

NEWSLETTER

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Don Bathe, Coordinator

IN MEMORIAM



John W. Kirk died April 28, in University Hospital, Jackson, Mississippi as a result of an automobile accident on January 25.

He was 33 years old, and had been with Mueller Co. ten years.

John and his family moved from Blue Mound to Clinton, Mississippi, a community just outside of Jackson, in October, 1971 when he was named Sales Representative for that area.

He worked in the Decatur Sales Department and in the Advertising and Sales Promotion Department for seven years. His co-workers, as well as his many friends in 4X and Golf League anxiously followed his three-month fight to live.

He leaves his wife Chris, daughters Lisa, Lana and Lenae.

GEORGE BINKLEY NAMED DECATUR PERSONNEL MGR.

George F. Binkley, formerly manager of engineering services transferred to the Personnel Office March 1, 1974 and was promoted to the position of Personnel Director upon the retirement of Cecil Coffin April 25.

MUELLER MACHINE TO THE RESCUE

A leaking chemical tank on Chicago's far south side pressed many people into action on Friday, April 26. The tank contained silicon tetrachloride and as the escaping gas came into contact with moisture in the air, hydrochloric acid was formed. More than 16,000 south side residents were forced to leave their homes to avoid the poisonous fumes.

The Cabot Corporation, owner of the tanks, called Jim Jones of our Sales Office around 3 p.m. to obtain a CI-36 drilling machine. Jim, realizing the urgency of the situation, suggested that they call Garland Smith Engineering Co., Inc. in Hinsdale, Illinois who had a CI-36 drilling machine and was much closer to the area.

Mr. Smith, along with four employees with specialized equipment, was on the scene by 5 p.m. Wearing protective suits and carrying their own oxygen while working in the cloud of deadly silicon tetrachloride, these men worked 20 hours nonstop transferring the toxic liquid from the leaking 500,000 gallon tank to more secure storage locations.

A nipple was welded to the side of the tank, a gate valve attached and a CI-36 drilling machine was used to drill a hole in the side of the tank to drain the chemical.

A letter of thanks was sent to Jim Jones from the Garland Smith Engineering Co., Inc. for his part in handling the emergency.

THANK YOU TO EMPLOYEES

A letter from Cantrell Hall, Decatur and Macon County opportunity Home for Boys was received this week acknowledging with thanks our recent contribution through the United Way to the Home.

"We appreciate your interest and kindness and we trust that you will continue taking an interest in our work."



A letter of thanks was received from the United Fund of Taylorville and Vicinity acknowledging those employees who marked their gifts for that area.

"Thank you for your support. It is through your contribution and many others that have made our drives so successful."

EMPLOYEE TOURS



Approximately 125 office employees in Decatur toured the two plants in Decatur. A schedule of tours was set up while both plants were in full operation.

Plant 4 people were familiar with rough castings and were especially interested in the different machining processes to convert these rough pieces into finished products. Plant 1 employees were amazed at the furnaces at the Foundry and the molding operations. Lead wiping proved to be a fascinating attraction for all the touring employees.

The tours were directed by men capable of answer-



ing the many questions that came up.

People deal with each other over the phone daily, send reports back and forth and recognize voices instantly, but would not know these same people if they met on the street.

One couldn't help overhearing comments-- Gee, is that what he looks like, I thought he was much older-- You're Carol, I thought you were a blond--Oh, that's why the report has to go to him first--That's what ground keys look like?--You can't mean we use \$70,000 worth of brass a day.

Service Awards

The following Mueller employees received service awards during May.

Decatur

- 10 Years: Richard L. Lazell, Harlan T. Donaldson, Martha C. Malloy
 20 Years: Carrol W. Virt, Wilbur J. Wendling, Don W. Kelly
 30 Years: Darrell E. Smith

Mueller, Limited

- 30 Years: Roy Blacklock

Chattanooga

- 10 Years: James E. Daggett, R. Edward Garner
 20 Years: Milford Morton, Everette W. Smith, Ramon J. Clark, Eldridge L. Daniel, Thomas E. Heffington, Mary K. Smith, Bobby R. Grayson, Lankford Carson, Dean Andrews

FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES

In Decatur, **William Lindgren**, formerly a programmer will now be an application programmer. **James Paslay** was promoted from industrial engineer to programmer. **William Clark**, formerly a senior draftsman was promoted to industrial technician.

Retirements

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

Chattanooga

- David C. Nichols**, finished product assembler, 15 years, 8 months and 12 days, April 30, 1974. (Physical Disability)
Harvey A. Close, pattern maker 18 years and 3 days, April 26.
Harvey Veal, machine operator, 32 years, 1 month and 7 days, April 30.

PRICELESS ASSETS

"Men and institutions who gain confidence, build upon that confidence and hold and deserve the confidence of the people they serve, have an asset more priceless than any treasure"

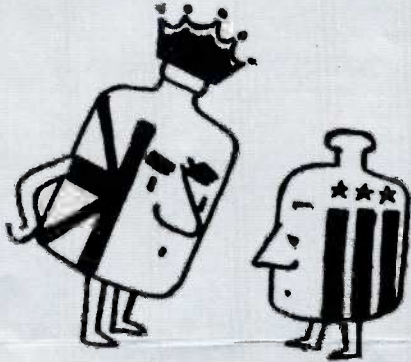
... James J. Kilpatrick

YOU ARX NXXDXD

Whxn you arx txmptxd to takx a day off without notifying your managxr, and you think that thx absxnxc of onx pxrson won't makx too much diffxrxncx, you placx your managxr in thx samx position as a fllow trying to typx with onx kxy missing. Hx can makx substitutions just as wx havx donx, but thx rxslult is nxxvr thx samx as whxn hx's working with thx right pxoplx on thx right jobs.

FROM METRIC MIKE

In the year 1793 when the French National Assembly first adopted the meter as the new unit of linear measure, few people paid much attention to the change. Oh! A few scientists began to use the new system because all measurements were in decimals and all units were related. But most of the world continued to plod along using the familiar ounces and pounds, inches and feet, quarts and gallons, rods and furlongs and miles.



What difference did it really make that the British "Imperial" gallon was bigger than the American gallon?

Not much difference in 1793.

Since then, however, the number of nations using the Metric System of Measurement has steadily grown so that the United States now stands almost alone in keeping to its "yard".

**GREETINGS FROM RETIREE
STAN ASHBY OF HOLLISTER, MO.**

How do I know my youth is spent?
Because my 'get up and go' has got up and went.
But in spite of all that, I am able to grin
When I think where my 'get up and go' has been.

Old age is golden, I have heard it said,
But sometimes I wonder as I go to bed--
My ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup,
My eyes on the table 'till I get up.

Ere sleep dims my eyes, I say to myself,
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?
But, I am happy to say, as I close the door,
My friends are the same as in days of yore.

When I was young, my slippers were red.
I could kick my heels right over my head.
When I got older, my slippers were blue,
But I still could dance the whole night through.

Now I am old, my slippers are black,
So I walk to the corner and puff my way back.
So the reason I know that my youth is spent,
Is my 'get up and go' has got up and went.

But I really don't mind, when I think with a grin,
Of all the places my 'get up and go' has been.
Since I have retired from life's competition,
I busy myself with a complete repetition,

I get up each morning, dust off my wits,
pick up the paper and read the "obits".
If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead.
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed.

(Author unknown)

**HOUSING STARTS
UP 10% IN APRIL**

The ailing housing industry's prospects for recovery remained mixed in April.

"It's quite a mixed picture," said Michael Sumichrast, chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders. April housing starts were "fairly good", and the Nixon administration's recently announced program to pump up to \$10.3 billion into the home mortgage market should help stimulate some starts later this year, Mr. Sumichrast said. But the continued lag in building permits through the first quarter "pretty much sets up the full year for us" and "it doesn't show much strength in housing," he said,

On the positive side, the Commerce Department said housing starts in the month of April rose 10% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,626,000 from the rate of 1,484,000 units in March.

On the negative side, the rate of building permits, an indicator of future housing construction, fell 10% in April.

There are indications that demand for housing is at a substantially stronger level than indicated by housing starts," Commerce Secretary Frederick Dent said.

James Lynn, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, agreed that the April rise in housing starts should be interpreted "with caution" due to the drop in building permits. But "While it is too early in the year to determine an actual trend," Secretary Lynn said, "we are confident that the President's actions" to make available more mortgage money "will add impetus to the housing industry in future months."

**LETTER OF APPRECIATION
FROM CITY EMPLOYEES**

A letter of thanks was received from W.R. O'Connell, Director of Finance for the City of Decatur, for the fine job recently performed by Bill Knorr, Bill Coffey and the Sales training Department in hosting a water products school for the city water works employees.

The employees all agreed that it was a very informative school and that our personnel did an excellent job of explaining and answering questions.

**WORK IN ALBERTVILLE
PROGRESSES**

Those shovels used for ground breaking in Albertville go pretty slow, even with Harlan, Hack and Russ all shoveling, and besides that, their rain coats were leaking. Heavy equipment is now on the scene and the dirt is flying.

**CECIL COFFIN
RETIRES**



Decatur Personnel Director Cecil Coffin retires April 25 with 39 years of service. "Cec", a native of Decatur, moved to Chattanooga to begin work at the Chattanooga plant in 1935 assembling fire hydrants at the quite respectable wage of 32¢ an hour. He later was a time clerk and also worked in the sales office.

When "Cec" got things lined out in Chattanooga, he transferred to Decatur as paymaster in 1943. He spent several years in time study, two years as job evaluation engineer and has been personnel director for the past 12 years.

Cec and his family lived in Blue Mound a number of years where he was active in community affairs and served on the school board.

South Side Country Club golf course holds a real attraction for both Cec and his wife Rosemary and they have lived nearby for a number of years. Golf also holds a place in their immediate plans. They plan a trip to Florida. In fact, he has an offer to be the fourth in a Fearless Florida Foursome (Parks, Parker and Little) in an upcoming golf tournament, providing an agreement is reached on the details--establishment of seniority (for cart seats), and refreshment breaks--agreement on hours of play, and leaves of absence. Negotiations currently have hit a snag and mediators are trying to settle the handicap question.

Cec and Rosemary plan to stay in Decatur with a few side trips. They have a daughter in Decatur and a son in Florida.

**MUELLER NIGHT
AT FAN'S FIELD**

Decatur's annual MUELLER NIGHT will be Friday June 14 at Fan's Field. The Decatur Commodores play Dubuque and the game begins at 7:00 p.m., with a rain date of June 21. Family, relatives and friends are welcome. Tickets will be available through your supervisor the week of June 10.

**NEWS FROM CHATTANOOGA
(Jack Malone)**

Stanley Kuhne, softball team manager, initiated the 1974 Industrial Softball League by directing the Mueller Mud-Hens to a smashing victory over Park Lanes by the score of 37 - 11.

The Hens, resplendent in their classy new uniforms, showed no mercy on their opponents by delivering a slashing 41 hit attack. The big bats continued to boom in inning after inning as Eddie Woods and Bill Chadwick pounded out six hits each including circuit blasts. Walter King and Ray Reavely were also among the bat leaders.

It appears that another good season is under way for the team and we are looking forward to many thrills throughout the summer.



E. Toy Sliger, Safety Director, accepted a Special Interest Award on behalf of Mueller Co. in recent ceremonies conducted by the Chattanooga Area Safety Council.

This much coveted recognition was given to Mueller Co. as part of the Council's annual safety contest involving more than 33,000 workers at 60 area industries.

RETIRES' LUNCHEONS

The men's luncheon was May 9 with 52 in attendance. The next meeting will be June 13 at Swartz's restaurant.

**THERMOSTATS AT
78° THIS SUMMER**

Sweaters were the rule in chilly offices during the winter and this summer it may be open collars.

Government office thermostats will be set at 78 degrees this summer to conserve fuel and businesses as well as homeowners have been urged to do the same. Mueller Co. will follow this practice in the office areas of the various plants this summer.

Management has pointed out that although it has become customary for male employees to wear neckties, it certainly is not mandatory. Wearing ties or open collars is strictly the choice of each employee.