

Midweek

Candle to Castle

by Linda Beamer

Eight years ago Mrs. E. L. Gamsby went to a club meeting where ladies were talking about a tea table. "I happened to glance at my watch. They spent 37 minutes discussing the color of the candles. That was my last meeting."

As mother and housewife, Margo Gamsby found she was bored with club meetings and church work. She had always had an artistic flair so she went to New York School of Interior Design.

Now Margo Gamsby, 1522 Merrow, Clarkson, is not only a happy housewife. She is a successful free-lance interior decorator, and a syndicated columnist. She has also written a book, a collection of columns, which has sold out the first issue — 15,000 copies — and is rapidly selling out the second issue.

Her vocation combines many desirable: she is always

creative, expressing herself both in interior decorating and in writing; her hours are her own, and she is responsible only to her clients and herself.

Yet in no way has she forsaken the traditional role of homemaker. Her work revolves around it. For her it is a happy reconciliation of the role of housewife and professional.

Mrs. Gamsby began her column about five years ago. It started when she wrote and printed a small brochure for her clients. When she began doing the social news for a weekly paper it was a natural to write about interior decorating.

She is syndicated by the Toronto Telegram News Service. "It's Your Castle" appears in 10 area papers. It also appears in the Winnipeg Tribune and a number of smaller western papers. In California, an outfit is translating her column

for distribution overseas.

Recently she was asked to be the expert on CHML, Hamilton, for a radio program which invites listeners to phone in questions. She doubted any very large public would be interested in her profession. But she said with surprise, "In 45 minutes they had 500 phone calls."

Where do her column ideas come from?

"From people. For instance, I was helping a lady who wanted miles and miles of broadloom throughout her house, and a column came out of that.

"Another time I was looking through a book which mentioned Victorian poison bottles. I hadn't heard of them before, so I did some research and wrote a column from that."

— see It's Your Castle, and see what Margo Gamsby finds more rewarding than club meetings.



The Mississauga News
WOMEN'S

Mrs. Margo Gamsby, interior decorator, columnist and author of a fast-selling paperback book on interior decorating, relaxes in her living room as she talks about her work.

IT'S YOUR CASTLE

Margo Gamsby
All about
poison



They say what is one man's meat is another's poison. It follows that a collection of poison bottles may strike you as amusing, or gruesome, depending entirely upon you.

These bottles date from the mid-1800's and were made until 1900 or so. Early ones are antiques; they newer ones are now called "new antiques" and prices of these are gradually going up as Victorian furnishings gain in popularity.

Poison bottles made before the advent of electricity are particularly interesting to the collector, partly because of their age, but mainly because of their design. These bottles were of glass, pressed with protuberances, spikes, knobs, etc. to make recognition immediate even in the dark. All were dramatic warnings against medicines lethal in wrong doses.

These poison bottles come in enough variety to please the collector. Besides the spike or knob patterns, skull and crossbones were favorite modes of identification.

Some bottles were skull shaped. Some had skull stoppers or a skeleton impression. The snake was also used as a warning in some way on poison bottles and a few were coffin shaped.

Someone is certain to ask me how to display such a collection. Obviously, on a small shelf unit, draped in black!

A paperback book, "Be Your Own Interior Decorator" by Margo Gamsby, is now available on your newsstand or through Greywood Publishing Co., Winnipeg.

Diamond anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Follett, Port Credit (formerly Erindale), will celebrate their Diamond wedding anniversary July 14.

They will welcome friends and relatives in the south room, Lyndwood United, Sunday afternoon 3-5 and 7-9.

Mr. and Mrs. (Vera

Smith) Frank Follett were married July 14, 1908. The ceremony took place in the Rosedale, Toronto home of Mrs. Follett's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Follett have three sons, Bob, Reg and Jack. The first two live in Port Credit; Jack and his family in the Kingsway.

Port Credit resident chalks up 105 years

The grand old lady of Peel County is 105. Mrs. Helen Leavers of 63 Forest ave., Port Credit, chalked up her 105th birthday yesterday (Tuesday) and toasted the occasion with a glass of dry ginger ale.

"I've never drunk anything stronger," she says.

Mrs. Leavers and her husband Arthur, who died in 1935, came to Canada from the lace manufacturing town of Nottingham, England, in 1912 and set up a business in this fine art in Toronto.

In 1920 they moved with their five children, Sybil, Elsie, Bill, Jack and Les to Port Credit.

Mrs. Leavers believed to be Peel County's oldest resident, remembers

those days well, when theirs was one of the few houses on the street and they were surrounded by fields.

She recalls how their old Ford got stuck in the mud when they were moving in from Toronto, and how she used to be able to sit at the bedroom window, look straight across to the lake and watch the boats leaving for Niagara and Hamilton. Now the view is one of apartment buildings.

"Port Credit is not what it was when we came here," she observes. "There were only 1200 people living here then".

In spite of the fact it was 56 years ago when she left England and has never been back to the

Old Country, Mrs. Leavers still retains a trace of her Nottingham dialect.

Her age does not prevent her from getting up and down stairs under her own power and she's justly proud of the fact she is still nimble of joint and limb.

"If I could see better I could do anything, but in the past year or so I have had to retire," she laughed.

Mrs. Leavers firmly believes that a busy life, as much as anything, has enabled her to become a centenarian — plus five.

In fact, Mrs. Leavers, who was married in 1887, has outlasted her original wedding ring.

"Her own ring was worn so thin, it was just like a thread," explained

her daughter, Mrs. Elsie Edwards, who lives with her mother and brother Jack. "So we took her own ring and her mother's wedding ring and melted them both down into one new one, which we gave her for Mother's Day this year."

No big party was planned for Mrs. Leavers' 105th birthday yesterday. "There will relatives and friends dropping in to see her during the day, of course," said Mrs. Edwards.

The family, apart from Mrs. Leavers' own five "children", includes six grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. And nearly all of them live in the Port Credit-Mississauga area.

