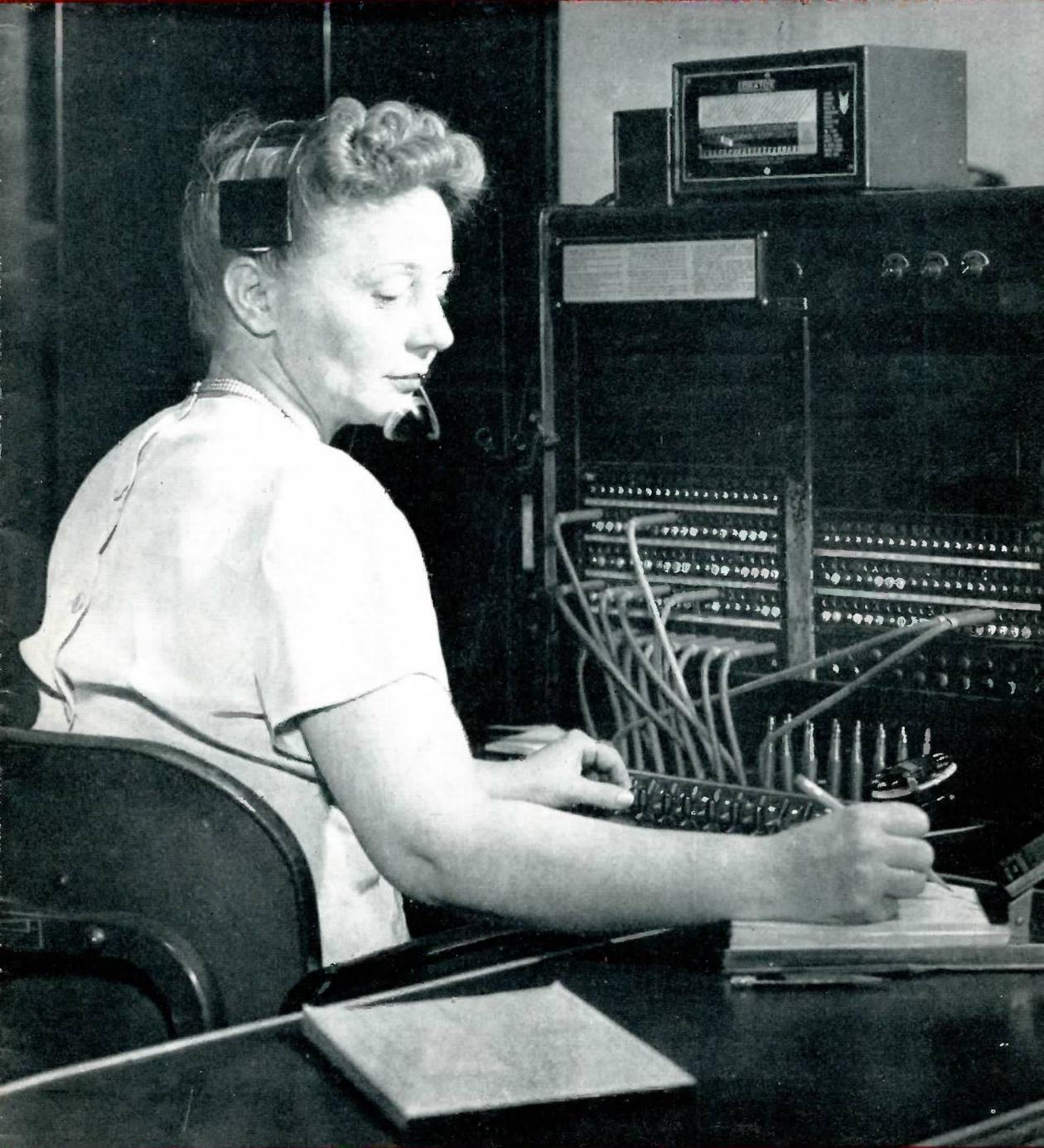


MUELLER RECORD



MUELLER RECORD

January, 1949  No. 149

GENE J. KUHN, Editor
Published 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
Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

This Month's Cover

SOMETHING OF A tradition is being shattered this month, since the cover models heretofore have been strictly male. Ladies and gents, the blonde gal with the smile in her voice, Elizabeth Tolladay, switchboard operator at the Decatur main office and plant.

A Change for the Better

WHEN QUOTING ACCIDENT statistics, particularly if the figures seem to indicate any trend toward the better, it's always well to keep your fingers crossed. However, at the risk of starting a wave of accidents just as the new year gets underway, it should at least be whispered that there were less injuries and less time lost as a result of accidents in 1948 than in 1947.

The medical department reported a total of 996 cases treated during 1948, as compared to 1,453 in 1947. In 1947 there were 52 accidents which caused a loss of time of 597 days. During the past year, these figures were cut to 30 lost-time accidents and 275 days lost.

Here's a breakdown of 1948's figures by months:

Month	All Cases	Lost-Time Accidents	Days Lost
January	73	4	27
February	125	4	59
March	93	6	73
April	54	1	26
May	120	3	22
June	75	1	8
July	66	3	13
August	84	4	17
September	68	0	0
October	118	2	27
November	95	1	2
December	25	1	1
Totals	996	30	275

HAP HAZARD





Officers and directors of the Mueller Co. Employees Credit Union are, left to right: Wallace Dudley, Frank Ridgeway, Melvin Hardy, Howard Dempster, Evelyn Ballard, Ruth Miller, Harold Munsterman, Otis Fears, Haldon Hanson, Ernest Watkins, Charles Brown and Raymond Roarick. Not shown are C. D. Kelley and Robert Taylor, directors, both of whom were elected to 3-year terms.

Credit Union Continues Growth

Assets for 1948 up 151 per cent over previous year; \$4,500 in dividends will be distributed.

CONTINUED GROWTH of the Mueller Co. Employees Credit Union in financial strength and membership was reported by Harold Munsterman, treasurer, at the annual meeting January 10.

The Credit Union ended 1948 with assets of \$233,547.70, an increase of 151 per cent over 1947, Munsterman reported, and membership increased from 605 to 650. A 3 per cent dividend, amounting to \$4,500.86, was declared on shares held during the year.

The number of borrowers also increased, the report showed. At the end of 1947 the Credit Union had 287 borrowers, and in 1948 the number was 351. The Credit Union loaned \$299,914.92 during 1948, an increase of \$159,145 over 1947. The average loan balance was \$323.08. Shares in the Credit Union averaged \$352.40 a member.

The Credit Union's net profit for 1948

was \$6,051.83, Munsterman reported, and an additional purchase of government bonds in the amount of \$30,000 was made during the year.

All officers were re-elected. They are: Otis Fears, shipping department, president; Haldon Hanson, department 300, vice-president; Harold Munsterman, pattern shop, treasurer; and Ruth Miller, core room, secretary.

Directors elected were:

Three-year terms: Otis B. Fears, Jr., shipping room; Ernest Watkins, plant No. 2; Harold Munsterman, pattern shop; Robert Taylor, experimental shop; and C. D. Kelley, department 360. Fears, Watkins and Munsterman were re-elected.

Two-year unexpired term: Evelyn Ballard, main office.

One-year term: Melvin Hardy, plant No. 2.

**MUELLER
PIX**



Mueller Co. women employees who are bowling regularly on league teams this season include, seated, Pauline Harris, Ellen Jane Stevenson, Betty Dehority, Frances Dial, Ruth Liestman, Betty Scheibly, and Gertrude Hedges. Standing: Erma Barth, Louise Moore, Betty Walker, Wilma Maleska, Aline Moore, Edna Johnston, Catherine Bauer, Kathryn Travis, Imogene Sexton



Members of the bargaining committee of Local 838, U.A.W. (A.F.L.), and Mueller Co. representatives are shown as the new contract was signed January 6. Standing are Fay Boggs, Wilbur Edwards and W. L. Adams; Loyle Davis, personnel director; Eugene Latch; and Archie Sefton, production superintendent. Seated are: Jesse Dailey and Clarence C. Roarick, factory manager.



Laura Becker (third from right), who was married Dec. 19 to Oatie G. Slayton, was honored with a shower at the home of Dorothy Chamberlain, core room, December 15. Mrs. Slayton will retire January 17 after almost 33 years' service with Mueller Co. Shown in the photograph: Nola Lowry, Dorothea Toole, Dorothy Chamberlain, Mrs. Slayton, Ruth Miller, Fedora Walton.



More than 700 children of Mueller Co. employees were on hand to greet Santa Claus as he appeared at the annual Christmas party in the Mueller gymnasium. This photograph shows a section of the enthusiastic audience when the old gentleman came on stage. The program included variety acts, group singing and, of course, treats for all the youngsters who attended.

Service Emblems

HARRY KOONTZ, ground key, and Lester Skelley, pattern shop, each with 40 years' service with Mueller Co. at the company's Decatur plant, headed up a list of 169 employees who recently were awarded service emblems at the Decatur, Chattanooga and Los Angeles plants. Total service for the employees at the three plants who received pins this year was 2,295 years.

Presentation of the service emblems at the Decatur and Chattanooga plants was made at employee Christmas parties December 24. Clarence C. Roarick, factory manager, presented the emblems to Decatur employees, and O. E. Walker, Sr., presented the pins to employees of Columbian Iron Works, Chattanooga. Mr. Roarick and Mr. Walker each received a 20-year pin this year.

Employees of Mueller, Ltd., Sarnia, Ontario, who are eligible for service emblems will be announced shortly.

Those who received service emblems were:



Decatur

Lester Skelley Harry Koontz



Decatur

Charles W. Taylor



Clarence C. Roarick, factory manager at the Decatur plant, presents a 40-year service emblem to Harry Koontz, department 8. At the right is Charles Taylor, who received his 35-year pin.



Lester Skelley, center, pattern shop, received his 40-year pin in the factory manager's office. He was unintentionally omitted from original list. Right: A. Sefton, production superintendent.



O. E. Walker, plant manager of Columbian Iron Works, Chattanooga, presents 25-year pins to Marion Eckman, center, engineering department, and Homer Van Vleet, production department.

**Decatur**

Robert Whitehead	Clinton R. Wright
Ethel D. Thomason	Charles F. Morenz
Marjorie Tatham	Lewis A. Bland
Elmer Miller	Albert May

**Decatur**

W. L. DeWitt	Shirl A. Tish
Archie Sefton	Gerald J. Yonker
Hazel Allen	Orville E. Spencer
Albert H. Flaughner	Ralph Wood
K. H. Blankenburg	Oris I. Whitacre
Wade Rambo	Virgil R. Athey
Earl Lowe	Otis R. Curry
Gladys L. Turner	Fred Nash

Chattanooga

Homer Van Vleet	Marion Eckman
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Los Angeles

Emmett Reedy

**Decatur**

O. C. Keil	Floyd E. Walton
C. C. Roarick	Samuel Jolly
Leo T. Masterson	Irvin E. Keller
Lee A. Ellington	Carl Reynolds
Howard A. Baldis	A. Dean Butler
Ralph K. Duncan	Ernest A. Wittke
Robert D. Walley	Warren Hall
August Rauschek	Edgar N. Stark
Raymond C. Kileen	G. R. St. Pierre
George S. Anderson	George Sulwer
	Henry W. Stratman

Chattanooga

O. E. Walker, Sr.

Los Angeles

Herman Dash

**Decatur**

Raymond Larus	Galen N. Hutchens
Walter F. Salefski	Marvin L. Baum
John Warren	Sexson

Chattanooga

Robert Parsons	J. C. Quentel
H. C. Churchill	Monroe Hudson
Sam Foster	George Patton
Lester Woodall	Charles Campbell
Elmer Hughes	Early Suggs
Arlice Manning	Merrell Wooden
Rowdy Gann	Thad Drennan
Homer Massey	W. H. Myers
Oscar Hubble	Howard Dupree
David L. Smith	George E. Moore
	Arnold Moore

Los Angeles

Val Stach	Bill Jacobs
	Roy Karr

**Decatur**

Addie S. Hambleton	John R. Harrell
Karl M. Armstrong	Delmar J. Baum
Homer F. Trusner	Cecil W. Wilson
Lawrence Roe	Wilbur Sternes
Louis E. Ross	Carl W. Schuman
Robert L. Rhodes	Emil J. Bork
O. Clyde Porter	Frank Kushmer
	Robert F. Armstrong

Chattanooga

Elbert Warren	Edward Stamper
Hugh Mackey	John Watkins

Los Angeles

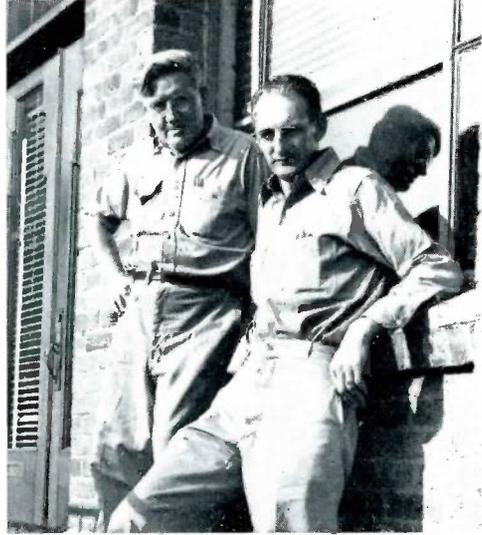
Larry Fantuzzi	Leonard Johnson
Bob Hamlin	Leo Gamas
Ann Ralph	Ray Dawkins
Ralph Korte	Bill Baker

**Decatur**

Ruth Rohman	Henry Luka
Evelyn Ballard	Ruth B. McKown
Alberta Bliier	Olive L. Dailey
Catherine Bauer	Margaret L. Carter
Earl B. Brock	Helen C. Wall
George F. Sims	Iris R. Baum
Jesse J. Patterson	Adah S. Wood
Dale Cloney	Sina A. Pettit
Everett F. Miller	Ruth Miller
Royal E. Skelley	Albert J. Lemke
Mildred Bailey	Homer Hooker
Robert Dannewitz	Paul W. Dazey
Elmer E. Schmidt	Muriel L. Hallock



Emmett Reedy, right, received his 25-year emblem at Los Angeles, and Herman Dash qualified for a 20-year service emblem.



Fifteen-year service emblems went to Val Stach, left, and Bill Jacobs. Roy Karr, another 15-year pin recipient, is not shown.

Chattanooga

Charles Bible	Jas. Robert Turner
C. W. Pursley	Duke Hollingsworth
Dick Anderson	Harvey Veal
Mary O'Kelley	Seth Fowler
Charlie Boston	Frank Taliferro
Marguerite Barker	Robert Lee
Howard Rogers	Billings Jones
Henry Keller	Lucius Jones
Sam Adair, Jr.	Pete Ramsey
Henry Williams	

Los Angeles

Velma Portee	Carl Arvidson
Dolores Thompson	Lila Phegley
Bramlette Johnson	Hattie Zylicz
Lil Alfano	Kay Thompson
Victoria Montoya	Fay Purinton
Hazel Rice	Bernice Blize
Flo Llewellyn	Frank Varella
A. G. McCoun	

Employees at the Pacific Coast plant, Los Angeles, who received their 10-year service emblems included, left to right, Larry Fantuzzi, Bob Hamlin, Ann Ralph, Ralph Korte and Leonard Johnson. Not shown are Leo Gamas, Ray Dawkins and Bill Baker.



\$UGGESTION AWARD WINNERS\$

EMployees who received grand prizes for suggestions they submitted during the past year have been announced at all four Mueller Co. plants.

At the Decatur plant grand prizes were offered in three divisions: reduced overhead, increased production and safety. In all three divisions the first prize was \$50, the second \$30, and the third \$20. The cash awards were presented by Clarence C. Roarick, factory manager, at the employees' Christmas party December 24 to the following:

Reduced overhead—First prize, Elvis Musgraves, department 110; second prize, Colva Mayberry, department 63; and Eugene Gibbs, department 9.

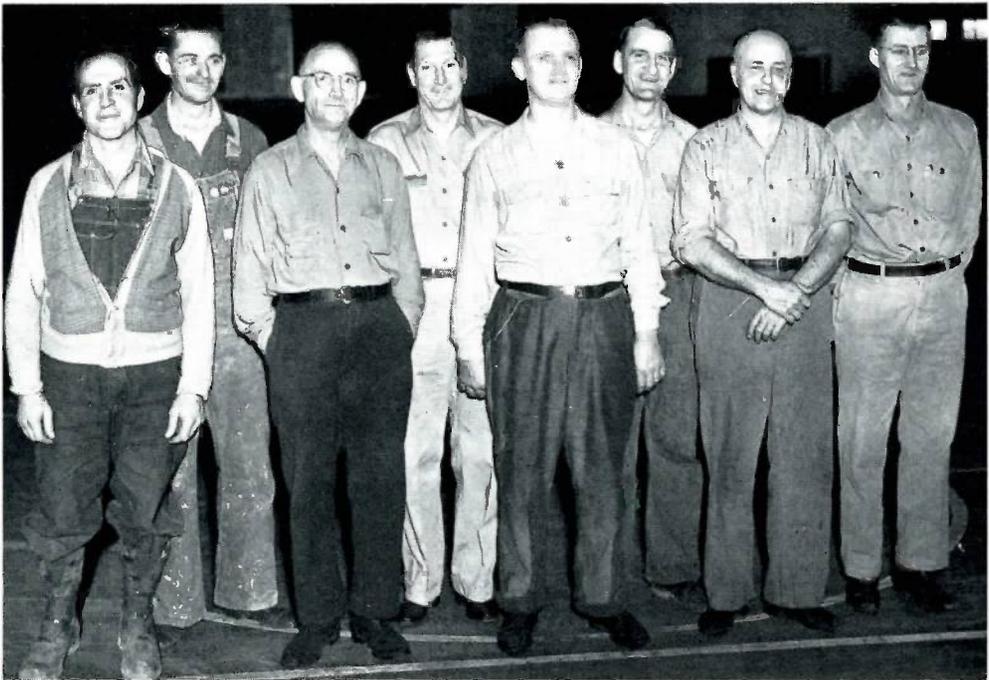
Increased production — First prize, Henry Stratman, department 300; second prize, Orville Hinderer, department 240, plant No. 2; third prize, Al May, department 300.

Safety—First prize, C. E. Tolley, department 240, plant No. 2; second prize, Paul Barnes, department 60; third prize, Al Spitzer, department 9.

At Chattanooga the grand prize winners were:

First prize, C. N. Pursley, pattern shop; second prize, J. C. Quentel, machine shop; and third prize, John North, maintenance department.

Winners at the Los Angeles plant were:



Grand prize winners for suggestions adopted at the Decatur plant were: Paul Barnes, Elvis Musgraves, Al May, Orville Hinderer, Henry Stratman, Colva Mayberry, Al Spitzer and Creo Tolley. Not shown in the photograph is Eugene Gibbs, a winner in reduced overhead division.



Suggestion award winners at the Los Angeles plant were, left to right, Harvey Zehner, first; Beth Noble, second; Marshall Cook, third. The prizes: first, \$50; second, \$30; and third, \$20.

First prize, Harvey Zehner; second prize, Beth Noble; and third prize, Marshall Cook.

The winners at Mueller, Ltd., Sarnia, Ontario, were:

First prize, Thomas E. Crawley; sec-

ond prize, John Charrington; third prize, Felix Duffy.

Elvis Musgraves, who received first prize in the reduced overhead division at Decatur, had 13 suggestions adopted.



O. E. Walker, Sr., plant manager of Columbian Iron Works, Chattanooga, is shown as he presented the third prize for suggestions to John North, maintenance department. Looking on are C. N. Pursley, pattern shop, first prize winner, and J. C. Quentel, machine shop, second prize.

Decatur

SERVICE PINS WERE presented to 93 employees and cash awards were made to nine others as grand prize winners for suggestions submitted during the year at a Christmas party for employees of both Decatur plants and the main office which was held in the Mueller gymnasium December 24. Clarence C. Roarick, factory manager, presented the service pins and prizes.

Short talks were made during the program by the management committee: L. W. Mueller, chairman of the board of directors; A. G. Webber, Jr., president and treasurer; and J. W. Simpson, executive vice-president. At the completion of the program, Christmas hams were distributed to all employees.

During the course of his talk, Mr. Mueller said:

"We, the management, using all possible statistical information available, feel that this year, 1949, we are out on a limb, and for your sake as well as ours we will need every bit of cooperation possible from all of you to keep this business successful and to assure you steady employment.

"In this meeting this afternoon, I especially enjoyed the awarding of service pins and suggestion awards.

"**A SUGGESTION AWARD**, it seems to me, is distinctly a badge of merit. To me it means a lot of things.

"It means you had to be interested in your work. The time you spent here at the plant meant more to you than just a way to earn a living.

"You put forth mental effort in addition to the physical effort.

"You did more than your job called for. You remember during the war medals and awards were given for action beyond the call of duty. This is a similar situation.

"It shows a spirit of cooperation with the management and only by such co-

operation can we hope to have more and more of the comforts of life.

"It recommends you to management for consideration of promotion in the organization.

"**SERVICE PINS** are an emblem of many things:

"They represent your capital investment in this business. Capital is not always money—it may be years of service, known to you as seniority. It may be knowledge of your job and the business.

"Service pins also represent security—security of income, security of work, security of credit, and security of trustworthiness.

"A man or woman who has merited a service award has more or less automatically received the best possible letter of recommendation of his fellow workers and the management.

"I have used the words here of capital and management and labor. I have had something on my mind for a long time that I should like to tell you about.

"**CAPITAL, LABOR AND MANAGEMENT** are terms we hear a lot of these days. But we rarely ever hear of the fourth and by far the most important party—the customer. I would like to suggest that hereafter when any of us mention any of these subjects that we automatically bring in that fourth party—the customer—who can many times change our thinking and actions considerably. In the final analysis he or she is the big boss of us all. This may be a new angle for many of you, but if you will analyze conditions, you will realize this to be true.

"Take the management of this business—Mueller Co. The management here owns only a relatively small per cent of the stock or capital of the business. Most of the stock is controlled by banks, trusts, widows, institutions, and minor children. Therefore, the making of

profits is only one function of management and do not go to management.

"For management to squeeze any one of the parties, capital, labor or customer, means the business must suffer and management has failed. Capital and labor have almost identical responsibilities in a business, and each is dependent on the other for existence. Capital must supply the buildings, machinery, materials and supplies, which nowadays means about \$8,000 to put one man to work. And this figure is increasing. Labor furnishes the mental and physical effort to use these things to put them in a form that the customer will buy.

"A generation ago, say 15 to 25 years ago, business was generally owned and operated by the same person or persons. Management and capital were the same.

Today in this generation this is no longer true. In most businesses management is entirely separate from capital—in fact, it is a part of labor. Management today is skilled labor employed by labor and capital to serve fairly and impartially capital, labor and the customer."

■ ■ ■

Automobile accidents recently claimed the lives of two Mueller Co. employees. Orban C. Arney, brass foundry, was fatally injured January 2, when his car struck a culvert abutment on route 36, one mile east of Buffalo. Paul Himes, grinding room, died January 14 of injuries received in an accident at Blue Mound on January 8. Mr. Himes died without regaining consciousness after the accident.

Los Angeles

William Baker. Correspondent

Christmas Party

The spirit of Noel was ushered in with our highly successful Christmas party, which was held in the shipping room December 19.

Primarily designed for the benefit of the kiddies, the excellent program drew praise from the adults. Included in the entertainment, we had a musician playing tunes on spinning steel disks and water glasses, a ventriloquist, a trick unicycle rider, 10 trained canaries, and, of course, Santa Claus, who arrived with

gifts for the children. After the program, refreshments were served in the cafeteria.

Cec Foltz, Pat Prewett and Ralph Korte are to be congratulated for the program they provided and also their decorations, and let's not forget Leonard Goostree who helped old St. Nick.

There is but one question in the minds of the aforementioned committee, to-wit: "Where will we hold the party next year if we can expect another overflow crowd like that?"



The trick bicycle rider was one of the favorite entertainers at the party given for the children.



Santa Claus was greeted on arrival at Los Angeles by Pat Prewett and the kiddies.

Sarnia, Ontario

Almeda Reeve, Correspondent

Mueller, Limited, held open house on Thursday afternoon, December 23, from 2 o'clock until 4 o'clock, for the immediate families of all employees. Approximately 400 adults and children availed themselves of the opportunity to visit the plant and see their respective parent, brother or sister at the work stations. The general chairman for this event was R. J. Skippon, who was ably assisted by the plant foremen and other employees. Special buses provided transportation to the plant.

The recreation building, appropriately decorated for the holiday season, was the center of the festivities. Parties were formed there and conducted throughout the plant, showing the factory in actual operation.

Following the tour of the plant, the guests were received in the dining room of the plant cafeteria, where the wives of officials and other employees served tea, cake, cookies, soft drinks and milk.

Hams were distributed to each employee by his respective foreman, and boxes of fruit, nuts and candy were distributed to the children.

George W. Parker, president of Mueller, Limited, and other officials were on hand to extend the season's greetings.

■ ■ ■

We wish to extend our congratulations to Elmer Thompson, department 6, and his bride of recent date.

* * *

Our sincere wishes for a speedy recovery go to Thomas Crawley, department 2, who has been hospitalized for the past week.

* * *

On December 21 the girls of the main office, production, time study and engineering offices held their annual Christmas party, at which the men of these offices were their guests. Following a turkey dinner, which was served at attractively decorated tables, the girls exchanged gifts, and much to Scotty Milne's disappointment there were no practical gifts which could be worn for display by the recipient. During the evening, Reita Burgess, stenographic department, was honored by the group in the singing of "Happy Birthday," accompanied by Mr. Milne. Movies were pre-



These ladies served tea at the Sarnia open house. Left to right: Mrs. Garnet Denomy, holding David; Pauline Denomy, John Browett and Ronald Skippon, Mrs. Almeda Reeve, Allan Browett, Mrs. R. J. Skippon, Mrs. Ron Nicolson, Mrs. John Milne, Mrs. Charles Browett, Mrs. George W. Parker and Mrs. W. B. Campbell. The open house drew approximately 400 visitors to the plant.

sented by W. C. Reeve and included a reel of color movies taken by Mr. and Mrs. Reeve during the past year when they motored to the West Coast and the Canadian Rockies.

* * *

New Muellerites

To Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Harris (department 3) a daughter, Joan, December 5.

To Mr. and Mrs. Samuel W. Last (department 6) a son, Samuel Stephen, November 19.

To Mr. and Mrs. James Elsliger (department 5) a son, Terrence, December 21.

Our sympathy is extended to:

Hubert D. Whitely, department 15, in the death of his father, Philip Whitely, on December 5.

Helen Babcook, cost department, in the passing of her grandfather, Charles King, December 11.

F. Roscoe Kearney, department 9, in the death of his sister.

George Maitland, department 3, in the death of his father.

The family of the late Donald McDonald, annuitant, who passed away November 22.

Chattanooga

Marcella Lykins. Correspondent

Since our recent Christmas Party several of our employees have been having a terrible time rejecting contracts from movie producers, radio stations and night clubs. No kidding, from all the comments we have heard everyone sincerely enjoyed the program and we wish to thank all of you boys who made it possible. We were glad that so many of our retired employees and also husbands and wives of employees were able to be with us. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Management Committee for the very nice Christmas ham and the sincere wishes that accompanied it which we received after the program.

* * *

Little Sonny Walker of 1430 N. Smith Road wishes to announce that since December 12 he has a new brother. Bette and Odie Walker, Jr., the proud parents, have named the baby Daniel Wilson. Bette said that Odie is doing nicely and she feels sure that as soon as Danny gets his nights and days straightened out he will be completely recovered.

* * *

Odell Reich, who was employed in the shell shop during the war, is with us now in the cost department. In the sales department we also have a newcomer, Louise Williams. It's nice to have you gals with us. Welcome to our midst.

We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to William Tyson of the foundry department in the death of his mother.

* * *

We had visitors from Sarnia recently. Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Waller were on their way to Florida and stopped by to say hello. Mr. Waller and also his wife Rachel were once employed at the Sarnia plant and he told us that both his daughters, Violet and Jean, were working there now.

* * *

The girls of the office held their annual Christmas Party on Tuesday evening, December 21, at the Glass House restaurant. This was in the form of a dinner party and everyone present agreed that the food was delicious and attractively served. Gifts were exchanged and the flowers from our plant manager were tremendously enjoyed.

* * *

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER: All you young, able-bodied, eligible men—We're planning to have a baseball team this year, so please don't make any plans that might interfere with your spring training or playing. Thought we would give you this reminder so you could start selling your wives and girl friends on the idea early.

Chattanooga's Christmas Party



All that Nick Haynes, center, wanted for Christmas, according to his song, was his two front teeth. He was accompanied by two members of his outfit, the City Slickers.



Alboan Glass of the foundry department brought down the house with a piano specialty—his version of the "Tommy Dorsey Boogie." All talent had professional quality.



The Daisy Mountain Boys are otherwise known as Jack Malone, Jack Pope, Arvel Black, Nick Haynes, Ronald Rogers and Dan Hamill—when they aren't dishing out corn.



The soloist, Charles Bynum, of the core room, sang the ever-popular "Noel." He was accompanied by Mildred McAllister, who is in the cost department at Columbian Iron Works.



This quartet sang a composition of their own: "The Mueller Boys Are We." The Mueller boys are, left to right, Charles Bynum, Pete Boykin, Marvin Montgomery, and H. D. Satterwhite.



Odie Walker, Jr., who was a very capable master of ceremonies, brought the home-talent program to a close with the group, led by Jack Malone, singing "Auld Lang Syne."