

INTERNATIONAL DERRICK HAS POST-WAR PROGRAM TO KEEP EMPLOYEES BUSY

While its plant now is engaged in 100 percent war production, the International Derrick and Equipment Company of California is thinking in postwar terms and of the intensive world-wide oil development and drilling campaign which will be necessary to rebuild reserves which have been dissipated during World War II. John McEwen, vice president of the firm, has announced.

This puts Torrance and the employees of International Derrick in the very center of an expansive program which—while now seeing its war equipment spread over the high seas to far-flung battlefields—will find its peacetime production restored and by the same ships which they are helping to build, carried to oil fields of distant lands.

"This is a picture which we are happy to hold forth," McEwen said, "the picture of after-victory production to which we all are looking forward, while we pray and work to bring that day nearer."

Old Torrance Firm

When the International Derrick and Equipment Company of California established its plant in Torrance in 1926, there was no thought of a second World War. After 1940, however, and during 1941 the defense program and the war itself meant the conversion to 100 percent war production.

IDECO production has been for the Navy, for the Army, the Maritime Commission, Defense Plant construction and the 100 octane gasoline program.

"This local industry is fortunate in that the several types of well drilling and servicing masts which it has developed to conserve steel and manpower during the war years and, at the same time, assist in building up production of heavy oils for the 100 octane gasoline program, will contribute to postwar progress," McEwen said. "The company looks forward to the day of peace when its production will be converted from war products to new peacetime products of advanced design. It is anticipated that these new products will create full peacetime employment through the development of these new products which will contribute to the overall economic development of Torrance and our nation."

New Developments

As California oil producers improved their drilling technique and procedures, it became their policy in 1940 to move their drilling rigs from completed wells to their next location as nearly intact as was possible. This left many new wells in California without derricks over them and created a demand for a portable well-servicing mast which could be set up over these new wells promptly when service work was required on them. IDECO answered the challenge with its 90-foot "Kwik-Lift" mast. This is a telescoping structure, illustrated on this page, which telescopes to approximately one-half of its length and is then lowered to the horizontal position so that, when mounted on a trailer with a well-servicing hoist, it can be towed to the well site. Yet it can be set up at a well and start pulling operations within an hour. It was designed by McEwen and John P. Selberg, chief engineer, was active in its development.

These "Kwik-Lift" telescoping masts proved so successful that during 1941 attachments were added so that they could be used for drilling shallow wells. When the demand for 100 octane gasoline became apparent early in 1941 and the government requested oil companies to produce more heavy oil, these "Kwik-Lift" masts were put to work by the oil companies drilling shallow wells in the San Joaquin Valley. They turned in

a remarkable performance and their use developed rapidly until wells were drilled to below 6,000 feet.

Cantilever Mast

While IDECO "Kwik-Lift" masts are used for drilling shallow wells and for servicing the deepest wells, the company contributed further to the war effort in 1941 by the introduction of its cantilever drilling masts which are used with heavier equipment for drilling wells with portable gas powered rigs to depths as great as 9,500 feet. These semi-portable drilling masts expedite the movement of drilling rigs between successive wells with subsequent savings in critical war steel and manpower. In peace they will make an even greater contribution toward better living.

Employees of IDECO now number in excess of 200 and most of them have their homes in the Torrance area.

Those privileged—due to strict government regulations—to tour the big Torrance plant of the company will see giant steel hatch covers being made for Victory ships; plates for various escort craft; all sizes and types of steel equipment into which go part of the production of Torrance's own Columbia Steel mills.

They will see the big pickling tanks, many newly constructed, 34 feet long; and the galvanizing dipping tank 30 feet long and four feet wide. Also the tracks and racks for painting big plates with now familiar zinc chromate primer, and the new squaring shear which will cut plate up to 8 feet long, one-half inch thick.

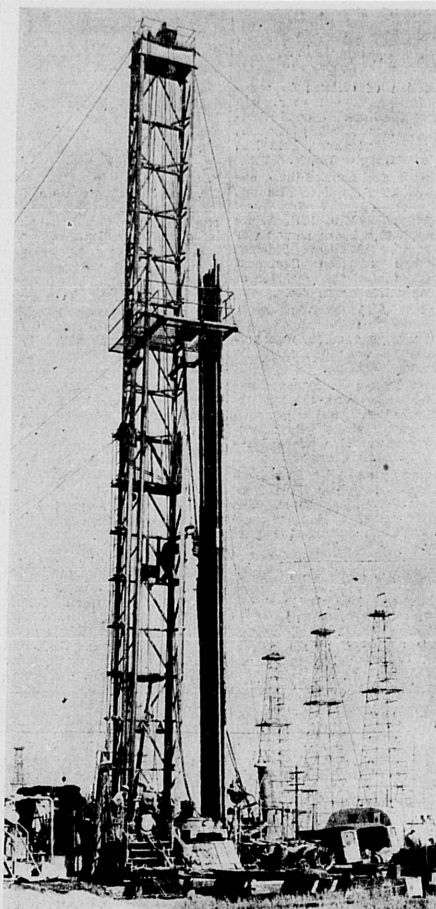
Big Job Ahead

One thing most noticeable is the busy employees, men and women, obviously happy at their work. And perhaps one reason for this high morale is the fact that they can think of the future knowing that IDECO has a big job to do after the war and that they will be part of this postwar production.

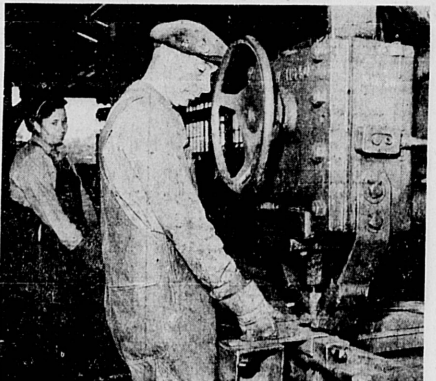
Another reason for their happiness might be the consideration the company has for its workers—the canteen and the cafeteria which serves piping hot lunches, as well as providing hot coffee and the like at "snack" hours morning and afternoon for men and women alike.

A. L. Jackson is the plant manager, and he pointed out many old timers who have been with IDECO since it first opened its doors. Continuing his statement, Vice President McEwen said: "When peace comes, it will be necessary for not only the California oil industry but for the world petroleum industry to rebuild the reserves which have been dissipated during the war. This means that an intensive drilling campaign will be necessary and through its contribution for the economical production of petroleum for the war, the International Derrick and Equipment Company of California and its employees are in a position to enjoy an expanding development as soon as peace comes.

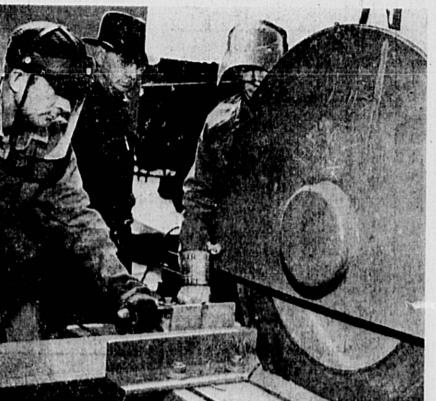
"The City of Torrance is indeed fortunate to be in the center of an expanding industrial area with not only well-established companies which are growing but with new industries which have been brought in and expanded during the war and which will develop this city to an even greater extent during the peace."



HERE IS THE Torrance-built and designed IDECO "Kwik-Lift" 90-foot telescoping mast which can be hauled to a well and start pulling operations within an hour. Shown in the background are old-type steel derricks, such as IDECO employees fabricated here.



GUS GOSSIAUX, oldtimer who came to Torrance as a glass worker, went to IDECO in 1926. He is shown with Essie McAdams at his left, punching structural members to be used in the "Kwik-Lift" mast. Essie McAdams started with the company in 1943. Prior to starting on the "Kwik-Lift" development, Gossiaux punched many a hole in steel derricks built by the company in the Torrance district.



7 Drunk Driving Cases Before City Court Here

Seven drunk driving cases were before City Judge Otto B. Willett during the past week, with the decisions as follows:

Cruz Guerra fined \$75; P. Sanchez fined \$75 or 25 days in county jail, committed; O. Barksdale, fined \$100 or 25 days in county jail, committed; T. A. Craig, fined \$75; S. K. Carter, fined \$75; Dewey Fix, charge reduced to drunk in auto, fined \$75; James McVay, case set for May 24, \$150 bail.

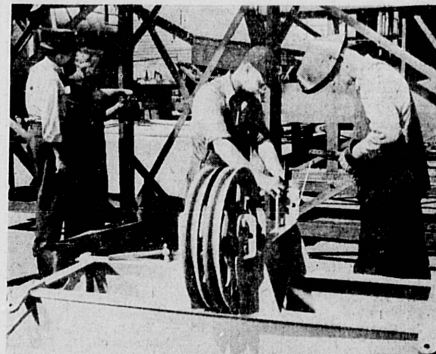
C. E. Dillely was fined \$25 for drunk and disturbing the peace.

Foursquare Church Presenting Play

The Torrance Foursquare church is presenting the Watson Players in a four act sacred spoken drama, "The Crimson Cross," by Manford Evans, on Thursday night, May 25, at 7:45 p.m. The production, which has ten characters, depicts the persecution of the Jews in Germany under Hitler.

Two acts take place in New York City, and two in Berlin, Germany. Mr. Watson, the director, doubles for two German Jewish brothers. This is a spoken drama (not a picture). There will also be special music and singing.

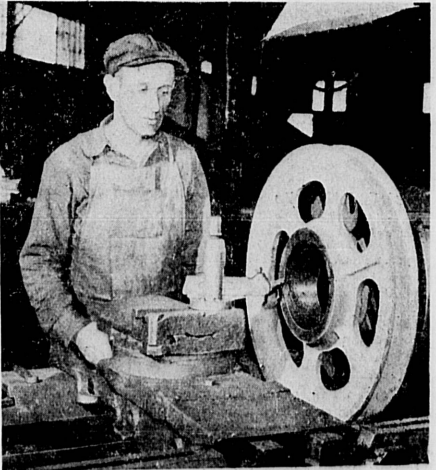
The United States, with less than 6 percent of the world's population, has almost one-third of the world's railroad mileage.



HERE ARE FOUR IDECO employees at work on "Kwik-Lift" masts. Left is Ted Simonson, fabricating superintendent, discussing with Milton Bone the location of a part to be attached to the mast frame. Center are Claude Stevens and Andy Norman (right) assembling parts to the crown block of a mast. Norman is one of the old IDECO employees, having been with the company since 1929. Stevens has been with IDECO since 1933, and Bone since 1936. Simonson started with IDECO as a riveter in 1929.



HERE IS JOE FOWLER, president of the Union at IDECO, flame-cutting a part used in the "Kwik-Lift" mast. Joe has been with the company since 1941.



MARION VAN GOSETT at an engine lathe performing machining operations on sheave wheel used in the crown block of the "Kwik-Lift" mast. He was first employed by IDECO in 1933.

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By MRS. M. E. ATTEBERY

A potluck supper will be served at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 25. Everyone is cordially invited. Bring a dish and eat with the group. Mothers will be honored at a special program to follow the business meeting this evening. Last Thursday's meeting was a splendid success when our publication, "Airmail Flash" from Washington was featured. Our publicity chairman, Charles Morford, is convalescing from a major operation at a Los Angeles hospital.

JACK BEENE HAS GUESTS

Jack Beene of 1342 Post ave. entertained Sunday at dinner for his son, George L. Beene, B. M. 1/c, and Mrs. Beene, Mr. and Mrs. Don Kerr and Mrs. Ollie Lydick.

TO BAKERSFIELD

Mrs. O. A. Kresse will leave Sunday for a two weeks' visit at Bakersfield and Porterville, where she will visit relatives and friends. Upon her return she will be accompanied by her daughter, Doris, a teacher in Bakersfield schools, who will spend summer vacation here.

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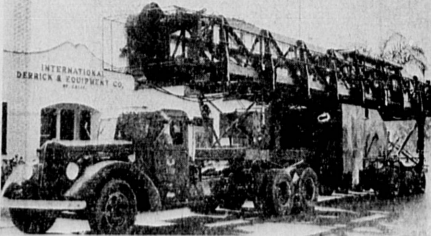
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THE IDECO "KWIK-LIFT," which Torrance workers are building to aid the government's high octane gasoline program for war fuel, is hauled to its site on such trucking equipment as is shown above. The truck is backed up to the site and, with the equipment's own power, the mast is raised in a remarkably short time.