

the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

The big trail ride at Rockwood is tomorrow (July 27) and I'm not just too sure what shape I'll be in by the time I finish the 25 miles (in 5 1/2 hours with trail tests to boot) and I thought I'd better write some sort of an explanation in case I don't get a chance to finish this.

The youngsters and I have had the horses out three or four evenings a week, tearing around the concession block, trying to get in shape. And I'm in some shape—Windburn on the front side and blisters on the—elsewhere. I'll have to remember to take along a few band-aids just in case.

I did just about get hung up in a tree, too. I put up my arm to ward off a big dead branch and the dang thing went up my sleeve and lifted me. Velvet walked right out from under, and I was hanging there with my feet still in the stirrups hoping the horse would stop. Then something let go (I'm still not sure what) and on I went.

There was one point where Velvet wasn't handling too well, and it took a few minutes for me to realize that one rein had come undone entirely from the bit. A great help.

Not much else went wrong. Beth and Jim on their two ponies had stayed right on the mare's tail for the first 10 miles, then much to their disgust, we took them out, as they were so cold and wet they could hardly move. Otherwise, we slid down a muddy stretch of path and into a tree, which has kept me hobbling since; also, at one point Velvet decided to get out of the mud by climbing onto a little plateau with the judges. I had some time convincing her that that wasn't on the marked route. The band-aids? I took them, but when I needed them both they and me were too wet to stick together.

Much to my surprise, while I was thinking I'd be disqualified for being overtime (my watch got waterlogged and quit), I finished in five hours and 6 minutes! I felt great! And, of course, none of the family were there to see the grand entrance that I and my show-off horse made!

They were home in front of the fire.

No recipes this week, just three "make-dos" that I've recently found. First, for a makeshift suntan oil-bug repellent, use a mixture of baby oil and citronella oil (bought in drug stores). Works on horses, too.

Second, if you ride, and your jeans ride up and wrinkle where you sit, cut up a pair of old suspenders and restitch so you have a clip on each end of an 8 inch piece of doubled elastic. Slip under the instep of each boot and clip on the seams of jeans.

Third, if your cinch is chafing your horse, and you have no sheepskin on hand, the sheepskin buffers off a floor polisher fit perfectly to pad the sore spots. The food stores that carry vacuum cleaner supplies often have the new buffers without the buttons in the centre.

The bushes were weighed down with water and hanging across the trails. The easiest way to travel these paths was to lie flat along the horse's neck, but that had two drawbacks; first, every time I lay down, my binder-twine belt got hooked over the saddle horn and I couldn't get up again. Secondly, every time I looked up to see if the path was clear, it was just in time to get another wet branch slap across the face. Great fun.

Nonagenarian spent years "railroading" Canadian west

A life that spanned a great part of the history of Canada's west reached a milestone this week. Mrs. Agnes (Anderson) Davidson, widow of the late John Thomas Davidson happily marked her 90th birthday on Friday, August 1.

Mrs. Davidson spent many years with her husband in the west, when he was establishing new railroad stations in untold, burgeoning centres there. Their growing family often lived in a boxcar, shunted onto the siding, while Mr. Davidson did his work. Now, many of these small towns have seen their boom days come and go. And from the western farmers, plowing with the oxen, Mrs. Davidson has followed history to know of the first men on the moon.

She was born August 1, 1879, in the township of Nassagaweya near Knatchbull and went to school in the township. In 1901 she married and the couple went "railroading". Mr. Davidson was telegraph operator at Glaslyn, Saskatchewan, for 18 years and their last home in the west was at Spirit River, Alberta, where they spent five or six years. Then they retired, and came back to live on the family farm on the Second Line. It was just recently sold by son Charles. Mr. Davidson passed away in 1949. After an illness, Mrs. Davidson went to the McDonald

Nursery Home on the Fourth Line, and now she is in quite good health there.

As well as her son and his family, she has two daughters, Mrs. Charles Hudson (Melrose) in Victoria, B.C. and Mrs. Walter Arnold (Margaret) in Flin Flon, Manitoba. Neither were able to be here for the birthday party, but Charlie is just back from a motor trip all the way to the west coast, and he had pictures of the families to show their mother on that happy occasion. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson just returned in time for the party at the nursing home. There was a family party at their home last Sunday as well.

Guests at the birthday celebration included two sisters, Miss Isabel Anderson and Mrs. Hansen as well as nieces and friends, and the Rev. A. H. McKenzie of Knox church, to which she belongs.

In the west, Mrs. Davidson was very active in the Homemakers Institute for many years. Her father, William Anderson, was well-known in Acton; he was a coal dealer and the young ones used to love hitching rides on his wagon.

The Free Press joins many friends, as well as the family in extending birthday congratulations to Mrs. Davidson.



MRS. AGNES DAVIDSON

Free Press Personals

Mr. and Mrs. Mac Sproul have returned from an enjoyable trip out West.

Miss Jessie McGregor has been a patient in Guelph Hospital. Her friends hope for an improvement in health for her.

Mrs. Alex Mann has been a patient in Guelph General Hospital, but expects to be home soon.

Miss Grace McKiddie, Mrs. Marjory Cupples and Miss Florence Ruden of Toronto, were guests of Miss Robina C. Clark one day last week.

Mrs. Dwight Haven and Mrs. Frank Buchanan of Comber visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Elliott recently.

The friends of Mrs. W. J. McLeod were pleased to hear she was able to return home recently after a few weeks as a patient in Guelph General Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hurst and baby son have moved to Ottawa after spending several weeks visiting the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe. Hurst, Arthur Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Mac Sproul and daughters enjoyed a trip to the west coast, stopping to visit relatives and to see the Calgary Stampede. They travelled by train to Winnipeg, and from there by car.

Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Kenney of Vancouver, visited relatives and friends here. They are returning home after travelling through Europe for several months.

Mr. and Mrs. James Thornhill and family, Acton, and Mr. and Mrs. Bert Halladay and son, Guelph, enjoyed camping at Rochester.

Mr. and Mrs. James Higgins, Charlene and Jane are holidaying with relatives for three weeks in England.

The Rev. and Mrs. A. H. McKenzie and family are back again after spending July at their cottage on the French River. Mr. McKenzie is conducting the joint United-Presbyterian services this month.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Aman of Aylmer, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Harbers and family of Brinston, Ontario; Mr. and Mrs. Jake van Levr of Ottawa were recent visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harbers and boys.

Back in England for the first time in over 50 years are Mr. and Mrs. Alf Allen of Glen Williams. They flew Saturday, and those seeing them off included niece Miss Pat Allen of Espanola, and daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. John Bousfield and family of Acton. Mrs. Allen came to Canada 56 years ago—in 1913. Mr. Allen, while born here, was last there in World War One. They have nieces and nephews to visit.

Captain and Mrs. J. R. Pfaff, C.F.B. Lahr, West Germany, have been holidaying with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Pfaff, Ottawa, and Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Force in Acton. While here Jo Anne Pfaff has been attending the summer session at Waterloo Lutheran University.

Women's crafts display bountiful at 'Exhibition'

Are you so McLuhanized that you think newspapers, radio and television constitute "the media"? At the 1969 Canadian National Exhibition you might discover that the media are also alpaca, aluminum, cotton, silk, clay, wood and silver.

Each year, the Women's Division of the CNE exhibits the works of both amateur and professional craftsmen in the Better Living Centre. The division invites competition from gifted amateurs from across Canada, the United States and Europe. This year, over 3,000 hobbyists, including sculptors, wood carvers, leather workers, sewers and knitters are competing for prize money.

The Canadian Guild of Crafts (Ontario) exhibit consists of 130 works, selected from over 382 entries from most provinces in Canada. These are chosen by an international jury.

Commenting on the display, Marjory Wilton, Chairman of the Exhibition Committee, says: "The crafts in Canada have grown up and multiplied since 1931 when the Canadian Handicrafts Guild first exhibited at the Ex. The artisans of those early days didn't dream that one day their successors would be working with materials such as polyvinylchloride tubing, plexiglass, and acrylic. These man-made media along with the traditional metals, clays, and textiles, have created for today's craftsmen limitless horizons."

Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Davidson have returned from an enjoyable trip to the west coast. They visited the former's sisters at Flin Flon, Manitoba, and Victoria, B. C., as well as other relatives and acquaintances en route.

Mrs. Marguerite Taylor and Miss Robina C. Clark attended the 40th Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Terry, in Brantford last week. Mrs. Terry was the former Miss Margaret Bennett of Acton, and Miss Clark was a guest at the wedding here.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Lindsay, Tyler Ave., returned home this week after attending the International Y's Men's convention in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and another week in Ottawa.

Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Tyler Sr. have returned home from a motor trip to Manitoulin Island, Sault Ste. Marie, Mackinac Island and northern Michigan. They were particularly impressed with the island.

Funeral service at Churchill for Mrs. Clinton Swackhamer

A well-known resident of Acton and district, Mrs. Elizabeth Swackhamer passed away in Guelph General Hospital on July 28. She had been ill for a week before she passed away in her 82nd year.

She was an active member of Churchill church, which pioneer Swackhamers had helped to build. The funeral service was held in the church Wednesday afternoon, July 30. Former pastor Robert Hyde B. A. and the present minister the Rev. W. Fosbury B.A., B.D. conducted the funeral service, and interment was in Churchill cemetery.

Honorary pallbearers were Charles Lasby, R. R. Campbellville; Harold Griffin, R. R. 2, Acton; Fred MacArthur, R. R. 2, Acton; Bert Davidson, R. R. 2, Acton; R. M. Harden, Hillsburgh and Leslie Swackhamer, R. R. 2, Acton.

Active pallbearers were Donald Swackhamer, Rae Swackhamer, R. R. 2, Acton; Bill Sayers, Ottawa; Fred Thompson, Guelph and Gordon Whiteside, Toronto, five grandsons and Elmer Lasby, Streetsville, a nephew.

Daughter of Joseph Lasby and Mary Wallace, she was born in 1887 on the third line farm, now known as the Vyse property. She went as a bride to the Swackhamer homestead on the third line. Her husband, Clinton Swackhamer, farmed and was also a funeral director in Acton and Hillsburgh. They lived seven years in Hillsburgh, when she attended Hillsburgh United church.

After Mr. Swackhamer's death she came to Acton where she lived for two years before going to live in Ottawa with her daughter and son-in-law Dr. and Mrs. Charles Sayers for two years. She was back holidaying here with her son Wallace when she became ill.

Mrs. Swackhamer is survived by son Wallace Swackhamer, R. R. 2; daughter Etta (Mrs. Charles Sayers) Ottawa; and a sister Mrs. Hattie Laing, Calgary; and seven grandchildren, Sharon (Mrs. Gordon Whiteside) and Bill Sayers; Linda (Mrs. Fred Thompson), Donald, Carol, Rae and Janice Swackhamer. She was predeceased by her husband, sisters Annie (Mrs. Robert Shaw) and Kate (Mrs. Robert Fisher); brothers Charles, Wallace, Robert and Hilliard Lasby.

Fatality-free Civic holiday

No deaths were reported due to traffic accidents in the four counties of Wentworth, Haldimand, Halton and Brant.

A total of 98 accidents were reported 58 major—40 minor, with 50 persons injured. Compared to 1968 there were two more accidents and five more injuries this year.

In 1967 there were three traffic deaths reported and in 1966, there was one.

The next "Bring 'Em Back Alive" Holiday Weekend will be September 1st—Labour Day.

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Free Press Local News Items

THERE ARE few meetings these days. Too many people away.

SOME OF Acton's keen campers found over-crowded camp grounds last weekend. Some were diverted to other places.



MR. AND MRS. Wayne Doby were Married in Rockwood Presbyterian Church, Saturday, June 21. The bride is the former Darlene West of Acton.—(Staff Photo)

NEXT HOLIDAY is Monday, Sept. 1—Labor Day.

THE WORLD Olympics for the Deaf start at Belgrade, Yugoslavia next week. Acton student walkers helped finance six Ontario School for the Deaf competitors.

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