

Union Mar 26-40

LAST PHOTO OF HORTICULTURIST



MISS KATE O. SESSIONS

... this is the last photograph made of San Diego famed horticulturist. Miss Sessions died in her sleep Sunday night in La Jolla.

* * *

Tributes Voiced for Kate Sessions; S. D. Leaders Named Pallbearers

Several lifelong friends and associates yesterday were named to serve as honorary pallbearers at rites for Miss Kate O. Sessions, 83, whose death Sunday night at Scripps Memorial hospital, La Jolla, ended a career which established her as one of the nation's outstanding horticulturists.

Pallbearers named were George Marston, Julius Wangenheim, M. C. Pfefferkorn, Fred Rhodes, Matt Heller, Sen. Ed Fletcher and Hugh Evans. Rites will be held at the Bradley-Woolman chapel Thursday, 4 p.m. Cremation will follow.

BROKE HIP IN FALL

Miss Sessions, known as the "mother of Balboa park" through her work in beautifying the park, had been confined to the hospital

Read the editorial, Miss Kate O. Sessions, Page 2-B.

since last September when she suffered a fractured hip in a fall in the garden of her Pacific Beach home.

Before leasing a 30-acre area in Balboa park in 1892, Miss Sessions started her local career by opening a flower shop in Hotel del Coronado. Under provisions of the lease, she planted 100 trees in the park every year and donated 300 more trees to the city. In a 12-year period, she laid the foundations upon which the present beauty of Balboa park grew. She was a member of the first city park board, and also was active in many other civic beautification activities.

HONORED BY EVENTS

In the last few years she was honored on numerous occasions. In 1935, a "Kate Sessions" day was observed at the San Diego Exposition. Last year she was honored by being invited to break ground for the horticultural building at the San Francisco exposition.

Also last year she received the Myers medal, famed horticultural award, for outstanding introduction of new plants in California and in San Diego in particular. As a memorial to Miss Sessions, the San Diego Floral association sponsored installation of an aloe and agave garden in Balboa park.

Before receiving her injury, Miss Sessions had been conducting several horticulture classes for the University of California extension division here. She was graduated from the University of California in 1881.

Among numerous tributes to Miss Sessions, a long-time resident of Pacific Beach, was one by Capt. Homer H. Hacker, president of the community's chamber of commerce.

"Every one in Pacific Beach feels a sense of personal loss in the passing of Miss Sessions," Hacker said. "During her many years' residence she was identified with numerous activities for the community's welfare. For the distinguished service she gave, there was conferred upon her the title of Pacific Beach's No. 1 Citizen. Further recognizing her worth, the Pacific Beach chamber of commerce made her the organization's only honorary life member."

PLAN MEMORIAL SERVICE

"In recent years it was the custom to dedicate the chamber's annual dinner to Miss Sessions, and hold this meeting on her birthday. This custom will be perpetuated.

"Leaders of community organizations are planning a memorial service, date and details of which will be announced soon."

Miss Sessions was the aunt of Milton P. Sessions, park board president; the great aunt of Marian, Richard and Beverly Sessions, all of San Diego; and the cousin of Mrs. Raymond Carroll, Pomona; Mrs. M. House, Piedmont, Calif.; Dr. Helen Criswell, Los Gatos, Calif.; Mrs. Cecelia Marshall, San Francisco, and Lée Parker, Sacramento.