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MAGGIE SIGGINS

By SELINA COWARD

NOVEMBER 27, 2000

## Biographical Sketch

Maggie Siggins was born on May 28, 1942 in Toronto.

She currently resides in Regina with her husband Gerry B. Sperling. She has three children.

From 1962 to 1965 she attended Ryerson Polytechnical University and earned a Bachelor of Applied Arts.

She has worked as a magazine writer, political columnist and television reporter and producer. From 1965 to 1970 she was a general reporter with the Toronto Telegram. She was a freelance writer with Chatelaine from 1970-71 in Toronto. At City-TV, also in Toronto, she worked as an on-air political reporter/commentator. She moved to CBC Toronto as a reporter/interviewer/producer in 1975 until 1977. In 1979 to 1981 she was with CityPulse News in Toronto as a producer. From 1981 to 1983 (still in Toronto), she produced freelance work for Toronto Life, Reader's Digest, Financial Post, Today Magazine, MacLean's and others. While in China, in 1985-86 she worked at the New China News Agency.

She has taught Journalism while a Max Bell Professor in Journalism at the University of Regina in 1983-84 and Professor of Graduate Studies at the Beijing Broadcast Institute during her 1985-86 visit to China.

Her books are as follows: *A Guide to Skiing in Eastern North America*, 1969; *How to Catch a Man* co-authored with Ben Wicks, 1970; *Bassett: his Forty Years in Politics, Publishing, Business and Sports*, 1979; *Brian and the Boys: a Story of Gang Rape*, 1984; *A Canadian Tragedy Joann and Colin Thatcher: a Story of Love and Hate*, 1985; *Revenge of the Land: a Century of Greed, Tragedy and Murder on a Saskatchewan Farm*, 1991; *Louis Riel: a Life of Revolution*, 1994; and *In her Own Time: a Class Reunion Inspires a Cultural History of Women*, 1999.

She has received numerous awards: Southam Journalism Fellowship at the University of Toronto in 1974-75; Arthur Ellis Award in the Best True Crime Category for *A Canadian Tragedy Joann and Colin Thatcher: a Story of Love and Hate* in 1986; Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction for *Revenge of the Land: a Century of Greed, Tragedy and Murder on a Saskatchewan Farm* in 1992; City of Regina Best Book Award for *Louis Riel: a Life of Revolution* in 1994; and City of Regina Best Book Award for *In her Own Time: a Class Reunion Inspires a Cultural History of Women* in 1999.

*A Canadian Tragedy Joann and Colin Thatcher: a Story of Love and Hate* was produced as a four-hour mini series by CBC Television. The CBC aired the series in December of 1989 NBC in July 1990 in the United States, BBC in England in 1991 and over 40 other countries since. *Louis Riel: a Life of Revolution* was translated into French by Editions Québec-Amérique of Montreal in the spring of 1996. *Revenge of the Land: a Century of Greed, Tragedy and Murder on a Saskatchewan Farm* was produced into a four-hour mini series with CBC and aired in December 2000.

She has memberships in the following professional organizations: Writers' Union of Canada (Chair 1995-96), Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, Canadian Historical Association, ACTRA, P.E.N. Canada (Board member 1995-96), Canadian Association of Journalists and Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry Association. She has served on the Board of Directors of NeWest Press of Edmonton and Curtain Raisers Players of Regina.

She is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and literate in French.

**Scope and Content**

This collection consists of 2.5 meters of text and 146 audio cassettes relating to the book *Escaping the Big Lie: a Class Reunion turns into a Cultural History of Women in the Western World* by Maggie Siggins.

The file titles were created by the donor.

The predominant dates are the 1990s.

**Legal Agreement and Access Restrictions**

This accrual to the Maggie Siggins fonds was accessioned May 23, 2000. The donor agreement is dated February 22, 1996 and is applied to all accruals to these fonds. Future accruals are expected.

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