

SWPC Officers Ready for GI Property Sales

Local offices of the Smaller War Plants Corporation, a government agency, are in readiness today for the flood of inquiries anticipated with the announcement that veterans of World War I will be able to buy surplus property direct from the government to set themselves up or maintain themselves in business.

It is stated that they will buy through Smaller War Plants Corporation; get top priority; pay no more than government cost less depreciation; and may arrange for loans or payment terms.

"The plan works very simply," Regional Director Robert S. Fryer explains. "A veteran desiring to obtain surplus items for any commercial, industrial, manufacturing, financial, service, medical, dental or legal enterprise, with an invested capital not over \$50,000, should apply in this area to the SWPC offices, 1081 S. Broadway, Los Angeles. The SWPC then will exercise its purchase priority to buy from disposal agencies items sought by the veteran, up to \$2,500."

There are few restrictions to the procedure for purchase of surplus property by veterans according to Surplus Property Board's Regulation Number 7, which designates SWPC as liaison agency. No personal purchases can be made under this veterans preference, except for industry need.

The veterans must maintain the business as sole proprietor, or, if non-veterans are associated with him in business, they cannot have more than one-half interest.

Hedrick Named Sergeant At Florida Field

An additional stripe plus an \$18 boost in pay per month came to William E. Hedrick, husband of Mrs. Carolyn M. Hedrick, 2717 Carson st., Torrance, when he was recently promoted from corporal to the rank of sergeant at Avon Park, Fla., AAF bombing range.

A graduate of Torrance High school, Class of '35, Sergeant Hedrick was an inspector employed by the Columbia Steel Company, Torrance, prior to entering the service. He is now an armorer on B-17s at this field, and is attached to Squadron "0," 325th AAF Base Unit.



Lt. Penticost Gets 'I Bombed Japan' Card

Second Lieut. M. C. Penticost, whose wife resides at 2317 Maricopa st., Torrance, recently has been issued a membership card in the "I Bombed Japan Club," an organization composed of Eleventh Air Force combat personnel who have bombed Japanese positions in their home territory in the Kurile Island chain.

Lieutenant Penticost, a pilot, obtained membership in the enviable club by virtue of participation in raids over Paramushiro, Japan, target of a recently stepped-up aerial drive against the Kuriles from the Aleutians. Members of the "I Bombed Japan Club" from the Aleutian Theatre have good reason to be proud of their membership as they become eligible by bombing the Kuriles in one of the most hazardous missions of any combat zone, due to the long flight over water so cold life can be sustained only a short time if forced down.

The "I Bombed Japan Club" was originally formed following the first Eleventh Air Force mission over Paramushiro and Shimushu islands, in the Kurile group, July 10, 1943, the first time Japanese home islands were bombed since the famous Tokyo raid of General Doolittle's airmen on April 18, 1942.

Lieut. Penticost has served with the Eleventh Air Force in the Aleutians for three months. He has received awards including the Asiatic-Pacific ribbon with the Kurile Bronze Star. Joining the Army Air Forces at Chicago, Ill., on July 17, 1942, he graduated from Army Air Forces schools including the Advanced Flight School at Mather Field, Calif.

Farm Expert Joins OPA District Staff

Milton R. Howard, formerly of the OPA regional office in San Francisco, this week joined the staff of the Los Angeles district office, where he will act as assistant agricultural relations adviser.

Working out of the Los Angeles office, Howard will consult with and advise OPA district directors in Los Angeles, San Diego and Phoenix. Farmers and farm groups who have problems concerning pricing or any other phase of OPA regulations should seek the advice of Howard, OPA District Director Frank S. Balthis, Jr., said.

CIO Will Seek Unicameral Legislature

The CIO probably will spearhead a movement to create a one-house legislature in California.

The CIO objection to the present legislative structure is that it is dominated by the rural counties.

Under the present set-up, one senator representing three counties represents only 25,000 people, whereas the one senator representing Los Angeles County represents 2,500,000 people.

About one-half of the state's population is in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Alameda counties.

Senator John F. Shelley, of San Francisco, described the last session of the legislature as "the loudest the state has had for a long time."

Postmaster at Jefferson Day Dinner in L.A. Postmaster C. Earl Conner was among the scores of Southern California Democratic leaders in attendance at the delayed Jefferson Day Dinner in Hotel Billmore, Monday night.

He said that the group was sorry that Postmaster General Bob Hannegan was not present. Governor Kerr of Oklahoma made an interesting talk, and the group met as postmaster for the first time at such a gathering of the new Los Angeles postmaster, Mike Fanning, former Democratic County Central Committee chairman.

Steel Industry Ready for Nation's Reconversion With War-born Aids

Steels representing at least ten years of technological advancement, encompassed under the pressure of four war years, will be ready to flow from the furnaces of the United States Steel Corporation subsidiaries as soon as the go-ahead signal is given for civilian goods production, according to corporation officials.

Even though some of them answer to prewar specification names, these steels have been vastly improved in quality and performance.

Until victory over Japan, the amount of steel available for civilian use will be dependent upon military requirements. "As long as the task may require," Irving S. Olds, chairman of the board of directors, says, "U. S. Steel's resources are pledged to make their maximum contribution toward the defeat of the enemies of the United States."

As soon as the signal is given—that very moment, in fact, since the steel industry has no extensive reconversion problem—this improved steel quality will become evident in thousands of new and older applications in the heavy industries, in better manufacturing tools, more durable consumer goods from the automobile to the tin can, in wider use for residential and other building construction, down to the last screwdriver, garden spade and lawnmower.

The trend from a bewildering number of grades of alloy steels speeded by the critical shortage of strategic materials. The so-called National Emergency steels were designed to make the most effective use of available alloying agents. Tested for strength and toughness of performance from the jungles of the Pacific to the beachheads of Normandy, they are ready for peacetime applications.

Many alloy steels formerly made in limited quantities in an electric furnace can now be made in huge open hearth heats, the steel buyer benefiting from lower cost for quantity production of a quality material. He will also find available the so-called "intensified" steels, whose hardenability has been greatly enhanced by the addition of some form of boron to the molten mass.

From armor plate to bayonets, the producers and fabricators of steel have explored the field of heat treatment. Precise procedures and properly regulated cycles have been devised. U. S. Steel's research laboratories' heat treating findings have now been collected and published in an "Atlas of Isothermal Transformation Diagrams."

For some time before the war the railroads had been using stainless steel very successfully for passenger trains. The war extended the use of this corrosion-resisting material to the weather of high altitudes. These experiments have shown the way to new applications of stainless steel for trucks, trailers and other purposes, promising lighter weight as well as high strength, with resistance to atmospheric corrosion thrown in.

When Japanese advances cut off the main sources of tin, available supplies were stretched by the use of a process long studied by U. S. Steel and others for plating tin electrically, called the electrolytic process. This new process saves 60 per cent of the tin formerly used and will be a boon to the canning industry.

The speedy deposition of a thin phosphate film on sheet or strip steel has found many uses in wartime and will continue to serve requirements in the post-war years. Other coatings have been developed by the Corporation's experimenters at American Steel & Wire Company for strip and wire. New pickling processes have been developed, and the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co., a U. S. Steel subsidiary, has worked out a novel and advantageous adaptation of the continuous pickling method.

In the manufacture of cartridge cases the steel industry learned new points in the deep drawing of steel. Welding of steel plates, accelerated by wartime shipbuilding, has become a common tool of fabrication. New advances have been made in forging and casting steel.

A direct contribution from war to the comforts of peace is the steel developed for military springs. Rugged enough for jeep or tank, yet capable of finer applications, this material will be extremely useful to industry. A new "super-charger" steel, adapted to high temperatures encountered in the exhaust systems of airplanes, may be used for gas turbine blading, contributing to the development of a new prime mover for the world's transportation.

Add to these fresh wartime developments special steels for landing mats which may be used to minimize soil erosion in the future, abrasion-resisting grips for conveyor belts, a special galvanized sheet steel for air-conditioning ducts, better enameling stock for signs and construction, as well as for household goods.

VACATION ENDS Mrs. Ann Smith of 1451 El Prado, returned this week from a ten weeks visit at her former home, Independence, Kans. She was accompanied home by Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Perkins of Independence, who will be her guests.

Lomita Captain Sentenced for Embezzling \$2000

Capt. Edward Crabtree, a veteran skipper of merchant vessels, has been found guilty of embezzling \$2000 in war shipping administration funds, according to reports from Portland, Ore. He was sentenced to four years imprisonment.

The skipper was arrested last December by federal officers at his Lomita home a few days after he left his tanker, the Mojave, at Portland, following a fire aboard the ship. He denied taking the money saying it disappeared during the fire.

L.A. City Head In Long Beach Hospital

George H. Moore, newly elected president of the Los Angeles city council, is a patient in the Seaside Memorial hospital, Long Beach, suffering from a throat ailment.

For some time, Moore's speeches in the city council have been marked by obvious physical effort.

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