



TORRANCE REFINERY BEING EXPANDED . . . General Petroleum Corporation is expanding its huge refinery at Torrance with a \$3,000,000 building program to provide a "Delayed Recycle Coking" plant which will produce new, additional 100-octane gasoline. In pictures above giant excavators dig deep holes in the earth and crews of men already are setting steel for massive foundations.

\$3,000,000 EXPANSION AT GENERAL PETROLEUM PLANT IN TORRANCE IS UNDERTAKEN

To provide new, additional supplies of 100-octane gasoline for hushier and faster ships at the Japs, the General Petroleum Corporation announced today that work has started to expand its huge refinery at Torrance. A \$3,000,000 building permit covering the erection of facilities was issued Tuesday by the City of Torrance.

Towers reaching 196 feet above the ground will be silhouetted against the skyline when the project is completed, symbolic of new advancements in science. The new structure will provide General Petroleum with an additional refining process, identified as "Delayed Recycle Coking," which puts a phenomenal pressure and temperature squeeze on raw materials being processed, designed to get "the last squeal out of the pig" before reduction of crude oil to the coke stage. The additional facilities will have a capacity of from 13,000 to 15,000 barrels of components daily and will make the Torrance plant of General Petroleum one of the most efficient and complete in the petroleum industry.

Already the steel jaws of excavators, feeding out from giant booms, are chewing great holes in the earth to make way for construction progress and following close behind are crews of men shaping frames and setting steel for massive foundations upon which the huge towers will rest. Construction work is being done by the M. W. Kellogg Company and will call for employment of 700 to 800 men.

Fundamentally, the new unit is General Petroleum's answer to the predicted decline in crude production in the post-war era. Through the "Delayed Recycle Coking" method, the heavy tar-

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Aircraft Cutbacks Have Little or No Effect on Torrance War Payrolls

While sudden cutbacks in production schedules of certain types of war planes will result in slightly decreased employment for some Torrance plants, new industrial construction and expanding operations of others will more than take up the slack, a survey of the employment in this industrial center reveals.

Orders to halt production on parts for the Army's B-32 fighter plane were received last Saturday by the National Supply Company's Torrance plant, according to J. S. Morgan Jr., works manager. At the same time, the company was ordered to suspend production on all types of aircraft until an inventory could be taken. This resulted in the issuance of temporary leaves of absence last Saturday for those employees engaged in aircraft work. However, production will be resumed today on the remaining unfilled aircraft orders, which includes landing gear and other parts for the Navy's PB4Y-2, which is the Navy's version of the Army B-24, as well as parts for the Navy's RY-3, and spare parts

Metropolitan Water Use Is Plan of G.P.

General Petroleum Corporation is negotiating to become one of the first big users of Metropolitan Water District water, it was revealed this week.

The company has been using its own water at the mammoth refinery here which is being expanded by a new \$3,000,000 improvement.

This week, a request for the city to install meters to permit the corporation to buy Metropolitan water was made upon the city.

Since the company property is not within the limits of Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, the district cannot serve the General refinery, according to Manager William Stanger.

Facilities for rates, meters and other service to the General plant will have to be handled through some other city department, it was said.

All taxpayers are paying 48 cents per \$100 assessed valuation for the Metropolitan water, but it has been used only as a "stand-by" for the municipal department in downtown Torrance.

Nurse Assigned From Here Was Hurt on Comfort

Lieut. Helen Koomjian, formerly attached to the Army station hospital here and a co-graduate ten years ago with Mrs. Edsel Newton in a nursing school, was one of four nurses injured when a total of 31 persons were killed by a Jap plane that plunged into the U.S.S. Comfort.

Lieutenant Koomjian was left at a base hospital, near where a brother was located, suffering from critical burns and a skull fracture, according to medical staff members on the ill-fated ship when it arrived at Long Beach, Monday, without any patients aboard. She was the only nurse without sea experience to be sent to the Comfort when the vessel was commissioned at the harbor after it was built by Consolidated and Bethlehem yards.

The ship with marks of the Jap outrage exposed will be open to the public at the Navy drydocks between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. Buses to the yard will meet the San Pedro ferry and Pacific Electric trains.

Five hundred patients were aboard when the bomb-laden Jap plane attacked the ship. It was shortly after 8 p.m. last April 28. A hundred tales of heroism amid flames and wreckage were related by members of the crew that brought the ship back to her home port.

Honor Sought for Comfort Nurse Serving Here

Lt. Evelyn Bacheiler, whose Western Pacific pose for U. S. Navy photographers beside the graves of Army Nurses killed in the Jap suicide plane attack upon the hospital ship, U.S.S. Comfort, is being considered as a "permanent symbol of World War II nurses" is now stationed at Torrance Army hospital. The picture was carried on all big city newspaper front pages Wednesday.

The Pocatello, Ida., nurse was one of those serving on the Comfort at the time of the attack and proved a heroine. She was the only nurse of the surgery ward to escape death in the attack of April 28, and went about her duties helping wounded soon after the suicide plane exploded against the ship.

Also stationed at the hospital again is 1st Lt. Edna M. Raybourn, head dietitian, who was aboard the Comfort at the time of the attack. She served as head dietitian at the Army hospital here prior to going aboard the Comfort.

DINNER GUESTS MONDAY
Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Bradford, and children were dinner guests Monday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Savant of Wilmington.

2,000 NEW HOMES NEEDED IN TORRANCE, STATE SURVEY OF POSTWAR NEEDS SHOWS

Dwelling occupancy in Torrance at the present time is 4.37 persons per unit against a normal occupancy of 2.84 persons, and gives Torrance a population within its city limits of 15,200 persons, the Torrance committee named at the suggestion of the State Reconstruction and Reemployment Committee to re-

examine plans for return of service men and women to normal community life has found.

Executive Secretary Harry B. Lewis, of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, and coordinator of the committee on Tuesday told Governor Warren's regional committee which asked for the survey in Torrance as a "test case" to determine community needs in California that Torrance needs 2000 additional housing units to care for overcrowded conditions here.

Population gains during the past year amounted to 1200 persons, the Torrance survey already has shown, and it has increased more than 50 per cent from its 9985 of 1940 in four years.

Growth Shown
Postal receipts almost tripled from 1940, when they amounted to \$45,351.53 to 1944, when they reached \$124,463.25.
Torrance bank deposits jumped from \$1,750,000 in 1940 to \$9,000,000 in 1944.
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In acknowledging the receipt of the third-star award, D. S. Faulkner, vice-president of the company said, "We can all be proud to receive this third star on our Army-Navy 'E' pennant. It means that our plant is still a vital war plant whose production ranks high on the nation's critical list. We all know the war is not yet won and until the last Jap is beaten, we must continue to give this battle of production everything we've got."

\$200 Paid City For Theft of 25 Gallons of Gas

After pleading guilty to a charge of stealing 25 gallons of gasoline from a truck of Oil Field Trucking Co., two local men were sentenced to pay fines of \$100 each and given 60-day suspended jail sentences.

Appearing before City Judge Otto B. Willett, the men are Jesse Dyer and Garry J. Lewallen, both of 347 W. Carson st., and they were put on good behavior for one year after paying their fines.

Sailor Is Cut In Beach Fight

Johnny Reyes, U. S. Navy, whose family resides in the Pueblo district, has been a patient in the Navy hospital in Long Beach as a result of being stabbed in a fracas in Hermosa Beach Monday night.

Young Reyes was with a group of youths when they became involved in an argument with a group from Redondo Beach.

Cucci Votes 'No' As Council OKs New Spur Track

The City Council, by a vote of 4 to 1, N. H. Cucci dissenting, voted last Thursday to grant the Santa Fe railway a permit to construct a spur track to the big new Navy Material Redistribution Center from its main line at Arlington ave. and Lincoln ave.

The permit is good for the duration of the war and six months thereafter, it is stipulated in the resolution of the City Council.

Granted after long controversy with residents of the Madrid ave. area who considered the request for a permit to be a wedge by which the City Council might be forced to renew the Santa Fe franchise through Torrance, the spur track is needed in connection with operation of the big plant within the next several weeks, the Navy department declared. As the war moves to the Pacific area the burden on this material redistribution center will be tremendous, and it is needed for full operation by September, it is pointed out.

In voting "no" on the resolution, Councilman Cucci said: "I would like to qualify my (Continued on Page 4)

FIRE HOSE USED TO KEEP WALTERIA SUPPLIED WITH WATER AFTER PUMP BREAKS

A Torrance fire department stand-by hose 1400 feet long kept Walteria supplied with Palos Verdes water from 1 a.m., Sunday to 3 p.m., Tuesday, while remedial measures were taken to restore regular service to the community.

A pump at the Quandt pumping station broke down and while the emergency fire hose lines were put in service a two-inch pipe line was laid.



LIEUTENANT NOW . . . H. L. (Buddy) Guttenfelder, Jr., received his Silver Wings at graduation exercises last Thursday at Luke Field, Phoenix, Ariz. At the conclusion of a ten days' leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harvel Guttenfelder of 1427 Post ave., he will report to his base to await an assignment.

Previously, a one-inch emergency line had been provided as a stand-by, the water coming from the Palos Verdes system, but this did not prove to be of sufficient capacity for this growing community.

C. H. Quandt announced the pump in his plant will be renewed by next Tuesday. Meanwhile, he said, the district has sufficient water for domestic needs but care should be taken not to utilize too much for irrigation purposes.

Quandt was praiseful of the efforts of Fire Chief McMaster, Mayor W. H. Tolson and the street and police departments for responding to the emergency. Called to the scene shortly after the pump failure, these men remained on the job all night and throughout the day, watchful that an emergency supply of water was made available and aware of possible added emergencies which luckily did not develop. They worked to fill the 99,000-gallon supply tank at Walteria to maintain safety pressure in fire hydrants there.

Meanwhile, petitions are being circulated in Walteria toward formation of a water district. This follows a recent survey which was based on the pleas of residents for a modern publicly owned system. Quandt has offered to sell his plant and facilities to the city.

Two More Men Die in Service, Reports Reveal

Two more men have been added to the Torrance Gold Star list of men who have sacrificed their lives in World War II.

One is Pvt. T. J. Fowler, Torrance high school graduate, who died at Hoff General Hospital, Santa Barbara, on June 5, 1943. The family now resides at 1800 W. 247th st., Lomita, according to Miss Irene Mills, of Torrance high school faculty, who furnished the information of his death.

The second is Pfc. John E. Harmon, of 22733 S. Main st., who was reported by the War department as killed in action in the European region.

New Red and Blue Stamps Good June 1

Office of Price Administration will use good on June 1 five new blue stamps and five new red stamps worth 10 points each.

They will be valid through Sunday, Sept. 30. The five new blue stamps will be D1, E1, F1, G1 and H1. The red stamps will be V2, W2, X2, Y2 and Z2.

Five blue stamps and six red stamps will cease to be valid after Saturday, June 2. The blue stamps are H2, J2, K2, L2 and M2. The red stamps are Y3, Z3, A2, B2, C2 and D2.

Purchasing Case Hearing Late in July

Hearing on the Superior Court action of Howard P. Raymond to prevent the payment of \$50 per month to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett for services as purchasing agent of the city probably will be set for late in July, some six months after original filing of the action, it was indicated this week.

The petition seeks to restrain Harriet Leech, city treasurer, from paying the salary to Bartlett on the ground that an elective official cannot hold an appointive job.

The answer of the defendants has been filed and an effort is being made to have the hearing set for July 24 at 9:45 a.m., it was said.

The defense is prepared to take the case to the high courts, it is declared, and considerable interest is being shown in the action since many California clerks are holding the dual positions.

WITH ENGINEERS

Lester James Dougherty, husband of Mrs. R. Dougherty of North Torrance, is serving with the 27th Engineering Training Battalion, Army Service Forces. He is taking his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. From there he will go to Wyoming for technical training.

Impressive Memorial Rites Honor Men Who Made Supreme Sacrifice

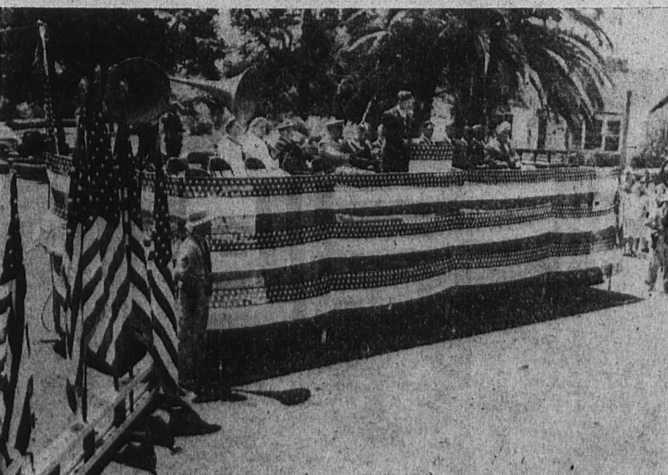
Quoting the words of St. Paul in the Scripture, "and the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death," Capt. T. R. Applebury, chaplain at the Torrance Army Hospital, Sunday afternoon gave assurance to a group of Gold Star mothers and hundreds of Torrance residents who gathered in the shade of the trees of El Prado Park to honor the memory of Torrance men who have given their lives to the cause of liberty.

The ground upon which they stood during the Memorial Day services was dedicated by the City of Torrance to the memory of those men and to others who may fall on the battlefield before the nation again is at peace. Captain Applebury declared that those men are not dead, but live, in calling for spiritual endeavor at home as a protection against the devil lurking in foreign fields.

Annual Affair
Climaxing several weeks of endeavor on the part of members of Post 3251, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Bert S. Crossland Post, American Legion and

Auxiliaries, the affair was the first Memorial Day program staged in Torrance for some years, and V.P.W. Commander C. Earl Conner, from the rostrum, gave notice that it was the first of annual rites to honor the departed comrades.

"We owe these men homage," Commander Conner said, "and as we dedicate this ground to their memory today, it is with the firm determination no future Memorial Day shall pass without a public showing of reverence to the men of our community who have sacrificed their lives that we might stand here as free men today."



TORRANCE HONORS HER FALLEN SONS . . . Gathered in El Prado park on Sunday, following a colorful street parade, were residents of Torrance—Gold Star mothers, veterans, Red Cross workers, and men and women in all walks of life—to honor the memory of Torrance men who have made the supreme sacrifice to the cause of freedom. Especially mindful of the presence of mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons and daughters of men who have died for liberty, the impressive ceremony was staged by the leaders of Torrance posts of Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion, and their auxiliaries, with other agencies cooperating. Shown above on the platform on El Prado park Memorial plot are Commander C. Earl Conner of the local V.F.W. post, opening the ceremony, supported by local veterans and auxiliary members and other citizens who participated in the program (Torrance Herald photo.)

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