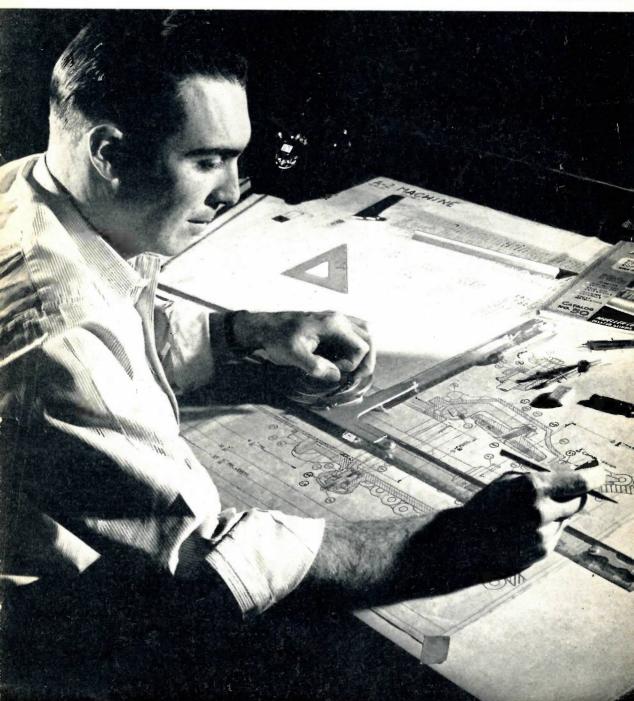
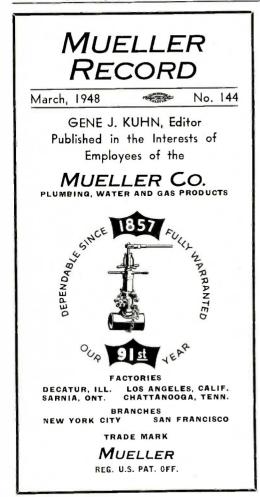


MARCH, 1948

EMPLOYEES' EDITION

No. 144





Honorably Discharged

I T IS WITH a great deal of pride that Mueller Co. points out that all of its employees who entered the armed services were honorably discharged or were released to inactive duty—in the case of reservists — after satisfactory service. The only exceptions were those killed in service.

Such a record, the company feels, is indicative of the high caliber of its employees.

There were 319 employees in military service from Mueller Co. plants at Decatur, Chattanooga and Los Angeles who received war bonds having a maturity value of \$170,800. Since the end of the war, the company has hired many more veterans.

Albert G. Webber, Jr., Mueller Co. president and treasurer said:

"All Mueller people in military service, except those making the supreme sacrifice, received honorable discharges. The company feels privileged in having been able to give some recognition to the members of this organization achieving such a record. Those who did not come back will never be forgotten and their memory will be cherished as having, in the words of Lincoln, rendered to their country that last full measure of devotion."

This Month's Cover

JOHN J. SMITH, a senior Mueller Co. engineen, is shown at his drawing board in the engineering department. Appropriately enough, that's a drawing of an A-2 tapping and inserting machine on his board. The machine is used for drilling and tapping pressure mains and inserting pipe plugs or stops without the escape of water or gas.

Smitty specializes in all equipment manufactured by the company for working on mains or making connections to mains—including water and gas mains and pipe lines.

He started with Mueller Co. as an apprentice draftsman back in 1935.

The Red Cross

O RDINARILY, ONE of the current Mueller Co. ads appears on the back cover of the Mueller Record. However, we're finding that sixteen pages just doesn't give us enough space and it has been necessary to omit news copy from time to time. Therefore, in this issue we're using the back cover for a picture story of a visit to the Decatur offices of the Macon county Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The Red Cross made an extremely valuable contribution during the war in collecting blood from which plasma was made and shipped to armed forces on all battle fronts. Now the organization plans something on the same order for the civilian population. It is currently collecting blood from volunteer donors for use as whole blood for transfusions or for blood derivatives. All blood collected by the Red Cross will be donated to hospitals for the use of patients without cost.



This is the Walton family. Left to right, back row: Donna Mae, 18; Donald, 19: Kathleen, 14; Harold, 17; and Winona, 15. Front row: Floyd (Curly) Walton, brass foundry June, 11; Kenneth, 6; Jeanine, 9; and Mrs. Walton, who is holding Richard Rodney, now nine months old.

Meet the Waltons

Floyd (Curly) Walton offers a formula for happiness: raise a large family and there's no time for worry.

I F YOU'RE WORRIED, run-down, and just simply don't get much kick out of life, Floyd (Curly) Walton of the brass foundry has a word or two of advice: raise a large family.

As the proud father of four sons and five daughters, ranging in age from nine months to eighteen years of age, Walton believes himself qualified to speak at length on the subject.

"I see it this way—raising a large family doesn't give a person time to worry," Walton said. "There's always something going on, and in some ways it's like having a grand-stand seat at the greatest show on earth. My family brings me my greatest enjoyment out of life." Each of the children has his or her own personality, Walton has found, and watching the reactions of the children to a certain set of circumstances is part of the enjoyment of having a large family.

At the present time all of the children, except Donald, the eldest son, are living at home. Don, 19, joined the Navy and is now stationed at Guam. Donna Mae, 18, is employed in Decatur, after having been graduated as salutatorian of her class at Niantic high school last spring. The youngest child is nine months old Richard Rodney.

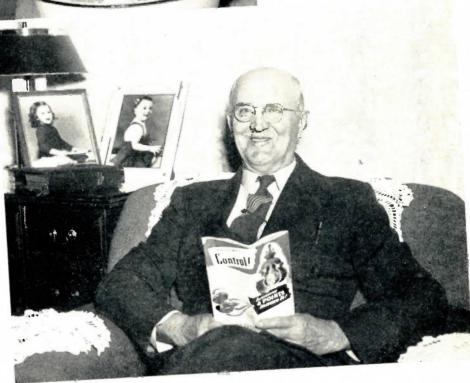
Walton, a machine molder in the foundry, has been a Mueller Co. employee for about twenty years. The family resides at Niantic.

Five More Employees Retire

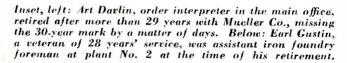


Left: In point of service, Emma M. Thomas was one of the oldest employees in the group to retire. "Murphy," as she was known, had completed 40 years of service with Mueller Co. She went on the retired list when the cafeteria was discontinued.

Below: L. W. Syfert was a comparatively recent employee, so far as retired employees are concerned. A ground key tester, he had six years and ten months of service with the company at the time of his retirement. The photos near his chair are those of his grandchildren.



Total Service: 147 Years





Carl H. Salefski, right, a turret lathe operator in department 300, is senior member of the group that retired recently. Salefski had more than 41 and one-half years of service with Mueller Co.





Ed Stille, maintenance department foreman, singles out a wishbone for a critical, if not professional, inspection as Joe Toth, former cafeteria chef, supports one of the trays of fried chicken served during the Men's Night dinner of the Mueller Social Club at the cafeteria.

Chow Down for the Social Club

M EMBERS OF THE Mueller Social Club, composed of the wives of Mueller Co. foremen and executives, were guests of their husbands at a fried chicken dinner which was held February 18 at the cafeteria.

Ordinarily, the ladies prepare the meals served at the club's monthly getto-gethers. The occasion for reversing the usual procedure was the annual Men's Night dinner, which was planned, prepared and served by the organization's masculine auxiliary.

One of the talking points for attracting a larger than usual attendance at the dinner was, "Your children cared for and entertained." Wallace Gould, engineering department, who was chairman of the committee in charge of the dinner, doubled as chief baby-sitter and entertainer for the evening. He had taken the precaution of laying in a supply of movies to show his charges.

The dinner attracted 110 adults and 18 children, and the men and their guests consumed 36 chickens. Besides quantities of fried chicken, the menu included whipped potatoes, frozen peas, salad, relishes, rolls, chocolate pie, coffee, candy and nuts.

Members of the committee in charge of the dinner, in addition to Gould, the general chairman and the one-man entertainment of children committee, were Bill Bailey, food; Jack Chepan, tables and service; Loyle Davis, prizes; Merlin Coates, publicity and tickets; and Pete Duncan, entertainment.

The men turned over a profit of \$17.94 to the Social Club's treasury.

6



Merlin Coates, Howard Gragg and Loyle Davis saw to it that the portions were man-sized, even though the dinner was primarily for the ladies who usually have this particular duty.



They figured Jack Chepan, service foreman, was just the man to provide the service. He's serving Mrs. Bert Butt and Patricia Butt here, with Mrs. Howard Gragg, foreground.

7

HOW LONG DOES IT take for an "average" worker to pick up a casting, put it into the chuck of his lathe, box tool it, thread it, and return it to a tote box, ready for the next operation?

The Standards Department has the figures for this entire operation as well as a breakdown to the split second of the time required to perform each of the elemental motions

of this particular job. The department's figures cover in minute detail all production jobs in the factory.

The man with the stop watch has a tough job. From his figures, rates for performing jobs in a given length of time are established, and since no two operators are of exactly equal ability, the human element becomes an important factor in his reckoning.

For example, the time required by a comparatively new man to perform a certain job usually is much longer than that required by a skilled operator.

Left: Merlin Coates, time study engineer, clocks Bob Hill, specialty division operator, as he machines a shell cutter on an engine lathe. Below: This is the team of Carter and Carter. Artie, the time study engineer, times Myrle, head core. maker at plant No. 2.



STOP WATCH =

Therefore, the time study man must "grade up" the work of the skilled man, while the time required by the poor or inexperienced operator to do a job must be "graded down." A levelling of these figures is then made, the final result being a reasonable allowance of time that can be met by a worker giving average performance in doing his work.

Experience has shown that this human element has a definite time value that shows up on the stop watch. Suppose, for example, that an operator, seeing a time study man approaching, decides to slow down a little while the man with the watch is observing his work. The time study man finds right off that his stop watch is showing a wide discrepancy in the time required for the individual operations, for a workman acquires a rhythm in doing his work that is difficult to alter.

On the other hand, the Standards Department has found that some operators invariably get a bad case of "stage fright" when they know a time study is being conducted at their machines. They unconsciously speed up to a rate that would be impossible to maintain for any length of time.

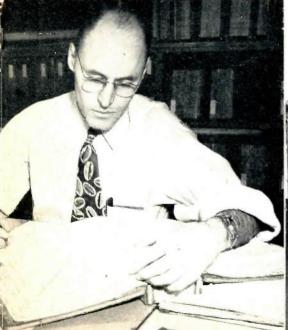
Obviously, a rate based on the sprinting of one man and the slowing down of another would be unfair. In both cases and for good, bad and indifferent operators— the time study must make allowances for the human element, so that an optimum rate can be set up for production work.

To avoid penalizing a fast, clean operator, incentive schedules have been set up which permit extra pay in the form of bonuses for production over and above the standards made by the time study.

There are other factors, too, that enter into a time study. The workers' skill and effort are considered, as well as his equipment, tools, arrangement of work, material handling equipment, and working conditions in general. These factors are all weighed and allowances made to the figures obtained with a stop watch.

Below: Bill Mueller, time study engineer, checks one of the hundreds of time studies which record each motion of every operation of production work in the plant. The studies are kept on file for ready reference.

Below: Studying a sequence of operations sheet is Cecil Coffin, another engineer. The sequence includes each operation that goes into the manufacture of a product, from coreroom to its completion, ready for assembly.





hattanooga

I suppose you could say things are still buzzing around Chattanooga. We have had quite a few changes in the last few weeks.

Seems that we have had more than our share of sickness. Virgie Sheffey is back with us after a few weeks of illness. Mr. Van Vleet was ill for a few days. Glenda Wilson's father has been quite seriously ill and hospitalized but is doing some better now. Ernestine Eldridge's sister has undergone an operation but is doing very well at home again. Bob Parsons has been seriously ill for several weeks, but we hear he is better now. We have an epidemic of mumps throughout the plant and more than our share of colds and the flu. But we are glad to report that nearly everyone is much better and will be quite well in time to have spring fever.

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to Oscar Hubble in the death of his daughter; Mary O'Kelley in the death of her grandmother; Frank Kellett in the death of his grandmother; and Mr. Bob Lusk in the death of his father-in-law.

All of Columbian Iron Works expresses deep sympathy to the family of Mr. Charles Ferre of our machine shop, who died unexpectedly Saturday, March 6. It is with a feeling of great loss that we think of Mr. Ferre, his cheerful smile, his willingness to lend a helping hand, and his kind word for everyone.

The cost department has another redhead now, Shirley Reed, who took Edythe Wardlaw's place when Edythe left to help her husband in his business. Shirley is a quiet, sweet, unassuming person and we are glad to have her with us. * * *

M M M

Our Alabam' Gal, Euleen Reed, who was in the engineering department left us to be married. We now have another pert number, Reba Hall. She is a slender girl with very pretty long blonde hair and a vivacious manner. We also have a new draftsman in this department, James Walker, who was formerly with the T.V.A. Already Jim has become a regular with us—can't decide if it's that boo-ti-ful flivver of his or his nice personality. John McFadder, who left us for "Sunny California" some time ago is back. We welcome all these people.

It has been several years since she was with us, but we are glad to have Ernestine Eldridge back with us in the sales department.

Several Monday mornings ago Lois Trotter said that her face was all red from windburn because she rode to Atlanta in an open convertible, but I wonder.

We welcome Otis Baggett, our new unit group leader, and Dewey Honeycutt, new foundry production checker, to our midst.

Coy Jones says that the last he heard from Howard Morton he was buying a mule for his farm. Seems that cutting wood, digging fish worms, and all the other work isn't enough for his wife, so he just must have her do the plowing now.

Note to the Editor: Please don't leave out the paragraph where I thanked Coy Jones for his help. He says he is tired of writing articles for the paper and never seeing his name after them.

* * *

Ernie Campbell is planning in a big way another tomato patch this year. We wish him more success than he had last year. Perhaps he will have good luck, for we hear that Mr. Morton has been helping him. Ernie was "took" with spring fever early and felt that he just had to go swimming. So he just went down in his basement. Practicing up on fancy diving, I think. How was it, Ernie? I think the whole assembly department would like to be invited. Everyone is wondering if Frank Puffer is immune to the mumps. Seems that everyone in his department but Frank has been off with them.

Wonder why everyone turns Wade Lowery down when he invites them on a fishing trip. Could it be the \$3.50 he charges, or because the fish just never bite where he goes? What's all this we hear about Major Hopper going to work someone else's garden and keep their lawn cut. How about it, Hop?

We'll be leaving you for this time with this thought given by Henry Ford: EVERY TIME THAT A MAN STOPS WORK HE THROWS THAT MUCH EX-TRA BURDEN ON OTHERS.



WHEN \$1,200 IN WAR BONDS recently were turned over to Capt. Elmer J. Merrow, a former employee in department 8, the Mueller Co. completed a program begun during the war which resulted in the payment of series E bonds with a maturity value of \$170,-800 to employees who served in the armed forces.

The board of directors voted to buy \$300 worth of series E bonds a year for each employee of the company who went into the armed services between October 17, 1940, the date the selective service law became effective, and June 7, 1941, six months before Pearl Harbor. It also voted to purchase \$150 worth of series E bonds a year for each employee who had worked for the company after June The bonds were purchased 7. 1941. through the Millikin Trust Co., which held them in escrow until the honorable discharge of each employee, when they could be claimed.

There were 248 eligible employees from Decatur and Los Angeles, and 71 from Chattanooga. A similar program also was set up for employees of Mueller, Ltd., Sarnia, Ontario. Decatur and Los Angeles employees received an average of \$688.71 in bonds, and Chattanooga employees received an average of \$622.53.

The bonds of those who died or were killed in action were turned over to their beneficiaries. Military casualties were Joe Brownback, Leroy Halbrook, Russell Short, James Kintner, George Kirk, Harold Smith and Glenn Belcher.

Capt. Merrow, the last man to be paid under the program, is remaining on ac-

tive duty in the Army. He was employed in the machine shop at plant No. 2, Decatur, before being transferred to the main plant. He checked out to enter the Army on February 28, 1941.

**

Now that Spring is here—at least, according to the calendar — Mueller Co. employees, like a lot of other people, are wondering whether the old bus will hold together for still one more vacation trip. The vacation period for the Decatur factory and main office this year will start the evening of Friday, June 25, and end Tuesday morning, July 5.

The Decatur plant will also close down from November 29 to December 4 in order that the annual inventory may be taken. There will be no mid-inventory period this year.

*

The supervisory committee of the Credit Union has asked that members turn in their passbooks for the annual audit before April 1. The state auditor requires that the supervisory committees of all credit unions make an annual check of all passbooks to verify entries. The supervisory committee includes Charles Brown, Haldon Hanson and Raymond Roarick.

The month of January was a record month in loans made. During the month, a total of \$21,806.34 was loaned by the Credit Union. Harold Munsterman treasurer, said the large amount loaned was due to a change in by-laws which now permits the Credit Union to make loans up to \$1,600.

During January and February, shares bought in the Credit Union amounted to



Personnel of the main office presented Jack Rubicam, senior cost clerk, with many entertaining and useful gifts, not the least of which is shown here, on the occasion of the recent birth of a daughter, Jacquelyn Ann.



There were a couple of proud people involved in the taking of this photo: (1) Stanley Ashby, grinding room foreman, who clicked the shutter; and (2) Dean Stanley, 4, who was holding his new sister, Mary Aileen, for the first time.

Quite obviously, the conclosy suit has been forgotten in favor of the greater attraction.



Services were held March 3 at South Gate, California, for Charles H. DuBois, veteran Mueller Co. salesman, who died at his home in Huntington Park February 29. Mr. Du-Bois first started in the shipping room of the Decatur plant in 1909, and had been a salesman out of the Los Angeles plant from 1933 to his retirement, February 28, 1947.



The engagement of Phyllis Jean Bateman, payroll department, to Harold Leroy Hebel was recently announced. The wedding is planned for this summer. Phyllis was formerly in the advertising department.

\$21,800.85 and loans totals \$37,294.47. The Credit Union now has a membership of 622.

25

In response to a call by Major Fred Brewer of the Salvation Army, Wilbur Tucker, garage utility man, was dispatched to Bunker Hill March 19 with a Mueller Co. truck carrying a load of food for survivors of a tornado which flattened about 80 per cent of the town of 1,500.

Major Brewer called about noon, requesting aid, and the truck was immediately placed at his disposal. Tucker said all but "two or three" houses were completely razed or badly damaged by the tornado, which struck the morning of March 19. Tucker returned to Decatur about 9:45 o'clock that night.

Nineteen persons were killed and property damage was estimated at onehalf million dollars at Bunker Hill, which is about 100 miles southwest of Decatur. It was the second devastating tornado that had struck the city within the past ten years.



William Baker, Correspondent

Bea Korte left her post at the main office switchboard to resume her duties as housewife, leaving husband Ralph to "sweat it out" (?) in the engineering office. Bea was presented with a fountain pen and a rum cake from her friends in the office.

Alyce Murray, keeper of the laboratory, has been favoring a sprained ankle following a sojourn in the snow around Mt. San Gorgonio. The injury was sustained in a spill involving Beck and Charlie Portee and one toboggan. Alyce of course, being low man, was the lone

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Mid-year graduates at Los Angeles included Denald Martin, left, son of Mrs. Margaret Martin, who is in the plating room, and Milton Brandolino, Jr., whose father is a turret lathe operator in the steel machine shop. casualty of the party that included Charlie and Velma Portee, Claude Beckham, Hank Thomson, and Dolores Seawert.

Speaking of snow sports, it is continually amazing the way skiing has taken hold here in Southern California. There are a few ski enthusiasts, here in our own shop, who may be divided into two groups: the winter or snow variety and the summer or lake group.

Well, nobody lives forever.

* * *

The Mueller Departmental Bowling League is about to wind up its 28-week season.

It has been a rugged battle all the way with a neck-and-neck stretch drive between the Forgers, Polishers and office.

At this writing, it appears that the Forgers are going to win by a nose from the Polishers. Reservations can be claimed for the foregoing statement, towit: the Forgers must get over the Office before they can claim the title of champions. According to the latter, that will be a large order to fill, for the Office is laying for this game.

As we go into the last lap, the crown of Earl Bright, machine shop foreman, is listing badly to port. At present, Earl has the high game series prize almost within reach with a series of 648, but he is being crowded by Ground Key's Bill Young and the Polisher's Clyde Valentine. John Marshall's 255 for high game looks good as does the Polisher's high team series of 2897. In the special events department, Larry F a n t u z z i stands alone as the champ trick-shot artist.

With the coming sweepstakes as the only remaining hope of redemption, the Assemblers, Ground key, Foundry and Molders will try to salvage something from the dying embers.

All in all, the league has been successful in serving as a medium for establishing new acquaintances and the development of a friendly competition.

It is a well known fact that there is nothing like a hobby to give a man (or womån) the relaxation that everyone needs for a well balanced life. Now there may be many people in our own plant with varied hobbies, who would like to contact others interested in the same thing, and so we offer the following suggestion: whether it be photography, model building, art, rifle or handgun shooting, sewing, golf, basket weaving or bird watching, write your name, together with the hobby you are interested in, on a slip of paper and turn it in to the nurse. Miss Prewett. In this way, we may be able to establish small groups or clubs with regular home meetings and enable all to benefit through mutual exchange of ideas and information. If you are interested, act at once and we can get rolling.

Farewell-and a Moral

To those of you who know Wilma Hyde, and that covers a lot of us, you may have been surprised no end to learn of her retirement March 5. The loss of "Blondie" will be felt for some time to come, both as an employee and a friend.

She started with Mueller Co. in 1934 as a coremaker and later transferred to the assembly department, where she worked as a packer until the war. During the war years, Wilma was made foreman of the assembly department which was at that time handling the deburring, inspection and packing of our fluid fittings. At the close of the war, she returned to the packing department with the added responsibility of serving as women's counsellor.

Mr. and Mrs. Hyde plan the purchase of property in Quincy, California, located about 80 miles from Reno, Nevada. They intend to build a six unit court and a home for themselves, where they



Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Hyde

will raise chickens and other small stock. And that brings us right down to our moral.

Here we have two people who have worked together and saved for a number of years with but one definite goal in mind. By sticking to their purpose, they have reached that goal long before the time when the average person even thinks about his future in retirement. Sounds like a nice deal, doesn't it? Oh, it was rough at times, but they have proved their point—it can be done.

We all join in wishing these people the very best of luck in their venture and feel that with such perserverance, their success is assured.



Almeda Reeve, Correspondent

Patricia May Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Smith, became the bride of Melvyn Douglas Phillips, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold H. Phillips, Toronto, in a candlelight service at St. James' Anglican church at Kenogami, Quebec, on March 6.

Pat was formerly employed in the accounts payable department. Prior to her departure on February 13, C. S. Browett, office manager, presented her with a pair of linen sheets on behalf of the office staff.

We welcome Mel Burley back to work after he was laid up due to having his fingers injured in one of the grinders in the foundry.

Kay Mullins is now able to be back at work. Kay had the misfortune to have the end taken off one of her fingers.

We understand a certain number of Mueller fellows are having a stag party at the local Boat Club. Wonder what they are fishing for?

A number of the foremen attended the Montreal "Canadian" vs. Detroit "Red Wing" hockey game March 6. When the Mueller crowd arrived (late as usual), the Canadians were in the lead by a score of 2 to 0. Evidently the Canucks were over-confident, because the game ended in a tie. From all reports a good time was had by all.

We are wondering why Trynjte (our little Dutch girl) comes to the bowling alley. She doesn't bowl, so there must be some other attraction.

We think "Homer" has a girl friend, as some one reported having seen him downtown one night. Won't you tell us her name, Homer?

We welcome Gwen Gill back to the office after she was laid up with the

mumps. Tut! Tut! We thought Gwen had passed that stage!

George Lee, department 3, has been confined to the Sarnia General hospital for the past five weeks. We hope you will soon be able to be back with us, George.

Almeda Reeve returned to her duties March 8 after having been painfully injured in an automobile accident.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Leo Macksey in the loss of their small son, to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Richmond in the loss of one of their infant sons, and to Bob Gillson in the sudden passing of his father.

Among the recent births:

A son, Warren Douglas, to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Milliken. Doug is employed in department 9.

A son, James Milton, to Mr. and Mrs. James A. Brent. Jim is in department 15.

Twin sons, Ronald James and John Richard, to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Richmond. Hank is employed in department 10.

* * *

Norma Pauline Beaton, streamline sales division, became the bride of Robert Bryan Cathcart at the United Church at Corunna, Ontario, March 20.

*

Approaching marriages:

The wedding of Barbara Wilhelmina Wiggins, utilities sales division, to Donald Ross Cuthbertson, department 2, will take place April 10 at the Central United Church parsonage.

Lois Phillips of Sarnia and Edward (Ted) Campbell, department 7, will be married on April 17.

Congratulations, folks!



Dr. Herbert J. Bavor inserts a hollow needle into an arm vein of Ruth Austin, secretary to Albert G. Webber, Jr., Mueller Co. president, and the blood is collected in a glass flask.



Alice Hartwig, student nurse at Decatur - Macon County hospital, steadies the needle while slowly moving the flask to aid the mixing of the blood and sodium citrate, added as an anti-coagulant.

Here's a chance to save a life

THE LESSONS LEARNED in World War II are being adapted to the needs of civilians in peace-time by the American Red Cross, which is undertaking a nation-wide blood program to make possible an immediately available s u p l y of blood and blood products wherever and whenever needed.

In Decatur, Mrs. Robert H. Mueller is chairman of the Red Cross blood program, which is sponsored by the Macon County Medical Association. Although the program has been underway for only a short time, its value already has been established, for whole blood has been used for transfusions at local hospitals almost as fast as it is collected. Eventually, the program plans to provide for every citizen as much blood and blood derivatives as needed—and without cost.

The Red Cross has pointed out that in the past the cost of a single transfusion has ranged from \$25 to \$60, and that a single transfusion was rarely enough for a patient. Under the blood program the patient would receive all the blood he required without the worry of what it would cost.

During the war, the Red Cross collected 13,326,242 pints of blood as the free gift of Americans to the armed services. Estimates are that the amount needed for the nation in the course of a year is 3,700,000 pints.



Mrs. Robert H. Mueller, left, chairman of the Red Cross blood program, and Mrs. Marie Tratzik, R. N., former Mueller Co, nurse, chat with the donor as she is served refreshments afterward.



Mrs. D. A. Pence, R. N., is shown placing the flask of blood in a portable cooler. The whole blood can be preserved three weeks, or used to produce plasma or other blood fractions.