

CLIFF HOUSE, PT. LOBOS AIR TRAM PLANNED

850-Foot Line Will Carry Passengers Over Surf

An 850-foot aerial tramway will be installed between the Cliff House and Point Lobos, the westernmost tip of the city. George K. Whitney, owner of Playland at the Beach announced yesterday.

He said he and nine other businessmen have formed the \$100,000 venture, entitled Cliff House-Point Lobos Sky Tram, Inc.

The corporation's papers were filed with the State Division of Corporations in Sacramento.

Roebling and Sons, the firm which installed the cables on the Golden Gate Bridge, will erect the tram by June 1, Whitney said.

ORIGIN OF PLAN.

"Every year," said Whitney, "thousands of tourists flock to the Cliff House terrace and, once they see Point Lobos to the north, they want to know how they can get over there."

"Three months ago I got the idea of the sky tram. I contacted nine friends, all of whom put up \$10,000 each and we formed the corporation."

Whitney described the operation of the proposed tram thusly:

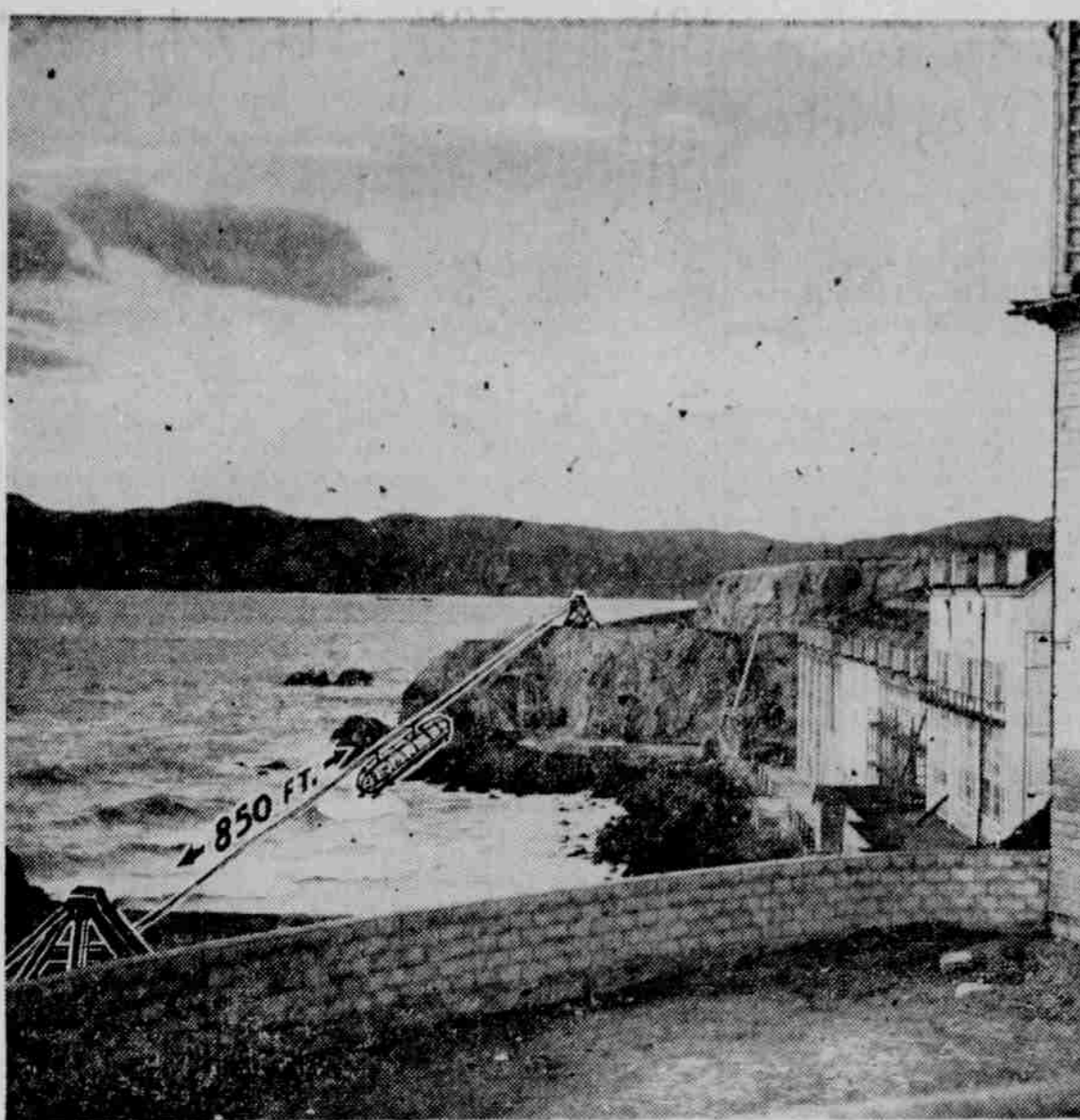
A steel tower will be erected on the lower observation terrace of the Cliff House and another on top of Point Lobos. Two steel cables will then be strung between the towers.

12-MINUTE TRIP.

The two cables will support a self-propelled closed car which will hold an attendant and twenty passengers. The round-trip will take approximately twelve minutes.

Whitney said the plans for the tramway, being completed by Roebling and Sons, show that the 850-foot ride fifty feet above the surf will be "quite safe."

He added that he was sure that the city would grant any construction permits necessary. A fare of twenty-five cents



BEACH PROJECT — Photo-dia-gram shows how the proposed aerial tram will operate between the Cliff House and Pt. Lobos. The tram will operate at a fifty-foot level.

will be charged for a one-way voyage, he said. Passengers may, Whitney pointed out, leave Point Lobos via a small trail which winds around the rear of Sutro Baths.

"But once they take the ride across," he declared, "I'm sure they'll want to come back the same way."

Present plans call for a complete remodeling job on Point Lobos, which has been closed to the public since 1886.

"We're going to fix those rickety stairs, put a safety wall around a new observation level and erect glass enclosures to keep the sea spray and wind from the customers," Whitney said.

WRECKED SHIPS.

To the north of the point, when the tide is low, visitors will be able to see the wreckage of three ships that ran aground and were abandoned many years ago: the Ohioan, the Lyman Stewart, and the Frank H. Buck.

"I'm sure that the operation will be a big hit," declared Whitney, "not only with

the many tourists, but with the great many San Franciscans who have never ridden an aerial tram, much less stood atop Point Lobos."

The other nine stockholders in the operation are:

Jerome White, Stanley Rising, Edward Ward, Lloyd Dinkelspiel, Edward Peterson, Floyd Gilman, Russell Howell, Al Rolter and Bill Erving.

\$475,000 Ship Crash Suit Filed

The Permanente Steamship Co. filed a \$475,000 damage suit in Federal court yesterday against the States Steamship Co. as the result of a marine collision off Fort Bragg on January 1.

The crash involved two Victory type freighters, the Permanente Silverbow and the States Company's Colorado. The suit alleged that the Colorado was operated negligently at the time. Both vessels were damaged badly but made port under their own power.

HUSBAND, WIFE COLLAPSE, DIE

Heart attacks within minutes took the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Giorgio Silvestri, of San Anselmo.

Silvestri, 74, retired food merchant, collapsed at his home, 1380 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Sunday night.

His wife, Eda, 63, screamed for aid, and also collapsed.

When the family physician arrived, both were dead, Coroner Frank Keating said the deaths were due to heart ailments. Funeral plans have not been completed.

Red Dean Now 80

LONDON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Dr. Hewlett Johnson, the "Red" Dean of Canterbury, was 80 years old today.

SIX MORE RAID SIRENS SOUGHT

San Francisco's air raid siren warning network turned in only a "fair" performance yesterday, and Disaster Council Director A. G. Cook said he will ask the board of supervisors for funds for six more sirens.

Two of the huge horns failed to operate automatically, while weather conditions also were blamed for the failure of many persons to hear the warnings.

Cook said he would seek purchase of six more sirens to be placed in dead spots, the locations of which will be announced soon. The new sirens he will request will be seven and one half horsepower, ranking with the more powerful units now in use.

\$1,300 EACH.

He said five would be installed, if the supervisors grant his budget request, at a cost of \$1,300 each, and one will be held in reserve. There now are twenty-two sirens in the city. He said the need for more sirens is "self evident."

Both the Bernal Heights and carban siren at Geary Street and Presidio Avenue failed to be set off automatically yesterday, and police rushed to those points and operated them manually.

Explaining the deterrent weather factors, Alec McCausland, public information officer for the council, said wet ground absorbs sound, while dry conditions reflect and magnify sound waves.

NEW BUDGET.

He pointed out further that many persons failed to hear the warnings because low temperatures kept windows closed.

Generally, the big sirens whooped obediently and with strength throughout the central areas. But telephone operators in the telephone building at Pine and Steiner Streets reported difficulty in hearing the signals.

Cook said next year's disaster council budget will total \$206,000, approximately the same amount as this year's.

Monckton in Hospital

LONDON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Sir Walter Monckton, minister of labor in the Churchill government, today entered hospital for a minor operation.

Riordan Appointed To Fire Commission

Attorney Named By Mayor

Attorney Thomas J. Riordan, former chief deputy United States attorney, was appointed to the fire commission yesterday by Mayor Robinson.

Riordan succeeds Gen. Frederic B. Butler, whose appointment to the post of manager of San Francisco Airport was formally approved by the Public Utilities Commission yesterday. General Butler resigned from the fire commission to accept the airport job. He succeeds George M. Dixon, who resigned.

At the same time, the utilities commission asked the Civil Service Commission to reclassify the job of Harold Nessersmith from superintendent of airport operations to include the additional duties of assistant to the manager. The commission asked Civil Service to base Messersmith's pay on the \$1,000 per month salary paid the assistant manager of the Los Angeles Airport.

Riordan's appointment, effective at noon today, is for a four year term expiring on January 15, 1958.

Riordan was once director of grandsons.



THOMAS J. RIORDAN
New Fire Commissioner

veterans affairs for the State.

He is a past commander of the California Department of the American Legion, former president of the University of Santa Clara alumni association, and a former director of the San Francisco Bar Association.

Riordan lives at 840 Twenty-sixth Avenue. He is married, has two daughters and four grandsons.

FILIPINO EX-GI GETS HIS WISH

Arrangements to return Lawrence L. Lasquite and his wife Nicolasa to the Philippines were completed yesterday.

Philip Ambrose, sailor friend of the Filipino ex-serviceman, who is near death, turned over the airline tickets and Lasquite's life savings to Mrs. Lasquite at the Filipino Consulate here.

The tickets were purchased with funds contributed by hundreds of northern Californians who, like Ambrose, are hoping that Lasquite's great wish—to live to see his native Philippines again—will come true. The couple will leave by Philippine Air Lines Saturday.

Lasquite, a patient at Fort Miley Veterans Hospital, is gravely ill of uremia, and it is believed that he cannot live more than three or four months.

Ambrose is still accepting donations to provide Lasquite with good medical care in the Philippines. Funds may be sent to the Lawrence Lasquite Fund, c/o Philip Ambrose, Barracks 512, Engineering Division, San Francisco Naval Shipyard.

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