

Equestrian request in ad leads to wedding bells for Vista couple

ANNA CHIMOWICZ
FOR THE NORTH COUNTY TIMES

A year ago, Mary Tucci of Vista was planning to go out with some girlfriends in San Diego, and was tasked with glancing through the San Diego Reader for live music venues. She happened upon the singles ads, and the very first one caught her attention.

It read something to the effect of, "How well do you ride horses? Call or send me a picture of your horse."

Tucci, 45, was intrigued, and something pulled her to send in a photo. Her photo, however, was not of a live horse, since she didn't have one, but of her on her Suzuki motorcycle.

"I did it on a whim. I just thought it sounded so interesting, the fact that he asked for a picture of a horse," said

Tucci, speaking about her now-fiance Bill Bennett, 50, with whom she is planning a July 7 wedding at the Rancho Buena Vista Adobe in Vista.

Bennett was intrigued by her photo as well. "I'm an outdoorsy person, and she is too," he said.

They went for coffee to meet for the first time. "We hit it off! We realized we both knew a lot of the same people," said Tucci.

Their next date was much bigger — they spent the whole day riding Bennett's two horses, Cimarron and Dixie.

Tucci admits that she was a bit nervous. "I had a horse as a teen, but hadn't ridden in about 30 years!" she said. All turned out just fine.

"We kind of fell in love that day," she said. Bennett feels the same way about their first riding rendezvous.

Since then, the couple have been busy with various equestrian events,

such as helping rebuild horse camps around the county, Bennett's involvement as the vice president of the Vista Palomar Riders, and trying to ride their horses each weekend. They ride all around the county, including Dixon Lake, Lake Hodges, Rancho Penasquitos, Carlsbad and Elfin Forest.

"Horse-riding is one of the things that brought us together; we ride every weekend," said Tucci. The couple even spent five days in Prescott, Ariz., at a "horse bed & breakfast" where the horses were on vacation just as much as the owners.

"That's one thing I like about Mary. She's a doer; she likes to do things," said Bennett, who proposed last September while staying at the Tamarack Lodge and Resort in Mammoth Lakes and hiking in the area. It shows — the couple have planned their honeymoon at the same lodge, with their



Mary Tucci met William Bennett through a personal ad of a different color — he asked to see a photo of her horse. Since she didn't have one, she sent a photo of her motorcycle. The couple will marry in July. (Courtesy photo)

for the Riders Club facility. Each weekend finds them riding Cimarron and Dixie in a different area, sharing their love for the outdoors.

"The first day we met, I thought, 'This guy is a really good guy!'" said Tucci. "He was an Eagle Scout as a kid; that's what he's all about. We are the same kind."

two horses this time around. They plan to ride a different trail every day, and the horses will stay on a ranch nearby. "We will probably camp with the horses one day," said Tucci.

Tucci and Bennett are now very much involved in the equestrian community, going to horse shows, organizing horse camping events, and caring

Anna Chimowicz is a freelance writer. To suggest a Celebrations story, e-mail to celebrations@nctimes.com.

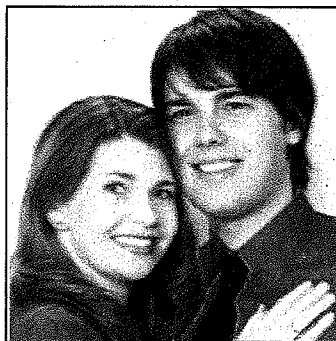
ENGAGEMENTS

Kennedy, Lombardo

Kathrine Ann Kennedy of Tracy and Michael Casey Lombardo of Fallbrook have announced their engagement.

The future bride is the daughter of Thomas and Ann Kennedy of Tracy. She is a graduate of Cal State Long Beach. She is a trip coordinator for Distant Horizons.

The future groom is the son of Michael and Christine Lombardo of Fallbrook. He is a graduate of Cal State Long Beach. He is head copywriter for



**Kathrine Kennedy,
Michael Casey Lombardo**

Tucci, Bennett

Mary Annette Tucci and William George Bennett have announced their engagement.

The future bride is the administrative assistant to the vice president of instruction at MiraCosta College.

The future groom is an engineer at Sony in San Diego.

The wedding is set for July 7, 2007, at the Rancho Buena Vista Adobe in Vista.

The couple plan to spend their honeymoon at Mammoth Lakes.

They will live in Vista.



Mary Tucci, William Bennett

WEDDINGS

Horak, Vega

Tiphni Horak and Daniel Vega, both of Oceanside, were married Sept. 24, 2006, at Falkner Winery in Temecula.

The Rev. David Plank performed the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Jerry and Tamara Horak of Oceanside. She is a 1991 graduate of Rancho Buena Vista High School and a 2000 graduate of Cal State San Marcos.

She is a media research specialist with Cox Communications. The groom is the son of Peter and Marie Vega of Oceanside. He is a 1989 graduate of Rancho Buena Vista High School. He works for Suburban Noize Records in Burbank.



Daniel and Tiphni Vega

... in ad leads to wedding bells for Vista couple

... about her now-fiance
..., with whom she is
wedding at the Ran-
Adobe in Vista.

... intrigued by her photo
outdoorsy person, and
d.

... r coffee to meet for
... We hit it off! We real-
... ew a lot of the same
... ci.

... was much bigger —
... hole day riding Ben-
... Cimarron and Dixie.

... that she was a bit
... horse as a teen, but
... about 30 years!" she
... out just fine.

... ell in love that day,"
... t feels the same way
... riding rendezvous.

... e couple have been
... s equestrian events,

such as helping rebuild horse camps around the county, Bennett's involvement as the vice president of the Vista Palomar Riders, and trying to ride their horses each weekend. They ride all around the county, including Dixon Lake, Lake Hodges, Rancho Penasquitos, Carlsbad and Elfin Forest.

"Horse-riding is one of the things that brought us together; we ride every weekend," said Tucci. The couple even spent five days in Prescott, Ariz., at a "horse bed & breakfast" where the horses were on vacation just as much as the owners.

"That's one thing I like about Mary. She's a doer; she likes to do things," said Bennett, who proposed last September while staying at the Tamarack Lodge and Resort in Mammoth Lakes and hiking in the area. It shows — the couple have planned their honeymoon at the same lodge, with their



Mary Tucci met William Bennett through a personal ad of a different color — he asked to see a photo of her horse. Since she didn't have one, she sent a photo of her motorcycle. The couple will marry in July. (Courtesy photo)

for the Riders Club facility. Each weekend finds them riding Cimarron and Dixie in a different area, sharing their love for the outdoors.

"The first day we met, I thought, 'This guy is a really good guy!'" said Tucci. "He was an Eagle Scout as a kid; that's what he's all about. We are the same kind."

two horses this time around. They plan to ride a different trail every day, and the horses will stay on a ranch nearby. "We will probably camp with the horses one day," said Tucci.

Tucci and Bennett are now very much involved in the equestrian community, going to horse shows, organizing horse camping events, and caring

Anna Chimowicz is a freelance writer. To suggest a Celebrations story, e-mail to celebrations@nctimes.com.