

March 13, 1974 - (Mrs. Vining)

Dorothy Thompson was born of English parents in 1893. Her father was a Methodist minister whose various posts were in and around Buffalo, N.Y. Her mother died when Dorothy was 8 and two years later an unsympathetic stepmother came into her life from whom she escaped at 14 by going to live in Chicago with her father's sisters. Her academic education was completed at the University of Syracuse from which she graduated cum laude in 1914.

Friendship of two women offered the intelligent young graduate openings for her career. Mrs. Tome "a rich and powerful personage" in Buffalo and Barbara De Porte, a Jewish girl who had come to the U.S. from Russia when she was 16.

By 1920, after small sorties into the world of journalism in N.Y.C., Barbara and Dorothy headed across the Atlantic. While in Paris, Dorothy achieved a post as unsalaried correspondent in Austria for the Phila. Public Ledger. Needless to say, had she not by nature been confident and aggressive, in addition to writing excellent articles, she would not have won the appointment as head of the Ledger's Berlin bureau in 1923. In Berlin she also represented the N.Y. Evening Post. Now she was in a position to set herself up "properly" and soon was surrounded by luminaries of the American and English literary scene. The most important of these being Sinclair Lewis who pursued Dorothy until she married him in 1928...both having previously been married.

At this point Lewis was at work on Dodsworth and Dorothy was compiling her book: The New Russia which came as result of her articles for the Post during the time she covered the 10th Anniversary of the Revolution.

When the Lewises returned to take up residence in N.Y.C. and Vermont, they began to lead lives quite independent one from the other in spite of the birth of a son in 1930 and the Nobel Prize. Dorothy was swept to fame when expelled from Germany by Hitler and during the next ten years and throughout the war, everybody read her thrice-weekly column "On the Record" in the N.Y. Herald Tribune and her monthly essays for the Ladies Home Journal and listened to her frequent broadcasts. In 1940, Miss Thompson jumped on the Roosevelt bandwagon which meant she was dropped by the Republican Trib. However, the N.Y. Evening Post carried her column and she reached the high point of her professional career when honored at dinner by the Committee

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of 1000 in 1941 to which Winston Churchill send a message and Mrs. Roosevelt presented her with a portrait bust by Jo Davidson.

After a divorce, at Lewis's request, Dorothy married an artist—a jovial Austrian Jew...who" gave her warm uncritical devotion."

Miss Thompson continued to demonstrate courage in reporting after the war and great clarity in forming opinions which in one instance brought about her dismissal from the Evening Post...^{this} which was a great blow. She ^{had} criticized Jewish terrorists and was concerned with the plight of Arab refugees. By 1951 her activity was centered around the American Friends of the Middle East — an organization of eminent intellectuals striving to bring peace to the Holy Land. A struggle which continues to be as she saw it: "One of the most complicated and difficult problems on earth today."