Dec. 11; Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Jackson for Remotia, their daughter who was born Dec. 26; and to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lloyd, whose son, Larry, was born Dec. 28.

It is nice to see some of the people who have been ill back at work. George Bolden and Lawson Davis in the Brass Foundry and Harold Harmon and Ben Long of the Assembly Department are all back. Still out due to illness are Levi San-

ders, who is convalescing, Charles Richmond and Edward Stamper. George Cross of the Machine Shop has retired due to his health.

Fellow employees want to express sympathy to James Turner, Embra Mallory and Leroy Sims, who have recently lost a member of their family.

Several retired employees came around to call during Christmastime. They are Bud Sherrill, Fred McDonald, Howard Morton and Thad Drennan. Everyone was glad to see them.

Stanley Kuhne and his family spent the Christmas holidays with relatives in Missouri.

Thelma Hawthorne of the Production Department was honored at a shower Dec. 27, at the home of Mary Kellogg in Brainerd.

Attending were Lois Trotter, Eunice Brackett, Jane Brackett, Grace Mallard, Pat Scoggins, Jacque Harris, Eula Davis, Diana Moss, Dorothy Adams, Ruth Henry, Carolyn Gilliam, and Dewese Callahan.

Ila Mae West has taken Thelma's place in the Production Department.

Jane Keeton of the Sales Department has bought a new Buick. Another new car being seen around the plant is Sam Roy Smith's sporty new Mercury.



Miss Louise Cole . . .
(Continued from page 1)

Times, a weekly newspaper, and later served as editor of both the Times and Brazoria County Light, a weekly serving five small towns.

She was named city editor of the Texas City Sun in July, 1953, but left on a leave of absence a year later due to the illness and subsequent death of her father. She was preparing to return to Texas City when she accepted the new position with Mueller Co.

With the publication staff increased to two members, O. E. Walker, vice-president and works manager who supervises publication of Main Connections announces that beginning this year, the employee newspaper will be published six times yearly rather than on a quarterly basis as in the past.



Ira L. Auer, above left, receives his 40-year service pin from President Albert G. Webber, Jr., during presentation ceremonies in December. Mr. Auer, a toolmaker in the Decatur plant, is senior member of the award group. Below, left, O. E. Walker, vice president and works manager, personally presents a 30-year pin to Mrs. Louise Whitehead. Mrs. Whitehead was Mr. Walker's first secretary.



William Michl, left, and Charles Portee are shown receiving their 30-year pins from Earl Bright, Los Angeles plant manager. F. E. Klinck (not shown) has also received a 30-year pin. At right is William Young with his 20-year pin. Young is a supervisor, the foreman in charge of the assembly, polishing and plating departments. Ida Lou Hughes, also a 20-year pin recipient, was absent the day the picture was made.



At left other 20-year award winners are, left to right, front row, Michael Liebherr, Vance Ziebarth, James Musso and Gene Warren; back row, Jerome Alt, Benjamin Piott, Warren Wonderlich, Edward Schlegel and Lacy Mayfield. At right are 15-year pin awardees Clayton Travis, Frank Fritzer, Morris Cooper, Claude Beckham and William Adams. Others not shown are Hal Murray, Howard Udell and F. C. McCown; the latter two are area salesmen.



Mr. Bright, plant manager, is shown at left presenting Benjamin Price with his 10-year service award pin. Another 10-year employee, Mrs. Alice Dinwiddie, is not shown. At left are other 5-year award winners. Front row, Eli Lockard, Lillian Espey, James Nelson and James Holmes; back row, Frank Mecado, Jr., Fred Liebherr, Robert Ward and Raymond Oronz. Other 5-year winners are Nick Chavez, who was absent, and Eddie Jones and Ronny McKinnon, who are on military leave.

Decatur, Los Angeles Service Pins Awarded



Awardees of 35-year pins are, front row left to right, Michael Brilley, Roy Fleckenstein, Barney Riley, Frank H. Williams, Amos Reynolds and Jess Ditty; second row, Earl McQuality, Marshall Hobbs, Harley Himstead, Howard Gragg, Orville Brown, William L. Shockley, Lawrence Kramer, and Claude T. Smith. (Bill Doherty is also a 35-year man, but was ill the day the picture was made.)



Thirty-year award winners are front, Leon Bethard, Erma Barth, Louise Whitehead, Edgar Hartwig, Ollie Fortschneider and A. L. Bethards; second row, W. E. Smith, Francis Carroll, Donald Ferry, Eugene Cash, Truman A. Peifer, Charles Washburn and Albert Butt; third row, Elvin Pasley, Willard Hake, John M. Smith, Robert Hill, Leslie Schroeder, John W. Spawr and Otto Dannewitz; fourth row, Eldred Connors, Harry A. Meyers, M. L. Cunningham and Charles Murray.



Those who won pins for 25-years of service are, front row, Emory Langley, Wayne McCoy and Glen Gideon; second row, Robert K. Levey, Charles Burcham, Ray Caudle, Archie Meador and Eric Blankenburg.



Receivers of 20-year pins are front row left to right, Gaylord Tripp, Wallace Dudley, Vernon H. Brunner, Martin Riewski, Harold Munsterman, and Carl Dodwell; second row, Robert Gross, Frank Ridgeway, Cleo Craft, Theron McGill, Ethel Turley and Charles Miller; third row, Elmer Fawley, John J. Smith, Otis E. Bethard, William A. Mueller, Howard Dempster, Dwayne Lebo and Robert Oberline.

New Printing Equipment Installed

Offset Process Speeds Work In Decatur Plant

The increased demand for printed forms used in our offices and factories has resulted in the changing of the printing process of our Printing and Stationery Department.

All printing done by the department, located at our main plant in Decatur, has been by letterpress for many years. Some of the older equipment dates to 1917 when it was purchased.

Under the new system, most printing will be offset, although some jobs will continue to be by letterpress.

Considerable modern equipment has been purchased and is shown in pictures at right. Lyle Huff, Vice President and General Controller, and Harry Martin, Secretary, inspect the complete offset process as it affects Form No. 6734, Order Progress Record, which is representative of the nearly 800 different forms that are printed by the department each year.

Examples of printed literature are items such as labels (there are 250 different labels of which separate plates of each must be made for printing), instruction cards, salesman's supplies (which cover a wide variety of materials), requisitions, order forms, and the many printed items necessary for the operation of a company such as ours.

Some equipment not directly concerned with the offset process, but which are an important part of the Printing and Stationery Department, has been replaced. A new paper cutter is now in service and a new paper drill has replaced the old punching machine.

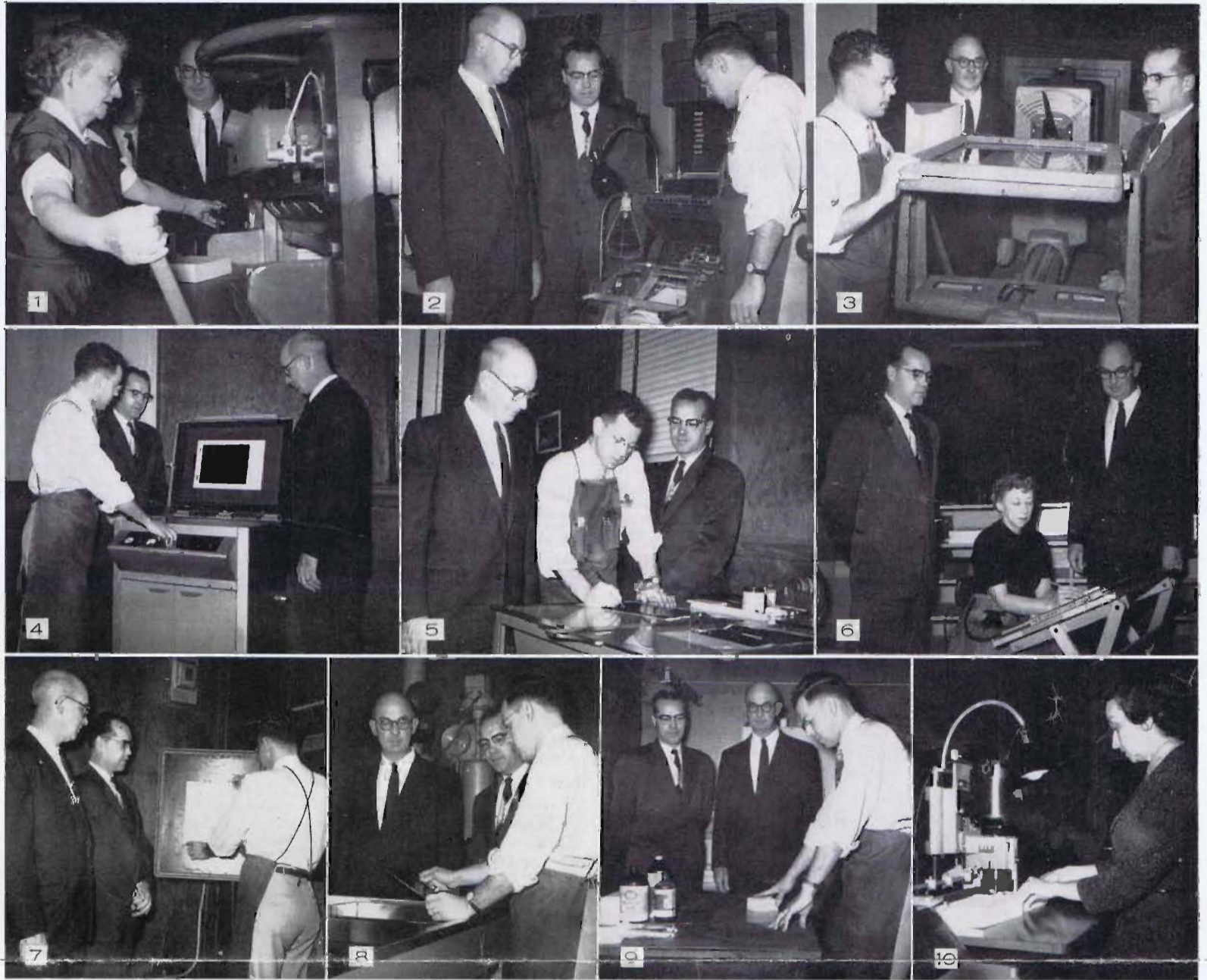
The department is under the supervision of Opal Jackson and prints several million pieces of material that are stocked. In offset process from the drawing board to the trimming and drilling of the printed form are shown in the accompanying photographs. The pictures as arranged are not in the order of actual step by step procedure, so for clarity, the following is a step by step explanation.

No. 6—Evelyn Thompson is completing a drawing on Form No. 6734 to be used as copy for the darkroom.

No. 3—John Dennis, operator of the equipment, demonstrates the use of the Robertson Model 320 photoengraving camera. He is placing the copy on the camera's copy board prior to making the picture.

No. 7—In the darkroom, Dennis positions the film preparatory to making a negative. The vacuum back holds the film in position. Film sizes range from 4" x 5" to 16" x 20".

No. 8—Here, Dennis develops the negative. The developing sink is thermostatically controlled and maintains a temperature of 68 degrees, plus or minus one degree. The size of the sink enables use of three developing trays which are 17" x 22". Both the trays and the sink are spe-



cial stainless steel which resists corrosion from the chemicals used for developing.

No. 5—This is the light or layout table. The top is ground glass and is 30" x 40". It is illuminated from below making it possible to view the negative closely while preparing it for exposure to the aluminum plate.

No. 4—The prepared negative is placed in the exposure frame along with the presentitized aluminum master. After two minutes of exposure to the arc light, the plate is ready for de-

veloping. This aluminum plate has been coated with presentitized material which likens it to a piece of photographic material that is sensitive to exposure.

No. 9—Dennis demonstrates how the plate is developed in this photo. It is treated by a process gum and developing laquer which brings out the image on the plate. The plate is now ready for use on the press.

No. 2—The completed plate is in place on the 10" x 14" multi-lith. This machine has a capacity of 5,000 sheets with a

speed of 6,000 impressions an hour. Mr. Huff and Mr. Martin check the material as it emerges from the press onto the receding stacker, a small platform which recedes as printed forms' weight increases making room for the forms as they are printed.

No. 1—Opal Jackson cuts and trims the completed forms. The cutter also is used for cutting and trimming all stock that is printed as well as paper used for correspondence and other purposes.

ates the new paper drill which will punch holes in a stack of stock.

One of the chief advantages of this new equipment is that the plates made for each form can be stored for reuse. From 30,000 to 100,000 copies are made from each plate before it becomes necessary to make a new plate. When a plate is no longer usable, it is destroyed and a new one may be made from the original negative. Plates and negatives are filed and are ready for reuse.

Religion Important Habit

Family Forms Life's Pattern

Always it is the family that sets so many of the patterns and the habits which last a life-time. And setting a habit of family attendance at worship services is the best beginning towards a lasting faith to live by.

After all, what really makes a happy family? Certainly, it takes more than Dad's paying the bills. Mostly it is doing things together, the togetherness of a family outing, or a backyard barbecue. These are the precious moments always remembered the longest — the shared moments.

Going to services each week can be the best of the good things in life for a family to share. Worshipping together becomes so natural that without even trying, children find a pattern, a foundation, which will enrich their entire lives. Without

that foundation of family guidance, can youngsters be blamed if they grow up without a real faith in God or in themselves?

"Give them a Faith to live by . . . Worship with them this week" is the theme for the 1955-56 Religion in American Life Program. This theme emphasizes the importance of regular attendance by the family at religious services. It points to the vital role parents play in giving their children a lasting faith by taking them each week to the church or synagogue of their choice, thereby stabilizing family life and strengthening family unity. The stress of modern life produces each day proof that there must be a constant, unrelenting effort to pass on that faith in a greater and stronger measure.

Our religious leaders give us

personal guidance, help solve family problems and work to integrate the newcomer into community life. Religious education helps to make us better

citizens. The foundations of our nation, our dedication to human rights and individual liberty are safeguarded by our churches and synagogues.



The three that didn't get away are shown by Kieth Slifer, Neal Anderson and Bill Miller after their recent hunt. The trio was hunting near Custer, South Dakota, when they each bagged a deer. Miller, who is the son of Charlie Miller of the Plant Protection Department, lives in Decatur and is an electrician.

Then and Now

Pattern Shop: 1921 to 1955

How's your memory for faces? The four pictures below are group pictures taken in our Decatur Pattern Shop at intervals beginning in 1921. The second

was made in 1940, the third in 1949, and the fourth is our present group of pattern makers. The picture was taken this month.



1921—Bottom row, left to right, J. E. Sears, Don Burger, R. Johnson, Ira L. Auer, R. Bailey. Second row, left, A. Rackle, F. Galka, Mull Deverell (foreman), H. Woodruff (assistant foreman), G. Zwilling, J. Grabenhofer, E. Walsh, R. Dannewitz. Third row, left, Lester Skelly, C. Braden, F. Henkle, M. Brillley, B. Schurman, S. Sandburg, E. Plant. Fourth row, left, A. Skirk, H. Hill, J. Hahn, R. Kortum, A. Lindamood, F. Roarick, W. Dixon, A. Scheibley, A. Schurman (chief research engineer). Fifth row, left, E. Weber, G. Simpson, E. Hill, C. Miller, L. Elliott, P. Stroyek, W. Kuntz.



1940—Top row, left, Harold Munsterman, Harold Snyder, Ollie Fortschneider, Albert Lindamood, Clarence Ruch. Center row, left, Charlie Morenz, Julius Grabenhofer, E. A. Waltz, George Krag, Lester Skelly and Kenneth Morrow. Bottom, left, Henry Leipski, Richard Dannewitz, Harry Grandfield, Harold Moates and Robert Wally.



1949—Front row, left, R. Wally, C. Morenz, G. Krag, T. Bronson, H. Leipski, R. Dannewitz, A. Lindamood, C. Ruch. Second row, left, R. Skelly, L. Skelly, H. Moates, L. Moore, O. Fortschneider, H. Munsterman, H. Snyder.



1955—Front row, left, Richard Dannewitz, Henry Leipski, John Hackl, Bob Wally. Back row, left, Royal Skelly, Ernest Hetzler, Lester Skelly, Charly Morenz, Bob Leake, Otis Fears, Harold Munsterman, Ollie Fortschneider, Harold Snyder.

Mrs. Wubbin New Nurse

Mrs. Audrey Bowan, Dr. S. G. Smith's nurse in the Decatur plant for the past year, is leaving, and Mrs. Ann Wubbin of Decatur is replacing her.

Mrs. Bowan came to work at Mueller Co. in February, 1955, from the Macon County Hospital where she had been employed since her graduation from nursing school there.

Her husband, Donald Bowan, is with Chastin and Francis, consulting engineers in Decatur. The Bowans are expecting an addition to their family, but Mrs. Bowan expects to take a part time nursing position later.

Mrs. Wubbin, who calls Decatur home, is also a registered nurse, and a graduate of Macon County Hospital Nursing School.

LaVore-Britton Vows

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Dudley, 1252 East Lawrence Street, announce the marriage of their daughter Sharon LaVore and Mark L. Britton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Britton of Mt. Zion.

The marriage took place in the home of the bride's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Dash, 305 East Condit Street, with the Rev. G. H. Harmon of Springfield, Illinois, officiating. Attendants were Mr. and Mrs. Duane C. Dudley.

Mrs. Britton is employed in the Wabash Credit Union Office, and he works at the Caterpillar Tractor Co.

Mrs. Britton's father, Wallace Dudley, is a tinner in the Maintenance Department.

Painter-Dudley Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Carl D. Painter, 1445 East Decatur Street, announce the marriage of their daughter, Shirley, to Pfc. C. Duane Dudley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Dudley, 1252 E. Lawrence Street.

The couple was married Oct. 14, 1955, in the Central Baptist Church in Atlanta Highlands, New Jersey. Attendants were Miss Sharon Dudley, sister of the groom, and Cpl. Roy Smith of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Duane was formerly employed in the Garage of Mueller Co. before entering the Armed Forces. He is stationed at Fort Hancock, New Jersey, where he is a guided missile instructor. His father, Wallace Dudley, is a tinner in the Maintenance Department.

Wolfe, Lockard Promoted



Cy J. Wolfe, laboratory technician at Los Angeles, has taken over the duties of the purchasing agent and will act in that capacity in addition to the lab work. He will operate the laboratory in the morning and handle purchasing in the afternoon. An employee of Mueller Co. for the past 15 years, Cy is married and has three children. He has taken extension courses at U.C.L.A. and U.S.C.



Eli Lockard, Class A draftsman and Standard assistant at the Los Angeles plant, has been promoted to Junior Tool Engineer. A Mueller Co. employee for the past five years, he is married and has one daughter three years old. He is a graduate of Alhambra High School and has been taking extension courses in engineering from U.C.L.A.

John Eschbaugh Appointed Engineer In Decatur Plant

The appointment of John Eschbaugh as an engineer with Mueller Co. has been announced by Frank H. Mueller, Vice President and Director of Engineering.

Mr. Eschbaugh will be under the direct supervision of Walter Bowan, Chief Engineer of Research and Development.

A native of Decatur, Mr. Eschbaugh was graduated from the Indiana Technical College and Engineering School at Fort Wayne, on November 5, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering.

He is married to the former Vera Poe of Decatur. They have one son, Carl, and live at 3920 East Olive Street.

An Army veteran, Mr. Eschbaugh was employed by the A. E. Staley Manufacturing Co. and the Leader Iron Works before



JOHN ESCHBAUGH

attending college. He attended Decatur High School and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Eschbaugh of 1942 West Center.

Walker Opens . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Griffith. Two who won 20-year-pins and gifts of \$20 are Edith M. Gilmore and James O. Fair, and Ernst D. Hetzler was presented with a 25-year-pin and a gift certificate for \$30.

Those given 30-year-pins and gift certificates for \$40 are Norman M. Poole, H. B. Whitting-

ton, Melvin K. Chaney, and Haldon L. Hanson.

Los Angeles Plant

The following service awards were issued in Los Angeles during January: Hazel Lehman and Chester Stinnett, five-year-award winners.

Victor Manzo was presented a 10-year-award, and Thomas Lindsay and John Blevens are holders of 15-year-pins.

Three Employees Retire In Decatur



Keith Smith came to work in the Brass Foundry for Mueller Co. February 5, 1923, and was there in the foundry until his retirement December 30. Mr. Smith, who was a bench and floor molder, acted as foreman on the night shift 1946-49. He was foreman again in 1950-51 when the night shift operated. Mr. Smith is married and lives at Niantic, Illinois.



Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Taylor relax in their home at 2079 East Whitmer Street, Decatur, following Mr. Taylor's recent retirement. Mr. Taylor came to Mueller Co. in the Ground Key Department on January 15, 1913, as a machine operator. "I wanted to learn a trade," he recalls, and that's just what he did do. Mr. Taylor became known as one of the outstanding repairmen on automatic machinery. He was here 42 years. During his service, he was in the Ground Key Department, the Machine Shop and finally a specialist in machine repair. He was given a bill fold and a good sum of money by the fellows in his department. At right is Ernest M. Garver, foreman of the garage at our Decatur plants for 12 years, and in recent years also in charge of carpenters and laborers, has retired after serving 20 years and three days. He's shown relaxing in his home at 829 West Leafland Street, but says to not let this restful position fool the reader. "I'm as busy as I have ever been in my life." He's operating his own business—Garver's Garage—in the rear of his home. Ernie was presented luggage and tools by his department and matching luggage was given later by the 4-X Club.