



Hollywood Can't Build Heavy Machinery But Torrance Can. Here's What Happened . . .

## WHEN *the* MOVIES CAME

JUST as Hollywood means movies, so does Torrance mean industry, to many persons.

But Torrance is four up on Hollywood in this respect, for Torrance has meant movies on at least four occasions, while you can count Hollywood's heavy machinery factories on one thumb—with one left over. In fact, whenever a scene calls for an authentic factory setting, Torrance is the first thought in the mind of the location director.

It began early in 1923, when Universal pictures used the Hendrie Tire Company's plant for a chapter in their "Bob Hill" serial. Plot of the story was used again in the most recent Torrance picture and will be used over and over again. It is probably in the movie

files as Scenario 05771TN5.

For in both of these pictures a factory was inherited and, after serious labor troubles (which Torrance, fortunately, does not have), the heir is able to defeat the villain, reorganize the concern and make a fortune.

### Columbia Changes Plot

IN THE Bob Hill serial the hero was, of course, a man. But the final scenes did not show him winning the girl—that was still 47 chapters away. When Columbia Pictures decided to use the old plot again, a year ago, they at least put a different quirk in it. For May Robson was cast as the heiress who straightened things, while Fay Wray and Victor Jory were in the supporting cast.

For this picture, "The Mills of the Gods," the plant of the National Supply Company was used as background. Converted (on the screen) into a factory in the middle west, several special sets were built on and around the factory site. When all was ready actors were brought from Hollywood and the company worked on location for a week. Business at the factory proceeded as usual, for all scenes were taken at the movie company's special location.

### Proctor as Actor

NOT SO, however, in a previous film taken at the same plant, when it was the Union Tool Company. For the company taking this film had to press into service many local people, including the late George A. Proctor, first mayor of Torrance, and then superintendent of the tool company. Little can be learned of this film, although a "still" taken on location gives an excellent likeness of the former mayor.

Completing the list, the Torrance oil field was used as the site for a Monte Blue film tak-

en by Warner Brothers about 1928. For this picture a special "wild west" town was erected straddling the Redondo road, with oil derricks rising in the background. Those who remember the scene state that the "town" was made up of saloons and gambling houses, although they are unable to declare which predominated.

### One Man's Bonus

IT IS the custom of all movie studios to pay their extras by the day, after the filming is "in the can." A line is formed and the extras pass by the paying window where each receives his money.

On one of the occasions (we refuse to state which one), an old local character had been watching the filming, generally managing to be squarely in the way. When the extras lined up it caught his attention. Eager to see what was going on, he joined the line and was amazed when the man behind the window, without question, passed him a crisp five-dollar bill!

He is still watching for more movie companies to come to Torrance.

- What Has Clark William or Warren Gable Got That the Late George A. Proctor, First Torrance Mayor, Hasn't? See Him Here as the Boss.



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