

Aug 1936

PICNIC NUMBER

MUELLER

RECORD

INSIDE ONLY AUGUST, 1936 NO. 36

MUELLER'S MANY PICNICS

First One Held at Mt. Zion Thirty-Eight Years Ago.

An annual picnic is a tradition with Mueller Co. In fact it is an institution. A picnic for company members and its employes is nearly as old as the business. In fact it is as old as the business in so far as the plant's location on Cerro Gordo street is concerned. The company started its greatest development in this factory in 1895. As near as can be determined from memory and an incomplete record the first picnic was held at Mt. Zion in 1898. The year following it was held at the Mackinaw river park about fifty miles north of Decatur. Then there was a picnic at Paris, Ill., probably in 1899. Whether 1900 was missed or not we are unable to tell, but there was a picnic in 1901. From that time to 1907 there seems to have been a lapse, but on Sept 7, 1907, the fiftieth anniversary of the company was observed with a big picnic at Mechanicsburg. The employes and guests were transported to and from the picnic grounds over the interurban. This was a new method of travel at the time and therefore gave to many persons their first ride on a "rube" car.

After this we had a picnic at Miller Park, Bloomington, and at Peoria. The latter was not largely attended. Heavy rains at Decatur early in the morning discouraged a start. The few who went to Peoria spent the day seeing the sights of the city.

This was the last out of town picnic.

It seems that our next picnic was in 1914 at Fairview Park and for many years thereafter this was the regular picnic grounds. The Diamond Anniversary of the company in 1932 was celebrated at Mueller Heights and since then this has served as the regular picnic grounds.

SOME DIVER

Robert Eugene Mueller, son of Ebert Mueller and grandson of Mr. Robert Mueller, spent a portion of his summer vacation in camp at Minocqua, Wis. Last month he distinguished himself by winning a silver cup for high diving. There was considerable competition. Robert Eugene is a fine swimmer and his diving feats are quite thrilling. The dive which won him the silver cup was made from a platform more than twenty feet high.

SNAKES GETTING FAMILIAR

Snakes are about as popular as the smallpox. They are generally disliked. Even though they are harmless, as most Illinois reptiles are. Just why a small snake should have selected the hedge row on the south side of the main building on the morning of July 16 is an unanswered question, but it was there. Witnesses: Ed Stille, Clarence Hayes and Bud Simpson. The trio made a critical examination. Ed said it was a garter snake, Clarence said a bull snake and Bud a black snake. This diversity of opinion is cited to show how little is known about little snakes, but the trio of investigators did not know what to do. No, they did not kill it—they let it live. It may have been that after a 13 days' siege of 100 to 109 degrees temperature they did not have the energy or ambition to swing a club, or perhaps they knew that harmless snakes are really a man's friend. They do a lot of good cleaning up on insects, field mice and other pests.

RAIN AND LIGHTNING

During the extreme heat and drouth of last month the Okaw bottoms got a good and beneficial rain about July 14. It was accompanied by a severe electrical storm. A bolt of lightning picked out one of Adolph's farm houses for a target and damaged property to the extent of about fifty dollars. The tenant was sitting beside a door which was damaged by the bolt. On one side the casing of the door was knocked off, but the lightning did no damage to the tenant who was sitting close by. When it was all over he armed himself with a bucket and put out the flames which followed the stroke.

REEDY'S DROVE HOME

E. M. Reedy states that in driving his new car from Detroit to Los Angeles he covered 550 miles a day and all was day-light driving. He went out thru Nebraska and Wyoming and commented on the beauty of the snow-covered Rockies after leaving the high temperatures of the Mississippi Valley.

THE BABY SHOW

The baby show will be held as usual about four P. M. in the Athletic Club. If you have a new baby and have not reported the birth to the Employment Office, do so before the picnic. All babies are prize winners at this show.

PICNIC DAY ATTRACTIONS

Some of the Strange Sights to be Seen in the
Childrens Picnic Day Parade



Jumbo, the gigantic elephant, Likes the little folks and wants them all to see him picnic day.



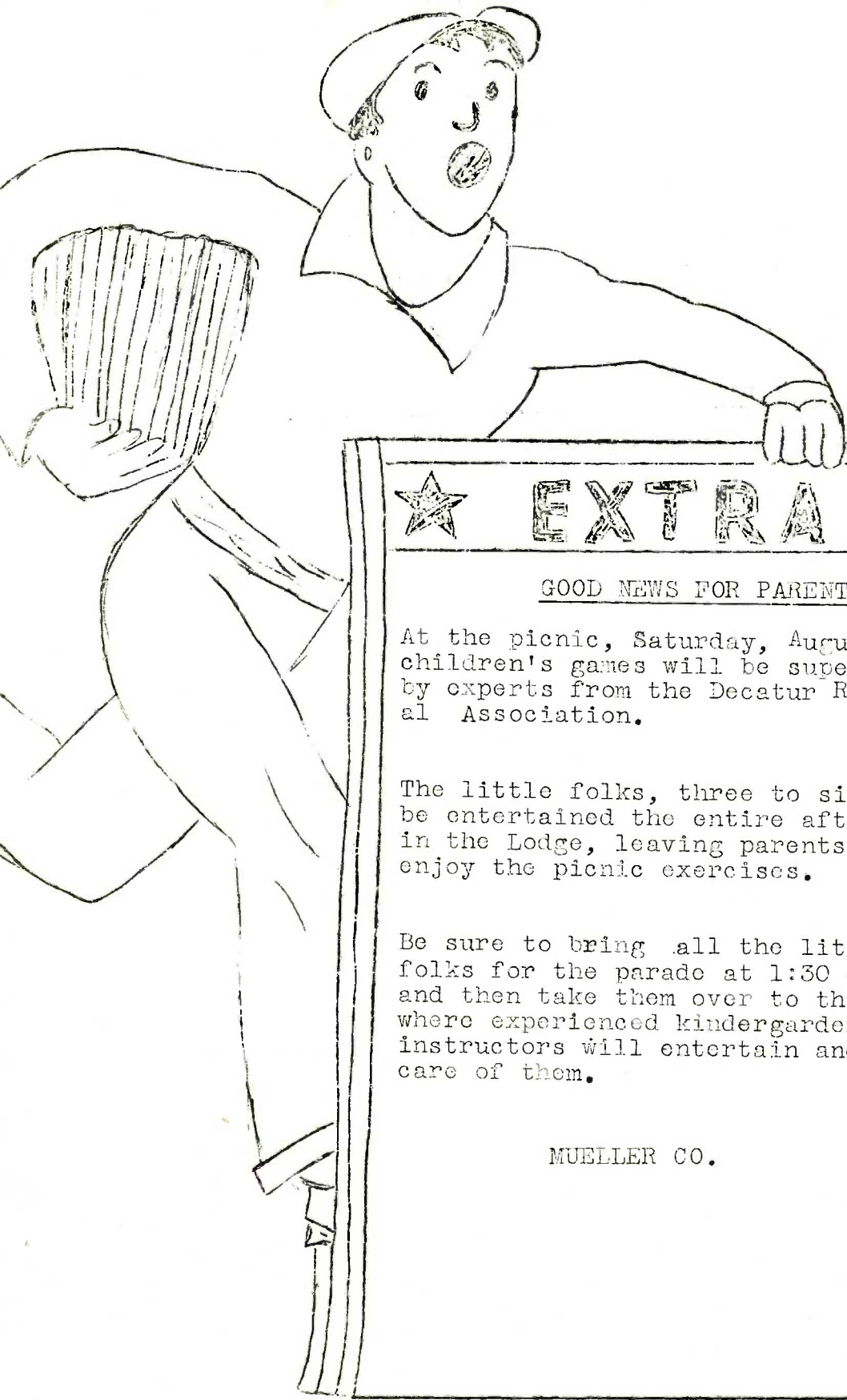
Lilly Longneck, a pretty maiden giraffe, who loves ice cream and lemonade because it has such a long way to travel.



Mr. Bighead, the funniest man to claim public attention. Generally no one pays any attention to a big head, but you just can't help looking at this boy.



Romeo Rhino, the romping, roaring bad boy of the African jungle.



★ EXTRA ★

GOOD NEWS FOR PARENTS

At the picnic, Saturday, August 8, the children's games will be supervised by experts from the Decatur Recreational Association.

The little folks, three to six, will be entertained the entire afternoon in the Lodge, leaving parents free to enjoy the picnic exercises.

Be sure to bring all the little folks for the parade at 1:30 o'clock, and then take them over to the Lodge where experienced kindergarden instructors will entertain and take care of them.

MUELLER CO.

BUSY TIME AT NIAGARA

Some girls go to Niagara Falls with a bridegroom for a honeymoon, but few if any go there alone and return with a bridegroom. But leave it to Clara Uhl to do things differently. She and Evelyn Telling went to Niagara on the excursion July 24-27, and Clara returned with not only a bridegroom in tow, but also his bride. The girls became acquainted with the newlyweds on the train, and when the bridal couple missed their St. Louis train on the homeward trip, Clara invited them to her home, and spent the morning showing them the sights of Decatur.

Both Evelyn and Clara returned weary eyed and exhausted with but one night's sleep during a trip of two days and three nights, but full of enthusiasm and interesting tales of the wonderful sights, exciting adventures, and new friends they met up with during the trip.

Arriving at the Cataract Hotel, they found no hot water in their room, whereupon Evelyn called the manager and demanded to know why he didn't install Mueller faucets and provide the guests with the hot water one expects in a large hotel. Needless to say they got the hot water, as well as the assurance that new Mueller faucets had been ordered for the hotel.

Both girls did the Falls up proper, went on all the rides and sight-seeing trips, took loads of pictures, made a host of friends, and provided themselves with many pleasant memories for years to come.

SAVE SOMETHING

You have heard this before, no doubt, but thrift is one of those old fashion virtues that never goes out of date. Open an account in the Employees' Investment plan or take some good old line life insurance. The Personnel Director is ready to discuss these matters with you. Right now is the best opportunity many young people have ever had to save something. Do not miss it by going in debt for a car which you can get along without.

Keep a personal account of your income and expenses. If you have a car, keep an accurate record of what it costs to buy and operate it. Lots of people think they have the cost of an automobile when they figure the gas and oil. Those who keep accurate records find that gas and oil run one-third of the cost of an automobile.

SUPERVISED PLAY

Burt Jackson, who has for years had charge of the children's games and contests will this year have the aid and cooperation of the Recreational Association.

One feature will be of interest to parents. The little folks from 3 to 6 will be segregated from Lodge. A director will tell them stories and the older children and made comfortable in the manage games suitable for children of their age. Parents can therefore have a few hours of uninterrupted enjoyment in the knowledge that the children are safe and happy.

VACATIONS

Helen Brannan spent one week motoring in Wisconsin, stopping at Rhineland, Lake Tomahawk, and other points. A few days were also spent in Chicago.

A. O. Yonker was gone for a week on an auto trip which included a visit at Smoky Mountain National Park.

Ethel Dixon's two week vacation was spent driving through Wisconsin and Michigan with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Carroll spent the last week in July in Wisconsin at Lake Tomahawk.

Louise De Janes spent two weeks in the east, visiting Niagara Falls and other points of interest.

Dorothea Uhl covered considerable territory in the week which she took for a vacation. She went to Chattanooga where she met her sister, Catherine, and from there they travelled through the southeast stopping at Atlanta, St. Augustine, Silver Springs, Daytona Beach, Richmond at Natural Bridge, and went to the Gulf of Mexico by boat down the Withlocochee river, where the Gulf Atlantic canal project is in progress.

DEATHS

JOHN SHELTON

The Decatur Herald of July 30 carried the announcement of the death of John Shelton, who died in Raleigh, N. C. No further details were given.

Many in our organization will remember John, who stood six feet three, and for a number of years was production manager. He began work February 19, 1903, and remained with the Decatur organization until December 21, 1925, when he went on the road in the southeastern territory. He left the service of Mueller Co. in 1930, and continued to live in Raleigh.

John Shelton was one of the founders of the Employees' Aid Society, and for many years was its president. He leaves his wife and daughter, Ruth, now married, and a son, all living in Raleigh.

Ottoway Brubeck

Ottoway Brubeck, father of Mrs. O. H. Sharlock, Pittsburg, Pa., died in Decatur and Macon County hospital July 21 after an illness of some time. Funeral services were conducted on Friday afternoon at the Central Christian church. Mr. Brubeck taught piano and violin in Decatur for nearly fifty years, and had composed many pieces of music. A fifty-piece band played a march at his funeral, which he had written thirty years ago.

His daughter, Louise, worked here several years ago, as did his son, Von.

Wm. Pritchard

Funeral services for Wm. Pritchard, father of Mrs. W. L. Jett of Los Angeles, were conducted Friday morning, July 24, at the Dawson-Wikoff funeral home. Burial was at Long Point cemetery.

NEWS FROM SARNIA

Sarnia also has sweltered away during the past month in some very hot weather. This heat wave terminated, for awhile at least, on Friday, July 10th, at 7:00 P. M. when Sarnia and district had a very destructive rain and wind storm.

On arriving at the plant Saturday morning one found that the plant had not escaped abuse. Window panes were smashed, electric wires down, the flag pole lying splintered across the square and sign boards down.

Up to the date of July 27, Decatur has had twenty days with temperature from 102 degrees to 110½ degrees and a number of these were 105 degrees and over.

Tennis

Mueller tennis players entered in the City Tennis League have been playing many games these days and winning consistently. However, as they say, all good things are apt to come to an end. In the matches played Tuesday, July 21st, the Mueller girls' teams were defeated and one of the boys' teams. Nevertheless, the teams are very optimistic, they are still on top, and are hopeful of staging a comeback in the next matches.

Golf

On Saturday, July 18th, was staged a golf battle that waged throughout the afternoon and early evening. The contestants were members of J. T. Wing organization of Windsor and Mueller, Limited, Sarnia. The final results were disastrous for at least two local Scotsmen who were seen settling up at the nineteenth hole.

Following the game a trout supper was enjoyed at the Blue Water Inn. The fish were supplied by R. McIntyre and Geo. Parker, the result of a very successful fishing trip to Tobermory, with Wm. E. Mueller, J. W. Simpson and Jack Conway.

Vacations

Many familiar faces are missing around the plant and office these days as we note the employees are taking their vacations. We all hope they have a splendid time, leaving all their worries behind them and coming back to work "exasperated," no I mean "refreshed" by their holiday.

A pleasant evening was enjoyed by several members of the staff in July when we held a weiner roast on the river bank at the plant. The first part of the evening was spent in staging a tennis combat; later, the players were refreshed by a swim in the St. Clair, at least the girls were, and though we noticed the boys did thoroughly revive after their game we girls are a little at a loss to know how they did it. As O. C. Spears said, it was a "stout" party, but he can still feel the mustard? ? ?

Things We Would Like to Know

How W. Young broke his finger and does he

follow that old saying, "Don't let your left hand know what your right hand doeth"?

How are Smith and Lee progressing with their buttermilk diet?

How long has Jim Brent been boarding at McFee's?

Why does Tilley hang around the Y. W. C. A.? Is he thinking of changing his address?

Has R. Moore strayed from the straight and narrow path? He was seen sitting on his front porch singing "Auld Lang Syne."

The question has been raised—Does Ed Hiller go straight home from work? Do you know what they mean, Ed?

Does Mike Scott intend joining the "400" with the new limousine?

Is it true that G. Geary's theme song is: "I'm forever thinking of you, Margey?"

NEW PICNIC FEATURES

This number of the Mueller Record is largely given to the annual picnic of Mueller employes to be held Saturday, Aug 8, at Mueller Heights. Of course every picnic is going to be "the biggest and the best." This year the committee has made a sincere effort to kick more interest into the affair; present new features and in every way make it more enjoyable. But the committee cannot enjoy the picnic for you. Neither can it be the success desired unless you get the spirit of the day and cooperate. There are two kinds of cooperation. First your attendance with your family. Next, let loose of yourself on the grounds and have a good time. This is a real picnic spirit. Enjoyment is contagious. If you have a good time some of your friends or fellow workers will be affected by your good spirits and they'll have a good time. It is something that goes round and round more than the music we have heard of.

Speaking of music there is going to be a bag full of it at this year's picnic. Goodman's band afternoon and early evening. Lee Homebrook's orchestra for dancing and the W. P. A. orchestra for an afternoon program. Read this Record. Post yourself on the plans and then come to the picnic for a day of rest and pleasure.

One of the most delightful features of the picnic this year will be the concert of the W. P. A. orchestra directed by Cliff Harkness. The director has written several beautiful novelties. The Orchestra will have the middle of the afternoon program at the open-air theatre at the picnic.

The following numbers have been prepared by the neighbors who live on Mueller land and were arranged by Mrs. Trimmer.

Song: "Bury Me Beneath the Willows," by Helen Annan.

Back Fence Dialogue: by Mrs. Guy Brian and Mrs. Herbert Snider.

Song: by Gene Maxieon.

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Something doin' every minute at the big Mueller picnic, Saturday, Aug. 8.

BRASS CHIPS

Marian Richards attended the "Merry Widow" presented at the Municipal Opera in St. Louis on July 25.

Watchman Emmett Holderby has been transferred to Dept. 300. F. L. Stevenson took his place July 18.

Vera Cunningham has been helping in the Purchasing Dept. for a few days.

Roy Hunt, galvanizer at Plant 2, resigned July 24. Russell Armstrong, formerly of the Pottery, now works in his place.

Norman Wyant, one of our retired men and father of Louis Wyant, and Frank Calles, of Memphis, Tennessee, visited our plant on July 22.

Louise Whitehead took a motor trip to Minneapolis, Minnesota from July 14 till July 20.

The foundry men reported that the salt tablets, which they take in hot weather along with their drinking water, have been a decided help in standing the heat. Many other departments have taken them and have also reported favorably.

The big news, since the last issue of the Record, was a rain of 1.2 inches the night of July 23 and another fine shower on the night of July 27. Our gardeners have again gotten busy and have planted beans and turnips. These are the first rains with enough moisture to wet the ground since last May.

Floyd E. Moore, molder at Plant 2, had both feet burned when the mold broke while they were pouring Monday afternoon, July 27.

Fern Harrison, cupola tender at Plant 2, has been laid up since July 3. His illness has been diagnosed as kidney stones.

William Young, of the Los Angeles Plant, returned to work July 27 after an absence of several weeks due to an injury to his hand.

Jack Bain, coremaker at Plant 2, is convalescing after breaking his leg in a base ball game May 17. He hopes to be able to return to work soon.

Chester Priddy, of the Shipping Dept., returned to work July 27 after an illness of several weeks.

Alene Moore and Ellen Jane Peabody are new comptometer operators in the Accounting Dept.

Jack Rubicam, messenger, has been working since July 20 in the Shipping Dept.. He has been succeeded as messenger by Paul Martin.

H. B. Black began working July 10 as draftsman in the Compression Dept.

Readers of the Record will remember that Jim Thorpe's retirement as a gardener was announced in the spring. Jim must have felt the drouth and heat in advance. He is not boasting of his foresight—he is shaking hands with himself for having escaped a lot of hard work for nothing.

The picnic over and the next event to look forward to is Labor Day which falls on Sept. 7 this year.

W. E. Mueller and J. W. Simpson made a business trip to the Sarnia plant during the week of June 13.

AND THEY ARE A HAPPY FAMILY

Billy Mason and his men have been busy for some time at Plant 2. The grinding room has been rebuilt and a part of the core room.

The Construction Dept. is now housed in the building formerly occupied by the Blacksmith Shop, which is west of the Mueller Club.

Painter Carlo Danaha has his cans, brushes and supplies in the southwest corner of the building. Next to him is Glenn Rinehart with his Pipe Shop.

In the northeast corner Electrician Stille has his office and shop. Adjoining that is the office and supply room of W. T. Mason and in the southeast corner are stored miscellaneous supplies.

All the departments just mentioned are enclosed and are kept locked when no one is working there. In the center of the building A. J. Paslay has his Tin Shop.

SHOCKS AND SHOCKS



"I don't know what Mae's mother is thinking of to let her go around in such a shocking bathing suit."

"Neither do I, it's nearly as shocking as her own."

NO! NO! I SAY NO! And that's THAT



"You are not going to stay at home and work on the car August 8, or go fishing. **YOU ARE GOING** to take **ME** and the children to Mueller Employes Picnic—that's **FINAL**."

"You do not need money—the company gives plenty of free tickets for all we need during the day."

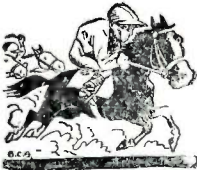
"What is there to do? For one thing you will hear a lot of good music by Goodman's Band during the day. Homebrook's orchestra at night for dancing.



"And look for the fun for the children — pony rides throughout the day — free balloons—big parade of animals and funny people. —paper hats for the girls and boys who march, and in addition to all this—games and contests."

"What will you do? Goodness, what a man! Why, you can visit with your friends and acquaintances.

You do not meet a lot of them very often. You can watch the base ball game, or you can go early in the morning to the golf tournament. And in the evening we can all get together and see a good moving picture



program, including Mickey Mouse, Major Bowe's, "Krazy-Kat and Buster Keaton Comedy."

"It will give me a chance to meet the Mueller women again, and a change from the daily household duties. There is a good time in store for the whole family, and WE Are Going to Have It—and That's THAT, as I said in the beginning."

"And another thing, the children are going to be in the parade this year and we are going to see it. We missed it last year. This year the committee

has added many new features with a view of making the parade more enjoyable for the kiddies, and I guess the old folks will get a kick out of it also.

PRIZE TO BE GIVEN.

For the best costume worn in the parade by boy or girl under 16 prizes will be given.

We want everybody to cooperate in making this picnic the best ever held.

Signed by
COMMITTEE

HAPPY FAMILY GROUP



Here is a family group which most readers will recognize. Beginning on the left we have with us Robert Lusk and family. On the extreme right is Mrs Lusk's brother. Did not know that Bob had three handsome children, did you? Well, here's the evidence.

WHEN WINTER COMES

In warm weather save for winter. Begin to save money now for coal, and see if you can get through the winter without having to borrow money. There should be less borrowing this fall than in past years, because work has been steadier and wages higher. Depend upon yourself rather than upon the loan fund to finance your coal this winter.

However, if you cannot do this, see Mr. Langdon well in advance. Do not wait until cold weather is upon you.

Another Accident That Didn't Happen.

C. Albert Anderson dropped an ingot pig iron on his foot the other day. The steel cap in his safety shoe prevented an injury.

THOSE PICNIC ANIMALS

At the picnic this year there will be on exhibit for the first time Editor Wagenseller's synthetic giraffe.

The wooden head of this zoological wonder was sculptured by the wood pattern shop. The first version of the brute appeared with quite realistic ears tacked on.

Someone pointed out that a real giraffe had horns. This statement was questioned, so the research department (Helen Pope) investigated the matter and reported that a proper giraffe does have horns.

The model was returned to the pattern shop for a revision and two peg-like horns were added in front of the ears.

Helen Pope was then assigned the task of reproducing the peculiar, yellow-brown motling, so characteristic of a giraffe, and her work was wonderful to behold.

Furthermore, this particular giraffe smiles on one side of his face and frowns on the other side.

And the giraffe is only one of a number of "made-to-order" monstrosities that will appear in the children's parade. We had hoped to see a romping, roaring, forty-ton dinosaur but this was a little too much for even the versatile Helen.

EAR-MARKED



"Papa says I'm such a reserved girl."

"I hope you're reserved for me."

PIKE'S PEAK OR BUST

Interesting Celebration Held Reproducing
Days of '59

Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs recently staged a Pike's Peak or Bust celebration. The belief that Pike's Peak was a mine of gold and silver took possession of the people of this country about 1859 and there was a mad rush for there, especially from the middle west. It was a common thing to see a wagon load of prospectors, the wagon bearing a sign or banner "Pike's Peak or Bust." A team of horses or oxen pulling these wagons was one of the best means of transportation in those days. H. Mueller, founder of this company, made the trip in this way. The stories of riches hidden in this famous mountain had been greatly exaggerated. It was bust for many of the adventurers, although many men who made the trip stuck to the country and became prosperous residents. Mr. Mueller once satisfied that the prospects were not good came back to his business in Decatur. This proved fortunate for thousands of the employees of the company. Had Mr. Mueller decided to remain in the Pike's Peak country the Mueller company might never have been established. One man's decision frequently determines the course of life for many people.

The Pike's Peak or Bust celebration lasted ten days, according to the program handed us by O. C. Keil. There were many features of great interest. There was a pioneer pageant parade which depicted pioneer history, grand street ball, a whisker contest, a pony express messenger riding from Cheyenne bringing greetings to the governor of Colorado, a fireworks display from the top of Pike's Peak, a foot race up Pike's Peak, some 14000 feet high, and many minor events.

Altogether it was a great and glorious affair.

The whisker contest created a lot of amusement. Many prominent men allowed their whiskers to grow so as to look as near like the miners of '59 as possible.

Information of this affair came to Mrs. O. C. Keil from relatives at Colorado Springs.

Mr. Keil gives us an interesting bit of information concerning Pike's Peak. Formerly it cost \$4 to drive an auto to the top of Pike's Peak. Now it can be done for nothing, due to the fact that the trail up the mountain is owned by Colorado Springs.

HER ROUND

Him: "Well, I suppose you are plenty angry because I came home with this black eye last night."

Her (sweetly): "Not at all dear. You may not remember it, but when you came home you didn't have that black eye."

CHATTANOOGA

Raymond Edgebrecht, who is in the Engineering Department of the Chattanooga plant, spent a week vacation with his family west of Decatur. He returned to Chattanooga July 20. He reports the plant has been quite busy in the recent months.

F. D. Powers has joined the T.V.A. at Knoxville, Tennessee, and is living there.

The friends of Amos Craft will be interested to know that he is still in the Erlanger hospital. His condition is somewhat improved of late and there are hopes that he will be able to return home soon.

A new inside telephone system has been installed which everyone finds to be a great convenience.

I. W. Davis and wife of the Chattanooga plant were in Decatur July 6. They were interested in seeing the plant there.

Mrs. Joe Hart and family have been visiting relatives in Decatur since June 1. They returned with Raymond Edgebrecht to Chattanooga, leaving Decatur July 20.

Hugh L. Baker is now in the Sales department with M. E. Henderson.

Raymond Edgebrecht reports that this is a hot dry summer in Chattanooga with a little rain on the Fourth of July. There has been two days when the temperature registered 100 degrees, which in Tennessee is hot weather.

Another Accident That Didn't Happen

From the hands of H. E. Henry at Plant 2, the other day, a heavy service box slipped and the edge of it came down on his right toe. He said, "if I had not been wearing my safety shoes it would have cut my big toe entirely off."

In these hot summer days you will find no cooler place to eat than our cafeteria.