



GARDEN HOME . . . One of the many fine homes built in the Sepulveda Gardens area by Developer Truman Browne, one of Southern California's foremost community builders. This home is one of the many built by Browne throughout Torrance. Browne is building other developments in the Southland and several of the homes in the Sepulveda Gardens area are available for resale, Browne says.



FROM WOODEN AIRPLANES . . . This recently-constructed plant of the Doak Aircraft Co. at 23309 S. Western Ave. is the outgrowth of the move of Ed R. Doak early in the war years when he foresaw the metal shortage

hitting the aircraft industries. Designing and building the first molded plywood training aircraft, Doak expanded his newly-formed company by moving into other phases of aircraft production. The plant is now engaged in building military aircraft and aircraft parts.

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INGLEWOOD

Doak Foresees Metal Shortage, Uses Wood

In the hectic years before World War II, Edmond R. Doak, then vice-president and general manager of Douglas Aircraft's El Segundo division, foresaw the coming metal shortage and decided to do something about it as far as airplanes were concerned.

Resigning from his Douglas position in 1933, Doak formed his own company and designed and built the first molded plywood military training plane.

As the availability of metal for aircraft production became better, Doak formed a parts division for his wood fabricating plant and brought in a large national furniture firm, Kroehler Mfg. Co., to help him. In four of Kroehler's eight plants, about 1800 wood workers made parts under Doak's management until the metal shortage lessened.

Concurrently, the Doak Aircraft Co. was transforming a glass factory on Abalone Ave. into a modern metal working aircraft plant.

Area Expanded
Floor area was expanded to 170,000 square feet with facilities for complete manufacturing and processing of wings, bomb bay doors, flaps, empennage assemblies, tanks, and fuselage sections. Fifteen hundred employees come to work at the new Doak

plant, some of them already residents of Torrance, others bringing their families to stay and contribute to the permanent growth of the city.

Following the war, in addition to aircraft parts, Doak made metal furniture, display equipment, and other domestic items. At the outbreak of the Korean conflict, the plant turned back to the production of aircraft. A new plant has been constructed and the Abalone Ave. facility is now being leased to another firm.

In the meantime, recognizing the tremendous future for vertical lift type aircraft, Doak has maintained a continuing program of research and development in this field.

At the present time, 175 persons are employed at the new Western Ave. plant which is headed by Doak. E. E. Rosier, vice-president, and Reed H. Parkin is secretary-treasurer. The help wanted sign is hanging out at the plant for aircraft assemblers with experience.

Officials Turn Dirt For Huge Home Tract

Ground was broken here Wednesday for the first of 300 new homes to be built by the Hirsch-Victory Enterprises on a 55-acre tract south of Sepulveda Blvd. and east of Hawthorne Ave. The \$3,500,000 tract is just two miles southwest of the downtown shopping district of Torrance, 10 minutes from the beaches, and less than a half hour from downtown Los Angeles.

The tract will be built by Clement and David Hirsch, in association with Sylvester Morning and Harold Hensgen and Associates, general contractors.

The builders acquired the property from C. H. Lebow and George McNee, general partners in the Leespring Oil Co. Handling the transaction were Torrance Realtors Bob Haggard and Howard Percy.

Plans call for three-bedroom houses, featuring indoor-outdoor living, and will sell between \$10,000 and \$12,000.

The developers are planning to feature the smog-free Torrance climate in their promotion of the tract, according to David Hirsch.

Eighty units will be built immediately, officials said.

Fern-Greenwood PTA Has Membership of Over 700

Twenty charter members organized the Fern Avenue-Greenwood PTA in 1933 and are proud that last year this number of members rose to 730.

Three Scout troops are sponsored by this PTA—Cub Pack 728-C, led by Mr. Phillip Humphreys; Brownie Troop No. 631 led by Mrs. Blanche Barnard; and Mrs. Ruth Clutter, and Girl Scout Troop No. 1899 led by Mrs. Lois Krauszer, Mrs. Bess Arrasmith and Mrs. Marie Bischoff. Plans are being made to sponsor an additional troop and another Girl Scout Troop.

Money is raised in this association by a carnival at Halloween and pie-per drives in the fall and spring. Milk and lunch tickets are purchased for needy children, and clothing and shoes are given to needy youngsters who otherwise might be forced to stay away from classrooms. Baskets of food and clothing go to needy families at Thanksgiving and spring.



Mrs. Malone

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