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SOUTH PEEL'S PEOPLE

SPW
June 12
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By MURIEL MOORE
Staff Reporter

ERINDALE — Maggie Grant is the sort of person you're sure you've met somewhere before.

The place was probably The Canadian, the magazine in which she writes her weekly column. A column about the trials of life everyone runs into — like movie magazines with misleading titles and the horrors of having your picture taken.

And because they feel they know her from her column, people all across Canada write letters to Maggie Grant.

"I always answer people who write," she says, "then I get involved in long correspondence with strangers."

The older people are good letter writers, she says, although she hears from people of all ages.

COLUMN IDEAS

On her office wall a poem from a reader is tacked up and there are three water color paintings from a farmer who corresponds regularly.

She has never met any of her correspondents and thinks it's probably better that way.

And out of their letters, sometimes come good ideas for columns.

Maggie Grant is always

looking for ideas for her columns. On her filing cabinet are a pile of magazines.

"I'm always buying these strange magazines, hoping to find a column idea," she says. "But the best place for finding ideas is the newspaper."

Maggie Grant joined The Canadian three years ago when it was just beginning as a magazine.

SOCIAL EDITOR

"We shared the office with an insurance company for a while and there were no wastepaper baskets," she remembers.

Before coming to The Canadian, Maggie Grant wrote a column and was social editor at the Globe and Mail.

She started by freelancing for the paper, after her next-door neighbor, the late Oakley Dalglish, publisher of The Globe and Mail started bringing in her stories to the women's department.

In her columns for the paper, Maggie took up causes — everything from raising money for a Korean orphanage to campaigning for more comfortable bras.

Maggie Grant commutes each day to The Canadian office from the 25-acre Erindale home where she lives with her husband, newspaperman Frank

McEwan. She has two grown sons and seven grandchildren.

Their home, built on the site of an old pickle factory, is part of a farm that Maggie's parents bought when she was a child.

SUMMER DAYS

She remembers going out to the farm from Toronto in the summers.

"There used to be mud roads then and it would take all day to get there from the city."

"We'd pack a lunch and always have a couple of flat tires," she says.

The McEwans have a barn on their property that presently houses four horses and there is plenty of wildlife around.

"Deer sometimes come right up on the lawn, and you see them pasturing with the horses," Maggie says.

One of her biggest hobbies is gardening, but it's strictly flowers.

"No vegetables — I finally realized I was just growing them for the rabbits."

And, so she can garden all year around, Maggie has her own greenhouse.

But she doesn't do much writing at home.

It's too quiet there she says.



MAGGIE GRANT

The Canadian