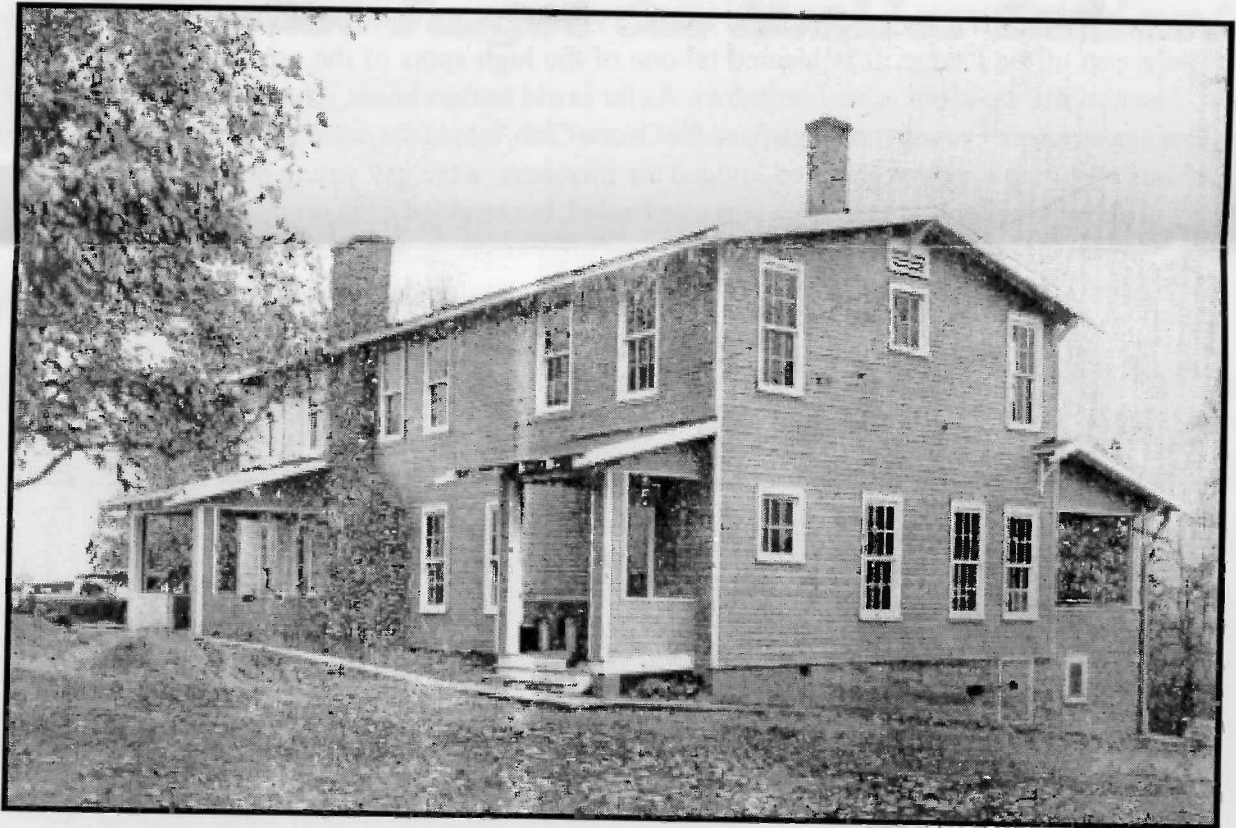




THE MUELLER RECORD

Spring 2004

Mueller Heights Remembered



Many Mueller employees remember the good times at Mueller Heights -- company picnics, parties, use of the Lodge and all its amenities by the families of employees. Mueller Heights had ambitious beginnings. A large amount of property in what is now known as the South Shores area was purchased by Mueller Co beginning in the 1910s. Hieronymus Mueller had always expressed a desire to provide homes for employees and, though, this was never achieved during his lifetime, Adolph worked toward this goal. Through several unfortunate circumstances, this plan was abandoned and the company sold most of its holdings except for the acreage still referred to as Mueller Heights.

Continued...

Mueller Heights Remembered *continued*

In 1920, the Mueller Company acquired a Student Army Training Corps barracks from World War I that had been on the Millikin University campus. The building was moved to Mueller Heights and converted, under the supervision of Fred Mueller, into a rustic retreat with lounging rooms, bathroom, kitchen, and twelve bedrooms. Throughout the 1920s, other buildings and facilities were added to the grounds, including several athletic fields, a croquet course, an outdoor amphitheater, and a lake stocked with fish.

Did you know that this area was important in the early settlement of Macon County? Overlooking the Sangamon River, this area was referred to as Indian Bluff, and was the site of the first cabin built by a white settler in what is now Macon County. William Downing, a bee hunter and trapper, came to the area in 1820. He only stayed four years before selling his cabin and improvements to John Ward in 1824. Mr. Ward operated a general store at his homesite on Indian Bluff and later operated a ferry across the Sangamon River. Several years later, Captain David L. Allen, an important figure in the economic development of Central Illinois, purchased property in the area and built a large home which stood for many years. The sharp bend in the river adjacent to his property is still referred to today as Allen's Bend.

Wonder whatever happened to the Downing/Ward log cabin? Well, there was a log cabin on the Mueller Heights property. The 1936 Mueller Record states, "The log cabin shown (on the front cover) stands a quarter mile east of the Lodge. It is located on one of the high spots of the grounds, overlooking Lake Decatur. Just how old the cabin is, no one knows. As far as old settlers know, it has always been there. Some thirty years ago a group of young men organized the Ozone Club, leased the cabin and made it their rendezvous and from bits of gossip we have gathered, judged the members were gay young blades. The property was finally acquired by Mueller Co. The cabin was overhauled, but retained in its original condition except for a large screened in sleeping porch and modern bath room." Wouldn't it be neat if that was the original log home of Macon County?



The Lodge from the East or Lakeside

Bowling Team Identified

Thanks to our readers, the men on the bowling team have been identified. From left to right they are: Marshall "Froggy" Foster, Bob Taylor, Bill Leak, Pres Ruthruff, Lynn "Lum" Edwards, and Jack Bain. If you disagree, let us know!



Let's Not Forget Our Mueller Ladies!



Women's Bowling Team: left to right
Katie Bauer, Laura Hirsch Thompson, Betty Sy, Betty Tolladay, Aileen
Moore, and Ellen Jane Stevenson Courtney
(Let us know if any of these names are incorrect!)

In Memory of Pauline Verner Mueller

Pauline Verner Mueller, wife of William Everett Mueller and mother of William Everett, Jr., Adolph II and Jane Mueller passed on May 6, 2004. Born in 1901, she worked at Mueller Company as a young woman. Searching through Mueller Records, there are several photographs of Pauline, showing a beautiful, tall, young woman. Her height and athletic ability landed her the center position on the Mueller women's basketball team. After marrying William Everett Mueller (son of Adolph and grandson of Hieronymus), she left Mueller Company to raise her family. We extend our sympathy to the family.

Travel Writers Visit Museum

In April, free-lance travel writer Floyd Jury visited the museum. He travels across the country, writing articles about local points of interest. He was fascinated by the history of the Mueller Co. and Hieronymus Mueller's early inventions, particularly his work on early motor carriages. He spent over an hour looking at our various exhibits and asked lots of questions. We look forward to seeing the museum highlighted in a future travel magazine.

No doubt you are already a member of the Hieronymus Mueller Museum or you would not be reading this. But if you know of someone who would enjoy receiving this quarterly newsletter, why don't you consider a gift 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**
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 _____

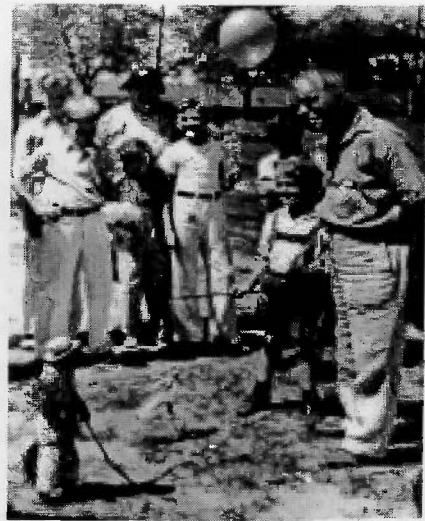
Address _____

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

On the Lookout For...

We've been told that out there somewhere is a short history of the fire hydrant. It is an 8 1/2 by 11 inch booklet - in color! We'd love to get a copy. If anyone has any information, let us know - even if it is merely to tell us there is such a book.

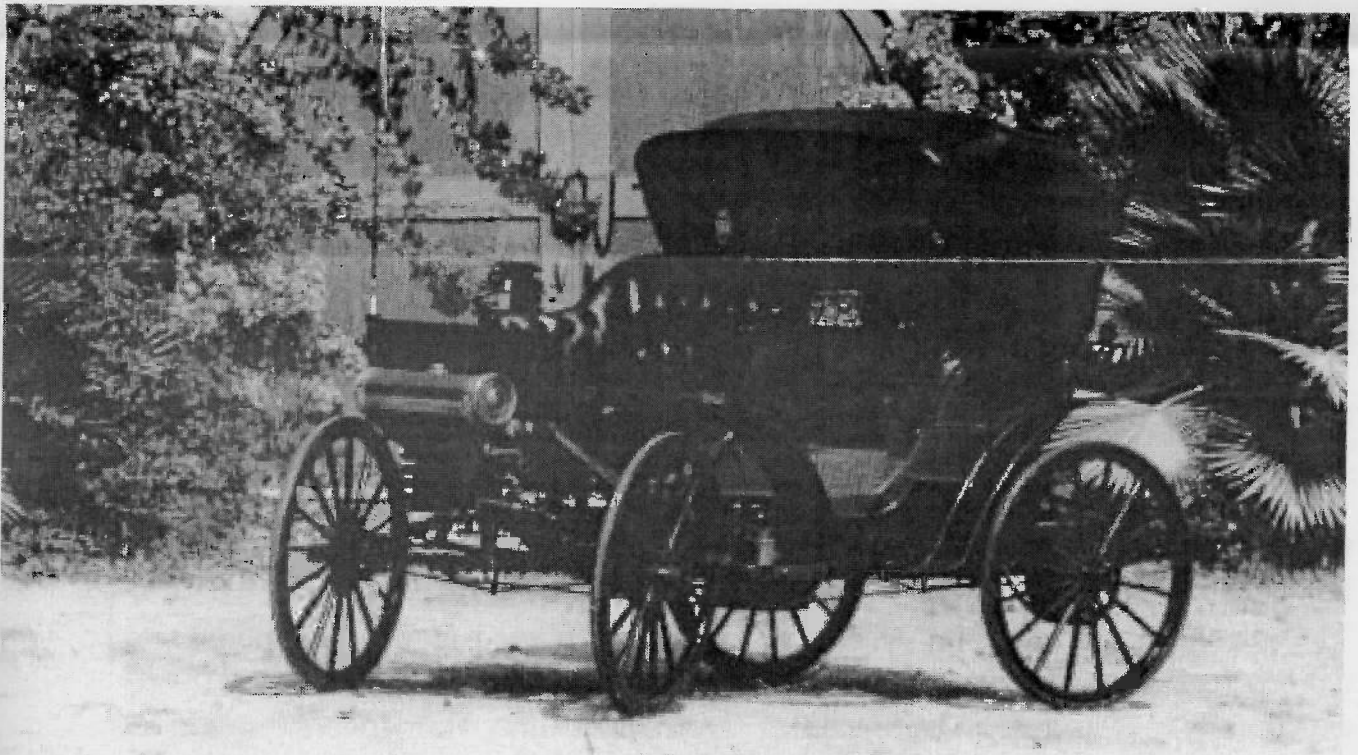
Remember us when you're in a cleaning mood. Any Mueller items are very appreciated - they don't even have to be old. If we don't save them now, they may be gone forever!



Good Times at Mueller Heights

Adolph Mueller with employee families at annual picnic.

Restored Car at Museum for Another Three Years



Mr. James Renzulli of San Diego, owner of the restored motor carriage on exhibit at the museum, has agreed to another three year loan. We are extremely pleased to keep the car on display - whether it's a Mueller motor carriage or not! It's a beautifully restored vehicle and helps to highlight the story of Hieronymus and his early interest in horseless carriages.

HIERONYMUS MUELLER MUSEUM

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Some Mueller Heights Highlights

1910: The property subsequently known as Mueller Heights was purchased.

August 1920: The Lodge at Mueller Heights is partially completed in time for the annual school of instruction for the traveling salesmen.

April 1924: On April 24th, the Mueller girls took advantage of this being Leap Year and had a Leap Year dance at Mueller Heights. The girls took the men and asked for the dances, and this plan seemed to work about excellently, as everyone had a fine time.

November 1926: A new dam is built at Mueller Heights. Located in the ravine, the dam will form an artificial lake for recreation including swimming and boating.

July 1932: The 75th Anniversary celebrations included a picnic at Mueller Heights for all employees and their families. One of the chief points of interest on the picnic grounds was the replica of the first shop of Hieronymus Mueller.

March 1934: Girls from the Welfare Home and the Anna B. Millikin Home enjoyed the annual party given them by Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Mueller at Mueller Heights. Games were played and refreshments served. On another date, the boys of the Boys' Opportunity Home were guest at the lodge. On both occasions the guest was given a student's note book.

1986: Mueller Co. donates Mueller Heights to Millikin University.