

JAN 2 - 1958 - WHALEY LETTERS

Unemployment Rise Seen; Number of Jobholders Down

Employment in the county decreased this year between October and November for the first time since 1933, the State Department of Employment announced this week.

Estimated number of workers was 287,000 in November, 1,500 less than October. November employment was 5,400 off the all-time high of July, 1957.

The department said the year-over-year gain was the smallest in the county since March 1955.

Though employment totals have slipped steadily, the department said, the current level of job-holders is still the highest for any November in the history of the area.

Number of jobless workers

leaped from 7,500 in October to 9,600 in November, highest since July 1935.

The department pointed out that a seasonal decrease usually is felt between October and November, but this year saw the greatest since 1949.

Manufacturing employment lost 1,800 from October to November. Aircraft plant employment was down to 52,100—lowest level in a year and 6,000 under the July total.

Shipyards employment increased slightly as did wholesale trade employment. Government employment decreased.

A "precipitous" rise in unemployment, possibly climbing as high as 15,000 in the first quarter of 1958, was predicted by the department.

Letters to Be Probed For Early SD Lore

Historical Shrine Foundation of San Diego has asked San Diego City Council for \$4,000 to help finance study of a "treasure trove" of letters written by a pioneer San Diego businessman.

The request was made by James Reading, president of the foundation and city traffic engineer.

Reading told the council the 18,000 letters—written between 1845 and 1900 by Thomas Whaley—will provide information on early San Diego's social, political and business life. They were discovered only a few months ago.

The council took the request under advisement.

Whaley was a businessman here off and on between 1851 and 1890. He owned several business houses in Old Town, individually and in partnership, and was a large property owner when he retired in 1888, two years before his death.

The foundation learned recently that one of his granddaughters—who prefers to remain anonymous—still lives in San Diego.

The letters, which are in excellent condition, were found in two trunks belonging to the granddaughter, Reading said.

The trunks were stored in the old Whaley house, home of the family and its descendants until about 10 years ago.

The Whaley house, a two-story home at San Diego and Harney streets in Old Town, is being restored under the county's sponsorship. It was the first burnt brick home built on the California coast below San Francisco.

Total cost of analyzing and publishing the letters will come to \$18,000-\$24,000, Reading said. He said the foundation will seek the money through a private campaign.

Two historians will be needed to work about three years on the letters, Reading said. They will be carefully chosen, he stressed, because "some of the information could be embarrassing to persons alive today."

Whaley—"an outspoken Irishman"—commented frankly on

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