

Register of Old Buildings
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: #1 Millikin Place

Legal description:

Millikin Place Second Addition.

All rights in private driveway s and adj. and Lot 8.

Date of original construction: 1910 (assessor's office).

Name of original owner: Robert Mueller.

History:

a. Data from available city directories:

1911-1940 Robert Mueller (Addie E.), v. pres., Mueller Co.

1941-1959 Addie E. Mueller (wid. Robert).

1959-1970 Roy L. Rollins (Mary R.), v. pres., A. E. Staley
Mfg. Co.

1971- Barrett H. Geohagan, pres.-gen'l. mgr. WAND-TV.

b. Data from the office of the Decatur Township assessor's office follows:

2 stories, 10 rooms, masonry constr., concr. foundation

Brick exterior walls, tile roof

Front porch 6x15 90 sq. ft.

Side porch 6x7 42 sq. ft.

Rear porch (6x7) (10x11) 152 sq. ft.

4 baths with tile floors

1 soft floor (with linoleum) - kitchen

9 hardwood floors

Hardwood doors and trim

Steam heat

75% basement

4 baths and 1 half bath

2 natural fireplaces

(Garage living quarters - 15x22' 350 sq. ft.)

(Tile roof, bath in living quarters, steam heat)

(See sketch on opposite side)

Present owner: Joan K. Geohagan.



Photo - Margaret M. Meyer - October, 1975
#1 Millikin Place
Robert Mueller House

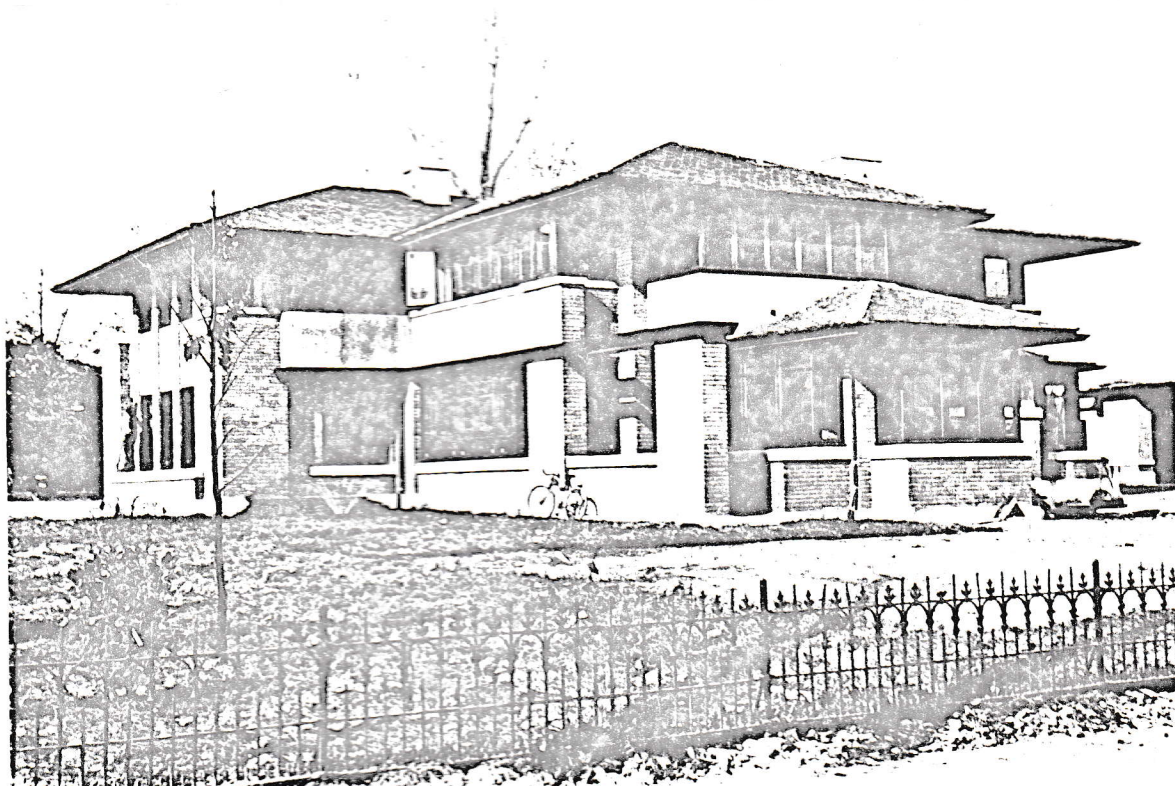


Photo - Star Herald and Review, date not given

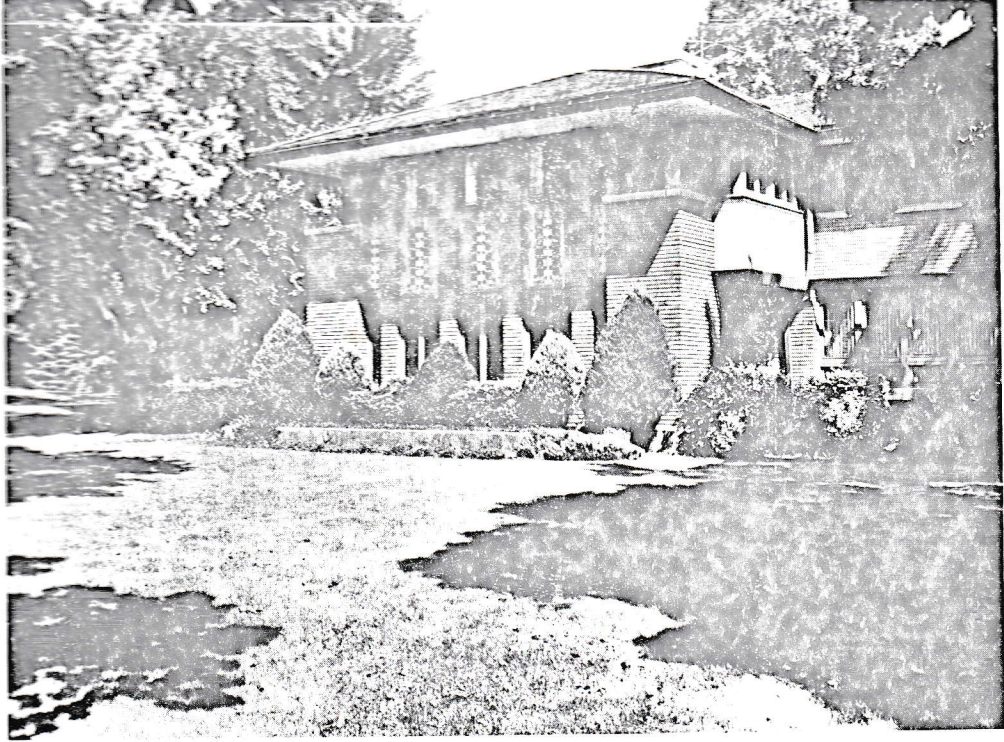
#1 Millikin Place
Robert Mueller House

PLATE I

ROBERT MUELLER, 1 MILLIKIN PLACE



Early photograph of the Robert Mueller house, showing the house in the final stage of completion, with some landscaping done. The E. P. Irving house is just visible in the distant left. (Photo by George Baker, 1912)



ABOVE: Residence of Robert Mueller, Decatur, Illinois, 1910 (Marion Mahony and Hermann von Holst). BELOW: Residence of J. H. Amberg, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1910 (Marion Mahony and Hermann von Holst). Marion Mahony, perhaps the most gifted draftsman on Wright's staff, was to become the wife of Walter Burley Griffin. To her and Von Holst, Wright entrusted these and other commissions in the office when he and Mamah Borthwick Cheney (the Cheney house is shown on page 80) set off for Europe, abandoning the Wright and Cheney households in Oak Park. *Merrill Andrews, Wayne, Architecture in Chicago and in Mid-America, Athenaeum, 1968, p. 89*



October, 1916

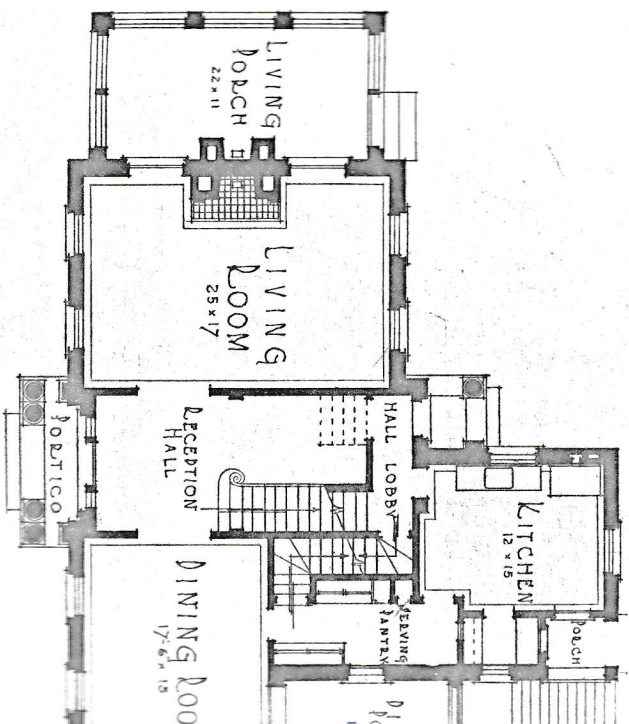
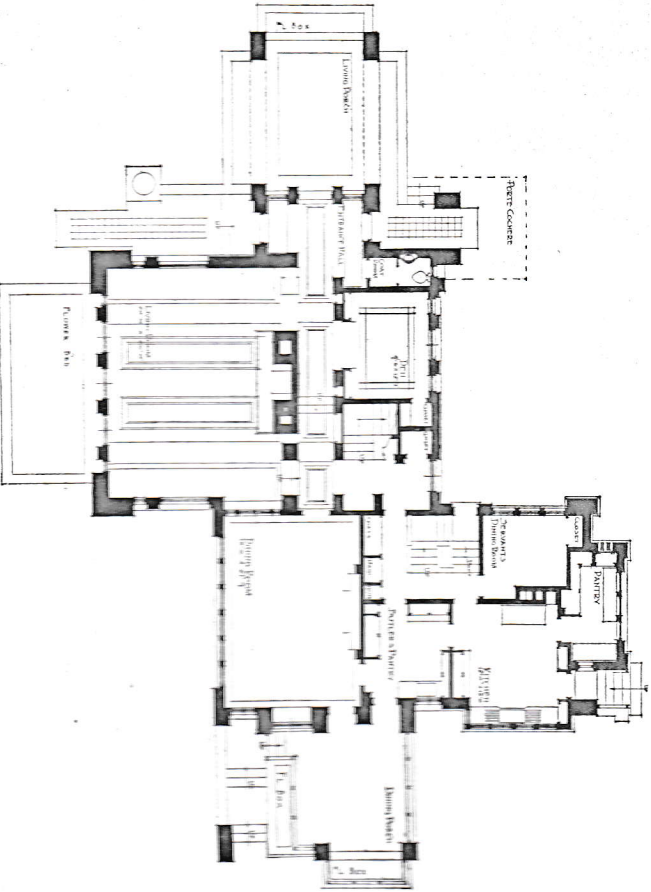
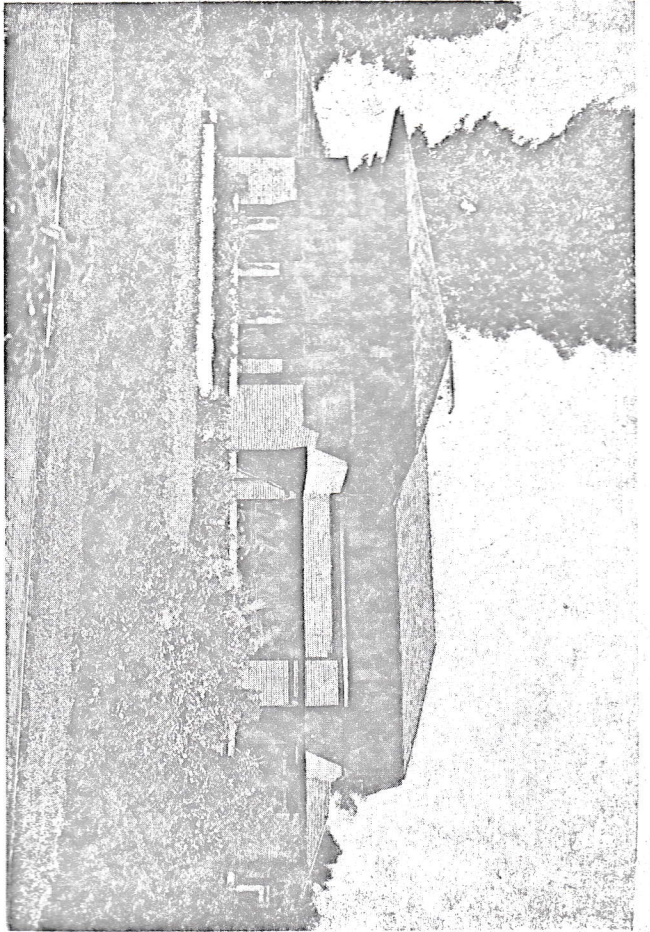
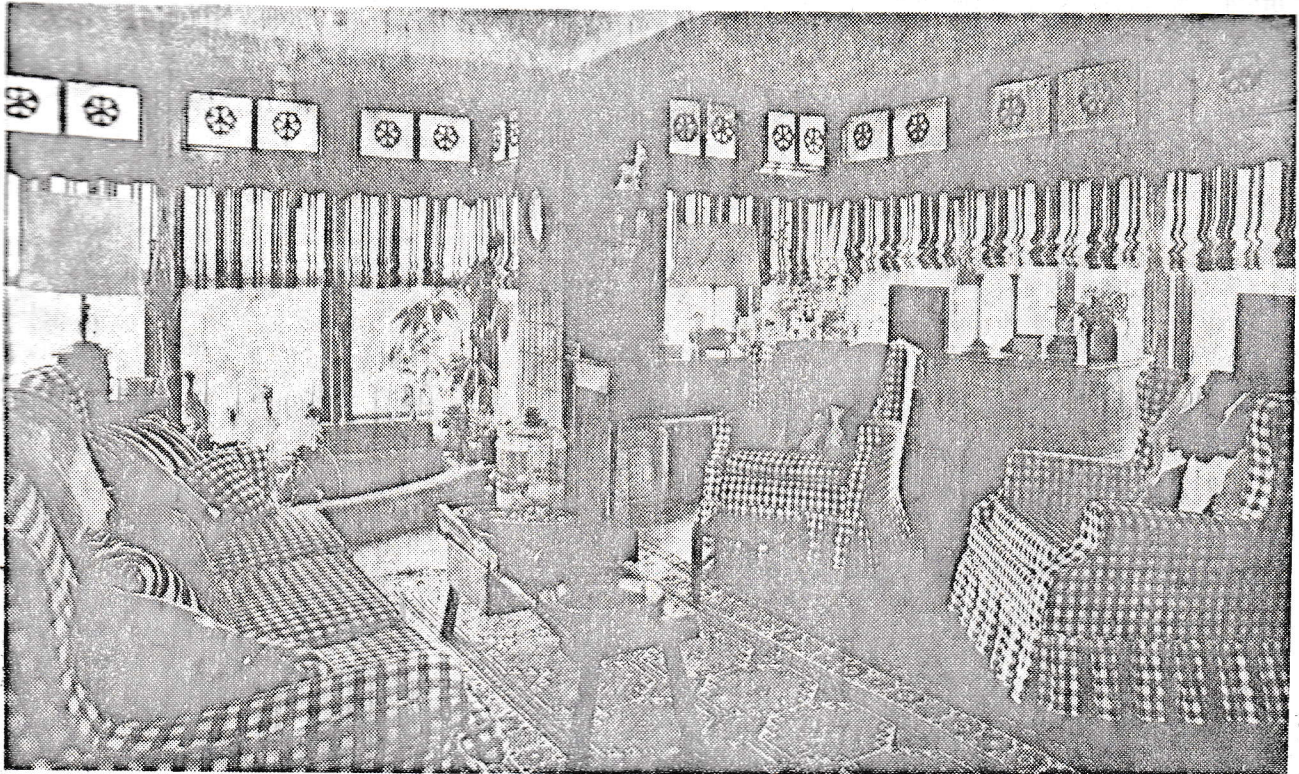


FIG. 15. VIEW AND FIRST FLOOR PLAN—HOUSE OF ROBERT MUELLER, ESQ., DECATUR, ILL. H. V. VON

October, 1916

FIG. 16. VIEW AND FIRST FLOOR

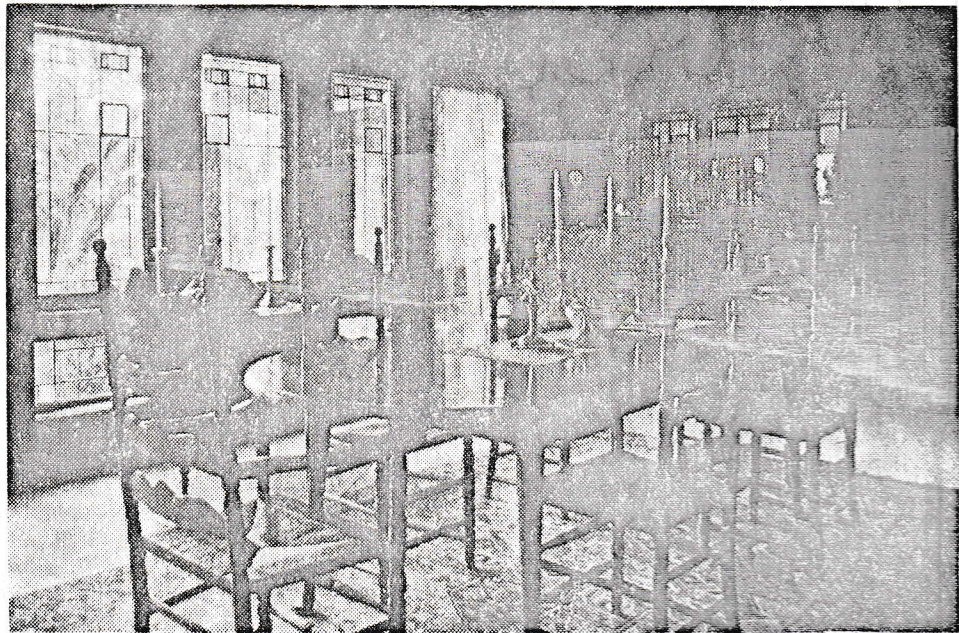


JOAN GEORGHEGAN, far right, and her family have lived in the Wright house at 1 Millikin Place, middle, for almost four and a half years.

THE FAMILY ROOM, top, a much used part of the house, is believed to be an enclosed porch. Warm and comfortable it sports a little used fountain and gold fish pond at the far end.

GOLD-LEAF colored walls add a touch of distinction to the family dining room, right. Wall borders have an old-time stencil effect.

JOAN SAYS she stayed away from a formal approach to the living room, bottom, to keep it livable.



Feb. 9, 1975
Sunday School and Prayer



Visit to #1 Millikin Place January 31, 1976

To the left of the entrance hall is a recreation room; originally this was a porch, which former owners, Mr. and Mrs. Rollins enclosed to use as a family room.

The east-west hall runs north of the living room between the entrance hall and dining room. Dining and kitchen areas are two steps higher than living room, den and present recreation room. The opening from the living room to the hall on the east reflects this, with two steps also at this point.

Doors are of glass, or completely absent, except for the ~~xx~~ wrought iron gate into the dining porch (now family room) which preseves the openness even when closed.

The living room is sunny, with windows on three sides: above the built in book cases on the east wall near the steps is glass (between the living room and dining room), further contributing to the light. The fireplace on the north wall forms the partition between living room and hall; its hall-side is the same Roman brick. There are two flat rectangular panels of stained glass in the ceiling; windows are casement with ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ colored glass insets, many of them purple, reflecting the lavender grouting of the fireplace wall. A Roman arch defines the fireplace opening. Strips of wood girdle the room at ~~the~~ window-top level. Where there is wall space, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ molding decorates the plaster in rectangular shapes.

Glass doors lead to the dining room, where a patterned paper covers the ceiling and walls.

A wrought iron gate graces the entrance from dining room to glassed dining porch, which is now a family room. Random tile covers the floor, and radiators are covered with wrought iron and tile. A sunken fountain^{pool} of green tile on the east side is now used for potted plants.

The butler's pantry has now been incorporated in the modernized kitchen. A bedroom is behind the back stairway, west of the kitchen.

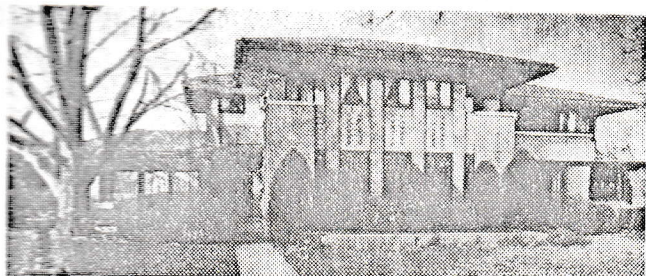
The back stairway has a single panel, and the front stairway three panels, of three different lengths, of rectangular window, decorated with the colored glass insets.

The master bedroom has a fireplace with the same brick and lavender grouting, built in chests which eliminate the need for ~~for~~ dressers; Mrs. Geohagan has decorated it in purple and white.

Three of the bathrooms may have been redone by Mrs. Mueller; each has a distinctive color tile wainscot, with decorated tiles as trim. She also installed a small elevator.

Linen closet has pull out shelves.

Margaret Wray



The Wright House

Home Is Its Own Decoration

By Karen T. Lobeck
Women's Editor

When the realtor told Joan Geoghegan the Decatur house she was about to see was a Wright house she wasn't that impressed.

She was just after the right house for her family no matter who designed it. Besides all she knew of Frank Lloyd Wright was the Solomon P. Guggenheim Museum in New York. And she didn't particularly like it.

But off she went, into the unique home at 1 Millikin Place, and out she came, buying it after seeing it just that once.

In short, she liked it.

Four and a half years later Joan sits in her favorite room — the living room — and says simply, "It's home."

But she remembers, laughingly, the second look she had at the house. "The second time I realized what we had bought. I panicked. I didn't think my furniture would fit. It was more traditional."

What would go, she decided, was contemporary furniture and oriental antiques. But deciding is as far as she got with it. "My husband said we were using what we had and that was the end of that."

And the beginning of a blend that keeps the house looking

like a home, not a memorial.

The effect is one of comfortable space. The house is too chic for pretty. Too livable for stunning. It has a just - right feeling in between the two.

You could easily imagine a dog loping into the family room. . . but it would have a pedigree. That sort of feeling.

"The house itself is decorative without doing anything," Joan says. And she has learned to go with, not fight against that fact.

Windows are curtainless in many parts of the home, emphasizing the rich wood window casings and the leaded - glass windows themselves.

Small panes of stained glass — mostly purple — are scattered in the windows.

Joan moves up microscopically close to the living room's fan - shaped fireplace and traces grouting with her finger. It has a slight lavender tinge to match the purple in the windows. "Do you believe that?" she asks, shaking her head.

Although the windows are one of her favorite things, Joan sighs at the sheer number of them. "I have over a hundred windows to wash. There has got to be 120 in the house."

Joan ticks off some other Wright wrongs:

— Between windows and wood molding on the walls — admittedly beautiful — wall space is a luxury. Wall molding has eliminated some of the Geoghegans' larger pictures. No place to hang them.

— Artificial skylights in the living room and indirect lighting in the dining room take light bulbs, light bulbs, light bulbs.

"There are 96 lights in the dining room. Some went out when we were first here and I went up with a ladder to replace them. I absolutely died when I found out how many there were and that 42 were out." The skylights take a more conservative number — 36.

Sheer space can have its difficulties, too — contrasting with her husband Barrett's cozy den downstairs is the master bedroom complex upstairs.

Redecorating the room, she says, meant 70 yards of carpet.

But it also meant a room not quite airy, not quite majestic, but somewhere in between.

The complex includes the bedroom, two dressing rooms, bathroom and a sewing room which was once a sleeping porch.

All the room everywhere is one of the house's great pluses, says Joan, looking at it,



especially, with the eyes of a mother of four.

The house itself, says Joan, has changed little since 1910 when it was built for the Robert Muellers. Joan has completely redone the kitchen, and the family room, — complete with fountain — was probably closed in after the house was built, she thinks.

"It's fantastic," Joan says. "It was built in 1910 and is completely modern and functional by today's standards except the kitchen."

Controversy in some books about whether Wright really designed the house doesn't bother her. After all, she didn't buy it for the Wright name.

"I think there are some beautiful old homes in Decatur. There are 10 I could live in tomorrow.

"The fun of living in a Wright house is those people who ring your doorbell."

Joan adds she was originally told throngs of people would want to see it, but she didn't believe it.

She soon did. People stopped to take pictures. Architecture students lusted to see the inside.

"If I'm in a good mood and not late for something I may ask them in.

"And they always say, 'Oh, I hoped you'd ask.'"

WATER POOL AT MUELLER HOME

Walter Burley Griffin Adds to the Council

PROVED A SURPRISE

For Mrs. Mueller; Designed by Griffin.

Work has just been completed on a beautiful swimming and fish pool in the yard at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Burley Griffin, 3 Millikin place. The pool greatly enhances the beauty of the grounds and is a feature which is hard to see at other homes.

WAS A SURPRISE.

While Mr. and Mrs. Mueller were on their recent eastern trip, Mr. Mueller had a small army of men working on the pool in order to get it done in time to surprise Mrs. Mueller on her return home. Needless to say, she was delighted with the attractive new pool.

Walter Burley Griffin, a noted Chicago landscape gardener, drew the plans for Millikin place and the Mueller grounds. The swimming and fish pool was included in the plans. Since leaving Decatur, Mr. Griffin has added greatly to his fame by going to Australia and drawing plans for a new city there.

AT WEST END.

The new pool is located at the west end of the garden and is lined with stones, the bottom being concreted. Lillies have been planted around the edges and gold fish will be put in some time. A Japanese structure of some sort may be erected at the back.

It is the intention of Mr. and Mrs. Mueller to make the pool and grounds as attractive for the song birds as possible. The birds may use it for drinking water and some places will be made shallower with rocks in order to attract the feathered flocks.

ARE MAKING PLANS FOR LABOR DAY

Decatur Men Invite Springfield Trades and Labor.

D. A. Burdick, Alby Hoots and George Glora went to Springfield Friday to attend a meeting of the Trades and Labor assembly of that city and invite organized labor in Springfield to attend the Labor day celebration in Decatur the first Monday in September.

Contest Social is Success.

The contest social given the men of Dr. Coitler's class by the women of R. E. Davidson's class of Grace Methodist Sunday school Thursday night was a great success. An excellent program was given and refreshments were served. Rev. R. F. McDaniel and Mr. Davidson gave interesting talks. At the same time, the children were entertained in an adjoining room by a number of games. This was in charge of Miss Mae Stickland.

MRS. T. J. PRENTICE NEW PRESIDENT

E. A. Gastman Mothers Elect Officers.

New officers for the coming year were elected by the Mothers' club of the E. A. Gastman school Thursday afternoon. They are as follows:
President—Mrs. T. J. Prentice.
Vice president—Mrs. Henry Abaly.
Secretary—Mrs. Clyde Trisch.
Treasurer—Mrs. Frank Smallwood.
The report of the treasurer given at the meeting was very good. It showed a balance in the treasury of \$50.

ULLRICH.

Ullrich school Mothers' club, at its meeting Thursday afternoon, decided to postpone its election of officers until the beginning of the new school year. Reports of various committees and of the treasurer were heard at the meeting. The club will make another payment on its piano and will still have a balance in the treasury. The business for the year was finished up.

The mothers discussed the matter of joining the Congress of Mothers, but decided not to do so this year.

OGLESBY.

Oglesby school is planning for an ice cream social to be held next Monday evening on the school grounds. The grounds will be illuminated with electric lights. There will be plenty of entertainment during the evening, as the children will give their wand and drum drills and folk plays and there will be a band by the high school band.

The program by the children will probably not begin until about 6:30, but the mothers will be ready to serve refreshments much earlier, by 4:30 or 5 o'clock. They will have on sale sandwiches, coffee, candy, popcorn and ice cream and cake.

DENNIS.

The Dennis school spring festival Thursday evening was attended by a large crowd and was most successful. The children carried out their program exceedingly well and everybody was pleased with them.

At the social after the program, the mothers took in \$27. Practically everything was sold out. Fifteen gallons

WHEN YOU WASH YOUR HAIR DON'T USE SOAP

Most soaps and prepared shampoos contain too much alkali, which is very injurious, as it dries the scalp and makes the hair brittle.

The best thing to use is just plain mulsified cocoanut oil, for this is pure and entirely greaseless. It's very cheap, and beats soaps or anything else all to pieces. You can get this at any drug store, and a few ounces will last the whole family for months.

Simply moisten the hair with water and rub it in, about a teaspoonful is all that is required. It makes an abundance of rich, creamy lather, cleanses thoroughly, and rinses out easily. The hair dries quickly and

of ice cream were used. The cakes were donated by the mothers.

MEETING AT MRS. HUSTON'S HOME

The Woman's Missionary society of the Church of God held its monthly meeting Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. O. B. Huston, 1566 North Church street, with a good attendance. The fifth chapter in "The Child in the Midst" was studied, the topic being "The Child at Worship." Devotions were conducted by Miss Clara Richmond and the lesson was discussed by Mrs. Huston, Mrs. A. J. Roher, Mrs. A. E. Richmond, and Mrs. W. L. Huff. Two new members were received.

At the close of the meeting there was a social hour and refreshments were served by the hostess.

Atwood Crochet Club.

The Atwood Crochet club met Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. W. H. Snyder, 1328 North Union street. Mrs. Nelson and Miss Tabler of Missouri were guests. The women sewed during the afternoon and they were entertained with Victrola music. Refreshments were served and each person was given a bouquet of pansies as a favor.

FORTY CHORISTERS ON BEMENT

On Return They Will Spend at Farles Park.

The St. John's Choristers will at 6:45 o'clock this evening entertain on Bement where they will give a concert. Already the 200 tickets have been sold in advance and it is expected there will be a larger crowd. Forty members under the direction of Professor Iliam Ehrhart Snyder, and on their return trip, they will all stop at Farles park and spend the night in their cabin. A few of the boys Professor Snyder went out to the supper in the cabin before going to bed.

MOTHERS GO OUT.

The mothers will go out to the Saturday and take lunch with them. They will fix up the cabin for the summer, making new green curtains for the windows, clean etc. The place is to be rented for the summer and already two club members have asked for two different weeks. The cabin is furnished complete with the campers would have to take sheets, pillow cases, towels and

Every Lady Should
Read Our Special
Announcement in
Sunday's Papers.

Lin

BASEMENT S

Items of special interest are numerous in the

SEASONABLE GIFTS FOR BRIDES OR GR

We have arranged most attractive tables of Fall included in the lot are hand-painted plates, sugar puff boxes, vases, etc., at a most desirable range

TRUNKS

This is the season of going away for vacations, visits, outings, bridal trips, etc., and about the first essential to any of these expeditions is a good trunk, such as we are showing in most attractive assortment.

A Well-made Steamer Trunk, 32 inches long, canvas covered and protected by heavy hardware, for each..... \$4.75

Our Special Fiber-covered Steamer Trunk is extra well made, is 36 inches long and, like the previous item, is well protected with heavy hardware. It sells at each..... \$9.50



Fall Dress Suit
tion as above,
at each.....

Economic Home Conve

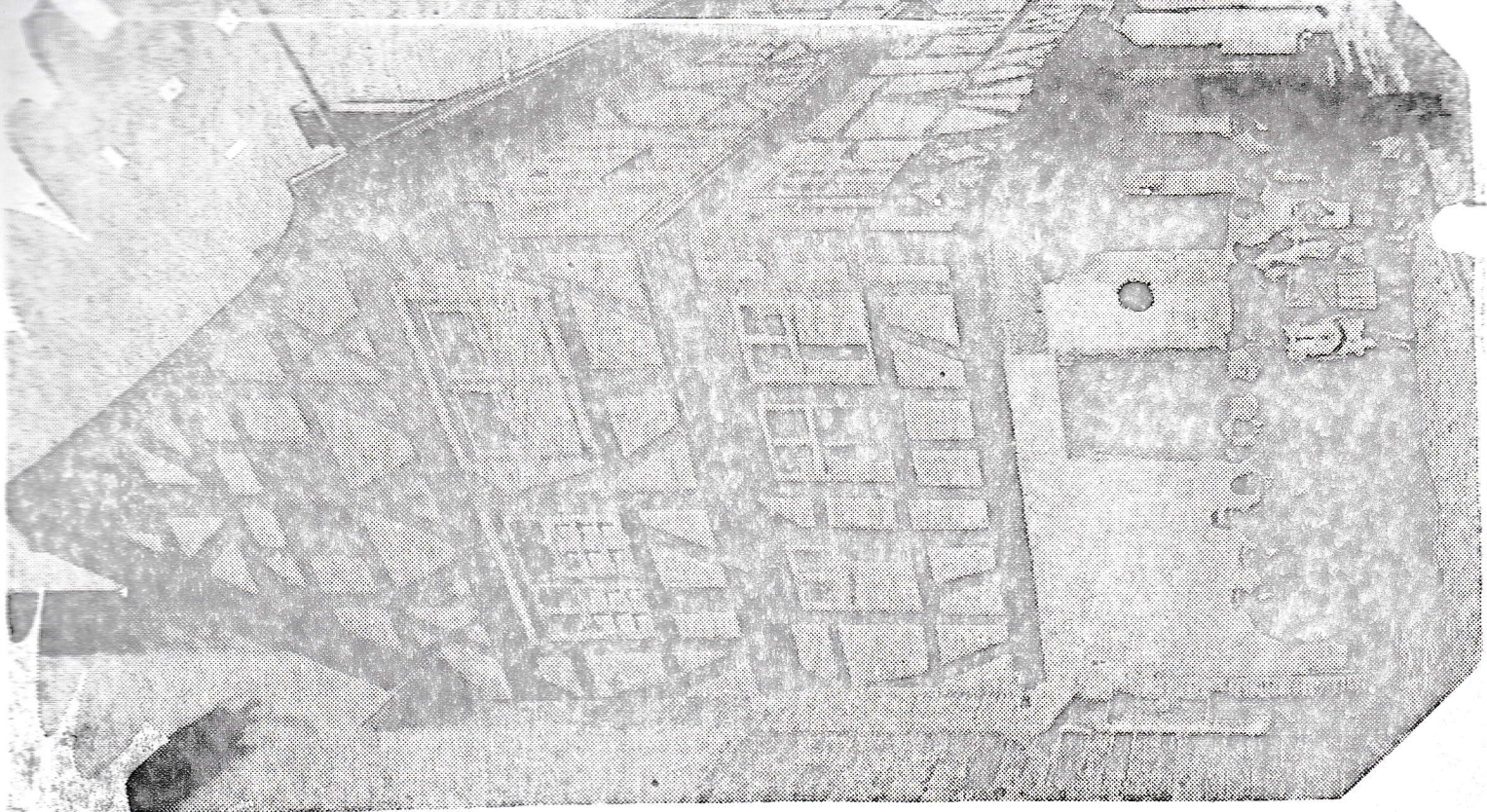
Oak Porch Swing, four feet long, com- rubbers, etc.

Genealogy of the Decatur Branch of Mueller Family

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Henry Mueller (Dec'd) Ora McClanahan | Henrietta Mueller (Dec'd) Lenore Mueller A. E. Staley, Jr. | A. E. Staley, III Henry Mueller Staley |
| Clara Mueller Fred W. Kaiser Robert H. Mueller | Fred W. Kaiser, Jr. Phyllis Kaiser Betty Kaiser | |
| Leda Mueller Vera Brownback | Mary Jane Brownback Joe Brownback Eloise Brownback | |
| Philip Mueller (Dec'd) Mary Shorb | Mueller Cozad Janet Cozad Delos Cozad Clarence Cozad | |
| Lucien W. Mueller Charibel Koricke | | |
| Clarence Mueller | | Philip Mueller II |
| Frank H. Mueller Isabell Pluck | | |
| Ebert B. Mueller Ruth Staley | | Robert Eugene Mueller |
| William Everett Mueller Pauline Verner | William Adolph Mueller | |
| Charles Philip Mueller (Dec'd) | | |
| Charlotte Mueller Fredric E. Schuter | Fredric E. Schuter, Jr. William E. M. Schuter John Adolph Schuter | |
| Philip H. Cruikshank Gertrude Parke | William Cruikshank Gertrude Cruikshank | |
| Frances Cruikshank Allan F. Moore | Allan F. Moore, III Patricia Moore | |
| William Cruikshank (Dec'd) | | |
| Bernhardt Mueller Mayme McQueen | | |
| Florence Mueller (Dec'd) John Hamilton Irving | | |
| Oscar B. Mueller Beatrice Weizel | | |
| Hieronymus Mueller Fredericka Bernhardt | | |
| Fred B. Mueller (Dec'd) | | |
| Robert Mueller Addie Ebert | | |
| Adolph Mueller Minnie T. Bachman | | |
| Leda Mueller Frank W. Cruikshank | | |

Decatur Public Library
Decatur, Illinois

In a quaint old house in the little village of Wertheim, Germany, Heironymus Mueller, founder of the Mueller Co., was born on July 16, 1832. The building still stands today, although it is centuries old, and shows no visible signs of wear. Members of the Mueller family made a pilgrimage to Wertheim three years ago to visit the birthplace of their ancestor.



March 28, '40

Robert Mueller Dies in Florida On His Birthday

Funeral to Be Monday for Mueller Co. Vice President

Robert Mueller, vice president in charge of public relations for the Mueller Co., died on his 76th birthday in the home of his brother, Oscar B. Mueller, in Bradenton, Fla., at 3 p. m. yesterday.

Although Mr. Mueller had remained active, his death followed several years of failing health. He had been spending the winter in the Pancoast hotel in Miami Beach and left there last Thursday to visit his brother.

The funeral party left Florida by train today and is scheduled to arrive in Decatur Friday night. Funeral arrangements are incomplete, but services probably will be held Monday.

Mr. Mueller was born in Decatur March 27, 1864, a son of Hieronymus and Fredricka Bernhardt Mueller, both of whom were natives of Germany.

Joined Firm in '80's

He was educated in the Decatur public grade and high schools and became connected with the Mueller Co. in the early '80's. In 1886, he was admitted to the firm and had served on its board of directors since its incorporation in 1893.

For many years he was secretary of the company, becoming vice president in 1929.

He was war-time chairman of the Macon county chapter of the American Red Cross, a position to which he was elected when it was organized in 1917. He served as local chairman until 1926 and also served several terms on the state membership committee of the Red Cross.

Headed Decatur Club

He was president of the Decatur Club in 1907 and was active in the Art Institute and an earlier organization, the Municipal Art League. He also was a member of the Decatur Fishing club, which now is the South Side Country club. He was a Mason, a Rotarian, and an Elk and served as a director of the Association of Commerce.

Mr. Mueller was elected as a Class B director of the Federal Reserve bank of Chicago Feb. 20, 1932. His term in unexpired term and was elected to serve a total of six years. He was also a director of the Associated Employers of Illinois.

In company with his wife, Mr. Mueller had traveled throughout the world, visiting Hawaii, the Orient, Europe and the West Indies and making frequent trips to the West Coast and Florida.

SUCCUMBS AT 76



ROBERT MUELLER

Council Votes To Ask Bids On Cantrell Work

The city council called today for contractors' bids on the \$30,000 Cantrell street extension project over the dissenting vote of Health Commissioner Earl Smith who sought to stop the call until the council is assured that Decatur labor would be used on the job.

Smith's attempt to get Decatur union business agents to agree in writing that local labor will be used was voted down four to one after Mayor Lee declared:

"We can't put that an agreement in the contract. All we can do is to call the contractors and business agents in and get them to agree informally that local labor will be used."

"Yes, I know," Smith replied. "The contractors can say they'll hire local labor but the business agents come along and have the final say. I've seen them bring labor into Decatur from states all over the country, including Texas."

"That's what happened right across the street in the new courthouse," he charged. "Not all business agents do it but I know some that do."

The bids will be opened by the

Plan Detroit Extension Of Gas Pipeline

A 233-mile extension of the Panhandle Eastern pipeline to lead northeast out of Decatur to Detroit has been proposed to bring the Michigan city a reduced gas rate, it was announced today.

Officials of the gas line could not be reached in Decatur, but announcement was made in Detroit that the line would be built as a looping line from a point near Decatur, connecting the Panhandle line with Detroit.

The proposed extension would leave the main line of the Panhandle Eastern line at Decatur, but across the northwest corner of Indiana and continue on to Kalamazoo.

From Kalamazoo it would go east through Marshall, Albion and Jackson, Mich., and on into Detroit. Through its connections it also would serve other Michigan cities.

In order to build the extension line from a point on the main line near here, a cutoff and booster station may have to be constructed. It is believed that the unit will be one of several that will be necessary along the proposed line.

City officials in Detroit yesterday concluded an informal agreement with representatives of the Missouri-Kansas Pipe Line Co. contracted by a possible 25 per cent reduction in Detroit gas bills, and will join in the battle which has been going on for several years over control of the Panhandle Eastern pipeline.

The Panhandle Eastern line carries gas to the Midwest and west from the gas and oil fields of Texas. It passes through Macon county and has a large booster station near Tuscola.

Wages Report Charge Denied

Two Decatur men charged with falsifying unemployment insurance reports pleaded not guilty today in county court before Judge Martin E. Maribon.

Frank Brady, 60 West Main street, former employe of C. E. Ward & Sons, was released under \$500 bond for appearance April 13.

Charles J. Stanley, 404 East Orchard street, former employe of the Red Star Coal Co. was held in jail unable to provide a \$500 bond.

The two men were arrested late Wednesday on county court informations, filed by State Attorney Ivan J. Hutchens at the request of Attorney General John E. Cassidy. Under the state unemployment insurance act, persons receiving benefits must produce any money they

Hearing Finds No Opposition To Store Plans

A public hearing today brought no opposition to a proposed rezoning of four lots on the southeast corner of Eldorado and Edward streets and Mayor Charles E. Lee asserted that construction of a three-story apartment building and a new super Piggly Wiggly grocery store on the site will be allowed.

Only 11 persons attended the hearing in the city hall. The nearest thing to an objection which the council heard was a question in regard to the future of the neighborhood if the zoning ordinance were changed to allow commercial buildings in a "B" residential area.

Plans for the erection of the new apartment building east of the grocery store were revealed during the hearing by Phillip H. Sproat, 445 South Edward street, who said he owned the four lots in question.

Wrecking to Start Soon

Mayor Lee told Sproat that, since no objections were forthcoming, the council will give him permission next week to begin demolition of four old buildings on the lots. Sproat said the wrecking will begin immediately and that construction work on the apartment building and store will start as soon as the houses are razed.

R. F. Stewart, general manager of the Fisher Grocery Co., said a Piggly Wiggly store on Monroe street, two blocks away, will be discontinued when the new store is built.

R. L. Moore, 36 West Eldorado street, who said his mother owns property near the affected site, declared: "We ought to have some assurance that if the new store is allowed there won't be an invasion of the neighborhood by all kinds of commercial enterprises."

Mayor Lee and Moore said a petition asking the zoning change, submitted by 23 property owners, stipulated that the zoning was to allow the grocery store in the area and nothing else.

3-5 Apartments

Sproat said 50 feet of the four lots which he owns on the southeast corner of Eldorado and Edward will be used for the apartment building and the remainder for the store. The store will be a "drive-in" of approximately 25 by 30 feet.

The apartment building will measure 20 to 25 three and four-room apartments, Sproat told the council.

"This is an important change," Mayor Lee declared at the hearing, "because it may set a precedent. I can say, however, that other isolated requests for zoning changes won't get my consideration until the hearings on the new zoning ordinance are held."

THE DECATUR REVIEW

"The Community Paper"

Robert Mueller.

Robert Mueller, born and reared in Decatur, was of a family that has been identified with the business and industrial growth of Decatur for more than 80 years. While Robert Mueller was active in the growth and expansion of the business founded by his father, until it was a nation-wide organization, he took the time to be interested in the growth of his own city.

Through the Association of Commerce, civic organizations and clubs, Mr. Mueller did his share in the planning and shaping of community activities. He headed a committee on grade crossing elimination, he served on the Salvation Army board of directors, he was active in the Art Institute, he was interested in city beautification.

These are but a few but they show Mr. Mueller's wide interests outside the factory he helped to build.

He was war-time chairman of the Macon county chapter of the American Red Cross, a position to which he was elected when it was organized in 1917. He served as local chairman until 1926 and also served several terms on the state membership committee of the Red Cross.

Headed Decatur Club

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In company with his wife, Mr. Mueller had traveled throughout the world, visiting Hawaii, the Orient, Europe, and the West Indies and making frequent trips to the West Coast and Florida.

Sought Grade Elimination

The manufacturer was active in the study and discussion of grade crossing elimination and as early as 1913 he was a member of an Association of Commerce committee urging the Wabash to move its St. Louis line tracks west of the city so that it would not cut through the residential section, creating the need for subways.

He was a member of a group seeking depression or elevation of the Wabash tracks in 1916 to avoid the necessity for subways at North Main and North Water streets. In 1923, he was on a committee seeking the rerouting of the Wabash over the Illinois Central tracks. After hope for removal of the major track systems from within the city was given up, he was named chairman of an A. of C. committee to make a study of comprehensive grade crossing elimination.

In 1938, Mr. Mueller offered \$5,000 toward the beautification of Waterworks park, but his stipulation that improvements be made in accord with the recommendations of the city planning commission was turned down and the work was never done. His beneficences have been many. Last December, he gave \$1,000 to the Salvation Army on the board of which he had served.

Two Brothers Survive

He was a Republican in politics but never sought public office. He was a member of the First Presbyterian church.

On Oct. 21, 1896, Mr. Mueller was married to Addie Ebert. Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Ebert, who is connected with Mueller, Ltd. in Saranac, Ont. Also surviving is a grandson, Robert Eugene Mueller.

Mr. Mueller was the third of the six sons of the late Hieronymus Mueller, founder of the Mueller Co. Two brothers now survive, Adolph, chairman of the board of directors of the Mueller Co., who is a victoriano in Florida, and Oscar, who lives in Rome, Italy. A sister, Mrs. Leda Mueller Crum, also lives in Rome, Italy.

Under terms of the project, Cantrell street will be extended two blocks west across vacant lots from Broadway to South Franklin, creating a new east side downtown traffic link to relieve East Wood street. Cantrell will be widened and repaved.

The state has allotted \$90,000 in motor fuel tax funds to finance the work.

April Allotment Totals \$43,892

The Illinois Emergency Relief Commission has allocated \$43,892 to Macon county for April direct relief expenditures, according to word received today by J. W. Workman, financial examiner for the I. E. R. C. here.

Mr. Workman had called upon the I. E. R. C. to provide \$54,017 of the county's estimated need of \$63,346 in April. Of the amount requested, \$50,903 was earmarked for Decatur township, now without funds.

Allotments by the I. E. R. C. to other counties included:

- Champaign, \$7,131; Christian, \$11,011; Clark, \$3,098; Clay, \$612; Coles, \$6,613; Crawford, \$4,324; Cumberland, \$976; Dewitt, \$6,953; Douglas, \$3,415; Effingham, \$1,973; Fayette, \$3,686; Logan, \$4,781; Moultrie, \$1,040; Piatt, \$925; Sangamon, \$44,169; and Shelby, \$5,311.

D. H. S. Class of '33

To Dine Friday Night

The Decatur high school class of '33 will have a dinner party starting at 6 p. m. tomorrow.

Members of the class will meet in the Prairie Grill for dinner at six o'clock, and later they will go to the Staley clubhouse for games and dancing. The committee in

Report Denied

Charged with embezzlement insurance company today in Judge Martin

West Main street, released under parole April 15, 1939, 804 East Orange street, was held in jail on \$500 bond.

He was arrested late last week by court informants. Attorney J. E. Cassidy, on the request of John E. Cassidy, is receiving money they

from the regular weekly benefits granted to them. The two defendants are charged with making false reports of earnings.

Brady, it is charged, reported he earned nothing for the week ending Nov. 14, 1939, although he is alleged to have earned \$15.95 during the week. Stanley is charged with making false reports of his earnings for four weeks last November. In one week it is alleged, he reported earnings of \$1.50, but in fact earned \$3.75.

The prosecutions are the first in Macon county for violation of the act, although several months ago a defendant employed in Decatur was fined in Taylorville for a violation.

Mercury '8' Is Here On Long Test Trip

Ford Motor Co. Car Averages 21.9 Miles Per Gallon

A Mercury '8', which is being sponsored on a test run by the Ford Motor Co., was in Decatur yesterday while on a 5,000-mile trip through Illinois and Missouri.

Officials of East Luster John Rechin Inc., local Ford dealer, accompanied by Mayor Charles E. Lee, Police Chief H. J. Schepper and Sheriff A. C. Ammann, met the Mercury and its driver, Jimmy Delargy of St. Louis, east of Decatur and paraded into the city with the automobile.

The car started its testing trip 10 days ago, when it left St. Louis. Its average gasoline consumption for both town and country driving has been 21.9 miles per gallon, according to Mr. Rechin. It had traveled a total of 2,600 miles when it arrived in Decatur.

Equipped with a special testing device with a meter gauge to feed into the carburetor, the car has been averaging from 21 to 23 miles per gallon on special tests runs in cities, Mr. Rechin said. The car is a standard stock model, he explained.

Some of the neighbors of the kinds of commercial enterprises Mayor Lee told Moore the petition asking the zoning change submitted by 23 property owners stipulated that the rezoning was to allow the grocery store in the area, and nothing else.

20-25 Apartments

Sproat said 10 feet of the four lots which he owns on the southeast corner of Eldorado and Edward will be used for the apartment building and the remainder for the store. The store will be a "drive-in" of approximately 125 by 50 feet.

The apartment building will contain 20 to 25 three and four-room apartments, Sproat told the council.

"This is an important change," Mayor Lee declared at the hearing, "because it may set a precedent. I can say, however, that other isolated requests for zoning changes won't get my consideration until the hearings on the new zoning ordinance are held."

E. M. Leek, 443 West Eldorado street, was the only other person to speak from the audience during the hearing. He asked if the rezoning would "leave the gate open."

The mayor said official approval of the rezoning probably will be included in the proposed new ordinance.

Sets Hearing Dates On Zoning Ordinance

Mayor Charles E. Lee today set April 16, 18, 23, and 25 as the dates for four public hearings on the proposed new municipal zoning ordinance.

In order that the council may hear the large number of expected objections, and proposed changes to the new ordinance, the mayor divided the city into four areas, each of which will be allotted one of the hearings. The dividing lines he established as Decatur's East, South, West and North Main streets.

The hearings will be held in the city hall at 7 p. m. on each of the designated days. The order in which the hearings are scheduled the mayor left to the discretion of the council.

If the council decides that any of the proposed changes to the long-considered zoning ordinance are justifiable, the ordinance will accordingly be revised before adoption.

Plan Biggest Trade Show

Chairmen Are Named

Decatur's retail merchants are preparing for the biggest trade show in the history of the city.

The merchants program, announced today by the Retail Trade Association of the Association of Commerce, calls for 12 months of trade promotion events and various

MRS. ROBERT MUELLER PASSES AWAY

Services Held March 6 For Widow of Founder's Son



MRS. ROBERT MUELLER
Main Connection

Mrs. Robert Mueller, widow of a son of Mueller Co.'s founder, Hieronymus Mueller, passed away in her Decatur home on March 4, 1959.

Mrs. Mueller, who was a member of the Company's board of directors, was well-known as a civic and social leader in Decatur. At the time of his death, Robert, her husband, was vice-president in charge of public relations for the firm. He had been with the Company since the 1880's, serving on the board of directors after the firm's incorporation in 1893, first as secretary and then as vice-president.

Mrs. Mueller was a great patron of art and music. A very important part of her life centered in the musical career of her grandson, Robert Eugene Mueller, a pianist.

She had travelled a great deal in all parts of this country, England, Scotland and Wales, the continent of Europe, the Holy Land and Australia. She was also known by many persons in the waterworks and natural gas industries as a result of her attendance, with her husband, at many regional and national conventions.

Decatur Public Library
Decatur, Illinois

In addition to her talents as a musician, Mrs. Mueller was a person of unusual beauty and charm. Gifted with a vivid personality, her unflinching cheerful and friendly disposition made many friends for her locally and elsewhere. She contributed liberally to her church and to charities generally. And many persons were recipients of her private aid and assistance.

In 1952 an accident in her home resulted in severe injuries. Although she was not permanently crippled, her activities were curtailed. Yet to the end, she maintained her previous outlook on life and the greater part of her interests.

Mrs. Mueller, the former Ad-die Ebert, was born in Dayton, Ohio, but lived most of her life in Decatur. She was graduated from Decatur High School in 1887, and attended music schools in Dayton, Springfield (Ill.) and Decatur. She leaves a son, Ebert B. Mueller, Port Huron, Michigan, and three grandsons, Robert Eugene, John S. and James F. Mueller. A sister, Mrs. Karl Merris, preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held on Friday, March 6, in Decatur. Mrs. Mueller's family requested that friends make contributions to the Addie E. Mueller Scholarship at Millikin University. This scholarship, established by Mrs. Mueller, assists worthy music students who plan to enter the teaching profession.