

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 7 September - October 1975

Published by MUELLER CO., Decatur, Illinois

Don Bathe, Coordinator

NATURAL GAS SHORTAGE PREDICTION

The White House prediction of a shortfall of 15% in this winter's supply of natural gas, the nation's dominant domestic energy, emphasizes the critical need for immediate legislative action to improve natural gas supplies from all sources, F. Donald Hart, president of the American Gas Association, said today.

"We are openly fearful that the major emphasis will be placed on government allocation formulas for rationing the shortage rather than the substantive steps to solve this growing problem so vital to our nation's economic recovery because natural gas provides half of the energy used by U.S. industry," Hart said.

"While we are encouraged by the President's vocal support for deregulation of the wellhead price of new natural gas, because it is absolutely essential, we hasten to point out that deregulation alone is not the answer," Hart continued.

Hart, in citing the fact that the projected 15% shortage in natural gas this winter is the energy equivalent of better than half of the nation's total electrical energy output, pointed out that "there is no way this shortage of natural gas can be made up by alternate energies -- electricity, imported oil or coal."

To meet its commitments to the American consumer and to industry, the natural gas industry must also have the means of financing the tremendously expensive projects which will provide natural gas in the form of LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) and SNG (Synthetic Natural Gas). We are convinced that these supplemental gas supply projects will be able to compete effectively with alternate forms of energy.

"Again, we restate our support for deregulation of the field price of new natural gas now being urged by many Congressional leaders as well as the President," Hart continued. "This nation is in the absolutely ridiculous situation of (a) urgently seeking domestic energy self-sufficiency and reducing high priced unstable foreign oil imports (\$12 per barrel plus), while (b) simultaneously perpetuating a stifling price control mechanism (\$3 per barrel equivalent) on natural gas produced in the U.S."

RETIREE DEATHS

Herman E. Jackson, Decatur.



Galen N. Hutchens receives \$1000 check from Charles W. Moore, vice president-manufacturing, upon his retirement of more than 46 years.

Galen N. Hutchens, foreman heat treat department, began his career with Mueller Co. in the Specialties Department until he was promoted to inspector in 1957, then to foreman of the Heat Treat Department in 1968. Upon his retirement he will have 46 years, 11 months and 17 days of service.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT YEAR BEGINS

The Junior Achievement Program in Decatur was kicked off, September 25 with an orientation for the advisors of all J.A. firms sponsored by local industry and business. Meetings will begin October 13.

Evelyn Cox, a member of the Junior Achievement Board will assist the advisors.

Advisors from Mueller Co. this year are: William Clark, Industrial Engineer; John Milliman, Plant Engineering; Ron Grant, Sales and Jean Carlson, Sales.

Any high school student in the Decatur Area is eligible to join the J.A. 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.

THE ART OF GETTING ALONG

Sooner or later, a man, if he is wise, discovers that life is a mixture of good days and bad, victory and defeat, give and take. He learns that it doesn't pay to be a too sensitive soul, that he should let some things go over his head like water off a duck's back. He learns that he who loses his temper usually loses out. He learns that all men have burnt toast for breakfast now and then, and that he shouldn't take the other fellow's grouch too seriously. He learns that carrying a chip on his shoulder is the easiest way to get into a fight. He learns that the quickest way to become unpopular is to carry tales and gossip about others.

He learns that buck-passing always turns out to be a boomerang, and that it never pays. He comes to realize that the business could run along perfectly well without him. He learns that it doesn't matter so much who gets the credit so long as the business benefits. He learns that even the janitor is human and that it does no harm to smile and say "Good Morning," even if it's raining. He learns that most of the other fellows are as ambitious as he is, that they have brains as good or better, and that hard work, not cleverness is the secret of success. He learns to sympathize with the youngster coming into the business, because he remembers how bewildered he was when he first started out. He learns not to worry when he loses an order, because experience has shown that if he always gives his best, his average will break pretty well. He learns that no man ever got to first base alone, and that it is only through cooperative effort that we move on to better things.

He learns that bosses are no monsters, trying to get the last ounce of work out of him for the least amount of pay, but that they are usually pretty good fellows who have succeeded through hard work and who want to do the right thing. He learns that folks are not any harder to get along with in one place than another, and that the "getting along" depends about ninety-eight per cent on his own behavior.

Wilferd Peterson

LETTER OF "THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS"

William E. Murphy, executive vice president of sales received a letter of "thanks and congratulations" from C.J. Gauthier, chairman and president Northern Illinois Gas Company and chairman of American Gas Association, for his message to decontrol the wellhead price of new gas. Mr. Murphy states that if congress were to decontrol the wellhead price of new gas we would get more energy which means more jobs, more housing, more and better new products and more impetus for economy.

He urges you to help by calling or writing to both of your senators who represent your state. The post office has their names and addresses.

HOUSING STARTS SLUGGISH

Homebuilding activity remained sluggish in August as housing starts edged up less than 2% from July and the rate of new permits issued for future construction fell 5%.

Work was begun on new housing last month at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,260,000 units, the Commerce Department said. That's barely ahead of a revised July rate of 1,239,000 units, which was the lowest for the month since 1966. Housing starts last month were up 9% from a depressed rate of 1,156,000 units in August last year.

On the positive side, the August rise in housing starts was the second in a row and put them at the highest level since July of last year.

Housing starts last month were down from July in all regions of the country except the South. All of the decline in the rate of new building permits came in the South and North Central regions.

Housing officials noted that the small gain in housing starts may be less significant than the drop in permits for future building. "Permits really should have increased," said Michael Sumichrast, chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders. While he expects a slow rise in starts in coming months, "there is a cloud on the horizon because of the money markets" and rising interest rates, Mr. Sumichrast said. He noted that, because of rising rates on marketable securities, the flow of savings into home mortgage-lending institutions already has slowed.

TIME OUT FOR UNITED WAY

October is generally recognized as United Way Campaign time.

A United Way parade, Saturday, September 27, through the Decatur downtown area and a United Way kickoff dinner held at the Holiday Inn, October 2 was the start for the United Way.

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 13.

Take time out, put things together, give the United Way.

• • • • •

There seems to be three kinds of movies nowadays: The drive-in, the walk-in, and the look-around-and-side-in.

• • • • •

Business prophets tell what's going to happen. Profits tell what's happened.

• • • • •

Parents are people who bear infants, bore teenagers, and board newlyweds.

FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES

Decatur

Dale Mathes, formerly Ransohoff and Wheelabrator operator has been promoted to night shift janitor foreman, Plant 4.

Chattanooga

Thomas R. Johnson, formerly engineering records clerk has been promoted to head products draftsman.

Lewis M. (Ike) Massey, formerly 3rd shift foundry foreman, Chattanooga, has been transferred to Albertville as process leader melting.

Retirements

BREA

John Fritzer, turret lathe operator, 29 years, 4 months and 21 days (disability)

Paul Bradford, general specialties clerk, 9 years, 11 months, 16 days.

David Garcia, squeeze molder, 28 years, 6 months and 22 days (80 plan)

Dorsey White, Iron Foundry foreman, 26 years, 9 months and 20 days (80 plan)

Betty J. Cosman, machine coremaker "C", 25 years, 10 months and 22 days, (80 plan)

CHATTANOOGA

Robert F. Jones, assistant Foundry foreman, 28 years, 6 months and 20 days (disability)

Fred E. Orton, head products draftsman, 15 years, 6 months and 14 days (disability)

Clifford Thornton, #2 slinger molder, Iron Foundry, 30 years, 8 months and 27 days (80 plan)

James A. Townsend, moldmaster core setter and service man, 22 years, 4 months and 6 days (80 plan)

DECATUR

LeRoy Ashby, chief production control clerk, Dept. 80, 33 years and 11 days.

John C. Boles, power plant and maintenance operator, 22 years, 6 months and 28 days (80 plan)

Harold W. Chambers, janitor, 12 years, 11 months and 6 days (disability)

Lloyd O. Huffman, single parts tester, Dept. 80, 21 years, 7 months and 3 days (80 plan)

Paul Jones, mold dumper and casting handler, Iron Foundry, 28 years, 7 months and 21 days.

Galen N. Hutchens, foreman heat treat, 46 years, 11 months and 17 days.

SARNIA

William A. Williams, 1-2-3 Goss Operator, 31 years, 1 month and 15 days.

L. William (Bill) Eady, inspector, 35 years and 9 days (disability)

Wilbur (Wib) Duggan, stop grinder, 35 years, 5 months and 8 days.

NEWS FROM SARNIA (By Phyllis Turner)



William (Bill Williams (right) receiving a retirement cheque from Mueller, Limited, and congratulations from Foreman, Frank Petronski.

Service Awards

Chattanooga

10 Years: Leroy Lyons

20 Years: James C. Swafford, Robert L.J. Spence, Bill E. Denham, Leroy Williams, John A. Pekala, George D. Moore, Robert F. Catchings, James A. Cooper, Daniel W. Emery, Donald Brayles

Decatur

10 Years: Joseph Chladny, Harold Fyke, Ruth Seggerman, Charles Wade

20 Years: Paul Halbrook, Rosetta Phillips, Hartford Lewis, Myrna Barding, Robert Cole, Troy Henson

30 Years: Garnett Smith, Louis Nash

40 Years: Gaylord Tripp, Martin E. Riewski

Retirees are given a farewell upon their retirement.



John Boles and Foreman, Marshall Foster.



Paul Jones and Friends



Lloyd Huffman with Foremen, Walter Jenkins, Claude Inman and Bill Baney.



Lloyd and Co-workers.



A happy fellow as the 'big day' has arrived. Foreman Claude Inman with gifts, and Jane Miller.



He will always be sure of the time -- his fellow co-workers presented him with an Accutron watch.

GOLFERS TAKE A LESSON

Frank Mueller, Marshall Foster, Walter Bowan and Paul Ammann teed-off on the Frank Mueller Playday August 23rd.

This being the 15th year for the playday, three of the foursome felt they had everything going their way as they had been winners for the past 14 years.

Nine of the eighteen holes had been completed and the three felt the pressure starting to mount. They tried their very best only to miss some of the 'easy' shots.

When the game was completed there were three over-confident, red faced golfers and a happy Frank Mueller who had won after all of the years of losing.