

NEWSLETTER

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Don Bathe, Coordinator

OUR TEAM IN ALBERTVILLE



Nalda Hack Russ Bill Al

Nalda Wilson, "gal Friday" for the team, Russ Davis, plant engineer, Bill Willis, maintenance foreman and Al Seitz, manager of industrial engineering pose

with their fearless leader, Frank Hackman, plant project manager, at the site of our new hydrant facility in Albertville, Alabama.

MUELLER & UTC ENGINEERS FIGHT BOREDOM (From University of Tenn. at Chattanooga's TODAY)

Lack of interest has plagued assembly line workers since the early days of the industrial revolution, but boredom resulting from repetitive work isn't an easy problem to solve.

Industries in the Chattanooga area, the ninth largest manufacturing center in the U.S., have been trying to find a remedy for many years.

Now, thanks to a cooperative endeavor between the Mueller Co. of Chattanooga and the UTC engineering division, there is hope.

Presently being developed in the engineering division, is a flexible multiuse digital control simulation laboratory directed toward "supporting instruction and analysis of automated control of machines to do repetitive work."

The initial idea for the system came when the Mueller Co., which has aided the division with donations for many years, proposed a long range project of development that could not be financed through the division's regular budget.

"Our company has always been interested in educational aid," Earl Bright, plant manager of the Mueller Co., said, "especially in the area of engineering since we are a manufacturing company."

"For a number of years we made donations on a random basis but recently, in trying to initiate a plan that would be more beneficial to groups like UTC, we came up with the idea of a long range giving program directed toward the development of a branch of the engineering division that could not be created without supplementary resources."

The initial gift made by Mueller Co. for this project was \$2500.



Melenie Milliman was chosen at the Board of Directors meeting August 13 to represent Decatur Employee's Credit Union in the "Miss Credit Union" contest being sponsored by the Local Chapter of Credit Unions in this area.

Phileta Coventry, key punch operator, was chosen runner-up and will represent our Credit Union in the event Melenie would not be able to continue to the finals.

Melenie is the wife of John Milliman of our Catalog Department, and daughter of Vernon Brunner Sr. of the Core Room. She joined the Credit Union in 1970 and received assistance to attend a computer school in Springfield, Illinois. She is now employed at Modern Income Life Insurance Company as a computer programmer.

All entrants received \$5 and Melenie received a \$25 gift certificate.

Five semi-finalists will be chosen at a chicken fry on August 20, and a finalist will be named at the annual Chapter dinner on October 25.

The winner will receive \$500 and her four runners-up will receive merchandise certificates.



Jim Hosto, Mueller Co. plant engineer, third from left in the above picture, presented the "Plant Engineer of the Year" award for 1974 to Carl Stover. Jim, who was chairman of the Award Committee, is also a past president of the Local Chapter of the American Institute of Plant Engineers. Also pictured, second from right, is Arnold McDelvey, vice president of the Chapter. Arnold is construction engineer at Mueller Co.

CHATTANOOGA OFFICE CONTRACT SETTLED.

Employees of the OPEIU (Office) of the Chattanooga plant ratified a new three year labor contract on July 30. The new contract provides increased wages and improvements in vacation, retirement, and group insurance benefits. One additional holiday was granted. Charles Harris, business representative of the OPEIU, represented the employees in the negotiations while Jack Malone headed the company bargaining group.

50 YEARS AGO (Mueller Record 1924)

During the annual meeting of the H. Mueller Manufacturing Company it was decided to change the name of the firm to Mueller Co.

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The service box building on East Eldorado Street is progressing rapidly and it is expected to have the roof on very soon.

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The Cost Department is pleased to announce that it is now 100 per cent short hair. Since the last issue of the RECORD the happy person to join the ranks of bobbed hair is Freida Lankton.

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At the annual picnic of the Mueller Co., the outstanding feature of the day's events was the unveiling of a bronze bust of the late Hieronymus Mueller, founder of the business. His five living sons, now in active charge of the business and his only daughter, Mrs. Leda Mueller Cruikshank were seated on the stage. The unveiling was done by Mrs. Cruikshank.

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Russell Jolly joined Mueller Co. in the Drafting Room. He has been with Western Electric Co. of Chicago. Russ prefers to live in Decatur, rather than the large city.

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News Briefs

We hear a lot of fish stories around here--there seems to be no end to the stories concerning the bass fishing at Toledo Bend, Texas. Betty Tolladay is a lady of few words, but a lot of fishermen stood up and took notice when she brought in, beautifully mounted, the 17 pound Northern Pike she caught in Canada.

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Barb Morris of the Accounting Department and her husband Bill, recently returned from a Caribbean cruise. While aboard ship, their news from the outside world came in the form of a daily bulletin giving bits of news from key areas of the world. While in the harbor at La Guaria, Venezuela the bulletin included: Madrid, Moscow, Sydney, London, Cairo and Decatur, Illinois--telling of the July 19 explosion.

**HOUSING STARTS
UP 8% FOR JUNE**

The pace of housing starts in June rose 8% from May as home-building activity continued to bounce up and down. Despite month-to-month fluctuations, the rate has continuously run far below last year's.

Spokesmen for the home-building industry took little cheer from the rise, pointing out that this June increase does not establish a definite upward trend since financing for housing remains scarce.

Both industry and government officials agreed that the housing-assistance program announced by the Nixon administration in May is helping to pump some money into the housing-finance market. As part of the program, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation offered to buy up to \$3 billion in future mortgages from lenders at a below-market interest rate of 8¾%. The corporation said it had now contracted the total-allocated amount.

Service Awards

The following Mueller employees received service awards during August.

Mueller, Limited

10 Years: Sarah Smith

Decatur

10 Years: Robert L. Marshall

Chattanooga

10 Years: William G. Goldthreat, Donald L. Williams

20 Years: Tomie Ashford, Curtis Coleman, Ollis Kellogg, Jr., Sam Walton, Willie J. Franklin, Jesse Murphy, George M. Autry, Alfred T. Smith, Earnest Ross, Hilwatha Williams

40 Years: Frank Puffer

Retirements

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

Chattanooga

John T. Logan, finished product assembler, 19 years, 7 months and 25 days, July 31. (disability)

Decatur

John R. Wood, Order Department supervisor, 21 years, 4 months and 13 days, Aug. 2.

Leonard J. Burton, Finished Stock receiving clerk in Department 60, 23 years, 9 months and 22 days, Aug. 1. (Disability.)

Mueller, Limited

R. Basil Thompson, key and nut assembler, 34 years, July 24.



Charles Burcham, tool maker A in Dept. 36 received gifts from Dale Reidelberg, Tool Room foreman and James Fair, union steward on his last day at work before his retirement, after 44 years of service.

**NEWS FROM BREA
(Mary Lou Bellante)**

Mrs. Inez Mooring who retired from the Brea plant in 1965 as executive secretary to the Sales Manager celebrated her 75th birthday with many of her old friends. Inez's daughter, Mrs. Barbara Bryce gathered together these old friends: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Caho, Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Potts, Katie Thompson and her sister Bea, Dotty (Barnett) Olson and her husband, Hazel Lehman, June Adkins, Alice Inerarity, Peggy Wright and Millie Strange. Peggy and Millie, who are currently employed in the office, reported that a good old-fashioned gabby time was had by all.



Brass Foundry molder Richard Goodwin has returned to work--after nearly drowning in his pool over the Memorial Day holiday. His neighbor, Robert Ray Young, hero of the day pulled him out and used life-saving emergency techniques which saved his life.



Results of the recent AID drive indicate that 70% of the employees are contributing to charity. Not bad for these times.



Ed Vogel reports that the Mueller Co. Golf Association (otherwise known as Duffers & Sandbaggers) is encouraging equal opportunity for all, as evidenced by two office gals who are participating - (14 guys--what odds). Both gals, Glenda Neal and Ethel Roundy are enjoying large handicaps and no one knows for sure how Ethel managed a birdie on her second time out. Coming up soon is a tournament sponsored by Kramer Co., with prizes, yet. Ready for that girls?



**DECATUR UNITED WAY
CO-CHAIRMEN NAMED**

L. Merlin Coates, plant manager and John E. Hackl, wood pattern maker have been named co-chairmen to represent Mueller Co. in the 1974 United Way campaign. James Wagoner of the Headquarters Sales Department will be assigned to the United Way as a loaned executive during the campaign which will begin with the kick-off dinner on October 1.

BLAST ROCKS EAST DECATUR

Mueller Co.'s office building in Decatur received only minor damage Friday morning July 19, shortly after 5 a.m. when a liquid propane car exploded in the Norfolk & Western Railway Co. yards.

The tank car was reported to have been punctured when a boxcar coupling rammed it, releasing the propane into a large area of the railyards. The explosion apparently occurred when a spark ignited the highly flammable propane, injuring scores of people with flying glass and debris, and fatally burning seven men.

Several Mueller Co. families were affected by the blast; a number were treated for cuts and abrasions, and some homes were severely damaged.

After the initial explosion, residents of the immediate area were asked to evacuate their homes and later in the morning, residents within a three mile radius of the blast scene were asked to leave their homes when it was feared that two other tank cars containing highly flammable material might explode.

Our Foundry was included in the three mile radius of the explosion and came through with no apparent damage. This was partly attributed to the fact that most windows were partially open. Total evacuation was accomplished in 7 to 10 minutes. A construction crew from an outside firm working in the building was also evacuated.

Three supervisors; Jack Parsons, Bill Lawyer and Chuck Schroeder and one Pinkerton guard voluntarily stayed in the Plant. Machines were shut down and furnaces were placed on hold. As the evacuation request was lifted, the maintenance men who had been in the process of relining a furnace were back on the job by noon.

The news media played an important role in advising industry people of working conditions at the various plants, relieving the vastly overloaded telephone lines. The second shift workers were able to return to work at their regular time.

Governor Walker flew into Decatur Friday morning and viewed the explosion site, offering local police officials the help of the Illinois National Guard.

Estimated damage, which is still climbing, has been placed in the neighborhood of 20 million dollars.

ROBERT MAXWELL TO SALES FIELD

Bob Maxwell has been assigned to cover the State of South Carolina succeeding C. Robert Fisher who has been recently transferred to North Carolina. Bob joined Mueller Co. in 1961, has worked in the plant, Decatur Sales Office, Advertising and Sales Promotion Department and Sales Headquarters.

Bob and his family have moved to Lexington, South Carolina.



Along with other gifts Dick Wood was presented with an impressionist portrait by our own John Flowers. The retirement card depicting many facets of his work at Mueller Co. as manager of the Decatur Order Department as well as his hobbies and travels was presented on his last day at work after 21 years of service.

FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES

In Decatur, Ronald L. Grant, formerly assistant order interpreter has been promoted to the position of supervisor of the Order Department. Juanita M. Jackson, formerly time keeper in the Shipping Department was promoted to the position of inventory analyst.

GOING METRIC

This small line, _____, less than a half an inch long, may become very important to you within coming years. It represents one centimeter, a basic unit of measure in the metric system of weights and measures. Since the U.S. is the only major country not now using the metric system, many people feel that it is only a matter of time until we too will be doing so.

Metric is a logical system that progresses in units of 10. Every measure relates to every other measure in terms of 10 or multiples of 10. There are only a few units of measure; the meter, for length; the liter, for liquids; and the gram for weight. Contrast this with our present system in which we have many units of measure including pint, quart, gallon, peck, bushel, ounce, pound, etc. Within our system of measures, it is necessary to memorize equivalents. The metric system, however, is simpler . . . it's an easy matter of multiplying or dividing by 10--nearly move the decimal point to the right or left.

Even though our system is more cumbersome than metric, we all know it and are comfortable with it. So, why change? Many people are convinced we must do so in order to compete in the international marketplace. Companies that export products are concerned that customers who actually prefer American-made machines will hesitate to buy them because non-metric service and parts are only available in the U.S.

U.S. Department of Commerce analysts predict the switch could mean increasing U.S. trade exports by \$600 million per year.

Presently, only a handful of the nations besides the United States have resisted switching to the metric system: Barbados, Burma, Gambia, Ghana, Jamaica, Liberia, Muscat and Oman, Nauru, Sierra Leone, Southern Yemen, Tonga and Trinidad.