

TORRANCE RUBBER OUTPUT EQUALS THAT OF 225,000 ACRES, KIWANISANS TOLD

The Torrance Synthetic Rubber Project compares in rubber output to a natural rubber plantation of 225,000 acres with 30,000,000 Hevea trees and worked by 60,000,000 natives according to Warren Braley, production manager of the United States Rubber Company operated Co-Polymer unit. He made this dramatic comparison in describing the government's rubber program to Torrance Kiwanians Monday.

In contrast the natural rubber plantation, the local project comprises only 283 acres and is operated by less than 1400 technicians. The rubber executive further explained that the basic ingredients, butadiene and styrene, are derived from the natural resources of Southern California.

"With this close at hand supply of raw materials, California products manufacturers are placed in an advantageous competitive position," he said.

The rubber chemists are working on methods of partly compounding synthetic latex which will produce a semi-fabricated rubber, which will eliminate the necessity of expensive, time-consuming milling machinery, Braley told the group.

He explained that the rubber chemist needs only a year or two more and many of so-called disadvantages will be eliminated. Already they have accomplished so much in two years development of synthetic rubber that the question now is mainly a matter of getting enough men who will help produce the tires and other products.

He revealed that the U. S. Rubber Company's Torrance synthetic plant is now producing synthetic rubber in liquid form which is used in making latex girdles, lightweight communications wire, and other rubber products.

In tire factories cord fabric is dipped into a solution of the latex and acts as a bonding agent, giving greater strength to the material.

Braley pointed out several reasons why he was optimistic about the future of Torrance's synthetic rubber industry. Nowhere else in the world is the rubber industry self-sufficient as it is here, able to literally grow a tire from the ground up.

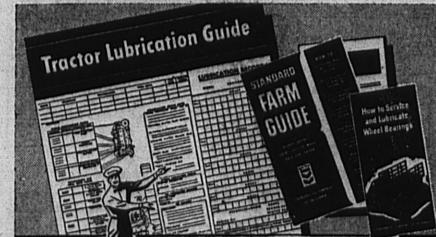
"But the most significant thing is the freedom the chemist finds in producing rubber from the test tube. He is not anymore dealing with a solid, unchangeable material. He can rearrange its characteristics to meet any condition.

"Consequently the rubber chemist is in a position where he feels nothing is impossible."

Excess Paper Use Results In Big Fine

Too many greeting cards spelled no joy for the firm of Buzza-Cardozo, of 3527 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, when they appeared in federal court today to answer War Production Board charges of exceeding their paper quota.

Judge Campbell Beaumont fined the greeting card manufacturers \$10,000 upon counts alleging that they had illegally used 77,245 pounds of paper beyond their authorized allotment.



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Torrance Men Commissioned Flight Officers

Ellington Field, Tex., Advanced Navigation school has just graduated its final class of aerial navigators, trained in the



JOHNNY MICANOVICH Recently Commissioned

latest methods of pathfinding in the skies of various combat theatres. Thousands of such AAF specialists have gone out from this station of the AAF



J. E. WEHRLI New Flight Officer

Training Command to distinguish themselves in aerial combat with the enemy. They include two Torrance officers: Flight Officer Johnny Micanovich, 24 son of Mrs. P. Micanovich, 215 W. Carson st., Torrance. In civilian life he was employed with the Douglas Aircraft Corp., Long Beach.

Flight Officer John R. Wehrli, 21 son of Mr. and Mrs. John Franklin Wehrli, 2355 Maricopa pl., Torrance. In civilian life he was employed with the National Supply Co., Torrance.

Ellington Field is now the only field of its kind in the Army Air Forces—the concentration and training point for returned-from-combat navigators. Here they are given graduate training and special instruction to broaden their usefulness to the Army Air Forces. The final class included a large number of rated bombardier student officers who took the course to give them dual proficiency in aerial operations.

Van Deventer And Clements Are Promoted

Two promotions of officers in the State Guard involving this district have been announced this week by Brig. Gen. Victor R. Hansen, the adjutant general. Lt. Col. R. W. Van Deventer, of Hermosa Beach, won his promotion from major, and was assigned to the staff of Col. John C. French, Southern California area commander for the State Guard. Colonel Van Deventer will be operations and training officer for the area, and formerly was instructor for the adjutant general's office in the 9th Tactical Command area of the guard. He has served on active duty in the State Guard almost since its inception, in the capacity of company commander and battalion commander, and later as instructor.

The other promotion is that of 2nd Lt. Bruce R. Clements, from grade of first sergeant in Co. H, 2nd Battalion, 39th Regiment, Torrance, and he has been assigned as platoon commander.

Other officers of the local company are: the commander, Capt. R. L. Lewellen, and the executive officer, 1st Lt. Tom Ramskill.

SPRING RODEO

The first stock yard spring rodeo will be held Sunday, April 8, at the Los Angeles Union stock yards.

Launching Of Torrance Hills Is Described

Beginning a fourth year of ship production at Marinship, the tanker "Torrance Hills" was launched Thursday, March 29, at Sausalito by Marinship Corporation. Sponsor was Mrs. Glen A. Reitzel of Larkspur, wife of a Marinship production superintendent.

The 523-foot super-modern tanker named for the oilfield glided into the water of San Francisco Bay at 12:30 p.m. in the presence of special guests from the City of Torrance. They were Mayor William H. Tolson; Reed Parkin, president, James L. Lynch, vice president, and Harry B. Lewis, executive secretary, Torrance Chamber of Commerce, and Mrs. Parkin. Matron of Honor was Mrs. Wayne Orr, whose husband is welding supervisor at the Marin County shipyard. Master of Cer-

emonies was A. G. McReynolds, welding and burning supervisor. Welcome was extended by R. W. Adams, employee relations manager. Launching narration was by Ed E. Becker, burning supervisor.

Rev. Robert G. Kay, of the First Congregational Church in San Rafael, offered the invocation. The flag was raised by boys of Cub Pack 3 of Larkspur-Corte Madera under direction of Hill Probert.

Setting the mood of the Easter season, the selection "I Know that My Redeemer Liveth," from Handel's "Messiah," was sung by Miss Virginia Wendering of Mill Valley, accompanied by Miss Marjorie Harris.

In conformance with Marinship custom of honoring key

production men, special tribute was paid to members of the welding and burning department. Husband of the sponsor is welding and burning superintendent in the ship construction division. Their home is at 2 Heather Way, Larkspur. With them as the sponsor smashed the bottle of champagne was their son, Gary Don, 9.

The sponsor's home was formerly in Nacogdoches, Texas, where she was Maureen E. Yates before her marriage.

Invitation was issued to Lewis C. Torrance, nephew of Jared Sidney Torrance, founder of the city named for him, to attend the launching, but he was in Salt Lake City and unable to come.



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