

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS PLAN FOR PERMANENT ARMY HOSPITAL HERE

With encouraging community-wide support for the proposal that the Torrance Army hospital be given permanent status, another request has gone to Washington asking consideration of the matter, according to Harry B. Lewis, executive secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Since the announcement in the Torrance Herald of July 13 that plans for a permanent institution are being considered, many business and civic leaders and industrialists have asked that the matter be pursued to a successful conclusion.

The hospital, originally established to serve the Los Angeles Port of Embarkation, now serves all Army units in the entire area from the Orange County line to Santa Monica, with the exception of Port MacArthur.

Casualties from the war fronts also may be brought here, overflow from the Van Nuys hospital.

Lewis has asked the Veterans Administration for consideration of the hospital as a permanent institution after the war, and previously had made a similar request to the Surgeon General's office.

In his letter to the Veterans Administration, Lewis said: "The Board of Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce have been requested by several influential industrial and commercial organizations in the Torrance area, to write your office with a view to determining the possibilities of acquiring a permanent status for the so-called 'Los Angeles Port of Embarkation Hospital,' located in Torrance."

"The nature of such a permanent status could take one of two forms: (1) Army General Hospital, (2) U. S. Veterans Administration Facility.

"According to the best avail-

able information from the most authoritative sources, the outlook should be encouraging that a Veterans Hospital may be located in this City after the war. As you know, the positive announcement has been made in Washington that the Surgeon General's Department does not contemplate, at this time, the building of additional Army Hospitals. The explanation is that numerous cantonments and training camps have been placed on a "caretakers basis;" that these may be expected to increase in number; and most of them contain excellent bed and other hospital facilities. Thus, the plan is to use these in lieu of the building of new hospitals.

"The situation is probably about the same insofar as prospects for Veterans Hospitals are concerned. It is our understanding that your Department has announced that it is not planning the construction of new hospitals, though some of them (Veterans Facilities) will utilize the hospitals now in existence, through enlargement.

"May we submit that the present facilities are centrally located and could serve a vast area during the immediate post-war period and become the hospital center for this district thereafter.

"The housing situation in this district will amply augment required housing for officers and general personnel and the presence of over forty (40) diversified industries would present

ideal absorption for trained veterans, also training grounds for disabled veterans.

"Attached hereto please find statistics on population growth of Torrance, postal receipts, building permits, bank deposits, the number of businesses in various classifications, compilation of major industries, special treatise on the synthetic rubber industry centered in Torrance (which is destined to remain after the war according to information from the present Washington administration), industrial and commercial map of Torrance, and a general pamphlet supplementing the foregoing.

The Mayor and City Council of Torrance join in this proposal, as do the entire citizenry. If we can add to the data submitted at this time, please command us. If we can delegate an official to pay your office a personal visit to further outline our desires in the premises, it will be our pleasure to do so."

Ration Table Remains Same For Present

The present official July table of point values which went into effect July 2 will continue effective until further notice. An August point value chart will not be issued July 30, and customers and dealers will continue to use the July chart until it is superseded by OPA action.

Reported temporary removal of steaks and roasts, except AA and A grades only, from rationing and the replacing of ration point requirements in purchasing pork loins and hams, will not be made effective Aug. 1, the OPA has announced.

The War Food Administration and the OPA are discussing such changes, but no action will be taken at least this month.

Longshoremen Needed

Gen. Gross, who was Army district engineer at Los Angeles from 1927 to 1929, said the southland's rail and dockage capacity will be stretched when the Pacific push gets fully underway.

"There is only one foreseeable possibility why it could be less; you must have more labor to handle the movement of war materials, once it is dumped into your area. That applies to other Pacific ports as well. The coast needs at least 6000 more longshoremen alone, for when Germany collapses ships which have been operating in the Atlantic will be shifted to the Pacific."

Gen. Gross was accompanied by Brig. Gen. John M. Frank-

War Shipping Increase to be Reflected Here

Tremendous increase in shipment of war materials through the Los Angeles Port of Embarkation will be reflected in Torrance, it is indicated by Army officials.

"Movement of war materials through Los Angeles probably will be doubled once Germany folds up, and our plans anticipate that won't be too long. In fact we are now ready; we have the facilities now."

So declared Maj. Gen. Charles P. Gross, chief of transportation, Army Service Forces, here from Washington, Sunday for an inspection of the Los Angeles Port of Embarkation, of which Torrance Army hospital is a part.

His is the outfit that gets the Army's myriad items across this country and the seas to the men at the front. It is the outfit that moved 25,000,000 tons across various oceans up to the first of the year, and is gaining momentum.

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CHIEF VISITS . . . Sunday Maj. Gen. Charles P. Gross, Chief of Transportation, ASF, made a one-day inspection of the Port, hospital, its primary facilities and installations. A full and rapid trip schedule was planned but the day was a normal Sunday work day for agencies and personnel, Lt. Col. Frederick H. Warren, Executive, said.

Hospital Cases

Admitted to Torrance Memorial hospital during the past week were the following:

Mrs. Hilda Arola, 26266 S. Western ave., Lomita.

Miss Alice Hill, Brighton Hotel, Torrance.

Mrs. Dorothy Lee Hooper, 2043 242nd st., Lomita.

Mrs. Cecelia Woodward, 1530 218th st., Torrance.

lin, assistant chief of transportation for water activities, and Col. Andrew F. McIntyre, assistant to Franklin.

Service Men Get Extra Gas On Furlough

Service personnel in this area can get gasoline rations at the rate of one gallon per day, up to 30 days, according to F. W. Daniels, chief clerk of the Torrance War Price and Ration Board.

Those with liberties of less than 72 hours, however, will receive no special gasoline rations.

In the past, servicemen on furlough have been granted a maximum of five gallons of furlough gasoline rations.

HIGHEST ARMY-NAVY AWARD GIVEN FELKER COMPANY, EMPLOYEES, THIRD TIME

For "highest achievement in the production of war material" the Felker Manufacturing Company, 1228 Border ave., Torrance, has been awarded for the third time the Army-Navy Production Award.

This means that on the original Army-Navy "E" flag, a second star will be added.

The original "E" flag was awarded to M. N. Felker and his employes a year ago. This was followed six months later by the award of the first "star." Now the second star has been added, one of the first in this area.

Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson, in his letter to the men and women of the Felker Company, said:

"I am pleased to inform you that you have won for the third time the Army-Navy Production Award for high achievement in the production of war materiel.

"In maintaining the fine record which first brought you distinction, you have set an inspiring example for your fellow Americans on the production front.

"This second renewal adds a second White Star to your Army-Navy Production Award flag, and stands as a symbol of your great and continuing contribution to the cause of freedom."

One hundred and twenty-five employes at Felker are engaged in making diamond impregnated abrasive and cutting tools used in all industrial plants for cutting quartz crystals, especially for radio.

The firm makes 90 percent of all quartz cutting tools in the nation, it is said.

Prior to the war, the firm for 15 years was engaged in making the famous Di-Met tools for use in industry and it has a big post-war program. Not only is the firm maintain-

Big Truck Tire Quotas Cut in August, Sept.

The number of large truck tires available for rationing in the eight Southern California counties during August will be but 52 per cent of the July quota.

The same drastic cut under the current 4500 tire July quota will also be in effect here in September, Paul Barksdale d'Orr, OPA ration chief, said today. The nationwide August quota of truck tires of size 8.25 and larger will be only 60,000, less than half the 135,000 certified for July.

Quota cut for August for smaller size truck is not so severe.

Reasons for the drastic cut are threefold, OPA said. The military services have increased their demands for large-size tires, taking 98 per cent of the very large 12.00 and over sizes. Materials and manpower have been diverted to provide production of more large-sized airplane tires and a shortage of manpower skilled in the manufacture of heavy duty large tires is being experienced.

ing schedules of the Army and Navy, but it is ahead of schedule, officials of the firm report.

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