

MUELLER RECORD



MUELLER RECORD

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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.
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TRADE MARK

MUELLER
Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

The Cover

HARRY SMITH, machine molder at Plant No. 2, Decatur, is shown pouring a mold in the iron foundry. In the background Joe Crane, tag man, is shifting weights as the molds are poured. Smith has been a Mueller Co. employee for the past eight years. Crane started with the company two years ago.

Mueller Quality

A MUELLER CO. salesman had occasion recently to make a call on a customer of long standing who had received a shipment containing some defective goods. Fortunately, the salesman was able to smooth matters over, for the customer was inclined to be tolerant. But the incident, nevertheless,

made an impression on the salesman, and he wrote a letter to the main office, asking, in effect, "What's wrong with Mueller quality?"

These particular items, it was found, had required six machining operations after leaving the foundry. The defects were quite obvious, but the bad castings, which should not have entered the shop in the first place, had been passed along by the different operators, assembled, and sent to the customer. Somewhere along the route in the plant, some one must have noticed that the items were defective. Some one was asleep at the switch.

The name Mueller on a product means that it's a *quality* product. That's the main factor in the manufacture of all the company's products. That's what a customer depends on. Quality is what a salesman sells, and he's selling in a highly competitive market now. If the salesman doesn't sell, you don't make it. It's as simple as that.

HAP HAZARD



TO ALL MUELLER CO. EMPLOYEES:

No doubt many of you have been alarmed at the business conditions which resulted in a curtailment of our forces in recent weeks. These conditions have been general throughout the entire country and in almost all lines of industry. It is our belief that this is nothing more than a trend toward normalcy.

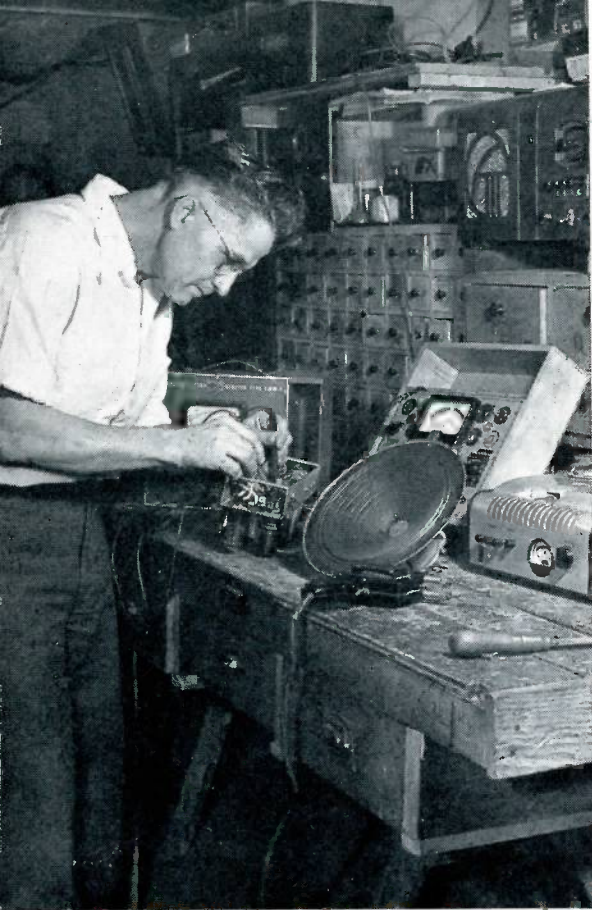
In our own business, we feel that the slackening off of orders was a seasonal decline, something that has all but been forgotten since 1941. Many of you have been in a position to learn that our high level of employment here at the Decatur factory has been far above normal since the war. We have had a huge backlog of orders, and it was mandatory for competitive reasons to fill those orders as quickly as possible and then get into production on a normal schedule. A seasonal letdown in business is perfectly natural for a company engaged in our type of work, for our customers are physically unable to use our products in quantity during the inclement winter months. Quite possibly, too, many of them delayed ordering as late as possible, hoping for price declines.

We feel that there is every reason to expect a level of employment and production equal to or better than that of the "good years" before the war. It must be kept in mind by all employees that we are in a buyers' market and that competition and prices will be deciding factors in the acceptance of our products. Therefore, it is necessary that we hold down all costs while increasing production and the quality of our products.



Factory Manager.

Mueller Co. Employees



Moats is shown at work in his home radio workshop, where he invented his unique timing device, which automatically selects station, turns radio and recorder off and on.

HAROLD MOATS, pattern shop, has invented a device that should prove a boon to the serious radio fan who may be away from home several days at a time but who still doesn't want to take a chance of missing his favorite radio program.

Invention of the device came about through Moats' hobby of radio work. Briefly described, the machine is a timer which can be set up to a week in advance to turn on the radio for any broadcast period desired and will also select the station over which the program is to be broadcast. The timer also turns on a wire recorder, which enables the program to be played back at the owner's convenience. When the timer starts into action, it selects the station, turns on the radio and wire recorder 15 seconds ahead of the scheduled broadcast to enable the radio to warm up, and then shuts off both the radio and recorder 10 seconds after the conclusion of the broadcast. The timer may be set for any period desired, but not less than the standard 15-minute broadcast. Biggest bug in the whole set-up at present is that the wire for the recorder is good for only one hour.

The timer itself is a 12-inch disk, graduated in 15-minute intervals. An electric motor turns it at the rate of .057 inch each 15 minutes. A system of pins and contact brushes sets up the electrical circuits for activating the station selector, radio and recorder.



Have Unique Hobbies

BILL JOHNSON, a draftsman in the tool engineering office, has found a means of transferring his hobbies of hunting and fishing indoors through a third hobby. He specializes in painting wildlife scenes on decorative plates and glass, using paints which harden into a permanent glaze when baked. No special equipment is needed, except paints and brushes, but the hobby does require talent. The scene is painted on a plate which is then placed in the kitchen oven for 15 minutes at 300 degrees, and when it cools it is ready to be hung for decorative purposes or to be used for everyday table service.

A native of Colorado and an ardent trout fisherman, Bill is particularly proud of the plates that show fishing scenes. One, for example, shows a rainbow trout striking a fly. The painting is accentuated by smaller paintings of other artificial flies around the rim of the plate. Fish and flies are reproduced with excellent detail and attention to color. As an example of his versatility, Bill occasionally makes plates to order, as was the case when these photographs were taken, and the painting then may be of almost any type. The photographs on this page show him completing work on a pair of portraits, which were copied from old prints.

Bill is an ex-serviceman and a former draftsman for the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad Company. He began painting about two years ago.



Above: Johnson is placing two of his decorative plates in the kitchen oven to bake the paints into a hard, serviceable glaze. Lower photo: painting a portrait on one of the plates.





This group of Mueller Co. employees apparently approved the first day's menu.

Mueller Cafeteria Re-Opens

Nationwide Food Service, Inc., industrial catering firm, takes over management; closed since March 1, 1948.

THE MUELLER CAFETERIA, closed since last March 1, re-opened March 15 under the management of Nationwide Food Service, Inc., Chicago, which operates a nation-wide industrial catering service.

Leo J. Dingman, St. Louis, area supervisor for Nationwide Food Service, was in charge of preliminary work attendant to the re-opening of the cafeteria, and

Helen O'Dell, Margaret Carter and Nola Lowry, all of the coreroom, were among the first customers at the recently re-opened cafeteria. They are being served by Alice Sweitzer.

will remain here until the cafeteria is firmly established. According to present plans, Dingman said, Nationwide Food Service will appoint a full-time manager for the cafeteria, possibly a qualified local resident.

Prior to the signing of a contract with Nationwide Food Service, the Mueller Co. management polled employees for an expression of their desires on the re-opening of the cafeteria. Of the 459 employees who replied to a questionnaire sent out early last month, 379 requested the re-opening of the cafeteria.

Mueller Co. management has emphasized that the cafeteria will be operated by the outside catering firm on a strict profit and loss basis, and that Mueller Co. will have nothing to do with the management of the cafeteria except to forward requests and criticisms received from employees.

Nationwide Food Service has had wide experience in the management of industrial cafeterias, including establishments with Shell Oil Company, Wood River, Illinois; General Motors, Detroit and Flint, Michigan; Emerson Electric Manufacturing Co., St. Louis; National Biscuit Company, Chicago; and others.

Mueller Co. employees who bring their lunches will continue to have the privilege of eating at the cafeteria.





Leo J. Dingman, left, area supervisor for Nationwide Food Service, gave a hand in serving the first day's crowd.



Marva Witt, right, tool room office, and Scott Redmon, heat treat, have their trays checked by Opal Jones.



Below: Apparently the checks were not such bad news to Louise Moore, pattern shop; Kathryn Travis, nurse; Louise Whitehead, plant engineer's office, and Margaret Blankenburg, personnel office.





Howard Gragg uses hands-across-the-table method in serving

Mrs. Leroy Trimmer supervises while

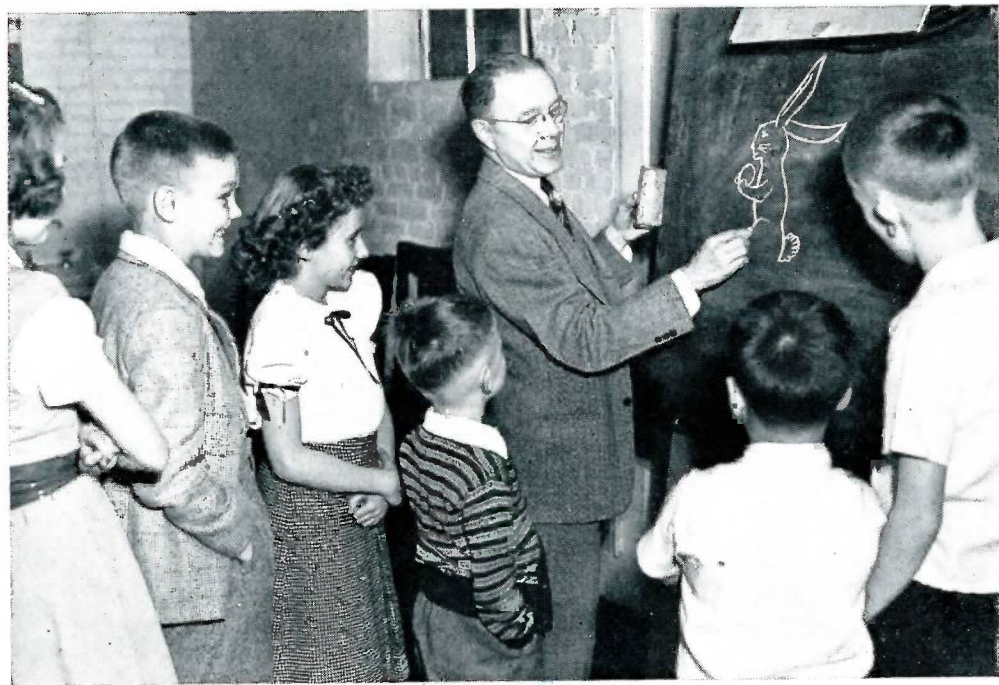
Mueller Foremen Entertain Wives

Serve Fried Chicken
At Annual Men's Dinner

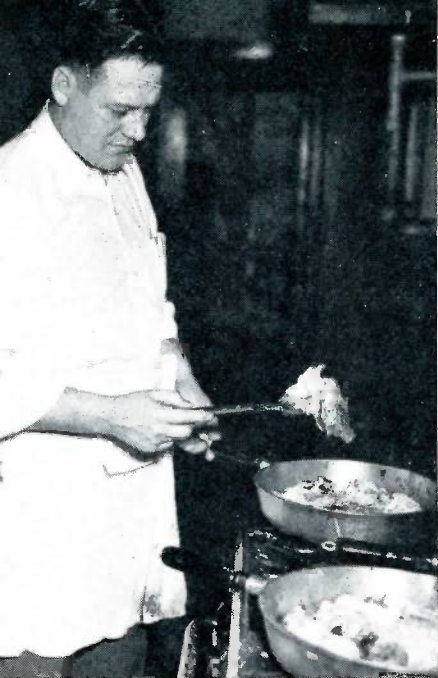
THE ANNUAL Men's Night Dinner of the Mueller Social Club, held February 16 at Mueller Lodge, was attended

by 89 adults—company foremen and supervisors and their wives—and thirteen children. Fried chicken and all the trimmings were served to the guests. The foremen doubled as kitchen police, waiters and dishwashers, and Herman Jackson was in complete charge of entertaining the children. Preparation of the meal was under the supervision of Mrs. Leroy Trimmer. Although attendance at the dinner was under last year's fig-

Herman Jackson had a highly appreciative audience for his drawings during the evening.



→ and kids



Loyle Davis fries chicken . . .

Elmer Fawley (with cigar) saw that youngsters had plenty to eat.

ure, Merlin Coates, general chairman, reported that the committee in charge had managed to scrape by in the black. Coates turned over \$8.14 to the treasurer of the Mueller Social Club. Herman A. (Jack) Chepan, one of the waiters, turned in what was regarded by witnesses as the most remarkable feat of the evening. Jack tripped while carrying a tray loaded with dishes, went into a juggling act while regaining his bal-

ance, finally came upright without the loss of a single dish, and then observed mildly: "Just about lost it." The committee for the dinner included Coates, Chepan, Loyle Davis, Everett Dickey, R. K. (Pete) Duncan, Elmer Fawley, Carleton Hackman, Jackson, Ray Kileen, Gene Kuhn, and Elwood Potts. Other foremen were pressed into service as needed.

K.P. duty for Merlin Coates, Carleton Hackman . . . Elwood Potts had charge of tomato juice.





Recently elected officers of Local 838, U.A.W. (A.F.L.), are, seated: L. B. McKinney, Richard Dannewitz, Jesse C. Dailey, Eugene Latch and Art Nash. Standing, left to right: Clarence Woodrum, Hugh R. Mooney, Albert Golembeck, Martin Riewski, W. L. Adams, John Willis, T. W. Edwards, Dwayne Lebo, Dale Bolen, John Curry, and Wilbur Davidson. Dailey is president.

New Officers For Local 838

Members name Jesse Dailey as president, succeeding Russell Armstrong; Gene Latch, vice-president.

JESSE C. DAILEY, department 9, was recently elected president of Local 838, U.A.W. (A.F.L.), bargaining agency of production and maintenance employees at the Decatur plants of Mueller Co., succeeding Russell Armstrong, plant No. 2.

Dailey was formerly chairman of the local's bargaining committee.

Eugene Latch, brass foundry, another former member of the bargaining committee, was elected vice-president, succeeding John Curry, department 8, who was elected to a 2-year term as one of two building board members. Martin Riewski, department 9, is completing his second year as a member of the building board.

The other officers, all re-elected, are:

Richard Dannewitz, pattern shop, recording secretary; L. B. McKinney, department 8, financial secretary-treasurer; Albert Golembeck, department 8, sergeant-at-arms; and Clarence Woodrum, also of department 8, guide.

Art Nash, who completed a term as a 3-year trustee, was re-elected for another 3-year term. Other trustees are Hugh R. Mooney, boiler room, 2-year trustee; and Wilbur Davidson, department 9, 1-year trustee.

To avoid the necessity of "breaking in" an all-new bargaining committee, the local this year made an innovation in electing members of the committee. T. W. (Bud) Edwards, machine repair, a former president of the local, was elected chairman of the bargaining committee for a 2-year term, and W. L. (Lefty) Adams, department 9, vice-chairman, was elected for a similar term.

The other members of the bargaining committee are Dale Bolen, department 60; Dwayne Lebo, department 8; and John Willis, plant No. 2.

All officers were nominated and elected from the floor, in accordance with a change in the international union's constitution, which went into effect last year.



This group of service pin winners represents a total of 290 years of service with Mueller, Ltd. Seated from left to right are: George W. Parker, president of Mueller, Ltd., 25 years; Milton Miners, 35 years; Flora Mann, 30 years; Gordon D. Callum, 30 years; and R. J. Skippon, 25 years. Back row: Charles Teskey, 25 years; John Milne, 25 years; Robert C. Barnes, 25 years; Alex Hodges, 20 years; W. Lawrence Payne, 25 years; and Carlyle Smith, 25 years.

Service Pins For Sarnia Employees

Milton Miners heads Mueller, Ltd., list with 35 years; Flora Mann, Gordon Callum qualify for 30-year awards.

SERVICE PINS were recently awarded to 59 employees of Mueller, Limited, by George W. Parker, president, who qualified this year for a 25-year pin. Oldest employee in the group in point of service was Milton Miners, who received a 35-year pin.

Those who qualified for service pins were:

35 Year Pin
Milton Miners

30 Year Pins
Gordon D. Callum Flora K. Mann

25 Year Pins
Robert C. Barnes George W. Parker
Charles Hardy Lawrence Payne
George Hayward Robert J. Skippon
John Milne Carl Smith
Charles Teskey

20 Year Pin
Alex Hodges

15 Year Pins
Charles Dodds Edwin C. Hiller

5 Year Pins

Walter Ash	Annie Grigorsky
Joseph Ayres	Andrew Ironside
Stanley Bell	Charles McK. Jay
William Bedard	Henry Junek
Earl Brown	Henry Jewitt
Harold Brown	Mona Luckham
Charles Browett	Lila McDougall
Thomas Brydges	Lois McPhee
Maurice Bryan	Doris McLaughlin
Mazie M. Brereton	Katharine MacDon-
Helen Babcock	ald
Grace Campbell	Kathleen Mullen
Norma Cathcart	Thomas Muxlow
John Chudik	Frank Petronski
Margaret Connors	Erie R. Parsons
Earl Considine	Jean Reynolds
Frank Evans	Phillip J. Riley
Mabel Evans	Dorothy Smith
John Evoy	Charles H. Stevens
George R. German	Frank Sewter
Donald Goodall	Keith Stirling
Gladys Green	John A. Stott
	Harold Taylor

Decatur

Mueller Co. employees set an impressive safety record during 1948, the factory manager's office has announced. A statistical summary recently compiled showed these contrasts in the figures for 1948 and 1947.

A 31 per cent reduction in the number of occupational cases treated by the medical department.

An 89 per cent reduction in number of days lost and time charges.

An average frequency rate of 16.5 in 1948, compared to 26.7 in 1947, a reduction of 31 per cent.

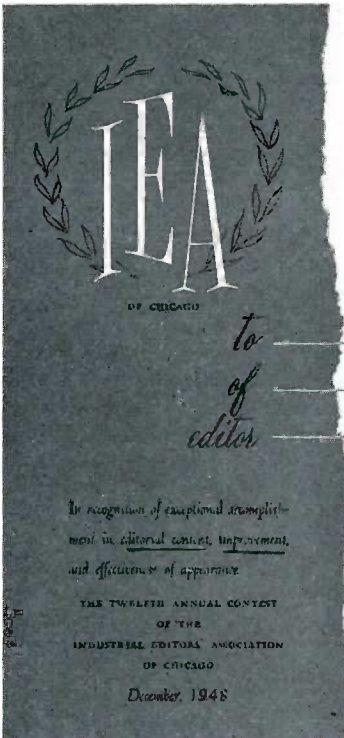
An average severity rate of 0.43 in 1948, compared to 3.78 in 1947, a reduction of 86 per cent.

Although national averages for frequency and severity rates for 1948 are not yet available, the national averages

for comparable manufacturing for 1947 were 13.9 for frequency and 1.49 for severity. The frequency rate is based on the number of lost time accidents per million man hours worked, and the severity rate is determined by the number of days lost per thousand man hours worked.



R. K. (Pete) Duncan, superintendent of the toolmaking and machine repair division, was recently elected president of a newly-organized Mueller supervisors' club, which, according to present plans, will be primarily a social organization. Other officers elected were G. Edgar Hartwig, vice-president; Wallace Gould, secretary; Merlin Coates, treasurer; and Ray Kileen, program chairman.



cum laude

Award

Mueller Record
Mueller Company
Gene J. Kuhn

Frederick M. Pownall *David B. Eisenberg*

FREDERICK M. POWNALL
Director of Publications, University of Iowa

DAVID B. EISENBERG
Editor, Graphic Arts Monthly

The outside edition of the Mueller Record, published primarily for friends and customers of Mueller Co., recently received the above award in the twelfth annual publications contest of the Industrial Editors' Association of Chicago. The judges were Frederick M. Pownall, director of publications, University of Iowa, and David B. Eisenberg, editor of the Graphic Arts Monthly.

George Baker was appointed chief time clerk, effective February 14. His duties will be to coordinate the work of time clerks in 19 departments in the factory in order to standardize reporting and recording of time in the various departments.

■ ■ ■

John H. Smith, sand hopper attendant, brass foundry, retired March 10, after more than 23 years' service with Mueller Co. Smith started with Mueller Co. in 1925, and his entire service was in the brass foundry. He had formerly been a molder.

■ ■ ■

O. C. (Carl) Draper, a veteran of more than 36 years' service with Mueller Co., retired March 2 on the company's "rule of 80" plan. Carl started with the company on September 5, 1912, and in March, 1922, he was appointed assistant



O. C. (CARL) DRAPER

sales manager in charge of plumbing sales. He served in that position for a number of years and was well-known in the trade. Later, when the company withdrew from the plumbing field, he was appointed to the post of claims ad-

juster for the main office, a position he held until his retirement. Carl's son, Bill, is a Mueller Co. salesman with headquarters in Birmingham, Alabama.

■ ■ ■

Edwin C. Stille, a Mueller Co. employee for more than 28 years prior to his retirement April 1, 1948, died at Decatur and Macon County hospital March 12 after a short illness. Ed, a mainten-



EDWIN C. STILLE

ance department foreman at the time of his retirement, was well known to Mueller Co. personnel, for he took an active part in all types of employee activities.

Services were held March 14, and interment was at Fairlawn cemetery. Survivors include his wife, Estella Gertrude Stille, payroll department, and the following brothers and sisters: William A. Stille, Cincinnati; George Stille, Batesville, Indiana; and Mrs. Lillie Graff, Mrs. Sarah Meyers, and Mrs. Myrtle Marlin, all of Sunman, Indiana.

■ ■ ■

The annual vacation period this year will begin at the close of working hours on Friday, June 24, and will continue until the regular starting times on Tuesday, July 5, the management committee has announced.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Scheibly recently announced the engagement of their daughter, Betty J., to Clifford E. Newlin,



BETTY J. SCHEIBLY

son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Newlin of Newton. The wedding will take place in June, although a definite date has not yet been set. Betty is in the standards department and her fiance is employed at the A. E. Staley Manufacturing Co.

■ ■ ■

Services for Max John Maleska, 59, a Mueller Co. employee for the past six years, were held March 12. He had been in ill health for three months prior to his death in St. Mary's hospital March 9. A lifelong resident of Decatur, he had been employed for 23 years at the Faries Manufacturing Company here before being employed at Mueller Co. He was a production tool grinder in the heat treat department.

Roy M. Workman, 61, tool crib attendant in department 30, died March 14 in Decatur and Macon County hospital from injuries received when he was struck by a car while crossing Monroe street during the lunch period March 9. His injuries included a fractured skull.

Mr. Workman had been a Mueller Co. employee for the past 25 years, having started with the company on February 21, 1924. Prior to that he had been engaged in farming near Moweauqua.

He is survived by his wife and three sisters: Mrs. Eva McCary, Strawberry Point, Iowa; Mrs. Bertha Adams, Emden; and Mrs. Gussie Koons, Pana.

Services were held March 17, and burial was at Greenwood cemetery, Assumption.

■ ■ ■

Just a reminder that there's more than one way to help the Red Cross. First of all, of course, there are cash contributions, which the Red Cross needs

to finance its operations, locally and nationally. Then there's the Macon County Blood Bank, sponsored by the Macon County Medical Society, which, since its start last year, has

collected and delivered to local hospitals more than 1,200 pints of blood. This blood is furnished without charge to patients through their physicians. The blood bank is in constant need of donors, for there has never been a surplus of blood for the patients who require it. The Macon County Blood Bank is open each Friday afternoon from 2 until 4:30 o'clock. It is located in the American Red Cross offices, 243 South Water Street. Donors may call for an appointment or go directly to the blood bank during the specified hours.



Sarnia, Ontario

Almeda Reeve, Correspondent

Our congratulations to William R. Bray, department 15, who recently joined the ranks of the benedicts.

Wedding bells will ring in Windsor, Ontario, early in April for Alice Elderbroom, department 1, and Thomas And-

reys, department 15. Congratulations, folks.

■ ■ ■

Jack Aitchison, department 9, has returned to work, after having been laid up for some time with a broken ankle.

■ ■ ■

We hear Felix Duffy, department 3, is missing something. He underwent an appendectomy recently.

■ ■ ■

There's a mystery in department 9. How did Pat get the black eyes?

Confuscious once said or was it "Magistrate" Woodrowe? "Front seatee is meant for three not fouree." Ask Jack.

Our sympathy is extended to Helen Babcook, cost department, in the recent passing of her mother, Mrs. W. King; and to Ray Lambert, shipping department in the passing of his father, Mr. George Lambert.

■ ■ ■

New Muellerites:

December 16: To Mr. and Mrs. Roy Parr, a daughter, Marianne. Roy works in department 10.

January 3: To Mr. and Mrs. Ray Caudle, a son, Raymond Lawrence. Ray works in department 15.

January 23: To Mr. and Mrs. George Balwin, a son, George William. George works in department 5.

Los Angeles

William Baker, Correspondent

February 14 saw the return of Don DeDonicker after a four months stay in the Long Beach Naval Hospital. We hope everything is o.k. now, Don, and we're glad to see you back.

■ ■ ■

The many friends of Lila Phegley were sorry to learn of her departure from the shop. Lila was compelled to retire February 23 because of ill health.

She had been with Mueller Co. for the past seven years. She started work in the inspection department at the outbreak of the war and later transferred to the core department.

We all wish Lila the best of luck and hope for a speedy recovery.

■ ■ ■

Congratulations are in order, at this time, to Mr. and Mrs. Polk. "Tex" Polk, forge press operator, announced the arrival of a son, Robert Kendric. The baby was born January 28, and weighed six pounds, two ounces.

We also include Lowell and Marilyn Goss, who were presented with an eight pound, four ounce daughter, Valerie, on February 24. Lowell is employed in the shipping department.

■ ■ ■

Flo Llewellyn, keeper of the cafeteria, returned to work recently following an operation and a subsequent three month

convalescence—and thereby hangs a tale.

It seems that a former employee dropped by and after the usual greetings were exchanged, the visitor asked Flo how the baby was doing.

In spite of her look of surprise, we wonder if Flo and Don are holding out on us.

■ ■ ■

Many reports come in each Monday, telling of the gay time the enthusiasts are having on the snowy slopes of the nearby mountains.

Box score on the season's mishaps include Jack Tomlinson, who sustained a punctured thigh muscle caused by a ski pole; Claude Beckham, Charlie Portee and a few others who lost some wind, due to sudden stops with a toboggan; and Guy Taylor and Baker with a wrenched knee apiece, sustained on skis.

■ ■ ■

Claire Zale of the production office has taken a leave of absence to spend a few weeks with her family in the east. Claire hinted that she may drive back a brand new car.

■ ■ ■

Fred Tercero, turret lathe operator, has taken the big leap. Fred took Miss Victoria Ramirez as his bride and the

ceremony was held in Our Lady of Angels Church in Los Angeles. The couple spent their honeymoon in San Fran-

cisco and will make their home in Los Angeles. Good luck and best wishes from us all.

Chattanooga

Marcella Lykins, Correspondent

The Mueller Co. Bowling team, led by Captain Marion Eckman, is in second place at present in the last half of the season's play in the Lookout Bowling League. The Mueller team is two games behind the league leaders, with 15 games yet to be played.

The Mueller team ended the first half of the season in first place.

As you can tell by the scores listed below, the team is being paced by hard-hitting Wayne Walker, who, incidentally, is one of the top bowlers in Chattanooga:

Wayne Walker	174
Vance Riddle	158
Bernia Fischer	151
Ben Long	148
Les Higdon	146
Marion Eckman	142
Arvel Black	132

Ruth Shearer of the sales department, who left us recently, was honored with a dinner in the Green Room of the Read House and a gift of silver Thursday, March 3rd. Although we shall miss Ruth very much, we are very glad to welcome to take her place Marilyn Davis who once before was with us in the sales department. We are also very glad to have Ernestine Eldridge with us again.

We are all very glad to know that Joe Racz, the husband of Gene Racz in the cost department, is doing nicely after several weeks of illness.

We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to Wesley Hicks of the machine shop in the death of his mother.

James Teeters of the assembly department is the proud father of a baby daughter. As James is on vacation at this time we haven't yet learned what SHE has been named.

It seems that the machine shop has had more than a fair share of illness lately. At the present time Joseph Bartlett, Arnold Moore and Johnny Quentel are out because of illness. Bob Parsons, of the maintenance department who has been quite ill for several weeks is in the hospital at this time. We wish a speedy recovery for all of these men and hope that they will be back with us soon.

Here we have the sweetheart of 101



North Lovell Street — Marilyn Joyce Lusk, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lusk. Marilyn's father was employed at the Decatur plant of Mueller Co. before he was transferred to Columbian Iron Works.

Her grandfather is Robert (Blue) Lusk, former brass foundry foreman at the Decatur plant, who retired March 31, 1946, after more than 40 years' service with Mueller Co.

Lest you haven't heard: Charles Sutherland of the first aid department and Billy Andrews of the pattern shop have a new Chevrolet and a Ford respectively. Before and after work and at lunch time they welcome spectators. Of course, a small fee is charged for this privilege.

Odell Reich of the cost department has seven new dependents that she can't claim on her income tax return—Aire-dale-beagles. They're all promised, I think.