

Decatur Safety Record Merits Praise



Roy Wood, Plant 4 Service Foreman, is pictured here shortly after receiving a check for \$1,000 from President A. G. Webber, Jr.

A. C. Werdes To Los Angeles; Mallow is Plant Controller

Mr. A. C. Werdes has been named Plant Controller in Mueller Co.'s Los Angeles plant, and Mr. Robert W. Mallow has been appointed Plant Controller in Decatur, replacing Mr. Werdes. These personnel changes are effective May 1.

Mr. Werdes began work with Mueller Co. on March 1, 1936. Prior to that time, he was associated with the St. Louis office of Ernst & Ernst, an auditing firm. It was while there that he was assigned the Mueller audit. Thus, he was no stranger to us when he came to Decatur in 1936.

Mr. Werdes' first position with the company was General Auditor. His duties took him to each of our branch plants, and to Mueller, Ltd., several times each year. He was named Plant Controller in Decatur in 1950, and retained that position until the present.

Mr. Werdes plans to leave Decatur early in May, and Mrs.

Werdes will accompany him at that time. Their home in Decatur is 5 North Court Drive.

Mr. Mallow has been Internal Auditor since joining the company in October, 1956. He came to us from the Decatur accounting firm of Gauger and Diehl, with whom he had been associated since February, 1954.

Mr. Mallow was graduated from the University of Illinois in 1951. A native of Urbana (Ill.), he served with the Army during the war, and was stationed on Okinawa for nine months. After Army service, he was employed by the Collegiate Cap and Gown Company in Champaign as an accountant.

Chief among his business affiliations is membership in the Illinois Society of Certified Public Accountants. Mr. and Mrs. Mallow live at 85 Meadow Terrace. They have two daughters—Paige (3 years old) and Patricia (seven months).

Levey Retirement Is Announced

Robert K. (Bob) Levey, Customer Service Director of Mueller Co., has retired after nearly 30 years of service. Born and reared in Chicago, he joined the company in early 1929 after studying at Northwestern University. His first assignment was in Sales, traveling out of Chicago; and, for the next sixteen years, he held the unique honor of being the youngest member of our outside sales force.

In 1945, he came to Decatur as assistant sales manager. He also served as promotional engineer, during which time he had charge of advertising, sales promotion and No-Blo demonstrations. It was Levey who first introduced Mueller No-Blo demonstrations to the gas industry.

Bob is well-known among members of both the water and gas industries, and has always been a familiar figure at national and sectional conventions. His personality and product knowledge combined to make him an outstanding representative of Mueller Co.

Bob expects to spend a great deal of time at his home in Moweaqua, eighteen miles south of Decatur. He is married, and has six children.

Golf League Begins May 19

The Mueller Golf League will begin first-round activity on Monday, May 19, according to an announcement by Ollie Fortschneider, League president. The League is in its second year of existence. In 1957, six teams competed each week at Scovil Country Club; this year, eight teams will vie for the season-end prizes, also at Scovil.

Two complete rounds are scheduled for the 1958 season, and play will wind-up on August 18. Playday, which was a tremendous success last year, will become an annual event. This year, it is scheduled for August 23 at Sullivan Country Club. Mr. Fortschneider emphasized that participation in Playday is not limited to League members only, but is open to all Mueller employees.

Tee-off time during the regular season will be as soon after 4 p.m. each Monday night as possible, and a time limit will be set at a later date. If you are interested in joining the League members on Playday, indicate your intentions well in advance of the August 23 date.

Plant 4 Claims Seven Accident-Free Months in '57

Mueller Co.'s Decatur employees reaped the benefits of safety-consciousness during 1957, according to figures released by Mr. Cecil Coffin, Personnel Director and head of the safety program in the Decatur plants. During 1957, Plant 4 had seven accident-free months, and Plant 1 claimed two. In 1957, a total of seventeen accidents accounted for 280 days lost. Corresponding statistics for other years are as follows: 1954: 75 accidents, 810 days lost; 1955: 80 accidents, 637 days lost; 1956: 33 accidents, 251 days lost.

The above figures indicate that while the number of accidents (frequency) is decreasing, the severity of these accidents is slightly higher than last year, and well under the severity rate of previous years. Yet, the figures are under the national average, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Increased success of the safety program is due to a number of factors, according to Mr. Coffin. In March, 1955, several safety measures were introduced, such as a compulsory safety glasses program, which has greatly reduced the number of eye injuries characteristic of foundry operations. A voluntary safety shoe program has also proved effective.

Perhaps of major importance was the introduction of new safety committees. Each Decatur plant has its own committee, consisting of hourly employees and their supervisors. The hourly committee members change every four months. Such changes allow a great many employees the opportunity to serve. This opportunity serves to make these members, and fellow-workers, much more safety-conscious.

The program of "safety orders" has been effective, according to Mr. Coffin. Safety orders originate when the committees, foremen, or other individuals report a hazardous condition, or foresee some condition which could become hazardous. These reports are considered by the safety committee concerned, and if the reports are deemed valid, a safety order is issued, requesting that the hazard be eliminated. Some fifty such orders were issued and completed in 1957. As Mr. Coffin points out, a safety program is established to PREVENT accidents, and loses its effectiveness if it fails to foresee where and when accidents might occur. That is why the safety orders are of great value.

Current employee members of the safety committees are as follows: PLANT 1—Bob Lipski (Dept. 36); George Curtis (Dept. 37); Max Dukeman (Dept. 38); Jerry Aldrich (Dept. 47); Archie Meador (Dept. 70); Otto Dannewitz (Dept. 80); and Matt Like (Dept. 90). PLANT 4—Herbert Deibert (Dept. 10); Roy Wall (Dept. 20); Richard Dannewitz (Dept. 35); Jennie Kinney (Dept. 50); Willie Tucker (Dept. 60); John Anvil (Dept. 64); Houston Hogan (Dept. 100); Ernest Ray (Dept. 103).

In addition, all meetings are attended monthly by Mr. Coffin and Tom Harding from Personnel, department foremen and the nurses from both plants.

"We attribute the continued success of our safety program to the co-operative efforts of all employees, not just those serving on the two safety committees. We do not offer awards and prizes for safety records and suggestions for we sincerely feel that the best reward attainable for 'safety-mindedness' is a sound,

Auer Promoted; Freeman Assigned

Two changes were announced by Headquarters Sales shortly after the last issue of MAIN CONNECTIONS went to press. Clifford W. Auer has been appointed Central Sales Manager, and Charles W. Freeman, Jr., has been named Sales Representative in the Southeast Section.

Mr. Auer first came to Mueller Co. as a part-time employee while attending high school and Millikin University. In July, 1942, he took full-time employment in the Engineering Division.

Following service during World War II as an Army Air Force pilot, he returned and was assigned to the Sales Division. From that time until his recent appointment, he served the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan area.

Mr. Freeman joined Mueller Co. in late 1957. Prior to that time, he spent five and one-half years with a large valve manufacturer, traveling the South-eastern states.

A native of Newport News, Virginia, he received his formal education in North Carolina. He has been assigned the state of Tennessee.

Classifieds In This Issue of M.C.

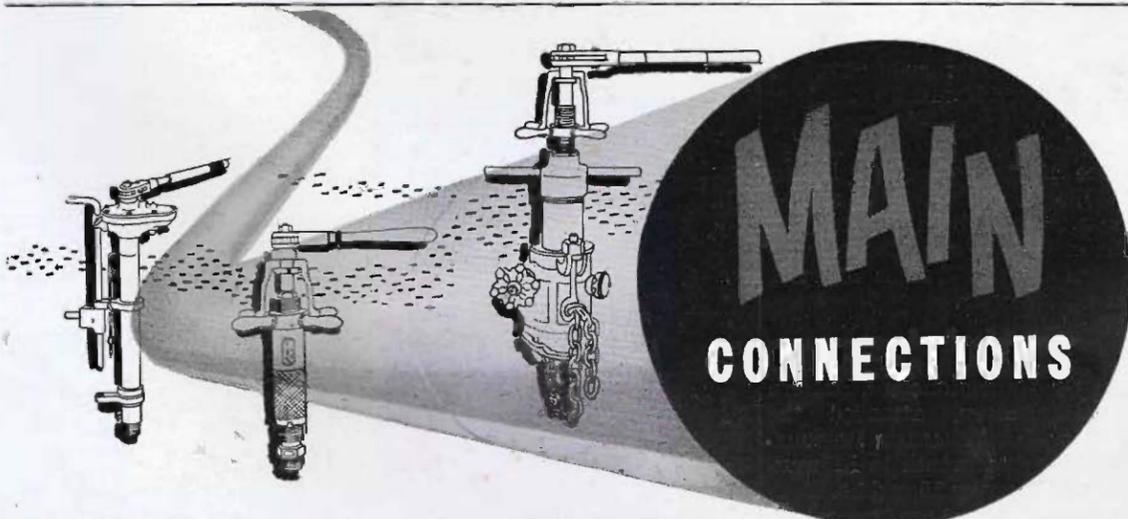
A new and regular feature—CLASSIFIEDS—begins with this issue of MAIN CONNECTIONS. It is for the use of Mueller Co. employees who have items for sale, rent, or trade, or who are wishing to find items. Perhaps you have a service to sell, such as lawn care. Placement of your ad is free of charge. All ads will be limited to one inch, with the exception of those persons wishing to list houses for sale. These ads will be allowed one and one-half inches.

The next issue of MAIN CONNECTIONS will be out early in July. If you run across any items you wish to sell during Spring Housecleaning season, phone Jim Milligan, 3-4471, Ext. 348, or contact your correspondent. Remember: This service is free to all Mueller Co. employees.

healthy body," states Mr. Coffin. The safety program is implemented by two monthly publications. "Safe Worker" is mailed to the homes of all employees, and is written to appeal to the families of the employees. "Industrial Supervisor" is issued to supervisory personnel, and contains helpful safety hints applicable to various situations.

(As this issue of MAIN CONNECTIONS goes to press, complete safety records from Los Angeles, Chattanooga and Sarnia are not available. We hope to include them in the next issue.

—Ed.)



Around the Plants

Mr. Lyle R. Huff is a rather proud father these days. His daughter, Sara Jane, is one of three high school juniors from Decatur selected to spend the coming summer abroad as an exchange student. Miss Huff, a junior at MacArthur High School, competed with ten other students in an essay contest, and won the right to represent her school.

On Monday, January 6, a Mueller employee who chooses to remain anonymous had a bit of bad luck with one of the Company autos. While his mind was occupied with other things, he attempted to shift gears with the turn indicator. Result? One 1957 model minus a turn indicator. This incident goes a long way toward revealing the television tastes of the individual. He apparently prefers adult westerns to variety shows; for, if he had been watching Ed Sullivan instead of Maverick, he would have learned all about Mercury's push-button gears.

On or about December 17, Charlie Moore (Plant Industrial Engineer) had an argument with a freight train. He was headed north on Monroe Street on his way home from work. The weather was bad, and snow was falling. As he crossed the Illinois Central tracks, his car was struck by a slow-moving freight. Damage to the car was about \$200, but Charlie escaped without a scratch.

The Mueller organization received two beautiful Japanese prints as a Christmas gift from a former employee who is serving with the Army in the Far East. A letter which preceded the gift read: "I would like to express my appreciation to Mueller Co. for remembering me during the Holiday Season. . . I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas." The letter was signed: Pfc. Vivian L. Wellman.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Floyd F. Holler, who passed away recently at the age of 73. Mr. Holler was a Mueller employee for 18 years.

Many of you will remember Louise Cole, former assistant editor of Mueller Co. publications. She and her husband, Don Noble, are the proud parents of a girl, Shannon, born in October. The Noble's address is 1003 Lorrain, Austin 3, Texas.

Several belated "goodbyes" are in order. Marge Tatham (Sales) retired January 20, 1958. Mrs. Beverly McGinnis (Personnel) and her husband have moved to Sarasota, Florida. Their address is 523 Ohio Place, Sarasota.

Welcome to Herman J. Niehaus, Jr., who began Sales Training on February 3. Mr. Niehaus is married, and has one son.

Mueller employees appeared on WTVP, Decatur's ABC television station on Friday, January 17, from 10:45 to 11:45 P. M. We were privileged to appear as the first participants of a new weekly show, "Dance Party," which is sponsored by a local automobile dealer. Fifty-two couples, including guests of our employees, enjoyed an hour of dancing and refreshments before the cameras.

Mary Lou Wheatley (Dept. 44) contributed the following items:

Dale Stanley and family visited relatives in Florida during the New Year's holiday. Dale is a junior draftsman.

Fred Tratzik and his wife enjoyed a two-week vacation in Florida early in January. Fred is a project engineer.

On January 31, David Daniels, a test lab operator, received an attractive brief case as a parting gift. Dave will attend the University of Illinois.

Bill Dunaway has been transferred from Dept. 90, and is now a test lab operator.

Paul Ammann, assistant project engineer, recently moved his family to a lovely new home.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Seitz are the parents of a baby girl, Lori Jean, born February 8. Lori weighed seven pounds, 15 ounces. Al works in the Tool Room.

Tool Engineering extends a warm welcome to Sandra Anderson and Iva Fravala. Iva replaces Donna Hilton, who has been transferred to Personnel.

Darrel Hartwig, Tool Crib, moved his wife and boys to a new home on February 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Coffey are the parents of a son, Joseph Duncan, born February 20. Joseph weighed seven pounds, seven ounces. His mother, Sue, formerly worked in Tool Engineering.

Best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hamilton, who were married April 19 in St. Andrew's Church, Murphysboro, Illinois. Mrs. Hamilton was the former Alma Schauerte, stenographer in Headquarters Sales. Mr. Hamilton is a graduate of Fairfield University, and the Boston College School of Social Work. At present, he is associate executive secretary of the United Fund of Decatur and Macon County.

On March 4, Herman E. Jackson (Catalog) was honored for his more than 40 years of service to scouting. Herman first became a Boy Scout in 1917 in Greenfield, Indiana, and is the only man in Macon County with over forty years of service.

Our wishes for a speedy and complete recovery to the mother of Mrs. Elizabeth Tolladay, our telephone operator.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Craig (Bob is a Sales Service Correspondent in the Sales Division) welcomed a baby girl on March 16. Sheryl Lynn weighed eight pounds, nine ounces at birth. The Craigs also have a two-year-old son, Mark Stephen.

A baby girl, Julie Lee, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Milligan on Valentine's Day, February 14. Julie weighed seven pounds, four ounces. (Jim is Company Editor).

Our sympathy is extended to the families of A. Roy Fleckenstein and Roy B. Pease. Mr. Fleckenstein, Ground Key Ma-

chine Shop Foreman (Dept. 80), passed away January 17. Mr. Pease, who passed away January 2, retired in 1947 after 41 years of service to Mueller Co.

Plant 4



by

Sue Stratman

On Wednesday, January 13, Plant 4 foremen and members of the Manufacturing Division gave a dinner party for Verle Utzinger, who resigned to accept a position with an Eastern manufacturer. Ollie Fortschneider, Dept. 35 Foreman, presented Verle with an Onyx ring, along with everyone's best wishes for future success.

A dinner in honor of Roy Wood (Dept. 100) was given at the Blue Mill on February 26, and he was presented with a plaque signed by all those in attendance. The presentation, made by Mr. Roy Abel, commemorated Mr. Wood's nearly 47 years of service. Employees from both Decatur plants also presented Roy with a nice gift for his home woodworking shop.

Proud possessors of new homes are: Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Cooper (Dorothy Cooper works in Dept. 50); and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Henderson (Bob works in Dept. 35).

Miss Julia Ann Willis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Willis, was married Sunday, February 23, to William J. Norton of Westview, Kentucky. The Reverend Earl Gray officiated in the First Church of God, and a reception followed. The bride's father is employed in Dept. 10.

Amos Baily (Dept. 10) is a proud "foster father." His Llewellyn Setter, Gypsy Rose Lee Fogarty, gave birth to ten pups on February 12.

The following Plant 4 employees have recently welcomed additions to their families: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hackl (Jack is in Dept. 35), a boy — Leland Edward, born November 5; Mr. and Mrs. George Grandon (George is in Dept. 60), a boy — Steven Jonas, born February 2; Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hammel (Cliff is in Dept. 60), a girl — Tamara Ann, born February 22; Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Ditty, Jr. (Jesse is in Dept. 100), a boy (their third son) — John Arthur, born February 8. Mr. and Mrs. Verle Utzinger welcomed a boy, Thomas Edward, on February 12.

Jack P. Parsons, chief chemist, and Ollie Fortschneider, Pattern Shop foreman, attended the Twenty-first Wisconsin Regional Foundry Conference in Milwaukee on February 13 and 14. Each of them attended conference sessions which were concerned with their individual departments.

It's been a long, long time . . .



A. L. (Archie) Sefton accepts a gift certificate and service pin commemorating his thirty-five years of service from Leo Wiant, Administrative Vice-President. Nodding his approval is Roy Abel, Factory Manager.



This bright young man is Phillip Allen Albert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Albert. Mr. Albert is employed in Dept. 60 at Plant 4. Phillip Allen was born October 18, and was three months old when this photo was taken.

Employees Credit Union Assets Top One Million \$

The Mueller Co. Employees Credit Union has assets of \$1,149,136, according to a report made at the annual meeting held January 20. One hundred and forty members and about thirty guests were on hand in the company cafeteria at 7:30 P.M., and were served refreshments.

The business report showed that, during 1957, \$969,653 was loaned, and there is \$691,951 in outstanding loans. The share balance is \$1,073,279. The credit union has 1,081 members. They received a four percent dividend on shares, and borrowers were given a ten percent rebate on interest charges.

Officers of the credit union are: Otis B. Fears, president; Albert Spitzer, vice-president; Frank Ridgeway, secretary; and Harold Munsterman, treasurer. Directors re-elected at the meeting are: Otis Fears (Pattern Shop), Albert Spitzer (Dept. 90), Harold Munsterman (Pattern Shop), Frank Ridgeway (Brass Foundry), C. D. Kelley (Machine Maintenance), Ernest Watkins (Iron Foundry), Orville Spencer, Jr. (Tool Room), Harold Taylor

(Machine Maintenance), Carl Maurer (Millwright), Russell Armstrong (Iron Machine Shop), Richard Carruthers (Payroll), Charles L. Brown (Dept. 80), Haldon L. Hanson (Dept. 70), Howard Gleespen (Dept. 80). The new director elected at the meeting was Eric Blankenburg (Experimental Dept.).

Following the business meeting, a drawing was held for a door prize. The prize, a G. E. Transistor Radio, was won by a former employee, Marvin Chandler, who resigned last September to finish his education at Millikin University.

"There's absolutely no cause for worry," a nurse said to a patient about to have an operation. "The doctor has seen an operation exactly like yours on television."

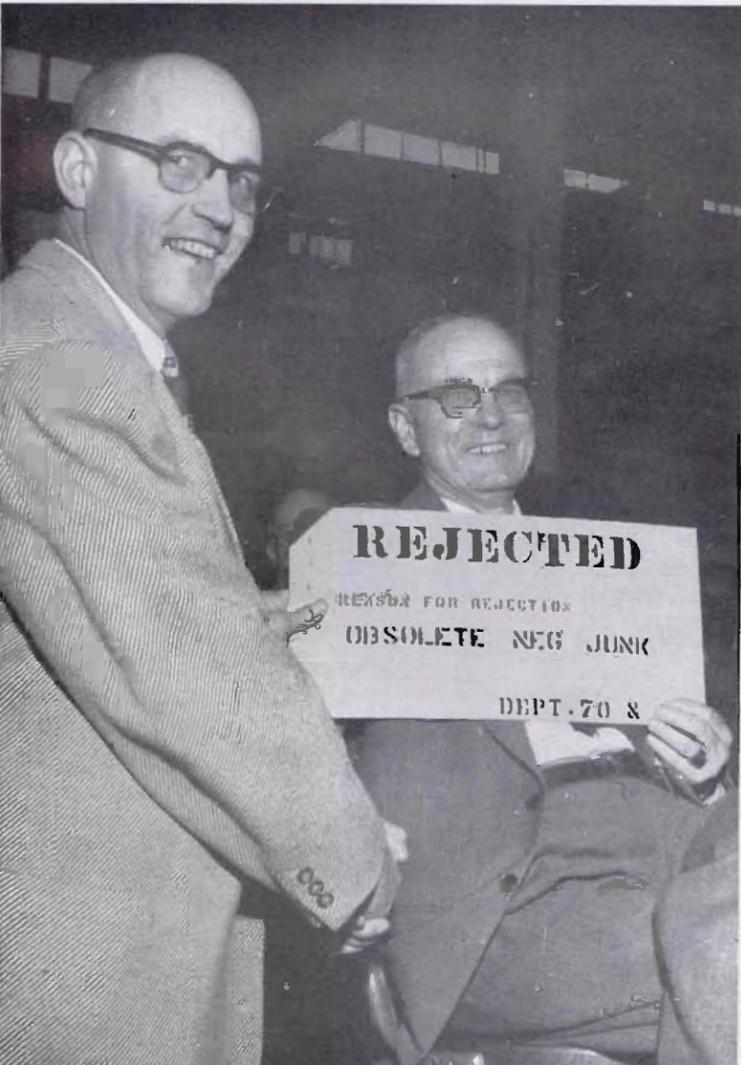




O. E. (Odie) Walker, Vice-President and Works Manager, accepts his thirty-year pin and gift certificate from A. G. Webber, Jr. Mr. Walker came to Decatur from his Chattanooga position of Plant Manager on Aug. 1, 1953.



These are the Decatur employees who worked hard to make the 1957 Childrens Christmas Party a huge success. The party was held at Masonic Temple, and was attended by hundreds of children and their parents.



Mr. H. B. (Whit) Wittington had the tables turned on him recently when employees of Departments 70 and 90 (Decatur) gathered to honor him upon his retirement. Whit joined the company on January 13, 1926. For the last several years, he has been head inspector in 70 and 90. Above, Elmer Fawley good-naturedly tags Whit with one of his own rejection cards. In the 32 years he worked for Mueller Co., Whit was late to work only once, and that was for only one minute.

Bowling League Ends May 1

As the Mueller Bowling League headed into the last part of its current season, close races characterized the play. According to figures released March 27, Tool Engineering topped the League with a 59-34 won-lost record, followed by Main Office with 53-40. Third place was held precariously by Works Managers, with 52½-40½, just one and one-half wins ahead of Plant 4 #1, with 51-42 record. Experimental rounded out the top five with a 49-44 record.

Based on 93 games, these were the complete standings for the top five: **Tool Engineering** won 59, lost 34 for an 828 average, high game of 984, high three games of 2692; **Main Office** won 53, lost 40 for a 794 average, high game of 943, high three games of 2611; **Works Managers** won 52½, lost 40½ for an average of 829, high game of 976, high three games of 2733; **Plant 4 #1** won 51, lost 42 for an average of 783, high game of 905, high three games of 2598; **Experimental** won 49, lost 44 for an average of 790, high game of 926, high three games of 2623.

Only ten percentage points separated the top and bottom men among the ten high bowlers. The ten, and their averages, were: R. Leake, 181; B. Taylor, 81; H. Stratman, 175; W. Knorr, 175; W. Leake, 174; D. Reidelberger, 173; P. Hawbaker, 173; L. Edwards, 173; J. Bain, 172; E. Nalefski, 171.

P. Hawbaker led the pack in the individual high game column with 268, Stratman followed with 265, R. Leake with 253, A. Seitz with 253, and W. Knorr with 249. Individual high three games stacked up as follows: H. Stratman, 694; J. Bain, 649; M. Davis, 643; R. Leake, 625; and L. Edwards, 623.

The season winds up May 1, and a total of 108 games will have been bowled. The next issue of **MAIN CONNECTIONS** will carry final season statistics.

To Tickle The Funnybone . . .

The policeman pushed his way through the excited crowd around the telephone booth and took in the situation at once. He looked from the man sitting on the pavement to the flushed young fellow standing rubbing his knuckles. "Did you hit him?" he demanded.

"Yes I did," replied the young man. "I was in this booth talking to my girl, and he opened the door and dragged me out."

The policeman nodded, "And you lost your temper," he suggested.

"Not straight away," the young man growled, "but then he dragged my girl out, too!"

Cincinnati has installed some king-size "Walk" and "Don't Walk" signs at intersections where pedestrian traffic is heavy. Traffic screeched to a halt at one intersection the other day as a little old lady blithely crossed against the light. A grim-faced policeman was waiting on the opposite curb. "Lady," he said, "do you realize you walked against the sign?"

"What sign?" she asked.

"That big orange 'Don't Walk' sign.

"Oh, that," she said. "I thought that was put up by the bus company!"

Burt Jackson Passes Away



Burt Jackson

With a great deal of regret, we record the passing of Burt Jackson on September 22, 1957. Mr. Jackson was the father of Miss Opal Jackson of the Stationery and Supplies Dept.

Born in Paris, Illinois, on April 28, 1878, he married Rosa May Kirk in Decatur on December 22, 1901.

Burt joined Mueller Co. in October, 1904. Nearly all of his 43 years of service were spent in the Shipping Dept., where he was foreman upon retiring in 1947.

He was a long-time president of the Mueller Aid Society, the old employees' benefit association, and was intensely interested in the company's recreational and social programs. He enjoyed being an "end-man" in the minstrel shows given in former times, and he organized children's games year after year at the company outings. Later years brought fond reminiscences about the early coon hunts and sales initiations in which he participated. Among his fondest memories were week-end trips spent with Mr. Adolph Mueller at Mr. Mueller's cabin on the Okaw River, where interests in the out-of-doors and in culinary adventures were happily combined.

Mr. Jackson was preceded in death by his wife.

His many friends at Mueller Co. sadly regret his passing, and shall cherish the memory of his person for many years.

His Majesty reigns . . .



Jimmie Laramee, grandson of Troy Roush (Pricing Dept.—Decatur) was elected King of Sunday School recently. Jimmie, who lives at 1511 N. Church St., will be two years old on April 28.

Classifieds

FOR SALE

Indian Springs Addition; 3 bedroom Redwood ranch home, divided bath, utility and family rooms, large finished recreation room, full basement, three fireplaces, carpeted living and dining rooms, two car garage, three-fourths acre lot. Tom Harding, Personnel Dept.

Bicycle, girl's 26 inch, like-new, \$17. Phone 6168.

Clarinet, Ebonite brand, case and stand included, in excellent condition, \$60. Phone 6168.

Phonograph, like-new Columbia portable, 3 speeds intermixed, Hi-Fi, reasonably priced. Phone 8-5555 after 5 p. m.

Plymouth, Cranbrook model, 1951, light green 2 door; good tires, real sharp buy. Phone 9-2191 after 4:30 p. m.

Trailer, 1953 Glider, 32 foot model, full bath, one bedroom, excellent condition, priced to clear immediately. Phone Blue Mound 3040.

WANTED: TO BUY

Baby stroller, collapsible twin model. Will pay good price for right one. Phone 9-2191 after 4:30 p. m.

Bicycle, girl's 24-inch model in good condition. Phone 3-0005 after 5 p.m.

Studio couch, in good condition. Prefer double bed model upholstered. Needed immediately. Phone 3-2227 after 5 p. m.

SERVICES

Fair's Lawn Service: new lawns seeded, old lawns rejuvenated, soil testing and fertilizing, conventional plowing. Grass seeds and fertilizers for sale, including Scott products. James Fair, P. O. Box 155, Mt. Zion, or phone Mt. Zion 2881.

Sidelights & Highlights

from

Chattanooga

by
Gene Racz



We wished "bon voyage" to one of the loveliest lassies that has ever graced the payroll department. Charming Gloria Berry left on February 18 on a flight to Nuremberg, Germany, to join her husband, who is serving in the United States Army. We hope both Gloria and Raymond have a wonderful year in Europe.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Ben Roy in the loss of both his mother-in-law and father-in-law.

Well, the time has arrived for all good hunters to hang up their red caps till next fall. Chester Buchanan, Maintenance welder, is still holding the position of top ace; he is the only sharp-shooter who brought down a deer this season. He bagged a 250 pound 8 point buck. Chester states he fired seven times, using an automatic 12 gauge shotgun.

Congratulations to Marcus Daniel, Jr., of the Machine Shop on his marriage to Freda Kilgore. The wedding took place on February 28 at the East Ridge Methodist Church. Freda is employed at the General Electric Company, located in the Volunteer Bldg.

Welcome back to Eddie Lee King who has been away for the past year serving in the United States Army.

If Shirley Sawyer, Production Department clerk, is all smiles it is because her husband has arrived home after spending 18 months in Tokyo, Japan.

Glad to see Oscar Hubble of the Tool Room able to return to work after having been hospitalized.

"Best Wishes" to Donald Waters of the Shipping Department and Wanda Rozzell, who were united in marriage at the James Street Baptist Church of Rossville, Georgia, on December 25.

Our kindest condolence is extended to Paul Hinkle of the Assembly Department in the untimely death of his son Alvin. If you recollect, Alvin was pictured in the June graduates of 1956, and a list of his achievements during his high school years was given. He was preparing to become a minister at Carson-Newman College and was home for the holidays when he was involved in an automobile accident that took his life instantly.

It seems the stork still smiles on Mueller employees. Congratulations to the Milburn Carrolls, on the arrival of Cynthia Renee on December 29; to the John Harps, on the arrival of John Thomas, Jr., on October 12; to the Donald McCurrys, on the arrival of Ruth Ellen on October 21; to the Claude Ridges, on the arrival of Rhonda Lynette on January 6; to the Herbert Woodys, on the arrival of Robin on January 8; to the Robert Waters, on the arrival of Candy Joan on January 22; to the Gennie Connors, on the arrival of Bruce Wayne on November 7; to the Terrell Grays, on the arrival of Jeanie Marie on December 4; to the Donald Broyles, on the arrival of Mary Suzanne on November 1; to the Robert Kings, on the arrival of Liesa Darlene on November 9.

The Red Bank Methodist Church was the site of the wedding of Nancy Marie Bailey and Rhea Dail Watkins on Saturday, December 14. Nancy is the

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wade Bailey and Rhea's parents are Dr. and Mrs. Clyde F. Watkins of Maryville. Dr. W. C. Daniels and Dr. Clyde F. Watkins performed the double-ring ceremony. The nuptial music was presented by Jon Robere, organist, and J. Raymond Bailey of Nashville, vocalist. Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a gown of white chantilly lace and tulle over bridal satin. A lace pill box was attached to her finger-tip veil of imported silk illusion. She carried a white Bible marked with a white orchid and stephanotis. The attendants' dresses were fashioned of Christmas velveteen and satin, with full waltz-length skirts and tied with satin cummerbunds. They wore white fur bandeaux and carried matching white muffs topped with red poinsettias. Donna Lynne Watkins, flower girl, wore a matching red velveteen dress and carried a basket decorated with love knots and filled with rose petals. The couple left for a southern wedding trip.

J. H. Wall journeyed to the Big City the week of January 13 to attend an American Management Association Seminar. Only comment we received on his return was that he just couldn't take that cold weather any more. I do believe we have finally made a real rebel out of him.

Thought it might be fun to take a census on New Year resolutions and see how they are holding up. Couldn't get anyone to seriously admit or deny the fact that they had pondered the thought. I bet you can be sure the idea flickered through the sub-conscious mind of the following: Dorsey White won't be driving through Georgia, come fishing time in Florida; Joe Racz won't be looking for any cheap car wash jobs; Jack Barker won't be driving out Bailey Avenue unless he has one foot on the brake; Martin Gwin will be sure he has more nourishment than a cup of coffee next time he gives a pint of blood; Vester Pope won't be standing in front of the lawn mower trying to start it; Gene Frederick won't be swimming under the boats this summer unless someone furnishes him a tin swim suit; Nora Betts won't be picking up any ladies at a bus stop. I simply must elaborate on this one. Poor Nora, employed in the Brass Foundry, was on his merry way downtown after completing his day's work when he decided to exercise his gentlemanly instinct and share his 1957 Mercury Turnpike Cruiser with two ladies



George Patton receives his thirty-year pin and gift certificate at Chattanooga. The award was made on October 16. O. E. Walker, Jr., makes the presentation, while Machine Shop Foreman John Hixon looks on. BELOW: Howard Dupree of the Assembly Dept. in Chattanooga receives his forty year service pin and certificate from J. H. Wall, Plant Manager. The award was made on January 2.



waiting for a bus. What followed could only be classified as a freakish mishap or a motorist's nightmare. It began on West Seventh Street and ended with a real bang on a jammed parking lot at Seventh and Chestnut Streets. Nora halted his car on Seventh to permit the two front seat passengers to leave the car. One slid out under the steering wheel to safety, but the other, a native of the West Indies, didn't quite make it. The car was left in gear with the engine running and the emergency brake on. As she was sliding past the steering wheel, one foot struck the accelerator and jammed it to the floor. The car leaped ahead like a frightened gazelle and the automobile collided with another, then went on to strike and knock over a light pole, causing it to fall atop two more machines that were parked. The car then headed for a parking lot, hitting three more cars, and knocking one of them into the parking lot office. The office was shoved off its foundation and a telephone booth was bowled over. The office and booth were thrown against two more cars. Nora appeared in court for reckless driving, and damages listed against him by the lady amounted to over \$20,000.

Miss Nancy Lu Andrews chose November 30 as the date of her marriage to Charles P. Aquavella, Jr., of Brooklyn, N. Y. The wedding took place at the Flintstone Methodist Church. The bride was attired in lace and tulle over bridal satin. The gown was ballerina length, embroidered with pearls and appliqued with flowers around the neckline. A tiara held her illusion veil. Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Hoover entertained with a reception at their home in Crutchfield Springs, Georgia. Nancy is a graduate of Russell High in Atlanta, Georgia, and attended

West Georgia College. She is employed as clerk in the Sales Department. Charles is a graduate of the University of Chattanooga with a B.S. degree in psychology and is a member of Lambda Alpha Fraternity.

The new safety committee selected to serve for the coming year are Ronald H. Bice, maintenance dept.; Stephen Clark, machine shop; Theodore Cochran, brass foundry; Arthur Womble, shipping dept.; Wallace Jones, core room; Tomie Ashford, iron foundry; Leslie Hill, cleaning room; Clarence Carter, assembly dept.

It seems with the coming of exceptionally cold weather there are inevitably a great number of homes destroyed by fire. It was with a feeling of regret that we learned of three of our employees suffering this misfortune. Clifford Thornton, of the iron foundry, was aroused in the early morning hours by smoke and his home was virtually destroyed. William Harris, of the cleaning room, was at work when his home was destroyed in Huntsville, Alabama, on January 6. Clint Thomas, of the machine shop, lost his entire possessions on January 9. His home was located in Sale Creek. No lives were lost but our compassion is given to them in their loss.

Raymond Cutcher, reporter of the machine shop, has informed us that the shop athletes are keeping in great shape in spite of the cold weather. You can enjoy their skill any day at noon if you find it convenient to drop in at the grocery store across the way. There is always a heated game of bowling in progress, and sometimes a friendly game of pool. At present the number one spot is claimed by Leslie Higdon on the pins and John Odom is the star of the billiard table.

All Mueller employees are invited to use the new classified column, which will appear in each issue of Main Connections.

Our sympathy is extended to Robert Hogue of the Assembly Department in the recent death of his wife.

"Best Wishes" to Billy Bryant of the Machine Shop and Arvilla Collins of the Payroll Department, who were united in marriage on November 27 at the home of the bride in Skirum, Alabama. After a wedding trip to Gatlinburg, the couple is at home on Chamberlain Ave.

Received news that Merle Van Vleet, son of Homer Van Vleet and former employee of Mueller, has been transferred from the Capitol to Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas. Merle is to take an advance training course in financing and accounting. Becky and the children are with him.

Harrison Myers, of the Assembly Dept., retired on January 31 after having been with the company since August 5, 1918. He was presented a shirt, tie, socks and a Helbros wrist watch. We wish him a successful and happy, well-earned rest.

Helen Black, of the Production Department, was complimented on Saturday, February 8, when Jacque Harris, also of the Production Department, entertained



Helen Black receives a corsage from Jacque Harris at a luncheon in Helen's honor.

with a luncheon in her honor at the Holiday Inn. Guests consisted of Jacque Harris, Helen Black, Lois Trotter, Grace Mallard, Shirley Sawyer and Eunice Brackett of the Production Department; Ruth Henry, Eula Deerman, Arvilla Bryant and Diana Moss of the Payroll Department; Jane Keeton, Shirley Smotherman of the Sales Department; Gene Racz, Personnel, and Louise and Mary Black, mother and sister, respectively, of the bride. Helen was married to William Carter April 12 at the East Lake Baptist Church. William is now stationed with the Marines at Cherry Point, N.C.



MUELLER CO. in Los Angeles

by
B. E. Stotler

It is with a great deal of regret that we record the passing of Mr. Fred E. Klinck on November 30, 1957. Mr. Klinck joined Mueller Co. in 1917, and retired November 30, 1955.

A Cornell University graduate in Mechanical Engineering, he was a faculty member in the School of Mechanical Engineering at Cornell from 1910 to 1917. In the latter year, he decided to leave the teaching profession and seek industrial employment.

Among the first duties assigned him were: assisting in the design of regulators and relief valves, the establishment and operation of a physical and chemical laboratory for materials control, installation of new power plant equipment, and supervision of the Brass Foundry.

When Mueller Co. opened a plant in Los Angeles, Mr. Klinck was transferred there. He was

California, going through basic training, and it is certainly agreeing with him, as the accompanying photograph indicates. The attire and hair cut should bring back memories to many of us. Best of luck, Doug, and hurry back to us.

Mr. William Russell Hubbard, who had been a turret lathe operator in our Brass Machine Shop since 1934, retired the latter part of 1957.

Both Mr. Hubbard and his wife are lovers of the outdoors, and for many years belonged to the Sierra Club, a group composed of hiking enthusiasts. During the many years he was with us, he took several leaves of absence to allow him and his wife to visit many parts of the world. They spent six months in South America, took several trips into Mexico, and saw many European countries. They are planning to attempt a safari into Africa some time this year.

After searching our minds for amusing anecdotes about Russ, we came up with this one. When he and his wife spent their first week-end in their new home, which they built in Palm Springs, he was asked upon his return to work on Monday just how he liked his week-end stay in the new abode. "Well," he said, "it rained during the night, and we had to go indoors to sleep!" That should be proof enough for anyone that Russ and his wife love the wide open spaces.

When Russ retired, the men of the Brass Machine Shop had a little party during the lunch hour, at which time they cut a large cake; Russ was presented with a beautiful pair of binoculars.

We all wish Russ the best of health and pleasant travels.

The Pacific Coast Plant Fire Brigade has recently undergone training for emergency fire-fighting. The training consisted of a six-week course, including three movies showing the causes of fires, proper fire-fighting techniques, and the uses of different types of equipment.

Fire Inspector Richard Coleman thoroughly explained the different types of fire extinguishers, and presented several illustrative demonstrations which vividly depicted the dangers of flammable liquids. Under the direction of Inspector Coleman, the Brigade practiced fighting different types of fires with available fire extinguishers. Coleman, meanwhile, pointed out mistakes made, and suggested other suitable procedures. All-in-all, the men did very well; and, although we hope we never have to use the knowledge acquired, we will be prepared to meet any emergency.

Sailor to girl (seriously) "Tell me all about yourself—your struggles, your dreams, your telephone number."



Members of the West Coast Plant Fire Brigade undergo a refresher course. In the top photo, Fire Inspector Richard Coleman instructs the men in the nature of fires. In the center photo, Mr. Coleman demonstrates the use of a fire extinguisher. In the third photo, one of the Brigade members puts his knowledge to work. The six-week training course was completed recently.



Plant Manager Earl E. Bright hands out Christmas packages to Los Angeles employees.



"Hogan's got the right idea. Every day's a picnic to him!"

A nice old lady was questioning an untidy little girl. You're pretty dirty, aren't you?" she asked.

"Yes," replied the child, "and I'm even prettier clean!"

DIS— Connections

A lady was overheard on the street the other day saying, "My husband's not as big a fool as he used to be."

"Oh?" asked her friend.

"Yes," she said, "I don't know what's caused it, but he's much thinner."

"What's the difference between a psychotic and a neurotic?" we asked a psychiatrist friend. "In simple, everyday terms without scientific jargon," we added.

Our friend wrinkled his brow and thought. "Well," he said at last, "you could put it this way: A psychotic thinks two and two make five. A neurotic is well aware that two and two make four, but it worries the devil out of him."

The retired elderly man who lived alone in the quaint stone house on the hill was thought by his neighbors to be a bit eccentric. One old lady was quite sure of it when one day she paused in the road and saw the strange old man holding a water-can above a flower box. She called out, "Sir, there's no bottom in that watering can!"

"It's quite all right," the old man answered. "These are artificial flowers I'm watering."

Married man: one who cleans the windshield before going to the drive-in movie.

E. Walker, Warren Hall, George A. Hill, Lee A. Ellington.

35 Years: Archie L. Sefton, Shirl A. Tish, Truey E. Hoy, Fred Nash, Virgil R. Athey, Robert H. Tauber, Otis R. Curry.

Pins and cash awards, presented at Los Angeles from December 1, 1957, to April 1, 1958, include the following:

5 Years: Donald Kelley, Vernon Lamb, Jose Ortiz, Lillian Olsen, Joseph Fuller, Antonio Montantes, Armando Alvarez.

10 Years: Gunnerd Nelson.

15 Years: Kathryn Thompson.

Pins and cash awards, presented at Chattanooga from December 1, 1957, to March 1, 1958, include the following:

5 Years: Winifred G. Frazier, Alexander Hill, George Hunter, Nolan S. Keyt, Jack D. Lowman, Robert C. Martin, James C. Potter, Hiram B. Ridge, Sam Short, Wilbur Simpson, Charles E. Snider, Frank H. Tolbert.

10 Years: Charles A. Bynum, T. E. Campbell, Frank Hargrove, Dewey Honeycutt, James A. Hood.

15 Years: Marguerite Barker, Charles G. Bible, Duke Hollingsworth, Charlie Kyles.

20 Years: Hugh Mackey.

40 Years: Howard Dupree.

Service pins awarded at Sarnia from November 1, 1957, to February 28, 1958, include the following:

5 Years: Richard Asselman, Lillian Bennett, Ross Helps, Gerry Turcan, Ted Wojciechowski.

10 Years: Violet Henderson, Alphonse Furlotte, Donald H. Whitely.

15 Years: Charles "Mac" Jay, Douglas Milliken, William J. Payne, Dorothy Smith, Percy Webb.

35 Years: R. J. "Jim" Skippon, Ebert B. Mueller.

40 Years: Lile Short.

*Salesmen.

Awards List Is Announced

Pins and cash awards, presented in Decatur from December 1, 1957, to April 1, 1958, include the following:

5 Years: Richard C. Sponsler*, Robert L. Hunt, Francis X. Uhl*, Mae Gallagher, Betty J. Domick, Robert D. Brownlow, John A. Moma, Roscoe M. Lynn, Fred Hendricks, William P. Fleet, Frank L. Cook, Frank Rozzell, Lloyd O. Huffman, Michael G. Tirpak, John C. Boles, Edward D. Ayers*, Edmund C. Fenstad*, Charles L. Snoke, Lewis D. Lorton, Arthur J. Menapace, Roberta Loftus, Robert W. Nelson, Richard "Dick" Wood, Richard Trueblood.

10 Years: George W. Grandon.

15 Years: Evelyn M. Thompson, Harold K. Ashcraft, John H. Enlow, Vera F. Tippitt, George F. Sims.

20 Years: Raymond Donaldson, Robert L. Rhodes, Raymond H. Roarick.*

25 Years: Elvis V. Musgraves, Marvin L. Baum.

30 Years: Daniel F. Boggs, O.



Fred E. Klinck

associated with the West Coast plant at the time of his retirement.

Services were held on December 3 at Forest Lawn Memorial Park. Mr. Klinck is survived by his widow, Louise, a son, Davis M. Klinck of Eagle Rock, and two grandsons, Ralph Andrew and Jonathan Bruce. He is also survived by two sisters, Mrs. Hazel Hogan and Miss Eva Klinck, both of Springfield, Ohio.

To many Los Angeles employees who worked with Fred Klinck through the years, he will long be remembered as a good friend and advisor, and a determined and capable worker in anything he set his mind to do.

We are all happy to see Chester Stinnitt return to work after his long and tedious recovery from injuries received in an automobile accident last summer.

Mr. Douglas Moore, recently a polisher in Dept. 40, has accepted a new job for the next two years—a job which requires hard work and extensive training. Doug is now at Fort Ord,



Pvt. Doug Moore



MUELLER, LTD. Reports

by
ALMEDA M. REEVE

The distribution of gaily-wrapped hams, each containing a special Christmas message from our management, provided a real Christmas spirit at the Mueller, Limited plant. The gifts were distributed to each employee by G. W. Parker and other Sarnia executives, who were on hand to extend Season's Greetings to everyone.

Our congratulations to the following parents: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Burns (Foreman of Dept. 10), son and daughter—Thomas and Margaret; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Marsh (Dept. 7), daughter—Lu-Anne Elizabeth; Mr. and Mrs. William Williams (Dept. 3), son—Paul Laverne.

In his first time out, "Shane" was a winner three times! Shane is a ten-month-old Kerry Blue terrier owned by Charles "Mac" Jay, a toolmaker in Dept. 9 in Sarnia. In a recent dog show in Utica, Michigan, Shane won awards for being first in a class of five, for being "the winner's dog," and for being best of the winners. Mac says the win brought Shane two points toward winning an American championship; fifteen points are needed.

The dog's real name is Tailteann's Tuan, but is called Shane for the sake of brevity. Mac is a past president of the Sarnia Kennel Club, and has a long string of awards won by dogs in various shows.

Our congratulations to Leslie J. Crooks, Foreman of Departments 6 and 7, who was recently installed as Wor. Master of Victoria Lodge No. 56, A.F.&A.M., in Sarnia.

Our sincere sympathy is ex-

tended to:
Mr. Albert Labelle, Dept. 2, in the tragic death of his brother, Alexander Labelle, at Blind River, Ontario. The death was caused by an explosion in the trailer in which Mr. Labelle was living.

William Ingles, Dept. 3, in the sudden death of his brother, Charles Ingles.

The family of the late George Halaburda, Annuitant, who passed away suddenly on December 23, 1957.

Joseph Hicks, Dept. 5, in the passing of his brother, Benjamin Hicks.

Lyle Izzard, Dept. 3, in the death of his father, Albert Izzard.

Kenneth Miles, Dept. 47, in the passing of Mrs. Miles' father.

James Chaytor, Dept. 7, in the death of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Edna Whitsitt.

Charles S. Browett, Controller, in the sudden death of Mrs. Browett's father, Mr. W. Yeates of Hamilton, Ont.

The family of the late Melvin Taylor, Annuitant, who passed away on February 4.



"Shane," owned by Charles "Mac" Jay, won three awards his first time out recently. The 10-month-old Kerry Blue terrier's real name is Tailteann's Tuan.

Bernie Davis To Alberta; Lile Short Gets 40 Year Pin

Bernard A. (Bernie) Davis, a native of Edmonton, Alberta, has joined our organization, and will represent Mueller, Limited, in the province of Alberta. Mr. Davis' appointment became effective January 1 of this year.

Bernie is twenty-nine, married, and the father of a young son. For the past seven years, he has been associated with G. S. Badger International Distributing Co., Limited, factory agents



Room and Foundry, which position he held until illness forced him to relinquish the job in favor of lighter work — pattern-molder in Dept. 9.

About six years ago, he supervised the building of a new brick home on Stockwell Street in Sarnia; three years later, he had the misfortune of losing his wife, the former Annie Smith, who had been his loving companion for over 40 years.

During his early years, Lile did a lot of fishing and hunting, and for many years participated in inter-plant as well as inter-city softball league activity as a pitcher. His present interests are mainly directed towards his garden in the summer, and five-pin bowling during the winter.



for several oil tool manufacturers. He travelled in Western Canada, selling valves, high-pressure wellheads and drilling equipment. Prior to that time, he gained two years of banking experience and one year of sales experience with an insurance company.

He is a member of the Edmonton Petroleum Club, Oilfield Technical Society, and is also an ardent golfer and curler.

Lile Short was born at Wallaceburg, Ontario, and moved to Sarnia with his parents at an early age. His first job was with Imperial Oil, Ltd.; he worked in the barrel house, filling five-gallon cans with kerosene. In the fall of 1917, he joined the Molding Dept. staff of Mueller, Ltd. After a short time, he was promoted to Supervisor of the Core

B. Sigurdson Is Sales Mgr.

Mr. Baldur "Sig" Sigurdson, who had been Mueller, Ltd., Sales Representative in Alberta since January 1, 1956, has been appointed Sales Manager, Gas Division, Mueller, Ltd. The appointment became effective February 1.

Mr. Sigurdson (who is better known as "Sig") served with the R.C.A.F. for four years as a pilot during World War II. When he left the service in 1945, he held the rank of Flying Officer. For two of his "service years," he was Flight Commander at various training stations in Canada.



Following his air force career, he resumed his studies and was graduated from McGill University, Montreal, in 1949 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. For seven years prior to joining Mueller, Ltd., he enjoyed a happy affiliation with Linde Air Products, a division of Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation of New York.

While in Alberta the last two years, he gained extensive experience in our gas products field by virtue of the widespread distribution of natural gas in that province and his interest is in this phase of our business.

This background, along with Sig's personal capabilities, equips him admirably for his new position. Mr. and Mrs. Sigurdson, their son and two daughters have taken up residence at 550 Roosevelt Drive, Sarnia.



George W. Parker, President of Mueller, Ltd., presents R. J. Skippon with his thirty-five year service award.

R. J. Skippon Celebrates 35 Years At Sarnia

R. J. "Jim" Skippon, Vice-President and Factory Manager of Mueller, Ltd., was born in Middlesex County, not far from the city of London, Ontario. He came to Sarnia at an early age, where he served his apprenticeship for toolmaker at the Grand Trunk Railway machine shops. He entered the employ of Mueller, Ltd., on January 29, 1923, as a toolmaker.

In 1927, Jim was transferred to the drafting room, and a few years later became foreman of same, where his leadership potential soon warranted his promotion to the general supervision of the Drafting Room, Tool Room and Plant Maintenance. During World War II, he was responsible for operation of the Munitions Division. In 1947, he

was appointed Factory Manager, and became Vice-President and Factory Manager in 1950.

Besides being a better-than-average amateur photographer, he plays a good game of golf in the summer, and participates in the throwing of the stone at the local curling club during the winter. During his earlier years, he was keen opposition in a tennis game.

Jim is a member of Central United Church, and has served on the Board of Stewards for several years. His wife is the former Jessie Jones, who was employed in the Mueller, Ltd., Payroll Department for several years prior to her marriage. They have two children. Ron is attending St. Andrew College in Aurora, Ontario, and Paula is a student of Central Collegiate in Sarnia.



"You're taking our 'one big family' slogan too literally, Miss Ferndon. I would prefer you address me as Mr. Armbruster instead of 'Pop'."

Jones and Brown were arguing in their tent about their ability with rifles. "I'll bet ten dollars I can go out now and shoot a lion," Jones said.

Ten minutes later a lion poked his head into the tent. "Do you know a fellow named Jones?" he asked.

"Yes," quavered Brown. "Why?"

"He owes you ten dollars," the lion answered.





At the Mueller, Ltd. Sales Conference recently were: Front Row: Ebert W. Mueller, Ron Nicholson, George W. Parker, R. J. Skippon, John Milne, William R. Brennan; Second Row: Bev. Jardine, Hugh Helliwell, John W. A. McClure, Bernie Davis, Ron W. Dagg, Arthur F. Hutchingame; Standing: Bert Pullen, Allan Fetterly, Hugh Morton, L. M. Coates, Murray Taylor, R. A. "Dick" James, Wilfrid St. Cyr, John K. Richardson, Baldur S. Sigurdson, Louis Boulanger, Druval W. Westcott.

Sarnia Holds Three Day Sales Meeting in February

A three-day general sales conference of Mueller, Ltd., began February 24, and was attended by Mr. W. H. Hipsher and Mr. Dan R. Gannon from Decatur. The conference was under the direction of Mr. Ron Nicholson, Vice-President and General Sales Manager of Mueller, Ltd. The meetings were held in the Plant Recreation building in Sarnia.

Guests included Charles Allen, advertising manager and secretary-treasurer, Sloane Valve Company, Chicago; R. Gibbs, general sales manager, Mueller Brass Company, Port Huron, Michigan; B. Carr, general sales manager, Moen Faucet Division, Standard Screw Machine Company of Elyria, Ohio; A. Moen and E. Brizz, both of Moen Faucet; W. A. McGuire, president of McGuire Advertising Agency,

Windsor; and L. O'Neill, Mueller, Ltd. (retired).

At the conclusion of the second day's sessions, the group met for curling and dinner at the Sarnia Curling Club.

Those attending the sales conference were welcomed by Mr. Nicholson, George W. Parker, President of Mueller, Ltd., W. H. Hipsher, and R. J. Skippon, Vice-President and Factory Manager. A plant tour was conducted by Mr. Skippon, M. Taylor, G. Denomy and H. Dowding.

Dan Gannon, Mueller Co's General Sales Manager, outlined the company's position in the American gas industry. In the afternoon, he spoke on competition in the American market.

Dinner was held at Guildwood Inn after the first day's sessions.

Coates Named Ass't. Manager



L. Merlin Coates was appointed Assistant Factory Manager of Mueller, Ltd. on December 3, 1957. Mr. Coates was transferred to Sarnia from Decatur on December 5, 1949, and took charge of the Standards Department. Later he was appointed Manufacturing Engineer, the duties of which included general supervision of the Maintenance and Toolmaking Departments.



Members of the staff of Cronkite, Ltd., a leading wholesale plumbing and heating supply jobber-distributor in Western Canada, visited Mueller, Ltd. recently. In the top photo, left to right, are: George Parker, Bill Stunnel (Purchasing Agent, Calgary), Bill Kelter (Calgary Branch Manager), Tom Bishop (Edmonton Branch Manager), Charles Stevens (General Sales Manager, Calgary) and William R. Brennan (Sarnia). Below: Dave Balfour, Cronkite President, Mr. Brennan (Sarnia), Jack Forrest (Winnipeg Branch Manager), Ron Nicholson and Baldur Sigurdson.

Mueller, Ltd. Annuitants Honored at Dinner Party

Mueller, Ltd., plant executives were hosts to a group of Mueller annuitants on December 23, 1957, at a special turkey dinner. Recognizing the contributions these men have made to the company and to the community, George W. Parker, President, welcomed the guests and extended a warm greeting from the Mueller organization together with the compliments of the season. R. J. Skippon spoke briefly, and invited each man present to a plant visitation.

Many interesting incidents

were related around the dinner table, and happy memories were recalled by all. A hearty statement of thanks was extended to Mueller, Ltd., executives for the pleasure afforded the annuitants on this occasion, and to several girls of the office staff who assisted in serving the dinner.

Those annuitants who were unable to attend the dinner were: John Fraser, Alex Reavie, Clarry Brent, Charles Dodd, Reginald Brock, Albert Williamson, Charles Garrick and George Halaburda.



Dan R. Gannon, Mueller Co.'s General Sales Manager, told the Sarnia group of our position in the industry. Standing at the right are W. H. Hipsher, Ron Nicholson and George W. Parker.



Annuitants attending the recent dinner in their honor were: Seated, left to right: W. Young, J. Jack, B. Prince, E. Mead, J. Keys and G. Scott. Standing: W. Baines, G. Oliver, M. Taylor, W. Topliffe, W. Marshall, W. Mellick, J. Vollmer and T. Muxlow.

Find some unwanted items during spring housecleaning? List them for sale in the Main Connections classified column!



According to figures released March 27, these men were individual high bowlers in the League: Paul Hawbaker, Henry Stratman, Bob Leake, Al Seitz and Bill Knorr. A statistical story appears on Page 3 of this issue.

Money Nobody Wants . . .

Have you ever heard of the money that nobody wants? No, we're not crazy. There really is this kind of money. It's not confederate; it's not counterfeit. It's good, hard, cold American cash. We even pay money to get this kind of money, but still, nobody wants it.

The person who pays for it—doesn't even get it. Yep—the money that nobody wants is the money collected by the beneficiary of your insurance policy. There is, however, a policy designed to give you maximum protection at minimum cost—with YOU as the beneficiary.

This is the policy of following safe practices. It does more than anything else to help you reach that ripe old age. The best part of it is: a good safety policy costs you nothing. The premiums are free, no physical examination is required, and age is no barrier. Benefits are paid out every day, and the dividends are unbelievably high.

Where do you buy this policy? You can't, because, as we said, it costs nothing. If you haven't yet signed up, do so today. The premiums are common sense, constant alertness, and regard for your fellow-worker. That's a pretty cheap price to pay for better health and a longer life, don't you think?

Don't take chances just because you have insurance. Remember—it's money nobody wants!



As of March 27, these men were the team leaders. Seated is Buddy Grossman. Standing: Burt Flaughter, Dale Reidelberger, Ben Finley and Paul Hawbaker. The team is Tool Engineering.

Mueller Record In 48th Year

Many persons have asked why company news is no longer to be found in the *MUELLER RECORD*. In an attempt to clarify the situation, we present the following facts:

The *MUELLER RECORD* is an external company publication. In other words, its message is directed to customers and potential customers of Mueller Co. This was not always so. Our *RECORD* was first printed in 1910, and was simply a bulletin to the Sales Division. Some years later, it was issued to all employees, and contained a great deal of human interest material.

The next step in the evolution of the publication was separation of the *RECORD* into two distinct units: an "inside" and an "outside" issue. Every other month, the magazine contained material of chief interest to customers and potential customers.

In recent years, companies all over the country have come to recognize the value of an external company publication. At present, there are nearly 18,000 such magazines traveling through the mails. Mueller Co. was quick to realize the potential such a publication had to offer; thus, a decision was made to turn the *RECORD* into an external.

To take the place of the "inside" *RECORD*, which contained news of interest to employees, *MAIN CONNECTIONS* was born, due largely to the efforts of Mr. O. E. Walker, Vice-President and Works Manager.

The evolution was not complete, however. Since Mueller Co. manufactures products for both the natural gas and the water-

Women Employees Are Good Bowlers

Betty Walker (Decatur Accounting) will attend the Woman's International Bowling Congress in San Francisco on May 5 and 6. She will also compete in the International Bowling Tournament on May 8 and 9.

Betty was one of three women selected to represent Decatur by the Decatur Woman's Bowling Association. The others are Vivian Belcher, an employee of the A. E. Staley Mfg. Co., and Mildred Peterson, a housewife and state officer of the Illinois Woman's Bowling Congress.

Betty's high average is 160. The three women will attend the San Francisco meeting during their vacations.

Wilma Badorek (Accounting), and Pauline Hill, wife of Clarence Hill (Dept. 44) recently won the scratch doubles championship of the Decatur Woman's Bowling Association. They also bowled on the team which won the scratch team championship in the city tournament. At the time of the tournament, Wilma carried a 174 average, and Mrs. Hill claimed an average of 170.



With 93 games of the 108-game schedule out of the way, Ben Taylor claimed the title of individual high bowler, average-wise. League play ends May 1. Current standings may differ somewhat from those which appear above and on Page 3, but final League statistics will appear in the July issue of *MAIN CONNECTIONS*.



W. H. Myers, Finished Product Assembler at Chattanooga, retired on January 31 after forty years of service to the company.

works industries, the company decided to publish two *RECORDS*. Thus, a magazine containing stories about gas utilities and other related businesses goes one month to members of the natural gas industry; the next month, waterworks personnel throughout the country receive a *RECORD* filled with stories from and about their field.

So, Mueller Co. publishes a gas *RECORD*, a water *RECORD*, and an employee newspaper—*MAIN CONNECTIONS*. Over five thousand copies of the gas issue are mailed, and the circulation of the water issue is around 25,000. *MAIN CONNECTIONS*, which is published four times each year, is received by employees in Decatur, Los Angeles, Chattanooga, and by Mueller, Ltd. in Sarnia.

Any Mueller employee is invited to submit photos and/or stories for consideration and possible use in *MAIN CONNECTIONS*. By reading this issue closely, you can determine which types of news items are of major interest. Remember that *MAIN CONNECTIONS* is published for YOU, and contains information ABOUT YOU. If it is to be of any real service, it needs your support. If you have any news, write the editor at Plant 1 in Decatur, or phone extension 348.

The Joke's On Me!

"You can't come in here and ask for a raise just like that," said the boss. "You must work yourself up."

"But I did," replied the employee. "Look, I'm trembling all over!"

The teacher wound up her talk on animals by asking, "And from the skunk, we get fur; isn't that right, Johnny?"

"I'll say it is," said Johnny. "As fur as possible."

Peter's December report card was not nearly so good as the last one. "What happened?" his father demanded. "Too much excitement over the holidays?"

"Well, you know how it is, Dad," the boy explained in an injured tone, "everything's marked down after Christmas!"

The preacher was finishing admonishing his flock on the evils of avarice: "And remember, my friends," he said, "there will be no buying or selling in Heaven."

Whereupon a man who sat in the back seat was heard to grumble: "That's not where business has gone anyway!"



USE CLASSIFIEDS

save an extra dollar...



Everyone can save an extra dollar just by doing it! The best time is right after you cash your check—every pay day.

Your credit union is convenient, safe, and it pays good dividends. Be a "pay day saver," and watch how small, steady amounts make your share account grow.

With few exceptions, your savings are matched dollar for dollar and, in case of your death, your loan is "Paid in Full" — with insurance provided by your credit union at no extra charge through the credit union insurance company.

Vacation Tips Prove Helpful

With the vacation season now in progress, we'd like to report our observations on pleasing destinations and obvious trends.

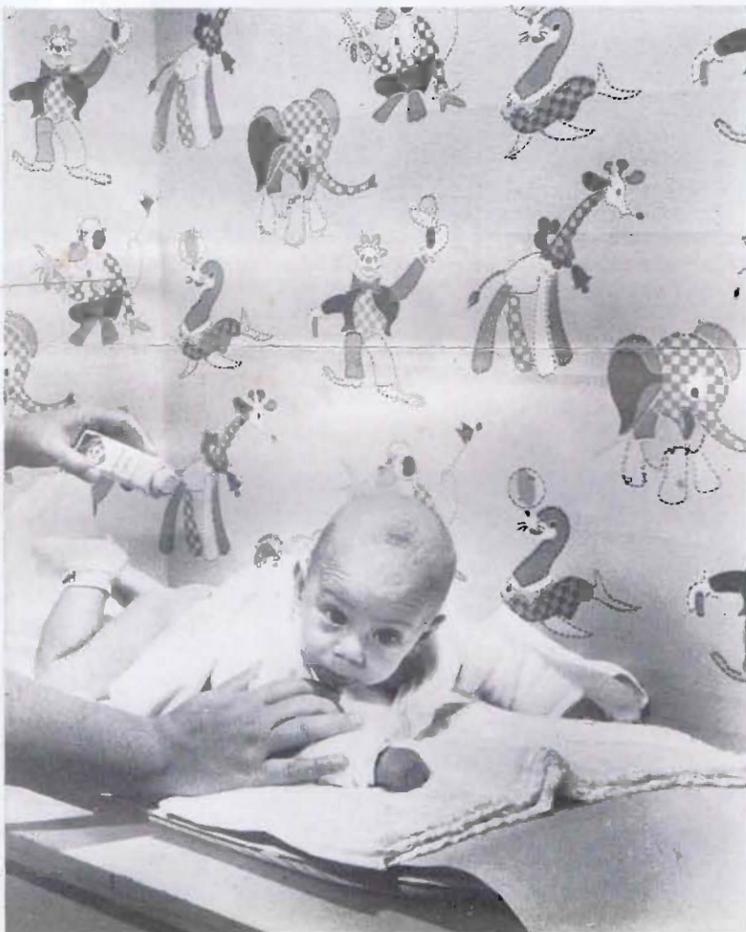
First, there is a tendency for Mr. and Mrs. America to travel further on their vacation than last year. Latest figures reveal that the average married couple, with two or more children, will travel a distance of 250 miles further this year. This estimate is based on more late-model cars, better highways, and a slightly-higher living standard.

Another trend is the shift from downtown hotels to suburban and highway motels. Many motels, anticipating a great year, have added restaurants and other comfortable facilities. Rates are more in keeping with the travel budget, too.

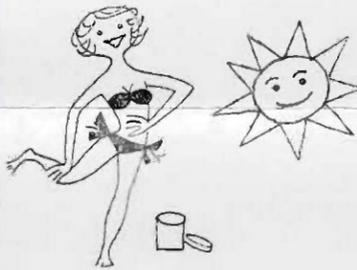
Third, the most popular spot outside the continental limits of the U.S. seems to be Mexico, where your travel dollar buys more and the sun shines constantly. Among all the recreational activities afforded by this Latin American neighbor, the sport of bull-fighting is still the most popular. Tickets for corridas, as the events are called, are at a premium. Many hundreds of tourists, unable to purchase corrida seats, pay large sums of money to watch matadors practice, or to observe the bulls at play which are destined to die in the ring.



The merry gent pictured above is no stranger to anyone. Santa entertained the children in fine style at the annual Children's Christmas Party in Decatur in December. Below: One of the many acts which thrilled the audience, composed of about 1500 employees and children. Also on the program was a trained-pig act, which claimed the distinction of being "the only act of its kind in the world."



The newest service offered its patrons by the New Jersey Garden State Parkway restaurants is the "Small Change Room," a free diapering service for traveling mothers. Included in the offer is a free kit of Mennen Baby Products for baby's comfort, and mother's convenience.



A great many Americans are sticking fairly close to home, too. This group includes those employed persons who have only one week vacation. State parks which have lodging facilities are attracting the larger part of this group.

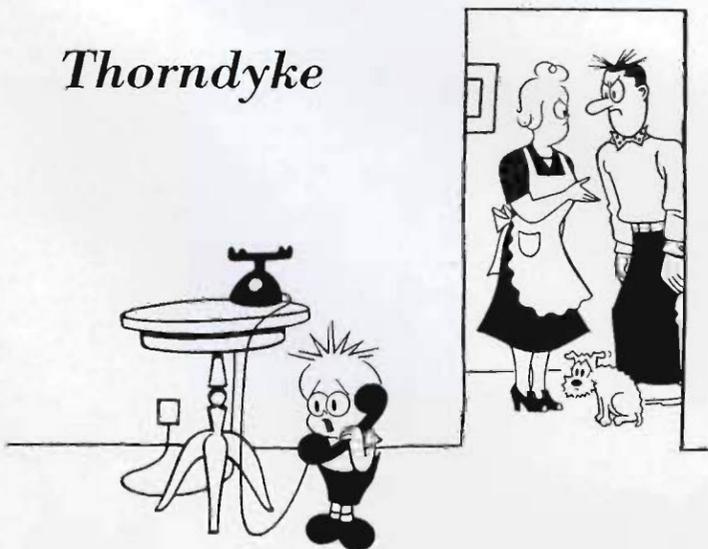
For many Mueller Co. employees in Decatur, the urge for a Sunday outing can be pleasantly satisfied with a trip to nearby Robert Allerton Park, just west of Monticello. The park is the property of the University of Illinois, but is open to the public. It is full of extraordinary articles of statuary, picnic grounds, formal gardens, and there are trails to follow throughout the hundreds of acres of estate.

The largest structure in the park is Allerton House, which now serves as a conference hall. By far the most impressive item on the estate is the "Sunsinger," a huge bronze statue in the far west end of the park. The statue is of a man lifting his hands to the east to greet the rising sun.

If you want an unusual outing some Sunday this Spring, head east toward Monticello and watch for the Park entrance. You'll find plenty of picnic facilities and refreshment stands. A good time can be had by all at Robert Allerton Park.



Thorndyke



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"I still don't know whether I can go to the show, Tom, but it's the subject of a high-level conversation"



HAVE AN UNUSUAL VACATION?
PUT IT IN MAIN CONNECTIONS!



This was the scene in Department 100 when fellow-employees gathered to honor Roy Wood upon his retirement. A. L. Sefton expressed appreciation for nearly 47 years of service, and the group presented Roy with several gifts, among them some tools for his home woodworking shop.



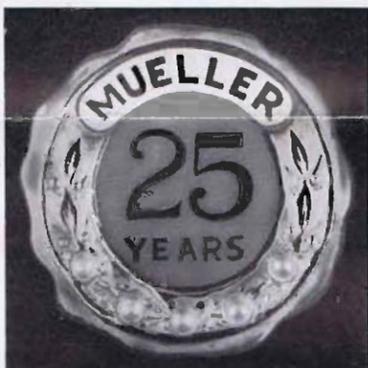
George A. Hill has just received his thirty-year pin and certificate from Mr. Abel, with the approval of Mr. Sefton and Stanley Ashby, Brass Cleaning Room Foreman.



Truay E. Hoy receives his thirty-five year service pin and gift certificate from Roy Abel, Plant Manager. Looking on are Leland Hartwig, Brass Foundry Foreman, and A. L. Sefton, Plant Superintendent.



That is a twenty-five year grin on the face of Marvin Baum, as he receives his pin and certificate from Mr. Walker. At the right is Howard Gragg, Ground Key Foreman.



Smiles are plentiful as Mr. Abel hands Elvis "Smokey" Musgraves his twenty-five year pin and certificate. A. L. Sefton and Marvin Spitzer, Construction and Maintenance Foreman, attended the ceremony.



Fred Nash displays his certificate and thirty-five year pin proudly. The presentation, made by Mr. Abel, was observed by L. E. Kramer, Regulator and Relief Valve Foreman, and Mr. Sefton.



O. E. Walker, Vice-President and Works Manager, awards Lee A. Ellington his thirty-year pin and certificate. Mr. Spitzer and Mr. Sefton observe the proceedings.



A thirty-year pin and certificate went to Daniel F. Boggs recently. Presenting the award is Mr. Sefton, assisted by Mr. Abel and Milo Wright, Iron Machine Shop Foreman.