

NEWSLETTER

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Joe Penne, Editor

2ND SHIFT, EQUIPMENT ADDED AT PLANT 4

A second shift was added in the Decatur Iron Foundry on Jan. 4 and about two weeks later a night force was put on in the Brass Foundry. In recent weeks, workers have also been added to the Cleaning Room and Iron Machine Shop at Plant 4.

These additions have been made in the Foundry in an effort to cut the backlog of orders, reduce over-time and improve our shipping lead times.

A furnace to anneal castings is also to be added to the Decatur foundry. The annealing process is used on all ductile iron and some gray iron castings to make them easier to machine. The annealing is now being done by an outside firm, but the new furnace will allow it to be accomplished internally, offering better service and more accurate control.

A new parking lot for about 100 cars is also being provided at the foundry site to accommodate automobiles resulting from additional employment and to reduce congestion in the old lot. The lot will be located immediately east of the foundry.

HOUSING STARTS SET RECORDS IN 1971

Housing starts set new records in 1971 as the Commerce Department estimated that new housing activity totaled 2,048,200, 43% above the 1,433,600 starts in 1970 and about 7% above the previous high of 1,908,000 starts in 1950.

According to a story in the *Wall Street Journal*, December starts ran at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2,517,000, up 9% from November.

"Housing starts closed out a boom year on a strong upbeat," topping the administration's goal of two million starts for 1971, said Harold G. Passer, assistant commerce secretary for economic affairs. Mr. Passer said declining mortgage interest rates and the ready availability of mortgage funds indicate "another outstanding year for housing in 1972."

Building permits issued also set a record in December and John A. Stastny, president of the National Association of Home Builders, said the high permit level indicates "the production momentum will carry well into 1972; demand is high and sales are good."

All types of housing registered these sharp gains in 1971, according to the Commerce Department.

Mr. Passer estimated that sales of mobile homes in 1971 reached 500,000 units, bringing the total of

all types of housing to more than 2.5 million, surpassing the previous record of two million set in 1950.

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States expects that construction will rise by 7.5% or more, led by a second record year of housing starts which will reach two million.

CHATTANOOGA BEGINS TRAINING PROGRAM

About 85 supervisors from the Manufacturing Division in Chattanooga began a 20-week training program on January 12. The course, conducted by E.B. Watmough of the Tampa Manufacturing Institute, Tampa, Fla., was launched in Decatur on Nov. 1 for about 80 production supervisors and production managers and is now half completed.

The course is not a lecture series, but concentrates on problem solving through the use of industrial engineering fundamentals and sound management practices and techniques.

Each three-hour session is conducted twice on Wednesdays in Chattanooga so that men from all three shifts may attend.

Mr. Watmough is founder and director of the Tampa Manufacturing Institute and has a broad background as a machine operator, industrial engineer, university faculty member, author and consultant.

NEW SALES TERRITORY ASSIGNMENTS MADE

New sales territory assignments plus the retirement of a salesman and the addition of a new territory have been announced by A.D. (Del) Parks, general sales manager at Mueller Co.

F.V. (Doc) Martin, who has been a Mueller sales representative for 23 years, will retire Feb. 2. Martin, who currently covers most of the state of Washington, will be succeeded by Vern M. Beatty.

Beatty, a Mueller sales representative in the Western District since 1959, has been calling on customers in the greater Los Angeles area.

Moving into the Los Angeles area about March 1 to succeed Beatty will be R. Wayne Black, who has been the "Mueller Man" for most of Iowa and northern Missouri.

J. William Gaskill, who recently completed the company's sales training program, will move to the Des Moines, Iowa, area to succeed Black in February.

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Gary L. Evans, who has been in sales training for a number of months, has been assigned to a newly-created territory in eastern North Carolina, effective Feb. 1.

Martin had been with a pipe manufacturer before he joined Mueller Co. in the spring of 1949. He was in production and manufacturing for the Utah firm first and then requested a transfer to sales and wound up traveling Washington, Oregon and Montana. Until recently he covered both Washington and Oregon for Mueller, but as that territory grew in volume it was split to permit improved customer service and he remained in Washington.

Beatty is originally from Indiana, and had selling experience before he became a member of the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce staff. He has been calling on Mueller customers in the Los Angeles area most of the time since he joined the company in 1959.

Black joined Mueller Co. in 1966 and after completing an intensive sales training program, conducted demonstrations of Mueller NO-BLO® gas products throughout the country. In July, 1968 he went into the company's field sales training program, traveling much of Iowa for about a year before he was permanently assigned to the area.

Gaskill, a native of Monticello, Illinois, has an associate degree in business administration from Southern Illinois University and worked as a cost accountant and in the quality control division for a manufacturing firm before joining Mueller Co. in June of last year.

Evans, born and reared in Decatur, Illinois, received his bachelor's degree in marketing from Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois, in 1969. Following two years in the U.S. Army, he joined Mueller Co. and entered the sales training program. He will be living in the Raleigh-Durham area.

FYKE RE-ELECTED UNION PRESIDENT IN DECATUR

Joseph J. Fyke (Core Room) recently was elected to a fourth term as president of Local Union 838, Allied Industrial Workers, representing about 570 plant workers at Mueller Co. in Decatur.

Other officers elected to two-year terms were: Dale Streight, vice president; John Williams, financial secretary; John Hackl, recording secretary; Joe Baughman, guide; Charles Wade, sergeant-at-arms; and Donald Rauch and Phillip Tucker, trustees

Bargaining committee co-chairmen are: Glen Burrows and Robert Fawcett. Committeemen are: Tom McCoy, Bill Kaigley and Nelson Hoffman. Martin Riewski was elected building board delegate, and Kaigley and Murl Lee were named Region 8 AIW delegates.

Retirements

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

Decatur

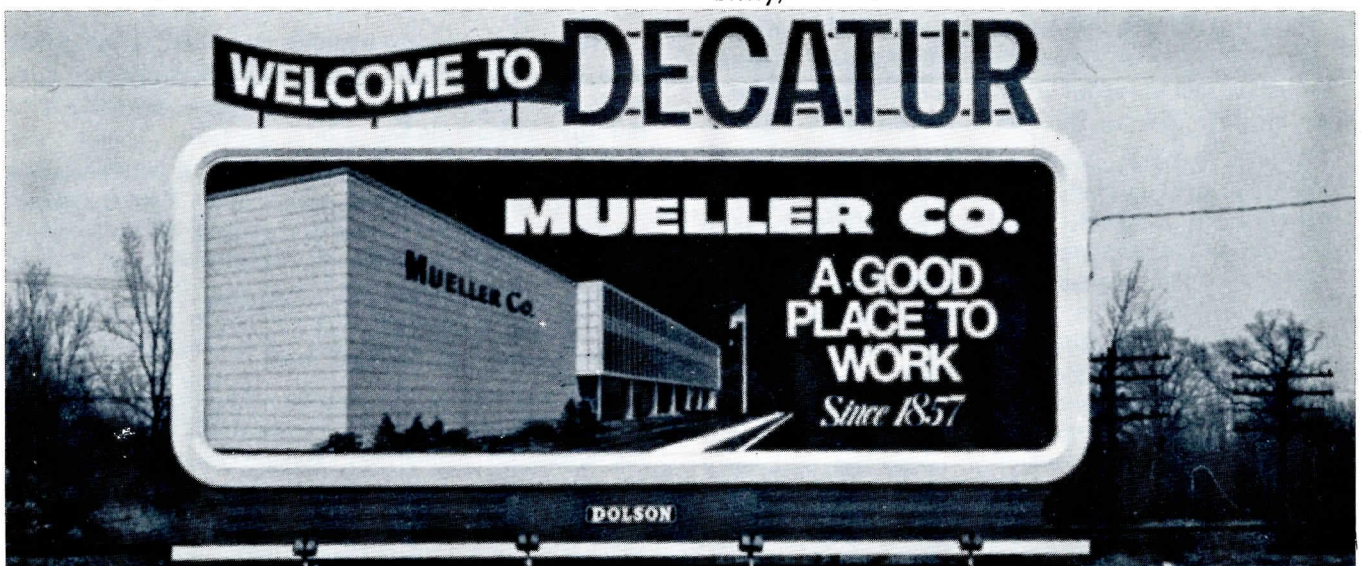
Robert Ridgeway, electrician in the Decatur foundry, 35 years, 10 months, and 21 days, December 31, (Disability)

Ira Laverne Wally, milling machine operator, 45 years, Jan 14. (80 Plan)

Dwight Hodson, Mueller Lodge Custodian, 11 years, 6 months, Jan 31.

Chattanooga

Russell Lomnick, employee in the Assembly Department, 16 years, 3 months and 26 days, Jan. 31. (Disability)



Mueller Co. is one of the Decatur businesses cooperating with the Chamber of Commerce on its "Welcome to Decatur" highway sign program. The sign will be moved every 90 days to locations on all of the major highways entering the city. The copy area about

Mueller Co. is about 30 feet by 10 feet and done in a deep blue background. The red letters spelling out "Decatur" are four feet high and the entire sign is illuminated at night.

PROMOTING QUALITY CONTROL BY PROMOTING Q.C. MEN?

Promoting the importance of quality control among employees is one of the tasks of a quality control manager. The promoting of quality control men in Decatur is something else for Q.C. Manager Elmer H. Fawley.

During recent years about 20 inspectors or others in his quality control section have been promoted to jobs in other divisions ranging from export in the sales office, to data processing, manufacturing supervision and industrial engineering.

Fawley is philosophical about the loss of so many men and the need to pick and train new ones. "These men I've lost have had a thorough indoctrination into quality control that they'll never forget, making them quality conscious all of the time. Their awareness helps make my job a little easier--especially when these men are production foremen," he said.

Fawley added with a laugh: "When the people upstairs are getting ready to promote one of my men, they try to make me feel better by telling me I pick such good men for quality control that I have to expect to lose them. I don't feel like they're lost. I've just broadened my base of operation a little."

Service Awards

The following Mueller employees received service awards during December.

Chattanooga

30 Years: Marvin L. Davis

Decatur

10 Years: Raymond Walton

20 Years: Michael E. O'Neill

30 Years: Harold W. Renfro, Charles W. Moore

Mueller, Limited

20 Years: Clayton Meredith

30 Years: Walter Edwards, Ivan Hunter

The following awards were given during the month of January.

Chattanooga

10 Years: James E. Smith, Nathaniel Pearson, Eugene Wheelous, Charles Thomas

Mueller, Limited

10 Years: Donald Chalmers

30 Years: Frank Evans

Decatur

10 Years: Don Weaver, James Wagoner

20 Years: William E. Baney

GAS INDUSTRY SETS NEW SALES RECORDS

The gas utility and pipeline industry set new records for sales, customers and revenues during 1971 in spite of restrictions on supplies of gas in many parts of the country, according to the American Gas Association (A.G.A.), the industry's national trade association.

The rate of increase for overall sales was held to its lowest level since 1945, increasing only 1.6% while revenues improved 6.4%. More than 800,000 new customers were added in 1971, bringing the total to nearly 43 million. Plant investment, in which the gas industry ranks sixth among U.S. industries, rose to \$40.1 billion.

Construction during 1971 was \$2.2 billion with the largest amount, \$861 million, going for distribution facilities. About 26,000 miles of pipeline and mains were added during 1971 to the vast underground network which transports gas from wells to the consumers. The total now stands at 941,000 miles, is expected to exceed one million miles by 1973 and to approach two million miles by 1995. More than 60% of this expansion is expected in local distribution mains, according to the A.G.A.

The projections for growth of distribution systems are of particular significance to everyone at Mueller Co. because this is the area where our tees, stops and many other items for the gas industry are most often used.

According to A.G.A. statistics, about 25 million customers will be added by 1995--providing adequate supplies of natural gas are available.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

A popular television show again this season is "All In The Family." A retirement on Dec. 31 in Decatur kept it "all in the family" as both Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Baum retired. Marvin, a machine operator in Dept. 80, had about 38 years of service and his wife Iris retired with more than 25 years in the core room. Their son, Forrest is a Mueller sales representative in Ohio and has about 19 years at Mueller. Forrest's father-in-law, Warren Hall, is also a Mueller retiree who ended more than 40 years at the company in 1968. Warren's granddaughter currently works in the Industrial Engineering Office and Marvin's brother, Delmar, works in Dept. 80. Who'd we miss?

SOCIAL SECURITY TAX BOOSTED AGAIN

The taxable wage base for Social Security rose from \$7,800 a year to \$9,000 on Jan. 1. The employee and employer share the 10.4% rate with each paying a maximum of \$468. The rate remained the same this year, but the increase in the base rate means the combined maximum collected could go up by about \$125. This increase, where applicable, means a lot to individuals and when multiplied by well over two thousand employees, it adds a very considerable cost to Mueller Co.

News Briefs

Decatur Industrial Engineer Larry E. Warfield recently completed a "Fundamentals of Mathematics" night school course at Millikin University with an "A" grade. Larry participated in the company's "Aids To Education" program.

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Three men from Local 838, Allied Industrial Workers, representing plant workers at Mueller Co. in Decatur, recently graduated from the Community Services Counselor class. They were among 28 union representatives from the area learning about the functions of 23 state and local agencies and their services during the 18-hour program. Twenty-four resource people from the agencies and government conducted the course, which is designed to give the union representatives background information so that they may advise fellow-members of the services available.

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Had an outsider walked into the Chattanooga office the day before the Christmas holidays, he would have thought that everyone was going through his second childhood because of the toys that were there. Although somewhat used by the end of the day, according to one report, the toys were taken to a children's home for distribution.

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Dandy Don Curry, the self-proclaimed checker champ of Dept. 80 in Decatur, made a big move recently and retired, so competition to find a successor looms ahead. Don gets credit from some for introducing the checker board to the men in the department as they ate their lunches. He also claimed to be the lone stalwart of the Pittsburgh Pirates in the department filled with young bears and birds from the world of baseball.

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The Women who have retired from Mueller Co. held their January meeting at the Scanda House, but the group planned to return to the Elks Club for the Feb. 2 get-together.

The Scanda House continues as the meeting place for the men retirees from Decatur and they will gather there at 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 10. January's winter weather kept many of the men at home during the last meeting when attendance dropped to 29.

ANNUAL MEETINGS SET IN FEBRUARY

The annual meeting of Mueller Co. shareholders will be held in Decatur on Feb. 10. At this time, the annual election of the Mueller Co. Board of Directors will take place. Following this, the board will meet and elect company officers.

The Mueller, Limited annual meeting will be held on Feb. 3 in Decatur.

Some Time Ago

At MUELLER

Interest in reducing smoke and pollution is not something new at Mueller Co. or forced by the environmentalists of today. A story in the October, 1955 issue of MAIN CONNECTIONS for Mueller employees says that bids had been let for construction work related to the installation of new electric furnaces. It was called "a step toward completion of Mueller Co.'s half-million dollar smoke-elimination program at Plant 4." These new furnaces replaced oil burners in the Brass Foundry.

To go back even further, a 1912 issue of the *Decatur Review* quotes from a letter written by Adolph Mueller, president of the H. Mueller Manufacturing Company, which expresses his concern and that of the company for reducing smoke pollution. In part, his letter said: "We installed 3 smoke-prevention apparatus which has been very satisfactory, indeed. We believe that the installation of smoke-prevention apparatus by the different manufacturers of this city will result in more real good to the community at large than anything that could be done at the present time. The manufacturers of Decatur are aggressive and progressive, but we should understand that the manufacturing interests are not the only interests to be considered, and in addition, we should endeavor to clean up Decatur to make it a very desirable place in which to live." (Ecology is a popular word now but concern for the environment was on the mind of the company president 60 years ago.)

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In 1911, Mueller Co. was giving a Christmas gift to employees just as it did again this year. The gifts 60 years ago included: the choice of ham and bacon; a box of cigars; a box of handkerchiefs or \$2 worth of magazine subscriptions. Due to World War I, the company couldn't give hams in 1916 and substituted 600 or 700 live, squawking geese.

FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES

Charles E. McCoy, formerly an inspector, has been promoted to quality control technician in Decatur.

Richard L. Lazell, formerly a molder in the brass foundry in Decatur, has been promoted to assistant brass foundry foreman on the second shift.

Tommie A. Bridges, formerly a catalog draftsman has been promoted to a catalog compiler in the Advertising and Sales Promotion Department.

Richard C. Tish, formerly an industrial engineer, has been named assistant iron machine shop foreman on the second shift.

RETIREMENT'S PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

A wife analyzes the "benefits" of her husband's retirement as offering: "Twice as much husband on half as much income."