

# A Portrait of the Artist



Home from their Hawaiian honeymoon and looking over their wedding presents are Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hampton (Holly Alice Wehe) who were married at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Wehe of Redwood City. She was graduated from Samuel Merritt School of Nursing and is a past worthy adviser of Rainbow Girls. The bridegroom, son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert R. Hampton of Oakland, was educated at Contra Costa Junior College.

At an age when most people are making retirement plans, Mrs. Henry Doelger finds herself rushing headlong into a new career — art.

Born in Iowa in 1898, Thelma Allen Tharp moved with her mother and army officer father to the Philippines. As a young woman she returned to the United States and a life of domesticity, as the wife of the prominent Bay Area builder and mother of two children.

Until six years ago, her painting was restricted to daubing Easter eggs for neighborhood youngsters.

Then one day she took part in a television show where each woman painted a picture anonymously for her husband to judge. Mrs. Doelger's effort was unanimously chosen as the winner, and from that moment on an artist was in the making.

She attended art classes several times weekly, studying diligently with Thomas Leighton. For two years she did nothing but draw. Only after she learned technique with pencil and charcoal did she take a brush in her hand.

She progressed rapidly and began showing her work in Palo Alto and Marin shows. Prizes and sales were the result—one of them at a de Young Museum exhibit. Her most recent project is a one woman show to be held Feb. 13 through March 11 at the Winblad Galleries on Union



Mrs. Henry Doelger puts the finishing touches on a portrait for her latest exhibit

Street.

Mrs. Doelger prefers portraiture and still life. She describes herself as a colorist.

"A colorist," she explains, "is a person who can see colors others don't see. I don't mix my paint much. I put the color down and leave it so it retains clarity. Too much fussing makes colors muddy. I paint a lot with my fingers, too, softening hard lines with my fingertips."

Of her progress she notes, "An artist reaches plateaus in her work. Once, when I finished a portrait of a flamenco dancer, I cried. For the first time I accomplished everything I wanted to do in a particu-

lar painting. Of course, I'm often dissatisfied—a good sign, because it keeps me reaching out to the next plateau."

Painting is an intensely personal thing for this tiny (4 foot-10") woman.

"An artist gives something of herself in each painting. With me, something comes from the soul, and my feelings are projected through the brush to the canvas."

Her enthusiasm for her work seems to have rubbed off on her husband who has delayed a business trip to Europe so he can attend his wife's newest exhibit. "He really loves my paintings and gets upset when one is sold."

Mrs. Doelger adds: "Painting is the only thing I've given things up for. Before I started, I used to do all the things most women do in the afternoons — shopping, luncheons, cards. Now that I've started painting, I can work all day, oblivious to the time."

In spite of her overwhelming interest in her painting, Mrs. Doelger finds time to care for her Westlake home, which boasts a 20-foot swimming pool in the living room.

At home is their 19 year old daughter, Susy, a student at Dominican College. Michael, 23, a married son, works in his father's construction business.

Also sharing the sumptuous house is an incredible assortment of animals. At last count they included a blind pigeon, two dogs, a rabbit, two monkeys and three cats.

"I can't resist adopting strays," sighs Mrs. Doelger.

Six months of the year the Doelgers spend at their ranch in Sonoma. "Of course all the animals go along, too. I just pack them into a truck and off we go."

At the ranch, Mrs. Doelger takes a vacation from painting—though she admits it's always on her mind.

Working on a portrait she notices an interaction of personalities. "Cold people don't offer the right response for me and the result is disappointing. Someone with warmth and personality seems to give of himself in posing."

She confesses she's never painted any of her own family. "They just won't give me the time."



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## Couples Who Trod the Aisle

Now living in Anchorage, Alaska, are Mr. and Mrs. Albert A. Ferreira Jr. who were married recently at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church.

The bride is the former Melody June Melanson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Melanson of Dublin. The bridegroom's parents are the senior Albert Ferreriras of Lafayette.

The new Mrs. Ferreira attended Diablo Valley College and her husband is a graduate of Heald's Engineering College.



—Norman Daneiko photo  
MRS. ALBERT FERREIRA JR.  
At home in Alaska



—Hal Matson photo  
MRS. WILLIAM McCABE  
To Pearl Harbor

also a University of Portland alumnus.

### CORBETT-EAGLE

A Lake Tahoe honeymoon followed the recent marriage at St. Thomas Apostle Church of Diana May Eagle and Patrick John Corbett.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander F. Eagle, and her husband is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Corbett of Sacramento.

The newlyweds will live in Honolulu.

### McCABE-REILLY

The wedding of Bereth Anne Reilly and William Marsh McCabe took place recently at Santa Maria Church in Orinda. The reception was held at the Claremont Country Club.

The bride was attended by Mrs. Gerald Goodman, Mrs. David Giusti, Mrs. Michael Evered, Ann Wade and Patricia McGee.

The couple will live at Pearl Harbor. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Reilly Jr. of Orinda. She was graduated from the University of Portland.

The benedict, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mathew Joseph McCabe of San Mateo, is

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