New Steel Plant To Employ 300 When Completed Early Next Year

(Herald Photo)

MOVING TO TORRANCE . . . Officials of Bethlehem Pacific Coast Steel Corp. check plans for new factory which will be built here this year. Left to right are Walter Hoffman, chief engineer; E. F. Gohl, vice-president for fabrication construction steel; Fred Todd Jr., Los Angeles works manager; and company President H. H. Fuller. The new plant will be at 190th St. and Arlington Ave.

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Work to Start Soon On New Steel Plant

Construction of a $5,000,000 structural steel fabricating plant here which will eventually employ about 300 persons will be started early this summer, it was announced here yesterday by H. H. Fuller, president of the Bethlehem Pacific Coast Steel Corp.

The new plant, to be located at 190th St. and Arlington Ave., will replace the company's present fabricating works at 11100 So. Central Ave., Fuller said.

Work on the new facilities is scheduled to begin this summer and construction is expected to take about one year. More than three acres will be under roof at the new shop, officials said.

Site of the plant is a 46-acre tract which the company purchased last year. It will replace the plant where the steel framework for such familiar structures as the Los Angeles City Hall, Prudential Building, and UCLA Medical Center were fabricated.

Officials Here

On hand this week to survey the new site with President Fuller were E. F. Gohl, vice-president for fabricating steel construction; Walter Hoffman, chief engineer for the Pacific division of the firm; and Fred Todd Jr., works manager of the company's Los Angeles plant. Hoffman will supervise construction of the plant.

Capacity of the new steel fabricating works will be greater than that of the present operation, Fuller said. Production will be more diversified and will provide facilities for the fabrication of both light and heavy steel framing and for riveted, welded, and bolted construction.

Long span joists will be added to the established line of steel fabricated members for bridge, industrial, and commercial structures, officials said.

"This expansion is in keeping with Bethlehem Pacific's consistent policy of expanding and modernizing its steel-making and fabricating facilities on the Pacific Coast," Fuller said.

School Board Adopts $3,602,936 Budget

Teachers' salaries are going to cut the biggest slice out of the nearly four million dollar pie baked for the Torrance Unified School District during the fiscal year of 1954-55.

Nearly 70 per cent of the $3,602,936 budget approved tentatively by the Board of Education Tuesday night will go into teachers' pocketbooks.

Estimated average daily attendance in Torrance schools of 11,899, over 2000 above last year's estimated figure, requiring employment of more teachers, accounts for the $2,463,668 instructor's payroll. Normal salary increases also have added to last year's outgoing checks for instructional expense, which totaled $1,793,430.

Except for the normal "step" raises based on experience and training, however, Torrance teachers will not get more dollars than they did last year, despite a recommended increase from the Teachers Salary Committee.

Not Possible

"It just isn't possible at this time," Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, said in his report to the Board. "Salaries for certificated personnel are average and above and increases should not be made at the expense of a sound budget.

"However, if additional funds not shown in the present budget are available by September, a raise for all personnel may be granted. Any time we can see our way clear to help the teachers we should do it, for teachers are the backbone of the school system; they make it what it is."

Operation of the educational plant, transportation, administrative salaries, auxiliary services, and capital outlay accounted for other large chunks. Growing enrollment and building of new schools necessitated the increases.

Hire Psychologist

Employment of a full-time psychologist was the major raise in cost of auxiliary services. Previously the District has had only a part-time psychologist.

State apportionments will take care of 55.49 per cent of the proposed budget, while an additional 41.90 must be raised by District taxes. Public Law 874, county taxes, and miscellaneous receipts account for the 2.61 per cent.

Rates Indicated

A tax rate of approximately $1.70 for operating expenses, including employee retirement, is indicated in order to meet the requirements of the program. An additional 55 cents must be raised locally for El Camino College, plus 75 cents for bond retirement, making a total tax rate of about $3.

Assessed valuation in the District is increasing, but not in proportion to pupil growth, a letter from Dr. Hull read. Thus the district is a poorer one in terms of actual ability to support its boys and girls from kindergarten through high school each year.

Assessed valuation for the 1954-55 year is estimated at $81,566,280, making the valuation per pupil, based on the expected 11,724 A.D.A. an estimated $6,957.21.

Levies per pupil, including local taxes and state aid, make the total average cost $208.72. This is a sharp drop from the original $410.26 allocated per pupil in 1947-48.

(Herald Photo)

ANOTHER APPOINTMENT . . . Mrs. Katherine Lane, of 1531 El Prado phones the Torrance Red Cross for another appointment with the Bloodmobile here next Monday while Mrs. Helen Bowdoin, of 1751 Fern Ave., listens in. Both are gallon donors.

City Challenged to Show Parking Meter Legality

The question of who owns the city's streets was injected into the parking meter question again this week when the successor to the original developers of Torrance asked the city if it had authority to use the public streets to increase its capital assets.

Raising the question as he did three years ago was Donald Findley, president of Real Estate Management Co. (REMCO), who wrote to City Attorney James Hall asking if the city had authority to install the meters for purpose of increasing its capital assets.

Three years ago, Findley maintained that the city could not install the meters at all without obtaining an agreement with his company inasmuch as REMCO, as successors to the Dominguez Land Co., held reversionary rights to the streets which had been deeded to the city on a perpetual easement that they be forever used for public street purposes.

Parking meters do not qualify as public street purposes, Findley told officials at that time.

Changes Mind

He told the Herald yesterday, however, that he had been convinced by legal action in other cities that the installation of parking meters met with the provisions of such restrictions—however, he still maintains the position that the money cannot be used to increase the city's capital assets—the purchase of off-street parking lots.

"This money cannot be used to benefit a certain district, but must be used to benefit all the city," he said.

In this respect he maintains that the city can use the revenue from parking meters for general street maintenance and repair, but cannot use it to purchase off-street parking.

Three years ago Findley pointed out that all of the city's original streets, with the exception of Carson St., had been turned over by the city's founders for street purposes with the provision that they be perpetually used for such.

Claim Ignored

The city ignored Findley's claims at that time and adopted a parking meter ordinance on July 24, 1951. About one month later, however, the ordinance was repealed on the advice of then city attorney that new State legislation passed at about the same time would make the marketability of revenue bonds more difficult if the ordinance was put into effect under the new law.

Once repealed, though, it was dropped — probably because a large number of petitions containing hundreds of signatures were ready for presentation to the Council protesting the new ordinance.

A hearing before the City Council on a new parking meter ordinance is scheduled for 8 p.m. next Tuesday evening in the Council chambers of the City Hall. At that time persons favoring or opposed to the plan may be heard, according to Mayor Nickolas O. Drale.

(Herald Photo)

DESIGN FOR LEISURE . . . Dale Riley and his wife, Dorothy, relax on one of the pieces of lawn furniture presented to them Tuesday by the city and by the Torrance Adult Club in honor of their retirement from city employment. Riley retired Tuesday after 18 years of service in the recreation field and his wife will retire June 30, also after 18 years. The couple will move to Antelope Valley, where the two outdoor chairs, the table and reclining lounge presented as a going away gift will no doubt come in handy. City Manager George Stevens and Councilman Willys Blount were among the many persons who gathered at the Adult Center Tuesday to bid Riley and his wife goodbye. Mrs. Riley works as secretary to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

Posner Named Aide to Hull

Appointment of Al Posner as assistant superintendent of the Torrance Unified School District met approval of the Board of Education Tuesday night.

The new 'right hand man' previously served as an administrative assistant.

Teenage Guidance Needs Outlined for Local TEAC

"In recognition and appreciation for dinstinguished service rendered to public education in Los Angeles County," read certificates of merit presented to Judge John A. Shidler and W. H. Tolson, retiring Board of Education members, at Monday's luncheon meeting of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee.

Awards, given by Perry Jones, vice-president of the South Bay Trustees' Association, preceded a similar presentation made to the two dignitaries by Mrs. Grace Wright, member, on behalf of the Board of Education.

President Cited

Certificates cited Shidler's nearly four-year term as president of the Board and Tolson's service as a member for the same period of time. Thanks were extended to both from the Board, Torrance citizens, and the entire staff of Torrance schools.

Tolson, unable to be present at the session, will receive his award at the July 12 meeting when Dr. Joseph T. Bay and C. A. Mewborn will be installed as his and Judge Shidler's successors.

In accepting the certificates Monday, Judge Shidler gave a few words elaborating on the Torrance aspect of the topic, "Not Problem Kids, but Kids with Problems," presented as the feature address by James Blaine, executive director of the All Nations Boys' Club.

Problems Many

"While our local problems are not of such great extent as those with which the director has come in contact during his past 15 years' work in East Los Angeles," Judge Shidler said, "we do have the same type of problems to cope with.

"We need adequate planning and leadership to solve these problems among our youth," he continued. "One of the biggest we must face is the effect of the Korean and Indo-China conflict upon our teenagers.

"When there is no one able to tell them exactly how these small-scale wars are going to affect them, their reactions are vague, too."

Leadership Needed

Blaine stressed the need for adequate leadership in his discussion of summer vacation activities to keep "kids with problems" out of serious difficulties.

"It is not enough to just have playgrounds open," he said. "Adult leaders are needed to guide the teen-agers and help them to find beneficial 'new experiences' to satisfy their craving. Otherwise they will find 'new experiences' of their own in channels that may lead them to serious difficulty with the law.

Adequate leadership must be paid for, the speaker continued, and that is where service clubs come in.

Love, security, recognition, join with new experiences on the credit side of supervised recreation ledgers, Blaine said. People must not think of youth as "going to pot," but as kids with problems whom they can help feel worthwhile.

Youth is Tomorrow

"They're Tomorrow," he said, "the future which we have been fighting for. They are our most precious generation, for it is through them that we can discover whether our efforts in world peace will prove worthwhile. They are among the most important people in the world."

A discussion of "What Can We Do About the High Cost of the Senior Year?" followed statistical presentations made by two THS June grads, Miss Sally Sprout, who was president of the class, and Clayton Mallard.

Senior Costs High

Costs for a THS coed to participate in Senior fun averages $298.50 per year, Miss Sprout said, while Mallard reported that a boy spends on an average of $245. TEAC members agreed that the activity list should not be cut down, but that expenses might be slashed by making some of the affairs less elaborate or that girls could save on clothes, biggest debit item, by making them at school or at home.

Bruce Magner, TMS principal, acted as moderator of the informal panel discussion.

HERALD SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE OPENS SATURDAY

An intensive eight-week subscription campaign designed to acquaint additional thousands of readers with the Torrance Herald will be launched here Saturday, it was announced yesterday by Circulation Manager Robert Thompson.

The campaign, which will be conducted as a contest among all Torrance Herald carrier boys, will be ended at noon on Aug. 14, at which time the top winners will be named. First prize in the contest will be a bicycle. Other valuable prizes will go to second and third place winners, and all carriers will be eligible to compete for additional prizes throughout the campaign.

"We want everyone in the Greater Torrance area to be a Torrance Herald reader," Thompson said.