

BLARNEY CASTLE . . . This is the Blarney Castle, site where the famed and magical Blarney Stone, is kept in County Corke, Ireland. Tourists pay 30 cents each, then climb some 127 small stairs to kiss the stone. Larry Macaray, Press-Herald art and travel writer, tells of his trip to kiss the stone in today's "Let's Go" column.

...Let's Go

By LARRY MACARAY

Now that the political campaign is getting into full swing, more and more I am reflecting upon a recent visit to Ireland. In former years when political candidates would utter their meaningless phrases in front of the local labor unions, American Legion and service clubs these speeches might be printed in the newspaper. Words in print seem to have an aura of respectability and authority.

Now that television has "exposed" all of the candidates to the critical eyes and ears of the voters—their speeches seem to take on the ring of blarney. Webster says that blarney is a village and castle near Corke, Ireland. It also says that it is smooth wheedling talk; cajoling flattery. My impression of the political speeches today is that all of the candidates must have made a trip to the Blarney Castle sometime prior to entering the political scene.

Kissing the Blarney Stone traditionally has meant that one would automatically become proficient in blarney—or the ability to dispense it. Come to think of it—many people I know must have also been there. The stone itself is set some 120 feet above the ground in a massive square

Bar Fire Loss Put At \$25,000

A security guard making a routine check at the Crest Bar and Restaurant, 1625 Cabrillo Ave., reported a fire early Wednesday morning after he saw smoke coming from the building.

Torrance Fire Department spokesmen said the blaze burst out of control for 30 minutes, causing about \$25,000 worth of damage. Origin and cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Reports indicate that 28 firefighters used 3,000 gallons of water to douse the conflagration. The crew was forced to break into the building to fight the fire, which was reported at 2:20 a.m.

Ernest Valentino is bar owner.

Vets to Hear Commander Discuss War

Joseph A. Scerra of Massachusetts, national commander-in-chief of Veterans of Foreign Wars, will be the guest of VFW Fourth District Monday at 8 p.m. in the General Wm. S. Rosecrans Post 3261, 1822 W. 162nd St., Gardena.

The public is invited to hear Scerra speak in support of American involvement in Vietnam.

Accompanying Scerra will be Department Commander Ken Robbins of Sacramento.

tower dating from 1446. This tower is all that remains of this hilltop fortress, known as Blarney Castle.

CORMAC MacCarthy started this whole business under the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. He was the chief of the clan and was known as Lord of Blarney. The Queen insisted that MacCarthy formally acknowledge her sovereignty. Although he acted in a cordial manner, the glib-tongued Irishman managed to talk his way around the situation until finally Queen Elizabeth cried out, "This is all blarney—what he says he never means!"

The inspiration for the kissing part of the legend is a little vague. This huge stone was highly treasured by MacCarthy's ancestors because it was used as an inaugural stone—much like the stone under Westminster Abbey's Coronation chair. Because of the stone's importance, it was mounted in a relatively safe and inaccessible place in the castle.

Perhaps those less endowed thought some of MacCarthy's inherited way with words might rub off on them. After visiting the lush countryside of Ireland and talking with the people no one can be blamed for wanting to imitate the soft Irish gift of speech. Whatever the reason, tourists continue to flock to Blarney Castle and risk life and limb to kiss the stone.

THE ACTUAL kissing is cold and clammy. Tourists only pay about 30 cents to climb the 127 narrow steps winding upward through a circular turret. The walls are nine feet thick in places and the only light comes in through small slit-like windows. It is a puffy climb with many stops on the way to "catch your breath." Each step asks you whether it is worth the crazy climb—but everyone seems to want that "gift of blarney" very badly.

Lo and behold—the top is reached and the place is overrun with tourists—no natives, I'm sure. The long awaited 30-cent kiss is finally a reality. One must stretch backward over the edge in order to properly pucker. Accommodating as the Irish are, there is a big burly man who sits on your feet to balance you while you caress the cold stone with your lips. Knowing a good thing, there is a photographer present who records this unsightly bit of gymnastics for posterity.

Words now come easier for me. Pre-Blarney Castle days found me groping and searching for words to utter during a lecture at school. Now, things are different—words just seem to roll out of my mouth. It doesn't matter whether I know what I'm talking about—the "gift" guarantees that a lot of the talk will be baloney. Maybe I should run for political office now.

People . . . On the Move

(Promotions, Assignments, Affiliations)

Appointment of True Seaborn to the public relations staff of the Systems Group of TRW, Inc., has been announced. A Redondo Beach resident, Seaborn is a graduate of Chaffey College and the University of California, Riverside.

William S. Lowe, president of A. P. Green Refractories Co. of Mexico, Mo., has been elected to the board of the United States Gypsum Co.

Cal Clark has been named new car sales manager at Vel's Ford, 20900 Hawthorne Blvd. Clark, a native of Oklahoma, has been a salesman at Vel's for the past six years. He and his wife, Betty, are parents of three children.

Appointment of Clinton R. Spangler for General Telephone Co., has been named assistant to the general manager of the area. He has been succeeded by Lee R. Rippe, former industry communications manager.

Dr. Martin Fred Bain, 2406 Torrance Blvd., has been re-elected to active membership in the American Academy of General Practice. Re-election signified that the physician has completed 150 hours of postgraduate medical study during the past three years.

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William A. Gray Jr., C.L.U., of 26130 Narbonne Ave., Los Angeles, has been appointed assistant manager of the Los Angeles office of Occidental Life Insurance Co. of California. He and his wife, Shirley Ann, have one son, William III.

Robert L. Keagy, 21702 Evelyn Ave., has been assigned as assistant manager of Security First National Bank's Broadway and Manchester Branch in Los Angeles. Keagy and his wife, Betty, are parents of two boys.

Joseph Streimer, who lives here at 23135 Samuel St., has been named manager of the branch warehouse-service center for the Cadillac Plastic and Chemical Company's Los Angeles operation.

Mayor Endorses Chace For New Term on Board

Mayor Albert Isen of Torrance is one of 17 mayors in the Fourth Supervisorial District who have endorsed Supervisor Burton W. Chace for re-election.

"Supervisor Chace is the best friend Torrance has ever had," Isen said today. "His many efforts in and for Torrance have made him a partner in the progress enjoyed by our city."

Isen lauded Chace for his successful effort to locate the Torrance-South Bay Court Building at the Torrance Civic Center.

Chamber Sponsors Air Party

The skies over California will be bursting with cheer next Saturday as members and guests of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce take to the air on a scenic non-stop flight from Los Angeles, north over the San Francisco Bay Area, then east to the Lake Tahoe-Reno Area and back again to Los Angeles.

TWA will provide a Boeing 707 from their Royal Ambassador fleet for the two-hour odyssey, sponsored by the Chamber's Military Affairs Committee. Departure time from Los Angeles International Airport will be approximately 5 p.m.

Complete cost for the tour, which includes cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while in the air, is \$10 per person.

Committee Chairman Harry True announced that the flight is open to anyone wishing to take part in the festivities. Because of limited passenger space, reservations will be handled on a first come first served basis.

Those interested in taking the flying tour should contact the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce at 328-2814.

Two North High seniors have earned the highest possible score on the Air Force Qualification Examination.

The youths are Gabriel Lensing, son of the Gabriel Lensings, 3825 W. 183rd St., and Martin Morefield, son of the Eugene Morefields, 16819 Falda Ave.

Some 220 Saxons took the exam in March, testing their abilities for administrative jobs, mechanics, general jobs, and electronics.

Private dedication ceremonies for school families will begin at 1:30 p.m. with the community open house scheduled between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m.

Located at 26444 Crenshaw Blvd., Rolling Hills Estates, the school is private and non-sectarian. The 350 pupils range from junior kindergarten to eighth grade.

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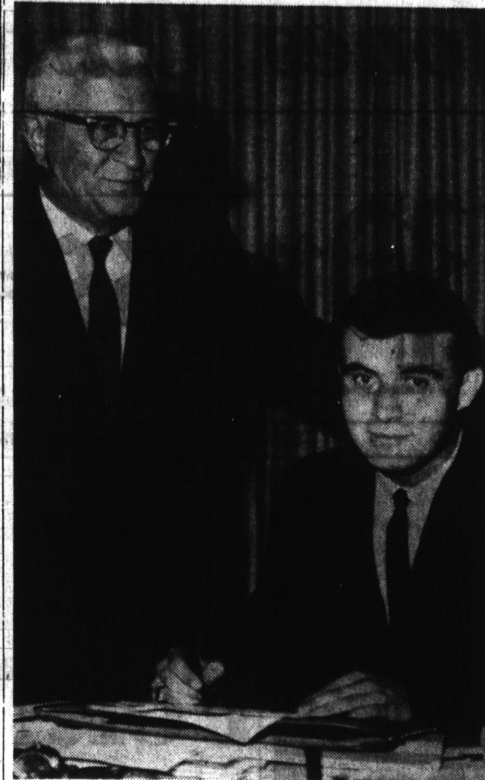
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APPRENTICE . . . James Turner of Carson High sits at the desk of Supervisor Burton W. Chace during recent Boys' Day in Los Angeles County program as the Fourth District Supervisor looks on. Young Turner sat with Chace during the Board meeting and was briefed on the workings of county government.

Carson Youth Named Supervisor For Day

A 17-year-old Carson High student leader "sat in" for Supervisor Burton W. Chace as the county joined in the observance of Boys' Day in Government.

James Turner of 22915 Cat-skill Ave., Wilmington, was one of 40 boys from high schools throughout the Los Angeles City School District who spent the day with various top county officials.

Young Turner, selected for his outstanding record in scholarship and campus activities, sat with Supervisor Chace during the regular Board meeting.

Earlier he visited with Chace in the supervisor's office, where he was briefed on the structure of county government and some of the current problems of county business. During the meeting, he participated in presentation of the preliminary budget as well as more than 160 routine matters.

During his high school career, Turner served as student body president, Boys League president and treasurer, and is a member of the Knights and the Squires. He also sang in the school choir.

He has received the Bank of America Achievement Award and has played Bee football for three years.

Two Armed Robberies Reported

Two armed robberies were reported to Torrance police Wednesday.

The first occurred at Hiebert, Inc., furniture manufacturers at 17001 Yukon St., when two suspects entered the reception area about 2:45 p.m. The gun-toting twosome forced employees to hand over a cashbox containing \$90.

Another holdup was reported at the Stop 'n Go Market, 16411 Crenshaw Blvd. Owner Kenneth R. Jackson told police two young men entered the store at about 10:30 p.m. and forced him at gunpoint to put \$200 in a paper sack.

Day School Open House Scheduled

Rolling Hills Country Day School will hold an open house today to give the public a chance to see the school's new junior high facilities.

Private dedication ceremonies for school families will begin at 1:30 p.m. with the community open house scheduled between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m.

Located at 26444 Crenshaw Blvd., Rolling Hills Estates, the school is private and non-sectarian. The 350 pupils range from junior kindergarten to eighth grade.

Obituaries

Ronald Wanbaugh

Funeral services for Army Cpl. Ronald Nelson Wanbaugh, son of Mr. and Mrs. Pearson Wanbaugh of 1318 Hickory Ave., will be conducted at 1 p.m. tomorrow at the First Lutheran Church of Torrance. The Rev. William Roderer will officiate at the rites.

Corporal Wanbaugh, who was born Aug. 19, 1946, in Torrance, died April 25 during a combat mission in Vietnam. He attended Torrance schools and entered the Army in July, 1967. He had been in Vietnam since last Christmas Day.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by a sister, Sandra Lee of Torrance.

Burial will be in Green Hills Memorial Park with Halverson-Leavell Mortuary in charge of all arrangements.

Joseph W. Mullen

Requiem mass for Marine Lance Cpl. Joseph William Mullen will be celebrated tomorrow in Upper Darby, Pa.

Corporal Mullen, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Swinburne, live at 1751 Marionette St., died during a combat mission near Quang Nam, Vietnam, April 17.

The 21-year-old Marine attended Torrance High School for three years and was graduated from high school in the Marine Corps in July, 1966, and arrived in Vietnam last September.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his father, Joseph Mullen of Upper Darby, Pa.; two brothers, William Mullen of Torrance and Ronald Mullen of Pennsylvania; and six aunts and two uncles.

Burial will be in Marple Township, Pa.

Mabel Bell

Funeral services for Mabel Beatrice Bell, 1267 24th St., San Pedro, were conducted in Whittier Friday with Halverson-Leavell Mortuary in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Bell, who was born in Michigan June 21, 1876, died last Tuesday in a Torrance hospital. She had lived here for 46 years.

Surviving are her daughter, Mary Bolton of San Pedro; and two grandsons, Russell and Donovan.

Burial was in Rose Hills Cemetery.

Parents to Meet

The Rubella Parents Association of California will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. today at Mount St. Mary's College, 17 Chester Place, Los Angeles. Dr. William Bucher, professor of pediatrics, will be the guest speaker.

Odetta Mills

Funeral services for Odetta Kathleen Mills, 17, of 2259 W. 230th St., were conducted Thursday at the Halverson-Leavell Mortuary Chapel in Inglewood in Pacific Coast Cemetery.

She died April 29 in Santa Monica as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

She was a native of California and had lived here all her life.

She is survived by a daughter, Shiela; her mother, Mrs. Shirley Goldsmith of Torrance; her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McClain of Torrance; and three sisters, Debra, Bambi, and Kimberly.

Ellen Hakanson

Funeral services for Ellen O. Hakanson, who died last Wednesday, were conducted Friday at the Stone and Myers Mortuary Chapel by the Rev. Phillip Hillier of the First Lutheran Church of Torrance.

Mrs. Hakanson, of 2720 Gramercy Ave., was born April 4, 1880, in Orion, Ill. She had lived in the area for 27 years.

She is survived by a son, Orville of Torrance; three daughters, Esther Swigart of Huntington Beach, Amy Starkey of Sun City, and Estella Schmeier of Nebraska; three sisters, Nettie Houpt and Rose Anderson of Iowa and Vivian Park of Nebraska; 6 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

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