



Above. From this humble beginning Dollie gets her start. The body and head are cast from plaster molds, in an unbreakable rubber compound. Successive coats of paint are applied concluding with a bisque-like washable finish in the child's own coloring.



Above. Wigs made of real hair which can be combed, brushed and curled, are the same coloring and combed the same as the child's own hair. Look-Alike dolls are equipped with lashes also made from real human hair.

Below. Dewees (pronounced De'wees) Cochran at work in her studio.



LOOK-ALIKES

Tots?

by BEVERLY HARRIS

RARE is the artist who can claim to have his or her work constantly on display—in a doll carriage!

Such is the case of Dewees Cochran of Norwich, Vermont, who earns her living making dolls.

An accomplished sculptress and painter, Miss Cochran is probably best known for her "portrait" doll which she introduced in 1934. Working entirely from photographs she is able to make an exact likeness of a child in unbreakable rubber. The miniature, when completed, has the child's same hairdo, coloring and even the same clothes.

The process is a simple one—if you know how. First the artist reproduces the child's head in a clay-like substance known as plasticine. Then she casts it in a rubber composition. Successive coats of paint are applied topped with a bisque-like finish which is washable. A hand-made wig the same color and style as the child's hair is the next consideration and after the all-rubber body is assembled, the doll is outfitted in miniature children's clothes which are complete with real buttonholes and pockets.

Or Toys?

Pictures by JOHN CLARK

However, since the time and work involved in these exclusive "portrait" dolls makes the price of them also exclusive, Miss Cochran has found it necessary to develop a similar doll within the reach of other than million dollar babies. After considerable research in the field of physiognomy, the doll-maker discovered that the faces of all American youngsters fall into six basic types. (The Army used five of these types in the last war in determining shapes for helmets, gas masks, etc.) Glancing at the photograph of a child, Miss Cochran identifies the facial type and reproduces both the child's features and individual expression without making an individual head. This "type" portrait doll can be produced at much less than the "original" portrait doll and has therefore made its way into the hearts and homes of many American children. But American children are not the only ones who enjoy Miss Cochran's dolls. In her busy studio in Norwich, she has filled orders from such far-away places as Java and Arabia, which would indicate that her reputation is not only nation-wide but international.



Above. The doll's six movable parts are assembled with "S" hooks and rubber. Although the dolls are not designed to be left out in the rain, they are not just works of art but are durable, practical playmates for their lucky owners and stand normal wear.



Above. Dollie is dressed in miniature children's clothes in the latest fashion. The prospective child owner's favorite real dress can be copied on special order. In fact Dollie's whole wardrobe can duplicate her owner's.

Below. Jeanne Hutchins of Norwich with her "Look-Alike" doll.

