

GROOM NEAR DEATH ON WEDDING EVE

Torrance Loses Strong Booster in Darby



MODEL STUDENT . . . Narbonne Senior Eva Clemens, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Clemens, 1511 W. 257th St., who wants to be a model, checks her first published photograph in the April Night and Day, called "America's Picture Magazine of Entertainment." Pictures of the 18-year-old beauty have appeared previously in the Torrance Herald.

Scores of local citizens expressed the opinion this week that Torrance had lost a great public servant in the passing of Supervisor Raymond V. Darby last Thursday.

Mr. Darby literally died with his boots on when he collapsed and died shortly after he was struck by an irate citizen at a Board of Supervisors meeting in Los Angeles.

The 56-year-old supervisor's name is linked with many projects greatly benefiting the City of Torrance.

One of these projects and one

which Mr. Darby frequently stated gave him the greatest personal satisfaction, was the procurement of the Harbor General Hospital from the Army for use as a county hospital.

Few discussions on the improvement of Western Ave. could be held without mentioning the name of the late supervisor. City officials and local citizens recall that Darby accepted as a personal project during his nine years as a member of the Board of Supervisors the extension of Western Ave. from Torrance Blvd. to Pacific

Coast Highway, thus linking the sea with the mountains.

Crenshaw Blvd., too, was a personal project of Mr. Darby. It was he who constantly fought for funds for the extension of Crenshaw from Sepulveda Blvd. over the Palos Verdes hills to the ocean.

Any history of the founding of El Camino College will certainly include the name of the deceased public official. Mr. Darby sponsored much of the legislation which paved the way for the development of the college on a portion of the county-

owned Alondra Park. The park itself and its development as a recreation center received a considerable amount of Mr. Darby's time and effort. It was through him that the Alondra Park golf course was born during an era when courses were suffering a high mortality rate.

Many other projects of less conspicuous benefit were the result of Mr. Darby's service to this community since he was first elected to the Board in 1944.

Both public officials and private citizens of Torrance, will be

among those attending the funeral for Mr. Darby tomorrow afternoon at 3 p.m. Hundreds of citizens of the city of Inglewood of which he was mayor for 14 years are expected to witness the rites to be conducted in the First Methodist Church of Inglewood.

Assisting the pastor, Dr. Paul F. Huebner, will be Rev. Rex Elder Lawhead, San Diego Presbyterian clergyman, who is Mrs. Darby's brother-in-law. Burial will be in Inglewood Park Cemetery, Pierce Bros. Mortuary of

Inglewood is handling the arrangements.

It is the wish of the family that in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the Los Angeles Heart Assn., 316 S. Bonnie, Brae St., or to the Shrine Hospital for Crippled Children, 3160 Geneva St.

Funeralbearers will be Mr. Darby's sons, Robert R. Darby and Raymond V. Darby Jr.; his sons-in-law, John Long and Gustave Friess, and two nephews, Richard Darby and Leon McKenzie.

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Tragic Crash Mars Wedding Day Plans

A pretty 24-year-old Torrance girl who was to have stood before the altar to be married this afternoon, is keeping a prayerful vigil at the bedside of her bridegroom-to-be, who is still unconscious and in critical condition following an accident after a bachelor's party Friday night.

The head-on crash killed a school chum of the bridegroom and left another friend who was to have been the best man also in critical condition.

In the County General Hospital in Los Angeles is 25-year-old Robert M. McKinley, a Pathe Studio worker, who was to have married Anna Svensk of 1535 Marcelina Ave. this afternoon in the Torrance First Baptist Church.



WEDDING DELAYED . . . This was to have been the wedding day of Miss Anna Svensk and Robert McKinley, but last night the bride-to-be was keeping a hospital vigil at the bedside of her groom-to-be who was unconscious and in critical condition from injuries incurred in a crash on the way home from a bachelor's party. A friend was killed in the same crash.

Dead as a result of the crash, which occurred on Riverside Ave. in the Baldwin Hills was Calvin Blaine, 24-year-old Phoenix cattle buyer who came here to attend McKinley's wedding.

Injured in the tragic accident was William J. Dall, 25, of 4739 Compton Blvd., who was to have stood with McKinley as his best man.

Hospital reports at press time were sketchy and incomplete, although hospital attendants stated they believed both men to have suffered skull fractures and multiple cuts.

The accident occurred, according to police reports, when Dall's auto "fishtailed" across the double line to collide with a car being driven by William Earl Long, 23, of 230 E. 132nd St., who received only minor injuries.

The brother of the bride-to-be, Milt Svensk, is employed at the Torrance Herald as a cameraman and darkroom technician.

Miss Svensk is employed as a secretary-stenographer at the Northrop Aviation plant in Hawthorne.



MOURNED . . . Supervisor Raymond V. Darby, who died after he was struck on the chin Thursday afternoon by an irate citizen, was tributed this week by scores of Torrance civic leaders as a public servant who literally died with his boots on still serving the people as he had done for more than 23 years. Ken Sampson, his chief deputy, was being backed as his successor by many residents here because of his familiarity with many of the projects Darby had on the fire at the time of his death.

Council to Get Tracts Valued at \$1,500,000

The City Council will be asked to approve two housing tracts worth almost \$1,500,000 when they meet here Tuesday night.

Both tracts, located in North Torrance, are to be developed by Southern Properties Corp. Eighty-two dwellings will be located at 182nd St. and Yukon Ave., the other 61 at 187th near Yukon.

Ken Sampson Boomed For Darby's Post

Death of Supervisor Raymond V. Darby Thursday has prompted scores of local citizens and firms to send telegrams to Gov. Earl Warren urging him to appoint Kenneth Sampson, of Rolling Hills, to fill out the unexpired term of the late supervisor.

Sampson, Darby's chief deputy since 1948, took over the office immediately following the death of the supervisor.

Sampson is a veteran in his own right in county government. He officiated as assistant county manager during World War II, and prior to that, held key jobs in the County Regional Planning Department.

Final Tribute Paid to Builder

Hundreds of friends gathered in San Pedro yesterday to pay final tribute to Edward G. Neess, 52, long prominent in building and construction circles in Torrance and the surrounding area who died in Palos Verdes Wednesday.

Neess built the first wing of the Torrance Memorial Hospital and also built a large number of homes in Torrance during the late 30s and the 40s. He also played a prominent role in the construction of Seaside Ranchos with Ben Haggott, and was recently associated with the construction of a number of homes in Whittier.

Friends of the late contractor said he suffered a stroke and had been told that he was going blind. Sheriff's deputies labeled his death a suicide after his body was found in a truck in Palos Verdes.

Burial was in Green Hills Cemetery.

Power Company Strike Threats Halt New Homes

Construction of new power lines along Crenshaw Blvd. and installation of electrical service to new homes in the area ground to a halt this week as the Southern California Edison Co. and officials of Local 47 of the AFL Electrical Workers Union were preparing to resume negotiations this week-end.

Local officials of the company yesterday said they anticipated no curtailment of services to homes in the area in the event of a strike, although new construction would not be continued.



MENINGITIS VICTIM . . . Death claimed 3 1/2-year-old Sparkie Mayfield of Pacific Hills suddenly Thursday after the tot was stricken with meningitis. Services will be held here tomorrow. (See story on page 2).

Ex-Tartar Given Annapolis Bid

Don Mitchell, 18, El Camino College student of 1317 Acacia Ave., has received the principle nomination of Representative Cecil R. King for appointment to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. He received his notification by telegram early this week.

Mitchell, a liberal-arts major at El Camino College, graduated from Torrance High School in 1951. In his second year at the college, he is president of the Phi Sigma Upsilon fraternity. During the 1952 fall semester he was Associated Student Body vice-president.

Official entrance examinations, to determine eligibility for final appointment, will be taken by Mitchell and other appointees during a three-day period beginning March 25 in Los Angeles.

Mitchell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Mitchell of Torrance. His father is a plant operator for Standard Oil in Torrance.

Flags to Fly At Half Staff For Mr. Darby

In tribute to the late Mr. Raymond V. Darby, supervisor of the fourth district which encompasses Torrance, flags on city buildings will be flown at half staff on Monday—the day of Mr. Darby's funeral.

City Councilman Willys Blount conferred with Mayor Mervin Schwab yesterday, who in turn ordered the public tribute.

"We wish to make it clear," said Councilman Blount, "that flying of the flags at half mast has nothing whatsoever to do with the passing of Russia's Premier Stalin."

Construction Worker Hurt as Scaffold Falls

Critically injured when a scaffolding on which he was perched 40 feet above the ground was accidentally tipped down by a dump truck Thursday was Glen D. Southern, 32, of 1632 W. 228th St.

Southern was working with three other men at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power steam plant project in Sim Valley when the scaffolding around a smokestack of one of the units tumbled.

The operator of the dump truck said he dumped a load of dirt near the partially completed stack and was not aware that the raised truckbed had caught a scaffolding guy wire. When he moved the truck out, it pulled the scaffolding down.

Southern and the three injured men were taken to the Valley Receiving Hospital, then moved to the Valley Hospital. All four men are employees of the Custodis Construction Co.

Contract for New Shop At El Camino Awarded

The award of a contract for \$130,000 to the Stein Construction Co. of Los Angeles for a welding shop addition to present shop facilities now standing and under construction, was announced this week by Carl Arfwedson, business manager, El Camino College.

Business, Clubs Support C of C Sign Project

The huge two-faced neon sign sponsored by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, which is proposed for erection at the corner of Torrance Blvd. and Western Ave., appears to be well on the way to a reality.

Thirty-five merchants and most of the service clubs have pledged their financial support which will result in a direction sign which has long been needed by this city in directing traffic to the downtown business area.

The sign is to be 9 by 16 feet and will be made up with fog-piercing neon letters with the word "TORRANCE" in predominant two-foot high double outlined letters with the slogan "CITY OF INDUSTRIAL OPPORTUNITY" beaming out in 1 1/2-inch letters. A large arrow with the words "BUSINESS DISTRICT" will complete the message.

For part of the sign which will be held in place by two large 6-inch upright galvanized metal poles.

The service clubs have requested space for identification plaques giving the time and place of meetings.



CHAMBER SPONSORS SIGN . . . Mrs. Valda Wilkins, assistant to the secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, displays a drawing of the 16-foot neon sign the Chamber hopes to erect on Western Ave. at Torrance Blvd. pointing out the route to the central business section. Funds are being raised through voluntary contributions of merchants and service clubs.

Lions Marching White Elephants Into Warehouse

Lions Club members began warehousing this week the first batch of donated "white elephant" merchandise which will be auctioned off to the highest bidder during a public auction here on May 9 and 10.

Tagged and identified were bicycles, youth beds, a washing machine, an ice box, radios, electric irons and a Chinese urn which originally sold for nearly \$200.

All of these items and including hundreds of others (plus many brand new items contributed by local merchants and dealers) will go to the maker of the highest bid—be it 50 cents or \$50.

The two-day auction scheduled for Saturday night, May 9, from 7 to 9 p.m., and on Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m., is being staged by the local service club to augment its charity fund. The club each year participates in a program of providing glasses and eye care as well as dental treatments for the less fortunate Torrance children. The club also aids the blind through its "Brooms for the Blind" sale each year.

"We hope that local service clubs, church groups and other organizations will join with us in this community event," stated



WHITE ELEPHANT KEEPERS . . . Roy Peterson (center) tells Joe DeJaire to "Handle with care" a Chinese vase once valued at \$200 and which will be auctioned off to the highest bidder at a community public auction sponsored by the Torrance Lions Club in May. Unloading other donated "white elephant" items for storage are (left to right) Ruel Moulton, Al Ewalt, and Paul Diamond (extreme right)—all of whom are members of the local Lions Club. Any serviceable item which might be auctioned off is wanted by the club.

Lands Plane In Field, Walks Away

Student pilot Lee battle, who lives at 3438 W. 174th St., got a lesson in rough landing with his Aeronca Champion Friday afternoon.

Flying over Torrance, Battle's plane quit him and he was forced to land in the field behind Mayfair Creamery on Western Ave.

The plane was started again by his partner, Bob Lester, of Compton, who flew it out.

Battle was not injured and his plane was not damaged.

VP Enlists Aid of Kuchel To Get Tank

Vice-president Nixon has instructed Sen. Tom Kuchel "to see what he can do" to expedite the procurement of a surplus Army tank to be erected in Torrance as a memorial to its war dead.

Such was the essence of a communication received this week by Dutch Horlander, of the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of the project.

Meanwhile, city engineers have completed sketches for a suitable mount for the war trophy.

To be inscribed on the base are the words: "Memorial to Our Sons of Torrance Who Died Unselfishly in Freedom's Cause."

(Continued on Page 9)