

Firm Sends Name Around the World

Torrance's first industry, now known as the Torrance plant of National Supply Division of Armco Steel Corp., is the dominant producer of several "oil country" products and is moving rapidly into new fields.

The Torrance plant produces drilling rigs, the essential equipment in the never-ending search for oil.

For other industries. For example, machinery made here is used throughout the world and National Supply's Torrance plant is the principal manufacturer.

In order to continue to expand, as it has since 1900, major additions have been made to the plant. Now, the Torrance facility is producing more and more products.

The Torrance plant produces a number of repair items for other Armco plants. These include back-up rolls used in "squeezing" steel from large ingots into thin plates and sheets, and giant "buckets" called slag pots or cinder pots.

One of the unusual products of the plant is barrels for 175 millimeter guns,

produced for the U.S. Army.

The huge tubes are made to very exact specifications.

The plant also produces such defense items as castings to form the stern end of ships and components for the launching mechanism for missiles.

The National Supply Division is a major supplier, as well as producer, of equipment for the oil business.

About 100 stores located

throughout the world see a vast array of equipment needed in the oil industry, including many products made by others as well as all the products which the division itself produces. Other National Supply Division plants are located in Los Nietos, Calif.; Gainesville and Houston, Tex.

National Supply, for many years an independent company, was acquired by Armco in 1958. Earlier, National Supply had acquired Union Tool Co. of California in 1920.

Union Tool had been organized in 1900 by Lyman Stewart, head of the Union Oil Co. On one of his visits back to his hometown of Titusville, Pa., Stewart hired a young man named Edward Double. Double proved himself to be a veritable dynamo, building Union Tool into one of the great oil well supply manufacturing firms.

Under Double's leadership, the Union Tool Shop outgrew its original quarters, which had been established in Santa Paula. Finally, unable to obtain more space for expansion, the company moved to Torrance. The factory is now the largest plant in the world for the manufacture of rotary drilling equipment.

In addition, the 39-acre plant is the largest completely integrated machinery manufacturing plant on the Pacific Coast.

"That means we don't rely on other companies for our steel," according to C. B. Cooke, manager of the plant. "Most of our steel comes from our two electric furnaces. Being independent allows us complete control of our quality from the first melting step to the finished products."

A complete range of carbon, alloy, and stainless steels can be melted in the plant's furnaces.

Products of the plant range from huge valve bodies to drive gears, pump shells,

steam pipes for electric generating plants, to ship components and to hundreds of other diverse uses.

Already the dominant factor in the oil country products which it produces, the Torrance plant of Armco

now aims to become an increasingly important supplier to other heavy industries.



Made in Torrance

Shaped forgings, made at the Torrance Plant of the National Supply Division, Armco Steel Corp., serve industries throughout Southern California. The Torrance plant is an integrated facility and operates its

own melting furnaces. It is an outgrowth of the Union Tool Co., which moved here in the early 1900s. The plant was acquired by Armco Steel Corp. in 1958.

Edison Company Family Camp Now Open for High Sierra Vacationers

Hundreds of High Sierra vacationers and fishermen are expected to take advantage of the "all-electric" comforts of home offered at Camp Edison-Shaver Lake during the summer season.

Located about 50 miles northeast of Fresno on Highway 168, the all-electric showcase camp built by Southern California Edison Co. for public use attracted more than 10,000 campers last year.

In contrast to the 1967 all-time record snowfall, the Shaver Lake recreation area

is expected to have only a 43 per cent of normal runoff this season and lake water level will be maintained at approximately 45 feet below the spillway through July, according to Edison hydrographers.

After vacationists "rough it" for a day in the great outdoors, they may return to Shaver Lake campsites to plug in their various "creature comforts" ranging from electric blankets to rotisseries.

Electric outlets are provided at every tent and trailer site, and electric cooking centers, with built-in equipment, are provided throughout the camp.

The camping fee, a nominal \$1 per night per car, covers the use of all facilities — which also include hot water showers, dressing

rooms, laundry tubs, modern restrooms, and wood for camp fires.

Located in a pine forest on the shores of Shaver Lake, Camp Edison includes 100 sites for trailers (length-limit 30 feet) and tents. All sites are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, and there is a two-week limit on their use.

If the camp is full when you arrive, you will be directed to other camps or motels in the area—including the "Dora Belle" camp, also on Shaver Lake, which is maintained by the U.S. Forest Service.

At the same time, your name will be placed on a priority list, from which vacancies are filled each day in the order of registration, according to Camp Supervisor Howe Weeks.

"We cannot accept advance deposits or registrations," he emphasized.

Weeks reports the water level is rising slowly in Shaver Lake and the lake is being stocked once a week with 8-to-10-inch rainbows and Eastern Brookies.

Edison maintains its own trout rearing ponds—to supplement stocking by the State Department of Fish and Game—under the direction of an experienced fish biologist, Norman Alstot.

The primary purpose of the ponds, however, is research, to determine and maintain optimum conditions for fish life throughout Edison's "Big Creek" hydroelectric area in the High Sierra. About 10,000 trout are raised and released each year.

Electrical Excellence Honored

The architects who designed the 1826 Building in Redondo Beach were honored by Southern California Edison Co. recently at the fourth annual Architects and Engineers Forum in Los Angeles.

E. A. Myers Jr., Edison's manager of marketing, presented special "Electrical Excellence" plaques to architects Henry Friel and Richard Lunde.

The 1826 Building, located at 1826 Elena Ave., was selected by Edison as the "All-Electric Building of the Month" for February 1967.

L. E. Jenkins, Edison district manager, said that the all-electric design of the building combines efficiency and convenience to permit tenants to work in maximum comfort and beauty.

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