



## Plant Manager's Corner

The holiday season is many things to us not the least of which is a time for reflection. A time to think about the past year and a time to seriously lay plans for the coming year.

Last year was a year of progress for the Decatur Plant. We set for ourselves an aggressive plan to reduce operating costs in order to offset the negative forces in the market place. Many employees "played heads up ball" and we beat our 1986 cost reduction goals. Productivity improved, scrap costs were significantly reduced, and indirect expenses were cut to new lows. This is good for all of us who earn a living at the Decatur plant. One example . . . some brass casting work has been moved back to Decatur. This would not have occurred a year ago. We have ourselves to thank, good performance pays!

Now let us consider the future. 1987 will be another year of challenge. Housing starts are projected to be down slightly from 1986 but the progress made in 1986 will allow for further stabilization of the work force, in fact we will bring back a few employees from layoff during the first quarter.

As for our budget, it is aggressive and aimed at keeping us strong in a very hostile business climate. We will be continuing to invest in new equipment and we have built into our plans additional major improvements in scrap, spending, and productivity. In other words we can not let up, we need more of what we did in 1986. Based on our past performance, I'm confident that we will meet our new budget commitments and that 1987 will be another year of progress for the Decatur plant.

In closing I want to say thank you for your help and I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bill Riner

## Elementary School Art Exhibit Visits Mueller Co.

An exhibit of Decatur Public School's elementary children's art work was on exhibit at the Mueller Co. - Decatur, Illinois, November 10-15, 1986.

The exhibit put together by Claude Taylor, Decatur Public School art strategist, contained the works of twenty-eight talented children age ranging from 5-14.

The program received two grants, one from the Decatur Area Arts Council Grass Roots Regranting Program, and the other from the Decatur Area Labor Management Committee. The funds will be used to purchase materials needed to house the exhibit permanently at the Decatur Civic Center.

According to Ann Lewallen, Decatur Advantage Public Relations Director, "This project showcases four of Decatur's advantages, our arts, business and industries, labor force, and educational system." We are highlighting excellence in the arts of our youth by bringing their work out into the community and to the employees of the host businesses and industries."

If you missed seeing the art exhibit at Mueller Co., the exhibit will be housed at the Civic Center after December for public viewing.

## Name-Your-Newsletter Contest

This issue of the newsletter shows a new look. Beginning with this issue, the Decatur Plant will begin publishing its own newsletter. This as yet unnamed publication, will be published every other month and will give employees and their families more information about both the plant and its employees.

We'd like your help in naming this new publication. All Decatur Manufacturing employees are encouraged to submit entries to

the "Name-Your-Newsletter-Contest." A team of judges consisting of Lee Best, Becky Damery, and Jerry Collins will determine the winner. The winner will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate from K's Merchandise.

The deadline for your entries will be **December 31, 1986**. Entries should be submitted to Dodie Luker in the Personnel Office. The winner will be announced in the January issue.

## What Do You Want In Your Newsletter?

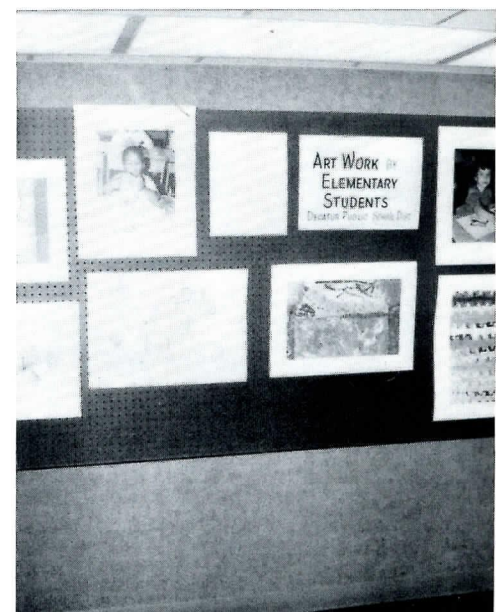
We need your help in making this newsletter the most up-to-date source of information that it can be. Any news you can provide will be much appreciated, such as:

- Births
- Engagements
- Weddings
- Editorials
- Athletic Winners
- Others

We will be very receptive to any suggestions you may have on how to improve the contents or quality of the newsletter. In other words, what would you like to see in **your** newsletter?

If we have any journalists or journalists-at-heart, please ~~let us~~ hear from you.

Please submit your comments and any information to Dodie Luker in the Personnel Department.



Elementary School Children's Traveling Art Exhibit.



# Service Awards

September, October, & November

## 5 YEARS

Don Woollen

## 10 YEARS

Art Smith  
Don Madden  
Terry Bullington  
John Curry  
Steve Loehr

Rick Wayne  
Robert Engle  
Mike Tharp  
David Nicholls  
John Ownes

## 15 YEARS

Mike Taylor  
Harvey Thompson

David Dettling  
Richard VanNort  
Bobby Rice  
James Phipps

## 20 YEARS

Judy Webb  
John Buzan



**Verlyn Burnett**  
25 years



**Phil Tucker**  
25 years



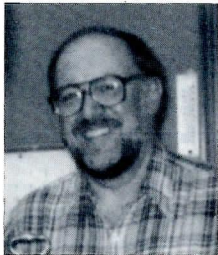
**George Paxton**  
25 years



**Jack Calfee**  
25 years



**James Grandon**  
25 years



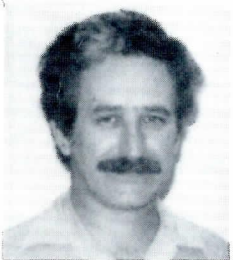
**Ron Riley**  
25 years



**James Grider**  
25 years



**David Boline**  
25 years



**Jesse Steele**  
25 years



**Charles Mauck**  
25 years



**Robert Davis**  
25 years



**David Gregory**  
25 years



**Tom McGeorge**  
25 years



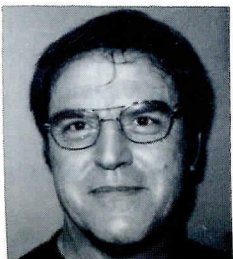
**Carroll Beck**  
25 years



**Phil Wiseman**  
25 years



**Roger Drake**  
25 years



**Harold McDade**  
25 years



**John Painter**  
25 years



**Robert Mallow**  
30 years



**Bill Knorr**  
40 years

# Retirement Workshop

A retirement workshop "Planning Your Golden Years" sponsored by Mueller Co.'s Employee Assistance Program was held on November 7, 1986 at St. Mary's Hospital. The workshop was conducted by the Employee Service Center and St. Mary's Hospital.

The consensus by the attendees was that the program was a smashing success. The information provided at the workshop was beneficial to those planning to retire and for those just contemplating retirement within the next 10 years.

Subjects covered included:

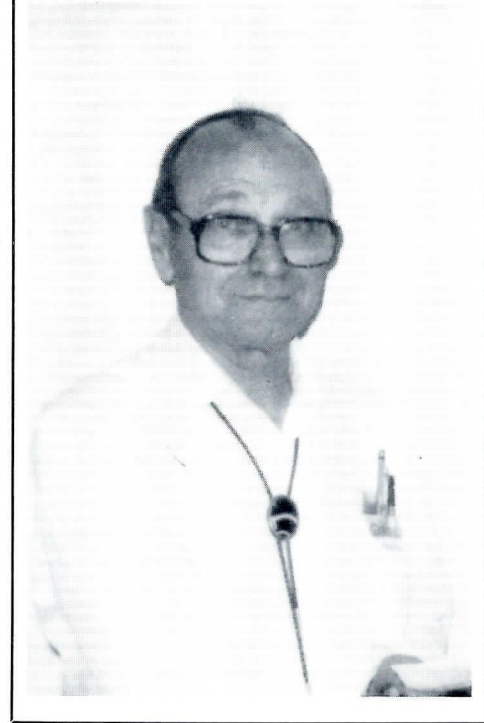
1. Health and Safety
2. Social Psychological Impact
3. Community Resources
4. Social Security
5. Legal and Financial Planning

If you missed the Retirement Workshop this year, you may have an opportunity to attend next year.

# Retirement

September, October, & November

**Ken Unland**  
30+ years



**William Boehm**  
40 years



**Don McQuality**  
40 years



## Committee Formed To Promote, Implement Wellness Program

The initial meeting of the Wellness Program Steering Committee was held on November 14, 1986. Mike Chmelik, from Corporate Personnel chaired the meeting consisting of Evelyn Cox of corporate; Ron Riley, Ron Brunner, and Kent Elliott from Decatur Manufacturing's bargaining unit, Jeff Nelson, Pat Stewart and Larry Holub from Decatur Manufacturing management. This steering committee is looking at different facets of Wellness that may be implemented into a program for the employees of Mueller Co. in Decatur. A survey of the employees will be taken in December to see what type of programs the people are interested in to better meet the needs of those people.

In the near future employees will be seeing informational literature promoting good health practices and illness prevention. This literature is just another way of communicating the Wellness message to employees. The first program the Wellness Committee will be promoting will be a Freedom From Smoking Clinic. If there is enough interest, this program could start as early as January 1987.

## "On My Own Time"

"On My Own Time" contest was held at the Mueller Co. - Decatur, Illinois, November 10-15, 1986. The art work and craft projects were part of a special art exhibit sponsored by the Mueller Co. and the Decatur Area Arts Council. This exhibit is designed especially for employees to show their creative talents and abilities.

The Art Council award winner was David



"On My Own Time" company winners, pictured left to right are Nancy Kircher, Marti Whitaker and George Stranc.

Kinney - Ground Key Division - with his oil paintings "Dreamer" and "Morning Buck" which will be on exhibit at Kirkland Fine Arts Center - Millikin University, December 6-19, 1986.

The Company award winners were 1st place - George Stranc - Brass Foundry - "New Life to Old Works"; 2nd place - Nancy Kircher - Construction & Maintenance - "Broken Pots"; and 3rd place - Marti Whitaker - Credit Department - "Primitive Fireplace Screen".



"On My Own Time" winner David Kinney.

## Joint Skilled Trades Training Committee

A joint Union Company committee has been formed to develop and implement both a short term and long term skilled trades training program. The committee members for the Union are Jim Hackert, Jerry Bennett, Mike Black, Jim Van

Matre, Joe Keck, Roger Drake, and Wayne Dortch. The committee members for the Company are Bill Horve and Mike Henschel.

The committee has been at work since October 2nd and has already approved an interim training program and testing procedures. The program has started so well that Jerry Bennett, an electrician at Plant 4, has received two certificates of completion and Bennett Wilkins, a

maintenance man at Plant 4, has received one certificate of completion. An awards meeting was held to present the first certificate of completion to Jerry on **November 12th**. The committee along with Plant Manager - Bill Riner, Foundry Manager - Dan Millhone, Personnel Manager - Dave Groenewoud and Larry Holub were on hand to make the presentation and offer their encouragement for continued success.



Pictured left to right are Roger Drake, Joe Keck, Wayne Dortch, Jim Hackert, Jerry Bennett, Jim Van Matre. Standing left to right: Bill Horve, Mike Henschel. Absent Michael Black and Rusty Logue.



Mr. Bill Riner awards certificates to Jerry Bennett.



# Fanuc and Compact II Training

On site training in FANUC CONTROLS AND COMPACT II language was conducted during the months of June and August, 1986.

The class in FANUC CONTROLS was conducted by FANUC service representatives and taught manual programming methods and the use of diagnostics. The following personnel completed the course: Jeff Dempsey, Cristy McEldowney, Larry Warfield, Dennis Keithley, Terry McCoy, Ed Olivier, Louis Smith, Carroll Virt, and Mel Whittington.

The class in Compact II language for CNC lathe programming was conducted in August, 1986. The Compact II class was taught by an Applicon training instructor and included both lecture and application. Personal computers were temporarily installed to provide hands-on programming practice. Attendees were Larry Warfield, Jeff Dempsey, Cristy McEldowney, Dennis Keithley, Louis Smith, and Donald Pasley from Albertville. All five Decatur personnel previously attended the Fanuc Control and Manual Programming class presented in June, 1986.



Back Row (L - R) Ed Olivier, Jeff Dempsey, Louis Smith, Carol Virt, Mel Whittington, Larry Warfield, Dennis Keithley, Terry McCoy, Dave Groenewoud (Industrial Relations Manager). Front Row (L-R) John Moffet, Bill Riner (Plant Manager), Cristy McEldowney, and Jay Johnson (Manufacturing Engineering Manager).



**Mueller Co.**  
DECATUR, ILL 62525

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