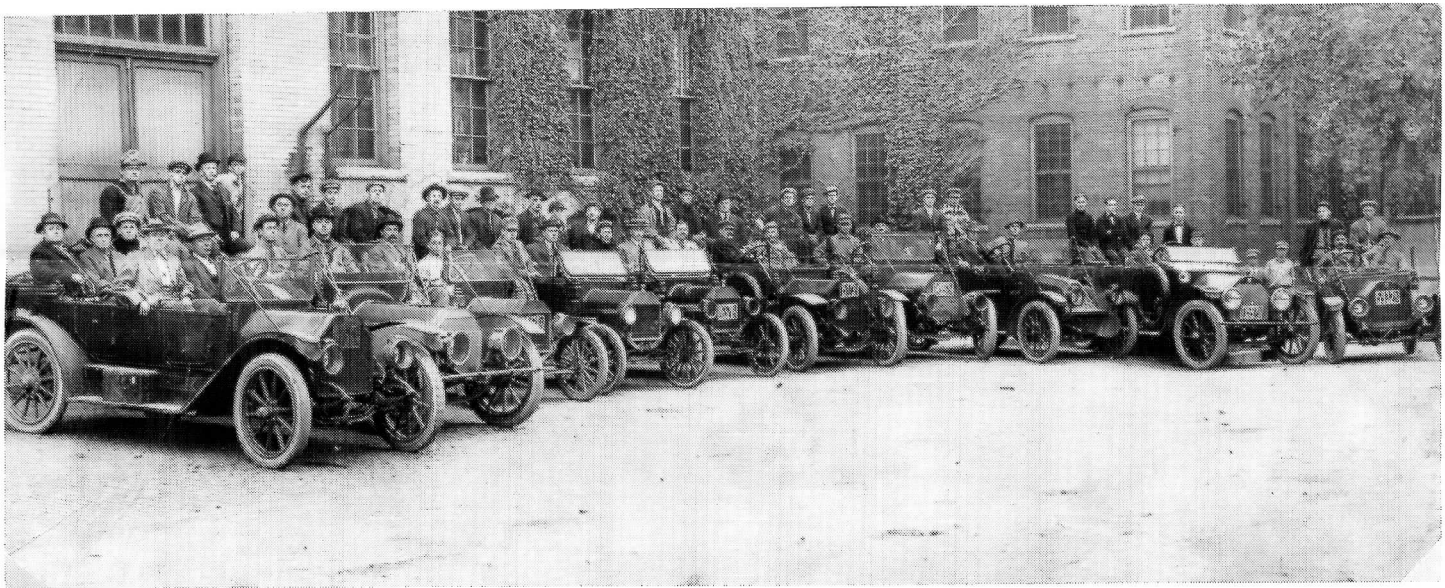




THE MUELLER RECORD

Summer 2000

The Big Coon Hunt . . .



A big coon hunt was held eight miles northeast of Decatur on October 4, 1913. They caught and killed one coon, and one 'possum and three kegs. Many of the hunters did not get home before daylight. We do not know who they all are, but Adolph and Robert Mueller are in second car from left.

The Museum's exhibit, "All Work and No Play" features this photo along with many others showing the Mueller employees at play.

Over 50 activities were offered to the employees, including a Camera Club, fishing, hiking, golfing, baseball, basketball, boxing, Boy Scouts, family picnics, tennis, and many recreational events.

The Mueller Co. believed firmly in the philosophy of family activities, and many former employees have fond memories of ice skating at Mueller Heights; the picnics, complete with the company's own band; the hikes and the overnight camp-outs at Okaw; the golf tournaments; the bowling teams; and so many other events.

Those who have visited the Museum have gotten a kick out of seeing the old photographs, so we have decided to leave it up through the fall.

Remember, our new hours are 1-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday year round.

Come out and see us--and maybe yourself in a photo!

For the Record . . .

by Nancy Jo Batman, Manager

My "summer vacation" consisted of a couple nights at a Best Western Inn in Savoy, Illinois, with my former college room-mate. Mostly we shopped.

It was a fun time, but one of the most peaceful moments of the two-day mini-vacation was taking a bath.

We moved to an old country house a year ago and it has almost everything: a pond, 3.5 acres, a blue heron, a white heron, daffodils in the spring all up the lane, and a wildflower garden. The only thing it lacks is a bathtub. It has a shower, but an elderly woman lived there and took out the bathtub because she couldn't get in it.

So, when I sunk into the tub, it was in an almost ecstasy-like fashion.

The tub was the usual white porcelain kind with bumpy things on the bottom so you won't break your neck and sue them.

The next morning, I asked my friend, Ida: "Did you know that Robert Mueller held a patent on the first non-skid bathtub?"

She didn't know that. I continued: "One of the Muellers also invented the first sanitary drinking fountain--so you don't have to put your mouth right on the faucet." She didn't know that either.

The Muellers held a total of 501 patents, which I find pretty amazing, since the only thing I have even thought about inventing is an ashtray that clamps on to your upper thigh, but now hardly anyone smokes, so there went that idea.

Hieronymus, the founder of the Mueller Co. and the patriarch of the family, was quite an inventor himself, although some inventions were a little better than others.

For instance, his first invention was a "burglar alarm." He wired a gun to a window, so when the window went open, the gun fired. He later turned it into a toy pistol.

Spark plugs, Crown roller skates, tapping machines, bicycle kick stands are only a smattering of these patents held by the Mueller family.

I work for a great place! ~

Members since last newsletter

Sponsor - \$100

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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Durant
Mr. and Mrs. George Prust

Support - \$50

Mr. and Mrs. G. William Madden
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Family - \$25

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All Skate . . .



These young women were photographed at the Mueller Co. Recreation Building/Skating Rink around 1940. Can you identify any of them? This photo was provided to Mueller Museum by Ray Mounts. Send us a note if you can identify these smiling skaters.

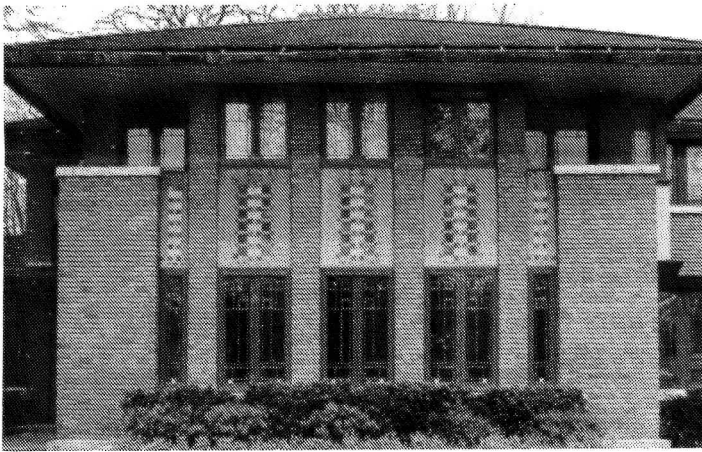
Frank Lloyd Wright (like)

As many of you are aware, there is a street in Decatur called Millikin Place which boasts three Frank Lloyd Wright homes--two having been built for Adolph and Robert Mueller.

But what some of you do *not* know--and neither did Adolph and Robert--that Frank Lloyd Wright did not actually design the homes. His assistant, Marion Mahoney Griffin did.

The only "signed" Frank Lloyd Wright home is #2. Adolph's home at #4 Millikin Place is now owned by Millikin University and is home of the President. Robert's home at #1 Millikin Place was sold this past year by Dr. Aiden and Linda Ferry.

Jane Mueller, Vi Staley, Ray Batman and I toured the house taking photos for our museum archives. We thought you'd enjoy taking a peek! We have many more if you'd like to stop by and take a look. We don't have them on display, so ask the Manager to see them.



Above: The outside of the home at #1 Millikin Place which Robert Mueller commissioned Frank Lloyd Wright to build in 1913. Below: a photo featuring the dining room.

--photos by Ray Batman



Becoming a member of the Hieronymus Mueller Museum has several benefits, including free admission, 10 percent off of all gift items and this quarterly newsletter. Do you know of someone who would like to receive it? Why not a tax-deductible membership?

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**

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***Sponsor Membership: \$100**

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***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
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Decatur, Illinois, 62521
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The Hieronymus Mueller Museum is a privately funded non-profit museum and depends upon donations for its operations

Do You Remember?

◆ Members of the (men's) Mueller Bowling League in 1948 included: Edwin Nalefski, Galen Jenkins, Haldon Hanson, Martin Riewski, Ben Taylor, Eric Blankenburg, Lawrence Roe, Paul Hawbaker, Ray Larus, R.H. Mueller, J.A. Morrison, Anthony Grossman, Herman Chepan, Melvin Hayes, Tom Cooper, C.W. Doherty, Clarence Hill, Robert Taylor, William Elliott, Jess Dailey, Claude Inman, Orville Spencer, John Taylor, Ted Masterson, Bill Mueller, Jack Bain, Robert Armstrong, Merlin Coates, Al Degand, Charles Girard, Ed Hartwig, Warren Frantz, Henry Stratman, Ted Suhomske, Les Skelley, Cecil Coffin, Melvin Chaney, Charleton Hackman, George Krag, Ollie Fortschneider, Charles Morenz, Wallace Gould, Bob Dannewitz, Don Ferry, Lynn Edwards, Paul Ammann, Frank Mueller, Carl Draper, Earl Harris, Curtis Bauer, Al Hill, Charles Moore, William Knorr, Wilbur Edwards, Robert Salogga, Preston Ruthrauff, A.H. Thompson and Wilbur Davidson.

◆ Officers for the Mueller Co. Employees Credit Union in 1950 included: Charles Brown, Harold

Taylor, Ruth Miller, Otis Fears, Harold Munsterman, Ernest Watkins, Pete Kelley, Haldon Hanson, Howard Dempster, Ray Roarick, Frank Ridgeway, William Johnson and Charles Johnson.

◆ Service Awards for the Decatur Mueller Co. in 1977 included: 5 years: Joseph W. Chladny, Ruth Seggerman; 10 years: Dwight Hodson, Jeannine Hodson, Janice E. Click, Guy A. Pruett; 15 years: Paul H. Halbrook, Rosetta J. Phillips; 20 years: Edward R. Richards, Lyle R. Huff, Scott J. Kwasny; 25 years: Louis Nash; 30 years: Wayne E. Nottingham, Frank R. Grider; 35 years: Gaylord R. Tripp, Dwayne E. Lebo.

◆ Mueller Co. employees who received 30 years Service Award pins in 1951 included: Harley Himstead, Howard Gragg, Roy Fleckenstein, Michael Brilley, Earl W. McQuality Lawrence Kramer, Frank H. Williams, Marshall Hobbs, Harold A. Probst, W.L. Shockley, William H. Padrick, C.W. Doherty, Jesse Ditty, Jr., Amos Reynolds, Barney Riley, Claude T. Smith and Charles Sanders.

HIERONYMUS MUELLER MUSEUM

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New Exhibit: "All Work and No Play. . . :