

# NEWSLETTER

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Don Bathe, Coordinator



**A.G. WEBBER JR.  
RETIRED MUELLER PRESIDENT  
DIES AT AGE 82**

Albert G. Webber Jr., Decatur attorney and retired president and chairman of the board of Mueller Co., died September 25 at the age of 82.

Mr. Webber became general counsel for Mueller Co. in 1936 and became the fifth president, the first who was not a member of the Mueller family. He held the position of president and chief executive officer for 16 years, and served as chairman of the Board of Directors from 1953 to 1971. In addition, he was a director of Mueller, Ltd. in Sarnia, Ontario for many years.

Mr. Webber was senior partner in the Decatur law firm, Webber, Welsh, Kehart and Shafter. He graduated from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1917.

After serving in the Navy from 1917 to 1919 in World War 1 he returned to Decatur and started his law practice.

Mr. Webber was chairman of the advisory council of Naval Affairs in Decatur. He served as director of Decatur Memorial Hospital from 1956 to 1965.

The Webber family's association with Mueller Co. began in 1871 when his father, Albert G. Webber Sr. began work for Hieronymus Mueller as a helper and after completing his education in law was retained as chief counsel.

Mr. Webber is survived by his wife, Ellen, 209 Southmoreland Place; sons, Albert G. III, Richard and Frederic; and three grandchildren.



**FORMER MUELLER PRESIDENT  
JOHN F. THURSTON DIES**

John F. Thurston, retired president and chief executive officer died October 15 at the age of 64.

Mr. Thurston came to Mueller Co. as president and chief executive officer in May, 1963 and retired in January 1973. During this time he served as a member of the board as well as chairman of the Board of Directors of Mueller, Limited, Sarnia, Ontario.

Prior to his coming to Mueller Co. Mr. Thurston was a senior vice president of General Dynamics Corporation and president of the Liquid Carbonic Division of that company.

During World War II he served in the Air Force and held the rank of Major at the time of his discharge.

He served as a civilian consultant to the Secretary of the Army on military parts supply problems in the United States, Japan and Korea during 1952 and 1953, for which he was awarded the Army's Exceptional Civilian Service decoration.

Mr. Thurston was a member of the Country Club of Decatur and the Decatur Club. He served on various hospital and organization boards including Decatur Chamber of Commerce and Illinois Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Thurston served as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Millikin University 1971-1972 and 1972-1973, and was currently serving as Chairman of the Executive Board of Trustees of Millikin University.

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He was listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Commerce and Industry, and Who's Who in Mid-America.

Memorial services were held at Westminister Presbyterian Church where he had been serving as an elder.

He is survived by his wife, Betty, 4410 Country Club Manor Ct., a son of Peoria, a stepdaughter of Florida, a stepson of Colorado and three grandchildren.



#### LYLE HUFF TO RETIRE

Lyle R. Huff, vice president and secretary treasurer announced that he plans to retire from Mueller Co. on January 31, 1975. At that time Mr. Huff will have completed almost 25 years of service with the company in the Financial Division.

He was elected to the Board of Directors of Mueller, Limited, Sarnia, Ontario in 1962, and a vice president of Mueller Co. in 1965.

Before coming to Mueller Co. he was an auditor for Phillips Petroleum Company, an instructor in accounting and business law at the University of Illinois, and a member of the staff of the accounting firm of Gauger and Diehl.

In order to make an orderly transition of Lyle's duties, the following personnel will be promoted to the positions indicated. All of these changes will be completed and will be effective by January 31, 1975.

**Robert W. Mallow**, assistant secretary and budget director will become Secretary-Treasurer, reporting to the President.

Mallow joined Mueller Co. in 1956 as an internal auditor. In 1958 he was promoted to plant controller, in 1959 was promoted to budget director and was elected assistant secretary in 1970. He is a native of Urbana, Illinois and a graduate of the University of Illinois.

He was associated with the accounting firm of Gauger and Diehl before joining Mueller Co.

Mallow has been active in community programs, serving on the city council, the budget committee of the Decatur and Macon County United Fund, and has been a member of the Lions Club and the Thursday noon Toastmasters Club.

**Dan L. Carlson**, internal auditor will become General Controller and Assistant Secretary, reporting to the President.

Carlson, a native of Galesburg, Illinois graduated from the University of Iowa. Before joining Mueller Co. in 1972, he was with the Hyster Company in Portland, Oregon.

**Carl M. Dodwell**, Decatur plant controller will be promoted to Internal Auditor and will report to the President.

Dodwell joined Mueller Co. in 1935, transferred to the Financial Division, and has held various accounting positions until being named plant controller in 1959.

**Stanley E. Metz**, accounting supervisor will be promoted to the position of Plant Controller reporting to the general controller.

**Evelyn Cox**, assistant cashier will be promoted to Accounting Supervisor, Decatur, and will report to the Plant Controller.

**George Hurbecky**, plant controller, Brea, has been named to the new position of Administrative Assistant for Corporate Planning. George will be moving back to Decatur late this year to pick up the duties and responsibilities of this assignment.

#### TWO NAMED TO POSITIONS IN ALBERTVILLE

**Richard W. Polk** of Boaz, Alabama has been named general accountant at our new Albertville facility. He is a native of Attalla, Alabama, attended Snead Jr. College, Central Piedmont Community College and Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama.

He has extensive accounting experience and held the position of cost accounting supervisor for General Time Corporation, a Division of Westclock, prior to joining Mueller Co.

Richard, his wife and daughter live in Boaz.

**Hugh Roberts**, Albertville, Alabama has been named personnel manager for the new Albertville Plant. He is a native of Cartersville, Georgia and graduated from the New York Exchange Institute.

After serving 2½ years in the Air Force he was with Owenby Manufacturing Co. as personnel director, plant manager of their facility in Murphy, N.C. and later became assistant to the president in charge of manufacturing.

In 1966, he joined Arrow Company and was plant manager of their new plant in Albertville, the position he held prior to joining Mueller Co.

#### RETIREES' LUNCHEONS

The retired ladies' luncheon will be the first Wednesday of each month at the Elks Club. Gladys Masterson or Maude Hill will accept reservations.

The retired men's luncheon will be the second Thursday of each month at Swartz's Restaurant.

DECATUR FOUNDRY COMPLETES  
PHASE I OF EXPANSION



Nurse Betty Hubble in the new first aid office.



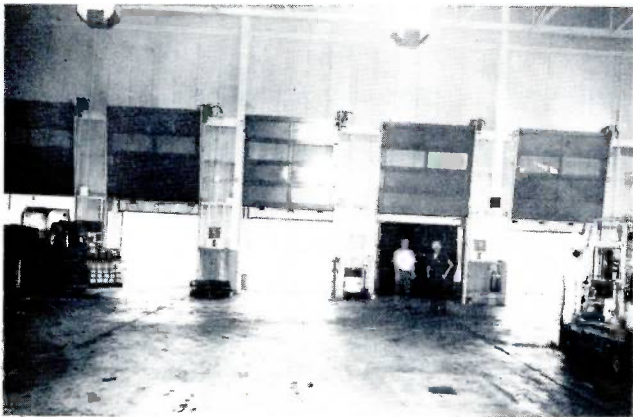
Jack Parsons, Malvin West and Bud Berner in new Foundry office.



Lunchroom facilities



Locker rooms and showers



Lonnie Gaither and Otto Peake on Shipping dock



Outside loading docks

Phase 1 of the three-part Foundry improvement project has been completed. A 70-foot by 480-foot addition has been added to the east side of the brass and iron foundry building. This addition provides new storage areas, a centralized maintenance shop, new offices for Foundry Engineer, Jack Parsons; Brass Foundry Foreman, Bud Burner and Iron Foundry Foreman, Carl Schuman.

New shipping and receiving docks are now in use and a new first aid center has been completed. A mezzanine contains new shower, locker and rest room facilities as well as a canteen-lunchroom area.

The main plant entrance has been changed from Jasper Street to the corner of Lowber and Harrison Streets.

## FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES - CHATTANOOGA

**Ray Boren**, maintenance electrician, has been promoted to electrical maintenance supervisor.

**Ronald C. Grimes**, machine shop clerk, has been promoted to cleaning room shift foreman.

**Alfred D. Massengale**, machine operator in the machine shop, has been promoted to assistant foreman in the assembly department.

**R.F. Jones**, No. 2 slinger molder in the Foundry, has been promoted to assistant Foundry foreman - Foundry division.

**Jeffrey E. Trenholm**, furnace charger, has been promoted to assistant Foundry foreman.

**Lewis M. Massey**, formerly assistant Foundry foreman has been promoted to third shift foreman - Foundry division.

**Terrell Gray**, formerly shift foreman - Foundry division has been transferred to assistant Foundry foreman moldmaster complex.

**Kenneth I. Shull**, formerly a draftsman, has been promoted to shift foreman, maintenance department.

## BREA POSITIONS TO GILBERT, McBETH

**Donald Gilbert** will assume his duties as plant controller of the Brea Plant in December. Don graduated from Wayne State University in Michigan with a degree in accounting and business administration. He has 12 years experience in auditing, accounting and supervision. He was with All American Glass Co. before joining the Brea office force in August as general accounting supervisor.

**Charles McBeth**, has been named general accounting supervisor in Brea. He attended Wayne State University in the field of computer programming. He was previously employed by All American Glass Co. in Garden Grove, California as regional auditor.

## HOME IMPROVEMENT TO SAVE ENERGY

Federal Energy Administrator John G. Sawhill has endorsed and urged support for a special industry energy conservation campaign to be conducted this fall.

The program called H.I.T. (Home Improvement Time) will concentrate on efforts to encourage homeowners to make energy saving improvements. The American Gas Association along with other utility associations and manufacturers is a sponsor of the program.

The fall H.I.T. program will be the first in a series of seasonal energy conservation campaigns, highlighting such energy savers as adequate insulation, caulking and weather stripping, equipment maintenance, storm doors and windows and thermostat turn-down in winter. Most people in the field agree that voluntary conservation of our natural resources is the best short term way to stretch our energy supply until new sources are developed.

## Retirements

### Outside Sales

**Lorin E. Grosboll**, sales representative, 37 years, 9 months and 3 days, Oct. 22.

### Chattanooga

**Maynard W. Mitchell**, finished product assembler, 24 years, 1 month and 13 days, Oct. 31. (Disability)

## Service Awards

### Chattanooga

10 Years: Wilmot R. Ellis, Jr.

20 Years: Richard C. Abernathy, Lawrence Taylor, John T. Mayes, James Hollingsworth, Rufus Vinson, Jacquelyn Stafford, Eunice P. Brackett

30 Years: Earnest T. Cowan

### Decatur

10 Years: Robert D. McIntyre, Michael M. Myers

20 Years: Fred C. Kessel

40 Years: Jane R. Cranston

### Brea

10 Years: Paul Olmsted, Shirley Neal

## HOUSING STARTS REMAIN DEPRESSED

Home building continued at a depressed level in September, government figures show.

Housing starts edged up a fraction to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,120,000 units from 1,115,000 in August, the Commerce Department estimated. But the September rate was the second lowest in more than 4½ years and was off nearly 40% from the year-earlier pace of 1,844,000 units.

To make matters worse, the pace of new building permits, an indicator of future housing construction, hit an 8½ year low last month. The September rate was the lowest since December 1966, when the annual rate was 743,000 units.

The September figures added to a gloomy atmosphere at a "housing crisis conference" in Washington hosted by the homebuilders association. The rate of housing starts has dropped 50% in the past 18 months.