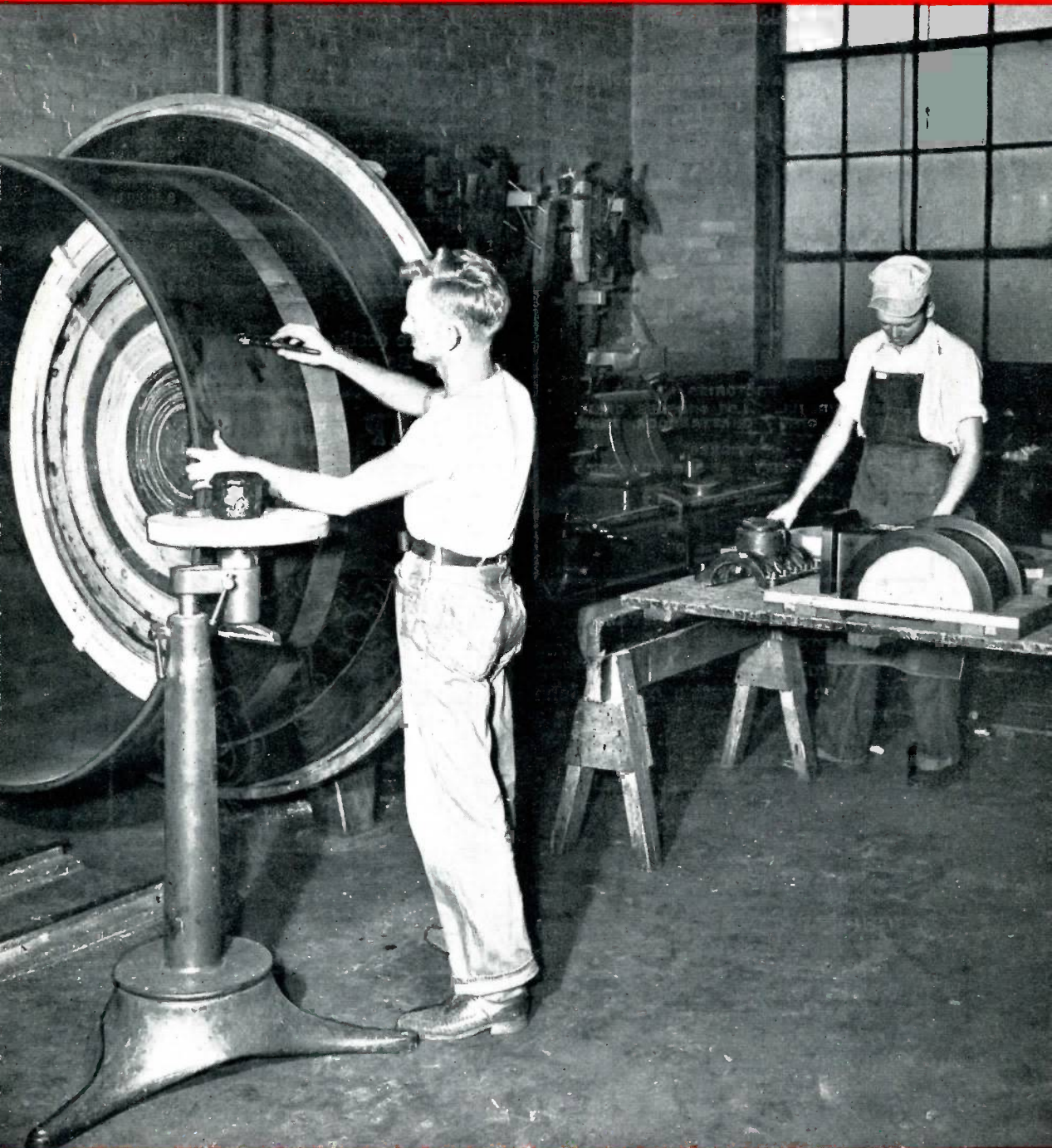



# MUELLER RECORD



# MUELLER RECORD

September, 1949  No. 153

GENE J. KUHN, Editor

Published in the Interests of  
Employees of the

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



**FACTORIES**

DECATUR, ILL.    LOS ANGELES, CALIF.  
SARNIA, ONT.    CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

**BRANCHES**

NEW YORK CITY    SAN FRANCISCO

**TRADE MARK**

**MUELLER**

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

## This Month's Cover

**T**WO APPRENTICE pattern makers at Columbian Iron Works are shown at work on this month's cover. John Graves, left foreground, is lacquering a wall thimble for a 42-inch gate valve, and John M. Howard is working on a pattern for a 10-inch mechanical joint valve body. Both were employed at Chattanooga in April, 1946.



## Don't Play With Fire

**F**IGURES RELEASED by the National Fire Protection Association emphasize the necessity of good fire protection practices, both at home and on the job. The NFPA points out there are about 650,000 building fires every year in the United States, and, according to latest

available figures, here is where most of them occur:

Dwellings	250,000
Stores and shops	49,500
Manufacturing plants	30,800
Apartment and rooming houses	54,000
Garages and filling stations	27,600
Hotels and boarding houses	10,400
Restaurants and taverns	12,000
Theatres and amusement halls	4,400
Churches	2,600
Schools	2,400
Hospitals and institutions	1,200

The NFPA also has released this box score of the causes, number, and losses due to fire each year:

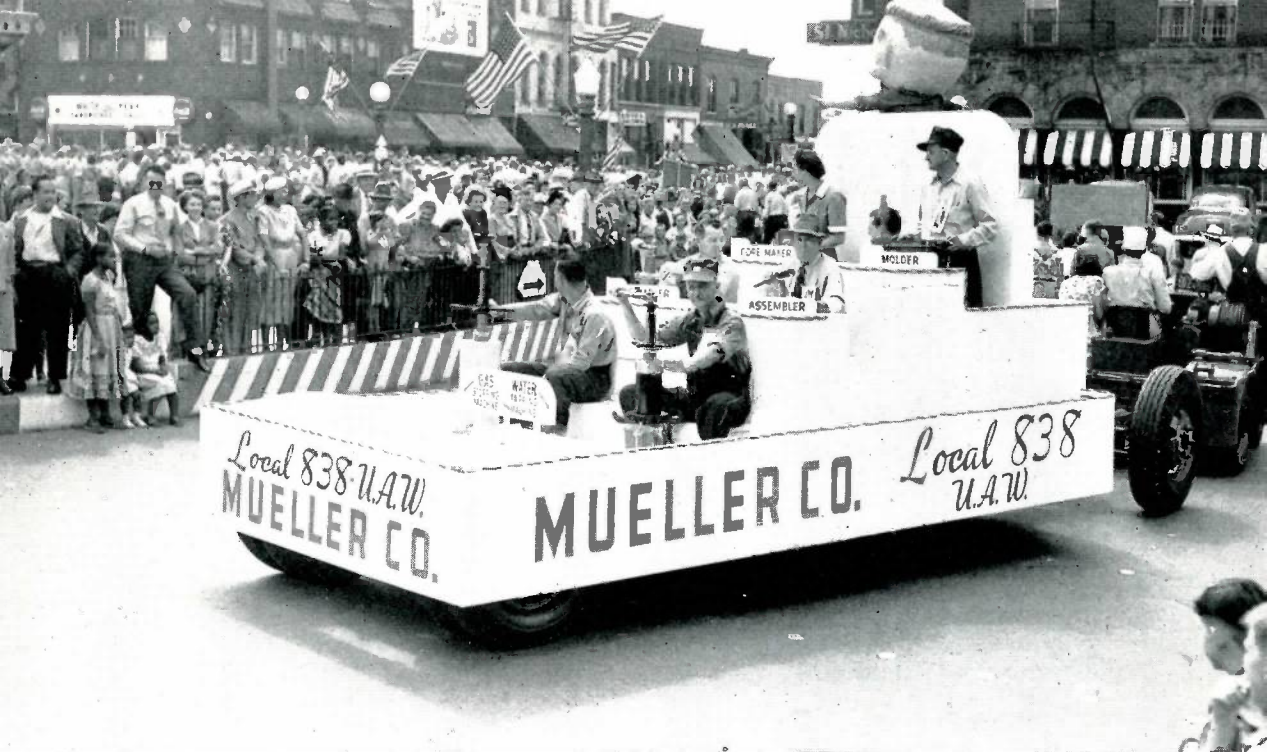
CAUSE	NO. OF FIRES	LOSS
Smoking and matches	87,000	\$51,500,000
Misuse of electrical equipment and defective wiring	52,000	56,000,000
Defective heating equipment	44,500	56,000,000
Defective or overheated chimneys and flues	30,000	16,900,000
Sparks on wooden shingle roofs	27,000	19,500,000
Careless handling of flammable liquids	20,000	21,800,000
Children playing with matches	20,800	8,300,000

Most appalling is the annual death toll of 11,000 persons who lose their lives needlessly. More than twice that number are severely burned or disfigured for life.

Fires are costly in lives, property and injuries. Be careful.







This Mueller Co. float, entered in Decatur's annual Labor Day parade, won second prize in the event. The float is shown as it passed the Transfer House in the downtown section of the city.

## Mueller Co. Entry Wins Second

Float for annual Labor Day parade, manned by members of Local 838, depicts jobs, company products.

**M**ANNED BY MEMBERS of Local 838, U.A.W. (A.F.L.) the Mueller Co. float, entered in Decatur's annual Labor Day parade, won second prize in the event, which included some 1,500 marching labor union members and drew thousands of spectators.

The Mueller entry, designed by Ray Kileen, engineering department, depicted representative company products and the types of jobs necessary for their manufacture. Judges were Mayor James A. Hedrick, Commissioner Bushrod Sattley, and Kenneth Bailey, decorator and display designer.

Those who appeared on the float itself, which was drawn by the factory "goat," were Margaret Carter, core room; Orville Brown, foundry; William Bradford, ground key; Fred Nash, regulator and relief valve division; G. R. (Pete) St. Pierre, tapping machine division; and Norman Poole, gas stopping machine division. Anthony (Buddy) Grossman, attired in a large, papier-mache mask and using a microphone connected to a public address system, kept up a running line of patter and greetings to attract attention to the float. Robert Ridgeway, concealed in the float, operated the public address system. W. H. Enloe and Carl Maurer drove the "goat" with an assist from Marie Adams, core room.



## Safety Precautions Vital To Plant's Electricians

**S**AFETY IS SOMETHING a lot of persons think they can take or let alone. A guard on a machine can be made inoperative and the operator may get by for months, perhaps, without being seriously injured—if he's lucky. But the plant's electricians know that any accident they have may be their last, and nothing is left to luck. The observance of safety precautions is a vital part of their job.

A good example of the steps they take to prevent accidents was shown recently, when it was decided to extend three power lines for the new welding department location in Building 1162, Mercer Street. The three lines each carried about 480 volts, which allows for line losses for the 440-volt equipment they supply.

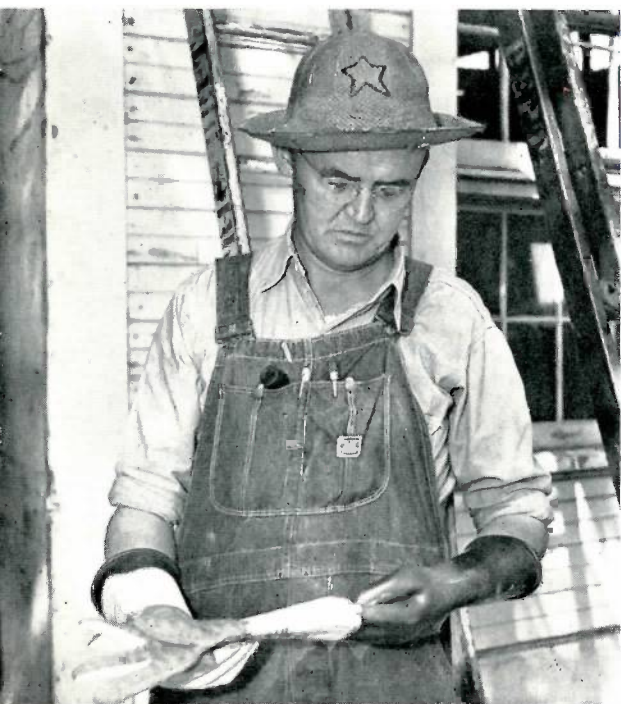
Working with "hot" lines is avoided whenever possible, but in this case a shut-down would have stopped the sand handling equipment in the brass foundry, key lathes in department 8, and the high frequency heat treating machine in department 36.

First of all, the conditions of the ladders and scaffold they were to use were carefully checked. The ladders were equipped with rubber safety shoes to prevent slipping, and they were set in place and the scaffold securely locked in position.

Then John J. Smith, electrician foreman, and John Pritchett, maintenance electrician, donned heavy rubber gloves, and over these they drew on a pair of leather-palmed canvas gloves. Purpose of the second pair was to prevent the accidental cutting of the rubber gloves by a loose strand of wire.

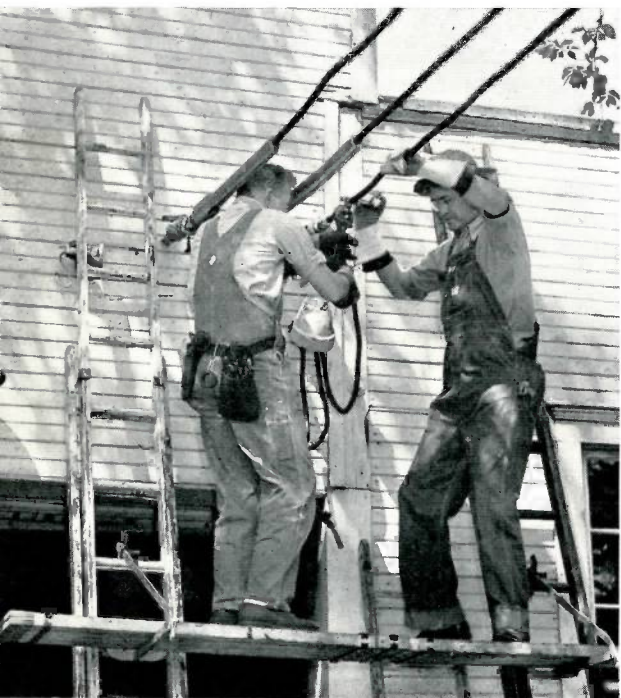
Next, rubber line sleeves, capable of withstanding up to 15,000 volts were placed on two of the three insulated lines, and rubber sheeting was wrapped and tied around the cable clamps where the line dead-ended at the building. This thorough insulation was just another extra precaution. The lines' regular insulation sometimes develops minute breaks, and there is always the possibility that a tool might slip, cutting into the insulation. As each line was extended it was insulated with line sleeves until all three extensions were completed.

Total time for the job: 30 minutes.



John J. Smith, electrician foreman, dons two pairs of gloves—one pair rubber, the other leather-palmed—before starting to work on "hot" lines.

Smitty and J. Pritchett, maintenance electrician, take no chances as they begin to extend three 480-volt lines for the new welding department.





# Loren Hetzler Wins His Fight With Polio

**L**OREN HETZLER, 13-year-old son of Ernst Hetzler, pattern vault and core storage clerk, started back to school this month, riding his bicycle and displaying a wide grin. Except for a tendency to become tired a little more easily and a slight paleness that emphasized his summer freckles, there was nothing to differentiate Loren from any other lively boy in his eighth grade class.

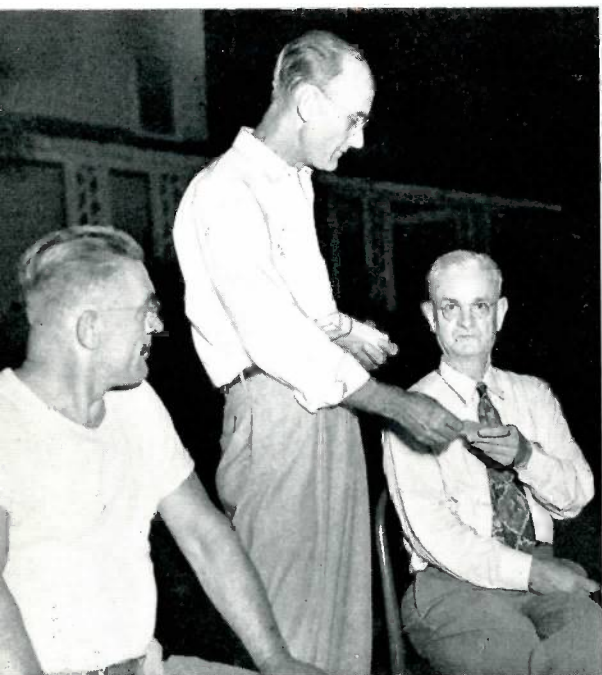
Just a month earlier than the start of school, Loren had been stricken with polio. It had begun on a Sunday morning, when he awakened with a temperature, a severe headache and a pain in the back of his neck. Later that day he began vomiting, and his parents immediately called a physician. The next day he was removed to a local hospital and his illness diagnosed as polio.

For eight days Loren was "a pretty sick boy," his father said. But after that eighth day his recovery was rapid and he was released from the hospital August 19 with none of the crippling effects of polio.



Just after his release from the hospital after a successful bout with polio, Loren hunted up his bicycle. Forced to rest, he takes it easy in bed, surrounded by a stack of favorite comic books.





J. W. Wells receives a farewell gift from R. K. (Pete) Duncan, while Merlin Coates, transferred on loan to Mueller, Limited, Sarnia, Ontario, gets another from Leo Wiant at a 4-X Club picnic.

## J. W. Wells, Patent Attorney, Retires

**Mueller Co. foremen honor veteran who had completed more than 33½ years of continuous service.**

**M**EMBERS OF THE 4-X Club, composed of Mueller Co. foremen and executives, honored J. W. Wells, patent attorney, with a farewell picnic at Mueller Lodge July 27. Mr. Wells retired July 31 after more than 33½ years of continuous service with Mueller Co.

Company officers recalled many incidents in their long association with "J. W." Those who spoke in appreciation of the quiet, unassuming patent advisor, who has always been known for his courtesy and mildness, were L. W. Mueller, chairman of the board; Albert G. Webber, Jr., president and treasurer; J. W. Simpson, executive vice-president; Robert H. Mueller, chief engineer; and Frank H. Mueller, chief products engineer.

Mr. Wells came to Mueller Co. from Munn & Co., New York, as patent attorney on January 3, 1916. In July, 1922, he became secretary of Mueller Co. and office manager. Then, on November 1,

1944, he was named patent advisor in the engineering department, and devoted his entire time to research and development. Mr. Wells is a registered patent attorney.

R. K. (Pete) Duncan, president of the 4-X Club, presented a farewell gift on behalf of the members of the organization.

Mr. Wells also received another gift on his last day at the office July 29 from members of the engineering department.

Mr. and Mrs. Wells will make their home at Trenton, New Jersey. Their son, Winston, is in New York City.

The picnic also served as a send-off party for Merlin Coates, who has been transferred on loan to Mueller, Ltd., Sarnia. Leo Wiant presented a gift from members of the club.

Mr. and Mrs. Coates also were honored with another picnic at Mueller Lodge on August 8 by members of the Mueller Social Club and their families.





This Mueller team is participating in the Ladies Minor League. Members are Catherine Bauer, Laura Hirsch, Betty Sy, Betty Walker, the team's captain, Aline Moore, and Ellen Jane Stevenson. Brown gabardine bowling dresses were purchased for this team, blue for the other.

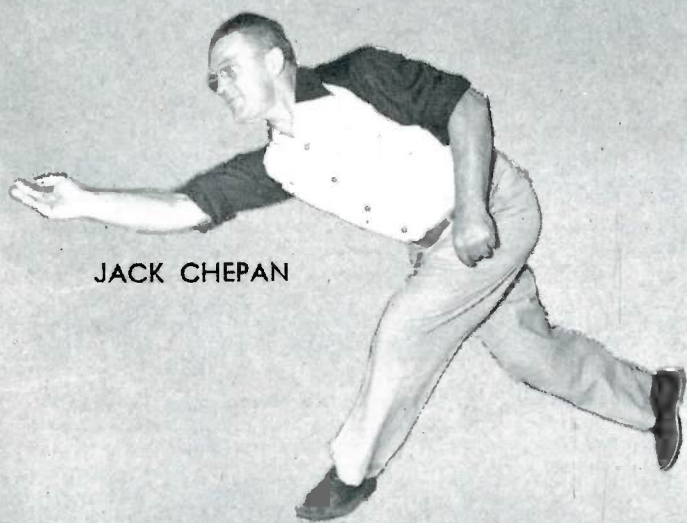
## Mueller Co. Sponsors Two Women's Bowling Teams

Members of this Mueller team, entered in the Sunset League, are Louise Moore, captain, Virginia Benton, Edna Johnston, Betty Sy (who is bowling on both teams), Kathryn Travis, and Lucille Turner. Increased interest in bowling led to Mueller Co. sponsorship of two women's teams this year.

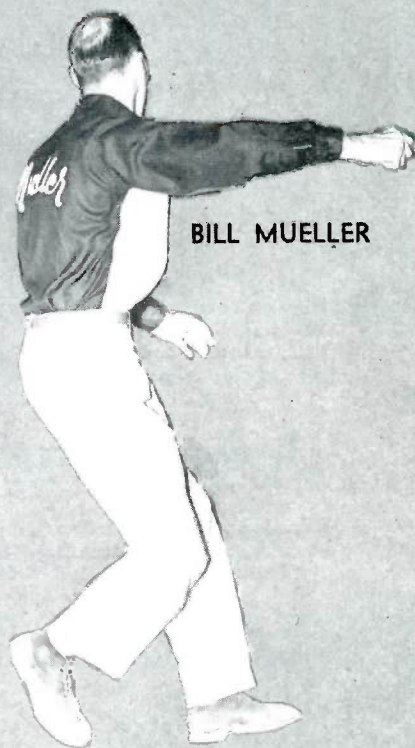




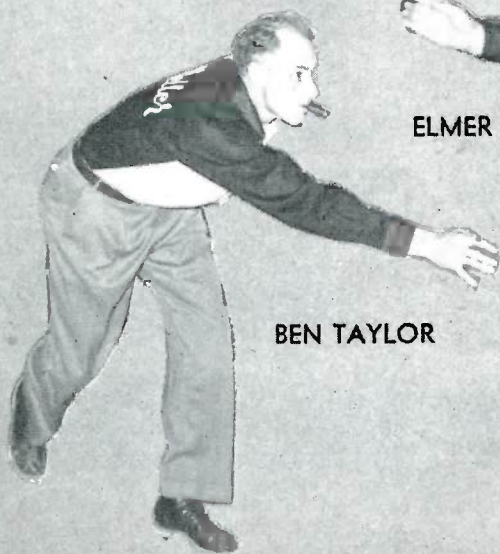
# Mueller Bowlers Show Early Season Form...



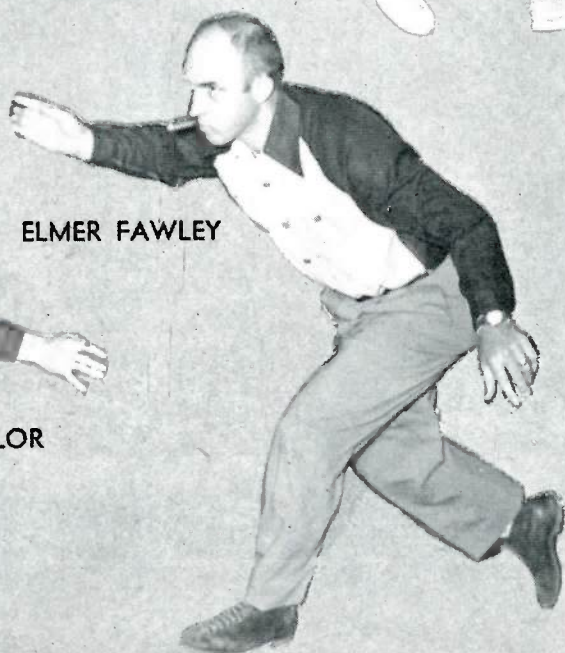
JACK CHEPAN



BILL MUELLER



BEN TAYLOR



ELMER FAWLEY

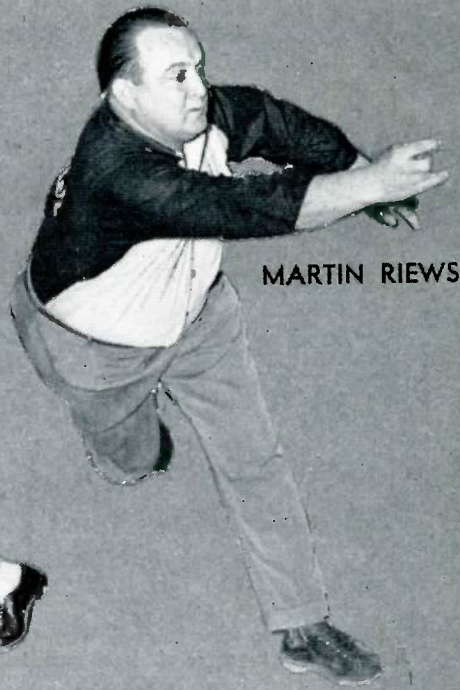




ROBERT DANNEWITZ



CURTIS BAUER



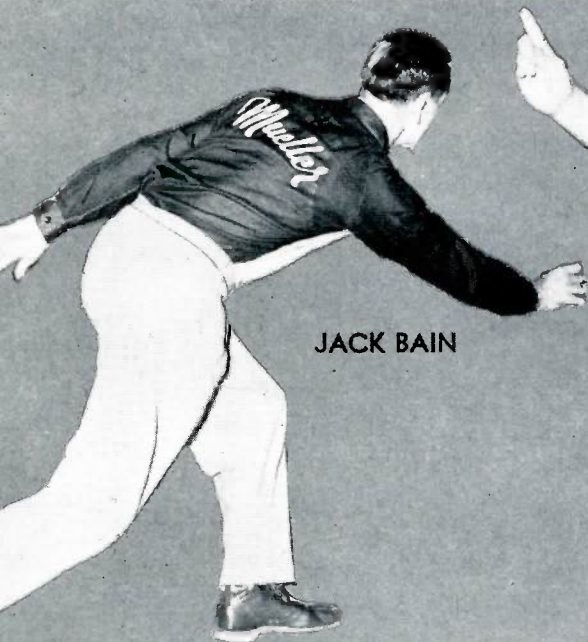
MARTIN RIEWSKI

**P**ERFORMANCE of individual members of the Mueller Bowling League at the first session of the 1949-50 season showed the result of the summer's inactivity, and this natural rustiness was complicated by the stickiness of the newly-refinished floor. This combination made for some unusual deliveries, as the photographs on these pages indicate.

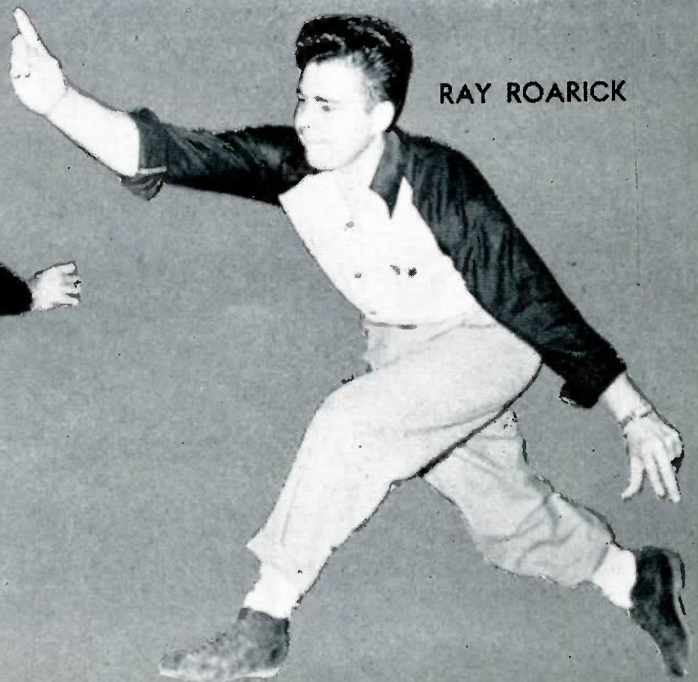
The league this year again includes ten teams from various departments of the plant. Play began the night of September 6 and will continue with weekly sessions each Tuesday night until May 16. A total of 108 games will be played by each team during the season. The sweepstakes event is scheduled for May 23.

Players this season are appearing in new gray and maroon shirts. The Mueller device on the back is in gold.

Ollie Fortschneider, pattern shop, is president of the league, and Bill Mueller, standards department, is secretary-treasurer. Anthony (Buddy) Grossman, tool room, is the league's representative to the city bowling association.



JACK BAIN



RAY ROARICK





A group photograph of the committee in charge of arrangements for the highly successful event.

## Sarnia Picnic Draws 700

**M**ORE THAN 700 persons attended the joint picnic of Mueller, Limited, and Local 456, U.A.W.-C.I.O., which was held Saturday afternoon, August 26, at Canatara Park, Sarnia, Ontario.

One of the features of the day, which included a baby show, races, a ball game, and other contests, was the discovery of the Mueller Mystery Man, Garnet Denomy, by Mrs. Gordon Stuart. In a similar contest, Mrs. H. S. Robertson was "Miss U.A.W.-C.I.O." She was discovered by Paulie Denomy.

James Jacks, 80, received the prize as the oldest pensioner present at the picnic. Prize for the largest family was split between Milton Ellenor and Bill Payne, who tied with families of ten. Roy Abel and John Payne were the winners of the attendance prize. In the group contests, the brawn of the core room girls enabled them to defeat the office girls in a tug-of-war, and in the men's tug-of-war the foundry lads won over the brass shop. And the Oldtimers defeated the Streamliners in the baseball game.

Albert G. Webber, Jr. was one of the baby contest judges, gave banks and bucks to all entrants.







The picnic attracted young and old alike. James Jacks, 80, is shown at the left receiving a prize from Mrs. Doris McLaughlin, payroll department, as the oldest pensioner present. Center photo shows a general view of the picnic site. At the right are Jane Sayers and Katherine Forbes, winners of the ladies' three-legged race, with Fred Cuthbertson, who was judge of the event.



Percy Knight and Betty Ann McLaughlin teamed up to win the married couples' race. In the center are Mrs. H. S. Roberston, "Miss U.A.W.-C.I.O.," and Garnet Denomy, "Mueller Mystery Man." Walter Irvine was Streamliner pin-up, but less glamorous Oldtimers won the ball game.

Charles Browett and Betty Ann McLaughlin showed championship form in banana eating contest, but won only second prize. That's Ward Boyle looking on. Dcrist McLaughlin, center, was kept busy paying out prizes. At the right is Phyllis Pearce, winner of the kick-the-slipper contest.





# Decatur

The second of two week-long sales meetings, called for the purpose of demonstrating new and improved products and discussions of sales literature and general sales problems, will end Friday. All sessions are being held at Mueller Lodge.

Mueller Co. salesmen this year were divided into two groups for the annual meeting. The first meeting convened September 19, the other September 26. Salesmen attending the first meeting were:

Ward L. DeWitt, Richard D. Kitchen, George H. Hofmann, Ray L. Dawkins, George W. White, W. L. Draper, J. L. Logsdon, Paul L. Hines, Robert P. Jett, J. Kenneth Potts, Floyd V. Johnson, H. V. Seevers, Loren Grosboll, H. K. Udell, Walter A. Arnett, Francis V. Martin, Ray Fallon, and Walter A. Coventry.

Those attending the second meeting are:

Robert H. Morris, A. D. Parks, Lloyd George, E. W. Peterson, C. W. Auer, H. A. Probst, F. E. Klinck, R. G. Medick, R. L. Jolly, Robert T. Whitehead, Fred Kroschwitz, Eugene P. Graeber, L. J. Evans, Frank T. O'Dell, Wilson R. Augustine, George W. Knipe, S. B. Johnson, Otto H. Sharlock, James E. Williamson, J. Milne and Ron Nicolson.

L. W. Mueller, chairman of the board, was general chairman of the meetings; J. W. Simpson, executive vice-president, was chairman of sales meetings; Frank H. Mueller, chief products engineer, was chairman of engineering meetings; and T. A. (Al) Larry, engineering consultant, was chairman of engineering discussions.

■ ■ ■

Fred Tratzik, a Mueller Co. engineer, and Mrs. Tratzik, former nurse at the Decatur plant, sailed September 4 from



Parents who have trouble getting Johnny off to school on time might obtain some inside information from Floyd (Curly) Walton, brass foundry, and Mrs. Walton. The Walton youngsters set something of a record during the past school year, not the least of which was perfect attendance for all six—no absences, no one tardy. Stair-stepped above they are: Kenneth, 8, fourth grade; Jeanine, 11, seventh grade; June 13, ninth grade; Kathleen, 15, jun-

ior; Winona, 17, senior; and Harold, 18, who was graduated from Niantic high school in June as valedictorian of his class and entered James Millikin University this fall. June placed first in the state with a French horn solo, and Winona and Harold were honor students. Harold was president of the Niantic Honor Society, president of the student council and of the Youth Center. He received awards in English, citizenship, scholarship and athletics.



New York on the Queen Elizabeth for a two-month trip to Europe. The couple landed in England, then went to Holland, and into Germany where they will visit in all three zones of occupation.

The couple will visit Fred's mother and his two brothers and two sisters in Essen. Fred has not seen his family for 20 years. From Essen, they planned to go to Heidelberg and then to Stuttgart to visit relatives of Mrs. Tratzik.

From Germany the Tratziks plan to go to Switzerland, stopping at Konstanz and Geneva. After leaving Switzerland, they intend to go to France and spend four days in Paris. The couple plans to sail from Cherbourg on the Queen Elizabeth on October 29 for their return to the States.



Edwin M. Chepan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Chepan, received word while spending a furlough with his parents that he had been accepted for the Naval Academy and College Preparatory School, Newport, Rhode Island, and



Edwin M. Chepan

was ordered to report September 26. Admittance to the school was based on Navy-wide competitive examinations. Purpose of the school is to prepare selected enlisted men for the 1950 examinations to the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, or to Navy-approved colleges.



Pearl Kemper, grinder, displays the safety shield from his machine which saved him from possible serious injury recently. He was grinding a cap for a compression stop, when the work slipped, spun around the grinding wheel, and struck the shield with sufficient force to crack the safety glass.



William Bradford, department 8 stop grinder, is shown during his last regular day's work with Mueller Co. September 7 before retiring after almost 25½ years of service. Earlier that day fellow employees had presented him with a billfold and a cash gift.

# Los Angeles

*William Baker, Correspondent*

Russel Hubbard has just recently returned to his lathe from a three-week stay in Hawaii. Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard traveled by air to enable them to spend more time in the Islands. During their stay they visited Maui, Molokai, and Oahu, and also tried their skill at the outrigger canoe and the surf board. Russel had to admit defeat to the latter. After watching people stand upright on this board and race about one-quarter of a mile into shore, he decided to have a go at the sport.

■ ■ ■

There is an individual in our midst whom we can all envy on these hot, sticky days. He is one Mike Liebherr of department 80, and is one of the few persons we know who owns a swimming pool.

You see, last summer, the Liebherr family, Mike, Dorothy, Mike, Jr., Joe and Jim, spent their vacation the hard way. They dug and dug and mixed concrete and spread concrete. Then, just before summer was gone, came the reward—that first plunge into the cool North El Monte water. They have been enjoying their pool all summer and have already broken ground for enlarging it to double its present size.

Congratulations are in order to Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Gordines. The couple was married recently at Our Lady of



Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Gordines

Lord's Parish in Los Angeles, with Johnny Gonzales, of department 30, serving as best man. Following the wedding a gay reception was held at the Inglewood Country Club.

# Chattanooga

*Marcella Lykins, Correspondent*

## Off with the Old, On with the New

As ladies' skirts grow slimmer and shorter, necklines are plunging and hats are crazier, our Plant, too, keeps abreast of the times with constant changes. The assembly department has taken on a new look with a new modern spray paint booth. This new spray booth gives the assembly department a chance to streamline its production in addition to giving them room for proper storage space for merchandise in process. At the same time it eliminates any possibility of paint mist or fumes going any place other than through the filter part of the spray.

Just outside the core room door we find something else has been added. Here a steel structural shed covers new scales for weighing cupola charges and a railroad of approximately 25 feet with a dump-cart to carry the charges. The shed provides a much more comfortable place for the workers than before. The scales which are of the dial type, make it possible for the operator accurately to weigh different materials that are used to make up a cupola charge. This gives the foundry a better check on raw materials that is used. The dump-cart that is used to carry the charge saves the re-handling of



material. Instead of having to carry the material to the scales and weigh it and then remove it from the scales and dump it into the cupola, the material for charges is weighed, then put into the dump-cart and taken to the cupola and dumped directly in.

■ ■ ■

### Retired Employees

From time to time we see some of the men who are retired and in talking with them we find it very interesting to know how different ones are spending their time.

Elbert Hickman is doing a little gardening and raising a few flowers.

John Pinion is doing some odd jobs of carpentering.

Eschol Acuff has a grocery-fruitstand combination on Cherokee Boulevard and spends many hours there.

We haven't heard from Howard Morton for some time, but I'm sure that he has been spending many hours fishing this summer. (That is, if he could get his wife to get some bait for him.)

Reuben Wilson and Henry Williams are doing a little work and a little resting. I talked with Reuben some time ago and he said he wasn't working too hard and "was just fine."

John N. Vincent, Charles Casteel, Charles Hall, Clarence Utt, E. W. Warren, and Elmore Tanner must be just taking it easy. We haven't heard anything definite from them for a short while.

■ ■ ■

Unfortunately, some of our men, James Lewis, Aaron Young, and Hoyt Sorrells, have been sick, but I think most of them are much better now. Hoyt reports that he is much improved. The cast has been taken off his leg and after six weeks on crutches things look very favorable for him.

Although we all know it isn't spring, some of our office personnel seem to feel differently about it. Nell Summarell of our production control department and John W. Sliger were married Saturday, September 3, in Knoxville, Tennessee. The Rev. R. A. Blalock officiated. Nell and John had as attendants Betty Beireley and Fred Hackworth. And then in the sales department, although no formal announcement has been made, Peggy Trotter is wearing a sparkler on the third finger, left hand, and we know plans are being made. I'm about convinced that you just can't tell by the weather.

■ ■ ■

Many people have been on vacation recently: Marilyn Anderson in Chicago, Illinois; Odie Walker, Jr., and family journeyed to Centralia, Missouri; Don Andrews and family visited in Decatur, Illinois. I think Billy took Mr. Andrews. I hear that new Ford of Billy's has quite a pick-up. Marie DeArmond went on quite a fishing spree near Tellico, Tennessee. Then just scads of our folks chose Florida as a vacation spot: Arch Guth, Jim Walker, Louise Williams, Charlie Sutherland, Mr. Quentel, Gladys Jones, and Dalpha Holmes. Of course, there are many others who vacation at home or their destinations are unknown.

■ ■ ■

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. F. K. Moss to whom a daughter was born September 7. Marion and Jack have one son, Garry, who is three years old now. Jack is the foreman of our assembly department and several years ago Marion was with us in the sales department.

We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to Harold Roberts of the brass foundry in the recent death of his mother.

## Sarnia, Ontario

*Almeda Reeve, Correspondent*

A lot of credit is due the members of the committee who took care of arrangements for the joint Mueller, Limited-Local 456, U.A.W.-C.I.O., picnic, which

was held August 26. It required a lot of work and all are to be commended. Charles S. Browett and James W. Chaytor were co-chairmen of the committee.

Our congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Kewell on the birth of a daughter, Diana Gaye, on August 12. Herb is employed in department 8.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. (Neil) Turnbull on the birth of a daughter, Audrey Ann. Neil is employed in department 5.

■ ■ ■

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Harold Brown, department 10, in the recent loss of his father, Ambrose Brown.

■ ■ ■

George F. Oliver, department 7, retired recently after approximately 4½ years of service with the company. All his fellow employees wish him a most enjoyable retirement.

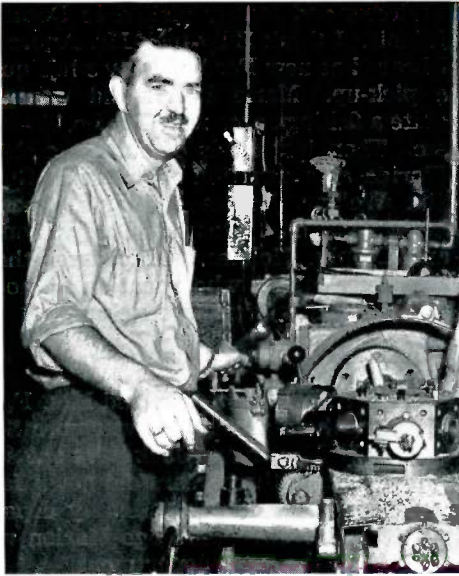
George I. Lucas, cost department, recently attended the St. Andrew Society's 100th Anniversary, which was held in Detroit. George is a drummer in the local Imperial City Pipe Band, which, we understand, made a good showing at the affair.

■ ■ ■

We want to extend congratulations to: Ivan R. Maw, department 2, and Evelyn Gravelle, who were married in Sarnia on July 23.

Kathleen Mullen, department 1, and Peter Garrick, who were united in marriage on July 23 at St. Joseph Church, Sarnia.

Marion Irene Riley, office, and Charles D. Riddell, who were married in the Canon Davis Memorial Church on July 14.



### HOWARD F. TAYLOR, TURRET LATHE OPERATOR

**H**UNTING AND FISHING are the favorite hobbies of Howard F. Taylor, turret lathe operator at Mueller, Limited, Sarnia, and as the photograph at the right shows, he's successful in at least one of his hobbies. The wolf he's holding was shot during a drive last spring. Howard was the only member of the drive to bag a wolf. Howard, who was born and educated in Sarnia, has been a Mueller employee since January, 1941, and

during the war he acted as assistant foreman on the night shift in the brass finishing department. Between hunting and fishing seasons, Howard finds time for a third hobby—cabinet making—in his home workshop, located in the basement of the house he and Mrs. Taylor built about four years ago. The couple has one son, Robert Mark, who is seven years old. Howard is a member of the bargaining committee of Local 456, U.A.W. (C.I.O.).