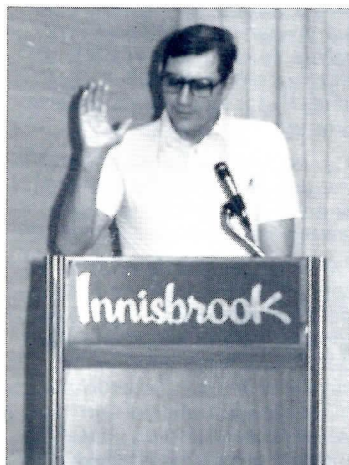


Mueller Service Lines

MARCH 1981

NEWS ABOUT MUELLER CO. EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES

'Powerful' Address at Innisbrook



Innisbrook Resort in Tarpon Springs, Fla. is, to say the least, a nice place to visit in January. Various key management and sales force personnel from all our company plants and offices made the trip. But what made our meeting especially memorable was the address by President Ed Powers. As much as "how" he said it, it was "what" he said that made such a "Powerful" impression on us.

Starting with a company overview of the year 1980, Mr. Powers told us what we'd done in such a way as to make us feel proud, but not complacent; determined, but not driven — and ready for '81.

"Congratulations!" Powers proclaimed. "In a year when housing was off 21% from budget and there was an eight-month strike at Albertville, you did it!" (succeeded in spite of these obstacles).

Powers went on to cite the year's accomplishments, including an increase in gas product sales, the best year in history for the Decatur plant, the new butterfly valve and clamp plants, the establishment of new sales offices, increased export business and improved data processing capability. He added, "Our advertising program has been revamped. A great many new people have been hired, and a significant number of employees have been

continued on page 2

Achievements Recalled, Goals Targeted at Innisbrook Meeting

Two views of President Powers. One: Delivering his rousing address at January's annual meeting at Innisbrook Resort, Tarpon Springs, Fla. Mr. Powers cited major Mueller accomplishments of the past year and looked ahead to even better things in 1981. Two: Powers listening intently (second from right) to C. W. Moore, vice-president of manufacturing, outline production plans. Others at the table are (from left) Bill Leopold, vice-president corporate development; Stan Bogacz, vice-president of personnel and industrial relations; and Fred C. Ausnehmer, vice-president of finance and chief financial officer.

Top Sales Performers Honored

Clockwise from top left: Willis L. Bundy, midwest district sales representative, receives the President's Award from President Powers for achieving the greatest percent of profit increase. Malvin C. West, southeast district sales representative, also receives the President's Award, but for achieving the greatest percent of volume increase. Forrest Baum presents the Man of the Year Award to William R. Knorr, sales training manager, for outstanding contributions in product training and customer relations. Then, Baum looks on as President Powers presents the Founder's Award to Herbert T. Huffine, eastern district sales manager, for both the greatest percent of volume increase and the greatest percent of profit increase in his district.



Making ideas realities

promoted. All in all, it's been a pretty busy year." That was a pretty "Powerful" understatement!

Having taken this brief look backward, Mr. Powers looked ahead, and made the previous good news sound like hard times.

The demographic information Powers cited boiled down to a projected need for 2.2 million new homes per year throughout the decade. Many of these are going to be in the Sunbelt where aridity is going to mean a large demand for transmission lines, new lift stations, water treatment plants, etc. Prospects for a company like ours are bright, and, to quote the boss again, "We will be there when the product is needed."

We're diversifying, too, with things not entirely dependent on housing. In 1981 we will sell 18 million dollars in product markets we were not in two years ago.

The President summed up his message with a statement we could all applaud: "We made major progress in 1980, and it will continue. For 123 years we have been the leader of an industry — we are not going to stop now!"

A man across the table whispered to his companion, "It isn't bragging when you can do it." □



In just a little over a year after the idea germinated for a new, modern production facility, that idea became reality. We were shipping out butterfly valves from this, our newest plant, in Clinton, S.C.

Add quality to that equation and you understand how Mueller has gained its reputation and stature in the marketplace. Consider our operation in Clinton, S.C., where Mueller Co.'s newest product, the Lineseal III Butterfly Valve, is being produced at our newest plant.

We wanted a 48,000 sq.-ft. plant with state-of-the-art machinery and computer-controlled machine tools to add an important new dimension to our operations.

Irv Campbell, manager of manufacturing programs, was assigned the job of seeing that things got done. He did! From concept to construction in six months!

A plan was submitted and approved by the Board of Directors in May of 1979. By September, Irv had examined sixteen possible sites in South Carolina and Alabama. A decision was made and ground was broken in November. We moved in this May and by July we were shipping out butterfly valves!

Six months from concept to construction — eight months from groundbreaking to production: an idea becomes reality.

At Mueller Co. we have always believed that quality begins with people. We believe our new Plant

Manager at Clinton, Ronald S. Mensik, fits very well into the "quality" category.

Having had previous experience in manufacturing management for Continental Can Co., Ron worked in materials management and purchasing and inventory control before he became manager of the LaGrange, Ga. plant of DeZurik (maker of butterfly and ball valves). We are glad to have him at Clinton.

Quality products? Currently we are producing 12" through 24" valves, though later in 1981, 30" through 48" valves will be available. And it is a very impressive product.

The Lineseal III Butterfly Valve is the result of intensive research and design, and incorporates several very saleable innovations.

"Mueller Co. should be in an exceedingly favorable competitive position among our major customers," (water and waste distribution and treatment plants), says Ron Mensik. "Mueller Co. has obviously entered this market with the intention of making the best product we possibly can."

Given the past year's progress and our product quality, we won't be at all surprised if Ron's prediction pans out. □

New managers named

Three new managers have been named to Mueller's expanded marketing organization. They are top flight guys. We'd like you to meet:

Michael Bucalo, Sales Manager — Fire Protection.

Michael McLaughlin, Product Manager — Treatment Plants.

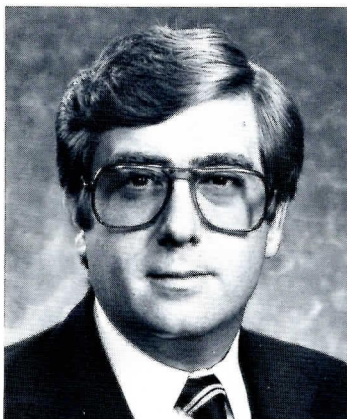
Shawn Pulford, Product Manager — Butterfly Valves.

All these appointments are to newly created positions.

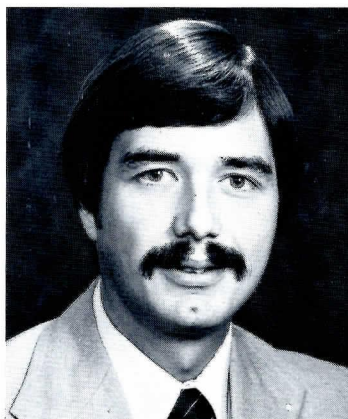
Mike Bucalo is responsible for sales of fire protection products nationwide. He works out of Decatur, reporting to the director of sales.

For the past four years, Mike has been a Mueller sales representative in the Midwest region, headquartering in Minneapolis, Minn. Prior to that, he worked for Automatic Sprinkler Corp. He is a graduate of Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio.

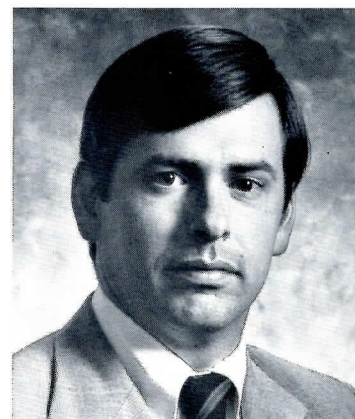
Mike McLaughlin joined Mueller from Allis Chalmers' valves division in York, Pa., where he was



Michael Bucalo, Sales Manager — Fire Protection



Michael McLaughlin, Product Manager — Treatment Plants



Shawn Pulford, Product Manager — Butterfly Valves

supervisor of international sales. He had worked previously for Copes-Vulcan Co., Lake City, Fla.

He graduated from Gannon University, Erie, Pa., with a B.S. in general science and a masters degree in marketing and economics. His jobs have involved marketing and applications engineering

in both the power generating and water treatment industries.

Following graduation from Widener University, the third new member of the Mueller team, Shawn Pulford, joined ITT's Grinnell Valve Co., where he held a variety of assignments over the past seven years.

Most recently, he was northeast regional butterfly specialist in Grinnell's Kennedy Valve Division. His earlier assignments included office manager for marketing services, territory manager and treatment plant specialist in butterfly and knife gate valves. □

Strictly Personal Decatur

NEWS ABOUT MUELLER CO. EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES

PLANT MANAGER'S CORNER

I am pleased to announce that after two months of operation in 1981 the Decatur Plant is back to full employment. We anticipate that we'll be able to maintain this full work force providing the economy doesn't slip further.

The operational results of the Decatur Plant have been satisfactory with progress being made in every area except two. The two areas in which the results have been unsatisfactory are **SAFETY AND HOUSEKEEPING**. Our Safety Record for December and January was less than desired.

We are having too many Lost Time Accidents and too many First Aid Treatments. Safety is Attitude. We must think Safe to be Safe. One of our accidents in January resulted in the loss of an employee's hand. To improve our record and protect the health of all our employees will require 100% cooperation on the part of every individual within the plant. I urge you to think

about your job; notice and report any unsafe acts or conditions. Keep your mind on Safety, and don't take short cuts.

Mueller is committed to Safety and the elimination of Safety Hazards. We pledge our support, and solicit your ideas. Remember you, our employees, are the greatest asset we have.

On January 26, 1981 Mr. Mike Bauer joined us as our new Manager of Safety and Employee Relations. Mike's first task as a member of the Decatur facility was to prepare and implement a totally new comprehensive Safety Program. The first phase of his programs have begun, and I am sure he is on the right track. Your cooperation with Mike will be deeply appreciated.

As 1981 progresses let's all pitch-in and make Mueller Co. —Decatur a safer and cleaner place to work.

SAFETY
by
Donald P. Dwyer

There is no question that accidents are costly to employees and industry. Today, failure to try to reduce the number of injuries and accidents is inexcusable. Accidents result in a waste of resources, both human and material.

Accidents are counterproductive. In this day of challenging competition, domestically as well as foreign, all of us must pull together to reduce the number of accidents and the resulting injuries so that we may remain competitive.

It has long been recognized that accidents are preventable through the 3-E's of Safety — Engineering, Education, and Enforcement.

All of us can do our individual part in making Mueller Co.—Decatur a safer place in which to work. What can I do?, you ask! The key to most successful programs is **HOUSEKEEPING**. Remember the old saying "Cleanliness is next to Godliness," and so it is if we want to have a safe operation. Good housekeeping, or the lack of, is an expression of the attitude of that facility. By "good housekeeping" I mean an extraordinarily clean plant, whether

we are talking about the machining operation or the brass and iron foundry. Good housekeeping should be emphasized in connection with job training, as it has been proven that accidents are less likely to occur in areas of a plant where good housekeeping exists.

The appearance of most facilities can be improved if we take the little extra time and effort necessary to have good housekeeping.

Hazard control is another essential in a good safety program. Hazard control requires identifying and evaluating hazards and is essential in the control of accidents. Hazard control, like good housekeeping, contributes to increased productivity in addition to the safety of all. Can you imagine being told to be a safe worker and not being provided with eye protection? Yes, it's hard to imagine; yet, it does occur, hopefully, not often. If each of us will look for hazards in and around our work areas and see that these hazards are reported to our supervisor, we will have taken at least one step in the direction of hazard control.

(con't. on back)



Gene Hullinger, Plant Manager and Charles Moore, Vice President Manufacturing congratulate Martin Riewski on 45 years of service.

RETIREMENTS

JANE CRANSTON, Secretary to President, 45 years, 2 months, 16 days. December 31, 1979.

J. KENNETH POTTS, Salesman, 45 years, 21 days. December 31, 1979.

VIVIAN DOOLEN, Cashier, 18 years, 7 months, 6 days. December 31, 1979.

HERBERT DEIBERT, Production Tool Grinder A, 39 years, 2 months, 3 days. December 31, 1979.

ROBERT FAWCETT, Bodine Nut Tapping Machine Operator, 30 years, 3 months, 2 days. December 31, 1979.

HAROLD RUPPERT, Checker, 30 years, 5 months, 2 days. December 31, 1979.

JAMES W. JONES, Sales Service Correspondent—Gas, 24 years, 5 months, 26 days. December 31, 1979.

RICHARD KITCHEN, District Sales Manager, 31 years, 28 days. February 29, 1980.

DONALD WEEMER, Ground Key Chip Man, 11 years, 11 months, 6 days. March 31, 1980.

EVERETT MORGAN, Rough Key Lathe Operator, 27 years, 5 days. May 30, 1980.

EARNEY BLACK, Drill Press Operator A, 26 years, 7 months, 7 days. June 16, 1980.

FRANCIS COOPER, Painter A, 12 years, 4 months June 16, 1980

LEROY ERUE, 23 AB N.B. Automatic Operator, 25 years, 4 months. June 16, 1980.

RAYMOND DONALDSON, Machine Repairman A, 42 years, 6 months, 18 days. June 30, 1980.

JOHN MAXWELL, Machine Operator AA, 40 years, 8 months, 11 days. July 14, 1980.

CHARLES ATER, Cyle Counter, 18 years, 11 months, 11 days. July 31, 1980.

GAYLORD TRIPP, Landis Bolt Threader, 45 years, 8 days. August 20, 1980.

WILLIAM SEBOK, Industrial Engineer, 16 years, 1 month, 7 days. August 26, 1980.

PAUL HAWBAKER, Tool Maker A, 40 years, 10 months, 12 days. August 29, 1980.

VANCE HECKMAN, Scaleman, 25 years, 1 month, 20 days. August 31, 1980.

MARTIN RIEWSKI, Assembly, Tester, Set-up Man, 45 years. September 16, 1980.

ROBERT OTT, National Accounts Manager—Gas, 25 years, 7 months, 15 days, September 16, 1980.

MELVIN W. CROSS, Production Control Clerk, 41 years, 1 day. October 28, 1980.

THOMAS NICE, Janitor & Laborer, 26 years, 1 month, 7 days. October 31, 1980.

WILLIAM MISENHEIMER, Oris-eal Assembler & Tester, 40 years, 4 months, 4 days, November 28, 1980.

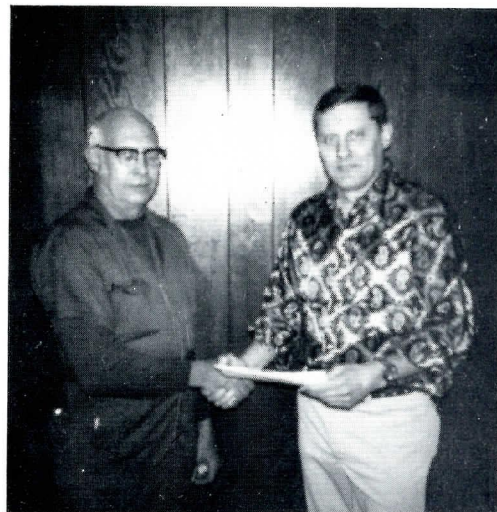
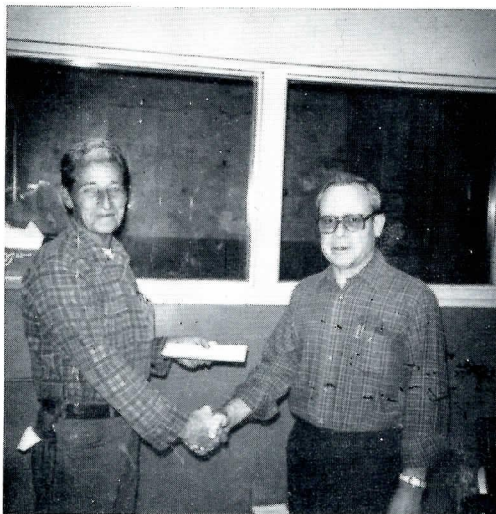
SAFETY can't. from front

Great progress has been made in safety in those firms that have directed their attention toward education and training among all employees. An effective training program is an essential element in accident prevention. Emphasis should be placed on the quality, not necessarily the quantity, of the education training. To be effective, safety meetings should be planned so that continuous interest is maintained in accident prevention.

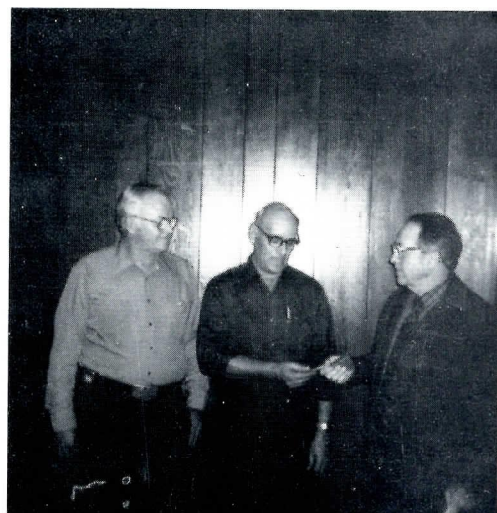
The climate must be right in the work-place in order for accident prevention to work effectively. The attitudes of all employees toward safety and accident prevention cannot be found wanting, nor can compromise be present. If employees want a safe facility, a safe facility will evolve after priorities and goals are set. There can be no condoning of unsafe practices or conditions, and legitimate safety requests should be acted upon promptly.

Last, but certainly not least, is the element of discipline if we are to have a successful accident prevention and safety program. All you need do to prove this point to yourself is to examine the records of those facilities that have good results, and you'll undoubtedly find a disciplined work place.

Goals, objectives, and responsibility for achieving desired results are a necessity if we are to have an exceptional safety performance at Mueller Co.—Decatur. The preceding approach in the development and implementation of an accident prevention program has a record of success. Why not do your part today in Safety!



Service Award recipients in the past year include (above, left) John Linn, 30 years; (above right) Bill Barnes, 30 years; (below, left) Bill Misenheimer, 40 years; and (below, right) Ray Schroll, 40 years.



SERVICE AWARDS

10 Year Awards:

Harold Reynolds
William Coleman
Delores Luker
Larry Cooper
Ronald Clark
Norma Enloe
William Gibbs
James West
Nancy Crooks
Larry McDermith
Robert Sands
Mary Jones
James Welsh
Dennis Williams
Robert Taylor
Garrett Terrill
Lester Manns
Frank Lower
Benny Browning
James Ford

20 Year Awards

David Resler
Doyle Talley
Elsie Tapp
Homer Rambo
Robert Logue
Harry Logue
Michael Ater
Larry Collins
Raymond Quick
Ralph Hiser
Maurice Moore
Lee Smull
Robert McCoy
Thomas Manks
Janice Click
Gay Pruett
Merle Howell
Donald Pease
Stuart Winn
Raymond Howell
Thomas McCoy

30 Year Awards

Harold Peer
Richard Tish
Robert Jesse
Andrew Heitman
Joseph Yonker
Robert Dickerson
Robert Henderson
Richard Ross
Melvin Whittington
Charles Canaday
Mary Lou Wetherell
Clifford Hammel
Benjamin Carter
Laverne Getz
Cecil Baker
Charles Bafford
Robert Ritchie
Wilbur Sweazy
Charles Macklin
Bill Brooks
James Spain

Kenneth Moore
Elmer Ball
Frank Seevers
Delmar Bagenski
Floyd Erlenbusch
Scott Kwasny
James Cussins
Thurman Dunnaway
Michael Tirpak
Ben Berner
Kenneth Daugherty
John Hackl
Earl Caulk
Alice Weir
Ralph Handley
Wayne Jones
John Linn
William Barnes

40 Year Awards

Robert Leipski
Dale Reidelberger
Paul Ammann
William Misenheimer
Wayne Nottingham
Maynard Buckta
Claude Inman
Ferden Herreid
Walter Ford
Raymond Schroll
Galen Jenkins

Anatomy of an eight-month strike

Just over one year ago, on January 29, 1980, the Molders' Union at our Albertville, Ala. plant struck the company after two months of intensive negotiations. The issues were framed early when the union stated that it would settle for no less than an uncapped cost-of-living clause, among many other demands made upon the company, both economic and non-economic. The company was equally firm in its insistence that it would not agree to any contract provisions which relinquished management's right to operate the business or which did not have an acceptable fixed cost.

When the company made its final offer, the union rejected it, preferring to strike in an attempt to achieve its demands. This plant had already experienced 19½ weeks in strikes by the Molders' Union since its inception in 1975, so both sides knew what a strike involved.

When it became apparent to management that no settlement was imminent, the company decided that it could not agree to the union's demands and that it would exercise its legal right to hire full-time replacement workers for all employees that continued to strike. The company did not make this decision lightly, and had previously corresponded directly with every striking employee.

The letter to the striking employees reviewed the status of the negotiations and stressed the company's and the employees' vital interests in reaching an agreement. The company stated unequivocally that it did not want to hire replacement workers. However, when the company's final proposal was subsequently rejected by the union, the company felt that it had no other option. Each striking employee was notified that he or she had a final opportunity to abandon the strike and report to work. Then, in mid-April, the company advertised for replacement workers. The company gave assurances to the replacement workers that their jobs were permanent "provided they would perform the work and abide by company rules."

The response was overwhelming. Over 2,500 persons applied for 300 openings. Many of the strikers did not know or

believe that the company had the right to replace them, and they attempted to prohibit the new employees from working. Mass picketing, demonstrations, and some violence ensued for a short time until the company obtained a court injunction limiting all strike activities.

The company then had to train the new work force. They progressed much better than expected, but, naturally, at first they lacked the skill of the experienced striking workers.

Much legal activity on behalf of the company and the union continued for the next several months, and negotiations continued intermittently. As the strike stretched into the summer, the union changed its position and indicated its willingness to accept the company's final offer and come back to work if the company would displace the newly hired workers. However, the company responded that it had assured the replacement workers that their jobs were permanent, and accordingly would not agree to release them.

Finally, on September 16, 1980, after 232 days, the company and the union negotiated a strike settlement agreement that essentially provided for the settling of all legal and administrative issues and the signing of a three-year contract. A method of recalling former striking employees when jobs became available was agreed upon, but none of the newly hired employees was to be replaced. Additionally, the union agreed to accept the same terms and conditions that the company had made in its final offer before it began to hire replacements.

The strike was very costly for all parties concerned. As reported in the year-end edition of *The Huntsville (Ala.) Times*:

"Other economic news was downbeat, however, with a strike at the Mueller plant dragging on for seven months.

"The strike was marred with violence. Numerous criminal and civil proceedings involving the dispute were filed in the Marshall County Circuit Court.

"About 300 striking workers, many already replaced by new employees, finally agreed to accept the firm's contract proposal in September and the Albertville plant was returning to normal by the end of the year."

It is estimated that the striking employees relinquished more than 3.5 million dollars in lost compensation, and the company lost an equal amount of business that it is working to recapture. However, the impact of the strike was not limited to those two parties. The total cost of the strike was over \$12 million if its impact on the community and all parties is considered. Listed here are the major organizations involved with the strike outside of the direct parties, all of whom, to a greater or lesser degree, devoted time, money and resources:

Federal Government

- National Labor Relations Board
- Federal Mediation & Conciliation Sources

State Government

- Dept. of Public Safety
- Dept. of Labor
- Office of Development
- Supreme Court

County Governments

- Circuit Court
- County Court
- Sheriff's Dept.
- County Prosecutor

Local Governments

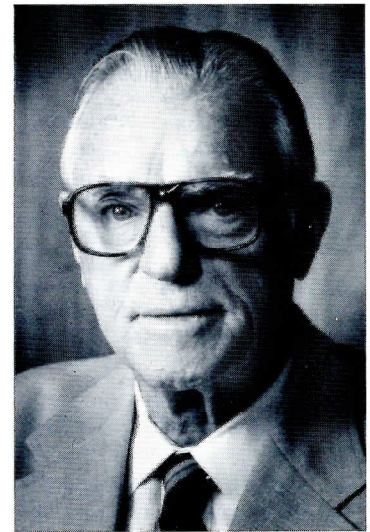
- City Councils
- Police Depts.
- City Attorneys
- City Courts

Private Organizations

- Law Firms
- Chamber of Commerce
- AFL-CIO
- National Right to Work Committee
- Regional Labor Council
- Regional Industry Association

Editors Note:

Today the Albertville plant is operating at above pre-strike levels of production. The number of hourly employees is 350. Approximately 70% of the former striking employees have not received their jobs back and are on lay-off status. Five percent of the striking employees were discharged for strike-related misconduct. Seventy-two percent of the active work force do not belong to the union. □



In memoriam Frank H. Mueller

The officers, employees and friends of the Mueller Co. wish to honor and pay tribute to a man who has been invaluable to them personally, and as a leader of the company and the Decatur community.

Frank H. Mueller was an inspiration to all who associated with him. He was an engineer by profession, an active civic leader, and, as one who believed that athletic competition ennobled the mind, a fine sportsman. Through tenacity and determination, Frank faced and overcame the adversity of a debilitating disease which left him badly crippled in the prime of his life. He also had the greater qualities of a facile, inquisitive mind and a personal warmth which was the hallmark of the man.

He was a prolific engineer in the tradition of the Mueller family, receiving 162 original patents during his lifetime. Beyond that, however, he was an articulate spokesman for the company he loved and the community he resided in his entire life.

During the past year, Frank knew his time was limited and worked stoically to write a book on the complete history of the Mueller Co. Characteristically, he finished *The Mueller Story* just before his strength ran out. It was a fitting denouement to a life filled with action and passion for 77 years, which ended on December 18, 1980.

To order the book . . .

Send your name and address with \$4.00 (Mueller employees and retired employees) or \$5.00 (non-employees) to Mr. L. G. Hawkey, Mueller Co., 500 W. Eldorado, Decatur, IL 62525. Make checks payable to Mueller Co. □

An Editorial

"We want *Service Lines* to cover timely items of interest to all Mueller employees and retirees."

That's how Loyd Hawkey, corporate manager of personnel administration, summed up his goals for this publication as he discussed its role in the company.

Service Lines will be published every three months and mailed to employees' and retirees' homes. It will introduce new people in the company, announce new products and provide news about the company's markets, activities and philosophy.

"We're also interested in hearing from any employee or retiree who would like to write to us," Loyd explained. "Letters or comments of general interest to Mueller people that deal with corporate matters, large or small, should be sent to my office."

The publication is intended to be a bridge of communication between management and employees, and is not intended just to extol the company, Loyd said. He added, however, that his office reserves the right to edit or condense articles to fit available space.

Loyd, whose office is in Decatur, joined Mueller in February 1979. He has had 18 years of experience in personnel work, including positions with three large corporations: McDonald Douglas, Emerson Electric and Georgia Pacific Co.

Publishing *Service Lines* is only one of his many assignments



Loyd Hawkey, corporate manager of personnel administration, with responsibility for *Service Lines*, wants the publication to be a communications conduit for all Mueller people.

here at Mueller — but an important one, nevertheless. Loyd feels the paper serves a vital communication purpose for employees in all positions.

What about letters of strictly local interest? Since each plant does have its special concerns, we would like those letters sent to the following "Strictly Personal" editors at each plant: Albertville — Peggy Fleckenstein, manager, Personnel and Industrial Relations. Chattanooga — George Mathis, manager, Personnel and Industrial Relations. Clinton — Freddie Pinson, manager, Employee Relations. Decatur — Don Dwyer, manager, Personnel and Industrial Relations. □

Don't Call Us Names. Send Them In!

"The Re-name the *Service Lines* Contest"

Mueller's reputation for inventiveness is *not* exemplified by the name of this publication, *Service Lines*. We have to admit it. We have to admit it because it's been so often pointed out to us.

We know somebody out there can do a lot better. So have at it.

The more names suggested, the better. We know you'll have a lot of fun thinking up a creative and appropriate name for this publication. And if you think up the winning name, you'll also get a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond.

Send in your name suggestion on the form below. Just fill it in, cut it out, and drop it in the mail. Do it today! □

To: Mueller Co.
"Re-name the *Service Lines* Contest"
500 W. Eldorado
Decatur, IL 62525

Suggested Name (please print): _____

Submitted by: Name _____

Address _____

Clock # _____ Dept. _____

Hieronymus — inventor extraordinaire

History of the Mueller Co. spans a period of 123 years, going back to just three years after the first railroads came to Decatur. The company has found the city a good place in which to operate, and Decatur owes much to the fact that the firm's founder, Hieronymus Mueller, chose the then village of 3,000 for his home back in 1857.



Hieronymus Mueller

Mr. Mueller fitted himself into that community as best he could, through use of the mechanical training he had received beginning as an apprentice in his native Germany. He started his business in a little gun and machine shop in which, in addition to making and repairing guns, he repaired clocks and other household equipment. His inventive genius soon built his business into light manufacturing, and by the time his sons joined him in his enterprises he had a strong program of waterworks, gas and plumbing goods manufacture. His sons and grandsons later expanded this to a degree that for more than a half century the Mueller Co. was the industrial bulwark of Decatur.

From 1859 to 1872 the Mueller gun and repair business was conducted in a small building on the south side of the 200 block of East Main Street. Conforming with a practice of those days, Mr. Mueller had a large wooden replica of a gun mounted outside from the second story windows of the shop to call attention to

the proprietor's services as a gunsmith. Mr. Mueller almost from the start had an experimental room as part of his shop, and his inventive genius led him to spend as much time as he could in developing new products. Gradually he built up a small force of helpers who became very loyal to him and whom he treated almost as family.

A rolling mill firm that wanted to make iron rails for the rapidly expanding railway lines south, came to Decatur in 1869. The rolling mills operation, where 400 men were employed — by far the biggest payroll in Decatur at that time — brought a residential building boom. The city moved rapidly to develop a waterworks on a hill just north of the Sangamon river, at the site of most of the present waterworks buildings.

Mr. Mueller had been appointed city plumber, and one of his chief duties was to tap the water mains for pipes to carry city water into the homes and businesses. He was very displeased with the crude method then used for doing this. It usually meant shutting the water off every time he made one of these connections, and often being doused with escaping water. He called on his mechanical abilities to find a better way.

After considerable work in his experimental room, he produced in 1872 a device ever since known as the Mueller Tapping Machine, which taps water and gas pipes while under full pressure. So well did he make his new invention that it still is being used in all 50 states and some foreign countries, with little change in the original design. This invention proved to be one of the most important produced in Mueller Co. history, and brought national and international recognition to the firm more than 100 years ago. □

First in a series of articles on the history and development of the organization founded by Hieronymus Mueller in 1857.

MUELLER CO. / DECATUR, ILL. 62525

Factories at Decatur, Ill., Chattanooga, Tenn., Albertville, Ala., Clinton, S.C. Western District Sales Office, Irvine, Cal.
MUELLER LIMITED, Sarnia, Ont., St. Jerome, Que. Canada

serving the water and gas industries since 1857