

4 Steel Firms, One Railroad Named In Suit

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — An anti-trust suit asking damages totaling \$27,300,000 has been filed in U. S. District Court against four major steel producers and a railroad.

Independent Iron Works, Inc., of Oakland, filed the suit asking damages from U. S. Steel Corp., Bethlehem Pacific Coast Steel Corp., Bethlehem Steel Co., and Kaiser Steel Corp. The railroad was Southern Pacific Co.

The suit accused the producers of withholding raw material from Independent during times of steel shortage, while favoring their own subsidiaries which compete with the plaintiff and other small fabricators.

Independent claimed it could not get enough steel deliveries to complete its contracts or do business. The case involves fabrication of large beams, columns and shapes used in building construction, bridges and railroad cars.

The suit said Southern Pacific Co. had unfairly refused low bids of Independent for construction of railroad car frames in order to favor U. S. Steel Corp.

This was claimed to have been illegal collusion between the two firms.

Several other small fabricators of structural steel have filed similar suits in the past few years.

Give Business Better Break, Expert Says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress was told today it could give business a better break on tax deductions for depreciation—and still get more revenue in the long run.

Every \$100 spent on machinery and equipment generates \$23,952 in taxes, Maurice E. Peloubet said in testimony prepared for the House Ways and Means Committee.

Peloubet, partner in a New York accounting firm, said one-third of the productive plants in the United States is obsolete. Under present tax policies, he said, industries which would like to replace it are being "progressively penalized and starved."

He said more generous depreciation allowances would not require raising rates because the additional income created by renewal and modernization will offset the additional depreciation allowances in the first years and increase revenues thereafter.

William A. Paton, professor at the University of Michigan said present law penalizes businesses by requiring them to use past prices in computing depreciation. He said the old prices are no longer realistic in terms of present day dollars.

It is estimated that about 10 million buildings roamed the North American continent in the 18th Century.

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Doctors Enlisted To Fight The 'Sneak Thief' Of Sight

By JERRY BENNET
WASHINGTON (NEA) — Family doctors are beginning to include a special test in their physical examinations that reveals if patients are going blind without knowing it.

The test for glaucoma, one of the leading causes of blindness. It's commonly called the "sneak thief" of sight.

Glaucoma is a mysterious disease in which an excess of fluid in the eye puts too much pressure on nerve fibers and destroys them. It's painless in its early stages and destroys side vision first. The damage is so gradual that victims may have glaucoma for years and not suspect it.

By the time they finally go to an eye specialist, part of their sight is often already destroyed. Cases like this are especially tragic because it's possible to detect the disease early and prevent it from spreading.

That's why the special test is

being taught to doctors other than eye specialists. It's performed with a special gadget called a tonometer. When the device is pushed against the eyeball, it registers the amount of fluid pressure inside.

Doctors know what normal pressure should be. More than this amount registered on a tonometer indicates the presence of glaucoma.

The examination is being taught to doctors at classes conducted by local medical societies and through medical journals. Medical schools also are starting to teach it to students.

Promoting the education drive is the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness through its state and local societies. In recent years they have sponsored glaucoma detection campaigns in cities throughout the nation.

Recently an NSPB detection unit in San Francisco checked 7,943 persons and found glaucoma or a possibility of the disease in 207. Checks on 3,953 persons in five

Southern California cities uncovered 436 cases.

NSPB officials estimate that one out of every 50 Americans over 40 has glaucoma. The disease is said to be responsible for more than 40,000 cases of total blindness on welfare lists.

In addition to its local eye check-up centers, NSPB also operates glaucoma detection booths at carnivals and fairs. Check-ups are given free of charge.

Glaucoma can be stopped in its early stages by drops that help move excess fluid from the eyes into the blood stream. Sometimes a special pill is prescribed that reduces the amount of fluid coming into the eyes. Surgery is often needed to relieve the pressure if the disease is discovered late.

The cause of glaucoma is unknown. There's strong evidence, however, that it can be inherited. NSPB officials say that glaucoma appears five or six times more often

in families.

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among relatives of persons with the disease than among those with no family history of it.

Glaucoma usually strikes persons over 40. Persons in this age group are urged to have eye examinations at least once every two years. Members of families with a history of the disease sometimes contract it as early as childhood.

Although glaucoma often strikes without warning, doctors say that some victims may receive a few danger signals. They include:

Early morning headaches.
Glasses which don't seem to help.

Blurry or smoky vision which

clears up and sometimes gets blurry again.

Pain around the eyes, especially after watching movies or TV.
Seeing rainbows around lights at night.

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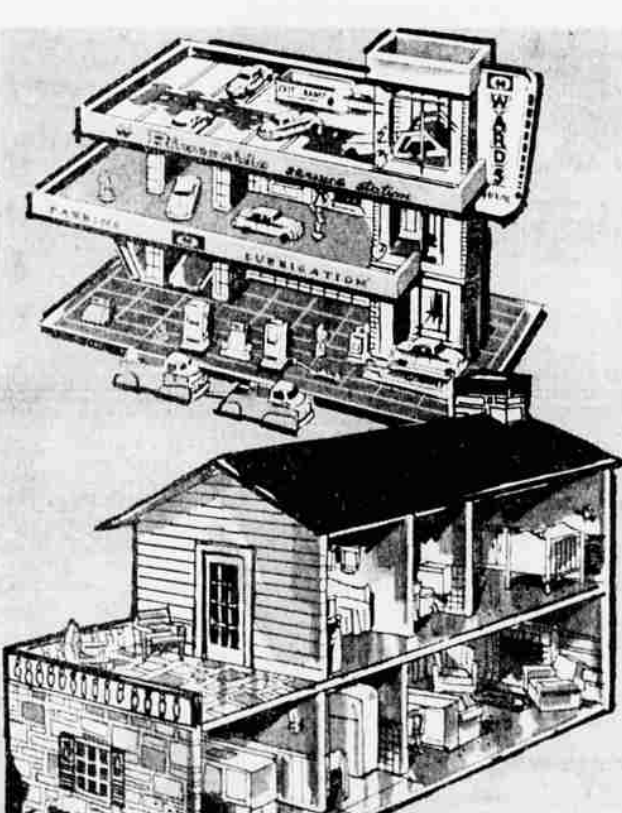
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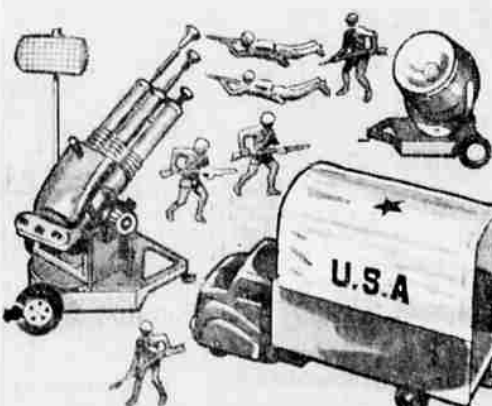
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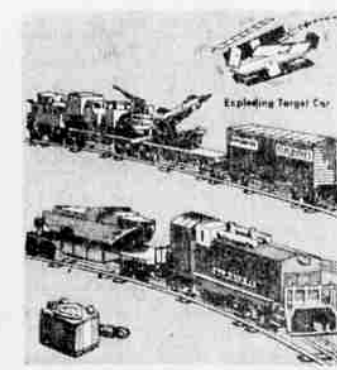
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