

NEWSLETTER

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Joe Penne, Editor

3 SALES TRAINEES ASSIST UNITED WAY

During September and October Mueller Co.'s three sales trainees will be loaned to the United Way of Decatur and Macon County to assist in the organizing and promotion of the annual appeal.

Glen E. McPeters, Joe R. Haines and William R. Koester will devote full time to the United Way program, helping campaign volunteers run and organize their in-plant and in-company campaigns. Along with a "loaned" man from the First National Bank, they will show United Way films, talk to groups, conduct tours, maintain campaign supplies and materials and work with the press. They will be working for United Way but be paid by their regular employers.

Norman E. Russell, executive director of the local United Way program, said, "Through such generous contributions from firms as Mueller Co., the United Way is able to keep campaign costs at a minimum and as a result more funds can be budgeted directly to agencies helping people. The men we get carry out important duties that must be performed by someone, and if we didn't get them from local businesses, we would have to add to our own full-time staff or hire it done by temporary people."

A.D. (Del) Parks, general sales manager, added that the company has found through the years that the experience the men gain with the United Way serves as a valuable supplement to the total sales training program.

IT ISN'T EASY TO RETIRE

When Paul Hickman recently said, "It is sometimes easier to get a job than to get out of one" he was referring to the paperwork, forms, desk clearing, farewells, etc. that go with retiring.

Paul, who retired Sept. 30 as vice-president - manufacturing at age 64, is looking forward to months filled with travel, but there is one other thing about "getting out of work" that he finds difficult. It is obvious when he starts talking about the "good people in this company" that he finds it hard to leave.

"This is a good company filled with fine employees who care. I'm going to miss them," he said.

Since he elected to take early retirement, he and his wife, Virginia, have been planning an extensive trip in their motor coach. They plan to go to New England for about a month to visit their daughters, then head for Mesa, Arizona, for a brief stay before they head for Mexico. Following a number of weeks in Mexico, they will establish a permanent home in either Colorado or New England.

Although they will have a regular address, they will be difficult to find at home because of their fondness for traveling in the U.S., Mexico and Canada.

Hickman, a native of New Jersey, is a 1930 engineering graduate of Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa., and his first job was as field engineer on the George Washington Bridge, New York. In his spare time he eked out a depression salary by fighting on the "carnival circuit." In 1935 he joined Ingersoll-Rand Company and for the next five years he sold and erected mining and drilling equipment in South America.

From 1940 to 1942 he was with ARMCO International Corporation and then from 1942 to 1959 he was with the Remington Arms Company, Bridgeport, Conn., much of the time selling firearms and ammunition in Central and South America. In 1960 he joined General Dynamics Corp. in New York as a member of the corporate staff and then in December, 1963 he came to Mueller Co. as a manager of manufacturing. In August of 1965 he was elected vice president - manufacturing at Mueller Co., succeeding Frank A. Speer.

A FIRE HYDRANT ALL HIS OWN

Fifteen-year-old boys collect unusual things and have interests that match.

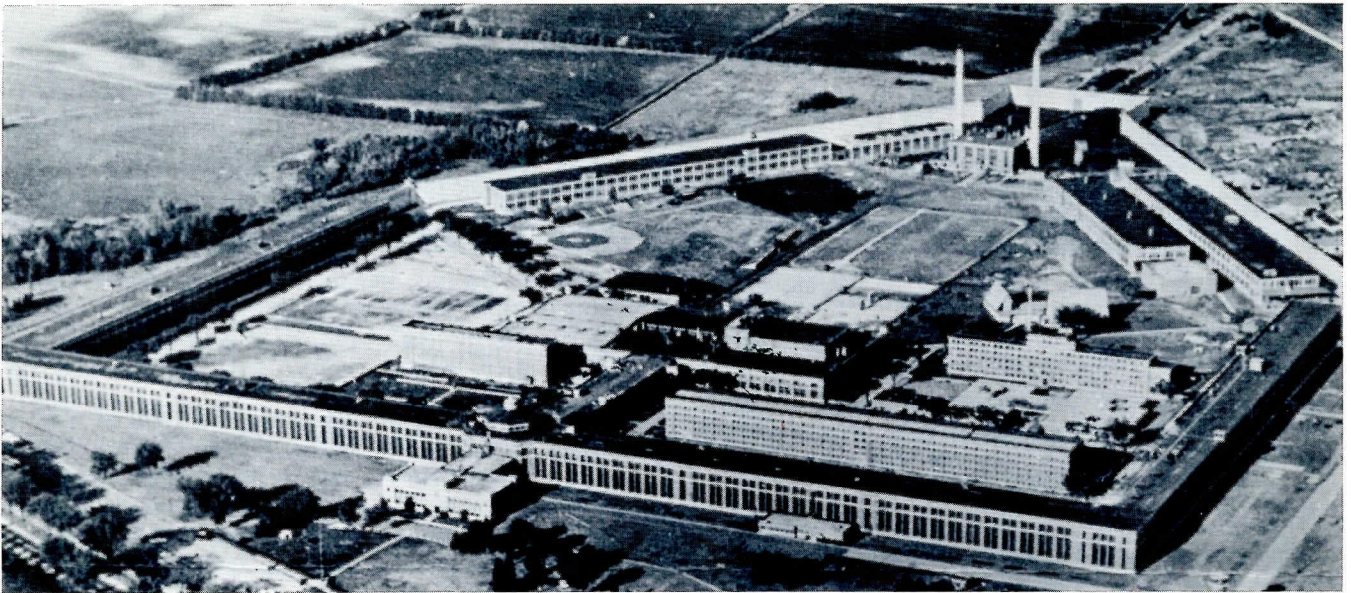
Remember a few months ago we wrote in the NEWSLETTER that Mueller Co. had received a request from a young man in El Paso, Texas, for a new Mueller® Modern, Improved fire hydrant? The youth was building a "test center for fire fighting equipment" in his backyard and he needed a hydrant to add to the setup.

Chattanooga Sales Office Manager George Piper got interested in the project and exchanged correspondence with the young man. Our area Sales Representative Bob Martin plans to stop in to see the test site when he gets to El Paso and check the installation.

Although our young man originally wanted the latest design in fire hydrants, he was convinced that the smaller, lighter post type would be easier to handle and to install. A threaded inlet connection had to be substituted for the flanged inlet, but the hydrant was shipped in August. It arrived the day school started and he had to delay its installation - but he appreciated the interest of the company.

In a letter to Piper, he said, "Thank you for everything you have done for me. You have done what no other company has done and I appreciate your help."

Who said big business is cold, calculating and not interested?



NOBODY VOTES IN MY TOWN

By Pete (87776) Simer

As another presidential election day approaches, probably never before was so much at stake in America. But nobody votes in my town and most of my 3,700 townsmen apparently are chronic misfits who couldn't care less. My town is "Jacktown" - Southern Michigan Prison, near Jackson.

Now, in the morning chow line, a young murderer and a middle-aged burglar seem ready to tangle in an argument on the merits of the Republican Party. An alert guard breaks it up just in time.

The burglar is serving his fifth term in my town. I know him well. So, after he cools off, I needle him a bit, saying, "I take it you voted for Hubert Humphrey."

"You kiddin'?" he scowls. "Man, I never voted in my life. I got sense enough to know no matter who gets elected, the best any little guy's gonna get is the worst of it. The hell with votin'!"

That's seditious philosophy, isn't it? "The hell with votin'!" Means down with democracy, your country, your government and, consequently, every home (where government really begins) in the land.

Yet, I have been guilty of comparable "sedition." It came out disguised something like this: "Didn't get around to voting; had too many other things to do on election day." The reflection isn't easy to face, now that I have been stripped of my voting rights for many elections to come.

I begin to wonder how my neighbors feel about not being allowed to vote. Later, I question nearly 300 of them. Almost 90% merely shrug or otherwise indicate lack of concern. Eighty individuals admit that they had never voted! (Could the deeds that landed us here be germane to such disregard for democracy?) Consider three responses to: "Did you vote regularly when you were free?"

Gambling syndicate underling (age 33, serving 5-10

No one votes in this community.

(NOTE: This feature is a product of Southern Michigan Prison's Inmate Writing Program. The author must serve 100 months yet to complete a term for bad checks.)

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years): "The organization always saw to it that I voted; even told me who and what to vote for."

Alcoholic (age 47, doing 1-2 for non-support): "They'd let me off work in time to make it to the polls, all right. But I'd stop at a buddy's house to talk the election over. There'd be a bottle or two around. And somehow, before I considered all the issues and candidates and decided who'd get my vote, it was either too late or I was too loaded to care anymore."

Sex offender (age 39, serving 1½-10 years): "I never voted except in presidential elections. I voted for Dick because my name is Nixon, too." (Wouldn't it be interesting to know how many other votes are cast for similar, lackadaisical reasons?)

As for me - well, occasionally it is unpleasant to face the mirror of patriotism. Instead of voting I have gone hunting and fishing; attended to personal matters of assorted kinds. But the future will offer opportunities to prove my determination never again to skip a chance to vote. And I will vote as intelligently as I can.

In the meantime, what about you?

Like many other sheer blessings in our full-fashioned freedom, the privilege of voting just can't completely be appreciated until it is lost. I know. So I must agree with the immigrant who said: "Most Americans can't adequately appreciate their system of government because they don't understand what it ain't."

However, our Star Spangled Banner waves best when every thread is intact. Similarly, the government it represents needs every vote.

But nobody votes in my town. Nobody may.

What could be worse, patriotically?

Your town, where every adult citizen may vote. . . and some don't.

FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES

Effective Sept. 15 in Decatur, **Richard C. Tish**, formerly assistant Brass Foundry foreman, was promoted to Iron Machine Shop foreman. **Wayne L. Dortch**, formerly a machine operator, has been promoted to assistant Brass Foundry foreman.

The following promotions were effective Oct. 1 in Decatur:

William R. Lawyer, formerly assistant Specialty production control manager, named Plant 4 production control manager. **Max B. Justice**, formerly inventory analyst, succeeds Lawyer as assistant Specialty production control manager. **Marshall W. McGaughey**, who worked in the Industrial Engineering office, has been promoted to inventory analyst. **Robert E. Barcus**, formerly a product inspector, has been promoted to assistant Brass Foundry foreman.

In Brea, **John J. Hale**, formerly junior tool engineer, has been promoted to purchasing agent, effective Sept. 15. On Oct. 1, three changes occurred: **Thomas P. Summers** moved from Foundry shift foreman to Brass Foundry shift foreman; **Harold V. Hassebrock** moved from senior time study engineer to assistant Iron Foundry foreman; and **Robert V. Duff** went from assistant Iron Foundry foreman to Iron Foundry shift foreman.

A new face in Brea is that of **Rehan Ullah**, who was named laboratory supervisor, effective Sept. 15.

WHERE DOES INCOME MONEY GO?

Many people are confused about the division of income between owners and employees of American corporations. Some feel that as much as three or four times more income goes to owners than employees - but the reverse is true. In 1965, about \$46.5 billion went to profits, while \$249 billion went to payrolls. In 1970, the difference was even wider. Profits got \$43.8 billion, and payrolls got \$365.5 billion.

News Briefs

Congratulations to Herman Easley, customer service coordinator in Chattanooga, who shared the managerial duties of the Red Bank Dixie Youth baseball team this year. This group of 11 and 12 year olds won the state tournament and competed in the Dixie Youth World Series at Winterhaven, Fla., where they finished fourth.

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We don't usually make birth announcements in this publication, but when a man as "youthful" as Bob Ott becomes a grandfather - then it's news. This is a first for the Southern District sales manager and he is still excited. The Otts' son David is the proud father, but his pride can't exceed that of the grandfather when they discuss Jacqueline Elizabeth who was born on Labor Day. (Bob never imagined he'd ever be married to a grandmother.)

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Brook Johnson, teenaged son of Charles W. Johnson, manager of production and inventory control in Decatur, recently completed a 100-mile bike ride in 12 hours and received award patches from the local riding group, Prairie Pedalers, and another from the League of American Wheelmen, a national organization. The ride circuit included the towns of Blue Mound, Warrensburg, Forsythe and Cerro Gordo.

* *

About 50 men attended the September meeting of retirees in Decatur at the Scanda House. The October meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. on the 12th. All men retirees are invited to attend. James Botts, a former employee, made a gavel for Bill Dannewitz, who serves as master of ceremonies; so it will be a little easier for Bill to interrupt all of the friendly conversation that goes on before the informal meeting.

REMINDERS ON RETIREMENT

Jean and Robert Hersey include in their book, "These Rich Years," a list of guides and reminders they have found relevant to their own retirement. Here are a few.

--Keep in touch with people of all ages, from various areas and with varied interests.

--Be open and ready for new friends, all the while deepening the friendships we have by being creative together in work and play.

--Explore some unfamiliar paths together, exciting provocative ones.

--Remind ourselves not to take life too seriously, and to express freely and frequently the pure joy that lies in us all.

--Learn to flow with the bright days and follow where they lead because they are the building, creative days that refresh and refill us.

--Be willing to let go and let younger people take over in areas where we have excelled.

--Accept only about half the outside responsibilities, that we feel we could easily handle.

--Be willing to accept different ways, with curiosity and interest, if not total agreement.

--Remember not to hark back too often to the past.

--Accept lapses in another and in ourselves uncritically and with patience.

--Keep in mind the value of a change of pace in every phase of life.

--Remind ourselves occasionally that "sometime is now" and be sure we are doing at least a few of the dozen or so things we have always said we would explore in retirement.

--Include regularly in our lives, something that is pure joy and without purpose; something difficult to do; something we do for someone else; and some time of letting go and doing nothing.

--Live, and be, and use what we believe rather than talk about it.

--Remember to listen to the essence of things, to listen beyond words, and to look beyond what we see.

J. A. PROGRAM GETS UNDERWAY

The Junior Achievement program in Decatur got underway Sept. 23 with orientation for the advisors of all J.A. firms sponsored by local industry and business.

Advisors from Mueller Co. This year are: Jack C. O'Reilly, and Larry Warfield, industrial engineers; Bill Lawyer, production control manager at Plant 4; and Ray Ewing, sales office.

Evelyn Cox, an advisor from Mueller Co. two years ago, is now a member of the Junior Achievement volunteer staff and was one of four who conducted the orientation.

The J.A. program year begins the second week in October with the high-school age Achievers splitting into groups to form their miniature companies.

Any high school student in the Decatur area is eligible to join and can sign up by going to the J.A. Center, 480 East North St., Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Employees are urged to pass this information along to members of their families who may want to learn about business and our economic system through the operation of a Junior Achievement company.

HOUSING STARTS TURN UPWARD IN AUGUST

Housing starts for August reversed a downward trend of the previous two months and rose sharply to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.4 million units.

The latest statistics from the Commerce Department indicate that the August starts are about 100,000 units ahead of June and exceed July by about 200,000 units. The August rate is about 10% ahead of a year before and the highest since the record 2,682,000 rate last February.

Localized housing surpluses together with concern that mortgage credit conditions would have tightened discouragingly by now, had convinced many economists that the housing boom was fading some months ago. The drop the last few months had added to this pessimism, but the rebound in August suggests that there is much more life in the housing sector than once imagined.

NEW HOLIDAY INN HAS MUELLER ROOM

The newly-opened Holiday Inn in Decatur uses the names of eight of the city's major industries, including Mueller Co., to identify private meeting rooms at the 200-unit motel.

The Mueller Room is 25 by 40 feet and has theatre seating for 120 or can accommodate 80 for a dinner meeting. The eight private rooms can be merged into one large area that can seat up to 2,200 for a meeting.

1 OF 5 WORKS FOR GOVERNMENT

According to a recent study by Tax Foundation, Inc., one out of every five employees now works for government. Federal, state and local government employment, which was 3.2 million or 9% of the total U.S. full-time employment in 1929, rose to 14.4 million or 20% in 1970.

Retirements

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

Decatur

Paul Hickman, vice president - manufacturing, 8 years and 10 months, Sept. 30.

Robert L. Oberline, key fitter in Dept. 80, 36 years, 11 months and 16 days, Sept. 30.

Lyle C. Woodard, draftsman in Dept. 44, 19 years, 3 months and 6 days, Sept. 29.

Chattanooga

Hirston Russell, shipping and warehouse laborer, 31 years, 5 months and 17 days, Sept. 30

Lemuel Warren, assistant foreman - assembly department, 31 years, 11 months and 1 day, Sept. 30.

FAULTY EQUIPMENT CAUSES 23% OF HOME ACCIDENTS

Less than one-fourth of all home accidents can be attributed to faulty design in manufactured products, the president of Underwriter's Laboratories said.

Citing a survey made by Market Facts, Baron Whitaker said only 23% of home accidents are caused by product failure. He said the majority of home accidents are attributable to environmental conditions such as inadequate lighting of stairways, sports participation, substances occurring in nature and persons bumping into others or objects.

(Practice safety at home as well as at work!)

Service Awards

The following Mueller employees received service awards during September.

Chattanooga

10 Years: Jackson N. Guice, Elmore England, Edwin L. Roberts, Charlie E. Chappell

20 Years: Harold G. Johnson

30 Years: B. L. McClendon

Decatur

10 Years: Glen Bieber, William J. Henneman, Walter Morgenthaler, John K. Rohman, Harold W. Chambers, Ronald L. Chaney, Larry L. Sheets, Bennett Wilkins

20 Years: Gerald Myers, Paul D. Ater, Donald Rauch, Keith C. Meachum

30 Years: Leroy Ashby, John W. Morrison

Outside Sales

10 Years: Richard Kahl