

NEWSLETTER

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Joe Penne, Editor

A.S.M.E. HONORS BILL LEOPOLD

W.R. (Bill) Leopold, vice president-engineering at Mueller Co., recently was recognized for his contributions to the field of engineering by his election to the status of "Fellow" by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

A formal presentation of this coveted award in the field of mechanical engineering will take place in Decatur in March. The "Fellow" designation is held by only about 1,000 of the 70,000 members of the society--an organization "for promoting the arts and sciences in the field of mechanical engineering".

According to the award outline, each fellow candidate "must have made outstanding and recognized contributions in Engineering Administration, or the advancement of the Science of Engineering, or Teaching of Engineering--attainments beyond those expected of the average engineer. He should be recognized as an outstanding engineering authority in a particular field of engineering, as shown by his patents, books or articles published, or papers presented, or because he has been responsible for nationally-known improvements in engineering."

The "Fellow" designation follows a long process of nominating, sponsoring and finally investigating by an A.S.M.E. committee. Leopold currently holds 22 patents and has had 14 technical and professional articles published in this country or abroad.

Leopold joined Mueller Co. in 1956 as director of engineering and in December of 1968 he was elected vice president-engineering. He has the overall responsibility for the administration of the Engineering Departments in all of the company's U.S. plants, and directs new product work, as well as research and development activities centered in Decatur.

He is originally from Newark, N.J. and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, and a Master of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, N.J.

His early experience ranges from research and design work in rocketry with German engineers following World War II to aircraft engines. He was senior engineer-special projects for Lycoming Division of AVCO just prior to joining Mueller Co.

Leopold's father was a professional engineer and

two of Bill's sons are in the field of engineering. Dick, a chemical engineer, is now back at the University of Illinois working on his doctorate in biochemistry. Chuck, an electrical engineer, works for the Automatic Electric Division of General Telephone and Electronics.

HOUSING STARTS UP SLIGHTLY IN NOVEMBER

Housing starts ran at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2,445,000 in November, up four-tenths of one per cent from October, but 9.8% above the month's rate of a year earlier.

According to the Commerce Department, housing activity increased in all areas of the country, except the North-Central region.

In a **Wall Street Journal** story, Michael Sumichrast, chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders, called the continued expansion "surprising" because most analysts have been forecasting a decline in housing activity, which has been running at an unusually high pace for the last two years.

Starts of privately owned housing totaled a record 2,052,000 in 1971 and are expected to rise to about 2.4 million in 1972, according to Mr. Sumichrast. He forecasts, however, that starts would drop to about 2.1 million units in 1973.

MURPHY IS CHAMBER PRESIDENT-ELECT

William E. Murphy, vice president-marketing at Mueller Co., has been named president-elect of the Decatur Chamber of Commerce.

Murphy, who currently serves as first vice president, will assume the presidency in May at the beginning of the 1973-74 fiscal year. He has been a Chamber committee chairman and was named to a three-year term on the board of directors in 1968.

In addition to Chamber work, Murphy was president of the United Way of Decatur and Macon County during the 1970-71 program year, headed the Millikin University Advancement Campaign in 1969 and has worked actively in the Decatur Kiwanis Club.

He joined Mueller Co. in 1964 as assistant to the president and in 1965 was named vice president-marketing. Murphy was elected to the firm's Board of Directors in 1971 and will become executive vice president on Feb. 1.

GAS INDUSTRY SETS NEW RECORDS IN 1972

The natural gas utility and pipeline industry posted new records in sales, revenues and numbers of customers during 1972, the American Gas Association reports.

Continued restrictions on gas supplies, coupled with abnormally warm weather in the early part of the year, held the rate of increase for overall sales to less than half the average annual increases of the 1960s, however.

Sales climbed 2.3% during 1972, while the average increase in the 1960s was 5.6%. The A.G.A. report showed that approximately 750,000 customers were added, bringing the year-end total to nearly 43.5 million. This figure includes 39.9 million residential customers, more than 3.3 million commercial users, and about 250,000 industrial and other customers. Plant investment rose to about \$42.2 billion.

The effect of supply shortages was seen most clearly in industrial sales growth. This decline reflected two developments--widespread curtailment in new sales to industrial customers, and increasing cut-backs to existing industrial customers who purchased gas with the understanding that the supply can be interrupted if gas is needed to fulfill other demands.

"For the second year running, a shortage has prevented customers from getting all the gas they want," says William P. Woods, chairman of the American Gas Association. "Scarcity is already holding back our rate of economic growth."

As a supplier of products used in gas distribution systems, Mueller Co. has a deep interest in the strength of the industry. The industry's abilities to find new supplies and to expand are important to each one of us, both as an employee and as a user.

A FLAG OF MANY COLORS, MEANINGS

A brown, blue, yellow and green flag flies over the Mueller Co. plant in Chattanooga.

To an outsider it would draw a curious look, but locally it symbolizes many things. The colors stand for a clean earth, a clear sky and a bright and unpolluted day. To the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Board the flag means the company's operations are in compliance with the strict regulations of the area. The raising of the flag over our Chattanooga plant marked the completion of a five-year program to improve working conditions within the plant and fulfillment of plans to reduce air emissions.

Nearly \$300,000 has been spent to achieve these goals, making Mueller Co. a better employer and better community citizen.

Mueller Co. began its efforts toward air pollution control in 1966 with the opening of the new plant in Chattanooga. The conversion of the metal melting from the cupola method to electric was the most significant improvement, but in addition, basic dust collection

equipment was installed, providing the plant with control equipment to keep it well within compliance of Federal and State regulations in effect then.

As the operation grew in volume, the company recognized the need to further improve the work area environment. After removing smoke and dust fumes from inside the buildings it became necessary to control the outside emissions this created. This problem, plus more strict regulations outlined by a new local air pollution control board, lowered our level of compliance. Accordingly, a new program was initiated.

Early in 1972, the company purchased about \$115,000 worth of wet and dry dust collection equipment. These new installations, now added to the original equipment, remove about 215,000 cubic feet of air a minute (CFM) from the foundry and core room, and run it through the dust collection system. For the cleaning room, a new, more sophisticated 25,000 CFM machine has replaced older dust collection units. By collecting, cleaning and circulating these large volumes of air, better conditions exist for employees and neighbors.

To get some of the assembled new equipment over one building onto the 70-foot-high roof of another, the company rented the largest crane in the Midsouth area with a boom 260 feet long.

Mueller received its compliance certificate on Oct. 14, 1972, but more effort and expenditures already are planned. In order to bring our operations into compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the 1975 Total Emission Standards, a sizeable expenditure will be incurred in 1973 and 1974.

EMPLOYEE'S SON RANKS NO. 1

John Kevin Payton is No. 1 in Decatur. This top ranking has nothing to do with polls, but results strictly from his arrival into the world at 5:15 a.m. on Jan. 1, 1973. John, 7 pounds, 6 ounces, was the first baby born in Decatur in the new year. He is also the first child for the Paytons.

His father, John L. Payton, works in core storage at Mueller Co.'s Plant 4, Decatur.

COMPANY DISTRIBUTES 24 TONS OF HAM, BACON

About 24 tons of ham and bacon were distributed at Christmas time by Mueller Co. to employees and retirees. In addition, Mueller men on active duty in the armed forces received a special remembrance at Christmas in the form of a check.

50 MEN ATTEND RETIREE MEETING

About 50 active and retired men from Mueller Co. attended the January meeting of retirees at the Scanda House, 1610 E. Pershing Rd., Decatur. The next regular meeting of the group is set for 11:30 a.m., Feb. 8 at the same location. All men retirees from Mueller Co. are invited.

Retirements

The following list gives the retiree's job at time of retirement, years of service and date of retirement.

Decatur

Alfred L. Degand, milling machine operator in Dept. 70, 30 years, Dec. 29 (80 Plan)

Thomas J. Adams, turret lathe operator in Dept. 80, 30 years, 8 months, 13 days, Dec. 8. (80 Plan)

Chattanooga

Willie Ed Benford, air set machine operator, 33 years, 11 months and 29 days, Jan. 2. (80 Plan)

Robert C. Martin, clerk in the Maintenance Dept., 20 years, Jan. 5 (80 Plan)

BILL FRANK CAN DEFINE BLINDNESS

"Blindness is only a word. A word you can't really understand unless you are blind," Bill Frank recently told a number of Mueller Co. employees at safety meetings in Decatur.

Bill Frank understands the word because he is blind and he can talk about the importance of industrial safety because it was a work accident that took his sight 28 years ago. During the last two years he has traveled to 33 states for the Sellstrom Manufacturing Co., impressing upon thousands of students and workers the need to wear proper eye protection.

An award-winning film about Mr. Frank's accident preceded his vivid descriptions of the anxiety, emptiness and fear he felt following his accident. He traced his groping steps back to productivity as a worker, in addition to frankly discussing his trying times as a father and husband. His life changed completely because his safety glasses were in his pocket instead of over his eyes when he was hit in the face by an object hurled by a machine.

He used many examples of eye accidents to impress upon the listeners that they must not take chances. "You don't have a second chance with your eyes. Keep them properly protected," he begged.

REBUILDING ON A WEDDING ALBUM

An album of wedding pictures isn't much with which to again set up housekeeping, but when a fire has taken everything else it is an important item--especially if you have only been married a month and a day.

Their album of wedding pictures was all that Decatur employee Becky Lorensen Hanks and her husband recovered from their furnished apartment following a series of gas explosions and a fire that heavily damaged their apartment building just before Christmas.

Becky was at work in the Decatur Sales Office, while her husband, a second shift worker, was asleep in the apartment when the first explosion occurred. He jumped safely from a second floor window, escaping with only a minor cut on his foot.

In the true spirit of the season, Mueller Co. employees contributed about \$250 in cash to help Becky and David get started all over again.

Becky, who began at Mueller Co. last year in the school system's office occupations program, said: "I can't say how much we appreciate all the money and kindness everyone has given to us. Friends have to be one of the most wonderful blessings a person can have."

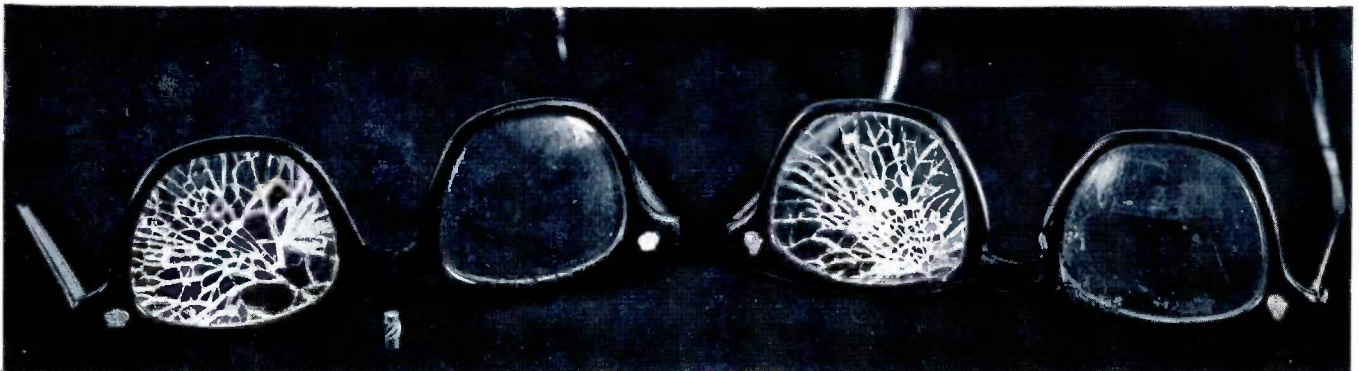
The young couple is living currently with her family, building anew upon the philosophy that "we haven't lost anything that can't be replaced."

ONE-WAY GIFT EXCHANGE

It wasn't the traditional office Christmas gift exchange. It was probably more fun and more rewarding.

The employees in the Mueller Co. Chattanooga Office brought in more than 100 Christmas gifts, mostly toys, and delivered them to the Chambliss Home for Children there.

For the third year in a row, employees avoided last-minute hunting for that "expensive looking" \$3 item that no one has and everyone wants. It's fun to shop for toys, knowing there is a need to be filled.



Here are two vivid reasons for wearing safety glasses! These two pairs of glasses, with a shattered lens in each, were worn by Mueller Co. employees in Decatur, and because of their protection, the men still have full vision today. The lens in the left pair

was shattered by the tiny rivet in the foreground and the one on the right was hit by splashing hot metal. The safety glasses did their job so that the employees can still do theirs.

CANADA PLANT ENDURES CUTS, LOOKS FORWARD TO '73

Primarily as the result of the company's withdrawal from the plumbing brass manufacturing business after 59 years, 1972 was a year of considerable change, reorganization and consolidation of the Mueller operations in Canada.

The phase-out, including the balancing of inventories for customer requirements and liquidation, the sale of assets including surplus machine tools, equipment and the plumbing division as a unit, took most of the year to accomplish.

The reduction also required the termination of about 120 skilled and valuable employees over an 18-month period. Despite the high level of unemployment in Canada, all terminated employees, with the exception of two who are in retraining programs, are now gainfully employed.

The success of the former employees to relocate led Mueller, Limited President George McAvity to say, "I think it is a noteworthy credit to the highly regarded skills of our employees and the efforts of a committee comprised of union and management members who worked to assist terminated employees to find new jobs."

A bullish Canadian economy, which includes one of the highest levels of housing starts on record, made the Mueller, Limited cutback and transition a little easier. The housing starts coupled with a concentrated nation-wide sales effort produced satisfactory increases in the demand for Mueller, Limited's remaining water and gas goods to enable the company to maintain a much larger work force than was anticipated originally. There are currently 150 employees in all job classifications in the Sarnia operations.

"The overall results for 1972, despite the many problems of phasing out the plumbing business, turned out to be much better than anticipated. The year could be categorized as one of consolidation and reorganization for a sounder base from which we can develop a more viable operation in the future," McAvity said.

He went on to say that the outlook for 1973 is generally favorable. Most Canadian economists, like their U.S. counterparts, see 1973 business as being equal to or better than last year.

McAvity added that this optimism should be guarded because of the continuing threat of inflation with no wage and price controls, high unemployment in Canada and pending nationwide labor negotiations with the construction trades. Due to increasing land and building costs, the house-building segment of the Canadian economy, which is all-important to Mueller in Canada, is expected to fall by about 8%, to 230,000 starts for the year.

"We have taken these into consideration for our 1973 forecasts but, on the other hand, we are looking for increased sales from the St. Jerome operation now that we have some new molding equipment ready for

action in the new year. So, all told, we are anticipating a favorable year."

Since Mueller acquired the St. Jerome iron foundry late in 1963, the operation has been expanding, adding strength and diversification to the overall operation in Canada. In less than 10 years, this operation that originally employed 28 persons and manufactured manhole frames and covers, grates and custom castings for only the Province of Quebec market, has grown to employ about 95 and increased its sales fivefold.

Its facilities have been tripled, modern equipment has been installed, new products for the water distribution field added, and the market coverage extended to the Atlantic provinces, the Province of Ontario, even to bordering states in the U.S. St. Jerome has also been helpful to our U.S. delivery problems by casting certain sizes of tapping sleeves for Chattanooga.

Service Awards

The following Mueller employees received service awards during December.

Mueller, Limited

30 Years: Douglas Milliken

Chattanooga

10 Years: Wanda L. McClure

20 Years: Nolan S. Keyt, Alexander Hill

30 Years: Duke Hollingsworth, Charlie Kyle

Decatur

10 Years: Arlen B. Burton

20 Years: Robert L. Hunt, Martha M. Inman, Betty J. Domick, Robert D. Brownlow, John A. Moma

30 Years: Evelyn M. Thompson, John H. Enlow, Alfred L. Degand

Outside Sales

20 Years: Richard C. Sponsler

A NEW FACE IN A FAMILIAR PLACE

David C. Cochran joined Mueller Co. on Jan. 2 as "staff assistant for customer service and records" in Headquarters Division of the Sales Department.

This is not a new position, although it has been unfilled for some time. The job's function is to identify and define each area of customer service and to establish values for different levels of service, taking into consideration customer needs and product availability.

Cochran is 32 years old, a native of Sullivan, Illinois, and spent seven years in the U.S. Navy. He is a graduate of the University of Maryland, majoring in business administration.