

## **MEET the MODELS**

The models featured on Anne Taintor products are real people who posed for advertisements in the 1930s, 40s, and 50s. Since the company started using those vintage images, we've been lucky enough to hear from some of the models or their relatives. We call these women the Taintorettes, and their stories encapsulate the lives of women over the past seven decades and are as appealing and memorable as their faces.

**Susann Shaw** — Arrived in New York in 1937 at age 17 with no money but plenty of enthusiasm; found work as a secretary; visited the John Robert Powers Modeling Agency on her wedding day (at the urging of the other secretaries); within weeks, was the agency's top model; appeared in the 1943 movie "Cover Girl" with Rita Hayworth; left modeling to become a mother; later became a Master embroiderer; finds far more satisfaction from her art than from her still exquisite cheekbones; is the face of the all-time Anne Taintor, Inc. customer favorite caption; "I dreamed my whole house was clean"; Susan passed away on June 11, 2009. She will be missed.

**Joan Walsh** — Lovely and petite (barely 5'2"), worked as a face model in New York before leaving for office work with, amazingly, the Manhattan Project; eventually moved to California and worked as a bookkeeper at Hollywood studios; became a full-time mother; her daughter recognized her as the face that inspired the caption: "She could see no good reason to act her age"; "Anne Taintor is liberating my mother," her daughter says, adding, "It's wonderful to see Mom glorified like that"; Walsh, sadly, passed away in 1990; her daughter lives in the Bay Area.

**Barbara Luff McCraine** — To pay her way through New Jersey College for Women, modeled for the covers of *Vogue*, *Glamour*, *Seventeen*, and other magazines in the 1940s; left modeling to become a social worker; retired to take up motherhood full-time; was delighted to discover she was a Taintorette when her granddaughter came to Christmas dinner wearing a T-shirt featuring McCraine from her modeling days and the slogan, "I can't be good all the time"; currently lives in Massachusetts.

**Milo Gray** — A stylish, beautiful debutante in the 1930s, agreed to allow some of the photographs taken of her at charity balls and other events to be used by advertisers (back then, debs were celebrities); one advertising layout showed her lounging in a spectacular evening dress; it generated plenty of fan mail; Anne Taintor, Inc. used that photo, with the slogan, "He had wasted enough of *her* precious time"; her grandson, spotting the image on cocktail napkins in 2006, bought out the shop's entire supply, and thrilled his grandmother by presenting her with the napkins—and the proof of her abiding allure, 70 years later.

(more)

**Katharine Aldridge** — Was working as a secretary when she was “discovered” and began modeling in New York; moved to Hollywood; became the star of the popular movie serial “The Perils of Nyoka,” about a woman always on the verge of disaster; married a Texas oil wildcatter; retired to full-time motherhood; passed away in 1995; was close friends while in New York and Hollywood with another future Taintorette, Georgia Carroll; their daughters would discover their mothers’ new roles as Taintorettes (see Carroll’s bio below).

**Georgia Carroll** — After modeling in New York, traveled to Hollywood in 1941 and signed an acting contract with Warner Brothers; during a USO tour, captured the attention of bandleader Kay Kyser, whom she soon married; retired from modeling and acting to rear three children; with her husband (and friends Frank Sinatra and Doris Day) raised funds to build a hospital in her adopted home state of North Carolina; returned to college and received her degree at the age of 50; currently lives in North Carolina. She was discovered to be a Taintorette when the daughter of Katharine Aldridge (above) saw her image on a file folder with the caption, “An attitude is a terrible thing to waste”; Aldridge’s daughter showed Carroll’s daughter; Carroll’s daughter, flipping through the whole set of file folders, realized Aldridge’s image, too, was on one of the file folders, a remarkable, heartwarming coincidence. “Our mothers are together again under the same piece of cellophane,” Carroll’s daughter says.

**Sally Nickel Mein** — Born on January 30, 1916, the first great-grandchild of the California Cattle King, Henry Miller; grew to be a tall and graceful girl; graduated from Palo Alto High School in 1933; moved to San Francisco to pursue a career as a professional model; retired from modeling in 1935 to marry W. W. (Tommy) Mein, Jr; active in the Woodside Atherton Garden Club, Menlo School Mothers Club, Woodside School PTA, and many other charitable organizations; raised three sons and one daughter; had eight grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren, all of whom still live in the San Francisco Bay Area; enjoyed a life-long grace and social prominence that made her the perfect subject for a profile in a leading women’s magazine; with a picture from that profile, she made her 2001 debut as a Taintorette. Sally died in 1995...a grand gal who passed away far too soon.

More about the Taintorettes and their pictures at [www.annetaintor.com/models.html](http://www.annetaintor.com/models.html). For more information or to arrange an interview, contact Clare Hertel Communications, at [Clare@ClareHertelCommunications.com](mailto:Clare@ClareHertelCommunications.com); 505-670-3090.

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