

# NEWSLETTER

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Don Bathe, Coordinator



Benjamin Taylor was presented a check for \$1000 by Co. President Harlan A. White upon his retirement after 45 years of service.

It may look like a check--but to Ben Taylor it is a new color television set. He plans to sit back and watch baseball, football and basketball.

Ben has had several job offers in the sports field, but he plans to umpire a few ball games in summer, bowl during the winter and do a great deal of armchair quarterbacking.

He also plans to do some traveling to visit friends and relatives and plans to have a suitcase packed at all times. If anyone mentions "going" all he will have to say is, "Let me get my hat".

## FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES

**William E. Baney**, formerly night shift foreman-ground key division, has been promoted to the position of ground key assembly foreman.

**Galen W. Jenkins**, formerly ground key assembly foreman has been transferred to the position of lead inspector.

**Rex A. Kreig**, senior chemist at Plant 4, has been promoted to the position of industrial engineer.

## JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT YEAR TO BEGIN

The Junior Achievement program in Decatur will begin September 24 with orientation for the advisors of all J.A. firms sponsored by local industry and business.

Advisors from Mueller Co. this year are: Norma Wellwood, Credit Department, Douglas Reeder and Mike Leatherman, Industrial Engineers and J.A. Brandt of the Sales Office.

Evelyn Cox, a member of the Junior Achievement Board will be assisting in the orientation of the advisors.

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

## DECATUR UNITED WAY

The United Way has scheduled a parade on Saturday, September 28th at 10:30 a.m. through the Decatur downtown area.

The United Way kickoff dinner will be held at the Holiday Inn October 1, at 6:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Mr. Glen E. Watts, president of the communications workers of America.

During the tornado in the spring on the north side and the explosion at the railroad yard this summer on the east side, the United Way organizations were on the scene giving a helping hand. The Red Cross and the Salvation Army were giving aid to the injured, Catholic Charities offered clothing and the YMCA, Webster Hall and Cantrell Hall set up emergency housing.

L. Merlin Coates and John Hackel, Mueller Co. Co-Chairmen for the United Way in Decatur plan to start the drive the week of October 14.

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



On August 16th the American Red Cross set up their facilities in our cafeteria for our first MueHer Co. Blood Bank. Seventy-seven of our employees gave blood. Plant manager Lloyd Darnell led with his donation followed by George Hrubicky, plant controller. A.C. Harvey, assistant foreman in the Iron Assembly

Department, is being checked while personnel from the Sales office are waiting. We're pretty proud of the turnout.

In addition to our people, eighty-two employees from a neighboring company helped keep the Red Cross nurses very busy that afternoon.

**LONG RANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM VITAL**

"Long-term research and development is essential if adequate supplies of natural and supplemental sources of gas are to be made available to meet the nation's growing demands for energy," F. Donald Hart, president of the American Gas Association states.

He explained that the gas industry research plan report calls for all segments of the nation, including public, private and government to support the total funding of \$2.3 billion during the first five years.

"These expenditures," he added, "are a significant and necessary increase over the approximately \$75 million per year currently being spent on gas industry research from both public and private sources.

"Even though the costs of all energy forms will rise in the years ahead," Hart said, "gas will remain the cheapest and the most efficient energy system available to the consumer for the foreseeable future.

"Our long range research plan is not a one-time operation," said Hart, "but is designed to be flexible, dynamic and continuing in nature. The original plan is at the present time being updated to reflect technological developments in the gas industry.

"The gas industry research plan includes provisions for fundamental research, short term solutions to pressing problems, long term solutions to meet increasing energy requirements, development of new technology, and the needs of our customers," said Hart.

"However," Hart continued, "regardless of the merits of the gas industry plan, the problem of adequate financing still remains to be solved.

**News Briefs**

Forty-four retirees were in attendance at the September luncheon. The next meeting is scheduled for October 10 at Swartz's restaurant.

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Mildred Boyd, secretary to Robert Mallow, was pleasantly surprised when she was selected Decatur's 'Secretary of the Week' for the week of September 9th. 'Secretary of the Week' is sponsored through Radio Station WSOY by a local florist.

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Narayan C. Saha, project engineer in the Headquarters Engineering Department has completed a 16 week engineering refresher course through the University of Illinois. Upon completion of the course Narayan successfully passed two eight hour days of tests in Chicago and was awarded a Professional Engineer's license.

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## Service Awards

### Brea

10 Years: Clarence Smith, Aron Ross, Ray Coffield, Earl Dixie, Albert Brownridge, Robert Duff, Harold Hassebrock, George Hrubycky.

30 Years: William Cosman

### Mueller, Limited

10 Years: Robert R. Freeman, Paul D. Bedford, Cecil E. Morris

20 Years: Willie J. Owens, Charles T. Young, Melvin Holliday, James R. Henry, Billy H. Prichard

30 Years: Joseph T. McGintis

### Decatur

10 Years: Robert M. Kohlbecker

20 Years: Murl D. Lee, Omer J. Mecher, Leonard L. Landgrebe, Byron W. Winn, Thomas R. Nice, Ellen L. Hanley



Earl Bright, plant manager in Chattanooga and Jack Barker, purchasing agent present gifts to Gladys Weaver upon her retirement after 37 years of service.

### NEWS FROM CHATTANOOGA (JackMalone)

Mrs. Gladys Weaver, head purchasing clerk, was honored with a retirement luncheon in the company conference room on Friday, September 6.

Gladys, who retired on August 19, 1974, after 37 years and 4 months service was one of the most loyal and conscientious employees that we have ever known. Her devotion to Mueller Co. will be long remembered.

Among the many gifts presented to Gladys was a gift of cash from the main office group. Mr. Jack Barker presented an AM-FM portable radio from the Purchasing Department staff.

We wish Gladys a very enjoyable but well-earned retirement. Her gain will be a great loss to the Mueller Co. office group.



Mueller Co. employees and members of Local 838 participated in the Labor Day parade. Left to right are Robert Byers, Donald Rauch, Gerald Stanley, Joe Baughman, R. Dale Streight, Doyle Talley, Thomas R. McCoy, Nelson Hoffman, Dean Hadden with Charles Riley, Representative of Region No. 8 A.I.W. - C.I.O.

### NEWS FROM SARNIA (Phyllis Turner)

Howard Sayman, a lift truck driver in the Maintenance Department of Mueller, Ltd., was the 20 millionth driver to pass the toll booth at the Bluewater Bridge since the reinstatement of the tolls on the Sarnia side August 27, 1964.

Sayman of 908 Church Street, Point Edward was made an honorary Commissioner by J.C. George, Chairman of the Bridge Authority, and will be treated to a dinner on the town along with three cousins from Sheffield, England who were accompanying him on a sight seeing trip to Port Huron.

## Retirements

### Chattanooga

Gladys J. Weaver, Purchasing Department, 37 years, 3 months and 26 days, August 19.

### Decatur

Leonard J. Burton, Finish Stores receiving clerk in Department 70, 23 years, 10 months and 21 days, August 30. (Disability)

Benjamin Taylor, tester set-up salvage man, 45 years, Setp. 3.

Ellis B. Adams, laboratory technician in Engineering, 32 years and 3 months, Sept. 13. (Disability)

### Mueller, Limited

Cyril Matthews, ground key tester, 32 years, 8 months.

## FOOD BUYING TIPS FROM A STORE MANAGER

In this day of high and rising food prices, money-saving hints are literally a dime a dozen. But here's something just a little different. The manager of a supermarket has listed a few "inside" tips he thinks might help save you money.

I. **Check out the specials** advertised in your paper (usually Wednesday or Thursday editions). But don't buy specials you won't use, or might over-use. A side hint--many times only those items listed in large type, or in boxed areas in the ad are actually "specials". Many smaller-type items are listed at regular prices.

II. **Save coupons** for products you can use. These may be clipped from ads, received in the mail, or posted in stores.

III. **Try store brands.** These usually run about 20 per cent cheaper than major brands, and are often produced by a major brand under the store label.

IV. **Purchase in larger sizes** or larger quantities if on special, if you know you will use the item and will not tend to over-use.

V. **Make fewer trips** to the store. Limit yourself to a maximum of two stops per week. Then you are inclined to do without certain items which run low in the interim. Plus, the fewer store visits you make the fewer times you'll be tempted by impulse buying or non-essentials. And you'll use less gas getting there.

VI. **Check your cash register tape** occasionally to see where your "Food" dollar is going. Maybe your food bill isn't as large as you think. Maybe you could reduce your purchases of non-essentials--paper towels, books, panty-hose, toys and nibble food.

VII. **If you buy certain products regularly,** determine which store normally sells these items cheaper. This doesn't mean you should run from store to store--just plan ahead a bit.

VIII. **Getting back to leftovers.** A slightly larger meat purchase for example, may provide you with a very economical second meal.

IX. **Use your freezer** to good advantage by purchasing volume meat bargains, and other preservables in season. Our manager says that, rather than buying a side of beef, you may be further ahead by stocking up on meat specials as they are made available.

## THE WAY THE CAR BOUNCES

By 1985, you may be driving a car that doesn't dent, scratch or break on moderate impact, says the head of a large rubber manufacturer, because car makers will rely heavily on his product. Rubberized impact-absorbing bumper systems and grilles are just beginning. In the future, large amounts of rubber and rubber-plastic combinations will be used to construct large portions of car bodies such as doors, trunks and hoods.

## HOUSING STARTS IN AUGUST FELL TO 4½ YEAR LOW

The *Wall Street Journal* reports that the nation's homebuilding slump--and prospects for an early recovery worsened again in August.

The rate of housing starts last month slipped to a 4½ year low, the Commerce Department said. And the issuance of building permits, an indicator of future construction, plummeted in August to the lowest rate in 7½ years. Housing-industry officials said they don't see any "end in sight" to the decline.

Housing starts in August were at a seasonally adjusted rate of 1,126,000 down 15% from July's figure and down 45% from a year ago. This was the lowest housing-starts rate since January 1970, when the rate was 1,085,000 units. Both starts and permits were down in all regions of the country.

Chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders, Michael Sumichrast forecasts, "in the next six to eight months, we will have a continuation of the declines in starts and permits along with record builder bankruptcies and foreclosures, and a 16% to 18% unemployment rate in construction." He added, "the main problem is that there isn't any mortgage money, and unless something is done, a possible first quarter recovery has to be ruled out."

"President Ford may do something soon to help housing," said James Lynn, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. But he agreed that there isn't any quick cure for the ailing housing market. Secretary Lynn did not specify what type of action the Ford administration has in mind, but did state that government efforts to provide mortgage money at below-market interest rates are being considered.

The severe slump in housing has already begun to affect the production level at the Decatur plant with the elimination of the second shift in the Brass Foundry and the abolishment of a few jobs in Departments 70 and 80. Further adjustments to the workforce may be necessary if the level of incoming orders does not show some recovery within the next few weeks.

## PYREX MEASURING CUPS TO OFFER A METRIC STEW

Take 5¼ hectograms of sliced beef tenderloin, add ½ liter green onions cut five centimeters long, throw in about 280 grams of fresh spinach, 1.25 deciliters of beef stock . . .

That's part of a sample metric recipe for sukiyaki put out by Corning Glass Works as part of its announcement that the company intends to begin including metric measurements on its Pyrex ware measuring cups "to help ease the transition to metric for the homemaker." Conventional measurements will remain on one side of the cups, with metric on the other side.

Corning adds that recipes should begin appearing shortly in metric units, so cooks should familiarize themselves with the measuring system.