

NEWSLETTER

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Don Bathe, Coordinator

**HUGH BAKER
APPOINTED TRUSTEE**

Hugh L. Baker, product development manager of Mueller Co. has been appointed a trustee of the James Millikin Estate. Announcement of the appointment was made by G. William Madden, chairman of the trustees.

The trust estate was established in 1909 under the will of James Millikin, who bequeathed \$1.2 million to it for charitable purposes.

Mr. Baker was named to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of E.K. Scheiter. Other trustees include Merrill Lindsay, L. Earl Duncan and Dr. William Requarth.

Baker, a Decatur native, has been associated with the Mueller Co. since his graduation in engineering from the University of Michigan in 1933.

He began working for Mueller Co. in 1934 in the Engineering Department of the company's Columbian Iron Works Division in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and a year later he entered the Sales Department, becoming sales manager of the division in 1937.

In 1945 he was transferred to Decatur as assistant sales manager for the company. Baker has held a number of positions in the Headquarters Sales as well as Advertising and Marketing.

Mr. Baker is active in community affairs and now serves on the Salvation Army board, Decatur Mental Health Center board, Central Illinois Mental Health Affiliates board, Central Illinois Alcoholism Program board and the state board of the Lincoln State School Parents Association.

He is an elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church and a member of the Country Club of Decatur. He lives at 42 South Shores Dr. with his wife, Sarah.

**MEN RETIREES
LUNCHEON CHANGE**

The July luncheon, to be held at Swartz Restaurant, has been changed from July 10 to July 17.

All men retirees are encouraged to come to the noon luncheon, see old friends and talk over old times.

Do you remember when the church was located on Eldorado Street and Monroe -- the core room located at College and Cerro Gordo Streets? How things have changed.

HOUSING STARTS ROSE 2% IN APRIL

Housing analysts generally agree that the latest government figures on housing construction indicate a housing recovery still is on the way. But they say the recovery will be a painfully slow one that will provide only a modest boost to the nation's sagging economy.

The Commerce Department reported that housing starts did turn up a bit in April to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 990,000 units -- but this was only 2% above the March pace of 974,000 units, which was the second lowest monthly rate in the past 30 years.

According to Michael Sumichrast, chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders, the slim gain was disappointing to some housing economists, the rate was lower than expected and recovery time uncertain. He added that even though it is evident we have bottomed out, there isn't any great push on housing starts as yet.

Housing analysts were encouraged, however, by a 27% jump in new building permits, often an indicator of future housing starts.

Harry Schwartz, chief economist for the Federal National Mortgage Association stated the pickup in permits is an indicator that you're starting to get a modest recovery. Both he and Mr. Sumichrast expect housing starts to slowly rise to an annual rate of 1.5 million to 1.6 million units by this year's fourth quarter.

James Pate, assistant Commerce Secretary for Economic Affairs, said even the slight upturn in April housing starts was "encouraging" because it included an unexpected rise in apartment starts, which have been especially depressed lately.

"Housing usually goes down like the devil" during a recession "and comes back like the devil" during an economic upturn, "but I think this housing recovery is going to be moderate," Mr. Pate said.

According to the "Wall Street Journal" a new law giving buyers a tax credit of 5% of the purchase price, or up to \$2,000 on new homes built or under construction before March 26 appears to be helping builders whittle down the big backlog of homes.

Henry Schechter, housing economist for the AFL-CIO said the "major drag" is interest rates as most people's incomes still are such that they can't afford to buy at current rates.

NEWS FROM CHATTANOOGA
(By Jack Malone)



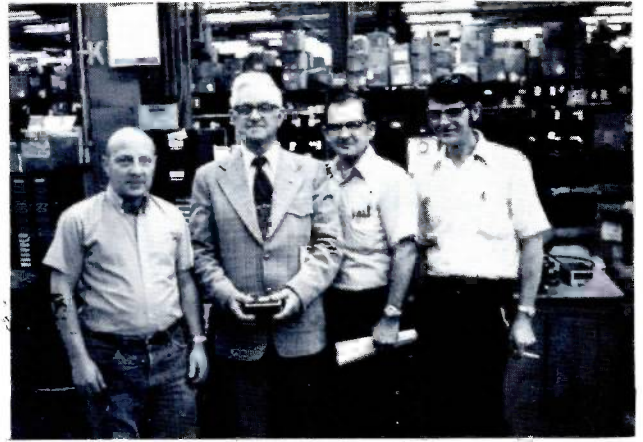
Frank Puffer, Sales Order Interpreter, was honored with a retirement luncheon in the company conference room on Friday, April 18. Frank, who retired after more than forty (40) years of service, says that he enjoyed every day that he has spent with Mueller Co. His extreme loyalty and devotion to his job has earned him much respect over the years. Frank's many friends and fellow workers wish him much happiness in his new venture. Left to right: Earl Bright, George Piper, the honoree and Stanley Kuhne.



Jack Borker, purchasing agent, is shown presenting a plaque of special recognition to Ray Oldham, star corner-back of the Baltimore Colts. Ray was the guest of honor at the April meeting of the Foreman's Club. His remarks in reference to the extensive training and experiences as a Baltimore Colt proved most interesting indeed and all members appeared to be awed at his speech. Ray is the only native Chattanooga at the present time who is a member of the National Football League. Jack Malone, Club President, is seen at left admiring a team autographed football.



Floyd Howard is surrounded by fellow workers on his last day at Mueller Co.



Floyd stopped long enough for one more picture with Tom Branson and foremen, Bill Baney and Walter Jenkins. Floyd said, "even though I am retiring from Mueller Co., I will keep on working."

MANY KIDS HURT
COPYING KnieVEL FEATS

Even Knievel's daring, well-publicized motorcycling feats are causing a serious rash of accidents among his hero-worshipping fans.

For example: Five-year-old Ricky tried an Evel Knievel type jump with his bicycle and fractured the roof of his mouth. Ten-year-old Kenneth tried to ride his bike up a ramp, a-la-Skycycle II, and suffered a knee injury that cost his parents \$2,500.

These are examples Rep. John M. Murphy, D-N.Y., said he found of children injured while trying to mimic Knievel's feats.

Murphy said he had a survey done that found 57 hospital cases in which injuries "were Evel-inspired." He said the survey turned up two cases in which children were hospitalized six weeks--one with a broken femur, the other with a ruptured liver.

Murphy said the National Association of Children's Hospitals did the survey and found that in injuries with some link to the daredevil-type play the cost of hospitalization ranged from \$23 to \$5,400.

Murphy warns parents, "If you gave your youngster Evel Knievel gifts this Christmas, watch them closely. There have been millions of Evel Knievel toys sold. With the Canyon jump fresh in youngsters minds I would like to prevent as many injuries as possible which might result from imaginative youngsters who attempt to imitate their hero's daredevil exploits."

He tried unsuccessfully to block broadcast of Knievel's September 8 attempt to rocket a stylized motorcycle across the Snake River Canyon. He said he wishes news media had ignored the jump.

Murphy said youngsters have made Knievel a play-time hero. All over the country they've been trying to match the jump in their own way -- on tricycles and bicycles.

NEWS FROM SARNIA
(By Phyllis Turner)



Donald Foreman is being congratulated by friends on his day of retirement.

Service Awards

Albertville

40 Years: Russ Davis

Chattanooga

10 Years: Thomas R. Johnson

20 Years: James M. Cathey, James Culberson, Hershel F. Morrison, Bobby H. Ridge, Mary K. Stancil

30 Years: Gene M. Racz

Decatur

10 Years: Mary Jane Humes

Sarnia

20 Years: Garfield Cross

AVERAGE U.S. HOUSEHOLD SHRINKS TO 2.97 PERSONS

The average size of the U.S. household continued to shrink in 1974, reflecting the decline in the birth rate and an increase in the number of people who live alone.

The Census Bureau says the average number of persons per U.S. household dropped to 2.97 last year, the first time on record it has ever been below three. In 1973 the figure was 3.01 and five years earlier it was 3.19. The average household size has been shrinking steadily since 1964.

The report, based on a nationwide survey conducted last March, indicates that last year 19.1% of the nation's 69.9 million households represented persons living alone. That percentage compared with 18.5% in 1973 and 16.7% in 1969.

NATION'S ENERGY USE DIPS

America's use of energy in all its forms has dropped for the first time in twenty one years, notes a Commerce Clearing House Report.

Demand for heat, light and power fell 2.2 percent in 1974 from the equivalent of 74,743 trillion British thermal units in 1973 to 73,121 trillion Btu's last year.

Following an average annual rate of growth of 4.1 percent between 1960 and 1973, the abrupt 1974 downturn represented the first decrease in energy consumption since 1952, according to the CCH summary of U.S. Interior data which appeared in the publishers **Energy Management** reports.

Energy consumption for 1974 fell in all major categories, with the biggest drop -- 3.4 percent -- in transportation; jet fuel use was down 5.9 percent and gasoline use dipped 2.1 percent.

Five reasons were cited by the government agency for energy use cutbacks: the oil embargo, higher prices, the economic slowdown, successful conservation efforts and a mild winter.

Petroleum (including natural gas liquids) supplied almost half the nation's total energy needs--45.8 percent, down slightly from the previous year. Natural gas remained steady in second place at 30.4 percent. Bituminous coal and lignite accounted for 17.8 percent, up slightly from 1973, followed by hydropower (4.2 percent), nuclear power (1.6 percent) and anthracite (0.2 percent).

Retirements

Chattanooga

William G. Beene, Natco drill press w/hoist operator, Machine Shop, 21 years, 9 months and 6 days, May 30, (80 Plan).

Hollis B. Cunningham, Maintenance Department clerk, 21 years, 4 months and 4 days, May 30.

Autra G. Fant, assistant Foundry foreman, 26 years, 11 months and 15 days, May 30, (80 Plan).

Joseph T. McGintis, automatic core machine attendant, Core Room, 30 years, 8 months and 2 days, May 30, (80 Plan).

Willard C. Selvage, Leland Gifford drill press operator, Machine Shop, 23 years, 6 months and 10 days, May 30, (80 Plan).

Decatur

Floyd P. Howard, assembly machine operator, Department 80, 29 years and 4 days, May 18 (80 Plan).

Sarnia

Donald Foreman, Machine Repair, 35 years, 28 days, April 26.

NEWS FROM BREA
(By Mary Lou Bellante)



Brea has once again received an award for its continued AID contributions. In spite of less employees, Brea still had 71% of its employees contributing monthly.

Shown receiving "Award of Commendation" from Carl Hawkins, AID representative are Plant Manager Lloyd Darnell (center) and Ed Moore of Industrial Relations (right) who is also the AID Chairman.

Former payroll clerk, Carol Tatman, who says she is constantly reminded of her old friends, sends a poem from the Belmont Courier (northern California) which indicates our East Bay hydrants are real P.R. agents in disguise.

"THE HAPPY HYDRANTS OF BELMONT"
by James W. McLaughlin, Chairman
Belmont Golden Anniversary-Bicentennial

I've read of chocolate factories with little oompa-loompas
and wooden-soldier marching bands that play a lot of ompahs.
I've read about the leprechauns, the seven dwarfs, the fairies.
I've heard about the dadeedooos that live on stones and berries.
I've seen the flowers bloom in spring. I've heard the lightning's
thunders.
I've seen the mountains, seas and clouds and many other wonders.
I've seen the world from end to end, around and top to bottom.
but nowhere else such things as these-for nowhere else has got 'em.
What I have seen in Belmont, Cal. is even more fantastic
than man's imagination wrought for candy, wood or plastic
and stranger than the strangest things in nature's great collection
or lovely things and power things and things of great perfection.
The fire plugs all around this town, unnoticed, drab and lonely,
decided they were good for more than putting fires out, only,
so, one by one they came to life in unexpected places
with heads and arms and feet and necks and cute and different
faces.
Some wear a smile. Some sear a frown. Some look as though they're
thinking.
Some look sober. Some look drunk, and some of them are winking.
Some grow beards and some do not and some grow quaint mustaches.
Some wear hats and some do not and some have long eyelashes.
Some dress like staunch militiamen—from generals to gatesmen—or
presidents or senators or very famous statesmen.
Others drape themselves in flags to awe the drivers passing and
unleashed dogs who now walk by where they had been trespassing.

And, if you pull your drapes at night, you'll stand, like me, just
gazing to see the plugs leave lonely posts and do things most
amazing,
and 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. when moon is shining brightly
you'll see them walking down the street to go out dancing—nightly.
No more are they disconsolate, nor do they feel dejected.
They've found more purpose to their lives. It dare not be neglected.
Now, every adult, child and plug is out for celebration!—
The birthday of our lovely town—The birthday of our nation.

**GAS INDUSTRY
UNDERGROUND STORAGE**

Over six trillion cubic feet of natural gas can now be stored underground to meet peak winter demands, the American Gas Association announced recently.

The A.G.A. Committee on Underground Gas Storage indicated in its 1974 annual report that there are 367 reservoirs in 26 states.

The storage areas, formerly productive gas and oil fields or natural geological formation, involve an industry investment of approximately \$2 billion.

This storage capacity enables the industry to "bank" natural gas during the summer and provide it to the nation's more than 43 million gas customers during cold weather when demand exceeds current pipeline capacity.

States leading in underground storage capacity are Illinois, with a capacity of 989 billion cubic feet; Michigan with 832 Bcf; Pennsylvania with 728 Bcf; and Ohio with 505 Bcf.

The first successful project of this nature in the United States came in 1916 in the depleted Zoar field south of Buffalo, N.Y. The Zoar Project is still in use and is the oldest continually used storage reservoir.

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Be thrifty when you're young and when you're old
you'll be able to afford the things only the young can
enjoy.

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4X OFFICERS ELECTED

Decatur 4X Club members elected new officers for 1975-76.

President: Clarence Berner, Brass Foundry foreman.
Vice President: Dave Cochran, manager - market research and statistics.
Secretary: Dennis Stansifer, assistant project engineer.
Treasurer: Dan Carlson, general controller and assistant secretary.
Program chairman: Ronald Grant, order department supervisor.