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# Free Press Women's Page



by Wendy Thomson

Pioneer women must have been a special kind of person - patient, quick-thinking, hard-working, resourceful - all the things I'm not. If we had the kind of farm where the success of it depended on the wife working hand in hand with her husband, I'm sure it would be doomed to failure. I doubt very much if Gord would want to go with his hand in mine, anyhow, as mine is usually, under something, caught in something, or otherwise in some precarious position.

The first incident after we moved to Acton, claimed Gord as the victim, though. I had decided that what we really needed was a rock garden, and proceeded to pile up stones in a big mess that I thought was lovely. The next morning, as Gord stepped out the front door to go to work, I realized that I had forgotten to tell him that I used the rock that acted as a temporary door step. Down he went and broke his ankle.

The following summer, Gord dug our well, wide and deep. When it came time to set the huge tile in place, he rigged up a pulley thing, and I was supposed to back the car, which lowered the tile, which lined the well that Gord dug. He stood well back and directed. Unfortunately, I hadn't driven before, and from my point of view, it was a bad time to begin. While Gord kept yelling "Ride the clutch!", I kept hollering back "What's a clutch?" In that few minutes, I became a firm believer in "When in doubt, jam on the brakes!" which I did, much to Gord's dismay.

The sudden stop jarred the cable loose, and the tile went crashing down the well, smashing it and the one already down there. Gord turned purple and I sat and howled. I think if it weren't for the possibility of water contamination, he would have cheerfully thrown me down on top of the wreckage and buried me.

During the next few years, the building of the house progressed in spite of me. When Gord needed a hand and there wasn't anyone else handy, he'd get a certain look - very wary and uncertain - and would say, "I don't suppose you could manage to hold the other end of this for a few minutes without it flying up and hitting you in the eye, or something to that effect." I tried, but it seemed as though things just waited till I was around before they started to go wrong - the beam in the big barn that we were shifting decided to flip over on my hand, the ladder in the little barn got misplaced, and I fell out of the hay-loft, etc.

Much to everyone's relief, son Jim has grown to the point where he's a better help than I am, and I'm relegated back to the kitchen to boil water and make tea. Even that can be a hazard, though, when for some reason the plug melts (the tag did say it was for electric kettles) while plugged into the stove, and turns into a private fireworks display, lighting up the kitchen beautifully and making a big splash on the wall.

For some reason or other, that episode (which happened this week) put a damper on my usually adventurous cooking spirit, and I returned to dishes I used to make when we were first married. I bought a lot of hamburger, and we had it in Swedish Meatballs for company, sometimes doubling or tripling the recipe, or in Porcupines with rice and soup for everyday. These days I buy the two types of rice, the more tender short

grain for puddings and the long grain for skillet dishes and such. Back then, though, I used the long-grain for everything, and it never did make that much difference to a pudding.

**RICE PUDDING**  
Combine 4 cups milk, 1/2 cup uncooked rice, 1/2 cup salt in saucepan. Heat slowly to boiling. Pour into greased 1 1/2 quart baking dish. Bake in slow oven (300 degrees) 45 minutes, stirring 3 or 4 times. Stir in 1/2 cup raisins, 1/2 cup sugar, 1 tsp vanilla, and bake 15 minutes longer. Serves 6.

**MEATBALLS AND RICE IN CONSOMME**  
Mix 1 lb. hamburger, 1 tsp salt, 1/2 tsp pepper. Shape into small balls. Brown well in heavy skillet. Add 1 small chopped onion, 1/2 cup chopped celery and leaves, and 1/2 cup chopped green pepper, if you like the stuff. Cook 5 minutes longer. Add 2 1/2 cups rice (uncooked), 1 can consommé soup, and 1 can water, bring to boil, cover closely and simmer for 20 minutes until rice is tender and liquid absorbed. Serves 6.

For a change, this can be made with tomato soup or cream of mushroom if you're like me, and end up with all the other ingredients, but the wrong kind of soup in the cupboard.

**MEAT BALL PORCUPINES**  
Combine 1 lb. ground beef, 1 cup cooked rice (or 1/3 cup uncooked rice), 1 tbsp. finely chopped onion, 1 tsp. parsley flakes, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1/2 tsp. pepper. Shape into small balls, placed in baking dish. Mix 4 cups canned tomatoes, 2 tsp. sugar, 1 tsp. salt. Pour over meat balls. Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees. Serves 6.

**SWEDISH MEAT BALLS**  
Soak 1 1/2 cups soft bread crumbs in 3/4 cup milk. Sauté 1/2 cup finely chopped onion in 2 tbsp. butter or margarine until soft. Add to bread crumbs, along with 1 slightly beaten egg, 1 lb. ground beef, 1/2 tsp. nutmeg, 1/4 tsp. salt, 1/8 tsp. pepper. Mix well, then shape into balls, about 1 1/2" in diameter, roll in flour and brown in 2 Tbsp. butter for about 10 minutes. Add 1 cup cream (or 1 cup stock), cover, simmer gently for 10 to 15 minutes. Remove meat balls to serving dish, thicken gravy with 1 Tbsp. of flour blended with an equal amount of water. Pour over meatballs. Makes about 6 servings.

## Mrs. H. Bessem - again president

Members and guests at the annual meeting of the Arts and Crafts of Georgetown enjoyed the talk and demonstration on hat making by Mrs. W. J. Crichton, Limehouse.

Her display of handmade hats was varied and colorful, and the skillfully demonstrated the various types, including 'Instant Hats.'

Reports of the year's activities were given by committee conveners.

The meeting was held at Miss Gladys Fraser's Spot on Seven. The following officers were elected for 1969:

President Mrs. H. Bessem of Acton district; 1st vice president Mrs. Leslie Clark; 2nd vice president Mrs. H. P. Clarke; treasurer Mrs. C. Brandford; corresponding secretary Mrs. C. Fogal; recording secretary Mrs. D. Charles; craft convener Mrs. J. Mills; program convener Mrs. G. Irons; social convener Mrs. R. R. Corbett.



## Taylor-Rognvaldson wedding in Trinity church December 28

In a Christmas ceremony at Trinity United church, Janet Clarice Rognvaldson and Robert William Taylor were married on Saturday, December 28. A winter storm had banked the church with snow and ice for the ceremony at 3.30 p.m.

Candelabra, bouquets of red and white carnations with pine bows and two large lighted Christmas trees decorated the church for the ceremony performed by the Rev. Gordon Turner.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Rognvaldson,

265 Main St. N. and before her marriage was employed at the Prudential Insurance Co. of America in Toronto. The groom, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Taylor of Collingwood, is assistant business administrator with the Orillia district school board.

The bride chose a simple A-line gown of white French crushed velvet, the high waist accented by a white velvet ribbon closing at the back with a bow. Her veil, a large puff of net, was held by a white velvet bow. She carried a bouquet of white Fiji mums, accented with seasonal red holly berries and green holly leaves. All wearing midnight blue velvet and white, her attendants were her sister, Miss Nancy Rognvaldson, as maid of honor, the groom's sister Miss Donna Taylor, the bride's cousin Miss Marcell Bailey, and a friend, Miss Judy Thompson, as bridesmaids. With their deep blue velvet floor-length jumpers they wore white French crepe blouses with Musketeer sleeves and long pointed collars. Their headpieces were fashioned of white baby mums. They carried Christmas bouquets of large white Fiji mums with bright touches of holly.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, Clarence Rognvaldson.

Groomsman was Jerry Rogers, a friend; the ushers were Bill Rognvaldson, cousin of the bride, Dennis and James Kirby, cousins of the groom.

Dr. George Elliott played the organ for the ceremony. Soloist was Mrs. Brian Barbeau who sang Wedding Prayer.

The reception was held in Acton Music Centre. Relatives and friends braved the ice storm to attend from Leamington, Trenton, Collingwood, Toronto, St. Catharines, London, Thessalon, Hamilton, Guelph, and Orillia as well as Acton and district.

Mrs. Rognvaldson wore for her daughter's marriage a dress of dusty pink Tissu Michel with variegated feather hat, black accessories and cymbidium orchid.

The groom's mother assisted in the receiving line, wearing teal

Three retiring women employees from Beardmore and Co. were honored at a banquet party in the legion hall Saturday evening by fellow workers self-styled the Beardmore "girls". Mrs. Grace Townsley, Mrs. Doris Cook and Mrs. Addie Wiley were taken by surprise as Helen Le Sueur and Martha Kelly, pinned corsages on them and led them to places of honor surrounded by friends and co-workers. A bounteous banquet was served by the ladies of the Legion Auxiliary - under the cohesiveness of president Lois Gordon. Afterwards the three guests of honor were presented with silver trays with gold handles. Fern Shultis read a presentation speech in the form of a poem and it took in thoughts and best wishes for their retiring years. All three were pleasantly surprised and each replied suitably to the presentation. Grace, with the company 26 years, said the occasion also was a sad time because she would miss the girls. Addie, retiring after 27 years, was thrilled especially since she thought the honor was being bestowed on Grace only. Mrs. Cook, who served 18 years, said she was overwhelmed. Bingo and euchre were played afterwards and Lil Bradshaw entertained on the piano. Her songs and music added a delightful touch to the party and she in turn was presented with a gift. Mrs. Shultis is sending a letter of thanks to Beardmore president Norm Braida for the donation on behalf of the company. She remarked that she hoped each retirement would be marked by such an occasion. Almost all the "girls" participated.

DORIS COOK, Addie Wiley and Grace Townsley were presented with trays and honored at a banquet in the Legion hall by fellow women employees of Beardmore and Co. Saturday. The trio recently retired from the company after a total of 72 years' service. (Staff Photo)

black patent handbag which was the gift of Beardmore and Co. on her graduation from University of Guelph. Her diamond stud earrings were the gift of the groom.

The couple are living at 99 Mississauga St. W. Orillia. There were several showers and presentations held for the bride-to-be.

The Rognvaldson relatives held a bathroom shower when Mrs. Gordon Rognvaldson and her daughter, Mrs. J. Raetsen, were hostesses at Mrs. Rognvaldson's home. At Whittby, Mrs. J. Coates, a cousin, held a personal shower for Kerman relatives.

A kitchen shower was held by Mrs. C. Macaulay at her home in Toronto. Co-workers of the bride's mother held a presentation at the home of Mrs. J. Dowling. The bride's co-workers held a presentation for her in Toronto. Acton friends and neighbors attended a shower at the home of Mrs. G. W. McKenzie.

## Social evening, presentation mark retirement

IGA DRAW  
Winner of a weekend draw at the IGA store was Mrs. Joyce Diamond, 70 Roseford Terrace. Her prize was an eight-piece snack set.

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## Personals

Miss Pat Bittorf is a patient in the Sick Children's Hospital, Toronto.

Mrs. Lorne Norton is a patient in St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph.

Della Moyse, 194 McDonald Blvd., had the misfortune to lose part of three fingers on her left hand in an accident at the H. K. Porter Co. plant this week.

Two carloads of Acton U.C.W. members attended the Presbytery U.C.W. meeting in Burlington Monday. Unfortunately Mrs. B. Veldhuis fell as she left the meeting, and was treated in hospital before she was able to return home. She has suffered a cut head and broken thumb.

## Piano, singing honors awarded

Miss Evelyn Allen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Allen, Georgetown, was successful in passing her piano and singing examinations at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. She received first class honors in both, grade 5 piano and grade 4 singing. She is the granddaughter of Mrs. Mamie Allen, Acton.

## Forthcoming marriage of couple announced



Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wheeler, R. 1, Orton, Ontario, announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Marian Louise, to Mr. Ronald Ross Swackhamer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Swackhamer, Acton, Ontario. The wedding will take place at Mimosa United Church on Saturday, February 22nd, 1969. Miss Wheeler, a registered



nurse and recent graduate of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, is on the staff of St. Mary's Hospital, Kitchener. Mr. Swackhamer, a graduate in Mechanical Technology of the Hamilton Institute of Technology, is employed in the Engineering Methods Department of Northern Electric, Bramalea.

LEAVING TRINITY United church after their marriage are Mr. and Mrs. Robert William Taylor. The bride is the former Janet Rognvaldson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Rognvaldson of Acton.

## Free Press Local News Items

**Furniture dedicated**  
Sunday morning at Trinity United church two sets and a dozen upholstered stacking chairs were presented and dedicated. The furnishings for one of the downstairs meeting rooms, were purchased from the residue in the treasury of Churchill United Church when the congregation united with the Acton congregation last summer.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING** competitions are coming up soon. The finals are February 7.

**MANY CHILDREN** and teachers are away from school ill.

**THOSE SUNNY** southern climates have had plenty of appeal for Actonians this winter.

**BE KIND TO** your friends. If it weren't for them, you'd be a total stranger.

**MANY LOCAL** anglers have been enjoying ice fishing on northern lakes these weekends.

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