

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 desirables: 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.