

Dominguez Has Historical Tie to Area

The Dominguez Water Corp., first organized as the Dominguez Water Co., has been in continuous operation since 1911. Originally a mutual company, its purpose was to provide a dependable water supply for the lands of the Rancho San Pedro. At that time, there were more than 20,000 acres of the original grant still remaining in the possession of the Dominguez heirs, extending westward from the Los Angeles River to Redondo Beach.

Initial construction was financed by a bond issue of \$500,000, guaranteed by the Dominguez Estate Company. The first wells were drilled near the site of the main plant, still located at Carson and Alameda, south of Dominguez Hill. The project was supervised by William Mulholland, chief engineer for the city of Los Angeles, and the builder of the Owens River Aqueduct. The pumps were powered by two huge engines, with fly-

wheels eleven feet in diameter. Steam has been replaced since by electricity, but some of the oldest wells continue to supply steady flow of water.

DURING THE first decade, the new venture was beset with many difficulties, failing to pay its way. In February, 1914, less than three years after it was placed in service, the pumping plant was in danger of being swept away by winter floods. The Los Angeles River changed its course and inundated the entire area for several miles.

Wells and equipment, together with connecting ditches, were destroyed. For more than a week the plant itself was completely surrounded by water, sand bags being used to protect the pumps and engines. Following this experience, a high masonry wall was built around the plant, which gave good service in keeping out high water in another flood in

1916. OTHER THAN financial and natural hazards, the company had its share of operational problems. These involved line construction, repair of leaks, and maintenance of equipment. The alkaline content of the soil in some areas caused a rapid corrosion of the pipe lines. Competent labor was not always available. During World War I, the shortage of steel pipe and other materials brought further complications.

Later, during the earthquake of 1933, most of the equipment at the main plant was badly damaged, and had to be completely rebuilt. The annual financial deficits continued, being absorbed by the Dominguez Estate Company. In spite of these handicaps, the Company made progress and expanded its service.

THE DEVELOPMENT of the Dominguez Water Co. is close-

ly associated with the City of Torrance and its early history, the latter also dating from the year 1911. With the founding of the town, a 33-inch pipeline was completed the following year, which provided an ample supply for industrial and residential uses. Water was supplied to the city of Torrance and surrounding area until 1936, when part of the facilities were taken over by the municipal government. In later years, approximately 6000 outlets within the city continue to be serviced by the Dominguez

Water Corp. presently serves an area in excess of 35 square miles, with a volume larger than the city of Compton.

Through almost half a century of operation, 26 wells have been drilled. Of these, 17 are still in operation, with water pumped from depths of 1200 to 1600 feet. The transmission system includes more than 175 miles of pipelines, varying from one inch to three feet in diameter. From an initial daily output of a few thousand gallons, additional wells and improved equipment have increased the volume to a possi-

ble maximum of more than 66 million gallons a day. The current storage capacity totals 32 million gallons.

A reservoir and two large tanks are located on Dominguez Hill. Another large reservoir and elevated tank, the latter being recently completed, are located in northwest Torrance. Future plans call for storage facilities of more than double the present capacity. Two connections with feeder lines of the Metropolitan Water District provide a standby source in case of emergencies. A similar arrangement exists with the city of Compton.

A VISIT to the main plant of the Dominguez Water Corp., with its modern offices, reveals many interesting facts dealing with the production and proper safeguarding of water for human consumption. A high degree of neatness and sanitation is evident. One is impressed by the complicated equipment required in the pumping, measurement, testing, treatment, and distribution of this vital necessity of life.

Special devices collect and test water samples continuously; the results being recorded on graphic charts. Other electronic instruments constantly adjust the treatment of the incoming flow, based on signals from the testing devices. All water, both at the main plant and in the reservoirs, is treated to eliminate bacteria, algae, and odors, being regularly inspected by state authorities.

ANOTHER FEATURE of operation is that the pumps at the several wells, some which are two to four miles distant, are regulated from the central control board at the main plant. Through the marvel of electronics, they can be turned on and off automatically, depending on changes in pressure and amount of water needed. They can be adjusted to take on the pumping load in any order desired, preventing undue strain on any one well. This permits regular maintenance of all wells without interruption of service.

The Dominguez Water Corp. has been fortunate in having sound management throughout its entire history, and has operated at a profit since its reorganization. As a subsidiary of the Dominguez Estate Co., it is essentially a family ownership; its officers in 1959 being James P. Bradley, president; J. Victor Carson, vice president; and Mrs. Florence Shaefer, secretary-treasurer.

IN EARLIER days, the responsibility for active supervision of the plant and its operation was carried by E. P. Tallon, who served more than 30 years as superintendent and chief engineer. Since 1943, his son, T. Vincent Tallon, has filled the same position. The total employed personnel currently averages more than 60 persons.



VETERAN RIG . . . This drilling rig, owned by Brinkhoff Drilling Company, Denver, has been used to drill 159 wells, with a total of 849,251 feet, in a little over four years. It is a skid-mounted National T-20, manufactured by The National Supply Company, powered by GMC Twin Diesel Engines, and includes a 95-foot Lee C. Moore Mast. The record averages about 38 wells, of 5,341 feet, each year. Normally the rig is transported in ten loads.



SPACE CAPSULE PROTOTYPE . . . The prototype of a space research capsule is one of the many aerospace products developed by the Norair Division of Northrop Corporation. Dr. Norman V. Petersen, head of Norair's Astro Systems and Research Laboratories, spearheaded design and development of the prototype.

*Evoking memories and dramatizing
PROGRESS...*



. . . 1784

From the day in 1784 when Juan Jose Dominguez, an old soldier of the Spanish Colonial Army, received a Spanish Land Grant Title to 10½ Spanish square leagues (46,000 acres), known as "Rancho San Pedro" the Dominguez family, down through the generations, has played a direct part in the growth and development of the land we now call "Torrance."

1800
1850
1900
1911

Three generations later, with large sections broken up to become the present City of Compton, Palos Verdes Hills, Wilmington, City of Redondo Beach, Terminal Island, and, in 1911 the City of Torrance, the Dominguez Water Company was formed to provide necessary domestic and irrigation water for the Rancho lands. This company was succeeded in 1937 by the Dominguez Water Corporation, a wholly owned public utility, now serving over 17,000 consumers.

1920
1930
1940
1950
1960

Within a span of a half-century our way of life has been completely transformed in innumerable respects. The Dominguez Water Corporation has kept pace with this ever accelerating progress. Dominguez, for instance, has constantly expanded the scope of its services and improved its techniques to meet the needs of customers in today's fast moving world.

**DOMINGUEZ
WATER
CORPORATION**

Progress that benefits all America comes from the growth and development of business, large and small.

**Mobil Net Gains
During 1959
Chairman Says**

Consolidated net income of Socony Mobil Oil Company for 1959 is estimated at \$162.6 million, Fred W. Bartless, chairman, announced this week. In 1958 the company's net income amounted to \$156.8 million.

The 1959 estimated net earnings are equivalent to \$3.35 a share based on the average number of shares outstanding during the year. This compares with \$3.24 a share in 1958.

Socony Mobil's world-wide operations reached record volume levels in 1959, Bartlett said. The high volumes and increased operating efficiency of the company were not fully reflected in earnings, he said, because of weak crude and product prices.

The company's world-wide gross crude oil production averaged 749,000 barrels a day, compared with 723,000 in 1958. Crude oil processed by its refineries was estimated at 938,000 barrels a day as against 870,000 in 1958. Sales of petroleum products totaled an estimated 1,063,000 barrels per day, compared with 986,000 in the previous year.

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THE PACIFIC SMELTING CO.

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA