

1956 Safety Record Is Best In Years

Plant 4 Goes Six Months Without Lost-Time Accident, Coffin Reports

Safety-conscious employees at Mueller Co.'s Decatur plants turned in their best safety record in several years during 1956, Personnel Director Cecil E. Coffin has announced.

Mr. Coffin, who is in charge of the Decatur safety program, said it would be difficult to compare 1956 with all other years due to man hours worked, but certainly the 1956 record is the best since he became Personnel Director in 1952.

Only Two LA Mishaps Lose Time

Just two lost-time accidents during the entire year . . . that's the outstanding safety performance of Los Angeles employees during 1956. The plant enjoyed the first six months without a single lost time accident. Then the spell broke and Lawrence Fantuzzi suffered one of those unavoidable mishaps when a metal flask fell on the top of his right hand.

That was in July, and the seriousness of the injury kept Mr. Fantuzzi home for 34 days during July and August.

But that unfortunate incident only spurred Plant Manager Earl Bright's men on to a sparkling new effort. There wasn't another lost time accident until November when a minor injury sent a man home for three days.

That's all there was during the entire year. Two accidents totaling 37 lost days. You have to go some to beat that.

All Mueller Co. joins in congratulating Mr. Bright for his safety program and every employee who stayed alert throughout the year in making this fine effort possible.

Although the Chattanooga plant's safety record during 1956 was far from equal to that of Decatur and Los Angeles, it is hardly fair to draw a comparison due to the different type work performed at the three plant's.

The increase in employment during 1956 at Chattanooga is due no doubt to the increase in lost-time accidents. Last year a total of 980 days were lost as compared to 564 during 1955.

More accidents may be expected in handling of heavier equipment and the production of larger products such as hydrants and valves, than in the easier to handle products made in Decatur and Los Angeles.

Yet, Management feels there is much room for improvement in our Southern Plant's safety record and confidently looks forward to the coming year, a time they believe will show a marked improvement in safety.

Abel Named To New Post

Roy Abel, who joined Mueller Co. in December, 1955, as Assistant to O. E. Walker, Vice President and Works Manager, has been appointed Decatur Factory Manager. Mr. Walker, when announcing the promotion, said Mr. Abel will be in charge of factory operations at both Plant I and Plant 4.

Before joining Mueller Co., Mr. Abel served as a consultant for Mueller, Limited.

(Continued on Page 5)

"Our Brass and Iron Foundries at Plant 4 had six complete months without a single lost-time accident," he said, "and Plant 1 completed two months during the year with no lost time accidents."

Actually, there were only 251 accident days lost during the entire year. This compares with 637 days lost in 1955 and 810 days lost in 1954.

Mr. Coffin credits the success of his safety program to the cooperative spirit of all employees and the many good safety suggestions submitted by them during the year. That plus the fact that safety has been made the responsibility of the individual employee.

"We don't offer any prizes or bronze plaques for a good safety record," the Personnel Director said. "The reward for being careful is good health, good eyesight, and the use of both arms and legs."

He feels that this practical approach has resulted in the vast improvement of recent years. "Our safety committees are made up of hourly employees and their supervisors. We have a committee for each plant and that committee in 1957 will change every three months. This gives a great many employees an opportunity to take part in the safety project. For example, he said, "last year a total of 128 men served on our safety committees."

Mr. Coffin's technique is to keep safety in everybody's mind all the time. He does this by sending out two publications, "The Safe Worker," which goes to everyone, and a special book for supervisors on industrial safety.

In addition, lighted safety posters are placed through the plants and these are changed every week.

Now, he's looking forward to a better than ever record in 1957.

Sarnia Officers Are Re-Elected

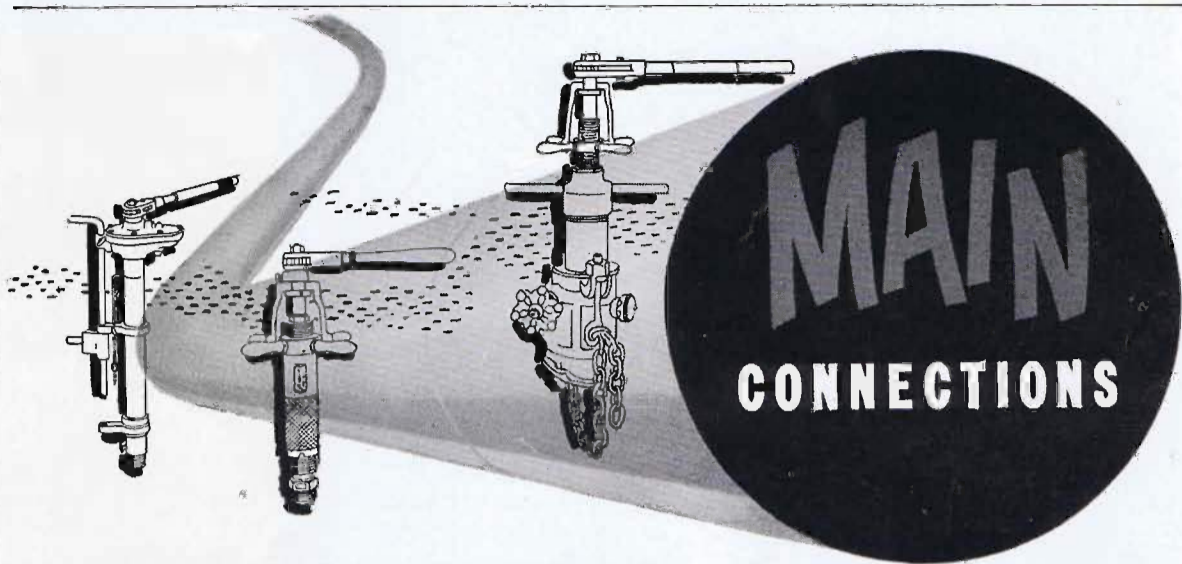
All officers and directors of Mueller, Limited, were re-elected December 12 at the annual meeting of the Board in Decatur.

Officers of Mueller, Limited, are:

George W. Parker, President and Treasurer
T. G. Quance, Executive Vice President
R. M. Nicolson, Vice President and General Sales Manager
R. J. Skippon, Vice President and Factory Manager
J. Milne, Secretary
C. S. Browett, plant controller and Assistant Secretary.

Directors are:

Orval W. Diehl
W. H. Hipsher
J. Milne
Ebert B. Mueller
R. M. Nicolson
George W. Parker
R. J. Skippon
Albert G. Webber, Jr.
Leo Wiant



Published by Mueller Co., Decatur, Ill., — Walter H. Dyer, Editor.

January, 1957

Mueller Co., Founded By German Inventor Enters 100th Year

The Mueller Co. has entered its 100th year. Decatur's oldest industrial firm was founded in 1857 by Heironymous Mueller, a German immigrant and gunsmith by trade, in a 20' by 40' building near what is today the heart of downtown Decatur.

Today, the company is one of the nation's largest manufacturers of water and gas distribution and service products. Plants are strategically located in Decatur, Los Angeles, Chattanooga, Tenn.; and Sarnia, Ontario, Canada.

Although the birth of the company officially is dated as September 7, 1857, Albert G. Webber, Jr., the fifth president in the company's history, said a number of special events and other means are being devised to observe the centennial.

A letter has been mailed to some 35,000 customers, employees and friends announcing the start of the second century and pledging the company's leadership, manufacturing skill and tradition to help meet the challenge of the new century. A special advertising program is being launched this month with ads in several national trade magazines and other publications such as **BUSINESS WEEK**.

Other events such as open house will probably be conducted during the year.

Employee Parties Mark 1956 Christmas Season

Company sponsored Christmas parties for children were held at the Decatur and Los Angeles plants this past season while a dinner for retired employees was held at Sarnia. A number of private parties were held at Chattanooga in observance of the holiday season.

Nearly 1,200 parents and children turned out for Decatur's annual Christmas show at the Masonic Temple. Three professional acts plus a visit from

Santa Claus delighted the kiddies.

O. E. Walker, Vice President and Works Manager, welcomed the audience on behalf of the company and a Christmas message was delivered by the Rev. C. W. Flewelling. C. E. Coffin, Personnel Director, was master of ceremonies.

Christmas fruit and candy was given to each child present.

In Los Angeles, employees and their children paid their second annual visit to Disneyland where children were given tickets for free rides.

Oh Deer, They Did It Again!



Look familiar? This photo should. Three of these four men were shown in Main Connections last year, each with a deer. At right is Bill Miller, a former Mueller Co. employee, and son of Charley and Ruth Miller. His friends, from left, are Buck Williams, Neal Anderson and Franklin Slifer.

All Officers, Directors Re-Elected

The Mueller Co. Board of Directors was increased from nine to ten members at the annual meeting December 11 when Franklin B. Schmick, a Chicago industrialist, was elected. Mr. Schmick, a Vice President and Director of the H. M. Byllesby & Company of Chicago, is the husband of Mrs. Lenore Mueller Schmick, who is also a member of the Mueller Co. Board.

Besides his position with H. M. Byllesby & Company, Mr. Schmick is a director of several other firms including the Allied Paper Corporation and Advanced Aluminum Company.

He is also a trustee of the University of Chicago Cancer Research Foundation, and a member of the Chicago YMCA Board of Directors.

All other directors were re-elected in the annual meeting.

All company officers were re-elected. They are:

Albert G. Webber, Jr., chairman of the Board, President and Treasurer.

W. H. Hipsher, Executive Vice President

Leo Wiant, Administrative Vice President

Lyle R. Huff, Vice President and General Controller.

Frank H. Mueller, Vice President and Director of Engineering

O. E. Walker, Vice President and Works Manager

LeRoy J. Evans, Vice President in Charge of Eastern Sales

C. Harry Martin, Secretary.

The complete list of Directors is as follows:

W. H. Hipsher
Mrs. Addie E. Mueller
Frank H. Mueller
Mrs. Pauline V. Mueller
Richard E. Pritchard
Mrs. Charlotte Mueller Schluter
Mrs. Lenore Mueller Schmick
Franklin B. Schmick
Albert G. Webber, Jr.
Leo Wiant

Driving Tips

Here are tips on winter driving:

To save your battery, don't turn on lights, radio or other electrical equipment unless engine is running.

If your car goes into a skid, turn steering wheel in direction of the skid. Don't apply brakes suddenly. Take foot off accelerator to permit engine to brake (Continued on Page 6)



New Los Angeles Sales Office . . .

Here are four views of our Los Angeles plant's new sales department quarters. The conference room is above, left. At right are, front to back, Mildred Mitchell, stock recorder; Don W. Kelley, sales service and inventory control; and Gertrude Melhuish, stock recorder. Below left in the filing area are Thelma C. Catlett, stenographer (foreground), and Louise Clifton, file clerk. Most sales officer personnel is below right. They are, front row left to right, Marjorie L. Spohn, order writer, and Jeri Montoya, order coordinator. Second row, from left, Jim Wolf, sales service and order interpreter, and Muriel Scott, stenographer. Third row, from left, Carol Murphy, stenographer; L. W. Meacham, Jr., assistant to assistant sales manager; Inez M. Mooring, secretary; Thelma Catlett, stenographer; and Louise Clifton, file clerk.

Around the Plant

. . . AT LOS ANGELES

By B. E. Stotler

Eight-year old Frank Mecado, III, is starting young as a 1/4 midget racer. He is a member of the Whittier Quarter Midget Racing Association, and the son of Frank, Jr., our Core Room Supervisor. The ages of the youngsters belonging to the Association range from 4 to 12 and include both boys and girls.

There are eight Associations in Los Angeles area, each having their own race tracks. Frank III has done real well since his beginning as a racer in January of this year as he has won 35 trophies and 47 ribbons. At the Los Angeles County Fair at Pomona this year he won 1 trophy and 10 ribbons. Frank III must take after his father who is a member of the Rhinos Hot Rod Club.



Frank Mecado, III

John Bronson, pourer's helper in our Foundry, has recently become Assistant Scout Master of Troop 40 in Bell, Calif.

Bill Baker, Standards Engineer, is a member of the Arcadia Sportscar Association which is one of the most active of the many such Associations in the Southern Calif. area.

The Arcadia group which

holds at least one event, either from the car his pants cuff a "Gymkhana" or "Rally" each caught on the bumper and threw



Bill Baker in a "Gymkhana"

month, puts out a newsy club paper, of which Mr. Baker is the Art Editor, and has a racing team entered in all local competition.

The "Gymkhana" is a test of driving skill through intricate patterns laid out on a given course. The driver who completes the course in the least time with fewest errors wins. (The accompanying photo shows Mr. Baker and son competing against each other in a "Gymkhana.")

By contrast the "Rally" is a different test of driving skill, the prime purpose is to leave a starting point and reach an unknown destination by means of written instructions in a predetermined time period set by those who laid out the course. The contestant who arrives at the destination with elapsed time nearest to the time allotted for the course is the winner.

It is good to see Benjamin Piott of our Foundry back after three weeks on the injured list. Ben was lifting a bag of groceries from the back of his car and when he started to walk

him against the curb, injuring his shoulder.

Michael Lieberr, Steel Machine shop, has been ill for the past two months. We all hope that Mike will soon be back with us.

Lillian Alfano, Core Room, underwent a major operation several months ago

Leonard Goostree, one of our night watchmen, died while on duty October 14. He would have received his ten year pin October 21. Our deepest sympathies go to his family.

Fred Klinck who retired from our Sales office December 1, 1955, after more than 30 years with Mueller Co., had an extremely delicate heart operation several months ago. Latest reports are that Fred has made a complete recovery and we all are happy to know that Fred is feeling well again.

Edward J. Vogel has been appointed Foundry Foreman. Mr. Vogel went to work for us in

Veterans Get Pins, Cash Certificates

* * *

Chattanooga

Pins and cash awards, presented at Chattanooga from August 1 through December 31, include the following:

5 Years: Edward Benning, Robert Earl Blanks, H. T. Foster, Jesse J. Holloway, Robert Lee Johnson, Warren Moncier, Carroll R. Moore, Joseph H. Moses, Roosevelt Powell, Paul S. Slatton, Willard C. Selvage, William L. Simpson, Henry D. Taylor, Leroy Thurmond, Richard Waller.

10 Years: Billy G. Andrews, James O. Bailey, Elmer Coffman, Robert G. Lansford, John M. Tate, Glenda Mae Wilson.

15 Years: Joseph Bartlett, Marvin L. Davis, Alboan Glass, Theodore McGinnis.

20 Years: Walter Paris, L. D. Satterwhite.

30 Years: Monroe Hudson.

Decatur

Pins and cash awards, presented at Decatur from August 1 to December 31 include the following:

5 Years: Mary A. Coartney, Ray E. DeWeese, Harold E. Feist, Donald R. Lee, Nellie Mae Lee, John W. Linn, Lawrence E. Monroe, Kenneth F. Tohill, Coy M. West.

10 Years: Alfred F. Alde, Gerald L. Aldridge, William H. Boehm, George F. Binkley, Ralph H. Brown, Donald D. Curry, George Denning, Paul D. Funk, Nelson E. Hoffman, William J. Kaigley, William R. Knorr, Osborn W. Madden, C. H. Martin, Charles W. Moore, James A.

February, 1946 as a furnace man's helper. In November, 1946, was made furnace man class "B" and in October, 1947 received a furnace man class "A" classification. His last change prior to his present promotion was to a Working Foreman's classification in August, 1953.

* * *

Our Personnel Office has a new look. During early November it was revamped to make a larger lobby and additional space for interviewing. It also has new flooring and has been painted.

* * *

Lloyd Logsdon, retired Vice President in charge of the Los Angeles Plant recently underwent a minor operation. He is coming along fine and if we know "Loggy" he won't be down for long. Here's wishing a quick recovery.

Named Foreman



Edward J. Vogel

Mulvaney, James L. McDowell, Herman E. Stolte, James Williamson.

15 Years: Helen L. Campbell, Leslie L. Epperson, Roy F. Harrison, Herman Jackson, Lillian I. Jarman, Roy C. Jones, Pearl L. Kemper, James A. Ridgeway, Theodore W. Suhomske.

20 Years: Paul V. Barnes, George W. Curtis, Earl C. Dilbeck, John W. Dotson, William Marshall Foster, William C. Rohman, Edna J. Rybolt, Gerald B. Sarver, Robert F. Taylor, Dale A. Wilkins.

25 Years: Leo Siloski, Emilie J. Waltens.

30 Years: Ina D. Banning, Carl H. Hill, Charles Johnson, J. Harold Linton, Chester M. Mercer, Alva E. Moats.

35 Years: Henry Leipski, Cal L. McQuality.

Los Angeles

Pins and cash awards, presented at Los Angeles from August 1 through December 31, include the following:

5 Years: Eusebio Gomez, Ismael Salazar, Frank Witham.

10 Years: Ramon Ballesteros, Betty Cosman, Donald DeDoncker, Anthony Flaco, Ralph Hall, Agnes Kemmer, John Marshall, Eulayla Prewett, Richard Rowe, Raymond Santos, Frank Williams, Floyd Marple, Katherine Worley.

15 Years: Cyril Wolfe.

20 Years: Myrtle Baber, Wm. English.

Sarnia

Mueller Limited employees receiving service pins during 1956 include the following:

5 Years: Marcel St. Jean, Lloyd Clysdale, Fraser Campbell, Albert LaBelle, William Gallagher, Clayton Nesbitt, Walter Arrowsmith, Ernest Berdan, John Whitely, Jack Lapier, Kenneth Miles, Clayton Meredith, Tadeusz Grad.

10 Years: Richard A. James, Daniel Kapala, Leo Ryan, Wilfred Scott, Leona Addy, Joseph Rosina, Orval McClemens, Helen Joleun, John Saunders, Thomas Hawkins, Bruce Robertson, William Wilkins, Andrew Hayes, Russel Caudle, William Currie, Eric McGuire, Cameron Wiggins, William Popoff, Jean Poirier, Mike Marchuk, Calvin Turnbull, Matthew Barker, Hartley Cornell.

15 Years: Frank Nesbit, Walter Irvine, Alvin McKellar, William Foster, John McClure, Keith Payne, Howard Taylor, James White, Lyle Izzard, Melvin Dawson, James Heath, James Chaytor, Ralph Turnbull, Fred Tribbeck, Carman Weese, Roy Abell, John Agar, Maurice Heath, Garnet Denomy, Edward Campbell, Andrew Mackrell, Elmer O'Dell, Murray Robinson, Frank Vidler, Norman Harrison, Ward Boyle, Wilbur Duggan, Fred Dunn, John Cain, Bernard Brady, Max Fletcher, Charles Browett, Charles Perkins, Graydon Brock, Albert Hiller, George Foslett, Walter Stevens, John Round, Wilbur Nesbitt, Bruce Peece, Leroy Barnes, Frank Tithecut, William Colborne, Donald Cuthbertson, Henry Hardy, Albert Marcy, Dorothy Kay, Cyril Matthews.

20 Years: James A. Brent.

25 Years: Albert DeKelver.

30 Years: Everitt Shrigley, Claude Chappell, Joseph Hicks, Harold Fennell, Dennis Tilley.

35 Years: Carl Smith, John A. Baldwin.

40 Years: John J. Conway, Edward G. Cook.



Administrative Vice President Leo Wiant, left, presents 30-year pin and gift certificate to Harold Linton. General Superintendent Archie Sefton looks on. At center, Mr. Sefton confers 25-year pin and gift certificate on Emilie Waltens. Core Room

Foreman Jack Bain is at right. At right receiving his 30-year pin from O. E. Walker, Vice President and Works Manager, is Chester Mercer. Observing are Mr. Sefton and Foreman Edgar Hartwig.



Five Mueller, Limited executives were on hand to present veteran Edward G. Cook with his 40-year service pin recently. Mr. Cook is foreman of the Tool Room. George W. Parker, President and Treasurer, right, made the presentation. Looking on, from left, are R. J. Skippon, Factory Manager; O. Cecil Spears, Personnel Manager; Carl Smith, Production Superintendent; Merlin Coates, Manufacturing Engineer.

Ceremony Marks Giving Of Service Pins To Old Timers



Monroe Hudson, Chattanooga, proudly displays his 30-year service pin and gift certificate. Mr. Hudson was employed Oct. 16, 1926, as a helper in the Machine Shop. He has been a power cut-off saw operator since 1947.



Charles Johnson holds his 30-year gift certificate and service pin presented by Mr. Sefton, Mr. Walker, and Foreman Marvin Spitzer. At center, Mr. Walker gives a 30-year pin and gift certificate to Alva Moats. Mr. Sefton and Foreman Carl Hill

stand by. At right are Mr. Sefton, Henry Leipski getting 35-year pin and certificate, Mr. Walker, and Foreman Ollie Fortschneider.



Above right, Mr. Walker gives 30-year pin and certificate to Ina D. Banning. Mr. Bain and Mr. Sefton offer their congratulations. Center, Plant and Fire Protection Officer Cal McQuality gets his 35-year pin and certificate from Mr. Sefton, and at right, Leo Siloski accepts his 25-year pin and certificate from Mr. Walker. Looking

on are Mr. Sefton and Foreman Carl Hill. Mr. Hill, incidentally, whose picture appears twice in this series, also received his 30-year pin and gift certificate from Mr. Walker.

Bob Levey Wins A Prize

If there's one subject Bob Levey, our Assistant General Sales Manager, enjoys discussing as much as Mueller products, it's automobiles.

Although you seldom hear Bob, who is more formally known as Robert K., discuss any topic other than making and selling our products, he does have this one other fascination.

Nattily dressed Bob is an authority on automobiles. He is a director of the Central Illinois Region of the Sports Car Club of America. That's the largest organization for amateur sports car activities in the United States with more than 7,000 members in 70 regions.

Being an official in such an organization naturally means that Bob owns his own sports car. He often drives to work in his Austin-Healey from his home in Moweaqua some 18 miles from Decatur. In addition to the sports car, Bob also owns a 1951 model Packard Mayfair, and surprisingly enough, this car is really his pride and joy. The Mayfair is no longer manufactured, and this particular model already is considered by some fanciers as a "classic." Its style is very definitely a forerunner to the long, sleek 1957 models we see today.

He keeps the Mayfair in top running condition and insists that it always be in perfect con-

dition both internally and externally. His efforts paid off not long ago when he was awarded first place in the modern conventional class in the Concours D'Elegance, an automobile event held in Hoopston, Ill. This event was open to any car that has had considerable use, yet still is in the best of condition.

Judgment of each class is based on the following:

1. External appearance
2. Internal appearance (upholstery, cleanliness, etc.)
3. Underhood appearance
4. Inside trunk
5. Running gear, etc. (no grease)
6. Age of car
7. Mileage of car.

The latter two factors are important because an older car in good condition has a better chance than a new one because the new one would not need reconditioning effort.

Mrs. Levey joined Bob in the cleaning project for the Hoopston event. They took about a

week of evenings to bring the car up to competitive standard. Here's a few tips on cleaning cars from Mr. Levey: Wash and wax at a minimum. Too much washing and waxing can scratch and remove the finish. Be careful where you park especially not under trees as at times they drop sap which is difficult to remove. Avoid freshly-tarred roads. Tar stains can never be completely removed from white wall tires and some finishes. In using a cleaner or wax on the finish the main ingredient does not come in the can and that is WORK. When driving to the event take it easy as the impact of bugs at high speed can undo much of the show preparation.

In the Concour's D'Elegance, judges give points for each of the seven factors. Points are added and the car owner with the highest total in all divisions is the winner. And that, of course, is exactly where Mr. Levey finished in the scoring—on top.

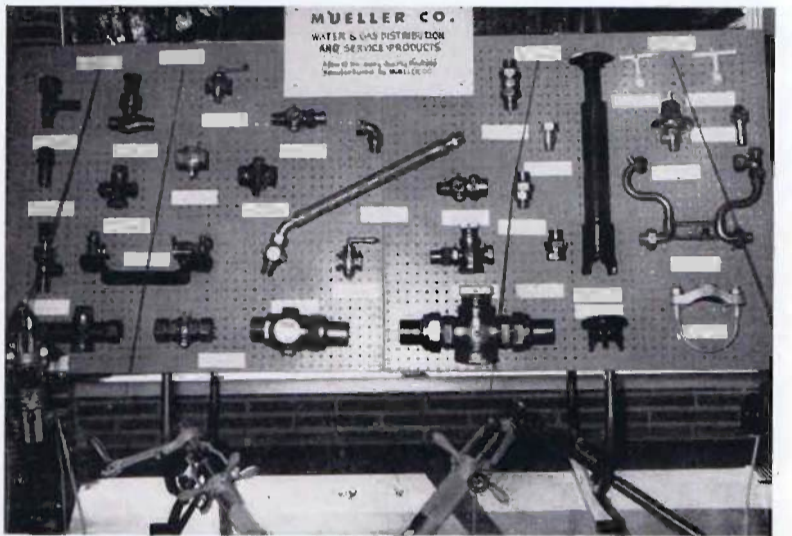


Robert K. Levey, Assistant General Sales Manager, displays his 1951 award winning Packard and the silver tray he received for first prize in the automotive event.

Sales Executives Meet



Three sales executives get together in Decatur. At left, acting as host, is Francis Carroll, Assistant Sales Manager, Water Department, Decatur. Shaking his hands are E. George Baker, Assistant Sales Manager, Los Angeles, and Walter Coventry, right, Assistant Sales Manager, Chattanooga.



This display of our equipment was shown in the new Soy Capital Bank in Decatur as a part of ours and the bank's public relations program. The display enabled many Decatur citizens visiting the bank to become more familiar with Mueller products.

Poetic License

A tired but poetic Mueller Co. employee left this bit of philosophy on his desk overnight recently:

"Roses are red
Violets are blue
I'll be darn glad
When this day is through."

Next morning he found this poetic line added by an equally tired and equally talented person:

"And that goes for the janitor too!"

Auditor Post To Bob Mallow

Robert W. Mallow, an accountant with the Decatur firm of Gauger and Diehl since February, 1954, has been named Internal Auditor for Mueller Co.'s three United States plants and the firm's subsidiary in Sarina, Ont., Canada.

The appointment to the new post was announced by Lyle R. Huff, Vice President and General Controller.

Mr. Mallow, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Mallow, 11 Tuscan Court, Urbana, was graduated from the University of Illinois in 1951. A native of Urbana, he is an army veteran, and served on Okinawa for nine months.

After Army service, Mr. Mallow was employed by the Collegiate Cap and Gown Company in Champaign as an accountant before joining Gauger and Diehl in Decatur.

He is married and has one daughter, Paige, 18 months. Mr. and Mrs. Mallow live at 85 Meadow Terrace. They are members of the First Baptist Church.



In observance of National Fire Prevention Week, office employees in Plant 1, Decatur, tested their fire drill ability. The result, according to Plant Protection Officer Cal McQuality, was excellent.

Award To Company

Mueller Co. recently was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by Fifth Army Headquarters in Chicago for "wholeheartedly supporting the Armed Forces reserve program by authorizing military leaves of absences for its employees so they can participate in such training.

The ward was given to President Albert G. Webber, Jr., by Brig. Gen. Hiram D. Ives, chief of the Illinois Military District.

DAUGHTER FOR DUDLEY'S

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Dudley are the parents of a daughter, Debra Sue, born December 6, in Decatur and Macon County hospital. Mr. Dudley is a truck driver for Mueller Co.

This Is K9CSA, Come In Please! Roger, Out!

Robert Ridgway is a first class "ham."

And before you get the wrong idea, allow us to explain that a "ham" in this case means amateur radio operator.

Mr. Ridgway, a night shift electrician at Plant 4, believes in hobbies that help you perform a better job at work, and that no doubt accounts for the tie-in between his electrical career at Mueller Co. and his radio hobby at home.

He likes working at night because it gives him a chance to talk with other hams when he returns home after midnight. "Most hams talk with each other in the morning or late at

night," he said, and he thinks nothing of retiring to his basement den after work and "visiting" with some ham until 2 or 3 a.m.

"Once I talked with a Catholic priest in North Dakota for two hours," he said. He has cards from more than 130 ham radio stations in 34 states, Alaska, Canada and South America indicating that he has talked with them. Usually, when you talk with a ham for the first time, you follow up the conversation by mailing a card bearing your station call letters to your new friend.

Mr. Ridgway said that he talks regularly with hams in

Placerville, Calif., Paducah, Ky., Fenton, Iowa, Beaver, Utah, Council Bluffs, Iowa, and has talked with a lady ham in Anchorage, Alaska.

He didn't spare the expense when purchasing his elaborate equipment. He has a DX100 transmitter and a National HR050T1 receiver and speaker. Fellow hams will tell you that this set is about as good as you can buy.

Hams find a lot to talk about, he says, but seldom have the opportunity to act out Hollywood's portrayal of the ham whose set is the last means of communication to the outside world frantically reporting that the enemy is approaching. Nor does the average ham intercept many espionage messages to Russia, as is the case in TV shows, he says.

However, there have been many cases where ham radio operators performed valiant acts for their community and nation. "Mostly, hams are a friendly group who discuss mutual mechanical problems and just plain visit as you might over a cup of coffee," he explained. "It's fun to talk with someone in a distant place whose interest is the same as yours," he added.

Mr. Ridgway's interest in radio dates to 1928, the year he built his first crystal set. "Radio has been a hobby ever since," he said. He has a license to operate as a ham that's valid until March 21, 1961. He'll have to ask for renewal at that time.

CARLA SHANKS MARRIED

The former Carla Shanks was married Nov. 11 to Gene Kruger at the Pilgrim Lutheran Church. She is employed in our Decatur sales office. He is circulation manager in Decatur for the Chicago Daily News.



Mr. Ridgway sits before his elaborate amateur radio equipment talking with another "ham" in a distant land. The cards above his call letters, K9CSA, are from a few of the stations with which he has talked.

Around the Plant

... AT CHATTANOOGA

By Mrs. Gene Racz

When Mr. Stork made his latest flight over the Chattanooga plant, he must have suffered a broken leg in landing and decided to leave all his "wee bundles" here. Some of his passengers included Debra Anne Davis, daughter of Russell Davis, Engineering Department; James Aaron Clopton, son of Napoleon Clopton, Core Room; Jim Jones, Jr., son of Jim Jones, Iron Foundry; Sharon Lynn Holloway, daughter of Jesse Holloway, Core Room; Gary Ray Baker, son of Raymond Baker, Shipping Department; Sharon Kaye Price, daughter of Edwin Price, Core Room; Andrea Elizabeth Lindsey, daughter of Theodore Lindsey, Assembly Department; James Wheeler Stockdale, Jr., son of James W. Stockdale, Machine Shop; Denton Howard Ridge, son of Bobby Ridge, Machine Shop; Larry Donnell Townsend, son of Ed Townsend, Brass Foundry; Bertha Alma-jean Hixon, daughter of Fred Hixon, Core Room; George Anthony Madden, son of George Madden, Machine Shop; Martha Louise Garth, daughter of John Garth, Iron Foundry; Daniel Ray Lewis, son of Frank Lewis, Machine Shop; Jane Kimbro Farmer, daughter of Charles Farmer, Sales Department; Daryl Dewain Hill, son of William J. Hill, Core Room; Paul Cheryl Smith, daughter of Paul Smith, Iron Foundry; Donald and Ronald Smith, sons of Alfred Smith, Core Room; and Linda Carol and Deborah Ann Penney, daughters of Morris Penney, Machine Shop.

Our sympathy is extended to Herschel Morrison in the Assembly Department in the recent death of his father.

The marriage of Miss Eula Franklin Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Davis of Pisgah, Alabama, and Dan Deerman, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Deerman, Sr., of Dutton, Alabama, was solemnized September 1 at 4 p.m. The double ring ceremony was performed at the home of the bride's aunt, Mrs. Sanford Roberts, by the Rev. Arnold Johnson, pastor of the Pisgah Baptist Church. Mrs. Bill Wheeler, sister of the bride, was Matron of Honor. Woodson Deerman served his brother as best man. After a short wedding trip the couple reside on Cheryl Lane. Eula is employed as a comptometer operator in Accounting.

Jesse Jones is recuperating from a broken ankle as the result of a fall on slippery rocks while fishing on Chickamauga Lake.

Dorsey White of the Iron Foundry is a forlorn man these days. He parked his late model Buick at the edge of the lake, and while he and Autra Fant, also of the Iron Foundry, left for a second cup of coffee, the car apparently rolled into the lake. When the two returned, all visible to the eye was the top of the car, protruding from the lake.

Dorsey hasn't mentioned needing any help, but perhaps if a crew of fellow-workers went over to his house on their next day off, equipped with a large, dry rag and a strong right arm, we



Mr., Mrs. John Lackey



Mr., Mrs. Dan Deerman

might be able to bring the smile back to his face.

Speaking of hunting, several of the "sharp shooters" have gotten off to a good start. Claude Hawthorne, Shop Inspector, and Howard Stokes, Machine Operator, tried their luck at the Governor Prentice Cooper Wildlife Reservation the opening day of the season. Howard bagged a 135 pound eight-pointer with a 30-30 and Claude brought down a 101 pound spike buck with his 30-06. On November 17, Chester Buchanan slayed a 200 pound six-pointer at Head River, Georgia, with a 30-30.

The Sales Department is happy to have Barbara Gennoe as a newcomer. Barbara replaces Joann Gamble who resigned.

The best of health is extended to Nevely C. Basham, who is recuperating from an operation at Shriners Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky (Her father is Tom Basham of the Assembly Department), and to Irene Hollingsworth, wife of Duke Hollingsworth, Machine Shop, who is convalescing in Vanderbilt Hospital, Nashville, Tenn.

Welcome to William E. Clay, returning to the Cleaning Room after four years duty with the United States Army.

Miss Wanda Sue Patten, Sales Department Clerk, was married to John W. Lackey September 28 at the First Baptist Church of Chattanooga. Dr. Carl Giers officiated. The bride was given in marriage by her father, Joe Patten. After a wedding trip the couple are at home in Westwood Court apartments in North Chattanooga.

J. E. Johnson, Assembly De-

partment, is retiring due to ill health. He was employed on July 30, 1941, as a clerk in the Assembly Department and has worked in that capacity until his retirement.

Our deepest sympathy to the families of Paul W. Tims, James Hadnott and Arvel Black, who died recently. Paul came to work here June 18, 1956, as a machine operator in the machine shop and on August 11, 1956, was drowned while boating in Wolfteever Creek. Paul was an excellent swimmer but lost his life trying to help other members of the boat reach the shore safely.

James became an employee October 19, 1955 and died October 12, 1956 at Erlanger Hospital following an operation. He was employed in the Cleaning Room.

Arvel received his 25 year pin in December of 1955. He worked in the Machine Shop as a Machine Operator. He died August 28, 1956, after a lingering illness. His daughter, Helen, is now employed in the Production Department.

Olive Street Baptist Church was the scene October 6th of the wedding of Miss Joann Gamble and Gerald Bassler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Peter Bassler of Phillipsburg, N. J. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

Charles Houston Gamble. The Rev. Hobert Linkous officiated. The bride was given in marriage by her father. Mrs. Skipper Fairbanks was matron of honor.

Miss Donna Ruth Gamble, sister of the bride was maid of honor and four girls served as bridesmaids, all wearing costumes identical to that of the matron of honor. A reception was held at the home of the bride. After a wedding trip to Niagara Falls the couple will reside in Phillipsburg, N. J. where the groom is associated with his father as an electrical contractor. Joann was employed as a stenographer in the Sales Department.

Miss Patricia Scoggins, Pro-

duction Control Department, and Frank Burell, football coach at Tyner High School, were married at the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, October 26. The couple lives at 6988 E. Brainerd Rd.

Abel Named

(Continued from Page 1)

He was graduated from Ohio State University in 1943 with a degree of Bachelor of Industrial Engineering. He served as an ensign in the Navy during World War II. He was associated with a number of firms before joining the Chicago company.

Mr. Abel is married, has two sons, and lives at 1629 West Riverview, Decatur.

Classified Corner

(Editor's Note: Our first classified "page" is small, as would be expected. We hope our employees in each of our plants will take advantage of this free-of-charge opportunity to buy or sell some of their needs in the future.)

FOR SALE: One and one-half lot in Macon County Memorial Park. Will take two-thirds regular price, See L. D. Rodgers, Dept. 80, or phone Decatur 3-0591.

FOR SALE: One oil burning space heater, Rheems, 50,000 Btu, less tank, with floor plate. Also one four room size stove, brown porcelain finish, good condition, with wood and coal

grates. Each priced at \$10.00. See W. C. Rohman, Main Office, Decatur.

FOR SALE: English setter pups. All males. \$30.00 each. Call Marvin Spitzer, Decatur 3-2674.

FOR SALE: Need a second bicycle? Girl's bicycle, light blue, standard size, skirt guard carrier. Call Nancy Kircher, Decatur, 8-7363.

WANTED: Roll top desk. See W. C. Rohman, Decatur, Main Office.

LOOKING FOR THE EDITOR? When his phone doesn't answer, always call the switchboard, Decatur.



"Remember Me"

Remember? How could you forget her?

This little girl is one of tens of thousands who need your March of Dimes help today — who will need care for a long time. Long, because care doesn't stop until all possible recovery is achieved — no matter how long; no matter how costly.

Let's Finish the Job!

Join THE MARCH OF DIMES IN JANUARY

Winter Driving
(Continued from Page 1)

speed of car. Then apply your brakes cautiously.

Carry a shovel and a supply of sand, cinders or salt in your trunk to help free your car if you get stuck on ice or in snow.

If you have a manual choke, pull it out slightly before turning off ignition. This is a precaution against frozen fuel lines and insures a supply of gas in the manifold when starting.

Leave early; adjust your speed to driving conditions; don't follow the car ahead too closely.

Heat key to open frozen door lock. Use match, cigarette lighter or candle.

Keep electrical system dry. Drive slowly through water.

Guard against deadly carbon monoxide. Never run motor in garage with doors closed. Check exhaust system for carbon monoxide leaks. Always drive with one window open.

Veteran Decatur Employees Retire



Harold F. Snyder, who retired September 19 although only 48 years old, is shown with luggage given to him by members of the Pattern Shop. Mr. Snyder began with Mueller Co. as a youth of 16 and has been a lead man in the Pattern Shop for many years. He was able to retire on the "Rule of 80" plan. He voted to leave Decatur and move to Arizona.



Old friend Charley Taylor, left, himself a retired employee, came back to honor his pal, Al May, who retired recently after working for Mueller Co. in Decatur for 38 years. Mr. May spent most of those years in the Specialty Dept.



Although this picture was taken last Labor Day, this sextet wanted all doubt of their fish stories put away, so here, men, is proof. These Decatur Muellerites shown following their catch in Cold Springs, Minn., are, from left, Dean Grant, Elmer Fauley, Gene Gibbs, Chuck Girard, Earl Collins and, holding the big one in front, Eddie Nalefski.

Victor Klitzing To Chattanooga

Victor C. Klitzing, general accountant for Mueller Co.'s Decatur plants has been transferred to the company's hydrant and valve plant in Chattanooga, Tenn., in a similar capacity. The move is a result of the rapid growth of the company's Southern plant which now employs about 800 persons.

In his new position as general accountant at Chattanooga, Mr. Klitzing will assist Plant Controller Wayne Heyer in the operation of the plant's financial department.

He joined Mueller Co. in 1954 as accounting supervisor, coming to the company from Illinois Power Co. in Decatur. A graduate of the University of Illinois, his positions have included senior accountant at the University of Illinois business office and as an accountant in the iron foundry plant of the engine and foundry division of Ford Motor Co. in Detroit.

A native of Champaign County, Mr. Klitzing is the son of C. A. Klitzing of Sadorus, Ill.

He is married, has four daughters and a son, and has been living at 35 Colorado Drive. The family will move to Chattanooga this week.

George F. Binkley Promoted

George F. Binkley, Assistant Personnel Director for Mueller Co.'s Decatur plants, has been named Manager of Engineering Services.

Mr. Binkley will supervise the company's model shop where new products are made and tested before being placed in production, and also will be in charge of company engineering records and patents.

He has been with Mueller Co. for ten years. He began as a member of the Personnel staff, and advanced to Assistant Personnel Director before receiving

his new appointment.

A native of Warrensburg, Ill., Mr. Binkley was graduated in 1943 from Millikin University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

He is a veteran of Navy service during World War II, and saw action in the Mediterranean and Pacific theaters. He advanced to the rank of lieutenant and served as commanding officer of his ship.

Mr. Binkley is married, has two children, and lives at 24 South Country Club.



GEORGE BINKLEY

It's Income Tax Time Again, And This Year Don't Wait Until April

A preview of the night before Tax Day based on human nature and information from the American Institute of Accountants.

NOW TO FIGURE UP THAT OLD INCOME TAX!

In other words, Ralph, the fight is on: fight the form, fight the deadline and fight the temper. This is the night of April 14, and tomorrow is the deadline for filing your federal income tax return for 1956. You, like millions of other people, have succeeded in putting this matter off until you have all of one evening to rush through a job that might save you more money than you earn in a week.

NO, ALICE, I'LL NOT NEED YOUR HELP THIS YEAR. TOO MANY COOKS SPOIL THE SOUP YOU KNOW.

A typical year's spoilt soup included one million returns filed without signatures — (or with only one signature instead of the required two on a joint return). Also, arithmetic errors resulting in over-payment by taxpayers of more than \$19,000,000—not to mention an even larger amount of underpayments. Uncle Sam, who checks every return, catches these errors. But don't expect him to look for all the deductions or exemptions you missed.

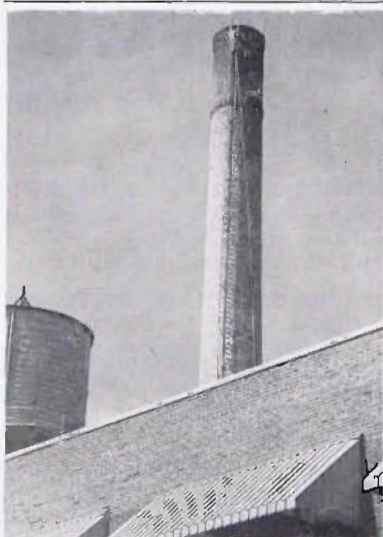
MUST GET ORGANIZED! ALICE, WOULD YOU MIND BRINGING ME THAT PEN?

Best you bring him a pencil for that first draft, Alice, especially if he is going to itemize deductions. Since Mr. Organizer waited until T-Day-minus-one, chances are he will only have time to repeat last year's performance and take the 10% standard deduction in the end. But it is early yet, and he realizes that many taxpayers can

save by itemizing such expenses as charitable or religious donations, interest paid on mortgages or loans, medical and dental expenses, and state and local taxes.

WHATEVER DID I DO WITH THAT TAX BLANK? ALICE DEAR, HOW ABOUT GETTING IT FOR ME OUT OF MY COAT POCKET?

Alice retrieves beautifully, and she is also good for a \$600 exemption on the tax return. And, Ralph, don't forget to take a \$600 exemption for yourself. Anyone 65 or over gets an additional \$600 exemption, and there is still another exemption for blindness. These special exemptions for age and blindness do not apply to dependents, but you can get the regular \$600 exemption for each dependent, as explained in the instructions—even when you provide less than



Decatur employees at Plant 1 will recall this nifty gent who last fall worked throughout the day repairing our smoke stack from such dizzy heights. He finished the job, and lived to tell the tale.

50% support in some cases.

NOW THAT YOU ARE UP, HONEY, WOULD YOU ADD UP THIS COLUMN OF FIGURES AND ENTER THE TOTAL IN ITEM 10, CERTAINLY, I'M SURE IT'S ITEM 10. OKAY, SHOW ME, JUST SHOW ME, WHERE IT SAYS ITEM 11 IN THE INSTRUCTIONS!

Without taking sides on this particular issue, it might be suggested that everyone who may have to file a return (including anyone whose income was less than \$600, but who wants a refund for tax withheld) should read carefully the instruction book which the government provides free. Since there is usually some change in the tax laws each year, you might miss a deduction or exemption to which you are entitled if you fill out the form without first reading the instruction book.

THEN OF COURSE WE'LL ENTER IT IN ITEM 11. WHERE ELSE WOULD YOU PUT IT? LET'S TRY TO BE INTELLIGENT ABOUT THIS THING ALICE!

Yes, Alice, try to be intelligent about these tax matters. Remember how stupid it was of you not to give birth to the twins before midnight December 31, which would have qualified two more dependents for 1956? And as if that weren't bad enough, how about the \$5000 you won on that quiz program? Didn't you realize that such a prize is taxable?

DOESN'T THIS TAKE THE CAKE. LOOK AT THIS, ALICE. HOW CAN THOSE TAX PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON EXPECT ME TO REMEMBER EVERY LITTLE DOCTOR BILL I HAD TO PAY FOR LAST YEAR?

You can itemize and deduct

all medical-dental expenses in excess of 3% of your income, within certain top limits. Be sure to list fees of doctors, dentists, hospitals and nurses. You may not deduct expenses paid or reimbursed by insurance, but your medical insurance premiums count as medical expense. Now, Ralph, do you remember when you twisted your back removing the storm windows last August? If you were absent from work due to an injury and received "sick pay" from your employer or his insurance company, you do not have to pay tax on \$100 per week of this income. The same applies to sickness, except that unless you were hospitalized for at least one day, the payments for the first 7 calendar days of absence are not tax free.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN



S. R. Robert T. Cole, son of Robert Cole, Dept. 38, Decatur, has been in the Navy since April 13, 1956. He is in San Diego, Calif., and has been assigned to duty aboard the U.S.S. Braine, a destroyer.

HIDING THESE RECEIPTED BILLS AND CANCELLED CHECKS IN THIS DESK DRAWER? FINE THING, ALICE! WHAT IF YOU FORGOT WHERE YOU PUT THEM?

There is little chance that Alice has forgotten where she was carefully filing the receipts of bills paid. She knows you must keep receipted bills and cancelled checks to prove payment of such important, deductible items as state and local taxes, interest included in mortgage payments, union dues, the fee Alice had to pay the employment agency for her part-time job, and child-care expenses (you may be entitled to a deduction of up to \$600 if, while you worked, it was necessary for you to pay someone to care for a child under 12 or anyone who is physically or mentally incapacitated).

I GIVE UP! THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE. ALICE, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GO TO JAIL.

This fight may be over late in the 14th round of April. It happens to the best of last-minute filers: the form wins by a TKO. If you want to give yourself the best possible break on your federal income tax, the American Institute of Accountants advises that you prepare your return carefully, file early and save your records to back up deductions.

ALICE, PLEASE! HOW CAN I CONCENTRATE ON THIS NEWSPAPER WHEN YOU INTERRUPT WITH SILLY QUESTIONS? NATURALLY, I'LL LOOK OVER YOUR FIGURES BEFORE I SIGN THE FORM. AND, DEAR, WHEN YOU MAIL IT—DON'T FORGET TO STAMP THE ENVELOPE.