

NEWSLETTER

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Don Bathe, Coordinator

**HUGH BAKER RETIRES**

Hugh Baker, product development manager, retired from Mueller Co. on July 31, 1976. At that time Mr. Baker had been with the company just over 42 years.

Baker, a native of Decatur, graduated from the University of Michigan in 1933 and began working at Mueller Co. in 1934 in the Engineering Department of the company's Columbian Iron Works Division in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and a year later he entered the Division's Sales Department, becoming sales manager of the Division in 1937.

In 1945 he was transferred to Decatur as assistant sales manager for the company. Baker has held a number of positions in the headquarters sales as well as advertising and marketing.

Even though he has retired, Mr. Baker will be on special assignment as a consultant to export sales, taking him to various countries, including Saudia Arabia.

Mr. Baker and his wife Sara live at 42 South Shore Drive.

**A GOLDEN
ANNIVERSARY**

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Cash celebrated their 50th anniversary at the Holiday Inn on July 3.

Mr. Cash, a former employee of Mueller Co., retired with 45 years of service.

**AGA PRESIDENT
CALLS FOR HALT**

American Gas Association President F. Donald Hart today pointed to the government's growing inroads into private matters as the central issue "to our continued economic growth and political stability."

Stating that virtually every occupation has felt the weight of government regulation, Hart ascribed much of the existing regulatory excesses to "our shocking national ignorance of the free enterprise system" and called for an educational revolution to counter regulatory growth.

Hart warned against complacency and added that if the spread of regulation goes unchecked, "the course will lead inevitably down the road to nationalization."

The AGA President said that while all regulation is not bad and some federal agencies have made positive contributions, "our nation's gorged and growing regulatory structure" does not provide an "environment of regulatory moderation" to meet a growing demand for goods and services.

Hart blamed Federal field price regulation for discouraging natural gas producers, thus worsening a critical and growing gas shortage and bringing a deepening dependence on imported petroleum.

Pointing out that while there were many contributing factors involved, Hart believes "economic illiteracy" is the predominant cause of regulatory excesses.

**FAMILIAR FACES
IN NEW PLACES****Chattanooga**

Paul A. Campbell, formerly chainman and brush painter to assistant foundry foreman.

Decatur

Robert L. White, formerly ground key utility man has been promoted to assistant ground key foreman in Dept. 80.

William J. Henneman, formerly furnace charger in the Foundry has been promoted to assistant Brass Foundry foreman.

Ted W. Workman, formerly machine operator in Dept. 80 has been promoted to assistant Brass Foundry foreman.

**GET MAD,
AMERICA!**

Government Red Ink
is swamping our country

Government Red Tape
is tying it in knots

DO *Something About It!*

Let your congressman know how
you feel about what's happening
in Washington.

Spend a Half Hour Today for the USA!

DOMESTIC NATURAL GAS RESERVES

The Chairman of the American Gas Association told the industry's marketing executives today that undiscovered domestic reserves of natural gas will provide more than 60 years of gas service to American consumers.

A.G.A. Chairman Paul E. Reichardt, speaking at the natural gas industry's marketing conference said, that in addition to domestic reserves, supplemental sources would add many more years of service and assure "a long future for the gas industry."

The Potential Gas Committee, Reichardt said, "has estimated undiscovered additional supplies of domestic natural gas at more than 1100 trillion cubic feet. At today's rate of usage, these volumes will provide more than 60 years of supply.

"We realize, of course, that our domestic storehouse of natural gas is not inexhaustible, but it is clear that we do have time to develop...supplemental gaseous fuels in quantities which will insure a long future," he continued.

"We believe there are undiscovered reserves and supplemental gas supplies available to meet a growing demand for many years to come," Reichardt said.

He continued that the gas industry is committed "to an energy system -- rather than to an energy source. We are capable of providing our customers with gaseous energy -- whether it be natural gas or synthetic gas from a variety of sources which can be tapped by emerging technology."

Reichardt concluded that the single most effective action the federal government could take to stimulate the development of domestic energy supplies would be to deregulate the wellhead price of new natural gas.

AVERAGE FAMILY TO PAY \$5,328 FEDERAL TAXES

Consumer Alert: The Federal Government will cost the average family \$5,328 in the next fiscal year (FY).

Ask anyone what the largest item in his family budget is and he might say food, housing or an automobile.

Actually, the government costs the average family more than food, housing and automobiles combined. This year, as it has every year since 1965, the Federal budget will once again increase as the Federal Government again chalks up record expenditures.

The explosion of Federal expenditures during the last decade has resulted in an increase of 99% per household, from \$2,672 in 1967 to a projected level of \$5,328 in 1977.

The most significant increase in the last decade was in income security which more than tripled and now costs the average household \$1,853. This is because more persons have become eligible for Social Security and the new Supplemental Security Income program and new programs in the public health area have resulted

in those expenditures quadrupling on a per family basis.

Doubling of the national debt has resulted in a 163% increase in the cost per family of debt service charges to \$558 per household.

Retirements

Chattanooga

Charlie L. Jackson, iron pourer-slinger, 24 years, 11 months and 12 days, March 31, 1976 (disability)

William Wilson, truck clean and lubricator, 19 years, 3 months and 5 days, June 30, 1976 (80 plan)

Decatur

Hugh L. Baker, product development manager, 42 years, 6 months and 29 days, July 31, 1976.

Robert Walley, wood pattern maker, accrued seniority, 46 years, 5 months, 21 days, August 31, 1976.

Sarnia

Elma Wheeler, payroll clerk, 25 years, 6 months and 8 days, May 10, 1976.

Mathew Barker, fork lift truck operator, 29 years, 5 months and 27 days, May 19, 1976.

Norman Gilbert, Adams clamp operator, 40 years, 11 months and 17 days, May 27, 1976.

Calvin C. Turnbull, tester, 29 years, 7 months and 28 days, June 28, 1976.

Service Awards

Chattanooga

10 Years: John R. Smith, Farrell D. Elkins

20 Years: Leonard W. Bishop, Ralph M. Fickle, Charles E. Davis, James Thomas, Anderson Williams, Raymond T. Dixon, J.W. Dixon, James C. Cullins, James Dunnigan.

30 Years: Willie Fletcher

Decatur

20 Years: Howard Halbrook

30 Years: Thomas E. Branson, Leonard W. Eckhart, Richard S. West, David C. Rauch, William J. O'Brien, Howard L. Plummer.

Sarnia

10 Years: Robert McMillan

20 Years: Andrew Hayes

Outside Sales

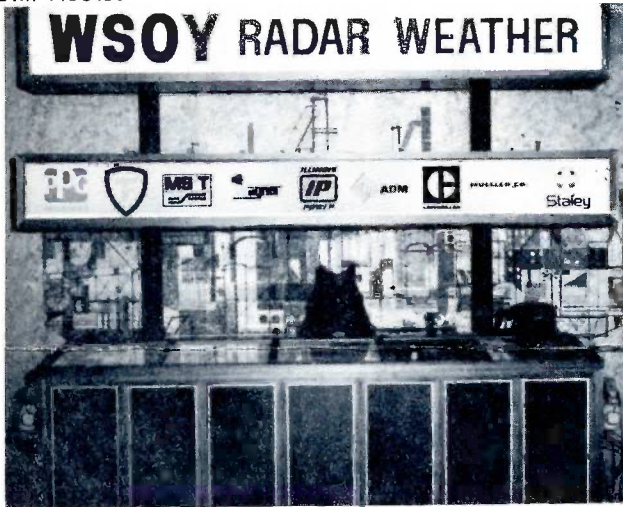
10 Years: David B. Linn

20 Years: William J. Hill

NEWS FROM CHATTANOOGA

(Jack Malone)

Election of new officers of the Foreman's Club for the 1976-77 year was held at the May meeting. The new officers are as follows: President, Jack Barker; Vice President, Terrell Gray; Secretary, Jim Serre; Treasurer, Jim Hosto.



Mueller Co., along with other Decatur industries, is participating in the new WSOY Radar Weather Station.

The new weather station permits Decatur and vicinity residents and businesses to keep abreast of the weather, enabling them to take necessary precautions when a severe storm is moving into the area.

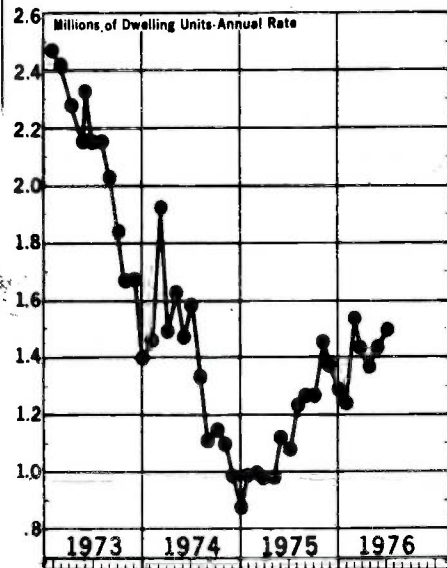


Max Dukeman, center, receives his retirement gift from co-worker Thomas Branson, left and foreman William Baney.



John Vandevanter, right, is presented a retirement gift from Vernon Brunner.

Housing Starts



HOUSING STARTS ROSE 4.3% IN JUNE

Housing activity picked up again in June, the Commerce Department said.

Housing starts rose last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,492,000 units, up 4.3% from May's upward-revised 1,430,000-unit rate and 38% above the year-earlier 1,080,000-unit rate. The May rate, which was up 4.6% from April's level, initially had been estimated at 1,415,000 units but was revised to reflect additional data.

Nevertheless, last month's housing-starts rate was the highest since February's 1,547,000-unit annual pace and the second highest since the 1,526,000-unit rate of January, 1974, the department said.

The June increase reflected a 7.8% rise in new single-family homes started and a 2.6% increase in new apartment-building units. Geographically, housing starts climbed sharply in the Northeast and the South but declined in the West and the North Central U.S.

Michael Sumichrast, chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders, termed last month's rate a "fairly good figure." He believes housing starts will continue their slow upturn, aided by a rebound in new apartment units.

RETIREE DEATHS

Decatur

Carl O. West, Claude Smith

Chattanooga

Burnest Hays