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Sudden Heart Attack Strikes 48-Year-Old SC Civic Leader

William A. Deans, 48, one of the city's most prominent attorneys and popular member of the board of supervisors, died suddenly this morning, a victim of coronary thrombosis.

Death apparently came while Deans was asleep, preparatory to going duck hunting this morning at the Santa Cruz Gun club near Los Banos. His body was discovered in his cabin by a friend, Howard Emigh. Duck hunting was Bill Deans' beloved avocation.

Elected to the board of supervisors last year from the Seaside district, Deans soon was recognized as one of the leaders on the board.

Since returning to his native city in 1933, Deans had established an outstanding record of public service and personal achievement.

He was a prominent member of the bar and active in many phases of civic affairs.

Deans received his B.A. degree from the University of Southern California in 1929 and later received his law degree from the USC law school.

Upon his return to Santa Cruz he served as deputy district attorney under District Attorney Benjamin B. Knight. He was associated with Simon Collins from 1933 to 1935. In 1935 he became the law partner of the late Judge Harry J. Bias.

He succeeded Donald Younger as police judge for the city of Santa Cruz, serving in that capacity from 1937 to 1939. From 1939 to 1952, he was justice of the peace in Santa Cruz township, succeeding the late Judge C. C. Houck.

During his tenure as justice of the peace, he also served in several superior courts throughout the state in interim appointments.

In 1952, he resigned his post as justice of the peace, to enter private practice in association with Stewart Cureton.

Throughout the years, he was active in civic and fraternal organizations. He was a past presi-

dent of the Santa Cruz 20-30 club, a past president of the Santa Cruz Shrine club, and a past exalted ruler of the Elks.

During the formative years of the Santa Cruz Little league, he served as secretary and was also secretary of the Santa Cruz Gun club for a number of years. He was president of the sportsman's organization last year and was a member of the board of trustees of the Elks lodge. He was the first president of the Santa Cruz County Employees association.

He was also a member of the Masonic lodge, the Scottish Rite and the Native Sons of the Golden West.

Once in 1951 through coincidence, he served in one week as judge of the superior court, the justice of the peace, city police court and small claims court. He was highly recognized as an authority on law.

As a member of the county board of supervisors, he was a director of Joint Highway District 9, representing Santa Cruz county on the board.

Born in 1907 in Santa Cruz, he was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Deans. He married the former Irene Shepherd of Los Angeles October 29, 1929.

He is survived by his widow, Irene, of the family home at 1446 Laurel street; a son, William Deans Jr., a student at Stanford university, and a daughter, Irene, a student at Mills college and a brother, Arthur C. Deans, of 2045 Chanticleer avenue.

Funeral arrangements are pending at White's chapel.