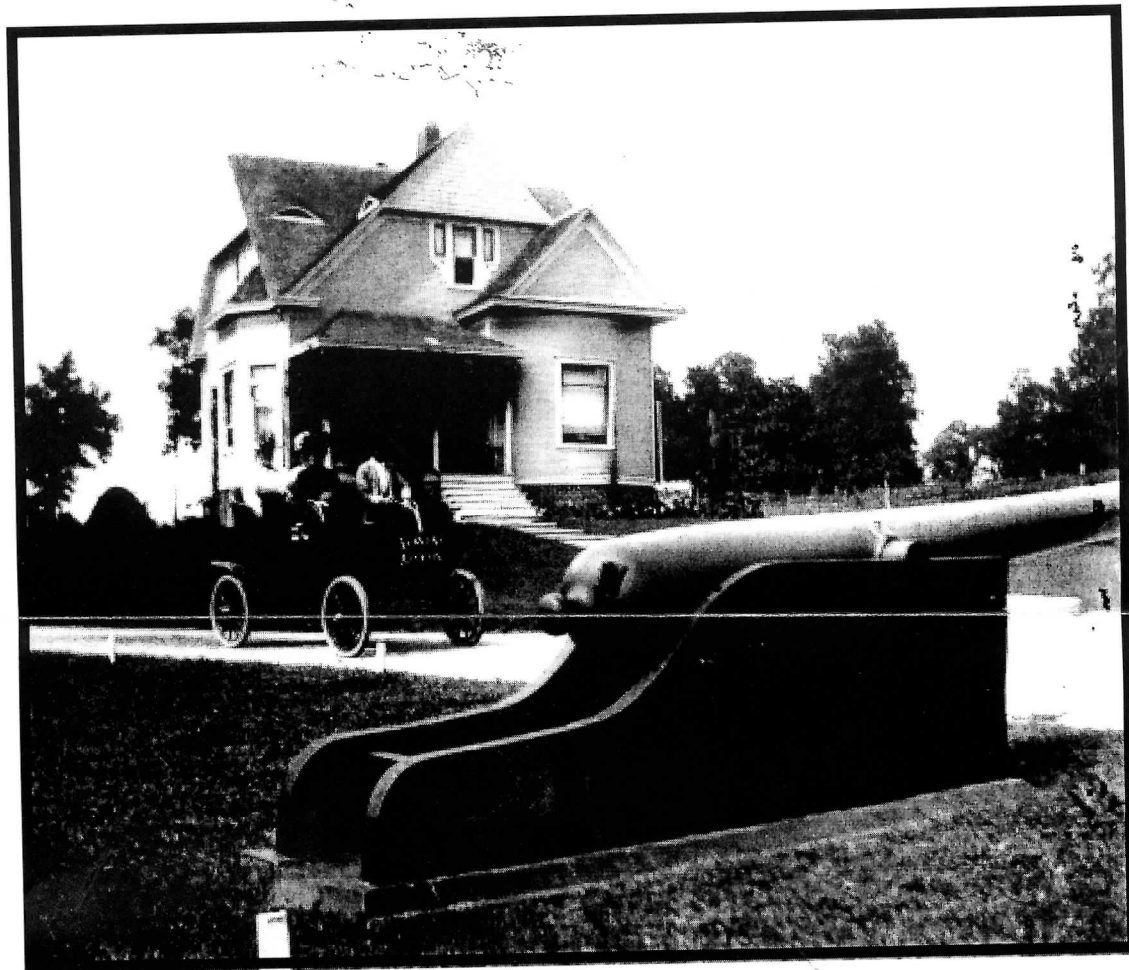


THE MUELLER RECORD

MUELLER CAR



Fall

2001

SUNDAY IN THE PARK

This Mueller motor carriage was obtained by Davis Livery and was used to take Sunday afternoon thrill-riders through Fairview Park. Just when we thought we had seen all of the photographs of the Mueller cars, we came across this at Paragon Graphics in Decatur.

History is harder to pin down it seems. We do know that Hieronymus Mueller imported a Benz from Germany in 1895 and made enough changes in it he put the name "Mueller-Benz" on the car. It won the first "unofficial road race" in 1895 and received 2nd prize in the official race. After that, we believe he made at least eight motor carriages--at least we have blueprints for that many. This is one of those cars.

Do You Recognize?



1



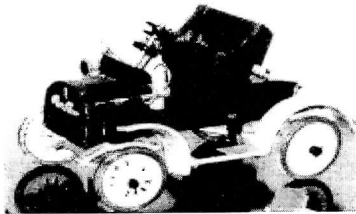
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3

Miniature cars

An exhibit featuring 20 miniature wooden motor carriages will be on display in the Hieronymus Mueller Museum through the spring and summer months. The exhibit will open Friday, April 12, and will continue through the summer. These hand-carved carriages are incredible and will provide a good addition to our 1895-1900 motor carriage on exhibit which *may* be a Mueller made vehicle.



One of John Mason's miniature cars to be on exhibit this spring



John Mason, retired owner of Mason Steel of Decatur, has a fascinating hobby: He builds miniature antique cars from wood.

Even when he and his wife are on vacation in Florida, he continues to build them. "Our vacation spot has a workshop for retirees so I can spend the winter working on them too," he says.

The small wooden cars are so detailed, a person can even see the pattern on the seat cushions.

He estimates one car requires approximately 150 hours to complete, and the average car has 130 parts. He is currently making a replica of the original Mueller-Benz which won the first "unofficial" car race in the United States in 1895. (There were only two cars--the Mueller-Benz and the Duryea; they didn't count the race. In the second race, Hieronymus and sons received the 2nd place prize for their motor carriage.)

John started on his woodworking career by making Grandfather clocks. "I didn't even know what a router was," says John. "But I quickly learned how to use it."

He spent three winters making a seven-foot tall Grandfather clock, which his three sons all wanted. "I told them I would make them one if they furnished the 'works' for the clocks, which cost about 500-600 dollars," he said.

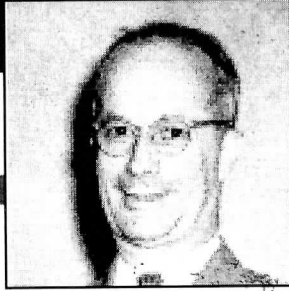
"I completed the next three all in one winter, so I was catching on," John says.

Then he got hooked on antique cars. "I would see a picture and try to make it," he says.

The results of this amazing craft will be on exhibit beginning Friday, April 12. John will be on hand to talk about his cars that weekend.



4

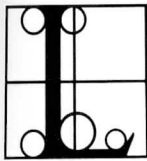


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6

For the Record... by Nancy Jo Batman



Last month I wrote about my computer's untimely death. Something good has come from that ending.

I now have a scanner. You probably already guessed that from the number of photographs in this issue. We also have email and hope to have a web site, along with six billion other people who have their own domain.

I spent a couple of winters going through all the old Mueller Record newsletters we have in the museum. I noted when an employee was pictured and created a database with information about the issue and page number. I don't even want to think about how many entries I had made.

But it was pretty neat, and if a visitor came into the museum looking for information about a long lost relative, it wouldn't take but a few minutes to find the picture. We would make copies of it for the visitor.

One young woman came in one day and asked to see pictures of her dad. I found six. She started crying. "I've never seen any of these before."

Those are the days when I love working here.

As we enter the winter days, our volunteers get a three-month vacation. Did you know we have a pool of 70+ volunteers who help at the museum?

If I can't retrieve the lost data on my small memory tape, I guess I will spend this winter going through all of the Mueller Records--again--starting from 1910.

It should keep me off the streets.

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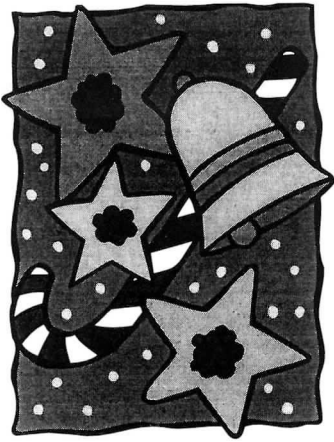
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