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By Wendy Thomson

I went to Farnham, yesterday. That's my Grandmother Weyman's house in Toronto, and by the way the family refers to it, you'd think that it was the only house on the block. Over the years, 20 Farnham Avenue has become simply "Farnham".

It's an old three storey place, large enough that, at one time or another, each branch of the family has lived there for awhile, with my grandparents. We were there, (my parents, my brother, and I), from the year I was seven until I was 14, and most of my memories are of that house and that time.

I hadn't been to Farnham for over two years, before my visit yesterday, and I think that my awareness of everything about the old house was heightened by the thought that I very likely wouldn't be going back again. Out of pure long-ago habit, I cut across the lawn; the front steps still creaked in the same boards, and the door-latch had exactly the same clank and rattle as it did 16 years ago.

The house itself was very still—not just quiet, but still—and it felt rather strange to wander through it. As I went, I thought of all the things that would have been going on at this time of the year. Upstairs was a tiny kitchen that my mother used, where (to my horror) I found that carrots went into Christmas pudding. Downstairs was a huge kitchen with a small pantry off to one side, smelling of all kinds of spices, mainly cloves. Grandma would have been bustling about, preparing afternoon tea with scones and a special brown bread, and stewed rhubarb. Her family always came home for Christmas, and there was the extra baking to do then. Grandpa just sat in a quiet corner, puffing on a cigar and waiting for the grandchildren to descend on him. The puddings made in special crockery molds with a holly design on the sides, bubbled and rocked on the stove. I have the molds now, and have been trying to decide whether to keep them as part of our tradition, or to send them to the other branches of the Weyman family, complete with puddings for Christmas.

My parents' living room, upstairs, was the heart of celebrations, (Grandma had a "sitting-room" we had a "living-room"). My memories here are all patchy—all sorts of bits and pieces that, when put together, make up a warm, happy-sad, family feeling. I remember the rolls and rolls of green and red crepe paper that were twisted together and hung in almost every room—we got the tail end pieces for the bedrooms—and the wreaths for almost every door. Snow has a very special look when it swirls around a lamp-post at night, and I used to watch it from the second floor windows. Snow seemed extra quiet then, maybe because it deadened a lot of the usual city sounds.

My father was an artist—not a weekend artist, but an all-day, every-day kind. At Christmas, he let us use his big drawing board

desk, and provided us with all sorts of odds and ends to make gifts and Christmas cards and such. One year we decided to print cards with linoblocks. I forgot what I hacked out, but my brother cut a psaying monk, with "Noel" across the top. It was never used because after he printed the first card, Ian realized he should have reversed the letters, as the greeting came out backwards!

In our living-room was the tree and the gifts were distributed there. The two I remember most clearly were a doll-house and a milliner's shop. Grandpa made the doll-house when I was about eight, a lovely wooden, two-storey one, with stairs, a bay window, and a front door that opened. The rest of the family helped furnish it with little things I've still got. The milliner's store was a complete little work-shop with dummy heads, we felt hats of all shapes and sizes, ready to trint with the feathers, veils, ribbons and things. I think that was the year I hid my present for Ian so well in the huge linen closet that I forgot about it, and remembered it a few months later, only because we got into an argument and when I threatened to take back my Christmas present, he realized I hadn't given him one!

Now my youngsters are the grandchildren, and celebrations are held here. My mother is coming up from Oakville on the 24, but Ian says he has no intention of being awakened at six in the morning on the 25, thank you.

Me, I'm bustling and baking, and I couldn't help but smile at Beth last week, when she expressed extreme disgust on finding me putting carrots into Christmas pudding.

GRANDMA'S WHEAT BREAD
Sift: 1/2 cup all purpose flour, 1/2 tsp. baking powder, 1/2 tsp. baking soda, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1 tsp. sugar. Add 1 1/2 cups whole wheat flour and mix well. Add 1 cup sour milk, and stir to moisten ingredients. Turn out on a lightly floured board and knead 10 times. Shape into a round loaf on a greased baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes.
Note: To make milk sour, add 1 Tbsp. lemon juice.

SWEETNUTS
Beat together 1 egg white, 2 Tbsp. cold water, 1/2 tsp. cinnamon, 1/4 tsp. cloves, 1/2 tsp. allspice until soft peaks form. Beat in 1/2 cup sugar, beating until mixture gets as stiff as it will go. Throw in 2 cups whole filbert nuts. Stir gently to coat, then place one at a time on a greased baking sheet. Bake at 275 degrees for 40 minutes, cool thoroughly, store in tightly covered container.

Carollers sing, distribute gifts

C.G.I.T. members went carolling Monday evening with small gifts they had made for shut-ins. They had their Christmas party afterward at the United Church.

Pot luck supper

St. Alban's Young People's group held a Christmas pot luck supper Monday evening. The girls brought food and the boys home-made cozages, and there was a gift exchange.

Christmas letter from missionary read at W.M.S.

The Christmas meeting of the Afternoon Auxiliary W.M.S. of Knox Church was held at the Manse, Thursday afternoon, December 12.

Miss Isobel Anderson presided, with Mrs. A. H. McKenzie, Miss Robena Clark, Mrs. Robert Algie and Mrs. R. M. MacDonald in charge of the program. Miss Anderson and Miss Clark brought inspirational Christmas messages and a Christmas letter to the members from Miss Beatrice Scott, missionary in Amkat, India, was read. Mrs. McKenzie contributed a solo and all joined in the singing of carols. Arrangements were made for remembering the sick and shut-ins of the congregation at the Christmas season, while under the gaily decorated Christmas tree, members placed their gifts for Evangel Hall, the Presbyterian Church's Mission in Toronto.

During the social period, the committee members served a dainty lunch, befitting the Christmas season.

Mrs. V. Bristow elected A.C.W. president for 1969

The Anglican Church Women held their annual election meeting on December 4 in the Parish Hall.

The nominating committee presented its slate of officers for 1969 and this was voted upon with the following results:

President, Mrs. V. Bristow; first vice president, Mrs. J. Creasey Jr.; second vice president, Mrs. C. Cook; treasurer, Mrs. E. Pratt; recording secretary, Mrs. D. Lindsay; corresponding secretary, Mrs. William Denny. Flower and gift convener, Mrs. C. Lindsay; reporter, Mrs. D. Hunter; family life secretary, Mrs. C. Nelles social service and supply secretary, Mrs. T. S. Newton; assistant secretary, Mrs. William Denny; kitchen convener, Miss M. Rowles; assistant convener, Mrs. C. Nelles; Living Message convener, Mrs. J. Creasey Sr.; group co-ordinator, Mrs. L. Clarke.

Before the elections, reports were given by the various groups. The close of the first year as a combined group showed the organization to be in a very healthy state.

Money had been raised by catering to seven receptions and dinners, holding a Christmas Bazaar and Tea and knitting nylon slippers for sale.

Slims splurge

After their usual session of exercises Monday, the Slim and Trim class threw caution to the winds and splurged on a Christmas lunch, with an exchange of gifts. The classes are held in the Robert Little School with Miss Mary Golem as instructor.

J.O.L. holds party Dec. 14

The Juvenile Orange Lodge members Christmas party was held December 14. There was a program of films followed by lunch and Santa Claus who distributed gifts and candy to about 35 children. A good time was enjoyed.

Plant firefighters guests at dinner

The annual dinner for Beardmore and Co. fire brigade was held in the Legion hall. The plant firefighters and their wives saw company president Norman Braida made honorary chief, complete with waterproof outfit.

Valerie McGinn president Friendship Juvenile Lodge

Friendship Lodge No. 457 of Juvenile Orange Association held its annual election Dec. 2 with Guardians Mr. and Mrs. K. McDonald assisted by Bro. Dan Holmes, Worthy Master of L.O.L. 467 and Bro. Carnochan, Worthy Past Master of L.O.L. 467.

The following officers were elected:

Worthy president, Valerie McGinn; vice president Muriel Holmes; chaplain Cindy Thornhill; recording secretary Tina VanderKooij; fin. secretary

Heather Higgins; treasurer Robin Speaker.

1st lecturer, Kathy Roach, 2nd lecturer, Arnold Gordon, 1st Standard Bearer Connie Gordon, 2nd Standard Bearer Gloria Gordon, escorts Sylvia Gordon and Rhonda Speaker.

After these officers were installed past president Jeannette Yateman was presented with her Jewel by W. M. Dan Holmes of L.O.L. 467. This is the last meeting until March of 1969.

Mrs. Horace Blyth hostess Dublin W.I. Christmas party

The annual party of the Dublin W.I. was as usual one of the highlights of the Christmas season. This year it took place on Dec. 2 at the home of Mrs. Horace Blyth and was attended by a large and happy group of members and also by some of the neighbors who are rapidly assembling to become rural dwellers.

After the opening ode and business was attended to, the gathering joined in Christmas carols accompanied at the piano by Mrs. George Robertson. Much fun was had at the games prepared by a committee of the ladies.

Each member, throughout the year, has had a "secret" pal who

has been remembered at special occasions by an unknown friend. The identity of the sender was disclosed at the party and gifts were exchanged and accepted with much pleasure. Gifts for all were received from the Institute and will be enjoyed throughout the coming year.

Free Press Women's Page

Mrs. Eleanor Donaldson celebrates 93rd birthday



MRS. ELEANOR DONALDSON, Main Street, is still active in her 94th year. (Staff Photo)

Celebrating her 93rd birthday on Tuesday, Dec. 10, Mrs. Eleanor Donaldson still gets about by her own steam and retains her sharp memory and her happy smile.

She was born in Monaghan, Ireland, and says she is the last surviving member of a family of 10. After her marriage to John Donaldson, a Scot, she lived a few years in Glasgow before coming to Acton in September 1923. Mr. Donaldson worked for Beardmore and Company. For the past 10 years, she has lived with Mrs. N. Lambert on Main Street.

"I've always considered Acton as my home town," says Mrs. Donaldson. She admits she has seen many changes since she came. "When I go out, there's not one I know any more."

When asked what she thinks of mod fashions and modern music she commented, "Well, I guess it's a new generation living in different times. We've just got to accept it."

She says she wouldn't attempt to advise young people today. "I think they know more than we older ones ever did," she says.

Mrs. Donaldson celebrated her birthday on Saturday when her family could be present. She has a son Jack in Wingham, a daughter Mrs. Elizabeth Turner here in Acton, and two grandchildren. She was thrilled with many gifts and cards of good wishes from family and friends.

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A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

CHRIS. A. SCHOUTEN
AUCTIONEER — MILTON

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YUL BRYNNER
"COOL CAT" — Cartoon
SUN.-MON.-TUES. DEC. 22-23-24
"DON'T RAISE THE BRIDGE, LOWER THE RIVER" — Color
JERRY LELIS
"MAGIC MOLICUES"
"FALLIBLE FABLES" — Cartoon
WED.-THURS.-FRI.-SAT. DEC. 25-26-27
"BLACKBEARD'S GHOST" — Color
(by Walt Disney) PETER USTINOV — SUZANNE PLESHETTE
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