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MAGGIE SIGGINS

INTERVIEWS FOR *BITTER EMBRACE*

SEPTEMBER 2013

MICHELLE K. OLSON

Biographical Sketch: Maggie Siggins was born on May 28, 1942 in Toronto and attended Ryerson Polytechnical University from 1962 to 1965 earning a Bachelor degree in Applied Arts.

She is an author who has worked as a magazine writer, political columnist and television reporter and film 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 worked with CBC Toronto as a reporter/interviewer/producer from 1975 until 1977. From 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.

Siggins has written twelve books including: *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; *In her Own Time: a Class Reunion Inspires a Cultural History of Women*, 1999; *Bitter Embrace: White Society's Assault on the Woodland Cree*, 2005 and *Marie-Anne: The Extraordinary Life of Louis Riel's Grandmother*. Two novels are scheduled for 2014. *Scattered Bones* which takes place in Pelican Narrows, Saskatchewan and *Greedy*, a story if insider trading. *Louis Riel: a Life of Revolution* and *Marie-Anne* have both been published in French.

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 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.

The Life and Times of Gordon Tootossis, Unhealed Wounds, Scarred by History, was nominated for "Best Historical Documentary" at Toronto's International Documentary Film Festival and the second episode, *Nanjing Nightmares* was nominated for two awards at Canada's Yorkton Film Festival. The highly acclaimed *A Cruel Wind Blows* was the first Saskatchewan movie to win Yorkton's Best Film Award.

Maggie Siggins is also fluent in Mandarin Chinese and literate in French. She currently resides in Toronto with her husband Gerry B. Sperling and two dogs.

Updated with Information by Maggie Siggins
August 2013

Scope and Content: This small accession consists of 4 Compact Disks which are interviews for her work on *Bitter Embrace: White Society's Assault on the Woodland Cree*. The interviews took place in 2003-2004 when Maggie Siggins spent the winter in a cabin near Pelican Narrows, Saskatchewan, a part of the Peter Ballantyne First Nation. These interviews tell the incredible, often tragic, story of the Woodland Cree. Many are with elders, several of whom have since passed away. Philip Ratt, for example, a truly remarkable man with a near-perfect memory who recounted in detail his experience of residential schools and the elimination of the Cree livelihood. He died just months after its publication. A digital copy of these disks has been copied to the University's server for interim preservation.

Custodial History: The collection was sent to the University of Regina Archives and Special Collections by the donor in June 2013.

Legal Agreement: The legal agreement is pending.

Restrictions: There are no restrictions on this material.

Related Accessions: 84-4, 84-26, 87-46, 94-67, 2000-23, 2002-43, 2005-30 and 2008-18.

Future Accruals: Future Accruals are expected.

Box 1 1

Bitter Embraces Interviews

[Includes four (4) CD's]

Compact Disk 1

Title: Michael Bomek

Place: [Unknown]

Date: [Unknown]

Recorded By: [Unknown]

Record Time: 700 MB

[Additional Information: SONY CD-R]

Compact Disk 2

Title: Philip Ratt 4

Place: Bulyea, Saskatchewan

Date: October 1973

Recorded By: [Unknown]

Record Time: 700 MB

[Additional Information: #31]

[Additional Information: SONY CD-R]

Compact Disk 3

Title: 37 Darren Highway – 2

35 Fran Atkinson – 7

36 Ida Swan – 3

34 Sudge Gerry Morin – 6

23 Economic Development Officer – 5

24 Philip Morin – 1

29 Josephine Custer

20 Thermaas – 4

Place: [Unknown]

Date: [Unknown]

Recorded By: [Unknown]

Record Time: 700 MB

[Additional Information: SONY CD-R]

Compact Disk 4

Title: 27 J.B Custer – 1

01 Laurie Ballantyne

09 Oscar Ballantyne

31 Napaleen Michelle

32 Don Bird

17 Gilbert Linklater

26 Herace Ratt

28 J. B. Custer – 2

08 Philip Ballantyne

18 Swaan Custer

Place: [Unknown]

Date: [Unknown]

Recorded By: [Unknown]

Record Time: 700 MB

[Additional Information: SONY CD-R]

2

Screen Shots for Compact Disks 1 to 4