

# THE MUELLER RECORD

## CHRISTMAS PARTIES



Summer

2001

### "O Come All Ye Faithful..."

Christmas at the Mueller Co. included treats for all ages: candy and Santa for the kids, and a basket of food for the parents. Bacon and ham were the main basket-fillers, but in 1939, a live goose was given. Imagine taking this home on the trolley car! So it was back to bacon and ham. The parties were held in a variety of places throughout the city, including the gymnasium at the Mueller Co., which doubled as a basketball court and tripled as a skating rink. Family activities were an important tradition for the employees. Our thanks to Marilyn Black for providing this photo.

# Story after Story

About six months ago, I began working with the Mueller Museum as an intern through Millikin University. Having grown up in the Peoria area, I knew nothing about the Mueller Co. or its history, but opportunity presented itself and I needed to complete my college intern requirements.

I have a great love for history and research, and the stories that I heard brought the history of this company to life.

People like Cliff Carter, whose interview was long with laughter and fond memories of the company, showed me a passion for work that I had not experienced before.

Cliff or "Windy (as his friends call him) spent over an hour teaching me about the core room of the Mueller Co. and entertaining me with stories of friendships, pranks and Decatur history.

Windy had followed the Mueller Co. through many decades of changes.

With the exception of the depression, when he was laid off, and the war,

when he was drafted into the Navy, Windy was hard at work and hard at

entertaining in the core room of the Mueller Co.

Like many of the people whom I interviewed, Windy spoke highly of the people and the family atmosphere that he experienced at Mueller.

In fact, story after story—and tape after tape—this feeling of family was the only constant that existed.

I am very thankful for Windy and all the others who shared their stories and memories with me.

Now when I drive by the Mueller plant, it is

more than another building.

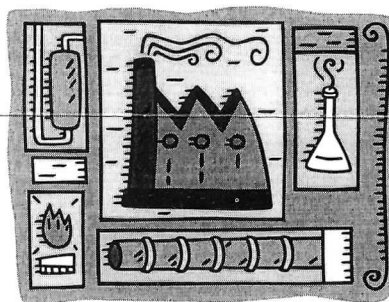
It is a piece of history.

It is a place

that was created by the men and women who took pride in their work—a kind of pride rarely seen today.

It is a place that will live in the memories of those who worked there.

**We are grateful to Millikin University for loaning us Will for this project.**



**by Will Carroll**

*Attendapee has been good this summer with 100 visitors in August. We believe this is due to our antique car on loan from Mr. James Renzulli from San Diego.*

*We plan to supplement this exhibit with a display of hand carved, miniature, wooden cars this spring from a local artist who wishes to remain anonymous.*

by  
Nancy Jo  
Batman  
Manager

## For the Record

My favorite essayist, E.B. White, writes: "Even in evil times, a writer should only write about what naturally absorbs his fancy, whether it be freedom or cinchbugs."

In these evil times, what is absorbing my fancy is the TV. Nothing seems important since Tuesday, September 11.

But prior to that date, what was occupying my fancy and giving me an Excedrin Migraine headache was my computer.

It died. It didn't even say it felt bad. It just faded slowly into black taking everything with it.

After about 7,000 phone calls and that many hours of being put on Hold, I reached a live person: Dan at Compaq located somewhere in the United States.

I cried. (I have never understood women who cry about dumb things. Now I do. It works!)

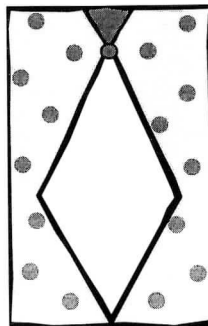
Dan wouldn't even put me on Hold after I yelled: "Don't put me on Hold!"

After 90 minutes, he said, "Now don't get me wrong, Ma'am. I've enjoyed talking to you, but the next time, ask for the *Service Desk*."

I have a suspicion that Dan works on the Suicide Hotline at Compaq. I'm sure they must have one.

But we now have a new computer with so many new features that all I do is stare at the screen.

And say a few bad words. (OK. More than a few.)



**W**ant a perfect gift for the holidays? Why not a membership with the Hieronymus Mueller Museum? And doesn't everyone you know have a necktie already?

## Annual Membership Information

<b>Student/Senior Citizen:</b>	<b>\$15</b>
Free admission for member and one guest, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items.	
<b>Regular Membership:</b>	<b>\$20</b>
Free admission for member and one guest, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items.	
<b>Family Membership:</b>	<b>\$25</b>
Free admission for member and up to four guests, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items.	
<b>*Support Membership:</b>	<b>\$50</b>
Free admission for member and up to four guests, museum newsletter subscription. 10% discount on gift items.	
<b>*Sponsor Membership:</b>	<b>\$100</b>
Free admission for member and up to four guests, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items.	
<b>*Patron Membership:</b>	<b>\$500</b>
Free admission for member and guests, museum newsletter subscription, 10% discount on gift items, recognition on museum donor board.	
<b>*Benefactor Membership:</b>	<b>\$1000</b>
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

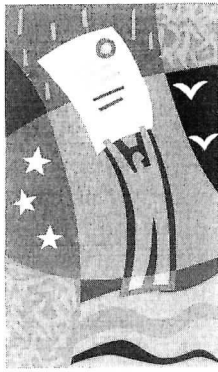
Please send this form and payment to  
**HIERONYMUS MUELLER MUSEUM**

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.



## New Members since last Newsletter

### Benefactor - \$1,000 Family - \$25

Ms. Gillian White

### Patron - \$500

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Durant

### Sponsor - \$100

Mrs. Heidei Mueller-Hayes

Mr. and Mrs. William Madden

Mr. and Mrs. George Prust

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Schultz

Mrs. Lulu F. White

### Support - \$50

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Dr. and Mrs. Scott Cairns

Mr. Stephen Graliker

Mrs. Beatrice A. Joynt

Mr. Peter Mueller

Mr. and Mrs. E.E. Penhallegon

### Family - \$25

Mr. Charles L. Brown

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Brunner

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Brunner

Mr. and Mrs. Pershing Griffith

Mr. Thomas K. Hostetler

Mr. and Mrs. George Lebo

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Madden

Mrs. Clarence Rhea

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rhodes

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Treadway

### Regular - \$20

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Dennis

Mr. Leonhard G. Mau

Mr. Presto Ruthrauff

### Senior/Student - \$15

Mrs. Charlotte J. (Barbara) Rowe

Mr. Jack C. Rubicam

Mrs. Ruth Wampler

*We appreciate  
our members.  
Perks include  
free admission  
to museum, 10  
percent  
discount on gift  
items, and this  
quarterly  
newsletter.*

## HIERONYMUS MUELLER MUSEUM

61 South Country Club Road  
Decatur, Illinois 62521

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