

## JOAN PITT REW DERRYBERRY



Born an only child, in Torrington, North Devon, England, she attended a boarding school near her home until she was 18. She later graduated from the Royal College of Music in London where she studied piano with enough accomplishment to be chosen to play the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto with the London Philharmonic. She taught music at Wychwood School in Oxford and was a member of the Oxford Choral Society where she met Everett Derryberry. They married in Great Torrington and would live in the U. S., moving from time to time, following Everett's career until his appointment as the President of Tennessee Tech in 1940.

During the war years, Joan Derryberry was recruited to work with CROP (Christian Rural Overseas Program) giving speeches throughout the country including in Washington where she was invited to lunch at the White House with

Eleanor Roosevelt. After the war, she began teaching at Tech where she was the piano faculty until 1961 when she retired...taking up painting with earnest. She has produced almost 2,000 very accomplished and highly sought after works.

As the much admired "first lady" of Tennessee Tech, Joan Derryberry always sought to bring the university community in close communion with the local community and she instigated the formation of the "Town and Gown" club to further that aim. She was president of the Tech Faculty Women's Club, involved with PEO and was a long time members of the Book Lovers Club. She was a charter member of St. Michael's Church in Cookeville, which was named after, and contains a stone from her home church in England.

The Art Gallery and the Concerto Competition at Tennessee Technological University are named in her honor.

Noted: Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN.

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