

NO LABOR STRIFE Mars City History

Organized Labor Settles Issues Amicably; Workers' Ranks Free from Foreign Radicalism

WHEN many other industrial communities felt the bitterness of labor strife and workers' families were plunged in despair and actual hardship as factories were closed or forced to shut down because of labor trouble, Torrance was almost entirely free from such disturbing conditions.

That peace reigned here while bloodshed and battle left its scars in other cities was due to several factors. Perhaps the outstanding reason that this city escaped turmoil is that Torrance workers are a higher type of men and women than is the rank-and-file of factory workers.

They are mostly skilled, few are foreigners and all have had opportunity for education in the city's schools.

Able Union Leaders

The "radical element" is happily missing from the ranks of Torrance labor. Most are citizens and because of the splendid home facilities here, they are active in clubs, lodges and civic groups—all of which makes for an intelligent grasp of community problems.

To the credit of workers and employers alike, it must be said that both groups are willing, at all times, to confer on their working relations. This arbitration method has proven a distinct success in maintaining amicable, loyal and understanding contacts here.

Labor unions, whether affiliated with national organizations like the C.I.O. or the A.F. of L., or independent groups, are strong, substantial entities in Torrance and are directed by men who have been chosen for their qualities of leadership and ability to direct their fellow workers toward the security that results from harmonious working conditions.

"Open Shop" Prevails

Two of the largest working-man's groups here are the local lodge No. 1414 of the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee, a C.I.O. affiliate, and the independent and incorporated National Supply Workers' union.

In addition to those bodies, there is a large number of A.F. of L. union workers employed in other shops and firms here.

"Open shop" conditions prevail in all industries here.

S.W.O.C. Lodge Operates Under Renewed Contract

At no time since the formation of the local Steel Workers' Organizing Committee lodge No. 1414 here has there been any problem that could not be solved within its membership. This indicates that the C.I.O. organization has men in key positions who have the confidence of both workers and employers.

The local lodge is operating under the agreement which was signed Feb. 9, 1938, for the second time in as many years by B. F. Fairless, immediate past president of the United States Steel Corporation, and Phillip Murray, chairman of the S. W. O. C. This wages, hours and working conditions contract, which covers Columbia Steel company as a subsidiary of U. S. Steel, has been found equitable in every respect.

Carl D. Steele of 1320 Cota avenue was re-elected president of lodge No. 1414 June 26. The lodge now has between 700 and 800 members, the president states. Other officers are Quincy Phipps, vice-president; Linton Cosby, recording secretary; W. W. Smith, financial secretary; K. C. Beight, treasurer; Joe Cipres, guide, and Raymond Perez, guard.

Trustees are Harry Minor, Neil McConlogue and June Galyer. The grievance committee is composed of Fred Fleet for the sheet mill, McConlogue for the open hearth and J. Hanks for the rolling mill.

Yule Club Savings Plan Appeals Here

Torrance folk have found by many Yuletide experiences that savings in "Christmas clubs" maintained by the two local banks have proven "better than Santa Claus" by the time December appears on calendars. Last year such savings amounted to \$37,500 as more than 770 local residents collected on their year's earnings. The average check was in excess of \$50.



CITY ENGINEER . . . Leonard Young was named acting city engineer last April following the death of Frank R. Leonard.

Supply Men Organized

Organized and incorporated for the prime purpose of negotiating with the National Supply company regarding wages, hours and working conditions, the Employees' association of that industrial plant is one of the leading workers' groups in Torrance. According to a recent survey, nearly all of the hourly paid personnel are members of the Association, approximately 600.

Formed July 1, 1937, the workers' organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California a month later. Its present officers consist of Ralph L. Paddock, president; Chester H. Stowell, vice-president; Earl Smith, secretary, and William L. Dobrick, treasurer.

The association was recognized as the collective bargaining group for National Supply workers by the National Labor Relations Board following a plant election last year. Each department of the plant has its own representatives on the directorate of the association and the membership holds monthly meetings in the



COMMANDER . . . Charles F. Myers was recently installed as head of the Bert S. Crossland post, No. 170, American Legion. He was a wartime pilot.

American Legion hall.

A number of social affairs and entertainments in the Civic Auditorium have been held for National Supply workers under the direction of the association.

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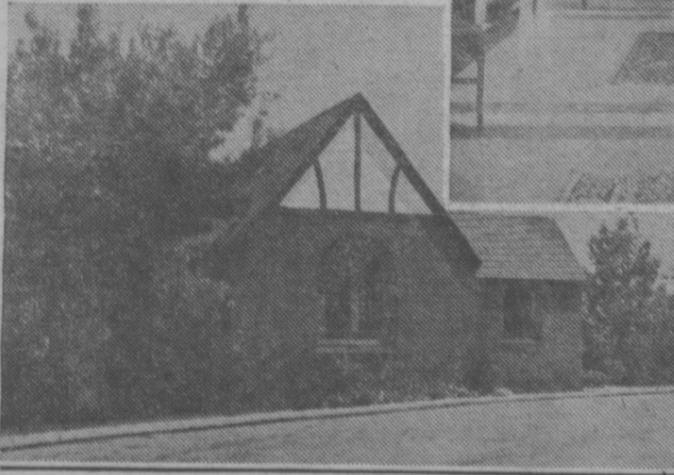
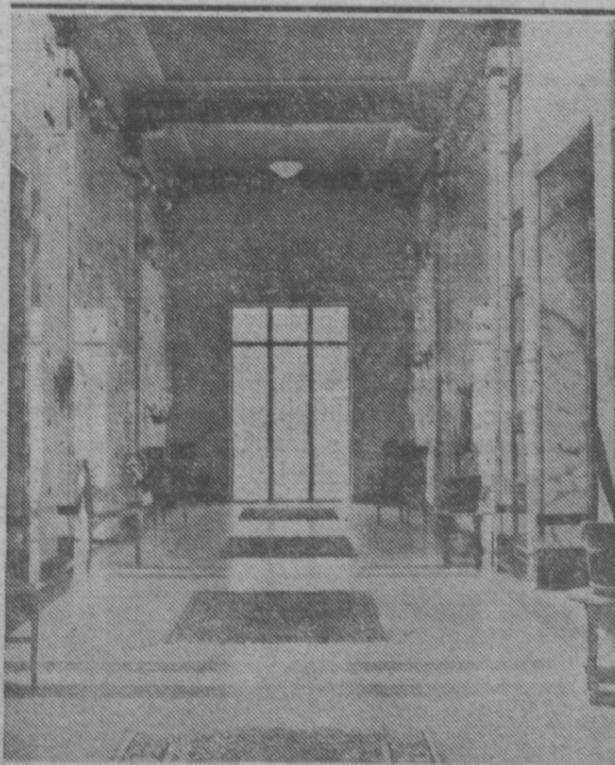


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