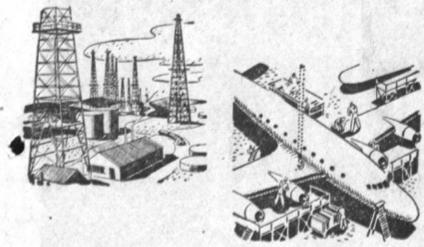
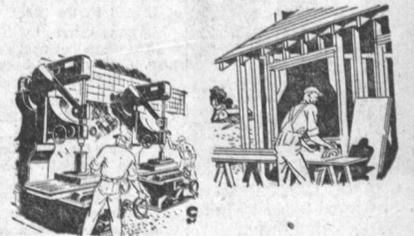


43 Years Of Industrial Progress Makes Torrance Model Community Of The West



TORRANCE PRESS



LOCAL INDUSTRY ACCOUNTS FOR MILLION \$\$ WEEKLY PAYROLL

Dicalite Products Made Of Ancient Marine Plants

Rounding out 24 years of operation in Torrance this year is the Dicalite Division of the Great Lakes Carbon Corp. whose 300-acre dicalite mining operation is located in the hills above WALTERIA.

The 140 employees of the company mine and process the diatomaceous earth known as dicalite and send it to markets in practically every country of the world.

The local company is headed by D. L. Marlett, vice-president and general manager; Edward A. Harris, operations manager; A. F. Drysmid, chief engineer; A. K. Muir, plant superintendent; and John J. Graham, assistant superintendent.

Among the products manufactured from the valuable earth are filteraids, fillers, insulating materials, extender pigments, absorbents, admixtures for concrete, and others.

The basic material of the Dicalite firm are diatoms, a microscopic aquatic plant possessing mobility, which have existed for geologic ages.

Minute Organisms These minute organisms are so tiny that a high-power microscope must be used to observe them. Their structure is a veritable work of art, with designs wrought in intricate lines and patterns. In complex beauty and a variety of types, they are similar to snowflakes; over 10,000 different types have been classified.

The two main classifications are: marine and fresh water. Marine types exist to this (Continued on Page 23)

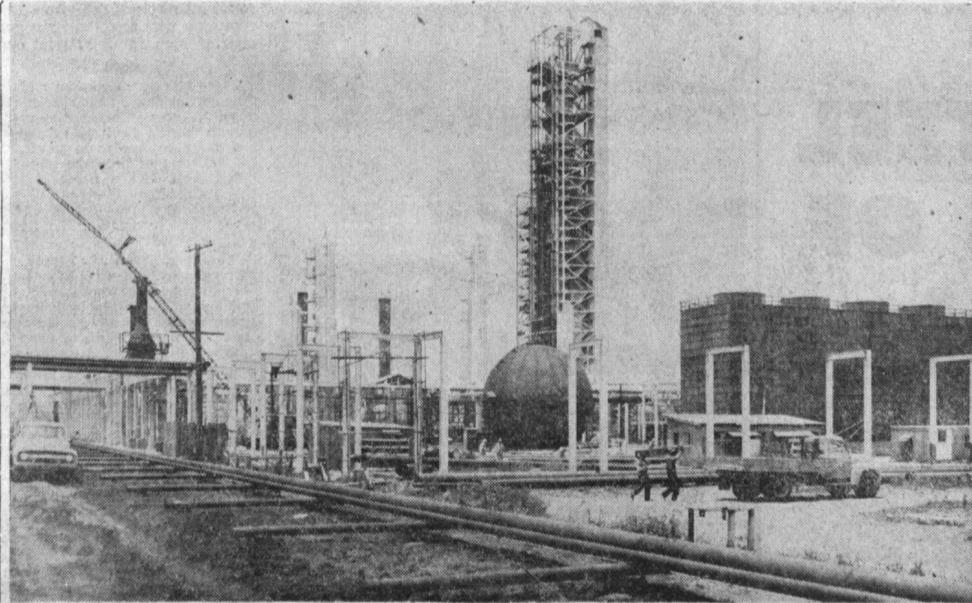
Bradford's Machine Shop In Third Year

A Torrance man who made good in his own home town is George A. Bradford who owns the machine shop that bears his name at 1915 Abalone Ave.

Resident of Torrance for 34 years, Bradford attended Torrance high school and later studied at the University of California, Stanford and U.C.L.A. He became a journeyman machinist and tool maker while working at National Supply Co., later held such top positions as chief engineer at the Time Oil Co., in Los Angeles, marine superintendent at World Wide Tankers & Hilcone Steamship Co., and was for three years chief mechanical designer at Douglas Aircraft plant in Long Beach.

Bradford's machine shop employs ten people and does work for numerous firms in this area. It is well equipped and recently turned out a giant metal press for the Sheridan-Gray company. The shop is now in its third year.

Mrs. Bradford is a one-time Torrance high school student. She is the former Mary Ann Taylor.



THIS CONSTRUCTION PHOTOGRAPH shows the soon-to-be completed Thermoform Catalytic Reformer at General Petroleum's Torrance Mobilgas Refinery. In the center of the picture is the towering reactor structure, the heart of the unit. It is 250-feet high . . . equivalent to a 25-story building. Fractionating columns are on the left and cooling towers on the right. The ball in the foreground is a pressure storage sphere

for light hydrocarbons. The new "TCR" will cost approximately \$10,000,000 upon its completion. An entirely new process, the TCR at Torrance is the first of three units being built in the United States by Socony-Vacuum companies, of which General Petroleum is one. The process improves the quality of motor gasoline.

Douglas Spearheads High Employment Level

Accounting for the largest payroll in the city of Torrance and responsible to a large degree for the healthy business life of this community are the more than 150 industries which operate in this area.

According to gathered statistics, salaries paid by these industries total \$1,010,121 per week as compared with service payrolls of \$253,007 and professional payrolls of \$48,531.

Example Figures revealed by Douglas Aircraft, one of the largest industries located in the greater Torrance area, show that \$45,000,000 are spent on salaries per year, nearly \$1,000,000 of which is spent in the city of Torrance each week.

A breakdown of the Douglas payroll per year indicates that \$11,000,000 are spent for food, \$8,000,000 for housing, \$4,000,000 for clothing, \$4,000,000 for cars and transportation, and \$1,000,000 for house furnishings. Payroll breakdowns by other companies tell similar stories, proportionately.

Well-Known Firms Included among the more than 150 industrial firms in this area are Columbia Steel Co. (subsidiary of U. S. Steel), National Supply Co., General Petroleum Corp., Pittsburgh Plate Glass, Rome Cable, National Electric Products, and American Standard Corp.

among many other notable and nationally known firms.

In addition to boosting the local payroll and providing a consistently healthy standard of living, local industries account for over 70 per cent of the city's tax revenue. These taxes provide most of the schools and public utilities.

The city's industrial growth is keeping pace with the rapid residential and commercial growth, all of which helped raise Torrance's value as a city by, almost \$16,000,000 over last year's figure. The preliminary assessed valuation estimate for this coming fiscal year is placed at \$83,554,000 as compared with last year's \$67,712,000.

Smelting Co. Employs 100

Starting with five people in 1943 the Pacific Smelting company at 2219 South Western avenue now numbers a total of 100 employees, most of whom are local residents.

The corporation is one of the largest secondary zinc smelters in the United States, and the only complete operation on the West Coast.

The firm was founded here in 1930 by Frank and Ollie Lennox. Officers of the present corporation are as follows: Jack Schwartz, president, M. D. Schwartz, vice president and general manager; Allen Klatzker, executive secretary, and J. O. Schmidt, plant manager.

The plant, which has undergone a steady growth since then, produces slab zinc as its major product. The slab is the basic metal in a hot dip galvanizing process used to protect steel from atmospheric corrosion. Typical end products of this process are galvanized water pipe, hot water heaters, chain link fences and corrugated roofing.

Employees Average 20 Years Of Service

When oldtimers gather to swap yarns at the Torrance Works of Columbia-Geneva Steel Division of U. S. Steel, it takes a large room to accommodate the crowd, since the average length of service per employe is about 20 years.

And the place of honor at such a meeting goes to Electrician Thomas Reeder who makes 38 years on the job his senior citizen from the point of continuous service.

A quick, slender man whose ruddy face is topped with a thatch of white hair, Reeder recalls as if it were yesterday, the afternoon in 1916 when Llewellyn Llewellyn, the oldest of five brothers who founded the Llewellyn Iron Works, predecessor company of the local U. S. Steel plant, called him into his Los Angeles office.

"Tommy," Llewellyn asked, "how would you like to go to Torrance and help build our new steel mill?"

Where's Torrance? "Yes, I'll go, Mr. Llewellyn," Reeder answered, "but where in heck is Torrance?"

Llewellyn, who at the request of Jared Sidney Torrance, the city's founder, in 1912, had purchased a 12-acre tract here upon which to build his steel mill, explained how to reach Torrance. The next day Reeder made his first journey to the town he was to know so well.

"I made the trip by Pacific Electric because I was afraid I'd get lost if I drove," he recalls. "Besides, I was fearful my 1915 Maxwell coupe would get mired in the adobe on Western avenue."

Watches Coyotes The trip down from Los Angeles was uneventful, and Reeder whiled away the time thinking of the job ahead and watching the coyotes playing in the fields along the P. E. right-of-way.

Reeder remembers a cold

wind was kicking up a sandstorm when he arrived, and he could virtually count every house in Torrance from the P. E. depot platform. (The Torrance Chamber of Commerce will be happy to know that today Reeder is a staunch booster of both the Torrance weather and the many advantages this city of 50,000 population offers.)

Though the 12-acre site of the future mill was fenced, the only building on this property was a small construction shanty on that cold day in 1916.

Open Hearth Furnace In the following December, Reeder had a grandstand seat aboard an overhead crane to watch the tapping of the first heat of steel from one of the mill's original two 40-ton open hearth furnaces. Since that memorable event, the original 40-ton open hearths have been replaced with four 58-ton open hearth furnaces and millions of tons of steel have been poured—steel used world-wide in peace and three wars.

Historically the United States Steel Torrance Works has many milestones of progress to its credit. Actually the city itself virtually grew up around it.

In 1917 a foundry was added to the mill for making marine castings for the U. S. Navy during World War I. That same year construction was completed on a second 40-ton open hearth furnace, and a combination 22-inch roughing and finishing mill, a 12-inch mer-

(Continued on Page 19)

Felker Co. Pioneers In Diamond Processing

The Felker Manufacturing company, of 1128 Border avenue, is on of the world's leading producers of diamond abrasive, cut-off blades, diamond abrasive core drills, and other machines employing industrial diamonds.

M. N. Felker, president of the firm, travels the world in his search for diamonds to use in his company.

Assisting Felker in the management of the strictly local firm are M. W. Hinshaw, vice-president; and W. R. Siner, secretary.

All kinds of skilled help are needed at the plant, Felker explained.

The products manufactured by the company are used for cutting and drilling of hard, dense, nonmetallic materials, and are sold throughout the world.

Sand-Gravel Plant Seeks Local Site

A firm which assembles air compressing machines plans the construction of a manufacturing plant on the northwest corner of 174th street and Gramercy avenue.

A variance application for such a plant has been filed with the City Planning Commission by the Western Air Compressor company.

70% TAX REVENUE

Over 150 industrial firms are located in this area. Local industries contribute over 70 per cent of the city's tax revenue.

Douglas Payroll Here \$45 Million This Year

As the Douglas Aircraft Company's El Segundo Division location at Torrance reaches the two-and-a-half year mark, employment has attained 9,000 and the payroll this year will total over 45 million dollars, it was learned from the company this week.

The payroll of nearly a million dollars a week is expended in the area surrounding Douglas Torrance for housing, food, cars and transportation, house furnishings, medical care, amusements and recreation, clothing and other things.

Millions Spent Here

Importance of this payroll to the prosperity of Torrance and adjacent communities is emphasized in estimate that eleven million of the yearly payroll is spent for food, eight million for housing. Four million years is said to be spent for clothes, another four on cars and transportation, according to estimates. A million is extended by aircraft employes on house furnishings.

The facility, termed by Douglas its Torrance B-6 location, fabricates and assembles three of the Navy's most modern carrier-based combat planes. These are the FD4 Skyraider, jet interceptor and holder of the two historic world speed record classics, the A4D Skyhawk, bantam A-bomber, recently announced as the smallest and lightest jet combat plane in the United

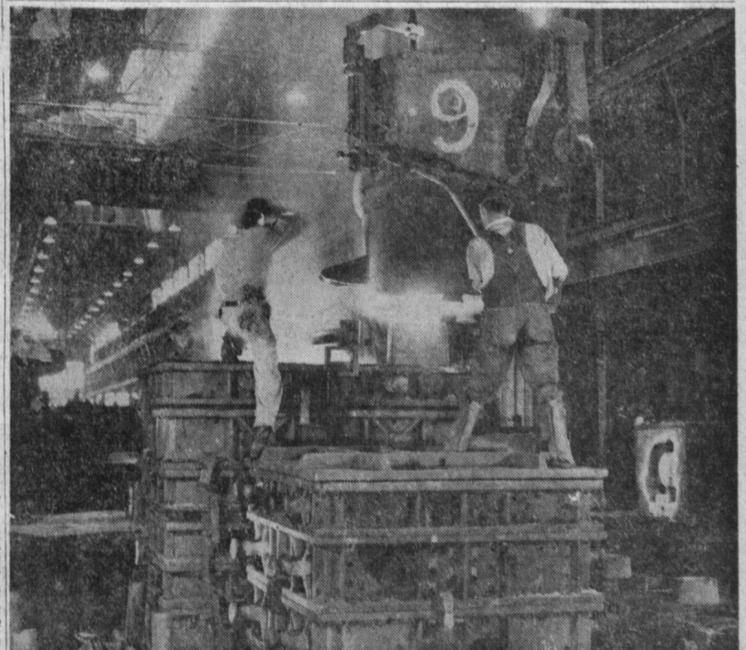
States, and the AD Skyraider, conventionally powered single engine Navy attack bomber, nicknamed "Scourge of Korea."

214 Acres

Douglas Torrance occupies 214 acres at 190th Street near Western Avenue where a million and a half square feet of covered area houses the most advanced machine tools and fabricating facilities available anywhere, according to the company.

Operating a "1000-mile production line" under an advanced concept of defense plane production, Douglas Torrance sends machined parts to large sub-contractors as far away as Oakland and Reno, picking up assembled airplane sections and trucking them back to Torrance, where they are finally assembled and installed with equipment. The airframes then are trucked to the plant at El Segundo for installation of engines and final inspection and flyaway to Navy depots.

Company officials said skilled workers are continually in demand to staff this assembly feeder line. At present, they said, experienced male assemblers, numerous machine operators, tool and die workers, jig and fixture builders, planners and tool designers are wanted. The employment office is open at the plant from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday.



Pouring a 12,000 pound casting heat from one of National Supply's three electric furnaces.

Bethlehem Steel To Erect Plant Here Soon