

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3 No. 3, March, 1971

Published by MUELLER CO., Decatur, Illinois

Joe Penne, Editor

CUSTOMER SAYS "THANKS" FOR SERVICE AFTER QUAKE

Mueller people and Mueller products played roles in the restoration of utility service following the earthquake in the Los Angeles area on Feb. 9.

The importance of these roles was pointed out recently in a letter to Western District Sales Manager Warren D. Crawford from Orion Fink, manager of purchasing for Southern California Gas Company.

The letter said: "Our pipelines were damaged to the extent that about 20,000 customers were without gas a few days. To restore service quickly we had to make unusual demands on you folks who furnish vital repair and emergency products. Your response was outstanding.

"All of us in the Purchasing Department who called on you for help join in saying a large and very sincere 'thank you'. We hope it won't be necessary again soon, but your efforts will not be forgotten."

Crawford also sent a letter citing the company's efforts to extend service to our customer. He said: "Paul Caho, Jim Wolf, Jim Haller (Brea Sales) and Charlie Bafford (Decatur Sales) all put in Saturday and 'after hours' work to render **extra** service to this customer during the emergency period following the recent earthquake. Lloyd Darnell's crew (Brea Plant) really gave some fast service in making items needed in larger than normal requirements. In fact everyone in the company responded enthusiastically. Service such as this greatly enhances the Mueller image, not only as a good supplier, but as a good corporate citizen."

Mueller products may seem uninteresting to the casual observer, and steel tees or line stopper fittings may not have much excitement about them—but they were mighty important to SoCal and thousands of its customers.

HELP KEEP PERSONAL INFORMATION CURRENT

Current information is helpful to all Personnel offices, so if you change your marital status, address, number of dependents or want to switch beneficiaries on insurance, please notify the Personnel Department in your plant. Up-to-date information may help speed processing of insurance claims and have other advantages for employees. Just as a matter of interest, have you made a will? Is it up to date? Are the beneficiaries of your personal life insurance policies still as you want them to be?

FURNACE WORK BEGINS IN DECATUR IRON FOUNDRY

Work began the week of March 22 preparing for the installation of two electric coreless induction furnaces and related equipment for use in the Decatur Iron Foundry.

The initial work by Christy-Foltz Inc., general contractors, involves breaking out some concrete bins and preparing a base for a transformer and a new power substation.

On May 10 the new furnaces are scheduled to be shipped from the Brown-Boveri Company, but all-out efforts on the installation can't begin until the plant closes for vacation the evening of July 9. Crews then will start working around the clock, breaking out the linings from the present cupola furnaces, removing the old equipment and starting the construction necessary for the new equipment.

Actual furnace installation should begin July 15 and will be coordinated with erection of the charging system and other related work. The target date to begin production is set for Monday, Aug. 2. Prior to this date, the furnace will be going through a shakedown phase.

The plant vacation shutdown is scheduled to run until July 19. The Brass Foundry will resume normal operations at that time, but, the Iron Foundry will not be operating because of the renovation. The Company and Local 838 have worked out an agreement which provides Iron Foundry workers the option to take vacation, lay off, or work. Those wanting to work will be absorbed into the Plant 4 force and work at their regular hourly pay rates. As the need arises for men to begin production or to become familiar with the new operations, they will be available quickly without shuffling a lot of men in and out of various jobs.

The new installation, with a total estimated installed cost of about \$700,000, will reduce our smoke emissions from the foundry to a level far below any anticipated governmental regulations.

The new electric furnaces have a rated melt capacity of 34 tons of iron per shift, compared to the current cupola system's output of about 22 tons. Enough natural gas was available from the local utility to permit pre-heating of the furnace charge to 1200 degrees Fahrenheit. The metal will be superheated to 2800 degrees in the furnaces.

In addition to eliminating air pollution problems for
(Continued on Next Page)

(Continued from Page 1)

the foundry, the new system offers other advantages for the company, employees and customers.

Greater flexibility is possible since other alloys, including ductile iron, can be produced in one furnace while grey iron is melted in the other.

By preheating, the serious hazards of charging wet material into induction furnaces are eliminated.

Better metallurgical and temperature controls are possible, offering more uniformity, higher physical properties and better quality castings.

Less expensive raw materials can be used to produce quality iron.

The modernized, cleaner melting methods will improve working conditions and assure better house-keeping.

Costs of unloading, storing and handling coke and limestone will be eliminated.

Physical labor of charging will be reduced in the new charging system, making the foundry a better place in which to work.

Service Awards

The following Mueller employees received service awards during March.

Mueller, Limited

30 Years: Roy Abell, Thomas Heath, Garnet Denomy, Andy Mackrell

Decatur

10 Years: Wesley W. Graven
20 Years: Donald E. Bathe
30 Years: Pershing Griffith, Roy C. Wall
40 Years: Ernst E. Hetzler

Chattanooga

20 Years: Will R. Goodlow, Ray E. Barker
30 Years: James Richardson, Paul L. O'Neal, Hirston Russell

COMPANY BUYS PAPER BALER

As another way to fight pollution, the company has purchased a portable paper baler in Decatur and all scrap paper will be sold to a dealer so that eventually it can be reclaimed and much of it reused.

A number of months ago the company quit burning scrap paper because of the smoke that resulted. Before the baler arrived, Mueller sent it to a scrap dealer loose, but the baler provides for more efficient and easier handling of the tons of paper that accumulate weekly.

A paper shredder was also purchased so that all confidential material can be cut up and baled.

BROTHERS, FOREMEN DIE IN DECATUR

Two of Mueller Co.'s finest foremen, George "Ed" Hartwig and his brother Leland H. Hartwig died within about 48 hours of each other during the week of March 14.

Ed, a 45-year employee at Mueller Co., was stricken with a heart attack while bowling and died a short time later. Leland, who had been ill during recent weeks, died of a heart condition two nights later. Leland, 56 years old, was foreman in the Brass Foundry and had worked at Mueller Co. almost 35 years. Ed, 62 years old, was foreman in Dept. 70.

Mrs. Archie Sefton of Decatur, a sister, is among the survivors.

Paul Hickman, vice president--manufacturing, said, "The family, friends, co-workers and Mueller Co. suffered two great losses in a very short time with the deaths of the Hartwig brothers. The job of production foreman is one of the most demanding in any company and both of these men were outstanding. They did their job the best way possible and were liked by those who knew them. Most important, they were respected."

• • • • •

Another serious loss was suffered March 24 with the death of John J. Smith, chief products engineer. Mr. Smith, 54, worked at Mueller Co. more than 35 years in Decatur. He was highly respected by co-workers, friends and acquaintances in the industry for his tremendous product knowledge as well as for his warm, cordial manner. He was a brother to Rex B. Smith, plant engineer in Decatur.

MUELLER SPONSORS J.A. FIRM IN SARNIA

Mueller, Limited, is back in the Junior Achievement program this year and is sponsoring a J.A. company named "Jamakem". The firm took first place in the February company-of-the-month contest and is enjoying a successful J.A. year.

Mueller, Limited advisors this year are: David Dixon, tool designer; Gerald Boesten, time study; and Kenneth Roffey, order editor. C.S. Browett, controller and secretary for Mueller, Limited, is a member of the board of directors of the local J.A. association.

A Junior Achievement company is a miniature firm operated by high-school-age achievers with help and guidance from the advisors. They learn about our free enterprise system by financing the company, producing a product, selling it and liquidating the company, all during a school year.

DECATUR AND BREA VACATION SCHEDULES SET

The annual closing of the Decatur and Brea plants for vacations will occur this year from Monday, July 12, through Friday, July 16. Regular operations will resume with the respective shifts on July 19.

Normal shipments will continue and there will be maintenance men working throughout the plant. Those required to work will be notified by their supervisors.

SO WHAT IF OUR BLACKSMITH CAN'T SHOE A HORSE?

Ever hear of a blacksmith who "wouldn't know where to start to make a horseshoe"? Mueller Co. in Decatur has one, but no one really cares because there is nothing in his job description as Blacksmith "A" that demands this skill.

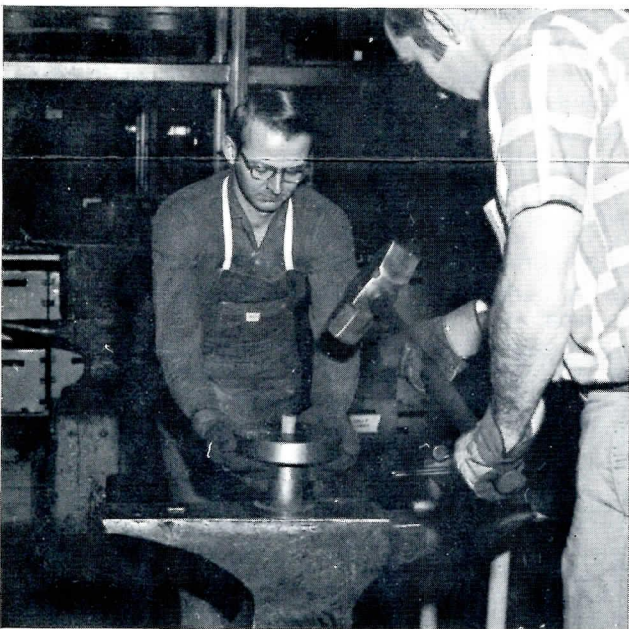
The sound of a hammer striking metal is common around Mueller Co., so it would take more than this "riinnng" to attract anyone from the beaten path to the blacksmith shop where plumber's tools are made.

Once back in this area near the Maintenance Department, you find the typical tools and sights that were familiar a few decades ago in the village blacksmith shop. The forge, a couple of anvils, various hammers and sledges, tongs, a water tank and a trip hammer are there. Although the trip hammer is powered by an electric motor, it looks like a relic from the days of horse-drawn wagons.

Many of the tools of the blacksmith trade are unchanging, but the most obvious improvement in equipment is a gas-fired forge or furnace for heating metal. No bellows or smoke with natural gas for fuel. The blacksmith sets his furnace at 2000 degrees and knows that it will stay at that temperature.

We picture the typical blacksmith as being dark, burly, middle-aged and mustachioed. The Mueller blacksmith, Bob Clark, is less than 30 years old, clean shaven, blond and would weigh less than 150 pounds, even if you put an eight-pound sledge hammer on the scale with him.

Bob has been on the job less than a year, although he has worked at Mueller about nine years. He has been in the Specialty Department most of those years and has worked as a blacksmith's helper.



Blacksmith Bob Clark (left) holds a piece of red-hot steel as Helper Jim Grandon prepares to hit it during one of the first steps toward forming a calking iron.

Helping Bob most of the time is Jim Grandon, who

has been at Mueller about 9½ years. While Bob holds the red-hot part being worked on, it is Jim who usually wields the big sledges and hammers.

When they aren't working in the blacksmith shop, they fill out their work days in the heat treat and welding sections of the Specialty Department.

A number of years ago, blacksmithing was a full-time job at Mueller Co., but the changes made in the installation methods, the materials used in water systems and by plumbers have reduced the demand for the plumber's tools produced. In addition, some of the work formerly done by hand by the blacksmith is now done with a large drop forge in Department 20.

The blacksmith spends most of his time producing such tools as calking irons, yarning irons and chisels. These are used primarily in making calked joints in cast iron pipe. The calked joint is made by forcing heavy packing material around the pipe joint and pouring molten lead around it. The yarning iron is used to force the packing into place and the calking iron is placed on the cooled lead and hit, driving the lead tightly into all of the cracks and openings.

With the introduction of the simpler mechanical joint or slip-on joint for piping, plus a new pipe material such as plastic, the demand for many plumber's tools has declined.

In addition to his regular production, the company blacksmith makes or repairs items used internally. Also, he splits links for drilling machine chains and inserts eyebolts and hooks.

A Mueller catalog published around the turn of the century pictured a calking iron and it looks identical to that in our current catalog. In 1900 the company blacksmith probably made the calking iron in a manner similar to that used today.

Changing the shape of a piece of metal by heating it and hammering it is centuries old and many advances in civilization resulted when this technique was discovered.

To some it is a reminder of the horse and buggy days, but at Mueller it is another special skill necessary to make our broad line of products "just a little bit better."

SOME THINGS ARE COMING DOWN, OR WAGES ARE GOING UP?

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the average factory production worker 10 years ago had to work 98 hours and 42 minutes to make enough money to buy a small refrigerator. Today it takes only 86 hours and 46 minutes of working time to buy a refrigerator with two doors and a separate freezer. A 21-inch table TV required 90 hours and 29 minutes of work in 1959; now 43 hours and 33 minutes will buy a 19-inch portable. And the beer you need to watch TV requires less labor to buy--23 minutes for today's six-pack as opposed to 34 minutes 10 years ago.

FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES

Edward J. Vogel, formerly Brass Foundry foreman in **Brea**, has been promoted to the new position of general foundry foreman.

A number of changes occurred in **Decatur** as the result of the deaths of Leland and George "Ed" Hartwig. **Preston D. Ruthrauff**, formerly assistant foreman in the Specialty Department, succeeds Ed Hartwig as department head. **Terry L. McCoy**, formerly a quality control technician, has been promoted to assistant Specialty foreman. **Clarence A. Berner**, formerly assistant Brass Foundry foreman, has been promoted to Brass Foundry foreman, succeeding Leland Hartwig. **Rockne C. Winner**, formerly Brass Cleaning Room foreman, has been named assistant Brass Foundry foreman.

• • • • •

A new face in a familiar place is that of **John R. Bennett**, who has been added to the staff in the **Chattanooga** Industrial Engineering Department as a tool methods engineer.

THE PIE IS REALLY CUT IN A DIFFERENT MANNER

After the average American company pays for its materials, supplies, taxes, rent, heat, light, etc., how about some for employees and owners. Of that amount left after all other bills have been paid, what per cent goes to employees and what part to owners? A nationwide poll indicated that people felt 75 per cent went to owners and 25 per cent went to employees. THE FACTS ARE that **employees** of U.S. corporations in the first three quarters of 1970 received not 25 per cent of all money left after supplies, rent, etc., were paid, but 90.2 per cent; **owners** didn't receive 75 per cent, but 9.8 per cent. Of that last figure, only a trifle more than half was paid to owners in dividends; the rest must be kept by the companies to finance improvements, in-plant facilities, machinery and equipment. This "plowing back" of roughly half of the owners "take" is vital if jobs are to be secure and new jobs created.

SOMETHING ABOUT OUR RETIREES

Mr. and Mrs. Truman Peifer celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Feb. 14 with family and friends in Tucson, Arizona, where the Peifers are currently living...The Russ Armstrongs recently returned from Arizona and Russ reports that he spent some time with Glen Hazen and Bill Padrick. Bill lives in Phoenix and Glen lives in Mesa. Glen keeps busy providing a special service for cotton pickin' machines...Stan Ashby ventured away from Hollister, Mo., early in March and spent a few days in Decatur.

The next regular meeting of Mueller Co. Retirees will be April 8 at 11:30 in the House of Plenty. About 50 attended the March meeting.

Jesse and Olive Dailey wrote recently from Wickenburg, Arizona, to report they are on their way to California and plan to be back in Decatur by mid-April.

GAS OUTLOOK BRIGHTER FOR CANADA IN 1971

(Canada) . . . The outlook for use of natural gas in markets in Canada--industrially and residentially--is very bright, according to the publication **Gas in Canada**.

Some of the prospects hinge on the home building industry, however it is a part of the economy that has been depressed for some time. The industrial markets are more promising because of the growing awareness of pollution and demand that cleaner fuels be used. As a result, there will be a move into areas where gas is required for its pollution-free qualities.

Prospecting on the future role of natural gas in the Canadian economy, J.D. McCarthy, president of the Canadian Gas Association and vice president of The Consumers Gas Company, said: "With an adequate supply of natural gas assured for the next 25 to 30 years, Canada's natural gas industry is now concentrating its efforts on new and more efficient uses for this clean, versatile and dependable fuel.

"Currently, pollution control offers the greatest opportunity for new and increased natural gas loads. More gas will go into generating plants at prices that are justifiable."

Mr. McCarthy concludes in his interview with **Gas in Canada** that the prospects for the industry are good, but that the financing of new facilities by all segments of the industry will continue to be of prime importance, and current high interest rates could restrict some expansion plans.

"On the basis of past performance and the industry's determined efforts to seek out new markets for its product, the performance of natural gas companies, whether they be exploration, transmission or distribution companies, promises to be successful," he said.

Unlike the U.S., proven reserves look good and estimated reserves are sufficient to warrant more drilling and more exploration in Canada. A more attractive price for producers is going to stimulate developmental work.

This bit of optimism is welcomed by everyone at Mueller, Limited, since it is a supplier to the natural gas industry.

Retirements

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

Chattanooga

Ione Mulkey, Sales Office, 20 years, 9 months and 24 days, March 19, (80 Plan).