

# NEWSLETTER

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Joe Penne, Editor

## DECATUR FAMILY DAY OPENS PLANTS TO HUNDREDS

(Decatur) . . . More than 1,500 employees, retirees and members of their families visited the offices and Plant 1, and more than 1,200 visited Plant 4 during Mueller Co.'s "Family Day" in Decatur, Oct. 26.

Many of the same people visited both plants and by the time they reached the Shipping Dock, where refreshments were served, their weary legs knew they had completed two walks that covered more than two miles.

It was really a "Family Day" because there were babies-in-arms, toddlers, teen-agers, in-laws, parents and grandparents in many of the groups.

About 125 supervisors, union officers and other employees volunteered their time to serve as hosts, --greeting visitors, answering questions about work areas and giving directions. In addition to these who were directly involved on "Family Day", everyone else in the plants helped with housecleaning operations during the preceding days.

Many departments prepared their own displays to show visitors their part in Mueller Co.'s operations. Safety displays and product displays were also set up on the decorated Shipping Dock where cold drinks, cookies and coffee were served.

Contributing to the casual and friendly atmosphere that seemed to prevail was the freedom to tour at one's own pace. Instead of having guided groups where a number must stay together, visitors only had to follow marked routes and were free to linger in those areas they found most interesting. If a machine operator wanted to take his wife and children over to his work station and talk about it at length--he could. It was the employee's day to tell his family about his job and their chance to see where he does it.

The day could be described in a few words. Some kids called it "fun". Wives felt it was "interesting" and a manager said it was "gratifying."

In a letter to Factory Manager Pete Duncan, one employee's wife wrote: "As a young wife, I've always found it rather difficult to take an honest interest in my husband's work, because I know so very little about the plant's operations and the people with whom he worked. Although my husband has been employed by Mueller Co. for nearly three years, I must confess I was amazed by the size of each plant and the tremendous volume of business each handles. I also hadn't realized it made products so valuable and necessary for everyday living for every part of the country. Decatur should be very proud to have such a modern (yet historical) company operating here. Thank

you for making this lovely and informative day possible for your employees and their families."

Hopefully this "Family Day" visitor describes the reaction of many. Such comments make the efforts and volunteered services of about 125 men and women from the office, plant and union, seem worthwhile. (See Page 2 for pictures).

## UNITED FUND CAMPAIGN REPORTS

(Chattanooga & Decatur) . . . Once again, overall results of the United Fund Campaign at the Decatur Plant were disappointing. As in years past, participation by salaried and office workers was high--96% and 86% respectively--and total contributions by both of these groups exceeded the previous year. Participation by organized employees, however, was a low 41%, bringing the total Decatur participation down to 59%. The sum of contributions by plant employees was 17% under the low level reached in 1968.

By contrast, principally because of the strong support given to this community effort by the local unions of organized employees, the campaign in Chattanooga resulted in total contributions exceeding the 1968 level by 80%. This increased support, plus 100% participation by salaried personnel, resulted in the highest amount ever collected and the highest participation in the Plant's history. Fair Share gifts were pledged by 16% of all employees and plant-wide participation was a high 73%. CONGRATULATIONS CHATTANOOGA!

## MRS. BROWNBACK DIES IN FLORIDA

(Decatur) . . . Mrs. Leda (Dede) Mueller Brownback, a granddaughter of Hieronymus Mueller, died Oct. 3 in Sarasota, Florida at the age of 82. She was the daughter of Philip and Mary Shorb Mueller and a sister to Frank, Robert, Clarence and Lucien (Duke) Mueller, Mrs. Fred Kaiser Sr., and Mrs. Delos Cozad.

Mrs. Brownback leaves two daughters, Mrs. H.D. (Mary Jane) Cain of Indianapolis, and Mrs. Eloise Warren of Sarasota.

## DAN R. GANNON REACHES RETIREMENT

(Decatur) . . . Dan R. Gannon, former vice president and general sales manager at Mueller Co., became 65 on Nov. 11 and has retired from his part-time position as special assistant to the company president.

In 1965, he stepped down from his position as an officer because of his health and moved to a ranch in Paonia, Colorado. Since that time, his experience and contacts have been available to Mueller Co., on a limited basis.





This line of smiling faces indicates the friendly atmosphere that prevailed during "Decatur Family Day." Greeting employees and their families were, from left: Mr. and Mrs. John Thurston, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hickman and Mr. and Mrs. Pete Duncan.

## Decatur Family Day



Retiree Merle and Mrs. Fleckenstein (right) chat with Lloyd Darnell, Dean Grant and Galen Jenkins.



About 1,200 visited the Foundry which included a tour through the Iron Machine Shop (above).



Office Services Manager John Dennis (next to the machine) explains the operation of a machine to a group of visitors.



The Shipping Dock, complete with decorations and displays, served as the area for resting and refreshments.



## Service Awards

The following Mueller employees received service awards during October and November.

### Brea

5 Years: Shirley Neal.

### Chattanooga

5 Years: Wilmot R. Ellis, Jr., Barbara C. Jones, Barbara F. Clark.

10 Years: James F. Heard, Lesley G. Foster.

15 Years: Richard C. Abernathy, Lawrence Taylor, John T. Mayes, Homer Cross, Willie E. Gay, Robert O. Watters, Horton Gray, Rufus Vinson, James Hollingsworth, Charlie J. Mason, William J. Hill, Jacquelyn H. Stafford, Eunice P. Brackett.

25 Years: Earnest T. Cowan.

### Decatur

5 Years: Robert D. McIntyre, Gladys Endrizzi, Jack E. Moomey, Michael M. Myers.

10 Years: Joe G. Baughman, Phyllis J. High, Wayne L. Nicholls, Charles J. Monroe, John Buzan.

15 Years: Fred C. Kessel.

20 Years: Robert H. Fawcett, Laura R. Hirsch, Amos A. Bailey.

30 Years: Leo M. Kramer, Charles W. Johnson, Paul Hawbaker, Carl G. Rentfro, Melvin W. Cross, Melvin W. Hayes, Robert A. Salogga, Charles N. Brownlow, John E. Maxwell, George R. Turner.

35 Years: Jane R. Cranston.

### Mueller, Limited

The following service awards were made during September, October and November.

5 Years: Albert Henry, Sandra Kendel.

10 Years: Barbara Klimmek, Adrian Van Horne.

15 Years: Harry Dowding, David Potter.

25 Years: Ivan Maw, Malcolm Tigwell.

30 Years: L. Merlin Coates.

### MUELLER PRODUCTS HELP REPAIR HURRICANE DAMAGE

(Biloxi, Miss.) . . . In mid-August Hurricane Camille raged along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, causing great losses to property, injury and death, particularly in the Gulfport and Biloxi areas.

Tides, winds and heavy rains caused millions of dollars of damage to the water and gas utilities as tides washed out distribution lines, and flooding contaminated water systems. Leaks developed in service lines as homes were destroyed or moved from their foundations.

One of the first jobs in cleanup was to shut off all damaged lines, repair leaks, and then restore service to as many customers as possible.

Mueller helped!

Adams Repair Clamps were flown in from Decatur. A rush shipment of hydrants and valves was trucked from Chattanooga. Quantities of brass were shipped. Utility suppliers made available equipment and material. Contractors offered services and equipment and utility repair crews came from many states to restore vital services.

Forrest Baum, who represents Mueller in Mississippi, said a number of those communities hard hit had standardized on Mueller water products. Many of these towns depended upon water revenue for a major share of their income and they are experiencing financial difficulties as they try to make decisions regarding financing for major projects such as relocating and rehabilitating parts or all of their systems.

Mueller Co. is attempting to help some of these communities by extending credit terms and the company has offered to send a technical man, at Mueller expense, to assist in special operations involving equipment and products.



(Biloxi, Miss.) . . . In the time of need, help comes from many places and many people. Laird S. (Larry) Parks, son of General Sales Manager Del Parks, was among those thousands of people who volunteered to help the victims of Hurricane Camille and his extra efforts earned him the Air Force Commendation Medal. His award citation reads: "During this period, his exemplary ability, diligence and devotion to duty were instrumental factors in the resolution of many complex problems brought about by the devastation wrought by Hurricane Camille. Through his personal endeavors and humanitarian efforts he played a significant role in the restoration of the Gulf Coast Area. His courageous and humanitarian actions reflect credit upon himself and the United States Air Force."

Larry joined the Air Force this spring after attending Utah State for one year. He was attending technical school at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi during the time the storm hit. He is now on his way to assignment at Forbes A.F.B., Topeka, Kansas.

### MUELLER, LIMITED EXPANDS OFFICE SPACE

(Sarnia) . . . Mueller, Limited recently added about 4,500 square feet of space to provide new offices for the Product Engineering, Industrial Engineering and Sales Promotion departments.

By moving these three departments out of the main office, new room was made available for other departments in the area that needed more space.

Plans had been considered to build a new office building, but the only land available was behind the plant and inconvenient. This, plus the high cost of new construction, led to the remodeling of part of a building used for storage and shipping to make the new offices.



## News Briefs

(All U.S. Plants) . . . All U.S. plants will be closed the week of Nov. 24 for the annual physical inventory. Shipping operations will continue, however, in Decatur and Brea. Regular production will resume Dec. 1.

(Chattanooga) . . . Geraldine Sells has been promoted to accountant in the office here. Miss Sells has worked in various jobs in the department and succeeds Walter King, who resigned to take a job with another Chattanooga company.

(Decatur) . . . A meeting of the Board of Directors of Mueller Co. was held here Nov. 20. The scheduling of regular Board Meetings is being changed and the annual meeting of shareholders will take place in February. Last year it was held in February also, but for many years it was held in early December.

On Nov. 10, 11, and 12 company officers met at Mueller Lodge for a review of operations and further planning for long range operating goals.

(Decatur) . . . The next monthly meeting of the Mueller Co. retirees will be Dec. 4 at noon in Ashby's House of Plenty. The November meeting had 43 men attending.

The women who have retired from Mueller Co. have also formed a group and meet the first Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m in the Elks Club. Nineteen attended the November meeting. Any woman retired from Mueller Co. in Decatur is eligible and welcome to join this informal association.

(Decatur) . . . William E. Murphy, vice president-marketing, has been named general chairman of the annual Millikin University Advancement Campaign this year. He heads a group of about 50 workers who are seeking financial support from Decatur foundations, corporations and non-alumni friends of the school. Last year's campaign raised more than \$200,000, and this year the goal is set at \$240,000.

(Decatur) . . . John Hall, Decatur traffic department, recently completed the College of Advanced Traffic course offered at night in Decatur. John attended, for two school years, the weekly sessions conducted by Delta Nu Alpha, the national traffic fraternity. The course covered such areas as rates, governmental controls, claims, handling and packing of goods and many other areas related to shipping, transportation and traffic management.

(Decatur) . . . Sandra Griffith, daughter of Pershing (Dept. 70) and Maxine Griffith (Cost Accounting), has been named homecoming queen at Eureka College, Eureka, Illinois. Sandra is a senior majoring in elementary education and has been active in student programs.

## GOT A QUESTION? GET AN ANSWER!

Can salaried people take vacation during December?

In recent years the procedure has been changed to allow salaried employees to take their vacations any time between Dec. 1 and Nov. 30. The vacation period follows the end of our fiscal year; vacation days for 1969 must be used by Nov. 30. If a December vacation is taken in 1969, it must be counted as 1970 vacation. Scheduling remains at the discretion of department heads, and vacations between Christmas and New Years are necessarily discouraged. Vacation days cannot accrue from year-to-year and vacation days from one year cannot be taken consecutively with those of the following year.

Part of the meaning of an answer given in this column in August was apparently unclear. Regarding retiree benefits we said that "there was no insurance paid by the company for those who retired prior to mid-1965, except for those under a disability situation. The contract signed in July of 1965 provides company-paid hospitalization for the retiree and his dependents plus life insurance coverage on the retiree." Both sentences are correct in themselves but by their position they could lead to the conclusion that in July of 1965 coverage was extended to all retirees. This is not the case. It only applies to those retiring after July of 1965, in Decatur.

## Retirements

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

### Decatur

**Wallace Gould**, project engineer in Dept. 44, 40 years, 11 months and 29 days, Oct. 18.  
**Helen Wall**, core blowing machine operator, 23 years, four months and 25 days, Oct. 18.  
**Lester M. Ford**, engine lathe operator, 37 years, 11 months and 25 days, Nov. 12.  
**Lee Ellington**, head painter and carpenter, 41 years, seven months and 25 days, Nov. 12.  
**Hilda Golembeck**, core cleaner and inspector, 29 years, and 29 days, Nov. 13, 1969.

### Chattanooga

**Willie A. Mitchum**, Assembly Dept., 18 years, three months, Oct. 31.  
**Ross Leatherwood**, Iron Foundry, 18 years, three months and 23 days, Oct. 19.

### Outside Sales

**Stanley B. Johnson**, sales representative, 24 years, eight months and 28 days, Oct. 29.

### Mueller, Limited

**William Payne**, shell core machine operator, 21 years, Aug. 4.  
**Stanley M. Bell**, toolmaker, 27½ years, Sept. 31.