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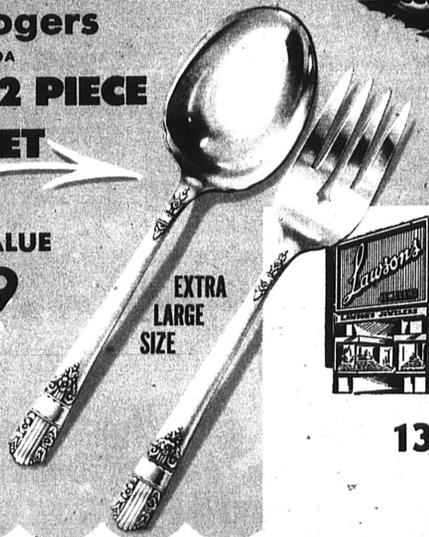
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WEDNESDAY

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16 PAGES

Hero Who Died to Save City

Census Upped Persons

Official census was week at 44,914 as Bureau of Census official count of wing a special cen- th. The official fig- anger George Ste- and Special Census 'ron L. Miller for h job which was ducting the special ere in November. sation on a Regional Commission permit for the company to mine on Radar Hill, second highest hill in the area.

Battle over Mine To End This Week

Backers and opponents of the proposal to mine diatomaceous earth in the Palos Verdes hills were regrouping forces this week preparing for a final showdown before the County Board of Supervisors next Wednesday, Dec. 9.

At an all-day meeting last Wednesday, lengthy, conflicting testimony was given before the supervisors as hundreds of peninsula residents showed up to protest the plan of the Great Lakes Carbon Corp. to open a new borrow pit mine in the hills above the firm's Walteria processing plant.

Specifically, the supervisors are considering an appeal of the Rolling Hills Community As- sociation on a Regional Planning Commission permit for the company to mine on a 164-acre site on Radar Hill, second highest hill in the area.

Must Prove Hazard In order to halt the mining operation, opponents of the plan must prove to the board that granting of the permit would be a menace to, or would en- danger the public health, safety, or general welfare.

The supervisors were told by Deputy County Counsel George Wakefield that if the opponents were unable to prove these con- tentions, the board would have no choice but to allow the per- mit.

The hundreds of peninsula residents attending the hearing last week contended that the soft earth, made up of microscop- ic remains of diatoms, small sea animals that lived hundreds of years ago, is harmful to per- sons living in the area.

Mine Surgeon Speaks Rebutting the statement that the mining operation would be

Hero's Widow Dedicates New School on Base

Dedication of an elementary school in memory of Capt. Wil- liam E. Blair, who lost his life by piloting his flaming Mitchell bomber away from Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1940, was announced this week by the Air Force.

Unveiling of a plaque in the air hero's honor was Mrs. Blair, who traveled from her home here with the couple's two chil- dren, Randy 9, and Trudy 4, to the Fairchild Air Force Base in Washington where the school was opened.

Captain Blair, who at the time of his death was commanding officer of the 92nd Food Service Squadron at Fairchild, "exhibited an act of courage and sacri- fice above and beyond that normally expected of service per- sonnel," a citation of his act reads. "While flying a B-25 over Chattanooga, Tenn., a fire devel-

oped in the left engine. Be- cause they were directly over the city at the time, he gave the ball out order to the crew and passengers," the citation continued.

Cleared City "Captain Blair then maneu- vered the aircraft away from the heavily congested area of the city and had cleared the city limits when the left engine fell off. He then bailed out—but was too low in altitude for his parachute to function."

While ranking officers of the Air Force looked on, Mrs. Blair unveiled the plaque in the school entrance hall which com- memorated the bravery of her husband.

Captain Blair also was award- ed the Cheney Award for hero- ism posthumously.

Mrs. Blair, who is the daugh- ter of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Bar- nard, of 2558 Bonoma Ave., at- tended Torrance High School. She now lives at 2521 Bonoma Ave. with her two children and is employed at the Midland Rub- ber Co. plant here.

first president of the... ers Organizing Committee, Lodge 1414, which became Local 1414 of the CIO Steelworkers.

He also served at one time as vice-president of the Califor- nia CIO, and was chairman of the Selective Service Board here during its existence in World War II.

Survivors Listed Mr. Steele leaves his widow Verda, of 1320 Cota Ave.; a daughter, Mrs. Maxine Jensen, and a son, Duane, of Torrance; a brother, J. G. Steele of Tor- ranee, and another brother, Lee, of Olathe, Okla. Also surviv- ing are two sisters, Mrs. E. B. Cravette of Gardena, and Mrs. Otto Anderson of Grove, Okla.

The vacancy on the Torrance Board of Education created by Dr. Steele's death will be filled by appointment by the other four members of the board, ac- cording to Dr. J. H. Hull, super- intendent of schools.

An Open Letter To Santa Claus

Torrance, Calif., December 6, 1953

Dear Santa, Don't wait 'til Christmas Eve to do your shopping. The shops in Torrance are display- ing beautiful gifts of all kinds for him — for her — for the children — for the family, and for the home.

Turn to the Classified Christ- mas Gift Guide and see what your local merchant has to offer to make your Christmas a pleasant surprise for all.

Sincerely,
Your Classified Department of the Torrance Herald

the third Friday in May, 1954.

Building Permit Valuation Nears \$1 Million Mark

A \$28,000 wing on the Catho- lic Nativity Church, and a \$42,000 convent at the St. Cath- erine Labourer Catholic Church led individual building permits issued during the first week of December.

Also issued during the week, to bring the December total near the million-dollar mark, were permits for 54 new homes to be constructed by the Milton Kauffman Co. near Sepuveda Blvd. in South Torrance. Total value of the new Kauffman tract is \$540,000.

Other large permits included one for \$27,088 to the Califor- nia Water Service Co. for new water storage tanks in Holly- wood Riviera, which were ap- proved by the City Council at its last meeting.

Hold Rites for Mrs. C. Moehring

Funeral services were held yesterday at Stone and Myers Mortuary for Catherine Mimie Moehring, 84, a resident of Tor- ranee for 13 years, who died Wednesday at her home, 911 Ar- lington Ave.

Services were conducted by the Rev. Paul Wenske of the Lutheran Church, and interment was to follow at Mt. Hope Ce- metery in Independence, Kans. Mrs. Moehring was a native of St. Mary's, Ohio.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Gretchen M. Earle, and son, Walter, both of the Ar- lington Ave. address; another son, Karl, of Los Angeles, and a granddaughter, Marcia, also of Torrance.

been expressed by his mother, who said yesterday that the doctors at Rancho Los Amigos reported that Frpdy was now able to be out of his respira- tor for periods as long as 12 minutes and was able to get along with a small chest res- pirator at other times.

Glenn, who gave his address as 151 W. 6th St., Escondido, was released by Torrance police after booking and finger-printing at the local jail. He was ordered to appear for preliminary hearing at the South Bay Municipal Court on Jan. 13.

The family left their home Tuesday morning on a vacation trip and were 40 miles from Rhineland when the accident occurred. The driver of the other car was injured slightly.

Lyons died in the crash, and his wife and children were re- moved to the hospital where the young boy died.

WEATHER

Increased cloudiness today that may culminate in showers to- night is the Weather Bureau's prediction for the local area. There should be little change in temperature today with a high of around 68 degrees.



MEMORIAL UNVEILED... Mrs. William E. Blair, of 2521 Bonoma Ave., unveils a bronze plaque in memory of her husband, Captain William E. Blair, during dedication of a new grade school recently at the Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington. Behind her are Lt. Col. Earle L. Osbourne, Brig. Gen. David Wade, 57th Air Division Commander, and Col. Jack J. Catton, Fairchild Air Force Base Commander.