

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, No. 3 June, 1969

Published by MUELLER CO., Decatur, Illinois

Joe Penne, Editor

ST. JEROME CONTINUES TO EXPAND FACILITIES

(St. Jerome, Quebec) . . . Mueller, Limited's iron foundry subsidiary, St. Jerome Industries, Limited in St. Jerome, Quebec, is nearing completion of the fourth phase of a five-part expansion program that began in June, 1966.

All of the necessary patterns, core boxes, flasks and auxiliary equipment are now ready for the production of 85 different cast iron water main fittings ranging in size from 4" to 12". In order to produce these fittings and other products as economically as possible a British Roll-Over Molding Machine (Model BT-6) has been installed. This sophisticated piece of equipment is capable of producing molds up to 37" by 45" and weighing up to 5,000 pounds. With proper handling of flasks and equipment in and out of the machine, it is capable of turning out 40 molds an hour. When the machine was ordered there was only one other one like it in North America--an indication of just how new it is. (The Brea plant has two Model BT5 machines which are older, smaller versions of the same machine, and a recently installed and larger Model CT3)

Mueller, Limited acquired St. Jerome Industries in May of 1963 and since that time the organization has been growing and expanding at a steady rate. St. Jerome has been a producer of cast iron municipal castings and now produces some of the same items made in Sarnia.

Since Mueller acquired the property, a new warehouse and office was constructed and Mueller Industries Limited was established. This organization serves as a warehouse and distribution center for Mueller customers in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces.

DECATUR BOILERS SWITCH TO GAS

(Decatur) . . . Working with the Illinois Air Pollution Control Board, Mueller Co. continues to do its part to reduce air pollution by converting coal-fired boilers at Plant 1 to natural gas.

The company is now obtaining bids on the project and it plans to have the first phase of the two-part program finished by the heating season in the fall. The boilers are used for heating and also provide process steam.

Phase One of the program involves the conversion of a relatively new boiler. Next year, two

older boilers will be torn out and replaced by one small gas unit.

The system to be installed is a dual-fuel system. Natural gas will be used most of the time, but during times of heavy gas demands Illinois Power Co. has the option to call Mueller and ask it to switch to its stand-by system of fuel oil. This "interruptable" type of service is common where big users are involved.

In order to use this system, five fuel oil storage tanks with a total capacity of 30,000 gallons must also be installed in the boiler room. (At Plant 4, the company has heated with gas almost exclusively for a number of years.)

The company's boiler conversion is among 20 projects approved this spring by the state board as part of the total air contaminant emission reduction program.

CHATTANOOGA HOSTS INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS

(Chattanooga) . . . The fourth in a series of industrial engineering seminars for a number of Mueller Co. and Mueller, Limited manufacturing people was held in Chattanooga, May 20, 21, and 22.

The four sessions allowed the participants, primarily industrial engineers, to view operations of the other plants, exchange ideas, offer possible solutions to local problems and to openly and freely discuss manufacturing as it relates to Mueller Co. and Mueller, Limited.

Chattanooga Vice President and General Manager Harlan A. White and James D. Serre, manager of industrial engineering, served as hosts for the Chattanooga meeting and arranged the program. Many of the plant supervisors and all of the men in industrial engineering in Chattanooga were involved in the sessions.

The program followed a "tour-talk" schedule in which participants toured a major department and heard descriptions of activities within that operation. Following the tour, they returned to the conference room and asked questions, discussed the department's work, exchanged ideas, made observations and compared similar operations at other plants.

These seminars have now been held at all U.S. plants and in Sarnia. The results and ideas obtained have been most valuable. The program will be continued.

MUELLER MOVIE WINS AWWA AWARD

(San Diego) . . . Mueller Co. received the Public Information Advertising Award from the American Water Works Association at the group's annual meeting held recently in San Diego.

The award is given to the company or organization whose national advertising campaigns or promotional material support the objectives of AWWA and its public information program.

Criteria for entering the competition are: (1) The advertising can be in any one medium or in any combination of media and (2) the advertising must either by its continuity or its wide distribution carry a forceful message concerning water service to a significant segment of the public.

Mueller Co. received the award for its production of a 10-minute movie called "Water . . . Where and When You Want It." The color, sound film tells the story of a typical water department's job in bringing water to homes, business and industry. The movie was produced to help water works management inform service clubs, municipal boards, civic action groups and other organizations of the important work done by the people in water departments. The film is distributed through Mueller Co. sales representatives.

William E. Murphy, vice president-marketing, accepted the award on behalf of the company at "awards night" ceremonies held in conjunction with the AWWA's 89th annual conference.

SALESMAN RECEIVES MEMBERSHIP AWARD

(San Diego) . . . Mueller Sales Representative Jack Rubicam recently received the American Water Work Association's "Diamond Pin Award" for his membership work in the Wisconsin Section of AWWA.

Jack, who covers the State of Wisconsin for Mueller, received the national award because he was among those men who signed up 25 new members to AWWA during 1968.

According to Frederick J. Groth, secretary of the Wisconsin Section, Jack is the first "Mueller Man" to be honored by the award. In a letter to Mueller Co., Mr. Groth wrote: "As this is Jack's first year on the membership committee, we are proud that he is such a good sales representative, not only for the Mueller Co., but also for our Association. It is always a pleasure to see a company that not only allows their people to join the Association, but become active and participate in the functions of it."

Jack received the award in person at the "Diamond Pin Breakfast" during the AWWA's annual conference in San Diego the week of May 18.

He joined Mueller Co. in 1935 as a messenger and worked in the Sales Office in Decatur until 1952 when he went into the sales training program. A few months later he was assigned to the territory in western Michigan and in 1957 he moved to Wisconsin.

AWWA is a professional and scientific society devoted to improving quality and methods of public water supply. It has more than 20,000 members who are operators, officials and technicians in water utilities, suppliers to the industry, and education and government officials interested in water supply.



Leslie Burdick of the Decatur Sales Office admires the award recently presented to Mueller Co. by the American Water Works Association.

SOME FAMILIAR NAMES IN NEW PLACES

The following men have recently been promoted to new positions.

Brea

Leonard A. Johnson, former steel machining and forging foreman, has been promoted to general machining and assembly foreman.

Robert C. Ward, former assistant steel machining and forging foreman, to steel machining and assembly foreman.

Ray B. Coffey, former machine operator, to assistant steel machining and assembly foreman.

Vance H. Ziebarth, former molder, promoted to assistant Brass Foundry foreman.

Lynn T. Harper, industrial engineer, named senior time study engineer.

Richard S. Trzcinski, former tool engineer, named assistant manager of production and inventory control.

Dorsey White, shift foundry foreman at Chattanooga, has been promoted and transferred to Brea as Iron Foundry foreman.

Decatur

Brad James, former programmer trainee, promoted to programmer.

John F. DeClerck, former inspector, has been promoted to Brass Foundry grinding room foreman.

Darrel G. Church, former inspector, promoted to assistant Brass Foundry foreman on the second shift.

News Briefs

Joe Daghe, a senior project engineer, has been elected president of the Decatur 4-X Club for 1969-70. The club is comprised of foremen, executives and supervisors in Decatur. Other officers are: Methods and Cost Estimator Dale Wilkins, vice president; Junior Construction Engineer Joe Chladny, secretary; Programmer Brad James, treasurer, and Junior Catalog Compiler Dick Curtis, program chairman.

Members of the 4-X Club have again volunteered this year to help count tickets at Decatur's annual Fun Fair. The men worked in pairs on two-hour shifts during the weekend. Fun Fair is a community effort sponsored by the auxiliaries of the local hospitals to raise funds for specific projects. Last year more than \$20,000 was donated to the hospitals from profits derived from food, rides and games.

*** **

Five representatives of Allied Industrial Workers Local 838 (Decatur) recently attended a week-long school at the University of Wisconsin. The "School for Workers" is held through the summer for a number of international unions and covers many phases of business, management and economics, as well as union programs. Attending from Local 838 were: President Joe Fyke and bargaining committee members Bob Fawcett, Tom McCoy, Billie Willis, and John Ossowski.

*** **

Michael J. Jones, 16-year-old son of Jim Jones, sales service correspondent--Gas Division, will attend a six-week science training program at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, this summer. The study is possible through the National Science Foundation's student program.

*** **

Del Bagenski, sales service manager for water, recently received a Bachelor of Science degree from Millikin University's School of Business and Industrial Management. Del has been going to school since 1955 and obtained the degree by attending night school while he was working fulltime.

*** **

Charles W. Johnson, production and inventory control manager in Decatur, has been named to the board of directors of the newly formed Land of Lincoln Chapter of the American Production and Inventory Control Society.

*** **

Thelma Endsley, Decatur Credit Department, recently won \$500 from the Coca-Cola Bottling Company. Thelma had one of those rare bottle caps that wins such a prize.

*** **

Bill Mueller, cost accountant in Decatur, this month completed his one-year term as president of the Sangamon Valley Chapter of the National Association of Accountants. The chapter is comprised of more than 200 accountants in the central Illinois area.

*** **

Service Awards

The following Mueller employees received service awards during May and June.

Chattanooga

5 Years: James E. Daggett, Huey L. Smith, R. Edward Garner, Wanda S. McCary, Mike F. Parker, James N. Kountz, W. Jeffery Scoggins, J. David Sink, Arthur L. Goodloe, J. Ferrell Casteel, George W. Ball.

10 Years: Paul Reneau, Delmer C. Garrett, Robert G. Ferriss, Oscar S. Kelley, James A. Reeves, Kathryn N. Plemons, Robert Woods, Everly W. Curtis, James Edward Smith, Charles E. Worthington, Eldridge Brock, Bennie Yearby, Jimmy P. Worley.

15 Years: Everett W. Smith, Ramon J. Clark, Milford H. Morton, Eldridge L. Daniel, Thomas H. Heffington, Ronald H. Bice, Bobby R. Grayson, Lankford Carson, Dean Andrews, Mary K. Smith, Roy E. Tapley.

20 Years: David Rutledge, Glenn Cook.

30 Years: Roosevelt Miller.

40 Years: Jesse C. Jones.

Brea

5 Years: Clarence Smith, William Gates, Richard Trzcinski, Gary Cavaness (on return from military leave).

10 Years: Robert Penn, Mildred Strange.

30 Years: Leonard Johnson.

35 Years: Jack Warren.

Mueller Limited

15 Years: Samuel McPhee

25 Years: Antonine Vautour, William Williams.

New York Office

5 Years: Loretta G. Brancato

Decatur

5 Years: Richard L. Lazell, Harlan T. Donaldson, Martha C. Arbuckle, Judith A. Hall.

10 Years: Paul K. Clark, Harry Barton, Douglas Bearup, Dale A. Seevers, Hubert Dial, Nolan Hower, James M. Jackson, Joseph C. Keck, Donald L. Dagley, Richard A. McKinley, James (Al) Brandt, Terry McCoy, Henry H. Austin.

15 Years: Walter W. Taylor, Carrol W. Virt, Wilbur J. Wendling.

20 Years: Glen M. Burrows, Harold W. Ruppert, Willie Nash, Otto Nagler, Ray F. Foster.

25 Years: Lynn Dale Edwards, Marvin G. Spitzer.

45 Years: Clyde D. Hester.

Outside Salesmen

10 Years: Vern M. Beatty, Joseph (Bill) Coffey.

15 Years: Don W. Kelley.

REALIGNMENTS OCCUR IN MIDWEST DISTRICT

(Decatur) . . . In an effort to provide better customer service some realignments occurred June 1 among sales representatives in the Midwest Sales District.

R. Wayne Black has been assigned a territory which includes the eastern two-thirds of Iowa and the northern quarter of Missouri. Previously this area was being covered by Ken Tohill who was being assisted by Wayne through the field sales training program.

Ken will retain part of his former territory by continuing to call on Mueller customers in the western two tiers of counties in Iowa, and eastern Nebraska. In addition, Ken's territory has been expanded to include the rest of Nebraska and South Dakota.

Wayne, a veteran of 21 years in the U.S. Army, joined Mueller Co. in 1966 and went through the company's extensive sales training program. Following this, he served as an instructor on the company's mobile training school for No-Blo gas products and conducted the program all over the United States.

Ken joined Mueller Co. in 1951 and has been a sales representative in the same general area since that time.

Retirements

Decatur

The following list gives retiree's job at time of retirement, years of service and date of retirement.

Decatur

John E. Taylor, automatic reaming and facing machine operator in Dept. 80, 41 years, June 6.

Mrs. Fedora Tish, hand core maker in Dept. 50, 32 years, June 16.

Fred Tratzik, project engineer, 40 years, June 27.

Laurence (Charley) Monroe, millwright, 17 years, July 1.

Mueller Limited

Albert Banting, ground key tester, 30½ years

Chattanooga

James R. Turner, iron foundry, 26 years, March 28.

Brea

Fred R. Discher Sr., shear operator, 17 years, May 15.

Some Time Ago At MUELLER

For newer employees this regular feature can give you some background on the company's history and development; for the veteran employees it may bring back memories.

*** **

March, 1923 Record--we find a story that delves into a problem that we still hear about today--orders for "special" products. The story in part says: "The present period in the industrial history will probably be known as the 'Period of Standardization!' The desperate need during the late war for quick and effective production brought into an ugly prominence the horrible waste and high cost of haphazard and uncoordinated manufacture. In the field of water works brass goods it has become apparent that the production of odd and 'special' styles of cocks and fittings involves over-equipping, primitive methods, small and incomplete stocks, and even makeshift changes of one style into another. All of these make for high cost, poor service and vexatious mistakes. The burden of this falls not only on those who demand this odd and special material, but, since the bulk of it goes into overhead charges, it must in great part be borne by the users everywhere of all regular material." (Sound familiar?)

*** **

May 27, 1943--Employees of Mueller Co. received the Army-Navy "E" Award. The citation read: "For meritorious and distinguished service to their country in this time of need, the Army-Navy Production Award is presented to the men and women of Mueller Co. By their unflinching spirit of patriotism--

by their acceptance of high responsibility--by the skill, industry and devotion they are showing on the production front of the greatest war in history--they are making an enduring contribution not only to the preservation of the United States of America but to the immortality of human freedom itself."

*** **

From the "Annual Outing" edition of the Mueller Record, August, 1916 we can read about the well-known factory band in Decatur. "When we hold our annual picnics the question of music is the smallest and remotest of our worries. That is one question that settles itself automatically, for within the ranks of Mueller office and factory employees there are a sufficient number of competent musicians to make up a really first-class band. We can say this without fear of being accused of 'blowing our own horn' because the press and public of many central Illinois cities have steadfastly maintained that the Mueller Factory band ranks among the best."

*** **

The January, 1934 Mueller Record ran an ad announcing the acquisition of the Columbian Iron Works by Mueller Co. In part the ad read: "Two great factories linked under one management. We present the Columbian Iron Works, Chattanooga, Tenn., a Division of Mueller Co. It is natural that two leading organizations serving the same trade and actuated by the same business principles, the same purposes of maintaining first quality in all products and the same policies of fair, square dealing, should be aligned under one management."