

Helped Build It on Days Off

64 Ship Workers Lay First Keel in Own Yard

By United Press

SAUSALITO, Calif., May 12—The shipbuilding corporation organized by workmen and financed out of their savings began its career today, laying its first keel.

A shipfitter is president, another is secretary-treasurer and the vice president is a boiler maker. There are 64 partners in the business, which is incorporated as a co-operative, and all are shipyard workers.

SECOND FIDDLE

Before the war they were employed in San Francisco Bay shipyards. The day after Pearl Harbor they pooled their savings and incorporated themselves with the idea of taking over an abandoned Oakland shipyard.

The Army got the yard, so they acquired land on the bayfront here and on Jan. 20 ground was broken for a four-way yard. Most of them continued working at their regular jobs, aiding their employes on their days off at digging and building.

Today the yard began working on an Army order for barges.

President Devere F. Baker said he and his partners intended to launch their first barge in 28 days and break all records for tonnage output per man employed.

"With the quality of men we have

tion. Most yards can't come within a half inch."

Operations are limited by lack of space and the co-op hopes to acquire adjacent property.

"We're planning to make this a permanent company which after the war will be converted into a tank and repair yard," Baker said.

Army inspectors have assured the corporation of more contracts if it de-

we can't help but set records," he said.

"Look at those ways. The surface on those skidways — all hand-hewn — is within an eighth of an inch of perfec-