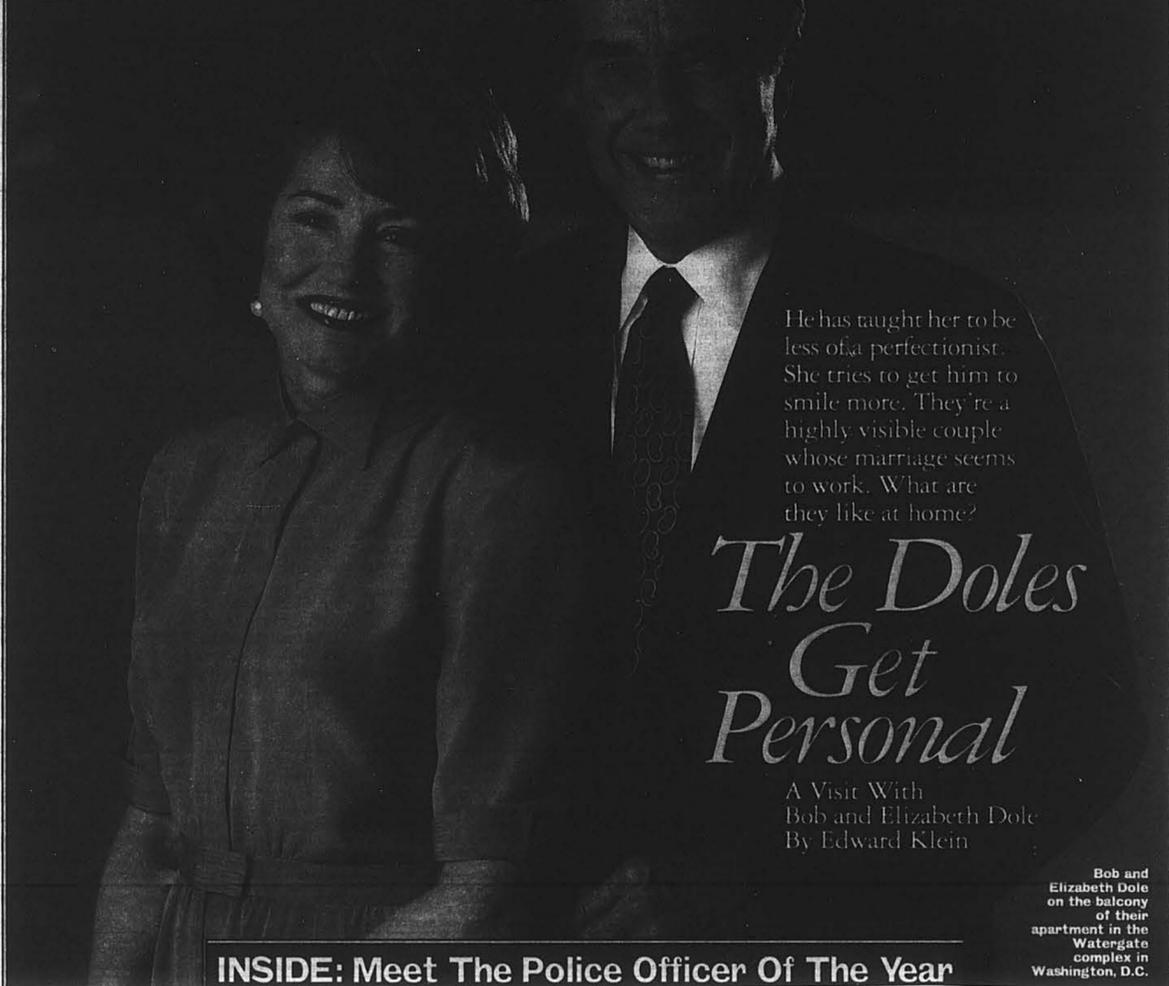


The Wichita Eagle

PARADISE



He has taught her to be less of a perfectionist. She tries to get him to smile more. They're a highly visible couple whose marriage seems to work. What are they like at home?

The Doles Get Personal

A Visit With Bob and Elizabeth Dole
By Edward Klein

Bob and Elizabeth Dole on the balcony of their apartment in the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C.

INSIDE: Meet The Police Officer Of The Year

We know them from their public roles, political campaigning and TV appearances. How different are Bob and Elizabeth Dole away from the public eye?

What They're Like At Home

"WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US FOR dinner?" Elizabeth Hanford Dole suggested in her soft Southern accent. "I'll cook shrimp jambalaya. It's one of Bob's favorite dishes."

It isn't every day that a journalist gets the chance to dine at home with Bob and Elizabeth Dole, who are considered to be the second most powerful couple in Washington after the President and First Lady. When I showed up at the Doles' apartment in the Watergate complex overlooking the Potomac River, Mrs. Dole greeted me at the door. An attractive, brown-eyed woman of 59, she was wearing a silk blouse and had a concerned expression on her face.

"We've got a small crisis on our hands," she said. "I ordered a gourmet soup I especially like from a caterer as a first course, but it hasn't arrived."

She led me through the living room and out onto a large terrace. There, we found the 72-year-old senior Senator from Kansas, dressed

in a business suit and looking tanned and fit. He was grasping a pencil in his damaged right hand as he stood and extended his left hand for me to shake.

"Still no soup," Mrs. Dole told him.

The Senator didn't seem particularly concerned, however, and I soon discovered why. Mrs. Dole went out herself and quickly returned holding a shopping bag containing cans of soup. "I tease Elizabeth all the time," he said. "She's the most prepared person I know."

"It's true," she admitted as we sat down to dinner. "But Bob's had an effect on me. He doesn't look back. He just moves ahead. He's got a great sense of humor. As a result, I've become less of a perfectionist."

Till now, most stories about the Doles have focused on their public personas.

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BY EDWARD KLEIN



Bob and Elizabeth Dole and their miniature schnauzer, Leader, in their living room. Above: Bob Dole as an Army corporal in 1943.

