

CINDERELLA TELLS HER OWN STORY

EXCLUSIVE

by MARTHA MORRIS DeVIGIER

(Editor's Note:—We asked Martha Morris DeVigier, a 16-year-old Torrance girl who married millionaire Roland DeVigier and three weeks later sought separate maintenance, to tell us her story. That story, which has never before been printed in all the widespread publicity, follows.)

First of all, I want to say right here and now, that I don't want any money from Roland DeVigier. And I never really did.

I guess I was pretty much of a bewildered, flustered kid. Just a teenager who was up high in the clouds. Like a dream or maybe like being in those storybooks that all the newspapers were talking about.

When those clouds got stormy, I didn't know what to do. When people suddenly decide to get unmarried, what do they do?

I guess they separate. At least that's what some friends I trusted told me.

I wanted to get away from here. After all those things the newspapers had said.

I was a "Cinderella" girl. He was my "Prince Charming." And all those wonderful things we'd done. Flown to Paris, big receptions, everything that every girl dreams about.

And now it was all over. Smashed.

So I went to San Francisco where I had friends. They told me to see a lawyer. You know the rest.

I most of all want all my school friends and folks who have known me all my life to realize that I was pretty scared. I guess I didn't know what I was doing.

I also want them to know that as soon as I came to my senses, I knew I had made a serious mistake. I wish it had never happened.

The lawsuit is off. It just won't take place.

About Roland and I, gee, I don't know what's going to happen. I guess nobody does.

I'm not going to tell you why Roland and I split up. I don't think really that it's anybody's business but ours.

I just want to go back to school and live the same life I was living before all this happened.

I want to thank, most of all, Mom and Dad, who have been really swell through all this. And all my friends who have been so loyal.



HOME AGAIN . . . Back to such mundane things as helping "mom" dry dishes today is 16-year-old Martha Morris DeVigier, very much in the news during the past week. She returned home yesterday saying she wants to "forget it all and get back to school." (Herald photo.)

Plans for \$3 Million Bond For Schools Announced Here

A need for a new high school here by 1953 and the equivalent of three new elementary schools during the next three years was outlined by Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, this week as the Board of Education authorized the administrator to start the procedure for setting up a bond election to be held next spring.

Proposed by the board is a \$3,000,000 bond issue which would be placed before the Torrance voters early next year—probably February 26.

"With the growth in our schools continuing only at two-thirds the rate it has during the past four years, we would need to start the first class in a new high school not later than 1953," Dr. Hull told the board.

TWO NEEDED

By 1956, the city would have two high schools the size of the present school and would need to start a class in the third high school, the superintendent said.

He added that the figures used to project the estimated enrollment were actually conservative. He indicated that students now in school—allowing for the normal drop-outs—would fill three high schools by 1958.

Behind the acute growing pains of the school district is the fact that the city of Torrance has grown tremendously during the postwar years, and that the war babies and postwar babies are raising the school population in relation to the overall population of the city.

CHAMBER APPROVES

Voting unanimously to approve the bond issue was the Torrance Chamber of Commerce in their first meeting last Monday.

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Seniors to Present Play Tomorrow Night

The success of graduation ceremonies will hinge upon the results of tomorrow night's Torrance High senior play.

Curtain time for the senior class production of "Men Are Like Street Cars" will be 8 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Proceeds from the event will be used to finance the 1952 senior commencement, baccalaureate services and other senior class activities.

General admission tickets are now on sale for 50 cents, while reserved seats will go for 75 cents. The tickets will be sold at a booth in front of the Bank of America and by seniors who will canvass residential neighborhoods.

"Men Are Like Street Cars," written by Christopher Sergel, depicts the antics of a teenage pair who manage to upset the way of life in a typical American town.

Starring in the leading roles of Maudie and Davie will be Jeannette Lopez and Richard Ugland. Nancy Ruth Miller is cast as Mrs. Mason.

Supporting players include Donna Latour, Bill Crawford, Beryl Jones, Ann Stephens, Jo Ann Benard, Gene Paslov, Diana Davis, Carol Jacobs, Dayle Denham, Anita Louise Bourgeat and Neil Schwab.

Desmond Wedberg, high school drama coach, is handling the direction of the play, with Pat Merola acting as the student director.

Other students working on the production include Sylvia Harper, publicity; Kelvin Figgins, stage properties; Shirley York, business management; Edgar Forcier, production manager and Mary Ann Valdez, ticket sales.



HOT TIME . . . Bill Crawford paddles Jeannette Lopez in this scene from the Torrance High senior play "Men Are Like Street Cars," which will be presented in the school auditorium Friday night. Miss Lopez and Crawford play the leads of Maudie and Jerry. Watching are Beryl Jones, father; Donna Latour, mom; and Marian McDonald, a cousin. Proceeds from the play will go to finance graduation activities.

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'Don't Want a Dime' Cinderella Explains

Martha Morris DeVigier told the Torrance Herald exclusively last night that she "doesn't want a dime" from her estranged husband.

The young bride of millionaire industrialist Roland DeVigier arrived at the home of her parents, 1229 West 215th street, early yesterday morning from San Francisco.

Gardena Attorney Dudley Gray, brother-in-law of Martha, said yesterday that the girl "had not talked about reconciliation" with her wealthy husband.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Her main concern now is returning to school, her father explained. The girl had indicated she wished to return to Torrance High, where she had registered in September for her junior year, but Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of Torrance city schools, said that she probably would have to go to Narbonne High. Her parents live out of the Torrance district. Dr. Hull said, putting her in the Los Angeles city district.

DeVigier, who met his bride several weeks ago at the Torrance Grill, 1500 West Carson, has apparently dropped from sight. A report yesterday had the 28-year-old bridegroom en route to San Francisco to attempt to patch up the marriage.

FILED LEGAL ACTION

Earlier this week, Martha filed legal action against DeVigier in San Francisco, charging "extreme cruelty." She asked \$10,000 per month separate maintenance, plus \$75,000 attorney's fees and court costs.

Attorney Gray, who flew to San Francisco with Martha's father after word had been received of the girl's action, said the suit probably would be dropped from the record.

DeVigier is executive vice-president of Acrow, Inc., worldwide manufacturer of concrete construction equipment. He met Martha while he was visiting the firm's Harbor City plant.

The couple were married in a civil ceremony November 11 in Quartzite, Ariz. Then the pair, accompanied by Martha's sister, Mrs. Dudley Gray, flew to Paris, where they were married again in the famed Notre Dame Cathedral.

GALA RECEPTION

They returned to this country on November 24, and the following week held a gala reception at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles.

Mrs. Lucille Van Gorder, 44, of 24322 Park street, was treated at Harbor General Hospital for a bruised hand and a swollen knee suffered Sunday night when a car driven by her husband collided with another operated by Vincent A. Garcia, 26, of Dominguez. The crash took place on Wilmington avenue near Del Amo street.

California Highway Patrol said the accident occurred as Garcia



JAMES M. HALL
... Deferment Granted

Deferment Granted for City Attorney

A 60-day deferment—to March 7, 1952—has been granted City Attorney James M. Hall, who was ordered recently to report to active duty as a Lieutenant Commander in the Naval Intelligence on January 7, 1952.

Notice of the deferment was received here by the City Attorney this week from the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, D. C., he reports.

Hall has been in the Naval Reserve since his release from active duty after four years with the Naval Intelligence during World War II.

Building Permits Equal 1950 Total

Building permits for this year are running almost even with last year's all-time figure, the City Building Department reports.

To date, \$12,440,533 worth of permits have been issued this year. At the same time in 1950, the total was \$12,256,240.

Last month the Building Department issued permits for \$460,215. Largest permit issued was for a \$100,000 market at Torrance and Crenshaw boulevards.

In December of last year, nearly \$4,000,000 worth of permits were issued, bringing the year's total to more than \$16,000,000, an all-time city high.

Man Crushed To Death by Big Trailer

A man riding on a loaded trailer slipped off and was crushed to death Monday while working on a housing project on Ellinwood street south of Sepulveda in the Truman Tract. He is the city's eighth traffic fatality of the year.

Lloyd Alvis Robison, 58, of 13902 South Pelton street, Paramount, was killed when he fell beneath the wheels of the trailer loaded with water pipe, police reported.

Robison apparently fell off his perch on the tongue connecting the trailer and truck as the vehicle was moving at less than five miles an hour.

He was pronounced dead upon arrival at Torrance Memorial Hospital. His body has been taken to Neel Mortuary in Compton.

Police Chief Stroh In Phoenix on Vacation

Chief of Police John Stroh left Tuesday morning for a vacation trip to Phoenix, Arizona. Chief Stroh told the Herald before he left that he and Mrs. Stroh planned to be in Phoenix for about two weeks.

National Supply Expansion Told

Approval of plans for a \$200,000 expansion of National Supply Company's main offices here was announced yesterday by John Spalding, works manager of the plant, following a visit here by the company's board of directors.

A Planned is a 118-foot extension on the south end of the main office, Spalding said. Additional office space will be provided with a 33-foot extension to the second floor also on the south end of the office.

Other expansion plans announced by the company include the new plant engineering department office and an expansion of the field shop offices.

The visit of the board of directors from Pittsburgh, Pa., was the first time the board had been in the Torrance plant as a group, Spalding said.

Visiting were A. E. Walker, chairman of the board and president of the company; Arthur W. McKinney, executive vice president; Robert W. Eller, secretary and general attorney; Henry Chaffant, assistant secretary; Ralph S. Euler, Carl I. Collins, John E. Laughlin Jr., Edwin Dodge Jr., William B. McFall and Howard W. Jordan.

A resolution passed by the board following their visit here referred to the "most pleasant and informative visit to the Company's Torrance plant and to the oil fields in Southern California."

The board also expressed to the plant officials their "sincere thanks for the cordial hospitality shown them, their congratulations on the fine appearance of the plant, and their compliments on the excellent arrangements made for the inspection trips, including three days of perfect weather," Spalding said.

The board also inspected the new industrial relations building and hospital now under construction just south of the proposed site of office expansion.

When completed, the new office building, hospital and industrial relations building will practically fill the block along Border avenue from Carson street to a point north of Double street.

Parcel Window Open Till 5 On Saturday

The parcel post window will remain open until 5 Saturday afternoon because of the Christmas rush. Postmaster Mrs. Clara Conner announced.

Other windows will close as usual at noon Saturday, Mrs. Conner said.

On Monday, December 10, three temporary locations will be opened to sell stamps and handle parcel post mailings. The locations are Knolls Market, 23401 Western; Home Loan Realty, 2475 Torrance boulevard, and McMaster Park, Yukon and 174th streets.

The first two locations will be open from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m., while the McMaster Park branch will operate from 10 a. m. to 1 p. m.

Dr. Wood is past president of the Torrance Kiwanis Club and was the division secretary of the club during the past year. He was succeeded by Forrest Murdock, president of El Camino College.



KIWANIAN HONORED . . . Dr. Howard A. Wood (right), member of the Torrance Kiwanis Club, is shown being congratulated by Homer W. Bale, of Gardena, immediate past lieutenant governor of Division 19 at the installation dinner-dance last Saturday night. Dr. Wood was installed as the new lieutenant governor of the division. (Herald Photo.)