

# 'Just Like a Big Dream' Says Mrs. Margaret Niles In Discussing Sweeps Win

It was a Sunday like any other Sunday — except for the Nileses.

"It's not as hectic as it was yesterday. Today it seems more like a big dream, said the head of the family, Mrs. Margaret Niles.

It was also a dream which has come true for few — considering the statistics on winners of the Irish Sweepstakes.

Saturday, as everyone now knows, when Purple Silk came second in the Grand National, Mrs. Niles — a widow working as a seamstress to support her three children — won \$60,000 in Sweepstakes prizes money — to become the magnet for scores of excited handshakes, backslaps and general congratulations.

"Yesterday," in her own words, "was terrible."

Sunday, things had calmed down a little — at least she had time to catch her breath. But the family bungalow at 64 Charlotte Street still was the receiving end of congratulatory stream — this time by telephone.

And when she and her three children went to service at Christ Church well-wishers again clustered round.

"We could hardly get out of church," she laughed.

As she spoke—the family had just returned from church —she was continually interrupted by the telephone. All were good wishes from friends and she answered them all affectionately.

Between times she was also getting ready to seek out quieter pastures with her family—at Sunday dinner with her mother, Mrs. Marian Simpson.

It was the way she chose to mark the end of an exciting week—which began with a telegram from Dublin.

"I nearly had a fit," she confessed, recalling the news she had drawn a horse and a possibility of fortune.

Both came through. Now Mrs. Niles can be positive about her family's future—as she is positive about her attitude to the fabulous win.

"I've had to struggle for years—and I'm not going to throw it away, now, that I've got a little security."

## TAKEN IN STRIDE

Despite the windfall—which brings security after several years of struggle since her husband's death in a drowning tragedy, she still was fretful about everyday things.

She worried lest the constant excitement should affect the studies of her two teen-age offspring—Donald 17, and 16-year-old Linda. Both are BCIVS students.

"They're into their exams and I'm afraid of so much distraction," she said.

However, the youngsters, along with nine-year-old brother Ricky appeared taking things in their stride.

What happens now?

Mrs. Niles wants to buy her own home, but she's in no hurry.

Sweepstakes winners, more often than not, are instant targets for salesmen in every branch of business. Has she been counselled by any yet:

"Not yet. And I sure don't want them either. It's going to go in the bank and that's all there is to it."

She also intends keeping her job in the drapery department of McIntosh store.

"I wouldn't know what to do with myself. And anyway it's just like a second family down there."

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