

## Love in Seagrove Park

Sheila Newberg had always wanted to be married in Seagrove Park. When she became engaged to marry Tom Grieco, she journeyed up to Del Mar from her home in Pacific Beach to plan her wedding. However, love is not dealt with cordially in Del Mar. There was and still is little understanding and compassion for personal matters. Sheila was told that she couldn't rent the park for a special event without showing proof of liability insurance coverage.

And an insurance policy could cost as much as \$1,000.

She left Del Mar, chagrined, and opted to get married in an ocean front park in San Diego, where there were no extra fees.

The San Diego Union's Valerie Alvord picked up the story about the couple in love who couldn't get married in Del Mar. It made Del Mar seem very inhospitable. And it made me mad. I had a vested interest in Seagrove Park—there's a bronze plaque down there on a big rock to prove it—and I wanted Sheila, or anyone else who wanted to be married in Seagrove Park, to be able to do so without buying liability insurance.

I promptly called Sheila, and told her that she was going to get married in Del Mar's Seagrove Park, if that's what she wanted. She was ecstatic.

The city council had already told Sheila that the city wouldn't waive the fee, so I didn't bother with an intransigent, hidebound government. I started looking for an insurance policy.

Jim Scripps learned of my effort, and called me to tell me he'd love to help. In the end, the \$415 policy was obtained from Howell-Kneedler in Encinitas, and purchased with the help of MacKenzie Vinson, Harold Vita, Al Oakes, Jim Scripps and Pat Barnett, all friends of mine who volunteered to chip in.

It doesn't take much to start a young couple out on a new life, just a lot of love and commitment.

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