



UNUSUAL AS TWINS are in the horse family, proud mare Velvet is just as concerned as any mother would be when Free Press columnist Wendy Thomson assists the smallest - a 30 lb. buckskin filly to her feet while her twin brother - a 30 pound chestnut joins the family circle for the camera. Read all about it in The Painted Box. —(Staff Photo)

# the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

When we started into the final week of my mare's pregnancy, I kept thinking that I should keep some kind of diary, but probably all I'd've got into it would have been "Velvet is getting pregnant and pregnant." If I had thought she was ready, last week, she was almost bursting now.

Every night, I'd check her over thoroughly, from one end to the other, sit on a bale of straw for half an hour and watch to see how she was settling for the night, then dash up to the house to call friend Jenny. And every night, after listening to me spout off all the clinical details, she'd say (after a long pause) "Well, it COULD be soon."

Then every morning, I'd dash down to the barn all expectant, but all there was, was Velvet saying she was hungry. One morning, Gord got there ahead of me, and stuck his head back out to ask if I'd brought Velvet in out of the pasture the night before.

I ran in, and to all appearances there was no horse! Then the dim flashlight caught a flash of white. She had been standing with her head in a corner, and her rump was so black that we couldn't see her till she looked around and showed her white face, wondering what all the fuss was about.

And so we passed the week. Every night there was further signs that that night MIGHT be the night, but every morning it was obvious it hadn't been. The proper due date came and went. On Sunday, worried more by size than lateness, I invited Mac and Jenny down to give me their unprofessional opinion. Jenny took one look, and said "Oh my gosh, Wendy, she's huge! I don't want to worry you, but..."

I sat and worried all through Monday and Tuesday. But when I went to bed Velvet down, Tuesday night she started quivering at the knees, eased her bulk down onto the straw and was obviously about to give birth with no more ado. Round about then, I forgot completely everything I'd been reading up on, and made a dash for the house to get my little book.

I ran back down just in time to hear Gord say "You're too late. He's born!"

The most beautiful thing I can remember seeing was the look on Velvet's face when she saw him. You might think a horse can't show emotion, but there was surprise, then wonder, then absolute delight in her expression. And he KNEW, that although I was rubbing him, SHE was his mother and he clambered up to where she could reach him. They lay side by side, whuffling in each other's nostrils, completely oblivious to everybody else.

Gord hardly had time to say "There's another one!" before a tiny filly was lying there, not breathing and not moving. We both thought she was dead, then Gord felt a heart beat. The next few minutes were agonizing, working on that little thing, rubbing and drying her. Then she twitched, kicked feebly, then tried to raise her head.

By then, Mac and Jenny had arrived, (they shot out of their house as soon as Beth phoned and said "Twist!") and showed me how to get some milk into

## TV special starts drive

A two-hour T.V. special, designed to involve the home viewer, will be aired Saturday, April 4, from 8.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. on CHCH-TV 11. The program kicks-off the Canadian Cancer Society's April campaign for funds. The special feature will be a panel of experts who will answer questions phoned in (during air time) from viewers who want to know about the cancer disease; symptoms, treatment, research and preventive measures, and the services of the Cancer Society.

There will be interviews with the Health Minister, the Honourable John Munro, and a number of cured cancer patients. A similar show was televised last year in April with a fantastic response from the audience in viewing range of channel 11 Hamilton who plugged the station's switchboard with numerous calls.



COMPETING IN THEIR FIRST ever CWOSSA bonspiel, Acton District High girls' curling rink defeated Paris, but lost to Gait and Brantford in Owen Sound, last week. The bonspiel drew 24

## Sister group for W.I. in St. Kitts, West Indies

Twelve members and one visitor were present when the Greenock W.I. met for their March meeting at the home of Mrs. A. Gates.

Mrs. George Wallace opened the meeting saying if each member of the Institute would contribute one article of clothing to the Unitarian service it would amount to 31,501. This is something each one could think about.

The opening Ode was sung. Mrs. Wallace read a very interesting letter which the members had hoped to have had for the previous meeting. It was from Sandy Point Institute, St. Kitts Island, British West Indies. It told of the formation of their W.I. 25 years ago and the work they do among their people. This, they were told, is not a group interested in farming as we are here. Members hope to be able to keep a correspondence with this sister group so far away.

Minutes were read followed by the reading of thank you notes from sick and shut in members. Roll Call was answered by past and present farm wives "What I do to make a good farmer's wife".

Miss Elva Pearen gave as meditation "Take Courage" topic of the World Day of Prayer.

Members were reminded of the annual meeting to be held on April 14 at the home of Mrs. J. McCulloch, Acton. Conveners were reminded to have their reports ready to be handed in.

Mrs. A. Winters was convener for the "Federation of Agriculture" and brought a variety of information on agriculture and its future.

Mrs. A. Gates delighted the members with her humorous reading "The Farmer's Wife".

A contest on farm safety was won by Mrs. E. Johnson.

A delicious lunch was served by Mrs. Gates assisted by Mrs. C. Allan and Mrs. Gordon Johnston.

## Free Press Personals

Miss Nora Kenney is home again after an enjoyable trip to Florida.

Mrs. Frank Bauer of Cleveland, Ohio is spending a couple of weeks with her aunt, Mrs. Jacob Bauer and family.

Mr. and Mrs. John Leatherland of Toronto visited here on the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. William Martin of Kitchener visited relatives here on the weekend.

Miss Elva Pearen visited recently with Mr. and Mrs. William Leithead and Scott in Roxboro, Quebec.

Miss Elsie K. Stewart of Toronto visited in town last week and over Easter.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taylor of Orillia visited her family here during the Easter holidays.

Toronto teachers Miss Jane Elliott and Miss Joan Hoz were holiday visitors.

Mrs. H. F. Holmes, Park Ave., left this week by plane to have a short holiday with friends in California.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cooper and Trevor of St. Catharines spent Easter with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Coles and family of St. Marys spent Good Friday and Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Coles and Mrs. C. M. Hansen.

Delays in flights slowed the return trip considerably, but Mr. and Mrs. Ron Heller are back from their honeymoon holiday in Bermuda.

### House sold

York House has been sold to Mr. and Mrs. Ed McMullen. The large house was owned by Beardmore and Co. and used for years as a guest house.

Mr. and Mrs. Mervin Yabsley, of Ottawa spent the weekend at the parental home here with Mr. and Mrs. W. J. McLeod.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Small of Niagara Falls visited on Easter Sunday with the latter's mother Mrs. R. M. MacDonald.

Mrs. Jim Johnstone of Applewood Acres, Mrs. Edna Snyder and Miss Campbell of Toronto, were guests on Easter Monday of Mrs. M. Taylor and Mrs. M. Synon.

Friends will be pleased to know Mrs. George Simpson is recovering from major surgery, which she underwent last Monday the 23rd.

Miss Jackie Palmer, who is working on a geography project on Vancouver, visited the city during the winter holiday.

David Norman of Montreal, formerly from Acton, is visiting Peter Hargrave for a week's holidays during which he will also visit M. Z. Bennett School to meet former teachers and friends.

Harold and Carol Smith and granddaughter Leslie of Toronto spent Saturday and Sunday at the home of Mrs. Anna Smith and Wannetta.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Rognvaldson spent the Easter vacation with former Actorians Mr. and Mrs. Ted Gewecke in Milledgeville, Georgia.

Recent visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Frank, Church St., were Mrs. Jim Currie and children of Wingham, Mrs. A. Cook, Collingwood and Mr. and Mrs. Alf Gowlitt, Parry Sound.

Mrs. A. Near visited with friends in Kitchener and Waterloo over the Easter holiday.

Miss Dorothy Simmons attended the Silver Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Tom McGee on Sunday, near Norval.

Ms. Edna Tapp, Mr. and Mrs. Waudby Bilton, Iron Bridge, Ontario visited on Saturday with their uncle Mr. Donald Reed.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hargrave gave a surprise engagement party for their daughter Sandra to Mr. Werner Winstler, last Saturday evening. 42 guests were present from Toronto, Kitchener, Waterloo, Oakville, Brampton, Georgetown and Acton.

There have been happy gatherings of relatives and friends this week, when Mr. and Mrs. Brian McCristall are visiting from Chilliwack, B. C. Brian, a former reporter and sports editor here and now news editor of the Chilliwack newspaper, was married last spring and many of his Acton and Milton friends are meeting his wife Marion for the first time. They are staying here with his mother, Mrs. McCristall, sister Mrs. Fred Allen, Mr. Allen and family, Church St. Perhaps the most unusual of the gatherings arranged for the visitors was Sunday night, when former team-mates rented the ice for a game of hockey - Brian's first in three years. His wife is a school teacher in British Columbia and has this week off school. She is enjoying her first visit east and one of the first tourist trips she took was to see Niagara Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hansen, two daughters and son and Tim Brown of Montreal visited here with Mr. and Mrs. Billy Middleton. Mr. Hansen was born at Acton and married Sally Watts, Reg. N., who was a graduate of Acton public and high schools. Mr. Hansen has just recently been appointed chief engineer-system for the Canadian National Railways at Montreal; he was previously deputy chief and before that assistant area manager of the Montreal area, manager of the Hudson Bay area, regional engineer of the St. Lawrence Region as well as holding other posts at Montreal and Toronto.

## Free Press Women's Page

### Family gathering marks 40th wedding anniversary

A family dinner party was arranged to celebrate the 40th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Storey of R. R. 1, Acton. Host for the happy gathering last Saturday was their

son Edward Storey with his wife and family in Orillia. Their two daughters and three sons were all present with their families, totalling 31.

### DISABLED MAKE GOOD WORKERS

Disabled adults all have abilities which are sharpened by their eagerness to hold a job like normal people. Next time you need to hire someone, call one of the workshops for the Disabled. There are workshops in Kingston, Toronto, St. Catharines, Hamilton, Kitchener, Sault Ste. Marie, Port Arthur, Sudbury, Timmins and Ottawa.

The others are Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cannons (daughter Marguerite) and family from Victoria; Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Hilkinson (daughter Alice) and family, Acton; Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Storey and family, Acton, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Storey and family, Barrie.

A special gift was a bouquet of forty roses, accompanied by a hostess chair. The couple also received cards, flowers and other gifts to mark the occasion.

They were married in St. Orangeville, and have farmed in this area at several locations since 1950. They are now retired at Crewsons Corners.

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## Discuss current events at Nassagaweya W.I.

The March meeting of the Nassagaweya W.I. was held at the home of Mrs. Walter Freeman on March 18. In spite of the absence of most of the officers due to sickness, there was a good attendance of members and visitors. The meeting was conducted by Mrs. David DeBlauw, a past president, who opened with a short poem written by Joyce Beaton, the Institute Ode was sung and the Mary Stewart Collect repeated.

The convener, Mrs. Malcolm Moffatt, then took charge of the program and opened with a questionnaire for each present. What do you look at first when you open the newspaper? The answers varied from headlines, births and deaths to the comics. In observance of St. Patrick's day an Irish poem and some

short readings were given and all joined in a sing song of Irish tunes. Mrs. Moffatt who has been very interested in the subject of cancer, having been the contribution collector, informed the groups that Mrs. Walter Freeman would be taking over her work. She then concluded her program with a very amusing reading.

As Mrs. Moffatt is leaving the community, Mrs. Young, on behalf of the Nassagaweya W.I., presented her with a cup and saucer, and expressed the feeling of the group at losing a valued member, and wishing her well in her new home. All sang "For she's a jolly good fellow".

The roll call was a short talk on a current event and a variety of subjects such as regional government, the proposed new hydro line through the township and many others were given. Correspondence was dealt with and the treasurer's report given by Mrs. Edwards. It was decided to have a euchre party in Brookville Hall in the near future, with the previously named committee in charge. Following a suggestion made at the January meeting, a committee was named to look into the matter of placing signs at the three villages in the neighborhood, so that the travelling public would be aware of their location.

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