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Title:

News Release - South Australian Firm Wins \$6M Contracts

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NEWS RELEASE FROM THE HON. THE PREMIER, MR. D.A. DUNSTAN, Q.C.M.P.

10.15 A.M. 30TH AUGUST, 1967.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FIRM WINS \$6M. CONTRACTS.

A five-year old South Australian firm, World Wide Camps Pty. Limited, has won a \$3½ million contract to supply 150 houses for the Mount Newman Mining Company Pty. Limited in Western Australia, and contracts to supply camps to firms associated with the Mount Newman project worth an additional \$2½ million.

Announcing this today, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said that the houses will be prefabricated on the production lines of the Company's factory at Elizabeth West and transported by road to Port Hedland and Mount Newman which are the focal points of Western Australia's iron boom.

Mr. Dunstan said that World Wide Camps had advised him that the Mount Newman contract is the largest single order which it has won this year.

"It will mean an increase in the firm's present work force of 70 men to a total of 250 employees", Mr. Dunstan said. "Delivery of the asbestos clad houses will start in about 2½ months time and will continue until the contract is completed about early 1968."

The subsidiary orders for camps have been placed by the Morrison Kundsen Corporation which is building the railway line to Mount Newman and the Bechtel Corporation who are the managing agents for the Mount Newman project.

Mr. Dunstan said that the 150 houses will be the nucleus of a town for 1,000 people near the project's open pit mine in the Mount Whaleback region in the heart of the Pilbara Ranges of Western Australia. He said that in addition a suburban complex for some 300 people will be erected at Cooke Point near Port Hedland, the shipping outlet for the area.

"Erection of the first houses is due to be completed by the beginning of November with construction being continued at both centres until end of February next year", Mr. Dunstan said.

The houses will have 3 bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen laundry, lounge space, carport and outdoor living area, and will be furnished with refrigerators, ranges and all electrical appliances. They will be fully air-conditioned. The houses will leave World-Wide Camps Pty. Limited's factory in a breakdown cube form for easy transportation and assembling on the site.

Mr. Dunstan said that the fact that World Wide Camps Pty. Limited had been able to tender successfully against tough opposition from other firms and would be able to meet the demand for comfortable modern living accommodation in harsh country was attributed to the ability, ingenuity, and workmanship of South Australian craftsmen.

"It is a source of satisfaction that an S.A. Company which has been greatly assisted by the Government through the S.A. Housing Trust has become the biggest mass producers of transportable work-force housing in the Southern Hemisphere", Mr. Dunstan said. "Its basic and modified units house oil drillers at the Gidgealpa gasfield, construction workers at the new space station near Alice Springs and are to be found in many other parts of Australia's outback, New Guinea, the Middle East and Asia."

This morning, Mr. Dunstan, accompanied by the firm's Vice-President, Mr. E.N. Farche, from Canada, Australian Managing Director, Mr. John Jaensch, and Australian General Sales Manager, Mr. Kevin O'Brien, inspected a prototype of the houses and the firm's Elizabeth factory.

When the bell tolls it means success

ABOUT the only thing missing from the houses of World Wide Camps Pty Ltd as they come off the production line at Elizabeth is a Gideon Bible — and no doubt even that could be arranged.

WOWIC are mass producers of aluminium-clad mobile industrial housing. They make homes, bunkhouses, kitchens, dining rooms, offices, schools, laundries and laboratories and they will install them anywhere.

During its four years of operations here WOWIC has taken part in some of Australia's most exciting construction and mining developments, many of them in remote areas.

They are helping to promote the trend towards instant, mobile housing for floating construction workforces as Australia's development boom gathers momentum—a trend that has already revolutionised the prefabricated housing industry in Canada and the United States.

The man responsible for the concept was Don Southern, a Calgary fireman who began selling caravans from his back-

yard so that his son could go to college.

When Canada found itself in the midst of an oil bonanza, Mr Southern got the idea of mass producing construction project caravans using a jig.

The idea was so successful that he left the Calgary fire department and set up in business full time.

His son went to college and studied medicine, but in his fifth year he left to join his father in the business.

The parent company now has a workforce of 2500 in Canada, and 250 in Idaho.

In 1962 the company expanded to a bus depot in South Australia and three years later the operation was moved to its present factory at Elizabeth, 17 miles north of Adelaide, where it employs 230 people.

The SA operation reflects the pioneering enthusiasm of those early days. On the mezzanine block is a ship's bell made of brass.

Whenever a new order has been won the bell is rung, telling everyone there is a new job to work on.

Not that things are going badly. Up to September last year the sales totalled \$5 million — \$2 million of them to overseas buyers.

WOWIC has made barracks for men fighting in Vietnam, and construction huts for oil drillers in Iran and iron ore and bauxite miners in Australia.

Now they are making permanent houses that can be bought off the shelf for \$10-17,000.

Mobility is the operative word. They are prepared to ship, road or rail their product anywhere — they will even use a helicopter to perch it on a rocky outcrop overlooking the sea.

The houses are completely relocatable. They are supplied in individual units or in complexes housing between 10 and 1000 men.

When they land on the site they are insulated, air conditioned, pre-wired and completely equipped down to the last electric switch.

The basic trailer camp is a 40ft x 10ft x 8ft

unit that folds neatly into a palletiser which can be transported to the site and erected immediately.

Others are shipped as complete cubes, often with the furniture already sitting up inside, ready for integration into large, semi-permanent complexes.

The company builds two and three bedroom family homes to meet the demand for semi-permanent accommodation for on-site executives and preparation crews are made available for location anywhere in Australia.

They have done jobs at Gidgealpa, the Snowy Mountains, North West Cape, the Cotter River, Exmouth Gulf, Pilbara and Yardarino.

Perhaps the most interesting thing about the operation is the way the buildings are constructed in the factory, the exact details of which are a closely guarded industrial secret.

In the first stage a steel chassis, mounted on skids or wheels, is fabricated to form the foundations for the completed building.

The chassis is mounted on a jig which runs along rails through the factory — being imbued with a wall here, a coat of paint there.

The floor is an Oregon box covered with proof-coated 5/16th-inch plywood bolted to the chassis. (At this stage the furniture is often installed on the floor plan, because it is simpler than moving it in through doorways later on.)

A few yards further along the production line another crew of men crane the walls into place and bolt them together. They are lined with finished plywood and filled with rockwool insulation. The outer walls are made of marine plywood.

During the next stage the wiring is put in and the ceiling — plastic coated plywood fixed to Oregon rafters with rockwool insulation — is lowered into place.

Then the whole building is clad in prefinished, baked enamel aluminium and the unit is ready to go out.

The factory at Elizabeth is capable of producing six ten square homes a day or 12 40 x 10 x 8 caravan units.

The parent company is now exporting about 72 per cent of its production and WOWIC also regards the export field as vital.

Expansion Plan By Elizabeth Firm

TISER 23.5.67

An Elizabeth company, Worldwide Camps Pty. Ltd., which has won millions of dollars worth of export orders as well as lucrative Australian contracts since its establishment four years ago, is planning further expansion.

The plans are revealed by the general manager of the Housing Trust (Mr. A. M. Ramsay) in a report to the Premier (Mr. Walsh).

Mr. Ramsay, who has had discussions with the parent company which has its headquarters in Calgary, Canada, says in his report that the trust will deal immediately with its request for additional land at its Elizabeth West site.

He says the company wants to buy an additional three acres because its present eight-acre site is proving insufficient for the volume of business being undertaken.

"The new site will enable the company to erect a welding and paint shop as well as provide for more production space in its existing building," he says.

The managing director of Worldwide Camps Pty. Ltd (Mr. J. F. Jaensch) said last night that the company manufactured a wide range of portable camps and accommodation.

\$5m. Sales

At present it employed about 200 people and last year sales totalled \$5m. — \$2m. from export orders.

The company's expansion since its establishment at Elizabeth had exceeded plans and its new approach to the design and construction of camps and accommodation had enabled it to play a significant part in many of Australia's recent major development projects.

The expansion plans for the Elizabeth plant were in the initial stage and no cost estimate could be given.

It would probably be a year before construction work started.

Export contracts won by the company had included a 20-bed hospital and a construction camp for Vietnam, worth a total of about \$1,400,000.

The hospital was complete, with X-ray unit, morgue and quarters for doctors and nurses.

Thai Order

Other defence orders included two 100-man camps complete with all facilities for Thailand.

The company had also supplied accommodation worth \$250,000 for use by an Italian company in Saudi Arabia.

Shipment of one of its most recent orders, a \$250,000 pipeline camp for Iran, would be completed in a few weeks.

Australian contracts had included construction camps, 53 fully furnished houses for Port Hedland and Mount Goldsworthy in WA, and school and church buildings.