The Torrance Herald

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KNUDSEN DIESEL MANAGER HERE TO START PLANT

With the arrival of Ivar Knudsen, representing the inventors and Danish makers of the Diesel engine, negotiations have been commenced for the immediate installation of machinery for the manufacturing of thefamous Diesel motor in the plant of the Union Tool company.

Mr. Knudsen is general manager of Burmeister and Wain, the Copenhagen machine and shipbuilding firm which makes Diesel motor ships and which built the smokless ship, Siam, that visited Los Angeles harbor about a month ago. He is also a director of the Atlas Mercantile company of London, the great shipping house which controls the foreign rights for the marine motor.

The president of the Atlas company, Lord Perry, is one of the greatest figures in the shipping industry, being also president of the ship concern of Harland and Wolf of Belfast, Ireland, and is heavily interested in the White Star line, the Cunard line, the Red Star line, and the Peninsular and Oriental. Mr. Knudsen on his visit here is acting in the double capacity of general manager for Burmeister and Wain and director of the Atlas.

The Danish capitalist spent yesterday with Edward Double of the Union Tool company. Most of the day was consumed by Mr. Knudsen in visiting the Union Tool company's plant at Torrance with Mr. Double. Mr. Knudsen expressed himself as greatly impressed with the size of the Union Tool company plant. He was enthusiastic as regards the future of the Diesel engine in California and on the Pacific coast.

"The business of building Diesel engines and operating ships equipped with them has a great future before it on this coast," he declared. "For all sorts of freight as now carried on, and for passenger service where excessive speed is not required, the ship propelled by petroleum is more economical and is in many ways more satisfactory than the vessel driven by steam. Naturally, it is of the utmost importance to the Diesel motor boat that its feul supply should be within reach, and the countries where oil is abundant and easy to get at, as in California, will therefore find its use especially advantageous."

DEMOCRATS LEAD IN REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

The Democratic party is in the lead in the registration figures of Torrance to date, the Republicans following and the Progressives third. The total registration up to Tuesday evening was 77 voters, as follows: Democrats, 25; Republicans, 22; Progressives, 18; Socialists, 5; Prohibitionists, 4, and not stating their preference, 3.

NURSERY SUCCESSFUL

Edward D. Byrnes is meeting with such great success in the nursery business that he has found it necessary to enlarge his nursery. On Tuesday he had doubled its size and is now prepared to supply your needs in this line.

LOS ANGELES CAPITALIST FIGURING ON APARTMENTS

C. F. Coulter, a capitalist of Los Angeles, was in the city Sunday looking up the apartment house situation. He is figuring on a building to contain forty rooms with two and three-room suites to rent for about $15 per month.

There is urgent need for modern apartments in Torrance and an apartment house is one of the safest and most profitable investments.

JUDGE POST PRINCIPAL SPEAKER NEBRASKA PICNIC

Judge G. W. Post, attended the York county, Nebraska picnic at Whittier on Saturday. Over 500 Nebraskans were present and Judge Post was one of the principal speakers at the meeting.

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION PLANS BASEBALL TEAM

The Torrance Athletic Association held their regular semi-monthly meeting Thursday evening. The boys are planning on getting up a first class baseball team and have placed Messrs. Fred Foltz and Sam Rappaport on this committee.

ANNUAL DANCE BY DASHING FIRE LADDIES

The members of the Torrance Volunteer Fire Department met Tuesday evening and completed arrangements for their second annual ball, which will be given Saturday evening, February 21, in Campbell's Hall. Music will be provided by the famous Schoneman-Blanchard orchestra. Admission, 50 cents. The floor is fine, the people will be congenial—bring your friends and enjoy a most pleasant evening.

OXWELL MANUFACTURING CO SEEKING SITE HERE

Mr. C. G. Nyquist, manager of the Oxwell Manufacturing company of Oakland, visited Mr. William Hoagland last week. Mr. Nyquist was looking over Torrance with a view of locating a plant here for the manufacturing of gas used extensively for welding.

INCORPORATION

A meeting was held last Saturday evening at the office of the Torrance Realty Co. to discuss the matter of incorporation of Torrance. One of the reasons advanced for taking this step in the near future is to avoid having to go the two miles, at the fall election, to Lomita to vote. Many other benefits and advantages are also claimed for incorporation and further meetings will be held to find out the wishes of Torrance residents in the matter.

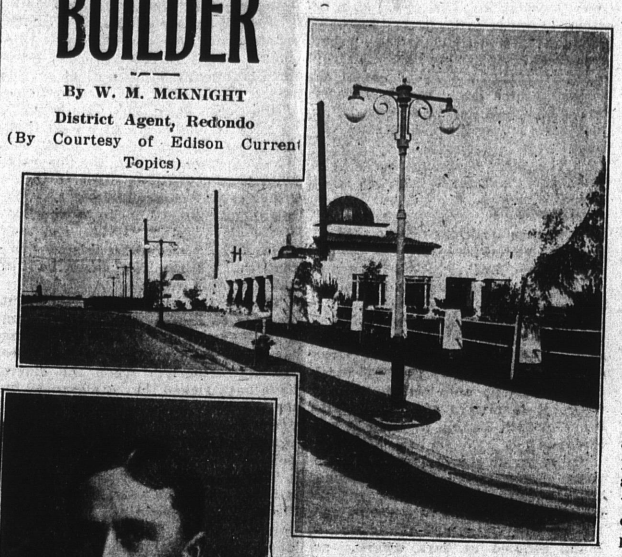
OREGON MEN SEEKING INDUSTRIAL LOCATION

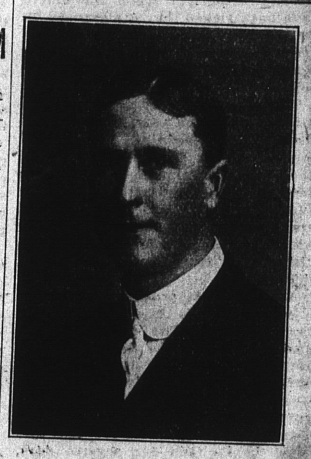
Messrs. Parks and Markley of Salem, Ore., were in Torrance Tuesday looking over the new industrial city with a view of finding some profitable manufacturing business to establish here. They had visited a number of Southern California towns and stated that Torrance was by far the best they had seen in the Southland.

Rev. and Mrs. Choate and family of Oxnard are now residents of our city. Rev. Choate has accepted the call as minister for the Presbyterian church of Torrance and will preach every Sunday morning at the Mission.

ELECTRICITY A CITY BUILDER

By W. M. McKNIGHT
District Agent, Redondo
(By Courtesy of Edison Current Topics)





W. M. McKNIGHT

This is the story of how electricity became a wonderful force in putting a new city on the map of Southern California. Torrance is the name of the town and the part which electricity played in its record breaking strides to a place of importance is worthy of consideration in the annals of our industry. Nowhere in the civilized world is there a locality that lends itself to its own advancement so admirably as does Southern California. Every community shows evidence of special effort that has wrought added comfort, special advantages, or increased earning power to its citizens. Knowledge gained elsewhere and applied here under ideal conditions places us in an enviable position. We are constantly endeavoring to provide for our ever-increasing population the best that exists.

The phenomenal growth of Los Angeles and vicinity has caused almost every commercial institution to face its own expansion and to meet the ever-present call for more room. Some two or three years ago several of the larger concerns were endeavoring to secure more ground space to enlarge their shops, and one corporation in particular found that land adjoining its plant was valued at $100,000.00 per acre. This was located several blocks from the business center of Los Angeles. Another large manufacturing institution awakened to the realization that no land adjoining its property could be purchased for less than $75,000.00 per acre. This is the problem facing every manufacturing plant in the close-in section of the city today.

High valuation necessarily means heavy taxation. High valuation and high taxation means high rents and high cost of living for employes and no opportunity for a laborer to ever hope to own a home, an ambition dear to the heart of all good citizens. Most good laborers are good citizens and good citizens are good employes.

Only a few years ago Los Angeles was surrounded by large ranches, many of them containing thousands of acres, and only within the past ten years have these large holdings been purchased from the original owners and cut up into townsites and acre farms. Of late the eyes of the commercial world have been directed here in anticipation of the volume of trade that will center in Los Angeles and vicinity through the opening of the Panama Canal, and we are constantly in communication with eastern industrial agents seeking locations in our midst, but the heart of Los Angeles is not ideal for them.

The city and the United States government are spending millions of dollars in the development of Los Angeles harbor at San Pedro, and naturally the commercial world looks to the Southwest of the city for the establishments of industrial districts accessible to the harbor and the railroads, with the end in view of sending their merchandise to the four quarters of the globe.

Among the great holdings in Los Angeles county is the Dominguez ranch, consisting of some 27,000 acres, lying between Long Beach and Wilmington on the south and east and Redondo Beach on the west, a vast sketch of land only a few feet above sea level, cut in several parcels by the Southern Pacific and Salt Lake railroads, by the Pacific Electric railway, and by the Long Beach boulevard and the Harbor boulevard extending from Los Angeles to the sea and by numerous county roads.

Crossing and re-crossing this great ranch are the spidery lines of the telegraph and telephone and power transmission line of the Pacific Light and Power Corporation and the Southern California Edison Company. The Pacific Light and Power Corporation is transmitting some 50,000 horse-power of energy, via the Dominguez ranch, to operate the street railways in Los Angeles.

The Southern California Edison Company is sending its energy from its Long Beach steam plant east through the Dominguez ranch on its great steel towers at a pressure of 65,000 volts to Los Angeles, and on as far as Redlands and Riverside, and is sending energy north to Redondo Beach, and via Inglewood to Los Angeles and Santa Monica at a pressure of 33,000 volts, to be used for light and power.

Some four and one-half miles north of San Pedro and one and one-half miles west of the Harbor boulevard lies a tract of land within the boundaries of the Dominguez ranch. Right here was the ideal location picked by the Pacific Electric Railway Company, nearly two years ago, to locate its immense new shops, which will cost nearly $750,000.00.

Simultaneously, but indepently, the Union Tool Company chose a plot of ground adjacent to that secured by the Pacific Electric Railway Company. Jointly these two great corporations importuned the owners of the Dominguez ranch to provide suitable accommodations for the hundreds of employes and their families. The opportunity to create a ready-made model city and the advantages to be gained by making ample provisions for expansion, and the comforts and needs of the residents appealed to them.

The first step in such an enterprise consisted in securing the highest talent procurable. Mr. H. H. Sinclair was approached and he consented to assume the tremendous responsibility. Mr. Sinclair's talents for such an undertaking is of the highest order and he has demonstrated previously his remarkable ability as an organizer and executive. He very capably selected an efficient corps of assistants; among others being Ralph Bennett, an engineer of marked ability, who had been associated with Mr. Sinclair in other enterprises, and who evolved a "City Beautiful" as well as a "City Useful;" a monument to his ability and delight to all who take the trouble to visit it.

The City Beautiful is called "Torrance," "The Industrial City," in honor to its founder and past owner of the tract.

The prevailing winds along the Pacific coast at this point are from the west, and for that reason factory sites were located to the east of the residence section, and, coupled with this, was the fact that to the west the land lay a trifle higher and afforded an opportunity for proper drainage. The preliminary work consisted in installing a complete sewer system, water system, gas piping and electric and telephone underground conduits. Streets were then brought to grade and curbed; cement sidewalks laid, storm drains put in and the roads macadamized with a rock and oil surface, conforming to the Los Angeles County Good Roads specifications, in the outlying territory and in the factory district, and asphalt concrete in the business section and where the better class of homes were to be built. Alleys were laid out in every block and all sewers, gas pipes, water pipes, telephone and electric light and power pole lines were located. All of the installations are of the highest type, designed to give perfect service and ample capacity to supply an ever-increasing population for years to come.

At the inception of the enterprise negotiations were entered into with the Southern California Edison Company to provide the necessary electrical supply that, I will show below, enters so largely into every phase of the city's organization. The situation took weeks of full consideration by the Southern California Edison Company's corps of engineers and company's managing board, and plans were adopted and carried out that assure the best and most flexible system and an uninterrupted service.

One-half mile east of the factory sites at the townsite limits the Southern California Edison Company's 33,000- and 10,000-volt transmission lines paralleled the property, and at this point the company located a sub-station. At this point the 33,000-volt line is looped into the substation and can be fed from the south from the great Long Beach steam plant, having an ultimate capacity of 100,000 horsepower, or from the north, via Inglewood, from the Kern river or Santa Ana river hydraulic plants and the Los Angeles steam plant.

A 10,000-volt line also paralleling the 33,000-volt line feeding from the Long Beach steam plant direct from the 10,000-volt, 15,000 K. V. A. generators. The 33,000, three-phase line is stepped down to 10,000 and 2200 volts. One 10,000-volt, three-phase the power and two 2200-volt, three-phase lines supply the domestic and street lighting.

Within a year from the time the ground was broken for the Union Tool Company's main building, 800 feet long and 200 feet wide, with four wings 200 feet long and 100 feet wide, the Southern California Edison Company started the construction of its distributing system. As soon as the 10,000-volt line was constructed the Union Tool Company installed a temporary twenty-horsepower motor belted to a line shaft used to drive wood-working machinery used in further construction work on its buildings. This was shortly followed by the installation of a fifty-horsepower motor in the Pacific Metal Products Company's plant, where was immediately commenced the manufacture of conveyor chains and steel seamless galvanized oil drums. As fast as machinery and tools arrived, motors were added to the lines, and in a few weeks the Pacific Metal Products Company was using approximately 150 horsepower and working twenty-two hours a day, and have been working at full capacity from the time the first wheel was turned to date.

The Union Tool Company pushed their buildings to completion and rapidly removed their tools and machinery from their Los Angeles plant to Torrance and installed added capacity until at present their plant has about 1300 horsepower in motors, including a 440-volt A. C. to 500-volt D. C., 150 horsepower motor generator set, supplying a number of electric cranes, some of them using great magnets to pick up the billets of steel and iron.

The Southern California Edison Company has installed a sub-station on the Union Tool Company's property with a present capacity of 600 kilowatt in 100 kilowatt natural cooled transformers, but now the company is about ready to install three 350 K. V. A. water cooled transformers to provide ample capacity.

The city of Torrance receives its water supply from the Dominguez ranch wells, located near Compton, through a thirty-inch, riveted pipe line to a reservoir on an elevation west of the town. Near this reservoir site the Southern California Edison Company supplies power at a pressure of 220 volts to a twenty horsepower, three-phase motor, to be used to boost the water pressure for fire use. Before the Union Tool Company and the Pacific Metal Products Companies were in full operation, contracts were signed with the Torrance Pearl Button Manufacturing Company. This company secures its raw material in the form of sea shells from many sources, as far away as Norway and the South Sea Islands, China and along the Pacific coast and its product is of a high grade. They are using about twenty-six horsepower in small motors.

The building of a city calls for a lumber yard and building supplies, and these are furnished by the Southern California Lime and Cement Company. Here again the Southern California Edison Company supplies power to operate a small planing mill. The Fuller Shoe Company installed a complete shoe manufacturing plant which has been succeeded by the California Shoe Company, previously operating for a number of years at Venice. This plant uses Southern California Edison power by means of many small motors aggregating thirty-nine horsepower.

The Hendrie Rubber Manufacturing Company installed a plant in which they promised to manufacture automobile tires specially adapted to Southern California climate and oiled roads, and their promises are being fulfilled and shown by the fact that their plant was designed to turn out 3000 tires per annum. Their orders reached their annual capacity limit in the first sixty days, and plans are already under way to double the size of their buildings and more than double the output. Their electric equipment is about 300 horsepower in motors, one of which is a 150 horsepower motor, operating a great calender machine taking the raw rubber and rolling it out in thin sheets ready to lay on the tire moulds. One of the novel features of their plant is an electric clutch which obviates the necessity of using a cumbersome, expensive and often unsatisfactory friction clutch operated by hand. To release or engage this machine it is only necessary for the operator to touch a small push button.

The Dominguez Land Corporation erected some 200 small, modern cottages and bungalows of varied and pleasing designs, and fully equipped them with all the modern conveniences and made them most attractive. Natural gas is supplied; piped from the Bakersfield oil fields and distributed at very reasonable rates. Every house is connected to a most elaborate sewer system, emptying into a well designed septic tank located east of the town. From the tank is pumped the clarified water by an automatic, seven and one-half horsepower electric pump and used for irrigation.

Every house is wired for electricity and every tenant is using an electric iron, and many are using numerous other electric appliances. All supplied by the Southern California Edison Company at low rates.

The streets are amply illuminated at night by means of tungsten incandescent lamps, installed in two light electroliers very gracefully designed and fed from underground conduits, through which the Southern California Edison Company supplies the energy. All the business blocks in the business center are of substantial construction, either brick or concrete, are sanitary and well designed, and are three stories in height.

The Pacific Electric Railway Company has built a branch line off their main line between Gardena and San Pedro, well ballasted and providing ample industrial trackage. All of the train movements, of course, being done with electric trolley cars and locomotives. This line will be extended in the near future to Redondo Beach, giving shiping facilities direct to that deep water port, as well as to San Pedro. The Pacific Electric houses its local agent in a most attractive mission style building, in keeping with the surroundings. Parks are located about the city, and a forest of young trees and foliage has been planted throughout the town on every street. The Llewellyn Iron Works has already broken ground for an immense plant much larger than their present plant in Los Angeles. The Moore Truck Company has erected a new factory building of ample dimensions and is moving its machinery, and will probably be in full operation by the first of the year, abandoning its too crowded quarters in Los Angeles.

Climate, industry and energy have contributed much to the phenomena of Torrance, but without the vitalizing force of electricity they could not have availed. Electricity is the embodiment of speed. Directed to city building, it loses none of the potentialities which are its characteristics when applied to less ambitious undertakings.