

NEWSLETTER

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Joe Penne, Editor

MUELLER CO-SPONSORS FILMS "FIGHTING FIRE WITH SCIENCE"

(Decatur) . . . Mueller Co. is one of 12 major firms in the U.S. co-sponsoring the production of two 30-minute movies "Fighting Fire With Science", with Raymond Burr as narrator.

According to Walter J. Klein, president of the firm producing the movies, the films will "reveal the powerful new weapons and firesafe products American industry is creating to protect people and buildings against fire."

Mr. Klein said in a letter to Mueller that "because Mueller Co. is very much a part of this effort, with its fire hydrants," the company was invited to participate.

Mueller hydrants, their testing and a scene showing an auto knocking over a Mueller Improved Hydrant with a traffic safe feature will be included in one of the two films. Shooting of some of the Mueller scenes is expected to take place sometime in April.

According to the letter from Mr. Klein, "Fighting Fire With Science" will be seen nationally on television, with at least \$50,000 in public service TV time cleared. In addition, the films will be available for use by the company, trade associations linked with fire fighting and many other groups.

One 30-minute film deals with fire prevention and many products available to the consumer. The movie involving Mueller deals more with fire fighting and covers such products as hose, hydrants, fire trucks, and communications.

Such well-known firms as, American LaFrance, The B.F. Goodrich Company, Diebold Incorporated, Gypsum Association, P.P.G. Industries and Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation are listed among the sponsors.

COMPUTER INSTALLATIONS SET FOR CHATTANOOGA, BREA

(Chattanooga & Brea) . . . Work has been underway for many months preparing for the installation of IBM System/360, Model 20 computers at Brea and Chattanooga.

In Chattanooga, the equipment should be in use sometime in May and in Brea the installation is planned for late fall.

Both plants are currently using IBM unit record systems with electronic accounting machines and the systems are similar in many ways.

When the computers are installed they will be used initially for order entry, billing, and payroll work.

Later, their uses will expand by adding data to files and moving into the area of production and inventory control.

Programs have been written to operate the computers in Chattanooga and Brea and they are undergoing test runs on outside equipment.

Some programming and technical support for the new equipment are being provided by the data processing staff in Decatur.

BLOOD PROGRAM CHAIRMAN SENDS LETTER OF "THANKS"

(Decatur) . . . A letter of "thank you" to Mueller Co. and its employees was received recently by Mueller President John F. Thurston.

Mrs. R.H. Mueller, blood program chairman for the Macon County Chapter of the American Red Cross, said in the letter: "We have greatly appreciated the support of Mueller Co. in the blood program, and are grateful to the employees who have given blood. We too are grateful that through the program the blood needs of the employees and their families can be collected and provided when needed, and because of voluntary blood donations, provided without charge for the blood."

During 1969, Mueller employees gave 109 pints of blood at the monthly visits by the bloodmobile. One of the monthly visits was sponsored by locals of the Allied Industrial Workers Union.

The local blood program is now in its 23rd year and according to Mrs. Mueller it would have been virtually impossible to have met needs in the area without assistance from industry and their employees.

"I assure you it is very gratifying to have the support of Mueller Co. and its employees in the community's blood program. We sincerely hope that even more employees will volunteer to give blood in the future, helping to assure a safe supply of blood when needed, and the program continuing on a voluntary basis." Mrs. Mueller said.

The blood usage for Macon County residents has increased 328% over the first demands 22 years ago.

VACATIONS SCHEDULED FOR BREA, DECATUR

(Brea-Decatur) . . . The Mueller Co. plants in Decatur and Brea will be closed for vacations during the week beginning July 12. There will be no vacation shutdown in Chattanooga.

There will be no production in the two plants, but assigned maintenance crews will work and normal shipments will be continued.

EVERYONE MUST HELP WITH POLLUTION SOLUTION

(Decatur) . . . "If you want this town to grow, it's got to stink," the mayor of a midwestern town was quoted as saying not too many years ago.

To some, fumes, smoke and dust meant progress, activity and financial success. Citizens, both corporate and individual, don't believe this anymore and they are genuinely concerned about our environment.

Businessmen, civic leaders, politicians, academics, and youth have found one rallying point where they all gather and agree. Everyone is in favor of improving our environment and who can be against pure water and clean air?

This interest in our environment goes beyond water and air and includes levels of noise, snarls of traffic, crowded living conditions and the waste of our land and natural resources.

Some sources say that transportation, primarily automobiles, emits 60 per cent of the pollutants that go into our air, but industry has been bearing the brunt of criticism.

As part of industry, what has Mueller Co. done to combat pollution, especially air pollution since foundry operations inherently involve processes that can lead to smoke, fumes and dust?

Mueller Co. has done an outstanding job on its own. We stress "on its own" because with only a few exceptions Mueller had installed and was using equipment and processes that protected our environment long before strict regulations were introduced by state or federal bodies.

The fact that Mueller Co. currently has only two problems that require correction speaks well for the company as a citizen of the communities in which it operates. Management has been working for years to install the proper equipment that many companies are now being forced to use. Many companies are faced with spending millions on pollution control equipment and could even be shut down if they do not eventually comply with the strict regulations being set down by state, local and national bodies.

In Decatur the Illinois Department of Public Health, Bureau of Air Pollution Control has directed the company to reduce emissions from our heating equipment boilers at Plant 1 and cupolas in the Iron Foundry at Plant 4.

Corrective work began last fall on the boilers, was interrupted by the current heating season, but will be completed by the fall heating season in 1970. The program calls for converting one coal-fired boiler to natural gas and replacing two other older boilers with a new gas unit. The new system will have natural gas as a primary fuel and fuel oil as a standby. Another phase of this program covers the removal of coal and ash conveyers and ash hoppers. The total cost of these changes will exceed \$200,000.

The project to reduce emissions from the cupolas at Plant 4 is much more involved and Mueller engineers are currently studying possible courses of action which will provide us with the best equipment and control.

In order to get suggestions from one of the country's top experts in the field, Mueller asked H. J. Weber, director of safety, hygiene and air pollution control for the American Foundrymen's Society, to come to Decatur to discuss solutions. After a tour through Plant 4, he said he felt the company, with this one exception, was doing an "exceptional" job controlling dirt, dust and fumes. "For its age, this is one of the cleanest foundries I have seen," Mr. Weber added.

Possible measures for regulation compliance, range from installing new melting furnaces to elaborate systems of emission controls for dust and fumes that use scrubbers, fans, stacks, after burners, water sprays and settling tanks. Costs for these improvements could run as much as \$400,000.

Obviously this is a major project, but our Decatur foundry went into operation 17 years ago--long before the national concern for pollution. When Mueller set up its iron foundry it installed the latest dust, dirt and smoke control equipment then available. The water spray system installed on the cupola stacks for reducing emissions from the cupolas was recognized as an innovation, but today it doesn't do the job as outlined by the State of Illinois.

Most of the collection systems to handle dust from the mullers, shakeouts, molding lines, cleaning rooms, plus the exhaust network to expel gases from the pouring floor and core room were installed 17 years ago--with no pressure from any governmental body. They were installed to keep the neighborhood clean and to maintain healthful working conditions for employees. Today, these dust and dirt collectors, properly maintained, are still doing an adequate job by strict state standards.

In Brea and Chattanooga, Mueller Co. built completely new plants and took this opportunity to install the latest in equipment and processes which included devices for the control of pollutants. As a result, the company was in a good position when strict anti-

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H.J. Weber, director of safety, hygiene and air pollution control for the American Foundrymen's Society, (center) talks to Mueller men regarding pollution control equipment to be installed on the Iron Foundry cupolas shown at the top of the photo. From left, are: Ollie Fortschneider, Rex Smith, Mr. Weber, Frank Hackman and Paul Hickman.

pollution regulations were introduced in these two areas.

The use of electric furnaces for metal melting in Chattanooga, Brea and the Brass Foundry in Decatur is one of the major reasons we have controlled gas and particulate emissions. These furnaces eliminate the smoke, dust and gas that comes from the coke used in cupola melting, plus offering other chemical and metallurgical controls. A picture of the Mueller plant in Chattanooga was even used in a trade journal in an ad for pollution control equipment by the manufacturer of the melting furnaces.

The melting process is only one part of the control system, however, and we must keep dirt dust, and smoke at a low level in and out of the plant through the use of exhaust and dust collection systems that must be properly maintained.

Just because our plants in Brea and Chattanooga are relatively new does not mean that we have been without minor problems with smoke and dust, and in one case we had a situation in Brea arise where noise was a factor.

Good Neighbor

Some of our neighbors who live adjacent to our plant in Brea, in homes built long after we had installed our foundry and forge operations, complained about the noise and ground vibration. These operations were not totally enclosed in a building, because of the climate, and the sound carried easily. Here again, as a good neighbor we extended walls to the roof, installed acoustical panels and used other methods to muffle the sounds.

Expenditures to install new machines and processes to improve quality or productivity can be recognized as having direct influence on the company's future and success. Costs incurred by installing equipment for the control of pollution are actual "out of pocket" costs that seldom contribute to the company's financial success.

Mueller Co. and most industries, however, recognize their responsibility to be good citizens of their communities. They realize that public opinion is important, and that clean air and water are necessary for a business to operate and for employees and neighbors to live happily and to work efficiently.

Costly Air

Clean air is costly. Dirty air is costlier. Last year \$1 billion was the cost estimated for industrial spending to clean up the air and water. Industry is only one contributor to pollution, but it is also the repository of the research and engineering techniques that can bring pollution under control.

The responsibility for our nation's "Clean Up" campaign isn't just that of industry. Individuals also have important roles to play in improving our environment and everyone must accept some of the responsibility for our problems.

The "Where there is smoke, there is fire" adage takes on new meaning today. Smoke currently builds a fire under a lot of people and there is heat being generated to correct such environmental problems as air and water pollution, noise, traffic congestion and the destruction of our natural resources.

STUDENTS ASK: "WHAT ARE YOU DOING?"

(Decatur) . . . Three junior high students from Pana, Illinois, recently wrote Mueller Co., and after explaining their interest in controlling water and air pollution, they asked: "If you have a pollution problem, we would like to know what you are doing about it."

Paul Hickman, vice president-manufacturing, replied, "Yes, like almost all manufacturing concerns, both large and small, we have pollution problems. But, also like all good companies who try to be responsible members of their communities, we have always tried to eliminate these problems."

He went on to tell about our efforts to resolve the problems facing us in Decatur and said, "We are also proud of the fact that our factories at Chattanooga, Tennessee and Brea, California fully meet the strong pollution control requirements of these states."

Mr. Hickman concluded: "We hope you and your classmates will continue to be interested in the elimination of air and water pollution. Actually, as you may know, most pollution is caused by people, not industry. One of the ugliest kinds of pollution results from our thoughtless littering of streets and dumping of rubbish on our vacant land and into our streams. As responsible individuals you can make a great personal contribution toward making our country cleaner and more beautiful by doing all you can to prevent and, where necessary, help to clean up those eyesores."

MUELLER, LIMITED EMPLOYEE UNDERGOES KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

(Sombra) . . . Mueller, Limited toolmaker Albert Henry underwent a kidney transplant Feb. 3 in the Victoria Hospital, in London, Ontario, and reportedly is recovering satisfactorily.

He will be off work for a long period for recuperation and many of his friends and neighbors undertook a door-to-door canvass in his home town of Sombra to raise money to help Mr. Henry.

From April until the operation, he traveled twice weekly to London to the hospital to use a kidney machine. Originally, local residents were going to raise money to purchase a kidney machine, but the transplant was performed following the death of a woman employee at the hospital, who gave her kidneys to Mr. Henry and another recipient.

FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES

(Decatur) . . . Robert F. Maxwell, formerly sales promotion and technical assistant, has been promoted to assistant to the manager of marketing services. Richard D. Curtis, formerly junior catalog compiler, has been named sales promotion and technical assistant. John W. Kirk, formerly chief billing clerk in the Decatur Sales Office, has been named catalog compiler.

(Chattanooga) . . . Tommy Blankenship, formerly a mechanic on the maintenance force, has been promoted to assistant maintenance shift foreman, working on the third shift.

Retirements

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

Decatur

Floyd Walton, sand muller, 41 years, 11 months and 17 days, March 18.

Harry K. Smith, nut and tapping machine operator in the Ground Key Department, 29 years, 11 months and 11 days, disability retirement, March 31.

Chattanooga

Henry Patterson, Iron Foundry, 13 years, 9 months, and 11 days, disability retirement, March 31.

Service Awards

The following Mueller employees received service awards during March.

Chattanooga

- 5 Years: William Holloway, Donald E. Grant.
10 Years: Dorothy M. Potter.
15 Years: John L. Bray, Percy L. Grayson, Jr., Sam Cline, Monroe Wilson, Louis C. Reynolds, Moses Cruther, John H. Moringo, George Davis, Charles Thornton, Ralph E. Means, Tom Pouncy, Monroe Adams, Harold H. Frederick.

Decatur

- 5 Years: Robert W. Shewmaker, Patricia Smith.
10 Years: Robert H. Logue, Donald Tackett, Harry O. Logue, Michael D. Ater.
15 Years: Harlow M. Oyler, Loren R. Hetzler.
20 Years: Melvin C. Whittington, Charles R. Canada, Mary Lou Wetherell, Willie L. Tucker.
30 Years: Clifford L. Carter, Robert G. Leipski.
45 Years: Eugene R. Cash, Robert W. Hill.

The following service awards were made during February and March.

Mueller, Limited

- 5 Years: Morgan Mulvihill.
10 Years: George Shaw.
25 Years: Marion Dennis, Stanley Pulyk.
30 Years: Donald Foreman.
45 Years: Gordon Karr.

Brea

- 5 Years: Leland Nylander, Buster Wyrick, Austin C. Harvey.
15 Years: Earnest D. Moore.

News Briefs

(Chicago) . . . Paul Watts, Mueller Co. sales representative in the Chicago area had an article published in the February, 1970 issue of the American Water Works Association JOURNAL. Paul's article, "Junior College for Operators" was in the management section of the national publication. It was taken from a paper presented by him at the annual meeting of the Illinois Section, AWWA, in 1969. It deals with incorporating courses into the curriculum of local junior colleges that could be helpful to water treatment plant operators. Paul has been active for a number of years in supporting a junior college in his home area.

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(Decatur) . . . Early March seemed to be "Mueller Time" in the Engineering Department at Millikin University. On March 4, Gene Hullinger, senior industrial engineer, talked to the student chapter of the American Institute of Industrial Engineers (A.I.I.E.) at Millikin about our industrial engineering system and training program. Early in March, a display of Mueller Co. products was set up in the Engineering Building. On March 11, a number of students from the Engineering Department toured Plants 1 and 4. Through the efforts of the Millikin student chapter of A.I.I.E., Mueller Co. and other Decatur industries, a slide presentation and accompanying narration were produced and set up in a local bank as part of the observance of National Engineer's Week in February.

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(Burlingame) . . . Phil Klein, son of Betty Klein of our Burlingame, Calif., office, has won the local and zone contests of Millibrae Optimist Club's annual oratorical competition and advanced to the district level meet in San Jose in April. Phil is a sophomore at Mills High School. His talk dealt with the importance of working together toward the resolution of our country's problems.

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(Decatur) . . . The annual collection of Easter candy for Lincoln State School was underway in the Main Office building in mid-March. It is part of a city-wide project to obtain candy for Easter baskets to be distributed to the handicapped children in the school. About 104 pounds of candy and \$22 in cash were collected at Mueller.

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(Chattanooga) . . . The basketball team sponsored by Mueller Co. won first place in its Chattanooga Industrial League for the second straight year and the team is entered in the city championship tournament. Members of the Mueller team are: Russell Hampton, Eddie Woods, Eddie Parks, Jarvis Strickland, Jerry Messerly, Albert Raffo, Tom Wilkerson and Jimmy Watson.

NOTICE:

MEN RETIREES IN DECATUR: MONTHLY MEETING, APRIL 9, NOON, HOUSE OF PLENTY, 602 W. KING ST.