



Home Society Benefit

Torrance Pioneer

Celebrates 100th Birthday Saturday

Mrs. Phoebe Sykes, who rounded out 100 years of living on May 25, was guest of honor at an Open House Saturday afternoon, given by her son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. William Sykes at their home, 1521 Cota Ave.

Born in Huddersfield, England, May 25, 1868, the birthday celebrant, with her husband and son, came to Torrance "before there was a Torrance," in October 1911, settling in what was then known as Lomita. The following year, Mr. Sykes died.

Mrs. Sykes operated a tent store at Five Points, Carson and Cabrillo, where National Supply now stands. She then opened a cigar and candy store in the old Pacific Electric station and operated the concession until 1924 when she sold out.

In 1918, when he was 21 years old, William Sykes bought the home at 1521 Cota from Jared Torrance, founder of the city of Torrance. Seven years ago, William was married and the Cota Avenue house is home for the threesome.

At Saturday's party from 2 until 4 p.m., over 80 long-time friends called to congratulate Mrs. Sykes. Greeting the guests with the honoree was her youngest sister, Mrs. I. H. Haut, 1407 Amapola.

Assisting with serving cake, champagne and coffee were old friends, Mr. and Mrs. George Spalding and Mr. and Mrs. H. Fuller.

Among the guests attending were Mayor and Mrs. Albert Isen. The Mayor had spent his boyhood days next door to Mrs. Sykes.

Telegrams, over 100 birthday cards, and telephone calls added to the joyous occasion as well as arrival of flowers from relatives in Canada, England and Rhodesia.

Climaxing the happy day, Mrs. Sykes "went out to dinner," one of her favorite pastimes. Joining her for the "grand finale" at the Indian Village were her son and his wife, her sister, Mrs. Haut, the Fullers and the Spaldings.



Gear for New Year

At its annual meeting recently the Torrance League of Women Voters elected its officers for the coming year and approved four local study items. Plotting the year ahead are, from left, Mmes. Donald F. Meade, who will resume her office of first vice-president; James van Oppen, returned for her second term as president; W. Frank Barnes, newly-elected second vice-president; and Arch Williams, Jr., who will serve as treasurer. (Press-Herald Photo)

The Carriage Set

Boutique-Luncheon Slated for June 3

The Carriage Set, an auxiliary of the Children's Home Society of California, will present its first Annual Unique Boutique and Benefit Luncheon on Monday, June 3, at the Torrance Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd., Torrance.

The event will begin with a buffet luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Among the handcrafted boutique items for sale will be creative stitchery, children's fashions and mod decorator wall plaques.

For those who cannot attend the luncheon, there will be an Open House following the luncheon. Guests are invited to browse and have refreshments from 1 to 9 p.m.

The Carriage Set is one of more than 200 hard working volunteer groups throughout California working to further adoptions through Children's Home Society.

Proceeds from the luncheon and Boutique will be given to Children's Home Society, a non-profit organization and California's only statewide adoption agency. Founded in 1891, CHS has placed nearly 29,000 children of all races and faiths in loving, adoptive homes.

Co-chairmen for this event are Mrs. Lindy L. Bush and Mrs. Thomas Cleaver of Carson.

For luncheon reservations or further information, Mrs. C. J. Lambert may be called. Checks-payable to the Carriage Set may be sent to Mrs. Lambert at 21906 Dablon Avenue, Carson, (Torrance), California 90502.



Down Memory Lane

Mrs. Phoebe Sykes, center, who celebrated her 100th birthday last Saturday, holding an old family album, takes her son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. William Sykes down memory lane, as they prepare for the Open House to be held in her honor on Saturday afternoon. Mrs. Sykes, a native of England, came with her husband and son to Torrance in 1911, when bean fields covered the area now known as Torrance. (Press-Herald Photo)

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In the Driver's Seat

Taking the wheel to direct activities of La Sertoma Club for the coming year is Mrs. Duane Marshall, who will be assisted by from left, Mmes. Michael Viragadamo, secretary; Jaime Wallace, treasurer; and Kenneth Spencer, second vice president. Mrs. William Sawyers, first vice president, was not present for the picture. These officers were installed at a luncheon at the home of Dr. and Mrs. E. O. Mitchell. (Press-Herald Photo)

La Sertoma Club

Installs Officer Panel

Torrance La Sertoma Club installed its new officers at a luncheon held Monday at the home of Dr. and Mrs. E. O. Mitchell.

A cocktail hour preceded the luncheon, after which Mrs. E. K. Walker, governor of the West Los Angeles district, conducted the installation.

Assuming the office of president was Mrs. Duane Marshall. Other officers installed were Mmes. Kenneth Spencer, first vice-president; William Sawyers, second vice-president; Mike Viragadamo, secretary; and Jaime Wallace, treasurer.

A native of New Bedford, Mass., Mrs. Marshall and her husband have been residents of the South Bay since 1946. They have three children, Diane, Linda and Gary, and a grandchild, James Duane Best of Torrance. In La Sertoma, Mrs. Marshall served as

sponsorship chairman in 1965-66 and as treasurer last year.

Torrance La Sertoma was chartered in June 1966. It is the auxiliary to Sertoma, a name coined from its motto "Service to Mankind."

Among its major philanthropies has been 13 summer camps for needy children; building fund for the Torrance YMCA; Girl Scout Troop 338; Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets for needy families; Head Start Program at Normant School, Harbor City; Youth Service Award; Little Company of Mary Hospital; Norwest Special projects; and Torrance Child Care Center.

At the recent Pacific Southwest Regional Convention, Torrance La Sertoma won both the District and Regional Club-of-the-Year awards for the second consecutive year.



Fun For Funds

Remembering the success of their "Day at the Races" last year, the Peninsula Volunteers of the Needlework Guild of America are looking forward to a repeat performance on June 11. Money derived from the "fun-day" goes to purchase material to carry on the Guild's charity work. Preparing for the day at Hollywood Park, polishing binoculars and logging tickets, are from left Mmes. William J. Gordon, Elmer L. Fiset, Guy W. Brundage and Jack K. Leopold. Mrs. Brundage of the Riviera is serving as general chairman and may be called for tickets. (Press-Herald Photo)

Women's Voter League

Announces 1968-69 Officers; Study Items

Mrs. James van Oppen will begin her second year as president of the League of Women Voters of Torrance with Mrs. Donald F. Meade continuing as first vice-president.

At the recent annual meeting members elected to office were Mmes. W. Frank Barnes, second vice-president; H. A. Williams, treasurer; Lamar L. Bonnette, secretary; Burton E. Belzer, Robert E. Leavitt, Charles Dougherty, and Perry G. Baker, two year directors. Directors serving for another year are Mmes. William Birdsall, William Geissert, and George Rothman.

Four local items have been approved for study during the coming year: city planning, the tax structure, the library, and the city charter.

All women of voting age are invited to join the League. Interested women are encouraged to attend the units on "Financing Government in California." For additional information Mrs. Robert E. Leavitt may be called.