

THE LINE STOPPER

NEWS ABOUT MUELLER CO. EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES

AUGUST 1987

Employee Assistance Program Offers Professional Help

Just like everyone else, Mueller Company employees and their family members will experience personal problems now and then. In most situations, these employees and/or family members will be able to resolve the problems without outside assistance. However, periodically some problems may not be easily resolved, resulting in escalating problems. If you recognize a pattern of unresolved problems, you may wish to contact your Employee Assistance Program for more professional help.

Here are a few key indicators to look for in making a decision to contact the Employee Assistance Program:

- The problems have a predictable and repetitive cycle (i.e., you can expect a serious argument after each payday).
- When you have discussed the problems with family or friends, there doesn't appear to be any acceptable solution or long-term resolution.
- The problems are a continuous source of arguments or conflicts in the family.
- Attempted, unsuccessfully, to cope with the problems.
- The unresolved problems create other problems (i.e., problems in communicating with spouse or children, problems at work, problems with managing personal finance, etc.).
- The unresolved problems leave you with worried anxious feelings that a crisis or more serious problem may occur.

If these key indicators are familiar to you, you may want to call the Employee Assistance Program for further help. The Mueller Company's Employee Assistance Program (EAP), sponsored through St. Mary's Employee Service Center, has completed its third year of service to Mueller Company employees. The program's two counselors are pleased with the rate at which employees and their families have utilized the service.

To insure protection of your confidentiality, the EAP office is located amongst several physicians' offices in the Medical Arts Building (Suite 220) next to St. Mary's Hospital. When you phone for an appointment (429-2339), you will not likely

be greeted by the secretary, Judy Hurst. Judy will transfer your call to the counselor you request to schedule an appointment convenient with your work schedule, as soon as possible. (There is no charge to see the EAP counselors.) The counselor will meet with you and/or your family members to discuss whatever concerns or problems you have. Many people use the service for marital/family conflicts or situational problems such as stress. The counselors encourage employees to come

in and talk, even if the concern is not a major problem. It often helps you to verbalize your feelings and seek guidance and direction from someone outside your circle of friends or family. If you need some ongoing service, you will be referred to a resource in the community, with particular attention to your insurance coverage, ability to pay, and your special needs.

The EAP staff welcome your call and will do their utmost to offer you courteous, confidential assistance.

Plant Manager's Corner

Our business continues to be better than budget despite the fact that housing starts have been down the past several months. No one is quite sure why this is taking place but I can't help but think that some of our good fortune is due to our improved customer service. In other words, maybe because we have earned a reputation for delivering our products on time we have received more business. That's good news.

The bad news is that we are being asked by the market place to react rather quickly to the unexpected demand. It means shorter production runs, quick changes in direction, overtime, and just plain old fashioned hustle. This kind of shop activity, as everyone knows, puts a strain on everyone and everything.

We are, however, being rewarded with additional business. And because we do not want to lose any future business, we are changing setups often and are choosing to concentrate on job which are either "short-on-sales" or awfully close to being "out-of-stock".

Now for my commercial message:

Come to work

Work overtime when asked

I know it's hot. Come anyway. By the way, most of you have been doing very well in this regard. In fact, that's the only way we have been able to maintain 90% customer service at the end of July despite the unexpected demand for the products we make and sell.

The "Other Drug Problem"

More than half of all American adults get at least one prescribed drug each year on an outpatient basis — for a total of 1.6 billion bottles and packets of pills, lotions and potions. At least half of these are misused, according to a startling government estimate. They are taken in doses that are too large or too small, or taken at the wrong time, or only now and then when the patient remembers or feels unwell.

This misuse is dangerous because the drugs' effectiveness depends upon maintaining specific levels in the body over a certain period of time.

Dr. Robert Windom, assistant secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services, calls the misuse of prescription medications the "other drug problem," one not as obvious as the misuse of illegal drugs such as heroin or cocaine, but one that is life-threatening. More than 225 million potentially dangerous prescription-drug incidents occur each year, often resulting in recurring or prolonged illness, avoidable side effects, unnecessary hospitalizations, even death. There are an estimated 25,000 deaths a year among heart patients, mainly from the misuse of drugs that control faulty heart rhythms. Almost half of patients with glaucoma, asthma or diabetes use their medications incorrectly.

The National Council on Patient Information and Education urges the public to get answers to five key questions when taking any medication:

- What is the name of the drug and what does it do?
- How, when and for how long should it be taken?
- What foods, drinks, other medications and activities are to be avoided while taking the drug?
- What are the side effects and what should a user do about them?
- Is there written information available about the drug?

One more related question to ask: Is there any alternative to taking the drug?

—Victor Cohn in *Washington Post*

Service Awards

JUNE & JULY

5 YEARS

Vivian Tippitt

10 YEARS

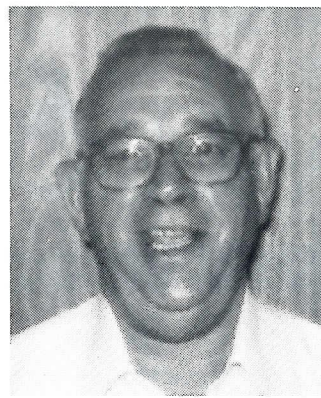
Rosetta Willis
Bruce Briscoe
Phil Crist
Neal Markham
Curtis Beasley
Lee Best

15 YEARS

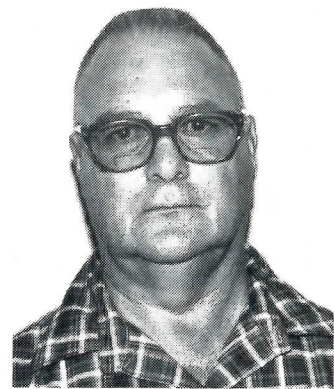
James Jeffrey
Ray Barton
Robert Pope

20 YEARS

Herbie Gibson
Irvin Davis



Dale Spires
40 Years



Robert Finch
40 years



Darrel Church
25 Years



Dean Eaton
25 Years

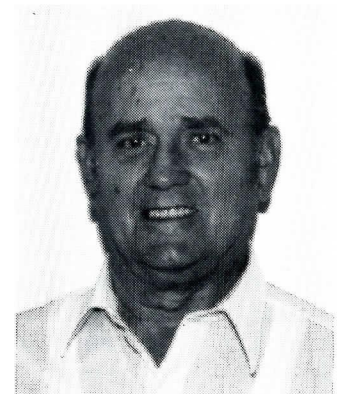
Retirements

JUNE & JULY

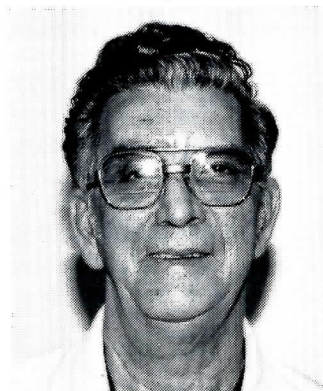
Margaret Taylor (no picture)
10 years (disability)



John Puckett
41+ years



Jim Friscoe
40+ years



George Roady
37+ years



Ray Walton
25+ years

Horve Returns To Judo Temporarily

Bill Horve will be returning to the National Judo Institute Senior Camp, July 26-August 1 in Colorado Springs to teach after relenting last year.

Bill started in Judo in 1952 and became a noted coach and administrator during his early years. He was the National Junior Tournament Director, served as vice

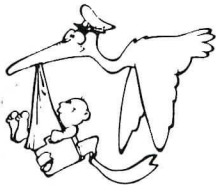
president of the National Judo Organization, and took a team to Germany.

A fifth degree black belt, Bill is a pioneer in teaching the rank system in summer camps. He will be in charge of rank examination and certification this summer.

Judo is the only recognized martial art competition in the Olympic Games and is basically a grappling and throwing contest - winning by throwing the opponent, pinning the opponent, or choking and arm lock techniques.

Bill is the General maintenance Foreman at Plant 1.

New Births!



Dustin Michael, son of Craig and Pamela Ellison was born May 31, 1987. Craig is Maintenance Time Keeper and Stock Clerk in Department 3200 on 2nd shift.

Julianne Marie, daughter of David and Monica Nicholls was born June 4, 1987. David is working in Department 3400 as a Utility Person on 1st shift.

Jared William, son of Ted and Kendra Hall was born May 25, 1987. Jared is welcomed home by a sister, Stephanie.

Ted is presently on lay off status and holds title in the Brass Foundry.

Return To Yesteryear

The Yesteryear Fair on Labor Day Weekend turns back the hands of time to the 1829 founding of Decatur. Over 15,000 visitors enjoy pioneer foods, craft demonstrations, flea market, books and antique sales, and lots of old-time entertainment.

The 18th annual Yesteryear Fair is open from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on September 5 and 6 at 5326 North Fork Road in Decatur, just north of the Decatur airport. Admission is free. Sponsor of the fair is the Macon County Historical Society.

Costumed craftsmen demonstrate quilting, spinning, weaving, broom making, blacksmithing, rope making, and whittling. Fibers are dyed and lye is made into soap over open fires.

Foods at the fair include sausage and pancakes, funnel cakes, donuts, ham and beans, and apple butter cooked over fires in iron kettles. Macon County Museum volunteers make and sell apple butter and horseradish. The Country Kitchen inside the old North Folk church serves full meals, and vendors selling lemonade shakes, hot dogs, hamburgers, honey, and popcorn line the fairgrounds. New this year will be a ham and bean eating contest for media personalities on Saturday, Sept. 5 at 11:00 am.

Suggestion Awards

Suggestions have paid off for Jerry Bennett, Electrician at Plant 4 and Ray Davis, Department 2201, Ground Key Machining. Jerry was awarded \$3,880.60 for a suggestion involving the pouring platform in the Foundry area. Ray was awarded \$65.00 regarding a shield to defect wild castings on the circle turn operation.

Keep the suggestion coming in to make extra cash, help reduce cost, and keep a competitive edge on our competitors.

Free entertainment includes several old time music groups, the Gary Strong puppets, and Scovill Petting Zoo (Saturday, 10:00 to 1:30). "A Child's World" exhibit will be open at the Macon County Historical Society Museum for \$1.00 admission, children free if accompanied by an adult.

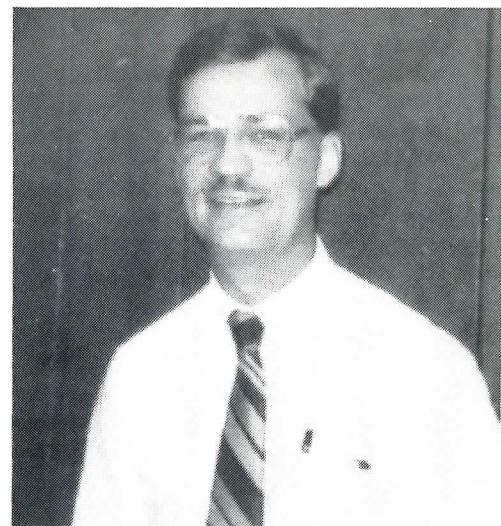
There is free parking at the museum at North Fork Road or at Thomas Jefferson School on Cantrell Street, with free shuttle service to the Fair.

Macon County
Historical
Society's
18th Annual

**YESTERYEAR
FAIR**

**Labor Day
Weekend
Sept. 5 - 6**

9 A.M. to 6 P.M.



Gary Rusiecki

Rusiecki Participates In Leadership Institute

Gary Rusiecki, Decatur Plant Controller has been selected to participate in the Decatur Leadership Institute for 1987. The institute is a twelve (12) week seminar program sponsored by the Metro Decatur Chamber of Commerce designed to identify, educate, motivate, and develop a group of area citizens for positions of community leadership.

The program is a community-wide effort to ensure high quality leadership to meet the present and future challenges which face the Decatur area. The program also fills the need experienced by every urban area for active involvement or informed and dedicated citizens in leadership roles.

Adopt A House

Helping a disabled or elderly homeowner who qualify with a painting project can be a satisfying and rewarding experience. The Decatur Community Renewal Division is looking for people willing to paint the exterior of houses or persons willing to do paint preparation and minor repairs. The paint is free to homeowners who qualify in the inner city.

Support your community today by volunteering some of your time by calling 424-2798.

Wedding Bells!!

Tom Adkins and Tricia (Smith) were married March 1987.

Tom is working in the Brass Foundry as a Brass Molder, his brother Jim also works in the Brass Foundry.

Kenneth Bowers and Edna (Whitfield) were married May 30, 1987.

Kenneth is working in the Brass Foundry as a Brass Molder.

Andy Lawyer Will Be Student Ambassador

Promoting peace throughout the world this summer will be Andy Lawyer, with a group of students from the Decatur area. The student ambassadors will be traveling to Scotland, Great Britain, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and the Soviet Union to promote friendship between the United States and other countries. Delegates will also receive an overview of the cultural heritage of each country during visits to major historical sites and performances of ethnic music and dance.

The student ambassadors will live

with host families for five days in four of the countries they will visit to gain a first hand understanding of the way people live and work in other cultures.

The People to People High School Student Ambassador Program grew out of President Eisenhower's People to People International, to promote international understanding.

Andy is a student at Eisenhower High School and is the son of Bill and Rita Lawyer. Bill is Maintenance Foreman in Department 3200 - Plant 4.

Buckling Up Could Save Your Life And Money

According to a recent survey from the University of Michigan, the front seat vehicle occupants killed in traffic accidents declined 8.7 percent in the first eight states that passed mandatory seat belt laws.

In Michigan, New Jersey, Illinois, and Nebraska, the fatality rate declined 6.8 percent during the period of study. Laws in these states require that before a seat belt citation can be issued, other violations must be cited.

New York and Texas, which have

primary enforcement laws allowing police to ticket solely for not wearing seat belts had a 9.9 percent decrease.

Fatality figures from January 1976 to June 1986 were used in the study for people ages 10 and over, and only states that passed mandatory seat belt laws before 1985.

A ten percent reduction in traffic fatalities could be expected for states that implement and enforce mandatory seat belt laws with primary enforcement.

Thanks To Blood Donors

Thanks goes to the following employees for donating blood at the bloodmobile:

May

John Hackl
Steve Ditty

June

Dean Eaton

July

Charles Snoke
Steve Loehr
James Adkins
Mark Neisslie
James Van Matre
Steve Ditty
John Hackl
Ron Brunner
Robert Burlington
Vernon Brunner
Leo Chase
Wilbur Sweazy

If you are interested in donating blood for Dick Ferrill's son, please contact the nurse at either plant.

Mueller Co.

DECATUR, IL 62525

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 500
Springfield, IL