

TORRANCE COLUMBIA PLANT MAY BE INCLUDED IN BIG NEW MODERNIZATION PLAN

"Pacific Coast users of sheets and tin plate may expect even better service from Columbia Steel Company after the war as a result of the further step in Columbia's modernization program today announced by U. S. Steel," William A. Ross, president of U. S. Steel's West Coast subsidiary said.

Modernization of steel-making and finishing facilities in the Torrance plant are included in the plan.

"The authorization of the installation at Columbia's plant at Pittsburg, Calif., of modern cold reduction facilities of an annual capacity of more than 325,000 tons of sheets and tin plate is a continuation of the modernization program which was inaugurated shortly after Columbia became a part of U. S. Steel in 1930. Until interrupted by the war, Columbia had expanded large sums for such modernization. This program from its inception has embraced the installation of modern cold reduction facilities to enable Columbia to supply its customers with cold reduced sheets and tin plate of the highest quality. Erection of these finishing facilities near the market will assure customers of prompt delivery and efficient service. As Fairless, the president of U. S. Steel, has pointed out in a separate statement today, sheets and tin plate produced at this new mill will be comparable in quality to the products of any steel mill in the country.

"The basic policy of Columbia Steel Company," Ross continued, "has been to serve its customers in the far West to the best of its ability. Before the war Columbia maintained the only integrated steel operation west of the Rocky Mountains, with a blast furnace and by-product coke ovens at Provo, Utah, using iron ore, coal and limestone from our mines and quarries in Utah, and with steel-making and finishing facilities at Pittsburg and Torrance, Calif. Columbia now has an ingot capacity of 597,600 tons a year, which is approximately half of the new government-owned steel mill at Geneva, Utah.

"These new finishing facilities at Pittsburg, Calif., and the contemplated modernization of our plant at Torrance, Calif., should greatly increase our ability to serve the Western steel market and create additional jobs on the Pacific Coast. At the present time, Columbia Steel employs approximately 6000 people in its various operations.

"We are happy to announce the authorization of these new facilities at Pittsburg, Calif., as a further confirmation of our policy of keeping pace from time to time with Western steel needs. Columbia Steel Company recognizes the industrial importance of the far West and its market for steel, and contemplates taking the necessary action at appropriate times in the future to meet the post-war steel needs of these markets."

Extension Of Crenshaw Is County's Plan

Supervisor Raymond V. Darby announced today that the county is arranging for a relocation survey for the extension of Crenshaw blvd. south of Sepulveda blvd. to a connection with the Pacific Coast Highway. Upon completion of the survey and the securing of the necessary rights of way, construction will be started on the highway.

The entire length of this project is located within the limits of the City of Torrance. Torrance recently opened and paved the section of Crenshaw blvd. north of 190th st. and now is resurfacing the boulevard from Carson st. to Sepulveda blvd.

The survey will carry the boulevard to a point just east of the Torrance airport on 101 highway.

Steel Union Strike

Its president, A. McJannett, announcing another meeting for 7 p.m. tonight in the Civic Auditorium, members of Local Union 1414, C.I.O., bargaining agent for Columbia Steel Co. workers, struck this morning following a meeting of some 500 of the steel workers.

McJannett said that the action was taken due to refusal of the company to bargain with the elected representatives on working conditions at the plant. He said that wages and hours were not involved in the dispute. Regional C.I.O. officials were reported to be enroute to Torrance to confer on the strike. Wayne C. Sidwell, recording secretary of Local 1414, handed the Torrance Herald representative the following statement:

Union Statement to Press
All during the period of the Great War, management has taken advantage of our patriotic "No Strike Pledge," adopted unanimously throughout the C.I.O. We have experienced many bitter situations in good grace. It is now apparent that they intend further evidence of bad faith and we feel that now is the time to clarify our mutual relations.

Sidwell also gave the Herald a copy of the resolution, as follows:

Resolution
Whereas, Due to the Columbia Steel management's refusal to recognize L. U. No. 1414 or our duly elected representatives, be it
Resolved, That we cease work until said management agrees to bargain collectively and in good faith with our duly elected representatives, and be it further,
Resolved, That we inform management of this action.

Company Statement
Company officials explain that under the terms of the union contract, no consideration of grievances can be given as long as the men are on strike.

Reviewing the history of the current trouble, H. T. Lintott, director of industrial relations at the San Francisco offices of the company, explained that a request was made for the company to supply articles of clothing in the galvanizing department. The original complaint was made on June 22 and has followed the normal procedure under the contract. The second step in the grievance procedure was entered on July 1, the third step, July 17, and the final answer given on August 8.

Meanwhile, on Monday, August 13, employees in the galvanizing department engaged in a sit-down strike.

On Tuesday, August 14, the union requested a meeting but this notice was not received by the company until August 16. At this time union officials entered another grievance, but were told by company executives that no consideration could be given to the request until the men returned to work, as the contract specified that no negotiations can be held during strikes, work stoppages, or lock-outs.

Lintott further states that all grievances will be handled in the normal manner as provided under the contract as soon as the men return to work.



CHEERS AND TEARS . . . A typical Torrance family, happy for the deliverance from the clutches of war of their loved ones, makes noise with anything at hand, from pie tins to husky voices. It is another V-J day scene snapped for the Torrance Herald by Marine Staff Sgt. Bob Wilton.

TORRANCE PROVIDING TEN PERCENT OF L. A. SCHOOLS' BUILDING FUND; GETS NONE

The City Board of Education adopted the final \$51,915,572 school budget for 1945-46 Thursday night by a 6-1 vote over the protest of Board Member J. Paul Elliott, who said he believed it "at least \$1,000,000 in excess of essential current needs for the coming year."

The total school tax rate for 1945-46 is estimated to be about \$1.79 per \$100 assessed valuation or approximately 8 cents more than the total 1944-45 rate, Asst. Supt. Harry M. Howell told the board.

This will mean that Torrance taxpayers will pay Los Angeles city schools approximately \$410,000 to run the Torrance schools, in addition to the state school support based on average daily attendance which will exceed \$300,000 or a total of more than \$610,000. Cost of running the schools has been amounting to about \$345,000, and the balance goes to Los Angeles city school officers, "free gratis."

Elliott's principal objection was to provision of \$2,500,000 for current capital outlay, of which about \$1,500,000 is for new buildings and alterations.

Protest Explained
"Another item of \$995,000 is provided for the accumulated building fund," he said, "presumably for capital outlay after this current year, which, with former accumulations, provides an accumulated building fund of about \$2,750,000. The total thus provided with the adoption of this budget for capital outlay is about \$3,250,000.

"Our staff has advised us that the most we can hope normally to expend in a building program after the war is about \$3,500,000 a year. We do not yet know how much of the current year can be on a normal after-the-war building program. I therefore cannot justify setting up sufficient funds to bring our building funds to \$5,250,000.

"Being now committed to a pay-as-you-go building program, I cannot conscientiously vote for what seems to me to be an excess provision for future years, particularly in view of the other essential increases this year."

Torrance taxpayers pointed out that this discussion probably did not involve Torrance schools anyway, as the board has made no provision for post-war building here.

However, it was pointed out, Torrance will contribute more than 10 per cent of the accumulated building fund of \$2,750,000 in excess payments to Los Angeles this year. The millions of taxpayers in Los Angeles will supply the other 90 per cent. Torrance will get none of it back, under present plans.

If Torrance could have its \$300,000 or so a year overpayment to Los Angeles, this city and its children could have a new school a year, bought and paid for.

Only board member not voting Thursday night was Maynard J. Toll, chairman of the building committee, whose absence was remarked by Roy Becker, board member.

"I'm sorry our building committee chairman is not here to express his opinion," Becker said. "Our situation in regard to postwar building would not be where it is if we had placed the proper amount aside in the budget each year." Mrs. Gertrude H. Rounsaville, building committee member, said, "It is now for that reason that we are now to take steps to provide larger amounts for needed building."

End of War Finds Factories Ready to Start Normal Civilian Work; Little Unemployment Seen

War's End Celebration In Torrance Tumultuous; Quiet Reigns In Evening

Torrance greeted the end of World War II with tumultuous enthusiasm Tuesday, and as the City Hall siren announced the message of Japanese capitulation, factory whistles began blowing and men and women by the thousands started flowing out of the plants, cheering, waving flags, embracing fellow workers and in the mood for joyful celebration.

Punctuated by the frequent blasts of the big steam whistles at Columbia Steel, the celebration continued in downtown Torrance for several hours.

Stores closed immediately, sale of intoxicating liquor stopped, and factories shut down completely, some of them for the first time since the war started.

SUCCESS OF VETS' BUILDING FUND CAMPAIGN HERE ASSURED AS NEW DIVISIONS PUSH DRIVE

The finance campaign by which funds are being raised to reconstruct the old garage building at Cabrillo and Gramercy

aves. into a Veterans Memorial Building to house the local Veterans Service Center and Post No. 3251, Veterans of Foreign

Wars, is approaching a successful conclusion, according to Commander C. Earl Conner, of the V. F. W. post.

The commercial division of the drive is over the top, and the residential division's efforts well under way, Conner said.

The industrial division drive is being undertaken and will show substantial results within a week.

Commander Conner said that the sentiment is almost 100 per cent in favor of the method of financing the program being used.

"The people feel that this is a community effort on behalf of the 1500 men and women of our city who are serving the country in a war to end all wars," Conner said. "They feel that this building is a necessity, not a luxury nor a tribute.

"Our returning servicemen and women are one of the nation's greatest post-war assets. Everyone is interested in helping them get re-established in civilian life in as satisfactory a manner as possible.

"A large portion of the task of helping them become civilians again must be performed by the home town. Many communities have established Veterans Service Centers of one type or another. The Torrance area center must not be 'just another center.' The proposed Veterans Memorial Building will be second to none in the State of California, if not in the nation.

"Our center is a 'must' for the Torrance area. Now that peace is near our men and women will be returning to this area in large numbers. Some will want their old jobs back. Many others never had a job, or at best a menial one. About three-fifths of our fighting men were between 18 and 24 years old at the time of induction. Some of this group will want jobs; others will want to go on with their education. A large number of veterans will want to use

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The effect of temporary peace-time unemployment on Torrance will be far less than in most communities, as the city swings from war to civilian production, according to Kenneth E. Bradley, manager of the United States Employment Service office here.

Urges Use Of Bus Sale Funds For Buildings

Funds derived from the sale of the municipal bus lines to interests represented by Charles F. Koors should be set aside for construction of a much-needed fire station and police station, according to a recommendation given to the City Council by the Torrance Industries Tax committee.

A communication signed by R. I. Plomert Jr., chairman of the committee, addressed to the City Council said:

"We wish to point out that the capital assets of the Municipal Bus Lines have been purchased over a period of the past few years from the general funds of the city. No repayment to the general funds of the city has been made through the operations of the Municipal Bus Lines.

"It is the recommendation of the Torrance Industries Tax committee that any and all funds derived from the sale of the Municipal Bus Lines be specifically set aside for the construction of a much needed fire station and police station in the City of Torrance. We feel that the capital assets of the city should be preserved as such, and by setting aside any funds derived from the sale of the Municipal Bus Lines assets for these specific improvements, the interests of the city would be best served."

Plomert also sought a budget hearing with the council, declaring in another communication that "the Torrance Industries Tax committee, with the assistance of the California Taxpayers Association, a state-wide non-political association of taxpayers with a staff of research and budget specialists who are recognized authorities in the field of public expenditures, are reviewing the fiscal affairs of the City of Torrance in relation to local property tax levies.

"A continuance of sound local government expenditures at a minimum of cost is the desire of the Torrance Industries Tax committee. The committee requests a meeting with the finance committee of the council at the earliest opportunity for the purpose of reviewing the budget estimates for the next fiscal year prior to the setting of the property tax rates by your council."

Coast Insulating Co. is preparing to build a large new plant, and International Derrick and Equipment Co. will approximately double the size of its plant when zoning variations before the planning commission are allowed.

Pacific Electric Co. is modernizing its general shops here. The overall picture for Torrance in peace-time is a bright one, Bradley pointed out, since Torrance is a peace-time manufacturing center of great importance, and not a "war plant" town.

Relaxation of war manpower regulations probably will aid local industry in overcoming some of its hiring problems, as men in the service and working in outside plants get into the fields of employment of their choice.

A seven-point reconversion program, calling for the immediate lifting of manpower controls, (Continued on Page 4)

Torrance Places Of Worship Scene Of Thanks Rites

Churches of Torrance called their members to worship and thanksgiving services as the war with Japan ended Tuesday at 4 p.m. with complete Japanese Imperial capitulation.

Joint services were held in Evangelical church, with Lutheran and St. Andrew's churches also conducting short prayer meetings.

The new synthetic latex production unit to be erected here for U. S. Rubber Co. and the Rubber Reserve Corporation will cost \$500,000, it has been announced.

Bechtel-McCone Corporation, 816 W. Fifth st., Los Angeles, is preparing the plans and will do the work. E. J. Beers is the contractor's purchasing agent. A \$2,000,000 expansion project for Shell Chemical Co. has been announced and a \$265,000 expansion for Goodyear Rubber Co. also is under way. All the plants are in Torrance.

PAPA LETS DOWN . . . With the war over and gasoline rationing's end in sight, Papa let the kids take the family car for V-J day celebrations. Every jockey in Torrance was pressed into use together with hundreds of others like the newer (1941) car shown above noisily cruising down El Prado.

Torrance celebrated V-J Day Tuesday in a tumultuous manner. Here is a part of a cheering group gathered at El Prado and Sartori Ave., snapped for the Torrance Herald by Marine Staff Sgt. Bob Wilton, just back from two Jima and other Pacific battle fields on assignment for Leatherneck Magazine, U. S. Marines publication.

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Ask the Professor
(By H. F. Noake)

Dear Professor: Went shopping for a diamond ring but there are awful high. One karat stuff brings \$300. Ain't that an inflated value?
Answer: That's asking a lot of lettuce for a measly karat.