

Bio-G ~~OBITUARY~~ 6-4-90

# Oral Lee George, hospital engineer

Services are scheduled this afternoon in Santa Cruz for Oral Lee George, 56, chief engineer at Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital, who died Thursday at a San Jose hospital from injuries suffered that day in a tractor accident at his Bonny Doon home.

The Campbell native was commended by the Navy for heroism in the rescue of fellow crewmen following a 1953 explosion aboard his ship, the aircraft carrier Leyte, while it was undergoing repairs in the naval shipyard at Boston.

On the afternoon of Oct. 16, an explosion ripped the forward catapult room, sending thick, billowing black smoke through the ship. A second explosion followed, creat-

ing flames that trapped the carrier's stewards in their compartment.

Rescue workers, including then-Machinist's Mate 3rd Class George, swarmed through the ship minutes after the initial explosion. Ultimately, 36 Navy men died and 40 were rescued. Mr. George was hospitalized for smoke inhalation.

He attended elementary and high school in Campbell before enlisting in the Navy at the start of the Korean War. After the military, he worked for a while for the old San Jose Water Works and several years for Pacific Gas & Electric Co., and then purchased the Garland, a commercial fishing boat that he berthed at Moss Land-

ing.

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He became chief engineer at Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital 15 years ago and was a member of Operating Engineers Local 39.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Margaret George of Bonny Doon; two sons, Clinton George of Japan and Jeffery George of Santa Cruz; a daughter, Shiela George, also of Santa Cruz; and one grandson. Also surviving are his mother, Mary George of Oakhurst, and two sisters, Connie White and Jeanine George of San Jose.

Memorial services are scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. today in the Chapel of Four Seasons in Santa Cruz.