



THE MUELLER RECORD

Summer 2003



Mueller Co. Employee Has Unique Hobby

From the March 1949 edition of the *Mueller Record, Employees' Edition*, we learn that Mueller Co. had some pretty unique employees. Harold Moats, who worked in the pattern shop, invented a timing device for his radio. His invention automatically selects a station, turns on the radio for any broadcast period desired, records the program and then turns off the radio. Sound familiar?- only remember, this is 1949 and it's for a radio!

New Staff Member Joins Mueller Museum

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we have gained another staff member to assist at the Museum. Jason Butterick joined as assistant to the Museum Manager in July and has already provided valuable assistance in restarting our newsletter.

Jason served previously as Archival Associate at the Staley Library at Millikin University. He assisted in the preservation and organization of the University Archives, preparing items for display and permanent storage, as well as creating usable databases and finding aids for several of Millikin's collection.

A Decatur native, he grew up in Bement before attending Millikin University as a Commercial Music major. What is a Music major doing assisting a museum, you ask? It happens that Jason also has an intense love of local history. Whether it's researching his 1925-built bungalow or identifying faces in many unidentified photographs, he certainly loves a few historical challenges.

While he has no direct Mueller affiliations in his



family (other than his father declining a job offer in the 1970s), he is certainly excited to be a part of the Mueller legacy. His previous association with the museum included playing the background music for the 75th Anniversary video project and assisting Nancy Jo in identifying some photographs of the Mueller-Brownback families. Jason also currently serves as chairman of the Historic and Architectural Sites Commission for the City of Decatur.

Jason and his wife Amanda recently celebrated the birth of their first-born child, a boy named Patrick Wayne, on July 8, 2003. You might catch a glimpse of Patrick occasionally coming to the Museum.

A Group of Mueller Babies



From the *Mueller Record* (July 1932): "Only a small crowd of mothers with their babies got into the picture. There were between 40 and 50 babies born to Mueller employees during the year 1932. All Mueller babies are fine babies and therefore all winners. Each one got a bank book with a \$1 credit therein as the nucleus of savings account. For every dollar added in a ten-year period the company adds a dollar."

For The Record

By Paula Cross, Manager

I was working in the museum office on a Thursday afternoon, catching up on paperwork when I saw a young woman peering through the front door. I went up to see if she needed anything and saw the lobby area was full of kids. She apologized, said they had been to the zoo and were waiting for their ride. She just noticed our sign saying we were open on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons. Closing the door, I watched the 20 or so 6 to 8 year old kids for a moment. They were all sitting quietly talking. I opened the door and invited them in.

They were wonderful and full of questions. When looking at our restored car, I asked, "How old do you think this car is?" One hand, belonging to a young boy, popped up. Announcing the oldest date his mind could probably even imagine, he said, "1950?"

Did I mention how wonderful they were? We walked around the museum looking at displays. By the end of their visit, almost every question included, "Did Hieronymus make that?" They were already on a first name basis with our dear inventor. By the time we got to the table with the video, the question, of course, was, "Did Hieronymus invent the TV?"

One young man asked to see the video. Wanting to avoid that hassle, I decided to say something that would make him not want to see the video. So I quietly said, "It's kind of boring." He looked up at me and replied, "Even for an old person like you?" [Okay, I've got gray hair but I'm not that old!!!] I confessed that old people like me probably liked it.

On their way out, I made sure each one had a brochure to take home to their parents. With luck, maybe one or two will come back with their family. But what I'm really wishing for, is maybe one, just one would be enough, will remember their visit and that it sparked some creative interest. Perhaps the one who said, "You must read a lot of history."

There is only one *Mueller Record* today and this is it! If you know someone who would be interested in receiving this quarterly newsletter, why not give that person a 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
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- Please circle the type of membership preferred.**
*A portion of these membership fees are tax deductible

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HIERONYMUS MUELLER MUSEUM

61 South Country Club Road
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The Hieronymus Mueller Museum is a privately funded, non-profit museum and depends upon donations for its operations

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Mueller Co. Publications

Did you know that the first *Mueller Record* was published November 1, 1910 and continued until 1983? In the beginning, it was a sales bulletin mailed to Mueller salesmen, but in the 1920's the publication began to include more news about employees and their families. In 1933, in addition to the *Mueller Record*, a new publication was printed, titled *Mueller Record "Inside Only"*. Changed in 1947 to *Mueller Record "Employees' Edition"*, this publication focused on the employees while the *Mueller Record* contained mostly business/corporate news. The last issue of the Employees' Edition we have in our library is dated July 1953.

During the 1950s through the 1980s, several new publications were printed including *Main Connections* (1954-1967), the *Mueller Newsletter* (1969-1977), the *Pipeline Reporter* (1981-1988), the *Mueller Service Lines* (1981-1987), and the *Line Stopper* (1987-1988).

Nancy Jo Batman created a database of all these publications, listing every name and photograph. So next time you come to visit, ask me to look up someone on our database. Maybe we can find you, a relative or a friend, in one of the publications (perhaps catching a greased pig at the company picnic!).



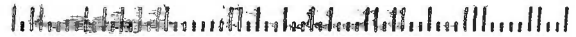
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Do You Remember?

Celebrating Mueller's 100th anniversary, a Centennial Outing was held in Fairview Park on September 7, 1957. Plants 1 and 4 closed at 11:00 a.m., but employees received a full day's pay! (*Main Connections*, August 1957).

Service awards announced in June 1984 included 25 year awards to **Wilma Badorek**, **Henry Austin**, and **Richard McKinley**. **Carroll Virt** received a 30 year award. (*from The Pipeline Reporter*)

"William Anderson is laid up with an injured toe. A casting dropped on it while he was on a repair job. (*Mueller Record*, February 28, 1923)

Lucien W. Mueller, Chairman of the Board of the Mueller Co., was elected for his first term as a Director of the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce on October 18 in Chicago. (*Mueller Record*, November 1951).

Mueller Record, January 1976: **Hugh Baker**, product development manager was pleasantly surprised when the sales office personnel presented him with a Christmas stocking filled with gifts. There was one gift that was outstanding. Deep down in the sock Hugh found his pet, neatly enclosed in a box with a nest and instructions for the care of a "pet rock". (**Evelyn Cox** is in the accompanying picture - was this your idea?)