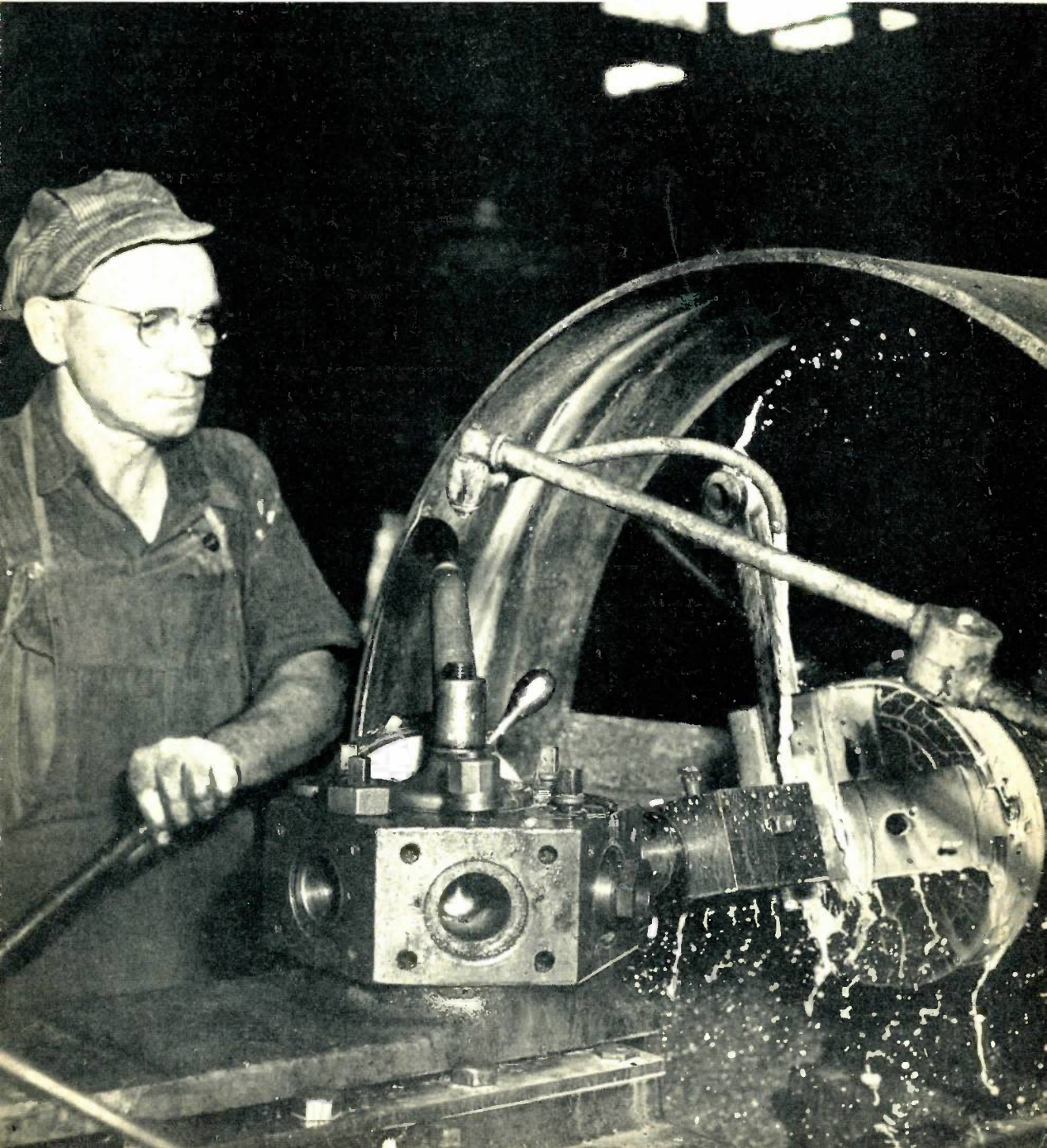


MUELLER RECORD

AUGUST, 1947

EMPLOYEES' EDITION

No. 141



MUELLER RECORD

August, 1947  No. 141

GENE J. KUHN, Editor
Published Every Other Month in the
Interests of Employees of the

MUELLER CO.
PLUMBING, WATER AND GAS PRODUCTS



FACTORIES
DECATUR, ILL. LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
SARNIA, ONT. CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

BRANCHES
NEW YORK CITY SAN FRANCISCO

TRADE MARK

MUELLER
REGISTERED

This Month's Cover

PHOTOGRAPHED AT 1/5,000th of a second by means of stroboscopic flash, the lathe on which Leslie Schroeder is machining an iron meter bar (Catalog No. H-11290) appears to have come to an abrupt stop, leaving the combination cooling and lubricating fluid suspended on the lathe's chuck and in midair.

Schroeder has been a Mueller Co. employee for the past twenty-two years.

No News Is Good News

REMEMBER THE OLD saw, "No news is good news?" Well, that's apparently the situation at Los Angeles this month, for the MUELLER RECORD was informed that between vacations, inventory and the annual picnic, there just wasn't much going on out there.

Every Other Month

THE EMPLOYEES' EDITION of the MUELLER RECORD will be published every other month, alternating with the trade edition, which, of course, is distributed to employees as well as friends and customers of the Mueller Co.

Back Cover Ad

THE ADVERTISEMENT on the back cover of this month's employees' edition of the MUELLER RECORD also appeared as a full page ad in the following publications: *Journal of the American Water Works Association*, *Domestic Engineering*, *American City*, *Water & Sewage Works* and *Water Works Engineering*.

The Mueller thread on corporation stops is designed with a steeper taper to give added strength next to the body, where it is most needed. A tighter joint is obtained, and the taper lessens the possibility of splitting the water main.

Those Medals

DISTRIBUTION OF World War II Victory Medals, which will be awarded to almost all personnel of the armed services who were honorably discharged or released to inactive duty, now is well underway. However, since the members of the veterans' immediate families probably will be the only persons to whom the medals will be shown, the front and reverse sides of the medal are reproduced below:



Official U. S. Navy Photo.

PLANT MAINTENANCE

IT TAKES A LOT of fixing to keep a factory the size of the Mueller Co.'s Decatur plant operating in top-flight condition, and the maintenance department, which comes under the general supervision of M. K. Chaney, plant engineer, has just what it takes in the way of men, skill and equipment to handle the job. Ed Stille, general foreman, is in immediate charge of the department.

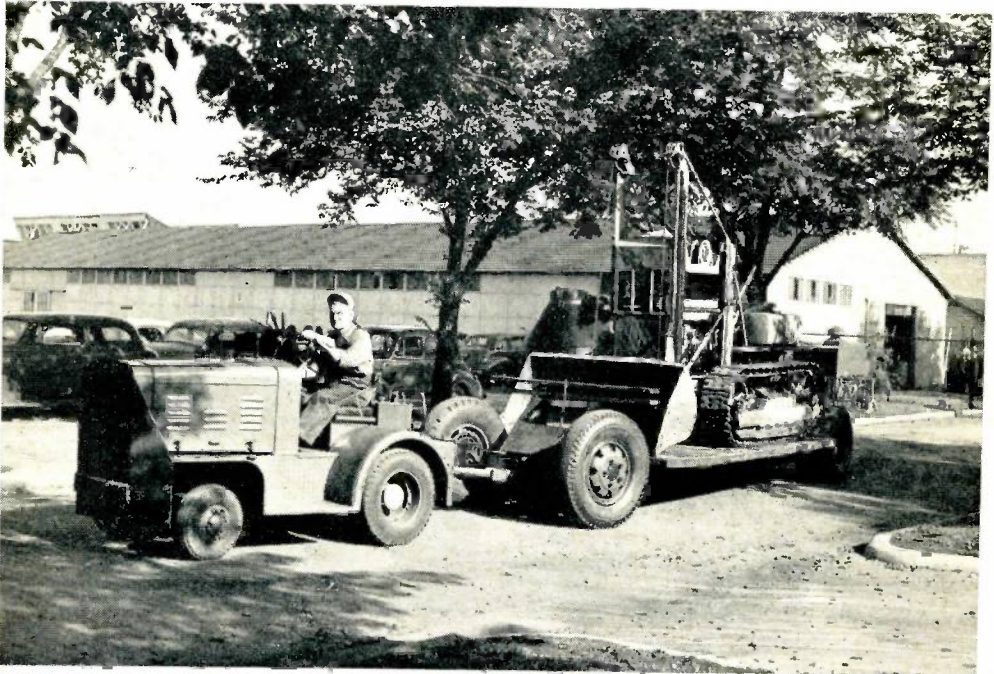
Among the trades represented in the department are electricians, millwrights, plumbers, painters, carpenters, tanners, and even licensed stationary steam engineers, for the plant's boiler and engine rooms also are considered part of the department.

As the name implies, the maintenance department is primarily a service department. To say that the department is charged with the plant's housekeeping is to omit many of its duties, for the routine upkeep of the factory doesn't begin to cover the immensity of the job.

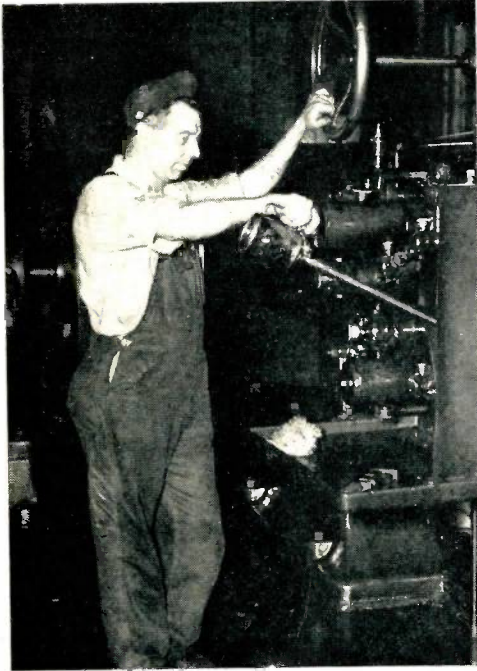
In addition to their regular duties, it has been estimated that the electricians receive



Robert Smith a welder in the millwright's department, is building a pallet which will be used for the shipment of lead pipe. Use of the pallet is expected to cut shipping costs to the Mueller Co. through easier handling.



William Enloe, millwright, at the wheel of the factory "mule," which is pulling a trailer built by the millwrights in the maintenance department for the express purpose of moving heavy machinery such as this Caterpillar hi-lift.



Hugh R. Mooney, a licensed stationary steam engineer, oils up one of the power plant's steam engines which powers a direct current generator.



In addition to the routine use of paint as a preservative on wood and metal surfaces, the painters also have a share in work turned out for other departments. Lee Ellington, painter foreman, shows how it's done.

almost 5,000 emergency calls during the course of a year, the plumbers about 1,100, the millwrights 750, the carpenters and laborers 500, and the tinner's 350. An ordinary run-of-the-mill trouble shooter wouldn't stand a chance in a department having that many extra demands placed on it.

Sufficient electricity, both direct and alternating current, can be produced in the factory's own power plant to keep all machines in operation during emergencies. However, as a general rule, only direct current is generated at the plant for the comparatively few machines requiring it.

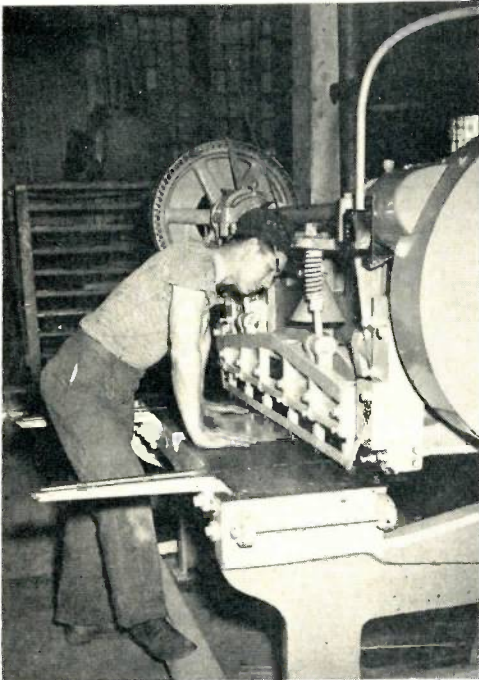
In addition to generating electricity, the plant furnishes process steam used in manufacturing processes, compressed air, and, in the winter months, it heats the entire plant.

The maintenance department also maintains the salvage yard where worn out or obsolete machines and equipment are taken after their usefulness ends.

If not too badly worn or damaged, some parts may be salvaged; otherwise, the machine is scrapped. Debris from around the plant also is collected at the yard and burned in the department's incinerator.



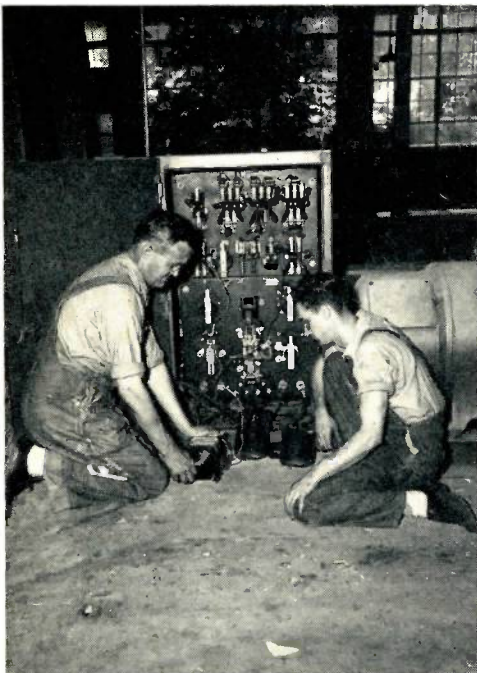
Howard Atteberry, plumber, threads a three-quarter inch pipe on a pipe-threading machine. A similar machine is used by the maintenance department's electricians to cut and thread conduits.



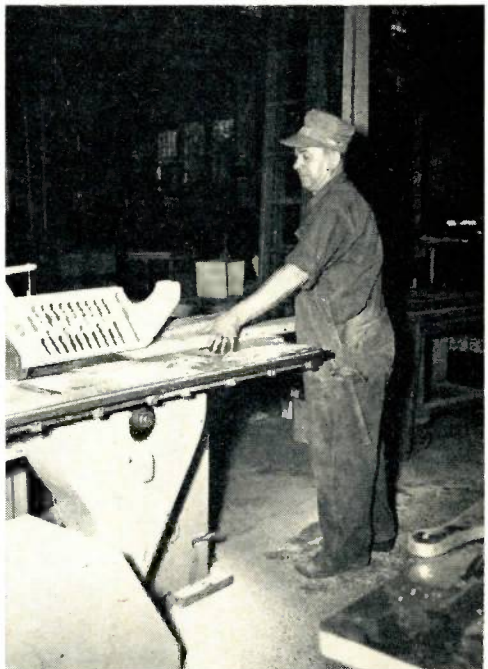
Sixteen-gauge sheet metal is being cut by Wallace Dudley, tinner, on the department's power shears.



E. E. Schmidt, maintenance department storekeeper, fills an order from the well-arranged and orderly bins in the department's stockroom.



John Smith, chief electrician, and Dale Cloney, electrician's helper, check the switchboard of the huge hydroplaner at plant No. 3 for short circuits on coils.



Power machinery also enables the department's carpenters to do more work in less time. Here Leroy Tolly, carpenter helper, is operating a power rip saw.



Two hundred years of service with the Mueller Co. are represented by these six shipping department veterans whose employment with the company ranges from a top of fifty-two years to a mere eleven years. Left to right, they are: Alva D. Bashore, Richard R. Burrus, H. A. Wacaser, William Bridwell, Louis Schario and Burt Jackson.

OLDTIMERS CHECK OUT

IMPROMPTU FAREWELL parties were held throughout the Mueller Co.'s main Decatur plant July 31 as thirty-three oldtimers, all past the retirement age of sixty-five, checked out in accordance with the company's retirement benefit plan.

Henry E. Gilbert, center, a Mueller Co. employee for thirty-eight years, had reason to wonder just what plot was being hatched when he saw this group from the maintenance department converging on his station at the Mercer Street gate that last day on the job. However, despite the paddle carried by Charles Dunaway, it turned out to be a friendly gathering of well-wishers with a present for one of the plant's most popular guards.

Future plans for many were indefinite, and many of the veteran employees said they expected it would take some time to become accustomed to their new leisure. A number have already returned to the plant since their retirement "just to see how things were going." Still others are catching up on work about their homes, and several have left Decatur





R. H. Mueller, chief engineer for the Mueller Co., presented monogrammed billfolds to Roy B. Pease, left, and Emil Mueller, right, at a chicken dinner held in their honor by members of the tool engineering department. Thirty persons attended the dinner, which was held at Mueller Lodge. Pease had been with the Mueller Co. for almost forty-two years, and Emil Mueller, a Lutheran pastor, had been with the company for the past three years.

temporarily for well-deserved vacations.

Emil Mueller, a Lutheran pastor who has been employed as master tool crib attendant for the past three years, has one of the most ambitious plans for his "retirement."

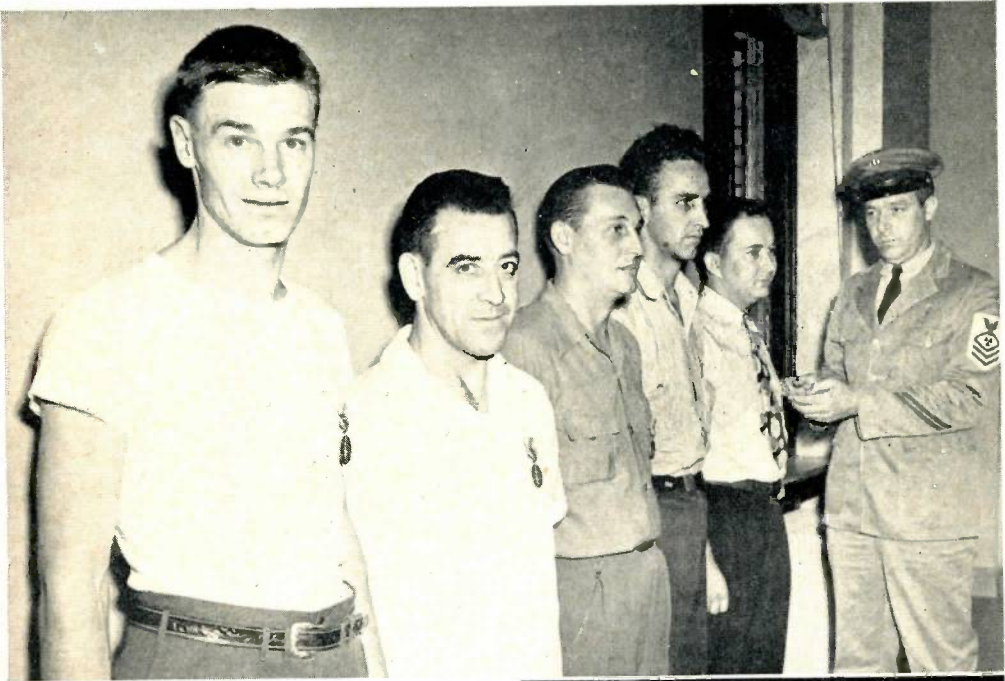
He expects to be commissioned by the Lutheran church-Missouri Synod to make a study of European war orphanages, and ten-

tatively plans to sail September 3. He said he planned to make a number of photographs, and he is considering the possibility of a lecture tour to describe conditions in the orphanages upon his return to this country.

He also hopes to renew many acquaintances formed among Europeans whom he met as a missionary in Brazil in his younger days.

Fellow workmen in the plumbing and specialties departments said their farewells to these four oldtimers with gifts and verse. Haldon (Teaberry) Hanson, left, distributed the billfolds and cash on behalf of co-workers, and Roy Coffman, extreme right, composed a seven-stanza "poem" for the occasion. The retiring employees are Alva C. Davis, Michael Fleckenstein, William H. Blankenship and Jerome Edwards.





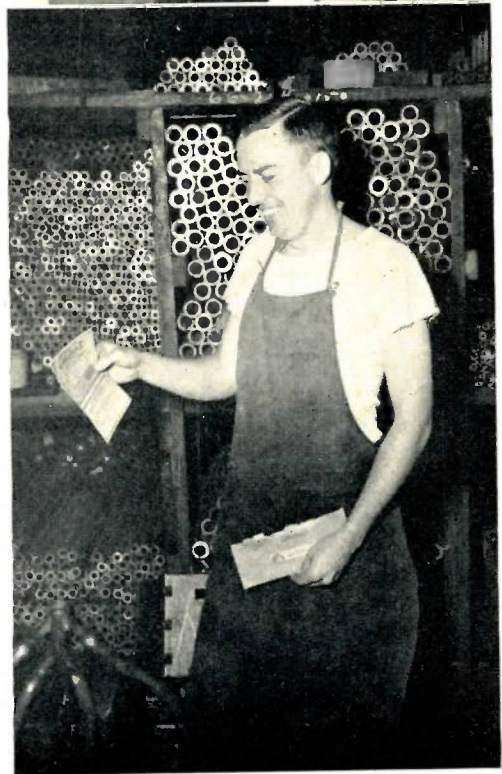
Chief Robert C. Swan, U.S.N., who is in charge of the Navy recruiting office at Decatur, distributes World War II Victory Medals to a group of Mueller Co. employees, all Navy veterans. Left to right, they are: Charles W. Johnson, former gunner's mate, first class; John E. Taylor, fireman first class; Leonard Gilmore, machinist mate, first class; William E. Dunaway, machinist mate, shop, second class; and George F. Binkley, lieutenant, junior grade.

The Eagle Screams

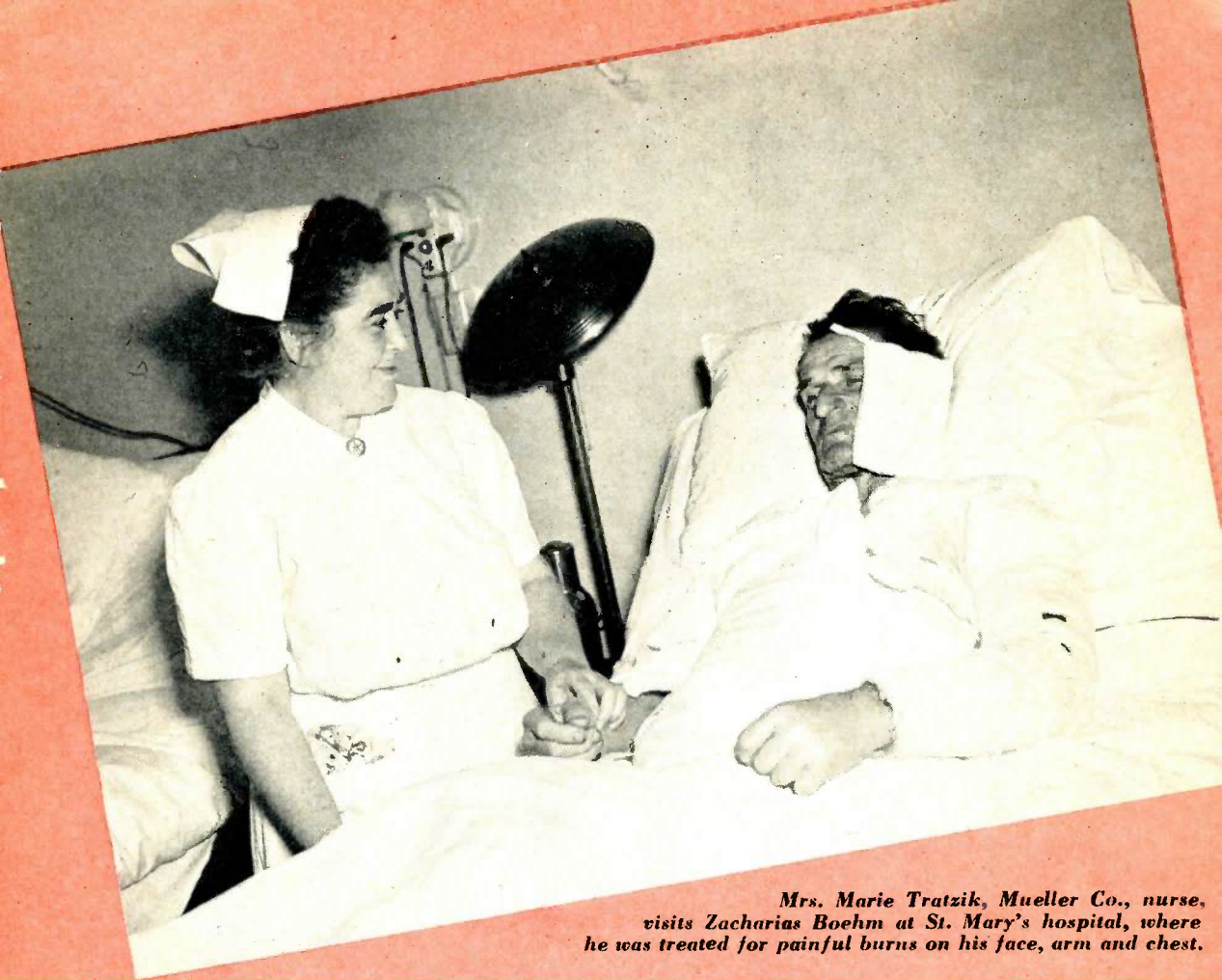
ILLINOIS VETERANS of World War II began hitting the jackpot this month as both the Army and the Navy began distributing Victory Medals and the state's bonus payment machinery went into high gear.

The Navy, taking a two-week jump on the Army, began distributing the medals through its recruiting offices August 1, while the Army, putting aside its customary stand-in-line procedure for issuing anything GI, announced it would use the mails for both application and distribution of the medals.

Illinois is one of six states making bonus payments to veterans of World War II, the others being Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Michigan, Rhode Island and Vermont. First bonus payments in Illinois were made the latter part of June.



That's a \$500 grin on the face of Wayne Morrow—or, to be more exact, the grin is for a \$571.17 Illinois state bonus payment. Morrow is in the lead department, after three and one-half years in the Army.



Mrs. Marie Tratzik, Mueller Co., nurse, visits Zacharias Boehm at St. Mary's hospital, where he was treated for painful burns on his face, arm and chest.

IT'S UP TO YOU!

THE ELECTROCUTION of Kenneth A. Dale, 32, a sandcutter at plant No. 2 on July 15, the painful flash burns suffered by Zacharias Boehm at main Decatur plant, and a series of less serious accidents have focused attention on the necessity of observing safety precautions and rules on all jobs.

Dale was operating a screenerator sand blending machine, and was moving the machine, when the insulation on a wire frayed off, causing the machine to short circuit. The 220-volt current powering the machine was sufficient to cause death.

Safety regulations require that power to such machines be shut off before the machines are moved.

Boehm was hospitalized in an accident in which he received first and second degree burns, when he attempted to ignite the oil on the metal pot heater in the brass foundry. The

oil valve was open, and when the air was turned on, flames burned his forehead, narrowly missing his eyes, the side of his face, his arm and chest.

In still another accident in the brass foundry, the use of the proper safety glasses prevented Lewis Hamilton from suffering a serious, if not permanent, injury to his eyes. Receiving molten metal from a furnace in his metal pot, the metal came in contact with some moisture in the pot, causing the hot metal to explode.

Despite the provision of safety equipment and constant appeals to workers to be careful on the job, safety still is largely an individual matter. It is the individual workman who must choose between working safely on his job or disregarding the safety rules, thereby leaving himself wide open for a serious accident. It's natural to want to take a shortcut now and then—but it's even more natural to want to stay alive.

Be careful! Be safe!

General Sales Meeting August 24-29

MUELLER CO. SALESMEN will attend their first annual general sales meeting in six years August 24 to 29, the purposes of which are to acquaint the salesmen with new products, changes in sales policy, and to re-establish the spirit of cooperation between the salesmen in the field and the main office.

Discussions and lectures will be held during the mornings, and the salesmen will have their afternoons free for golfing and other recreation, with the exception of Wednesday, August 27, when a conducted tour of the Decatur plants is scheduled. The salesmen will be taken through the various departments of the plants in small groups.

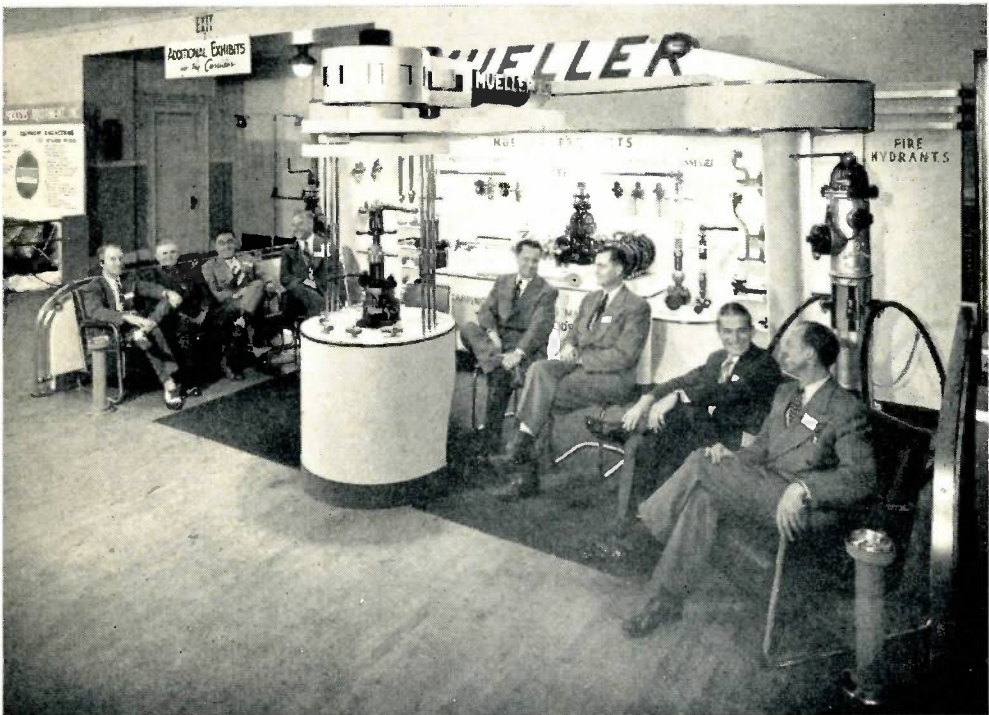
One of the highlights of the week's activities will be an old-fashioned chicken fry at Mueller Lodge at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 27, to which executives, foremen and

salesmen and their wives have been invited. The dinner will be served by members of the Blue Mound, Ill., Christian church. The Decatur Commodores, a quartet from the Society for the Encouragement and Preservation of Barber Shop Singing in America, will lead in group singing and special songs. An initiation of new members of the sales department and closely related factory departments into the '49 Club also is scheduled.

During the week, the salesmen will be housed at Mueller Lodge.

New salesmen will receive lectures and demonstrations on the use of Mueller Co. products.

W. E. Mueller, president and treasurer of the Mueller Co., is general chairman of the meeting.



At the time the photographer made this picture of the Mueller Co.'s exhibit at the San Francisco convention of the American Water Works Association, July 21-25, the display was the scene of an informal gathering of the company's representatives. Left to right, they are: Roy W. Karr and W. L. Jett, salesmen; L. W. Mueller, vice-president in charge of administrative and sales engineering; LeRoy J. Evans, manager of the New York office; Ray Kileen, engineering department, who designed the exhibit; F. C. McCown, manager of the San Francisco office; Robert K. Levey, assistant sales manager; and H. K. Udell, salesman.



Decatur Dope



THE MUELLER BOWLING LEAGUE will officially begin its new season September 2, according to plans made at an organization meeting of the league August 13.

Plans call for a ten-team league again this season, and the teams probably will have the same members as those of the past season, which ended May 10. The teams will include: Ground Key Division, winner of the first place position last season; Specialty Division, Works Manager's Office, Machine Repair, Tool Room, Main Office, Experimental Shop, Brass Finishers, Product Engineers, and Pattern Shop.

Mueller Co. employees who were not members of a team last season but who wish to bowl in the league may submit their names to any of the team captains or the league's officers before tournament play begins, and be placed on a preferential list from which team vacancies are filled.

Another list is maintained after play starts, but all names on the preferential list are drawn before players are selected from it.

The Decatur Bowling Parlor alleys will be used again this season for league play.

Play in the fourth and final round of the Mueller Banker's Handicap Golf tournament will be completed August 23. Low net scores in the first three rounds of play were turned in by Marshall Foster, first round; Walter Bowan, second round; and Carleton Hackman, third round.

Elmer Fawley, chairman of the tournament, said he was "well pleased" with the number of golfers who have participated in the tourney.

Eighteen golf balls have been distributed each round as prizes, and every effort has been made to award them so that good, bad and indifferent golfers have a chance. The top prizes of three balls have gone to those turning in the low net and low gross scores.



Not all the big ones get away, although E. F. Langley, shipping department, took the precaution of having a photograph made to show skeptics when he gets to the part about the fish in his vacation story. He recently visited a brother at Fairfield, Calif., whom he had not seen for thirty-eight years, and while on the West coast, he went through the Mueller Co. plant at Los Angeles. He covered slightly more than 5,000 miles on the trip.

A threesome tees off in the Mueller Banker's Handicap tournament at the Scovill course. Left to right, Dale Reidelberger, tool room; Elmer Fawley, gage laboratory; and A. N. (Buddy) Grossman, tool room.



Mae and Ray Sencenbaugh have had occasion to look back at their vacation with real regret—regret that they had to leave the snow of Pike's Peak, near Denver, to return to De-



Snow, that is

caturing right at the time a heat wave struck. At 14,110 feet, the altitude of Summit house on Pike's Peak, snow is a probability at any time in the Rockies, and Mae and Ray were just in time.

During June and July, the Mueller Co. Employees' Credit Union loaned a total of \$22,982.16, ending the period with a loan balance of \$47,176.17. Assets of the credit union, as of July 31, were \$127,300.10, and the net profit thus far this year amounted to \$1,471.01. The credit union now has 557 members, and currently has extended loans to 266 of its members.

An additional \$10,000 of the credit union's funds will be invested in government bonds, the board of directors voted August 14, bringing the total bond investments to \$41,341.

A king snake makes a nice necklace—if you like king snakes. Lois Jackson, 20-year-old daughter of Herman Jackson, Mueller Co. advertising manager, is shown with her former pet, which measured thirty-seven inches long.

Miss Jackson, a junior at James Millikin university, returned the snake to its natural



Lois Jackson and friend.

habitat, when the author of a book on herpetology said he had never successfully raised



Gene H. Morrison



Norman K. Poole



Martha Hettinger



James D. Jones



Jerry Ann Fenton

These five high school graduates, whose parents are members of the Mueller Co. organization at Decatur, brought the total for this year to nineteen. Gene H. Morrison is the son of J. A. (Barney) Morrison, tool room office; Norman K. Poole is the son of Norman Poole, department 300; Martha Louise Hettinger is the daughter of Mrs. Helen Hettinger, billing department; James D. Jones is the son of Mrs. Mildred Jones, cost department; and Jerry Ann Fenton is the stepdaughter of A. L. Bethards, brass foundry.



This month's wedding pictures: Miss Rita Christine Boehm, pattern shop clerk, and Lawrence E. Kern, Jr., were married August 9 at St. James Catholic church; Miss Helen Louise Wood and George F. Binkley, personnel clerk, were married June 29 at the Riverside Baptist church; and Miss Louise H. Sanders, stenographer in the factory manager's office, and Robert L. Moore were married June 22 at St. Paul's Lutheran church.

a king snake in captivity. A medicine dropper was used to feed the snake during the time it was being kept as a pet.

Homer Trusner, boiler fireman, gained a virtual monopoly on prizes in the sheep division at the Illinois State Fair. Entering eleven Cotswold sheep, he received twenty-two ribbons, including a grand championship, six first prizes, four seconds, three thirds, two fourths, four fifths, and two sixths.

Core room employees at the main plant have been covering a lot of territory on their vacations. To date, this is the way it has been going:

Vera Tippit, Washington, California, and other western points; Sina Pettit, Washington state; Irmgard Moldenhauer, Oregon; Chicago was visited by Margaret Behrend, Dorothy Chamberlain, Velma Kushmer, Emma Rambo and Russell Bailey; fishing in Minnesota attracted Pat Fonner, George Anderson, the Elmer Bakers, Mick Adams and Dorothea Toole; those visiting St. Louis were the Roy Carters, Dorothy Chamberlain, and Ruth Miller; Henry Luka, Pennsylvania; Carl Fleischauer, Kansas City, Kas.; Lois Harper, Indiana; Fedora Walton, Kankakee, Ill.; and Thelma Ater, Canada and New York.

Rickey Reynolds, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Reynolds, recently celebrated his



first birthday, and from the photograph he appears to have wholeheartedly approved the cake.

Rickey's father works in department 8, and his aunt, Jeane Otis, and great-aunt, Hazel Allen, work in the main office. His grandmother, Mrs. Irene Otis, also worked in the main office for several years.

Sarnia Stuff

Mabel Sands of the billing department and Mona Taylor of the purchasing department, were honored recently by the Mueller, Ltd., office staff at a delightful dinner which was held in the Mueller cafeteria prior to their marriages. Miss Sands was married to Maxwell R. Craig at St. Paul's United church on May 17, and Miss Taylor was married at the same church May 26 to Donald Gordon Luckham.



Mr. and Mrs. Max Craig and attendants.

The Rev. Dr. J. R. Hall officiated at both ceremonies.

Mr. and Mrs. Craig visited Guelph, Niagara Falls and Buffalo, New York, on their wedding trip.

Mr. and Mrs. Luckham went to Detroit, Ann



Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Luckham

Arbor and Chicago for their wedding trip.

Norina Beaton, streetline sales division, and Marian Forbes, payroll department, returned from their vacations with diamonds on that important finger on the left hand.

Things must be improving in the rear section of department 5, as one of its employees has been making his appearance in the Mueller parking lot with a new Chevrolet coupe.

Suggestion prizes for the period ending June 30:

Ted Gray, department 3; Jack Agar, department 2; Ed MacIntosh, department 18.

Miss Margaretta Russell is convalescing at her home, following a major operation a few months ago. We hope she will soon be able to be back with us.

Bessie Olson, department 1, has returned from a trip to western Canada, where she and her family visited with relatives and friends.

J. J. Conway, western Canada representative, was a recent visitor to our office. Mr. Conway was accompanied east by Mrs. Conway, who is visiting with her daughter in New York and John, Jr., at Harvard. Mr. and Mrs. Conway returned to the west the end of July, going by boat to Port Arthur, and motoring from that point via the trans-Canada highway.

Recent weddings:

June 28—Ida Canton, core room, was married to Fred Payne, brass foundry.

July 19—Louise Laur, core room, to Roy Franklin Parr.

New Muellerites:

July 19—a son, Roger Gerald, to Mr. and Mrs. Norman Gilbert. Norm is employed in department 6.

July 28—a son, to Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred (Mike) Scott. Mike is employed in department 6.

Thelma German, youngest daughter of



Russell German of department 5, who was graduated from the commercial department of the Sarnia Collegiate and Technical Institute this term, is shown in one of her non-academic pursuits. Other high school graduates will be announced later, since Canadian schools follow somewhat different customs than those in the United States.

❖ Chattanooga Chatter ❖

Foundry wishes: that a few blondes, brunettes and redheads be added to their payroll department, just to brighten the drab surroundings.

Pertinent information in answer to the question: "What kind of bird can *not* fly?" is desired of Coy Jones.

Tomcat Lewis is the new champion grower of watermelons. The story goes that one melon at the time it shed its bloom, weighed ninety pounds.

The engagement of Miss Evadell Fitzgerald to Claude E. Howell, machine shop, has been announced.

Recent vacationists include:

Mildred McAllister, cost department, who spent a week at Ridge Crest, N. C., having flown there with friends.

Frances Kosky, office, spent several days at Myrtle Beach, S. C., before going to Camp Lee, W. Va., to visit friends.

Eulene Reed, sales department, who spent her vacation at Corpus Christi, Texas.

Others were:

Hollis Marsh, brass foundry.

Howard Dupree, assembly department.

Robert Palmer, maintenance.

Willie Fletcher, machine shop.

Marion Eckman, chief engineer.

Charlie Martin, machine shop.

Theo McGinnis, machine shop.

Dexter Haney, machine shop.

Harold Roberts, brass foundry.

We welcome back to work the following employees who have been ill:

George Moore, James Turner, John Hixon, Jr., and Franklin Sanders.

Members of the Columbian Iron Works extend their deepest sympathy to E. W. Warren of the maintenance department in the recent death of his wife; Mrs. Judy Anderson, whose grandfather, James Rascoe, of Sparta, Tenn., died July 15; and John Quentel, whose sister-in-law, Mrs. Mary Alice Haskell, died July 21.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Anderson announce the birth of a daughter, Sidney Roberta, on July 11.

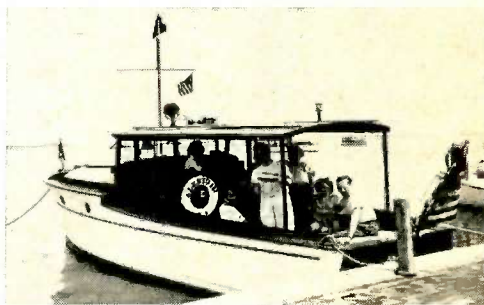
Mrs. Ruby Rogers and her husband, Jimmie, spent the weekend of July 26 visiting friends at Daytona Beach, Florida.

The goat drivers seemingly have wings on their minds but only wheels on the goat.

New York Letter

Members of the New York office staff recently held their first picnic since the office located in the Bronx years ago. Jim Williamson, a member of the New York staff, suggested the office use his thirty-two foot motor launch for the picnic, bringing lunch and then stopping at Freeport for dinner—a suggestion that was quickly snapped up.

The staff left at 10:30 o'clock in the morning, and immediately shoved off for Zachs

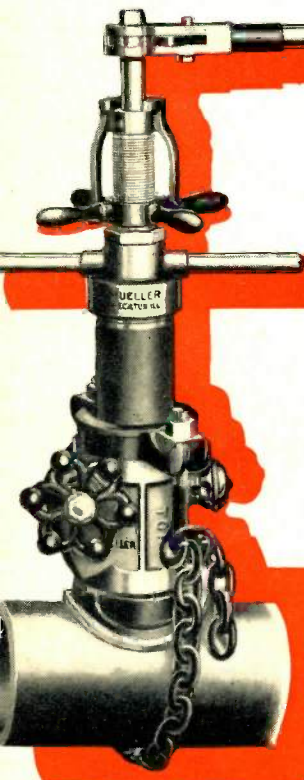


Bay, about an hour's run from Freeport. George Knipe, assistant office manager, reported that the party had an excellent time, and after arriving at the bay they donned bathing suits and swam for about an hour. Lunch included fried chicken, homemade potato salad (prepared by Helen Rannbury), and all the other ingredients of a good picnic.

After lunch, the party cruised about and did not return to port until 8 o'clock, when they tied up to the wharf of the Sea-Breeze restaurant and had a "wonderful" dinner. It was about 10 o'clock when the party finished dinner, and the half-hour run back to the dock was spent singing songs—all the old ones.

The picnic ended as all good picnics should—with everyone thoroughly tired but happy.

What's a Thread



Water Tapping Machine "B"—For tapping water mains and inserting corporation stops 1/2" to 1" inclusive, under pressure. Other sizes are available. Write us.



If they are MUELLER threads, they are your best method of securing accurate alignment and tight joints when inserting Corporation Stops. Each MUELLER Corporation Stop has sharp, deep and clean-cut threads for easy running in the tap. They have the right chamfer for easy starting and the proper taper to run up to a tight fit with less danger of splitting the main. Mueller combined Drills and Taps when used with MUELLER Tapping Machines, not only cut threads in the main that fit MUELLER Stops perfectly, but they also accurately align the Stop to the main, making an installation that no other method can approach.

Do you have a copy of our "H" Water Works Catalog? If not, write for your copy today.



MUELLER CO.

MAIN OFFICE AND FACTORY.....DECATUR, ILLINOIS
 OTHER FACTORIES: Los Angeles, Cal.; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Sarnia, Ont. Canada