

S. Tank
Industry Has
Hole

CLEVELAND —(NEA)— The tank industry has a problem upon its sleeve that is more complex than any other in the industry. It is the problem of how to produce a tank hull in a way that will enable it to be moved over the hull and take as long to complete as the hull itself.

years ago all 30-year-old Wean Jr., president of Wean Engineering Corp., of Cleveland, Ohio, was asked that his company build a tank hull for the government. He took the job and produced it.

NOVEMBER, 1950, the Detroit Arsenal, which masterminded the nation's tank program, asked Wean and asked that his young engineering firm build a tank hull for the government. He took the job and produced it. "If automobile engine blocks can be milled, drilled and ground in one continuous operation, why not tank hulls?" Tank hulls are considerably more unwieldy and heavier than engine blocks, but with customary optimism, Wean took the challenge. He and his engineers worked ceaselessly for 15 days. They had a hundred engineering men and a heavy bundle of blueprints. The Wean team had built plans for a 1300-foot "trans-car" which, with one man at the controls, can beat the best methods of tank production by three to four hours. The tank hull is mounted on a "trans-car" which moves down the line and stops at the first station where the car is automatically guided with pin-point accuracy.

OLD DESCEND to bore large holes in the hull. Then the rail car moves on. At the stop, 10 different surfaces are milled. At another 110 holes are drilled simultaneously, and the tank hull reaches the end of the line, other surfaces ground by banks of giant wheels at tolerances measured in thousandths of an inch. The cost of the hull-an-hour "trans-car" was \$15 million in 1950, says Wean. Since then the cost has risen 30 per cent, but the car is still the best. It put out an entire armored tank hull in a war-time production run.

ough the entire line has been fabricated, large parts are in operation. The Massey plant in Racine, Wis., is building out 155-millimeter gun barrels on a "trans-car" machine—first of its kind in the world. The Cleveland Cadillac tank is making Walker Bulldog tanks with a multi-head grinder-driller. Two more are being built. Other firms throughout the country are speeding defense production with the many-headed machines.

THE FIRM STILL produces its line of specially-designed mill processing equipment on a 30-30 production basis with these items—including a projector for the Atomic Energy Commission.

At the same time Wean keeps working towards its goal—"the automatic factory."

ean's team of almost 50 engineers and 200 skilled machinists and assemblers is ready to start a 12-month job of producing the "trans-car" line, but as with many other things, the issue of peace will be the deciding factor.

from the 1300-foot line, only one of the tools could be readjusted into a peace-time use. But as youthful president Wean says, "It's comforting to know we have it."

Swim Program Begins Monday

The Red Cross swim program at Jean Ridge Lake will open Monday noon, June 23. Classes will be conducted daily. Arrangements have been made for swimmers from the following areas attend: Crow, Appleton, School, Central, North, Richardson, Cheshire, 15th area, Bethel, Danebo, Hollow, Goldson, Walton, Elmer. In most cases school buses provide transportation, with teachers supervising.

Classes will be taught at Jean's swimming pool on the southeast corner of the lake. Instructors will be Bill and Dixie Sheldon and Bill Adams. There will be no charge for lessons.

Enforcement Problems Discussed

City officers, representing city, state, federal and private enforcement agencies in Lane County, met Friday evening at the Eugene Hotel for an informal discussion of common problems. Agencies represented were the Lane County Sheriff's Office, Springfield, Cottage Grove, Junction City and Florence departments. Lane County's office, Oregon State Police, Oregon Liquor Control Commission, State Parole Board, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Western Pacific Lines investigation division and Eugene Detective Agency.

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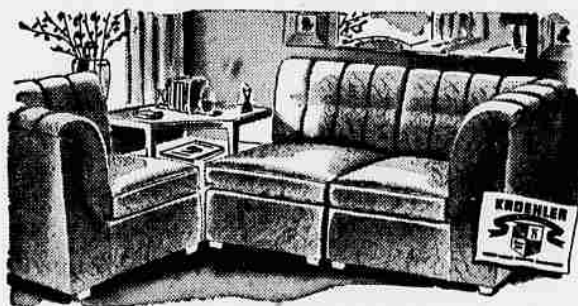
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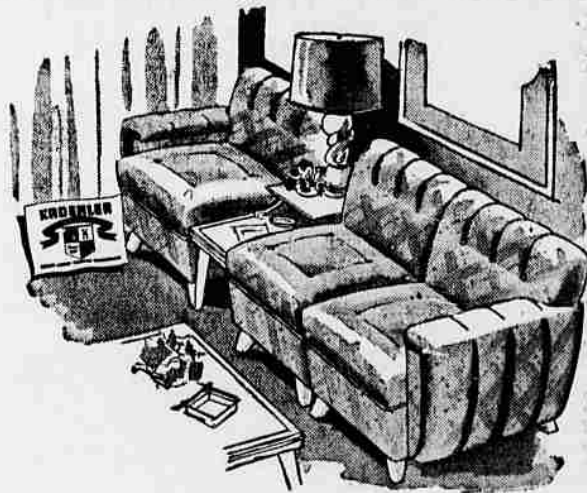


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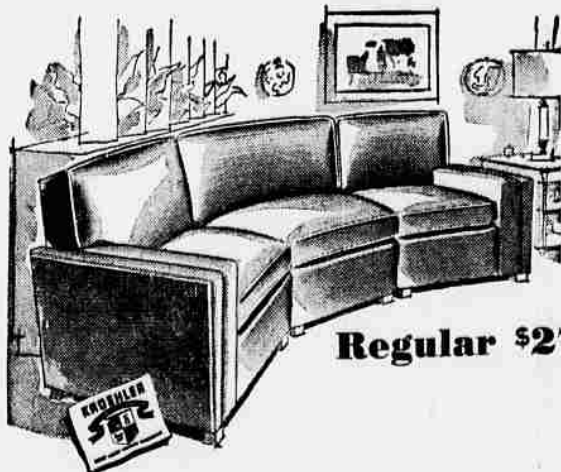
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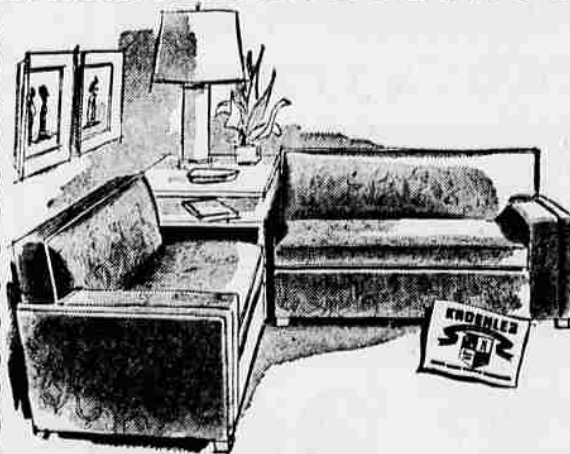
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