

# MINE BATTLE TO RESUME WEDNESDAY

## City Population Officially Certified at 44,914

PUBLISHED EVERY SUNDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING

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# TORRANCE HERALD

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Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at postoffice Torrance, California, under Act of March 3, 1879.

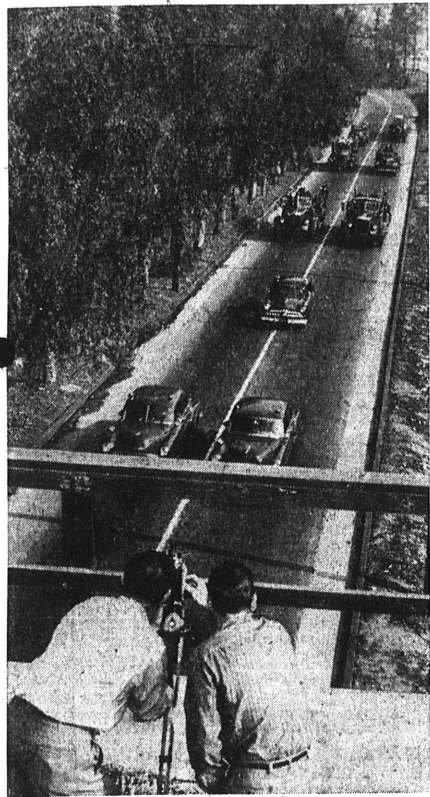
39th Year—No. 98

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1953

PHONE FAIRfax 8-4000

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**10¢**  
Per Copy  
Every Sunday and Thursday Home Delivered by Carrier 30 Cents Per Month (Average 9 Issues Per Month) 16 PAGES



ROLL 'EM . . . Producer Will Zens, left, and his assistant Jim Barnes take a high vantage point to photograph equipment of the Torrance Fire Department for a color film being produced for the Torrance Chamber of Commerce to show what Torrance has to offer members and prospective members of the community. (Herald photo)

# Air Force Honors Hero Who Died In Flaming Plane to Save City

## City Seeks to Get Law for Long Leases

Preparation of legislation which would permit the City Council to grant leases longer than the present 25-year limit is being prepared by City Attorney James Hall for submission to the California Legislature when they meet next year.

The special legislation, being prepared by the city attorney at the instructions of the City Council, would permit the city to grant leases up to 50 years in certain instances.

Although the 1954 session of the Legislature is a budget session, the Governor may approve consideration of new laws deemed vital.

Extension of the city's leasing power is sought to permit the development of important commercial centers on city property, especially at the Torrance Municipal Airport. Prospective lessees at the airport have complained that the 25-year limit on leases does not give them time to amortize investments in expensive, Class-A structures.

## Sirens Sound In Navy Drills

A series of "passive defense drills" at the Navy Supply Depot annex here which alarmed a number of citizens this week will be continued with a final test slated for next Wednesday, according to E. C. Tully, a member of the depot staff.

The drills have been punctuated by a short and a long blast on the air horn, and sounding of the air raid sirens at the Navy installation here.

## City's Census Figure Upped By 12 Persons

The city's official census was pegged this week at 44,914 as the Federal Bureau of Census certified the official count of the city following a special census last month.

In announcing the official figure, City Manager George Stevens repeated his praise of the enumerators and Special Census Supervisor Vernon L. Miller for the thorough job which was done in conducting the special nose count here in November.

"The fact that only 12 missed persons reports proved to be void out of nearly 200 shows how thoroughly the individual enumerators covered their areas," Stevens said. The original count turned in by Miller was 44,902, just 12 less than the final figure.

Certification of the figure means that the city can now go ahead and apply for increased appropriations from state funds which are handed out on the basis of population. It also means that the city is officially qualified for its own court facilities. Efforts to get the County Supervisors interested in a Torrance court will be undertaken.

## 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.

## 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.

**Mine Surgeon Speaks**  
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. Blair also was awarded the Cheney Award for heroism posthumously.

Mrs. Blair, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Barzard, 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.

## Polio Victim On Joy Ride With Family

Sixteen-year-old Freddie Diesel, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Diesel, of 1608 Post Ave., was scheduled to go for a short joy ride with his family yesterday afternoon.

Freddie, a former Bee football player at Torrance High School and member of the Championship Optimist Club softball team last year, has been confined to Rancho Los Amigos with polio.

Hopes that he might be able to be home for Christmas have been expressed by his mother, who said yesterday that the doctors at Rancho Los Amigos reported that Freddie 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.

## Wade Glenn Out On \$1000 Bail

Marlan Wade Glenn, 36, formerly associated with the now defunct Post Avenue Motors, was released here on \$1000 bail yesterday after his attorney surrendered him on a warrant charging him with grand theft.

The warrant, issued by the South Bay Municipal Court, was drawn after the Johannes Co. of Long Beach, an auto financing firm, signed a complaint against Wade charging him with grand theft.

Glenn, who gave his address as 151 W. 6th St., Escondido, was released by Torrance police after booking and fingerprinting at the local jail.

He was ordered to appear for preliminary hearing at the South Bay Municipal Court on Jan. 13.

## Kin of AP Store Manager Killed, Wife Flies East

Doris Hakanson, wife of Orville Hakanson, manager of the local A & P food store, flew east Wednesday when she heard of the tragic death of her brother-in-law and one of his children in an auto accident in Wisconsin.

Hakanson's brother-in-law, Carl Lyons and his son, Dickie, 3, were killed in the crash. His wife's sister, Frances, and daughter Mary Clare, 9, were injured. Mrs. Lyons is reported in improving condition and may be moved to a hospital in her home town, Rhinelander, this week.

The family left their home Tuesday morning on a vacation trip and were 40 miles from Rhinelander 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.

## Final Rites Held For Carl D. Steele

Funeral services for Carl D. Steele, 63, member of the Board of Education and a veteran employee of the Columbia Steel Co., were held here yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Steele, a staunch supporter of Torrance's city government and school administration, was a member of the original school board, and a member of the charter committee of the city. He was the organizer and first president of the Steel Workers 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 mortuary 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 surviving 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.

## 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, 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 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, 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.

## 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.

Turn 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