

MUELLER Record

JUNE • 1957



On The Boardwalk - - See Page 18

Mueller Record

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SALES OFFICES

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Our Cover



The bascule gates are down, as water rushes over this efficient dam in Decatur, Illinois. These churning waters are due to the excessive Spring rains experienced over much of the country. As the run-off into man-made Lake Decatur eased, the gates were raised bit-by-bit, restoring the desired storage capacity of the Lake.

Area fishermen certainly had no complaints, for the banks were black with people. Some made pretty good catches, although the speed of flow was too much for many fish, which were swept on downstream to be left high and dry when the "floods" abated.

Recording Our Thoughts

Well, now that we are back from a wonderful trip to Atlantic City and the 77th Annual American Water Works Association Convention, we can settle back in our chair and look at the week objectively. Since the high-points of the convention are covered elsewhere in this issue, we will confine ourselves to several personal observations.

First and perhaps the most striking feature of the week, was the easily-observed friendliness of the many hundreds of water works people in attendance. We did lots of circulating, and found smiles wherever we went. It is a "truism" that a good time was had by all!

All of us enjoyed the wonderful food offered in Atlantic City's 100-plus restaurants, especially the seafood centers. Lobster, King Crab, shrimp and clams — all helped sharpen the appetite.

Convention Hall, home of technical sessions and exhibits, is a wonder in itself. Of course, you all know that it houses, each year, a great quantity of feminine beauty — during the Miss America Pageant. We visited Pageant Headquarters,

and sat in on the bustle of activity as the staff made ready for this year's extravaganza. We were also amazed to learn that many professional **football games** have been played **inside** Convention Hall! The ceiling is so high that any person who can kick a football to the rafters receives one hundred dollars! It has never been done, though many have tried. Convention Hall seats at least 40,000, and as many as 50,000 for certain types of events.

Several of us took side-trips to Million Dollar Pier, where each day at 12:45, local fishermen haul up a gigantic net for the benefit of the tourists. We saw the net come up, filled with thousands of flounder, and a few Blue-fish.

This writer had never been to the East Coast prior to the Atlantic City trip, so three resolutions were made prior to departure: (1) to swim in the Atlantic Ocean, (2) to ride the roller-coaster on Million Dollar Pier, and (3) to walk the entire length of the Boardwalk. Well, the temperature was only 41 degrees when we arrived, but we quickly changed into swimming trunks and made like a polar bear. After thawing slightly, we headed for the Pier and our second aim. Imagine our disappointment when we found that there is **no** roller-coaster in Atlantic City! We settled for second best—the ferris wheel! And then, the "Great Walk." Yes, we managed the whole length of the fabulous Boardwalk, but not without a couple of stops on benches.

The planned activity of the convention started Sunday, May 12, with open house at Convention Hall. At 6 P.M., everyone headed for the Ambassador Hotel and the "Boardwalk Buffet," which featured food and fellowship galore. The high-point Monday night was the Awards ceremony and reception for the new AWWA officers, also held at the Ambassador. Although the awards were too numerous to mention, we offer our sincere congratulations to all those who devoted themselves to improvement of water service and research, and received the cherished awards for their efforts.

The rest of the week was filled with a wonderful concert, a Ladies

(Continued on Page 11)

MUELLER RECORD

CONTENTS

CITY IN TRANSITION.....	PAGE 4
DECATUR PERSONNEL	PAGE 8
CRAWFORD PROMOTED—TINSLEY JOINS MUELLER.....	PAGE 11
SEEVERS RECEIVES 40-YEAR AWARD.....	PAGE 11
BEATITUDES OF A LEADER.....	PAGE 11
STRICTLY OFF THE RECORD!.....	PAGE 12
SALUTING THE NEW A.W.W.A. OFFICERS.....	PAGE 17
ON THE BOARDWALK.....	PAGE 18
THE WEEK IN BRIEF.....	PAGE 20
PANORAMA OF PICTURES.....	PAGE 22
SMILES EVERYWHERE	PAGE 24
LOOKING BACKWARD	PAGE 26

. . . NEXT MONTH . . .

WHERE ONCE THERE WAS BUT WATER: We journey to Six Lakes, Michigan, for a story on the new underground storage field of Michigan Consolidated Gas Company. We will visit the Company's main offices in Detroit, and take a side-trip to Woolfolk Station, just outside Big Rapids, Michigan. Michigan Consolidated Gas Company serves approximately 835,000 customers in 111 Michigan cities, villages and townships. Don't miss this progress report on one of the nation's largest gas utilities.

WELCOME TO HOSPITALITY HOUSE: The gigantic building program carried on by utility companies across the nation in the past few years has not been concentrated solely on erection of operating facilities. Utilities have also done a major face-lifting job in modernizing their business offices. Outstanding among the gas utilities in this respect is South Jersey Gas Co. of Atlantic City. Let's take a trip through "Hospitality House," and see what a great deal of foresight can do.



Beautiful Lake Decatur, as seen from scenic Lake Shore Drive, is indeed a sight to behold!

Decatur, Illinois

City in Transition

Water Over the Dam

IN 1857, ABRAHAM LINCOLN rode a horse along a judicial circuit, and into Decatur, Illinois, where his name was first mentioned for the Presidency of the United States. Decatur was small then, and the surrounding areas were rich in woodlands. Then, during the next hundred years, great things happened to Decatur, until, in 1957, it is one of the five most rapidly-growing cities in the entire Middle West.

Decatur has been called "a city in transition." Indeed it is. For decades, Decatur was surrounded by rich farm land, and was, primarily, a farm community. Gradually, though, a change was worked in the economic composition of the area. Industry discovered that Decatur was a good place to locate. Five major railroads bisect the city from every direction, and the Wabash Railroad located its car

MUELLER RECORD

and diesel shops in this industrial infant.

Decatur has another distinction besides the "transition" epithet ... "Soybean Capital of the World." The A. E. Staley Mfg. Company is the world's largest independent producer of corn and soybean products.

Now, in 1957, a run-down of industry in the city reminds one of a roll-call of industrial might, Caterpillar Tractor Company, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, Western Electric, General Electric, Borg-Warner — all these names mean prosperity for the city named after a great naval hero—Stephen Decatur.

We mentioned transportation as a major reason for location of industry in Decatur. Another great attraction is water supply. While many Middle West areas have serious water problems, Decatur's supply is relatively abundant. This abundance can be traced back to 1920, for that is when the city faced the serious problem of securing enough water to meet the demands of a growing population.

The result of extensive research and surveys was Lake Decatur. Created in 1922 at a cost of two-and-one-half million dollars, the Lake was given birth by construction of an earthen dam with a spillway of concrete across the Sangamon River. Lake Decatur, divided into seven separate basins by bridges, is thirteen miles long and three quarters of a mile wide at its widest point. It covers 2800 acres of former timber and farmland. At the time of its creation, it was the largest inland, water - impounding reservoir built on a Midwest river. Its original capacity was approximately six-and-one-half billion gallons of water.

But 1920 doesn't tell us the whole story. Decatur's public water system dates from the year 1870, when water was supplied by a well. In 1879, construction of a wooden dam across the river channel was completed. In 1910, the wooden dam was replaced by one of concrete, located downstream from the 1922 dam.

The present dam is about 1900 feet long. It consists of a 540-foot long earth embankment at the north end; and an 875-foot earth

embankment at the south end, both at an elevation of 624, with a 485-foot solid concrete spillway at elevation 610 in the middle of the river channel. This spillway section is 26-feet, six inches high, and has two sluice gates at its north end. The average daily pumpage of raw water to be processed for home and factory use amounts to about 25 million gallons, of which about five million gallons are returned to the Lake by the Staley company.

All has not been rosy for Decatur's water supply, however. One very serious situation has been developing throughout the years, not recognizable to the thousands of Decatur residents who use the Lake for recreational purposes each year. Slowly, but certainly, Lake Decatur has been dying of strangulation — strangulation caused by millions of tons of rich top-soil washed from farm lands into the Sangamon River, and thence into the lake.

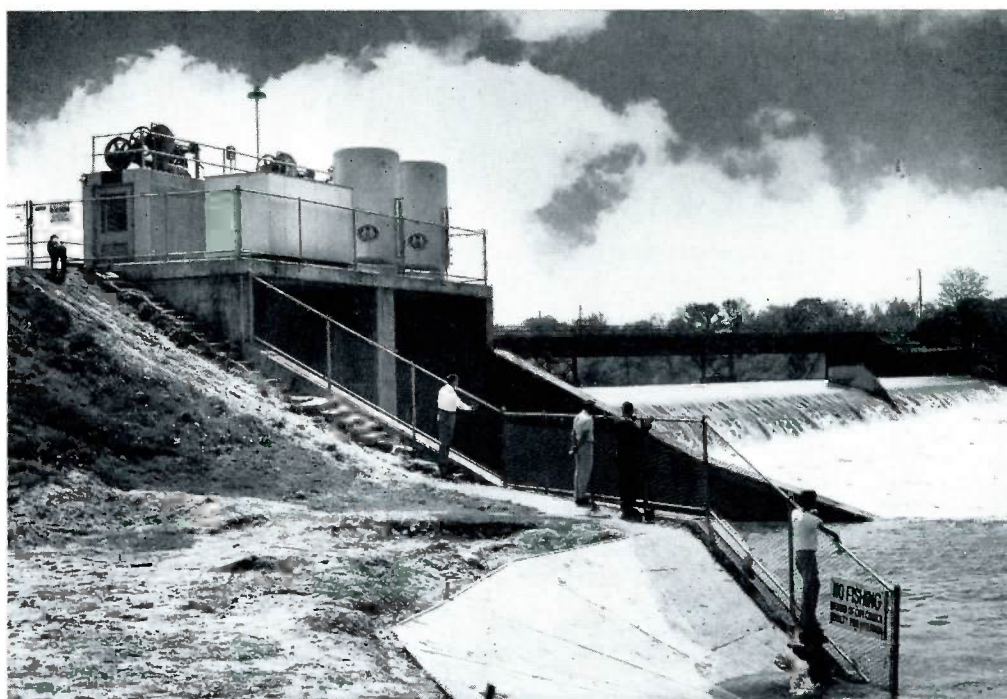
Each year, this silt enters the Lake at a rate of 236 acre feet, or 600,000 tons. This silt has cut the storage capacity of the Lake from six-and-one-half billion gallons in 1922 to less than four billion gal-

lons in 1957. Yet, Decatur's residential and industrial usage of water has been increasing. Eighty-five percent of the silt drains from 575,000 acres of upstream farm land, according to four surveys made by the State of Illinois. The problem is one of serious import, and farmers who own land within the watershed have been warned that, in addition to losing valuable top-soil, they are endangering the water supply of a city that has recently been classified as an industrial boom-town.

In June, 1952, after a year of research, a Citizen's Advisory Committee recommended a ten year program, which included plans for preserving and expanding the Lake Decatur reservoir. With a three-million-dollar revenue bond issue, and water rates adjusted to retire the bonds, the city allocated \$700,000, and the A. E. Staley Mfg. Company contributed \$250,000, for repairing the dam and raising its level five feet by the addition of bascule gates.

Work was soon begun, and in December, 1954, bascule gates arrived in Decatur from the S. Mor-

The machinery pictured here is the control mechanism which powers the dam gates, and stands immediately above the original sluice gates.





Filter Building of Decatur Water Works

gan Smith Company in York, Pennsylvania. A bascule gate is a leaf-type gate hinged at the bottom, which rotates about its bottom hinge. It was recommended by engineers because it fulfills the requirements of simplicity of joint or individual operation, and can be quickly opened manually in the event of a power failure. Each section weighs about 20 tons, and is forty feet long. The two gates over the Lake Decatur spillway have a combined length of 467 and one-half feet, and are seven and one-half feet high.

Bascule gate construction is similar to the fabrication of an airplane wing. A section of gate has a one-inch steel skin fastened to steel ribs. The skin forms that side of the gate that will take the flow of water. Unlike an airplane wing, however, the bascule gate has no skin on the underside of the ribs.

The power which moves the gates up or down is generated through hydraulic cylinders or lifters. The cylinders are placed in recessments made on the face of the dam. These eight cylinders are protected from the spillway overflow by sheet steel housing.

Each gate is 233 feet nine-inches long, with a one-and-one-half foot steel pier between the two gates. Total length of Decatur's bascule gates, the longest ever fabricated, is 469 feet. With these gates in operation, the total storage capacity of Lake Decatur would be in the neighborhood of eight billion gallons.

Silt still floats into the Lake, however, indicating that other measures must be taken to insure adequate water supply in the future. The city has recently constructed two deep water wells that are capable of producing five million gallons per day. These units are located several miles upstream from the city in the pre-glacial Mahomet River Valley, and by the construction of additional wells, this well field could produce a net total of some 20 million gallons of water per day. These wells discharge directly into the Sangamon River upstream from the Lake.

In addition, plans were only recently announced, after a great deal of research, to construct a dam at the south-east end of Lake De-

Decatur is proud of its new office building, located south of the business district, and close to the filter building and pumping station.



Land below the dam went under water during the recent rainy weather.



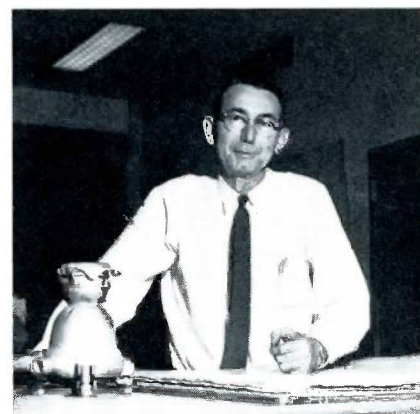
No, this isn't flood-plagued Texas! It's just what used to be a natural boat landing on the south side of Lake Decatur—before the storm!





The members of the Decatur City Council inspect construction of the new pumping station near the dam.

MARVIN CAZIER



Marvin Cazier became Superintendent of Water Distribution in 1942, after joining the Decatur Water Department as office boy in 1924. Mr. Cazier is a member of the American Water Works Association.

Decatur Personnel

Homer L. Chastain





John M. Weir, Chief Engineer

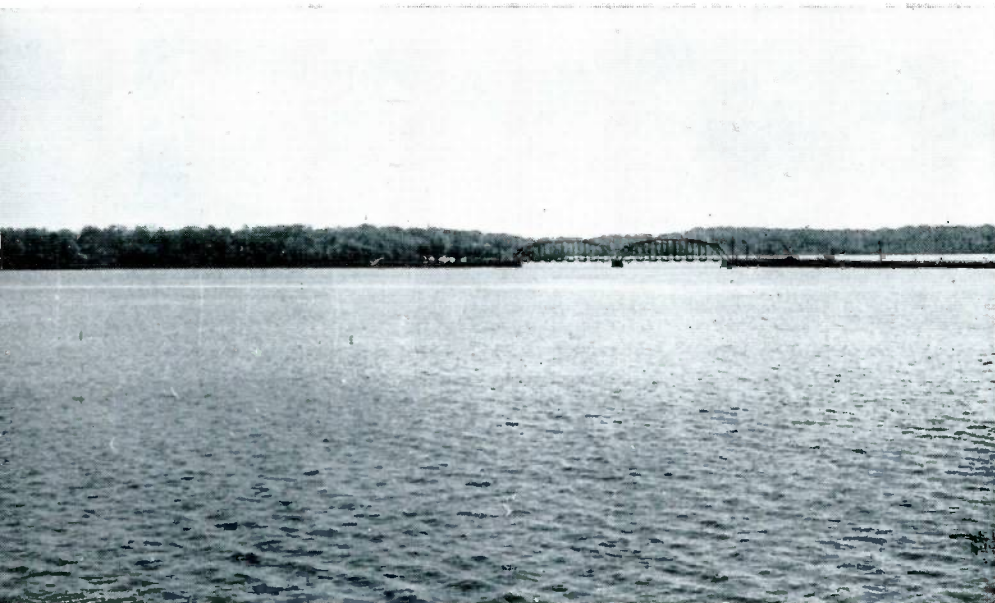
Gerald L. "Doc" Davis has been Plant Superintendent of the Decatur Water Department for the past fourteen years. He joined the department as City Chemist. "Doc" is a member of the AWWA, and was chairman of the Illinois Section in 1956.



John M. Weir, Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Property, has had a long and illustrious career. During his career as consulting engineer, he served the United States Government in China from 1929 to 1931, as consultant on the construction of Chinese railroads. Prior to that time, from 1925 to 1927, Mr. Weir was Chief Engineer for the Georgia Manganese Co., and he was based in Russia.

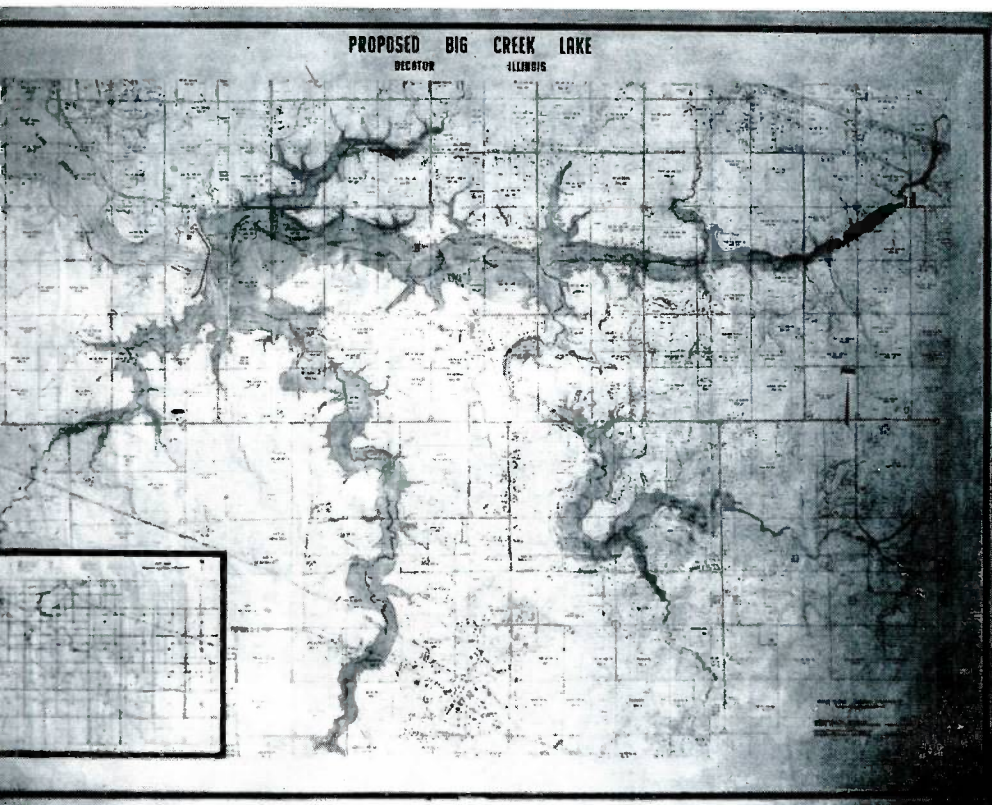
Mr. Weir has capably served the city of Decatur for the past 15 years. He was City Engineer for twelve years prior to attaining his present position.

GERALD L. DAVIS



This is one of seven basins of Lake Decatur, with a dividing bridge in the background.

A map of the proposed Big Creek Lake, which would enable Decatur to adequately and easily meet water demands of a growing population.



catur, thus creating a huge reservoir to be known as Big Creek Lake. This new reservoir will not be completed for about ten years, but it is expected to more than satisfy the growing thirst for water in the city and surrounding areas.

Thus, Decatur has made great strides toward providing an excellent water supply for its residential, commercial and industrial users. Much credit is due to the fine Department of Public Property, headed by Homer L. Chastain, Commissioner of Public Property. Mr. Chastain has handled this position capably for the last seven and one-half years. He was graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in Architectural Engineering, and his varied background includes: one year as Resident Engineer in Champaign County, Illinois; one year as Land Surveyor in Orlando, Florida; and 20 years as Civil Engineer for the A. E. Staley Mfg. Co. in Decatur.

In addition to his position as Commissioner, Mr. Chastain has maintained a consulting office engaged in private practice of engineering for the past eleven years. This office has specialized in industrial and heavy construction, and highway design and construction. Mr. Chastain and his wife, Ruth Erin, have three daughters and four grandchildren. He is a member of A.W.W.A., A.C.I., I.A.C.E., and N.S.P.E.

Now that the major water problems of Decatur have been solved for several years to come, it is expected that even more large industries will cast a favorable glance in the city's direction. "The Soybean City," or city in transition—call it what you will; Decatur is outgrowing all growth estimates, and her city government is seeing to it that her people have the very best.

* * *

A group of well-heeled young executives were exchanging confidences on how they had overcome early difficulties. "Things were pretty tough for me," admitted Rogers when his turn came, "but I just gritted my teeth, rolled up my sleeves, spat on my hands—and borrowed another hundred thousand and from my father!"

Crawford Promoted— Tinsley Joins Mueller

Mr. Warren D. Crawford has been named Western Sales Manager of Mueller Co., according to Mr. W. H. Hipsher, Executive Vice President of the company. Mr. Crawford succeeds Dan R. Gannon, who was recently named Field Sales Manager, with headquarters in Decatur. Mr. Phillip R. Tinsley has joined the company as Sales Representative in the Houston, Texas, area.

Mr. Crawford joined Mueller Co. in 1952 as Sales Representative in the Houston area. A veteran of World War II, he is married and the father of three children. The Crawford family will reside in the Los Angeles area.

Mr. Tinsley has been associated with a large manufacturer of waterworks supplies on the west coast, and joined Mueller Co. on April 15. He was All-American at Georgia Tech in 1943, and was graduated from UCLA in 1949 with a degree in Industrial Engineering.

Tinsley served in the Civil Engineers Corps in the Philippines during World War II. He is married and has two children. The Tinsley family will take residence in Houston. He is also a member of the American Water Works Association.

Seevers Receives 40-Year Award



Mr. Harry V. Seevers, who joined Mueller Co. in 1917, received his forty-year service award on April 5. Seevers started with the company as a Sales Representative covering the state of Kansas.

His forty years with the company were broken only by five months in the Infantry during the First World War. After forty years, he is still traveling in the same Kansas territory.

Beatitudes of A Leader . . .

Blessed is the leader who has not sought the high places, but who has been drafted into service because of his ability and willingness to serve.

Blessed is the leader who knows where he is going, why he is going, and how to get there.

Blessed is the leader who knows no discouragement, and who presents no alibi.

Blessed is the leader who knows how to lead without being dictatorial; true leaders are humble.

Blessed is the leader who seeks the best for those he serves.

Blessed is the leader who leads for the good of the most concerned, and not for the personal gratification of his own ideas.

Blessed is the leader who develops leaders while leading.

Blessed is the leader who marches with the group, and interprets correctly the signs on the pathway to success.

Blessed is the leader who has his head in the clouds, but his feet on the ground.

Blessed is the leader who considers leadership an opportunity for service.

—Anonymous



Mr. Warren Crawford, left, and Mr. Phillip Tinsley chat during a recent meeting of sales representatives at headquarters in Decatur.

(Continued from Page 2)

Card Party, the golf tournament, and the W.W. Brush Dinner and Dance.

We were particularly proud of the wonderful reception accorded our Centennial exhibit—**Watertown, U.S.A.** Great crowds gathered in front of the exhibit to hear the story of water, and to praise the knowledge and ability responsible for such an exhibit. To those of you who were unable to see **Watertown, U.S.A.**, may we say that we sincerely hope it will be possible for you to view this magnificent exhibit sometime in the near future.

The inevitable happened; the day of departure arrived. Sure, we were all tired, but we have a feeling Atlantic City will be the topic of conversation in "water works homes" for weeks to come.

Strictly Off the Record!

Two vacationing businessmen on the beach at Bermuda were having a fine time debating the many charms of movie star Jane Russell. "Don't know what everybody sees in her," exclaimed one. "Take away her eyes, her hair, her lips and her figure, and what have you got?" The other man gave a heartfelt sigh, and said, "My wife!"

* * *

George Gobel complained that he couldn't teach his prize boxer, Irving, not to chase after automobiles. A noted dog expert assured Gobel, "Every boxer chases cars." "I know," said George, "but Irving catches them!"

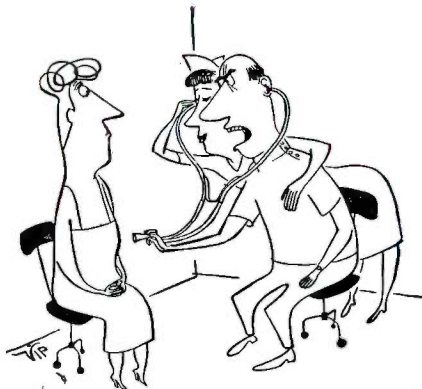
* * *

When asked to furnish his school affiliations, a New England job applicant paused briefly, then wrote, "Korea, Clash of 1952."



"Our shop has a 100 per cent safety record—and we're keeping it that way!"

A report has reached us that the Navy is working on an atomic submarine which will stay under water for four years—coming up just long enough for the crew to re-enlist.



"If you don't mind nurse, I can handle this quite alright by myself."
For your enjoyment—Courtesy of Boyle and Company

Abe Lincoln once attended a theater in Springfield, Illinois, and arrived just as the curtain rose. His eyes riveted on the stage, he thoughtlessly placed his tall silk hat on the seat next to him, open end up.

Entered a lady of very bountiful proportions, and headed straight for the empty seat. She sat, there was a crunch. She jumped up. The hat was now a black silk pancake. Mr. Lincoln picked it up ruefully. "Madam," he declared, "I could have told you my hat wouldn't fit you before you tried it on."

* * *

Have you heard the one about the gardener attached to Buckingham Palace who stole a chair belonging to Queen Elizabeth and hid it in his greenhouse? He was speedily apprehended, and sentenced to reading nothing but puns for ten years, an obvious vindication of the old maxim that people who live in glass houses shouldn't stow thrones!

Then there's the one about a great sea captain who lost a sailor overboard during a storm, and saw him swallowed by a whale. The resourceful captain took after the whale in a rowboat, and by judicious handling of an oar, managed to beat the tar out of him! (Ouch!)

A local newspaper reported recently that a slick saleslady, after talking a customer into buying a mink coat at a Decatur store, asked gently, "How would your husband prefer being billed, madam? In a series of piddling amounts, or in one staggering sum?"

* * *

The most unusual salesman he ever met, claims Herb Shriner, is a fellow who made a modest fortune selling lightning rods. Suddenly he lost interest in his work, however. He got caught in a storm with a bunch of samples in his arms.

* * *

Here from the issue of **September 29, 1915**, are Seven Wonders of the World of which we do not often hear:

"The man who will work without being watched.

A sales manager who doesn't think he pays the "old man's" salary.

A salesman who thinks perhaps the quality of the material may have something to do with his making those large contracts.

A stenographer who knows punctuation, and will look in the dictionary when she is uncertain about spelling.

A purchasing agent who doesn't think he does you a favor when he asks you to quote.

A new superintendent who will wait a week before installing a much better system than his predecessor's.

A boss who acts as if he wasn't."

* * *



"It all started innocently enough—as just a coffee break!"

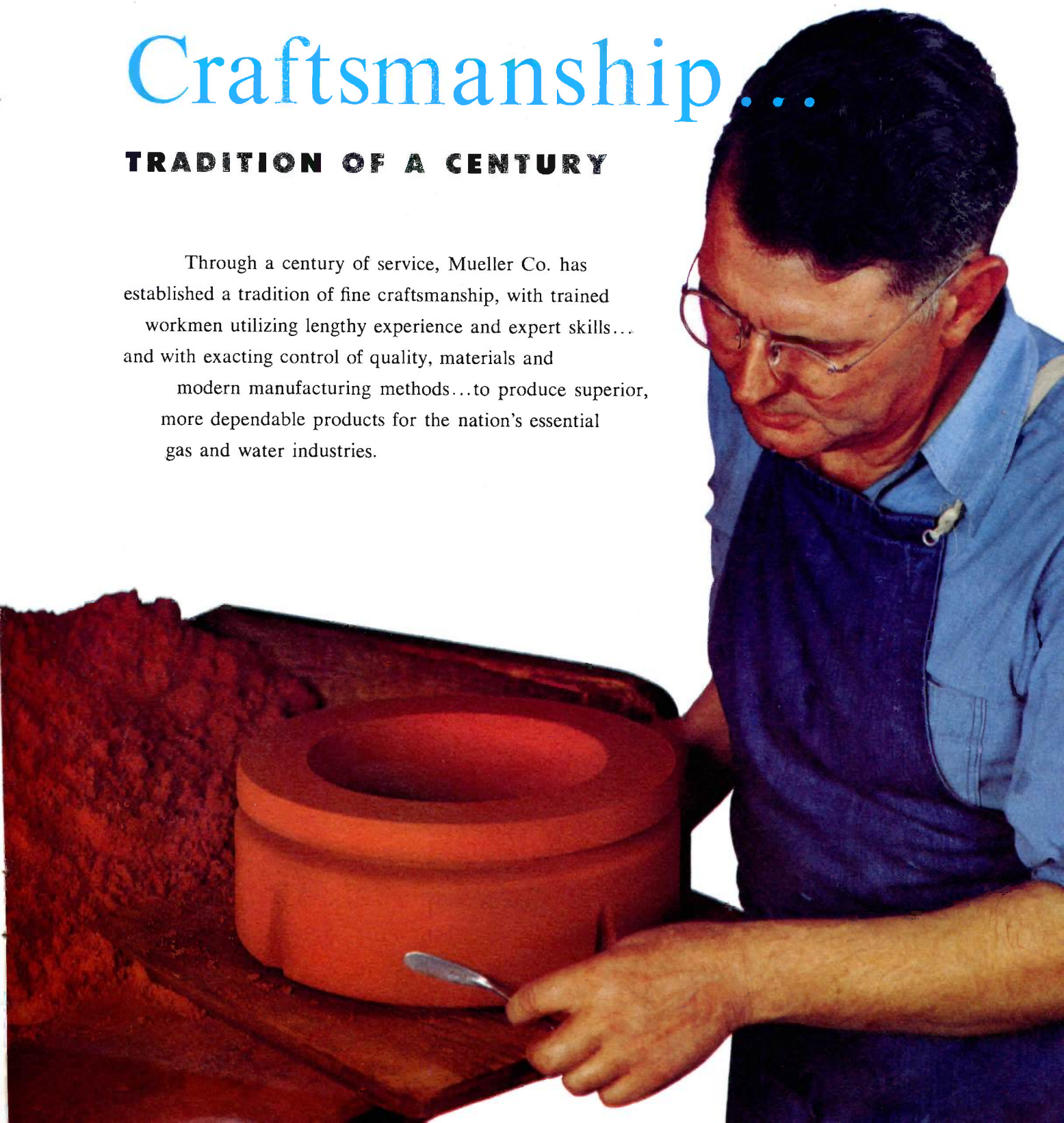
MUELLER RECORD



Craftsmanship...

TRADITION OF A CENTURY

Through a century of service, Mueller Co. has established a tradition of fine craftsmanship, with trained workmen utilizing lengthy experience and expert skills... and with exacting control of quality, materials and modern manufacturing methods...to produce superior, more dependable products for the nation's essential gas and water industries.





Expert core men, with skilled hands, call on experience, craftsmanship and unerring skill to shape cores with exacting detail, even to the grain of the sand.

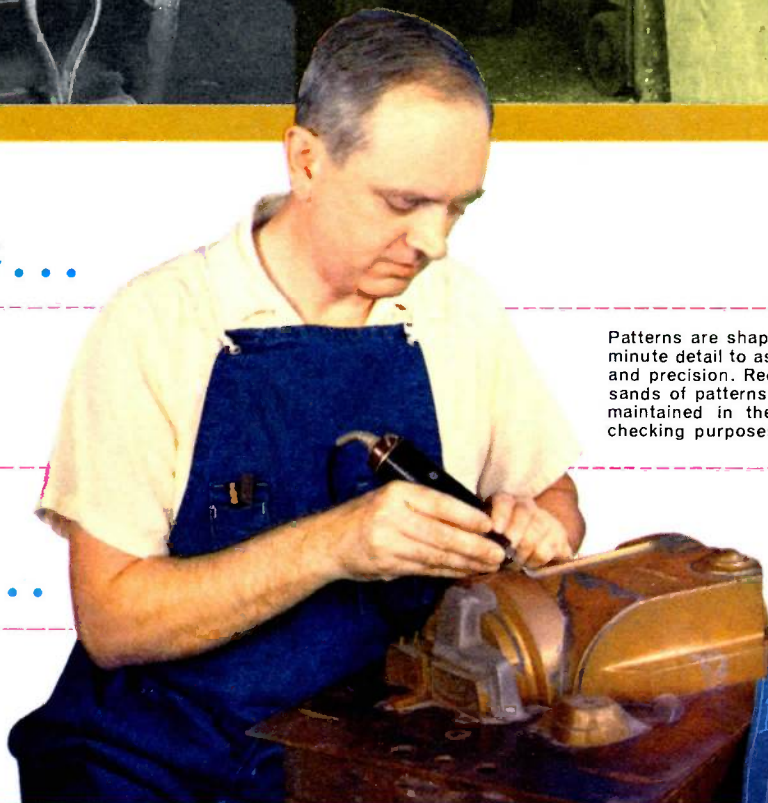
Constant temperature checks assure foundrymen that molten metal, which can be accurately maintained within a plus or minus of 10 degrees Fahrenheit, is of the exact heat and proper consistency.



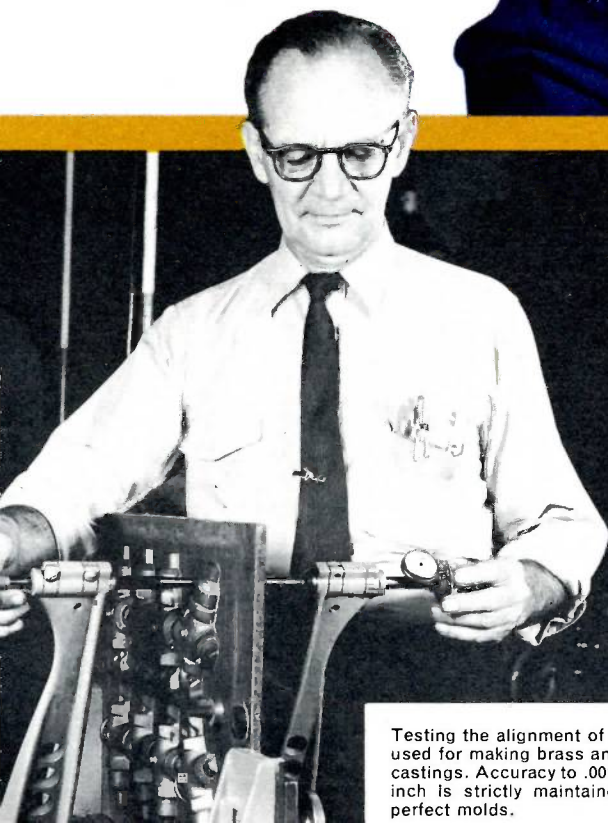
Patience...

Pride...

Perfection...

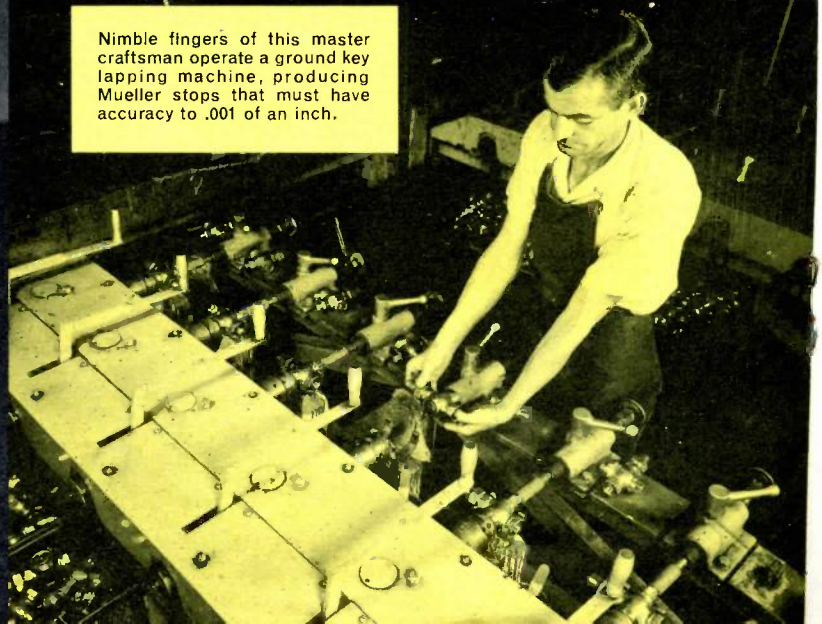


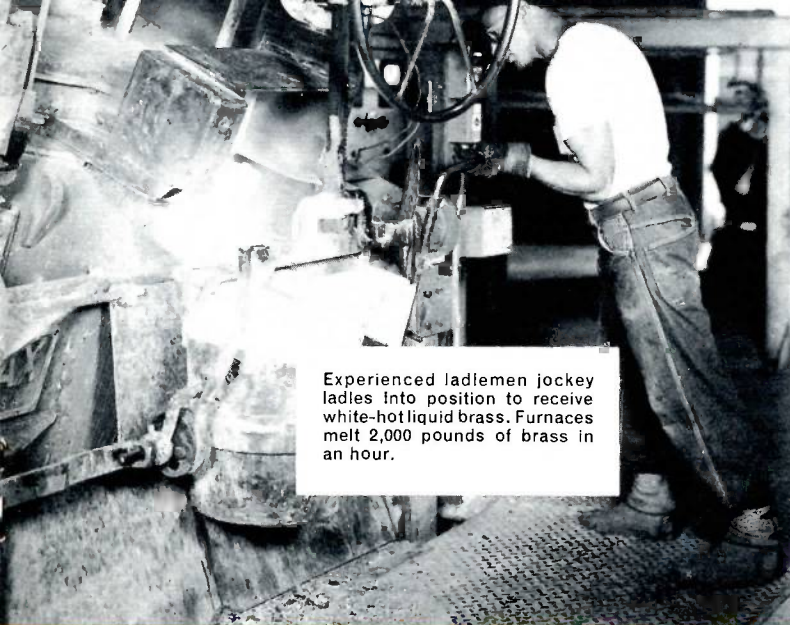
Patterns are shaped and inspected in minute detail to assure exact accuracy and precision. Records of many thousands of patterns and core boxes are maintained in the Pattern Shop for checking purposes.



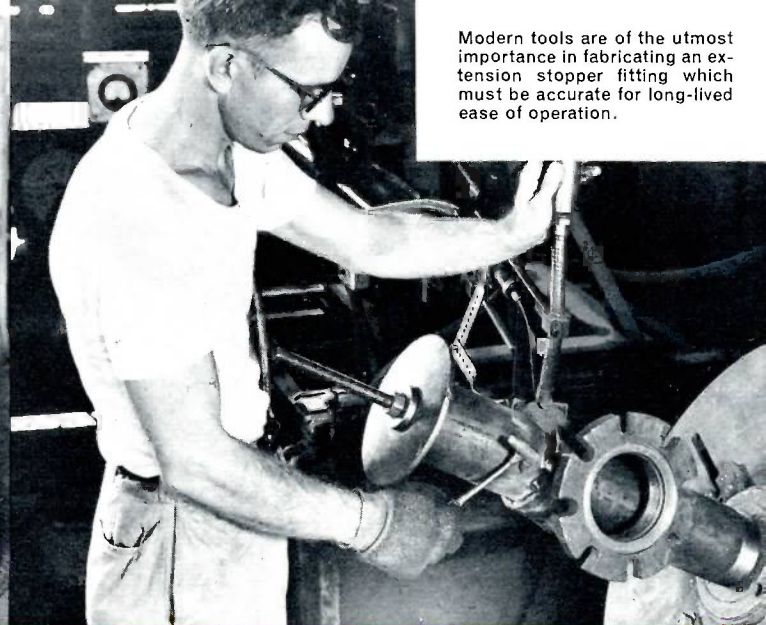
Testing the alignment of plates used for making brass and iron castings. Accuracy to .001 of an inch is strictly maintained for perfect molds.

Nimble fingers of this master craftsman operate a ground key lapping machine, producing Mueller stops that must have accuracy to .001 of an inch.





Experienced ladlemen jockey ladles into position to receive white-hot liquid brass. Furnaces melt 2,000 pounds of brass in an hour.



Modern tools are of the utmost importance in fabricating an extension stopper fitting which must be accurate for long-lived ease of operation.

Precision machines cutting gleaming metal to microscopic tolerances...turning conveyor lines carefully carrying partially completed products to assembly points...busy men of many talents adjusting instruments, reading gauges, skilfully performing their work—this is Mueller quality in the making!

Within this vast array of men and machines,

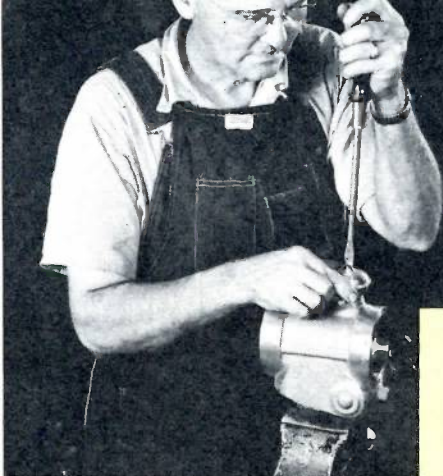
every movement has a purpose...each and every man is thoroughly trained for his work, takes great pride in carrying it to perfection. Each part is carefully examined and tested to insure a product of highest quality and the finest workmanship possible...a product that will give long, safe and trouble-free service.



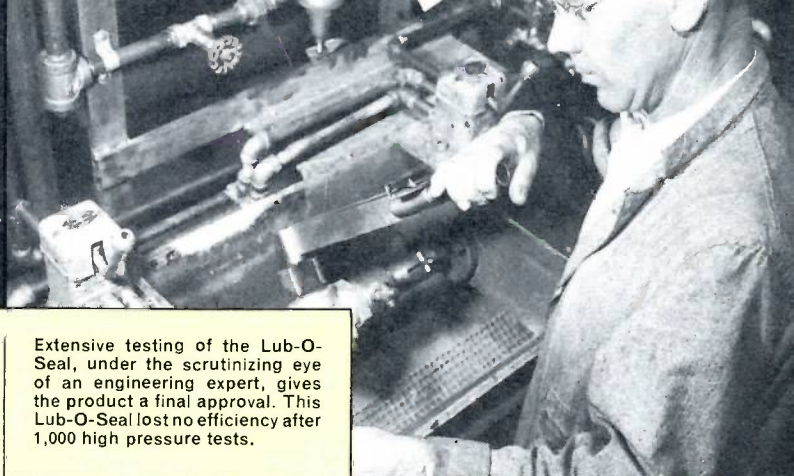
Never-ending patience and great pride in his work guide this machinist as he manufactures thousands of small parts used in Mueller products.



A skilled workman with a steady hand and a "fire-proof" thumb "wipes" a lead gooseneck joint to mirror-smooth perfection.



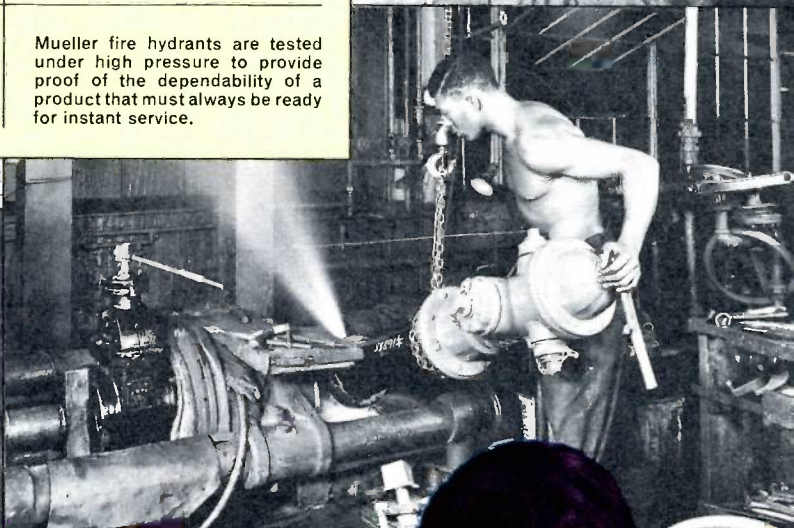
Working with extreme care, an experienced craftsman checks each component part of a drilling and tapping machine, insuring trouble-free service, efficient operation for many years.



Extensive testing of the Lub-O-Seal, under the scrutinizing eye of an engineering expert, gives the product a final approval. This Lub-O-Seal lost no efficiency after 1,000 high pressure tests.



Watchful eyes and precision machines combine to complete an exacting cut in a stem that will become an integral part of an ever-dependable Mueller Gate Valve.

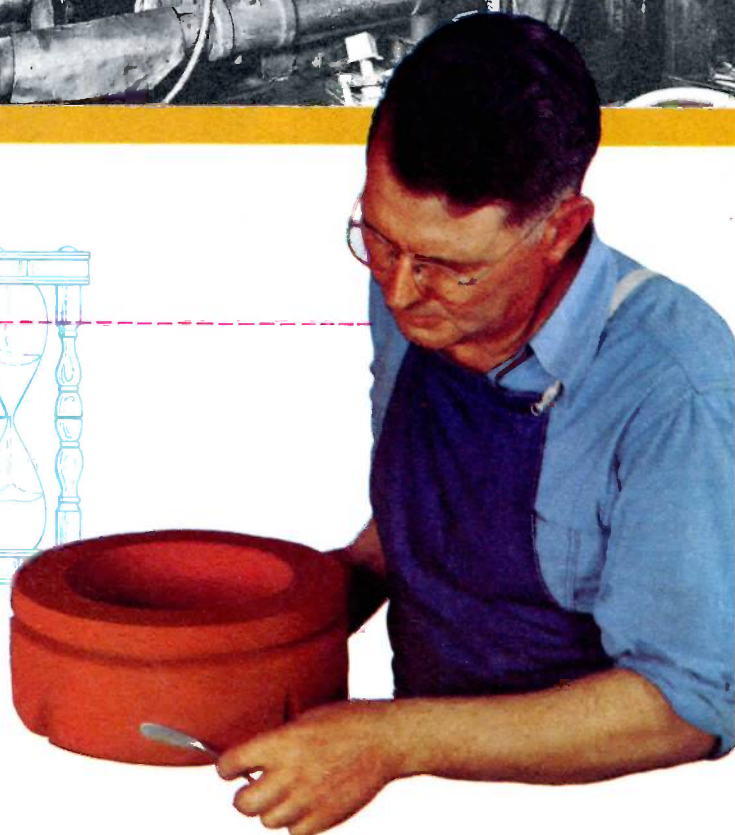
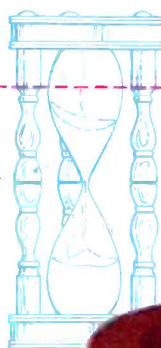


Mueller fire hydrants are tested under high pressure to provide proof of the dependability of a product that must always be ready for instant service.

The final test...

When the finished unit leaves Mueller Co., the skill, the care and the quality built into each product must meet one final test...a test in which Mueller products have demonstrated superior quality time and time again.

This is the test of the product on the job...in the line to stay, giving dependable, efficient, long-lasting service...a test which proves that the century-old, Mueller tradition of craftsmanship is worthwhile.



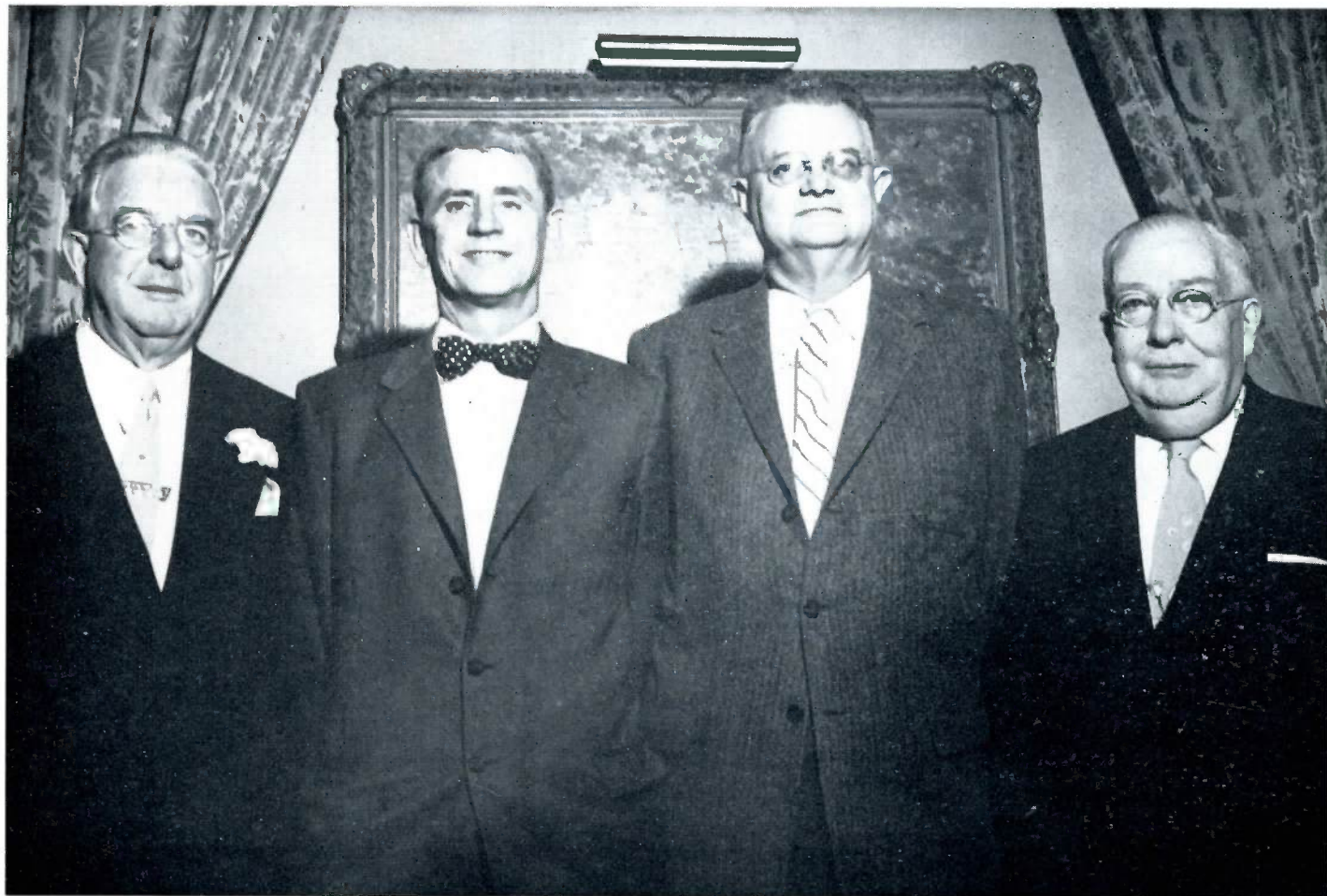
MUELLER CO.

Factories at: Decatur, Chattanooga, Los Angeles;
In Canada: Mueller, Limited, Sarnia, Ontario



DECATUR, ILL.

Since 1857



SALUTING the New A. W. W. A. Officers

WILLIAM J. ORCHARD
Treasurer

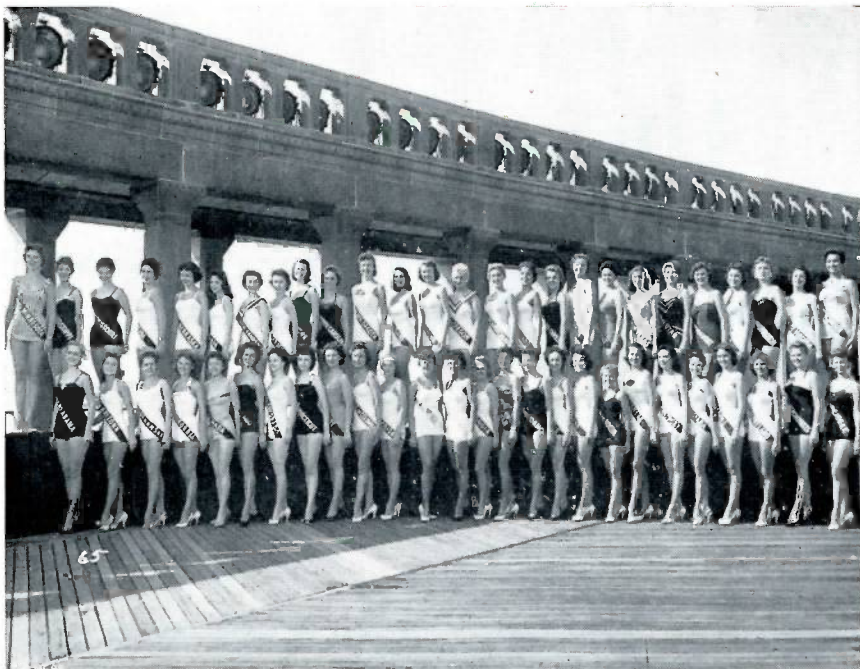
HARRY E. JORDAN
Secretary

FRED MERRYFIELD
President

LEWIS S. FINCH
Vice-President



On the Boardwalk





in • Atlantic City •



The Week In Brief

"ON THE BOARDWALK IN ATLANTIC CITY" — a magical phrase that came alive for nearly four thousand members of the American Water Works Association last month! The week of May 12-17 was a week of fellowship, fact and fun in the city which is billed far and wide as "Playground of the World."

In this atmosphere of ocean breeze and exquisite cuisine, members of the Association settled down to a week of discussion, merriment and forward looks. Technical sessions filled the better part of each day, interspersed with visits to the more than 200 exhibits of the very latest in water works equipment and services. The evening hours were filled with concerts, dances and banquets, and the "duffers" even had a wonderful golf tournament at the beautiful Sea View Country Club.

The weather, which was never too good, but never too disheartening, failed to put a damper on the spirits of the conventioners. The only noticeable lack of activity was in the field of "oceanantics." Very few AWWA people chose to brave the Arctic-like Atlantic Ocean, other than to walk along the beach and stick one or two fingers in the chill waters. There were, however, high-spots, when the sun would peek through the morning mists for two or three hours, and hundreds of people would flock onto the six - and - one - half miles of Boardwalk to view the ocean, or to wander in and out of the thousand-and-one shops along the world's most famous pedestrian thoroughfare.

And appearing everywhere throughout the week, with that eternal smile, was Fred Merryfield, who succeeded Paul Weir as President of the American Water Works Association. Mr. Merryfield, professor of sanitary engineering at Oregon State College, and consulting engineer with the firm of Cor-



They Were "All Eyes" at the Mueller Exhibit





At left, Mr. M. C. Fangmeier is an interested student as Russ Jolly, Midwest Sales Manager, explains the functions of some Mueller equipment. Mr. Fangmeier hails from Waverly, Iowa.

Below, Ray Deweese, Mueller Sales Representative, "mugs the camera" as Bob Lawrence appears interested in a Mueller exhibit. Mr. Lawrence is Water Superintendent of Nashville, Tennessee.

nell, Howland, Hayes and Merryfield whisked through the busy week with boundless enthusiasm and enjoyment. The other new officers, Vice - President Lewis S. Finch and Treasurer William J. Orchard, were on hand to greet all the members, and to join "corner talks" whenever possible.

There were awards to the hard workers—there were excursions to Hackney's and Captain Starn's for succulent lobster—there were sessions of concentrated discussion of common water problems—and there were many tired people boarding trains, planes and busses for the trip home.

But it was a good kind of "tiredness" as people left the 77th Annual Conference of the American Water Works Association; for, in each case, there was a feeling of accomplishment, of supreme enjoyment, and of joyful anticipation of the 1958 Dallas convention.





Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Fangmeier, of Waverly, Iowa, chat with Herb Huffine, Mueller Sales Representative.

This happy foursome is, from left to right: Earl C. Coalson, Bristol, Va.; G. H. Ruston, Roanoke, Va.; John W. Biggers, Roanoke, Va.; and X. D. Murden, Portsmouth, Va.



Ray Deweese, left, and Wes Tompkins, center, seem amused by something Ed Murphy has just related. Mr. Tompkins and Mr. Murphy hail from Beacon, New York.

Seated, left to right: Mrs. Lynn O. Minor of Kankakee, Mr. Minor, and Mrs. William D. Holmes, also of Kankakee. Standing are Russ Jolly of Mueller Co. and Mr. William D. Holmes.



From left to right: Mrs. Clark and her husband, Ed, from Nashville, Tennessee, and Mr. Joe Lovell of Murphysboro.

These lovely, smiling ladies are, from left to right: Mrs. Gene Graeber, wife of a Mueller Sales Representative; Mrs. Elizabeth Ellis of Moorestown, New Jersey; Mrs. G. L. Walton of Glassboro, New Jersey; and Mrs. Carl Kear of Minorsville, Pennsylvania.



SMILES



Bob Jett—S. San Gabriel, Calif.



Mrs. Calvin Ellis—Moorestown, N. J.



Mark Sheridan—Chicago, Ill.



Hugh Burns—Jackson, Miss.



Paul Weir—Atlanta, Ga.



Leo McQueen—Coldwater, Mich.

MUELLER RECORD

EVERYWHERE



Grant Burbidge—Salt Lake City,
Utah



Mrs. Winfield Codell—Philadelphia,
Pa.



Mrs. Bette Taylor—Johnstown, Pa.



Mrs. S. E. Ward—Scotch Plains, N. J.,
and Mrs. Clifford Apgar—Dunellen,
N. J.



Jay L. Erwin—Chicago, Ill.



Miss Betsy Ward—Scotch Plains, N. J.



We here begin a new column, one designed to arouse your interest and humor, as well as to let you know what was taking place in "the good old days."

November 15, 1910: "This little paper will grow. It is going to be a benefit to you now. It will be a greater benefit to you as it develops. We want to make the MUELLER RECORD a sort of clearing-house for all beneficial news. It's a place of exchange."

February 1, 1911: "We have received an order for two reducing and regulating valves for the new Grand Central Station in New York City."

You have all heard the National Safety Council's slogan: "If you drink, don't drive; if you drive, don't drink." Well, we found this similar, thought somewhat more amusing, entry in the MUELLER RECORD, issue of *July 1, 1911*: "A good rounder is apt to be a bad roadster."

Shades of Jesse James! We here reprint a story entitled "Poor Willie," which appeared in the RECORD, issue of *August 1, 1911*:

"Saturday, July 22nd, Willie sallied forth for Kansas City (on business). He had fifty dollars expense money, and Monday morning he wired to say he had lost that and a check for fifty dollars. We sent him more money. Of course Willie could not help it. He has been advised, while in the state of the James boys, to stay away from theaters, and to go to bed immediately after supper. With the new expense money, we sent a porous plaster with directions to place the money next to his body and cover it with the plaster. If he does this he is certain not to lose the money unless he loses himself, and no one can pry him loose from it."

A little further along, we found this tribute to Willie, a Mueller sales representative:

"Once upon a midnite dreary
Willie pondered weak and weary,
He was broke and he was leary,
Of the Wild West he was skeery."

"Sad, oh sad," he bawled in sorrow,
"I must wire the firm tomorrow—
What will they think of the story,
It's so old and very bory."

LOOKING BACKWARD

"But it's the best that I can fake,
And I trust that it will take.
It's so simple that it's funny,
To tell them that I've lost their money."

"Dear good friends won't you relent
And not ask me where it went?
You with hearts so full of pity
Surely won't suspect the 'kitty'!"
—by Wilbur Simpson

January 17, 1912: "Over west of Elk City a half a mile, the Missouri Pacific maintains a pumping station operated with a blind mule. The mule is left alone all day and goes round and round, pumping water. When the big tank is full the water splashes out on a zinc platter, and this makes a noise that is the signal for the mule to stop. When a train comes along and stops, the mule starts up again, and goes and goes until the water splashes out on the zinc. This has been going on for fourteen years. It is probably the only horse power engine in Montgomery County, and that is the home of crude oil. Henry DuMonde, who owns the mule and gets paid for its services, got out and worked last spring to beat the bonds at Elk City to build waterworks, because the construction of waterworks there would throw him and his mule out of work."

In these days of industrial influx, we are all aware, on occasion, of the appearance of a new factory in our town. We today, however, are much more reserved in our enthusiasm than were the people, places and things mentioned in the RECORD, issue of *December 25, 1912*: "We have come to the conclusion that the people of Sarnia appreciate the fact that we have established our factory there, and they seem determined to celebrate it on every possible occasion."

The day that Mr. Oscar Mueller arrived in town to carry on the final completion of the work, there

was a little private celebration by the Imperial Oil Co., which has a large refinery at that point. They were so enthusiastic over his arrival that they blew up one of their oil tanks.

Then, just to show that there were no hard feelings, in that same week the Sarnia Electric Light and Power plant was burned down which, we think, was a very good way of showing their friendship, as it gave us a pyrotechnic display second to none.

Of course, there were other companies who did not care to go to this extent in celebrating, but we will have to hand it to the Sarnia Bridge Company. They were working on our foundry building and were drawing near the end of their riveting, when they determined that the men could work a little harder and go without the riveting machine. So they ran up the pressure in the air tank, and there was an explosion which was heard all over Canada.

We are now prepared for almost anything!"

Many of us have run into some crazy situations during vacations over the years. Here is an amusing incident recorded in the RECORD, issue of *April 19, 1913*:

"A gentleman in Europe engaged a courier. Arriving at an inn in Austria, the traveler asked the servant to enter his name in accordance with police regulations of that country. The man replied that he had already anticipated the order. 'But how did you write my name?' asked the master.

'I can't exactly pronounce it, but I copied it carefully from your luggage, sir,' said the servant.

'But my name is not there,' was the reply. 'Bring me the register book.'

The register was brought, and revealed, instead of an English name of two syllables, the following portentous entry: 'Monsieur War-ranted Solid Leather.'

We dip into the MUELLER RECORD, issue of **June 12, 1913**, for the first item in this infant column; "The New York Office recently received a nice order from the Central American Plumbing and Supply Co., of Colon and Panama. This order called for a gross and a half of Extra Self-closing work. The customer insisted on this order being made up with a small copper pin through the stem. The object is to prevent the Panama people from taking the faucets apart. While this arrangement will prevent adjustment or repairs of the cock, it suits the Panama company, who do not want any occasion for making repairs after installation has been made. Plumbers down there working for the company get ten dollars per day American gold for eight hours' work. It would cost more to make repairs than to put in a new bibb."

* * *

The issue of **July 15, 1913**, recalls some interesting information about a little-known facet of Mueller production: "The fact that we made one of the first automobiles in the United States, and that it competed in and won the first road race ever run, is a matter of automobile history."

* * *

Apparently, political jokes were quite the thing back in **1913**, as evidenced by this item of **July 15**: "The assertion that one out of every 200 voters for Woodrow Wilson had applied to him for a job reminded Senator Bourne of an office-seeking story. 'There was once a President,' said the Senator, 'who received, early in his administration, a letter which proved to him that there is no such thing as discouraging an office-seeker. He received a letter which read: Dear Mr. President: I understand you are going to take a month off to destroy the big mountain of letters asking you for jobs. If everything else is gone, I would like the job of destroying the letters!'"

* * *

Panic was in the air during part of **1913**. Then, later in the year, things began to brighten, as we read on **September 12**: "Increasing confidence dominates financial and commercial circles. There is a

◀ ◀ ◀ LOOKING BACKWARD

general loosening of the tension prevailing during the summer. Bankers, railroad interests, manufacturers and merchants breathe easier. The real or fancied bugaboo which has cast the shadow of restricted operation, hard times and panic over the business world no longer causes timidity and halting in the avenues of trade . . . The new thought in American economics that business transcends politics in importance in the country has transplanted old political prejudices."

* * *

And away we go—on **October 4, 1913**: "The annual coon hunt was pulled off Saturday night under ideal conditions. The temperature was just right, the crowd in fine fettle, and the hunting ground the best we have ever visited. Not one thing occurred to mar the pleasure of the occasion . . . The dogs caught and killed one coon and one possum. The rest of us fared not too well, or not at all."

* * *

Here is a definition of efficiency, or rather a description of it, which we feel could benefit everyone, thanks to the MUELLER RECORD, issue of **June 15, 1914**:

"While I would not advise making bananas the main crop of North Dakota (the climate on the whole being better suited to wheat), I have no doubt Luther Burbank could grow in North Dakota bananas of so delicious and exceptional a flavor that millionaires all over the world would send for them. I have seen beautiful apples clipped at the tree and sealed in paper bags, labeled with the information they had never been touched by polluting human hands, sell for forty cents each at New York hotels. There was no duty protecting those apples from the pauper competition of fly-stung, worm-eaten apples of many shiftless Eastern orchards. A certain alarm clock

sells in great numbers, 3,600 each day, for \$2.50. Other alarm clocks, guaranteed to wake the soundest sleeper, can be bought for fifty cents. It is not a tariff duty that protects the \$2.50 alarm clock from the competition of its less insistent rival. The fifty cent alarm clock will suffer from competition, but not the \$2.50 alarm clock. It is not apples or clocks or inclement climate or abundance of natural resources that count in the last analysis. It is the men, the human character and intelligence behind the apples and clocks, and behind our other great American industries. It is their efficiency that counts above all."

—Harrington Emerson

* * *

Europe was at war when this appeared in the **November 23, 1914** issue: "Our opportunity is at hand. America is pretty nearly self-sufficient already. From the vortex of war now raging in Europe there will spring a new America. We must look beyond the clouded present to the beckoning future. If we do not, we shall fail to grasp the opportunity. American skill and enterprise will come up to the call, quickly and sweepingly. We shall presently see such a seething of applied brains that we won't recognize ourselves. It will mean the new America of self-sufficiency, which we had dreamed of, but had feared would never come."

For the benefit of those who receive the MUELLER RECORD every other month, we will print the current "Looking Backward" column, as well as the column from the previous month's issue. This will be done each month, to provide readers with that "something old, something new."



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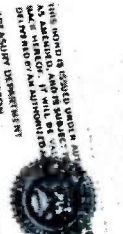
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ON THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY
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United States Department of the Treasury