

Strictly Personal Albertville

NEWS ABOUT MUELLER CO. EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES

ALBERTVILLE PURCHASING DEPARTMENT



Shown from left to right:

Ann Hill with Mueller since 9-7-76; Kay Alexander employed 7-19-76; and Jim Bolton came to Mueller on 7-14-75.

Albertville purchasing agent Jim Bolton has control of everything purchased for use in our plant. When a supervisor requisitions something and Lloyd Darnell or Harold Hassebrock has approved it, Jim and his department go into action to get the best quality, price, and delivery. Jim picks the suppliers who do the best job for us, sometimes issuing bids or getting quotes, or bidding on raw materials.

Jim is assisted by Kay Alexander who types purchase orders and keeps records of our purchases and by Ann Hill. Ann looks over incoming receiving reports and invoices to be sure suppliers sent the right quality, quantity, and price.

On purchased parts like nuts and bolts, rubber goods, and some supplies and spare parts which we use a lot, Jim writes a blanket order covering our needs for six months or so. A blanket order saves time and paperwork for us and enables the supplying company to accumulate a stock for faster delivery to us. Material is shipped in here

as we need it. This helps us get better price and delivery and keeps our inventory down. Some items are shipped in automatically such as chain. We receive about 25 thousand pieces of chain per month. At any one time we have enough chain in this plant to reach from downtown Albertville to downtown Boaz.

Supplier breakdowns and production problems are the usual causes of delayed deliveries. We know this can happen on occasion and we try to insure that it won't happen very often by having alternate suppliers. Sometimes the season of the year determines where we buy things. For example, when frozen sand prevented our Tennessee supplier from taking care of our Foundry needs, Jim had sand shipped in from a different company located in southern Georgia.

Hydrants are made from railroad rails. "This is a guessing game," says Jim, "because we have to bid against other companies for the rails that are available." We use discarded railroad rails from Southern railroad, Louisville and Nashville railroad, and others. Even though the rails are worn out for railroad use, they make good

hydrants because the formulation of the steel is consistent.

Everybody has an opinion about spare parts. The spare repair parts we keep on hand are determined by the equipment manufacturer and our maintenance department, based on the most ordinary breakdowns which are expected. We have a lot of bearings, sprockets, chains, and the like on hand. We know we won't have everything that can possibly break because it isn't possible to keep an entire spare plant on hand. Our suppliers try to help as much as possible by stocking additional repair parts and giving fast delivery. For example, we can get six hour delivery on a replacement for a broken conveyer belt. It is a bit more difficult for parts that are shipped by air from distant cities. Jim tries to strike a balance between a reasonable inventory of needed supplies so repairs can be done with a minimum interruption to production.

"I spend about half of each day on the phone to follow up for delivery, pricing, or various problems we have with the things we buy," says Jim. "Sometimes we exchange parts with Chattanooga or get help from them when suppliers have delivery problems. At times we share tooling, spare parts, and purchased parts like gaskets, 'o' rings, and nuts and bolts. We help each other when possible.

"I hope to keep everything in stock that we need and still keep inventory down," Jim philosophizes. This is possible now because our suppliers in Gadsden, Birmingham, Atlanta, and elsewhere keep a stock of things we need and can ship on short notice.

Jim observes, "we know we will occasionally have a problem getting delivery but more and more we are working it so that the tools, parts, and supplies are in stock at the right time so everyone can be as productive as possible to get the job done without a hassle.

Births

Tom & Frances Jimmerson of Albertville have a new son. Tom is a first shift Quality Control Inspector. Adam Lee Jimmerson was born on 12-28-77 and weighed seven pounds and eleven ounces.

Mike and Pam Glasgow Albertville have a new daughter. Mike is a third shift Assistant Foreman in the Machine Shop. Bethany Sarah Glasgow was born on 12-5-77 and weighed four pounds and five ounces.

Marriages

William Smalley - Second Shift Foundry Helper, Wife - Sheery, were married - December 27, 1977 at the Court House. They will be living in Boaz, Al.

Michael King - Second Shift Core Setter Automatic - Foundry, Wife - Sue, were married - November 24, 1977 at Grandparent's Home. They will be living in Sawson, Al.

Randall Wayne Epperson - Third Shift Warner & Swasey 2AC Chucker, Wife - Charlotte Kay, were married - October 22, 1977 at Mt. Clavary Baptist Church. They will be living in Albertville, Al.

Thomas Wallace - Second Shift Chipper/Grinder - Foundry, Wife - Debra, were married - January 28, 1978. They will be living in Crossville, Al.

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Caution: Be sure brain is engaged before putting mouth in gear.

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A good boss is a guy who takes a little more than his share of the blame and a little less than his share of the credit

Christmas Gifts for Mueller Employees and their families

December 16, 1977, was Christmas Gift Day for the Mueller Employees. A ten (10) pound ham and six (6) pounds of bacon was given to each employee.

The Alabama Pork Producers Association awarded an Outstanding Service to the Pork Industry award to Lloyd Darnell for Mueller Co. and provided recipe brochures for each employee, after learning about the Christmas Gifts given to the employees.

Pictured below:

Lloyd Darnell distributing ham and bacon to the employees.



The following poem was written by Betty Jean Smith, a third shift Maintenance Department Clerk. Betty has worked for Mueller since March 1, 1977. She worked in the Iron Foundry as a Core Room Helper prior to her Maintenance Clerk job.

CHRISTMAS AT MUELLER

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the plant every machine was running from can to can't

The stockings were hung on the herman with care in hopes that Lloyd would find them there

The castings were tucked in the yard outside while visions of profit flew high and wide

The towmotors all running with Aaron sitting ready and maintenance prepared to keep things steady

When up on the penthouse there arose such a clatter Lamon sprang from his office to see what was the matter

Down from the muller and over the shakeout came a jolly little cuss twas Harold no doubt

For Randy he had grinders all shiny and new for John he brought mud and tubs of glue

For Jabo and Bill he brought spare parts and bolts for Art and Tommy Joe he left just a note

As he prepared to leave his suit a smelling like ran after him screaming and yelling

Harold jumped in his Toyota and tore out in flight Merry Christmas to Mueller and to Mueller Good Night

Brass Foundry

Progress on the new building is about five weeks behind schedule because of weather. The roof, west wall and south sides are on the building, and sixty percent of the floor is poured.

Most of the equipment has been arriving on schedule. Practically all the sand system is on site, except for the shakeout feeders and vibrating conveyor.

The furnaces and their controls are due in about three weeks. Plot plan and elevation drawings on the furnaces, pouring monorail and charging are due next week.

We will start Monday, March 6, on the big hole we have to dig for the shakeout.

The molding machine is being assembled in Chicago, and should be ready for tryout the week of March 12. Lewis Massey, Awyen Walker, and Tommy Butler will attend a three day seminar at Beardsley & Piper in Chicago to learn more about the new molding machine. The cooling and transfer equipment for the molding line is here on site.



Danny Smith and Aaron Graham are shown after checking out one of the new tow motors. Danny and Aaron work in the Maintenance Department Garage.

Danny Smith has been employed by Mueller since 5-25-77. Aaron Graham has been employed by Mueller since 8-18-75.

