

Hoosier-Born Author Proves She's Friend of Teen-Agers

By BARBARA SCHAEFFER

Blond, vivacious, charming Janet Lambert is a valiant defender of the bobby-soxer. In fact, she doesn't believe in the name at all.

Author of books for teen-age girls, Hoosier-born Mrs. Lambert, appearing in L. S. Ayres' & Co. book shop, thinks teen-agers are people "just like all of us, only younger."

Born in Crawfordsville, Mrs. Lambert felt acting would be her career and she studied dramatics at Lake Forest and in Indianapolis. Her only writing was a dabble at poetry.

While playing with the North-

ampton players in New York the boys came home from the last war, and Mrs. Lambert changed her career from the stage to the home.

Made Up Stories

Her writing started from necessity. From 1930 to 1932 Mrs. Lambert's husband had to study calvary tactics in Poland, and his wife and daughter, Jeanne Ann, went with him. Jeanne didn't like bed-time stories in Polish, so Mrs. Lambert made up stories, a chapter a day, to read to her small daughter.

Not until 1941 did Mrs. Lambert actually complete and sell a book, a story for teen-age girls, "Star Spangled Summer."

Since then she has written seven books and her publishers, E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., in New York, now want her to write two a year. Mrs. Lambert also is going to write magazine articles for adults, but her subject will be the same—teen-age girls.

Lets Book Grow

In beginning a new book, the author writes a page or two, then writes the last paragraph and the last sentence, and then lets the book "just grow," like Topsy.

"Don't write down to them," was Mrs. Lambert's first maxim for writing to teen-agers. Believing they are normal persons she says they want to read about other normal persons, happy families, interesting situations.

Col. Lambert just returned from China and after Mrs. Lambert's tour, which includes Detroit, Cleveland, St. Louis and California cities, they will make their home probably in New York or Washington, D. C.

Is Grandmother

Jeanne Ann is married now and Mrs. Lambert fondly describes her tiny grandson—without feeling a day older. Her daughter, too, is working a little on writing and Mrs. Lambert feels that she will develop it eventually.

Because Mrs. Lambert has always lived on army posts, her stories take place in similar locations, but they are not war stories. Some of her books after "Star Spangled Summer" were "Candy Kane," "Whoa, Matilda," "Just Jennifer" and "Dreams of Glory."