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Philippine Safety Council

By FRANK S. TENNY
Executive Director

ACTIVITIES of the Philippine Safety Council and other organizations affiliated with the national safety movement have been intensive in recent weeks. Efforts have touched the fire, traffic, industrial, security, and home safety fields.

The Fire Prevention Board has begun a definite project of defining standing-room areas in local theaters so as to prevent blocking of aisles and exits. Theater personnel are also being trained in fire-prevention and emergency duties. Cooperation has been obtained from the theater operators and film distributors. Steps have also been taken to curtail looting at fire scenes and to define police responsibility in these instances. The writer was dispatched on June 29-30 to Tacloban, Leyte, to conduct a preliminary investigation into the fire department situation there on behalf of the Board.

The Provincial Bus Terminals Board, after much consideration, has obtained approval of the South Terminals project, and construction should begin soon on the one to be located at Mabini and Cortabitarte streets, Manila. Location surveys are already underway for a terminal site in north Manila.

The Council has offered free driver-safety and courtesy lectures to non-profit, civic organizations of professional drivers in an effort to stem prevalent unsafe and illegal driving habits. Unorganized groups of drivers may also apply. The latest techniques will be employed.

Seven new company members have joined the Council recently. They are: Acoje Mining Co., Vasquez Clinic, Pacific Airways Corp., Enriquez Private Detective Bureau, Philippine Packing Corp., Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., and the Botica Boie (Philippine American Drug Co.) Considerable work is also being done for Grove, Shepherd, Wilson & Kruge, United States Government contractors.

A concerted nationwide home-safety campaign has been undertaken by the Council through the Philippine National Red Cross, the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, and the Girl Scouts. All three organizations, totalling over 200,000 members, have been enlisted in a drive to inspect homes for safety and fire hazards and to correct unsafe conditions. Check lists and guidance is being furnished by the Council, with the inspection teams being composed of representatives of the three groups.

Much interest has been evinced by both members and non-members in the Council's security services recently. This includes training of security personnel, anti-subversive activity, and allied work. Several programs are now underway.

First aid lectures are now being given to employees of Council members each Wednesday and Saturday morning, in cooperation with the P. N. R. C. A class in basic first aid procedures graduates the middle of July.

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