

10,000 Jobs**County Gains 17 New Plants in November; 2 in Torrance**

Los Angeles county gained \$5,700,000 worth of additional manufacturing facilities during November, with 17 new factories established and 30 others enlarged, including two in Torrance. The 11-month total of 1948 manufacturing investments now stands at \$69,158,500, according to the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

One of the local expansions is the Metal Clad Insulation Company, 1759 Western avenue, one block south of Carson, which manufactures metal-jacketed insulation for heavy industry. This plant is adding 6000 square feet of floor space, and also some new equipment.

The other addition listed by the chamber was the new vacuum cracking tower added at the Torrance refinery of General Petroleum.

Investment in new plants, numbering 176, totals \$19,046,000 so far this year. In addition, \$50,112,500 has been poured into expansion of 337 other factories.

More than 10,000 manufacturing jobs have been created by 1948 industrial development, chamber officials estimated. November's new plants were valued at \$1,590,000 and expansions at \$4,110,000.

Products turned out by the new companies launched last month include slippers, women's suits, furniture, draperies, tools, fibre cases, steel doors, candy, crates, electrically powered surfboards, tools,

Firemen**It Seems Not All Enlistees Go to School!**

Pfc. Charles J. Porter, who enlisted in the service following the opening of the Torrance recruiting station last June, has written that he is one of the boys the Army put to work being a soldier immediately after he was graduated from basic training and before he got his turn at a technical school.

In his own words, he is "shoveling coal in one of the coldest spots in the United States, Ft. Warren, Wyo.," and he has plenty of company in his soldiering, according to his letter.

"There are six of us from basic training who have been assigned duty as firemen," he states. "We are to work seven days or nights a week with no days off until May 15, 1949. Each one of us has between four and eight boilers to tend. We work in weather as cold as 30 degrees below zero."

And the firemen in true soldier fashion do a good deal of talking about it between their boiler-nursing periods, Porter says.

Most of his fellow soldiers came into the service hoping that they could be selected to attend one of the technical schools, he explains, and he himself entered the service with that hope.

He was among the one-fourth of his group who received Barksdale Field letters saying that there was a reservation at a certain technical school for him, but the fireman assignment came along before the technical school materialized.

Skilled Lead Unemployed List in Area

Nearly twice as many skilled as unskilled persons now are listed as unemployed in the Torrance area, according to information compiled from statistical records in the local California State Employment Office.

The Torrance area, it was explained by Winona Ellis, manager of the office at 1628 Craven avenue, takes in the communities of Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Gardena, Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, Lomita, Harbor City and extends as far east as Figueroa street.

A total of 2508 persons was registered as unemployed and seeking work through the local office as of Dec. 1. Of the total, 1611 are men and 897 are women. Forty-six percent of the men are veterans.

The skilled group includes, bakers, boilermakers, carpenters, cement finishers, coremakers, electricians, garment cutters, meat cutters, stationary engineers, tool and die makers and welders—a total of 688.

Renewal for ATSF Harbor Line Granted

Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company may use its branch line to the Wilmington freight station for 21 more years, the Los Angeles City Council has decided.

The Council opened a bid from Santa Fe for renewal of the franchise for the branch line and found the company had offered \$300 for the grant. "I'm a mazed," Councilman George H. Moore, who represents the Wilmington district in the council. "I expected a bid of \$100."

The railway company operates steam equipment on the tracks.

GP Drilling on Arizona Lease

General Petroleum Corporation now is drilling its first exploratory well in Arizona, on 64,000 acres leased recently in Navajo and Apache counties, it was disclosed this week.

The well site is northwest of Holbrook, Arizona, and A. L. Saulsbury is supervising for General Petroleum from Holbrook, where headquarters have been set up.

The first well is being drilled on one of the largest individual parcels which borders on the Petrified Forest National Monument just west of the famous Painted Desert.

Site preparation was begun about five weeks ago.

'Public' Yule Trees Must Be Fireproofed

Christmas trees and Yule decorations when used in schools, dance halls, cocktail bars, theaters or other places of public assemblage are considered to be a "flammable decoration" and must be treated with flame-retardant chemical to conform to state law, according to a reminder issued this week by Fire Chief John E. McMaster.

Treatment with state-approved chemical is sufficient if there is not a registered applicator in the community, providing the chemical is applied in sufficient quantity to fully cover the needles and small branches.

\$11,000,000 in New Work for L.A. Port

Port of Los Angeles, already first in tonnage on the Pacific Coast, currently has \$11,000,000 in new construction under way or planned for the immediate future to augment the \$100,000,000 already invested in the huge facility, according to Arthur E. Eidge, general manager.

Many new residents of Lomita, Harbor City and Torrance are employed at the port.

The 1948-49 budget of \$17,069,539 approved by the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners includes the \$11,000,000 for new berths, wharves, marine terminals and buildings.



DENTISTS' FAVORITE — Officials of the Greater New York Dental Meeting, now in session in New York, have selected Terry Moore as "Movie Star Most Likely to Preserve Her Star-Bright Smile." Miss Moore is co-starred with Glenn Ford in Columbia Pictures' forthcoming "The Return of October."

More Visitors But Spending Not as Great

Southern California was visited by 3,373,395 vacationing tourists from out of state during the past year, President Willard W. Keith of the All-Year Club announced today.

This was 8.7 percent more than last year—and an all-time record for the 27 years during which the All-Year Club, community tourist advertising organization, has been in operation.

Spending, however, set no record. Keith said they totaled \$457,837,836, a 2 percent drop from the year before.

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