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Underwriters Promise Lower Insurance Rate

The Board of Fire Underwriters of the Pacific informed the City Council Tuesday night that the building of a new fire station for Torrance plus other improvements to the department as recommended will result in a decrease of from 10 to 15 per cent in insurance rates, for commercial buildings, and seven per cent for residential buildings, in Torrance. The reduction in rates would more than pay for the cost of the new fire station, it has been said.

The underwriters recommended that the present "unsound and inadequate headquarters fire station be replaced with a building that is suitably located and properly designed for effective modern fire service. Fire department facilities should include properly equipped drill space and tower and engine testing facilities.

"Location of El Prado and Cravens avenue is the most suitable of currently proposed sites from the viewpoint of accessibility and standard running distances in the main part of the city."

Also asked was an engine company with small stream facilities backed up by a pumper and five men from headquarters for North Torrance, reestablishment of the Hollywood Riviera station with the 300 gallons per minute pumper now at Waveria. The present 750 gallons per minute pumper at Waveria was said to be sufficient.

For the central station, it recommended a new 1000 gallons per minute pumper to replace the tank truck in use, the new pumper to be equipped with a 300 to 500 gallon tank and from 1000 feet to 1500 feet of hose and equipment for outlying areas. It recommended maintenance of the present 1000 gallons per minute pumper and the 750 gallons per minute equipment.

The report asked for a captain and four men on duty for each of the pumps in the central station. It also asked for an improved fire alarm system, telephone and two-way radio service.

TAKING A FLYER

Real estate is an actuality for two Los Angeles air force veterans who are showing farm land to prospective buyers from the air. They claim the consistency of crop growth indicates condition of pastures and fertility of soil when viewed from air.

Ground Is Broken For Torrance Pottery of American-Standard

(Continued from page 1-A)

erating with the Los Angeles chamber, Dave Porter and W. H. Bratton, of the Pacific Electric Co., city officials and others in paving the way for location of the industry in Torrance.

Mayor J. Hugh Sherkey Jr., introduced by Parkin, declared that it was his pleasure to welcome American-Standard to Torrance, and promised cooperation of the city administration in the future development of the plant.

C. S. Beesmyer, president of the Los Angeles chamber and general manager of General Petroleum Corp., neighbor to the north of the new American-Standard plant, declared that many nationally known manufacturers are seeking the opportunity to find locations in Los Angeles county manufacturing districts due to its advantages over other fields. He said that they promise more jobs and security for working men of this area. Beesmyer praised the cooperation of city officials and the chamber here and told American-Standard officials that they will find this same spirit manifested in their experiences in Torrance in the future.

"General Petroleum Corporation is glad to be in Torrance," Beesmyer said, "and we wish that you of American-Standard have the same pleasant experiences in this community that we have had."

He said that the new plant will help overcome the housing shortage of Southern California. Oscar Smith, president of the Pacific Electric railway, who sold the site on which American-Standard's big Torrance pottery is being built, declared that the ground-breaking ceremony is a "proud day for me and for Torrance."

"Torrance and the Pacific Electric railway started together," Smith declared, "and we built 150 of the first homes here to house our employees. It is a grand place to be located, one where we can get along with people and we are proud that our railroad will be of service to this new industry for Torrance."

Ben H. Prack, architect who designed the Torrance American-Standard plant, said that it will have a frontage of 515 feet on Crenshaw Blvd., extending for 1330 feet in an easterly direction. He declared that in addition to the 497,808 feet of coverage area, there will be a general office building, cafeteria, boiler room and other structures which total eleven and one-half acres under roof.

He revealed that there will be four concrete kilns, 20 supply bins or silos each of 17-foot width and 40 feet height, and other structures. Prack said that the plant will employ a high quality of men and women and will buy locally wherever possible.

Parkin, in introducing other civic and industrial leaders who were present, declared that the tax rate of Torrance is the third lowest in Los Angeles county, and that this is a contributing factor toward location of industries here.

He read a message from Chairman Ray V. Darby of the Board of Supervisors, congratulating American-Standard.

Manager Duke, in his talk, said: "As a representative of the sales department I'm very happy to be with you today. These ceremonies mark the beginning of a new plant, but more than that, they are distinctive of a new era for the Pacific coast generally, and for

you people here in Torrance, particularly.

"It isn't news to you that the West coast is rapidly acquiring a world-wide reputation for industrial production. The output of our various industries during the war—when speed of production and excellence of product were the desperately important factors—clearly and completely demonstrated the potential of the Pacific Coast's vast resources, skilled manpower, and able management.

"Today, the nation faces another crisis—the shortage of housing materials. Again, it becomes part of our job to help ease this crisis by producing. My company—the American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corporation—as most of you know, is the world's largest maker of heating equipment and plumbing fixtures. It is our job, too, to help ease this critical shortage of housing materials. That is why we have begun our expansion program—why we are building this plant.

"During the war, when we were all engaged in making planes and guns and ships and other implements of war, American-Standard foresaw this material shortage, and began long-range planning for action... action which has culminated in the program which you see starting here today. American-Standard chose Los Angeles county as the locale for their expansion not only because of its reputation for producing, but because the Pacific coast has the markets which are essential to an enterprise like ours. This is good business. It's the type of business which we hope will make us welcome here in Torrance, make us members of this community.

"American-Standard is building this plant in Torrance for many reasons. First, transportation facilities are adequate; also it is convenient to sources of supply; it has the land, which is needed for a plant this size; and it is convenient to the necessary markets. These are all sound economic reasons for building.

"These are the reasons why American-Standard has chosen Torrance as the site for its plant—because here its employees will have pleasant surroundings, adequate recreational facilities, schools and churches for their families—and above all, they can have that pride in their community which makes good neighbors, and decent, responsible citizens.

"As I have said, private enterprise cannot exist without production and markets. Here on the west coast we have those markets and here in Torrance, American-Standard will have that production."

Duke also read a telegram from H. M. Reed Jr., vice president and general manager of manufacturing of American-Standard, which expressed Reed's regret at being unable to participate in the ceremonies. "Our confidence in the future of Southern California will be emphasized as our new plant takes shape," Reed's message said.

Others introduced were Walter Prack, of the architectural firm; Jack Campbell, of Bates Expanded Steel Products Co., another new Torrance industry; W. T. Tillotson, of American Rock Wool Corp., Torrance; William McElroy, of General Petroleum Corp.; George Waale, of the contracting firm of Waale-Camplan Co. and Smith, Inc., contractors for the plant; Herschel Smith, of the contracting firm; Harold W. Wright, of

Asks Reserve Fund For Local Athletic Use

Torrance has ample taxable assets, in its \$30,000,000 assessed valuation, to warrant the setting up immediately by the Torrance City Board of Education of a reserve fund for a new athletic field, gymnasium and swimming pool without the necessity of resorting to issuance of bonds, Albert Isen, attorney at law and candidate for the Board of Education at the March 18 election, said yesterday.

He said that this can be done and taxpayers will pay a lower school tax rate than has been collected during recent years by the Los Angeles city schools. "Torrance children long have been neglected under the Los Angeles system," Isen declared. "It is within our grasp to give them the benefits of the enormous wealth of Torrance in providing these needed facilities without bonding the taxpayers.

Woman Held For Murder As Man Stabbed Here

(Continued from page 1-A)

were to be married shortly after his final decree, the defendant said.

The victim lived with his mother on the second floor of the apartment house. The stabbing occurred in the living room of Mrs. McKenzie's apartment on the third floor, police said.

Mrs. McKenzie was booked by Torrance police for Floyd's murder early today.

As the group moved away from the platform, having witnessed the first actual movement of dirt by Miss DeCamp, they turned to see the contractors' giant excavating machinery start a job which will be completed in about eight months and mark the start of operations of the new major industry of Torrance, which is American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corporation.

Participates In Oratorical Contest

Corlissa Ann Vonderahe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Vonderahe, of Brawley and formerly of this city, is one of the top ranking orators, for her age, in California. It was decided at the American Legion's student oratorical contest Sunday in Corona high school, when she won third place for this area of the state. Miss Vonderahe, a Senior A student at Brawley high school, has many relatives and friends in Torrance, where she has been a frequent visitor.

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