

Career Is Second to Family for Rosemary DeCamp

YOUR SECOND FRONT PAGE

Torrance Herald

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THIS WON'T DO . . . Star Robert Cummings is certain that Rosemary doesn't need attire which he is holding up here—in fact, he is making a pitch for something a little more feminine. How he succeeded is shown in the lower right photo.



IN CIVIC AFFAIRS . . . Here Rosemary De Camp joins Torrance City Councilman Robert B. Jahn in helping a neighboring city, Hermosa Beach, celebrate an anniversary. Miss De Camp is frequently associated with community projects such as the Torrance Memorial Hospital.



IN HER TV ROLE . . . Rosemary De Camp is shown here with her TV brother, Bob Cummings, as they appear weekly on the Bob Cummings Show. In private life, Rosemary is the wife of South Bay Municipal Judge John A.

Shidler, and has placed her illustrious stage, movie, and TV career second to her family, which includes her four charming daughters.

Stage, Motion Pictures, TV Star Prefers Mother's Role

By MILT SVENSK

I am of the opinion that a woman is entitled to make it on her own, so to speak. In my work as a news photographer I have met young women who have professed a desire for careers. Those who have had the good fortune to receive encouragement, have proved they can succeed, even in jobs heretofore pre-empted by men.

Stage, motion pictures, radio and television offer almost equal opportunity to men and women. But it is the rare woman, I think, who can have success in all four mediums and still achieve success and respect as a wife and mother.

Such a person is Mrs. John A. Shidler (Rosemary De Camp), wife of the judge of the South Bay Municipal Court. The Shidlers reside in the Hollywood Riviera section of Torrance with their four children—all girls—who already have won their acting spurs by appearing with their mother in commercials advertising the Death Valley Days series on television.

Born in Arizona

Born in Prescott, Ariz., Rosemary spent her early years in copper mining communities, notably Jerome, where her father was supervisor of the vast operations of the Phelps-Dodge Co. Jerome is now advertised as America's newest and most interesting ghost town, and Rosemary is regarded as one of the town's most

illustrious former citizens. Her mother, Mrs. Margaret De Camp, also resides in the Hollywood Riviera section.

I have found Mrs. Shidler more interested in talking about her family, her present, and future career than about her own very interesting early life. A CBS biography, however, tells of a very interesting and successful past. Here it is:

Rosemary De Camp recalls she was in motion pictures many months before new friends realized she was a native of North America.

Knows Dialects
As she explains: While attending Mills College, Oakland, Calif., she made a student tour of Europe and studied the sounds of Old World speech to the point that she was able to imitate dialects quite easily.

Thus, she found herself cast, for example, as the film mother of Sabu.

The discovery of her birthright brought her to roles nearer her type, that of an attractive mother. On CBS television's "The Bob Cummings Show," Miss De Camp plays the part of a widow, the mother of a bright, teen-aged son. Again and again she finds herself the subject of match-making projects, the work of brother Bob, which are endorsed heartily by her offspring.

At Mills College she became campus dramatic queen, made appearances in the plays of Shakespeare and Ibsen, and earned a B.A. in speech and an M.A. in psychology. She was an instructor at Mills for a year after her graduation.

Her explanation of how she got into screen acting: "Martha Scott fought and scratched and got me into 'Cheers for Miss Bishop'."

Martha had become her No. 1 friend and booster when the two acted together in the radio serial, "The Career of Alice Blair."

Rosemary played the nurse on the "Dr. Christian Series," the popular and loved show for 17 years from 1937 until 1954.

Many Screen Roles
Rosemary's screen roles include the alien mother-to-be in "Hold Back the Dawn"; the mother of Sabu in "Jungle Book"; the wife of the traitor in "Commandos Strike at Dawn"; the mother of James Cagney in "Yankee Doodle Dandy"; the mother of Robert

Alda in "Rhapsody in Blue" and the Red Cross girl who helped John Garfield in "Pride of the Marines."

I had the pleasure of watching Rosemary at work on "The Bob Cummings Show." (It is rated one of the top TV shows nationwide.) My purpose of going to the studio was to do a picture story for THE HERALD of our charming lady of Torrance. But, due to rules and regulations regarding the TV industry, I was unable to take pictures first hand, although I was allowed to roam around the sets, and talk with the many people involved in producing the popular series.

Meets Staff

I met Staff Clarke, director of publicity of the "Bob Cummings Show" on which Rosemary spends a minimum of three days each week. He introduced me to others including Eleanor Urcan, stand-in for Miss De Camp for the past 10 years; Eddie Rubin, dialogue director; and Harry Wild, photography. All seemed to share the opinion that Rosemary is a delightful person to work with. All paid tribute to the remarkable ability of Bob Cummings and Rosemary to speak their lines flawlessly.

The importance of this ability in putting together a show cannot be overestimated when one watches the actors at work. One flubbed word or wrong move by anyone in the show necessitates a retake.

After seeing this Bob Cummings production in the making I can tell you fellows that the girls used so profusely in the weekly shows are every bit as good looking in real life. And I can assure you gals that Bob is even sharper close up than he appears on your television screens.

Sponsors Awards

As Mrs. John Shidler, wife of the judge of our South Bay Municipal Court, Rosemary De Camp plays a leading role in the civic life of the community. She willingly gives of her time and personality to numerous projects, notably the Rosemary De Camp Awards Night at Torrance High School. Among the judges at last year's event was the beloved "Schultz," Ann B. Davis.

As Rosemary herself puts it: "Being married to a wonderful man, with four daughters and operating a happy home, seems to serve as a stabilizer in my current professional career."



WITH HER OWN IDOL . . . Rosemary is shown here in her favorite role, that of Mrs. John A. Shidler, judge of the South Bay Municipal Court. She and the judge are obviously happy about something here.



WITH TODAY'S IDOL . . . Tab Hunter, who has zoomed to national prominence as a singer to add to a successful movie career, stops by the set to chat with Rosemary (left) and Ann B. Davis, the lovable "Schultz" on the Cummings show.



BECOMES A FLAPPER . . . Just to please her brother, Bob, in the TV series, Rosemary becomes a siren . . . all part of the hilarious fun the stars have on their weekly show. With Rosemary and Bob is her TV son, portrayed here by Duane Hickman.

Cook Reminds Parents of Curfew Laws

Torrance residents under the age of 18 must be off the streets between 10 p.m. and sunrise, L. D. C. Cook, head of the Torrance Police Department juvenile division, reminded citizens yesterday.

The curfew is effective for any youth not accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or husband or wife over 21 years old, he pointed out. Violation of this city ordinance is a misdemeanor. Parents who permit their children out on the streets after 10 p.m. are also guilty of a misdemeanor, he declared.

Due to violations of this ordinance, the law will be more strictly enforced, Cook said.

General Plans Big Construction Program

An extensive construction program for General Telephone Co.'s Redondo Beach exchange, comprised of three central offices, including Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, and Rolling Hills, has been announced by Horace C. Vaupel, local telephone company manager.

The company will invest over \$5,629,000 for 1957 to expand and improve telephone service in the Frontier number area, he said.

Among specific items included in the budget is \$2,239,000 for outside plant which covers buildings, cables, wire lines, poles, and the thousands of other items which go into outside telephone construction in the three central offices. Other major telephone expenditures

are automatic switching equipment amounting to \$2,259,000; telephone instruments, wiring, and additional equipment on customers' premises totalling \$699,000; land acquisitions and buildings will amount to \$391,000; and vehicles, tools, furniture, and other requirements will total \$41,000.

Palos Verdes Expansion
In the Palos Verdes central office area, \$717,600 will be spent for telephone expansion and improvement. A one-story and partial basement addition to provide for 1600 lines and 2400 terminals, as well as the installation of automatic ticketing equipment totalling \$491,000, will be completed by September of this year, Vaupel said.

"This will also provide space

for future installations of automatic toll ticketing equipment," he added.

During 1957, General will spend approximately \$160,000 of a total estimated cost of \$188,000 for a two-story addition to the Redondo central office building. The addition is scheduled to be completed in 1958 and will permit expansion of the wire chief's office and the outside plant engineering office.

Automatic Service
General plans to spend \$1,581,000 during 1957 of a total estimated cost of \$1,706,000 for full-director automatic toll ticketing equipment in the Redondo central office. This equipment is scheduled to be placed in service in February, 1958.