



THE MUELLER RECORD

Fall 1998

“Moving to a New Beat”



A display of current products made by Decatur's Mueller Co. will open at the Hieronymus Mueller Museum December 4 and continue through February 21, 1999.

The display, “Moving to a New Beat,” is one used by the company to exhibit its products to water distribution industry groups around the country.

The display includes a cross section of the more than 30,000 items made by the company for the control of potable water in the piping used to deliver water to homes and businesses around the world.

Visitors will see the entire inner workings of the most widely sold fire hydrant in the world: the Mueller® Super Centurian 250™ Fire Hydrant. The fire hydrant is like the iceberg--more than half of it is not visible. The most important parts of the hydrant are located many feet underground.

Visitors will also see the one product that traces its roots back to ancient Roman times: the resilient wedge gate valve. Butterfly valves, water meter setting materials, as well as examples from Mueller's extensive line of water works bronze

valves and fittings will be shown, the latter all made in Decatur.

The Mueller Co. entered the fire hydrant market in 1933 when it purchased the Columbian Iron Works in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The hydrants are now manufactured at Mueller's plant in Albertville, Alabama, which is known as the “Fire Hydrant Capital of the World.”

Winter hours are 1-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday. Group tours may be arranged by calling the Museum at 423-6161.

For the Record . . .

by Nancy Jo Batman, Manager

Last spring, Mike Borders, director of the Scovill Zoo (our neighbor), said, "I didn't know there were any Mueller-Benz cars around."

I said, "There aren't. What are you talking about?"

He showed me an article in Star magazine, which is geared towards Mercedes-Benz owners and wannabe owners.

And there, right on page 60 of the January/February 1998 edition, was the following sentence: "Among 132 cars on the well-groomed grass, 30 Mercedes-Benzes ranged from an 1893-94 *Mueller-Benz* to a 1969 280SE Convertible."

Well, I went slightly nuts. According to our records, Hieronymus and his sons had built between four and six motor carriages from 1895 until Hieronymus' death in 1900. To our knowledge, none has survived.

I called the Editor of the magazine, Frank Barrett, who steered me to a wonderful gentleman named James Renzulli, who lives in San Diego and is the owner of this vehicle.

Mr. Renzulli found the old car in the desert town of Irving, California, over 30 years ago and asked the owner, Mr. Joseph Troglin, if he could buy it. The man said it was not for sale. Every time Mr. Renzulli would visit the Harrah Museum in Reno, he would pay a visit to the auto (and the owner) and receive the same response.

About two years ago, Mr. Renzulli received a phone call from the daughter of Mr. Troglin, who informed him that her father and mother had passed away and was he still interested in purchasing the car?

He was.

He spent two years fixing it up. He said he did not know what kind of car it was. "It was unusual, and that was enough for me," he says.

When he entered it in a car show two years ago in San Diego, *someone* asked what kind of car it was. Mr. Renzulli said he didn't know. This *someone* said, "It's a Mueller Benz."

The car won several awards, including People's Choice, in two races last summer.

Was this a Mueller-Benz? Did Hieronymus and his sons make more than six motor carriages? Tune in to the Winter issue and read more.

New Members

Benefactor - \$1,000

Ms. Gillian L. White

Patron - \$500

Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Durant

Sponsor - \$100

Dr. and Mrs. R. Scott Cairns

Mr. and Mrs. Carl T. Fischer, Jr.

Ms. Judith Kaiser

Mr. and Mrs. George Prust

Dr. and Mrs. Larry Schultz

Mr. and Mrs. Dale B. Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Smith

Support - \$50

Mr. and Mrs. James W. Alling

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh L. Baker

Ms. Janet C. Gates

Ms. Beatrice A. Joynt

Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Lindsay

Mr. and Mrs. Dean E. Madden

Mr. Peter A. Mueller

Mr. and Mrs. E.E. Penhallegon

Family - \$25

Mr. Leonhard Mau

Mr. Aaron Norrie

Dr. and Mrs. Frank Snell

Regular - \$20

Ms. Margaret Chainski

Ms. Evelyn Cox

Ms. Vivian Doolen

Mrs. Jane S. Schroyer

Senior or Student - \$15

Mr. Charles L. Brown

Mrs. Geraldine (Kramer) Conway

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Dodwell

Ms. Mary L. Easterling

Mr. W. Marshall Foster

Mrs. Pauline E. Jurgens

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Metz

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond F. Mounts

Mr. Lavern S. Ramsey

Mr. and Mrs. Preston Ruthrauff

Mr. and Mrs. J. Warren Sexson

Mr. and Mrs. Rex B. Smith

Mrs. Carma Snyder

Mrs. Mary Lou Wetherell

Mueller Home featured

Henry and Ora Mueller's home, located at 405 W. William St. in Decatur, is featured in a new book entitled "Historical Homes of Decatur, Illinois."

Jasper DeVidal, 26, is the author of the 145-page book which contains over 150 black and white photos of 12 historical homes and their residents.

The Museum will stock the book in its gift shop, where it may be purchased for \$20.

Jasper will be at the Museum from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, December 12, to autograph copies of the book, which was published by Wallender-Dedman.

DeVidal published his first book in 1995 which was based on the same theme. The newly published book is an expansion of the earlier version with more narrative and photographs.

Other homes featured in this delightful book include: Dr. Ira Barnes, 438 W. North St.; Dr. William Barnes, 500 W. Main St.; Catto House, 364 W. William St.; Chambers-England Mansion, 401 N. College St.; Culver House, 412 W. Prairie Ave.; Linn House, 300 W. Main St.; Loeb-Lindquist House, 300 W. Prairie Ave.; James Millikin Homestead, 125 N. Pine St.; Richard J. Oglesby Mansion, 421 W. William St.; Powers-Jarvis Mansion, 357 W. Decatur St.; and Augustus E. Staley Mansion, 361 N. College St.

A very interesting photograph appears on page 27 of the book: a street scene depicting Hieronymus Mueller's motor carriage in a street filled with horses and buggies.



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mueller

Do you have friends or relatives who would enjoy receiving this newsletter? If so, why don't you send them this information about membership? They might thank you!

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 guests, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items.	
*Support Membership:	\$50
Free admission for member and up to four guests, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items.	
*Sponsor Membership:	\$100
Free admission for member and up to four guests, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items.	
*Patron Membership:	\$500
Free admission for member and guests, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items, recognition on museum donor board.	
*Benefactor Membership:	\$1000
Free admission for member and guests, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items, recognition on museum donor board.	

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, 62521
(217) 423-6161

Name _____

Address _____

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

Do You Remember?

⌚ **Delmar Bagenski** was named President of the Mueller Co. Employees Credit Union during its annual meeting January 26, 1974. Other officers included: **Dan N. Morris**, vice president; **R. Dale Streight**, secretary; **Harold Munsterman**, treasurer. Three new directors were elected: **Billie J. Brooks**, **Gar Glen Hartman**, **Gary L. Mackling**. Retiring from the board were: **Eric Blankenberg**, **Cecil Wilson** and **Amos Bailey**. --*Mueller Newsletter*, February, 1974

⌚ Officers for Local 838 A.I.W. are: **Roger Drake**, president; **Dale Streight**, vice president; **John Hackl**, secretary; **John Williams**, treasurer; **Joe Baughman**, guide; **Charles Wade**, sergeant at arms. **Don Dagley**, **Don Rouch** and **Robert McCoy** were elected as trustees. Elected to the bargaining committee were: **Robert Byers**, **Tom McCoy**, **Glen Burrows**, **Murl Lee** and **Nelson Hoffman**. --*Mueller Newsletter*, February, 1974

⌚ The following Mueller employees received service awards August, 1973, according to *The Mueller News-*

letter: **Ronald L. Luster**, **Stephen A. Albro**, **Dean H. Thompson** (10 years); **Harold F. Stengel**, **Harold Whitacre**, **Morris D. Hadden**, **James E. Myers**, **Darrell B. Smith** (20 years); **J. Warren Sexson**, **Walter F. Salefski** (40 years)

⌚ Girls are taking over machines at Plant 3. **Verl Athey**, **Lucille Zerfowski**, **Lena Smith**, **Helen Causey**, **Ruth Wells**, **Elois Sailsberry**, **Ruby White**, **Elizabeth Bratcher**, **Bessie Workman**, **Nola Lowry**, **Enla La Hews**, **Ida Cochran**, **Ina Grubbs** and **Helen Odell** are now full-fledged machinists. *The Mueller Record*, March 1943.

NOTICE

A tape made from lantern slides of the Mueller Co.'s 75th anniversary in 1930 has been made and will be available for viewing in the Museum after December 20. It is fantastic and was produced by Steve Turner of S. Turner Communications Inc. which utilizes PHOTO-MOTION™. More in the Winter newsletter!

HIERONYMUS MUELLER MUSEUM

61 SOUTH COUNTRY CLUB ROAD, DECATUR, IL 62521

HMMF

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