

the painted box

By Wendy Thomson
People must become so used to the sights and smells of the country that they lose some of the delight in it.

When I was small, everything was special, on picnic days—the dirt track leading back from the road, the fragrance of the hay that smelt so much like my old sewing basket, the buzz of insects, the flowers we made into garlands to string everybody with. The cliff swallows popping in and out of the sandbanks were a constant source of fascination. No matter how stony the creek or how slippery the stones, we were into the water in no time. The sun always seemed not only warmer but friendlier.

And the picnic lunch itself could not have tasted half as good indoors, especially water-cress-on-eye and tomatoes dipped in salt and dripped all over the grass.

Nowadays, I never lie on the grass without a blanket, as I have a horror of bugs crawling down my neck. The same for streams; I'm sure that if I sit down in one, something will crawl out from under a rock and bite me. Picnics? Now that we're living out in the country, we never go on them.

Recently, after I came across a little thing entitled "Autumn" that I'd written in grade 10 or 11, I realized how much I'd stopped noticing what was around me.

"The woods were dark and uninviting. Dead branches lay across the path as though forbidding entrance. Spiders, guardians of the woods, glared at all intruders from their invisible posts strung between the trees. The leaves had sunk to the ground withered and lifeless; the grass was still."

"Suddenly the sun came out, and all about me the trees seemed to be ablaze in a riot of color. A quick wind passed through the woods; the leaves were whipped back to life and danced away in the breeze. A stray patch of sunlight set spider-webs to shimmering; the sun shone like a flame in the darkness of the surrounding pines; the grass whispered and waved."

"Then the sun slipped back into hiding, the woods died another of its thousand autumn deaths, and the grass was still."

How I've changed! This fall it seemed that on every walk, I was either engrossed in conversation with somebody, or figuring out what to do when I got home. After reading that, I gave myself a mental shake and started paying attention to what was going on around me.

One particularly fine day, we drove to Eugenia, up near Fleaherton. One of my uncles, Ronny, wanting to get away from the city on weekends, had bought an old farmhouse overlooking the valley, and I wanted to see that country in the fall. Although many of the leaves were just changing beautifully, there were many on the ground.

We have almost none here as the trees by our house are mostly cedar, and it was with a

pleasant sense of rediscovery that I started scuffling around in them. Dead leaves are a thing all on their own. They rustle when kicked, crunch when jumped on, and have that singular nutty smell that personifies autumn.

We wandered along one side of the valley, pointing out increasingly colorful daubs across the other side, wondering if there was somebody across there pointing over our way at the brilliant patch of sumac spilling down the slope.

There were two huge beech trees, side by side, low and wide, with branches set in such a way as to set one's toes twitching. It looked so easy to climb. I suppose if I was on my own, I'd have been up in it in no time, but outlanders always make me hesitate. It would be truly dreadful to fall out and squish a cousin. I settled for sending son Jim to the top, in my place. Really, though, he does look far better hanging upside down than I do.

Under a linden tree, there was an odd arrangement of huge boulders. Common sense says that a farmer pushed them out of his field long ago, they rolled down the hill a bit, and settled in rough semi-circular rows, with one set apart, directly under the tree. But it was far more interesting to picture them all occupied on the night of a full moon by—what?

Not too far behind the house is a chasm, a split in the rock at least 40 or 50 feet straight down. I took one look over the edge and backed off fast. There was a time when I would have done like the youngsters, grabbed a branch and hung over the edge with no more fear of falling than a caterpillar. Maybe it's that now I know just how much I have to lose.

I've started to look again and sniff again, and even if I do keep both feet on the ground, that isn't to say that in my heart I'm not swinging by my knees in the top of a beech tree.

Much to my surprise, I've found a pancake recipe that we like more than my old Griddlecake one. It's much the same ingredients, but a bit more work.

BUTTER PANCAKES
Beat 3 yolks, 3 cups milk, 1/2 cup melted butter. Add 3 cups flour, 1/2 tsp. baking powder, 1 tsp. salt, 2 tsp. sugar, all sifted together and beat well. Fold in 3 stiffly beaten egg whites. Use a scant 1/2 cup batter for each pancake.

Something new in showers
On Saturday, October 18, Ron Lewis of R. R. 4, Acton was surprised by 12 of his "gentlemen" friends with a baby shower. As the men arrived the very surprised "nurse" Lewis greeted them masked, with baby and bottle in hand.

Among the gifts he received were baseball, hockey and football equipment and other gifts suitable for father and son.

Meanwhile, across the road, Verna Tatton was hostess at a shower for June, his wife.

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Mrs. M. Hunter hostess for Dublin W.I. meeting

The members and friends of Dublin Women's Institute held their October meeting at the home of Mrs. Marvin Hunter, Blue Springs Line, Nassagaweya, last Thursday evening.

Mrs. M. McCullough presided over the meeting and for the singing of the Institute Ode, repeating of the Mary Stewart Collect and the Lord's Prayer. Mrs. Calvin McIntyre read the secretary's minutes, the correspondence and the roll call. As this was the Current Events program, members answered the roll with a news item, which was interesting and timely.

A training school on new ideas in the making of quilts is being held in Milton on October 23 and 24, but no leaders were named to attend this school.

Members were again reminded of the Dr. Ethel Chapman afternoon being held in St. David's Church, Campbellville, on Tuesday, October 28.

An invitation was received from the Ladies' Board of Acton Fall Fair to attend a reception at the Acton Library on October 21, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. to meet with exhibitors, and discuss and plan new classes in the different departments in the prize list.

Mrs. McCullough thanked the ladies for their contributions toward the exhibits at the three neighboring fairs, and also those

helping to arrange the exhibits. Mrs. M. Nellis gave a full account of a meeting of the District Directors held recently in Milton which she had attended.

The Guelph Area Convention was held at the University of Guelph on October 8 and 9, and Mrs. W. J. McIntyre and Mrs. D. Moffat had attended on alternate days. Reporting for the first day, Mrs. McIntyre gave a splendid report. The theme of the convention this year was "It is difficult to look ahead further than the eye can see". She mentioned that Miss Shirley Sayers, of Acton, had capably acted as commentator for the Halton 4-H Girls.

Mrs. William Pierce gave an interesting and newsy paper on Current Events.

Mrs. Willard Britton again contributed to the treasury from the booth at the auction sales room at Stewarttown.

Mrs. E. Norton handed out pamphlets from the Canadian Cancer Society and invited the ladies to attend the showing of two films next Wednesday, October 22, in the high school auditorium.

Mrs. D. Moffat and Mrs. W. Britton served a delicious lunch, and Mrs. McDougall thanked the hostess, Mrs. Hunter, the lunch convener and all who had taken part in the program.



FAIR LADY directors entertained Tuesday at a secretary-treasurer of the women's division tea in the library. Pictured with president Mrs. Ontario Association of Agricultural Ida Matthews is Mrs. Charlotte Ironside.

Free Press Women's Page

Legion ladies bazaar raises \$800 Saturday

Legion Ladies raised over \$800 at their annual bazaar and tea, held last Saturday in the Legion auditorium.

Conveners were Ruth Courtney, Rene Johnson and Gwen Price for the penny sale; Mrs. Mathewson for the tea tables; Shirley Drew and Madeline Hardy for the fancy work; Fern Shultis and Phyllis Angell for the touch and take table; Lois Gordon, Eileen Wedge and Freda Lamb for the fish pond; Helen Fowler and Lucy Synnott for baking; Elva Masales for the cake draw; Janet Rogers and Joan McKnight for the big draw.

Winners for the cash draw were Gwen Andrews, Acton, Mrs. M. Buchanan, R.R. 2

Acton, and Brenda Adams, R.R. 2, Erin.

Agnes Rose won the tea table draw, Vera Spies and Jean Milne the groceries; Sharon Turkusz the Barbie doll.

Penny sale winners were: Cream and sugar Sandra Coker; tray Patsy Wheeler; glasses Paul Cargill; earrings and pin Linda Enung; apron Phyllis Angell; picture Ruth Dago; relish set Shirley Crantz.

Jelly mould Mrs. Coles; cup and saucer Dorrie Morton; cup and saucer Joan Ford; carving set Madeline Hardy; dish cloths Kay James; bowl set L. Howson; plaques Gail Currie.

Baby bottle and booties Toots McMullen; pillow cases Joan Smith; bowls Reg Marsh; notepads Lili Tennant; coasters Diane Butler; baby booties Jean Precious.

Apron Marilyn McLaughlin; dishes Helen Dawkins; apron Susan Drysdale; baby set Susan Drysdale; juice set Wib McMullen; serviettes Donna Schuck; rolling pin and plate Elva Masales; pillow slips Kay James.

Apron Mrs. Harold Harris; silver dish A. Buchanan; picture Betty Hardy; salt and pepper Mrs. McGladry; cats Len Randall; towel set Madeline Hardy.

Relish set Mrs. Doug Price; salt and pepper Marj Jordan; juice set Shirley Crantz; pillow cases Sylvia Foley; tray and glasses Fern Shultis.

Cancer prevention described to group

The evening unit of U.C.W. met in the church on Wednesday evening of last week for their regular monthly meeting.

President Mrs. G. Johnson chaired the meeting and secretary's report was read by Mrs. William Coats.

Guest speaker was Mrs. Coats who gave a most interesting talk on the prevention of cancer. She invited everyone to view the films at the high school on Wednesday evening of this week.

Mrs. M. Symon, supply convener, brought material and the ladies spent the balance of the evening rolling bandages for lepers.

Plans were made to tour the school for the deaf on Oct. 27. This is in lieu of a November meeting.

Lady curlers enjoy bridge

Acton lady curlers enjoyed an afternoon and evening dessert bridge and euchre at the home of Mrs. Ruth Leatherland, on Tuesday, October 21, with 52 attending.

Taking home the prizes for the afternoon bridge were: High, Mrs. Fred Salt, Mrs. Laura Lovell; consolation Miss Ruby Clark.

Evening bridge winners were: High, Mrs. Val Drinkwater, Mrs. Marilyn McArthur; consolation, Mrs. Jackie Nolan.

Euchre winners were: high, Mrs. Helen Middleton, and consolation, Mrs. Ina Mellon.

Free Press Personals

Mr. Jack Carpenter had a first-time visitor recently when Walter and Teresa Kane (nee Teresa Brine), 61 Brant Street in Guelph, brought their new son Steven, born July 29, to visit. The baby is fat, chunky, and adorable and weighed in at 8 lbs. 1/2 oz. when born.

Mr. and Mrs. John Musselle and daughters Monica and Andrea of Sault Ste. Marie spent last week at the family home, R. R. 1, Acton. A highlight of their stay was a family tea party Saturday afternoon celebrating Andrea's first birthday, a very happy occasion for her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Musselle.

Mr. Russell Murray is a patient in St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, where he underwent eye surgery Monday.

Friends will be sorry to learn Mrs. John Van Den Brink is a patient in Guelph General Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Mervin H. Soyster of Seattle, Washington are in Acton visiting with Mrs. Soyster's sister Mrs. Anne Talbot and family.

Diamond anniversary for Mr., Mrs. Griffin

A well-known Erin couple, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Griffin, were at home to relatives, neighbors and friends on Sunday afternoon, October 12, in Erin United Church, to mark their diamond wedding anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Griffin were married on October 12, 1909, at the bride's parents' home on the fifth line with Rev. G. O. Black officiating.

The bridesmaid of 60 years before, Mrs. R. L. Davidson of Acton, and the best man, Carman Griffith of Mishawaka, Indiana, brother of the groom, were both present for the happy anniversary celebration.

The table was centred with a three-layer wedding cake made by their daughter, Mrs. William Thompson, and Mrs. Robert Marshall, and decorated by Saunders Bakery.

Mr. and Mrs. Griffin farmed in Erin township on the sixth line until they moved to Erin six years ago. They are members of Erin United church.

Many lovely gifts, cards and

flowers were received as well as messages of congratulation from Queen Elizabeth, Prime Minister Trudeau, prime minister John Roberts, Robert L. Stanfield, A.P. Hales, M.P., John Root M.P.P. and a plaque from the province of Ontario.

Those who poured tea were Mrs. Tressa Keeler, sister of the bride; Mrs. Carman Griffin, sister-in-law of the groom; Mrs. Robert Master, Mrs. Ben Morfitt, Mrs. James Delaney, Mrs. Pearl Bingham, Mrs. Harold Griffin and Mrs. Ed Smith. Those who served were Mrs. Bert Berry, Mrs. Jim McArthur, Mrs. Emma Keeler, Miss Doris Fines, Mrs. Jim Mundell, Mrs. Mac Sprowl, Mrs. Judd Hoare, Mrs. Ken Hall, Mrs. Harvey Peavoy, Mrs. Lorne

Keeler, Mrs. Earl Fuller, Mrs. Robert Marshall and Mrs. Wilmer Davidson.

Helping in the kitchen were Mrs. Dolly Baird and Mrs. Smith. In charge of the guest book were Brian Delta and Bill Thompson.

Friends were welcomed from Indiana, Niagara Falls, Ottawa, Vineland, Beamsville, Toronto, Stayner, Barrie, Holstein, Fergus, Kitchener, Breduau, Guelph, Grand Valley, Hillsburgh, Coningsby, Brampton, London, Georgetown, Acton and the surrounding district.

Their daughter, Mrs. William Thompson, held a surprise buffet supper in the church in their honor, with 30 guests.

Bale, bake sale, tour planned by U.C.W. unit

On Tuesday, Oct. 14 the ladies of group 2 of U.C.W. met in the parlour of Trinity United Church with Mrs. Voldhuis in the chair in the absence of

Fair ladies entertain

About 30 attended a very pleasant and informal tea in the library meeting room Tuesday afternoon, when members of the fair ladies' board entertained exhibitors and special guests. They discussed possible changes in the prize lists and classes, and felt the afternoon would be very profitable in changes being considered.

Suggestions received at the fair were discussed as well.

The tea table, set with silver tea service, was centred with a lovely pink and white bouquet for the first-time event.

Meatie Maids sample steak

On Sat., Oct. 18 the Dublin Meatie Maids held their third meeting at the home of their assistant leader, Mrs. Douglas. The meeting commenced with the 4-11 pledge. The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted. The roll call was answered by all the girls present.

They decided to hold the fourth and fifth meetings together at Mrs. Douglas' home on Sat., Nov. 1.

Mrs. Lashby and Mrs. Douglas presented notes on Meat Cookery followed by a discussion on various methods of cooking different types of meat.

Each of the members and leaders sampled Swiss steak prepared by Marilyn Barber and Doris Black. Cathy Lashby prepared bacon and Mrs. Douglas served tea and cookies. All of the members agreed that it was a delightful and appetizing way of preparing steak.

Next on the menu is beef stew and dumplings.

president Mrs. Eaton, opening with a short poem and prayer. Mrs. Harrington was in charge of the devotional period. The story of talents was the theme of her discussion. The secretary's report was given by Mrs. E. Lambert for Miss A. Atkins.

Roll call was answered by 21 members. There were 44 home visits made and 13 hospital calls.

Cars are to be at the church at 7 o'clock Oct. 27 to take the members on a tour of the School for the Deaf at Milton. A bale is to be packed at the church Oct. 21 at 9 a.m. Good used clothing, shoes etc. are to be left at the church. A bale is to be packed also to be sent to Allan Lauder. A sale of baking is to be held at Simpson-Sears Nov. 13 from 10 o'clock until 2 o'clock or until sold out.

Mrs. Dedman sang a very lovely solo Beside Still Waters, accompanied by Mrs. Denny. Mrs. Force will have charge of the November meeting.

Mrs. Shoemaker gave her regular very thorough report on all nursing homes and also sick and shut-ins in the congregation. Mrs. Force spoke on a farm home that takes in deaf children. The owners, having three deaf children themselves, seem to know just how to handle these otherwise incorrigible children and are making a splendid contribution to the handling of handicapped children. This home is on 25 Highway this side of Milton. Rev. Kobl. Kumball has been looking for just such a place and we will be hearing more of this young couple and their project in the near future.

Mrs. Shoemaker read a letter in the form of a poem for fall from Mrs. Walker in Vancouver which was enjoyed by all. The Walkers are very much at home and quite contented.

Mrs. Cleave's group served a dainty lunch and all enjoyed a social half hour.

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