



THE MUELLER RECORD

Spring 1999

Mueller Picnics



The Mueller Co. knew how to party. Ask any former employee or family member about the “old Mueller picnics,” and chances are a smile will proceed their account. But that person has to be really old.

The first picnic was held September 10, 1898, on a farm near Decatur and was sponsored by the Mutual Benefit Association. Approximately 400 employees and their family members were taken to the William Hunter farm on the Vandalia Railroad (the interurban).

The second year picnic was held in Mackinaw Falls near Peoria and was attended by approximately 1300 persons who were transported to the site by the P.D. & E. Railroad (Peoria, Decatur, Evansville). Before the picnic, a huge parade was held in downtown Decatur

with a platoon of police and 35 members of the Goodman Band (which is still in existence and is known as the country’s oldest band). They were followed by family members. The day was filled with dancing, games, a swimming exhibit, picnic and more music.

The third picnic was held June 23, 1900, in Paris (that’s Paris, *Illinois*) and once again, a parade was held in Decatur and also for the Parisians. The event was so successful, it was held there the following year.

In this photo in 1899, Hieronymus is seen in front walking with two of his grandsons. Our summer exhibit in the Museum will feature photographs and programs from these fun-filled summer days. You won’t want to miss it!

For the Record . . .

by Nancy Jo Batman, Manager

There are many fun parts of this job. First, I get to meet so many interesting people. What we lack in quantity, we make up for in quality.

I also love this job because of our archives--which means our "stuff." Hardly a working day goes by when I don't come across something I didn't know before.

I am currently working on our summer exhibit, "Mueller Picnics," and have been going through the basement and attic looking at old pictures, programs and souvenirs.

One quite interesting item I discovered was an ink drawing of Hieronymus which was used on balloons during the 1932 picnic to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Company.

These picnics were amazing. They weren't your usual "rent-the-pavilion-and-invite-Grandma-and-her-tuna-casserole" type of picnics. These were *huge* and were held in surrounding towns and cities using the interurban rail system. (In fact, it was probably easier to get to some of these places a hundred years ago than it is today--especially if you have an entourage of about 1300 people!) The "trains" just added special cars.

Games, picnics, picture-taking, sports, parades and even a borrowed carousel have been highlights of these fine outings, which are still talked about by some of our visitors.

The picnics were held in Mueller Heights beginning in 1932, and the 100th Anniversary Picnic was held in 1957 in Fairview Park. (Most of our 67 volunteers remember that one and the barbecued chicken!)

To help us in our exhibit, would you take some time and dig out old pictures and memories you may have of these events for a special scrapbook? (We'll return them. Just put your name and address on the back.)

Hope to see you at the picnic!

New Members

Sponsor - \$100

Dr. & Mrs. Clarence Glenn
Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Tyrolt
Mrs. Harlan White

Support - \$50

Mr. and Mrs. Stanford England
Mr. and Mrs. William Madden
Mr. William A. Mueller

Family - \$25

Mr. & Mrs. William J. Braun
Mr. & Mrs. Pershing Griffith

Regular - \$20

Mr. Robert P. Cozad

Senior or Student - \$15

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph C. Penne

Two receive awards

Jane Mueller and Mrs. Henry (Vi) Staley received the Arthur Ploeger Award for historical preservation during the annual awards presentation of the Historical and Architectural Sites Commission May 12.

The award was presented to the two women for their efforts in the founding of the Hieronymus Mueller Museum in 1996. Jane is the great-granddaughter of Hieronymus Mueller. Her father, William Everett, and grandfather, Adolph, were both Mueller Co. presidents. Vi is married to Henry Staley, son of Lenore Mueller Staley Schmick. Mrs. Schmick was the daughter of Henry and Ora Mueller, Hieronymus' first-born son.

Who gets this newsletter?

Once in a while, someone will comment that he or she was a former employee of the Mueller Co. and then ask "Why don't I get your newsletter?"

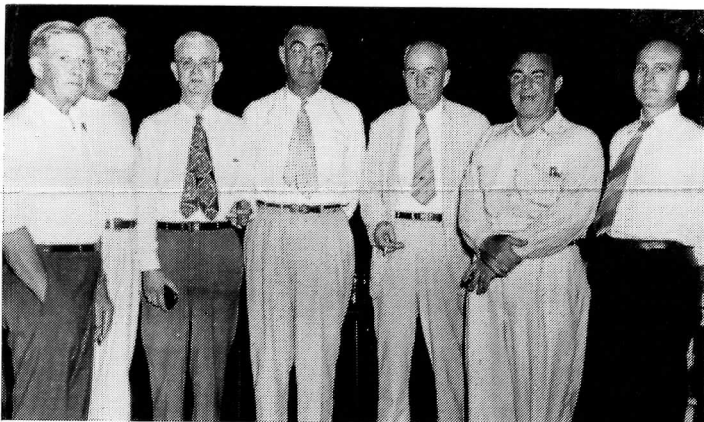
We would love to be able to send it to all former employees but the costs would be prohibitive. The only way to receive this quarterly publication is by becoming a member of the Museum. (See page 3 for form.) Other perks of membership include free admission for yourself and guests and a 10 percent discount on gift items.

If you are receiving this newsletter and know someone who would like to receive it, why not pass the newsletter on, or give that person a present of a membership?

Some SNAPS!



This is one of my favorite pictures and was sent to the Museum by Gillian White, a family member. The summer-heat-beaters are relatives of Philip Mueller, Hieronymus' son. Can someone identify them?



How many of these former Mueller-ites can you identify? They are (from left): Bill Simpson, Robert H. Mueller, J.N. Wells, Lucien W. "Duke" Mueller, Albert G. Webber, Frank H. Mueller and Hugh Baker.

We get the neatest "toys"

The other day, Bob Kileen of Decatur stopped by with something that looked like a wooden toy. It was actually the display model for the plumbing system for Duke Mueller's trailer which was created in 1938 by Bob's father, Ray Kileen. Ray served as Chief Products Engineer and later as Purchasing Agent for the Company. He was 92 years old when he died last May. He held 101 patents for the Mueller Co.

It's not on display yet, but if you stop by the Museum, ask to see it. It's still in my office because I love looking at it.

How about giving a former Mueller employee a Museum membership? Fill out the enclosed card and we will notify that special person of your gift.

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?



This photo was taken c.1920 during the parade in downtown Decatur which proceeded the annual picnic. You may notice that the Company had its own band by this time and flag bearers. The children of Hieronymus and Fredericka are seen just behind the band, and their children are seen behind them. The Company Picnics were one of the biggest events held in Decatur and were started 101 years ago. (Yes, we missed the Centennial anniversary by one year but we plan to celebrate anyway!) The Museum has several of these interesting photographs, which will be on display during the summer exhibit.

HIERONYMUS MUELLER MUSEUM

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HMFF

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