

the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

Usually, it takes us a week to recover from Christmas, and we celebrate New Year's Eve by going quietly to bed at nine, and wishing each other "Happy New Year" whenever (or if) we happen to remember, next morning. This year we decided it would be a nice change to have people in, and celebrate New Year's with a bit of style.

As usual, I left pretty near everything till the last minute. At Christmas, I'd thought to make things easier for myself by cleaning ahead of time. I'd vacuumed the house early, then had to do it all over again after Gord and the youngsters decided to pluck a goose in the living room.

This time, I dashed around like a demented person most of the day. I vaguely remember stumbling to the phone, about three in the afternoon, to suggest wistfully to one of the guests that if everyone wore jeans, I wouldn't feel that I had to wash the floors. For that, I practically got my head snapped off. This particular friend had been madly sewing up a white brocade dress for the evening and was going to wear it no matter what!

When she did arrive, she looked beautiful, but I got the giggling feeling that something somewhere was wrong. No matter which way she was headed, part of her seemed to be coming and part going. We finally traced it down to the fact that she had put the sleeves in backwards, and her arms were going the wrong way.

It was a marvellous evening. The company was good, the conversation was lively, and the food was done on time. And when midnight came, I had the chance to kiss a few other attractive husbands besides my own. And Gord didn't get huffy—he rallied admirably and pucker up for the wives.

Acting on a suggestion, we introduced the old English custom of having a tall dark stranger appear, bearing a coin, a piece of wood, and a piece of bread, to be the first one crossing the threshold after midnight. This is to ensure a year with an ample supply of wealth, warmth, and food. As there was no tall dark stranger handy, I supplied my tall, dark husband with a silver dollar, a piece of kindling, and a dinner roll, escorted him out the back door, and gave him a warm welcome at the front.

If this works, we're thinking of renting him out next year to anyone who has no tall dark stranger of their own.

When I finally got to bed at three, I was wide awake, and lay thinking of all the nice things that were going to happen in

'70. Foremost on the list was, of course, the foal due to arrive March 21; secondly, the prospect of watching the two little Coonhound pups growing. Although their eyes were only starting to open, they were already up on their feet, had their fat little stomachs clear of the floor and were staggering around blindly. The mother would sit and watch them with the look of startled amazement that parents have for children doing remarkable feats.

Then there's Andy. Our friendly ferret who disappeared in June, has made a reappearance at a house two miles away. He pops out of his hole every now and then, but not long enough to catch. We're going to try to live-trap him in the spring.

Even the immediate future looked rosy. I had Gord home for four more days, and had an invitation to ride at a friend's farm that Sunday to try out a horse that I'd admired. On that thought, I fell asleep.

For the buffet New Year's Eve, I had Paella, Honey-Soya Spare-ribs, a green salad, rolls, fruit and cheeses. The Paella is very easy to make, once you find the Saffron. I had to hunt for that spice all over town before I found it.

PAELLA

Heat 2 Tbsp. olive oil. Sauté 3 Tbsp. minced onion, 1 clove garlic minced, 1 cup sliced mushrooms. Add 1 1/2 cups long grain rice, sauté 5 minutes. Add a pinch of saffron, 2 cups chicken broth, 1 tsp. salt, 1/8 tsp. pepper, 1 tsp. brown sugar, 3/4 cup chopped celery, 1 (7 oz.) can clams, drained, 1 pound of raw shrimp, shelled.

Cover tightly, bake at 350 degrees for 40 to 50 minutes or until rice is dry and fluffy. Add 1 Tbsp. Parmesan cheese, and 1/2 cups cooked cubed chicken. Cover and return to oven for 10 minutes. Serves 10 to 12.

PARTY DIP FOR CHIPS

Blend 8 oz. pkg. of cream cheese and 2 Tbsp. cream (or evaporated milk) until smooth. Add 2 Tbsp. French dressing, 1/2 cup ketchup, and 1 Tbsp. grated onion or chopped green onion. Mix well. Serve with crackers and potato chips.

Mrs. Van Fleet heads slate

Free Press briefs

CHRISTMAS TREES, waiting for the special pick-up Tuesday, were decorated in sparkling frost.

WITH RETIREMENT of caretakers, a cleaning service now comes to the high school.

NOT VERY many calendars were given away this New Year's.

NO ACCIDENTS in town this week, the police report.

SKATING ON the ponds and creeks was good all holidays. Public skating at the arena was well attended.

CONCERNED ABOUT high accidents? The Rev. Andy McKenzie comments very aptly in today's Clergy Column.

RESIDENTS IN the town's east end, who listen all summer to the whine of model airplanes, now hear sawmills right after night, zipping around the school grounds.

SHOULD HAVE included, in last week's review of the Sixties, that Jackie Palmer topped youth bowling columnists, nation-wide, in 1969. We were reminded of the omission by bowlers.

PASSENGERS, WHO normally travel from Guelph to Toronto by train, were forced to find other means of transportation on New Year's Day, because of the minor derailment on the C.N.R.'s main line at Georgetown.

OOPS * SORRY. In last week's paper an article referred to Christmas at HOPE - Halton Opportunity Produce Enterprises at Hornby. The name has been changed to A.R.C. Industries - Adult Rehabilitation Centre.

The annual meeting of the Daughters of Knox was held on Monday, January 5, in the Miss Ellen Anderson Room. The president Mrs. Tom Watson presided and opened the meeting with all singing Living For Jesus and repeating the mottoes. Mrs. Brian Moore read the minutes of the November and the Christmas birthday party meetings. The roll call was answered by 15 members paying the treasurer the money for mancement and calendar orders. Mrs. H. Mainprize installed the following officers for the coming year: president, Mrs. Bern Van Fleet; vice president, Mrs. Harry Otterbein; recording secretary, Mrs. E. A. Hansen; corresponding secretary, Mrs. W. J. McKnight; treasurer and supply convener, Mrs. Harry Otterbein; assistant treasurer, Mrs. Tom Watson; Glad Tidings and literary, Mrs. William Nelles; press, Mrs. Mac Sprawl; Welcome and Welfare, Mrs. Jack Pink; and Mrs. Robert Paul, card convener Mrs. Bern Van Fleet; music committee, Mrs. Gordon McCann and Mrs. Clifford Ashley; kitchen convener Mrs. William Toth, group leaders Mrs. Brian Moore, Mrs. Harold Swallow, Mrs. William Spielvogel.

The new president Mrs. Van Fleet conducted the business session, concerning plans for the World Day of Prayer and Projects for the coming year. Mrs. Brian Moore and her group opened the devotional service with the hymn "Standing at the Portals" and the Scripture Joshua 1: 1-9 was read by Mrs. William Toth. A reading "Times Change" was given by Mrs. E. A. Hansen. Mrs. Robert Paul closed with prayer and the Mizpah Benediction was repeated in unison. Lunch was served.

The Rehabilitation Foundation for the Disabled (March of Dimes) helps physically handicapped adults to help themselves.



WELL-KNOWN ACTON couple Mr. and Mrs. Jack Smith celebrate their golden wedding anniversary today (Wednesday). A small group including daughter Barbara plans to spend this evening at St. John's convalescent hospital, Willowdale, where Mrs. Smith has been a patient for the past two months. This photograph was taken when Mr. Smith retired from the I.G.A. staff.—(Staff Photo)

NOTES FROM ACTON HIGH

By Mary Ann Freuler

February 1969. What a memorable month that was! For the first time in the history of ADHS there was a Winter Carnival, "Phuture Phreeze". The activities included a torch light parade, chariot races, a formal dance, snow sculpturing and who can forget the crowning of our Carnival Queen, Anita Thibodeau.

"First time Sr. Redmen take CWOSSA". This is how the high school basketball team brought fortune to the school. The Redmen participated in games against 14 other teams. Players of the winning team were Lloyd Smallwood, Phil Dupuis, Bob Turkoz, Fred Flisnik, Harry Oehlrich, Bill Landsborough, Dave Broostad, Jim Lee, George Wallis, Mike Marcoux and Steve Robb. Brian Skerrett was the coach.

March was also the month when the students brought on the plea "We should be able to evaluate the teachers." Staff and students often engaged in heated arguments concerning this topic.

Our third walk-a-thon for Cancer last April, topped the previous two years. The 170 student walkers brought in over \$1,651 for the fund. Those who walked 60 miles leaving from Markham are Bob Andrews, Gary Dobbie, Gord Reed, Lloyd Smallwood and Ted Saitz.

Open House at the high school gave the parents an excellent insight to school activities. They

were invited to test their skills in the math department, attend a geography lesson about Acton, voice their opinion concerning the compulsory attendance of class by senior students. Films, a photography display, and an art display were only a few of the many items on exhibition.

Bob Andrews, with 43 points, placed first at the annual Field Day. He had come out in the lead in eight of nine of the events he had entered. Winners for the day are as follows:

Midget boys: first Dale Fisher, Pete Morrison, George McPhail. Junior boys: Bob Andrews, Bill Spelhar, (and tied for third) Rick Newman, Roy Mainprize. Senior boys: Jim Slaven, Jim Lee, Mike Cooper.

Junior girls: Lynn Dunn, Margaret Van Arragon, Cathy Smith. Midget girls: Donna Moore, Judy Rody, Jackie Rogvaldsen. Senior girls: Evelyn Vanden Brink, Irene Severinski, Beverly Brunelle.

May was the month of the "Teen Scene", a fashion show of garments Home Economic students had sewn. Mrs. Hunter was commentator for the demonstration of everything from evening gowns to pyjamas.

The Drama Club filled the other part of the program with a play entitled "An Apple for Teacher". The cast included everyone from the town tough to the shy innocent teacher. "A Time to Remember" was the theme for the last formal of the year. Lynda Dann, escorted by John Carpenter, was crowned the Queen.

As well as the end of the school year and final exams, June also brought the presentation of the athletic awards. Jim Slaven and Susan Clendenning were chosen the top athletes for the year. Mike Marcoux was given the title of the most outstanding soccer player. Neil Anderson was named top curler.

In Junior basketball Trina VanderPolder and Dave Broostad were honored. Senior girls' basketball, Irene Severinski, Senior boys' basketball, Bob Turkoz. Bill Landsborough was rated as top volley ball player. Track and field champions were Evelyn Vanden Brink, Donna Moore, Lynn Dunn, Dale Fisher, Bob Andrews and Jim Slaven.

School was finally over for a few months but that terrible month of September soon crept up on the student body.

Following Trudy Morris's past example, Kathryn Sinclair and Susan Perry were both reported as Ontario Scholars and top award winners. For the first time the commencement exercises were divided into a junior and senior activities on separate days.

Coeled Physical Education was introduced to the senior

Mrs. Helwig Circle hostess

Because of illness among the members a below average number met for the Marion Rudd Baptist Mission Circle meeting at the home of Harriet Helwig on Monday evening. The president Frances Feltham opened the meeting with a New Year prayer followed by the singing of Breathe on Me Breath of God.

After the reading of the minutes by the secretary Aileen Lott, plans were made for the spring Thanksgiving in April and for White Cross work. Christmas gifts for the shutins were reported on.

Mrs. Hartrap and Marjorie Landsborough gave a chapter in dialogue form of the study book Grappling with Giants. They took the characters of Caste and Hinduism and showed how Christianity had disrupted the worship of heathen gods and how in other ways they could undermine the work of the church in India.

Mrs. Hartrap gave a devotional thought on Psalm 39. The meeting closed with a hymn after which the hostess assisted by Aileen Lott served a delicious lunch.

January Clearance

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ACTON FABRIC CENTRE

Free Press Personals

Brian Walker has resumed his studies at Ryerson Institute.

Mr. Basil Mellon is a patient in Guelph General Hospital.

Miss Marjorie Hall spent New Year's with relatives in Wingham.

The Baptist Hi-Fellowship enjoyed seeing the New Year in together at a party at the Landsborough home.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray Smith spent New Year's Day with Mr. and Mrs. Murray Smith Jr. at Guelph.

Mrs. Margaret Hook of Barrie visited friends in town this week.

Patricia Bittorf was able to be home for a few days at Christmas, also for New Year's Day when she, and her family had dinner at her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. George Simpson.

Parties are in order for baby Ti na McFadden who celebrated her first birthday on January 1, 1970. She is the lovely little daughter of Iris and Roy McFadden, Elmore Dr.

Mr. and Mrs. Jas Ralston spent New Year's with their daughter Mr. and Mrs. Ted Gamble, Bramalea. Mr. and Mrs. Gamble just returned from spending Christmas in Wichita, Kansas.

David Pullinger of Orsett, Essex, and Russell Long have returned from three weeks in England.

Mr. and Mrs. George Simpson had Christmas dinner with their son, wife and family at Burlington.

Miss Sandra Binnie has returned home from Norway on four weeks leave of absence from Ullevall Hospital, Oslo, where she is presently employed. Miss Binnie came home for her eldest brother's wedding.

Mrs. Anna and Wanetta Smith spent Christmas Day with son Harold, Carol and Leslie Smith in Toronto. Mr. and Mrs. William Willis of Oxford N.S. also spent Christmas with their daughter, Carol and Harold and granddaughter. Mrs. Anna Smith spent the long Christmas holidays with her sister Mrs. Gordon MacKay, Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Oakes spent Christmas with their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Gaulton and children Joanne, Douglas and Kelly of Grimsby. Also at the gathering were Mr. and Mrs. George Oakes, Nancy, Steven and Kevin of Etobicoke. Daughter Carolyn and her husband Ernest Gregory of Hamilton flew to Milwaukee to spend Christmas with daughter Peggy and Paul Lawson and grandson Ted.

Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Morrow and family of Nut Mountain, Sask., have returned home after spending the Christmas holidays with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Cripps.

Mr. Donald W. Pringle of Richmond, B.C. spent several days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Pringle, R. R. 1, Acton, on a business trip to Dublin, Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Pringle spent Christmas with their daughter Mrs. F. E. Parsons and her family at Beeton. Mr. Donald Parsons is taking his M.A.Sc. at Illinois University, Urbana, Ill. Clark and Joan are back at Toronto University specializing in languages and history.

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