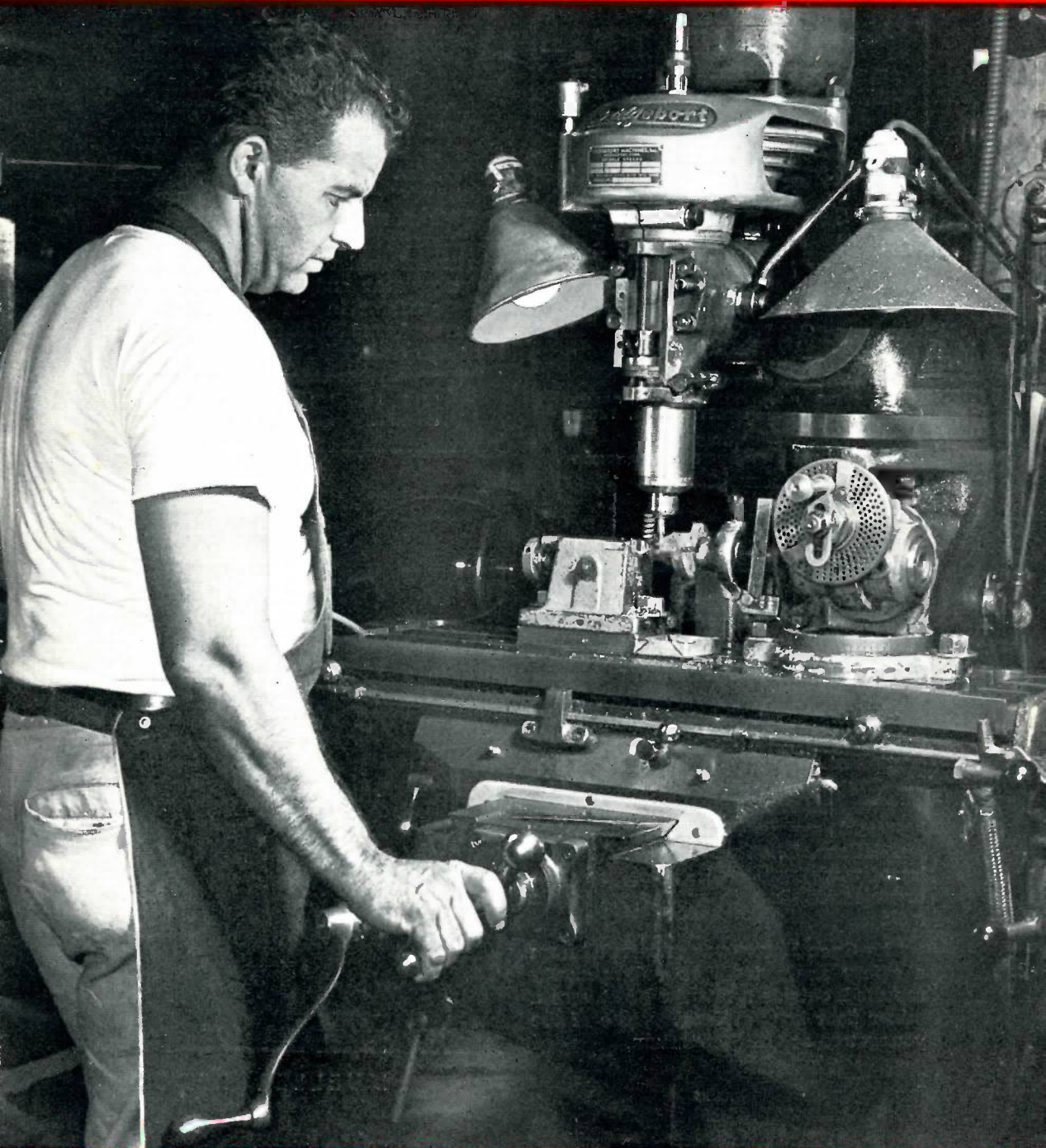


MUELLER RECORD



MUELLER RECORD

July, 1949

No. 152

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.

The Open House

JUDGING FROM THE many comments made by both the families of employees and employees themselves, the Family Day Open House on June 16 was a great success. Foremen, guides and employees did an excellent job of explaining the various operations in their departments to the visitors in a friendly, hospitable manner that drew many commendations. The Open House required a lot of work from a lot of people in the organization, but it was an enjoyable task.

The Open House was successful from a safety angle, too. The only casualty reported, outside a few tired feet, was a minor floor burn suffered by one of the youngsters at the gymnasium.

We hope that those who visited the plants during this Family Day will return and that those who were unable to attend this year will be our guests at the next open house.

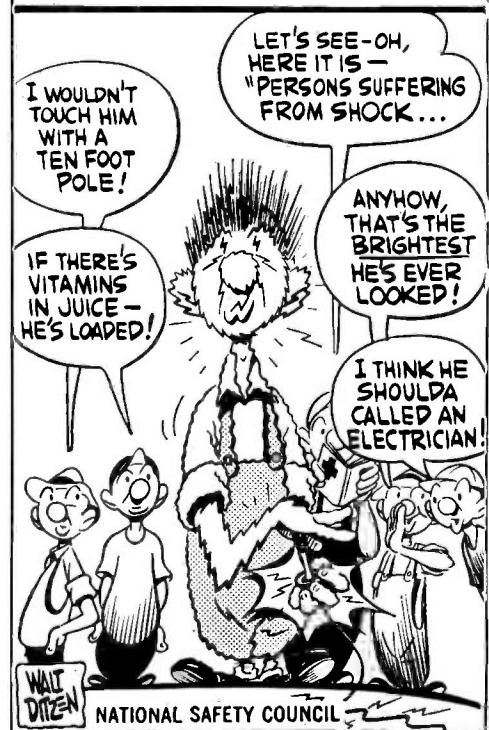
This Month's Cover

AT THE RISK of being accused of showing partiality to the tool room we are running another photo made in the department as the cover for this month's issue of the *Mueller Record*.

James O. Fair, class A toolmaker, is the model for this month's cover. The last employees' edition showed Bill Kuntz, another class A toolmaker.

Fair is using a Bridgeport milling machine to make a 1-inch copper service corporation stop coupling drill, which will be used on a machine in department 8. Fair started work with Mueller Co. on January 30, 1936, as a laborer. He was transferred to department 9 as an inventory man and later became a machine operator in the department. He was transferred to the tool room to learn his trade on April 16, 1941.

HAP HAZARD





Mike fright was the least of Howard Gragg's worries as Bill Mason, WSOY announcer, asks him about operations in department 8 during the Family Day Open House. M. H. Stuckwish, technical director, is at right. The recording was then broadcast over station WSOY.

Family Day Open House

Event draws 600 visitors for tours through all departments of Mueller Co.'s two Decatur factories.

APPROXIMATELY 600 persons, members of families of Mueller Co. employees, attended the Family Day Open House at both Decatur plants June 16.

The visitors were taken on tours throughout the factory, starting at the core room, the foundry, the machining divisions, and then to the gymnasium, where refreshments of ice cream, cake and soft drinks were served.

By scheduling the Open House during regular working hours, guests had an opportunity to visit members of their families at their jobs and to see the complete production set-up at the two plants. A display of completed products was shown in the gymnasium, where the guests registered and the groups formed up for the tours. At the completion of the tours the visitors were served refreshments in the gym.

Guides for the tours were Lawrence

Roe, Harold Linton, Bob Hutchins, Wallace Gould, John J. Smith, Everett Dickey, Charles Moore, Bob Rhodes, Marshall Hobbs, Fred Tratzik, Joe Fleckenstein, Ted Masterson, Jack Rubicam, Merlin Scott, Paul Ammann, Ralph Wyne, Heck Whittington, Myers Harrison, George Baker, Lynn Edwards, Herman Jackson, Charles Girard, Dean Grant, Barney Morrison, Jack Chepan and Merlin Coates. Harley Himstead arranged the tours.

One of the highlights of the Open House was the half-hour broadcast of a recorded interview with employees and their families over WSOY at 8:30 o'clock that night. Bill Mason, WSOY announcer, conducted the interviews in various departments of the plants. Those who were heard on the broadcast were:

Jack Bain, core room; Ollie Fort-

(Continued on page 9)

VISITORS TO THE Mueller Co. plants were inclined to agree with David V. Felts, editorial writer and columnist for The Decatur Herald, who commented, "There are more artists in a foundry than in the art schools." On the tours through the plants they saw the many specialized operations that go into the manufacture of Mueller products and the many skills and trades that are employed. The tours began at the gymnasium, thence to the core room and foundry, and on through the machining divisions.



Shown at the registration desk at the gymnasium are Mrs. J. W. Simpson, Mrs. J. C. Cussins, Mr. Cussins, Mrs. Hugh L. Baker, and Jackie Jackson. Jacqueline DeVore, personnel office, is at the right.



Harley Himstead briefs one of the groups in the gymnasium, where the tours began, before it sets out to see the plant.



John J. Smith, right, is shown with the members of one of the groups as they left the gymnasium to tour the main plant.

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Second Thoughts

—By David V. Felts

OF THIS—Oh Yes—AND THAT: Hippety-hop to the Mueller company plant on Family Day where, as a professional brother of the editor of The Record, we toured the core building, the foundry and various machine shops. As we watched the women mould cores from sand and arrange them neatly and deftly on trays for processing, we wondered if they employ the same facility, and maybe the same patterns, in making fancy cookies. When, as little girls, they made mud pies they did not realize that someday they would be paid for similar endeavor.

The foundry processes were intriguing but we marvelled most at the clean air in the building where furnaces roared and molten metal poured from mobile buckets. We were careful to keep hands in pockets. We use only two fingers to make a living, but we take no chance on losing the wrong eight. There are days when this column reads as if it had been picked out with two thumbs.

There are more artists in a foundry than in the art schools in these days of impressionism and modernistic pish-tosh. The artisan who wiped lead at a corner work bench held our admiration. He also operated a machine which performed a similar operation, but there is more artistry in the old-fashioned process and some plumbers prefer the old, wiped connection.

A most enjoyable and instructive tour. Now we shall get together some sand, a pound or so of metal scrap and a few tools, build a fire and make a faucet, or, as a starter, a simple corporation stop.

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Helen O'Dell is showing visitors how cores are made by hand for the brass foundry. The guide is Herman Jackson.



Jack Chepan's group gets an explanation of how castings are made in the brass foundry.

Howard Gragg explains the function of a finish reamer, which is being operated by Bob Oberline in Department 8.



Mrs. Darrel Hartwig and Mrs. Leland Hartwig get some first hand information on a welding fitting from Ed Hartwig. Lawrence Roe is at the right.

Ralph Adams amazed visitors with his dexterity in handling molten lead as he showed how joints were wiped by hand.



And for variety, Adams also illustrated how the same job can be done by machine.

Dan Truett shows a group how copper tubing is bent to close tolerances for meter risers.



Visitors to the main office watch Lucille Turner handle calls at the switchboard.





Don Bateman shows his wife and daughter-in-law, Mrs. Isabel Bateman, left, how a milling machine is operated. Paul Ammann is the escort.

In the heat treat department this group watched a cut-off saw eat through a piece of steel bar stock.



This group is watching Roy Wall operate a stamping machine in the heat treat department.

Howard Baldis points out the giant air compressor in the power plant which furnishes air for many operations in the plant.





Myrle Carter, head coremaker at Plant No. 2, drew an appreciative audience as he deftly made cores for iron castings.



Watching the cupola being tapped in the iron foundry was one of the highlights for visitors at Plant No. 2. Ernie Wittke is the ladleman.

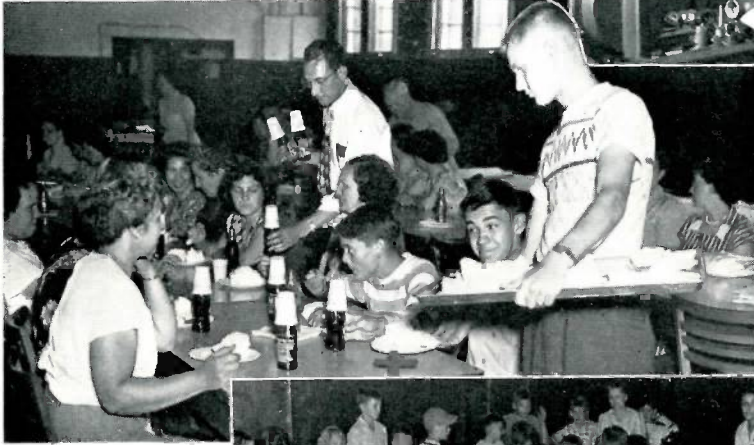


These visitors are catching a close-up view of molds being poured in the iron foundry.

Albert G. Webber, Jr., Mueller Co. president, explains the fine points of a Mueller fire hydrant to two Association of Commerce visitors, Ed Huntley and John O'Neil.



Archie Sefton is showing completed products to Mrs. Claude Cox, Mrs. Al Lindamood and Henry Bashor, a retired Mueller Co. employee.



Paul Parsons and Bob Sefton are shown serving ice cream, cake and soft drinks to a group of visitors who just have completed a tour of the plant.

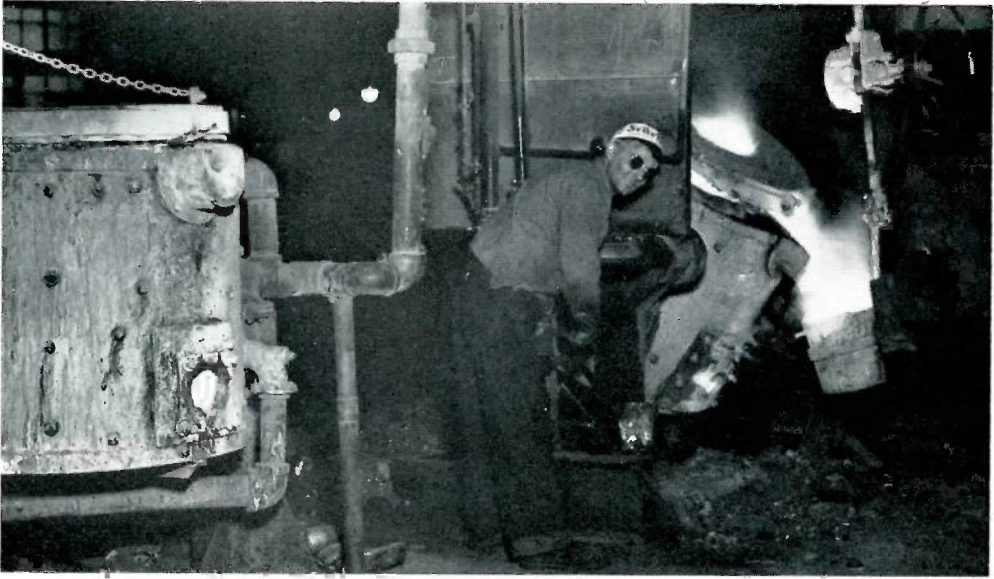
Supervised entertainment was provided for the small fry who had to be left behind for safety reasons while their parents toured the plant.



(Continued from page 3)
 schneider and Al Lindamood, pattern shop; Frank Kushmer, brass foundry, and Mrs. Floyd Walton, whose husband is a machine molder in the foundry; Howard Gragg, department 8; M. H. Stratman, department 300; Frank Mueller, chief products engineer; Albert G. Webber, Jr., president of Mueller Co.; Jerome Edwards, retired Mueller Co. employee, his daughter, Mrs. Charles Murray, whose husband is employed at Plant No. 2, and his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Wilbur Edwards, whose husband is

in machine repair; and Milo Wright, Elwood Potts and Russell Armstrong, Plant No. 2.

In commenting on the event, Mr. Webber said, "The fine response to our Open House invitation by families of Mueller people and the efforts of the committee which arranged and handled the program made it a complete success. The company appreciates this, reciprocates the many friendly sentiments expressed by our guests, and thanks every member of the Mueller organization who had a part in it."



John Kerrigan is shown operating a gas fired tilt-type furnace at the Mueller, Ltd, plant, Sarnia. The foundry has six furnaces, which have capacities from 750 to 1,200 pounds.

Thousands of Brass Fittings Forged by Gas

Mueller, Limited, uses natural fuel in manufacturing processes for foundry, forging, and heat treatment.

Reprinted from *The Gas Line*

THE QUICK, clean flame of gas is widely used as the most efficient fuel for industrial processing, and nowhere is this more clearly demonstrated than in the busy factory of Mueller, Limited, Sarnia.

A leading manufacturer of brass products, Mueller uses gas in a variety of ways to produce high grade fittings for water and gas services. A complete line of plumbing brass for household use is included in the thousands of products weighing from a few ounces to 25 pounds each.

The making of cores from specially prepared silicate sand is the first step towards the manufacture of brass casting. After moulding, cores are dried in a drawer-type gas-fired Coleman oven at 550 degrees. The cores are then transferred to the moulding shop, where castings are made. Here brass is melted at 2,200 degrees in six furnaces holding from 750 to 1,200 pounds each. From these furnaces the molten brass is poured into a ladle preheated with a special nozzle-type gas burner. The ladle

then fills row on row of forms for all types of brass fittings.

Mueller, Limited, also manufacture brass forgings. Here brass rods are cut into slugs of suitable size. These are heated in furnaces 11 feet long, gas-fired to 1,350 degrees. The red-hot slugs are placed on presses where the proper dies punch them into the desired shape. Several fuels were tried here before a final decision was made, showing gas to be the most efficient.

Further use of gas is made in heat-treating of tools. The company has a large volume of tools, drills and taps, screw plugs and caulking irons, all of which require a uniform heat for proper hardening. Steel used for these tools is heated in a gas furnace at a temperature of about 3,800 degrees.

In addition to these uses, Mueller, Limited, is equipped with a 160 horsepower natural gas engine driving a 75 horsepower generator for auxiliary lighting. So in addition to making many manufacturing processes possible, gas, the all-purpose fuel, is standing ready in case of an emergency.

Decatur

W. L. (Bill) Jett, who retired April 30 after completing 45 years of service with Mueller Co., visited friends at the main office and plant recently. The veteran West Coast salesman and Mrs. Jett are making a year's tour of the country.

* * *

Carl G. Chepan, former Mueller Co. employee and a brother of Jack Chepan, experimental shop, died at South Gate, California, June 11. Interment was at Inglewood Park cemetery, South Gate.

* * *

Bonnie Dennis, billing department, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Perry Dennis of Oreana, and Hal Craig, son of Mrs. Lena Craig, were married June 25 at Bloomington.

* * *

The 4-X Club, composed of Mueller Co. foremen and executives, is sponsoring a baseball outing to St. Louis to take in the Cardinal-Giants game on August 6. The trip will be made by chartered bus.

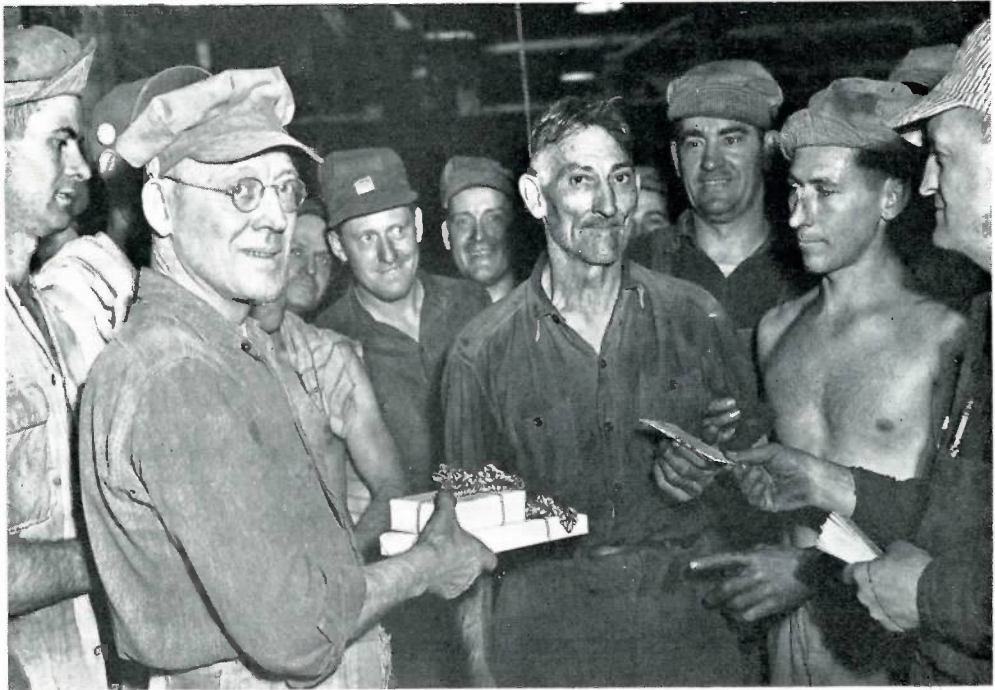
O. C. Keil, Mueller Co. secretary, was recently elected president of the Decatur board of education for the fifth consecutive year. Mr. Keil has been a member of the board for the past 15 years.

* * *

B. J. Marty, who retired in October, 1945, after 52 years' service with Mueller Co., died at his home here June 15. Mr. Marty was first employed by Hieronymus Mueller, company founder, when the factory was located on East Main Street, and at one time he was night superintendent of the plant after it had been moved to its present site. Burial was at Calvary cemetery. Among the pallbearers were M. H. Stratman, department 300; Lawrence Kramer, department 9; and Howard Gragg and Frank Williams, department 8.

* * *

The body of Pfc. Russell T. Short, a former Mueller Co. employee at Chattanooga and Decatur, was returned to



Alva L. Morrison, sand hopper attendant, retired May 27 after more than 32 years' service with Mueller Co. Fellow employees in the brass foundry look on as Leroy Stout, bench molder, presents some parting gifts on their behalf and Shirl Tish, foreman, hands him his last regular pay check. The foundrymen also decorated Morrison's car as a sendoff for his retirement.



Gloria Jean Tolladay, daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Tolladay, switchboard operator, was graduated from Millikin University this spring.



Janet Hawkins, daughter of O. J. Hawkins, purchasing agent, received her B.S. degree in education from the University of Illinois.

Decatur for burial at Graceland cemetery July 2. Private Short was killed in action in the Ruhr valley in Germany on March 5, 1945. He was a toolmaker at the Decatur plant at the time he entered military service.

* * *

Barbara Lee Jarman, daughter of Mrs. Lillian Jarman of the New York office,



was graduated from Richmond Hill high school June 29. Miss Jarman made an enviable scholastic record while in high school, and received a life membership in the Senior Arista. As council representative of her local Hi-Y club she

was elected to attend the National Hi-Y Congress at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. She was employed by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company July 5.

Members of the committee in charge of arrangements for the Family Day Open House June 16 were Loyle Davis, Melvin Chaney, Paul Parsons, Archie Sefton, Earl Lowe, Elmer Miller, Milo Wright and Gene Kuhn.

* * *

Joseph L. Syfert, watchman, retired June 10. Joe had been a Mueller Co. employee for more than eight and one-half years.

* * *

The maintenance department worked full blast during the recent vacation shutdown, since much of the work could not be done with the plant in operation. Included in the work were complete paint jobs for the ground key department and factory manager's office, the repair and cleaning of the plant's exhaust system, the installation of a new lubrication system for the brass foundry's sand handling equipment, and the changing of electrical and power circuits in the buildings east of College street. At Plant No. 2 new charging scales and transport were installed and a new electrical system for the paint room was completed. Ten extra painters helped with the work.

Los Angeles

William Baker, Correspondent

VACATION REPORT

We have an early vacation report on conditions around the Mammoth Lake area in the high Sierras. It's cold. This valuable bit of information was brought back by Hank Thompson and Bill Cosman, who with their wives, Dolores and Betty, have just returned. The boys claim they had to drive down to the nearest store and buy long underwear. Winter underwear in July; it would seem that someone ran into a super salesman.

Another fellow employee, Beth Noble, also will leave for Europe soon. Beth is going via the Queen Mary, sailing July 28. She plans to visit England, Holland, Luxemburg, Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, France and Belgium. As if this were not enough, Beth will stop at

Washington, D. C., and Boston on her way home. So, bon voyage, Beth, and don't mind if our dampened eyes are snapping with the green fire of envy.

■ ■ ■

CONGRATULATIONS

To Carl and the new Mrs. Arvidson, who were married in Las Vegas, Nevada, June 20. Carl and his bride, the former Dorothy E. Osbourne, will reside at 528 Peach Street in Compton, and will welcome their friends.

To Cy and Joan Wolfe on the birth of their son, Rick, at the Culver City hospital. The youngster weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces, and all is well with the family, according to Cy.

Chattanooga

Marcella Lykins, Correspondent

After our long Fourth of July weekend, with the weather the hottest we have had this year, we are back at work. Many employees have chosen this time to go on vacations: Mildred McAllister, in Jacksonville, Florida; Leslie Higdon and Bernia Fischer, in Miami, Florida; Coy Jones in Selina, Kansas; Dan Hamill in the mountains of North Carolina; and many others who vacationed at home or whose destinations are unknown. Mary O'Kelley returned to work after a vacation in Gatlinburg with a wonderful tan.

■ ■ ■

Our congratulations are extended to Ben Long of the Assembly Department and Evelyn Haney in their recent marriage.

■ ■ ■

We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to Julius Bullock of the Tool Room in the recent death of his father.

■ ■ ■

Our baseball team, the Mueller "Iron Men," finished the first half of the

league tied for third place with Dixie Mercerizing team. We feel that this is a very good showing since this is the first year for some time we have had a team and the first year for the boys to play together, while all other teams in the league have had entries for the past several years. We're still pulling for the team, and wish you better luck for the second half, boys.

■ ■ ■



Delores DeSha was one of the Chattanooga graduates this spring. Delores was graduated from Hardie Junior high school. She is the daughter of Carl DeSha of the foundry department of Columbian Iron Works.

■ ■ ■

We're glad to welcome Peggy Trotter to the Sales Department.

To Mr. and Mrs. James E. Johnson, Jr., a son, James Stephen, was born May 8. It's mighty hard to tell who is proudest, Jimmy or Granddaddy Johnson. Both Jimmy and his father are employed in the assembly department.

■ ■ ■

On May 15, the marriage of Bernice Runyan, of our Sales Department, and Harold L. Compton was solemnized at the home of the officiant, the Rev. George McClure, on Lakeview Drive. The girls of the office honored the bride with a shower on May 19 at the home of Evelyn Wilbanks.

■ ■ ■

Don Andrews and Coy Jones of our Foundry Department recently attended a series of meetings sponsored by the American Foundrymen's Association and concerned all phases of foundry work. The information gathered at these meetings will eventually be used in compiling textbooks in teaching young foundrymen.



H. P. Llewellyn, brother of Henry Llewellyn, foundry, was graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, on June 3.



Championship

SEASON 1948-1949

TO MUELLER COMPANY SPONSOR
 OF THE MUSLERS TEAM
 AFFILIATED THROUGH THE CHATTANOOGA TENNESSEE BOWLING ASSOCIATION
 IN RECOGNITION FOR THE TEAM HAVING WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE
LOOKOUT BOWLING LEAGUE

AMERICAN BOWLING CONGRESS
E.H. Baumgarten
 SECRETARY

W.A. Cowdry PRESIDENT
John W. Fisher, Jr. SECRETARY

FORM NO. 31

This award was recently presented to the Mueller bowling team for winning the championship of Lookout Bowling League. Team members were Wayne Walker, Bernia Fischer, Marion Eckman, capt., Vance Riddle, Leslie Higdon and Ben Long. Walker took high individual honors.

Sarnia, Ontario

Almeda Reeve, Correspondent

Our congratulations to:
Mr. and Mrs. R. Basil Thompson, on the birth of a son, Robert Basil, on June 7. Basil is employed in department 1.

* * *

Our sincere sympathy is extended to:
Sam Round, department 7, and John Round, department 3, in the recent passing of their sister, Mrs. Clifford Davidson. Les Crooks, foreman in department 6, is also a brother-in-law.

Clyde Smith, time study department, in the death of his mother, Mrs. Fred Smith.

* * *

Henry Hardy, department 9, has returned to his work following a brief illness.

* * *

Jean Hoover, invoicing department,



Peggy Milne, daughter of John Milne, secretary of Mueller, Limited, and manager of the utility sales division, was graduated from the school of nursing, Toronto, Western hospital May 31. Commencement exercises were held in Convocation Hall, Toronto University.

has returned to work following a slight operation on her foot.

* * *

Archie Guthrie, department 7, is back to work, after having been hospitalized and confined to his home for the past three months.

* * *

Wedding bells will ring for Marian Riley, sales statistic department, on July 14, and for Kay Mullen, department 1, on July 23.

* * *

William F. Marshall retired recently after approximately 32 years of service with Mueller, Limited.



Bill was born in Sarnia in 1884 and received his education here. He resides at 184 Durand street, having lived there with his parents during the majority of his life. His first job with the company was in June, 1917, as a plumber's helper. Since that time, he has served the company in various positions in the maintenance department, being an all around maintenance man and an expert pipefitter.

All his fellow employees wished him an enjoyable retirement. Jacob Vollmer, foreman of department 10, presented him with a magnesium veranda chair and a sterling silver cigarette lighter on their behalf.

Bill's plans are not complete at present, but he has promised to make good use of the chair during the summer months. His major hobby is attending the horse races in the immediate vicinity. We almost forgot to mention that Bill is a bachelor with an affable manner.

John Milne and George W. Parker attended the Canadian Gas Convention, at Bigwin, June 16 to 20.

* * *

J. J. Conway and D. W. Westcott, representatives for Mueller, Limited, in Western Canada, spent a few days in the office recently.

The main topic in the office these days is the vacation period. No doubt a goodly number of fish stories will be forthcoming as a result of same. The plant and office of Mueller, Limited, will close for the summer vacation period from Monday, July 25, to Friday, August 5, inclusive.



DENNIS TILLEY, FIRST AID MAN

THE EFFORTS of Dennis (Doc) Tilley, first aid attendant at Mueller, Limited, are largely responsible for keeping a clean bill of health at the Canadian plant.

Doc was born at Clevedon, Somerset County, England, and came to Canada with his parents shortly after World War I. He started with Mueller, Ltd., on September 13, 1926, and worked in the assembling, rod and tubing and brass finishing departments. He became interested in the rudiments of first aid about 16 years ago, and faithfully attended classes held at the Sarnia hospital and the Red Cross building, getting a considerable amount of practical experience with the local branch of the St. John's Ambulance Corps. Then, when Mueller, Ltd., undertook munitions contracts, Doc's time became more and

more taken up with first aid work. He is now employed full time in first aid, working in conjunction with the personnel department.

Doc has a full appreciation of the consequences of accidents, for he was an accomplished musician before an accident claimed the tips of the fingers of his left hand. He holds several medals, which were won at Western Ontario Music Festivals while he was playing violin and saxophone with local orchestras.

He recently passed an examination for the Canadian Red Cross first aid instructors' certificate, and he also has been awarded the U. S. Bureau of Mines certificate and the St. John's Ambulance silver medallion.

Doc and his wife have one son, James Frederick, who is eight years old.