

# THE LINE STOPPER

NEWS ABOUT MUELLER CO. EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES

MARCH 1987

## Plant Manager's Corner

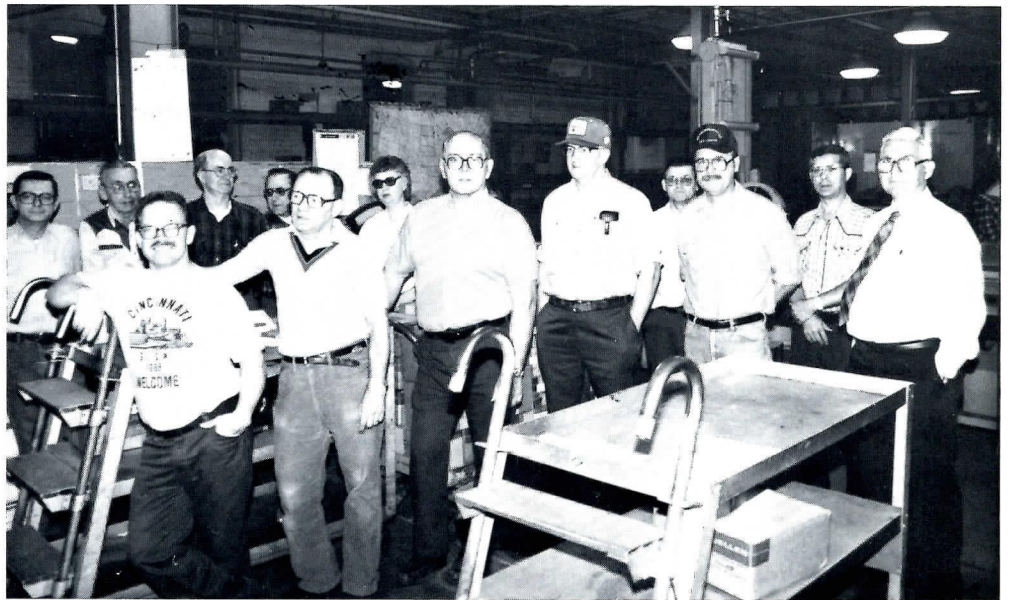
Would you hire you? Of course you would! You work hard, you care about what you do and you know your job inside and out. That's what everybody says, and for the most part its true.

It is also true that we could all do better. Managers, Foreman, lift truck drivers, machine operators, molders, coremakers . . . each and every one of us can do better. When we put more effort into our work, we have more to show for it. Best of all, we'll be protecting our jobs. Increased productivity means lower costs. Lower costs make our products more competitive in the marketplace.

Each and every one of us needs to take pride in our jobs and our accomplishments. Pride also relates to quality. If we are proud of our jobs and the work we do, we'll make a better product. Better products make for satisfied customers. Satisfied customers in turn mean increases in sales. Increased sales mean more jobs. We all win! If we all have pride in our jobs, we may just find that our work is as fresh and as challenging as it was the first day on the job.

Which brings us back to the original questions. Would you hire you?

Bill Riner



## Department 8300 Receives Special Recognition

Special recognition goes to Department 8300 - Warehousing and Shipping for a record and near record performance on Saturday,

January 31, 1987.

Setting a new record high, eleven men worked a twelve (12) hour day shift, shipping 755 orders including 516 U.P.S. packages. There were 149,300 lbs. shipped out that day hitting a near record performance by the eight checkers averaging 18,663 lbs. individually. The employees making this record performance possible are:

Checkers: Don McQuality, Richard Ross, Ralph Handley, Derle Smith, Leo Chase, Harold Ruot, Ronald Luster, Herbert Gibson; Warehouseman: Kenneth Moore; Stock Clerk: George Grandon; Dockman: Earl Caulk; Office Personnel: Juanita Ferguson and John Hall; Supervisor: Walt Morganthaler.

A special "thanks" goes to the employees who showed us TEAM WORK does work to achieve record high performance.

## Hidden Talents

Mueller Co. has a celebrity! Do you know who was picked from the audience and appeared with Johnny Lee at "Nashville North," February 14, 1987? He was the chief of "The Extremes" the group that sang "Don't Leave Me No More."

If you would like to know who he is, check the second shift to see if he is practicing his lyrics and gestures, when not supervising employees. Like Johnny Lee, he doesn't have much hair on the top of his head. When introduced, he said he works for the Mueller Co. and is a "Foundry Rat."



## Two Complete Maintenance Training Program

Bill Riner, Decatur Plant Manager, presented certificates of completion Wayne Dortch and Joe Keck. They were the first people from Plant #1 to successfully complete the first section of the Maintenance Training Program.



# Growing Up With Mueller Company

Periodically, the Line Stopper will feature interesting stories about employees and their families. This issue features the Brunner family. To date, the families of William and Vernon Senior have been employed by Mueller Co. a total of 183 years. Three generations of the family are either currently employed by or retired from the Company.

William "Bill" Brunner was hired in July, 1924, as a bell hop and apprentice. He was paid seventeen cents an hour. During the 20's, increases of 2¢ and 3¢ were typical. During his employment at Mueller Co., Bill worked in the speciality area (when it was located downtown); was sent to Chattanooga, Tennessee twice to help in the grinding room; and retired from the tool room. He also made parts for the old Vitreous War Plant, located across Lake Decatur. Bill is proud of the fact that he was never laid off during his years of employment. However, during the time when his first child was born in 1931, his wages went from 50¢ an hour to 25¢ per hour. He only worked 4 hours per day on a temporary basis, building the racks that hold the steel rods in the speciality area. These racks are still used today. He would borrow \$5.00 from Mueller Aid to keep food on the table for his family during the depression years, and pay it back through his temporary employment. Bill was involved in making a wide variety of products including beer regulators, bullets, shells and projectiles for the war, bathroom fixtures, water and gas products, and tooling.

Gary Lee Brunner, followed in his father's footsteps. He was hired on June 14, 1962, as a molder in the brass foundry. Gary worked in the brass foundry until February 19, 1963 when he transferred to the speciality department. He has held various jobs in the department and is currently on first shift as a #3 turret rod lathe operator. Some of the changes Gary has seen since 1962 are individual bonus jobs, automation, automatic tape machines, the sale of Mueller Co., and the new organization of the Company.

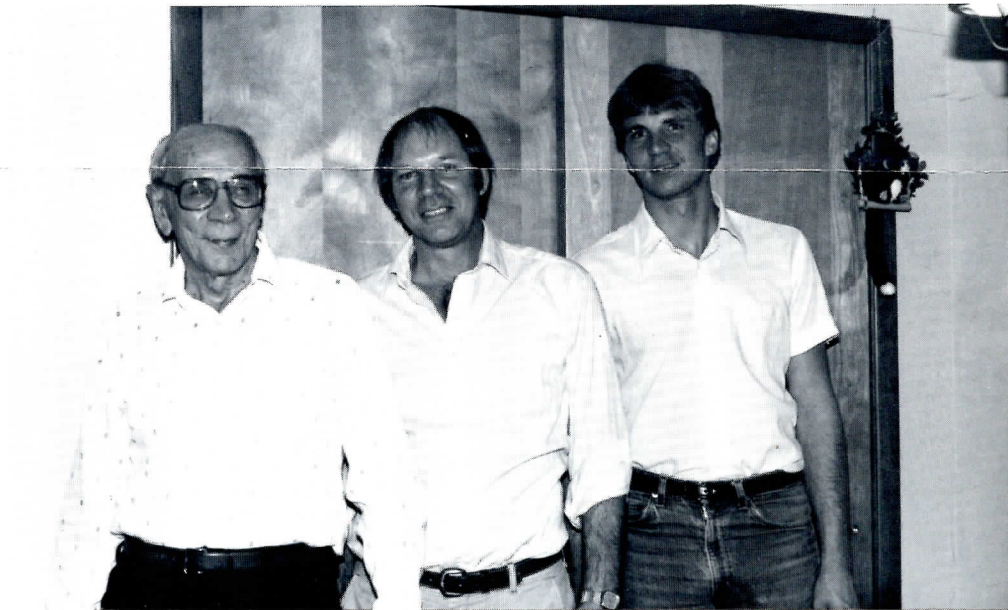
Gary Lee Brunner Jr., son of Gary and grandson of Bill, was hired as a brass molder on July 11, 1983. He holds title in the iron foundry and is presently on lay off.

Vernon Brunner Sr., was hired August 13, 1935, as a maintenance employee at Plant 1. When he retired in February, 1978, he was the Group Leader — Hand Core Maker A in Plant 4. He worked many years at Plant 2 (the old foundry located in the 1800 block of East Eldorado). Like his brother, he has seen many changes during his career. These changes include the establishment of the Union, modernization of the foundry, and the change in rules which allowed smoking in the Plant.

Vernon has two sons, Vernon Jr. and Ronald, who both work in the core room. Ron is the group leader — Hand Core Maker A (the same job his father had when he retired). Vernon Jr. is Core Cleaner and Inspector in the Core Room. All three worked together for about five years before Vernon Sr. retired. Vernon Jr. states that the biggest change he has seen since he was hired in 1954, has been the modernization of the Foundry. The fresh air system has made it a lot cleaner; while the new automatic molding



Pictured above from left to right are Ron, Vernon, Sr. & Vernon, Jr. and Chris Brunner



Pictured above from left to right are Bill, Gary, & Gary Jr. Brunner

machines have increased productivity. Ron and Vernon Jr. have both grown up with Mueller Co. They remember taking lunch to their grandfather "William Hise" and their father at the old Foundry, where they use to hoist themselves up and look in the windows so they could see how the work was done.

Chris Brunner, son of Vernon Jr., and grandson of Vernon Sr., was hired on July 11, 1983 as a brass molder. He holds title in the Iron Foundry and is presently working on the same machine that his father worked on when he was in the Brass Foundry.

Members of the Brunner family have fond memories of Mueller Co. These memories include family picnics; concerts at both Fairview Park and Mueller Lodge; ice cream socials; Easter egg hunts; Christmas parties in the old

Mueller Gym; Ham and Bacons; the distribution of groceries at Christmas during the war years; establishing bank accounts for children of employees (and the matching of additional contributions the first year); rocking chairs for wedding gifts; and Adolph Mueller distributing fruit every Spring after returning from his Florida vacation.

Bill Brunner said he enjoyed working at the Mueller Co. because he would do something different each day and it was not repetitious. Vernon Brunner Sr. says Mueller Co. provided a good living for his family and the family enjoyed being part of the Mueller Co.

Ask the Brunner family if you would like to know more about the "Life of a Mueller Employee" from the 1900's to the present.



## Heating and Cooling System

Using the earth to heat and cool their home, Mr. & Mrs. Dallas Driskell recently installed an Earth Energy System in their home in Taylorville, Illinois. The ground water heating system was installed last fall after drilling wells on the outside of the home to install pipes..It went into operation November 1, 1986 and to date (January 6, 1987) the cost of heating their home of 3300 square feet has been \$120.00. The Driskell's maintain a heating temperature in their whole home of 80 degrees for the comfort of his mother, who resides with them. All energy used by the efficient ground water heat pump is charged at four (4¢) cents per kilowatt-hour.

Using the same scientific principle as a refrigerator, the ground water heat pump is an electrically-powered device using the natural heat storage ability of the earth and/or the earth's groundwater to heat and cool the home. To install the system six verticle wells were drilled outside the home and coils of plastic pipe were inserted into the ground. A special antifreeze

solution circulates through the six pipes and the heat pump transfers the heat from the solution to their home. In the summer months the exchange is reversed and the system then becomes an efficient air conditioning system.

The Driskell's are expecting a 40-50% savings in their heating and cooling costs with this unit. Dallas is an inspector in the Speciality Department on 1st shift.

## Mueller Cafeteria

The Mueller Co. cafeteria has been featuring "special" coupons for the month of March. The coupons were distributed with the paychecks on Friday, February 27, which are to be used any time during the month of March. The free items included are: order of fries, popcorn, cup of soup, small salad, coffee, and soda. Also included are 25¢ off coupons on a featured sandwich and a featured entree plate.

Come support your cafeteria and save money at the same time.

## Who's New



Ryan Jacob, son of David and Diane Wilderman, was born December 28, 1986. He was welcomed home by Shawn and Shannon. David works in the Ground Key Machining Department as a Single Purpose Index Operator on 1st shift.

Bryan Allan, son of David and Sara Foley, was born January 3, 1987. David works in the Brass Foundry, but currently is on lay off status.

Brian Edward, son of Edward C. and Sheryl Smith, was born January 12, 1987. Brian was welcomed home by La Chai. E.C. works in the Ground Key Assembler Department as a Ground Key Tester on 2nd Shift.

Brandon Darrell, son of Larry and Karen Blanchard, was born January 24, 1987. Brandon was welcomed home by brother Joshua. Larry works in the Production Control office as a Planner.

Kelsey Lynn, daughter of John and Kathi Daluga, was born January 30, 1987. She was welcomed home by Katie. John is the Manager of Cost Accounting.

Joni Marie, daughter of Dennis and Martha Ishmael, was born February 1, 1987. She was welcomed home by brother Joshua and sister Julie. Dennis works 3rd shift as a Ground Key Body Machine Operator in the Ground Key Machining Division.

Abbi Brianne, daughter of David and Jodi Pierceall, was born February 16, 1987. David works 2nd shift as a Drill & Power Press and Milling Machine Operator in the Speciality Department.

## Airman of the Month

Air Force Airman 1st Class, Daniel Ball, son of Elmer and Evelyn Ball, was named outstanding Airman for the month of February, 1987. Daniel is a 1983 graduate from Mt. Zion High School and is presently stationed at George Air Force Base, California as an engineering specialist with the 831st Civil Engineering Squadron.

Elmer is working in Department 2200 on a S.P. Index Lathe on 1st shift.

## University Honor Students

Congratulations goes to the following students who were named to the Dean's List at their respective colleges for the Fall semester of 1986.

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY:** Leslie Small, daughter of Harold and Wilma Small. Harold is Brass Foundry Foreman.

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY:** Stephanie Small, daughter of Harold and Wilma Small. Harold is a Brass Foundry Foreman.

**ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY:** Steven Luker, son of Delores Luker. Dodie is Personnel Administrator.

**MILLIKIN UNIVERSITY:** Thomas Riner, son of William and Cecilia Riner. Bill is Plant Manager.

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBORO, PA.:** Le Ann Holub, daughter of Larry and Joyce Holub. Larry is Manager of Safety and Industrial Relations.

**GANNON UNIVERSITY - ERIC, PA:** Pamela Holub, daughter of Larry and Joyce Holub. Larry is Manager of Safety and Industrial Relations.

**ST. LOUIS SCHOOL OF PHARMACOLOGY:** Tony Jones and Terry Jones, sons of Arnold and Marjorie Jones. Arnold works on a Drilling & Tapping Machine Assembler and Tester in the Specialty Division.

## All-State Band Winner

Jodi Trolia was selected as a member of the Illinois Music Education Association All-State Band. The concert was held January 29-31, 1987 at Peoria, Illinois.

Finalists were selected from auditions held in November from the I.M.E.A. District Band winners throughout the state.

Jodi is a senior at Eisenhower High School and plans to study music and elementary education at either Eastern Illinois University or Illinois State University in the Fall. She is the daughter of Martin and Shirley Trolia. Marty works in the Production Control Office - Plant 4.

This was the second straight year Jodi was chosen to play the clarinet in the All-State Band. Congratulations Jodi!!!

## Spelling Bee Winner!

Leigh Anne Pyle, daughter of Todd and Barbara Pyle, won 1st place in the Dennis Grade School Spelling Bee. A fifth grade, Leigh Anne will participate in the District Bee to be held on March 10.

Congratulations Leigh!

Todd is the MRO Supervisor located in the Ground Key Division.

## Congratulations

Decatur Manufacturing is proud to announce three additional employees from the Core Room who had perfect attendance for 1986. Congratulations goes to Sidney Duffer, Vernon Brunner Jr., and Robert Burlington for their outstanding achievement. Sorry you were missed in the original listing in February.

## Ten Commandments of Safety

1. LEARN the safe way to do your job.
2. THINK safety, and ACT safety at all times.
3. OBEY safety rules and regulations — they are for your protection.
4. WEAR proper clothing and protective equipment.
5. CONDUCT yourself properly at all times — horseplay is prohibited.
6. OPERATE only the equipment you are authorized to use.
7. INSPECT tools and equipment for safe condition before starting work.
8. ADVISE your supervisor promptly of any unsafe conditions or practices.
9. REPORT any injury immediately to your supervisor.
10. SUPPORT your safety program and take an active part in safety meetings.

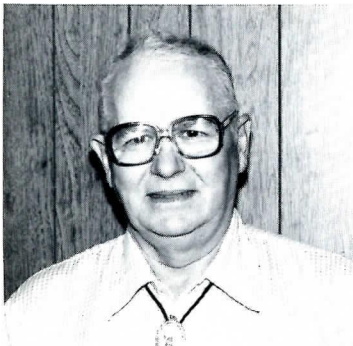
The best safety device in town rests a few inches above your shoulders!

# Retirements

February and March



**Betty Roe**  
21+ Years



**Paul Halbrook**  
31+ Years

# Service Awards

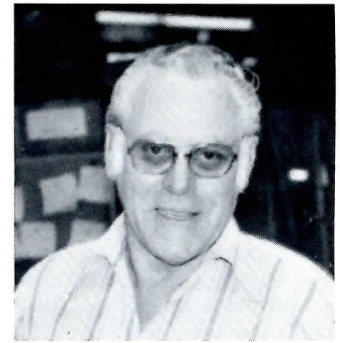
February and March



**25 YEARS**  
Sidney Duffer



**30 YEARS**  
William Foster



**30 YEARS**  
Alva Womack Sr.

**5 YEARS**  
Carol Gooch

**10 YEARS**  
Tim Houk  
Larry Anderson  
John Wilson  
John Cambruzzi  
Glen Taylor  
Emma Thompson  
Arnold Sablotny

**15 YEARS**  
Lester Parker  
Terence Niekrenz

**20 YEARS**  
Wesley Skinner

**40 YEARS**  
Joe Parkinson  
(No Picture Available)

**Mueller Co.**

DECATUR, ILL 62525

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Permit No. 500  
Springfield, IL

