

Great Improvement In Building Trade Noted In Past Six Months

Vast improvement in the building industry throughout all areas of the far West during the first six months of 1935 is noted in the July issue of the Bank of America Business Review as the outstanding business development of the half-year period.

In the first-half of this year, the value of building permits in 49 cities of the eight western states reached a total of \$52,597,735, a gain of 95 percent over the first half of last year.

With a total of \$8,052,972 in building permits for June, California cities showed a gain of 133 percent over the like month last year, and for the first six months of the year the state's gain was 107.2 percent over the first half of 1934.

Throughout every month of the year to date the far West has shown the outstanding record in retail sales of the entire United States. Dollar volume in the 12th federal reserve district in the first six months of this year gained 9 percent over the first six months of 1934, which is the largest percentage gain of all the federal reserve districts.

California showed a net increase of 12.8 percent in retail sales for June as compared with June of 1934, and the Bank of America Business Review reports the encouraging note that every one of the reporting areas of the state also gained. Seven stores in Long Beach, Pasadena, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Santa Ana reported an aggregate gain of 24.6 percent over June of last year.

Ten stores in the state's agricultural section gained 20.5 percent. Nine Los Angeles stores increased 14.2 percent; ten Oakland stores and 17 San Francisco retail establishments reported increases of 12.3 and 11.3 percent respectively.

June was the sixth consecutive month of 1935 in which bank debits of the West gained over the corresponding months of last year. California's bank debits in June gained 20 percent over June a year ago and each of the seven western states shared in the aggregate increase of the western territory.

The Bank of America preliminary June Index of far Western business, based on bank debits, electric power production and carloadings, stood at 93.5, unchanged from the month of May. A year ago the index declined six-tenths of 1 percent from May to June.

The June index, which was 16 percent above the depression low of March 1933, declined 1.4 percent from June of a year ago, due largely to lowering carloadings as result of strike conditions in the lumber areas of the Northwest. The index was 5 percent higher than June of 1933 and 3.8 percent above June of 1932.

To Siberia?



Will Rogers, screen comedian, who, according to rumors, will accompany Wiley Post on his trans-Pacific flight to Siberia on a tiger-hunting expedition.

Court Puts Drivers to Test

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (U.P.)—Judge Harold Richardson has found a new way to curb traffic violators. He decreed that every traffic violator brought into his court must take a written examination on how to operate an automobile.

Salesman Warns Burglars Tiffin, O. (U.P.)—Warning to burglars appeared on the automobile of a traveling salesman who stopped here recently. The automobile bore this sign: "Notice to burglars. This car contains shoe samples for one foot only. No use as merchandise."

Derrick Lifts Huge Fish Brockville, Ont. (U.P.)—Louis Lefair had to use a derrick to hoist a giant sturgeon he caught in the St. Lawrence river at Red Mills, below Ogdensburg, from the water. The fish weighed 225 pounds and was almost seven feet long.

Around the Council Table

Walteria residents presented a petition to the city council Tuesday night asking for certain boulevard stop signs to be placed at the intersection of Hawthorne boulevard and the new state highway, where increasing fast traffic makes a dangerous condition. The matter will be taken up with the Southern California Auto Club. An overhead light at this intersection will also be installed to warn motorists of the crossing.

In connection with the Walteria petition, the city attorney stated that he had prepared an ordinance covering stop signs at all intersections of streets in Walteria and Hollywood Riviera which intersect the state highway. The signs will be erected as soon as the ordinance is adopted. It passed the first reading Tuesday night.

The Torrance municipal band which is using the bandstand at the park for practice requested the installation of three more light globes to afford a better illumination. The request was granted and the work will be done at once.

Contract with the Southern California Edison Company for electrical current at the same rate as named in the old contract was approved. The action in making a contract with the company is done merely as a matter of form, as all rates are subject to the control of the state railroad commission and can be raised or lowered at its behest, regardless of a contract.

An appropriation of \$100 for the purchase of a new freeling outfit for use in the repair department was authorized at request of Councilman Hitchcock. The old one purchased some time ago at a cost of \$30 for a used outfit, will be turned in on the new one at \$25.

The council voted to purchase a new Plymouth car for use of the police department, which will be delivered at the factory and driven back to Torrance by Officer Ernest Ashton when he goes east next month.

The council appointed City Engineer Frank Leonard, City Clerk Bartlett and City Attorney Rippey to act as a committee to contact Mr. Beebe of the firm of O'Melveny, Tuller & Myers in regard to advice in preparing the data on the three federal-works projects proposed by the city, covering the erection of a library, city hall and auditorium. This firm assisted in

War Mementos Exchange

OMAHA, Neb. (U.P.)—Charles W. Lesh who received a German war prisoner's identification tag in exchange for a pack of American cigarettes in the Moscow-Angone offensive in 1918, is handing the tag back in exchange for a photograph.

Music Memory Wine Test

ELKO, Nev. (U.P.)—Mary Jane Englett has a memory for music. Months after she and other classmates studied 40 classes, Mary Jane scored 100 percent in giving the name of the selection, name of the performer and composer.

Salmon Retrieves Lost Fob

AUBURN, Me. (U.P.)—Edward Walton lost his watch fob while fishing at Sebago Lake. Fred Farrell, fishing in the same lake a few days later, caught a salmon. The fob was inside it.

The work of preparing data for the water project.

Appropriation of \$100 as a fee to the League of Municipalities for representing Torrance before the state board of equalization in the matter of its share of assessed valuation of public utilities was voted Tuesday night.

News Flashes

On Better Housing Showing At Theatre

The first of a series of motion pictures depicting the various phases of home and commercial modernization, as well as home construction, are now being shown at the Torrance Theatre and will continue until July 30, according to DeWitt Van Derlip, manager. These pictures carry the general title "Better Housing News Flashes" and are released under the auspices of the Federal Housing Administration, Washington.

These "Better Housing News Flashes" are not only educational but are also interesting and instructive. Women especially will find them most helpful in gaining ideas and suggestions as to the improvement of their own homes, whether it be doing over of their living rooms with modern lighting and color schemes, adding an additional bedroom, or the overnight guest, installing a playroom in the basement for the children or beautifying the exterior of the

Ring, Hunted 39 Years, Found

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. (U.P.)—Thirty-nine years after her mother lost her wedding ring, white setting and plants in a garden, Mrs. Peter Fusari found the band in the same flower bed. It had been sought each year as the plot was spaded.

home, as well as suggestions for gardening and landscaping. The business men of "Main Street" will also be interested in seeing on the screen what they may possibly do with their properties in order to attract more trade, stimulating buying and increasing the rental value of their properties.

Mr. Van Derlip, in announcing the showing of these "Better Housing News Flashes" states, "I am happy to have the opportunity of co-operating with the government in its drive to aid national recovery. I know that the citizens of Torrance are not only desirous of improving their own properties, but also realize that building activity will take men off of relief rolls and put them on pay rolls. I believe that through this Better Housing program, we can make Torrance the most prosperous city in the state."

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