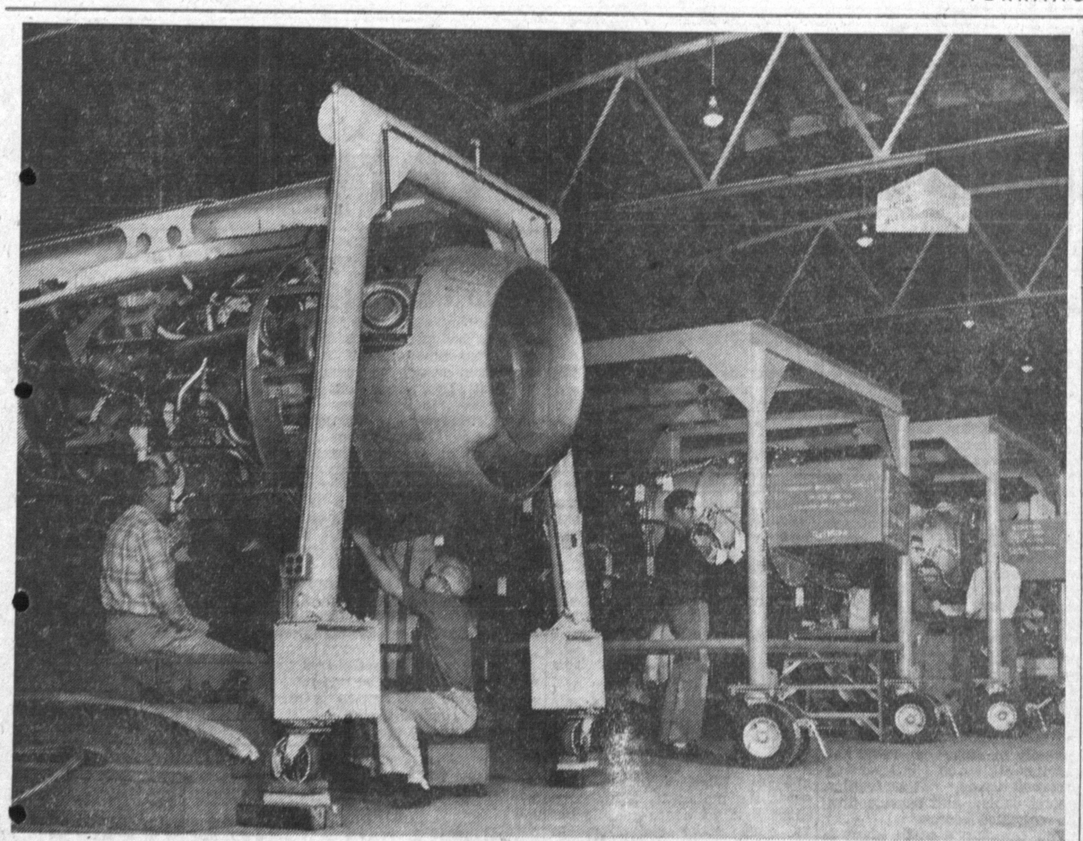

ENGINE PODS FOR JETLINER—Production line of jet engine power pods which Ryan produces for the new Douglas DC-8 Jetliner. These are being built in Torrance plant. The Torrance plant is also assembling Firebee target drones for the Airforce, Navy and Army. By 1959 when the peak in production of the Firebee is reached, employment in the Torrance plant is expected to be near 1700.

Ryan Expands Local Plant to Build Firebees

Torrance's industrial family added a new m embers last May 7 when Ryan Aeronautical Company purchased the industrial building and property at 2750 Lomita blvd. in Torrance. The new Ryan plant opened July 1, 1957, but soon outgr ew the original 137,000 sq. ft. building. Contracts for two additional production buildings and an a ditional two stories on the office building were awarded. The buildings are expected to be finished by mid-summer, and will increase the square footage to 275,000.

The Torrance plant is now employing 600 workers, but by the time the new buildings are completed, the number of employees should reach 1,000. By 1959, when production of the Firebee target drones reaches its peak, the workers at the plant should number about 1,700.

Ryan's 7,000 employees at Torrance and San Diego produced over $76 million worth of aeronautical and electronic products last year.

Now in its 36th year, the Ryan Aeronautical Company is one of two pioneer aircraft companies still headed by its founder, T. Claude Ryan. (The other is Douglas Aircraft Company, also in Torrance.)

Ryan's current backlog is $117 million in a broadly diversified list of products running the gamut from Firebee jet drone missiles, ramjet and rocket engines, huge jet tanker fuselages, jet engine pods for commercial airliners, and VTOL research aircraft, to electronics systems for navigation and missile guidance.

Ryan is also diversified in other ways. Sixty percent of the present backlog is for military applications—forty percent, commercial. Ryan is both a prime contractor, 30 percent, and a subcontractor, 70 percent. Ryan is a research and development facility, with over 1100 in the engineering division, and a production plant, geared to volume production of exacting structures for high speed flight.

Most of Ryan's prime contract work involves the development of new products for the Air Force, Navy and Army, such as the Firebee target drones (produced in Torrance), and the X-13 Vertijet (world's first jet VTOL aircraft), and RANAV automatic and Navy aircraft. Ryan's subnavigation systems for Army contract work is typified by the production of huge aft fueslages for Boeing KC-135 jet tankers and jet power packs and pylons (to be built in Torrance) for the new Douglas DC-8 jet liner.

Ryan is not only well equipped to MEET the challenge of the new missile era, the company has been an experienced producer in this field for many years. Ryan engineering and production teams work in all three areas of missile technology: "frame" (aerodynamics), "Brain" (Electronics guidance) and "muscle" (propulsion).

Officially designated a "drone missile" by the Air Force, the Ryan Firebee has missile capability in that it can carry a 500-pound payload which could be devoted to a warhead or an electronic "brain" to seek out and destroy an enemy. Ryan engineers designed the Firebee, which is the highest performance "flying bull's-eye" in operation, and designed the electronics system for controlling and guiding it. The Firebee will be the main product of the Torrance plant. For several years, Ryan has been producing the powerful liquid-fuel rocket engines for the Army's Corporal guided missile and the ramjet combustion chambers for the Air Force's Bomarc interceptor missile. In the field of propulsion, Ryan experience goes back to the first commercially-built afterburner, in 1946, and thousands of important components for the major jet engines in service today.

For over twenty years, Ryan has specialized in the fabrication of high temperature alloys for aviation applications. Today, Ryan handles 80 alloys in fabrication, of which 30 metals are for high temperature use, running from 1200 to 2200 fahrenheit.

After ten years concentrated work in the specialized field of continuous-wave Doppler radar, Ryan has achieved industry leadership in applying these principles to the solution of complex navigation and guidance problems. Six months ago, the growing importance of this work was emphasized by the establishment of the Ryan Electronics Division in a new plant separate from the main factory. Here, automatic navigational systems for both jet Navy planes and helicopters and Army aircraft and helicopters are being produced. Under wraps, a guidance system for an important supersonic missile is also being developed.

To meet the fast changing demands of aviation, Ryan is diversified, yet specialized; flexible, yet experienced.

Golf Unlimited Charter Planned

The "Golf Unlimited Club" being organized at Sea-Aire Golf Course invites women of the Torrance area to become charter members which meet for golf Thursday mornings between 9 and 11:30 a.m.

At the meeting held Thursday, Mrs. Joseph Edens, and Mrs. Charles Moore, were elected as temporary chairmen; Mrs. Chas. Bakovic was elected babysitting chairman.

This group, which is sponsored by the Torrance Recreation Department, is planned to add to the enjoyment of golfing by offering a congenial group playing regularly together. Business meetings are kept to a minimum and are held during the coffee break. Membership fees will be very nominal and babysitting will be worked out so mothers of younger children may also participate.

Beginning golfers are especially encouraged to join this group and improve their game. Handicapping is planned so that tournaments can be run. Women who are interested in the group are invited to register on Thursday mornings at Sea-Aire Golf Course. A special meeting to consider the charter will be held today at 11 after the rounds of golf starting at 9 a.m.

Post Office Has Problems, Too, In City That's Rapidly Growing

Whether or not more Torrance residents will soon start to receive their mail through the local post office is a question still pending, according to information given recently by Mrs. Clara A. Conner, Torrance postmistress. Some residents now get mail service through post offices at Hollywood Riviera, Gardena and Redondo Beach. The City Council recently requested that all these people be served by the Torrance post office.

The City Council's letter was forwarded to the District Supervisor," Mrs. Conner said, "and the district sent us a map on which were were to show the areas we proposed to cover."

She said the map was completed and returned to the District Supervisor. The actual decision, she said, will be made at a higher level in the Post Office Department.

Can't Solicit

"A post office cannot solicit business," the postmistress emphasized. "The request must come from the people themselves."

Asked about the organization of the local post office, Mrs. Conner said it consists of three buildings: a main office at 1433 Marcelina, a North Torrance station at 17415 Crenshaw, and a Post Office Annex at 3611 Torrance blvd.

She would like to have a new post office building on the east side of the city, "somewhere in the vicinity of Carson and Main or Carson and Avalon.

"We have to service quite a few people in that area," she said.

To accomplish the work of the post office, Mrs. Conner has 225 employes and 22 vehicles. Total receipts for 1957 were $269,440, which the postmistress said would not pay even one-fifth of the cost of operating for the year.

Worked Sundays

Adjusting to the problems arising with the responsibility for mail service to a rapidly growing city was not easy, Mrs. Conner said. When she became postmistress seven years ago, she and all other employes had to work long hours to see that the mails went through.

"We worked on Sunday practicaly every week," she said. "Overtime? No, we were not allowed it. Many of the men were very tired and I simply had to ask for volunteers.

"And while they were working, I would go out and buy them coffee and sandwiches because they were all so tired."

It's easier now, though, and Mrs. Conner says that the biggest reason for it is that the post office employes today are "a better class of people."

"The people we have now are the type who want to make the postal service their career," she said. "Many of them found out that eight or 10 years seniority in a private business did not mean security.

"But in the Post Office Department they do have security and as a result we have less turnover of personnel today than we used to," Mrs. Conner said.

Five Cents Postage

While pointing out that the annual receipts of the local post office do not pay even a fraction of its operating costs, Mrs. Conner took the opportunity to speak in favor of a five-cent postal rate, which the department now is considering.

If the rate is adopted, the three-ounce first-class letter that now can be mailed anywhere for only three cents would cost five cents to mail.

"If only the people could see how many times a letter must be handled after it is dropped into the mail slot," she said, "then they might realize how much it costs the government to get the mail through.

"And then, too, they might realize that even at the five-cent rate, first-class mail would still be a big bargain," she added.

She said she understands that the people of Canada have been paying five cents for first-class mail for several years.

Medearis Pioneers In Underwater TV

The Medearis Oil Well Supply Co. on South Normandie in Torrance has perfected an underwater TV which promises to revolutionize offshore drilling and many other types of underwater operations. Their unit is receiving national and international recognition because of its simplicity, compactness, versatility, and ease of operation.

Although underwater television has been used since 1946, the compact Medearis unit offers many features unavailable until now, and a simplicity which multiplys its usefulness many times.

The use of Meadearis Underwater TV for monitoring underwater operations in offshore drilling offers many advantages, including the following:

The need for divers is minimized and practically eliminated.

When a diver is used, his actions can be observed and directed by an experienced engineer stationed at the monitor.

The normal limit of depth to which a diver can go is 200 feet, wheras the TV camera can be used effectively at 1000 feet below the surface of the water.

As a result of contrast control, the TV camera has an effective vision or perception approximately twice that of a normal diver's eyes.

Technically qualified personnel are enabled to observe and direct underwater operations on a round-the-clock schedule.

Whenever desired, a secondary monitor can be installed at any remote point up to approximately 200 miles from the actual operation to permit direct, first-hand observation at headquarters offices.

The exact design of the framework from which the housing is suspended can be varied according to the needs of the operator.

Pacific Little League Slates Opening Event

The Stars will face the Padres in the Pacific Coast Little League opener Sunday at 12:30 p.m. in Kissel Field.

Mayor Albert Isen will pitch the first ball following invocation by Rev. Thomas Dillard, minister of the First Methodist Church, and Flag salute by Boy Scout Troop 240.

Joe Manning will be master of ceremonies.

Resident Shoots Self with Pal's Target Pistol

Torrance police classified as accidental a gunshot wound received Sunday by George Kane, 28, of 23875 Park st.

The longshoreman was taken to Kaiser Foundation Hospital with injuries to his hand and fingers.

Officers said that Kane was testing the action on a .38 caliber revolver left in his apartment by a friend when he shot himself.

King Praised for Teacher Benefit

Congressman Cecil R. King was hailed this week for his efforts which brought about an estimated savings of $20,000,000 1957 to give the school teacher in an income tax break under liberalized Internal Revenue Service regulations.

The move was described as "the most significant step ever taken by the U.S. government to improve the economic status of teachers and their professional qualifications", by William G. Carr, executive secretary of the National Educational Association.

Congressman King first introduced a bill in the House of Representatives in February 1957 to give the school teacher the same break as businessmen in deducting necessary expenses from income taxes for the cost of improving professional competence and increase earnings.

The enactment of the new Treasury Department ruling embodies the provisions of Congressman King's measure.

Under the new ruling, taxpayers may deduct from their income taxes the cost of courses taken voluntarily to improve skill in their work. These deductions are retroactive to 1954.

Besides the cost of schooling, the new regulation applies to the cost of lodging, travel and meals when courses are taken away from home. The ruling, in effect, gives to salaried persons the same privilege now enjoyed by self employed taxpayers. Teachers will be able to deduct costs of refresher courses and seminars; others, the cost of special training in their own fields.