

**NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 3 No. 7, July, 1971

Published by MUELLER CO., Decatur, Illinois

Joe Penne, Editor

**DECATUR IRON FOUNDRY  
RESUMES PRODUCTION**

Production in the new Decatur Iron Foundry resumed the morning of August 2, right on the schedule which allowed for the installation of two new electric coreless induction furnaces and related melting equipment.

This tight timetable was set up after many months of planning for the job to be accomplished in a hectic three-week period that includes demolition, construction and erection.

Some work was started as early as March, but the actual tearing out of the old cupolas, construction, and installation and testing of the two new electric induction furnaces and related equipment was begun the evening of July 9.

Late that day crews began tearing out the old cupolas and by the morning of July 12 pieces of heavy equipment, including a crane and trucks, were inside the foundry breaking concrete and digging footings and pits. By working around the clock, the location was ready for the new equipment the following week and most of the installation of furnaces, control modules, charging equipment and overhead steel occurred the week of the 19th. Some initial testing took place over the weekend of the 24th and the lining of the furnaces was done a few days later.

The plant was closed for vacations from the end of the shifts on the 9th of July until the morning of the 19th. The Brass Foundry resumed normal production at that time, and workers in the Iron Foundry had the option to take vacation, lay off or work. The company and Local 838 worked out an agreement on the schedule and those wanting to work were absorbed into the Plant 4 force doing any work necessary and paid at their regular hourly rates.

The new installation, with a total estimated 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 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 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit. The metal will be superheated to 2,800 degrees in the furnaces.

There will be some difficult periods for foundrymen in the next few weeks as problems arise during the

start-up, but the new equipment will provide cleaner and easier working conditions, as well as improve production and quality. Eleven of our key foundry people are now completing their participation in an extensive training course for induction furnace operation and maintenance.

(FOUNDRY PICTURES ON PAGE 3)

**HOUSING STARTS  
CONTINUE TREND**

Housing starts rose slightly higher in June, continuing the strong trend in recent months, according to an article in the **Wall Street Journal**.

Except for a slight dip in April, the seasonally adjusted rates have been going up since the first of the year and now stand at an annual rate of 1,982,000 units, up 1.2% from May's revised figure. The figure of 1,982,000 units is well above the 1,393,000 rate for the same month a year ago, the Commerce Department reported.

According to the **Journal**, Commerce Secretary Maurice C. Stans said the housing figures show a "powerful and sustained expansion in home building."

Michael Sumichrast, chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders, said the June starts looked "very good" and added that surveys indicate there is still plenty of money available as recent interest rate increases haven't had much effect yet. The economist said eventually the interest rate boosts will have some dampening impact on starts but he expects 1971 to be an "excellent" year for housing.

The report said shipments of mobile homes in May fell slightly but the seasonally adjusted annual rate was well above that of a year ago.

**CAFETERIA RENOVATION  
NEARING COMPLETION**

The second and final phase of the Decatur cafeteria renovation is nearing completion.

The most recent work includes the installation of nylon carpeting with rubber backing in the eating area and asbestos-vinyl tile in the serving area and entrances. Yet to be completed is a new suspended ceiling of Fiberglas tiles with a vinyl surface. The ceiling work includes resetting of light fixtures and sprinkler heads.

The first phase of the renovation, which began last summer, included paneling of the walls, changes in the windows and new light fixtures.



## TRANSPLANT OFFERS ONE CHANCE AT LIFE

"It's wonderful how people offer to help when they see someone has his back against the wall," said Lee Smull as he leaned against his test tank in Dept. 80 in Decatur.

The response was heartwarming but Lee's heart and his thoughts were with his one-year-old daughter whose only chance to live is to endure the uncertainties of a liver transplant and then Vicky will have only a 20 to 30 per cent chance of survival. This is a weak peg to hang hope and life on, but as Lee says quietly, "there is no chance without it." He adds, "There was no decision to make. It was do or die."

"People at work, neighbors, friends and the company have been wonderful and made so many generous offers to help," he said. The one thing that is necessary to make the operation possible is a donor of a liver to be used in the transplant and the search will go on as long as Vicky can live.

The donor must be another child, one to two years old, with O-positive blood type. Lee said the doctors told him the donor--if one is found--would probably be an automobile accident victim. If the right donor is found, then an operation lasting from five to 20 hours would follow immediately.

"We must be at the hospital within three or four hours after we are called. The University of Illinois has a plane available for such emergencies and we keep a bag packed all of the time," he said.

During these same three or four hours, 12 blood donors must get to the hospital to be available for transfusions. Leo Chase, who works near Lee, has led efforts to get O-positive blood donors and has more than 30 names, mostly employees, on a list to call. "We need more names because it may be difficult to get 12 people together on short notice," Leo said. Any employee who is able to give should send his name, address and phone number to Leo in Dept. 80. "The company has made a generous offer, too, in agreeing to pay employees who miss work to go to give blood," he added. In addition, donors have offered to drive their cars some distance to the Illinois hospital, which asks that its name not be disclosed.

Vicky, who has a 10-year-old brother, was born with a defective liver which will function less and less as she grows older. During the last few months she has been in and out of the hospital a number of times and in June she underwent exploratory surgery.

Lee says that liver transplants are rare, but they have been done and with each operation more and more is learned about them. "My wife and I tell each other that the operation isn't just Vicky's only chance for life, but her operation may be helping others in the future as doctors learn more with each transplant," he said.

Even if the actual operation is a success there is always the risk that the recipient's body will reject the new organ later on. Lee said, "They have been

known to reject a liver two years after the operation. There's just one chance. That's it. If her body doesn't accept...."

Working and living a near normal life the last few weeks has been impossible for the Lee Smulls, who are fighting to give their daughter a chance at life.

## TWO ENTER SALES TRAINING

Two men recently joined Mueller Co. to begin an extensive sales training program which includes exposure to products, company practices and time in various production departments.

James William (Bill) Gaskill started with us the first of June. Bill, 29 years old, is a native of Monticello, Illinois and holds an associate degree in business administration from Southern Illinois University. Before joining Mueller, he worked about five years as a cost accountant and then transferred to quality control at General Cable Corporation at Monticello.

Gary L. Evans, 25 years old, was born and reared in Decatur. He received a B.S. degree in marketing from Bradley University, Peoria, Ill., in 1969, and joined Mueller Co. July 1, shortly after his discharge from the U.S. Army.

Under the direction of Sales Training Coordinator William R. Knorr, they will spend many months studying product catalogs, working with the products themselves and learning about the manufacture of products by spending time in the plant, all in preparation for working as Mueller sales representatives.

## Service Awards

The following Mueller employees received service awards during July.

### Chattanooga

- 10 Years: Berdena Drew
- 20 Years: Grover Hixon, L.S. Jordan, Wallace Bates, Theo Miller
- 30 Years: Hood Longley

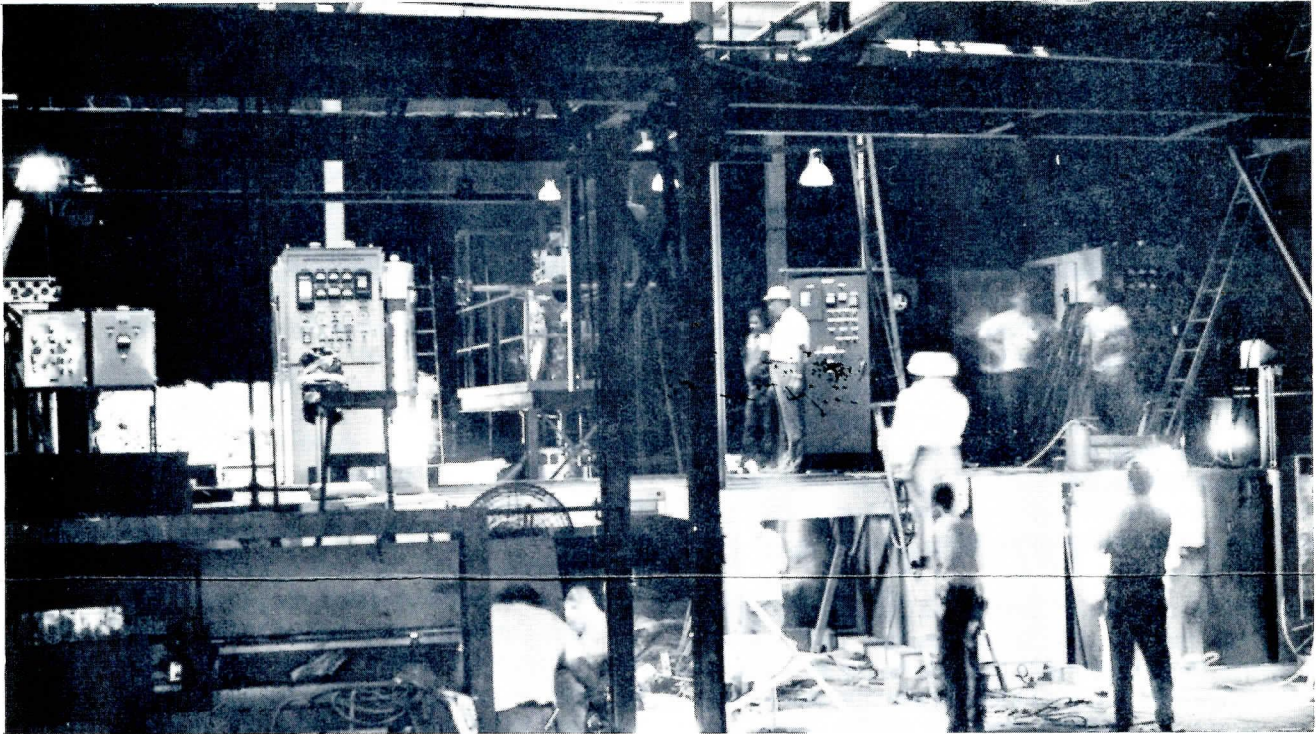
### Decatur

- 10 Years: Robert E. Koshinski, Jr., Alvin A. Ely, Robert L. Runyen
- 20 Years: Gus M. Fike, Carl E. Floren
- 30 Years: Charles E. Ditty

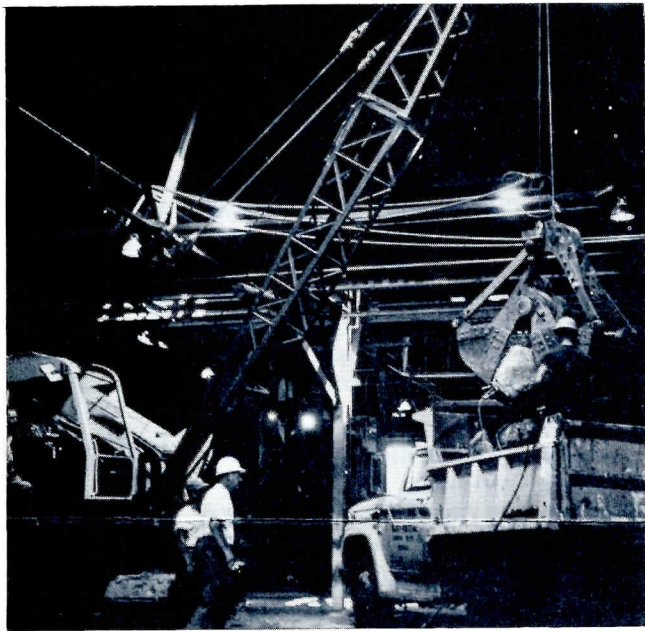
### Mueller, Limited

- 10 Years: Len Normandin
- 30 Years: Albert Hiller, George Foslett, Walter Stevens, John Round, Wilbur Nesbitt

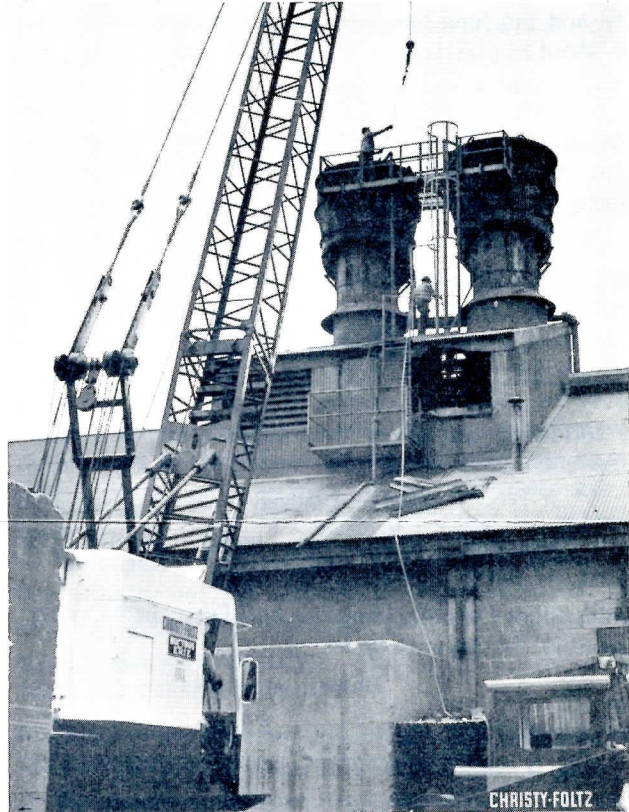




New furnaces and control panels are in place.



The old cupolas once occupied this area where a crane and truck are used to dig pits and haul material out of the Decatur Iron Foundry.



Demolition of old cupolas begins with the tearing out of stacks.

### FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES

A number of changes, effective Aug. 1, have taken place in the machining and assembly sections in Brea.

**Max J. Blanton**, formerly shift machining foreman, has been named brass machining foreman.

**Ray B. Coffey**, formerly assistant steel machining and assembly foreman, has been named shift machining foreman.

**Al E. Hembree**, formerly assistant brass machining and assembly foreman, has been named brass assemb-

ly foreman.

**W.T. Miles**, formerly a machine operator, has been promoted to assistant steel machining and assembly foreman.

**James Musso**, formerly assistant brass machining and assembly foreman, has been named assistant brass machining foreman.



## News Briefs

Jim Fenstad, son of Mr. and Mrs. E.C. Fenstad, will spend three weeks in Japan beginning the end of July at the International Boy Scout Jamboree. Jim, 15 years old, is one of several thousand young men from around the world attending the jamboree. The Scouts will be quartered for a week at the Olympic Village in Japan and then they will spend the next two weeks touring Japan. Jim has been in Scouting about six years and needs only two more merit badges to achieve his Eagle rating. Jim's dad is the Mueller Co. sales representative in the eastern half of Pennsylvania and the Fenstads live in the Philadelphia area.

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A fund in memory of Leland H. Hartwig, formerly foreman of the Decatur Brass Foundry who died in March, has been established by the board of trustees of the Riverside Baptist Church in Decatur. According to the board chairman, one of Mr. Hartwig's wishes was that the church have a new pulpit and communion table and the fund has been established to help bring this about.

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Donald E. Bathe, clerk in the Plant Engineering office, recently was installed as commander of the Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, Knights Templar of the Masonic Order in Decatur.

## Retirements

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

### Mueller, Limited

**Serge Kazanecki**, ground key tester, 17 years, 8 months, 27 days, July 5.

**Harold (Slim) Fennell**, hand trucker, Dept. 5, 44 years, 11 months, 14 days, July 14.

### Decatur

**Carl M. Stone**, finished stores record clerk in Dept. 70, 24 years, 3 months and 18 days, July 24, (80 Plan)

**Lloyd M. Walters**, grinder in Dept. 80, 31 years, 2 months and 4 days, July 9, (80 Plan)

**Otis E. Bethard**, material handler and hi-lift operator in Dept. 80, 35 years, 7 months and 28 days, July 9, (80 Plan)

### Brea

**William L. Dimick**, 8 years, 9 months, 15 days, July 9.

**Evelyn V. Miller**, 37 years, 4 months, 2 days, July 30, (80 Plan)

## Some Time Ago

## At MUELLER

According to the **Decatur Herald** of Aug. 21, 1904, Mueller Co. had one of the most attractive industrial displays at the St. Louis 1904 world exposition. The judges agreed and awarded Mueller two grand awards and one gold medal for excellence. The exhibit showed hundreds of Mueller items for the water and gas industries--all topped off by an electric sign. The **Herald** said, "The Mueller exhibit is one of the most handsome in the entire building. On account of the fact that plumbing goods and gas goods only are shown one might be led to believe that the exhibit could not be made to look pretty or interesting, but in this he is mistaken for the exhibit is unusually attractive."

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"Earl Duncan was promoted from messenger to a job in the Main Office recently. He was succeeded by Delmont Parks, who runs the route in the forenoon and goes to school in the afternoon," says the **Mueller Record** of January, 1935.

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A report of a general sales meeting in January, 1912 covers many items--some of which would be timely today. One change introduced at the 1912 meeting was a quota system for salesmen. Each salesman was given a monthly sales quota and if he reached this the first month he received a gold pin which he could wear until he failed to make his prescribed sales. Loss of the pin privilege wasn't bad, but he had to send the pin to company President Adolph Mueller along with a letter of explanation as to why he failed to make it. (Needless to say, a lot of care was used to properly word those letters of explanation.)

In the same meeting report, a demerit system for salesmen was discussed with a list given of infractions that could lead to demerits. It did not list, however, what the demerits could lead to.

Salesmen lost points for:

"Failure to cooperate with advertising department in getting information.

Failure to advise about credit on new customers.

Failure to specify shipping date.

Not answering letters promptly.

Failure to send in route reports for each day at least two weeks ahead.

Failure to correct and properly fill out reports on cities when sent to you."

(Sound familiar?)

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**THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING OF MUELLER CO'S. RETIRED MEN WILL BE AT 11:30 A.M., AUG. 12 IN THE HOUSE OF PLENTY.**