

The Arts

GC speech teacher **Jane Spooner** **an actress also**

By Iris Hyman

"You don't have to give up on dreams," says Jane Spooner, GC instructor and actress. "Acting was always my dream, I took classes here five years ago to see if the old flame was still burning."

Aside from her roles in plays, she was also involved in the KPBS nationally televised "Parent Effectiveness," a dramatization concerned with better communication between parent and child. Spooner played one of the mothers.



Jane Spooner

Spooner first felt the acting bug while she was a student in Fresno. She finally scratched the itch by acting in college plays at Fresno State U, where she was a drama and speech major. From there she ventured on to Stanford University and the University of Arizona.

Even with her dream to be an actress, Spooner felt acting was an impractical route and therefore chose the security of teaching. She first taught speech at the University of Arizona and later came to San Diego to work at Grossmont, where she has been a speech teacher since September, 1962. Classes she currently teaches are Interpersonal Communication, Public Speaking, and Assertiveness.

In order to raise a family, Spooner put the thought of acting out of her mind until her youngest child left for college. She resumed her activities in Grossmont productions such as "Bells Are Ringing," "My Fair Lady," and "You Can't Take It With You."

a role which she feels is "appropriate." "I like to try different roles, but I must fit into the age group of the character," she explained.

Another "appropriate" role was that of "Aunt Ev" in "The Miracle Worker," which ran at the Coronado Playhouse.

Spooner can currently be seen at the Coronado in "Barefoot In The Park" which opened May 4 and will continue through June 16.

"When I auditioned, the director indicated that I had a quality that the character needed," she said of her part in the Neil Simon comedy. "The mother is conservative, uptight, and possessive."

Asked if she found it difficult to teach and act at the same time Spooner responded, "No, when I come to school this is my life and at performances, I just lock into another aspect of my life."

She indicated acting was just, "picking up and living out a dream."