



# THE MUELLER RECORD

Spring 2000

## Mueller retirees gather



The Mueller Co. Retired Men had this photo taken at their February lunch meeting for Lloyd Darnell, plant manager at Albertville, Alabama, who recently retired. Since they are not in neat rows, we'll do the best we can to identify them.

*Kneeling:* **Bill Lawyer**

*First row (left to right):* **Herb Ashmore, Jim Leinard, Dale Streight, Bill Misenheimer, William Boehm, Cliff "Windy" Carter, Carl Hill, Pres Ruthrauff**

*Second row:* **Pershing Griffith, Ben Berner, Wilbur Reed, Ray Mounts, George "Termite" Denning, Don McQuality, John Hall**

*Third row:* **Dean Eaton, Charles Brown, Gerald Durbin, George Turner, Dale Capshaw, Bill Mueller, George Grandon, Cliff Hammel**

*Fourth row:* **Lloyd Schumacher, Marvin Ford, Claude Inman, Morey Sefton**

*Back row:* **Lee Snoke, Jim Grandon, Vernon Brunner Jr.**

## NOTICE

### **Museum Hours Changed**

New hours for the Hieronymus Mueller Museum will be 1-4 Friday, Saturday and Sunday year round. We think this will make it easier to remember as our hour changes were confusing to most people. We will continue to be closed on major holidays.

## For the Record . . .

by Nancy Jo Batman, Manager

The Mueller Co. has the distinction of having the country's earliest newsletter for its employees, beginning with its first issue November 1, 1910.

The first newsletter was a "secret" one, published only for the eyes of the Mueller salesmen and included trade industry information, salesmen's tips and new products offered by the company.

Later, this newsletter or booklet was given to all employees and always included something that made the reader say, "Gee, I didn't know that."

We have compiled a few of those tidbits from past issues of the newsletter:

"A man down about Macon writes a letter to the Herald in explanation of the excessive rainfalls which have inundated Illinois this fall. He blames it on the radio. He says the radio keeps the atmosphere charged with the same kind of electricity as lightning, thus throwing back the moisture as fast as it condenses." ~ November 1926

"... The world should recline its vast head on the first convenient pillow and take an age-long nap." (Nathaniel Hawthorne) ~ November 1932

"[A baby's] nails until he is a year old must be bitten off instead of pared or he will steal when he grows up." ~ March 1936

"Tell a person to write his age on a piece of paper. Tell him to multiply it by two. Then have him add five to that, and multiply the total by 50. Tell him to subtract the number of days in the year (365) from that. Now have him count any change under a dollar in his pocket, and add that. Then ask him to tell you the total, and promise to tell him his correct age, and the amount of change, if his arithmetic is right. When he gives you the total, mentally add 115. The total of that will give his age in the first two figures and the amount of change in the latter two." ~ March 1937 (This works!)

"Notice that two-thirds of 'promotion' is 'motion.'" ~ March 1937

We could also tell you about the longest word, (honorificabilitudinitatibus) the tallest man, pet peeves and a jillion jokes, but we're out of room and besides, you might make us use that big word in a sentence.

## New members since last newsletter Sponsor ~ \$100

Mr. and Mrs. James Renzulli  
Mrs. Earl F. Robison  
Mrs. Harlan White

## Support ~ \$50

Mr. & Mrs. Hugh L. Baker  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Curry  
Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Glenn  
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Braun  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter T. Morey

## Family ~ \$25

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Bolick  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Booth  
Mr. and Mrs. Marion Bradford  
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Brunner  
Mr. and Mrs. David F. Meek  
Mr. David Turner  
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin C. Whittington

## Regular ~ \$20

Mr. Robert P. Cozad  
Mrs. Deirdre D. Ford  
Ms. Sandra McReynolds  
Mrs. Ruth M. Seggerman

## Student/Senior ~ \$15

Mr. Paul L. Best  
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Capshaw  
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon A. Hutton  
Ms. Wyllene Griffy  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Little  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Penne

## All Skate!



*These skaters are making the rounds at the Mueller Co. Recreation Center in 1939, which also doubled as a basketball court. Does the guy in the picture look familiar? He should. It's the same person, according to Ray Mounts, who photographed his brother Kay in this perfect double exposure picture. He is skating with Ruth Rohman in the foreground and "Max" Jeschawitz following close behind.*

## Miscellaneous

As we have mentioned previously, we are trying to organize the photos from the Mueller Co. and its employees, buildings and offices so we can have a good geneological resource for former employees and families.

Under "Miscellaneous," we have the following photos. Can you help us identify them?



No doubt you are already a member of the Hieronymus Mueller Museum or you would not be reading this. But if you know of someone who would enjoy receiving this quarterly newsletter, why don't you consider a gift membership?

### 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?

Mueller Co. gave the gift of a tract of land containing approximately 17 acres to the Decatur Park District. The land involved lies south of the Borg-Warner property and Route 51 south of the City of Decatur. Harlan A. White, president, presented the gift to Verne Roby, park district board president. The new gift is the second property transaction between the Mueller Co. interests and the park district. In 1925 Adolph Mueller presented 27 acres of land for the park at Broadway and Lake Shore Dr. that now bears his name.--Mueller Newsletter, December, 1974

◆  
Cecil Coffin, personnel director, retired April 25, 1974, after 39 years of service.

◆  
An album called "White Lightin' fresh air" depicted a Mueller fire hydrant dominating a country scene. Mueller Sales Rep. Bill Koester found this country music album in Pittsburgh. Produced by Plolydor Records--Mueller Newsletter, April, 1971. (Boy, would we like a copy of this!)

Mueller fire hydrants are shown in the movies "Water Where and When You Want It" and "Who Cares?".

◆  
The following employees retired from Mueller Co. in 1986: Orville Spencer, Charles Isome, Thomas Branson, Harold Friend, Betty Domick, Dominick Cortese, Lloyd E. Bruns, Harold Stengel.

◆  
Wilbur Sweazy, cupola repairman in Decatur, has been elected Worshipful Master of Ionic Lodge 312 of the Masonic Order.--Mueller Newsletter, 1971

◆  
Mrs. Leda (Dede) Mueller Brownback, a granddaughter of Hieronymus Mueller, died Oct. 3 in Sarasota, Florida at the age of 82. She was the daughter of Philip and Mary Shorb Mueller and a sister to Frank, Robert, Clarence and Lucien (Duke) Mueller, Mrs. Fred Kaiser Sr., and Mrs. Delos Cozad. Mrs. Brownback leaves two daughters, Mrs. H.D. (Mary Jane) Cain of Indianapolis, and Mrs. Eloise Warren of Sarasota.--Mueller Newsletter, November 1969

## HIERONYMUS MUELLER MUSEUM

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New Exhibit: "All Work and No Play. . . :