



THE MUELLER RECORD

Spring 1997

“Vibrant Hydrants” art show in June!



--by Ray Batman

“Vibrant Hydrants” is the name of the summer art/collectible show at the Hieronymus Mueller Museum. The exhibit will open with a reception from noon-5 p.m. Sunday, June 1. The exhibit will feature artwork, photographs, decanters, mugs, neckties (?) and any other object we can find which has a fire hydrant on it!

We also hope to have located John J. Smith’s photo collection of 145 fire hydrants taken during his travels with the Mueller Co. before his death in the early '70s. He was a member of the “Hydrant Hounds,” a group which took photos of fire hydrants. (Not to be confused with FHAP (Fire Hydrant Appreciation and Preservation Society).

Please be as excited about this idea as we are.

If you have any fire-hydrant related items--no matter how weird or strange--we’d be interested in *borrowing* them for our show. We even have a poem entitled *Ode to a Fire Hydrant* by Mary Lou Wetherell, so you can see this will be a very eclectic, mixed-medium show--and maybe the first show of its kind in the whole wide world!

Call Nancy Jo Batman, manager, at 217/423-6161 for more information.

Hieronymus Mueller Museum
Spring & Summer Hours
April-September
12-5 p.m.
Thursday-Sunday
61 South Country Club Rd.
\$1.50/general admission

This photograph depicts one of the fire hydrants on display at the Mueller Co. in Decatur.

For the Record

It was the Sunday after the winter holidays, and I was trying to bend over in my new jeans and calling myself bad names that rhymed with "pat" and "bat."

Then Evelyn Cox walked in. Evelyn works at the Mueller Co. and doesn't live far from the Museum, so drops in a lot of Sundays. (The one thing I've noticed about Evelyn is that she cannot *not* smile.)

She had a big box in her arms. Inside the box was a pan of caramels. She explained that these were made from the original recipe of Robert H. Mueller who made these delicious caramels from his kitchen in his home.

I told her I couldn't eat caramels because they made my teeth fall out, but I did cut a piece with my pair of scissors and popped it into my mouth.

It melted! I didn't even have to chew!

I accessioned the recipe into our Museum archival records, including a little history on the candy.

When Mueller employees gave blood to the local Red Cross Bloodmobile, the employees would find a bag of caramels on his/her desk afterwards as a reward.

Robert H., the oldest son of Philip Mueller and grandson of Hieronymus, started working at the Decatur plant in 1901 when he was 16.

In 1951, he required a rare type of blood--22 pints worth!--and employees were asked to donate blood. Out of the 288 Mueller employees who donated blood, only 12 had the right type. His wife, Louise, who was extremely active in the local Red Cross blood bank program, directed this search for donors.

He lived for 12 more years following the transfusion, working primarily as chief engineer at the Mueller Company.

I didn't know the man, but I can attest that he knew caramels! Here is the recipe:

3 cups sugar
3 cups crystal clear corn syrup
1 quart whipping cream
1/2 teaspoon salt

Cook sugar, syrup, salt and 1 pint of cream to 240 degrees on a candy thermometer. Add 1/2 of the remaining pint of cream and again cook to 240 degrees. Add the remainder of the cream and cook to 245 degrees. Stir in 1 cup nut meats (optional) and pour into a well greased pan. This recipe will make four pounds of candy, about 1/2 inch thick. Evelyn says they take about 2 1/2 hours to make. Enjoy!

--Nancy Jo Batman, Manager

Annual Membership Information

Student/Senior Citizen **\$15**
 Free admission for member and one guest, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items.

Regular Membership **\$20**
 Free admission for member and one guest, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items.

Family Membership: **\$25**
 Free admission for member and up to four family members, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items.

***Support Membership:** **\$50**
 Free admission for member and up to four family members, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items, exhibit preview reception.

***Sponsor Membership:** **\$100**
 Free admission for member and up to four family members, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items, exhibit preview reception, museum notecards.

***Patron Membership:** **\$500**
 Free admission for member and guests, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items, exhibit preview reception, museum notecards, museum mug, recognition on museum donor board at Patron level.

***Benefactor Membership:** **\$1000**
 Free admission for member and guests, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items, exhibit preview reception, museum notecards, two museum mugs, museum t-shirt, recognition on museum donor board at Benefactor level.

Please circle the type of membership preferred

*A portion of these membership fees are tax deductible.

Please send this form and payment to

HIERONYMUS MUELLER MUSEUM

61 SOUTH COUNTRY CLUB ROAD
 DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62521
 (217) 423-6161

Name _____

Address _____

Educational Institution _____
 (if Student) _____

Check _____ Money order _____

The Hieronymus Mueller Museum is a privately funded non-profit museum and depends upon donations for its operations.

❖ **NOTE:** The Museum *will* be open during the winter months next year, even though attendance has been scant. However, we will *not* be using our faithful volunteers during December, 1997, and January 1998. If you would like to volunteer, please call Betty Wheatley at 217/429-1234. She'll put you to work in one of the nicest facilities in Decatur!



Mueller distributors tour Museum

Boy, have we had visitors! And most are not from the Decatur area. They have come from New York, Louisiana, Virginia, Washington, Kansas, etc. They are Mueller Co. distributors who are trained in Decatur at the com-

pany. Part of their unofficial "training" includes a tour of the Hieronymus Mueller Museum.

Pictured below is a group from Sidener Supply in St. Louis which toured the museum February 26.



Front row (l to r): **Cruz Romero**, Mokena, IL; **Tim Nachtmann**, Granite City, IL; **Ann Schneider**, St. Louis, MO

Second Row: **Pat Carr**, Addison, IL; **Klae Scranton**, Washington, IL; **Jeff Lower**, Belvidere, IL; **Mark Corso**, Addison, IL; **Chris Hodges**, Columbia, MO

Third Row: **Brian Ware**, Lake Bluff, IL; **Chip Swartz**, Olathe, KS; **Robb White**, Olathe, KS; **Doug Allen**, Decatur (Mueller Co.); **Jim Yates**, Indianapolis, IN

Fourth Row: **Jeff Timmerman**, Lake Bluff, IL; **Dan Hufker**, St. Louis, MO; **Mike Atteberry**, Columbia, MO; **Nick Peyton**, Decatur (Mueller Co.)

New Museum Members . . .

✠ **Benefactor--\$1,000**

Jan Woelders

✠ **Sponsor--\$100**

Sarah & Hugh L. Baker

✠ **Support--\$50**

Claude & Alice Inman
John & Eleanor Moma
William A. Mueller Jr.
Dale R. Smith

✠ **Family--\$25**

Charles W. Moore

✠ **Regular--\$20**

Robert W. Mallow

✠ **Student/Senior Citizen--\$15**

Bea & Lou Briggs
Carolyn E. Brown
Donald L. Matthews
W.C. & Mildred Rohman
Richard McKinley
Dick Seevers
Warren & Mary Sexson
Mr. & Mrs. Dean H. Thompson
Richard A. Van Nort
Edward J. Vogel

"Mueller Story" available

Want a bargain? Here's one: The Second Edition "Mueller Story," which has been reprinted in observance of the opening of the Hieronymus Mueller Museum.

The soft-back book, written in 1980 by O.T. Banton, in collaboration with Frank H. Mueller has a total of 118 pages crammed full of history--starting in 1832 with Hieronymus' birth through 1980 and the building of the Butterfly Valve Plant in Clinton, SC.

Did you know that Frank Mueller had 162 patents, and Philip Mueller had 206 patents? Look it up on page 118.

Did you know about the Muellerville dream? Look it upon on page 44.

Our city should be proud of what Hieronymus and his heirs have contributed to its growth.

How do you get this bargain? Easy . . .

The books may be purchased at the Museum for \$5 (plus tax for non-members) or \$4.50 (plus tax for members). Or you can send a check to the museum, and a book will be sent to you. The cost (which includes shipping and handling and tax) is \$6.63 (non-members) or \$6.09 (members). Our address is: 61 S. Country Club Rd., Decatur, IL 62521. Our phone number is 217/423-6161. Hours are noon-5 p.m. Thursday-Sunday.

--Richard McKinley

Do you remember?

● The **Ruthrauff** family spent the week-end of November 1 in the Detroit area with son Pres, now stationed at Selfridge Field.--*The Mueller Record*, Nov. 1941

● The Christmas party committee for 1955 consisted of: **George Binkley, Harland Himstead, Tom Harding, Cecil Coffin, Archie Sefton, James Cussins III, M.K. Chaney, and R.K. Duncan.**

● New Mueller employees after May 1, 1946, included: **Otta J. Peake, James D. Broyles, Robert L. Fatheree, Paul D. Funk, Harold W. Rentfro, Eugene E. Gibbs, Elvera Wyne, D. Irene Benton, Mable A. Snyder, Juanita Virden, Darrel W. Hartwig, Lynn D. Edwards, Lora A. Shade, Helen Mahnke, Leona Hooker, Eldo Coffman, Edgar Wilhelm, Florraine Reynolds, Ramona Jeane Otis, Lawrence E. Grider, Mary M. Manning, Alwilda Hartbank, James C. Robinson, Burril Paslay, Wm. H. Elliott, James Wantland, Ruth Austin, Wilbur Raspilber, Florence White, Florence Reynolds, Betty G. Myers, Pearl L. Kemper, Eugene Hinderer, John E. Kufner, Violet I. Hertel, Imogene Sexton, Nelson Hoffman, Floyd E. Hoffman, John W. Kassiss, Chas. McCammack, Jesse R. Allen, Virgil Morrison, Stewart File, Gerald A.**

Stanley, Joseph C. Boehm, Gerald E. Spires, R. Dean Craig, Elmer F. Gargus, Kenneth R. Reynolds, Betty J. Scheibly, Mabel R. Zimmerman, James M. Harris, Ira L. Hall, Ruth C. Jeschawitz, Claude E. O'Dell.

● June, 1956, graduates included: **Darla Lebo, David William Baker, Mary Howard, James D. Paslay, Marilyn Lehman, Ronald E. Harris, Deloris I. Stark, William A. Millard, Arlene Marie Stratman, Paul A. Hinkle, Florence Waller, Katherine Silvels, Mrs. Mary Hill, Darlene Donaldson, Richard A. Barnes, Thomas Wayne Durbin, Beverly Jean Porter, Loy Dale Fonner, Roberta K. Hill, Lyle Edward Maxwell, Rosalynn Nalefski, William Mueller, Doris L. Gould, David Girard, Audrey C. Oberline.**



A special thank-you to those volunteers who painted the basement/storage area at the Museum: **Del Bagenski, Tom McGeorge, Dale Capshaw, Evelyn Cox and Ray Batman.**



HIERONYMUS MUELLER MUSEUM

61 South Country Club Road, Decatur, IL 62521

H.M.F.F.

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Decatur, IL
Permit No. 529



**"Vibrant Hydrants"
Art Show
Coming in June!**