

# O.A. Kresse, Columbia Steel Superintendent, Retires

## High Winds, Rains Whip City; More Storms Reported on Way

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## EXPANSION PROGRAMS HERE TO CREATE 7000 MORE JOBS



CHARLES T. REICHERT  
... New Shrine Potentate

### Reichert Elected Shrine Potentate

Charles T. Reichert, division sales manager for the National Supply Company, has been named potentate of Al Malakiah Temple as the result of the annual elections of the shrine held last Saturday.

The new potentate has been with the National Supply company here since 1917. He has held important posts in the oil industry and has served with the government on different occasions in important roles.



**TAKES OVER . . .** Paul Lorange was installed Saturday night as the new president of the Torrance Kiwanis Club succeeding Parke Montague. Installation ceremonies were held at the Virginia Country Club before approximately 120 Kiwanians and guests at a gala dinner-dance. Lt. Gov. Howard A. Wood was the installing officer and Homer Balo was the master of ceremonies. Also installed were Charles H. Ragsdale as first vice president and Charles E. Wallace as second vice president.

### Several Plants Plan Expansion

Employment for several thousand more persons in new and expanded Torrance industries was on the horizon this week as several large firms announced expansion programs, or affirmed rumors that negotiations for expansion were under way.

Leading the parade was General Petroleum Corporation who announced that construction of a new type of processing unit for the manufacture of very high octane gasoline had been authorized by the Socony-Vacuum Oil Company, of which General Petroleum is an affiliate company. General Petroleum officials say the expansion at the Torrance refinery is awaiting only government approval.

In other phases of industrial development here, it was learned from reliable sources that the Harvey Machine Company is contemplating an expansion program which will cost approximately \$30,000,000 and make jobs for about 2000 more persons.

Planned is an expansion of the aluminum extrusion department and construction of an aluminum rolling mill, it was learned.

Meanwhile, negotiations for leasing the Columbia Steel property at 190th street and Normandie avenue, known to Torrance residents as the Alcoa plant, have been under way for some time.

Officials of U. S. Steel and other negotiating parties decline to comment on the progress of the discussions. It is understood, however, that plans for the eventual employment of approximately 5000 persons have been

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The recent rains brought the season's total to 8.05 inches. Last year at this time the total was 1.57 inches. Normal for

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### Local Soldier Hints That 40th Is Korea Bound

Another indication that all or part of Southern California's 40th Division is in Korea—or soon will be—was received here this week by the parents of Cpl. James G. Lutes Jr.

Writing that he had flown to Korea as part of an advance party, Corporal Lutes said he had stopped in Seoul and then moved into an advanced area to prepare for the coming of the 40th.

Corporal Lutes graduated from Torrance High School in 1949, and attended El Camino for a year before entering active duty with the 578th Combat Engineers. He is now a member of Company A, of the Torrance unit.

Other indications that the division is heading into Korea have been received here from various sources. A former newsman of the area now on duty with the division is in Korea, and Sgt. Peter Kay, son of a Torrance High School teacher, is in Korea, he writes.

No official announcement has been made by the government.

### Former Torrance High Teacher Takes Own Life

Leaving his family a 10-page farewell letter, Ed Reynolds, 45, former Torrance High School teacher and student advisor, took his own life near Blythe, California this week.

No reason for his action has been divulged, according to latest reports reaching here. Friends and acquaintances here could offer no reason for his action.

His widow, Ruth and two children, Jayne 5 and John 4, were in Blythe at the time. Another son, Ed Jr., is on duty with the Navy.

Reynolds was missing for nearly 20 hours before found just 100 yards off the road near the campus of Palos Verdes Junior College where he was serving as registrar and student counselor. He had slashed his wrists and was near death when found. He died enroute to a hospital.

His body is being sent to Nebraska for burial. Reynolds taught a senior course while here, called Contemporary Problems, which is a social science and history course. He was also the faculty advisor for the Junior Statesmen of America at Torrance High School. He taught here for three and one-half years.



OTTO A. KRESSE  
... Leaving Columbia Steel



DONALD E. RICE  
... New Columbia Superintendent

### Herald Printer Dies Suddenly

Friends and relatives paid a final tribute yesterday to Robert Moss Buys, 45, a Torrance Herald printer who died at his home at 2460 Torrance boulevard Sunday morning.

A native of Eureka, Utah, Mr. Buys had been a resident of Torrance for the past two years. He had been allowed to work only on limited occasions during the past year because of a

heart ailment.

Funeral services were conducted at the Stone and Myers Chapel yesterday morning by Bishop Ted M. Wheat of the Church of Latter Day Saints. Interment was in Inglewood Park Cemetery.

He leaves his widow, Ruth, and four sons: Jerrold, Ronald and Raymond of Los Angeles, and Robert of Culver City. One sister, Mrs. Josephine Decker, also survives.



**SOMETHING WRONG . . .** Comely Patricia Hiller points out a glaring mistake on the part of sign putter-uppers. This sign, at the intersection of Hawthorne and Pacific Coast highway, would indicate that Welteria is not part of Torrance. They've been asked to move it. (Staff photo).

### Donald Rice Named To Succeed Kresse

The first man to tap a heat of steel in California is retiring. Retirement of Otto A. Kresse as general superintendent of the Columbia Steel Company plant here was announced yesterday by L. S. Dahl, vice president—operations, Columbia-Geneva division of U. S. Steel.

Donald E. Rice, assistant general superintendent of U. S. Steel's Pittsburg, Calif. plant, has been named to succeed Kresse at the Torrance plant, Dahl said.

Kresse's retirement marks the close of nearly a half-century of service in the steel industry. Known far and wide as an authority on steel production, he has the distinction of having tapped the first heat of steel for Columbia Steel Company back on November 22, 1910.

Kresse, who has reached U. S. Steel's retirement age, started his career in his native town, Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1904. He worked in various steel plants in the east and midwest, finally becoming associated with the engineering firm of Wellman, Scaver and Morgan, now known as the Morgan Engineering Company.

His firm won a contract to build a steel foundry at Pittsburg for the old Columbia Steel Corporation, which was subsequently acquired by U. S. Steel, and he was placed in charge of the job. The foundry was completed and on November 22, 1910 Kresse tapped the 15-ton basic open hearth furnace and the first heat of steel made in California gushed into a waiting ladle. At that time Columbia had 90 employees as compared to the nearly 5000 persons employed at the Pittsburg plant today.

Columbia bought the Llewellyn Iron Works, now the Torrance plant, in 1923 and a few years later Kresse was transferred to that new addition as open hearth superintendent. He was made assistant general superintendent in June, 1939 and appointed general superintendent in December, 1940. He has been active in civic and community affairs here.

Kresse is a member of the governing board of Torrance Memorial Hospital, has been a director of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce during the past year, and is a long-time member of the Torrance Rotary Club. He and Mrs. Kresse live in their home at 1445 El Prado.

His successor, Rice, was born in Jackson, Ohio on April 26, 1907 and graduated from North High School at Columbia, Ohio. He graduated from Ohio State University in 1929 with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering.

Upon his graduation he began working for American Steel and Wire Company, a U. S. Steel subsidiary in Trenton, N. Y., and in February, 1940 transferred to the Torrance plant.

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### Steel Plant Remains Idle After Walkout

The huge Columbia Steel Company plant here remained silent this week as the walkout of employees went into the ninth day with no hint of settlement of the dispute in sight.

Union leaders and company officials yesterday reported that no compromise had been reached between the company and the union, the United Steelworkers of America, CIO, Local 1414.

Joe McNally, grievance committee chairman for the local, said yesterday afternoon that the union's stand was unchanged in the matter.

At the same time company officials were saying that there were "no changes" in the situation.

The 1200 men of the plant walked out January 7 when the company discharged two men from the rolling mill labor pool on charges of insubordination.

The union has maintained that the action was arbitrary and that the insubordination record of the two men was no different than the records of the other men in the pool.

Rumors that the dispute might be settled tomorrow (Friday) were not confirmed by company or union spokesmen.

U. S. Steel officials say that the shutdown has cut steel production by 600 tons a day, the output of the plant before the walkout.

### GP Employees Get Wage Boost

Certain employees of the Torrance plant of the General Petroleum Co. have been given 4.2 increases in their base pay rates, the company announced this week.

The pay hikes are for all employees not represented by authorized bargaining agents. The same increase has been offered to the union, but it has not yet been approved, the company said.

All pay hikes are retroactive to January 1 of this year.