

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 6 February, 1974

Published by MUELLER CO., Decatur, Illinois

Don Bathe, Coordinator

**LOCAL 838 A.I.W.
ELECTS OFFICERS**

Officers for Local 838 A.I.W. representing about 720 Decatur employees are:

Roger Drake, President; Dale Streight, Vice President; John Hackl, Secretary; John Williams, Treasurer; Joe Baughman, Guide; Charles Wade, Sergeant at Arms.

Don Dagley, Don Rouch and Robert McCoy were elected as trustees. Elected to the bargaining committee were: Robert Byers, Tom McCoy, Glen Burrows, Murl Lee and Nelson Hoffman.

**THREE NEWSLETTER
CORRESPONDENTS NAMED**

Jack Malone, Manager of Employee Relations in Chattanooga, Phyllis Turner of the Personnel Dept. in Sarnia and Mary Lou Bellante of the Personnel Dept. in Brea have been named correspondents at their respective plants to help make the NEWSLETTER more informative about Mueller employees.

**FAMILIAR FACES
IN NEW PLACES**

Richard Siemer, formerly inventory analyst in the Brea Plant has been promoted to the position of production and inventory control supervisor replacing Wayne L. Fike who recently left the company.

Thomas Meyers, formerly senior scheduler was promoted to Inventory Analyst.

**TURKEY HUNT
IN ILLINOIS**

The turkey hunting season in Illinois this year will consist of two five-day hunts -- April 17-21 and April 26-30. This is a four day increase over last year. Alexander, Jackson, Pope and Union Counties will open to 400 hunters, 200 for each period. Only gobblers or male turkeys may be taken. The permit costs \$5.00 and you must have one. Applications will be accepted on a first serve basis beginning Feb. 11, with no more than two applications to an envelope. Give name, address, first and second choice of counties in which to hunt and choice of seasons. Send your application along with \$5.00 to Department of Conservation-Turkey, 400 So. Spring St., Room 613 State Office Building, Springfield 62706. No guns over 10 gauge or smaller than 20 gauge will be allowed.

**NEW PLANT
SITE SELECTED**

According to an announcement made by President Harlan A. White, a new plant site as revealed in the August NEWSLETTER has been changed from Athens, Ala. to a new location at Albertville, Ala.

Albertville is the largest city in Marshall County, and the largest city on Sand Mountain. It is connected by railroad and four-lane highway to the Tennessee River and Port of Guntersville just ten miles away. Located in the heart of the Cherokee and Creek Indian country, Marshall County and the Sand Mountain area are rich in Indian lore and history.

The city of Albertville was incorporated in 1893, and has enjoyed a steady growth and development since that time. Today Albertville is one of the fastest-growing cities of its size in Alabama. Its population increased from 5,395 in 1950 to 8,272 in 1960 and to 10,000 in 1970.

Albertville has a wide variety of manufacturing, processing, service and construction industries--ranging from textiles, shirts, thread, furniture, electric heaters and automotive renovation shops to building and heavy-construction contractors. The vast poultry industry complex is the area's largest employer.

Albertville is located on the N.C. & St. L. Railroad from Gadsden, Alabama to Elora, Tenn., and Highways 431, 205 and 75. Excellent highway freight service is provided by five lines serving the city. Continental Trailways provides direct passenger bus service to all points, with twelve busses into and out of Albertville daily. Commercial airline service is only 25 miles away at Gadsden, 50 miles away at Huntsville, and 70 miles away at Birmingham.

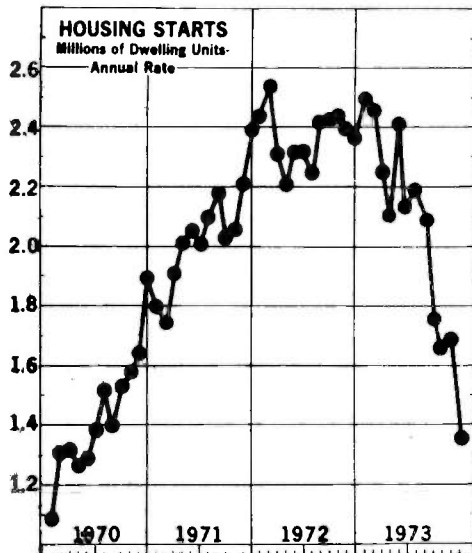
Electric power is purchased from the TVA. Water is pumped from the Tennessee River and purified through a modern filtering system, offering an almost unlimited source of water.

**RETIREES'
LUNCHEONS**

The women retirees met Feb. 6. The next meeting is scheduled for March 6, at 12:00 at the Elks Club.

The retired men's luncheon was February 14, with 46 in attendance. The next meeting will be March 14 at Swartz's Restaurant.

Housing Starts Down



HOUSING STARTS FELL SHARPLY IN DECEMBER

The pace of housing starts slumped to a 3½-year low in December.

New housing starts plummeted 20.1% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,355,000 units from 1,696,000 in November and 2,369,000 a year earlier, the Commerce Department reported. It was the lowest rate since May 1970, and the biggest monthly percentage drop since March 1960.

The December decline in housing starts resumed the downward slide of recent months after a small upturn in November.

"This is the deepest housing recession on record" in terms of year-to-year decline in the housing-starts rate, said Michael Sumichrast, the association's chief economist. "I still think the rate is going to go down for the next three months before bottoming out at between 1.2 million and 1.3 million. The only problem is that it's going to be a very long bottoming out," Mr. Sumichrast said.

The department estimated that actual housing starts for 1973 totaled 2,043,000 homes and apartments, down 13% from a high of 2,357,000 in 1972 but still the third best year on record.

When a little boy had to go to the doctor, his mother commented that the doctor would probably give him some medicine. Instead, the boy received a penicillin shot. That evening he told his daddy: "They didn't give me medicine to swallow--they just pinned some on me."

NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY SUPPORTS PROPOSED ENERGY TAX

The natural gas industry strongly endorsed a proposed national energy trust fund to speed development of the nation's potential resources.

John W. Partridge, chairman of the Columbia Gas System, Inc., Wilmington, Del., acknowledged that "ultimately all energy consumers would pay for the cost of developing new energy sources for their future use," but pointed out that the impact on consumers would be minimal.

Partridge estimated that the average residential gas customer would pay about 50 cents per month under energy tax rates suggested in proposed legislation.

Partridge also recommended a workable energy administration and advisory council including key government officials with primary responsibilities in energy-related areas and highly-qualified persons from the private sector, rather than a proposed administration and cumbersome 22-member Commission on energy Technology Assessment, "so large it would invite indecision."

In addition to backing the energy trust fund, the gas industry spokesman voiced support for the concept, as expressed in the bill introduced by Senator Mike Gravel, (D-Alaska) of deregulating natural gas, reiterating the need for ending wellhead price controls on new gas sold in interstate commerce.

Partridge also discouraged a proposal that would establish statutory limitations on energy imports, at least until the United States has attained energy self-sufficiency. "To do otherwise," Partridge said, "could deprive the nation of badly-needed supplies during this period of shortages."

• • • • •
When a woman lowers her voice, she wants something; when she raises it, it's a sign she didn't get it.

DELMAR BAGENSKI HEADS DECATUR CREDIT UNION

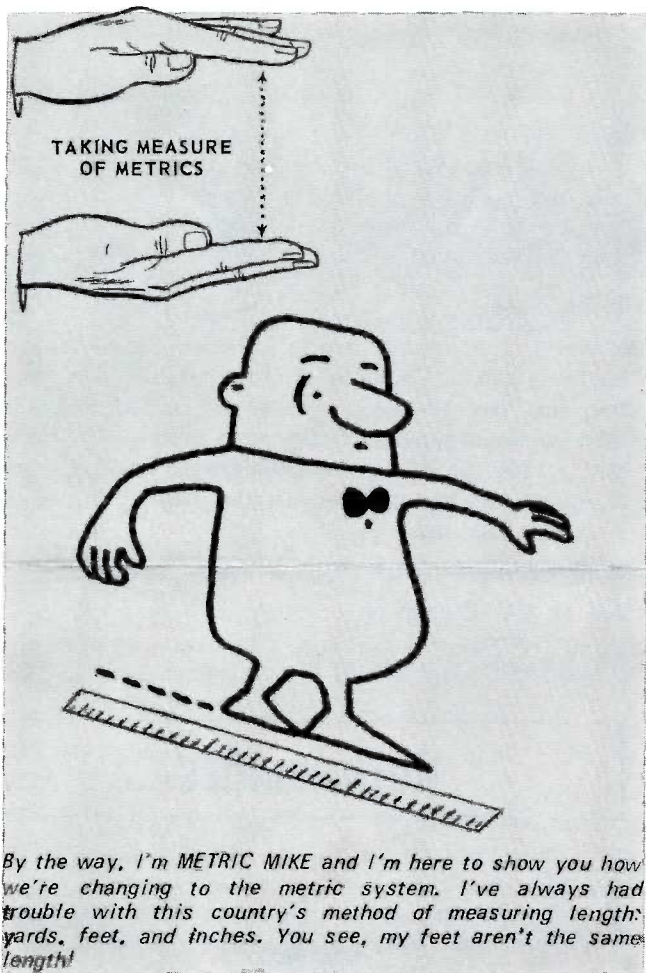
Mueller Co. Employees Credit Union held its annual members Dinner meeting January 26 at the Masonic Temple with 375 in attendance.

Officers for the year are:

Delmar E. Bagenski, President; Dan N. Morris, Vice President; R. Dale Streight, Secretary; Harold Munsterman, Treasurer.

Three new directors were elected replacing directors who have retired from Mueller Co. They are: Billie J. Brooks, Gary Glen Hartman, Gary L. Mackling.

Retiring from the board are: Eric Blankenberg, after serving 15 years; Cecil Wilson with 11 years on the board and Amos Bailey with 10 years.



EVERYONE CAN HELP OUT IN THE ENERGY CRISIS

Energy demand doubled between 1950 and 1970 as the world population explosion strained fuel supplies. Demand is estimated to be doubled again by 1985. Even worse, battling in and among oil producing countries places greater dependence on imports. It's also causing increased concern about environmental costs. Besides, the supply-demand squeeze is pushing up the dollar cost of energy. Saving energy is not only economically sound -- it reduces ecological problems as well.

Home owners help if they check heating and cooling systems, and set thermostats a few degrees lower. They can save money and conserve the energy now in such short supply. Even better, corrective measures in the area of the greatest heat loss, can prevent waste of as much as 45% of the fuel bill. Good insulation bounces back furnace heat in the winter or solar heat in summer. Good insulation, if faced with aluminum foil retards heat flow and serves as a positive barrier against moisture vapor.

The National Bureau of Standards suggests that if your ceiling now has three or four inches of insulation, it is to your advantage to increase the thickness to the equivalent of six inches. Insulation can make the following savings:

- * 90 per cent of heat loss compared to uninsulated roofs.
- * 60 per cent of heat loss compared to uninsulated walls.
- * 70 per cent of heat loss compared to uninsulated floors.

Storm windows and storm doors also form effective barriers to transfer of outdoor heat to the indoors and indoor heat to the outdoors. Aluminum frames stand up to all kinds of weather conditions, without rusting rotting or warping. The NBS advises keeping storm windows in place on all windows except those to be used for ventilating during the air conditioning season. Where the average winter temperature is lower than 45 degrees, the NBS suggests that investment in storm windows will pay for itself in 10 years, including interest costs at 6%, and thereafter will return an annual dividend at the rate of 13%.

Here's how you can conserve energy, save money and do your part this winter:

- * *Install or increase insulation -- six inches thick for ceilings, three to four inches for walls. Use practical aluminum-faced insulation as it is impermeable to moisture as well as an efficient reflector.*
- * *Install aluminum storm windows and doors. (If you hold a lighted candle near a door frame you can detect incoming air by watching how the flame acts).*
- * *A layer of aluminum foil between a radiator and a cold wall will reflect heat back into a room.*
- * *Close doors and radiators, or registers of rooms that are seldom used.*
- * *Lower the customary daytime setting of the thermostat by one degree. (This will save three to four per cent on the fuel bill. Lowering it five degrees will realize a savings of 15 to 20 per cent on fuel).*
- * *Lower thermostat at night -- 60 to 65 degrees is recommended for sleeping.*

DOLLAR GAINS ON YEN

The oil crisis in Japan has brought about the devaluation of its yen 6.7% against the U.S. dollar.

In Europe, the move triggered still another rush of dollar buying that propelled the U.S. currency to steep new gains against most other funds, as well.

What started as a quiet return to the dollar intensified this fall as Arab states started slowing oil production to win support for their battle against Israel. The dollar buying became a torrent in late December when the Persian Gulf producers and then most others outside the U.S. decided to sharply increase the price of their crude oil.

The two oil moves hit Japan hard because it depends on imports for almost all its petroleum. Europe also is heavily reliant on imported oil. Even if Arab oil was restored in full, the increased cost would be a heavy drain on both Japanese and European economies.

The U.S. by contrast, depends on imports for far less of its oil supply, and thus would be far less hurt than others by the international moves.

The January 11 *Wall Street Journal* illustrated that the currency-market activity spilled over to gold trading. In active trading in London on that date, the bullion quote jumped \$3 an ounce, to \$121.50.

NEWS FROM CHATTANOOGA

(Jack Malone)

VICE PRESIDENT FORD TO SPEAK IN CHATTANOOGA

Jack Vincent, process control supervisor, announces another "first" for Chattanooga. Vice President Gerald Ford will address the Engineers' Banquet on February 18th. Last year's honored guests, as you well remember, were the Apollo 17 astronauts. Jack, who is chairman for the Chattanooga Chapter of the American Society for Metals, was also instrumental in January in obtaining the services of Harry Kessler, a man of impressive stature in the metals and sports world.

Participation by Mueller Co. in the American Society for Metals has been highly rewarding according to Jack.

CAROL SERRE AWARDED OUTSTANDING HONOR

Amiable, petite and attractive Carol Serre has been selected by "Outstanding Young Women of America" for 1973. She was nominated by Beta Sigma Phi Sorority on the basis of her achievements.

The Outstanding Young Women of America program was conceived by the leaders of the Nation's major women organizations. The program recognizes young women between the ages of 21 and 35 for their contributions to the betterment of the community, professions and country.

Carol, incidentally, is married to Jim Serre who is Manager of Industrial Engineering. They have three children.

In the community she is a volunteer at Moccasin Bend State Hospital, the March of Dimes, Telerama, and Birth Defects Center Volunteer. Need we say more.

Service Awards

The following Mueller employees recently received service awards.

Mueller, Limited

20 Years: Louis Boulanger

30 Years: William Ryan

Brea

10 Years: James Roberts, James Fluegge, Cornelius Ross

20 Years: James Wolf, Chester Hawes

Decatur

10 Years: John T. Flowers, Carl E. Thaxton

20 Years: John W. Niederbrach, Jack P. Parsons

Chattanooga

10 Years: James M. Hamby, Martin L. Crowder, Warner A. Ricketts

WORLD DATE LINE

The date line in the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and the Orient marks the ending of one day and the beginning of the next.

In calculating standard time around the world, consider the path of the sun. When the sun rises on Japan and China a new day is begun. The sun carries that day across Siberia, Russia, Germany, France, England, the Atlantic Ocean, the United States, and on to the Hawaiian Islands. When it sets on the Hawaiian Islands that day is finished, and as it rises again on Japan, China, the Philippines, and Australia, the next day is begun, while the United States is still in the darkness of the night before. Thus it is that a radio broadcast from the Orient on Wednesday morning can be received in the United States on Tuesday evening.

Retirements

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

Chattanooga

L.D. Satterwhite, power cut-off saw operator, 37 years, 5 months and 7 days, Feb. 22.

POTENTIAL GAS SUPPLIES HIGH

In testifying before the Senate Commerce Committee on bills to deregulate new gas supplies, American Gas Association witnesses offered statistics which may be helpful in countering those who are suggesting that we are running out of natural gas. The following is a direct quote:

"The potential supplies of natural gas in the lower 48 states, including our Outer Continental Shelf areas, together with those in Alaska and in the Arctic Isles, totals some 1,600 trillion cubic feet by even the most conservative estimates. Nuclear stimulation and other research could unlock another 300 trillion in the extremely tight formations of the Rocky Mountain area. The potential from coal gasification is at least 500 trillion. This totals 2,400 trillion and does not include new supplemental supplies by importing LNG or gasifying liquid hydrocarbons. This potential assumes its proper perspective when compared with 1972 consumption of 23 trillion cubic feet or even the lower 48 (states) proved reserve estimate of 235 trillion cubic feet."