



THE MUELLER RECORD

Winter, 1998

“Steppin’ Out” Exhibit extended



When we were planning our first temporary exhibit called “Vibrant Hydrants,” I told Jane Mueller, president of the board and great-granddaughter of Hieronymus Mueller, that no exhibit would ever be that much fun.

I lied.

This one has been just as much fun.

First, we had to find the mannequins. We purchased three in Bloomington at a second-hand shop and borrowed the others from the Macon County Historical Society.

The one you see seated above in the “Mueller Lodge” area was the kind that sits. I put her in the front seat of my convertible for the trip from there to here, while two other mannequins were propped in the back seat. My husband's white truck was also loaded down with limbs and torsos, while more than several persons stared at this strange parade.

The next step was dressing the mannequins, which if you've never done before, requires removing arms and

legs and sometimes even hips.

We only lost one finger in the process--and that belonged to a mannequin.

Mrs. Henry (Vi) Staley, a former board member, had saved the clothes which belonged to Lenore Mueller Staley Schmick, her mother-in-law, and Ora Mueller Blair, Lenore's mother and Henry Mueller's wife. She also located several photos of Lenore wearing some of the outfits, as witnessed below.

The mannequin on the left is wearing a sheer floral dress, which Lenore wore on a cruise as pictured in the photograph at the left side of the display case.

The black dress on the left belonged to Lenore, and Vi is pictured in the photograph on top of the case in the dress--which is a knockout!

The exhibit will continue through the end of February. Our winter hours are 1-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday.

This spring, we plan to have an exhibit entitled: “Recent Acquisitions,” featuring many of the artifacts we have been given during our first year of operation.



For the Record . . .

by Nancy Jo Batman, Manager

We are now a Real Museum, with archives and everything. After a year's delay caused by too-high or too-low humidity levels in the basement storage area, the move has been made transferring artifacts from the Mueller Co. to the Mueller Museum.

Boxes and boxes of artifacts are still in the basement waiting to be unpacked and stored, along with old copies of Mueller Records (dating back from 1910), scrap books, utensils from the Mueller Lodge, a huge ship with the name "Hieronymus Mueller" on it, photos, ads, maps, and a tree root with something saying "Mueller" growing out of it.

The Hieronymus Mueller Museum was built with the idea of having not only a display area, but also offering a state of the arts archival research area. We have a comfortable study area, complete with light and two comfortable blue chairs for people who are interested in researching a number of topics related to the company or the family or Decatur.

I have been spending my time pretending to be a "curator"--a person who knows a lot about history.

I have been reading old Mueller Records and old scrapbooks and finding out how interesting history really is--even though I didn't think so in high school and college.

But by evening, I can't remember much of anything I have read. I was telling my husband the other night how interesting the old scrapbooks were, and he said, "Like what?"

I said, "Well, uh, lots of things. Like, did you know there was a man in Decatur named Mr. Haley who used to beat his wife with his wooden leg?"

He just looked at me.

Today, I found another nugget I know I won't forget. A man who was 42 (already forgot his name) died from blood poisoning when his false teeth got lodged in his throat. The teeth scratched his throat cutting him severely.

But don't test me on such matters as when Hieronymus' sons died or what their wives' names were or dates of any kind.

But did you know that one Mrs. Emma Wolosek asked \$10 damage from the owner of a dog which bit off a cow's tail, but the court allowed her only \$5.20 as the dog got only about half of the tail?

That's the kind of things my mind files under its one and only file which is marked: "*Miscellaneous.*"

New Members

Benefactor - \$1000

Mrs. Uretta V. Leopold
Ms. Jane Mueller
Mr. John Scot Mueller

Sponsor - \$100

Ms. Judith Kaiser
Mrs. Earl F. Robison
Mr. Dale R. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Smith

Support - \$50

Ms. Janet C. Gates
Mr. and Mrs. Claude Inman
Mrs. Beatrice A. Joynt
Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Lindsay
Mrs. Evelyn R. Potts

Family - \$25

Ray and Nancy Jo Batman
Mr. Joe Caulk
Mr. and Mrs. J. William Coffey
Mr. Lawrence Gates
Dr. and Mrs. Paul Jurgens
Mr. Aaron Norrie
Mr. Pat Penhallegon
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Snoko
Dr. and Mrs. Paul Stanley

Regular - \$20

Ms. Vivian Doolen
Ms. Jennifer Humcke
Mr. Robert W. Mallow
Mr. Terry McCoy

Student/Senior - \$15

Mr. and Mrs. Carl M. Dodwell
Ms. Mary L. Easterling
Mr. W. Marshall Foster
Mr. Dwight Hodson
Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Matthews
Mr. Louis P. Mautz
Mr. and Mrs. Stan Metz
Mrs. Dorothy Morey
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Mounts
Mr. Lavern S. Ramsey
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Rohman
Mrs. Edna J. Rybolt
Mr. and Mrs. J. Warren Sexson
Mr. and Mrs. Rex B. Smith

21 Questions . . .

In the December, 1925, issue of the Mueller Record, we came across this quiz and thought you might find it as much fun as we did.

1. What happens to "4 out of 5" and what is the advertised remedy?
2. What helps you keep "that schoolgirl complexion"?
3. What would have stopped the process of "Going! Going! Gone!"?
4. Where is that "the flavor lasts"?
5. Who says "there's a reason"?
6. What is recommended because "It floats"?
7. What emphasizes the fact that "such popularity must be deserved"?
8. What enables you to "save the surface and you save all"?
9. What gives you "a skin you love to touch"?
10. What lets the puppy hear "his master's voice"?
11. About what are you to "ask the man who owns one"?
12. What is the "national weekly"?
13. What says "we are advertised by our loving friends"?
14. What is "the 49th state"?
15. Which automobile is "the universal car"?
16. Who are the "booksellers to the world"?
17. What tires are "best in the long run"?
18. What is "delicious and refreshing"?
19. What do you do when it is "time to retire"?
20. Where are the "Vital Spots"?
21. Who makes "faucets without a fault"?

We don't know all the answers to these questions, so we'd like your help. If you know, please take a minute to jot down the answers and send them to us at 61 S. Country Club Rd., Decatur, Illinois 62521.

The person who has the most correct answers will receive a package of stationery designed for the Hieronymus Mueller Museum.

Tours may be arranged

Is your group or organization looking for something a little different? We offer guided tours at almost all hours when they are prearranged. Call 217/423-6161 for more information. Adult tour groups are \$15 for up to 20 adults. School groups are \$15 for up to 25 children.

Become a Museum Member . . .

It's easy to do. Just fill out the card below, write a check and put it in the mail. Membership perks include free admission to the museum, continued newsletter subscription and 10 percent discount on gift items. Plus, you get the opportunity to support Decatur's only industrial museum and help preserve this rich heritage of the Mueller company and family.

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 guests, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items.

*Support Membership: \$50

Free admission for member and up to four guests, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items.

*Sponsor Membership: \$100

Free admission for member and up to four guests, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items.

*Patron Membership: \$500

Free admission for member and guests, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items, recognition on museum donor board.

*Benefactor Membership: \$1000

Free admission for member and guests, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items, recognition on museum donor board.

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 _____

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

The 4th guy pulled the plug . . .

The following is a true account taken from the Decatur Herald in 1907.

A series of accidents quite unusual took place yesterday afternoon at the Mueller Manufacturing plant. Three men lost a finger each; the three accidents took place within a space of fifteen minutes; and each accident occurred exactly the same way, in exactly the same place and on the same machine. They occurred in the blacksmith department.

Will Seeforth was the first victim. He was working at an emory wheel, where an automatic chuck works on a grinder. In trying to straighten a piece of metal his left hand slipped and the first finger was taken off at the second joint. The finger was torn off clean and dropped to the floor.

A few minutes later George W. Edding was trying to explain to the foreman just how the accident occurred and in order to make it plain he did the job right. He made one mistake, however. He let the machine take his little finger instead of the first.

Wood, the third victim, was sure he could do it properly and he was a little more successful than Eddings. He went Eddings just one better by getting the third finger in the machine; it was taken off at the first joint.

The other workmen in the shop were convinced that it was a difficult matter to "do it right," and they concluded to let the foreman take it out in guessing.

HIERONYMUS MUELLER MUSEUM

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

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