

# Garden Beauty Credited to Imagination, 'Lots of Air'

## Longtime Greenery Lover Supports Tree Campaign

"I've made Victor tree conscious," smiled the garden enthusiast, Mrs. Victor Benstead, long time resident of

Torrance, who is presently attempting to secure state support in a project of lining Hawthorne Blvd. with

Palm trees. Mrs. Benstead, who takes an active interest in any and all forms of gardening, has a completely landscaped backyard garden full of rare ferns. "It's a mess now because somebody fell through the glasshouse roof," she corrected modestly.

Among her backyard treasures at 1621 Beech St., "packed with plants," there can be found Rabbit Foot Fern, a rare "nameless fern," a Lilly of the Valley tree, and countless other specialities.

The conscientious green thumb also specializes in flower arranging, teaching courses to women in local organizations. Planning to do professional arranging, Mrs. Benstead will do the table setting for the Catholic Daughters fashion show, featuring a harvest theme, for the Torrance Hospital Auxiliary, and for Hody's restaurant.

Using everything imaginable, including pineapples, plastic rain drops, vegetables, "bomb shells" and bamboo, Mrs. Benstead tries to create a "loose, airy, dainty" arrangement.

This formula has been the secret to her success at flower shows, enabling her to take many firsts at the Hollywood Park flower show, as well as winning awards throughout the state.

During her classes, where she instructs from eight to nine women concurrently, Mrs. Benstead stresses imagination and simplicity. "I follow the basic rules of arranging. However, I never copy an idea I have seen before," she instructed.

Also, placing the right flowers in the right containers and selecting the right flowers to go with each arrangement is essential to arranging, she added.

As an example, Mrs. Benstead mentioned that when one uses wood, it is necessary to use a flower which grows on wood. "Thus, the flower will have the correct weight and sturdiness to blend with the wood," she explained.

Reminiscing about a recent vegetable arrangement, she told of a cabbage she used, decorating it with little men made of stringbeans with black-eyed peas for the eyes.

Mrs. Benstead, mother of two, Mrs. Joseph Banks and Mrs. Alfred Byk, has served as president of the Torrance Terrace Garden Club for two consecutive years. She is the grandmother of Joseph Banks, 16, and Linda Byk, 13.



**TOUCH OF IMAGINATION**—So advises Mrs. Victor Benstead, long time Torrance resident and garden enthusiast. Mrs. Benstead specializes in arranging floral displays, raising rare plants and aiding the community to flower through her city landscape projects. Photo by Bob Wintermeyer



**DR. AND MRS. DAVID LOCKEN** ... the former Patricia Anne Vest Photo by Cagle

## Patricia Vest Weds Dr. David Locken

Gowned in an Angelo original wedding creation, Miss Patricia Anne Vest became the bride of Dr. David Locken of Torrance.

Approximately 250 guests gathered at the St. Anselm Catholic Church in Los Angeles Saturday, Aug. 20 to attend the wedding ceremony at 11:15 a.m.

Mrs. Carmen Vest of Inglewood is the mother of the bride. The parents of the bridegroom are Mr. and Mrs. Clarence O. Locken, 2821 W. 167th St., Torrance.

Approaching the altar, the bride wore a gown with a Chantilly lace bodice. It had a square scalloped neckline and long pointed sleeves. Nine tiers of pleated nylon formed the bouffant skirt which fell into a chapel train. The lace edged illusion veil was held in place by a circular headpiece of pearls. The bride carried a bouquet of stephanotis embedded by two white orchids.

Mrs. Nancy Cox, sister of the bridegroom, served as the matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Misses Sharon Owens, Wanda Varella, Linda Rensing, and Diana Rensing. The flower girl was little Miss Suzan Zatarian and the rings were carried by Master Ronald Greenwood.

Gene Cox performed the duties of best man, ushers were Dr. Howard Stein, Louis Montoya, Jim McHale, and Caspar Casparian Jr.

Officiating at the marriage ceremony was the Rev. John Young. A reception was held at the Westchester Woman's Club.

Dr. and Mrs. David Locken are on a honeymoon in Acapulco, Mex. They will return Sept. 10 and will be at home in Glendale. The bride attended St. Anselm parochial school, St. Mary's Academy and graduated from Morningside High School. Her husband is a graduate of the USC College of Optometry.

## Red Cross Sponsors Baby Care Classes

Mother and baby care class will be offered this fall to expectant parents living in the greater South Bay area by the American Red Cross, it is announced by Mrs. Agnes Wright, 713 S. Catalina, Redondo Beach, nursing services chairman. "We urge all prospective mothers and fathers within the area from El Segundo to Torrance, as well as the beach district, to take advantage of this three and one half week course," declared Mrs. Wright.

The classes will be held from 7 to 9 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, starting Sept. 26 at 109 Emerald St., Redondo Beach.

"This class is planned by the Red Cross to provide expectant parents with the newest techniques for simple and safe infant care," Mrs. Wright added. "Subjects included in the course will be planning the layette, selecting suitable nursery equipment, preparation of formula, bathing the baby and other vital information."

Mrs. Phyllis Chamness, a Red Cross instructor, will teach the class. Persons interested in additional information, or who wish to register for the class, may telephone the South Bay branch, FR 2-5858, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

## Sorority Chapter Sponsors Barbecue as August Social

Members and guests of Xi Zeta Lambda Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Les Mayfield yesterday evening for an outdoor barbecue and card party for their August social.

Those attending included Mr. and Mrs. John Wise, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Millhouse, Mr. and Mrs. William Schroeder, Mrs. Fran Nichols, president, and Mr. Chet Steel.

## Y-Teen Club Holds Picnic

The Y-Teen Club, "Iimeas Athenas" from North Torrance held a family picnic Aug. 21 at Torrance Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The picnic was held in honor of the girls' families.

Girls and their families participated in games after the picnic lunch, which was served cafeteria style. The games included a "Mummy Contest," which was won by Mr. and Mrs. Pat Hogue; a "Bean Bag Toss," won by Mrs. Frances Wayne; a "Gunny Sack Race," won by Danny Newlon; and a "Three Legged Race," won by Pamela Hiner and Mary Payne.

The picnic and games were planned by Mary Payne, social chairman; Diane Liken, president; Linda Cruz, program chairman; and club members.

# Women

Carolyn Perko ... Women's Editor TELEPHONE DA 5-1515

## Las Madrecitas Holds Luncheon

Welcoming new members of Las Madrecitas, South Bay Auxiliary of the Crippled Children's Guild, a luncheon will be held to afford guild members the opportunity to meet new members at the home of Mrs. Walter H.

Acting as hostesses will be Mrs. Hetz will be Mmes. Richard Barbour, Richard Egan, and Horace LeCuyer. All members of the auxiliary have been invited to attend. The luncheon will immediately follow the group's first business meeting of the season. The auxiliary devotes itself to raising funds for the pediatric ward of the Orthopaedic Hospital, Los Angeles.

New members of Las Madrecitas are Mmes. John Bozeman, William A. Brown, M. Fiorelli, William Dewhurst, Frank Herman, Gordon Ritter, Martin Simon, John Rasmussen, Edward A. Sokolski, and R. W. Whittam.

## Nova Scotia Society Sponsors Annual Picnic

The Nova Scotia Society of Southern California will hold its annual picnic Sept. 10 in Bixby Park, Long Beach.

Persons in the society include those who were born in the four Maritime Provinces, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

The picnic, with coffee, cream, and sugar sponsored by the society, will commence at 12:30 p.m.

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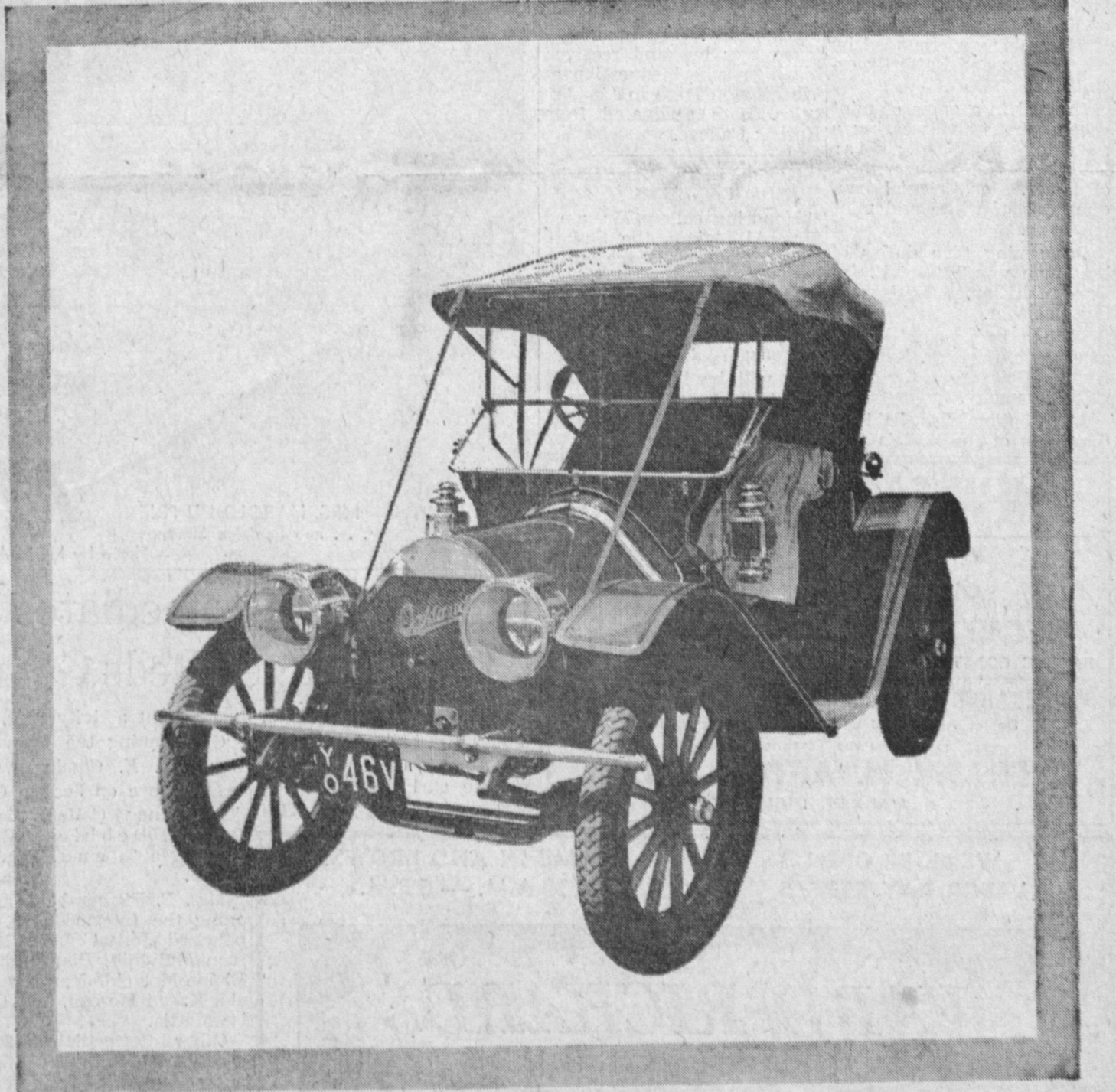
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