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# THE MUELLER RECORD

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Fall 1997  
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## Steppin' Out

“Steppin’ Out” is the theme of the new exhibit at the Hieronymus Mueller Museum, located at 61 South Country Club Road in the Scovill Zoo complex. Clothing and accessories worn by the Mueller/Staley women will be featured in this exhibit which begins Friday, October 17.

The exhibit will feature the original gown worn by Lenore Mueller for her marriage to A.E. Staley, Jr. in 1926, as well as many of her evening dresses worn to social events. Clothing worn by Ora Blair Mueller, wife of Henry Mueller (Hieronymus' first-born son), will also be on display, featuring several crocheted handbags, shawls and evening dresses from the early 1900s. The clothing for the show was donated to the museum by Mrs. Henry (Vi) Staley, daughter-in-law of Lenore

Mueller Staley Schmick.

A special facet of the exhibit will be hats designed by Bes-Ben, known as the “Mad-Hatter” of Chicago. Benjamin Benedict Green-Field made millinery history from the 1930s to the 1960s, interpreting designs for the smart set. His whimsical hats ranged from miniature animals to kitchen utensils to hats with rhinestone faces on them.

Bes-Ben chapeux-wearers included: Luella Parsons, Gracie Allen, Celeste Holm, Arlene Francis, Helen Hayes, Ginger Rogers, Lilly Pons, Carol Channing, Clare Booth Luce, Edith Rockefeller, Hedda Hopper and Lenore Mueller Staley Schmick.

The fall and winter hours for the museum and exhibit are 1 to 4 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Adult admission is \$1.50. The “Steppin’ Out” exhibit will continue through the end of December.

## For the Record . . .

by Nancy Jo Batman, Manager

"Dear Sirs," the letter began.

"I have an interesting hobby. I collect regreasable medium to high pressure 3/4 inch meter stops preferably insulated union."

The writer was a guy. I don't know why I had to mention that fact, because as far as I know, I've never heard of a woman collecting anything remotely close to whatever it is he collects.

Then he asked me a bunch of questions: "When did Mueller first come out with a regreasable valve? When did they come out with the insulated union [some word I couldn't read] lock wing retubable (?) something something something? Where are galvanized valves used? What does 'L-S' mean when it is on a valve. What does 'MALL' mean when it's on a valve?"

Finally. A question I could almost relate to. I do know about MALLS because one of my hobbies is shopping.

It has always been this way. It amazes me the questions people ask--thinking I might know the answer.

Once, when our son was little, he asked me how the furnace worked. Yes, he looked at me, sitting next to his dad on the couch, and directed the question to *me*.

(This is the same kid who asked me once what the black things under a person's tongue were and "Why is Jell-O?")

I am equally amazed by people's hobbies. I know a preacher who has over 100 old typewriters he keeps in his basement because he likes them.

I know another woman who collects pictures with three women in them, but one of them must have red hair. She also collects aluminum Christmas trees.

I'm somewhat of a collector and have dabbled in collecting snowshakers, miniature cowboy boots and Viewmaster disks about Jesus.

But the fun has gone out of collecting since we moved to a newer house and liked the uncluttered look. I moved all my collectibles to my office and now can hardly find my computer.

I recently started a new collection: pictures from the newspaper of people who look alike on their 50th wedding anniversary. So far I have six pictures, and they didn't cost a thing and only take up one page of a scrapbook.

But I can guarantee you, I probably will never collect regreasable medium to high pressure 3/4 inch meter stops--preferably the insulated union ones.

At least until I find out what the heck they are.

## New Members . . .

### Benefactor - \$1,000

Ms. Gillian L. White

### Sponsor - \$100

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Durant

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Schultz

### Support - \$50

Mr. and Mrs. James W. Alling

Mr. and Mrs. James Fleckenstein

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore F. Miller

Mr. Peter Mueller

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Penhallegon

### Family - \$25

Ms. Doris V. Neece

Ms. Carma Snyder

### Regular - \$20

Ms. Evelyn Cox

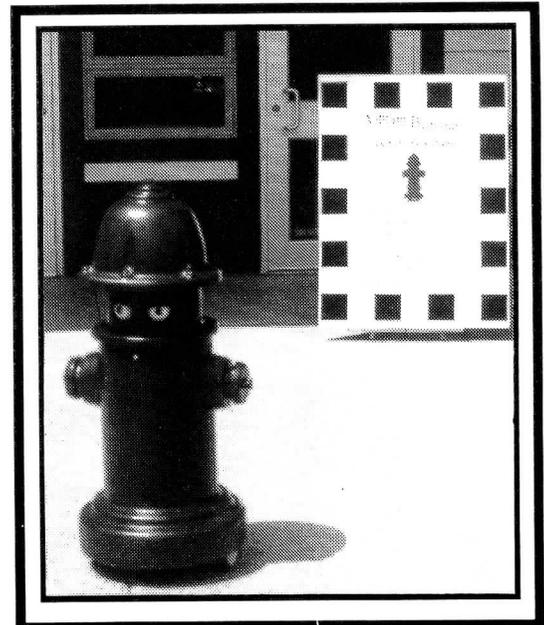
Ms. Dorothy C. Waddell

### Senior/Student - \$15

Mrs. Pauline E. Jurgens

Mrs. Mary Lou Wetherell

## "Pluggy" visits Museum



"Pluggy," a talking and dancing fire hydrant owned by the Decatur Fire Department visited the Hieronymus Mueller Museum August 16 during "Family Day" at the Scovill Zoo, helping to promote the "Vibrant Hydrants" exhibit which has been extended through September.

## Annual Membership Information

**Student/Senior Citizen**                   **\$15**  
Free admission for member and one guest, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items.

**Regular Membership**                   **\$20**  
Free admission for member and one guest, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items.

**Family Membership:**                   **\$25**  
Free admission for member and up to four family members, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items.

**\*Support Membership:**               **\$50**  
Free admission for member and up to four family members, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items, exhibit preview reception.

**\*Sponsor Membership:**               **\$100**  
Free admission for member and up to four family members, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items, exhibit preview reception, museum notecards.

**\*Patron Membership:**                 **\$500**  
Free admission for member and guests, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items, exhibit preview reception, museum notecards, museum mug, recognition on museum donor board at Patron level.

**\*Benefactor Membership:**           **\$1000**  
Free admission for member and guests, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items, exhibit preview reception, museum notecards, two museum mugs, museum t-shirt, recognition on museum donor board at Benefactor level.

**Please circle the type of membership preferred**

\* A portion of these membership fees are tax deductible.

Please send this form and payment to

### HIERONYMUS MUELLER MUSEUM

61 SOUTH COUNTRY CLUB ROAD  
DECATUR, ILLINOIS  
(217) 423-6161

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Institution  
(if Student) \_\_\_\_\_

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The Hieronymus Mueller Museum is a privately funded non-profit museum and depends upon donations for its operations.

## The Mystic "49"

"WHEN OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS, IT IS OFTEN NOT RECOGNIZED, FOR IT COMES DISGUISED AS HARD WORK."  
ANONYMOUS.

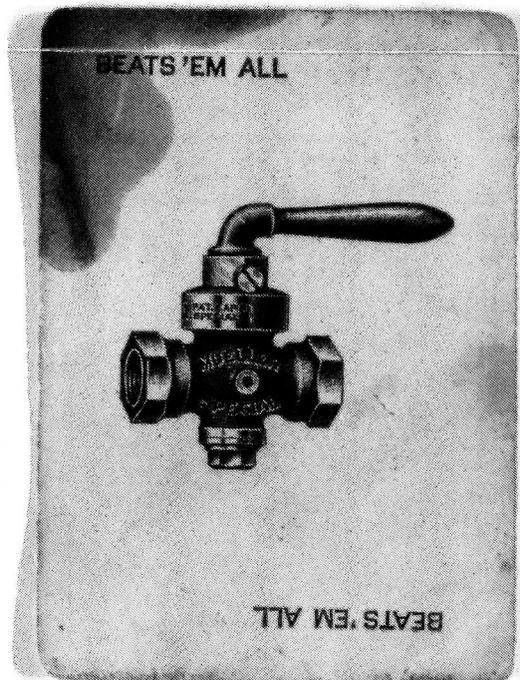
The 49 Club was organized around 1898 and got its name from a stop listed in the Mueller catalog as number 49. This was a very popular stop and difficult to keep in stock. (A present comparison would be the 3/4 inch H-15000.)

Salesmen who met certain sales quotas were said to be members of the 49 Club. These hard-working salesmen laid the groundwork for city codes to specify Mueller quality products.

Every member of the club was identified by a black lapel button pin or a watch fob with the "49" in gold letters against the black background.

We tip our hats to all the sales persons, past and present, who were second to none, who have helped mold the name "Mueller as the "Cadillac" of the water and gas industry.

--by Richard McKinley



*The "joker" from a deck of playing cards made between 1905 and 1924 displayed this popular catalog item number 49. Thanks to Marvin Spitzer for donating this deck to the museum, even if it does have only 28 cards.*

### The mark of a genius

"Pieces of meaningless steel in his hands were fashioned into graceful and useful forms."-- *Mueller Record*, November, 1945 (written about Hieronymus Mueller).

Note: Memberships for the Hieronymus Mueller Museum are good for one year.

And if you are trying to think of a unique Christmas present for that person who has everything but a pony, and you can't afford a pony, why not consider a Museum Membership?

# Do you remember?

■ Betty Tolladay made a lot of fishermen stand up and take notice when she brought in, beautifully mounted, a 17-pound Northern Pike she caught in Canada.--*Mueller Newsletter*, August, 1974

■ Boys attending Robt. Faries Scout Camp--August 31, *Muller Record*: **Lloyd Shockley, Dale Wilkins, Cecil Hollingsead, Truman Reynolds, Charlie Hollingsead, Howard Reynolds, Raymond Logan, Vernon Brown, Robert Rhodes, Raymond Mounts, Herman Roe, Lawrence Roe, Shirley Reynolds Jr., Lyle Wacaser, Fred Klinghamer, Clarence Smith, Wendell Smith, Wesley Koontz, Vern Vandervort, Clarence Grubbs, Junior Keil, Edwin Keil, Junior Rauthrauff, and Robert Taylor.**

■ Fifteen women won food baskets in 1943 which contained flour, oats, Lux soap, Staley's syrup, peanut butter and other staples. They were: **Mrs. T.D. Muzzy, Mrs. H. Ammann, Mrs. Grover Meadows, Mrs. Maria Overfield, Mrs. Clara Frederick, Mrs. Roy**

**Fleckenstein, Mrs. L.E. Gordy, Mrs. Karl Blankenburg, Mrs. Edgar Stark, Mrs. Anna Ferry, Mrs. A.T. Herreid, Mrs. L.E. Kramer, Mrs. Myrtle Gordy, Mrs. Ross Emerson and Mrs. George Secor.**  
*Mueller Record*, April 1943

■ **Hieronymus Mueller's** first invention was a burglar alarm pistol--it was unsuccessful. The alarm was simply a pistol that was fired by opening a window, but for establishments or homes with many windows this was not a workable idea. Although this invention was not successful as an alarm, it was later sold as a toy pistol and was used heavily on the 4th of July. *Mueller Newsletter*, May, 1972.

■ **George F. Binkley**, formerly manager of engineering services, transferred to the Personnel Office March 1, 1974, and was promoted to the position of Personnel Director upon the retirement of Cecil Coffin April 25.--*Mueller Newsletter*, May, 1974. (George is one of our 75 volunteers now at the Museum!)

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## HIERONYMUS MUELLER MUSEUM

61 SOUTH COUNTRY CLUB ROAD, DECATUR, IL 62521

H.M.F.F.

Non-Profit  
Organization  
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