

Hundreds of Thousands' Worth Of Materials Go Into New Mill; Crews Defeat Rain and Gales

The magnitude of the Columbia Steel Corporation's task in moving a sheet steel mill, machinery, buildings and all, a distance of 488 miles and having it all ready to run in Torrance less than three months after dismantling it in South San Francisco constitutes one of the most interesting phases in the company's expansion here.

The machinery and buildings shipped by rail to Torrance weighed 5770 tons and required 179 cars to transport them.

While crews were dismantling and loading at South San Francisco construction gangs were rushing work at the Torrance site. At the same time the company's engineering and mechanical plants at Pittsburg were building 34 new machines for installation in Torrance. The engineering department thus kept three crews lockstepping in three different cities simultaneously, with all operations synchronized so that each would be completed at the proper hour and the plant here start work at 11 a. m. on May 18.

On the Torrance property four and a half miles of yard railroad tracks were moved, seven and one-fourth miles of pipe was laid, 6480 feet of underground cables were installed, a new power substation erected, 33,970 cubic yards of dirt excavated, the big new open health built—all on schedule time.

Construction of the new electric substation necessitated a change from 60 to 55 cycles and kept 230 workmen employed during the process.

In the cement work at the mill and open hearth 42,630 sacks of cement were used, 4350 tons of crushed rock and 3370 yards of sand, and 1,347,000 bricks of various grades.

In the building operations at South City, Pittsburg and Torrance 597 men were employed.

Schedules were maintained despite heavy rainstorms in Torrance and high winds in South San Francisco, where gales partly destroyed some

of the buildings, which had to be refabricated.

Speaking of the work N. A. Becker said:

"The organization faltered at no time, nor weaken, regardless of the numerous uncontrollable obstacles which they had to meet. The operating department in Torrance kept up its 100% efficiency, and in spite of a number of interferences by the construction department, broke seven records in output.

"The number of additional skilled workmen required will be approximately 515 men; these men must all be highly skilled in their chosen profession, and are principally eastern sheet mill operators. The addition to the Columbia Steel Corporation's plant here at Torrance will have an increase in its payroll of approximately \$3970 per day."

Business Will Halt for Three Hours May 18

All business houses in Torrance will be closed Wednesday from 10 a. m. to 1 p. m. in honor of the opening of the Columbia Steel Corporation's new \$2,000,000 sheet steel mill.

The following statement was assigned by all merchants in Torrance:

"In recognition of the program being arranged for the opening of the Columbia Steel Corporation's new sheet mill Wednesday, May 18, we hereby voluntarily associate ourselves as business men of this city, agreeing to close our respective places of business between the hours of 10 a. m. and 1 p. m. on the above date; said time being the program period for the civic exercises and demonstrations of the citizens of the city, as a symbol of this communities appreciation for the industrial expansion and its reflection in our midst."

Stores Close Tomorrow for Big Celebration at Columbia Steel

Columbia Men Moving Here Will Live in Most Healthful City in Southern California

Perfect Drainage, Splendid Sanitation System and Climate Combine to Rout Disease and Epidemics in Torrance, Declare Health Experts

From the standpoint of sanitation and health Torrance is unsurpassed in the whole southwest.

This is not a haphazard statement. It is based on the authoritative statements of experts in such matters, and should be of vital interest to new employees of the Columbia Steel Corporation.

The housewife is naturally interested, for reasons of domestic efficiency and convenience, in the disposal of refuse. The city of Torrance contracts for this service by the year. Garbage and household refuse, such as cans, are collected twice a week. The service has been subjected to practically no complaint such as prevails in many communities.

In many districts in the southwestern part of Los Angeles County residents must dispose of their own refuse in pits or rely on intermittent service from irresponsible collectors.

For the residents of Torrance the municipal authorities provide excellent service.

No Cesspools
There are no cesspools in the residence district of Torrance. An adequate sewage disposal system does away with the necessity of digging cesspools. Sewers, laid in the alleys and not under the pavements, carry sewage to large septic tanks. After septic treatment the effluent is disposed of on the municipal sewer farm, east of the city.

This service, like the garbage and refuse disposal system, is paid for out of the city's extremely low general tax without added cost to the resident.

Provision for future disposal of sewage from Torrance in the Pacific Ocean have been made. Torrance is part of District No. 5 of the great Los Angeles County metropolitan sewer system. Bonds for the construction of two great trunk lines, a treatment plant, and an outfall sewer to the ocean already have been voted and sold. When this giant system is completed—in about two years—Torrance will merely build a small connecting sewer and hook into the big system.

Expense Is Saved
Unlike other communities in the district, Torrance will not be compelled to build its local sewer system before taking advantage of the service of the big trunk and disposal system. The local system is already in existence and operation. Thus future residents of Torrance and those here now, will not be obliged to pay a heavy special assessment in the future for a local sewer system.

The Torrance municipal health department is part of a district serving several cities, including Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, El Segundo, and Hermosa Beach. This department supervises health conditions in Torrance, under the general direction of Los Angeles County's health department. Monthly reports of health conditions here during the past three years have won the praise of county health authorities for the healthful condition of residents of

Torrance. When epidemics have been rampant in other communities near by Torrance has not been affected.

There was not one case of small-pox in Torrance during last year's epidemic.

The extremely healthful conditions in Torrance are attributed to the excellent drainage conditions and the prevailing westerly breeze that keeps the air so pure.

No Stagnant Water
Jared Sidney Torrance selected the site for this modern city with an eye to health. Situated on level ground, Torrance is never inundated in any part during heavy winter rains. Stagnant water breeds disease. Torrance never has any stagnant water. It drains off even after a heavy storm in a few hours.

Conditions of health are important to residents of a community—particularly to those who have children.

With excellent refuse disposal and sewage disposal systems, with conditions that naturally combat disease, with a climate that is unsurpassed in all seasons, Torrance offers security to her people against epidemic and sickness.

Government of Torrance Gets Highest Praise

Torrance is a well-governed city. This is indicated by the fact that there never has been a recall election in the city, by the praise for various departments coming from impartial auditors, by the low tax rate in Torrance, the cleanliness of the streets, the lack of crime, and the general attendance of city officials to duty.

Torrance is a Sixth Class city, incorporated under the laws of the state of California.

The government is directed by a Board of Trustees, consisting of five members, elected by the people.

The departments are the city clerk's, the city engineer's, the city treasurer's, the city attorney's, the police and fire, the health, the parks and the streets.

Members of the Board of Trustees act as committeemen over each department, although each, too, is managed by an executive.

A city recorder presides over the municipal court. His jurisdiction is the same as that of a justice of the peace.

The city owns, in addition to its parks, a splendid new fire station and a city hall, a police department building and a jail, a large warehouse and stables, a tract in the east and which is under lease to a private concern, and a large corner at Cravens avenue and El Prado, the future site of a municipal building, whenever such a structure is required.

Evidence of the satisfaction of the residents of Torrance with their government is seen by the fact that City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, who is most of all city officials in contact with the public, was not opposed for re-election at the last balloting.

The city is operated on a businesslike budget system, and heads of all departments are compelled to check expenditures each month against the budget.

City officials are as follows: Board of Trustees, John Dennis, (chairman); Charles M. Inman, Willis M. Brooks, Andrew Brady Wolfe, Tom Foley; city clerk, A. H. Bartlett; city engineer, Frank R. Leonard; city attorney, Perry G. Briney; city treasurer, Harry H. Dolley; city marshal, Jerry Calder; fire chief, Ben Hannebrink; street superintendent, William A. Gascoigne.

The present Board of Trustees was elected on an economy platform. How well they kept their promise is shown by the fact that they pared the city budget and cut the municipal tax rate from 98 cents to 71 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. Then the people by a large majority, voted an additional 5 cents per \$100—for a total of 10 cents per \$100—for civic promotion work, and the new tax rate is 76 cents per \$100—a decrease of 22 cents, even with 10 cents allotted for promotion.

The city was incorporated on May 12, 1921, by a vote of the people. Since that date representative citizens have been elected to serve as trustees and have devotedly done their best to make Torrance a well-governed and good town in which to live. Few cities in the state can boast a higher type of citizenship on their municipal board.

A planning commission was organized in March of 1925 for the purpose of perpetuating the zoning plans and holding growth along scientific lines.

The firm of Eberle and Riegleman, engineers and consulting economists, said this of the Torrance municipal government:

"There is a general satisfaction with the government among the citizens. There seems to be a traditional policy of business administration rather than political administration. The advantages of such a system are obvious. No other city in Southern California has a more satisfactory system of representative government than the town of Torrance."

Torrance Tax Rate of 76 Cents Is Lowest in Entire District; Bond Debt County's Smallest

Property Owners in Torrance Save Money on Account of Large Sums Industries and Acreage Pay Into Public Coffers Annually

Torrance municipal taxes are lower than in any city in the whole southwestern part of Los Angeles County and rank among the lowest of any city in Southern California.

Property in Torrance is taxed only 76 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation for municipal purposes. This tax includes 2 cents for the retirement of bonds and 10 cents for civic promotion work—or the financing of the Chamber of Commerce.

The next municipal rate to Torrance is that of El Segundo, where a rate of 77 cents is enjoyed.

Torrance has a bonded indebtedness of only \$44,000. This is the lowest in Los Angeles County. The next lowest is at El Monte, where the bonded indebtedness is \$69,000.

Low taxes are a distinct benefit to residents and property owners.

One must not draw the conclusion that the low Torrance tax rate indicates a lack of funds with which to maintain a good and efficient municipal government.

Torrance has a high aggregate assessed valuation on account of the large number of industries in the city and the great area of land which the incorporated territory of Torrance comprises.

This high aggregate assessed valuation makes it necessary to levy only a small rate for municipal purposes.

Valuations of individual pieces of property are on a par in Torrance with those in comparable cities. Industries and great acreage bring the assessed valuation up to more than \$12,000,000.

So the low tax rate really brings a saving to the Torrance property owner, yet provides adequate moneys for the operation of all departments of the city government.

With a tax rate of 98 cents during the past two years Torrance was able to improve all the alleys in the residence district and build an \$18,000 fire station and city hall out of the general fund. Torrance owns two major municipal buildings—the fire station and city hall.

Flood of Bargains in 3-Day Sale Is Torrance Merchants' Welcome to Columbia Men

Welcoming Columbia Steel's new sheet mill employees in a manner that will save these newcomers and everyone else a lot of money, Torrance merchants Thursday, Friday and Saturday will stage a three-day Hall Columbia bargain festival in which prices of every kind of merchandise will be cut to rock bottom.

The merchants' committee believes that the best way they can show their appreciation of the new sheet mill here is by a bargain event that will establish in the minds of newcomers the fact that they can Buy Better in TORRANCE.

In this special edition of The Herald a wholesale list of bargains in Torrance stores is presented to the public.

In the interests of economy everyone should read the advertisements and buy in Torrance Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Progress--

The new unit now being added to the Columbia Steel Co. is an outward indication of the progress and prosperity that Torrance is going through. The future outlook is indeed bright and in a similar manner Rappaport's are carrying on, showing faith in Torrance by building a greater store, and giving greater values.

We congratulate the Columbia Steel Co. on the addition of their new unit. This is another indication of the growth we are undergoing.



Don't Read This

UNLESS YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A HOME IN TORRANCE

The Following Are For Your Consideration:

4-Room Stucco, new, with two large bedrooms and breakfast nook. Hardwood floors and modern throughout. Price \$3800. Another 4-room Stucco at \$4200.

5-Room Stucco, ready to move into. \$5000. This has 5 large rooms and breakfast room, modern in every respect.

Choice of 5 Stuccos, under construction. Pick one out and have it finished to suit at \$4950 Each.

New 4-Room Frame House. Two large bedrooms, bath, combination living and dining room, large kitchen and screened porch. Hardwood floors throughout, woodstone sink, plenty of cupboard space, laundry trays and heater. Completely furnished. Furniture cost \$800. All of this for \$3350, \$350 down. First come, first served on this.

For These Buys and Others Equally Attractive, See

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Peerless Complete Finish Dept.
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