

THE DEATH OF CLYDE BROWNE

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This week death has stilled the hand of one of Highland Park's best known citizens and artisans, Clyde Browne, whose spirit and inspiration is found in many an institution.

Browne, creator and builder of the famous Abbey San Encino, leader for 14 years in the Highland Park Kiwanis Club, and prominent in the Democratic Party affairs of the 54th District, died last Wednesday afternoon in the Queen of Angels Hospital, after several years of illness.

He had gone to the hospital ten days previously to prepare for an operation, but his condition turned for the worse and the operation was never made. Uremic poisoning finally took his life.

During the past year, when he underwent one major operation and spent many weeks in bed, friends from all parts of the community and city kept in close touch with him, often visiting him in the sick room.

Funeral services will be held in the Abbey San Encino, at Arroyo Glen and N. Figueroa Streets, next Monday afternoon at 1 p.m. Interment will follow in the Mountain View Cemetery in Pasadena.

Browne was chairman of the 54th Assembly district Democratic Committee for 6 years, resigning the chairmanship a year ago. However, he retained membership on the committee and only a few days ago, in spite of his illness, filed for re-election.

In the Abbey, he maintained his Abbey San Encino Press, publisher of books and job printers.

An outstanding feature of the Abbey is the beautiful Chapel.

Browne came to Highland Park in 1908 and the following year went into the printing business. In all his spare time from 1915 to 1924 he labored in the building of the Abbey, which is constructed on the lines of the Padre Builders and of the early buildings of Spanish America. Its tower is a replica of Carmel's campanile. Its arches and tiled roofs are those of the California missions, while the South wall has a buttress of a medieval chapel. In its tower hangs the "great bell of Garvanza" which sixty years ago summoned the children of Garvanza to school. When Garvanza was annexed to the city of L.A. in 1899, the beautiful bell was removed from the Garvanza school tower and years later was acquired for the Abbey.

Inspiration for the San Encino Abbey came to Browne in 1893 when he viewed the relics of ^{Mission} San Rafael. He first planned his Abbey for the hills just north of the Sonoma Mission, but "the fates willed that Los Angeles should be the ultimate site."

In addition to his interest in California history, of which he was considered an authority, he had a hobby of boating, and was the past Commodore of the Terminal Island Yacht Club. He owned a 42 foot sloop and had sailed it many thousands of miles on the Pacific.

He has been preceded in death by his wife Mrs. Grace Wassum Browne, who died in 1940. Left to survive him is his son, Jack Browne, who for the past year has managed the Abbey San Encino and the Abbey Press.