

Start Soon New Torrance Steel Company Plans Told

Detroit Firm to Erect \$3.5 Million Facility

Disclosure that construction would start here soon on a new 3½ million-dollar steel fabricating plant was made yesterday by officials of the R. C. Mahon Co. of Detroit. The new plant will occupy a 30-acre site west of Crenshaw Blvd. between Monterey St. and Sepulveda Blvd., the announcement said.

Walter F. Sheetz, president of the Mahon Co., said in the announcement that the new facility will have a two-story office building, an engineering unit, and 200,000 square feet of manufacturing space. About 350 persons will be employed initially in the production of riveted and welded steel fabrications, building products, and industrial equipment, the official said.

IN CONJUNCTION with the move here, the Mahon Co. has purchased three local affiliated firms, it was learned.

The Walter G. Mitchell Industries, Mitchell Steel, Inc., and Mitchell Properties, Inc., were acquired through an exchange of stocks.

Walter G. Mitchell, who formed the companies here in 1947, will head the local Mahon division. Until the new facilities are completed, activities of the new concern will be carried on at the Mitchell firms' location at 2303 Jefferson St., which is east of Crenshaw Blvd. and south of the extension of Monterey St.

THE MAHON Co. was represented before the city recently by Mitchell when the company was checking zoning requirements of the property. The company was not identified publicly at that time.



JOE WILCOX
Heads Work Session

Local Y Manager Honored

Joe Wilcox Jr., executive secretary of the Torrance YMCA, departs tomorrow to serve as chairman of the 1959 YMCA Secretaries Youth Work Conference in Yosemite National Park.

Wilcox has served as chairman for this major training event for the past two years. The annual conference serves all professional YMCA Secretaries from five western states as well as Hawaii.

Accompanying Wilcox will be Douglas Cannon, program secretary for the Torrance YMCA; Mrs. Wilcox, serving as chairman of the YMCA wives sessions; and Norman Bostick, Torrance High School student, who will attend trainee sessions at the conference.

THE THEME for the 1959 YMCA conference is "Building YMCA Programs to Meet YMCA Goals." Numerous discussions, speeches, and skill practice sessions will aid professional YMCA staff members to achieve their goals through local program innovations.

Because of the role of Chairman Wilcox, the Torrance YMCA has often served as a proving ground for new program ideas, far in advance of general use by other YMCAs. Examples of this local advantage include the adventure clubs; caravans for older boys and girls; father and son club programs; religious emphasis in Y-Indian Guide Tribes; personal counseling on backpack hikes; and mother and daughter Y-Indian Maiden groups. The local delegation will return April 11.

POKER DEN BLAMED IN BAD CHECK CASE

Lost \$6000, Man Claims

A Southwood meat cutter who claimed he lost heavily in the Gardena poker dens recently will face preliminary hearing April 6 on eight counts of writing bad checks to cover his losses.

Robert E. Sapp, 32, of 4623 Merrill St., was ordered held on \$1000 bail at his arraignment this week. He reportedly told Det. Sgt. Mickey Fischer that he had lost more than \$6000 in the Gardena parlors during the past six months.

A Hollywood Riviera draftsman who is charged with passing worthless checks within a week after he was out on probation for a similar offense was arrested on six counts and will face preliminary hearing here April 13. He was released on \$1500 bail.

Sergeant Fischer said James L. Abell, 28, of 256 Via Buena Ventura, was put on probation last January for passing worthless checks.



GEORGE BRADBEER
... To Aid Chest

Bradbeer New Info Chairman

Formation of a public information committee and appointment of George Bradbeer, harbor area civic leader, as its chairman, was announced today by Glenn Koger, chairman of the Welfare Federation area board.

"Responsibilities of the new committee," Koger said, "will include creation of a closer contact between the eight harbor area communities and Community Chest as a means of meeting community problems and individual needs."

Well known throughout the area for his many years of civic and welfare leadership, Bradbeer is former chairman of the Welfare Federation area board and was recently re-elected to another term as director. He is San Pedro representative on the Los Angeles Area Welfare Federation board of governors, former member of its board of directors.

His volunteer campaign service includes former San Pedro city chairman and area vice chairman.

He has served his city also as past president of the Chamber of Commerce and San Pedro Lions Club.

Bradbeer is San Pedro District manager for Pacific Telephone Company, and a resident of Rolling Hills.

Symphony Gets \$1000

The Beach Cities Symphony Assn., Inc. will receive \$1000 from the County of Los Angeles, Supervisor Burton W. Chace announced.

The appropriation was made from a special county fund designed to assist local symphony orchestras in the presentation of concerts in the various communities of the county.

Chace said that the Beach Cities Symphony Assn., Inc. recently was granted membership in the Symphony League of Los Angeles County, thus making it eligible for county financial support.

A Penny for your Thoughts

"Do you feel the Catholic and Protestant Churches could ever unite as a single Christian Church?"

That was the question the HERALD's inquiring photographer asked several persons in Torrance this week. Their answers and pictures appear below:

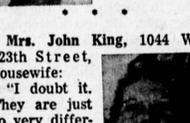
Frances Sterner, 1508 Crenshaw, nurse:

"Absolutely not. The two themes of life are so completely different that it would be impossible. In addition, the Protestant churches would not be able to accept the setup under a pope."



Carl Chase, 1560 204th St., die-caster:

"I don't think so, because there are too many areas of difference between the two churches."



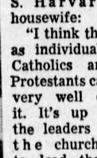
Mrs. John King, 1044 W. 223th Street, housewife:

"I doubt it. They are just so very different that I do not see where they could find enough in common to serve as a basis for uniting."



Mrs. Stanley Wright, 20818 S. Harvard, housewife:

"I think that as individuals, Catholics and Protestants can very well do it. It's up to the leaders of the churches to lead them in such a direction. People are basically friendly."



John Price, 414 E. 187th St., Gardena, receiving clerk:

"I do not believe they could. There's too much variance in their beliefs to ever be able to come together on it."



Educator To Speak On Soviet

A report on "Russian Education" by Santa Monica's superintendent of schools tomorrow will kick off a forum series on "Russian Influence — Today and Tomorrow."

Dr. Glen T. Goodwill, who was one of 71 U.S. educators to visit Russia last year at the invitation of the Dept. of Education, will talk at 7:30 p.m. in the Torrance High School auditorium. The series of free public lectures is sponsored by the Torrance Evening High School.

Dr. Goodwill appeared last fall at a Torrance Educational Advisory Committee meeting, where he described his observations of Russian Schools. He has travelled to many parts of the world.

In succeeding lectures, Paul and Marian Miller will discuss, "We Were Communists for the F.B.I." on April 13; Robert William Lyon will talk on "Both Sides of the Iron Curtain in Europe" on April 20; and Dr. Stanley R. Townsend will look at "Germany, the Critical Country" on April 27.

FENCES SAG

Residents Flay 'Sunken' Alley

Seventeen Harbor City homes fronting on 249th Street, between Western and President, are slowly losing their back walls and fences as a result of excavations for a back alley directly adjacent to their rear lots.

Protesting residents were informed this week by Los Angeles city authorities that inasmuch as the legality of the alley under construction was in order, responsibility for resultant damage would fall on the shoulders of the property owners.

ACCORDING to city officials, the area in question had been dedicated to eventually become an alley prior to construction of the homes on 249th Street. In the four or five years since the homes have been occupied, most of the owners have erected fences or walls along the rear of their property to screen off unsightly undeveloped lots.

When a would-be developer decided to build apartments on the vacant lots recently, he was reminded by the Los Angeles city engineer's office that an access alley would have to be provided. Shortly after the builder went into bankruptcy a bonding company took over.

The Griffiths Paving Co. was engaged by the bonding company to grade and pave the alley—which is three feet deep in several spots—at a cost of \$40,000.

AFTER digging operations resulted in wobbling fences and slipping rock walls, one of the residents, Mrs. Richard Grooms of 1510 W. 249th St., complained to the city of Los Angeles.

She was informed that the excavating was perfectly legal properties.

The city of Los Angeles will require a foot-high rock and oil berm along the edge of the alley to keep eroded dirt from under the fences and walls from spilling into the drainage alley, it was learned by the HERALD.

Three alternatives face the owners of the affected homes, a spokesman revealed. They can get legal opinion as to liability for the cut; and can then file against the subdivider. Or they can file a claim against the city. Or they can make a deal with the Griffiths Co. to put in the necessary improvements to stop further undermining and resultant erosion, and then sue whoever is liable.

Meanwhile the fences keep slipping.



ERODED EARTH THREATENS WALL... Pictured inside the rock wall boundary on the rear of her 249th Street home is Mrs. Richard Grooms of Harbor City, who recently registered complaints when a paving company began digging a three-foot alley directly adjacent to her property, undermining the foundations of her wall and those of 16 neighboring families.

Blood Van At College

Students and employees of El Camino College will climax their annual drive for blood on campus tomorrow, when the Red Cross Bloodmobile parks at the men's gymnasium from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Goal for the collection is 250 pints. Miss Terry Amaya, spokesman for the campaign committee, announced.

Blood received will go into the El Camino College blood bank, from which all members of the Associated Student Body and employees are able

to draw without charge. Working with Miss Amaya on the blood drive campaign are Sidney Bingham, faculty representative, and students Neal Jardine and Martin Steffire.

Blood banks similar to that of the college have been established by approximately 5,000 organizations in Los Angeles and Orange counties. El Camino has been a member of the blood insurance amount plan since its inception in 1948.



HEADS LIST... Margie Thompson, 23, was greeted this week as the first entrant in the Torrance selection of a "Miss America" candidate. Judging in the Miss Torrance contest will be held at the Torrance Civic Auditorium May 6 and the winner will be entered in the Miss California Contest.

Driver Rescued

Teenagers Crash Truck on Airport

Three teenagers escaped possible death or serious injury early Thursday when a tank truck loaded with 2000 gallons of high-octane aviation gasoline overturned with them on a taxiway at the Torrance Municipal Airport.

Firemen rescued the driver, James McClure, 15, of 1629 Cota Ave., from the cab of the truck at a time when a single spark could have turned the entire scene into an inferno.

McClure had been pinned in the cab and suffered head injuries. He was taken to Harbor General Hospital after being taken from the truck. Escaping with minor cuts were Pete Brandon, 17, of 5605 Calle Arboles, and Preston Griff, 17, of 415 Camino del Campo, who were riding with McClure in the early morning escapade.

THE VEHICLE had been taken from the nearby Vegas Airways Co., investigating officers reported. McClure was identified as a part-time employee of the firm, but was not authorized to drive the fuel truck.

Reserve Police man Cecil "Zeke" Alter and off-duty California Highway Patrol officer, Paul Poffenberger, witnessed the accident. Alter reported that the boys had been denied admission at the main entrance to the airport earlier.

The truck was being driven along one of the taxiways when it missed a sharp turn. The truck overturned, rolled over once, and came to rest on its left side, with the high-test gasoline spilling around the vehicle.

Officers said it was a miracle that the fuel did not ignite.

Kindergarteners Start Registering

Kindergarten round-ups for children who will enter Torrance schools for the first time next fall are scheduled this week and next at five schools — Arlington, Flavian, Hillside, Seaside, and Sepulveda.

Children who will be five years old on or before Dec. 1, 1959, are eligible to enter local kindergarten next fall.

Plomert With GP 35 Years

R. I. Plomert Jr., manager of General Petroleum Corporation's property tax department, marks 35 years of service with the company this month.

Plomert joined General Petroleum in 1924 as a draftsman and subsequently advanced to scout, right-of-way man, assistant tax agent, assistant manager of the tax department, and manager of the tax department. He was appointed to his present position as manager of the property tax department in 1947.

He is past president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, and currently is president, advisory board of Torrance's Little Company of Mary Hospital. He also is a member of the Torrance Industries Tax Committee and the Torrance Rotary Club.

HE IS a member of the Petroleum Shrine Club, Los Angeles; Scottish Rite Choir; Al Malalakah Shrine Temple Hosts; Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce; Tax Executives Institute, Inc.; Petroleum Club, and is a past president and charter member of the American Right of Way Assn., Chapter 1, Los Angeles.

He is also chairman of property tax committee of Western Oil and Gas Assn.; a member of the tax committees of the California Manufacturers Assn. and the California State Chamber; associate member of the Washington State Assessors Assn. and the Colorado Assessors Assn. (Continued on Page 7)