

# the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

I had thought that the Christmas of '63 had been the most hectic and disorganized that could ever happen. I was six months pregnant with David, had been in the hospital for a rest, but was let out for the holidays just in time to nurse Beth through the chicken pox and Gord through near pneumonia, then had woken up Christmas morning with the chicken pox, myself. It was amusing in one sense, (my doctor just stood and laughed when he saw me) but I felt absolutely miserable, and lived in the bathtub for a week. Needless to say, the hospital wasn't that keen on taking me back.

This year we had another maternity case which disrupted whatever plans we had made and whatever schedules I had set myself to. Lil, the Black and Tan Cockerhound that had visited us a couple of months ago was back to stay another while. By our figuring, she was due to have pups on the 18th.

Now, I've never had pups before. I'm an old hand with cats and kittens, but was a little nervous at the thought of being midwife to a dog. (I KNEW that she'd produce while Gord was far away.)

When the appointed day came, Lil began making nests. Whenever she found a cupboard with the door open, she had immediately dug out and had everything dug out and re-arranged. Then she'd sit in it for about one minute, then be out and on to something else. She tore any loose paper up, dragged rugs and blankets around, climbed into beds, boxes, and drawers (all 70 pounds of her)—all with me pacing behind her.

My problem was that I didn't know how fast her delivery would be. Our cats just come in, "arow" at me, hop up on the bed—and bang! There they are! Lil kept coming to me looking rather wistful, then trudging off to find a spot, with me bringing up the rear. And so passed Thursday, and Friday, and Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. The house was full of shredded newspapers and misplaced articles that Lil had expropriated.

I suppose we wouldn't have been so lenient if it weren't for the fact that we'd been waiting years for Lil to have pups by our big hound, Rip. Up till now, she'd always managed to get together with a collie, first. But this time, with a lot of planning and such, things worked out all right.

Here's a recipe to help use up

## Greenock W.I. Christmas program

Bright Christmas decorations and lights greeted members of Greenock Institute when they met at the home of Mrs. Alfred Winter for their December meeting. Mrs. James McCulloch, assistant secretary, was in the chair in the absence of the secretary Mrs. C. Aitken.

Mrs. G. Wallace read the poem "The Queen Prepares for Christmas" following which all joined in the singing of "Joy to the World."

Roll call "Christmas Memories" was answered by 12 members present. Mrs. J. McCulloch read the Christmas story for meditations. Minutes of the previous meeting were read. A donation was given to the T.B. seals Christmas fund. The adult retarded group for Wellington County was also remembered.

Gifts of fruit and goodies were to be sent to shut-ins in the neighborhood.

## Traditional choir service

A very impressive program of carols and lessons followed the tradition of worship at the United Church on Christmas Eve. The music was under the direction of organist Dr. George Elliott and included a wide variety of favorite and less familiar seasonal music.

Lessons were read by representatives of various church organizations, John Kirkwood, Julie Smith, Bob Specker, Roberta Nesset, Brian Sampson, Mrs. H. R. Force, Jack Tatton, Mrs. R. Bruce and Orwell Johnston.

## Euchre winners

Winners of the euchre at the L.O.L. hall, Crewsons Corners were: Ladies' high May Swackhammer; ladies' low David Dewar; Men's high Dave Swackhammer, Men's low Alan McDonald.

Door Prize Don Peacock. Lone hands M. Swackhammer. 50-50 Draw, Muriel Holmes.

leftover turkey.

## TURKEY TETRAZINI

Melt 1/4 cup butter in frying pan. Add 1/4 cup sliced mushrooms and 1 Tbsp. chopped green pepper (or 1/4 cup chopped celery) and cook until soft. Blend in 1/2 cup flour. Add 1 1/2 cups of turkey broth or chicken broth and cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until thickened. Add 3/4 cup thin cream or top milk. 2 Tbsp. sherry, salt to taste, and 2 cups diced cooked turkey or chicken. Cook one half of an 8 ounce package of spaghetti according to directions. Add to sauce. Place in shallow casserole and top with 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Serve immediately, as it loses its creaminess if overcooked. Serves 6.

## Faulkner-Kentner wedding in city

Bertha May Elizabeth Kentner and Arthur Owen Faulkner were married on December 20 at four o'clock in Alderwood Presbyterian church, Toronto. Rev. Fredric Allen Pickering officiated.

Mrs. Faulkner wore a pale blue dress with black accessories and carried red roses on a white Bible.

Mr. and Mrs. Eldwin Hood were attendants for the couple, and the wedding dinner was at the Grenadier restaurant in High Park, Toronto.

Mr. Faulkner, who was honored at a retirement party at the Four Seasons Motel, Toronto, last January, was an employee of General Bakeries, as production manager and on the road travelling from plant to plant.

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Summary day for the project Dressmaking with a Difference will be held on Jan. 7 at Guelph. Mrs. Eleanor McKeown, convener for the evening program, read The Legend of St. Nicholas and also Christmas Customs in other lands.

Mrs. K. Eckrick told of her first Christmas in Canada and Christmas in her homeland Germany.

A demonstration on making of a Christmas tree decoration was given. A contest on letters of the alphabet was won by Miss E. Pearen. The singing of Silent Night brought to a close this delightful program.

A delicious buffet supper was served and a social half hour spent during which an exchange of gifts was held.

Mrs. Elwood Johnston was courtesy convener. The January meeting will be held at the home of Miss Elva Pearen.

## Social, family services unit formed to cover all Halton

Effective on Jan. 1, Halton County has a new county-wide unit of welfare administration, the Halton Social and Family Services Unit.

The administration will handle general welfare, family counselling, homemakers and nurses services, credit counselling and day nurseries across Halton.

J. D. Gray, Oakville's present welfare administrator, has been appointed administrator of the county service and Rennie J. Vivian, Halton's family counselling service head, will serve as deputy administrator.

Both men will work from central offices in the Halton County Administration Building in Milton. Any caseworkers or others employed by the county service will be drawn from the present welfare and counselling staffs of Halton's municipalities.

Arrangements to launch a county social and family services unit were made by the Halton Child Welfare Committee headed by Deputy-Reeve W. A. Reeve of Burlington. A special



MRS. DOROTHY WRIGHT, 10 Newstead St., Guelph, accepts the keys to the snowmobile she won in the Junior Farmer draw from County Junior Farmer president Carol Swackhammer. (Photo by Brian Bessey)

sub-committee chaired by Deputy-Reeve Ron Harris of Milton carried out the studies for the child welfare committee, and this group also included Deputy-Reeves Tom Hill of Etobicoke and Gordon Agnew of Nassawaug.

Approval for the setting up of this new service was granted at County Council's December meeting. The Child Welfare Committee held another meeting Monday evening of last week when it was recommended Mr. Gray and Mr. Vivian head up the service. Arne S. Nielsen, administrative supervisor with the Ontario Department of Social and Family Services attended the meeting and expressed the department's pleasure that Halton was taking such a forward step in welfare administration. He also outlined several advantages a county-wide unit would have over individual welfare administration by separate municipalities.

The province will pay half the cost of family counselling work plus half the salaries and fringe benefits of the staff.

When the new service is in operation the headquarters of the unit will be based in Milton with branch offices in Oakville and Burlington, and possibly in Georgetown.

In future all investigations for admission to the county's home for the aged will also be handled by the Social and Family Services caseworkers. In the past this work has been handled by municipal clerks and their staff. The County of Peel has also expressed an interest in the Halton experiment.

Deputy-Reeve Harris reported the social and family services unit would offer full services from the beginning and could grow to offer more.

## Late service well attended

Congregations of the Anglican and United churches joined for the 11 p.m. service at St. Alban's church on Christmas Eve. Due to the illness of Trinity minister Rev. Gordon Turner, an invitation was extended to the congregation, with the full support of the bishop.

The overflow crowd had to be accommodated in the parish hall. It is the first time members of the congregation have taken communion together.

## Women curlers games, draw

Women curlers held a Christmas party in the new curling club before Christmas and enjoyed lunch together after their games.

Winner in their draws were Mrs. Ken Allen, R. R. 1, Georgetown, and Mr. Korranice of Brampton.

## Help out at HOPE

It was a "very merry Christmas" for the adult retarded trainees at Halton Opportunity Product Enterprises workshop at Hornby, manager Mrs. W. Iham reports. "They all went home loaded with presents on Tuesday," she said.

Santa Claus (Kinsman Jack Lavoie of Georgetown) and another Kinsman Frank Bryant arrived Tuesday with a new sweater for all the trainees and staff plus a parcel with oranges and candy. They stayed to enjoy

a Christmas turkey dinner the trainees had prepared themselves, and guests at the dinner were the staff and several people who have assisted the workshop in a number of ways during the past year.

Georgetown Auxiliary members also brought presents for all and the Milton and Acton Auxiliaries contributed money to buy presents for the trainees. Milton Fire Department ladies auxiliary also arrived with gifts in the afternoon.

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