

Strictly Personal Decatur

Don Bathe

NEWS ABOUT MUELLER CO. EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES



**Robert J. Ott
To Decatur**

Robert J. Ott has been promoted to the position of General Sales Manager of Mueller Co. effective April 1, 1978. Ott will be responsible for the sales activities of all the field sales personnel and the sales office personnel in the United States.

Ott, a native of Decatur, joined Mueller Co. as a Sales Representative in 1955 and was promoted to the position of District Manager of the Southern District based in Atlanta, Georgia in 1960.

Ott is married to the former Patricia Stitt. They have two children, Cathy who lives with her parents and David who resides in Atlanta.

Ott and his family will make their home in Warrensburg.

RETIREES

Kenneth Lee Smith, 365 New Britain automatic operator in Dept. 80, 25 years, 6 months and 5 days, April 12, 1978.

Paul W. Dazey, torque adjuster, Dept. 80, 34 years, 10 months and 13 days, May 15, 1978.

Warren D. Crawford, vice president and general sales manager, 25 years, 6 months and 16 days, May 16, 1978 (rule of 80)

Jack Rubicam, sales representative, 42 years, 7 months and 24 days, May 31, 1978 (rule of 80).

MACHINE REPAIR MEN CALLED IN

On Thursday evening, March 23, with Good Friday coming to make for a long weekend for everyone, Bill Horve, Machine Repair Foreman, received a call at 10:05 P.M. from George Lebo, Production Superintendent, informing him that a problem had come up with the hex filtering screen located on the fourth floor level near the roof in the brass foundry leading to the sand muller. Bill then called his men and after explaining the situation to them, he asked them to report to work at 7:00 A.M. Good Friday morning.

Upon investigation, they found that the drive shaft was broken and that the hub had the spokes broken out. Having no shaft in stock, the men had to make a new one. Bill assigned half of his personnel to making a new shaft and the other half to dismantling the old shaft and hub.

The men got a piece of bar stock from Dept. 70 stock and set up their machine to begin turning down to size (3-7/16" dia. x 11'0" long, weighing 375 lbs.). All during the day it rained and froze, causing Decatur to experience one of the most severe ice storms in its history. Several areas were losing power, creating a hardship on everyone affected.

Saturday morning as the men were continuing to turn the shaft down and welding the spokes back on the hub, it was Mueller Co.'s turn with a power outage at Plant 1. Not knowing how long the power would be off, Bill sent his men home, prepared to return when the power was restored. The power was off about two hours and the men came back and completed making the new parts and moved them to the foundry for installation on Sunday.

Sunday morning the men reported to work and went to the foundry to install the new parts. While getting ready at 8:00 A.M., Mueller Co. was hit with a

power outage at Plant 4 and was off about four hours. Bill was able to secure some generator sets for portable lights. Due to the extreme height of the area of the hex screen, installation of the portable lights did very little in making the job better.

Unable to use a hoist to lift the shaft due to the power outage, the men raised the shaft to the first floor using a high lift truck. Then, for the remainder of the next three levels, a block and tackle was used to get the shaft up the stairs. The further they went up, the less light they had and when they got to the hex screen, it was almost in total darkness. The men had to start working the shaft into place. All tools and equipment used on the job also had to be raised and lowered by using the block and tackle method.

The hex screen repair was completed at 1:00 A.M. Monday morning and was ready at the beginning of the shift.

A total of 1008 man hours was spent in getting this job done. The machine repair men on the job were Bill Horve, Murl Lee, Lloyd Schumacher, Ray Donaldson, James Leinard, Carl Klaus, Wayne Dortch and Steve Albro, Plant 4 Maintenance.

Many thanks to the men of the Machine Repair and Maintenance Departments for a job well done.

HATS OFF

Hats off to the following employees who kept a vigil over the foundry during the ice storm on Good Friday weekend.

- Carl Schuman
- Dale Spires
- Clay Ramsey
- Charles Schroeder
- William Henneman
- Clifford Hammel
- Homer Hooker
- Charles Kingery
- Leonard Morr
- James VanMatre
- Ben Wilkins
- Verlyn Burnett
- William Kaigley
- Dave Taylor

As everyone was getting up for their Good Friday morning coffee, they found it raining and freezing ice on everything. The tree limbs were hanging to the ground, power lines were breaking causing power failure in many areas.

Carl Schuman's home was in one of those areas that lost their power. Unable to do anything at home due to a power outage, Carl decided to go to the foundry to check on the equipment. When he arrived he discovered that the foundry power was off. He then called George Lebo, who in turn called the men in to take care of the machinery.

With power off and the electric furnaces starting to cool, the decision was made to dump the molten metal out of the Brown Boveri furnace to keep it from being damaged in case the metal should become solid. After dumping, it was necessary to do extensive repair work. All of the men pitched in and worked as a team. Some of the men from the Machine Repair Department that were working on the hex filter screen assisted in completing the necessary emergency work.

FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES

Ted Workman, former assistant brass foundry foreman, has been appointed to the position of assistant ground key foreman.

Larry Cooper, foreman brass grinder, has been promoted to the position of assistant brass foundry foreman.

FAMILY PICNIC

Come one, come all, Mueller Co. employees and retirees are invited to join in on a picnic, Saturday, July 29, starting at 11:00 A.M. in the pavilion located at the Shelbyville Dam access area. Plan on an afternoon of fun and relaxation. Beach is nearby.

Bring meat, cold dish and table service. If any questions, call May Ann Lutz on ext. 318.

SERVICE AWARDS

Decatur

- 10 years: Gary L. Hodges
Steve A. Holsapple
Allen Greenwood
Clinton L. Taylor
Sharon A. Cochran
Robert E. Green
Donald E. Weemer
George L. Nickell
Oscar W. Sands
Raymond J. Kaufman
Leonard Morr
Lyle E. Galvin
Susan M. Berner
Dennis W. Humes

- 20 years: Norvill R. Fenton
Mary Ann Broske
L. Jane Miller
Juanita M. Ferguson
Harold G. Dingman
Cecil A. Brown

- 30 years: M. Maxine Griffith
John Hall

- 40 years: Robert F. Armstrong

Sarnia

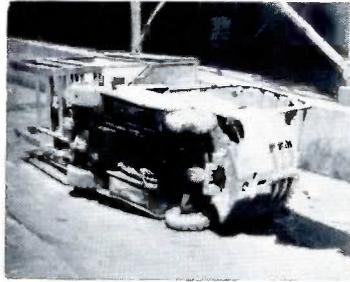
- 20 years: Fred Carter



Kent Elliott, Dept. 47, just completed thirteen week course in Emergency, Medical, Technical, Ambulance (EMTA) training and a three weeks course in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), going two nights a week at Sara Bush Medical Center at Mattoon, Illinois.

A part of Kent's training was in the emergency room at the Medical Center. Writing on State of Illinois Certified Test, National Certified Test and Practical Examination he will be qualified to work with the ambulance service and fire department at Bethany, Illinois.

ACCIDENTS DO HAPPEN



A plant 4 highlift operator will agree as he was able to walk away after his highlift turned over.



Gregory Wilson is a firm believer in wearing safety glasses. Greg was working around the iron molding area as metal was being poured which splattered and some of it hit his glasses, causing them to shatter.

First Day of Spring



First day of spring is the only day that an egg can be stood on end as shown in this photo.

RETIREES



Paul Dazey (top photo) with gift in hand as Paul Bollhurst looks on is joined by other retirees and fellow workers (lower photo).



Kenneth Smith is joined by onlookers on the day of his retirement.



Warren Crawford cleaned his desk off on last day.

Fishing Contest



William (Red) Henneman - Ron Chaney won first place at the annual bass fishing contest at Sancrist Lake west of Kincaid, Illinois.

Red and Ron Chaney caught the biggest bass and the most fish in pounds.



Ron Clutter - Russel Hall came in second.

Russ, who has been fishing only a few times, took some side bets as to the size of fish to be caught. Call it beginners luck or the knowledge of fishing, because he came out a winner. Russ says "better luck next time," to some of the born losers.

RECEIVES AWARD



Darrel Hartwig receives his 30 year service award from Dean Grant.