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Criticism Of Recreation Department Draws Reply

By Harry Van Bellehem

During recent months, it has been brought to my attention many times that the residents of Torrance do not understand the functions of the Recreation Department. Because we have drawn a lot of undeserved criticism due to this misunderstanding, I am writing this letter hoping it will clarify the situation somewhat.

Simply stated, the Recreation Department carries on a supervised recreation program on park and school areas. We perform no maintenance or construction work of any kind. Our job of controlling use of the recreation buildings is simply to provide a systematic means of issuing building reservations.

As the Recreation Department of the city we do enjoy a high priority when it comes to using these recreation buildings for recreational purposes.

We believe everyone will agree that the public recreation program provided out of funds derived from taxes certainly deserves this high priority when it comes to use of city facilities.

Construction Work

This Department became involved in the construction work being performed under the recent bond issue because we were advisory to the Recreation Commission which was in turn advisory to the City Council. A more democratic procedure is difficult to imagine.

Because we were giving expert advice, it seemed logical that we should follow through in helping to coordinate and speed this construction work.

This has turned out to be a difficult and thankless task, but we have never once wavered from our determination to get the job done as rapidly as possible.

As professionals in the field of recreation, we have advised the proper governmental bodies of the need for securing more park sites and the continued development of recreation facilities. This is a matter of record.

We have worked hard to improve opportunities for recreation in the city of Torrance through a trying period when money for all city functions has been short and taxpayer groups have been asking for lower and lower taxes. We can't develop more facilities and programs for recreation by lowering taxes.

Two Enemy Camps

As we attempt to secure the development of more recreation in Torrance, we find ourselves between two enemy camps: the citizens who blame us because there isn't more recreation and parks and the taxpayers who want less recreation and parks

Increase Set For National Supply Co.

"Sales of the National Supply company in the first quarter of this year are running more than 15 per cent ahead of the same period a year ago, and profits are following an upward trend established during the last half of 1955," President Arthur W. McKinney announced at the annual meeting of stockholders held in Pittsburgh.

"Our backlog of orders," McKinney continued, "is satisfactory for most of the items we manufacture."

The demand for oil country

tubular materials, he said, is particularly strong, with the backlog of most other oil field items substantially larger than it was a year ago.

Redoubling of National Supply's program of research and product development was cited by McKinney as a major current effort.

"Our research is directed to the achievement of two fundamental objectives," he said. "First, we must provide new and improved products for the petroleum industry, and then we must further diversify our line of products that will go into other industries."

The National Supply company is the world's largest manufacturer and distributor of oil field equipment and machinery, he concluded.

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