



TRAFFIC CONTROL ST FRANCIS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Brothers Lose Halfback For Dragon Game

Coach Johnny Orlt of the Christian Brothers School reported today that Dan Donohue, left halfback, may not see service in the football game with the Sacramento High School at the local stadium Friday night.

Donohue suffered an injured ankle and did not report for practice yesterday afternoon. Orlt holds out little hope that the backfield ace will be able to start.

The injured player and Jerry Aielo have been alternating in scrimmages at the left halfback position. Aielo will get the call with Donohue on the sidelines.

Bill Murphy, makeover center, is nursing a leg injury but the Brothers coach is hopeful he will be in shape to fill an end post in a starting lineup.

In the Sacramento High School camp Coach George Belles elevated two reserves to the first squad. Jack Greenlaw, a tackle, and Glenn Wilson, fullback, were moved up from Coach Vasco Pucci's team.

George Kuwabara will captain the Sacramento Dragons, while Jack Sullivan will head the Brothers in their annual game. Kuwabara and Sullivan both are tackles.

Scowls At Dragon Hopes



Tom Kenny, who was one of the mainstays of the Christian Brothers football team last year, will be in the fullback's post for the Irish Friday night against the Sacramento High School in the local stadium in the first major clash of the season here.

Kenny has added pounds since he converted for former Coach Ernie Jorge, as a backfield threat in 1938. Coach Johnny Orlt of the Brothers is depending on Kenny to do a lot of blocking. Kenny is one of the surest tacklers on the Brothers squad.

See Photo.



Hosts and Hostesses for Christian Brothers Dance

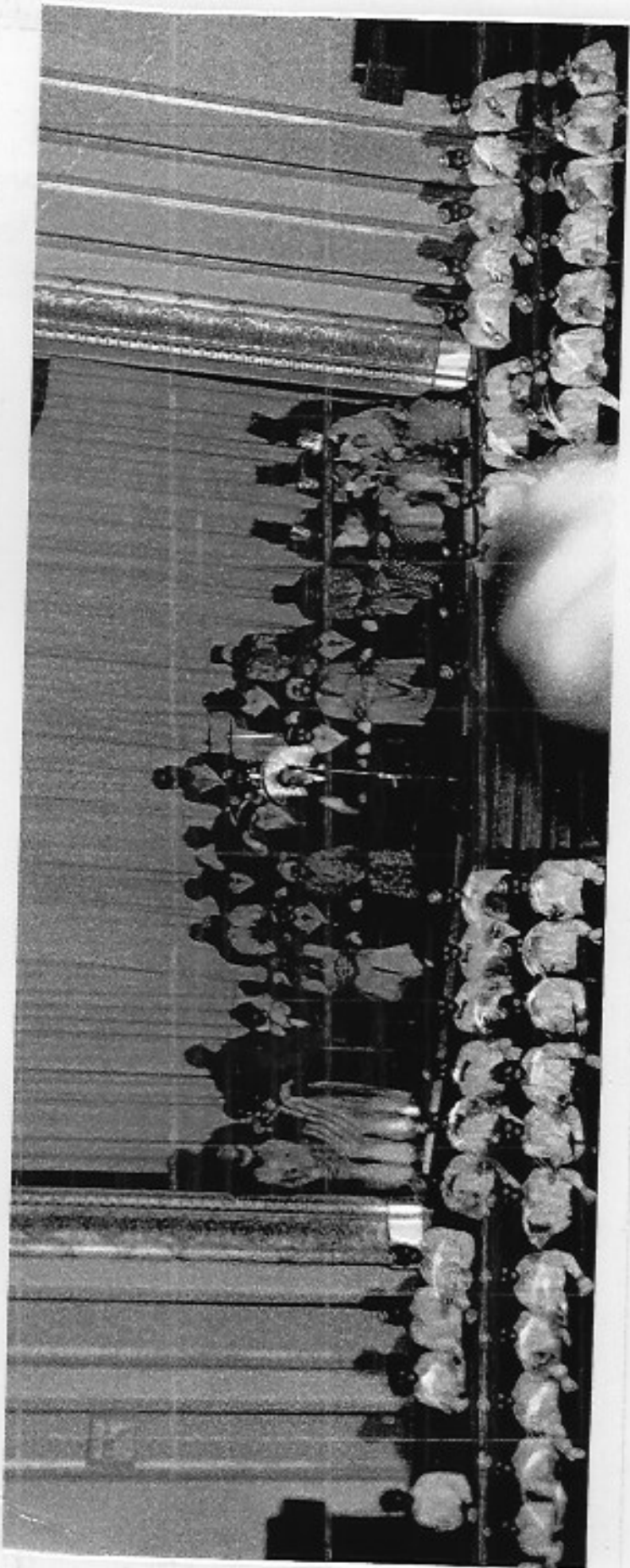


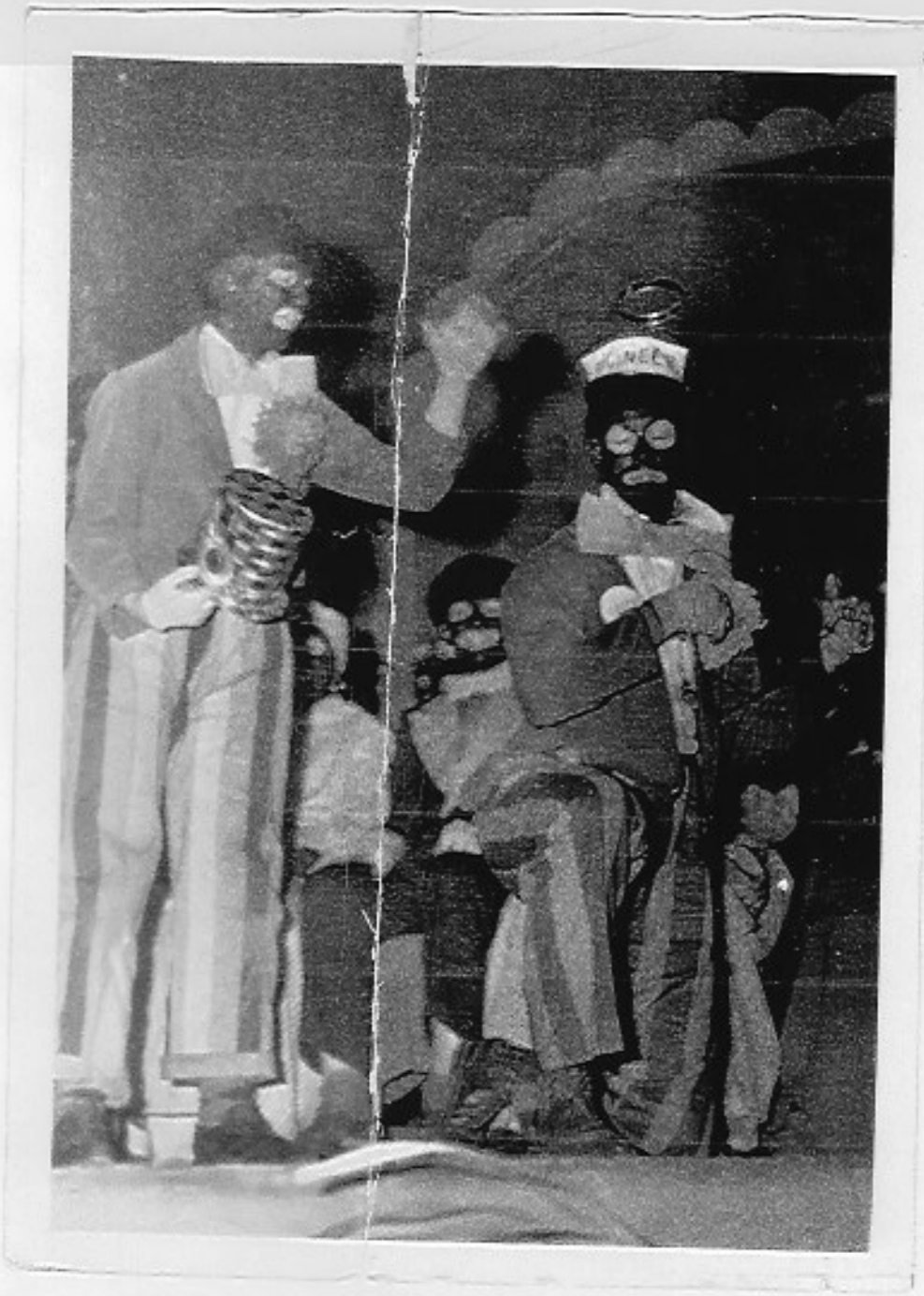
Eleanor is Jones.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS school is looking forward to its junior prom in the school auditorium tomorrow night. Four of the hosts and hostesses are, left to right: Bob Azevedo, Betty Lou Michael, Thomas Kane, and Eleanor Jones.









C. B. S.



G A B I

VOL. V

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, OCTOBER 2, 1910

C. B. S. Choir To Sing At Ceremonies

Most Rev. Bishop Will Pontificate At Centennial Services In Local Cathedral

Celebrating the centennial of the establishment of the hierarchy in California a solemn Pontifical Mass will be sung in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday morning, October 6. His Excellency Robert J. Armstrong, Bishop of the Sacramento diocese will pontificate and the entire student body of Christian Brothers School will sing at the Mass.

The event will mark another milestone in the colorful history of Mother's College High School

Elect S. Gilliam As Chief Squire

Stanley Gilliam, with several Bob Azvedo as Chief Squire of Sacramento, Choice No. 58, Captains Squires, as a result of the annual election held on Sept. 19. Other officers elected for the coming year include Jack Sheldon, Deputy Chief Squire; Bob McParland (last Squire); Bob McParland (last Squire); Jack Escomtine; Murray; Cliff Moody; Marshall; Paul Bergonotro; Senty; and Harold Stone; and Ed Connel; Captain.

The traditional installation ceremonies will be held at Redman's Hall on October 2 under the direction of Chief Captain George Burke.

The other retiring officers are: Bob Silver, Deputy Chief Squire; James McCalland, Notary; Gilliam, Bursar; Bob Ashon, Marshall; and Bill

Brothers College High School Adopts New Curricula and Shop

Faculty Increased By Instruction From Elgin Area

The reopening of school was marked by the presence of many faculty members of last year, although this was somewhat balanced by the arrival of new brothers to fill their places.

The brothers who have now become alumni of Christian Brothers High School are Brother British, who is now stationed at Cathedral High School in Los Angeles; Brother Norbert, whose last year's championship team won the city championship is now at Los Angeles; Brother Albin, who was secretary this year, has been assigned to Saint Mary's

Prexy Tom Kenny Heads Student Body For Present Semester

At the culmination of the last school term the student body of 160 for the school year of 1910-11 were elected.

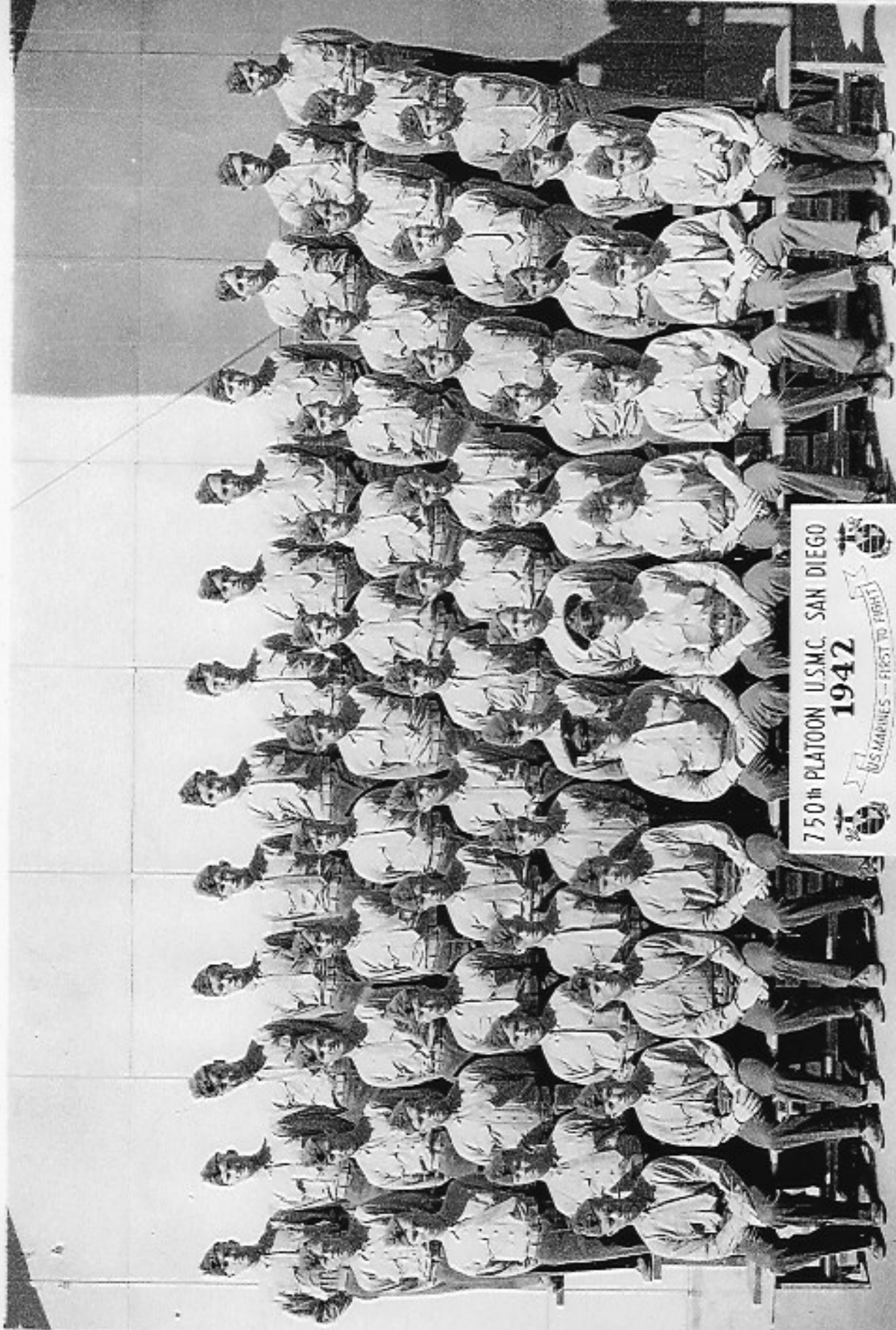
From each of the two junior classes was nominated a candidate for the office of President and Vice President of the student body. Of these, Tom Kennedy was elected President and Anthony Smolich was elected as Vice President. The two Sophomore classes also nominated a candidate from each for Treasurer and Secretary. Tom Kennedy was elected Treasurer and Dayton Johnson as Secretary.

Fully Equipped Shop Listed In Changes By Authorities During Summer

Numerous changes have been effected in the curriculum of the Christian Brothers High School, during the past vacation, which give this school the distinction of being one of the best, if not the best, schools in the West.

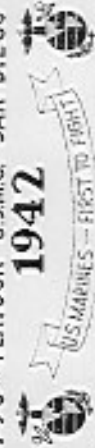
Among the principal changes were the installation of a complete equipped woodworkshop for craft oriented students, including all the various machines, etc. and other

Keith Kenny
Top Row
6th from Right



750th PLATOON U.S.M.C. SAN DIEGO

1942



Corp. E. E. PLUMMER

Corp. R. C. SMITH



Sacramento. Mrs. Thomas Kenney of 2215 U Street, Sacramento, recognized her son, Corporal Thomas Patrick Kenney of the Marine Corps, in a picture which appeared in The Superior California Register, issue of September 12, 1943.

The picture showed a group of marines in camouflaged uniforms, attending mass in the jungle. The United States Navy chaplain, celebrating the Mass, was also in camouflaged uniform and the men knelt on the ground in front of the emergency altar.

What was unusual about Mrs. Kenney's recognition of her son was that the backs of the kneeling marines were seen, with just the head and shoulders of Corporal Kenney appearing in the foreground.

While reading The Register at her home here, she saw the remarkable jungle picture and, remembering that her boy was in the Solomon Islands theater, began to study it with renewed interest.

Presently Mrs. Kenney began to stare hard at the back of a head, as seen from the shoulders of the man kneeling in the foreground, and concluded that the young man was her son. The names of the men were not listed in the picture's caption.

Mrs. Kenney then wrote to the marine corporal for verification, enclosing a clipping from the paper. Last week a reply arrived in Sacramento saying: "Sure enough, Mother. I remember the occasion exactly and that is the back of my head you recognized."

According to the original caption in the issue of September 12, the marine jungle picture was taken shortly before United States forces began their push from Sogito Vico Harbor, New Georgia, in the Solomons.

Photo Was Official

It was an official marine corps photo and had been supplied to The Register through the National Catholic Welfare Conference News Service, which distributes pictures to diocesan papers every week.

Corporal Kenney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Kenney of this city, is a graduate of St. Francis School and the Christian Brothers' School here. He was employed with the California Western States Life Insurance Company before enlisting in the marines in September, 1942.

"I washed the back of that boy's head so many times when he was a baby that I'd recognize it anywhere," Mrs. Kenney declared as she tried to conceal the deep anxiety which so many American mothers, whose sons are at the front, now feel.

It is probable that the young corporal from Sacramento is at the present time with the forces engaged in the Bougainville invasion, the recent push to eliminate the Japanese from the Northern Solomons area.

You Can't Deceive A Mother



Camouflaged uniforms are useful when it comes to fooling the Japanese, but the eye of a mother is something else again. When Mrs. Thomas Kenney of Sacramento saw the jungle picture in the Superior California Register, issue of September 12, 1943, she stared hard at the Marine kneeling in the foreground and recognized him as her son, Corporal Thomas Patrick Kenney. The picture, an official Marine Corps photo, shows the Marines at Mass in the jungle immediately before the push against Vico Harbor in New Georgia. The names of the men were not listed.

Sacramento Mother Sees Her Son In Marine Corps Picture Taken In South Pacific Area

Corporal Kenney Appeared in Photo Published in Register Showing Men Kneeling At Mass In Solomons Jungle

NOV 7, 1976
SAC BEE

Marine From Sacramento Leads Last Prayers For Dead Comrades At Burial Rites On Bougainville

Sacramento—The name of Corporal Thomas P. Kenny, who was recently promoted to the rank of sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, found its way into the press again early this week in a news dispatch from the Solomon Islands theater.

The fighting marine, a graduate of the Christian Brothers' School here, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kenny of Sacramento. He enlisted in the corps some two years ago and is now only twenty years of age.

The news reports, which appeared in the secular press, told of reverent burial rites for the dead who fell taking Hill 1000 in the Bougainville jungles. Young Kenny, using a service men's prayer book, led his comrades in the final rites for the fallen marines.

Details Are Given

Further details from the National Catholic Welfare Conference News Service describe Corporal Kenny, gaunt, ragged and heavily bearded, standing before the graves on "Hellzapoppin Ridge" as he read the last prayers.

A blazing tropical sun was well along on its downward arc. The hilltop, once thick with giant trees and dense jungle undergrowth, now was a bare and shattered mound pocked with shell craters.

Below and in the distance were reflected the blue-green waters of Empress Augusta Bay, and closer in a semi-circle was the jungle, its verdure beautiful but its natural splendor belying the terrors it clutched to its depths.

Occasionally the rumble of artillery fire floated up from the distant beach, but the silence atop the shell torn hill was broken only by the reverent voice of the marine intoning prayers before the graves. Leaning against a shovel a few feet away were crude crosses fashioned from boards taken from ration cases.

Men Stand By

Motionless in a semi-circle stood thirty or forty other marines, equally as ragged and dirty, bared heads bowed. Some held shovels, axes, or other tools they had been using to dig stronger defense positions before their labors were halted by the voice intoning a farewell to comrades-in-arms.

Others again stood silent by machine guns they were carting to reinforce front line emplacements. Some had lowered boxes of ammunition and supplies they had been toting on their shoulders.

The helmets of the dead marines were hung on crosses or placed at the foot of the graves. Their rifles also were laid on the graves. The Sacramento man wrote simple epitaphs in pencil on the crude crosses.

"Gone but not forgotten" and "May his soul rest in peace," were some of the inscriptions on the

crosses over the lonely graves on distant Bougainville.

Altar Boy Officiates

After the burial rites the congregation faded away quietly and the graves were filled. Young Kenny, a former altar boy at St. Francis Church here, was the one who conceived the idea of reciting a last prayer for the dead.

"We took all their personal effects from the bodies to send back to their folks," he said, "and on one of the boys I found a prayer book. It seemed awful to bury them without some sort of service, and so I decided to read the prayers over the graves of each."

"We buried them by twos and tried to make it as nice as possible. I kept thinking of their folks back home, and did the best I could."

The story was sent home by Sergeant Peter Pavone, Jr., of Bridgeport, Connecticut, a marine corps combat correspondent.

Saw Many Campaigns

Since going overseas the new Sergeant Kenny has been through the various campaigns in the Solomons, including the bitter fighting for Munda airfield on New Georgia. Subsequently he was in the invasion of Bougainville.

Another brother, Keith, is also in the service as third mate in the merchant marine. He also is a graduate of the Christian Brothers' School here.

By a remarkable coincidence the two brothers from the capital city enjoyed a reunion on board a ship off Bougainville some time ago. Mrs. Kenny says that the marine, who had been living on battlefront fare for months, was delighted at the magnificent hospitality extended to him on the vessel.

Thomas Kenny Gets Star for Gallantry

Sgt. Thomas P. Kenny 20, USMCR, of Sacramento, has received the Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry in aiding a wounded comrade in action while serving with the marine battalion in Cape Torokina area, Bougainville, last December.

Kenny's citation tells that while he served as litter bearer with the battalion he advanced under heavy mortar and machine gun fire to within 30 yards of Japanese emplacements. He carried the wounded men under enemy fire to a less exposed place without regard for his personal safety.

Kenny is the son of Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Kenny of 2213 U street. He enlisted in September, 1942, and went overseas in February, 1943.

He was formerly employed by California-Western States Life Insurance company.



Marine Sergeant Thomas P. Kenney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Kenney of 2213 U Street, is shown receiving the silver star from Major General Hal Turnage, commander of the 3rd Marine Division, for heroism in rescuing a wounded marine under heavy fire during the 11 day battle for the possession of Hellzapoppin Ridge on Bougainville.

Sacramento Marine Is Cited By Admiral

Sergeant Thomas P. Kenny, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Kenny of 2213 U Street, has been awarded the silver star medal and a citation from Admiral Halsey.

This was disclosed yesterday by Sergeant Kenny's mother who said the medal and citation had been sent home by the youth who is in the marine corps.

The citation from Admiral Halsey reads as follows:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving as a litter bearer with a marine battalion in the Cape Torokina area, Bougainville, British Solomon Islands, December 17, 1943, Corporal Kenny, during an attack against a strong enemy position, advanced under heavy mortar and machine gun fire to within 30 yards of the Japanese emplacements in order to assist a wounded marine.

Having administered first aid he carried the wounded man under continuing enemy fire to a less exposed position from which the man subsequently was evacuated to safety. His courageous action, taken with complete disregard for his own safety, was in keeping with the highest tradition of the United States Naval Service."

The citation was presented March 22nd at a South Pacific base. Sergeant Kenny received a promotion soon after the incident which won him the medal.

A chance meeting with his brother, Keith, 23, a third officer in the merchant marine, recently was described in a letter from the latter to their parents.

Both boys were football players at the Christian Brothers School.

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MAY 11 1945

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Dean of labor movement, faithful church goer

"He was a very faithful parishioner and regular churchgoer, not only on Sunday but every day of his life."

That was how Msgr. Cornelius O'Connor described Thomas Kenny, prominent labor leader and musician, who died at his home in Assumption parish, Sacramento, last week.

As the Herald went to press, Mass of Christian Burial had been planned at Our Lady of Assumption Church, where he participated as a lector and parish leader. Bishop Francis Quinn and several priests were planning to attend. His oldest son, David, was to give the eulogy at the Mass.

Thomas Kenny was the brother of Fr. Keith Kenny of the Sacramento diocese who died in December. Both men died of heart failure while sleeping.

"Tom worked hard all his life, raising six sons during difficult times," Msgr. O'Connor, pastor of Our Lady of Assumption Church said.

Numerous local leaders praised his contribution to the labor movement and defence of "the working man's right."

Thomas Kenny was known as the "dean of the organized labor movement" in Sacramento. Since 1970, he had been executive secretary of the Sacramento Area Central Labor Council AFL-CIO.



Tom Kenny

which represents 80,000 workers in 90 unions in Sacramento, Yolo, Placer, Amador, El Dorado and Nevada counties.

Kenny had been president of Local 11 of the American Federation of Musicians, AFL-CIO since 1956 and had been editor of the Sacramento Valley Union Labor Bulletin since 1970. He was elected vice president of the American Federation of Musicians in 1983 and was a current vice president of the California Labor Federation. He was also a current member of the Catholic Herald Advisory Board.

For several years he played the saxophone and sang with the band playing at the California State Fair. He also played the flute and bass.

He is survived by his wife, whom he married in 1950 in his native Nebraska; sons, David of Connecticut, Thomas, Matthew and Timothy of Sacramento, Paul of San Luis Obispo, and Christopher of Yuba City; his sister Margaret Mary Kenny of Sacramento; and eight grandchildren.

Along the way, he acquired several skills previously unrecognized. Today he is besieged with requests for sermons, invocations, speeches and prayers; due to his impressive ability as a speaker

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Thomas P. Kenny

Sacramento labor and community leader Thomas P. Kenny, who died Wednesday, was a powerful man who took pride in the fact that he didn't make a lot of money for his hard work on behalf of the working man and woman.

Mr. Kenny often challenged reporters who kidded him about being a "labor boss" to compare their incomes with his.

Mr. Kenny gave much to organized labor as secretary of the Sacramento Central Labor Council and president of Sacramento Musicians Union Local 12.

A burly, often gruff man, Mr. Kenny loved music, words, his church and Sacramento.

The World War II Marine Silver Star winner probably was as good a musician as any union member he represented, having played with such greats as

Tommy Dorsey and Buddy Rich.

Mr. Kenny also was proud of the column he wrote as editor of the Sacramento Valley Union Labor Bulletin, a forum which he occasionally used to take on journalists he felt had unfairly attacked organized labor.

An Irish Catholic, Mr. Kenny was extremely close to his brother, the Rev. Keith Kenny, who died last year.

Mr. Kenny the labor leader once boasted that he and his brother the priest could stand back-to-back and slug it out with any 10 men in Sacramento.

And win, Mr. Kenny said.

This newspaper more often than not disagreed with Mr. Kenny's political philosophy.

We never disagreed that he was a man worth knowing and an asset to this community.

It saddened us to report his death.

MAY 7, 1976
SAC ADL

Labor's Kenny dies; 'tireless advocate'

By Walt Loewen
Bee Staff Writer

Thomas P. Kenny, the dean of organized labor in Sacramento, was found dead in his home Wednesday morning by his wife, Mary J. Kenny.

He apparently suffered a heart attack during the night. The 60-year-old musician had a history of recent heart problems.

Since 1970, Kenny had been executive secretary of the Sacramento Area Central Labor Council AFL-CIO, which represents 80,000 workers in 90 unions in Sacramento, Yolo, Placer, Amador, El Dorado and Nevada counties.

"His death is a loss not only to the labor community but to all of Sacramento," said Sacramento County Supervisor Ted Sheedy. "He was a real humanist and a believer in the working man's rights."

Sheedy, a former associate of Kenny's, called him one of the most dedicated and articulate labor spokesmen "we've ever had."

The supervisors adjourned their meeting Wednesday in his memory.

Kenny had been president of Local 12 of the American Federation of Musicians AFL-CIO since 1956 and had been editor of the Sacramento Valley Union Labor Bulletin since 1970. He was elected



See file

Thomas P. Kenny was known as the dean of Sacramento organized labor.

vice president of the American Federation of Musicians in 1983 and was a current vice president of the California Labor Federation.

Kenny was a featured performer for many years with the band that

See KENNY, back page, A22

OVER

Kenny

Continued from page A1

played at the California State Fair and traveled with name bands before 1960. He was a saxophone player and vocalist, and he also played the flute and bass.

A longtime Democrat, Kenny was a 3rd Congressional District delegate for presidential candidate Walter Mondale.

It has been said there has not been a major labor-management squabble in the Valley in recent years where Kenny has not played a significant role. Local legislators routinely passed along any proposed laws that might affect labor for his review.

"I think I'm basically a decent person, which of course covers a multitude of sins. But I think I'm a person of some integrity and I generally call the shots as I see them," he said in a 1979 interview.

Rep. Robert Matsui, D-Sacramento, said he was shocked and deeply saddened to hear of Kenny's death.

"The working men and women of this community have lost a tireless advocate for their cause," Matsui said. "Sacramento has lost one of its finest and most influential community leaders, and I have lost one of my friends."

"But Tom Kenny was more than just a labor leader in this town. He had a reputation as a decent, honest man who was not afraid to speak what was on his mind. That candor and integrity will be sorely missed by all of us."

Al Caples, chief of the Sacramento-Sierra Building Trades Council, had worked with Kenny for many years. He said the local labor movement will be hard pressed to find a person of Kenny's stature to replace him in the labor council.

Wendell Phillips, president of the Sacramento County Deputy Sheriffs Association, said Kenny "was a person who really dedicated himself to the working men and women of this community."

Phillips recalled that Kenny was instrumental in changing the association from a traditional, conservative, law enforcement organization into one of California's first AFL-CIO police unions.

The Rev. James Murphy, editor of the Catholic Herald, said Kenny will be remembered as a very consistent and outspoken voice on behalf of the labor movement in Sacramento, as well as an outstanding musician.

"It is ironic that he had to leave us so close to the opening of the jazz festival in which he took an active part, hosting the jazz group from

festival will certainly miss him, but I'm sure Tom Kenny will be there in spirit," Murphy said.

Kenny's efforts in the community extended beyond the labor field.

He was chairman of the Regional Transit board of directors in 1977 and also worked with the United Way, Safety Council, Urban League and the Symphony board.

He made two unsuccessful tries for political office; he sought his party's nomination for the Assembly in 1962 and tried for the Board of Supervisors in 1972. He was co-chairman of the committee that opposed the recall of four members of the San Juan Unified School District board in 1978.

Kenny came to Sacramento as a youth in 1935. He graduated from St. Francis Grammar School and was the valedictorian of his class when he graduated from Christian Brothers High School in 1941.

He joined the Marine Corps and fought in the South Pacific in World War II, where he was awarded the Silver Star for crossing enemy lines to save a fellow Marine.

Returning home from the war, he graduated from then-Sacramento Junior College and received his bachelor's degree in political science from California State University, Sacramento. He attended McGeorge Law School for a year and a half but never fulfilled an old dream of becoming a lawyer.

He leaves his wife, whom he married in 1950 in his native Nebraska; sons, David of Connecticut, Thomas, Matthew and Timothy of Sacramento, Paul of San Luis Obispo, and Christopher of Yuba City; his sister, Margaret Mary Kenny of Sacramento; his aunt, Marie Reynolds of Sacramento; and eight grandchildren.

His brother, the Rev. Keith Kenny, priest at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, died Dec. 20, 1983.

The rosary will be recited at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Our Lady of Assumption Church, 5957 Cottage Way, Carmichael. A Mass of Christian Burial will be said at the church at 10 a.m. Saturday.

The family requests that any remembrances be sent to the Thomas P. Kenny Memorial for musical scholarships.

Arrangements are by W.F. Gormley and Sons.

Musical eulogy for Tom Kenny

Combos serenade labor leader

By Richard J. Brenneman
Bee Staff Writer

The notes were mournful, sliding one into the other with no distinct break. Yet they made joyous music, each instrument distinct, but blending together in one harmonious whole.

It was "tailgate jazz," the sort black musicians once played in New Orleans for departed colleagues. Yet Saturday it was being played by a blue-shirted combo from Krakow, Poland, to fete a departed friend.

Tom Kenny was many things to many people: Labor union activist, community leader, political powerhouse.

But to the musicians from Krakow and their fellows in Sacramento, he was, first and always, a musician. And Saturday's funeral Mass was a musician's funeral.

Kenny, 60, was found dead in his Sacramento home Wednesday morning. He had died in his sleep of a heart attack.

Kenny was the dean of organized labor in Sacramento, and had served for 14 years as executive secretary of the Sacramento Area Labor Council AFL-CIO, representing 90,000 workers in six counties.

It was music that drew Kenny into the labor movement. He played saxophone, clarinet and flute, and wrote many of the arrangements played by his combos.

He joined Local 12 of the American Federation of Musicians, becoming its president in 1956, and became a vice president of the national organization in 1983.

At his funeral Saturday, many of the seats at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic church in Carmichael were filled with musicians.

"This is more like a musician's reunion than a funeral," said long-time band leader Buddy Crites, who sang the melancholy "Danny Boy" before the communion. "I've seen more familiar faces today than I have in years."

The common thread knitting the Mass together was the jazz band, playing standards such as "The Nearness of You," "I Remember You" and "Tenderly."

It was mellow, old-timey jazz, the sort Kenny himself had played on

tunes.

"I wanted things that would express feelings of friendship and love," Nelson said.

Nelson had had his share of fights with Kenny, "but they were always over by the next day. One thing you had to know about Tom, and that was when he positioned himself, you couldn't budge him with a D-9 Caterpillar."

Nelson met Kenny 24 years ago when he moved to Sacramento. They played the El Rancho, and dozens of weddings and parties.

Armand W. Smith played drums at the Mass. He, too, had played the El Rancho with Kenny.

"The only thing you can say about Tom is that Tom is Tom, and that's just great," Smith said, smiling. "You can bet Tom died with a smile on his face. He was in a hurry to get up there because he just couldn't wait to play with that group up there. You can bet he's playing some real sweet sounds now."

The last melody of the Mass, the recessionat, was played by seven musicians wearing blue polo shirts emblazoned with the name of the combo: "Jazz Band Ball, Krakow, Poland."

They played an old spiritual, "A Closer Walk with Thee" in classic New Orleans tailgate style.

"If these cats can come here and play like this, maybe there really is hope for the world," Crites declared when they had finished. "Maybe we should turn it over to the musicians."

The Polish group had special ties with Kenny, said Steph Maller, their spokesman. They met five years ago, when Kenny came to catch one of the sets during the Sacramento Dixieland Jubilee.

"He came to one of our gigs and sat in with us," Maller said. "He invited us to stay with him when we came the next year, and ever since then, about half of us have stayed at his house. Some of us were there in his house the night he died."

During the Mass, Kenny's son Christopher stood at the dais.

Kenny was a musician, his son said. "The most important thing a musician can receive is applause, and I applaud my father." And Christopher Kenny began to clap. The

Tom Kenny, a man who lived with gusto

WITH one final twinkle of his flashing Irish eyes, Tom Kenny had to choose Jazz Jubilee week to die.

As he'd so wryly put it himself: "It's in my contract."

Indeed.
As head of the Sacramento Musicians Union local 12 — one of many organized labor hats he donned as dean of this town's AFL-CTO — he was a fiercely loyal bargaining agent.

And, if it were in the contract, he'd keep his word. When news of his death at age 60 came to me Wednesday night, I felt strangely unsurprised.

The man lived with gusto, with a passion that matched the breathy tones of the sax and clarinet he wielded so brahshly as a young backup horn to such Swing Era notables as Anson Weeks, Tommy Dorsey, Buddy Rich, and Frank Sinatra.

Grieving is our way of finishing the life process for people whose time was either ill-used, cut short, or somehow incomplete.

Kenny's life was none of the above. His life was a celebration of the possible, always



Peter Anderson

played against the backdrop of that sweet, silvery flute.

Kenny was a pro, a battler for causes, an unboastably outspoken supporter of the little man.

He possessed every effective labor leader's requisite scorn for greed, injustice, and prejudice, and his trademark whisky-piped voice was sweet music to the working man he so faithfully served.

A vulnerable, opinionated person, Tom Kenny was no great respecter of mere mortals. To many who don't know that the crust of an Irishman is velvet within, Kenny was an abrasive, argumentative sort.

There was one man in life he nearly idolized — his younger brother by 15 months, Keith, a Catholic priest known for his fervent missionary zeal on behalf of Sacramento Hispanics, and when Keith died last year, his older brother's love gave way to out-and-out veneration.

Once, several years ago, I was the unsuspecting beneficiary of Tom Kenny's blinding sense of brotherhood.

During a lunchtime meeting of minds at The Firehouse, I was complaining to one of my fellow wags that, due to short notice and an already-spoken-for paycheck, I wouldn't be able to attend my little brother Joseph's upcoming wedding in Connecticut that weekend.

Kenny had apparently overheard my remarks

because when I returned to the office, there was an airline reservations number to call, along with a scolding note that said: "No man should miss his brother's wedding, TPK."

You best believe I went; I had no desire to face with news of my absence that wondrously etched mug of his stamped so indelibly with the map of Ireland.

I'd give him a hard time about his casting director's Bigtime Labor features — the silver shock of hair, the menacing eyebrows perched above searching eyes — and wondered aloud how it was that union officials always seemed to look alike.

Was it so from birth or gained from experience? "As long as the Good Lord stamps our behinds with a union bug," he'd answer, "we don't give a damn what we look like."

Gruff. Terse. Warm. Considerate. Poetic and musical.

Flawed, yes, and by all means no angel, but Tom Kenny always zapped you with that spark of life that separates leaders from the mob, coers from the passive.

He had his quarrels with this newspaper, and frequently lashed out at my young brass as a way to vent his wrath.

But he'd never forget to leave me with an ironclad grip upon my arm, a nonverbal assurance that,

among men, even differences pass.

In this business, we meet and associate ourselves with community leaders like Tom Kenny all the time. Rarely, however, do our professional constraints cross over into the realm of friendship.

With Kenny, the reverse was true. Friendship first, if possible; then, if we really have to work, let's take care of some business.

He had his priorities properly set, his values scrubbed.

I can't think of any more fitting tribute this year's Jazz Jubilee could afford Tom Kenny than to appropriate some kind of permanent memorial ... a musical scholarship fund, perhaps, inaugurated this weekend to the tunes of, natch, "When the Saints Go Marching In."

As a staunch ceremonialist and a determined marcher in every year's St. Paddy's Mummers Parade, I can see him striding along the clouds right about now.

Once, in the midst of a 1981 interview, I asked him to name, without thinking, a line from the Bible that he turned to for guidance most often.

"Judge not that ye not be judged," came his instant reply.

Now that he's at rest, I think he deserves some kind of judgment, even if it comes from a humble young "meathead" like me:

Here, very simply, was a man.

Staff writer Peter Anderson's column appears Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Showcase and in the Sunday Magazine.

'I'm Somebody In This Town'

Labor Leader Kenny Points With Pride, Score

By **CHERYL CLARK**
Bee Staff Writer

Tom Kenny, one of Sacramento's most influential labor leaders, was seated in a popular downtown bar, jabbing his finger in the air as he castigated someone or something he felt was anti-brotherhood, anti-building or anti-labor. Not an unusual scene.

"I know this town and I love it. I don't want to live anywhere else. I'm somebody in this town," he said gruffly.

And to a degree, that's true: Executive secretary of the Central Labor Council, editor of the Sacramento Valley Union Labor Bulletin, president of the 1,500-member Sacramento Musicians Union Local 12 and a member of the Regional Transit Board of Directors.

In his \$18,000-a-year secretary's post, he approves labor's endorsements of legislators, state bills, city and county politicians, issues and even presidential candidates.

But though he commands significant influence over 80,000 trade union votes in more than 100 labor organizations in the six-county area, the 53-year-old one-time saxophone player still complains he doesn't really have the power to lead Sacramento's big band. "This is a closed town," he said. "I've been here 40 years and I'm still an outsider. I'm supposed to be the extension of George Meany in Sacramento."

Like the national AFL-CIO president, Kenny is flamboyant, incendiary.

In his distinctive raspy voice, Kenny has been known to hurl vituperation at his enemies and demand that people he opposes be fired. He once appeared at an adversary's press conference to press for equal time. He frequently blasts state and local politicians, including the governor, for "this anti-building kick they're on," and he calls the local Chamber of Commerce "a do-nothing outfit."

"I'm volatile by nature," Kenny admitted, squinting his steel blue eyes which contrast with his white hair.

His face reddens when he becomes excited and he grasps an arm or begins to point.

A local labor leader has to be strong," he said, "like rubber hits the road. He's a political animal, elected by his own members."

During last spring's negotiations between the RT board and the bus drivers' union, Kenny was asked by other board members to leave a meeting because his labor council role seemed, to some members, to pose a conflict of interest.

"He had to be asked," said board member Hollis Thompson. In the ensuing verbal scuffle, carried in the press, Kenny lashed out, calling the

proceedings a "star-chamber-like, Spanish Inquisition-like kangaroo court."

"He's a little bit more of a showman than the rest of us," Thompson said. "He's more of a political type person. However, he's done a lot for RT."

Nels Rasmussen, another board member, called Kenny "an entertainer, after all, he's a musician. He's just got that kind of personality."

Not many people will say anything negative about Kenny. Said Rasmussen: "No one's going to say bad things about any person who's that powerful, because if he IS that



Bee Photo by Ward Sharret

Tom Kenny: Love for the town, not the fathers.

Tom Kenny

Continued from Page B1

developed. Thankfully, the proposal failed, Kenny said, but the fact that the issue was raised "was indicative of a feeling that we shouldn't grow."

"The Anheuser-Busch Co. brought 500 employees to Fairfield. Why isn't that plant HERE," he demanded. "Why isn't the 500-employee Formica Corp. plant in Placer County here? And all those other companies," he said, referring to Placer's Sunset Industrial Tract which includes Western Electric, Reynolds Aluminum and American Olean & Tile Co.

Representatives for the brewery and Formica declined official comment on their choice of a location, although a spokesman for Formica replied, "It's not that the city of Sacramento is NOT doing anything to encourage business. It's just that other cities and counties are working harder. You end up buying the house from the person who gives you the best presentation."

Those companies, Kenny said, "were enticed and wooed to go to Placer County by some people who did a better selling job than we did. And also, Placer County's taxes are considerably lower."

Kenny said "we're becoming a place that seems to be saying 'keep people out. We don't want to build.' And though Sacramento is a fast growing residential community (with upwards of 700,000 people) our economy is not growing in proportion. There clearly aren't enough jobs for people who live here."

"It made me so mad," Kenny said. "I was persuaded to run for the 3rd District Board of Supervisors seat a few years ago."

Kenny lost, possibly because his campaigning was limited by a heart attack which hospitalized him for several weeks.

But he didn't give up the fight. He continued to lambast the county for listening to "a bunch of bird-watchers" who said the McKeon Construction Co. couldn't develop the south county Stonelake area on the Sacramento River because of wildlife there. At the time, Supervisor Pat Melarkey was quoted as saying the county wanted "to preserve the area for open space, park land and natural habitat... for a magnificent regional park."

Kenny also criticized the planning commission's decision to place some land near Sacramento Metropolitan Airport in an agricultural zoning reserve, saying that several com-

missioners felt the airport shouldn't expand.

"Airport expansion would mean hiring people," Kenny said sarcastically. "The way things are, Sacramento is bound to become a satellite community of San Francisco. We could be a very good cargo airport. We have good roads, railways, terrain and good water too. But no."

"We're just little old dumb cow town Sacramenna... Upper middle class Lower Slobovia."

But what should Sacramento do to encourage business and industry? Kenny's got the answer.

"Get off the anti-business kick. The anti-sign ordinance legislation. Repeal the business tax which affects the small businessman so much. In short, pass laws which encourage business to locate here."

"Spend money and woo big industry people to come here. Get them half-loaded and create some initiative for them. Promise them tax breaks. Do all the things that the fair business practices people say you can't do but that everybody does anyway. If we want those businesses, we should put our community endeavors to work to attract people to aid our economy. It's much more than getting somebody gassed to sign an agreement, of course. We must get some people to do a selling job."

But in spite of all his complaints, Kenny wouldn't change a thing about this town. "After all," he said, "Sacramento has the best labor-management relations of any community of any size in this state and in most states. I think it's something in the water."

Whether that something will keep him in his job when his term ends in March is a different matter.

Although no other candidate has been nominated and no union leader cares to discuss any possibilities, some are saying privately Kenny might be in trouble. According to his predecessor, Joe Selinski, now 70, "People have been complaining."

"They say he's power hungry. That he's a one-man show and likes to have his hand in everything. They're just saying his job isn't being done right. They seem to be saying that it's more a matter of his style than anything else. He is in some difficulty."

These reports of discontent don't seem to bother Kenny.

"We'll see what happens," he said. "Hell, I'm living on borrowed time anyway since my heart attack. Everything I have could be taken away tomorrow."

powerful, Kenny can do something about it."

But Kenny doesn't think he's all that powerful. The real people with power, he said, are the community's older business leaders, the families who settled here a century ago, who built up their farms or businesses and now, Kenny said, "essentially run this town."

And he's not especially fond of them.

When Kenny was asked why industry isn't stronger here, when the city's waterways, highways, railways and climate could clearly support more commerce, he shot back that it's the fault of those same people, "the city's political fathers."

He called them "the power mongers. The Sutter Club and Del Paso Heights Country Club set. They don't want to share their business and community clout with anybody."

"If U.S. Steel puts a plant here, it's going to want to hire 3,000 people. And U.S. Steel is going to want a say about this community. But the Sutter Club set just ain't going to let 'em. They've resisted outside investment and discouraged competition. They've been bleeding this community for years."

Kenny refuses to give examples, and claims not to have any specific instance to point to. "But just look at the bottom line," he said impatiently. "The bottom line is that we don't have industry and we don't have jobs. What we do have is high taxes."

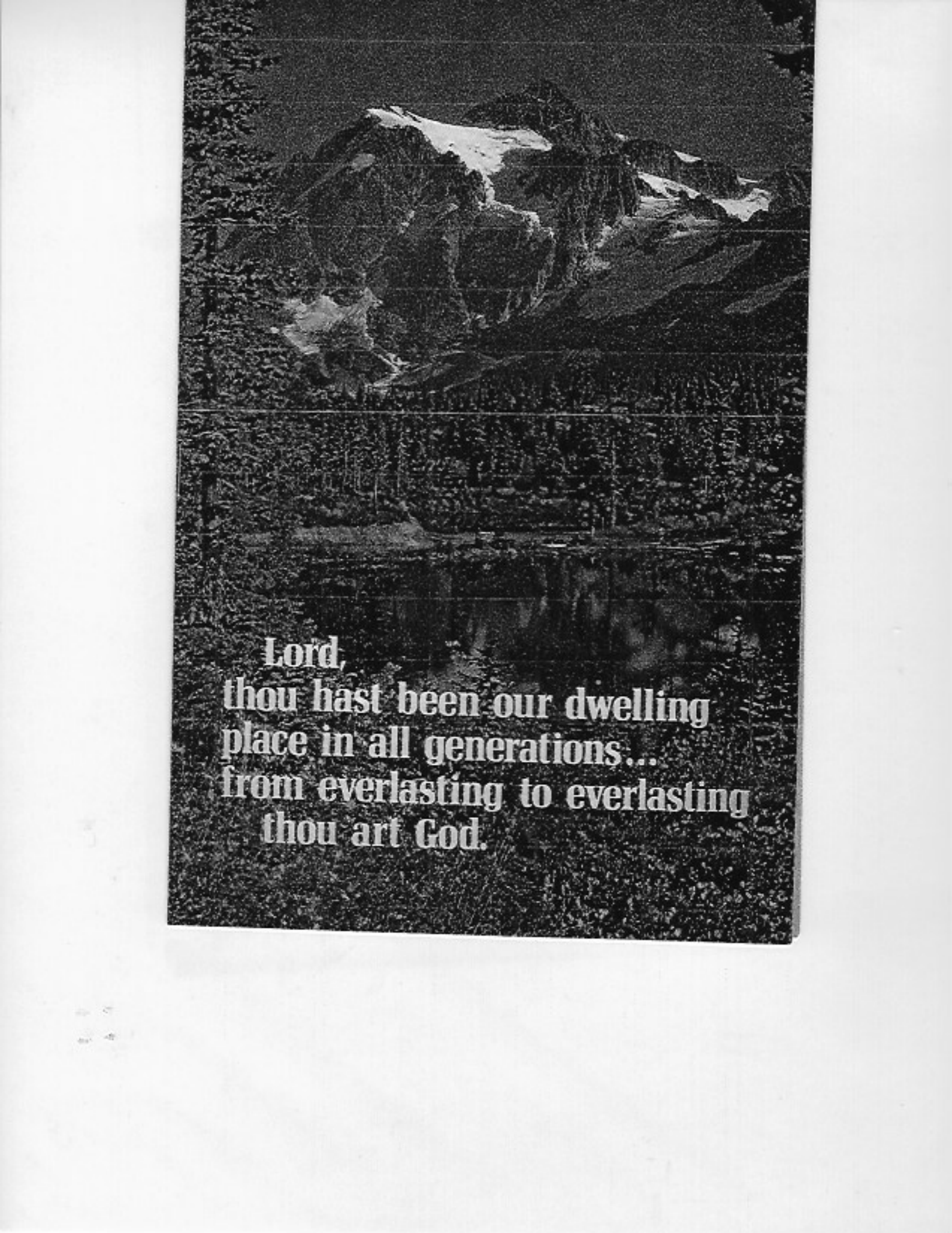
Sacramento County's property taxes, he's quick to point out, are the second highest in the state this year.

And when Kenny was asked about an oft-voiced complaint that organized labor's high wages in Sacramento have frightened away big business, Kenny shot back:

"Good wages don't keep business out. High tax rates and land speculation do."

One attempt to thwart development, he said, was the county plan's proposed "idiotic urban limit line," which was supposed to set boundaries beyond which land would not be

See Page B2, Col. 5



**Lord,
thou hast been our dwelling
place in all generations...
from everlasting to everlasting
thou art God.**

LITURGY OF THE RESURRECTION

for

THOMAS P. KENNY



*Our Lady of the Assumption Church
Carmichael, California
May 26, 1984
Monsignor Cornelius O'Connor, Pastor*

THOMAS P. KENNY

9/16/23 - 5/23/84

Executive Secretary of Sacramento Area
Central Labor Council AFL-CIO

President Local 12-American Federation
of Musicians AFL-CIO

Editor of Sacramento Valley Union
Labor Bulletin

Vice President of American Federation
of Musicians

Vice President of California Labor
Federation

Recipient of Silver Star for Heroism
in World War II

Loving Husband of Mary

Father of David, Thomas, Paul,
Christopher, Matthew and Timothy

LITURGY OF THE RESURRECTION

ENTRANCE: "I Remember You"

PRAVER:

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

First Reading: Joel 3:1-5

Then afterward I will pour out my spirit upon all mankind. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; even upon the servants and the handmaids, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

And I will work wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood, fire, and columns of smoke; the sun will be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, at the coming of the day of the Lord, the great and terrible day. Then everyone shall be rescued who calls on the name of the Lord.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:1-8

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is coming to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power, I charge you to preach the word, to stay with this task whether convenient or inconvenient--correcting, reproving, appealing--constantly teaching and never losing patience. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine, but, following their own desires, will surround themselves with teachers who tickle their ears. They will stop listening to the truth and will wander off to fables. As for you, be steady and self-possessed; put up with your hardship, perform your work as an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

I for my part am already being poured out like a libation and the time for me to be gone has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on a merited crown awaits me; on that Day the Lord, just judge that he is, will award it to me--and not only to me, but to all who have looked for his appearing with eager longing.

Gospel Acclamation: (sung)

Alleluia

Gospel: John 14:1-7

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you? I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I shall come back to take you with me, that where I am you also may be. You know the way that leads where I go."

"Lord," said Thomas, "we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus told him:

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father also. From this point on you know him; you have seen him."

EULOGY: David Kenny

PRAVERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

We ask you, Lord, to give eternal life to Tom and all the departed members of the Kenny family, especially Father Keith Kenny, we pray to the Lord.

We ask you to give comfort to Tom's wife Mary, and to his children David, Thomas, Paul, Christopher, Matthew and Timothy, we pray to the Lord.

We ask you to give us the strength and the courage to live a life of dedicated service to our Church and our community as exemplified in the life of our brother Tom, we pray to the Lord.

We ask you for compassion for all who suffer for freedom and humanness, that we may seek to break down the divisions of race and class and work toward a world of justice and peace, we pray to the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS: Sandra and Mary Ellen Kenny

"Danny Boy" - Philip Kenny

"The Nearness of You"

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY:

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION:

AMEN:

OUR FATHER:

GREETING OF PEACE:

LAMB OF GOD:

COMMUNION: "Tenderly"

REFLECTIONS AFTER COMMUNION: Margaret and Christopher Kenny

Musical Arrangement: John Nelson

RECESSIONAL: "Once In A While"

