

A CARPENTER TIES THE KNOT AND FINALLY THAT SONG'S FOR KAREN



Karen shows off her garter to matron of honor Frenda Leffler and her 3-year-old twins, Andrew and Ashley.

When Karen and Richard Carpenter—one of the most popular sibling singing acts in recording history—cut *We've Only Just Begun* 10 years ago, they gave thousands of American newlyweds a favorite first-dance tune. Yet to the Carpenters, its message remained an elusive dream. Though both had had love affairs, neither could seem to find a mate. But last week in the Crystal Room of the Beverly Hills Hotel, a 50-member choir finally sang that song for Karen, 30, as she waited to join her man at the altar. Her choice: Southern California real estate

tycoon Thomas Burris, 39, member of the Reagan finance committee and the boyishly handsome divorced father of an 18-year-old son. "He's just the type of guy I was looking for," said Karen after the vows, resplendent in a white gown of mousseline de soie modeled on an 18th-century riding ensemble. "He's strong and at the same time gentle, and he gets along fabulously with my family." (Burris had not been really aware of the Carpenters' music, but he probably knew the monstrous apartment complexes they owned called Close to You and We've Only Just Begun.)

Karen's mother claims credit for pushing her daughter out to a dinner party at the chic Ma Maison restaurant



Olivia Newton-John makes a neat catch of the bridal bouquet. Did Karen's wedding make her envious? "Yes," she admitted.

last April when she felt like begging off. "Go," said Mother Carpenter, three days after her own 45th wedding anniversary. "You might meet a nice man." Karen met Burris that night, by June they were engaged, and friends like Olivia Newton-John began to notice a change in Karen. "She began to relax," says Olivia, who wept throughout the ceremony. "She's a wonderful girl—and she beat me to it."

The ceremony was as lushly romantic as the Carpenters' oeuvre. As the groom stood at the altar, the scent of gardenias mixed in the air with the



The bride displays one of Lotusland's more credible smiles, flanked by Richard, groom Tommy Burris and their Hollywood-scale wedding party, including Tommy's son Mike (far right).



"Karen needs Tommy's kind of stability," says friend John Davidson, stabilizing singer Jane Morgan (left) and John Denver's wife, Annie.

strains of John Bettis' and Richard's latest composition, *Because We Are in Love*, which they wrote for the occasion. During the ceremony, which was performed by the Rev. Robert Schuler, Richard sang a moving wedding prayer. Then there was a sit-down luncheon for 450 capped by a five-tiered chocolate cake, which Karen duly sliced for her man, unimpeded by her new 10-karat pear-shaped ring.

After a South Pacific honeymoon they will return to a two-and-a-half-acre estate in Bel Air—and their work. "We're both business-oriented," says Burris. "She likes her career and I like mine." Karen admits that while cutting their 10th album during the courtship, "I wasn't really concentrating—for the first time in 11 years." Did she worry that Mr. Right would never come along? "I was beginning to wonder," she blushed when the wedding was over, "but I waited, and look what I found." **KATHY MACKAY**



A hint of things to come? Dorothy Hamill turned up with long-time beau Dean Paul Martin, who joked that weddings make him "nervous."



California's Republican Lt. Gov. Mike Curb, whose sister introduced Karen and Tommy, takes to the dance floor with wife Linda.



Herb Alpert (with wife Lani Hall), who signed the Carpenters to their first contract in 1969, beamed: "It's beautiful to see Karen this happy."

Jo Jo Starbuck, recently split from quarterback Terry Bradshaw, finds a kindred spirit in the bride's still unmarried brother Richard, 33.

