

Little Shop Plays Vital Peace Role



SEVENTY-FOUR and still an active highly skilled machinist, George A. Hensley is senior partner in a little San Diego firm that makes and supplies most of the bullet-casting moulds to the nation's police departments and national rifle marksmen's associations.



BROTHER Frederick Hensley drills final holes in mould blocks prior to assembly. The trio make their own drills and use a secret process for "cherrying out" or drilling the holes into which the liquid metal is poured. Finished moulds are shipped to many nations.

Unsung Shop Goliath-Size In War Role

By JIM MacLEAN

You could walk past it dozens of times—and not even see it.

But tucked away behind vines screening a suburban San Diego home is a little frame machine shop—18 feet by 24—that played a Goliath-sized part in helping to win the war. And it's playing just as big a role in keeping the peace in the United States today.

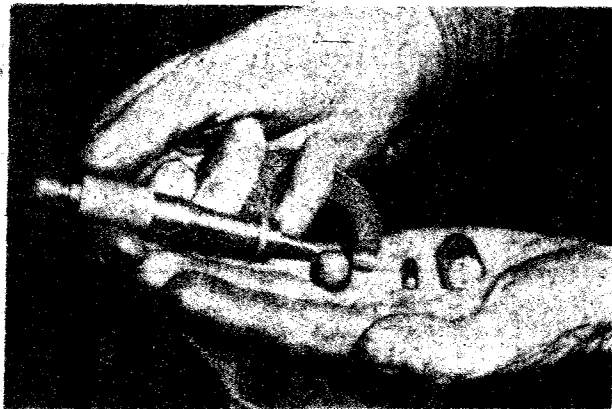
It is a bullet mould factory—owned and operated by two elderly brothers and their young partner—all highly skilled craftsmen. And it is one of only three such factories in the nation.

Bullet moulds are simply the forms into which molten alloys are poured, cooling quickly from 600 degrees to harden into slugs ranging from .22 caliber to the ponderous .70 balls, replicas of those fired from Civil War muzzleloaders.

Definition of bullet moulds is simple. But making them is a delicate, tedious task involving jealously-guarded secret methods, as construction cannot be patented.

Yet George Aland Hensley, 74, his brother Frederick, 59, and James Wilson Gibbs, 42, do the whole job themselves—from manufacturing the screws that hold the twin-handled moulds together in microscopically-correct alignment, down to the shaping of the birch wood handles themselves.

During the war years—and before the United States entered the conflict—the brothers and Gibbs were working full blast to help the German Army's drive



ALL SIZES of bullets can be turned out—from the tiny .22 slugs to the giant Minnie-balls, the .70 bullets used during the Civil War. Use of unjacketed bullets now is banned in war, but moulds made here produced millions of rounds for defense practice use.

Grocers Slate Meeting Here

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Following a meeting of officers and directors Sunday, the group will convene in general and panel sessions Monday morning to discuss operating problems, labor trends, warehousing and transportation, supply and merchandising.

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MOLTEN METAL pours into a finished bullet mould as James W. Gibbs tests one of the precision-built moulds. Police and marksmen find casting their own practice bullets far cheaper than buying new ammunition. The firm filled thousands of wartime orders.

Family Week Groups Listed

With nine more organizations expressing cooperative interest, 37 community groups were listed today as sponsoring the 1948 Parent and Youth Conference here May 7.

The conference, at Roosevelt Junior High School, Park and Upas, will be San Diego's chief role in observance of American

Stabbing Suspect Must Stand Trial

Accused of stabbing a 15-year-old youth, Edward H. Atayde, 25, a cannery worker of 3115½ Greeley, has been ordered to stand Superior Court trial on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon.

Special Vote Wins Favor

City, County Aides Approve Proposal

Informal approval of a plan to call a special election to call a special election City-County bond issues been voiced by the City Council and County Supervisor. In a special conference councilmen and supervisor agreed it might be desirable to separate bond issues from other proposals to appear on general election ballot in November.

Held in Mayor Knox's office the conference was the first in a series of joint meetings for the last Tuesday of the month in an effort to solve mutual problems.

Knox and Supervisor Chairman DeGraff Austin named to attend a Chamber Commerce breakfast meeting tomorrow to discuss details of the proposed special election which no date has been set.

The Mayor said the Chamber has appointed a seven-member committee "to resolve City County bond differences."

Meantime, the City will draft a master list of "must" projects to be included in the election.

An informal list compiled yesterday's conference calls for a new library, \$2,000,000; distribution facilities, \$4,000,000; convention hall, \$3,500,000; completion of Sutherland Dam, San Dieguito, \$2,500,000, for a total of \$14,000,000.

All figures are unofficial. Knox pointed out the City's master list of projects ready for date.

Austin stated the County must have only two "musts"—the Hi Justice, \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000 and a new Juvenile Youth Center to replace Anthony Ho. No estimate was mentioned the latter project.

All agreed a new library be constructed immediately.

"It's ridiculous for a city size to have a library the size of ours is in," said Councilman Gerald Crary.

"It's a crying shame," concluded Austin.

When Knox mentioned controversy may arise over selection of a site for the proposed convention hall, Supervisor Bird suggested the County purchase the Courthouse site on Broadway for \$500,000.

The Supervisors agreed to split with the City the cost of installing a new elevator in one elevated Civic Center.

No action was taken on proposal that the County share the City the \$17,000 cost housing survey.

Supervisor Dan Rossi and Councilman Vincent Godfrey were sent.

MAN HURT IN FALL
Leo Sprinkler, 27, of 226½ 1st St., was injured when he fell from the roof of a building he was helping move at 19th and B. He is in Mercy Hospital.

Wigfield.

Ed Law, a deputy city attorney, who has the drawl of Bob Burns and who is always primed with jokes about folks from Missouri and Arkansas, was master of ceremonies. Miss Ethel Peoples with her Liberty Bell Girls entertained.

In the husband calling contest, Mrs. Ray Smith, wife of "Smitty" the barber, carried away honors. Ten women were in the contest. The promise made by Mrs. Wigfield that her mother, Mrs. Lola Barnes, would bring corn bread — the kind that made Missouri cooks famous — was kept, and there was golden, freshly-churned butter.

Mrs. E. C. (Mother) Roberts proudly told us that "Mayor Earl Roberts of Calexico is our son, and of course we know Calexico has a mayor who will make good."

Max Miller, La Jolla author, is in the middle of writing his 20th book. Speaking of his home, Max has said that he likes La Jolla because "I can get my own driftwood, my own fish, my own lobster and sometimes my own abalone . . . right here off my ocean cliff after finishing my day's writing."

No man can know what it is to feel old or indignant until a young fellow comes to see his daughter.—One Who Knows.

Miss Alice Hystell, who is employed at Parmelee-Dohrmann, recently came to San Diego from New York City. She joined the First Methodist Church choir, having sung in New York church choirs. "I derive a lot of benefit from singing under the direction of Dr. Rosenberg, choir director, and also in City Chorus, under Carl Bowers," she said.

Courtland Temple, head of Bellows, gets around quite a bit and is acquainted with nearly all of the city's business leaders. He apologizes because there is one fine man in San Diego he has never met in his more than 25 years in business here. That man is Alfred La Motte, head of the Theatre Music Co.

"I'm going to make it a special order of business to meet that gentleman and try to figure out just why our paths have never crossed," said Temple.

S.D. Men To Attend Probation Parley

San Diego will be well represented at the 13th annual conference of the California Probation and Parole Association in Long Beach.

The Municipal Auditorium May 1-3. The State program for the prevention and treatment of delinquency will come in for a full dress review.

In the law and administration section, Judge Fred J. Moroy, superintendent of Anthony Home, will speak on "Custodial Responsibilities of Juvenile Halls" on May 2. The following day, Charles T. G. Rodgers of the San Diego County Probation Office will serve as chairman of the causation section.

Water.

Wincote insisted he did not favor the second barrel but felt existing water could be made available to other localities if the supply were adequate.

"If it can be proved to me that there is ample water, then I'm in favor of developing added County territory," said Wincote. "If it can't be proved, then I'm not in favor of it."

Admitting that "one of us is bound to be wrong" in the second barrel controversy, Knox said he felt the City should have been consulted before the Authority launched its recent campaign in favor of the project.

Pointing out there is a serious fight between Arizona and California over future use of the Colorado, City Attorney Jean DuPaul intimated there would not be enough water for the second barrel if Arizona wins.

"We don't know if we have enough water for the . . . barrel, but we do have legal rights on the San Dieguito river which we'll lose if we don't develop them shortly," DuPaul advised.

During a recent meeting of the Authority, its general manager and chief engineer, Joe Burkholder, estimated construction of the second barrel would double the Aqueduct's capacity of 64 million gallons per day.

Meanwhile, City Water Director G. E. Arnold has been authorized to join a California delegation which will attend congressional hearings May 5 asking that the Arizona-California fight over the Colorado be brought to early trial by the Supreme Court.

Beale Warns Home Buyers

Do not buy a house until you are sure it has not been condemned or has notices attached to make certain corrections before it can be occupied.

That was the warning issued today by Ed Beale, chief of the Health Department's Sanitation Division.

Pointing out that because of the housing shortage people are buying "anything that appears to be habitable," Beale said some buyers are purchasing in ignorance of the legal status of the building.

This may lead to costly alterations and repairs, Beale warned.

"We are fully aware of the hardship imposed on unsuspecting buyers when they buy without full information," said Beale. "Therefore, we want everyone to know that this department has records of many houses that must be corrected before being occupied."

Beale stated that if no record exists of a building in question, the office will make an inspection and supply the prospective purchaser with a written report.

Union Oil Staff Donating Blood

Led by partners Fred S. Mace Jr. and Richard H. Lynch, virtually the entire staff of Union Oil Service Station, 235 Market, will donate blood today at the Community Blood Bank, 765 India. Donations are in response to Rotary club appeal.

Donors in addition to Mace and Lynch include Fred Mynren, Ethel McLeod, Bill Parker, Lem Vacco, Miller Hirsch, Bill Roberts, D. L. Justice and Andy Steele.

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During the war years—and before the United States entered the conflict—the brothers and Gibbs were working full blast to help check the German Army's drive through Europe.

"We got a frantic phone call from New York back in 1940 pleading for all the bullet moulds we could turn out. The British Army needed them for their Webley .45 revolvers. Things were at their worst, and invasion of Britain seemed hanging on a thread," Gibbs said.

George and brother Frederick had been at work in their shop since 1933 and Gibbs was taken in as partner in 1938.

"Actually, use of bullets turned out from our moulds would have been violation of international law which demands battle use of jacketed bullets. But I like to think that the Nazis would have been picking our slugs out of their hides if they had tried to cross the Channel."

Working at the rate of 100 finished bullet moulds a month, the little San Diego shop filled the order with 10-cavity moulds which could turn out 1000 bullets an hour.

American entry into war plunged the partners into a frantic work schedule that kept their drill presses, milling machines, grinders, lathes, hacksaw and shapers whirring far into the night, supplying moulds—thousands of them—to aircraft plants, government agencies and other large war installations.

"We were the only bullet mould manufacturers on the Allied side during the war to the best of our knowledge. The other two went into other war work," said Gibbs.

Squarely on the partners' lead-shoulder falls the job of providing the moulds, that supplied the practice bullets for security guards, and released millions of rounds of jacketed slugs to the armed forces.

"It was pretty far behind the gun—but somebody had to do it. And we were given high priority and held in awe by," Gibbs recalled.

By the end of the war, despite exhausting working hours, the little San Diego shop was 12 months behind the field of progress.

And today, the pressure has eased only slightly.

"We execute most of the orders left at the end of the war. But we still are a month behind," said Gibbs.

Stores of mail orders from throughout the United States, and foreign lands, pour daily into the partners' mail box—mainly from police departments in other cities, and from members of the rapidly swelling National Rifle Association and the National Muzzleloader Association.

SHOOTING CLUB

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Legal Secretaries Set Convention

California Legal Secretaries will hold their annual convention at Del Mar Saturday and Sunday with State President Velma Tougaw, Sacramento, presiding.

MAN SENTENCED

Charles Dewey Gibson, 21, of 1732 Third, who pleaded guilty to an auto theft charge, today was sentenced to serve one to five years in San Quentin Prison. Superior Judge William A. Glan rejected a probation plea.

MOLTEN METAL pours into tests one of the precision casting their own practice nation. The firm filled the

Family Week Groups List

With nine more organs expressing cooperative 37 community groups will today as sponsoring the 11th and Youth Conference May 7.

The conference, at R Junior High School, P. Upas, will be San Diego role in observance of A Family Week. The 11th conference is designed to family relations.

Dr. John Aseltine, co chairman, said new sponsor Epsilon Mu Chapter, Beta Phi; Lady Cameron Lo Daughters of Scotia; St. Lions Club; Midway School Pacific Beach Elementary P-T-A; La Mesa P-T-A; F P-T-A; San Diego Branch Ican Association of U Women, and San Diego Federated Trades and Council.

Principal sponsors are: Service Association, N. I. Strict Parent-Teacher Association, San Diego City and C schools, State College, at all of Churches.

EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY

OF

DIAMOND PROCESSING



This week, Joseph's will feature an unusual diamond display. The exhibit will show the many steps in preparing a rough diamond for its eventual marketing and sale. Diamond cutting tools, rough diamonds and pictures of the various processes are now in the Joseph diamond window. Also featured is a special collection of colored diamonds—the finest of their kind in America. Stop by and see them while downtown. You'll enjoy the gem study.

Joseph's and Sons
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