Busy Washington Women
Find Relaxation in Painting

By Frances Willard Kerr

"Painting is one of the most relaxing diversions I know," says Mrs. Estes Kefauver. "When I am not to have a particularly busy day, I like to paint an hour early in the morning." Mrs. Estes Kefauver, wife of the Senator from Tennessee, studied painting in her native Glasgow, in Paris and at the Corcoran Art School.

Mrs. Herbert Lehman, wife of the New York Senator, started painting lessons eight years ago, intending to stop at the end of a month if she showed no ability. "Now," she says, "I couldn't have thrown me out," she laughs. Later, she studied at Corcoran. Mrs. Lehman goes to her studio, which is at least three hours every day, and can work at her easel eight hours at a stretch. Her studio is a light, airy room looking out into the time-lapse at the Museum Park. The walls are lined with her pictures. She has had two one-man shows to date, and has several others on the horizon. "Painting is the greatest pleasure I know," Mrs. Lehman declares.

Among other Congressional wives who enjoy painting are Mrs. Karl LeCompte of Iowa and Mrs. Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania. Artists from the diplomatic corps include Mrs. Young, wife of the Ambassador of Korea; Mrs. A. Fullerton, wife of the Bermeo Ambassador, and Senora de Castro, wife of the Ambassador.

Another who enjoys her own recreation offering complete respite from official duties is Mrs. Adolph R. Huse, wife of the Secretary of Commerce. Mrs. Huse paints, and Mrs. Bradley D. Hodgkins, wife of a Washington physician, goes to few social affairs, and Mrs. A. Lyle Prather, whose husband was an Army colonel, has become an enthusiast in recent years. Not the least of the delights of the Adamses' historic stone house in Rock Creek Park is a quaint studio overlooking the old Pierce Mill, where Mrs. Adams spends many happy hours. A former art student, she particularly likes to do winter scenes and has copied Robert Henri's "Tree-tops at the Sheraton Park Hotel. The walls are lined with her pictures. She has had two one-man shows to date, and has several others on the horizon. "Painting is the greatest pleasure I know," Mrs. Lehman declares.

A NECKLACE, a canvas and a tube of paints spell relaxation to a growing number of women prominent in the Washington scene. For some, Capital wives, painting is a new and zestful hobby; for others it is a recreative interest of long standing; for all it is a recreation offering complete relief from official duties.

Mrs. Sherman Adams, wife of the Ambassador of Peru, has become an enthusiastic artist, although she took up painting only a year and a half ago. "But the less of this," she says, "of the Adames' historic stone house in Rock Creek Park is a quaint studio overlooking the old Pierce Mill, where Mrs. Adams spends many happy hours. A former art student, she particularly likes to do winter scenes and has copied Robert Henri's "Tree-tops at the Sheraton Park Hotel. The walls are lined with her pictures. She has had two one-man shows to date, and has several others on the horizon. "Painting is the greatest pleasure I know," Mrs. Lehman declares.

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