

THE LINE STOPPER

NEWS ABOUT MUELLER CO. EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES

DECEMBER 1987

Plant Manager's Corner

It's December already. It seems like yesterday that it was the 4th of July, and some had given up hope (again) that the Cleveland Indians were going to have a good year. The month of December, the holiday season, and the end of the year seems to come around all too fast. But it does come, and it is a time to reflect about the past year. Also, it is a time when we look to the future — to the year that lies ahead.

1987 was a year of ups and downs, some good things happened and some not so good. On the good side our orders, after a slow start surged beyond everyone's expectations. The plant went into high gear and we maintained excellent customer service. This is an area that we at the Decatur Plant can be proud. We also met for the second time in a row some very aggressive cost reduction goals, with continuing improvement in foundry scrap, productivity, reduced spending for materials we need to manufacture our product, reductions in energy usage and MRO spending. Many people were called back from layoff and we are happy to have them back.

On the bad side, pricing pressures continued in the marketplace reducing profit margins on many products we make and sell at Decatur. We failed to meet our scrap and rework goals in the Machine Shop, and we experienced three more lost time accidents this year than the previous year. Our 1988 plans call for "fixes" to improve those things we can do something about and an aggressive search for ways to offset our pricing problems.

Overall, however, 1987 was a good year. Another year of progress for our Decatur Plant with cost reductions and customer service the high points. Also, our capital program began to bear fruit in 1987 and will assist us to lower our cost and maintain product quality. The best example I can think of is the new CNC machine recently installed in Department 70. It's a beauty.

Now let's consider the future. 1988 will be another year of challenge. Housing starts are projected to be slightly down from this year. Pricing is expected to remain very competitive. It looks like prices for steel scrap and brass ingot will be higher than we had budgeted. Illinois Power has announced their intention to significantly raise our power rates. These factors are challenges — challenges we intend to overcome. We have to. Based on our past performance, I am confident that we will meet our 1988 budget commitments in spite of these problems and this time next year we will be able to say — we've done it again!

Thanks to each of you for your contribution during the past year. I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bill Riner
Plant Manager



Pictured left to right are Bob White, Jim Weatherford and Bill Riner.

A.I.W. Food Basket

Plant Manager, Bill Riner, representing Mueller Co. Manufacturing, presents a check to Jim Weatherford and Bob White, Local 838 Committeemen for the annual food basket drive held in December, 1987.

The donation goes along with the gate collection done by the Union employees for preparation of food baskets given out during the Christmas holidays to laid off employees and their families.

United Way Campaign

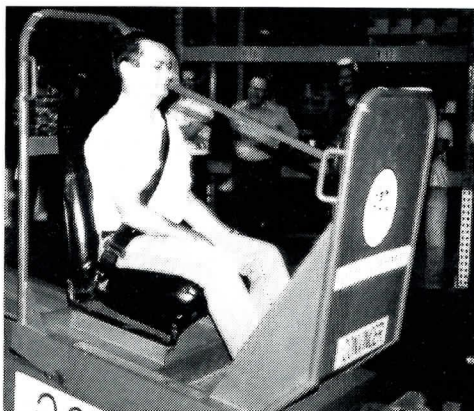
Mueller Co., Decatur Water and Gas Division, and Local #838 kicked off the 1987 United Way Campaign on October 12, 1987. The drive was a great success thanks to all the employees, solicitors, chairmen, and Mueller Co. who contributed to the campaign.

The total pledge for the plant and office employees is \$51,379.64 with 73% of Mueller Co. employees participating. The average gift was \$90.45 per year.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the 1987 campaign.

Seat Belt Awareness Program Presented

All Decatur Mueller Co. employees were invited to participate in a seat belt awareness program. There were two instructors from Eastern Illinois University presenting the program to our employees during the first week of November. The purpose of the program was to stress the importance of wearing seat belts at all times while driving. The instructors presented the facts about how seat belts work and how many lives are saved each year as a result of seat belt use. Each individual was given the opportunity to ride the "Convincer", which is a device that will allow the rider to feel the effect of a crash at less than 10 miles per hour while wearing a seat belt. This program was deemed to be a success as several non-seat belt users have since started wearing their seat belts.



Leo Chase in the "Convincer"

Advisory Committee

Mrs. Betty Wheatley, Benefit Coordinator, will be serving on the advisory committee for the School of Business at the Decatur Area Vocational Center.

The Committee will input information to the Decatur Area Vocational Center Staff on preparing high school students to go to the entry level jobs after graduation. They will also emphasize ways of attracting qualified, interested students into the vocational field during their high school career.



World Championship

The Royal Raiders Drill Team attended the XII America's Youth on Parade National/World Championship held July 21 - 25 at the Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana. Members of the team included Dawn and Joy Seay, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. David Seay. David works in the Ground Key Division as a round key body machine operator.

To capture the National - World Drill Team Championship the "Royal Raiders" performed a five minute systematic military drill. Competitors were from Canada, England, and the United States.

Congratulations goes to the drill team.

Kid Kare Program

Decatur Memorial Hospital Kid Kare Program provides basic day care services for all ill children who can't attend their normal day care or school setting while parents are at work. Hours and any other information desired, please call 877-8121, extension 5470 or contact the Mueller Co. Personnel Office for a brochure.

Festivals and Special Events

December 6 - February 28

"Our World in Miniature Exhibit"
Museum, Gorin Hall
Illinois University

December 6 - 31

"Glow of Christmas"
Witt County Museum
Clinton, Illinois

January 9

Annual Winter Carnival
(snow sculptures & games)
Northbrook, Illinois

January 30 - 31

Central Illinois Jazz Festival
Decatur Holiday Inn

February 1 - 7

Greater Woodfield Winter Carnival III
Schauenberg, Illinois

February 3 - 7

Chicago Boat Sports and RV Show
McCormick Place - Chicago

February 26 - 28

Winter Illinois Sport and Tackle Show
Decatur Civic Center

Disney World

Planning a vacation to Florida or California this holiday season or next year? Discount cards are available to Disneyland, Disney World, and the Epcot Center from the Mueller Co. Personnel Office.



Left to Right; Chuck LeMons, Ben Browning and Terry McCoy

Employees Receive Training Certification

Chuck LeMons, Benny Browning, and Terry McCoy recently received certificates for completing the Operators Training School for the "Cincinnati 1412 CNC Turning Center Machine". The machine will be set up for operation in the Specialty Department during the first week of December and is the first step in modernizing some of the machines in the Specialty Department.

The Cincinnati CNC will have two turrets which will cut simultaneously, and has "live tooling" in one turret that can perform milling, drilling, or tapping operations. It will also run bar

stock, castings, and do forging with a bar feed attachment.

These capabilities will help assure continued quality, help reduce tooling cost, and replace obsolete equipment now in the department.



Pictured Karen Penn (left) and Tammy Miller (right)

Who's New



Keenan Marquez, born August 29, 1987 to Jimmie and Betty Adams. Jimmie is a key machine operator in the Ground Key Division. Keenan has an uncle, Larry Adams in the Brass Foundry.

Anna Elizabeth, born October 6, 1987 to Ronald and Nancy Hotwick. Ron works as a shipping and receiving clerk in the Foundry. Anna was welcomed home by brothers Nathan and Jason.

Stacey Marie, born October 11, 1987 to Robert and Susan Durham. Bob works as a semi automatic chuck operator in the Ground Key Division. Stacey was welcomed home by brother Christopher.

Robert Michael, born October 27, 1987 to Michael and Lisa Steen. Mike worked in the Brass Foundry as a ladleman and recently entered the military service and is presently on a military leave from Mueller Co.

Wedding Bells

Karl Dean Petrowsky and Roberta Lynn Risem were married October 3, 1987. Karl works in the Specialty Department as a #3 turret rod lathe operator. Congratulations to Karl, Roberta, and step son Nathan from the Mueller Co. and their employees.

National Drunk And Drugged Driving Awareness Week

The Decatur Mental Health Center in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation salutes the Mueller Co. for their active participation in the National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week: December 13 - 19, 1987.

The Mueller Co. Wellness Committee joined the life saving holiday campaign by contributing bumper stickers that state "I Designated Drivers". What is a designated driver? The person in a group who agrees to remain sober and drive the others safely to their destination. These bumper stickers will be distributed at the local alcohol - serving establishments and as handouts at the libraries in Macon County. Our thanks to the Mueller Co. Wellness Committee for showing us how to celebrate with care. First a friend... then a host... be the LIFE of the party.

Mueller Children's Christmas Party

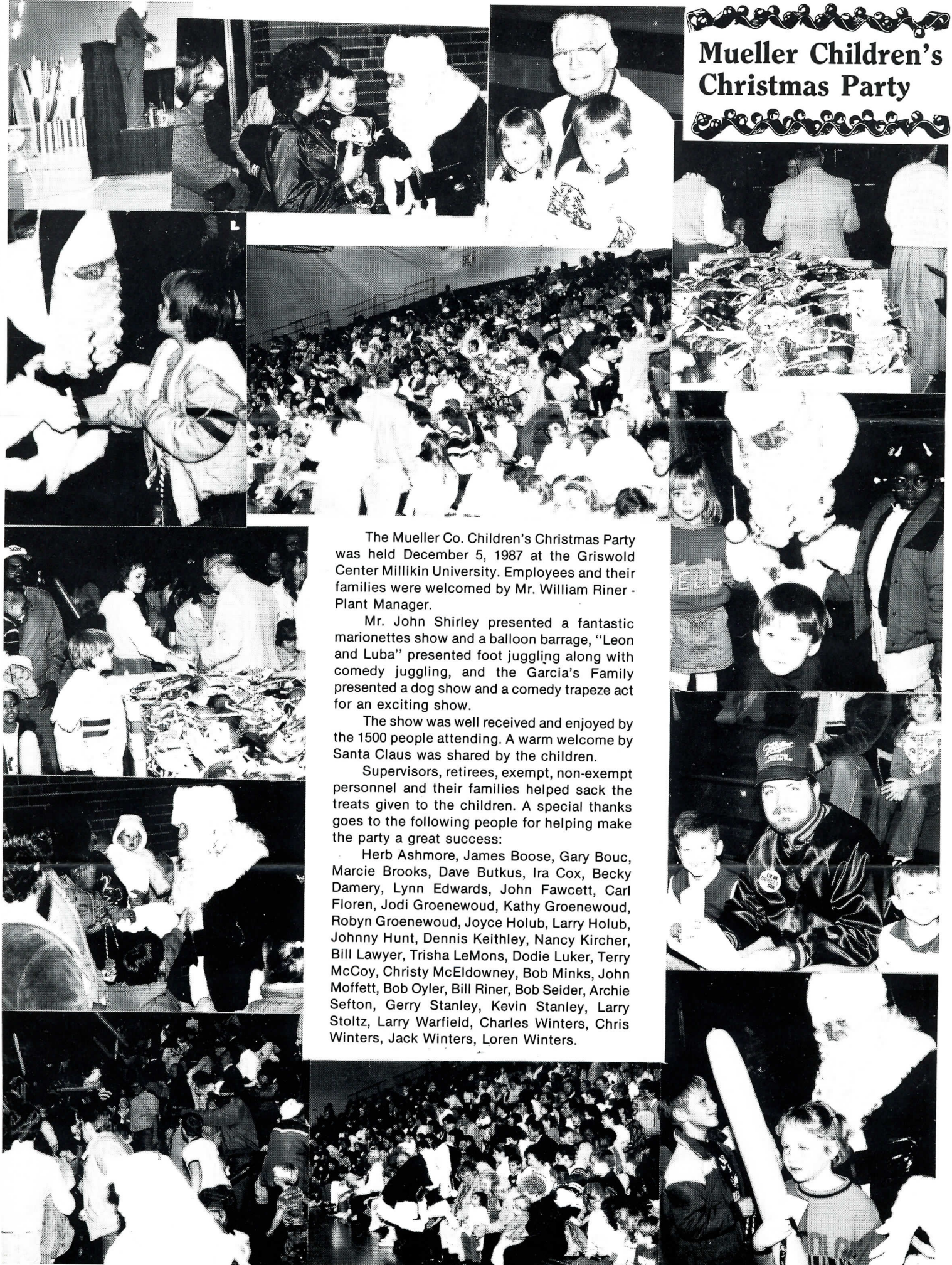
The Mueller Co. Children's Christmas Party was held December 5, 1987 at the Griswold Center Millikin University. Employees and their families were welcomed by Mr. William Riner - Plant Manager.

Mr. John Shirley presented a fantastic marionettes show and a balloon barrage, "Leon and Luba" presented foot juggling along with comedy juggling, and the Garcia's Family presented a dog show and a comedy trapeze act for an exciting show.

The show was well received and enjoyed by the 1500 people attending. A warm welcome by Santa Claus was shared by the children.

Supervisors, retirees, exempt, non-exempt personnel and their families helped sack the treats given to the children. A special thanks goes to the following people for helping make the party a great success:

Herb Ashmore, James Boose, Gary Bouc, Marcie Brooks, Dave Butkus, Ira Cox, Becky Damery, Lynn Edwards, John Fawcett, Carl Floren, Jodi Groenewoud, Kathy Groenewoud, Robyn Groenewoud, Joyce Holub, Larry Holub, Johnny Hunt, Dennis Keithley, Nancy Kircher, Bill Lawyer, Trisha LeMons, Dodie Luker, Terry McCoy, Christy McEldowney, Bob Minks, John Moffett, Bob Oyler, Bill Riner, Bob Seider, Archie Sefton, Gerry Stanley, Kevin Stanley, Larry Stoltz, Larry Warfield, Charles Winters, Chris Winters, Jack Winters, Loren Winters.



Service Awards

Oct., Nov., Dec.

5 YEARS

Gary Rusiecki

10 YEARS

Ricky Taylor
William L. Johnson
Lloyd Reed
Ron Gulley
Isaac Curry
Jerry Hall
Paul Schrishuhn
Dixie Bergfield
Janice Wright

15 YEARS

Larry Dietz
Russell Wickline
Joe Sisk
Fred Stroyeck
Eugene White
David Taylor
James Wallace
Ruth Carriger
Frank Fyke
David Salogga
David Dawson

20 YEARS

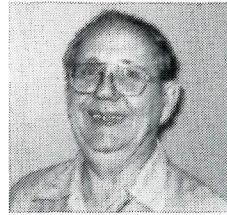
Donn Cross
Dwayne Mescher



Gerald MaHaffey
35 Years



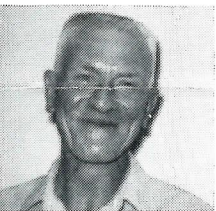
Paul Tolbert
35 Years



Robert Foster
35 Years



Wendell McRoberts
35 Years



Robert Fulk
35 Years



Robert Hunt
35 Years



Leroy Lawson
30 Years



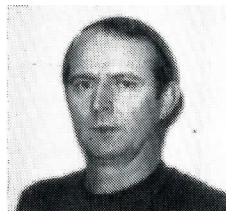
Larry Donaldson
30 Years



Larry Hubner
25 Years



John Middleton
25 Years



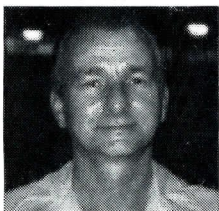
Robert Clark
25 Years



Gerald Collins
25 Years



Arlen Burton
25 Years



Martin Endrizzi
25 Years



J.D. Giles
25 Years



Robert Oyler
25 Years

Mueller Lodge Photo Identification

Thanks goes to the retirees who called in and identified the employees in the picture published in the last newsletter.

Following is the identification of the employees taken at the Mueller Lodge.

Standing left to right: Bill Ferry, Adolph Mueller, Rick Roarick, George White, J.W. Wells, Chuck Coventry, Unknown, Frank Mueller, Everett Mueller, Charlie Cochran, Robert Mueller Sr.

Kneeling left to right: Billie Simpson, Billie Mason, Burt Jackson.

Y103 - Bob Brady Winner



Mrs. Cindy Baker, wife of Harvey Baker, was the winner of a 1988 Dodge Shadow in the Y103 - Bob Brady - Dairy Queen contest on Saturday, November 14, 1987..

Harvey works in the Ground Key Division as a single parts tester and is very proud of the new car and his wife.

Retirements



Robert Boehm
(40 + Years)

Mueller Co.

DECATUR ILL 62525

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 500
Springfield, IL