

# Kennedy assassination changed Pasadena artist's life forever

He can't explain it, but when President John F. Kennedy was shot, something happened inside Fred Schoellkopf, now a Pasadena artist.

"I was in my Dallas office 10 blocks away when he was shot," Schoellkopf said. "It was a shock. I was a stockbroker, a 1953 graduate of Princeton trained for business.

"I was chairman of the Republican organization in my precinct. Now I am a Democrat and an artist with no interest in stocks and bonds."

Schoellkopf stopped work and thought about what he would most like to do? Paint! Within a year he was studying art at North Texas University.

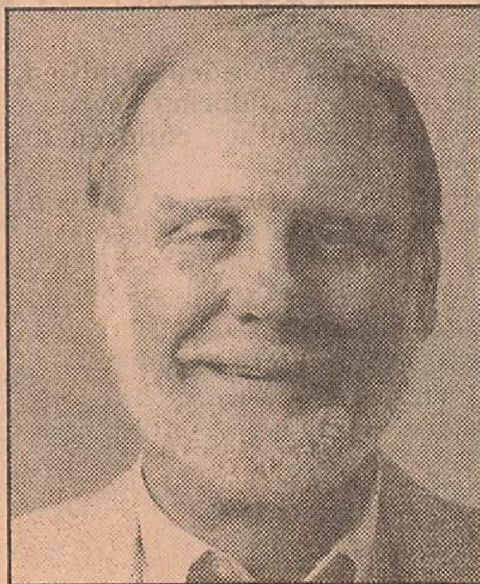
"That shot changed my life," he said.

A teacher at North Texas told him about art schools in Florida, Iowa and in California at Berkeley and Claremont. He chose Claremont, receiving his master of fine arts in 1968.

"Color is my major interest and my gift," Schoellkopf said. "Color is the main thing in my paintings, which are hard edged, with geometric forms."

He is chairman of a major fund raising event June 22 for the California Arboretum Foundation board of trustees (he is a trustee) with the proceeds going toward building a \$4 million education center at the Arboretum in Arcadia.

"We have collected some very



**FRED SCHOELLKOPF**

*... shot changed his life*

unusual masks for the event. Some were among the things we rented from Western Costume for an amusing presentation of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.'"

After graduation, Schoellkopf rented a loft on South Raymond Avenue. He met and married Eileen Reekie, of Scottish ancestry, and they have a daughter, Sarah, 16.

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**Tales of Appalachia:** Naturally, the books and stories written by Ralph V. Cutlip are especially popular in West Virginia — the retired San Gabriel teacher grew up in Appalachia and writes about the area.

His latest book, "The Clodhopper," has run serially for months in the "Hillbilly," a West Virginia



People

**HAROLD N. HUBBARD**

newspaper.

In 1924, Cutlip left Appalachia to attend Occidental College, then do post graduate work at USC.

His first teaching job was at Alhambra's Garvey Elementary School in 1928. He taught later at Alhambra High School and Mark Keppel High School, Alhambra. He retired in 1968 as chairman of the English department of San Gabriel High School.

"The Clodhopper" is the story of a boy growing up in the hills of Appalachia, facing bullies and being downgraded and snubbed by a city cousin.

But his next book will be different. For years he has been interested in the history of Greece and Rome and he will use his research to write about a young Greek sculptor recruited to work on Nero's palace. His working title is "Statue for Nero."

"I have had an urge to write since I was a sophomore in high school and tried it," Cutlip said.

Since retiring he has written six books based on true events in Appalachia and has completed a series of remedial reading books for Amsco School Books of New York.

Cutlip and his wife, Betty, have lived in San Gabriel since 1937.