

BETTER HOMES & GARDENS Volume 25, Number 7

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Cover painting: Harry Brown

Among Ourselves

Some of the names you see most frequently in *Better Homes & Gardens* don't belong to staff members. They identify a small group of highly talented individuals known as "writer-scouts."

Their work is specialized. Each one keeps a close check on what's new in building, remodeling, home furnishing, and gardening in a particular area. When one of them finds a home with story possibilities, she prepares a rough draft of an article, then tries to convince one of our editors that it is worth publishing. Given the go-ahead sign, she collects all material needed for the finished article, often supervising photography as well.

One such scout is Mrs. Louise Bell of Tucson, Arizona. When Building Editor John Normile and Art Director Wallace Hainline visited that city recently, Mrs. Bell took them to see a particularly dramatic garden after dark. But the profession of a writer-scout is hazardous. The trio had just entered the garden when Mrs. Bell disappeared into a very damp pool. Credit for the rescue goes to Editor Normile.

Another scout, Marguerite Cottington, more or less stumbled onto Jean Keithly's attractive home in Elmhurst, Illinois ("Furnished After 5 p. m.," page 48). Thinking more about a new dress than an article for *BH&G*, she visited a dress shop in Elmhurst. The shop was decorated in a very simple manner, yet the effect was stunning. Such tricks as matting water colors with black-and-white checks led Marguerite to ask who had done the decorating. The owner of the shop, Jean Keithly, she was told.

Proving again that a writer-scout never sleeps, Marguerite decided such excellent taste must be reflected in Miss Keithly's home. She investigated further, and the article in this issue is the result.

Still another writer-scout is Martha Darbyshire, who found an answer to an old problem [*Turn to page 204*

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