

\$10 Million Budgeted For Underground Lines

Expenditures by Southern California Edison Co. for undergrounding power lines next year are expected to exceed \$10 million, Jack K. Horton, the electric utility's president, has announced.

Of this amount, \$6½ million will be budgeted for 1968 for converting existing overhead lines to underground. An additional \$4.3 million is expected to be spent for new construction—installing certain new lines underground.

"We are pleased to continue to participate in the manner contemplated by the California Public Utilities Commission's order toward beautifying the communities we serve," Horton said. "Our existing 10-year underground program was initiated in 1955," he noted.

Home Entered

Burglars broke into the home of Roland L. Cockman, 18712 Felbar, some time Sunday and took more than \$1,000 worth of goods. When Cockman returned home about 9 p.m., he discovered the loss of a color television set, two typewriters, one rifle, one shotgun, several pieces of jewelry, and other small items.

EDISON'S 10-year plan calls for spending \$145.5 million through 1975 for undergrounding power facilities. Included are planned expenditures of \$8½ million annually for converting existing overhead lines and an additional amount, increasing by \$1½ million each year, for installation of new distribution lines underground.

To illustrate how the program accelerates in its impact, Horton said that such expenditures totaled \$7.8 million in 1966, the first year of the schedule, but will increase to \$21.3 million for the year 1975.

"Of course, many power lines still will have to be constructed in the conventional way," the company's chief executive officer pointed out. "Even with the major sums to be spent for undergrounding next year and in the following years, the cost of converting our entire system would be astronomical—in fact nearly equivalent to our total capital investment—and obviously would take many years to accomplish."

and counties which enact underground ordinances, Horton explained.

He noted that Edison's progress in the underground field includes not only the present program but also pioneering work the company performed several years ago in spearheading less-costly techniques for undergrounding new residential developments.

In 1962, for example, the company's introduction of pre-assembled cable-in-duct helped cut costs to the point that, last year, more than 40 per cent of the new homes and apartments built in the utility's service area were

connected with underground electric service. This compares with only about 1 per cent of new underground connections as recently as 1960, Horton said.

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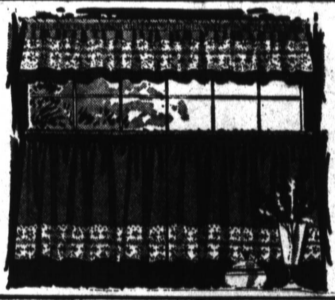


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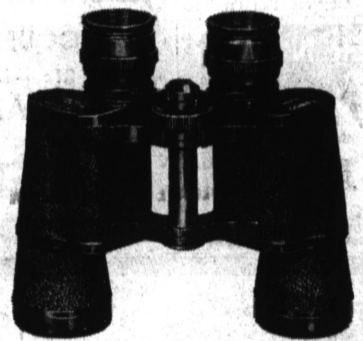
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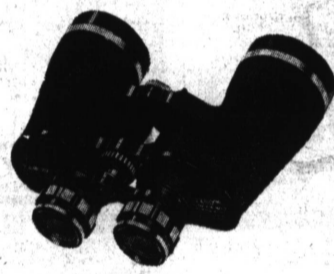
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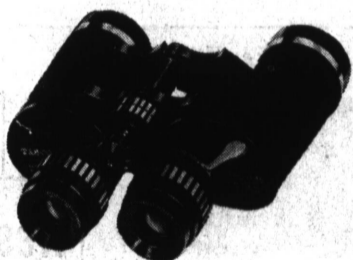
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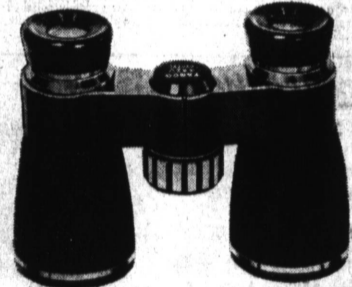
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