

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 7 January 1975

Published by MUELLER CO., Decatur, Illinois

Don Bathe, Coordinator

**ALASKAN NATURAL GAS PROJECT
AIDS ENERGY INDEPENDENCE**

The proposal of a \$6-billion trans-Alaska project to bring vast North Slope natural gas supplies to the lower 48 states is another major step towards alleviating the energy crisis for millions of consumers.

"This is a most encouraging development in our country's efforts to attain any reasonable degree of domestic energy self-sufficiency," Herbert D. Clay, A.G.A. chairman, said in reference to the El Paso Company's formal proposal of the project to the Federal Power Commission.

Under the El Paso Company plan, the North Slope gas would be transported across Alaska in a separate pipeline, paralleling the oil pipeline now under construction. The pipeline would end in the vicinity of Valdez on Alaska's south coast, where the gas would be liquefied. Shipped via special (cryogenic) tankers to the west coast of the United States, El Paso states "the gas will move into all major U.S. markets."

Clay pointed out that because of the efficiency, low price and environmental acceptability of gas, this country during the past five years has been using clean-burning natural gas twice as fast as it has been finding new supplies.

"Natural gas provides more than one-third of the energy used in this country and more than half the energy used by American industry--twice as much as any other source," Clay said.

"We welcome this positive step taken to bring Alaskan gas to the lower 48 states," Clay continued, "however, we must not forget that development of Alaskan resources is but part of a broader, overall program to achieve domestic energy self-sufficiency."

PLEASE ASK US

"Please ask us" is the message sent by the Office on Aging in Decatur.

If you have a problem (legal, medical, insurance, health or social security) or a simple question about anything, our office may provide you with an answer or direct you to someone who can. This may save you time and frustration. This service also gives you the opportunity to discuss your needs face to face or by phone.

If you are in need, call the Office on Aging, 424-2754, or stop in the office located at 730 East Wood Street, Decatur.

**SOCIAL SECURITY TAXABLE
WAGE BASE RISES JANUARY 1**

As a result of the new automatic escalator feature of the Social Security law, the taxable wage base will increase by \$900--from \$13,200 to \$14,100--on Jan. 1.

The tax remains unchanged at 5.85% for employers and employees and 7.9% for the self-employed. For 1975, the maximum tax for an employee will be \$824.85 and for the self-employed \$1,113.90.

It's estimated one out of five workers covered by social security will be affected and the increased tax will yield \$1.8 billion during 1975.

**FRINGE BENEFITS
A \$3,230 ITEM**

Fringe benefits are no longer mere fringes.

Not unless you want to dismiss \$3,230 a year in employee benefits as a mere fringe.

This was the average payment for employer-paid benefits for employees in 1973, according to a study by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

This also figured out to 32.7% of total payroll costs or 154.1 cents per payroll hour for 742 companies surveyed by the Chamber, which has been making biennial studies of a cross-section of the nation's employers.

Since 1953, when the first data was collected, the payout for employee benefits has risen steadily from \$842 a year to \$3,802 in 1973. This finding is based on 155 companies for which data is available going back to the start of the study.

"Employee benefit growth during recent years has substantially improved workers well being," comments the Chamber's chief economist, Dr. Carl H. Madden.

It has also increased employers' costs of doing business he adds.

It's well to keep both points in mind.

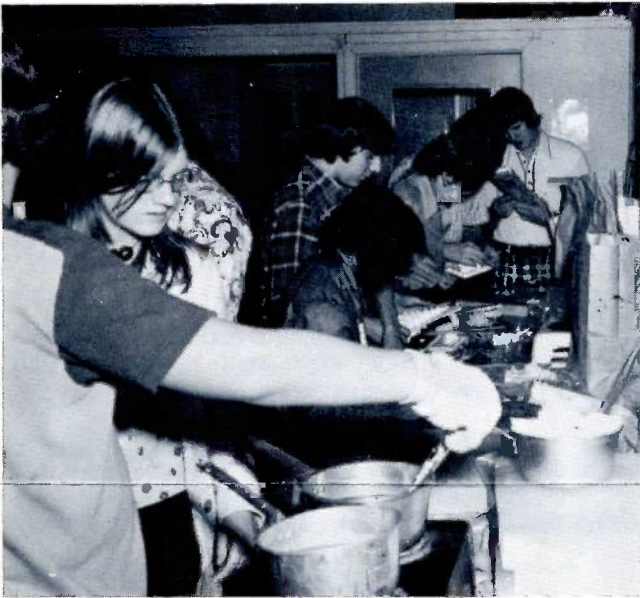
**FAMILIAR FACE
IN A NEW PLACE**

Michael T. Leatherman formerly industrial engineer is assigned to the position of quality control technician.

• • • • •

Decatur . . . Max Justice, assistant specialty production control manager, was elected President of Lincoln Land chapter of American Production and Inventory Control Society for 1975.

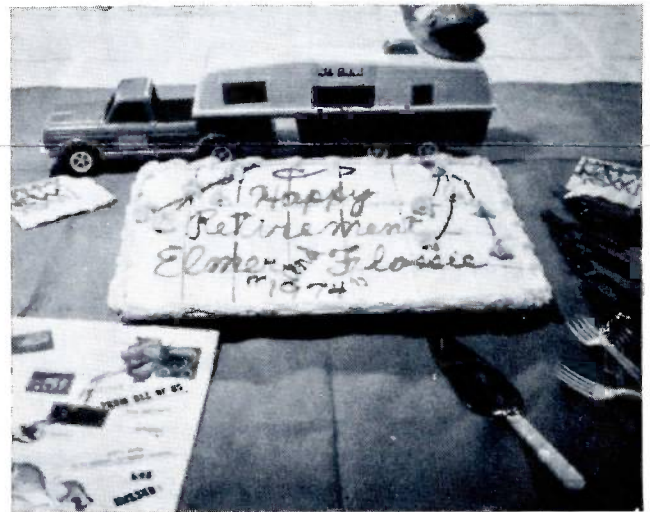
**"MAKE IT CO."
IN ACTION**



Douglas Reeder, junior achievement leader from Mueller Co., Decatur, is reading the instructions at the right, as members of the "Make-It Co." were busy making candles for the Christmas Season. J.A. leaders from Mueller Co. not in the picture are Alice Wier, Al Brandt and Mike Leatherman.



Otis Fears, right, metal pattern maker in Department 35 and Harold Peer, Pattern Shop foreman, pause for a picture as they prepare to take a plant tour.



**ACCOMPLISH
BLOODLESS SURGERY**

Chances are, patients who undergo surgery in the future may not suffer bleeding from the knife wound. Scientists at a Japanese University Institute of Electronics have devised a new scalpel which provides the answer. The instrument uses jets of gases heated to high temperatures and charged with electricity. Virtually no blood is lost during surgery on animals. The researchers expect to have the scalpel perfected soon for use on humans.

Donald Matthews, Core Room foreman, is presenting Flossie Baker with a retirement gift as other Core Room retirees come in to make a memorable affair. Left to right, Ernest Hetzler, Charles Johnson, George Anderson, Maggie Carter, Ada Wood, Flossie Baker, Elmer Baker, Dorothy Cooper, Carl Fleischauer, Mildred Johnson and Helen O'Del. Present but not in photo was Roy Carter. A good time was had by all.

HOUSING STARTS FALL TO 8-YEAR LOW

The home-building slump worsened in November. Housing starts tumbled to an eight-year low and the issuance of new building permits fell to the lowest rate on record.

Housing starts declined to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 990,000 units in November, down 10.5% from a downward-revised October pace of 1,106,000 units and off 40.9% from a year-earlier rate of 1,675,000 units, the Commerce Department said. It was the fifth consecutive month that home building declined, and the November rate was the lowest since a like 990,000-unit rate in December 1966.

Issuance of building permits by the 14,000 localities that require them fell to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 720,000 units in November, down 8.6% from a downward-revised rate of 782,000 units in October and off 48% from a pace of 1,361,000 units in November last year, the department said.

The declining housing statistics, while not unexpected, brought more gloom to the home-building industry. "It's terribly depressing news," said Michael Sumichrast, chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders. Mr. Sumichrast predicted that housing starts would continue at about November's depressed rate, or even lower, through next year's first quarter. But "after three or four months are over, I think you'll see gradual improvement," said the housing industry official, who previously had forecast that a housing pickup may begin next spring.

James Lynn, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, termed the November housing figures "disappointed but not unexpected." He too predicted better times ahead. Government programs to pump more money into the mortgage market coupled with "the first signs of a net inflow of money into savings and loan associations should produce a turnaround in housing starts in the coming months," the Secretary said.

The widely respected annual forecast by the McGraw-Hill Information System's Dodge/Sweet Construction Outlook for 1975 said: "The year 1975 shapes up as an improvement over 1974."

ENERGY TIPS FOR 1975

With winter upon us it is more important than ever to practice good conservation measures.

1. Don't use space heaters to warm an area.
2. Turn off lights when they are not needed.
3. Shut off machines when not in use.
4. Avoid wasting hot water.
5. Keep windows and outside doors closed.
6. Dress in clothing that will keep you warm in buildings that will be a few degrees cooler than they have been.
7. Set thermostats at 68 degrees.
8. Install proper insulation.

Service Awards

Decatur

- 10 Years: Gerald D. Hawkins
20 Years: Onal J. Epperson, Christopher C. Suits, Lloyd L. Bruns, Bernard B. Jones, Leroy C. Erue.

Chattanooga

- 20 Years: Willie C. Jones, Calvin B. Twitty, Clarence T. Daniel, W.T. Mullis.
30 Years: Farrow K. Moss
40 Years: Ulysses Reed

Outside Sales

- 10 Years: Glenn E. McPeters
20 Years: Robert J. Ott
40 Years: J. K. Potts

Retirements

Decatur

- Henry W. Stratman, universal milling machine operator, 46 years, 6 months, January 27.
Otis B. Fears, metal pattern maker "A", 34 years, 2 months and 3 days, December 31 (80 plan).
Leonard C. Wampler, finished stores receiving clerk, 15 years, 6 months and 1 day, January 31.
Lyle R. Huff, vice president, secretary-treasurer, 24 years, 5 months, January 31.

Chattanooga

- Charles C. Turner, machine operator, 26 years, 1 month and 18 days, January 3 (80 plan).
Dallas B. Maffett, core cleaner, 23 years, 11 months and 14 days, December 31 (80 plan).
J.C. Rutledge, core service no. 1 slinger helper, 29 years and 29 days, January 3 (80 plan).
James E. Richardson, air set core machine operator, 30 years, 5 months, 16 days, December 27 (80 plan).
Clyde D. Scott, shipping and warehouse laborer, 32 years, 2 months and 10 days.

Mueller, Limited

- Frank Vidler, geared head lathe operator, 33 years, 8 months and 6 days.

• • • • •

The telephone rang in the maternity ward and a very excited voice said: "This is Harold Smith and I'm bringing my wife in--she's about to have a baby!"

"Calm down", said the attendant. "Tell me, is this her first baby?"

"No," the voice replied. "This is her husband!"

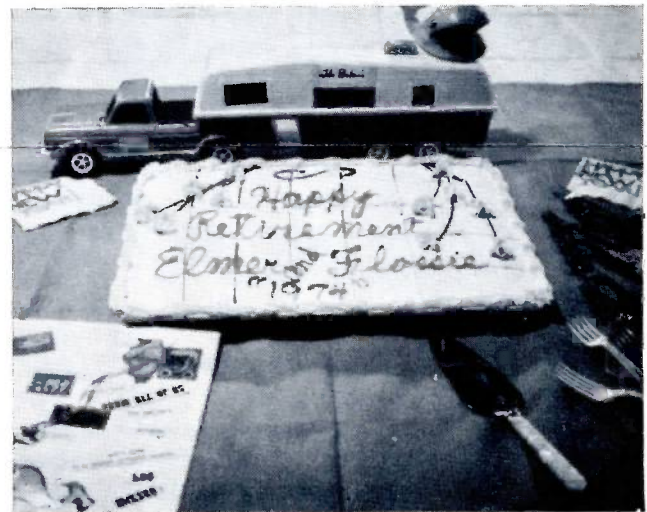
**"MAKE IT CO."
IN ACTION**



Douglas Reeder, junior achievement leader from Mueller Co., Decatur, is reading the instructions at the right, as members of the "Make-It Co." were busy making candles for the Christmas Season. J.A. leaders from Mueller Co. not in the picture are Alice Wier, Al Brandt and Mike Leatherman.



Otis Fears, right, metal pattern maker in Department 35 and Harold Peer, Pattern Shop foreman, pause for a picture as they prepare to take a plant tour.



Donald Matthews, Core Room foreman, is presenting Flossie Baker with a retirement gift as other Core Room retirees come in to make a memorable affair. Left to right, Ernest Hetzler, Charles Johnson, George Anderson, Maggie Carter, Ada Wood, Flossie Baker, Elmer Baker, Dorothy Cooper, Carl Fleischauer, Mildred Johnson and Helen O'Del. Present but not in photo was Roy Carter. A good time was had by all.

**ACCOMPLISH
BLOODLESS SURGERY**

Chances are, patients who undergo surgery in the future may not suffer bleeding from the knife wound. Scientists at a Japanese University Institute of Electronics have devised a new scalpel which provides the answer. The instrument uses jets of gases heated to high temperatures and charged with electricity. Virtually no blood is lost during surgery on animals. The researchers expect to have the scalpel perfected soon for use on humans.

LADDER SAFETY

Assuming that you have the proper type and size ladder for the job, here are some items to look for:

1. Loose steps or rungs (consider them loose if they can be moved at all with the hand).
2. Loose nails, screws, bolts, or other metal parts of the ladder.
3. Cracked, split, separated, or broken uprights, braces, steps or rungs.
4. Slivers on uprights, rungs or steps.
5. Damaged or worn nonslip bases.

Where stepladders are involved, look for:

1. Wobble (from side strain).
2. Loose and bent hinge spreaders.
3. Broken stops on hinge spreaders.
4. Broken, split or worn steps.

On extension ladders, check for:

1. Loose, broken or missing extension locks.
2. Defective locks that do not seat properly when the ladder is extended.
3. Worn or frayed ladder ropes.
4. Worn or defective safety feet.

If you'll get in the habit of noticing and correcting these things every time you use a ladder, you'll be giving yourself the right kind of break.

THE MORGAN DOLLAR: A LEGACY IN SILVER

To a numismatist, the names Morgan and Carson City mean something "magical!" But since most of us only "collect" coins so we can re-spend them, the word "silver" would probably mean more.

During the late-1800s in America's old west of Nevada, California and Colorado, names such as Virginia City, Silver City and Cripple Creek literally "screamed" riches and adventure. Carson City, Nevada, was no exception.

But Carson City had something more -- a United States Mint! Right in the middle of silver country, that mint turned out silver dollars designed by George T. Morgan. These are the only ones to carry the unique "CC" double-letter mint mark.

They have become very special. Why? Because only 13 years of the Morgan Silver Dollar were produced by the Carson City Mint which closed for good in 1893! All coins stored there were shipped to other mints and banks around the country and were thought to have been lost during massive coin melts in the early-1900s.

However, in 1964, after production of silver-content coins was discontinued, the General Accounting Office conducted an audit of the Treasury's silver dollars. It turned up nearly three million uncirculated silver dollars from the long-closed Carson City Mint.

Now the GAO is selling these coins to the American people, by public mail bid, as a legacy from a by-gone era.

HOME IMPROVEMENT TO SAVE ENERGY

Federal Energy Administrator John C. Sawhill has endorsed and urged support for a special industry 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.

NEWS FROM CHATTANOOGA (Jack Malone)



It is with deep sadness that we report the death of Coy E. Jones, General Foundry Superintendent, on December 30, 1974.

Coy, only 51 at the time of his death, came to Mueller Co. in 1942 as a molder trainee. At an early age Coy exhibited an ability to excel in all aspects of his employment.

Through his years of foundry experience, he became widely known in foundry activities and became a valuable source of information not only to the Mueller Co. but to other foundries in the southeast area.

Coy served on the Board of Directors of the American Foundry Society and was frequently called upon to speak on foundry practices and procedures. He also found time in his busy career to participate in sports and received many awards for bowling and golf.

His vast knowledge of foundry practices is irreplaceable and his absence will be keenly felt by all Chattanooga employees.