

17-Year-Olds May Enlist in State Guard

Units of the California State Guard will start enlisting 17-year-old men on Saturday, the day the new state law lowering the enlistment age becomes effective, according to Lt. Col. A. Milton Fish, commander of Group 3, which includes the southern half of Los Angeles County and all of Orange County.

Thus pre-induction training for those likely to be called into the service for use as occupational forces is available to the younger men of high school age, Colonel Fish said. The training is identical with that of the United States Army and is conducted with the use of Federal equipment including 30-caliber rifles, machine guns, motorized and other equipment. Winter and summer uniforms are issued.

"The training of the young recruit in military tactics and drill is a thing which will be of value to him for the rest of his life, even though he might never be inducted into the regular Army," Colonel Fish said. "In addition, he is serving his state as he learns the many art of self defense and offense."

Enlistments in the State Guard will be taken at the various State Armories located throughout the area of Group 3, including Long Beach, San Pedro, Wilmington, Torrance, Hermosa Beach, Gardena, Compton, Bellflower, South Los Angeles, Santa Ana, Anaheim, Orange, Huntington Beach, Newport-Balboa Beach and other communities.

They are for the duration of the life of the State Guard but the recruits will be eligible for the National Guard when it is reorganized. The State Guard probably will be the nucleus of the new National Guard, it has been announced in Sacramento.

The worth of a state in the long run is the worth of the individuals composing it.

—John Stuart Mill

General Urges AWOL Soldiers To Return

Major General William E. Shedd, commanding general, Ninth Service Command, today urged all Army personnel now absent without leave from posts, camps and stations in the eight Western states to immediately return to their respective stations.

"Prolonged absence without leave, coupled with an intent not to return, makes a soldier a deserter, and upon conviction subjects him to a dishonorable discharge," General Shedd warned.

"Japan's surrender offers absentees a timely opportunity to square themselves with the Army before their offense becomes more serious," the General said.

Pointing out that desertion in wartime is an offense that is never forgotten until the offender is apprehended, General Shedd declared that "deserters become hunted men and public enemies until they are caught. Every military policeman in the country is on the lookout for them."

Benmers Receive Many Gifts From Soldier Son

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Benmer have received many fine gifts from their son, Sgt. Melvin Benmer, while he has been stationed in Europe. The latest present being a very fine set of Belgium glasses.

Sgt. Benmer, a Torrance high graduate, well remembered for his outstanding plays in high school baseball, has been overseas 11 months, according to J. Benmer, Torrance fire captain.

TO VIRGINIA BASE

Ensign L. E. Stecker recently returned to Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Va., following 20-days' convalescence leave with his wife, Eleanor, and his mother, Mrs. Mary Towler, of 1828 Andreo ave.

Time Square's Biggest Crowd



This mass of humanity, estimated at more than 1,000,000 persons, thronged Times Square, New York City, while awaiting Japan's surrender news. When the official announcement came, the crowd went wild.

Better Iron and Steel Prices on Pacific Coast Demanded by Norris

By Nelson Springer
City News Service Staff Writer

"The Pacific Coast must have better iron and steel prices," K. T. Norris, President of the Norris Steel Company, declared today.

Norris was extending his remarks on the subject of Gov. Warren's press conference Friday.

His company has been paying as much for steel in Torrance as it had been bought in and shipped from the east, he said.

Norris stated that the report of RFC financial set-up for the Kaiser plant in Fontana, under which the product had to be sold at the cost of the Eastern product plus freight to the Pacific Coast, is tantamount to what used to be called the "Pittsburgh Plus" system.

Under this system, if steel were produced in Los Angeles, and sold to a Los Angeles manufacturer, it cost him as much as if it had been shipped from Pittsburgh, or from some other eastern steel center.

"This is the system that will continue," Norris said, "unless western business men take an effective stand against it."

"If it does continue, the West will make no industrial progress," he added.

Norris is chairman of the Western States Council on steel.

"Pittsburgh Plus" is not an accurate label," he said. "What it means literally," he added, "is, that even though we produce steel here, it costs us just as much as if it were shipped from the East by water freight."

"There is another factor to be considered," Norris continued. "The capitalization of our Western Steel industry is entirely too high and must be written down before we can get advantageous prices. The capitalization of the steel mill at Geneva, Utah, and of the Kaiser Plant at Fontana is about \$150-\$160 per ton capacity, as contrasted with the average capitalization of the whole industry of about \$45 per ton capacity."

"This is due to a number of causes. The first was the war cost of going into business. The second was that the plants were not built as a private operator would build them, but as the government compelled the operators to build them. The third was that the plants were designed and tooled for the purposes and methods of war instead of the purposes and methods of the general trade in times of peace."

Norris' statement today was in response to an inquiry into his reaction to Gov. Warren's conference yesterday, at which the government censured the RFC for its reported stand on West Coast Steel prices.

"I believe that there was too much fire in the conference at the start," Norris said; "but the situation appeared to be clarified as we moved along."

One Civil case was filed, a total of \$400.

General Fund monies were collected from the following:

Drunkness \$510.00;
Parking \$36.00; Boulevard Stop, \$63.00 and miscellaneous criminal violations, \$92.50.

Road Fund monies were derived from the following: Drunk Driving, \$350.00; Speeding, \$141.00 and miscellaneous criminal violations, \$63.00.

Appearing below is a breakdown of the number of criminal and traffic cases actually handled and the disposition thereof:

Violation	Total	Guilty
Drunkness	26	26
Drunk Driving	3	3
Speeding	18	15
Parking	26	19
Boulevard Stop	18	14
Misc. Traffic	27	7
Misc. Criminal	12	8
Held for Superior Court	1	
	131	92

New Torrance-County Plans Contract Drawn

Preparation of a new contract with the City of Torrance covering general planning services of the Regional Planning Commission was ordered by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday.

The City had requested renewal of the old contract dated June 20, 1939, running for a period of five years. However, that contract merely covered furnishing of services for the preparation and administration of a comprehensive zoning plan for the City, and that work has been completed for some time, Supervisor Darby stated.

Anderson's Unit Gets Citation For Gallantry

Pfc. Milo Anderson, son of Mrs. Emma Anderson, 1636 1/2 W. 219th st., is a member of the 361st Infantry Regiment's Third Battalion, which recently was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation for gallantry, determination and esprit de corps in overcoming unusually difficult and hazardous conditions.

The battalion, a unit of the 91st "Powder River" Division, was cited for its part in fighting near Livernois and killed or wounded 250 Germans, destroyed a self-propelled gun, an anti-tank gun, captured 10 machine guns, two trucks and small arms, mortar and artillery ammunition.

In a seven-day battle, the battalion captured Livernois, took 70 prisoners and killed or wounded 250 Germans, destroyed a self-propelled gun, an anti-tank gun, captured 10 machine guns, two trucks and small arms, mortar and artillery ammunition.

The Yanks suffered 271 casualties.

Police Chief Returns to Report Trip

Police Chief John Strohm returned Sept. 2 after a 15-day sojourn to Colorado. A good trip was reported by the chief despite a little tire trouble. "Every 40 miles along the highway after leaving the state line, I saw cars parked along the road with flat tires, some beyond repair," he said, "and I was among them twice during the trip back."

The tire situation here and Colorado and also in that state, was very acute, with no tires of any grade to be had, Strohm reported.

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