

Published for the Employees of the  
**MUELLER CO.**  
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Lee Taylor, playing the role of TV's Ralph Edwards, congratulates W. J. Aitchison on his retirement after 20 years as secretary of Lodge No. 419 A. F. and A. M. at a program, "This Is Your Life, Jack Aitchison". A smiling Mrs. Aitchison looks on. The couple was presented a bronze fireplace set and screen, as well as an album of Mr. Aitchison's life.

## Mock 'This Is Your Life' Show Honors Lee Taylor

### Fred Schlipf, 80, Dies In Decatur

Fred Schlipf, 80-year-old retired Mueller Co. employee, died April 26 in his home on Rural Route 3, Decatur. He had been in poor health for the past several years.

Born at Bearsdale Jan. 10, 1876, he came to Decatur very young where he made his home throughout his life. May 23, 1909, he was married to Martha Coay, who survives. Also surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Mabel Patterson, Mrs. Dorothy Durbin and Mrs. Betty Letterly, all of Decatur; two sons, Eddie and Elsworth of Decatur; 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

### AWWA Officials Honor Company

The American Water Works Association honored Mueller Co. and 32 other firms as Senior Associate Members at the A.W.W.A.'s 75th Anniversary observed at the 1956 convention in St. Louis, May 6-11.

President Albert G. Webber, Jr. was present to receive a plaque citing our 74 years service to that organization. The presentation was made by Harry Jordan, Secretary of the A.W.W.A.

Four other firms have been members for 74 years, joining the year after the A.W.W.A. was founded in 1881. They are Bingham & Taylor Corporation, Hays Manufacturing Company, The Ludlow Valve Manufacturing Company, and the National Meter Division of Rockwell Manufacturing Company.

Lee Taylor — Sarnia's Ralph Edwards — presided at an informal program, "This Is Your Life, Jack Aitchison," staged in honor of W. J. Aitchison, Pattern Maker in Department 9, on his retirement from the office of secretary in Liberty Lodge No. 419 A.F. and A.M. after 20 years service. It was also the 39th anniversary of his installation into Masonry.

During the program the master of ceremonies presented Mr. Aitchison with a handsomely bound album of pictures illustrative of his early life in Teeswater, Ontario, where he was born and his later life in Wingham and Sarnia, and of his Masonic career.

As a youngster Mr. Aitchison says he was always fascinated by the workings of the foundry, where he spent his spare time watching the moulders. When he was ten years old, he molded plow shares, which directed his interests to his life work as a pattern maker, he says.

Mr. Aitchison came to Sarnia very young and was employed by Mueller, Limited, where he helped with the construction of the majority of the present buildings. Later he transferred to the machine and pattern shops.

Following the program Mr. and Mrs. Aitchison were presented with a bronze fire screen and fireplace set for their new home, located on scenic St. Clair River, on the outskirts of Corunna.

Mr. Aitchison's hobbies have always been Masonry and church work, and although he has retired from his Lodge office, he says he intends to continue his participation in these affairs.

## Company Cited As Charter C.C. Member

Mueller Co. was one of 106 companies throughout the United States to receive recognition at the 44th annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States as a charter member. W. H. Hipsher, Executive Vice President, accepted a book on behalf of Mueller Co. and President Albert G. Webber, Jr.

Attending the Washington, D.C., meeting from Decatur, besides Mr. Hipsher, were Don E. Radcliffe, Assistant to Mr. Hipsher, and Henry Bolz., Executive Secretary of the Decatur Association of Commerce. Also attending was Mrs. Charlotte Schluter, a Director of Mueller Co., from Princeton, New Jersey.

The National Chamber published the book containing pictures of company presidents in 1913, when the Chamber was organized, and today's presidents, together with statements by the latter telling why the company they represent first became a member and has continued active. Also in the book are pictures of officers of organization members of the National Chamber.

In President Webber's statement he said: "Aware of the need for a group of businessmen who could assert their opinions on national issues to the government in an orderly manner, Mueller Co. President Adolph

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## No Lost-Time Accident In 5 Months At L.A.

Mueller Co. employees, cooperating with a new company-wide heads-up safety program, are riding the crest of their best safety performance in recent years.

Los Angeles employees have completed five consecutive months without a lost time accident, and, intent upon protecting such an enviable record, they are successfully moving toward the half-year perfect record mark. Los Angeles' current outstanding record began December 1, 1955.

## Lynn Edwards New President Of 4-X Club

Lynn Edwards is the newly elected president of the 4-X Club in Decatur. Other new officers are Leland Hartwig, vice president; Tom Harding, secretary; Dean Grant, treasurer; and Walter Dyer, program chairman.

At the dinner meeting May 16 at Mueller Lodge, O. E. Walker, Vice President and Works Manager, commended the younger members of the manufacturing team who have made rapid progress to supervisory positions.

Frank H. Mueller, Vice President and Director of Engineering, spoke to the group on the work being done and that planned by the Engineering Division in the future.

Outgoing officers are John J. Smith, president; Preston D. Ruthraff, vice president; Paul Ammann, secretary; Jim Cusins, program chairman; and Andy Heitman, treasurer.

"We attribute our fine showing to the rigid safety program now in effect," says Earl E. Bright, plant manager at Los Angeles. "The operators are required to make daily inspections of their safety equipment before starting to work in the morning, and a weekly inspection is made by our safety inspector," he added.

**Adher to Program**  
 "We have adhered to this program, as originally set up, very faithfully and we feel sure that our improved safety record is a result of the strict measures taken plus the fact that all employees are cooperating in the program 100 per cent," Mr. Bright said.

He added that credit also is due to the plant nurse, Miss Pat Prewett.

The Decatur and Chattanooga plants also are boasting an improved record. Plant 4 in Decatur, after a somewhat poor safety showing the first few months following an expansion program, has come along fast and recently completed three consecutive months without a lost time accident.

That record was broken in May when one minor lost time accident occurred, and according to Personnel Director Cecil Coffin who has spearheaded Decatur's successful safety improvement performance, Plant I in Decatur enjoyed its best safety record in recent years during the month of April. One lost time accident in May temporarily ended the perfect mark at Plant I; however, employees there already were thinking about a new record.

**Nurses Given Credit**  
 Mr. Coffin pointed out that the safety glass program in Decatur has done much to lower the eye accident rate, and says that more and more employees are joining the voluntary safety glass and safety shoe program offered by the company. He also credited Decatur's two nurses, both graduates of Decatur and Macon County Hospital, with a big hand in the improved safety

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### Like Father, Like Son

## Group Elects David K. Coffin

David K. Coffin, son of Cecil Coffin, Personnel Director in Decatur, has been elected secretary of the Illinois Industrial Education Club.

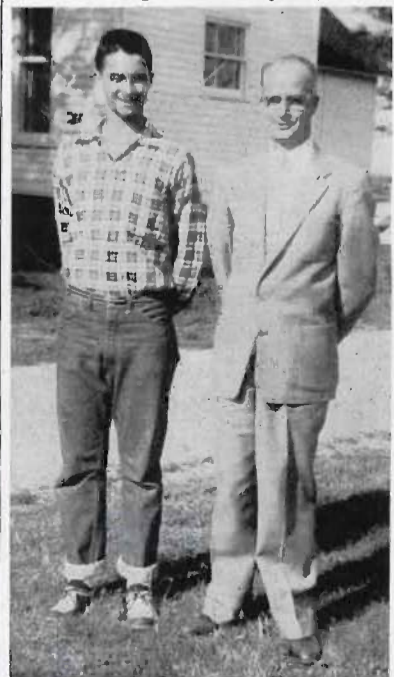
The election, held at the annual State meet in Moline April 27-28, was attended by area high schools, and the slate of officers was chosen from the entire group.

David has been active in the industrial art courses offered in high school, and his teacher and superintendent gave excellent reports on his work and personal character, according to Mr. Walgreen, in charge of the State organization.

David, 16 and a junior, wants to study architectural engineering, probably at the University of Illinois, he says. He plans to work this summer in a local architect's office to learn first hand something about the profession.

Mr. and Mrs. Coffin, who make

their home in Blue Mound, also have a daughter, Darl Jean, 12.



DAVID AND CECIL COFFIN

# Demand For Products Created N. Y. Office



### It All Began Here In 1905 . . .

This was Mueller Co.'s New York headquarters as it first appeared in 1905, the year the company launched our Eastern operations. Notice the dress worn by the ladies of that period and the office furniture, some of which might be a collector's item today.

An increasing interest in and growing number of requests for Mueller Co. products in the Eastern and New England states resulted in the establishment of an Eastern Section sales office and warehouse in New York City more than half a century ago.

It was 51 years ago, in 1905, that Mueller Co. established an Eastern headquarters in a "handsome" five story building on the corner of Canal and Lafayette Streets, and Oscar B. Mueller was named manager.

Prior to the establishment of offices in New York, the Mueller Co. line was known in the East,

but had never been made available there. With the opening of the offices and warehouse, a car load of goods from the Decatur factory arrived there once a week, and sometimes more often.

The Eastern Section offices have since moved to the Empire State Building in midtown Manhattan, and Leroy J. Evans is Vice President in charge of Eastern Sales. Assisting him are George W. Knipe, Assistant Sales Manager, and three office employees.

Mr. Evans began his selling career very young when he was employed by the Public Service

Electric & Gas Company in New Jersey before World War I. He went into the army, division of air service, in 1918, and was discharged in 1919 as a second lieutenant in the Signal Corps. He was expected to return to his old job, but was interviewed by Bill Dill at Mueller Co.'s New York office and hired as a sales representative in the New England area.

In 1924 Mr. Evans replaced the salesman covering Eastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey, and continued in this capacity until 1944 when he was made manager of the New York office and later Vice President

in charge of Eastern Sales. Mr. Evans is widely known throughout the Eastern territory and in the water and gas industries in general. Mr. Knipe, who came from a long line of physicians, had planned to become a doctor in the family tradition, when he became his mother's sole support when he was 14 years old. After working his way through George Washington High School and the Mechanics Institute, where he studied both commercial and art courses, he came to work for Mueller Co. in 1927. Beginning as an order drummer, Mr. Knipe also worked as

a billing clerk, became head of the billing department, then was put in charge of the Eastern Section order department handling the export business. In 1941 he became a sales representative, and in 1944 was promoted to his present position as office manager of the New York office. Mrs. Lillian Jarman is the only one of the office girls who began with Mueller Co. before the offices were moved into the Empire State Building. Beginning in 1940, Mrs. Jarman's first job was as order writer, though she has now worked in every capacity and is considered a

### Today's Offices: Empire State Building



This is the Empire State Building, the highest man-made structure in the world. It reaches 102 stories. Mueller Co. offices today are located on the thirteenth floor of this building. The office force is shown below, left.

### They Make Up The Office Force Today



**LEROY J. EVANS**  
Vice President  
In Charge of  
Eastern Sales



**GEORGE W. KNIPE**  
Assistant Sales Manager  
New York Office



**LILLIAN I. JARMON**



**ROBERTA LOFTUS**



**LENORE SWERSKY**

great asset to the New York office.

"Not only does she know about screw plugs and gate valves, but she has had plenty experience with safety pins and diapers, raising four children of her own and helping with seven grandchildren," Mr. Knipe said.

Miss Lenore Swersky started with Mueller Co. in the summer of 1952 as a fill-in for the vacation months. However, she continued as a full time stenographer for a while, then after graduation returned in 1953. A month later she became Mr. Knipe's secretary, but with the recent retirement of Mr. Evans' secretary, she has taken over that position.

When Miss Swersky moved up, Mrs. Roberta Loftus became secretary to Mr. Knipe. She had previously held the ste-

nographer's position in the New York office which includes general office work and giving a hand to anyone else in need of one. Due to this, Mrs. Loftus learned to write up orders, and also helped Mrs. Jarman with her duties. So she had had good experience to qualify her for her promotion, Mr. Knipe said.

### Hospital Fun Fair Set for June 8, 9

The Decatur and Macon County Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliaries are sponsoring a city-wide hospital benefit fun fair at Johns Hill Park June 8 and 9. Proceeds will be divided between the hospitals, with Decatur and Macon County's share benefiting the pediatric ward, and St. Mary's part going to the nursery.

### Cash For Five More Veterans



August J. Dworak accepts a check for \$40 and his 30-year-pin from O. E. Walker, Vice President and Works Manager, in the top picture. At left is Archie Sefton, General Superintendent, and at right is Foreman Howard Gragg. In the second picture Mr. Gragg looks on as Mr. Walker presents Ray E. Collins his 30-year-pin and check. Mr. Gragg and Mr. Sefton were present when Mr. Walker awarded John T. Curry his 30-year pin and check, shown in the third picture. In the fourth photo, Mr. Walker presents Athie Thompson with a 25-year pin and check for \$30, as L. E. Kramer, foreman, looks on. In the bottom picture, Mr. Walker hands Russell Armstrong his 25-year pin and check, while Foreman Milo Wright congratulates him.

### 19 Employees Have Service Anniversaries

Nineteen people in the Decatur plant have received pins and service awards during April and May. Having the distinction of observing the longest tenure of employment is Roy M. Wood, who received his 45-year-pin and a cash award of \$70.

The next oldest employees, in terms of service, are John T. Curry, Ray E. Collins and August J. Dworak, who received their 30-year-pins and \$40 cash each.

Two who received 25-year-pins and cash awards of \$30 are Athie Thompson and James R. Armstrong, while Thomas L. Dungan was presented his 20-year-pin and \$20 cash.

Receiving 15-year-pins and cash awards of \$10 are Troy C. Jones, Marie A. Adams and Harland H. Rhodes. Those winning ten-year-pins and \$7.50 are Bonnie B. Clark, John E. Puckett, Barbara J. Diehl, Otto J. Peake, Orville E. Gilmore, Paul J. Shaw, John R. Vandevanter and Joseph L. Crane. Marion D. Landgrege received a pin for five years of service.

\* \* \*

At the Los Angeles plant Earl E. Bright, Plant Manager, received his 20-year-pin April 1, and John Fritzer, Brass Machine shop, received his 10-year-pin the same day. Paul G. Caho, Plant Controller, was presented with a 10-year-pin April 29.

\* \* \*

Employees in the Chattanooga plant who have received service pins and awards since January 1 are Lester Woodall and O. R. Hubble, who won 30-year-pins and \$40 cash awards.

Receiving 15-year-pins and \$10 are J. P. Ramsey, Lawrence Glenn, James Richardson, Ronald J. Rogers, Hirston Russell, Alfred Logan, Jr., Edwin J. Nelson, Raymond Bible, Lawrence E. Adams, Vance A. Sims, Leroy Snow, Paul L. O'Neal, Warren Chappel and Heman Thompson.

Ten-year-pin winners, who were given cash award certificates for \$7.50 include John M. Howard, John C. Graves, Leroy Sims, Wallace Jones, Henry Tyson, J. C. Rutledge, Charlie Martin, Robert Hogue, Will Usher and Willie C. Johnson.

Receiving 5-year-pins are Charlie C. Gamblin, Amos M. Burress, Ora Hollingsworth, Billy Thomas, Roy Ellis, Dallas B. Maffett, Cleveland C. Fulghum, Herbert Silvels, Johnnie Matthews, Nora Betts, Jane Keeton, Ray Claridy, Charlie R. Freeman, Willie E. McField, Gable Toney, Booker Tea Tony, Marvin S. Boykin, Dewey Lee Careathers, Burpie Brown, Dave Rice Jr., Joe Hubbard, Charlie L. Jackson, Willie B. Cosper, Ray E. Barker, Curtis A. Reed, Claude Watters, Willie A. Mitchum, Gennie Conner, Will R. Goodlow and Jimmie Walls.

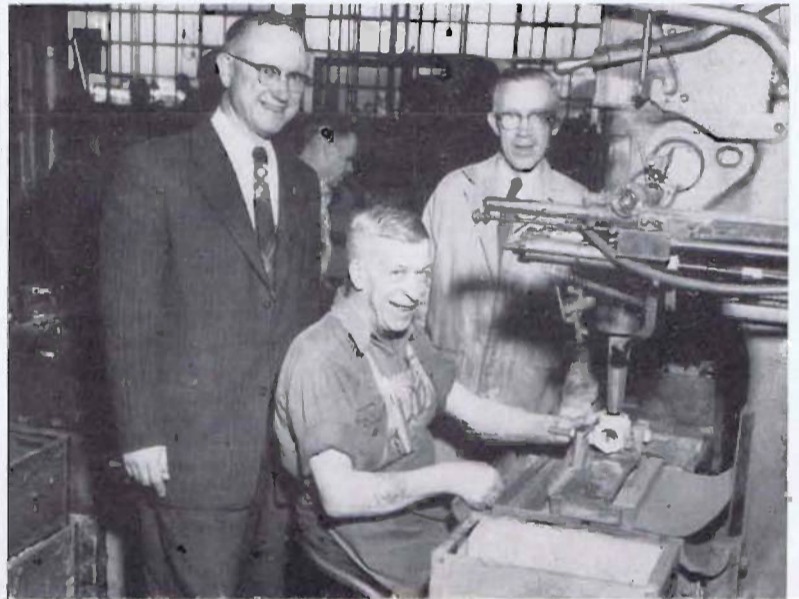
In Sarnia three men have been presented 30-year-pins. They are Claude Chappell, Joseph Hicks and Everitt Shrigley. Albert J. DeKolver is the winner of a 25-year-pin and James A. Brent has received his 20-year-pin.

Receiving 15-year-pins are  
(Continued on page 6)

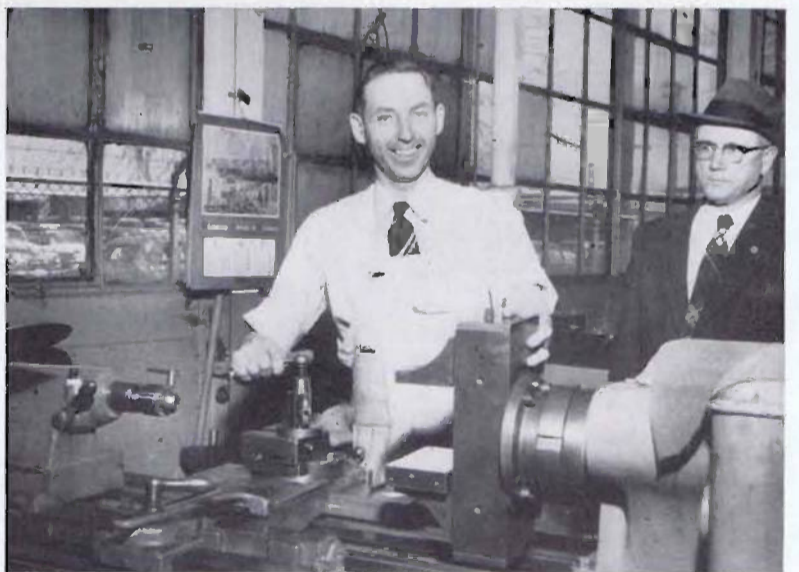
### Chattanooga, Sarnia Awardees



Lester Woodall, left, and O. R. Hubble, are shown displaying their 30-year pins, just received at the Chattanooga plant. Along with the pins they also received checks for \$40. They are the first two men to be awarded 30-year pins in the Chattanooga plant this year.



O. C. Spears, Personnel Supervisor at Mueller, Limited, has just presented Joseph Hick, Finish Reamer in Department 5, with his 30-year pin. W. J. Flood, Foreman of Department 5, looks on at right.



Thirty-year Man Everitt Shrigley, Toolmaker in Department 9 at Mueller, Limited, is shown at his job. With him is O. C. Spears, Personnel Supervisor, who presented the pin.



At his job as Utility Man in Department 3, where he recently observed his thirtieth year with Mueller, Limited, is Claude D. Campbell. At left is Production Superintendent Carl Smith and at right is Department 3 Foreman Fred A. Cuthbertson.

# 25 High School, College Seniors Graduate

Twenty-five Mueller Co. employees in Los Angeles, Chattanooga and Decatur are the proud parents of high school and college graduates this year. Twenty-three are completing high school and two are receiving college degrees.

The sons and daughters of employees in the Decatur plants who graduate in May and June are: Rosalynn Nalefski, who graduates from Decatur High. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Nalefski, and her father works in Department 33. Audrey C. Oberline, whose father, Robert Oberline, is employed in Department 80, is a Decatur graduate.

Mary Howard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Howard, graduates from Assumption High School in Decatur. Her father works in Department 80. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace E. Gould's daughter, Doris, will graduate from Decatur High. Mr. Gould is in Department 44. Also graduating from Decatur High is Beverly

Jean Porter, whose father, Clyde Porter is in Department 70.

Miss Darlene Donaldson is a January graduate of Decatur High. Her father, Ray Donaldson, is employed in Department 37. James D. Paslay, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Paslay, graduates from Mt. Zion Community High School. His father works in Maintenance, Department 38. Lyle Edward Maxwell, son of John E. Maxwell, Department 10, graduates from Lovington Township High.

William Mueller, whose father, William A. Mueller, is cost supervisor in the Decatur plant, graduates from Decatur High. Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Hill's daughter, Roberta K., graduates from Decatur High. Her father is a machinist in Department 70. Graduating from Macon, Illinois, High is Thomas Wayne Durbin, whose father is employed in Department 80 in Decatur.

Loy Dale Fonner, graduating from Mt. Zion High, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Marion Fonner.

Mr. Fonner is employed in Department 50. Assumption High Graduate David William Baker is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Baker, who are both employed in Department 50. Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Stratman's daughter, Arlene Marie, graduates from Decatur High. Mr. Stratman is a machinist in Department 70.

David Girard, graduating from Decatur High, is the son of Charles (Chuck) Girard, foreman of the Shipping Department. Darla Lebo, daughter of Dwayne Lebo, who is employed in Department 8, graduates from Decatur High. Richard A. Barnes, son of Paul V. Barnes, Department 60, graduates from Herrick Community High School. Deloris I. Stark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Stark, graduates from Millikin University June 4. Her father is employed in Department 70.

Ronald Eugene Harris, whose father, Robert E. Harris, is employed in the Maintenance Department at the Chattanooga

plant, graduates from Roseville High School in Roseville, Georgia. Aileen S. Millard's son, William A. Millard, graduates from Chattanooga High. Mrs. Millard is employed in the Accounting Department there. Katherine Silvels, daughter of Herbert Silvels, who works in the Brass Foundry, graduates from Howard High in Chattanooga. Graduating from Hixson High is Paul A. Hinkle, whose father, Paul W. Hinkle, works in the Chattanooga plant. Mrs. Mary Hill, wife of William Hill, employed in the core room at Chattanooga, is graduating from Alabama A & M College with a BA degree. Florene Waller graduates from Howard High at Chattanooga. Her father, Richard Waller, works in the iron foundry.

The only Los Angeles graduate is Miss Marilyn Lehman, who graduates from Newbury Park Academy. She is the daughter of Mrs. Hazel Lehman, switch board operator in L.A.

- DARLA LEBO
- DAVID WILLIAM BAKER
- MARY HOWARD
- JAMES D. PASLAY
- MARILYN LEHMAN
  
- RONALD E. HARRIS
- DELORIS I. STARK
- WILLIAM A. MILLARD
- ARLENE MARIE STRATMAN
- PAUL A. HINKLE



MRS. JAMES WENDELL FAIRBANKS

## Miss Carolyn Gilliam Is Bride Of James Wendell Fairbanks

Miss Carolyn Dathene Gilliam became the bride of James Wendell (Skipper) Fairbanks in a ceremony April 29 at the Avondale Methodist Church in Chattanooga. The Rev. C. M. Fisher officiated; nuptial music was presented by Mrs. Erbie Kidwell, organist, and Mrs. George Spencer, vocalist.

The bride's gown was of ivory satin and peau de ange lace, featuring a fitted bodice with sweetheart neckline, outlined in seed pearls and paillettes sparkles, and the lace sleeves ended in points over the wrists. The skirt extending into a chapel sweep, had a center panel of lace. She carried a bouquet of white roses and a white Bible, a gift of the bridegroom. Her fingertip veil of imported silk illusion was attached to a lace plateau tiara, studded with pearls and iridescents.

Joann Gamble, employed in the Chattanooga Sales Department, was maid of honor, wear-

ing a dress of pink nylon sheer, featuring a tucked bodice with square neckline outlined in Venetian lace, and a pleated ballerina-length skirt. The bride's sister was matron of honor and there were four bridesmaids wearing dresses identical to Miss Gamble's in cyclamen. Their headbands were of matching colors trimmed with seed pearls and eye veils. The honor attendants carried bouquets of pink captivator roses and the bridesmaid's bouquets were of pink champagne and sweetheart roses. The flower girls were dressed in gowns of white organdy over pink and wore headbands of pink roses.

A reception was held following the ceremony in the fellowship hall of the church. After a wedding trip the couple will make their home in Red Bank. The bride is employed as a payroll clerk and the groom is a senior at the University of Chattanooga.

## Joan Roy Weds Roy Williams

Miss Joan Elizabeth Roy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Roy, became the bride of A. Roy Williams in a ceremony at the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church March 30. Dr. J. Fred Johnson officiated and nuptial music was provided by Miss Bobby Goode and Miss Shirley Payne. The bride's father is employed at the Chattanooga plant.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a ballerina-length gown of white faille taffeta fashioned with a fitted bodice with a V neckline. Her veil of silk illusion was attached to a cap of satin ivy leaves sprinkled with seed pearls. She carried a white Bible.

Following the ceremony a reception was held at the home of the bride's parents. The bride chose a costume in pink for the short wedding trip, after which they will make their home in Chattanooga.

## Engaged



Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Butzler of Wellington Heights, Pittsburgh, Pa., have announced the engagement of their daughter, Nancy Jo Butzler, to Francis X. Uhl, son of Robert E. Uhl, of Decatur, and the late Mrs. Uhl. Miss Butzler attended the University of Pittsburgh. Her fiance is a graduate of Millikin University, where he was a member of Delta Sigma Phi. Mr. Uhl is the Pittsburgh sales representative of Mueller Co. An autumn wedding is planned.

- FLORENE WALLER
- KATHERINE SILVELS
- MRS. MARY HILL
- DARLENE DONALDSON
- RICHARD A. BARNES

- THOMAS WAYNE DURBIN
- BEVERLY JEAN PORTER
- LOY DALE FONNER
- ROBERTA K. HILL
- LYLE EDWARD MAXWELL

- ROSALYNN NALEFSKI
- WILLIAM MUELLER
- DORIS L. GOULD
- DAVID GIRARD
- AUDREY C. OBERLINE



MR. AND MRS. A. ROY WILLIAMS



## L.A.'s Bruce Stotler Named Production Superintendent

Bruce Stotler, who joined Mueller Co. at the Los Angeles plant in 1937 as a ground key assembler, has been promoted to Production Superintendent for the factory.

A native of Stanwood, Washington, Mr. Stotler moved with his parents to San Diego when he was very young, and attended grade school and high school in San Diego and had a year and a half at San Diego State College before going to work for Mueller Co.

Mr. Stotler moved into the main office as paymaster and head timekeeper in 1938 and held that job until 1945 when he entered the Air Force and spent 18 months in the Communications Division. He returned to Mueller Co. where he assumed duties in the Personnel Department.

In 1948 Mr. Stotler was made purchasing agent, then he com-



combined the jobs of Personnel Supervisor and Purchasing Agent in 1950. He was made Production Manager and Personnel Supervisor in 1954, and then in April was appointed to his new position as Production Superintendent.

## Would Women Admit 'Old' Age At 62 for Social Security?

There is a bill pending in Congress which would make women officially "old" at the age of 62.

The idea is to make women eligible for social security benefits at 62 instead of 65, the present retirement age. This would shove the ladies into the rocking chair class at a time when most of them are trying to forget the matter for at least 20 more years.

However well-intentioned, the proposal seems unlikely to win

many feminine friends. Ever since Eve, it has been considered ungentlemanly even to remind a woman of her age, let alone to exaggerate it. And today there seems to be less reason than ever to be concerned about women's ages.

U. S. Department of Labor figures show that the average age of women in the work force is increasing. Other statisticians report that women live longer than men in every country except India. In America, the average woman at 62 can expect to live 18 more years, a man, only about 15 years.

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States reports that the trend among private companies is to raise the retirement age for women instead of lowering it.

The Chamber made this statement in advising Congress that the retirement age proposal, together with a provision for payment of benefits to disabled workers at age 50, would upset both the social security and the federal-state old age assistance programs.

That is because the presently proposed benefits would start a chain reaction toward still more benefits.

For example, the lower age under the social security system would lead to a lower benefit age for women under the old age assistance and other relief programs. That would mean higher costs to federal, state and local governments.

Next would come demands to lower the retirement age for men under social security and then under old age assistance.

Similarly, the provision for disability payments at age 50 would bring an immediate and continued campaign to lower the age limit or do away with it entirely, for a disabled head of a family can be just as much in need at the age of 30 as he is at the age of 50,

(Continued from page 3)

Roy Abell, John Agar, Ward Boyle, John Cain, Edward Campbell, James Chaytor, Melvin Dawson, Garnet Denomy, Wilbur Duggan, Fred Dunn, William Foster, Norman Harrison, James Heath, Maurice Heath, Walter Irvine, Lyle Izzard, Andrew Mackrell, John W. A. McClure, Alvin McKellar, Frank Nesbitt, Elmer O'Dell, Keith Payne, Murray J. Robinson, Howard Taylor, Ralph Turnbull, Fred Tribbeck, Frank Vidler, Carman Weese and James White.

Ten-year award winners are Leona Addy, Hartley Cornell, Thomas Hawkins, Richard A. James, Helen Joleun, Daniel Kapala, Orval McClemens, Bruce Robertson, Joseph Rosina, Leo Ryan, Wilfred Scott and John Saunders. Marcel St. Jean has been presented a five-year-



William Morrissey, Specialty Division, retired after 32 years in Decatur. Mr. Morrissey started as a grinder in the Iron Foundry March 6, 1924. He held various jobs until his transfer to the Specialty Division in 1942, where he has worked on the night shift ever since. He lives at 945 E. Wood in Decatur with his sister.



Joe Gomez, who works in the Steel Machine Shop at L. A., is justifiably proud of his two sons in the paratroops. Danny, left, and Steve enlisted together and have served a year and a half together. They are stationed in Germany, and have both made 14 jumps.

## Employee's Father, R. A. Smith, Dies

Robert A. Smith, 68, father of Robert L. Smith, a millwright in the Construction and Maintenance Department, died at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 22, in his home at 1401 Victoria Ave. He had been in poor health the past three years.

A retired polisher formerly employed by the Houdaille-Hershey Corp., Mr. Smith moved to Decatur from Bethany 30 years ago. He was a member of the Baptist Church in North Carolina.

Survivors, besides Robert, are three other sons, Jesse C. of Chicago, Evan D. of Villa Grove, and Hubert P. of Decatur; 22 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were held from the J. J. Moran and Sons Funeral Home chapel, and burial was in Macon County Memorial Park.



The Engineering Office in Decatur is suffering a double loss. Phyllis Barber, shown seated, resigned as stenographer to be married. She became the bride of Chesley Glover, Jr., May 26. Mrs. Helen Lee, standing, who has been secretary to Frank H. Mueller, Vice President and Director of Engineering, for the past seven years, is resigning June 29. She is expecting a baby. Mary Lou Wheatley is transferring from the Credit Department to replace Mrs. Lee.

## Dennis Serdahl In AF for 3 Years

Dennis L. Serdahl, a sales trainee at the Decatur plant, has entered the Air Force at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Commissioned a second lieutenant after four years in the ROTC, he has three years to serve.

Mr. Serdahl is a graduate of the University of Illinois with a degree in marketing. He was active in Delta Phi social fraternity, president of Star and Scroll, member of the Interfraternity Council, University Choir, Oratorical Society, president of the "Singing Illini" (Varsity men's glee club), member of the Illini Four, a campus quartet, IM ping-pong champion and varsity golf. He was a member of the "Singing Illini" when they appeared on the Ed Sullivan TV show.

Working his way through college, Mr. Serdahl held a variety of jobs, including machine operator and assembler in factories, switchman with the CB & Q Railroad, restaurant manager, lifeguard, salesman for Hoover Vacuum Cleaners, salesman for College Classics, proctor for freshman guidance exams, and administrative assistant in the choral department at the University. His home is in Galesburg, Illinois.

## 'Friend of Youth'

## James Chaytor Honored for Aid to Youth

James W. Chaytor, of Department 7 at Mueller Limited, was presented a cigarette lighter inscribed "A Friend of Youth" at a banquet honoring the teams of the Sarnia Minor Athletic Association, for his work with the group.

Some 400 bowlers, parents and S.M.A.A. officials attended the banquet at which city bowling champions and Dominion champions were awarded trophies.

Sarnia's Mayor W. C. Nelson presented Canadian Championship trophies to the girls teams. Junior "Muellerites," made up of girls between eight and 14 years of age, and "Local 456," consisting of girls 14-17 years old, were the winners.

Mayor Nelson commended officials of the bowling group for giving the time to developing the young champions. He also expressed his belief that minor sports help to keep youth out of trouble. As he presented the gift to Mr. Chaytor, he also handed Mrs. Chaytor a bouquet of red roses for her help and cooperation.

The trip to Toronto to compete in the Canadian champion playoffs was made possible through the generosity of the Industrial and Mueller mixed league, who obligated themselves to pay a nickel each, every bowling night.

Mr. Chaytor expressed his appreciation to Muellerites Gil Murray, George Schillmore, Sam

McPhee, Eric Woods, Henry Scripnick, Bill Gallagher and all the others for helping him in his work with the league.



Mr. and Mrs. James W. Chaytor



Mayor W. C. Nelson presents the trophy to Anne White, captain of the "Muellerites", junior Dominion champions.



J. Dennis, president of Local 456, presents the winners trophy to Janet Lindsay, captain of the intermediate Canadian champions. Bert Cummings, captain of the City champions, looks on.



R. Dean Shrigley, lab technician in Service Laboratories' research department, and son of Everitt Shrigley, toolmaker in Department 9 of Mueller, Limited, is the winner of \$100 for his work on the standard fluid testing unit. Young Shrigley modified the upper filter on the unit, which saves considerable time. B. Goulston, assistant manager of Service Laboratories research department, is shown at left as he presents Dean with the check. Gordon Cooke, research chemist and Dean's supervisor, looks on.

## Chattanooga Chatter

By Mrs. Gene Racz

Welcome back to Herbert Adams of the brass foundry, who has been away serving in the Navy.

\* \* \*

J. H. Wall and Coy Jones attended the Foundryman's convention in Atlantic City May 3, 4 and 5. J. M. Eckman and Dorsey attended May 7, 8 and 9.

\* \* \*

Good to see Hollis B. Cunningham of the Maintenance Department able to return to work after undergoing surgery. Get well wishes are sent to Reecie Evans, Charlie Freeman and Ed Bryant of the Iron Foundry.

\* \* \*

O. E. Brown attended the AWWA Convention in St. Louis the week of May 6.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to the following new parents: Mr. and Mrs. Mose Crutcher, who have a son, Winifred, born March 13; Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Richardson, whose son, Gregory Tyrone, was born March 17; Mr. and Mrs. Lee Webb, for their daughter, Donna Sue, born March 27; Mr. and Mrs. Billy Andrews, whose daughter, Polly Kaye, was born March 29; Mr. and Mrs. Willie Franklin, whose daughter, Beverly Denise, was born April 10; Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Copeland, for their daughter, Barbara Joyce, born April 1; and to Mr. and Mrs. Alboan Glass, whose son, Alboan Jr., was born April 30.

\* \* \*

Word has it that Benñon Dees of the Brass Foundry is traveling in a 98 Oldsmobile these days, and George Autry of the Iron Foundry is the proud owner of a new Chevrolet.

\* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. Homer J. Van Fleet vacationed April 4 through 10 in Washington, D.C., visiting Merle Van Fleet and family. Merle is stationed with Headquarters Command at Bolling Field in the controller's office. The vacationers say the cherry blossoms were beautiful, but one trip to the big city was enough for a "country boy", Mr. Van said.

\* \* \*

Heman Thompson of the Assembly Department donated his 15-year cash award check to the Cancer Society. Mrs. Heman, a nurse, is currently attending a man suffering from cancer, he said.

\* \* \*

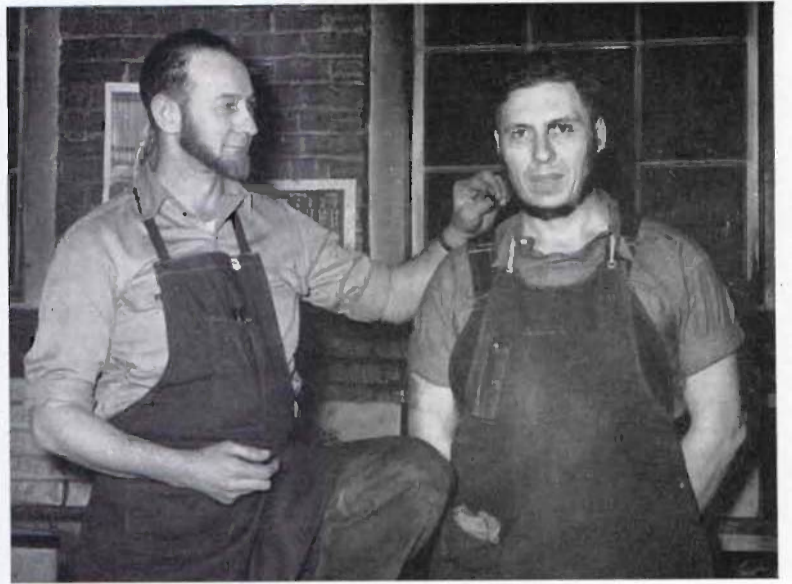
Jacque Harris and Patricia Scoggins of the Production Control Department spent a weekend recently at Savannah Beach acquiring an early tan.

\* \* \*

Speaking of getting out in the sun, it has been rumored that Lewis White of the Maintenance Department began the fishing season by catching a 16-pound drum, snagged at Hale's Bar Dam. The person who claims to beat that will need proof!

\* \* \*

One of Main Connections' reporters, Charles Bynum, has failed to report his own accomplishments. Besides receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree from Zion College in June, he gave a concert May 13 at the First Baptist Church, in which he sang "Indian Love Call", "I've Been A-Listening", "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel", "If I Could Tell You", "The Living God" and "The Builder". A



These two "Brothers of the Brush" compare beards for the forthcoming centennial celebrations in their respective home towns. Harold Ruppert, left, is from Nokomis, Illinois. Fred Dean is a native of Pana, Illinois. Both men work in the Decatur Shipping Department.

## Around the Plant

### ... AT LOS ANGELES

By George Knudsen

Hazel Rice returned to work recently after a two week vacation. Hazel and her husband went by plane to Massachusetts, spending some time in New York City and stopping in Chicago on their return trip.

\* \* \*

Harold Morris of the Assembly Department spent his vacation in Arkansas with his mother and father. Roy Estep drove to West Virginia on his vacation to visit with his folks.

\* \* \*

Donna Jolley spent her vacation painting and redecorating her home. She encountered some difficulty, being a southpaw, in finding a left handed paint brush. Al Hembree overheard the conversation when Donna and her foreman were trying to locate it. The story goes, she found one.

\* \* \*

Russell Hubbard of the Brass Machine Shop is taking a trip to Mexico City and lower California. Jimmy Musso will have charge of his machine while he is gone.

\* \* \*

Pat Prewett, nurse in the Personnel Department, is going to give that new Triumph Convertible a workout on her vacation, she says. She is planning a trip to Indiana to visit relatives, and will also spend some time in Chicago.

\* \* \*

Ben Price, Bill Jacob and Cy Wolfe went fishing on the season's opening day. Ben and Bill went to Big Bear and caught 17 trout. Cy went to the High Sierras and caught his limit.

\* \* \*

Daylight Saving Time has everyone a little confused, as usual. However, Tom Humphry of the Assembly Department was trying to sell his watch because it's out of date!

\* \* \*

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Adams, who have a new son. Bill is a night foreman in the Steel Machine Shop; to May Harris for a fine baby boy who weighed in at eight pounds, five ounces; and to Agnes Kemmer for her second granddaughter. Agnes is in the Shipping Department.

\* \* \*

Clayton Travis of the Tool and Die Department, who injured his hand on a power saw at home, is back on the job.

Olive Yoder of the Billing Department has returned to work

after a long siege of a virus infection.

\* \* \*

Jackie Hanley of the Accounting Department is to be married June 9.

\* \* \*

Joe Gomez of the Steel Machine Shop is very proud of his two sons, Steve, 20, and Danny, 18, who are stationed in Germany with the paratroops. They have been in the service together for a year and a half, and have 14 jumps to their credit.

### C. F. Morenz, Here 38 Years, Retires

Charles F. Morenz had a total of 38 years with Mueller Co. in Decatur when he retired May 2. He has made no special plans for his retirement, he said, just taking life a little easier. He makes his home with his sister at 1213 E. Orchard in Decatur.

Mr. Morenz started to work at Mueller Co. in October, 1912, in the Drafting Department, where he worked until August, 1913. At that time he left, returning April 5, 1917, to the Tool and Pattern Making Department. He resigned again in July, 1919.

On May 2, 1921, Mr. Morenz began an unbroken 35 years work first as a machine operator, and later transferring to the Tool and Pattern Making Department, where he worked until his retirement.



Little Miss Karen Lee Kaigley celebrated her first birthday April 19 at her home in Dalton City where she lives with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Kaigley. Here, it looks like she may be trying to call "Daddy" at his job as plumber with the Maintenance Department at Mueller Co. in Decatur.

## Shipping and Traffic

### ... Tales from Plant 1

By Dee Johnson

Fred Staudt, son of Julius Staudt, Traffic Manager, entered in the District Music Contest at Argenta in the boys ensemble, band and clarinet solo, and all three took first place. From District he went on to the State Contest held at Macomb. The boys ensemble and the band took second place and the clarinet solo won third place.

\* \* \*

Don McQuality, checker, has recently become the father of a baby boy. The baby was born to Mrs. Ora Leota McQuality at 4:15 p.m., April 5, and weighed seven pounds, nine ounces. He has been named Rodney Dwane.

\* \* \*

Charles Ruppert, 18-year-old son of Harold Ruppert, checker, enlisted in the Navy Jan. 18, and took his basic training at Great Lakes for 10 weeks. He is now stationed at Norfolk, Va., for guided missile training.

\* \* \*

Checker John Hall has traded his Chevrolet in on a new 1956 Ford Fairlane, tudor, turquoise and light gray.

\* \* \*

Harold Ruppert, checker, and Fred Dean, order picker, are growing beards for the Brothers of the Brush to celebrate the forth coming centennials in their home towns. Harold is from Nokomis, where the centennial will be observed

July 26 through July 28. Since Nokomis is an Indian name, costumes for the occasion will be Indian.

Fred is from Pana where the 100 year anniversary will be celebrated July 1-4. The costumes will be taken from the era of a hundred years ago. A beauty contest held for the local girls will be one of the main attractions.

\* \* \*

Ralph Stevenson, order picker, and his wife recently took a two week vacation to Phoenix, Ariz., to visit their son, James, returning by the Southern route to do more sight seeing. Their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Musson, and two children accompanied them.

### Sarnia Shorts

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Dawson on the birth of a son, Thomas Wesley, April 13. Mr. Dawson is employed in Department 14.

More congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Williams on the birth of a son, Terry Cameron, April 10. Mr. Williams is employed in Department 2.

\* \* \*

Sincere sympathy is extended to Melvin Dawson at the recent death of his father, John Dawson of Corunna, and to John Mullen of Department 3 and Kathleen Garrick of Department 14 in the sudden death of their mother, Mrs. Mullens.

member of the Harry T. Burleigh Chorus, Charles sang with the United States Army Band during World War II, and has been a favorite vocalist at the plant Christmas parties. He is employed in the Core Room.

### Paul Hinkle's High School Record Tops

Paul H. Hinkle, one of Mueller Co.'s 23 high school graduates, has an outstanding scholastic record for his four years' work.

Paul, whose father is Paul W. Hinkle, graduated from Hixson High School in Hixson, near Chattanooga.

He was president of the graduating senior class, represented his class at the Commencement Exercises, was a member of the Honor Society, was named Most Dependable boy in the senior class, and the most studious of his class.

### Better Understanding



"It is better to understand a little than to misunderstand a lot", was the theme of the fourth annual educational conference of the Sarnia District Purchasing Agents Association, held in Guildwood Inn April 28. W. B. Campbell, right, Purchasing Agent for Mueller, Limited, acted as registrar and was also chairman of the afternoon session. Shown with him are Jack Watson, managing editor of the Canadian Purchaser Magazine, left, and J. R. Millar, purchasing agent for Polymer Corporation.

## Lady Bowlers Celebrate Win With Banquet

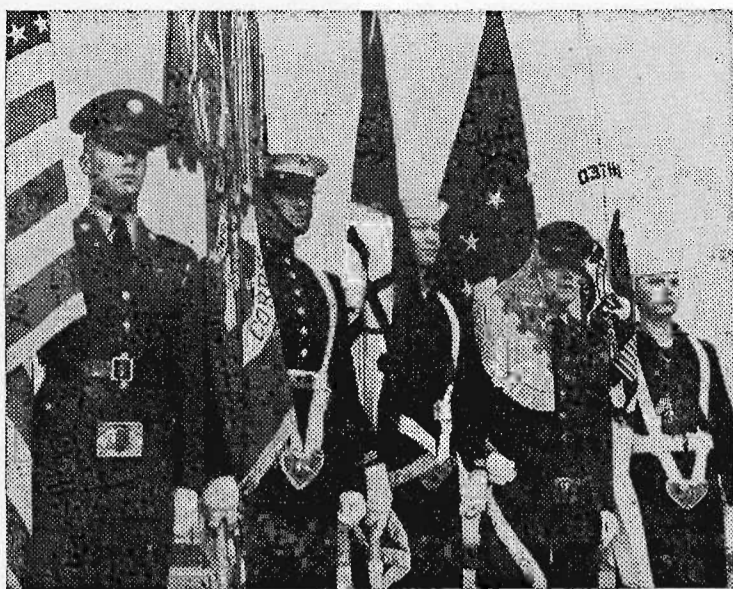
A \$50 check for second place, \$25 in other awards and two sweepstakes winners are the spoils won by this year's Wednesday Night Girls' bowling team, sponsored by Mueller Co. in Decatur.

The girls celebrated their victories with a big banquet in the Elks Club May 16. Cecil Coffin, Personnel Director, and Mrs. Coffin were company representatives at the fete.

Members of the Ladies Junior Classic League, the girls copped the second place prize of \$50 after a hard fought season that was nip and tuck with first place winners, Miller's Supply Girls.

Thelma Endsley captured first in sweepstakes and won a check for \$5, and Connie Brumaster won fourth in sweepstakes. Other members of the team, most of whom have been bowling with the Mueller team for two or three years, are Dolores Johnson, Carla Shanks, Mary Jean Stern and Ruth Brownlow. Connie was elected president for next season at the banquet.

## Armed Forces Day--1956



Enlisted men of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard strike a symbolic pose for the annual observance of Armed Forces Day

## Engagement Is Announced

Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Krueger, 541 Maywood Ct., Decatur, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Nancy, to Dayton (Skip) Foster, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Dayton Foster, Sr. of 180 S. Glencoe Ave. The wedding will be Sept. 8.

Miss Krueger, an employee of Mueller Co., attended Northwestern University in Evanston. Mr. Foster is a junior student at Bradley University in Peoria. He is a veteran with two years in the Navy.

## No Lost Time Company . . .

(Continued from page 1)

record. Nurses are Mrs. Ann Wubben at Plant I and Miss Marjorie Hodson at Plant 4. Decatur's safety committee and subcommittee which is changed every four months also deserves much credit, the Personnel Director emphasized.

J. H. Wall, plant manager at Chattanooga, reported that a great improvement has been seen over the past few months in that plant's safety performance. All lost time accidents have been reported and investigated and steps have been taken to prevent such occurrences in the future. This rigid control has paid off with a lower accident performance, Mr. Wall said, and although the plant has failed to achieve a complete month without at least one lost time accident, the record has been very good, he added.

Much credit is due, Mr. Wall continued, to the nurse, Miss Ora Hollingsworth, and to the safety committee and subcommittee. O. E. Walker, Jr., is chairman of the plant's safety committee.

(Continued from page 1)

Mueller joined with a handful of other leaders in 1913 to organize the United States Chamber of Commerce.

"Mr. Mueller, in his time, and the other executives who followed have actively participated in the United States Chamber of Commerce. Mueller Co. has continued to believe in the basic aims of the National Chamber—to build a better economy and social order for this nation, and to meet the human needs of the people, a responsibility of both business and industry."

Mr. Hipsher is one of the Mueller executives to give active support, through participation, to the National Chamber. He is currently the National Councilor representing the Decatur Association of Commerce, and represented the Illinois Manufacturers Association of Chicago at the Washington meeting. Mr. Hipsher is serving his second term as a member of the Board of Directors of Illinois Manufacturers Association.

Mr. Radcliffe attended the meeting as a representative of the Decatur Association of Commerce.

*Going Places . . . ?*

*Been Anywhere . . . ?*

*Doing Anything . . . ?*

**We don't mean to be nosey, But . . .**

**WHY DON'T YOU TELL US ABOUT IT!!!**

That's right, we mean to pry. Tell us about the vacation you are planning, or that backyard you recently converted into a magnificent flower bed. And how about that unusual hobby your husband has? Let's let the fellows down at the plant in on that one!

MAIN CONNECTIONS — that's the employee bi-monthly newspaper you are now reading — wants to do a better job serving the employee and his family, but we are going to need help — the kind of help that only YOU can provide.

There's no time like the present to start. Why not jot down the facts, and let us take it from there. Tell us about your activities, and we'll get 'em printed even if we have to write a book!

Send your news to your plant correspondent or direct to the editor in Decatur. News may be given to one of the following,

GEORGE KNUDSEN IN LOS ANGELES

MRS. ALMEDA M. REEVE IN SARNIA

MRS. GENE RACZ IN CHATTANOOGA

WALTER DYER OR LOUISE COLE IN DECATUR