

# the painted box



By Wendy Thomson

I sometimes get the feeling that life would be much simpler if we didn't have quite so many animals around. I don't think it would be half so enjoyable, though, but sometimes I'm quite willing to give it a try.

Last Friday, for example, when Little Cat decided it was time to have her kittens, none of the other cats wanted to act as midwife like they usually do, and it was left up to me.

All morning I kept getting Little Cat settled down in a box quite comfortably, but as soon as I left the room to try to get the dishes done, she's run out behind me and threaten to have them in the middle of the kitchen floor. Then back to the bedroom we'd go while I got her settled again. This went on for a couple of hours, till Thomas came home.

For some reason or other, he seemed quite interested in the impending birth of his offspring and insisted on escorting Little Cat down the hall and up on the bed, then sat and made encouraging noises while four kittens were born. Tom cats are supposed to be rather vicious toward kittens, or so I've been told, but Thomas loves taking care of one now and then, washing it down carefully and "putting it to bed."

The only time he objects at all, is when one starts nuzzling and nosing along his stomach, looking for (as David calls them) his "nibbles".



We still have two of the kittens from the last two litters, and they're just about full grown, now. One has just discovered that she's a female and the other isn't, and sits and blinks cooly at him, purring all the while. This is another worry; we'll have to get rid of them one way or another before HE finds out what she's purring about.

I'm beginning to lose confidence in my ability to tell one sex from another—I was sure they were both males. Then the morning it was raining so hard and freezing, we figured it was time to put my mare in the barn for the last few weeks of her pregnancy, but I had forgotten that the stretch of field between the pasture gate and the barn was solid snow drifts. What made it so difficult was the crust on the top.

It was thick enough to hold me for about two seconds, then I tumbled. Down I went three feet. I couldn't take my time because Velvet was hot on my heels, and all I needed was to have her step on me and Gord would find me there when the snow melted. She was having quite some time, herself. She was almost up to her belly, and it looked so odd to see this huge fat horse with her stomach sticking out all over the place, with no legs under her.

We got her in the barn, and dried and cozy, then tried to catch Morgiana, a year old filly, to put her in, too. I sweet-talked her halfway into her halter, then she snapped, but not where it should've but on my thumbnail instead! That did hurt! By the time I finished dancing up and down, the filly was gone, kicking her heels up and prancing far out of reach. Then there's Sue Sue the sloe-eyed, black-toed Coonhound pup. She makes half of every day a joy and the other half a trial. Thank heavens she isn't too much of a chewy

## Name \$50 I.O.D.E. bursary for former member, teacher

A St. Patrick's pot luck supper preceded the March meeting of Lakeside chapter of the IODE Tuesday of last week.

The chapter's bursary for the high school will be increased from \$25 to \$50 and will be named the Clara Grindley Memorial bursary. Miss Grindley, popular former teacher at the high school here and chapter member, was killed in a plane crash during a holiday trip.

The April meeting will commemorate the 52nd anniversary of the chapter. Two fifty year pins will be presented to Mrs. Isabel Watson and Mrs. Velma West, and 25 year pins to Mrs. Alice Waldie and Mrs. Helen Otterbein.

Plans were made for a bake sale in Simpson's April 17 and the bazaar date set at November 21. A bake sale at the fair was discussed.

A questionnaire will be filled out for provincial headquarters regarding interest in a bonspiel in Hamilton.

Mrs. G. Musselle read a letter from Services at Home and Abroad headquarters concerning the IODE efforts in Biafra.

Mrs. West read a card from member Mrs. Buchanan and Dr. Buchanan from Tahiti. She also gave a most interesting introduction to the study book Canada's Family Tree. Canada's first census was taken in 1881 with a population of over 3,000,000. She also announced

another first-Halton county's team concept for nursing.

Two names were added to the list of past members now deceased, Mrs. Jean Melsaac and Mrs. W. MacDonald.

The chapter plans to spend an evening together at the Mohawk raceway in April.

The St. Patrick's program, directed by Mrs. West, included a solo by Mrs. Jean Leishman and a quiz on Ireland.

## Antiques gain popularity W.I. spokesman says

The February meeting of the Nassagaweya Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. T. C. Amos with the president presiding and opening the meeting with a reading "Hope". The Ode and Mary Stewart Collect were repeated in unison. Roll call was answered with "A famous Indian or Indian custom".

The meeting was then turned over to the Historical Research conveners Mrs. J. R. Henry and Mrs. McLaren. Mrs. Henry welcomed the guest speaker, Mrs. John Bird, president of the Halton District Women's Institute. Mrs. Bird prefaced her remarks by pointing out the complete about-face as antiques have regained their popularity. It is important that we preserve our beautiful old buildings by word and picture before they disappear. Buildings of wood with gothic trim were as beautiful inside as out with their moldings, elegant fireplaces, plain and ornate carvings, graceful bannisters and stained glass windows. All this brings back the beauty of the past which may be seen and read in two attractive books displayed by Mrs. Bird, "Rural Ontario" by Remple and "Old story of Kingston" by Angus.

Mrs. Frank Wilson, Curator of Halton District Women's Institute, who accompanied Mrs. Bird, gave an interesting resume of the compilation of the Halton District Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History. It is a valuable and attractive book and a book of which to be proud. The book contains historical information and school students refer to it for help with their essays.

Mrs. Pyatt thanked Mrs. Bird and Mrs. Wilson on behalf of a most appreciative audience. Mrs. Walter Freeman and Mrs. W. C. Nicholson assisted the hostess with refreshment.

After graduating from the University of Guelph, Ron Henry is working at a mine in Sudbury until fall when he begins his studies in law.

Former fire chief Jack Newton of Toronto was a guest at the firefighters' stag last Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Bechard of Scarborough were Sunday visitors with Mr. and Mrs. E. Grishow.

Friends will be sorry to hear Mrs. Doug Price is a patient in Guelph General Hospital.

Mrs. Mary McAuley was in Toronto last week attending the funeral of her daughter-in-law, the wife of her son Angus. Mrs. McAuley leaves her husband and five children.

Mrs. H. Sayers is convalescing at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ward Bruce, R. R. 1, Guelph, after several weeks in the hospital.

### Free Press Personals

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### Free Press Local News

JUST FOUR more weeks of ice time.

COUNTRY ROADS are beginning to get dusty again.

A WORLD DAY of Prayer service was held Friday at Halton Manor.

THE LAST Y's Men's bulletin says motorcycle beatniks are little-read riding hoods.

FIVE DRIVER training students wrote examinations for their beginners' licenses last Thursday.

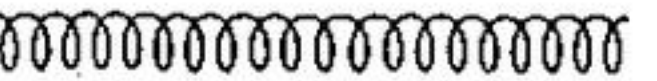
LAST WEDNESDAY'S meeting of Acton W. I. was cancelled due to the ice storm.

WITH THE old post office down, the main street seems to have lost its focal point. Acton looks flat as a prairie town without its outdated "high rise".

IN THE March 1970 issue of the publication Water and Pollution R. R. Parker has written a technical article on the sewage pre-treatment plant at Schneider's meat packing plant in Kitchener.

NEW HIGH school principal David Katz visited all Acton schools Monday, and met the high school teachers over supper.

THIS WEEK the weekly newspapers of Canada are making their presentation to Senator Keith Davy's committee on the mass media. About 45 weekly publishers are expected to be there — the largest single group yet.



## Pollution probe here

Acton will have its own small "pollution probe" this Thursday, when minister of Energy and Resources management George Kerr will speak to a full house at the Music Centre. The dinner meeting is planned by the Y's Men's club with tickets sold to interested groups and citizens.

Mr. Kerr also spoke to the high school students Monday morning during his current busy schedule.

## Matchmakers at work

On February 28, the Bannockburn Matchmakers held their fourth meeting at the Acton Music Centre in the afternoon. Some of the members brought their sewing machines, before the opening of the meeting everyone could work on their material. The meeting was opened with the 4-H pledge, and this week Ruth Kirkwood's name was drawn to read the minutes. For the business of the meeting the exhibit for Achievement Day was discussed, and information was given out on the assembling of the garments.

The roll call was "One way a girl may plan her separates to flatter her figure". The answers given were—don't choose colors that are too loud, and if the material and pattern suits you. Next demonstrations were then given on gathering, and on facings. For the record books, material was given out in the form of facings for all the members to do. Thanks were

expressed to Mrs. Kingsmill who arranged to have the meeting at the band hall and for the refreshments.

The next meeting (number five) was held at the home of the leader Mrs. Jeanette Cox on March 7. The 4-H pledge was recited by all members to start the meeting off. Linda Kirkwood's name was drawn to read the minutes.

The roll call was "One new point I have learned about cutting out and marking the garment." The answers were—keep the scissors close to the table when cutting the material, the proper way of pinning, marking, and knowing how to do tailor tacks. Then the exhibit was again discussed.

Two demonstrations were given on the reinforcing of a seam and how to insert a zipper properly. Refreshments were served.

Meeting number six is going to be held next Saturday afternoon at the Kirkwood home.

Free Press

Women's Page



A RINK from the Acton Curling Club won first prize in the Business Girls' bonspiel in Oakville, last week. Members of the rink are l. to r. Helen Otterbein, Ruth Leatherland, Willa Hewitt and Mae Dumars. (Staff Photo)

## Youth still seeks religion

Mrs. D. Nicholson, Campbellville, welcomed the ladies of the Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church, Haltonville, to the manse for their March meeting.

Mrs. D. Henderson opened the W. A. meeting with a poem, "I Believe". After the singing of the first hymn Mrs. J. Roberts read the minutes of the last meeting.

The Women's Missionary Society meeting was opened by Mrs. Norris reading a poem "A Recipe for Daily Living". After the singing of a hymn Mrs. C. Cargill read the minutes of the last meeting. The roll call was answered by a verse from the Bible containing the word sacrifice. Mrs. Norris reviewed the annual meeting held at St. David's Church, Campbellville.

Mrs. G. Campbell had charge of the devotion. She opened with an interesting paper, "Youth Still Seeks Religion". Religion attracts youth. Another point Mrs. Campbell touched on was that little kindnesses are very important.

Mrs. McLaren read the story of the Good Samaritan from the Bible. A hymn was sung and the meeting closed with prayer. Mrs. Nicholson served a delicious lunch. Mrs. Norris voiced the thanks of the ladies.

## Convention report

Mrs. W. Linham was hostess for the ladies' fair board meeting Thursday evening, March 5. The president Mrs. W. Linham was in the chair and the new secretary Mrs. Isobel McDonald read the minutes and gave the financial statement. Fourteen ladies answered the roll.

The committees for the bake sale and encheure gave their reports which were very rewarding. This money goes toward prize money of the ladies' division at the fair. The advance prize list for Acton Fall

Fair Sept. 18 and 19 is available to exhibitors in the ladies' division.

A splendid convention report was given by Mrs. W. Linham and Mrs. D. Matthews. The hostess assisted by Mrs. Dennis, Mrs. Isobel McDonald and Mrs. J. Van Fleet served a delicious lunch. Mrs. E. Archibald was courtesy convener.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. G. Wallace, lunch committee, Elva Pearen, Mrs. J. McEnery and Mrs. R. L. McEnery.

## Happy Easter

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