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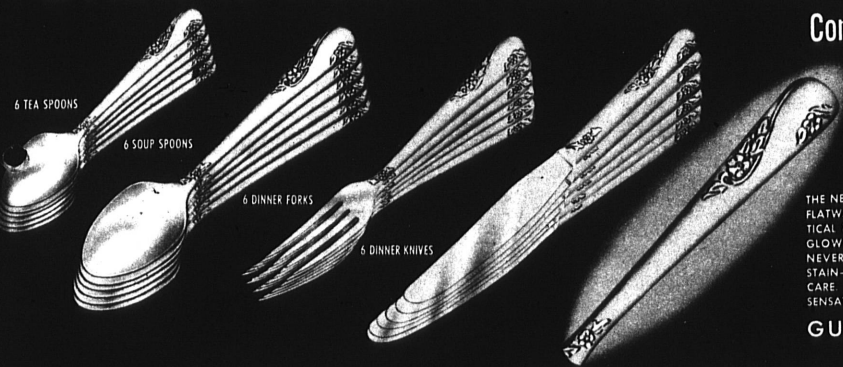
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16 PAGES

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- the- ing the official fig- anager George Ste- d his praise of th- and Special Cens- 'emon L. Miller for h job which was d- ducting the specia- ere in November- hat only 12 miss- uts proved to be nearly 200 show- ily the individual covered their areas." The original count- Miller was 44,902 than the final fig- a of the figure he city can now go- ply for increas- s from state fund- anded out on the- opinion. It also- the city is officia- its own court fa- ts to get the Coun- ters interested in a- rt will be under-

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 Association 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 endanger 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 contentions, the board would have no choice but to allow the permit.

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

Rebutting the statement that the mining operation would be harmful to nearby residents was Dr. Anthony J. Lanza, former U. S. Bureau of Mines chief surgeon and expert on effects of industrial earth and dust on health. He said it was his opinion that an insufficient quantity of dust would be emitted from the proposed mine to endanger residents of the area.

At this point, the opposition submitted a resolution of the executive board of the Los Angeles Medical Assn. asking the supervisors to turn down the permit on the premise that dust resulting from handling the diatomaceous earth is injurious to the health of persons engaged in mining operations and to those residing nearby.

Hero's Widow Dedicates New School on Base

Dedication of an elementary school in memory of Capt. William E. Blair, who lost his life by piloting his flaming Mitchell bomber away from Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1949, 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 children, 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 sacrifice above and beyond that normally expected of service personnel," a citation of his act reads. "While flying a B-25 over Chattanooga, Tenn., a fire developed in the left engine. Because 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 maneuvered 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 commemorated the bravery of her husband.

Captain Blair also was awarded the Cheney Award for heroic posthumously. Mrs. Blair, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Barnard, of 2558 Sonoma Ave., attended Torrance High School. She now lives at 2521 Sonoma Ave. with her two children and is employed at the Midland Rubber Co. plant here.

WEATHER

Increased cloudiness today that may culminate in showers tonight 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.

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

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 removed to the hospital where the young boy died.

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

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

Services were conducted yesterday by Rev. Cecil J. England, former pastor of the First Christian Church here. Burial followed in Green Hills Memorial Park overlooking the San Pedro harbor. Stone and Myers Funeralary handled the arrangements.

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 Torrance; and another brother, Lee, of Oklahoma City. Also survivors are two sisters, Mrs. E. B. Cravette of Gardena, and Mrs. Cito Anderson of Grove, Okla. The vacancy on the Torrance Board of Education created by Mr. Steele's death will be filled by appointment by the other four members of the board, according to Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools. The successor by appointment

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 displaying beautiful gifts of all kinds for him — for her — for the children — for the family, and for the home.

Return to the Classified Christmas 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 Catholic Nativity Church, and a \$42,000 convent at the St. Catherine Labouré 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 Kaufman Co. near Sepulveda Blvd. in South Torrance. Total value of the new Kaufman tract is \$540,000.

Hold Rites for Mrs. C. Moehring

Funeral services were held yesterday at Stone and Myers Mortuary for Catherine Minnie Moehring, 84, a resident of Torrance for 13 years, who died Wednesday at her home, 911 Arlington Ave.

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

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



MEMORIAL UNVEILED . . . Mrs. William E. Blair, of 2521 Sonoma 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 I. Osbourne, Brig. Gen. David Wade, 57th Air Division Commander, and Col. Jack J. Catton, Fairchild Air Force Base Commander.