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Talented Navy Wife Combines Career, Marriage

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Talented Navy Wife Combines Marriage, Career

Even though you may not be aware of it, if you have been in this area for any length of time, you have seen the art work of Margot Carter Blair. It may have been a play program, a poster, part of the new Catholic Chapel, one of her wonderful books for children, or even a small drawing on the pages of this magazine. If you thought it looked good enough to be the work of a trained and professional artist . . . you were correct.

This talented Navy wife is one of those unusual women who has successfully combined career and marriage.

A trip to her home one day last week would have been an excellent showing of some of her latest creations. On the table a newly-made stack of little girl's dresses awaited buttons, in the hall closet her husband's new Easter sport coat needed only a few finishing touches, and in the kitchen a pink and white cake was waiting to be the star attraction at a little girl's birthday dinner. In one corner of the living room, John Carter, Margot's new little son and sixth child, blissfully slept the morning away. The mailman had delivered a letter from her publisher congratulating her on the new baby and tactfully inquiring if her latest two books would be ready for the Fall listings.

It sounds like a full life, and Margot admits that it is. And so far everything is proceeding pretty much as planned.

She was born in Texas, where her father worked for the government. During the war years, her family lived in many cities, finally settling in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where she attended high school. One year after graduation, she met and became engaged to Peter Blair. The engagement lasted five years while Pete went from enlisted status to Midshipman to Ensign, USN. While Pete was at the Naval Academy, Margot attended the Jackson-von Ladau School in Boston, majoring in fashion design and illustration.

The year between her graduation and Pete's was filled with merchandising display and advertising layouts. She did her first book illustrations for Harry Botsford, Esquire Magazine's Foods Editor. The book was entitled "New York's 100 Best Restaurants."

Margot and Pete were married June Week of 1955. In the summer of 1956, Pete kissed Margot and their new-born daughter good-bye and flew to Australia as captain of the United States Wrestling Team in the 1956 Olympics. He brought home the bronze medal for Greco-Roman wrestling.

After Pete graduated from Sub School, the family, now increased by Peter, Jr.,



Margot Blair, Navy wife and mother of six children, finds time during a busy day to turn "career woman" for a few hours.

moved to San Diego. Here Margot met Catherine Elliston and began a series of children's books. The San Diego years also produced two more Blairs, Lynne and Elaine, and a line of contemporary, slim-line greeting cards, which sold through local stores.

In the two years she has been here, Margot has been co-chairman of the Catholic Chapel's Liturgical Committee, planned the layout for the Religious Art Show last December and illustrated a booklet for Father O'Conner entitled "What, Another Catholic?" Two more little Blairs, Mary Beth and John, joined the family; and between everything else, she finds time to put the finishing touches on the last two books in the Elliston-Blair series.

Probably the secret of managing both parts of her life so well is that there is never any conflict between them. Her home always comes first; career second. If your name happens to be Margot Carter Blair, *everything is going fine.*

—Mary Hardy

SEE YOU AT PETE'S PAD

NOTICE . . .

Mrs. Elsie Walters announces that there will be six classes, instead of five, in the millinery course which she instructs. Classes, limited to four, will be scheduled on Tuesdays through Fridays, and there is still time for those leaving in June to register and complete the course. Cost is \$10 for the six classes. For information, call Mrs. Walters at 375-2730.



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