

the painted box

By Wendy Thomson
A month or so ago, friend Jenny, Mary from Eden Mills and I gathered around an odd-looking apparatus, asking each other "How on earth did they ever stay on it?" — "they" being horsewomen of a century ago and "it" being a side-saddle.

This particular saddle was 108 years old and had been bought, repaired, and recovered by Audrey Loney of Elora, who'd lent it to Jenny for the day. Mary and I, being intrigued by the sound of the thing, descended on Tinkersdale Stables all ready to cheer, applaud (and laugh at) Jenny's efforts.

Jenny throws
Once the saddle was on the mare, Sheba, we stood around a bit longer, talking, fiddling with the stirrups, — or rather, THE stirrup — and sort of filling in time, Mary and Jenny politely offering to let the other go first. Finally, Jenny gathered herself together, got her foot up about eye level and into the stirrup, and we threw the rest of her bodily into (onto?) the saddle.

Then came the adjusting. The left foot stayed in the stirrup while a curved thing was swung down over the left knee to more or less clamp it in place. The right knee hooked over another curved horn, just above the left knee.

It's fine — woops!
And there Jenny perched, worrying of all things, about where her HANDS went. Then Sheba moved off and was put through her paces with Jenny calling back "It's fine, — it's lovely! — Woops!"

Mary was game to give it a try, after that, with me being quite content to act as official photographer. Unlike Jenny and I, Mary is slender, slim and swells, and we could see immediately why riding side-saddle was called graceful. As Sheba walked, trotted, and cantered around the paddock, Mary flowed serenely along with her, looking as though she'd been riding that way all her life.

When she was done, it was decided that I should have a turn, much to my dismay. Actually, I was dying to have a go at it too, but was sure I'd disgrace myself by falling off. Out of sheer nervousness, I got the giddy giggles, and every time I looked at that chin high stirrup, I started all over again.

Almost overshot saddle
So there I was, standing on my right foot on the salt block, with my left foot in the stirrup, with Sheba eyeing this cackling creature and edging away. Then a gruff voice behind me bellowed "Stop all that nonsense and get up there!" and I flew so fast I just

about overshot the saddle. Turning, I saw nobody there but Mary looking quite innocent and very smug. But I was up.
And I was up to stay. I think if I'd WANTED to jump off for any reason I couldn't have, the way my legs were wound and clamped. I kept thinking "Now what would happen if my top half fell off the horse and my bottom half wouldn't let go!"

No seam on horse
It was a decidedly odd feeling after having ridden astride all the time, and I found the most difficulty in centering myself. Ordinarily, I knew that if my legs came to more or less the same spot on each side of the horse, I was centred. Or if I started sliding off sideways, I wasn't. But side-saddle, there's no way to tell. I fingered the centre seam in the back of my jeans and tried to find a corresponding seam on the horse, but that didn't work. I'd've put an upholstery tack in the centre of the back so that when I hit it with my tail-bone, I'd know I was square on.

I was quite happy just walking around quietly, but Jenny (being a good friend) wanted me to experience the side-saddle trot, and began to lead Sheba faster than I'd been willing to go on my own. It was marvelous! — Very smooth with no awkwardness at all. As a matter of fact, I could SIT the trot more comfortably than I'd been able to trot Sheba, astride and posting.

Feminine woman
After the three of us sat around, each with a great glow of self-accomplishment, saying "Wouldn't it be fun to own a side-saddle just to mess around on!" thinking of those women of long ago in their long, voluminous riding-habits, looking so FEMININE.

But my enthusiasm faded a bit, on the way home, as the picture continued on in my mind of those same women, cantering their horses across the open fields and gracefully jumping five foot fences. I wonder if they lost many women that way.



FRIEND JENNY tries to mount a side saddle on her frisky steed.

Answer roll call with supper item

Greenock Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. Ralph Sinclair for their regular meeting, held the evening of October 13.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. A. Gates who read a poem October followed by the usual Opening Ode, and Mary Stewart collect. Mrs. C. Allan read the meditations.

Server roll call
Thirteen members and two visitors were present, to answer roll call by naming a recipe containing a Canadian product, and each had brought a sample of their recipe which was later served for lunch.

Several letters were read. Membership was again renewed with the Wellington Historical Society.

A donation was sent to the Canadian Health Association. Mrs. G. Wallace was appointed voting delegate to the area convention held in Guelph.

Don't itch
Mrs. R. McKeown read resolutions. Mrs. A. Winter, convener for Federation of Agriculture, had prepared her motto "Don't itch for something you are not willing to scratch

for." Mrs. R. Sinclair read articles from Canadian Consumers book on Children's books, cookware, and carpets, and what we should look for when buying these.

Trip to Costa Rica
Mrs. A. Winter introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Smith Griffin, who was no stranger to our group. He gave a very interesting account of his recent trip to Costa Rica in Central America when he went with a consignment of beef cattle which were taken by plane last July.

He told of the climate, people and agriculture as it is in that part of the world, somewhat different to ours.

The meeting closed with the National Anthem.

All were then invited to the dining room where all sat down to a bountiful supper which comprised the many recipes prepared by the members which were truly delicious.

Mrs. E. McKeown was courtesy convener and thanked the hostess and assistants Mrs. A. Gates and Mrs. G. Leslie for the evening which all had helped to make such a success.

Daughters of Knox make donation
The monthly meeting of the Daughters of Knox was held in the Miss Ellen Anderson room on Monday evening, Nov. 2. The president Mrs. Bern Van Fleet opened the meeting with prayer. The hymn Living For Jesus was sung and the motto repeated in unison.

Mrs. E. A. Hansen read the minutes of the last meeting and the roll call was answered by 14 members with their orders for mince meat. Work meetings were arranged for the making of the mince meat next week.

Each member received their church calendars to distribute. A motion was passed to send \$100 to a former member of the Daughters of Knox, who is a student for the ministry.

Mrs. William Spielvogel and her group led in the devotion and the study book opening with the hymn Lord Speak To Me, that I may Speak. Mrs. William Nelles read the scripture from 1 John chapter one. The chapter "Focus on Man" taken from the new study book Man, Media and the Message was introduced by Mrs. William Spielvogel.

The meeting closed with the hymn We've a Story to Tell to the Nations followed by all repeating the Mizpah Benediction.

World Day of Prayer for Baptist women

Members of the Marion Rudd Mission Circle of the Baptist church journeyed to the home of Janice Harris, Milton, on Monday evening for their November meeting, which was the annual Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer. The president Frances Feltham opened the meeting with Scripture built around the chosen theme of Peace.

This annual program has been carried on for the last 20 years and has deepened the spiritual life and broadened the vision of Baptist women around the world. The outline this year was prepared by the Baptist women of the south-western Pacific and included special mentions of the work in Australia, New Guinea and New Zealand.

Ada Davidson took charge of the program and prayers were given by different members interspersed with hymns and devotional readings by Edna Gordon, Frances Feltham, Alleen Leitt and Janice Harris.

The special offering taken will be sent to the women's division of the Baptist World Alliance towards the travelling expenses of officers and for Baptist world relief. Harriet Holwig read an interesting letter from Mrs. Zina Kidd who has just returned to India after a furlough spent travelling thousands of miles across Canada telling of her experiences as a nurse in a 150-bed hospital at Vuyuru.

Mrs. R. Sinclair read articles from Canadian Consumers book on Children's books, cookware, and carpets, and what we should look for when buying these.

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Fryer led in prayers for home and foreign mission work. At the close of the meeting a time of fellowship was enjoyed over a delightfully new and different lunch served by the hostess and the group in charge.

The fourth meeting of the Greenock Sewing Circle was held at Mrs. Sinclair's. The roll call was answered by each girl stating "Why she chose the fabric for her dress and jacket."

Discussion was about stay stitching, gathering and joining seams.

Each girl then continued on with her record book and garments.

The fifth meeting of the Greenock Sewing Circle was held at the home of Mrs. Sinclair on Monday, October 28 at 4.30 p.m. The roll call was "Show the label you found and tell why you think it is a good one."

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Norma Leale.

They discussed what they should do on Achievement Day on January 23rd at Erin High School.

Miss Pearen demonstrated on a sewing machine joining seams, stay stitching, facing, and setting in the sleeves on a doll's shirt that Mrs. Sinclair was making.

Bird bothers Nimble Needlers
The fourth meeting of the Dublin Nimble Needlers was held on Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. at the home of Doris Black.

The meeting was opened with the 4-H Pledge and the roll call: Places the feather stitch could be used, was answered by all. The minutes of last meeting were adopted as read by secretary Laurene Rennick.

After the collection was taken they heard the treasurer's report from Cathy Lauby.

The next meeting is Monday Nov. 2 at Laurene Rennick's. At this time Gail Douglas lost her temper! She'd been yelling at the bird for a half hour now and covered up the poor darling with a blanket.

Then they discussed their free article. Suggestions for the article were place mats, a bag, an apron, a wall changing book covers or a basket cover. They learned the feather stitch and spent the next hour working on samples and the article.

Lunch was served by Doris and Mrs. Black.

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EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES




Ladies' Aid hears of bus trip east

The Ladies' Aid of Knox Presbyterian Church met in the A. C. Stewart hall on Wednesday, Oct. 28. The president opened the meeting with a poem entitled Mental Peace. The hymn What a Friend We Have in Jesus was sung and Mrs. McIntyre led in prayer. The secretary read the minutes of the last meeting and the treasurer gave her report.

After a short business period Mrs. Matthews read the scripture lesson Psalm 51, and Mrs. Agnew led in prayer. The collection was received, followed by prayer by the president, and the hymn Follow Me The Master Said, was sung.

Trip to East
Mrs. Near was called on and she gave a very descriptive report of a bus trip to the east coast of Canada which she and some other members of the Ladies' Aid had taken recently.

Mrs. W. J. McDonald showed some pictures taken on the trip. This was very much enjoyed by everyone and on behalf of the group, Mrs. Mann thanked Mrs. Near and Mrs. McDonald and presented them with small tokens of appreciation.

Gift exchange
Lunch was served by the committee in charge and before leaving the president reminded everyone that, as the Dec. meeting comes after Christmas,

the Nov. meeting will be the time for the annual gift exchange, value not over \$1.

Only 115 at auction
Only 115 people attended the auction sale sponsored by the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded held at the Agricultural Hall in Milton Fair Grounds on Saturday. Approximately 650 selling lots attracted visitors to the sale.

We were very pleased with the results although our goal has still not been reached," said Jake Kulken of Acton, campaign chairman. "Cash donations are still coming in bringing us closer to the \$40,000 goal."

Auctioneer Chris Schouten donated his time and secretary and treasurer were Mr. and Mrs. Jim Langedyk, Milton. Everything from office chairs to a wig and toiletries went on sale. Proceeds will be used for the building of a new addition to the ARC Workshop at Hornby.

Woman fails breath test

Women's rights include the right to be wrong.
On Tuesday of last week Acton O.P.P. laid the first charge against a woman for impaired driving and failing the breath test. An area woman was charged. All other such charges have been laid against men.

William Stuckey

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