



THE MUELLER RECORD

Winter 2004

Working With The Muellers

by Jason Butterick

Anton C. Schuerman

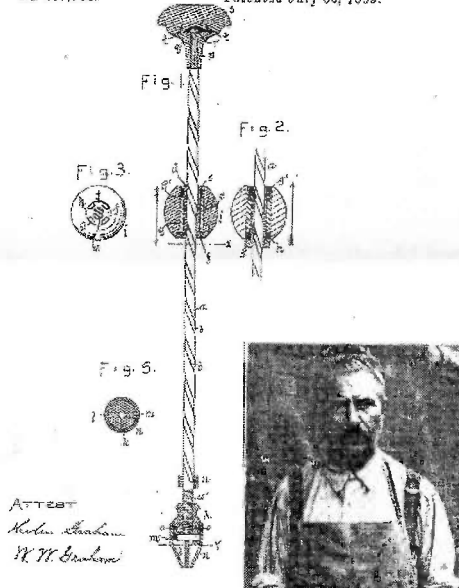
Anton Schuerman may be a name that isn't familiar to many people. In 1907, he was among the seven men who first received \$500 for 25 years of faithful and loyal service. When he died on January 31, 1925, it was noted that his only job in America was working at the Mueller Company... for 42 years.

It was only through recent patent research that I became very interested in Mr. Schuerman. His name appeared jointly with Fred, Philip, and Henry Mueller as inventors.

Anton Schuerman was born May 4, 1858 in Hagen, Westphalia, Germany, a village about 70 miles from Hieronymus Mueller's birthplace in Wertheim. He married Helen Duellman in May 1881 and came to America in 1883. Anton arrived in Decatur on November 3, 1883 and within a week he was working with Hieronymus Mueller and his other employees at the time on West Main Street. According to his obituary, the other employees were Charles Hildebrandt, Frederick Voelcker, and Adolph Mueller.

An expert mechanic like Hieronymus, Anton developed several products which appeared in the Mueller catalogs, including his own patented screwdriver. Unlike Hieronymus, Anton did return to Germany to visit once, in 1922.

(No Model.)
A. SCHUERMANN,
TOOL DRIVER.
No. 407,843. Patented July 30, 1889.



An inventor in his own right, his screwdriver, Patent #407,842 appeared in the Mueller catalog from 1899-1913. One of these screwdrivers is in the permanent museum exhibit

His pride in workmanship also showed in his final residence, completed just six months prior to his death. The residence, 251 S. Maffit, was built with the best of materials. It is standing today.

In his obituary, Philip Mueller was quoted that "Not only was Anton Schuermann an exceptionally high class mechanic, inventive, original, but he was a delightful personality, kindly disposed, and

Museum Donations

The museum is assembling a wonderful historical collection because of donations from Mueller employees, the Mueller family, the Mueller company, and friends. The following are those who have donated items to the museum during 2003. We would like to thank you again for your generosity.

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William Schluter
Bill Thompson

Adolph Mueller Home Featured in Book

The Adolph Mueller home, located at #4 Millikin Place, is featured in a children's book on architecture. The book, *Building America*, by Janice Weaver with illustrations by Bonnie Shemie, describes over 400 years of American architecture from adobe homes in the Southwest to post-modern, almost futuristic buildings.

The Mueller home is used as an example of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie Style architecture. Designed by Marion Mahony, an architect in Wright's studio, the home has the horizontal lines of a Wright design. However, Mahony included her own vision into this noted structure.

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!

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- Please circle the type of membership preferred.**
*A portion of these membership fees are tax deductible

Please send this form and payment to

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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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*A Sincere Thank-you to
Our Volunteers!!!!*

Our "Christmas in March" volunteer appreciation party will be Sunday, March 28th. We'll be mailing invitations soon, but mark the date on your calendar now!



Photos, photos everywhere - but no names! This looks like it was taken in the 1950s. Anyone know these obviously championship bowlers?

❄️❄️❄️ Mueller Christmas Party ❄️❄️❄️



We have a whole stack of photos from a 1950s(?) Christmas party - but no names! Can you help?



Who are these good-looking people?
Don't you love 1950s dresses!



For a better look, the original photos are in the museum office.



Are you one of these little angels?



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Some Mueller Company Sports History

■ **Picnic Notes:** Climbing the greased pole near the Athletic club house attracted a large crowd and as usual created endless amusement. The pole is about 12 feet high and at the top fluttered two new one dollar bills held fast by a thumb tack. Melvin Trimmer finally got the money, as he did at two previous picnics. The judge of the event announced that Melvin is hereafter barred - maybe. *Mueller Record- July 1932*

■ **Bowling News:** The Pattern Shop bowling team took the Mueller Bowling League lead on Sept. 20 and didn't relinquish it during the next 31 weeks. Members of the winning team, captained by Maury Sefton, are: Bob Henderson, John Hackl, Hilbert Olver, Dick Ferril, Marvin Spitzer, and Ollie Fortscheider. Individual honors were shared by Dale Reidelberger and Ben Taylor. Dale rolled a 257 game to edge Ben by two pins in the individual high game competition. Ben took first in high series with a three-game total of 652. *Main Connections- May 1963*

■ **More Bowling News:** Pete Workman and Nancy Borriff won the Mueller Co. Mixed Doubles bowling tournament, Feb. 19, at the Eldorado Bowl. The pair bowled a 1,256 to edge out Jack Adams and Juanita Degand who had a 1,245 handicap total. Third place went to Paul Ammann and Jewell Hacket who were nine pins out of second. *Main Connections - April 1961*

■ **Picnic Notes:** The big event of the 1924 Mueller picnic was the baseball game between a nine made up of office girls and a nine made up from the core room. There was a large crowd at the diamond when the two teams' players in black bloomers and white middies marched on to the field. The office "Rinkydinks" won by a score of 43 to 13. *Mueller Record- August 1924*

■ **Athletic Club House:** In spite of inclement weather, the official open house of the new Mueller Athletic Club House on Jan. 30 and 31 was well attended. *Mueller Record - February 1926*