

TORRANCE GETS FEDERAL BLDG.

"NO-ACCIDENT-MONTH" TO BE HELD AT COLUMBIA STEEL

Intensive Safety Campaign Opens Next Week Here; Executives Outline Program to be Followed

A safety campaign in which every employee of the Columbia Steel Company, a subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation, will have definite duties toward eliminating every chance for accidents will be held at the local plant during the month of March, it was announced this week by executives of the company here.

An intensive program especially designed to fit conditions here was outlined by officials of the various departments, foremen, members of the General Safety committee, Safety captains and departmental safety committee members at a dinner meeting held at the Torrance Women's clubhouse last Thursday night. Among 38 men present were Dr. J. S. Lancaster and George F. Shidler, official physicians for the Columbia plant here.

B. W. Lanz, general superintendent, and H. T. Lintott, assistant general superintendent, outlined the program this week that is to be followed during the coming month. This program is divided into three classifications, each of which has a fixed objective and all of whom concentrate upon making March accident-proof at the Torrance plant.

Every Man to Assist

The Columbia's safety program is built upon the idea that each worker shall endeavor to locate and correct hazards which are found in his individual sector. To that end, every employee has been given a fixed amount of space in the great plant to cover. He will inspect his area to discover accident-causing obstacles and report his findings to departmental superintendents. In that way every Columbia man is held responsible for the success or failure of "No Accident Month of March."

"A man's conscience is a powerful aid to such a campaign," Lanz declared this week. "We are depending upon our men's common sense and their intelligence to prevent even the most minor accident during March. We know that if a man realizes that he, individually, is responsible for a certain small area in our plant and an accident occurs in his territory that he will suffer remorse for a long time. If one of his fellow workers is hurt. On the other hand, if an employee is on the lookout for danger spots and has reported their whereabouts, his conscience is clear if an accident happens."

Kresse, acting as chairman at the dinner-meeting at the Women's clubhouse last Thursday evening. In a short talk he outlined what is meant by a "safety campaign" and detailed the progress of safeguards in industrial plants during the last two years. In the earlier days, Kresse stated, safety was given but little consideration in the steel industry but now, present day conditions make it imperative that a thorough study should be made for the protection of the lives and welfare of all working men.

Dr. Lancaster spoke on the subject of infections and the importance of proper treatment of even the slightest scratches. The physician stressed the need for immediate attention to all eye injuries, on account of serious infection that might result with negligence. He stated that he was available to call anytime day or night, to treat such injuries.

The importance of right living, eating sleeping and good habits was urged by Dr. Shidler. He also discussed the need for carefulness on the part of all workers on account of the development of machinery and electricity in industrial plants, two factors which have increased hazards to employees. Dr. Shidler also commented on the value of such a safety program as was outlined Thursday night, paying particular attention to the look-out to be maintained by the men themselves for danger zones.

Started by U. S. Steel

L. C. Berger's position here was described by Kresse as "doing all he possibly could to save men's bodies and souls." Berger, in his talk, touched on the causes for in efficiency and resultant accidents, such as lack of sleep.

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HAPPY DAYS FOR THESE TORRANCE MEN! FIRST EMERGENCY EMPLOYMENT CREW LEAVING FOR WORK MONDAY



—Photo by Amundsen Studio

Everyone of these men were displaying a broad grin as they posed for the photographer early Monday morning. They had gathered at the Chamber of Commerce to start as the first of three shifts weekly who will be paid from the \$15,000 special work fund granted the city by the County Board of Supervisors at the plea of R. R. Smith and Carl Hyde of the Chamber of Commerce. The 30 men in this picture were hand-picked from the registration cards filled out at the Chamber and after investigation on the part of Torrance Relief Society officers, City Street Superintendent William Gascoigne and Carroll Ashley, who is in charge of the registration of local unemployed men and women. Gascoigne and Ashley are standing at the extreme left of the picture.

Happy days that WERE happy days rolled around this week for nearly 100 men when they started working for the city after a long period of unemployment. The labor bureau here and of a Junior college are being studied by the Los Angeles Board of Education.

These questions, according to a letter received from the board this week, are (1) Is the present Fern avenue site suitable and desirable for a building such as has been requested? (2) Should the boundary lines of the district served by the Torrance Elementary school be changed, thus giving more territory to be served by the Fern avenue school and thus increasing enrollment at the latter school? (3) Can funds be made available for such a building?

The letter was addressed to Mrs. James Hitchcock, W. Rufus Page, George W. Neill, Sam Levy and Carl Hyde, members of the Chamber's education committee. The board also requested information on vocational or trade courses and a Junior college was made last month.

Days opened up for the men this week you ought to see Carroll Ashley's records of what these unemployed men have been through. Ashley, who has been conducting the registration of the unemployed here for the past month, assisted through the allocation of \$15,000 from the County Board of Supervisors obtained last week by Councilman R. R. Smith and Carl Hyde, both representing the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Happy Days! Thirty men started early Monday morning, when the above picture was taken, to work on the lower part of Cabrillo avenue where some grading is being done, and trimming, chopping and removing trees on the west end of Camino Real.

—And if you don't think Happy

"And all of the men now at work have been out of what we would consider 'steady' employment from three months to two years," Ashley declared.

Three separate groups of men are now at work. There are 30 in the crew that works Monday and Tuesday; 28 in the Wednesday and Thursday shift and between 33 and 35 will start tomorrow, Friday, and work the remaining two days of the week.

Registration continues

The \$15,000 work fund is expected to furnish these men employment for the next four months. Although the members of the emergency crew only work two days a week, the Chamber is constantly on the look-out for work that

will give them more time. Men that have had county relief or assistance from the Torrance Relief Society in the past or at the present time were given first consideration, then men who had families to support were chosen. They are all residents of Torrance, or the spot of the Shoreline strip immediately adjoining this city or Keystone.

Meanwhile, Ashley is continuing to register unemployed men and women and asks for the assistance of local people in trying to put the most needy cases to work at once. At the present time, five or six men and women call daily at the Chamber offices to register, he said.

\$85,000 Given City For New P. O. Today

"Torrance has been allocated \$85,000 for a new postoffice by report of the Inter-Departmental committee just filed with Congress. The necessary appropriation has heretofore been authorized by Congress. Signed: Joe Crail, your Congressman."

This information was given the Torrance Chamber of Commerce this Friday, afternoon in a telegram received from Congressman Joe Crail, who has been active in securing the appropriation for this city.

Construction work is expected to start shortly on the Federal building here as the lease on the present quarters occupied by the postoffice expires in December of this year.

CRAIL WINS CREDIT

Civic leaders and local organizations have been urging Crail to action for the past two or three months on the Federal building matter. The Congressman has consistently heeded to the communications sent him in behalf of a new building and has kept the local writers informed as to the trend of events in Washington.

Because of the limitation of space at the present post-office building, Postmaster Alfred Gourrier has been pleading for more room after the expiration of the present lease this winter.

Nothing is known as yet as to what government offices or bureaus will be located in the Torrance Federal structure. Neither is anything known as to where it will be located.

CITY WAITS CERTIFICATE OF ENTRANCE IN WATER DIST.

Must Appoint Director to Serve on Board; Only 14 per cent Vote to Join Great Southland Project

The fourteenth community and third largest city in area to join the Metropolitan Water District is now awaiting word from the directors of the District as to when it shall appoint its own director to assist in bringing Colorado River water to Southern California.

MAY CHANGE SCHOOL DIST. BY ELECTION

Time Too Short to Permit Co. Supervisors to Act on Petition

Unless the Board of Supervisors, by a four-fifths vote, decide that the proposed annexation of the Perry Avenue School district in the McDonald Tract is an "emergency" measure, the inclusion of the Perry Avenue school in the Los Angeles city school system at Torrance will have to be decided by a special election.

This was the information given out this week by Carl Hyde, executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce here who has been active in securing the change from the county system to the city system in the Perry Avenue school district.

Must Have Majority

The reason advanced by Hyde for this is because the eight-day limit between the time the petition from the district residents was filed with the county school authorities was too short to permit the county to investigate the matter. Hyde does not expect that the Supervisors will declare the project an "emergency."

If the change in school systems is endorsed by a majority of the heads of families in the Perry Avenue School district, then an election could be called and the matter decided by vote.

Result of the special election held here last Saturday, in which the city voted to join the District by more than seven to one, has been air-mailed to the Secretary of State at Sacramento for his scrutiny and certificate that the ballots confirm Torrance's decision to share in the great water project.

As soon as the certificate has been received by the directorate of the District, it is expected that Torrance will be invited to name a director to sit on the Metropolitan Water District board. This cast the three votes granted this city by reason of its \$26,000,000 assessed valuation.

As yet no mention has been made in the city's official circles as to who will be appointed Torrance's representative on the District board. The appointment is to be made by the city council.

Only 14 per cent of city's registered voters participated in the election Saturday, as only 362 ballots were cast. The official returns were 317 for and 44 against joining the Metropolitan Water District. There was one spoiled ballot. The precinct returns were as follows:

Precincts 1, 2, 6 and 7, polling place 2375 Redondo boulevard, Yes, 131; No, 24.

Precincts 3, 4, 5 and 8, polling place at the City Fire Hall, Yes, 102; No, 13.

Precincts 9, 10 and 11, polling place at the American Legion clubhouse, Yes, 84; No, 7.

Continued to Mar. 3 Deseran Murder Case

On motion by the defendant's attorney, the preliminary hearing of the murder and assault with intention to commit murder charges against Peter Deseran, 61, of Keystone, was continued yesterday at Judge Dennis' court Tuesday morning, March 3, at 10 o'clock.

Store Manager Is Slugged and Robbed of \$195

Youth Enters MacMarr Store As Mgr. Transfers Cash To Safe Tues.

Believed by police to have been tempted by the sight of considerable money lying in a cheese box, an unidentified man slugged E. S. McNett, manager of the MacMarr store, 1407 Sartori avenue, early Tuesday morning and escaped with the sum.

Police believed that the robbery of \$175 in cash and approximately \$20 in checks, the largest of its kind ever committed in Torrance, was unpremeditated. McNett recovered from the blow of the man's fist on his head a few minutes later and with A. C. Smith, the butcher at the store reported the crime.

According to his story to local officers and deputy sheriffs, McNett had sold a package of cigarettes to the man, who was described as blond, wearing a blue shirt and having no coat or hat, a few minutes after he had opened the store. The money, representing a portion of Saturday and Monday's receipts was lying in the cheese box on the counter, the robber entering the store just as McNett was transferring his surplus cash from the cash register to the safe.

Another sum of money was lying on the cash register covered by a piece of cloth and still another sum was in the opened safe. These were not touched.

Smith told the officers that the robber drove south on Cabrillo avenue in a Model T Ford coupe as he was entering the store to go to work, McNett, who was recently made manager of the store, resides at 1917 Cabrillo avenue with his wife and son.

MRS. ERICKSON'S FRIENDS TO RAISE HER DEFENSE FUND!

Preliminary Hearing of Two Lomita Women Charged With Poison-Murder Set for March 6 in L. A.

Friends of Mrs. Anna Erickson, charged with Mrs. Esther Carlson in a double complaint of the poison-murder of August Lindstrom, 81-year-old retired lumberman and resident of Lomita, were circulating petitions in Lomita today to create a defense fund for the well-known club-

Many Lomita residents are reported rallying to Mrs. Erickson's support and they and her husband, O. E. Erickson, have prevailed upon Judge Joseph Marchetti, of the firm of Hardy and Marchetti, to represent the accused woman. Marchetti was formerly a municipal judge for several years and has served as deputy district attorney of Los Angeles county. Mrs. Carlson has already engaged the services of Richard Cantillon.

The two women, Mrs. Erickson, who was a neighbor of Mrs. Carlson and lived at 1359 Pennsylvania avenue; and Mrs. Carlson, housekeeper for Lindstrom, who lived at 1377 Pennsylvania avenue, were arraigned before Municipal Judge Baird on the murder charge yesterday morning. Their preliminary hearing was set for March 6.

Checking on Deaths

Mrs. Erickson's friends in Lomita are stoutly maintaining that she is innocent of the alleged crime and declare that they will cover the community immediately to raise money for her defense.

The accused woman is confined in the prison ward at the General hospital, where she is reported recovering from the effects of the same poison that deputy sheriffs and an investigator from the district attorney's office say caused Lindstrom's death. She is the mother of two talented children and has been very active in Parent Teachers' Association work in Lomita for a number of years. She is 42 years old.

As housekeeper for Lindstrom, Mrs. Carlson did not take much interest in social affairs in Lomita, it is reported. She is 62 years old and has been a widow since 1925 when her husband, Charles, died supposedly from cancer of the stomach.

Bondholders of Water Company Get More Time

City Extends Period For Study of Offer to Buy Plant

Because two officers of the bondholders' committee of the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company only arrived in Chicago Monday to consider the city's proposal to purchase the local plant for \$97,500, an extension has been granted by the city council of two weeks for the bondholders' acceptance or rejection of the offer.

Col. J. W. Sutphen, Los Angeles attorney who is representing the bondholders in the negotiations, informed the council this week of the delay and asked for an extension of time to March 2 for his report back to the city officials. The council will hear his report on the regular meeting night, which is Tuesday, March 3.

The city's offer was a counter-proposal in response to the bondholders' proposition to sell the local water plant to Torrance for \$142,500 worth of 4 1/2 per cent bonds at par; purchase the entire water bond issue of \$400,000 and dismiss all contemplated suits against the city.

P.T.A. Observes Founders Day With Program

W. M. Bell, Jr., reported that 100 children were being fed every noon in the lunch room and that the board of education had fitted the room with the minimum equipment of pots and pans. A teacher has been assigned to the school who can give some time to the work and the meals are prepared by the cooking classes. The past presidents, Mrs. Nettie Steinliber, Mrs. G. H. Sapp, Mrs. Carl Hyde and Mrs. N. A. Lesko were introduced and were presented with corsages. Mrs. J. H. Milburn also

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