

Lack Of Building In '30s Blamed For Present Crisis

The Building Contractors Association of California through State President Glenn C. Bailey, declares that the lack of home building during the early '30s created physical demand which was translated into economic demand in 1940-41. As home builders began to meet this demand the material and manpower requirements of total war forced the stoppage of all civilian housing construction. Materials and manpower were used to build tanks, ships, guns and planes. The crating of a tank used almost as much lumber as is required to build a two bedroom house.

There is essentially no difference between the shortage of housing and the shortage of durable goods or commodity items excepting that houses take a much longer time to produce. We are accepting other shortages with good spirit and patience and must temporarily so accept the shortage of housing. There can be no miracle of early volume production.

Looking to a constructive solution of the housing problem, home builders have taken definite action as follows:

1. An agreement has been reached with Captain J. D. Small of the Civilian Production Administration and with OPA Administrator Bowles that these agencies will promptly assist in breaking bottlenecks resulting from government controls affecting building materials.
2. The Federal Housing Administration has agreed to NAHB's proposal that firm commitments be issued to builders, encouraging and facilitating the financing, and therefore the building, of rental and sale housing for moderate income families.

3. The personnel has been provided in the Building Contractors Association to give immediate attention to problems arising in local communities on which action is required.

4. The representatives of material producers have agreed that production will be stepped up concurrently with the builders program.

5. Home builders have pledged that they will:

- a. Use their full resources to build the greatest possible volume of dwelling units, limited only by the availability of materials and manpower.
- b. Give occupancy preference to veterans in all housing built.
- c. Concentrate upon constructing dwelling units for the modest income groups.
- d. Pay labor a realistic wage based upon current costs of living, while demanding that labor recognize its responsibility to help produce housing quickly and at the lowest possible cost.
- e. Limit sales pricing of new housing to current costs plus a reasonable profit.

Home builders call to the attention of the home buying and renting public that costs of building labor and materials have advanced with the increased cost of living. These increases are completely beyond the control of builders and are comparable to increases in the costs of food and clothing.

Johnston, Hale Now On Bank Of America Board

Election of Eric A. Johnston and Marshal Hale Jr. to the board of directors of the world's largest bank, the Bank of America, was announced today by A. J. Gock, chairman of the board. Johnston, now completing his fourth year as president of the United States Chamber of Commerce and recently appointed president of the Motion Pictures Producers and Distributors, Inc. of Washington and Hollywood, is now in Washington participating in President Truman's labor-management conference.

Marshal Hale Jr. is another of the Pacific Coast's successful and progressive young business men. Born in San Francisco in 1902, law graduate of Stanford University, he began his business career as a humble stock boy in the San Francisco store of Hale Bros. Stores, Inc. in 1926, becoming general manager of Hale Bros., Inc. in 1938, and five years later he was elected president of the concern, which position he holds today.

In taking his place on the Bank of America board he fills the seat occupied by his father, Marshal Hale, Sr., many years up until his death ten days ago.

British Boy Builders



Britain faces a hard winter with the housing shortage for returning veterans and a shortage of men to build homes. So boys from 15 to 18 years old are being organized into apprentice groups to build houses under the direction of a skilled foreman. Above, boy builders work on houses at Bourne-mouth.

VFW Backs New Surplus Property Bill In Congress

In an effort to expedite the sale of surplus materials to war veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars have thrown the full weight of its nationwide membership behind a bill now before Congress to amend the Surplus Property Act and make it possible for veterans to purchase what they want without delay.

Under the terms of the proposed amendment, according to Richard H. Newhall, California Department Commander of the VFW, an honorably discharged war veteran would be permitted to purchase materials needed in business or for personal family use up to \$25,000. The Act, as now written, prohibits a veteran from purchases in excess of \$2500.

Newhall said that he had been advised by Omar B. Ketchum, National Legislative representative of the VFW in Washington, that the proposed amendment, if enacted would eliminate the Smaller War Plants Corporation as an intermediary agent for the veteran and would permit him to go direct to where surplus property is being sold and exercise his veteran preference by showing his honorable discharge.

The California VFW chief revealed that complaints from war veterans that they are unable to purchase surplus war materials are increasing daily. Newhall expressed the belief that the proposed amendment to the Surplus Property Act would do much to expedite the sale of automobiles, trucks, tractors and other surplus property items which are eagerly sought by veterans.

U. S. Coast Guard Now Enlisting 17 To 25 Age Groups

Enlistments in the United States Coast Guard are now open for men between the ages of 17 and 25 years of age, it was announced today by Rear Admiral W. F. Towle, district Coast Guard officer.

Under the current recruiting program, enlistments are limited to men who have not had previous military experience, with the exception of former Coast Guard reservists, who will be accepted up to 30 years of age. The new regulations also permit the enlistees to sign up for either a two or three year period.

To qualify for service in the peacetime Coast Guard, recruits must have attended high school for two years and be in good physical condition. Information regarding enlistments may be obtained from the Recruiting Officer, District Coast Guard

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L.A. Schools Receiving \$82.83 For Each Elementary A.D.A. From State

Elementary school districts in Los Angeles county received \$82,702,283 from the state for the current fiscal year, compared with \$18,274,506 for last year, 1944-45, California Taxpayers

Tarwater Was Member of Famed 'GroPac' Unit

Elvin J. Tarwater, seaman, first class, Torrance, went ashore at tiny Ie Shima (where the famed Ernie Pyle met his death) to carry on the work of a Fleet unit bearing the legend of "GroPac", while fighting still raged 200 yards from the beaches. Navy records of that operation have disclosed.

"GroPac" became a highly respected term in the Navy because of its performance at Ie Shima and other bitterly contested islands in the Pacific. The term is short for Group, Pacific, which served as a part of the Service Force, Pacific Fleet.

The job of "GroPac" after landings had been effected, was to unload the huge quantities of supplies from the LSM's, LCT's and barges, supplies with-out which the island beachheads and advances could not have been sustained. Group, Pacific also included a small boat repair component which worked 24 hours a day to put wrecked and damaged craft back in shape.

Report Dog Bites At Once, County Urges

Dog bites, whether by the family pet or a stray, should be reported immediately to the nearest health officer, warned C. O. Harvey, Los Angeles county health department quarantine officer.

Although boys and dogs still congregate at this season of the year for the age-old sport of sand lot football, which ordinarily produces dog fights, and dog bites, reports have dropped off 25 per cent, Harvey said.

State law requires that all dog bites be reported to health authorities. This precautionary measure is for the protection of the public in order that dogs may be observed for signs of rabies, the quarantine officer pointed out.

Office, Times Building, 215 American ave., Long Beach, The telephone is Long Beach 729-41.

Gasoline Tax Jumps After Ration End

Freedom from gasoline rationing for the first full month since cessation of all war activities in the Pacific disclosed today that September assessments of oil companies for California gasoline taxes had established an all time high record.

This was revealed today when the State Board of Equalization announced that taxes for September, based on distribution of 198,204,952 gallons, amounted to \$5,946,148, the largest amount collected in any one month since this tax was first levied upon use of California highways. It is a gain of 39 per cent over the corresponding month of 1944 when distribution of 142,458,658 gallons netted \$4,273,759. It was August, 1941, when distribution of 193,839,449 gallons produced \$5,815,183, just \$120,965 short of this record month.

OPA Petroleum Advisory Group Is Appointed

Four southern men, prominently identified with petroleum equipment industry here, have been appointed to membership in the 14-man national oilfield drilling and producing equipment industry advisory committee, it was announced from Washington OPA headquarters today.

Named were Hugh H. Glen, president of Etnasso Derrick & Equipment Co., Rodney S. Durkin, president of Lark-Wells Co., of Los Angeles; W. Slevers, vice president of Security Engineering Co. of Whittier, and T. Sutter, vice president of Baker Oil Tools, Inc., Huntington Park.

The local men will be present in the national capital Dec. 4, when the committee's organization meeting will be held at the OPA national office.

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