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Chronicles of .. Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Acton Free Press
GWENDOLINE P. CLARKE

Friends, allow me to introduce to you the latest addition to Ginger Farm. She isn't very big as she is only two months old. She has honey-colored hair, brown eyes, is very lively and weighs four pounds before feeding—probably five afterwards. Since her entry into the family circle there has been no peace except when she is sleeping. During that blissful period we walk around on tip-toes and speak in hushed voices—'that was all until I decided she might just as well have her sleep in a box down in the furnace cellar. This disturber of the peace goes by the name of "Jip", and is a pure-bred cocker spaniel, no loss, who has been with us for just over a week. This addition to the family was not any idea at all. It was just a brain-wave of Daughter's. She has always wanted a cocker spaniel so she bought this little tike and shipped her down here for Mother to look after.

After she arrived the fun began, especially when Mark came in. Jip was read to meet all comers, man or beast, with a friendly greeting. Mark, of course, arched his back, spat, swore, and ran for cover every time Jip moved. Tippy, our colle, sniffed around the puppy and then his upper lip curled as if he was ready to take him by the neck if we hadn't intervened. Such a time as I had for a couple of days, afraid to leave the three of them together and yet sure that to do so was the only way in which they would get used to each other. But, in no time at all, Jip and Mark were the best of friends. Now they spend every waking minute wrestling and chasing each other around. Sometimes they will stop and both of them take a feed from the same dish.

Partner says he has always wanted to see a wrestling bout at the Maple Leaf Gardens but now he thinks he doesn't need to because he can see one right here at home any time at all. The pup and the cat both sit up on their hind legs and then make a quick grab and roll over and over. The cat goes for the pup's ears and the pup bites at the cat's tail. The cat works a tight crouch by hooking her front paws around the pup's neck, making the pup paw the air with her hind legs until she eventually works herself free.

Tippy is still our big problem. Naturally she is frightfully jealous and it wasn't until to-day that she would allow the pup to come anywhere near her at all. Probably when they can both run out Tippy will find it lots of fun to have some one to run around with her. Jip is really a cute little thing. Already she will sit up and beg, and her bright little eyes are so intelligent you almost think she knows exactly what you're saying. Which is fortunate because I have plenty to say as she is far from being house-broken. The first day she was here she more or less had the run of the house. But I soon found that wouldn't do at all. I don't need that much exercise. But yet I didn't want doors shut all over the house so I got a big piece of cardboard and fitted it across the sitting-room doorway. That keeps the puppy out—much to her annoyance—and yet still leaves space for air to circulate. It is also low enough for us to step over. Occasionally Mark or the big dog knocks the barricade over and there are a few frightened squeals and yelps as a result, but naturally none of them is really hurt.

So that is how things are at Ginger Farm right now, and amid this menagerie I am still frantically worrying away with last minute Christmas preparations, but which when all is said and done don't amount to much. Yes, it's a grand time we're having this last week before Christmas. And of course the weatherman has been kind and turned every tree and hedgerow into the grandest Christmas scene imaginable.

So there you are folks, and in case you didn't have time to read my Christmas message last week, let me wish you all over again—a very, very Happy Christmas, to each and all of you.

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Recollections of Acton

BACK IN 1898

From the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 22, 1898

Acton's silver wedding in the year 1873 the population having reached 750 the number required for incorporation with the township of Esquesing, and by act of Parliament secured the right to govern its own affairs, and to some extent control its own destinies.

The first council of the new incorporation was composed as follows: W. H. Storey, Reeve; John Speight, Ass. Hall, Chas. T. Hill and Dr. McGovern, councillors. James G. Hill, clerk, and treasurer succeeded by H. P. Moore until he resigned to go to college.

At the annual meeting of Knox Y.P.S.C.E. society the following officers were elected: Hon. Pres., Rev. H. A. Macpherson; Pres., Mr. Jas. Lackey; Vice Pres., Miss Nellie Holmes; Rec. Sec., Miss E. H. McQueen; Cor. Sec., Mr. D. M. Henderson; Treasurer, Miss Cobban; Organist, Miss Jennie Smith; Leader of Singing, Mr. A. T. Mann.

The electric light poles on Mill St. are being put up this week.

The roads in this vicinity are in a bad state just now on account of the deep pitch holes.

BACK IN 1928

From the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 20, 1928

Mr. A. M. McPherson has purchased the Lester farm on the highway between Rockwood and Acton.

The gasoline tank at the Highway Garage was knocked over yesterday when a car collided after skidding on the icy pavement.

Mr. Wm. J. Inxter, for over two years pastor of the Baptist Church has received a unanimous call to the pastorate of the Beverly Street Baptist Church, Toronto.

Reeve and Mrs. Mason entertained the Council and the new

members for 1929 at their home on Tuesday evening.

Mr. Ninian Lindsay and Mr. R. W. Lowrie were successful exhibitors at the Winter Fair in Guelph.

DIED
WALLACE—In London on Thursday, December 13, 1928, Beverly Wallace, infant son of W. D. and Mae Wallace, aged 4 months.

PICKETT—At the Kitchener and Waterloo Hospital, on Thursday, December 13, 1928, Hannah Martin Campbell beloved wife of Wesley Pickett in her 66th year.

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