

Harvey Machine Mum on Mill Site

NIGHT FIRE GUTS NEW PLAY CENTER

—the ONLY Newspaper Published AND PRINTED in Torrance. Established 1914.

TORRANCE HERALD

—and Torrance Herald Shoppers Reach 100,000 Buyers
Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at postoffice Torrance, California, under Act of March 3, 1879.

39th Year—No. 9 TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1953 12 24 PAGES

Columbia Ducks Layoff Query



Sunday and Thursday
Home Delivered by Carrier
30 Cents Per Month

Columbia Cagy On New Mix

Columbia Steel Co. officials played a very cagy this week when asked to spike or confirm rumors that a big layoff is due to hit the local mill during a proposed switch in "product mix."

The mill employing 11 steelworkers was shut down last week. The men were absorbed in other departments, however.

Commenting on the rumor yesterday, officials in San Francisco said: quote:

"We are not thinking of closing down the sheet mill at this moment."

The comment opened the suggestion that the mill might be shut down at some future date. Asked when this might occur, officials stated:

"No comment."
The same statement was given in answer to a question put by newsmen who asked: "Does this mean the management does not intend to shut down the mill at all?"

In Los Angeles public relations representatives for the steel firm said the rumors "undoubtedly were founded on a plan of the company to change the 'product mix' at the Columbia plant here. The change in 'mix' would result in a different kind of steel now being tapped out of the company's four furnaces. The spokesman did not indicate what kind of steel might be made or how much processing, if any, would be done here.

In changing the "mix" a type of steel might be manufactured which would not lend itself to processing by use of the present sheet mill equipment. If such is the case, it was foreseen that the sheet mill might be shut down, leaving only the open hearth furnaces in operation.

Just what the company plans to do, however, is largely a matter of guesswork since the company has declined to comment extensively on the future plans.

Harvey Silent On Site for New \$20 Million Mill

While news stories datelined Washington, D. C. earlier this week revealed that the Harvey Machine Co. would build a \$20,000,000 aluminum rolling mill "at" Torrance, officials here were reluctant to give the exact location of the plant or the number of workers to be employed pending the completion of final arrangements.

A good second guess would be that the local concern would build the plant "in" Torrance on acreage which was recently acquired by the aluminum company. The plot, which might well be the site of the huge Harvey development, is located west of Western Ave. and south of 190th St.

Want It In Torrance
Watchdogs of the Torrance treasury are hopeful that Harvey will pick the site on the west side of Western Ave., which would put the development within the city boundaries, rather than on acreage, also recently acquired by Harvey, which is located directly south of its present plant and which would mean the \$20,000,000 plant would be located in the Shoestring Strip of the City of Los Angeles.

A company representative said Tuesday that the officials of the aluminum processing firm had been advised only Monday that they had been awarded a certificate of necessity by the federal government. He said plans had not jelled sufficiently to enable the company to give the specific answer on either the location or number of workers to be employed. An announcement on both would soon follow, the company spokesman said.

Big Press First
Actual construction of the rolling mill may not start until the Air Force-sponsored heavy press program is well under way. In earlier news stories it was revealed that the federal government and Harvey had completed a deal to erect a 10-story building on the recently acquired Shoestring Strip acreage to house a huge press capable of stamping out in a single operation giant wing panels for the nation's big bombers and fighter planes.

The new mill is an integral part of the expansion goal set by the Defense Production Administration to increase facilities for the production and heat treating of aluminum sheets and strips as a part of the nation's defense program.

Privately Financed
The entire project will be built by private financing, Leo M. Harvey, president of the firm, stated.

Emphasizing the need for such a rolling mill here, Harvey pointed out that practically all of the aluminum sheets and strips used by the manufacturers of aluminum products here must be shipped in from mills located in other areas. This remoteness from sources of supply



ADULT CENTER RAZED . . . Firemen swarm over the new Adult Recreation Center in downtown Torrance as they battled the flames which swept the building early yesterday. Damage was estimated at several thousand dollars.

although complete estimates of the damage will not be made until next week. Battalion Chief Gene Walker said a cigarette was apparently the cause of the early morning blaze.

Flames Destroy Center

Fire which evidently started in an overstuffed chair near a wall heater, gutted the recently dedicated Adult Recreation Center behind the library at Post and Cravens early yesterday morning.

Damage to the new building will probably run to several thousand dollars.

Firemen were called at 1:10 a.m. yesterday when a passerby noticed flames licking around the eaves of the center's patio. Battalion Chief Gene Walker said the flames had apparently been smoldering in the closed building for at least two hours before the alarm was sounded.

Extensive damage to the interior of the building and to furniture and recreation equipment was caused by the heat and smoke.

Walls Charred
Walls and ceilings of the entire center section were burned and blistered, and considerable smoke soot collected on the kitchen appliances.

City Manager George Stevens, who surveyed the scene early yesterday with Recreation Director Frank Carpenter, said an estimate of the damage done would be only "a wild guess." Insurance investigators were on the scene yesterday afternoon.

(Continued on Page 4)

Council Locked 2 to 2 on Naming Play Director

By declining to vote, Mayor Mervin Schwab created a 2 to 2 deadlock over the reappointment of Frank Carpenter as recreation director, at a meeting of the city council Tuesday night.

Councilmen Willys Blount and Harvey Spelman voted for reappointment. Councilmen Nick Drake and Victor Benstead voted "No."

The mayor stated he would refuse to vote until the two sides reach an agreement.

The council took no action to appoint the only other eligible candidate, Harry B. Van Belle, of Los Angeles. Van Belle scored 90.93 points, including a 10-point veteran's preference, on a recent civil service examination for the job. Carpenter scored 71.94 points. The two candidates were the only applicants to pass the examination.

Blount made the motion to appoint Carpenter following a recommendation of the Recreation Commission that Carpenter be rehired for the job he has held for the past three years without civil service status.

Another appointment, that of Attorney Boris Woolley as city prosecutor, passed the council unanimously.

Wallflower County Island Now Belle of the Brawl

A large chunk of county territory, until recently regarded as a wallflower, suddenly found itself the "Belle of the Brawl" this week as Torrance and Redondo Beach became rival suitors—each attempting to woo the area into becoming part of its respective city.

Leading lady in the municipal triangle is a 2000-acre county island of land bounded by Del Amo, Torrance Blvd. and Hawthorne Ave. Redondo Beach flirted with the idea of annexing the area which it adjoins, when Torrance got wind of the goin' on and moved to nip the courtship in the bud. However, Torrance's plan to isolate the area, thus blocking Redondo's move, hit a snag. Torrance was planning to annex a narrow strip of land which would result in the county island then being surrounded on all four sides by the City of Torrance. Had Torrance been successful, the area could only join Torrance since it would no longer be adjacent to the boundary line of Redondo Beach.

Torrance planned to annex the strip under the Unincorporated Territories Act, but it developed that the area was far from being uninhabited. Actually 12 voters live in the area. The situation then is that neither Torrance nor Redondo Beach can annex the area without the consent of the residents.

The voters of the area have three choices: they can vote to join Torrance, they may elect to join Redondo Beach, or they may elect to do nothing and stay as they are.

First Night Jitters Grip THS Thespians

Three-Act Comedy, 'You Can't Take It With You,' to Be Presented Here Saturday Night

A glimpse backstage shows the scene set with all necessary props; worried seniors in the dressing rooms are applying finishing touches to their makeup; in the lobby the ticket chairman is pacing back and forth, wondering if there will be a full house; and the director is sitting in the second row, hoping the players will remember their cues.

All these sights will be seen at the Torrance High School auditorium Saturday night before the curtain goes up at 8:15 o'clock on the 1952 senior class play, "You Can't Take It With You," a three-act comedy.

Starring in the show are Janet Williamson as Penelope Sycamore; Dwight Hanna as the grandfather, Martin Vanderhof; Jeanne Whitten as Alice, the romantic lead; and Jim Crain as Tony Kirby, who will play opposite Alice.

Others in the cast are Janie Moffatt, Vonnie Griffin, Sid Staxrud, Jim Berard, Jack Beeman, Harold Holmes, Dan Mayers, Lody Popovich, Chuck Stewart, Coleen Steffen, David Curl, and Carol Clook.

A new sound table, constructed by Dwight Hanna and made possible by the class of '52, will be making its stage debut in this production.

Tickets may still be obtained at the high school or from any member of the senior class. General admission is 50 cents, while reserved section seats may be purchased for 75 cents.



REHEARSAL WIND-UP . . . Four members of the cast for the coming senior play give a final polish to their lines before opening night. The show will be presented to the public Saturday night. Shown here are Coleen Steffen, Janet Williamson, Dwight Hanna, and Jim Crain.



SOAP OPERA FAN . . . Jimmy Giacalone, of the A-1 Photo Supply Store here, is not hard of hearing—he is listening to the radio. The tiny set, tubeless and requiring no electricity, was given to him by another local man, Wallace Woods, the inventor. Said Giacalone, after listening to "Stella Dallas" on the tiny radio: "I just couldn't believe my ears."

Tiny Tubeless Radio Fits In Ear Like Hearing Aid

A General Petroleum refinery worker who likes to tinker with radios has come up with a tubeless radio no larger than a hearing aid.

The device, according to Wallace Woods, of 1629 Elm Ave., maker of the tiny Dick Tracy like radio, is complete in itself requiring no current supply either from a wall plug or batteries. The radio, about the size of a quarter, has no moving parts and says inventor Woods, "It'll never wear out."

reception of a ground wire, can be worn in the ear like a hearing aid.

Although Woods does not intend to commercialize his little radios, he admits it has many commercial possibilities. Since the sets require no current and only a good ground contact, the sets can be worn by hospital patients without disturbing other patients. The tiny device can be worn while waiting in reception rooms. Rigged up to a built-in aerial in a

worn while walking. It would be even perfectly safe to use while taking a bath.

Woods made his first set out of parts he found in surplus stores for about \$2.25. Since then he has been spending much of his off-work hours making the sets for friends. The radio made a terrific hit among fellow workers at the General Petroleum refinery here, where Woods is employed as an inspector in the engine lab.

The radio has certain limitations. It can be used only

(Continued on Page 4)

while taking a bath.

Woods made his first set out of parts he found in surplus stores for about \$2.25. Since then he has been spending much of his off-work hours making the sets for friends. The radio made a terrific hit among fellow workers at the General Petroleum refinery here, where Woods is employed as an inspector in the engine lab.

The radio has certain limitations. It can be used only

(Continued on page 4)