

# the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

I spent a great deal of time down in the little corral, getting to know the twin foals, have become absolutely fascinated by them and their antics. Whenever company came, that's the first place they'd go, armed with carrot and camera. (We've had 99 people stop in to see them so far.)

At five weeks, they were still very much the babies, but would dash out the gate to gawk at the big wide world every chance they got. Then they became quite forlorn and pitiful when they couldn't find their way back in again.

The best time of the afternoon, for me, was nap time. Black Velvet would stand and drowse, keeping a sleepy eye on her babies. They would come trotting and tottering over to where I was sitting to be petted awhile, then collapse beside me. This was a perfect opportunity to give them a good going over.

Their manes were about two inches long, and as soft and fine as a child's hair. The colt's is now beginning to lie down neatly, but the filly's is a bit wavy and sticks up in little half curls all down her neck. Their tails are ridiculous, like large feathers tacked on behind. Their flipping doesn't disturb the flies too much, so the twins usually stand under Velvet's tail where they get the full fly-swatting benefit of its sweep.

Sometimes, if you said to the colt, "Let me see your teeth", he'd stretch his neck out, roll his lips back, and display four enormous teeth that filled the whole front of his mouth. Those restless teeth were forever fastening onto any part of anybody that was available.

The colt's baby fuzz began to come out and he ran around with a woolly body and a smooth shiny rump, but the filly was still all baby. I rolled her over in the hay, and brushed her down, marveling at the softness of her underside. It was almost like rabbit fur.

Mostly, these days, we just lay and talked. We talked about hawks and clouds and grackles, of my mousing cat who always joined us, of my Tom-cat who joined her, and of the pasture.

The pasture was a great fascination to them. Velvet kept looking longingly at all that green grass, while the twins were seven kinds of curious about the other horse and the two ponies eating it.

Today I decided that they could all go out in the field together. So here we are, me up the top of the hill to keep an eye on things, and all six chasing along the flat. It's a beautiful picture against the rich green of the new grass. I think there's few things more exciting to watch than horses running free.

First are the two ponies—Daisy, dark brown with a black mane and tail; Earl Grey, Chestnut with a blonde mane and tail; then Morgy, the yearling, dark brown coming out in her Appaloosa spots with dark mane and white tail. Hot on the heels of that group is the colt, a bright chestnut, so caught up in the joy of running that he's pulled ahead of his mother, who, after so many months of confinement isn't content with the racing, but is leaping and kicking every few steps. Her winter coat is just about gone, and her black coat gleams and shines with every pull of her muscles.

And then comes the filly. Poor little Sparrow. She gets the worst of it. Every time Velvet decided to run, Sparrow is standing under her, out of the sun, looking out from under her mother's tail. By the time she collects herself after the whirlwind of legs had gone by, she's been left behind, and tears desperately after whinnying "Wait for me!" in her baby voice.

Two seconds ago, I was all alone on top of this hill, minding my own business. There was a brief thundering of hooves, and I was surrounded. I had just stretched out in the sun for a minute, and the crowd had to come and investigate.

Daisy dribbled half-eaten grass on my hair then began lipping at my ear. Earl picked up the camera case by its strap and swung it gently, with the hopeful look that there might possibly be an apple or two in it, and Morgy made off with the lead rope.

Now, they've taken off down into the bushes bordering the creek, and I know what's coming

next. You'd think there was a herd of elephants in there watering, by all the crashing and thrashing, but it's only Velvet stirring up the mud in the creek bed then rolling in it. There's about a foot and a half of water in it now, though, so she'll be more wet than muddy, thank heavens.

Yes, here she comes now, just soaking wet, with the twins looking a little alarmed at this new facet of daily living. And there she goes, down on her side to start a good roll in the dust. I can tell what I'll be doing tonight!

The recipe I've had the most comment on, is Dipsy Doodle-Cake and I'm reprinting it in case you missed it first time around. It's easy, it's quick to make, and it's good.

**DIPSY DOODLE CAKE**  
Into a large bowl, sift 1 1/2 cups flour, 1 cup sugar, 2 Tbsp. cocoa, 1 tsp. baking powder, 1 tsp. baking soda, 1 tsp. salt. Make three indentations in the flour and put 1 tsp. vinegar into one, 1 tsp. vanilla into the second, and 5 Tbsp. corn oil into the third. Pour 1 cup of warm water over all, and beat till lumps are gone. Bake in 8 inch square pan at 350 degrees for 35 minutes.

## Mission Circle birthday supper

Members of the Marion Rudd Mission Circle met at the home of Harriet Helwig for their annual birthday supper. After the delicious buffet, all gathered in the hostess' lovely sun room for their meeting.

Frances Feltham opened with a devotional thought and prayer. During the business session transportation was arranged for members to attend the thanksgiving meeting of the Georgetown Baptist Mission Circle May 12, which will begin with a dinner at 6:30. A letter was read by Jessie Coles from the White Cross secretary asking that shipments be held until further notice, because of a snag in the shipping of such goods to India.

Mrs. Landsborough gave a report on the Guelph Association meeting held last Saturday in First Baptist Church, Brampton. She summarized the highlights of the conferences held on the work of the Baptist Youth Corps, Canadian Missions and a new work being considered in Kenya. The evening closed with a contest which caused much merriment.

Jessie Coles thanked the hostess for an enjoyable evening in her home.

**LATE SEEDING** for farmers this year.

**FOUR DEGREES** of frost last night.

**BOTH KIDS** and adults have been swimming in Fairy Lake already.

**SUNDAY** is Mother's Day. If you're wondering about a suitable present, check today's ads.

**COPIES** of pictures that appear in the Free Press may be ordered, and they're ready in a week or so.

**GRASS** is greener because of all the fertilizers sold by the midget and juvenile hockey teams earlier in the spring.



CUSTOMERS ATTENDING the official opening of the new Foodland Supermarket, last Wednesday received orchids from store owner John Edmunds' wife Betty. Bea Ann Jennings and baby Joanne took a minute to pose for the Free Press camera. —(Staff Photo)

## Mrs. Gates elected Greenock president

Thirteen members of Greenock Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. James McCulloch for their 23rd annual meeting held April 14. Mrs. McCulloch gave meditations. Roll call was payment of membership fees.

Achievement day for the club "Focus on Fitness" was held at Erin district high school on Saturday, May 2.

Mrs. Gordon Leslie reported on the spring meeting of the district directors held at the home of the district president Mrs. E. Gray, Hillsburg, in March. All were reminded of the District Annual to be held in the Disciples Church, Hillsburg, on May 27. Further plans were to be made at the next meeting in May.

A thank you card was read from the Rock-Along Institute thanking the group for sharing the project, "Dressmaking with a difference".

After Conveners' reports, the treasurer's report showed another very successful year.

Mrs. George Wallace gave a summary report of her two successful years as president, thanked all for their co-operation and hoped the new president would also receive the same help for her term of office.

Mrs. Ralph Sinclair presented the nomination report.

Miss Elva Pearen was elected to take the chair for the election of officers for 1970-71:

Past president, Mrs. George Wallace; president, Mrs. A. Gates, first vice president, Mrs. J. McCulloch, second vice president, Mrs. R. Sinclair, secretary treasurer, Mrs. C. Aitken, assistant secretary treasurer, Mrs. G. Wallace.

District director, Mrs. G. Leslie, alternate dist. director, Mrs. G. Wallace, branch directors, Mrs. G. Johnston, Mrs. E. Patterson, Mrs. R. Sinclair; card, fruit and flower conveners, Mrs. A. Winter, Mrs. E. Patterson, Mrs. Leslie; courtesy conveners, Mrs. R. McKeown and Mrs. A. Winter.

Convenership: public relations, Mrs. G. Leslie; citizenship and education, Mrs. J. McCulloch and Mrs. G. Wallace; agriculture and Canadian industries, Mrs. K. Eckerick, Mrs. C. Allan; Home Economics and Health, Mrs. G. Johnston, Mrs. R. Sinclair.

Resolutions, Mrs. R. McKeown; temperance and drugs, Mrs. E. Patterson, Mrs. C. Binnie; Federation of Agriculture, Mrs. A. Winter; Tweedsmuir Curator, Miss E. Pearen; Tweedsmuir committee, Mrs. R. Sinclair, Mrs. E. Patterson and Mrs. C. Aitken.

Historical research and current events, Miss E. Pearen, Mrs. R. McKeown.

Auditors, Mrs. G. Johnston, Mrs. R. McKeown.

Mrs. A. Gates, newly-elected president, spoke her appreciation and asked for the help of the members to make her term a success.

Mrs. G. Wallace showed slides on modern kitchens that are being built in homes of today and which could be built in our own homes if we planned to remodel. These were enjoyed by all. Stewart McCulloch showed these slides while Mrs. Wallace commented.

A delicious lunch was served by Mrs. McCulloch, assisted by lunch conveners Mrs. E. Patterson and Mrs. R. Sinclair.

## A Mother's Day tribute

This tribute to Mother, for Mother's Day, was written by Vivian Wiggins Troy (Mrs. John Troy) of Hamilton, a former resident of this district. She is the youngest daughter of the late Samuel Wiggins and attended Lorne School. Mrs. Orwell Johnston is a sister.

Some of Mrs. Troy's many poems have been published in book form.

### A VIRTUOUS WOMAN A Tribute to Mother

"Who can find a Virtuous Woman? For her price is far above rubies." Proverbs 31:10.

My Mother lived a virtuous life  
Amid the cares and toils and strife  
Which met her on the common way,  
She bravely walked from day to day  
With faith in God, sweet and serene,  
She drew her grace and strength from Him.

She took delight in simple things,  
The tree-clad hills, the wayside springs,  
A sunset scene, a radiant star,  
The sounds of nature, near and far;  
In flower and shrub and growing sod,  
She saw the handiwork of God.

Her children were her chief delight,  
For them she prayed by day and night;  
How oft those humble prayers availed,  
When bitter winds of Life prevailed;  
Our fears were hushed, our griefs assuaged,  
And God was near, when Mother prayed.

In fancy I can see her now,  
Her hand upon a fevered brow,  
That tender, loving, soothing touch  
That in our childhood meant so much;  
She ministered unto her own,  
Her field of labour was her home.

In Mother's life we all can trace  
The virtues and the fruits of grace,  
Forbearance, patience, kindness, love,  
Meekness and gentleness, which prove  
That she knew fellowship with God,  
From Whom these fruits of mercy flowed.

With modesty and humble grace,  
She laboured in her own small place;  
But she shall share in the reward  
With those who served in fields abroad;  
Few honours to her here were given,  
Her treasures were laid up in Heaven.

by Vivian Wiggins Troy,  
Hamilton, Ont.

## Public health nurse group's speaker

The monthly meeting of the Daughters of Knox was held on Monday, May 4, in the Miss Ellen Anderson room. The president Mrs. Bern Van Fleet opened the meeting with all singing, Living For Jesus and repeating the motto.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Mrs. E. A. Hansen and the roll call was answered by 13 members and two guests.

Mrs. Harold Swallow and her group conducted the devotional service, reading the worship responsively. The chapter from the study book was "From Racism Toward Full Community". Christian committees, assemblies, and sermons have dealt with this topic while at the same time so have rioting, arrogance on both sides, legalism, extremism and country-wide moods of hopelessness. Many of us regardless of our colour, could readily favor a cease fire on all talk about the situation.

Two role plays concerning the mayor, realtor and black housing applicant in the first and the probation officer, young mechanic, and black girl in the second, were read and discussed by all the group.

The hymn Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life was sung and all repeated the Benediction.

Mrs. Cliff Ashley introduced Mrs. Helen Laughlin, the public health nurse for Acton and Nassagaweya. She gave a very interesting and informative talk on their work in the schools and homes of the county.

Lunch was served by the group in charge and a social time was spent.

## Ladies' Aid meeting

The Ladies' Aid of Knox Presbyterian Church met in the Sunday School room on Tuesday April 28. The president opened the meeting with a poem entitled Progress after which the hymn More Love To Thee O Christ, was sung. Mrs. McIntyre led in prayer.

The secretary's report was read and the treasurer gave the financial report. After the business was completed Mrs. Spruell read the scripture; Luke 24, verses 13-31, and Mrs. A. Mann led in prayer. The meeting closed with the singing of Pass Me Not O Gentle Saviour and a social half hour was spent over a cup of tea.

Many people will do almost anything to avoid thinking. Some of them will even work.

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