

### Lithium, End Product Of Local Plant, Replacing Use of Lead

(Ed. Note: The following article on the growth of use of lithium, end product of the mining of lithium oxide by Foote Mineral Company at its Kings Mountain plant, appeared in the February 19 issue of the New York Journal of Commerce. It was date-lined Paoli, Pa., and was written by Dwight Moody.)

"Lithium, a hitherto relatively neglected metal, is rapidly replacing scarce supply lead in chemical compounds for a number of important industrial uses. Officials of Foote Mineral Co., the largest producer of lithium, reveal that in the ceramic industry, for instance, lithium compounds in 1950 displaced approximately 10,000 tons of lead. This is one-third of the industry's total requirements.

Foote Mineral officials claim that the switch to lithium compounds from lead already has saved the ceramic industry millions of dollars. And because of the cost advantage, as well as other factors coincident with growing shortages in lead, they look for an eventual lead displacement of 32,000 tons a year in the ceramics alone.

This includes use of lithium in television glass which in the past contained as much as 29 per cent lead oxide. At present about 50 per cent of television glass being produced uses lithium.

"Lithium glass is increasingly replacing lead glass in television tubes. And a continuing shift from lead is predicted, particularly because, it is claimed, new lithium glass tubes are both easier to form and lighter in weight than lead, making for better tubes at reduced cost.

"Lithium also is replacing scarce supply nickel in television sets in ferrite cores, such as deflection yokes and horizontal output transformers. Foote Mineral officials say that use of ferrite cores in TV components has permitted design of higher efficiency circuits using fewer tubes with resultant consumer cost reduction.

Such widening industrial uses for lithium and other products, plus new military demands, accounted for the 50 percent gain in Foote Mineral sales in 1950, to \$5,440,000 from \$3,613,909 — and officials of the company predict further sharp gains in 1951.

Pending Treasury Department tax findings, final audited earnings figures for 1950 are not yet available, but President H. Conrad Meyer, at the company's annual meeting a few days ago, estimated the past year's earnings at \$9.47 a share on some outstanding common shares, comparing with \$3.47 a share on 56,355 shares in 1949.

Zirconium Cited  
"Final figures, he added, won't vary more than a few cents a share from this estimate, in either direction.

"As an example of new military demands, the case of zirconium can be cited. The metal zirconium in pure ductile form has been produced commercially by Foote since 1942, but following receipt of a contract from the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, relatively large-scale production of zirconium has developed during the past few months.

AEC's interest in zirconium lies in the fact that this metal, unlike most other metals, has a comparatively low tendency to capture neutrons, in addition to such other properties as corrosion resistance, strength and weight. Thus, zirconium is adaptable for use in atomic furnaces, and the AEC is acquiring substantial quantities of the metal

for an experimental program. To introduce bleach  
"Foote also expects to enter the consumer product field shortly, for the first time, with a new household bleach, a powdered compound of lithium hypochlorite. One ounce of this dry material is said to perform the same duty as a half-gallon of conventional liquid bleach.

"Another, older lithium compound, for which demand has been rising sharply of late, is lithium multi-purpose grease, which has a wide range of operating temperatures. At the start, acceptance of this grease developed only slowly, but at present, 27 major oil companies have been licensed by Foote to produce lithium greases, and demand is in a sharp upswing.

"To assure adequate supplies of lithium-bearing ore, Foote has contracted for the entire output of the lepidolite mines operated by Jooste of Southwest Africa — believed to be the world's largest source. In addition, to provide against loss of this supply in event of war, the company has acquired control, with option to buy, of lithium ore bodies in Kings Mountain, N. C., believed to be the largest deposits in the Western Hemisphere, and will be receiving ore from this source by next summer.

Obtain Pure Hafnium  
"Among recent outstanding research achievements at the company's laboratories has been discovery of a process for obtaining a pure form of the metal hafnium through conversion of the crude metal to a gaseous compound, followed by decomposition through contact with an incandescent surface — the same method used in obtaining pure zirconium and titanium, but with certain fundamental changes of equation and process adaptations.

"Potential industrial uses for pure hafnium are now being explored. To meet indicated defense and essential civilian needs for its products, Foote Mineral is embarking on an extensive expansion program this year, and plans for raising additional capital are expected to be announced in a few months."

#### By Way Of Mention By Lois Beatty

Clyde Cooke of the Army spent the weekend in this community. Miss Ann Costner spent the weekend in Cherryville.

Miss Edith Queen of Gastonia was a recent visitor in this community.

I wish to correct an error made in this column last week. It was: Mr. B. T. Brooks who attend a birthday dinner in Rock Hill recently instead of Mrs. Brooks.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Rayfield of Gastonia spent Sunday with Miss Margaret Ruth Heath.

Mrs. B. T. Brooks had as her guests Sunday Mr. and Mrs. George Bolick of Gastonia and Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Rayfield of Rock Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Turner of Rock Hill spent Sunday with the latter's mother, Mrs. Doris Allen.

Miss Doris McCurry and Mrs. Betty Hayes spent the weekend with Mrs. Robert Whitesides and Betty Hawkins.

Mrs. Tom Crawford spent the weekend with her sister, Mrs. J. C. McConnell of Charlotte.

Miss Norma Falls, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Falls, and Mr. Bobby Bridges, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elsie Bridges, were married at York, S. C., Saturday night, March 10th.

### Patterson Grove News & Comments By Mrs. Thurman Scism

The G. A.'s and Sunbeams will meet at the church Saturday afternoon at 2:30 for a Study Course. Mrs. Carl Falls and Miss Ruth Scism will have charge.

The G. A.'s met last Saturday at the home of Miss Ruth Scism for their regular meeting. The W. M. U. Sunbeams, G. A.'s and R. A. will meet at the church beginning April 14, at 2:30.

The W. M. U. met Saturday with Mrs. Everette Lovelace. Seventeen members were present. Mrs. Lloyd Phifer had charge of the program. After a very interesting program our hostess served a delicious course of chicken salad, cookies, crackers and grape juice.

B. T. U. time has been changed. Beginning next Sunday B. T. U. will begin at 7:00 and on the second and fourth Sunday nights preaching service will be at 8:00.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Barber were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Wright, Misses Cornelia and Marguerette.

Mrs. Marvin Wright, Mrs. Lloyd Turner, Wayne and Jane, and Mrs. Thurman Scism were Wednesday guests of Mr. and

Mrs. Albert Logan. Little Roger Putnam, son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Putnam is sick with a light case of pneumonia.

Nolan Scism, son of Mr., and Mrs. Raymond Scism has scarlet fever.

Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Putnam and daughter, Shelia Ann, have moved into the house just behind Mr. Wayne Putnam.

Mrs. Beulah Bridges was Sunday dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs.

Thamer Wright and children. Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Bridges of Charlotte were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bridges, Coy and Robert.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1950, the American Red Cross spent \$5,054,480 from national funds in behalf of victims of major natural disasters. During the year the Red Cross conducted 394 disaster relief operations.

### LOOK YOUR BEST for EASTER

Cash & Carry is Cheaper!

One Day Service on Request

### McCURDY CLEANERS-DYERS

Phone 257

Big Savings On These Popular Items!

Save Up To 40% on Guaranteed Car Needs!

Super Values That SAVE You Extra Money!

WESTERN AUTO ASSOCIATE STORE

Home Owned and Operated by

HAYWOOD E. LYNCH

Mountain St.

Phone 92



Check Your Expiration Date On Your Address Label—Renew Promptly!

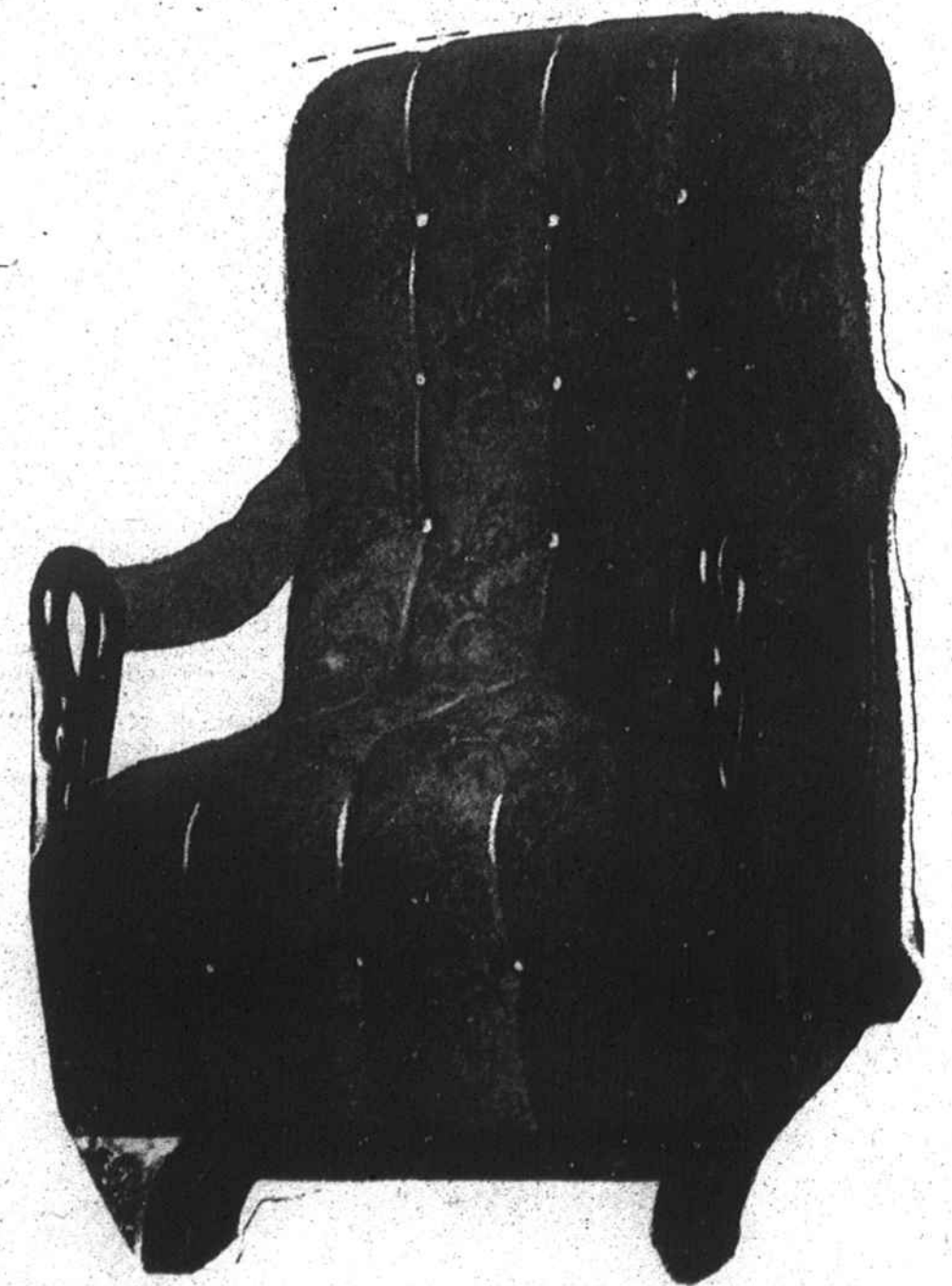
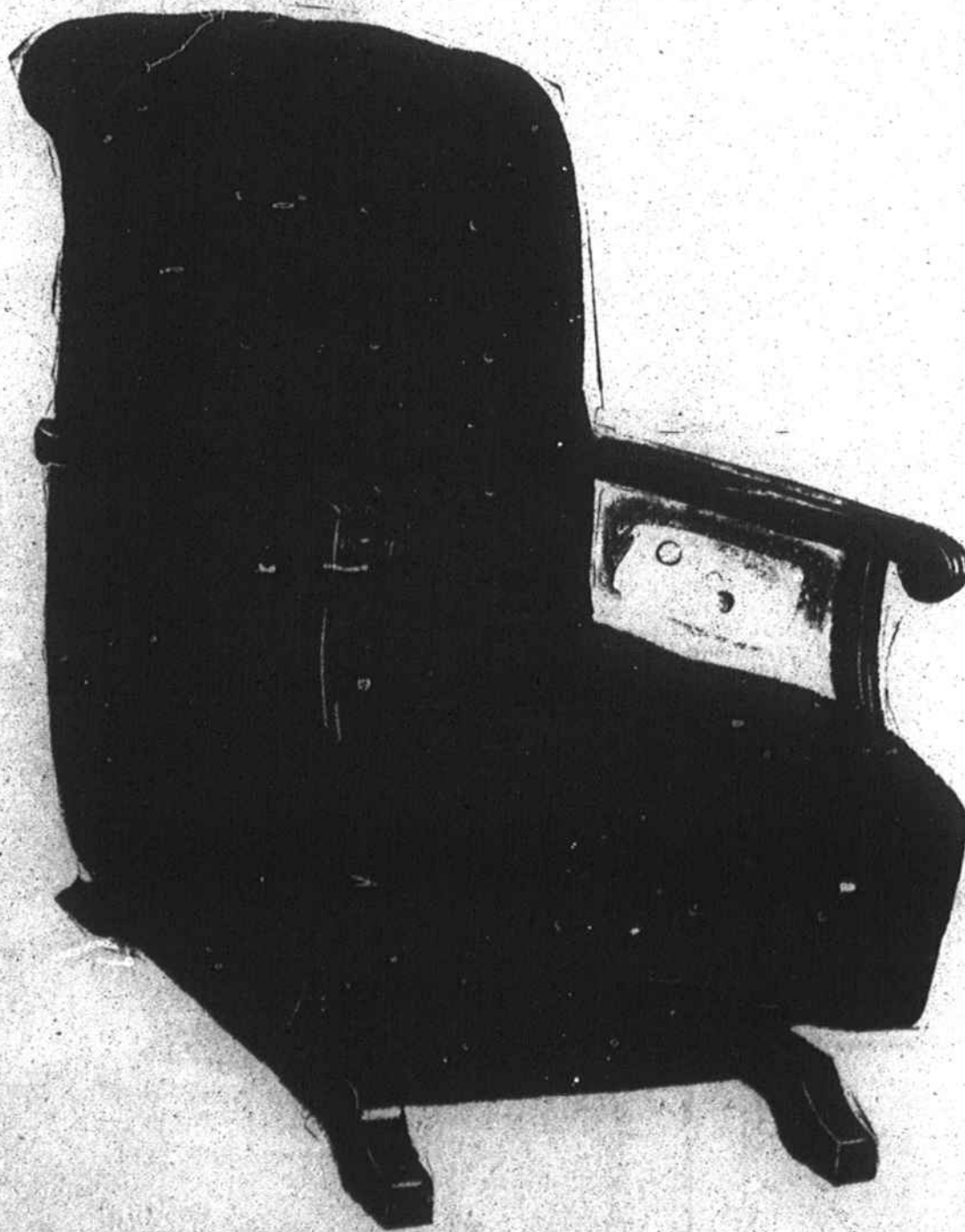
# Sterchi's PRE-EASTER CLEARANCE PLATFORM ROCKERS

● In Tapestry or Plastic Covers

● Give One To Mother and one To Dad for Easter

PRICED

## \$16.95 to \$49.95



### See Our Window & Floor Displays Today!

## \$1 DELIVERS

# Sterchi's

Phone 348

Mountain St.

as seen in SEVENTEEN



Connie Co-healers

\$6.95

• Bamboo • Blue

5 to 9

AA to B

Choose your Spring colors...light, dark or bright...  
new in this so-popular casual style! Known for its  
special softness, perfect fit in glove-soft leather!



## Keeter's