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# THE MUELLER RECORD

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WINTER 2000

## “All Work and No Play. . .”

The Hieronymus Mueller Museum will feature the recreational activities offered to the employees of the Mueller Co. throughout the years in its Spring & Summer exhibit: “All Work and No Play. . .”

Since the Mueller Co. not only provided a good place to work, but also a good place to play, we thought it would be fun to exhibit some of these pasttimes.

The Mueller Co. offered the traditional sports ~ basketball, softball, bowling, football, golf and tennis ~ but have you ever heard a company with its own “Issac Walton Club”? (Mueller did.)

The Museum has a variety of old photographs and articles from the Mueller Record about the recreational activities offered by the Company.

We also have one of the original chairs from the Mueller Recreation Center, which was built in 1922.

The original game tables from Mueller Lodge will be on display with a sampling of Bingo cards, poker chips and playing cards ~ all touched by hundreds of Mueller employees’ hands.

The Camera Club was also an important artistic and recreational outlet, and winning photos were printed in each month’s Mueller Record.

Art was not restricted to photographs, but art classes were also started by Mueller employee Herman Jackson, who has the dubious distinction of obtaining a



*Mueller Co. Bowling Team in 1960 from left: Ed Turner, Preston Ruthrauff, Bob Taylor, Bill Leake, Marshall Foster, Lynn Edwards*

patent on the “Paint-by-Number” kits so popular in the 1950s and now quite a collector’s item.

Other recreational events included “Bank Bowling,” “Chair and Sofa” Team, “Rocking Chair Club,” and the annual coon hunt.

We hope you can stop by this summer and take a look at the Mueller amusements.

## **For the Record . . .**

by Nancy Jo Batman, Manager

You've all heard the old adage: "All Work and No Play Makes Jack a Dull Boy."

Our spring and summer exhibit will prove the merit of that saying. Since the company's beginning in 1857, approximately 50 activities and sports were offered to the employees of the Mueller Co.

There was the Issak Walton Club which began in 1923, a Camera Club, tennis, football, softball, basketball, handball, golf, swimming, tennis and even a rabbit hunt.

In addition to these activities, a gymnasium/recreation center was built in 1923 especially for employees and their families. More than one former employee's daughter probably still has her old tap dancing shoes when that activity was offered by the company.

Movies and cartoons were shown on the second floor and the company not only had its own projector, it had its own Recreation Leader, Loyle Davis.

Mueller Lodge was opened in 1920 to provide a place for employees and their families to gather for picnics, parties, reunions, team recognition dinners, pageants, performances by musical groups and a variety of other activities.

Adolph Mueller hiked to Boody and back every day (five miles each way) and believed in the value of the outdoors. Thus, he started a Boys and Girls Hiking Club, as well as a Boy Scout troop.

In our archives, we have photos of young women from the core room picnicing and swimming and playing at the cabin near the Okaw River, which employees could utilize as a get-away spot. That was also the site of the annual coon hunt.

Roller skating was another popular activity offered by the company which made a lot of sense. Fred Mueller, son of Hieronymus Mueller, held a patent on Crown roller skates which were manufactured by the company in 1884 during the height of the roller-skating craze. When it ended abruptly two years later 5,000 pairs of roller skates were sent to Australia. And we can't find a single pair.

So you can see why we are calling our exhibit "All Work and No Play...."

## **Members since Fall Newsletter**

### **Benefactor~\$1000**

Ms. Jane Mueller  
Mr. John Scot Mueller  
Mr. and Mrs. William D. Staley

### **Sponsor~\$100**

Decatur Area Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Mr. and Mrs. William Coffey (Sue Bence)  
Mrs. Phyllis Gates Pintarich  
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Smith

### **Support~\$50**

Mr. and Mrs. James Alling  
Mrs. Janet C. Gates  
Mr. Claude S. Inman  
Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Norrie

### **Family~\$25**

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Batman

### **Regular~\$20**

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Jones  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Mallow  
Ms. Doris V. Neece  
Mrs. Jane Shroyer

### **Senior~\$15**

Mr. Dwight Hodson  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Matthews  
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Scott  
Mr. and Mrs. Orville Spencer  
Mr. R. Dale Streight  
Mr. Edward J. Vogel  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wheatley

## **Museum Donors for 1999**

A.E. Staley, Jr. Foundation  
Mrs. Janet Gates  
Mrs. Judy Locke (in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kileen)  
Ms. Jane Mueller  
Ms. Jane Mueller (in memory of Mary Lou Wetherell)  
Mr. John Scot Mueller  
Mr. Michael R. Mueller  
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Mr. John Schluter  
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Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wheatley

# Current Members of the Hieronymus Mueller Museum

Mr. & Mrs. James W. Alling	Mrs. Janet C. Gates	Mr. & Mrs. David F. Meek	Mr. Preston Ruthrauff
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Batman	Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Glenn	Mr. & Mrs. Stan Metz	Mr. & Mrs. Larry Schultz
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	Mr. Leonhard Mau	Mr. Jack C. Rubicam	Ms. Gillian L. White
			Mrs. Lulu F. White
			Mr. & Mrs. Mel Whittington

## Thanks for making the museum grow

*The following persons have donated items to the Hieronymus Mueller Museum since its opening on Memorial Day 1996.*

Mr. Robert Abbott	Mrs. John Drake	Mr. and Mrs. George Lebo	Mr. Morey Sefton
Mr. & Mrs. Herb Ashmore	Mrs. Lynn Edwards	Mr. Don Lowe	Mr. Rex Smith
Mr. Don Asay	Ms. Juanita Ferguson	Mr. Terry McCoy	Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lee Snoke
Ms. Elizabeth Augustine	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Ferrill	Mr. and Mrs. Don McQuality	Ms. Lois Sorrel (For Linton family)
Mrs. Nancy Jo Batman	Ms. Pat Fleetwood	Mr. Robert McQuality	Mr. Marvin Spitzer
Mrs. Florence Tauber Benjamin	Mr. Marshall Foster	Mr. Robert Midden	Mr. Claude Stacey
Ms. Karen Benjamin	Mr. Donald Frahlman	Mr. Robert Minks	Mr. Jerry Stanley
Mr. and Mrs. George Binkley	Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Gillette	Mr. John Moma	Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Staley
Blue Mound Water Department	Mrs. Howard Gleespan	Mr. Raymond Mounts	Mr. Dale Streight
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Ms. Evelyn Cox	Mr. Ben Jones	Mr. Robert Rhodes	Mr. Leo Wiant
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Mrs. Jennie Ditty	Mrs. Nancy Kircher	Mrs. Elizabeth Schnepf	
	Mr. William Lawyer	Ms. Wanda Schrimpscher	
		Mr. F.R. "Dick" Seevers	

# **VOLUNTEERS: Our Valuable Resource**

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Ashmore  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Austin  
Ms. Wilma Badorek  
Mr. Del Bagenski  
Mr. Raymond Batman  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Baughman  
Ms. Lavonne Bethard  
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Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Sweazy  
Mrs. Betty Tolladay  
Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Virt  
Mrs. Ruth Wampler  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wheatley  
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Whittington

Our special thanks to Betty Wheatley, board member of the Hieronymus Mueller Museum, and a retiree of the Mueller Co. Betty is our Volunteer Coordinator and is a pretty amazing person. When we tell folks how many volunteers we have, they are astounded. Our volunteers do everything from “man” and “woman” the receptionist desk, help paint the basement, build storage crates and curate our exhibits. We feel blessed.



## Video available

The video, "Mueller Co.'s 75th Anniversary Revisited" is now available at the museum for viewing or purchase. The video was composed from approximately 140 lantern slides which were used in a slide show presented July 16, 1932, at the Mueller Picnic at Mueller Heights. The original narration was written by Adolph Mueller.

Approximately half of the tape is devoted to the Mueller Company, the family and its employees; the other is a history of some of the leading developers of Decatur, their homes and businesses. Call 217/423-6161 for more information.

## Lloyd Darnell retires

Lloyd Darnell, plant manager of the Mueller Co. in Albertville, AL--"Fire Hydrant Capital of the World"--retired February 24. Lloyd formerly worked in the Decatur plant.

## Member Vs. Donor

The question has been asked: What is the difference between a donor and a member?

A *member* of the Hieronymus Mueller Museum is a person who has filled out the membership card designating the level of giving. That member receives benefits such as free admission to the Museum, the quarterly newsletter and a 10 percent discount on gift items. A portion of this money is non tax-deductible due to the member's receiving such gifts in return.

A *donor* is a person who has made a donation to the museum as a gift or a memorial and is totally tax-deductible. The Museum offers this choice for the convenience of those wishing to support the museum financially.

A list of new members--those who have given money since the preceding newsletter--is published in each issue. Donors' names are published once a year.

We are grateful for all of the support we have received--whether in the form of a membership or a donation.

## Mary Lou Wetherell dies

Many of you are aware of the sad news that Mary Lou (Wheatley) Wetherell died just before Christmas. She was Frank Mueller's secretary for many years, and after her retirement, had been an active museum volunteer. We will miss her greatly.

Do you know someone who would enjoy receiving this newsletter? Why not fill out the membership card below and we'll make sure that person gets the newsletter ~ and a thank-you note. (You can also become a member yourself! See page 4.)

### 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.

# Why are you getting this newsletter?

We know. Your mailbox is stuffed, your e-mail is telling you You've Got Mail (and it's usually old jokes), and you're trying to catch up by reading the May 1998 issue of National Geographic.

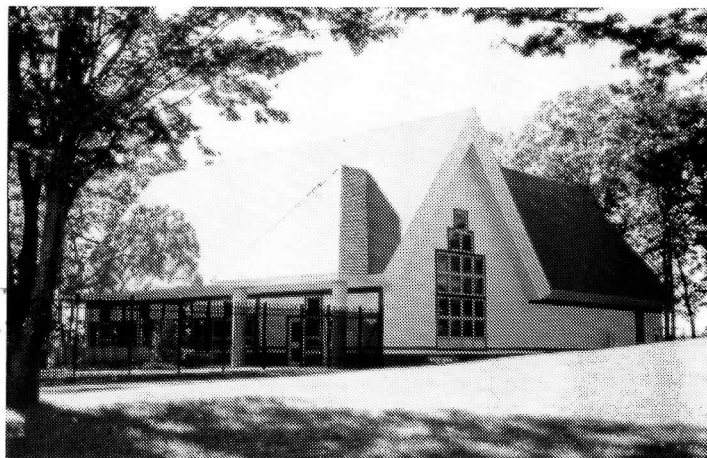
So why would you want another newsletter?

If you are a first-time recipient of this newsletter, "The Mueller Record," it's because we thought you might want to know more about this award-winning museum which is located in the Scovill Zoo complex.

We hope you will come visit us at 61 S. Country Club Road. We're open Thursday-Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. April-September and Friday-Sunday from 1-4 p.m. the rest of the year.

We also hope you will consider becoming a member or donor of the museum. (See article on page 2 for the difference and page 3 for the form.)

As a member, you not only receive this quarterly newsletter, but you get free admission to the museum for you and your friends and receive a 10 percent discount on gift items. Besides the usual museum gifts--t-shirts, notecards and mugs--we also have a variety of original artwork (featuring the Mueller fire hydrant, of



*~photo by Jane Mueller*

course) created by Shirley Kramer of Decatur and Janet Gates of California.

So that is why you are getting this newsletter if you have never received it before. We're hoping you'll want to keep on getting it!

~ Nancy Jo Batman, Museum Manger

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## HIERONYMUS MUELLER MUSEUM

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61 South Country Club Road, Decatur, Illinois 62521

HMFF

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

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