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REYNOLDS KNIGHT

Business Outlook So Good That Many Experts Can't Believe It

'Behind the Scenes in American Business' Business is so good it is still causing a good deal of head-shaking by those who like to worry that good things can't last forever. This will probably be the broadest-based as well as the strongest year the construction industry has ever known. Schools, churches, stores, office buildings, etc. will set all-time peaks, and residential housing will top 1,300,000—the seventh year in a row that housing starts have topped 1,000,000. Machine tool orders in May climbed about 20 per cent over the similar period a year ago. Among consumer goods industries there are reports of gains in beverages, foods and detergents. John Q. Public is spending freely, as evidenced by the fact that savings accounts have not been rising as rapidly as in the recent past. However, credit is still plentiful and there is no indication that the government wishes to risk the political consequences of tightening in credit availability. All in all, the business picture is strong. If the Geneva meeting next month succeeds in producing an atmosphere of peace, there is little doubt that 1955 will hang up a record in productivity and employment.

Determining Good Taste — Big breweries today use more and more scientific methods to control the quality of their beer. Laboratory tests, elaborate machines and gauges measure everything from the beer's clarity to its ability to withstand long rail and truck travel. One thing that can't be measured by machine, however, is taste. So in most breweries the master brewer and his expert assistants spend much time personally tasting each brew at several stages of its development. At the Baltz Brewing Company in Milwaukee a new taste test program has brought many more employees into the act. Now a group of more than 50 persons from throughout the company has the final word on whether a new tank of beer is right for bottling. These employees look for just one thing when sipping tiny glasses of beer. That's uniformity. Does this new brew match the good taste of previous brews? Only if the taste testing panel decides, under statistical norms, that the taste does not vary distinguishably from that of the standard Baltz beer, is the new tank accepted for bottling and canning.

Things to Come—A repair kit called Wido-Fix is being marketed. It consists of a fold-up metal tube of putty, putty knife and glazer points. Putty when squeezed is shaped to fit angle of sash and pane. . . . A gadget that removes hard boiled eggs from their shells attaches to a water faucet, drives water between egg and shell, and separates the egg more easily, according to its sponsor—manufacturer. . . . A new farm machine plows, harrows, spreads weed killer and fertilizer, plants seed and packs soil—costs about \$20,000.

Sick Chicks — A wayward chemical has come home to roost, bringing with it a thriving chicken and feed business for a company usually associated with plastics and rubber. The chemical is N,N'-diphenyl-p-phenyl-enediamine, nicknamed DPPD, developed 25 years ago as an anti-oxidant for rubber. It didn't work out well in this application and lay on the shelf until several years ago when scientists at E. F. Goodrich Chemical Company dusted it off and found that it would prevent crazy chick disease (encephalomalacia) which too often in the past has turned a poultry farmer's profit into loss. The chemical preserves vitamins E and A in the chicken's digestive tract, the scientists found. E prevents the disease, and A helps the chick to grow more rapidly. Only a quarter to a half-pound of DPPD is needed to fortify a ton of poultry feed. But when you consider that more than 1 1/2 billion chickens are produced annually in the United States, the business of producing DPPD for their diets is far from being chicken feed. . . .

Food and Strikes — Even though labor trouble and strikes may spread, there is little occasion for alarm concerning the supply of foodstuffs this summer and fall. Packers of foods have anticipated possible difficulties in obtaining containers, and crops will be harvested without difficulty, according to surveys. . . .

Bits O' Business—Petroleum demand from domestic sources will increase 35 per cent in the next 10 years, a leading producer predicts. . . . Copper producers predict the supply situation will continue tight into 1956. . . . Textile mills, now that they have an adequate supply, will shut down for vacations. . . . Public debt to continue for another year at \$286 billion. . . . Wege increases spurring business search for more economical production methods, new machinery.

Gets Three Checks — In western pictures, if there's a fight scene in a bar, or on horseback, the assistant director assigns a stunt man to be shot, kicked in the head, or thrown out of a covered wagon. If you are supposed to yell, 'I'm shot!', you wind up with three paychecks—the extra check, the stunt man's check, and the actor's check. . . . According to Bill, Cecil B. DeMille is a stalker for details. "During a shot calling for a crowd of Indians, I was dressed up in full headdress, complete with tomahawk, and I promptly lost myself in the background. "DeMille surveyed the motley crowd. Suddenly he stared at me. He roared, 'Throw that blue-eyed Indian off the set!' "One of the last stunts Barnum participated in was for a man participating in a fight at the theater during the afternoon. Bill was told to choose a horse for a left shot. There was only one left, and old, grey, sway-backed called Old Blue. A rumble started around the set. "He's going to ride Old Blue." The grips picked it up, then the other extras and the stars. Bill said, "The bit consisted of riding down a western street right up to the camera and yelling, 'the waster's afire!' "Caught Slow Poke "When the set was finally lighted up and they called action, it took about 10 minutes to get Old Blue into motion, but once he got moving it took just as long to make him stop. Instead of stopping in front of the camera, Old Blue kept right on going, upsetting everything in his path. "My last recollection before the lights went out," Barnum said with a chuckle, "was the director shouting over the megaphone, 'Throw that stunt man off the set!' "Regular hours and pay.

Sledge Too Puny To Crack Safe

An attempt to crack a safe at the drive-in theater at Vermont and 182nd St., Tuesday afternoon failed when the safe proved too much for the sledge hammer used on the job. An attendant on duty at the theater during the afternoon told police he received a telephone call instructing him to go to an Ingwood theater for some equipment. Finding out that the call was a hoax when he arrived in Ingwood, the attendant rushed back to the local drive-in. There he found a large plate glass window broken, and signs of an obvious attempt to smash open the safe. The intruders had given up and fled by the time he returned, the attendant told police.



EXPERT ADVICE . . . Robert Montgomery, left, tells Bill Barnum how he wants him to drive a tractor over a cliff for an action shot for the picture, "They Were Expendable."

Stunt Man Trades Tumbles For Quiet Aircraft Life

The uncertain, hazardous but exciting life of a movie stunt man doesn't offer much of a secure future, according to Bill Barnum, 2611 Loftyview Dr., now employed as a personnel assistant in Employment at the El Segundo Division of Douglas Aircraft Company, Inc. Barnum's initiation into the realm of stunt men started in 1945 when he was assigned to the picture, "They Were Expendable." "I spent three months in Miami, Fla., along with actors John Wayne, Robert Montgomery, Ward Bond, and Marshall Thompson," Bill said. "Director John Ford had me thrown out of PT boats, jumping into flaming oil, driving caterpillar tractors over cliffs, and getting blown up on sandy beaches. . . .

California Bank Net Up 22 Per Cent

California Bank's resources increased \$94,769,883 during the past year to reach a total of \$734,229,946 on June 30, according to Frank L. King, president. Deposits advanced to \$683,388,621 from \$600,257,133 a year ago. Loans and discounts totaled \$264,505,803, an increase of \$7,387,214. Net operating earnings for the six months ended June 30 amounted to \$2,302,553, equal to \$2.17 per share based on the average number of shares outstanding during the six-month period. This compares to net operating earnings of \$1,648,699, or \$2.06 a share in the like period a year ago. Final net profits amounted to \$1,704,008, an increase of 22 per cent over 1954. Capital funds of \$402,212,161 consisted of capital stock \$13,643,750, surplus \$18,206,250 and undivided profits of \$83,362,161.

Local Agent to Get Top Insurance Award

Trict agent for a national insurance company, will receive the National Quality Award, one of the highest honors accorded in the life insurance profession. This will be Fernley's second award. The honor is conferred jointly by the National Association of Life Underwriters and the Life Insurance Agency Management Association.

Despite Damage, Balcom's Auto Entry Honored Despite an accident which damaged his entry, James E. Balcom was announced this week as winner of honorable mention in the Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild Silver Anniversary model car competition in Detroit. The son of Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Balcom, of 26001 Eshelman Ave., Lomita, he was putting the finishing touches on his hardtop sports car model before entering it when his hand slipped and the side of the car was damaged by a grinder. He won a \$25 savings bond for his entry. He will be a senior at Narbonne High School next year. Last year, he also won honorable mention in the contest.

Despite Damage, Balcom's Auto Entry Honored

STATE LEADER VISITS ELKS . . . State-President Robert Morbacher, visiting the Torrance Elks Lodge No. 1948 last week, is shown here with Exalted Ruler Joseph Yates during his visit. Both men are now attending the organization's national convention in Philadelphia.

NEW MISSILE BUILDER . . . George A. Bradford, left, of the George A. Bradford Co. here, checks final details of a new guided missile manufacturing component with his engineer, John Whyte, before sending it out to a Southland aircraft plant. The apparatus, designed and constructed by Bradford, will be used in the manufacture of missile components.

'Y' CAMP SPOTS OPEN

An additional 25 boys may go on the YMCA High Sierra Caravan from Aug. 6 to 13, according to Stan Roberts, camp director. Another truck load has been arranged in addition to the 29 boys already signed for the trip he said. Boys 12 to 16 years old are eligible to go. The trip includes swimming at Whitmore Hot Springs, fishing in the Mammoth Lakes area, sightseeing in Mono Crater, and visits throughout Yosemite National Park. Reservations can be made by calling FA 8-1272.

B of A Hits Record Highs In Resources

Bank of America reached record highs in total resources, deposits and loans in its statement of condition dated June 30, 1955. Total resources now stand at \$9,240,087,971, an increase of \$877,224,156 over mid 1954. Deposits total \$8,390,597,004, which is \$794,562,337 over a year ago. Loans outstanding aggregate \$4,302,092,082, a 249,659,887 more than at the last midyear. During this period there has been a consistent upward trend in loans, the bank's major earning asset, commented President S. Clark Belse, and indications are that this demand will continue for the balance of the year. Investments in securities totaled \$3,124,489,490 against \$2,794,135,382 a year ago, an increase of \$370,354,108. It was pointed out that approximately 90 per cent of the bank's security investments consisted of U. S. Government and California municipal bonds.

Former Cop Arraigned

William Clair Shaner, former patrolman in the Torrance Police Department, arraigned Tuesday in South Bay Municipal Court, has been placed in County Jail in Los Angeles in lieu of \$1500 bail on charges of having allegedly passed five bad checks totaling \$110 while serving on the force here. A fugitive since leaving Torrance in August, 1953, Shaner was arrested recently in San Diego and returned here Saturday to face the local charge. A preliminary hearing in the matter has been set for July 8, in South Bay Municipal Court.

Children's Square Dance Group Forming

A square dance group for children will hold its first session Saturday, July 16, in the Community Hall at Ft. MacArthur in San Pedro. Children 7 to 12 years old in this area are invited to attend the class, which will be held from 2 to 4 p. m. each Saturday. Fred Hawthorne will be instructor and caller. Further information is available by telephoning DA 6-1943.

Alert Student Takes Number, Saves Board \$\$

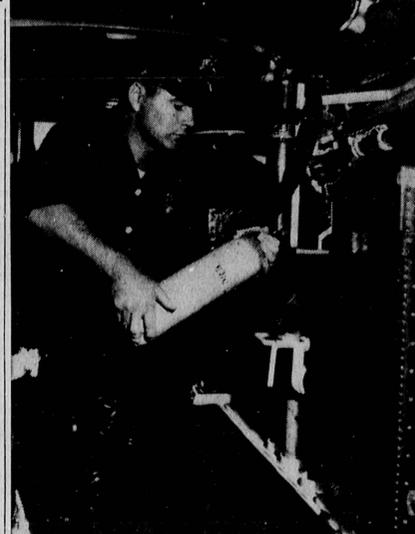
An alert student at El Norte school helped track down a careless driver from India and saved the School Board \$20. A woman driver recently crashed into the fence at the school and drove off, but not before Johnny Larsen, who was standing nearby, took down her license number. He gave it to Principal Roland Petrat, who turned it over to the California Highway Patrol. When the name of the driver was reported, school officials sent the woman, who lived in Indio, a bill for the damage. Last week, Assistant Superintendent Sherman E. Waldrip received the money for the damage, with no comment from the woman.

BURGLARY FOLLOWS DOG INJURY

Within a few hours after the watch dog at his driving range at 25101 Crossshaw Blvd. had been injured, causing the animal to be left with a veterinarian, the range was burglarized Monday night, James Crawford told police. The thieves broke a window glass and scooped a small amount of cash from vending machines, leaving expensive golf clubs. Crawford said that fireworks had frightened his dog, causing her to run in front of a car, getting seriously injured at 9:30 p.m., Monday. Next morning the car was discovered. The watch dog had been acquired after a similar burglary at the range, the owner said.

Jewish Hall Dedication Set Sunday

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Jewish Community Center and Temple will be held Sunday, starting at 2 p.m., Chairman Ray Levy announced. The new building is located at 1435 W. 7th St., San Pedro, with Superior Court Judge David Coleman as principal speaker. Special guests will include City Council President John Gibson, Judge Joe Eay, Chairman Raymond Vincent Thomas, and church pastors. All persons, regardless of faith, are invited to attend and to partake of refreshments to be served following the ceremonies at the old building at 1901 S. Cabrillo, San Pedro. Committee members include Norman Frumes, building chairman; Ira Kaye, program chairman; and Dr. Rudolph Rosenberg, chairman of the Jewish Community Center Assn. Assisting them were Nat Ellis, Charles Mandell, Mrs. Joe Barry, King Mazur, Joe Rosteker, Julius Kaplan, Martin Sher, Gus Forster, Dave Korn, Mrs. M. Schonfeld, Mrs. Nat Ellis, Mrs. Max Mazur, and Rabbi Jack Halex.



CHECKS EQUIPMENT . . . Fireman John Hunter replaces oxygen bottles in rack for use on new rescue truck's resuscitator unit. Special equipment carried includes cutting torches, stretchers, large hydraulic jacks, smoke ejector, and breathing apparatus. The truck is one of 16 rescue units of the County Fire Department.



READY TO ROLL . . . New rescue truck serving the Carson-Lomita area was put into service recently at County Fire Station 36, 404 E. Carson St. The unit responds with engine companies to structural fires, and also is available for rescue responses.



TWINS HONOR TWINS . . . Twins Richard and Robert Greenwald honor twins Linda Lee Searle and Sharon Lee Searle, of 512 E. 244th St., who were voted the set which looked most alike at a contest held Sunday.

HS Students Pick Saxons As Nickname

Students at the new high school in north Torrance have acted to change the official name of the school and to give it a nickname. The students convinced the School Board that "North High School" would be a better name for the school than "North Torrance High School." The board also approved the students' selection of "Saxons" as the official school nickname. "North Torrance High School" is a mouthful to say, is unnecessarily long, and might be confused with North Torrance Elementary School, the students declared. Besides, it wouldn't rhyme with anything else and wouldn't fit into the school yells. The board agreed. In a school-wide election, students chose "Saxons" as their nickname over runner-up choices "Dragons" and "Toros." The little medieval characters with horned helmets will appear this fall on school jackets. The official name of the school will be "North High School—Torrance, California."

Airport Gets Catalina Hops

Torrance Municipal Airport will become a terminal for Catalina Airlines for flights to and from Catalina Island, according to a letter from the Airport Commission to the City Council. The Commission informed the Council that a committee had succeeded in inducing the airline to use the local facility for pickup and discharge of passengers between here and the island. The Council went on record commending the Commission for its diligence. Until now the company has been flying passengers out of Los Angeles International Airport and out of Burbank, with great inconvenience for passengers wanting to ride the steamer over from Wilmington and then fly back. The new move will put the plane passengers within a few miles of the steamship landing, which would make one-way flights more popular, according to Robert E. Herriek, president of the Airport Commission.