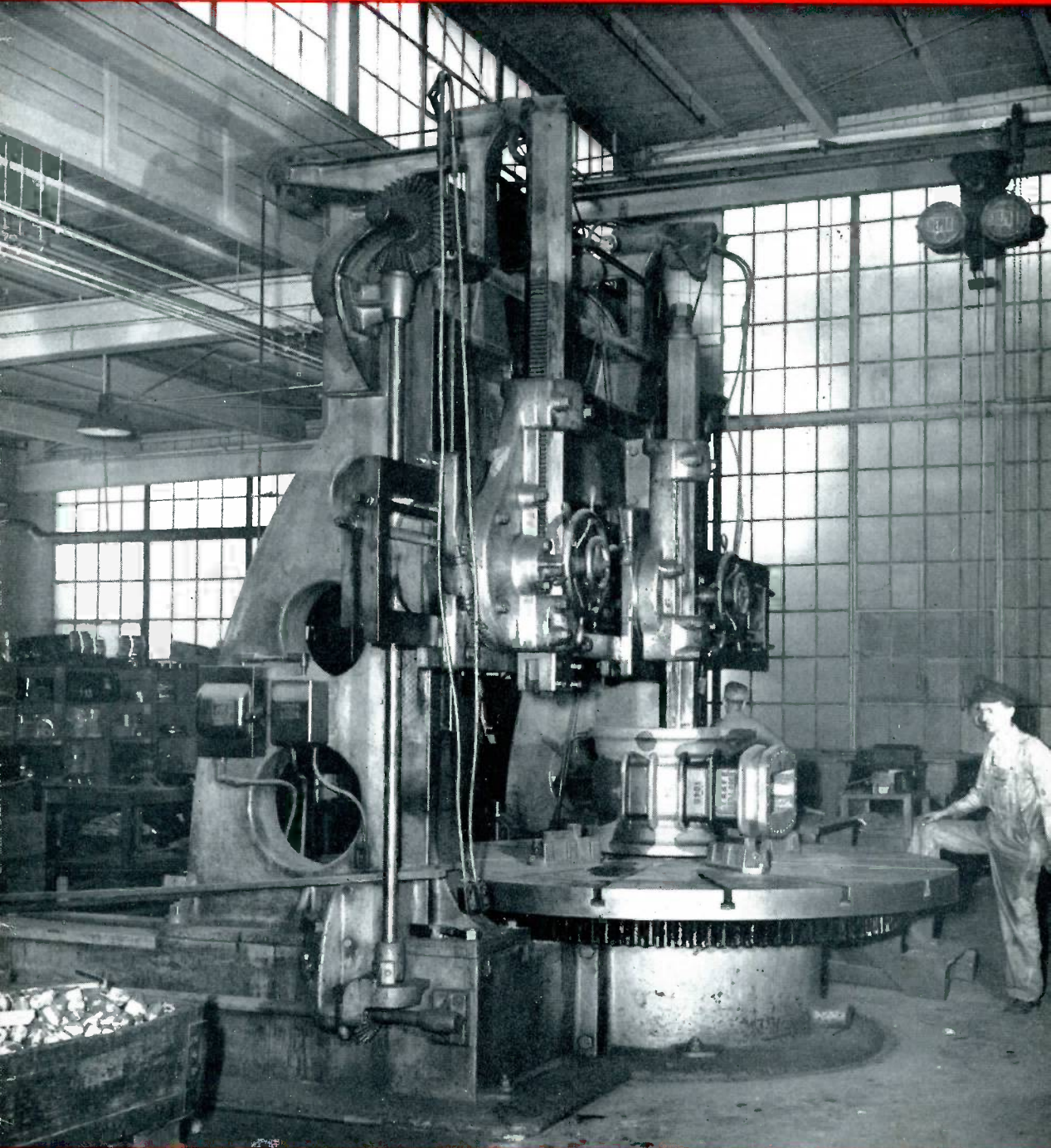



# MUELLER RECORD



# MUELLER RECORD

November, 1948  No. 148

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

**MUELLER CO.**  
PLUMBING, WATER AND GAS PRODUCTS



FACTORIES  
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SARNIA, ONT. CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

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## This Month's Cover

**C**OLUMBIAN IRON WORKS again rates this month's cover. The cover shot shows Homer Massey operating a 16-foot Bement Miles extension type vertical boring mill, which is used primarily to machine gate valves. The boring mill actually is a vertical lathe.

Massey has been employed in the Chattanooga machine shop since September, 1924, and has been operating the boring mill for approximately four years. In the background, back to camera, is Dexter Haney, a Mueller Co. employee since 1938.

## It's a Serious Recreation

**E**Mployees WHO ARE members of the Mueller Bowling League take their bowling seriously, it appears. Decatur's first snowfall of the season co-

incided with the date set for photographing the various teams (see pages 8 and 9), but despite the nasty weather all teams had their full complement of players on hand—no small accomplishment in a group of this size. The Mueller Bowling League has been an active organization since its start, but it is somewhat surprising to learn how well-knit it actually is.

## A Fine Safety Record

**O**N THE FACING PAGE is an article on the shipping department of Columbian Iron Works which, all things considered, has one of the finest safety records of any department in the Mueller Co. organization. As a matter of fact, until some other department offers concrete evidence to dispute the claim, the Chattanooga shipping department may be credited with top honors for its safety record.

The department is an outstanding example of what can be done by thinking safety and practicing safety.

## HAP HAZARD



NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL



Employees of the shipping department of Columbian Iron Works have piled up an outstanding safety record, as this departmental tally board indicates. They are, front row, Arthur Womble, John Simmons and Hirston Russell; back row: Jones Allgood, Clyde Scott, Melvin Conner, Charlie Boston, Bob Woodall, Roy Hollingsworth and C. E. Cooper, foreman.

## Columbian Sets A Safety Record

**T**HE SHIPPING DEPARTMENT of Columbian Iron Works has set what is considered the outstanding safety record of any department in the Mueller Co. organization, and its members are still piling up the total number of days they have worked without a lost time accident. The department has worked more

than 12 years without a lost time accident, based on the number of working days in a year, despite the heavy nature of its work, which has included shipping out body valves up to 10,000 pounds, sluice gates from 200 to 12,000 pounds, and fire hydrants weighing from 300 to 900 pounds.

The Chattanooga shipping department handles a variety of heavy castings, such as these hydrants and valves being loaded on a truck by Melvin Conner and Hirston Russell.





Before the game's start, the team captains meet with the officials for the toss. Elmer Fawley, gage laboratory foreman, does the honors as Umpire Loyle Davis looks on.



Davis moves in on a play as a group of tacklers snag the ball carrier. Fans who take their football seriously don't hesitate to criticize the decisions of the officials.

## The Striped-Shirt Boys

Loyle Davis, Mueller Co. personnel director, and Elmer Fawley, gage lab, double as football, basketball officials.

At half-time Referee Fawley and Umpire Davis take advantage of the intermission to catch a few minutes of well-deserved rest, since officiating is strenuous work.



EACH FALL AND WINTER, Loyle Davis, personnel director, and Elmer Fawley, gage laboratory foreman, have their spare-time solidly booked with officiating engagements for high school football and basketball games.

Davis and Fawley, both of whom played college football while undergraduates at James Millikin University, have maintained an active interest in sports, and officiating offers the next best thing to competing.

Officiating is not the best means of becoming popular either with fans or players. They call the plays as they see them, but they admit they don't see everything, as this interchange between Fawley and a high school player indicates:

"Didn't you see that guy clip me there in the last quarter?" a player asked as the teams and officials were leaving the field.

"No, I didn't," Fawley answered. "Is that the only thing you saw me miss?"

"Yeah," the player said. "I just thought you ought to know about it."

"Thanks, son," Fawley remarked, "but if that was the only thing you saw me miss this afternoon, I'm getting better."



George Sulwer fights a gasoline and oil fire in a demonstration which was staged for insurance and fire officials who visited the plant during Fire Prevention Week.



George Lebo, milling machine operator, uses a carbon tetrachloride hand extinguisher to put out the last traces of the blaze while Sulwer stands by.

## Fire For A Fire Team Squad demonstrates use of equipment in oil blaze.

DEPARTMENT 30's regular fire team demonstrated the use of its fire fighting equipment in extinguishing an oil and gasoline fire which was staged as part of an inspection by local insurance men and fire department officials during Fire Prevention Week.

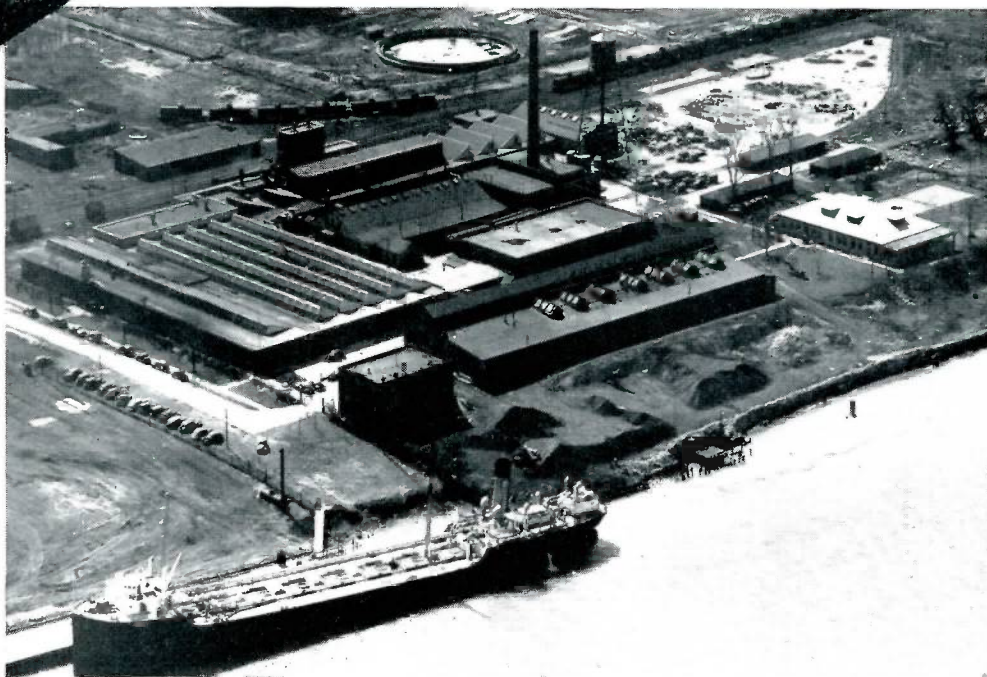
Equipment used by the team included a wheeled Du Gas fire extinguisher and one of the new type carbon tetrachloride hand extinguishers now being used in the factory. The Du Gas extinguisher uses a tank of nitrogen, an inert gas, to force out a dry chemical from the hose. Both extinguishers are suitable for oil and gas fires or electrical blazes, since their extinguishing agents are non-conductors.

Elmer Miller, Mueller Co. fire chief and head plant protection officer, was responsible for staging the demonstration, which has for some years been part of the industrial observance of the week. Among those witnessing the demonstra-

tion were Fire Chief Ira Leech and Assistant Chief Jesse Ping. The department 30 fire team included Clyde Hester, thread miller; Galen Hutchens, assembly Set-up man; George Lebo, milling machine operator; and Frank Shade and George Sulwer, turret lathe operators.

Members of the fire team are: Frank Shade, George Sulwer, and Galen Hutchens standing; and Clyde Hester and George Lebo, all from department 30.





This aerial view of Mueller, Ltd., is one of the most recent photographs of the Sarnia, Ontario, plant. The navigable St. Clair River is shown in the foreground of the photograph.

■ ■ ■

Wilma Knorr, main office, whose marriage to William R. Knorr, shipping department, took place October 16 at the First English Lutheran Church, is shown unwrapping gifts at a shower given in her honor by Mueller Co. office women. About 40 persons attended.





When Earl Parker, engineering department record clerk, retired October 18, he lacked only one month of having been with Mueller Co for 39 years. Grouped about him after the department had presented him with a handsome billfold on his last day are: Ray Kileen, Jack Chepan, Frank Mueller, Walter Bowan, Harley Himstead and C. W. Doherty.

■ ■ ■

Albert G. Webber, Jr., Mueller Co. president, presents a check for \$500.00 to Mrs. Fred Brewer of the Salvation Army to be applied on the proposed Eventide Home. O. C. Keil, Mueller Co. secretary and vice-president of the Salvation Army's board of directors, is at the left. The late Joe Breckenridge, former employee, left the money to Mueller Co.

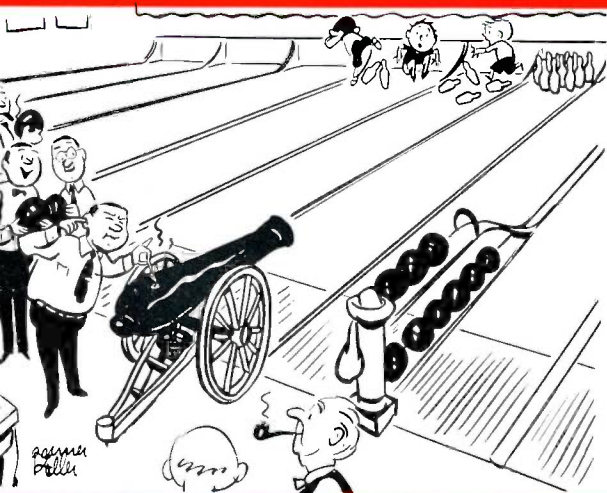




Ground Key—Edwin Nalefski, Galen Jenkins, Haldon Hanson, Martin Rjewski, and Ben Taylor.



Tool Room—Eric Blankenburg, Lawrence Roé, Paul Hawbaker, Ray Larus, R. H. Mueller, J. A. Morrison and Anthony Grossman.



## Mueller Bowling League

ON THESE PAGES are shown members of the ten teams comprising the Mueller Bowling League, which this year has attracted a record number of players. The league is well into its eighteenth season, having been organized during the 1931-32 season. Ollie Fortschneider, pattern shop, president of the league, was one of its organizers. The first league consisted of only four teams.

Pattern Shop—Les Skelley, Cecil Coffin, Melvin Chaney, Carleton Hackman, George Krag, Ollie Fortschneider and Charles Morenz.

Product Engineers—Wallace Gould, Bob Dannewitz, Don Ferry, Lynn Edwards, Paul Ammann and Frank Mueller.







Experimental Shop—Herman Chepan, Melvin Hayes, Tom Cooper, G. W. Doherty, Clarence Hill and Robert Taylor.



Brass Finishers—William Elliott, Jess Dailley, Claude Inman, Orville Spencer, and John Taylor.



Works Manager—Ted Masterson, Bill Muelser, Jack Bain, Robert Armstrong and Melvin Coates.



Specialties Division—Al Degand, Charles Girard, Ed Hartwig, Warren Frantz, Henry Stratman and Ted Suhmske.

Main Office—Carl Draper, Earl Harris, Curtis Baret, Al Hill, Charles Moore and William Knorr.

Department 90—Wilbur Edwards, Robert Sajogga, Preston Ruthrauff, A. H. Thompson and Wilbur Davidson.



# Decatur

Plans are underway for two big Christmas parties. The annual Mueller Co. children's party will be held Saturday, December 18, and the employees' Christmas party will be held Friday afternoon, December 24.

According to tentative plans, the employees' party will be held during working hours, and an effort will be made to conclude the program before the regular quitting time for the day shift. Arrangements are being made so that night shift employees who report early may attend the party without loss of time.

Details of the program have not been completed as this issue of the Mueller Record goes to press, but it will include the presentation of service award pins and checks to those whose suggestions have been judged the best in the divisions of increased production, reduced overhead and safety.

The children's party will start at 1:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon in the Mueller gymnasium. Doors will open at 1 o'clock. The program will feature movies, several entertainment acts, group singing, and, of course, a personal appearance by Santa Claus and treats.

Members of committees for the employees' party include:

Stage and seating arrangements—Melvin Chaney and Lester Gordy.

Decorations—Ray Kileen and Herman Jackson.

Program—Loyle Davis, C. W. Doherty and Merlin Coates.

Service awards—Leo Wiant and Francis Carroll.

Suggestion awards—George Binkley.

Christmas gift—Howard Gragg, Mart Stratman and Elwood Potts.

Ushers—Carleton Hackman and Pete Duncan.

Program and advertising—Gene Kuhn.

Public address system—John S. Smith.

Committees for the children's party are:

Stage and settings—Melvin Chaney and Les Gordy.

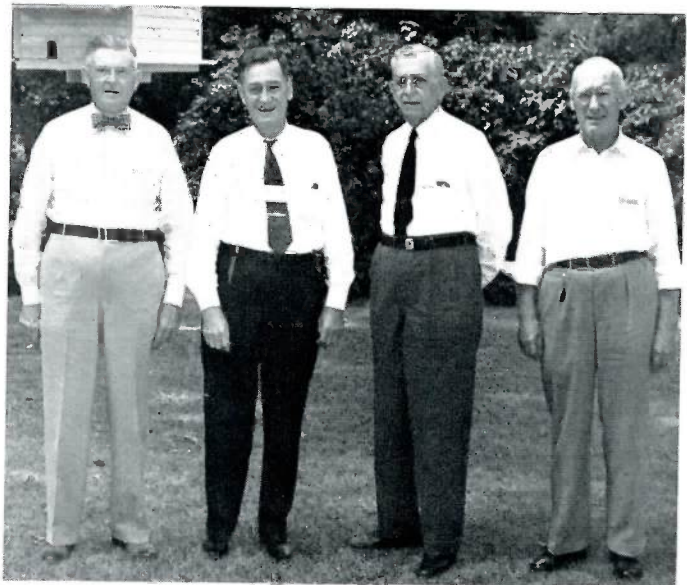
Decorations—Ray Kileen, Jacque Morford and Evelyn Ballard.

Program—Pete Duncan, Carleton Hackman, Ruth Miller, Frances Dial and Gene Kuhn.

Gifts—Wilma Knorr, Jenny Kinney and Ruth Rohman.

Ushers—Fedora Walton and Georgiana Latch.

When this photograph was made at last year's sales meeting, these four Mueller Co. veterans had racked up a total of 170 years of service with the company. Since then, B. F. Kitchen, second from left, has died, and R. E. Kirchner and W. F. Aaron (second from right and extreme right, respectively) have retired. The retirement of W. L. Jett (see page 14) at the left ends the quartet's active service with the company.





Max Maleska

Max (Tarzan) Maleska, heat treat, is pictured above wearing what the well-dressed man wears when it's his turn to cook and clean up the cabin on a fishing trip. According to Hubert Cook, tool room, Maleska's specialty was scrambled eggs and onions on the Labor Day trip to Trade Lake, Wisconsin, and his contribution to the three 5-gallon cans of iced fish that were brought back to Decatur consisted of 26 3-ounce blue gills. Cook admits, however, that some of Maleska's 3-ouncers grew up to weigh more than three-quarters of a pound. The other members of the party from Decatur were Cook's 11-year-old son, Lewis, and Emil Bork, department 30.

■ ■ ■

And now a hunting story which concerns Mrs. Fawley's son, Elmer of the gage lab. It seems that Elmer shot down a pheasant recently and then placed the bird in the game pocket of his hunting jacket. After a time he felt the bird moving about and decided an investigation was in order. When he pulled the pheasant out of the pocket, it immediately took off, but with the help of a dog he was able to locate it. His companions suggested that he shoot the pheasant again, but Elmer decided that

a club was more humane. As he drew back to swing, the pheasant took off again. End of pheasant, end of story.

■ ■ ■

When bigger turnips are grown, Jim Workman, department 8 turret lathe op-



James Workman

erator, expects to grow them. The specimen Jim is holding in this photograph weighed in at five pounds, seven ounces, which is a lot of turnip for anyone's garden. Jim has emphatically denied a rumor sweeping the department that the garden was actually cared for by Mrs. Workman.

\* \* \*

Among the mementos of 1886 recently found in the cornerstone box of the old First English Lutheran Church, which is being razed, were a history of the church in Decatur, written by the late Albert G. Webber, Sr., former general counsel for Mueller Co. and father of the company's president, and a copy of The Daily Review, which included an advertisement from H. Mueller & Sons.

\* \* \*

An account of "the greatest industrial picnic ever held in the city of Decatur" from The Daily Herald of Sunday, August 23, 1914, was recently posted on the tool room bulletin board by Maynard Bukta, heat treat, who brought the yel-

lowed clipping to the plant. The picnic honored B. J. Marty, Theodore Scherer, Otto Scharnetski and U. G. Moore, all of whom had completed 20 years with the company at that time. Their pictures, along with a group photograph of the Mueller band, accompanied the article. Firm members in the group picture were Adolph Mueller, Philip Mueller and Robert Mueller.

The Mueller band, incidentally, was one of the best known musical organizations in Illinois in those days, when industries and other organizations placed a great deal of emphasis on maintaining good bands. Besides appearances at company meetings, parades and picnics, the band also played numerous engagements away from Decatur.

The picnic described in the clipping started with a parade from the plant, east on Cerro Gordo street to North Water, south to East Main, and then out on West Main to the park. About 1,200 persons attended.

■ ■ ■

Loyle Davis, personnel director, attended the N.A.M. Institute on Industrial Relations at Virginia Beach, Virginia, October 18-22.

■ ■ ■

The financial report of the Mueller Co. Employees Credit Union showed receipts totaling \$73,227.27 and assets amounting to \$220,850.69. Number of members reported was 636, and there were 323 borrowers. The Credits Union has pointed out that all loans made by it are insured with the CUNA Mutual Society against the death or disability of the borrower as one of the services to its members.

■ ■ ■

A survey of absenteeism and tardiness, made during the past 18 weeks ending November 6, showed the condition to be "even worse than we anticipated," according to Clarence C. Roarick, factory manager.

"During this period," Mr. Roarick said, "we had a total of 14,166 hours of absenteeism, which is an average of 787 hours a week. Taking this on the basis of the employees we have, which is approximately 900, this means that each

employee has been absent an average of two days during the past 18 weeks.

"This has meant a loss in wages to the employees of approximately \$21,000. This in itself is a factor that should be considered. In addition, the company has had a comparable loss in production and to promises of shipping dates that we have made to our customers for products ordered from us. Also due to absenteeism and tardiness, our production foremen have had a tremendous problem in shifting personnel in their departments so as to keep all lines of production operating as economically as possible.

"It can readily be seen that if a department of average size has four or five persons off in any one day a considerable amount of shifting is required.

"We realize that out of this 14,166 hours there have been many legitimate reasons for absence. However, we also feel that many other of these absences could have been avoided. We are asking everyone to be on the job as much as possible in order that we can cut down our record of absenteeism and tardiness."

■ ■ ■

Greatly improved working conditions in the brass foundry grinding room are expected with the completion of a dust arrestor system, now being installed as part of the foundry division rearrangement. Division changes also include the moving of the pattern shop from the second floor to the space formerly occupied by the metallurgical laboratory.

A powerful suction fan will pull the dust-laden air through ducts located at each machine into a series of canvas bags, which will serve to settle the dust. The dust will collect in large hoppers from which it will be trucked away from the plant.

The rearrangement also will include a move for the grinding room. It will be shifted to the present metal storage building and arranged for the most economic handling of castings by conveyor systems. The metal storage will be transferred to the north end of building 1101 and the present grinding room, adjacent to the railroad siding, where raw materials are received.

# Chattanooga

*Marcella Lykins, Correspondent*

Plans are underway for the annual Columbian Iron Works employees' Christmas party, which will be held December 24. The committee in charge of arrangements is planning a home talent show which will feature employees from within the plant. In addition, there will be talks by the management and the presentation of service award pins and suggestion awards.

Entertainment for last year's Christmas party also was drawn from talented employees of the plant, and proved to be a huge success.

■ ■ ■

Some of the recent newcomers we wish to welcome to Columbian Iron Works are: Eldon Wilson, John Mayo, and Donavon Brooks, foundry; and Paul Miller and Harold Howell, machine shop.

■ ■ ■

Merle Van Vleet, who has spent several of his summer school vacations in different departments of our plant, is now with us in the cost department—for keeps, we hope.

■ ■ ■

Around the 23rd and 24th of September the office resembled ladies day at an opportunity sale as salesmen from different territories converged on Chattanooga to give Columbian the once-over. This was the first opportunity that many of the men have had to get acquainted at Columbian, and we were exceedingly happy to welcome R. G. Medick, C. W.

Auer, R. H. Morris, W. R. Augustine, R. K. Levey, A. D. Parks, W. L. Draper and Gene Kuhn.

■ ■ ■

Several of our employees are absent because of illness. They include Sam Adair, W. H. Blevins, Ernest Adams, Ernest Bonner, and Matthew Adams. We wish a speedy recovery to these employees and hope they will soon be back with us.

■ ■ ■

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Jimmie Lee Wright, who was killed in an automobile accident November 1. Jimmie Lee had been a regular employee in department 50 of our plant since 1939, and was well liked by all who knew him.

■ ■ ■

We also wish to extend our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Campbell in the loss of Mrs. Campbell's father; to Roy Payne in the loss of his grandmother; and to Dexter Haney in the loss of his father.

■ ■ ■

It seems that bowling has taken top honors for entertainment around the office now. Of course, Chuck Coventry still holds first place in this field, but little is expected from Jim Walker, because everyone knows that a person who is contemplating matrimony can't really apply his mind to such a trifle as bowling.

# Sarnia, Ontario

*Almeda Reeve, Correspondent*

Wedding bells rang for Robert Basil Thompson, department 1, and Pauline Marie Wilson, formerly of the cafeteria staff, on November 12.

Wilbur Duggan, department 5, was painfully burned recently, when a fire occurred while he was cleaning the gas line of his car.

Ed Cook, foreman of department 9, has returned to work following a brief illness.

■ ■ ■

Cecil Spears, personnel department, has returned to his desk after a 3-week bout with shingles.

■ ■ ■

Our congratulations are extended to Fred Trumble, department 2, night shift, on becoming a grandfather again.

■ ■ ■

Max Fletcher, department 6, is on leave of absence and is spending a holiday in Northern Ontario.

■ ■ ■

Charlie Stevens, department 9, and Howard Taylor, department 3, have left for Northern Ontario to try their luck at deer hunting.

■ ■ ■

Dennis Tilley, first aid, and O. C. Spears, personnel department, participated in the recent 2-day open season pheasant hunt. Dennis returned with a basket of carrots and a bag of cabbage, while the best Cec could do was a headless rabbit.

■ ■ ■

Our congratulations to Fred Fletcher, department 3. Fred recently bowled a perfect score in five-pins at a local alley

and was the recipient of approximately \$250 in merchandise and cash prizes.

■ ■ ■

Our sympathy is extended to W. Ingles, department 3, in the death of his mother, Mrs. Hannah Ingles; to Mr. and Mrs. Leo Mackesy (department 8) in the loss of their son, Donald Paul; and to Alvin McKellar, department 28, in the passing of his father-in-law, Mr. Douglas, Forest, Ontario.

■ ■ ■

We also want to extend our sincere sympathy to the family of the late Frank A. Snider in the recent death of their father and husband. Mr. Snider became ill on September 30 and was later removed to St. Joseph Hospital, where he died on October 30. He had been employed with the firm for 33 years, working as a heat treater, and would have been eligible for retirement in October. Mr. Snider was of a reserved nature, although he had an unusual sense of humor which was appreciated by his wide circle of friends and fellow workmen.

■ ■ ■

New Muellerrites:

To Mr. and Mrs. George W. Merwin (department 3), a son, John Milton.

To Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Round (department 11A), a son, Richard John, on October 25.

## Los Angeles

*William Baker, Correspondent*

### Bill Jett Retires

We are herewith bidding farewell to a man we all know and like. On December 1, W. L. (Bill) Jett, the oldest Mueller Co. salesman in years of service, will retire.

Bill's career with Mueller Co. started on April 22, 1904, and his service has been continuous since then. After two years in the shipping department of the

Decatur plant, he was sent to the company's Chicago office to gain sales experience, and then was assigned a territory covering central and southern Illinois. Later, he was transferred to the Pacific Coast, with headquarters in San Francisco. Bill's territory covered Fresno to San Diego, and included the fast growing city of Los Angeles.

He managed the early Los Angeles sales branch when it opened in 1924. He

then was transferred to Decatur and sent to Dallas Texas, to open another branch office in 1927. From Dallas he was sent to Atlanta, Georgia, to open still another office. Bill was appointed sales manager of the southern division, working out of Memphis, Tennessee. After these ventures on behalf of the company, he was appointed traveling as-

has become something of a legend in the company for his colorful golfing togs, his huge enjoyment of living, and his ready wit. It was recalled that at the Decatur sales meetings Bill was usually the last person abed and the first one up in the morning. These hours made him the first suspect as the instigator of practical jokes, and the accusation usually was correct.



W. L. (Bill) Jett

sistant sales manager until the Los Angeles factory opened. He then made Los Angeles his headquarters, covering a territory which includes part of the city and adjacent counties. He has continued in this position ever since.

Mr. and Mrs. Jett are including a nationwide motor trip in their plans for the future. According to present plans, they intend to leave for New Orleans in the Spring, and start a complete tour of the country from there. They plan to time their arrivals to take advantage of the best weather, winding up in Florida for the Winter months.

Bill will leave behind an enviable sales record, and will be remembered by the many friends he has made in the trade and in the Mueller Co. organization. He

We all join in wishing Bill a very pleasant and enjoyable retirement.

■ ■ ■

### Adieu, Dorothy

Dorothy Barnett has severed relations with us, in our workaday world, and of course, no one is happy about it.

Dorothy, whose husband, Barney, is in the Merchant Marine, (first mate, no less) decided to leave our employee so she could be free to travel with him.

Mrs. Barnett started working with us back in 1943 in the forging department, where she operated a trimmer press. Later she transferred to the shipping room, thence to the production office and finally she acted as receptionist and switchboard operator.

We all give Dorothy our best wishes, along with the cake and kid gloves she received, and look forward to some news from different ports of call.

■ ■ ■

### P.S.

Judging from one black eye, assorted abrasions and contusions, taped fingers and various limps, we will have to be a little tolerant until football season is over and week ends are spent in a little less strenuous manner. Well, some of us like our exercise the hard way.

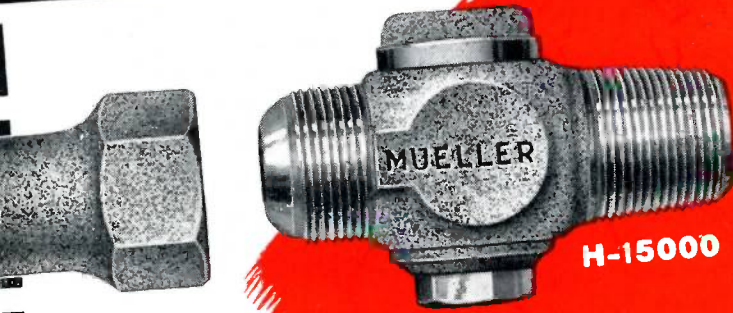
■ ■ ■

Glenn Bell, timekeeper for department 40, is leaving us to take up the post of battalion clerk in the Montebello post of the National Guard. We know Glenn will make out fine with his previous experience.

Very belated congratulations are due Fred Dune and Mrs. Dunne on the birth of their son, Craig, last September 15. Fred says he's almost a man by now.

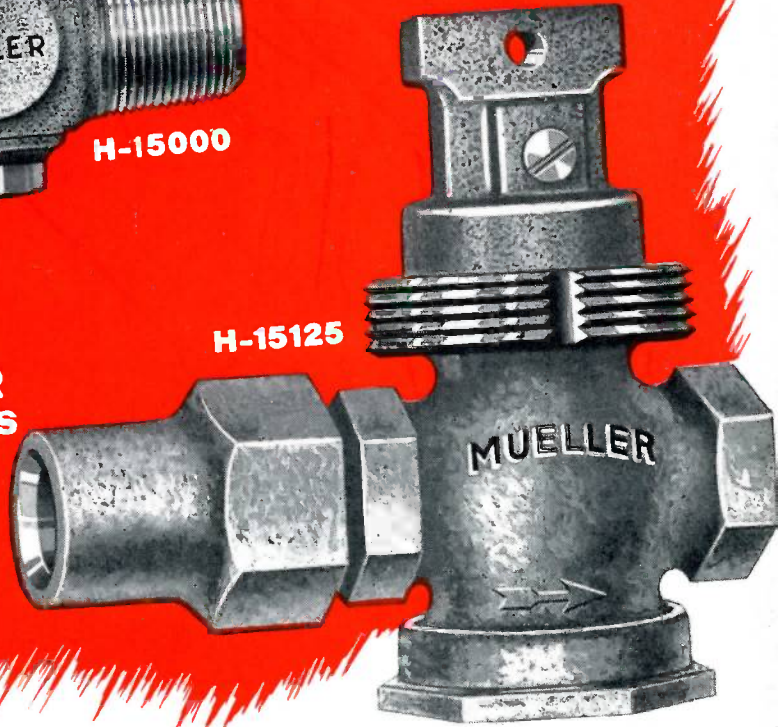
# FOR DEPENDABLE PERFORMANCE AT THE MAIN AND THE CURB

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CORPORATION STOPS**



**H-15000**

**MUELLER  
CURB STOPS**



**H-15125**

The installation of Mueller Ground Key Corporation and Curb Stops at the main and the Curb is your best assurance of dependable performance at these critical points in the distribution system. They are cast with heavy sections from high copper content bronze which gives maximum resistance to corrosion and also permits precision grinding and lapping of the key into the body for a leak-proof fit and easy turning. The threads are accurately aligned and machined to run up smoothly and make a tight joint with the pipe.

These features of design and construction result in a line of tough and rugged Corporation and Curb Stops that are leak-proof, easy to install, easy to turn, and will give many long years of continuous service. They are available in a variety of styles and patterns with end connections to meet the requirements of standardized water works practice. Write us concerning your requirements.



# MUELLER CO.

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