

NEWSLETTER

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Joe Penne, Editor

NEW POSITIONS FOR MOORE, COATES

Charles W. Moore, assistant plant manager in Decatur, was promoted to the new position of manager of manufacturing effective Sept. 1. In his new position he will be responsible for manufacturing and related activities in all U.S. plants, reporting to the vice president-manufacturing.

Succeeding Moore is L. Merlin Coates who has been assistant to the vice president-manufacturing since Jan. 1, 1971.

Moore a native of Decatur, first joined Mueller Co. in 1940 working part-time in the factory. In 1948, he received a B.S. degree in business administration from Millikin University and was named a time study engineer. He was promoted to plant industrial engineer in 1953, named assistant factory manager in Decatur in 1959, and in 1961 he was made manager of quality control for all of the company's U.S. plants. In May of 1964 he was promoted to the assistant manager's position at the company's plant in Chattanooga and then in May of 1967 he returned to Decatur as assistant to the vice president manufacturing. Moore has been assistant plant manager in Decatur since 1970.

Coates started with Mueller Co. in Decatur in 1935 and returned in December, 1970 after spending the last 21 years at Mueller, Limited in Sarnia, Ontario. He was born in Centralia, Illinois and attended Greenville College in Greenville, Illinois. He worked in industrial engineering at the Decatur plant from 1935 to 1943, left the company and returned in 1947.

In 1949 he went to Canada to head the Standards Department at Mueller, Limited. In 1957 he was named assistant factory manager and four years later he became factory manager. Coates was elected to a vice presidency and made a member of the Mueller Limited Board of Directors in 1966.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT-- IT'S MORE THAN TALK

When business leaders get together they often express serious concern about the attitudes of people, especially those of youth, toward business, profits and our free competitive enterprise system.

The leaders seek ways to communicate the "business picture" to various groups. One of the most effective ways to reach young people today is through the Junior Achievement program. J.A. is more than talk! The high-school-age participants learn by doing!

They start and then run their own mini company for a few months and they come to understand profits, production costs, taxes, safety, overhead and supervision through experience. They learn about business because they are a part of business.

For a number of years Mueller Co. has sponsored a Junior Achievement company along with a number of other firms in Decatur. As a sponsoring firm the company contributes financially in several ways, but, more importantly, advisors are provided to the small new company. These advisors contribute the knowledge, leadership and experience necessary to help the young people establish their own business. They serve as consultants in the areas of sales, finance or production, can come from any division in the company and be hourly or salaried.

Anyone interested in becoming an advisor should contact Joe Penne, Ext. 230, Decatur.

JIM WOLF HEADS BREA SALES OFFICE

James R. Wolf, formerly sales service supervisor in Brea, has been promoted to Brea Sales Office manager, succeeding Paul G. Caho who is retiring.

Earlier this year Caho took a leave of absence for health reasons and will retire when his leave expires. He joined Mueller Co. in Decatur as an accountant in 1946. A short time later he was promoted to plant controller and then assumed the sales office duties about 1957.

Wolf has worked in the west coast sales office since he joined Mueller Co. in October, 1953. He has a broad background in sales and served as acting sales office manager in Brea from June 1 until Aug. 1, when he was named to Caho's position.

PAUL WATTS ELECTED BY ILLINOIS A.W.W.A.

Paul B. Watts, a Mueller Co. sales representative in the Chicago area, has been appointed junior trustee of the Illinois Section, American Water Works Assn. He was named June 9 at the Board of Trustees meeting to fill a vacancy created by a business transfer. Paul has lived in the Chicago area since graduating from Bradley University, Peoria, in 1949, working for consulting engineers and contractors before joining Mueller Co. in 1955. For the past five years he has served on the section Education Committee and also served as the chairman of the Entertainment Committee in 1964. He currently lives in LaGrange Park near Chicago.

Service Awards

The following Mueller employees received service awards during August.

Chattanooga

10 Years: Edward L. Gates, Orlando Williams, Major W. Jackson, Jr., Carl W. Harris, James W. Leonard, Clifford Smith.

20 Years: David C. Cullins.

Decatur

10 Years: Cecil E. Lotzgesell, Michael Thomas, Gary Brunner.

20 Years: Robert O. Ross.

30 Years: Charles L. Brown.

Brea

10 Years: Gary Cavaness, Robert Highwood, Vincent Ermovick.

20 Years: James Hambelton, Rose Marino.

Some Time Ago At MUELLER

In March, 1956, a chrome-plated Mueller fire hydrant commemorating the 10,000th to be installed in the City of Atlanta, Georgia, was presented to Paul L. Weir, general manager of the Atlanta Water Works, by Mueller Co. The hydrant was installed near the southwest intersection of Mitchell and Washington Streets, which was close to City Hall and the State Capitol building. Since that special hydrant was installed, several hundred more Mueller hydrants have been added to the water system in Atlanta.

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Mueller Brass Co. and Mueller Co. are often confused and sometimes thought to be parts of the same organization. They started out that way in about 1912, but in 1927, through an exchange of stock within the Mueller family, the two became separated. Fred Riffin, Sr., former president of Mueller Brass in Port Huron, Mich., and once a stenographer at Mueller Co., told about the beginning of the Michigan firm. "Oscar Mueller and I went to Canada during World War I to help build the Sarnia plant. Later due to governmental regulations, we moved across the line into the United States and set up what was meant to be a temporary factory at Port Huron to make wartime materials. Fortunate circumstances enabled that plant to grow rapidly and it soon became an important part of the brass industry," he said.

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The January, 1943 issue of the MUELLER RECORD lists Mrs. Evelyn Miller of the Mueller Co. plant in California as a finalist in the search for "Miss Victory of Southern California". Mrs. Miller, an electric plater and the only woman doing this type of work in

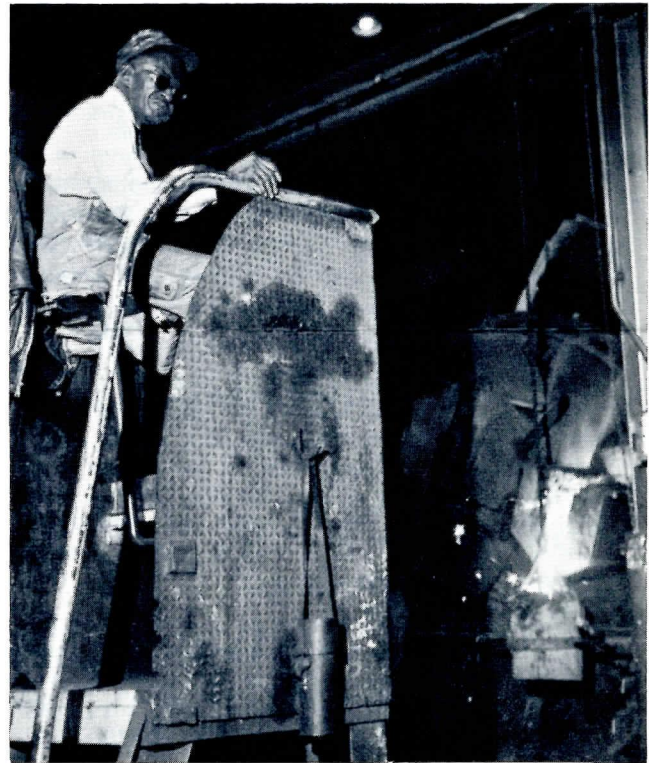
America, was nominated to represent her company by a unanimous vote of fellow workers. The winner of the national contest was to be honored as "America's typical girl war worker." Mrs. Miller is currently a Mueller retiree living in Bell, Calif.

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A new high point in employment was reached in 1925 when the Decatur newspaper of March 29 stated that Mueller Co. had a total employment of 1,462 people. "The actual number hired has been much larger, but there was the usual turnover caused by the annual return of many men to farms," the article said. At this time a move was underway to relocate the iron finishing department in a new building adjoining the foundry on East Eldorado Street.

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The Alhambra Park was the setting for the annual outing of Mueller Pacific Coast Factory employees on July 16, 1938. "Everything was congenial to make it an auspicious outing--the mood of the holiday crowd, the spirit of good fellowship, and feasting--each and all contributed to make the event one to be remembered," the story reads. The dance contest ended in a tie between Kenny Potts dancing with Mrs. Jack Warren, and Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Porter. Winners of some of the other contests included: Louis Wyant and Warren Wunderlich--three-legged race; Bob Jett and Russ Jolly--the egg tossing contest; Pearl Hatfield--cracker whistling contest; Charley Portee--nail driving contest; and George Swarborg--sprint race for men.



Each job is important to the total success of the company. An example of this is seen in the job of S.B. Crowley at Chattanooga. S.B.'s job is "Electric Furnace Pour-Out Man" and from his elevated position he remotely pours iron from the four 60-ton electric melting furnaces. He has been employed in the Mueller Foundry Division since 1948 and had this unique job since 1966.

MUELLER BENEFITS VALUED AT \$2,702 FOR 1972

The cost of benefits paid in addition to wages and salaries for each Mueller Co. employee for 1972 will amount to about \$2,702 annually. These costs represent about 32% of the total payroll and an average of about \$1.38 an hour.

According to information from the Chamber of Commerce of the United States published in its 13th biannual tabulation of such payments, employee benefits reached a record high last year. The average employee payment for what once were termed "fringe" benefits last year reached \$2,540 annually, representing a cost of 30.8% of the total payroll.

The national growth has been consistent in each Chamber survey since initiation in 1948. The current survey shows benefit costs have more than doubled in the last 10 years; average weekly benefits payments of \$24.12 in 1961 grew to \$48.92 last year, a 103% gain. At the same time, average weekly earnings increased 64%.

The one single employee benefit leading the rise in cost during that decade was the mandatory Social Security taxes, which grew by 177% to \$7.15 a week per employee last year.

Still, in the order of costs to business, Social Security taxes ranked behind two other benefits: company-paid pension contributions, which grew 90% to an average of \$7.73 per week, and paid vacations, registering an 89% growth to average \$7.69 weekly. Voluntary insurance payments ranked fourth at \$7.10 a week, a 171% growth--the second highest over the decade.

Information for the survey was supplied by 885 firms in various manufacturing and nonmanufacturing industries. Petroleum firms led all other categories in providing benefits, with a cost of 35.7% of payroll average. Banks, finance and trust companies followed closely with a rate of 35.6%.

News Briefs

Jim Utt (Test Lab) and Dennis Stansifer (Engineering) shared honors at the fifth annual Frank Mueller Golf Playday in Decatur recently. Using the league handicap Stansifer had a net score of 61, while Utt, under the Banker's handicap system, came in with a net 65. His 79 was also the low gross for the outing at Hickory Point Golf Course. Second place awards went to Walt Jones (Foundry) and Dan Ellis (Engineering). About 50 men had signed up to participate in the golf and steak cookout at the Mueller Lodge, but rain forced a week's postponement of the golf and only about 35 were able to make it on Aug. 19. The playday and cookout marked the end of the Mueller Golf League season. In the team play Industrial Engineering Team No. 1, made up of Gene Hullinger, Dave Younger, Jim Fleckenstein, Charley Monroe, Al Seitz, Ben Jones and

Morey Sefton, edged out I.E. No. 2 by one point to win the team competition. The season also included a selective best ball tournament which was won by the team of Joe Daghe, Verlyn Burnett, Morey Sefton and Walt Jones, and a flight tournament won by Jim Utt (first flight); John Beavers (second flight) and Max Justice (third flight).

Two representatives from the National Iranian Gas Co., Tehran, Iran, were in Decatur for a week in August obtaining a basic knowledge of Mueller gas products. While here Pravis Bakhtiari, technical services for distribution, and R.H. Twofighi, headquarters, used equipment, studied catalogs, toured the plant, watched demonstrations and got acquainted with many of the people in Decatur.

In Decatur, new officers of the 4-X Club are: Tool Engineer Earl R. Collins, president; Manufacturing Project Engineer James Fleckenstein, vice president; Laboratory Supervisor Morey L. Sefton, treasurer; Methods and Cost Estimator Leonard L. Landgrebe, secretary, and Assistant Purchasing Agent Joseph A. Sepich, program chairman.

New officers for the Chattanooga Foreman's Club for this year are: Sales Service Manager Ralph E. Shafer, president; Assistant Machine Shop Foreman William C. Hambrick, vice president; Time Study Engineer Baxter W. Little, secretary, and Foundry Equipment Engineer W. R. Davis, treasurer.

SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT

To shed proper light on the subject, it takes one man working full time and more than 5,000 light bulbs a year in the Decatur plants.

Maintenance Man Lyle Galvin spends his work day checking and changing light bulbs and marking those fixtures which need the attention of an electrician.

Lighting improvements in the foundry have also added another type of bulb--the mercury vapor lamp. These are similar to many of those used for street lighting and emit about twice as much light as the incandescent bulb for the same power usage.

More than 1,800 incandescent bulbs, ranging in size from six watts to 500, and more than 3,300 fluorescent lamps are ordered in a year. Those fluorescent lamps range in power from six watts to 105 watts and vary from nine inches to eight feet in length.

FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES

The following promotions are effective Sept. 1.

Danny L. Moore, formerly a truck driver, has been promoted to assistant assembly foreman in Chattanooga.

In Decatur, **Dean H. Thompson**, formerly an inspector, has been promoted to Ground Key Division foreman on the night shift. **Harry W. Barton**, formerly a machine operator, has been promoted to a Ground Key Division foreman.

TURNING OFF BUSINESS' CRITICS

What do you think of when you hear the words—"big business?" Was the reaction pleasant or unpleasant?

Surveys seem to indicate that most people think of business firms as organizations which draw money from the community, and they seem to think of this money as profit.

We tend to overlook the fact that businesses are consumers—consumers on a grand scale—and tremendous centers of prosperity for everyone.

Not only do business firms buy the raw materials necessary for the manufacture and sale of their products, but also the cartons and cases in which they're packed, the advertising that helps to sell them and the transportation for shipping them to the nation's market places.

Business firms buy the services of the construction people who build their plants, their technical centers and office building, and pay for the building materials, production machinery, equipment and interior furnishings that run into billions of dollars. Then, there are the thousands of services purchased by business firms, everything from advertising agencies, and computer repairmen to the men who service food and coffee vending machines at plants and offices.

They buy brooms and cleaning compounds and hire people to wash windows and mow lawns and service their vehicles. They're the largest customers of local utilities and the air lines.

People tend to forget that a giant company doing a billion dollars in business has to spend nine hundred million or more to do it; then a good percentage of the profits are pumped back into research, development and plant expansion.

Add to all this the millions of jobs and weekly paychecks pumped into the economy and you can get an entirely different view of business and its contribution. Unfortunately, this isn't taught in school. Teachers and their students, all too often, have a stereotyped idea of the so-called business tycoon, a bloated profiteer manipulating and exploiting the poor worker. That person no longer exists.

Today, the men who run big business are employees, just like everyone else, in the companies they manage. They work for a salary and derive their satisfaction and inner rewards from helping to build the companies they work for. They enjoy the development, testing and production of new and better products and services.

Business, generally, has done a rather poor job of telling its story—the true story—to the people. And the people in government, as a rule, have not helped in this. In fact, they have often fostered the idea that somehow the people have to be protected from business.

Business is people. It's built and operated by

people who derive their incomes from it. And it's a great and wonderful consumer—and it pays its bills—with good money that finds its way into every nook and cranny of the community.

Business is the best friend we've got and it's directly responsible for our standard of living. Without it... we'd be living in crude shelters and trying to raise our own food. It's a story that needs telling these days.

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HOUSING STARTS EDGE DOWN FOR 2nd MONTH

Private housing starts in July fell to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.2 million from the slightly downward-revised June rate of 2.3 million and also down from the May rate of 2.4 million, according to the Commerce Department.

This second consecutive monthly decline still left starts moderately higher than the 2.1 million annual rate of July last year.

Despite the small decreases a Commerce Department secretary said last month that home building would continue to boom and is almost certain to set a new record this year. He said housing starts ran at an adjusted annual pace of 2.4 million units in the first half of the year, which was well above the level needed to attain the Nixon administration's goal of 2.2 million in 1972.

Starts of single family homes were fractionally lower in July than in June while starts of units in structures with five or more apartments fell substantially, the department said.

Shipments of mobile homes rose in June to a 604,000 seasonally adjusted annual rate, up from the 572,000 May rate and from the 521,000 rate of June of last year.

Retirements

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

Decatur

Robert O. Ross, iron rough castings grinder, 20 years and 13 days, Sept. 5 (80 Plan).

Robert P. Gross, industrial shop truck operator, 36 years, 11 months and 16 days, Sept. 20.

Mueller, Limited

George I. Lucas, cost accountant, 43 years, 4 months, 11 days, Aug. 7.

Elmer A. O'Dell, turret lathe operator, 31 years, 4 months, 19 days, Aug. 22.