

The Mueller Record

a quarterly publication

Winter 2002

John Mason's hobby is Museum's spring exhibit

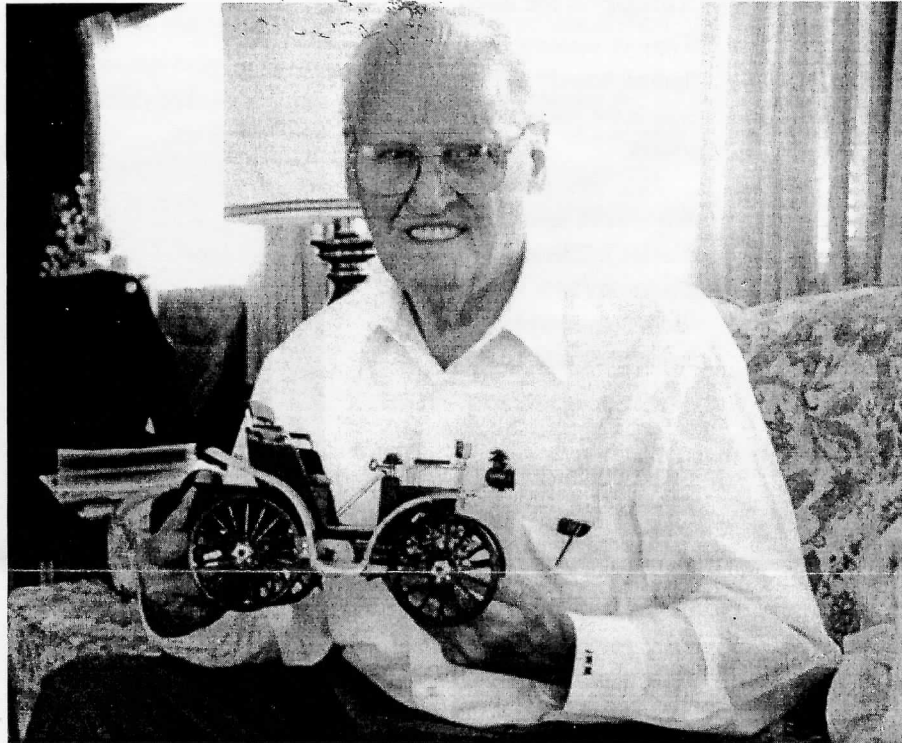
A new exhibit featuring miniature wooden cars from 1900-1930 will open April 12 in the Hieronymus Mueller Museum, located in the Scovill Zoo complex.

John Mason of Decatur will be on hand that weekend to talk about his "I'm-Retired" hobby. Each car contains up to

"I didn't even know what a router was."

130 pieces of wood and took approximately 150 hours to complete.

Featured is the original Mueller-Benz which he created specifically for this exhibit. He



John Mason with replica of the Mueller-Benz

has also created a replica of the antique car on display in the museum as well as many others.

Mr. Mason said he took up woodworking as a hobby when his children gave him a router for Christmas. "I didn't even know what a router was," he says. But he quickly learned.

Mr. Mason works on his cars during the winter in his Arizona vacation spot which features a huge wood and machine shop for retirees.

"Since my cars are small, the other guys are always giving me scraps of their wood," he says. On the bottom of each motor carriage are the words: "God Bless."

In addition to the motor carriages, Mr. Mason has also built Grandfather clocks for family members.

"I just discovered it is something I love to do and am happy to have others see them," Mr. Mason says.

Other Past Exhibits

- Vibrant Hydrants
- Ham, Bacon & Sometimes a Goose (Christmas)
- Steppin' Out (clothing of Mueller/Staley women)
- Potluck (picnics)



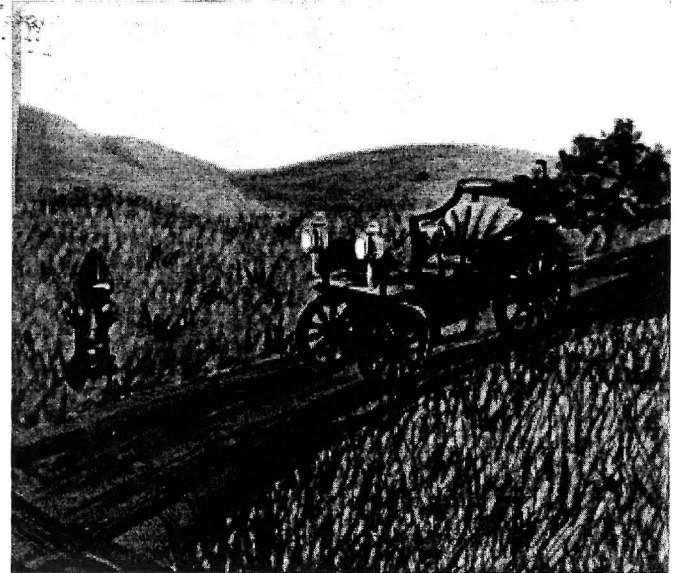
Hieronymus Mueller
Museum

Decatur, IL 62521
Tel: 217 423 6161
Fax: 217 423 6168

Exhibit opens April 12

Gift Shop features fire-hydrant art

A tile by Shirley Kramer with fire hydrant and Mueller-Benz!



"Unique" is the word

If you--or someone you know--is a "hydrant hound," the Mueller Gift Shop is the place to find unique artwork.

Pins, tiles, plates and boxes were created specifically for the museum by Decatur artist Shirley Kramer. We wish this newsletter were in color so you could see the dazzling colors on a clay surface.

We also have "Wearable Bookmarks" designed by Artist Janet Gates of Atherton, CA, a relative of Hieronymus Mueller. A miniature stop and waste are accented with colorful beads.

Wild magenta and turquoise night-lights featuring the original Mueller-Benz are also available and were hand-tinted by a New Jersey artist.

We also have books, t-shirts, mugs, notecards and the usual museum staples sporting the museum logo.

Videos taken from slides shown at the 1932 company picnic are also available. The original slide show was written and narrated by Adolph Mueller.

Nancy Jo Batman (Museum Manager) is also offering her two books of essays entitled: *Yeah, But How Would She Look Beside the Go-Kart Trophy?* and *It's Not*

Polite to Play Dead at the Supper Table.

More details are available by calling the Museum Friday-Sunday from 1-4 p.m. at 217/423-6161.

The museum's Gift Shop is small, but we guarantee these items will not be found anywhere else!

- Pins (2x2) \$15
- Plates (7x9) \$48
- Boxes & Tiles \$36
- Necklaces \$10
- Videos \$20
- "The Mueller Story" \$5
- t-shirts \$10
- Books by Nancy Jo Batman \$10

Board members pictured with antique car on display at Museum.



Photo by Michael Mueller

Is it a Mueller car?

Attorney dies

Members of the Hieronymus Mueller Museum's Board of Directors met May 5, 2001, in the Mueller Museum. Pictured from left with antique car are: Betty Wheatley,

Jane Mueller, Thomas Sly (attorney), Mark Staley and John Scot Mueller. Mr. Sly passed away this February and will be greatly missed as a consultant and friend.

Two Mueller family members died in 2002, including Mr. John Adolph Schluter and Mrs. Eloise Bauer.

Mr. Schluter of Huntington, NY, was one of four sons of Charlotte Schluter, daughter of Adolph Mueller.

Mrs. Bauer of Sarasoto, FL, was the daughter of Leda Gertrude Brownback, daughter of Philip Mueller. The Museum will miss their support.

For the Record . . .

by Nancy Jo Batman, Manager

Several weeks ago, twin, 9-year-old boys—Alex and Tim Wetzel—came to the museum with their dad.

They were fascinated by the antique car we have on exhibit which might be a Mueller-made motor carriage.

I told them that Hieronymus and his sons probably built 8 cars as we have a sketch which says "No. 8" somewhere among our blueprints and drawings.

I told them that the Muellers had the first horseless carriage in Decatur—a Mueller-Benz—which won the first unofficial car race in the U.S. in 1895.

I told them that Hieronymus and his sons may have built from 4-8 cars before Hieronymus made history as the "first car fatality" in the U.S. when he burned to death in 1900 while working on a car.

I showed them the leather tag/plate which reads "No. 7" on the back of the car on exhibit telling them I thought it meant this was the Muellers' 7th motor carriage.

The twins were anxious to get a better look, so I told them to go under the car and see if they could read anything on the various parts original to the car.

"There's a 7 with a tic-tac-

toe in front of it!" one of them yelled.

They found another #7 and what looks like an "M" and made rubbings from the engravings.

I told them if someone came into the museum, they should not be touching the car. Alex (or Tim) said: "Look, I don't think that will be a problem. I've noticed that this isn't a real popular place."

My nimble and smart researchers said they'd be back with their grandma's big magnifying glass and some flashlights.

If we find out this car is one of the 8 vehicles the Muellers made, it might become a very popular place!

"We'll come back and bring our grandma's big flashlight..."

We need your help

History buffs?

Pictured is the antique car on display in the Hieronymus Mueller Museum. It is painted a bright blue and has a buggy whip.

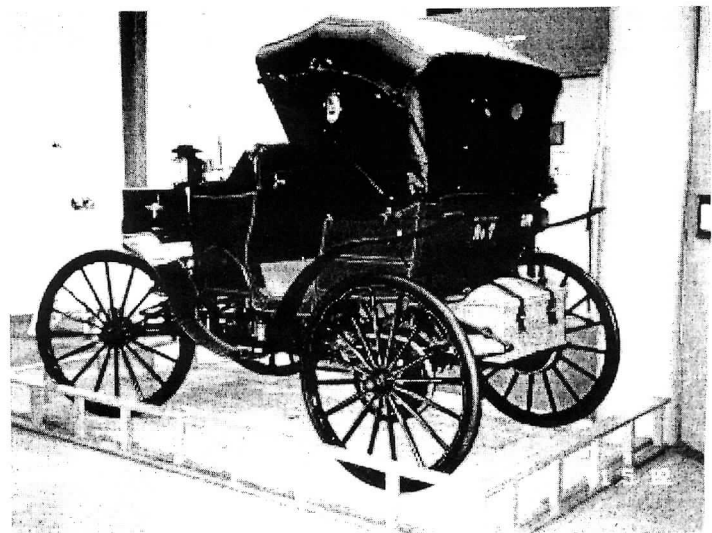
A buggy whip? Why did a horseless carriages need buggy whips?

Two ideas: 1) the buggy-whip manufacturers convinced horseless carriage drivers that whips were needed if their vehicles broke down and had to be horse-towed; 2) buggy-whip

manufacturers convinced the drivers they would need to scare away dogs which had never heard such a noise, and the whips were called "Flickers."

If you have any information about the glory days of the Mueller's car-building, please write or call.

Can you see the "#7" on the back of the car? If not, come in and take a closer look!

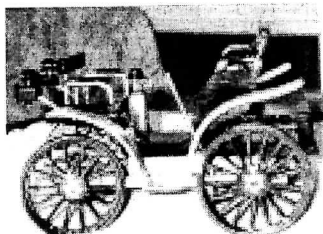




HIERONYMUS MUELLER MUSEUM

61 S. Country Club Road
Decatur, IL 62521
217/423-6161

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



A miniature Mueller-Benz

Know someone who would like this newsletter?

A member of the Hieronymus Mueller Museum receives this bi-monthly newsletter, free admission to museum, 10 percent discount on gift items and free admission for friends.

Benefactor - \$1,000

Ms. Jane Mueller
Mr. John Scot Mueller

Sponsor - \$100

Decatur Area CVB
Ms. Judith Kaiser
Mrs. Mary E. Robison
M/M Dale B. Smith

Support - \$50

Mrs. Janet C. Gates

Family - \$25

M/M Mike Boliek
M/M J. William Coffey
M/M Dean E. Madden
Mr. Robert W. Mallow
M/M Arron Norrie
M/M Orville Spencer

New Members since last newsletter

M/M Tom Wheatley

Regular - \$20

Ms. Dorothy L. Cooper
Ms. Evelyn Cox
Mrs. David F. Meek

Senior/Student - \$15

M/M Dale Capshaw
Ms. Wyllene Griffy
M/M Gordon Hutton
M/M Tim Johnson
M/M John W. Mason
M/M Donald L. Mathews
M/M William C. Rohman
Mr. Edward J. Vogel
Ms. Genevieve H. Whitney

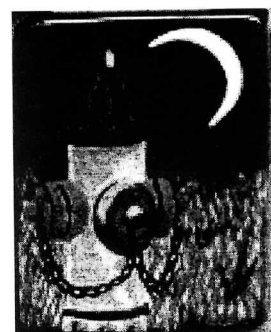
Yes! I want to be a member of the
Hieronymus Mueller Museum. Please
mark one

- ☐ Benefactor \$1,000
☐ Patron \$500
☐ Sponsor \$100
☐ Support \$50
☐ Family \$25
☐ Regular \$20
☐ Senior/Student \$15

Name

Address

City State Zip



A Shirley Kramer fire-hydrant pin

Please enclose form and
membership payment to:

Hieronymus Mueller Museum
61 South Country Club Road
Decatur, IL 62521
THANKS!