



# THE BULLETIN



Published by the Scovill Manufacturing Company for its Employees.

Vol. XXXIII

October 3, 1949

No. 19

## Keep The Home Fires FROM Burning

Fire Prevention Week—October 9-15, 1949



"Fire Prevention Week" is one of the most publicized weeks in October. This doesn't mean that fire prevention isn't important the other fifty-one weeks of the year. However, this special week provides the chance for a concentrated effort to teach the many facts about fires to a public which is all-too-ignorant about this subject. Make this month the time to protect your home from fire.

How safe is your home? Why not check the causes and precautions given on Page 2? Photo courtesy of the National Fire Protection Association.

## Scovill Represented In New Button Book

"The Complete Button Book"

Scovill has reason to be proud of its appearance in a new button book which Doubleday put on the market September 1st.

This remarkable volume of over 400 pages, carrying illustrations of over 5,700 buttons, has been written by Lillian Smith Albert and Kathryn Kent for the information, inspiration and guidance of button collectors. It covers the whole range in the history and variety of buttons.

After a dozen chapters on the art of button making as applied to the twenty or more different materials that are used for buttons, the volume presents representative samples of collectable items in more than a score of broad classifications — in which our own famous field of metal uniform and fancy dress buttons appears to striking advantage.

Specific Scovill attribution is given in more than a dozen places throughout the book — notably in its distinctive glass buttons of the 1870's, its aluminum buttons of the 1890's, its sporting or huntsmen's buttons of the 1830's and 1840's, and its Washington and Lafayette buttons of the 1820's.

Also, samples are shown of Scovill chased buttons for fancy dress, its livery and monogram buttons, and its extensive issue of wire-eyed buttons for work clothing.

## World Series Scores Available In Plant

Scores for World Series baseball games will again be available to employees throughout the plant.

Score sheets will be posted in departments and scores will be obtained by calling factory phone 2224.

## Top Seniority

Seniority means the period of continuous service that a person has worked for a Company. Seniority along with merit, skill, and experience should be given a great deal of weight when layoffs and recalls from layoff are made. Under certain circumstances Seniority should be given consideration in transfer and promotion. It is nearly impossible to operate most plants under conditions of straight Seniority — it is certainly impractical.

Then there is the device known as Top Seniority — or preferred Seniority. When an individual is given Top Seniority by a Union he goes to the top of the Seniority List. It does not matter how short his service with the Company is. It does not matter how poor a workman he is. Such preferred treatment is usually given to Union officers and stewards. Unions ask for it in order to keep intact their organization in the plant.

We believe that a Union can elect as officers and stewards individuals whose long experience with the Company will protect them from layoff. We have seen Top Seniority used to protect members who are in right with the Union boss. It has been used as a club to hold members in line. We understand that in one small local plant 18% of those working have their jobs through Union Top Seniority — not their own Company service — not their own merit. Those with longer service and perhaps more merit have lost their jobs through this trick device.

We believe Top Seniority is unfair. We would appreciate a note from you who read this, telling us of your views about it. The note may be signed or unsigned.

*Alan C. Curtis*  
Vice President

## To Scovill Employees

The 1950 Community Chest Campaign gets under way Monday, October 17. The quota for Scovill employees is \$48,000. To meet it will require the support of all employees.

The member agencies of the Community Chest exist only through everyone's help and support. They are necessary to the welfare of the Community. The demands on the Chest agencies are greater now than in the past. We will all gain through united support.

I congratulate those of you who have been contributing regularly, for your support of a cause so necessary to our Community.

I strongly recommend that those of you who are not now giving to the Chest sign up for the payroll deduction plan on October 17.

The Scovill Company will contribute \$22,000.00 to the Chest for the coming year.

*L. P. Sperry*  
President

## New Continuous-Cast Brass Strip At National Metal Exposition

Scovill's Mill Products slogan, "You Can't Buy Better Brass", will again be proven to metal fabricators when our new Continuous-Cast brass strip is displayed at the National Metal Exposition in Cleveland, Ohio from October 17-21, 1949.

The superior soundness and ductility of our non-welded brass coils will be demonstrated during the exposition — an operator will fabricate a difficult item from Cartridge Brass, 70% strip, on a 10-size eyelet machine.

The Scovill booth in the Cleveland Public Auditorium, occupying an area 30' x 16', will be located on a central

aisle and is sure to attract a large proportion of the visitors to the exhibit.

As in prior years, the National Metal Exposition is expected to attract around 40,000 interested persons who will visit the over 300 well planned exhibits of nationally known manufacturers in the metal working and producing fields. Our Continuous-Cast Strip is expected to be a feature of the Exposition, and its demonstration will prove "Economy-in-Production" the correct theme for this year's show.

Ken Howell, Assistant to the Mill Products Sales Manager, is in charge of the exhibit. Also on hand at the Scovill booth will be representatives of our Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Syracuse offices as well as personnel from our Metals Research Dept.

## SERA Officers Win Reelection

On Tuesday, September 13, employees of the Main Plant cast their ballots to elect officers and members of the Board of Directors of the SERA for the coming year.

Of the 3,500 ballots counted, 2,375 votes won for Joe Begnal, of the West Machine Room, a second term as President of the Association. Opposing candidate Jim Nolan received 1,125 votes.

Elected to a third term as Vice-President, Jean Ostroski of Employee Relations received 2,119 votes; Bill Dwyer totaled 1,408.

Unopposed for the Secretary-Treasurer post, Ruth Osborne of the Employee Activities Office was elected to serve a third term in that office.

(Continued on Page 4, Column 3)



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"We pledge ourselves to investigate thoroughly for accuracy before publication the material presented in THE BULLETIN."

Vol. XXXIII

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## It's Your Federal Government

By Robert L. Johnson

President, Tempie University, and Chairman,  
Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report

### No. 2—Our \$500 Million Post Office Loss

If you feel concerned, as who does not in these days, over the vast increase in the cost of your government, and wonder about the reasons for it, you don't have to look beyond the U. S. Post Office for an object lesson in antiquated management, costly methods, and obsolete equipment.

As one of the world's biggest business enterprises with an overturn of \$1.3 billions a year, it is the world's greatest example of how business should not be conducted.

No private business could be so run that it showed an annual deficit. This year, the Post Office will go "in the red" for about half a billion dollars. This is one-sixth of the staggering sum of \$3 billions which, according to the Hoover Commission Report, our government is wasting every year.

Nor could any private business survive if most of its key management men were changed periodically with changing political fortunes. Certainly no enterprise could succeed in this day of modern business equipment which adhered, as the Post Office does, to obsolete and crippling methods of work by hand in the sorting, stamping, checking and otherwise keeping track of 37 billion pieces of mail each year.

This condition of the Post Office is nothing new. It has been going on for a century or more. In fact there's been no basic change in its organizational structure since 1836.

The first recorded instance of anybody criticising the management and methods was in 1889 when John Wanamaker, the Philadelphia merchant, was made Postmaster General. After looking over his Department, Mr. Wanamaker went to President Benjamin Harrison with a revolutionary proposal. He told the President that he would contract to take over the Post Office as a private venture, put it under strict business rules of management, and show a profit to government.

This offer was not accepted but it is notable that 60 years later the bipartisan Hoover Commission, which was unanimously created by Congress to investigate government spending and waste, after a year's investigation made a similar suggestion.

This suggestion was that application of business principles to the Post Office would save hundreds of millions of dollars. It could save \$140 millions at once, the Commis-

sion pointed out, by modernizing the organization, methods and equipment. An additional \$114 millions could be saved by fixing new rates on certain items.

The Post Office employees are doing a good job under adverse conditions. They are operating a huge business.

Its revenues are \$1.3 billions a year. It employs 500,000 people. It operates 42,000 branches and maintains 24,000 buildings. It has a fleet of 10,000 vehicles, of which the average age is 15½ years. It transports and delivers 37 billion pieces of mail each year and conducts 800 million other transactions in money orders, etc. It runs a savings "bank" with 4 million depositors with total accounts of \$3.4 billions.

*That looks like good business. But here's the other side of the picture:*

The Post Office sells you, and delivers for one cent, a postal card which costs it two and one half cents to print and deliver. This loss in a year amounts to \$45 millions.

It carries 1.6 billion pieces of mail free. It pays huge subsidies to large users of mail and to airplane, steamship and other carriers. It has no control over its own accounting and cannot tell you its financial condition within eight months of date.

Moreover, because of its outmoded methods of work, and meager opportunities for advancement, it has a tremendous turnover of personnel. Its control is so centralized in Washington that its 42,000 postmasters have little to say about the conduct of their branches and none about their finances. Postmasters are politically appointed.

The Hoover Commission suggested drastic changes to improve these conditions. First, it would take the Department out of politics. It would have postmasters appointed from the service on merit, simplify the 900-page book of regulations which is their guide, do away with hidden subsidies, and adjust rates to meet expenses.

There are three bills now before Congress to effect these changes.

It is time for you, if you are anxious to see these improvements, to write to your Senators and Congressmen and urge their support of these bills. It will mean money in your pocket.



## In Seven Hundred Homes Today--Fire!

About seven hundred homes will be destroyed or damaged by fire today according to the National Fire Protection Association. At that rate, a quarter of a million homes are set afire each year — mostly because of negligence or failure to understand the danger of fire from bad smoking habits, trash accumulation, defects and misuse of electrical equipment, flammable liquids, and defective stoves and chimneys.

Fire Prevention Week is a reminder for the prevention of home fires.

Do you smoke in bed? This risky habit accounts for the largest loss of life in fires. Napping in the easy chair with a cigarette or pipe in hand brings disfigurement or death to thousands of people every year. If you have a baby-sitter who smokes — that's something else to think about.

### Electrical Hazards

Are electrical fuses on room circuits hexagon shaped (6-sided) or with hexagon windows? This shape indicates they are the 15-ampere size, or less, which is proper for household room circuits. Fuses with other shaped windows are usually more than 15-ampere and may flash sufficiently to cause fire if they blow out on an overloaded line. When a 15-ampere fuse repeatedly blows out an electrician should be consulted.

## A Real Fish Story



Romeo Bienvenu of the Rod Mill displays the result of a fishing trip to Canada. The largest fish, measuring 36 inches, weighed 19 pounds.

Lamp cords, where they enter lamps and sockets, are something to watch. Many women do not pull out electric iron plugs after switching an iron off. Irons start lots of fires and the precautions of pulling out the plug is worthwhile as switches may be accidentally left on or turned on later.

Chimney and stove pipes will have fire departments out regularly in the next few months. If you can push a nail through the stove pipe—'nuff said. If the oil burner is laying a smoke screen and the neighbors say it smells, the trouble is with your furnace—not the neighbors. A reputable serviceman will inspect a furnace or chimney (often without charge)—the best way of finding and correcting troubles of this kind.

### Don't Home Dry Clean

Flammable liquids are notably the killers of women and children. Are the kerosene, turpentine, and thinner cans clearly labeled and safely stored? Gasoline, of course, is only a motor fuel—NOTHING else.

About that cleaning fluid — what is it? Some labels don't give adequate warning and lots of "cleaners" are explosive or dangerous to health. It's cheap insurance to pay a cleaner to do the jobs with his special equipment and knowledge. Never give any fire a "start" with kerosene. Too often it is also the end of a life.

Today, while fires are burning hundreds of homes, other homes will be saved from fire by persons who are taking precautions against fire. Now—Fire Prevention Week—is the time for a home inspection. Lots of people are making one. Are you?

# Nine 25-Year Awards Presented



1. September 19, 1949 marked the completion of 25 years of Scovill service by Bernard Glasberg, Waterville Division.

Mr. Glasberg was employed in the Main Plant Screw Department until his transfer to the Waterville Division in 1942 where he is a toolsetter in the Header Department.

2. Vincenzo Flocco, North Mill, celebrated his 25th anniversary of Scovill service on September 27, 1949.

Mr. Flocco first came to Scovill in October, 1916 and worked intermittently in various departments until 1924 when his continuous service record started.

With the North Mill for the past twenty-five years, he has served as a utility man, foot and cutting press operator and, recently became an attendant in the locker room.

3. John Manfredi, Chucking, was scheduled to receive his 25-year continuous service pin on September 30, 1949.

Mr. Manfredi began his Scovill career in May, 1915, but due to several periods away from the Plant, his

## F. J. Vesely, Chicago Office, With Scovill 25 Years



Frank Vesely, Chicago Office, rounded out 25 years of continuous Company service on October 1, 1949.

Mr. Vesely started working for Scovill in October, 1924, under Mr. George S. Lemon who at that time was District Manager of the Chicago Office.

In 1931 Mr. Vesely served under Mr. C. J. Kalbfell, recently retired District Manager. At present, he is senior Brass Mill Products salesman in the Chicago territory under the supervision of Mr. A. B. Woodward, District Sales Manager in charge of Mill Products Sales.

continuous service record started on September 30, 1924. He has served in a variety of jobs. Since 1941, he has been a supervisor in the Hand Screw section and toolsetter.

4. Daniel Camerota, Finishing Lab., completed 25 years of continuous Company service on October 1, 1949.

During his years with Scovill, he has been employed in Plating, Production and, since 1945, Mr. Camerota has served as finish technician in the Finishing Lab.

5. Oreste Rotondo, Casting, completed a quarter of a century of Company service on October 1, 1949.

Mr. Rotondo has been a Casting Shop man throughout his Scovill career, except for a period of about one year spent in Traffic Department.

His services in the Casting Shop have included: utility man, brick repairman and Gordon saw operator.

6. Frank Dunn, Drill & Tap, celebrated his 25th anniversary of Scovill service on October 2, 1949.

During his years with the Company, Mr. Dunn has served in a variety of jobs in various departments. He has been in Drill & Tap since 1941 and has been employed as a spring maker, tap maker and tool repairman.

Thomas McQuire, Waterville, completed a quarter century of continuous Scovill service on September 27, 1949.

Mr. McQuire's twenty-five years of Scovill service have been with the Waterville Division's Engine Room where he serves as a fireman.

Vada Lucian, Lipstick, completed a quarter of a century of Scovill service on September 29, 1949.

Miss Lucian worked as a bench worker in Burner No. 2, Assembling No. 1 and Lipstick. She has also been a hand feed operator and inspector in Radio. Since 1946, she has served as an assembler in Lipstick.

# Ten-Year Awards

Certificates and silver anniversary pins have been awarded to the following upon completion of ten years' continuous Company service:

Thomas Guinea, Casting Office, and Adam Gursky, North Mill, as of September 20; Albert Pronovost, ASMD, and William Carew, General Stores, as of September 21; C. Andrew Monagan, Screw Machine Products Division, as of September 22.

Mary Hayes, ETO; Maurice Connors, Casting, and Walter Tumel, Waterville, as of September 25; John Michaud, Repair, as of September 26; Michael Barry, North Mill, and Margaret Sullivan, Waterville, as of September 27.

Frank Palladino, Chucking, as of September 28; Francis Ryan, Slide Fastener Tool, and John Taggett, Buff No. 2, as of September 29; Margaret Wilcken, Button Packing, as of February 22.

# Life Out East

By Harry Shewbridge

Did you know:—that CATHERINE BEERS of ASMD is a connoisseur on neckties? — that NEWTON BARSTOW of Chucking Tool has an extensive collection of U. S. pre-cancelled stamps?— that LEE REID of Slide Fastener is a photography expert? — that JOE BARTUSKI of Cleaning has an extensive record library?

—that KENNY FRENCH of Chucking is conducting a diving contest for his fellow employees with an outboard motor as the prize and BILL NADEAU as the judge? — that CLARA RABTOY is back again in Chucking after a ten week absence due to illness?

—that down on the first floor the seniority of MIKE MONZILLO, BELTON ANTRUM, FELICE PAULONE and STEVE SEMERARO totals over 103 years? — that the married women in 112 Bldg. outnumber the single women 4 to 1?

Of course you knew all this but I thought I'd mention it just the same.

# Model Association

The Model Club winners of stunt and speed events for Sunday, September 25 were as follows:

Willis Pond took first place in the speed event at 62.75 mph. Gordon Weidinger was second at 56.5 mph.

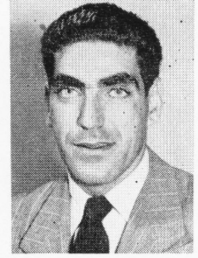
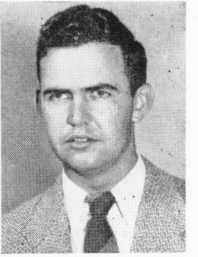
Taking first and second place honors in the stunt event were: Willis Pond—121 points and Charles Green—107.5 points.

All Scovillites interested in model airplanes are invited to attend the Model Club meeting on October 4 at the SERA Clubhouse at 7:30 p.m.

# Training Course

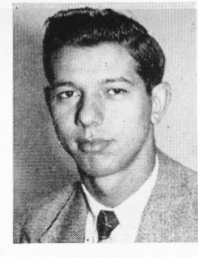
## September Graduates

Michael Killian graduated as a Machinist on September 4, 1949. He has been assigned to Slide Fastener Tool. A graduate of Wilby, he was an Army man during the war.



John Bartolini graduated on September 4, 1949 as a Machinist and has been assigned to Slide Fastener Tool. A graduate of Leavenworth High, he served in the Army.

Harry Dunn, Jr. graduated as a Draftsman on September 11, 1949. He has been assigned to Drafting. A graduate of Leavenworth, he served in the Navy during the war.



Leonard Fasano graduated on September 11, 1949 as a Toolmaker. He has been assigned to the Mfg. Tool Room. He attended Leavenworth and served in the Army.

Francis Garbauskas graduated on September 18, 1949 as a Toolmaker and was assigned to Chucking Tool. He attended Leavenworth High and served in the Navy during the war.



# Rod & Gun Club News

The Scovill Rod & Gun Club will resume its regular monthly meetings on October 18 in the Employment Office Reception Room at 8 p.m.

Plans will be formulated for winter activities and the usual social session will follow the meeting.

# 1949 SERA Horseshoe Team



SERA players took third place in the IRA Horseshoe League this season. Participating this year were: (front row, left to right), William Cordelli, Dula Kovach, Rudy Morse and Erving Honyotski. Standing are: Ed Gilbert, John Moneta, Constantine Napolitano and Vito Pace.

