

ROBERT MONTGOMERY

One of the interesting sidelights of outstanding people who came to the University of Puget Sound campus was in conjunction with the coming of President Eisenhower. Before Eisenhower came to the Field House, where we had anticipated we would have some 8,000 people, I went over to check details. There was a man on the television camera and he said, "Would you go up and stand where President Eisenhower will stand." I looked at him in utter amazement because I recognized him to be Robert Montgomery - the outstanding Hollywood star. I found out later that he was Ike's television advisor and that he very carefully worked out all the details of Ike's appearance on television. They painted a little box on the stage where I stood and where Montgomery focused in the camera. I heard Montgomery say later to Eisenhower, "If you step out of that box, I'll shoot you." He was trying to get it so that he would be in absolute focus all during the television appearance.

Because Robert Montgomery was in the Field House, I went to our house and got Lucille. I suggested she come with me to see them arranging for the convocation. As we went down the aisle Mr. Montgomery was standing by the television camera and I said, "Mr. Montgomery, I want you to meet my wife, Lucille." She looked at him and then somewhat aghast said, "Oh, oh! Robert Montgomery! This is better than meeting the General." We all had a good laugh and then went on with the arrangements.