

NEWSLETTER

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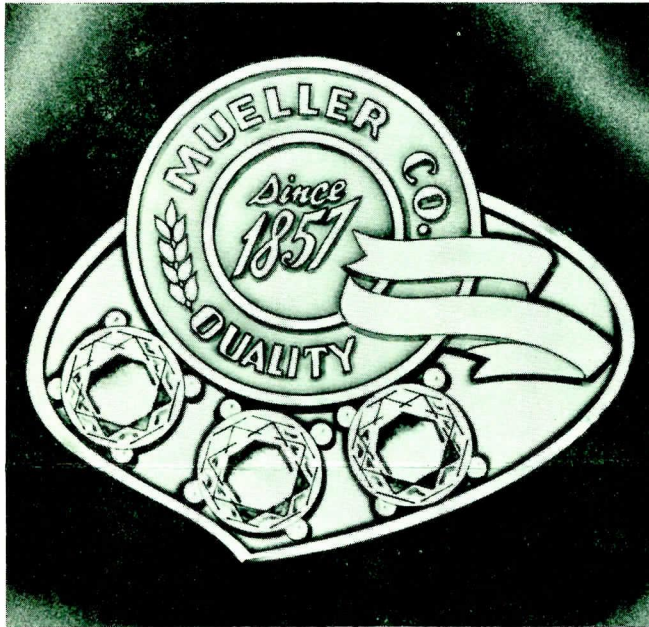
Joe Penne, Editor

NEW SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM ADOPTED

(All Plants)... A revised and improved service award program initiated by the company has been approved by the bargaining units at all Mueller Co. U.S. plants and is expected to become effective Jan. 1, 1971.

The new plan provides for the awarding of a larger and more attractive service emblem offered in different pieces of jewelry which the employee may select. Also improved is the schedule of cash awards which is designed to provide more substantial recognition for long years of service.

The newly designed service emblem will first be given after 10 years of service and awarded at 10-year intervals. The 10-year award will have the Mueller emblem in yellow gold. The same basic design with a



A DESIGN OF THE NEW SERVICE AWARD EMBLEM.

white gold crest will be given at 20 years, a diamond and two rubies will be added to the crest at 30 years, and three diamonds will be mounted in the crest for 40 years.

A major improvement in the new plan allows the employee a choice in the emblem award. Male employees may select the award in the form of the traditional pin, or mounted on a tie bar, tie tac or tie chain. Women may choose the emblem as the pin or as a disc mounted on a bracelet, necklace or brooch.

The new plan provides the first cash award when the employee reaches his 20th anniversary in an amount

substantially greater than the current plan. The awards will be \$40 for 20 years of service, \$80 for 30 years of service and \$200 for 40 years of service. The current award of \$1,000 after 50 years of service or upon retirement between 45 and 49 years of service will be continued. An employee retiring between cash award anniversaries will receive the cash award scheduled for the next higher anniversary.

As an example, an employee retiring with 23 years of service would receive the \$80 award given for 30 years with the company. Under our current program, this same employee would receive \$30 at retirement.

Mueller Co. established the plan of awarding a service pin after each five years of service sometime before 1900. In 1956 a cash award was added and then in 1959 the current cash award/pin program was adopted at U.S. plants.

CANADIAN ECONOMIC SLUMP HITS MUELLER, LIMITED HARD

(Sarnia)... The combination of tight money and monetary restraints by the Canadian government has cooled off the general economy of the country to the point where it could be tipped into a general recession, according to Mueller, Limited President George McAvity.

"Those of us who are closely associated with the house building and construction industry have every reason to believe that we are already in the 'throes of depression,'" McAvity emphasized. "There is small comfort in knowing that our competitors are confronted with the same problem," he added.

"House starts are off approximately 50 per cent from the same period last year, creating a serious drop in our sales and orders. This major decrease has led to a reduction of the plant work force at Mueller, Limited from 375 at the end of December to about 250 at the end of April."

The frustrating aspect of the whole housing situation is that there is a serious shortage of dwellings and that the long term potential for a booming economy is excellent, McAvity said.

ST. JEROME MAKES FIRST U.S. SALE

(St. Jerome, Quebec)... Mueller, Limited's St. Jerome plant recently completed its first order for manhole frames and covers, valve boxes and cement-lined mechanical joint water fittings to be shipped to the United States.

The market potential for the cast iron products developed as a result of the recent "Kennedy Round"

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agreements on tariffs between Canada and the U.S. The devalued Canadian dollar also adds to the advantage of making certain purchases from Canada.

The Mueller, Limited-St. Jerome Sales Department is confident that this is just the beginning of many such orders from customers south of the Canadian border.

NUMERICALLY CONTROLLED LATHE ORDERED BY MUELLER

(Decatur) . . . A new lathe, controlled in its operations by electrical devices that get their instructions from numbers converted to holes on tape, is due to arrive here this summer from the Lodge & Shipley Company.

This highly sophisticated machine tool is the first of its particular type and the third numerically controlled unit installed by Mueller Co. It will be used primarily to machine the profile of our combined drills and taps--a job that demands high precision and uniformity.

With conventional methods of machining a piece, a machine operator studies an engineering drawing, operation sheet or sets up a tracer duplication. He then guides the cutting tool about the part using the manual dials, buttons, etc., on the lathe. The successful operation of the machine depends largely on the skill of the operator. How close can he set a dial? How well can he remember a previous setting? How quickly can he position the tool for a cut? He must make every decision himself and his skill and limitations of the manually controlled machine will determine the final outcome.

With the numerical method of machining a piece, the engineering drawings are studied by a part programmer. He takes the information on these drawings and then converts it to the necessary machine language or "manuscript." The manuscript describes every movement, path or action that the machine tool must make to properly produce the part. The manuscript is then run through a computer which calculates every move the machine must go through. These calculations are then transferred to punched cards, which in turn direct a machine to cut the proper holes in a tape. This punched tape ultimately operates the machine.

Machine tools cannot read the tape language or numbers themselves. The actual deciphering of the coded instructions is done by a tape reader which is part of the separate machine tool control unit. A photo-electric mechanism in the tape reader senses the holes punched in the tape and sends signals to complete electronic circuits that control the operations of the machine tool.

The numerically controlled machine will generally make the same motions as the manually operated machine. It removes metal at the same rate as the manual machine. The difference is that the success of the operation no longer stems from the skill of the operator, but depends upon permanent, long-lasting and consistent holes in a tape. A proved tape will machine one piece or a thousand--holding accuracies consistently and without hesitation, depending upon the capacity of the tools and the machine.

Mueller Co.'s two other machines that use tapes in their operations are much simpler than the new unit. The older lathes use a tape to move or index the turret to each position in proper sequence. The new machine, however, uses a tape which actually guides the tool to make the proper contours.

We must remember that a numerically controlled machine is not a mechanical brain. It is not capable of thinking and it only is a "slave" of the operator and programmer.

FOUR ATTEND SPECIAL SCHOOL ON NEW MACHINE

(Decatur) . . . Four men recently attended schools related to the operation and maintenance of the numerically controlled lathe the company is receiving this summer.

Tool Engineer Earl R. Collins and Senior Industrial Engineer Walter H. Jenkins attended a week-long session in Cincinnati dealing with machine programming. Manufacturing Project Engineer Hartford A. Lewis and Electrician Bill Willis attended two, week-long sessions dealing with machine maintenance. One school covered work on the control unit and was held by General Electric in Waynesboro, Pa., and the other dealt with the machine itself and was conducted in Cincinnati by the Lodge & Shipley Company, manufacturer of the machine.

NATURAL GAS TOPS 30,000,000 IN HOUSE-HEATING CUSTOMERS

(New York) . . . The natural gas industry has passed the 30,000,000 mark in house-heating customers. It added 600,000 new homes and picked up 383,000 conversions from competing fuels in 1969, the American Gas Association (A.G.A.) reports.

The year-end figure of 30,727,000 represents one-family and two-family dwellings. It does not include some 3.6 million families in gas-heated high-rise apartments or other multi-family complexes, nor homes using LP gas.

A.G.A. notes that more than 11 million heating customers have been added in the past 10 years and forecasts a gain of nearly three million in the next three years. Two-thirds of this increase is expected from new construction, while conversions from other fuels are projected at about 350,000 annually.

More than half--55%--of the nation's households currently heat with gas, and the industry has achieved 81% saturation--that is, weighing the number of heating customers against the 38 million homes using gas for any purpose. A decade ago the saturation was 43%.

The A.G.A. Department of Statistics based its 22nd annual report on data from 425 companies representing approximately 95% of the industry's residential customers, plus estimates for non-reporting companies.

GOT A QUESTION? GET AN ANSWER!

We'd like to remind you to direct any questions that you may have regarding Mueller Co., its policies and operations to Editor Joe Penne. We will try to answer your questions in these columns, providing they are not involved in grievances or subject to negotiations.

Service Awards

The following Mueller employees received service awards during May.

Chattanooga

- 5 Years: Thomas R. Johnson, Willie J. Moses, Julian D. Atwood.
- 15 Years: James M. Cathey, James Culberson, Mary K. Stancil, Hershel F. Morrison, Wanda P. Glenn, Bobby H. Ridge.
- 20 Years: Pete J. Magin, George F. Wright, Sam Roland, D.C. Randolph, Monroe Hudson, Jr., Allen E. Sadler, Ione Mulkey.
- 25 Years: Gene M. Racz.
- 30 Years: Leroy Crutchfield.
- 35 Years: W. R. Davis.

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- 5 Years: Mary Jane Humes, Beverly Sefried.
- 10 Years: Raymond D. Quick, Ralph V. Hiser, Maurice Moore.
- 20 Years: Laverne F. Getz, Cecil C. Baker, Charles O. Bafford, Robert D. Ritchie, Wilbur H. Sweazy.
- 30 Years: Lloyd M. Walters, H. Dale Reidelberger.
- 45 Years: Ollie Fortschneider, Eldred W. Conners.

Mueller, Limited

- 5 Years: Peter Wright.
- 15 Years: Irvin Tremain.
- 30 Years: Bruce Barrett.

Retirements

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

Brea

- Lacy L. Mayfield**, Brass Machining and Assembly foreman, 35 years and one month, April 30, (physical disability).
- Claud A. Beckham**, machine operator, 29 years, 6 months and 15 days, May 8, (Rule of 80 Plan).

Decatur

- August Rauschek**, foreman of Machine Repair Dept., 42 years, 1 month and 18 days, May 28.
- Irvin E. Keller**, Service Department foreman at Plant 4, 42 years and 26 days, May 26.
- Ollie Fortschneider**, foundry engineer, 45 years and 23 days, May 31.

FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES

(Decatur) . . . Effective June 1, **W.E. (Bill) Horve**, formerly industrial engineer, will be promoted to foreman of the Machine Repair Department, succeeding **Augie Rauschek**, who is retiring.

Jack P. Parson, chief chemist at Plant 4, has been promoted to Foundry engineer, succeeding the retiring **Ollie Fortschneider** on June 1.

On May 7, **John W. Whitehurst**, formerly a production control clerk in the Foundry, was promoted to foreman of the Service Department at Plant 4. He takes the place of **Irvin E. Keller**, who is retiring.

(Brea) . . . **F. M. Liebherr** has been promoted to general factory inspector and **A.E. Hembree** has been named brass machining and assembly foreman. Both men have been serving in these capacities as acting foreman and now assume the full titles following the retirement of **Lacy L. Mayfield**.

Some Time Ago At MUELLER

(Decatur) . . . The September, 1928 issue of the **Mueller Record** covered the initiation of new salesmen into the mysteries of the "49" Club. This group, formed many years ago, no longer exists but all new salesmen were expected to join this "ancient and honorable" organization to prove to the old timers their fitness and qualifications to be Mueller salesmen. Initiation into the group was filled with hazing and harrassment, but the members felt strong ties with each other and it was a privilege to belong.

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In the summer of 1897 the Mutual Benefit Association of the H. Mueller Manufacturing Co. was formed to "give substantial aid to its members in case of sickness, accident or death." The initiation fee to join was 25¢ and each member was assessed 10¢ a week to pay for benefits. Benefits of \$5 a week were paid for sickness and disability "provided that the sickness or disability is not caused by vice or immorality on his or her part." In 1900 the coverage was further limited and no benefits could be paid to those who were off work for reasons due to playing baseball, football, bicycle racing or hunting. Death benefits for a member totaled \$60. The introduction to the by-laws was headlined: "We believe in helping each other."

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Dec. 17, 1917, Mueller Metals Co., Port Huron, Michigan was incorporated for the purpose of manufacturing munitions for the U.S. Government.

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During the summer of 1927, Mueller Co. opened its new branch office and warehouse in Dallas, Texas, at 901 McKinney St. W.L. Dewitt was the manager of the operation.

News Briefs

(Dallas) . . . Frank L. Kuenstler, Mueller Co.'s sales representative in northeast Texas, was one of three men to be honored recently by the East Texas Water Utilities Association (ETWUA) for their outstanding service and contributions to the trade association. Frank has been active for a number of years in ETWUA and currently is serving another year as a member of the Manufacturer's Committee for the Texas Water Utilities Association.

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(Chattanooga) . . . A brake in the hand is worth two in the bush! The two in the bush happen to be Ralph E. Shafer, sales service manager in Chattanooga, and his new tractor with a mower attachment. A brake, any kind of a brake, would have been welcome by Ralph, according to a recent visitor to Chattanooga. Ralph, who sits big on his tractor seat or in his office chair, recently purchased a new tractor to use to mow his large yard. He started it up for the first time, and decided to check out its handling. He "planned" to go up to a special bush in his yard, stop, back up and mow around it. As he got to the bush he discovered that he had no brakes. Ralph, the tractor and mower went through the favorite bush, across his yard and into the neighbor's yard before he found the key to shut off the contraption. Someone said Ralph is ready to trade in his tractor for something safer. How about a motorcycle, Ralph?

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(Chattanooga) . . . Our first shipment of equipment for use with the computer has arrived here. Programming is on schedule and we expect to have the computer installation in operation sometime during May.

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(Decatur) . . . Harold V. Munsterman, treasurer of the Mueller Co. Employees Credit Union in Decatur has been re-elected to his second one-year term as president of the Illinois Credit Union League. Harold has been active in credit union work for 25 years and held a number of offices in local, regional and state organizations. The Illinois Credit Union League was founded in 1930 and more than 1,600 Illinois credit unions make up its membership.

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(Decatur) . . . Fifty one Mueller men attended the May meeting of retirees. The next meeting of this group will be on June 11 at noon in the House of Plenty, King and Monroe streets.

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(Decatur) . . . Eight men from Local 838, Allied Industrial Workers, Decatur, will attend a week-long school at the University of Wisconsin in mid-June. The AIW-sponsored school for locals around the country covers many aspects of union administration and activities. Attending are: Joe Fyke, Bob Fawcett, Tom McCoy, John Auvil, Bill Willis, John Ossowski, Lee Snoke, and Carroll Virt. The last two men are union time study men and will be in classes that emphasize this type of work.

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(Maitland, Florida) . . . "Super Sam" Parker, as he was called in the local newspaper, recently realized every golfer's wish by shooting a hole-in-one. Sam holed out a six iron shot on the 175 yard 16th at the Mid-Florida course for his ace. Someone suggests that perhaps Tom Little is giving Sam lessons and the results are finally beginning to show up. Sam is the Mueller salesman in northern Florida and Tom covers the southern portion.

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(Decatur) . . . New officers recently elected for the Mueller 4X Club are: Assistant Liaison Engineer Ben Jones, president; Foundry Methods Engineer Tony Schultz, vice president; Computer Programmer Leon Nelson, treasurer; Sales Service Manager-Water Del Bagenski, secretary, and Quality Control Technician Dave Younger, program chairman. Salaried employees in Decatur make up the membership of the organization that is primarily social and informational.

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(Decatur) . . . Keith Ashby, son of Leroy Ashby of the Ground Key Department, ranks scholastically among the top 10 per cent of the more than 800 students graduating this spring from the Engineering School at the University of Missouri at Rolla. Keith is majoring in chemical engineering and plans to return to Decatur to work for the A. E. Staley Manufacturing Co.

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(Decatur) . . . William E. Murphy, vice president-marketing, has been elected to a two-year term as a member-at-large of the board of Directors of the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association (GAMA). The group is a trade association representing the nation's manufacturers of residential, commercial and industrial gas appliances and equipment. Until about three years ago, GAMA was gas-utilization oriented, but since that time it has broadened its interest to more deeply involve manufacturers of equipment used in the transportation and distribution of natural gas. Much of this recognition is due to the work of the general equipment division of GAMA which was started three years ago and headed by Mr. Murphy during its first two years. He served as a member of the board of GAMA during that time by virtue of his office as head of a division.

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(Denver) . . . The natural gas industry will serve almost 25 million new customers by 1990, the American Gas Association predicted recently at its 51st annual convention held here.

The trade association said natural gas sales in 1990 will be about three times today's volume and that gas utility and pipeline companies will invest approximately \$60 billion in the next two decades for new plant and equipment.

Noting that at least 20% of current U.S. households are outside of gas franchise areas, A.G.A. said the industry's new customers would total 6.6 million by 1975. With continued growth patterns, they predict that the 1990 total of gas customers will be nearly 65 million.

The \$60 billion increase in construction expenditures by 1990 will bring the gas utilities and pipeline companies investment in gross plants and equipment to about \$96 billion.