



THE MUELLER RECORD

Spring 1998

“Potluck”



A little bit of everything. . .
Current Exhibit

Spring/Summer Hours
Noon-5 p.m.
Thursday-Sunday

“Potluck,” a new temporary exhibit in the Hieronymus Mueller Museum, will open Thursday, April 2.

This display will feature a variety of artifacts, or “a little bit of everything.”

The first station of the exhibit will feature a large variety of Mueller Records, the newsletter of the Mueller Co. which was first published in 1910. Visitors to the exhibit may request a computer search for former photographic copies of friends and relatives who were employed at the Mueller Co.

A photographic album will also be on view with pictures of “49 Club” initiations, the interior of Henry and Ora Mueller’s home on West William Street, and photos of the Christmas parties at the company.

The second stage is called “Way Back When,” and will feature items which have been donated to the Museum since its opening Memorial Day, 1996, as well as other artifacts.

The third station is entitled “Among My Souvenirs” and consists of commemorative items distributed over the years by the Mueller Co. to its employees and customers.

“It’s All in the Family” station will include numerous items belonging to members of the Mueller family, including a sword of Robert H. Mueller’s, and a flute of Henry Mueller’s.

Also on display in this new exhibit will be the huge ship that was on display at the Mueller Lodge, which may have been built by Hieronymus Mueller.

The Museum has lowered its admission price to \$1 for all adults and \$.50 for youth 17 and under. The Museum is open Thursday-Sunday during the spring and summer months.

For the Record . . .

by Nancy Jo Batman, Manager

It's been a long winter, but the roosters are starting to crow again at the zoo next door, and crocuses seem to be saying, "What the heck. Let's give it a try."

I have spent my winter reading copies of *The Mueller Record*, the newsletter/magazine published by the Mueller Co. The newsletter was started in 1910 and contained "secret" information for salesmen only. Later, it was expanded to include photos and articles about the people who worked there.

I set up a computer file and went through each newsletter, listing the issue, the page, and the employee's name. (I know. It was hard and I had to get tri-focles in the process, but it was one of the most interesting projects I've ever undertaken.)

Through this process of entering about 4,000 names and pages, I have become quite familiar with some persons in the Mueller Co.

And even though I know all of the children of Hieronymus Mueller are dead, I would almost cry when I came across their obituary.

I became particularly fond of Adolph Mueller, who served as company president for 37 years until his death in 1944.

I wonder if I would have liked Adolph in person. He hated smoking. (I smoke.) He sang "Old Black Joe" about a million times. (And in today's politically correct world, that would have been a No-No.) He asked people if they went to church. (I sometimes sleep in.)

He was known to take the insides of a lightbulb which had burned out and recycled the "innards." (I have been known to throw my Coke cans in the waste basket if my husband isn't looking.)

He believed in saving money. (Me too. I just can't do it.) He believed in tomatoes and grew some of the best around. (I don't like to go outdoors much in the summer.)

But as I went through all the newsletters, I saw him turn from a robust young man into a grandfather, as I have watched all the family members and former employees do.

It has been a bittersweet experience. But I think I would have loved Adolph--even though he liked to walk to Boody, and I would rather drive.

New Museum Members

Sponsor - \$100

Mrs. Harlan White

Support - \$50

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wheatley

Family - \$25

Mrs. Dorothy C. Kimbrough

Regular - \$20

Mr. Robert P. Cozad

Senior/Student - \$15

Mr. Richard A. VanNort

Mr. Edward J. Vogel

Our valuable resources . . .

We have a very valuable resource at the Hieronymus Mueller Museum--in fact, over 50 of them. They are our faithful volunteers who were or are employees of the Mueller Co.

They include the following: Herb and Betty Ashmore, Del Bagenski, Joe and Joanne Baughman, George and Helen Binkley, Charlie Brown, Charles and Jennie Canady, Dale Capshaw, Shirley Catron, Evelyn Cox, Joe and Eileen Crane, John and Madeline Dennis, Mary and Zodius Embry

Carl Floren, Donald and Sue Frahlman, Levi and Rosella Green, Pershing and Maxine Griffith, Claude Inman, Wayne and Bonnie Jones, Nancy Kircher, Robert and Madoline Leake, George and Betty Lebo Jim and Norma Leinard, Terry and Marilyn McCoy, Tom McGeorge, Richard and Doris McKinley, Don and Leota McQuality, Stan and Ann Metz, Bob and Joanne Minks, Lloyd and Willetta Moeller, John and Eleanor Moma, Kenneth and Emily Moore, Mrs. Leonard Morr, Ray and Helene Mounts, Bill Mueller, Bob and Joan Nelson,

Wilbur Reed, Dale and Ruth Reidelberger, Preston and Violet Ruthrauff, Lloyd and Patsy Schumacher, Harold and Wilma Small, Lee and Norma Snoke, Orville and Faye Spencer, Marvin and Ruth Spitzer, Dale and Leota Stanley, Ray and Irma Storck, Wilbur and Joyce Sweazy

Roy Thompson, Mike and Joanne Tirpak, Louis and Betty Tolladay, Carrol and Rea Virt, Ruth Wampler, Rick Wayne, Jim and DeVera Weatherford, Mary Lou Wetherell, Harold and Phyllis Whitacre and Melvin and Melbaline Whittington.

And we are eternally grateful to Betty Wheatley who recruited all these folks to volunteer in one way or another!

. . .Mystery Masquerade. . .



This photograph has made me start writing the names on the backs of all my pictures. When it was taken in 1935 at the Decatur Country Club, no one bothered to write the names on the back of the photo.

“Well, gosh, everyone knows that’s Lawrence Thrift in the front,” someone may have said, and left it at that.

We are grateful to Elizabeth Schnepf for providing this delightful photo, but we’re wondering if you might be able to help us out. If you can identify any of these party-goers, please send us a note at 61 S. Country Club Rd. (Note: We *hope* this was taken at a masquerade party!)

Thirtysomething years ago . . .



A fun part of this job is finding old pictures like this one taken May 14, 1965. Pictured from left are: Jane Cranston, Helen Brannon, Nancy Kircher, Edna Rybolt, Christine Freeman, and Shirley Catron.



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Do you remember?

- ◆ **Liz Raskin, Helen Causey, and Maxine Griffith** and some more kids went out soaping windows the other night.--*Mueller Record*, November, 1944
- ◆ During the annual meeting of the H. Mueller Manufacturing Company it was decided to change the name of the firm to Mueller Co.--*Mueller Record*, 1924.
- ◆ **Otis F. Fears** was elected president of the Mueller Co. Employees Credit Union January 19, 1959. Other officers elected were: **Albert Spitzer**, vice-president; **Harold Munsterman**, treasurer; **A. Stanley Ashby**, secretary. Directors named were: **Carl I. Maurer, Cecil D. Kelley, Harold W. Taylor, Orville Spencer, Jr., Frank Ridgeway, Charles L. Brown, Richard C. Tish, Russell Armstrong, Howard Gleespen, Haldon L. Hanson and Eric Blankenburg.** --*Main Connections*, March, 1959.
- ◆ **Sandra Griffith**, daughter of Pershing (Dept. 70) and Maxine Griffith (Cost Accounting) has been named homecoming queen at Eureka College.--*Mueller Newsletter*, November, 1969.
- ◆ “Among the hundreds of inventions patented by Hieronymus Mueller, the **Eel Guard** remains one of the most unique. Mr. Mueller developed a slotted corporation stop to keep eels out of water service lines, and therefore out of water customer’s homes.”--*Pipeline Reporter*, June 1986. (Real Eels!)
- ◆ **David Kinney**, a Mueller Co. plant employee, took the top ribbon in the Decatur Area Arts Council’s 1981 “On My Own Time” program with his oil painting entitled “Lotus Blush.”
- ◆ **Alicia Moma**, daughter of John and Eleanor Moma of Blue Mound, was named Blue Mound High School 1974-75 Betty Crocker Family Leader of Tomorrow. She was also chosen to receive the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Citizenship award from the Stephen Decatur Chapter.--*Mueller Newsletter*, February, 1975.

HIERONYMUS MUELLER MUSEUM

61 SOUTH COUNTRY CLUB ROAD
DECATUR, ILLINOIS
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