

the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

The dog isn't the only one showing signs of jealousy these days. Out in the pasture, Black Velvet is being the typical Queen of the Hilltop and lordling it (ladying it?) over everything else just because Beau has come to visit.

Beau is the handsome, grey, 3/4 Arab gelding belonging to Alice-in-town, on loan for Gord to ride when he has the time. He's friendly, mannerly, and loves people (that's Beau, not Gord.) When he first arrived, he was put in a small corral and spent half the day watching the horses in the pasture and the other half, wistfully looking up the drive where he'd last seen Alice. Even at 2 in the morning, when I put the cat out the back door, I heard a soft but plaintive whinny in the dark, wafting up from the corral.

Not being able to stand this air of great loneliness, the next day I led Beau over to the gate to the pasture. There was a huge thud and scuffle as the two ponies, Daisy and Earl Grey, crashed into one another trying to be the first to greet the newcomer. Talk about eagerness! I had to just about beat them about the tail end to move them enough so that I could maneuver Beau in.

Then, for about 10 minutes, he stood and hardly twitched a muscle while Earl stood with his nose to Beau's, breathing a breath back and forth, and Daisy inspecting his ribs. Then the ponies changed places and Beau went through it all again. That must have settled something (other than that he had clean breath and all his ribs) because the ponies stepped back while Beau reared, wheeled around, then took off, jumping the creek and racing up the hill with ponies in pursuit. When they reached the top, they stopped with much prancing, blowing, and mane tossing, before flying down the other side in a majestic sweep.

Cattle join in. Before they reached the bottom, our six beef cattle got caught up in the excitement and joined in, making the whole thing quite comical, the first three being light, graceful and quite beautiful, and the cows, well, I don't think that they're built for running. Their heads seemed about to fall off, and their legs kept flying out in the oddest directions.

And Velvet? Well, when Beau was in the corral, she'd had a good look at him and decided that if she ignored him, he'd maybe go back where he came from. This attitude lasted all through the first half hour that Beau was in the pasture, although I could see that she kept one very wary eye on him constantly.

Then he made the mistake of putting one foot on the particular acre that she was grazing on. She must have been all tensed and waiting for that excuse, because she shot towards him as though she was jet-propelled, teeth bared, ears back.

Threat to kill. Up and down the pasture they went, Velvet not being able to close in for the threatened kill. Beau had a distinct advantage by being able to turn faster, leaving my ratty mare heading west while he was halfway back to the eastern fence line. Finally, tiring of this, Beau plunged into some scrub brush by the fence and took refuge in its density.

Then Velvet did her "Queen of the Castle" bit, prancing to the top of the hill on feet so light that she looked as though she was barely touching the ground. With much head tossing she proclaimed pasture ownership and pointed out how she'd just shown Beau who was boss.

And right alongside her came the colt (who'd been holding his own in all the racing around) also prancing with light, springy steps, tossing four inches of mane, and saying "Yeah, my Mom sure showed him!"

Fire and fury. That was over a month ago, and although Velvet snakes out at Beau if he comes within 15 feet of her when some-one's watching, I've seen them during the day, all standing in a small close group, drowsing contentedly in the sun till one spies me, nudges the other, and off they go, Velvet all fire and fury, Beau just winging away up the hill.

An exceptionally good recipe for Christmas time, either for giving or for eating, follows:

BUTTER ALMOND CRUNCH
Generously butter jelly-roll pan or cookie sheet. In a heavy saucepan combine 1 cup brown sugar, 1 cup butter, 1/4 cup water. Cook stirring constantly with wooden spoon over medium heat, to 300 degrees on candy thermometer (hard crack stage). Remove from heat and quickly stir in 1 cup chopped almonds and 1/4 tsp. vanilla. Immediately pour into prepared pan, spreading to form a large rectangle 1/4 inch thick. Meanwhile, melt 6 ounces semi-sweet chocolate chips over hot (not boiling) water. Spread over warm candy and sprinkle with 1/2 cup walnut or pecan pieces. Refrigerate about 2 hours till chocolate is firm. Break into pieces.

Free Press Women's Page

Memorable milestone

Dublin W.I. 45th anniversary

The culmination of 45 years in the history of Dublin Women's Institute was celebrated on Thursday evening at the home of Mrs. Horace Blyth, Blue Springs Road, Nassagaweya. The house was beautifully decorated for the occasion, complete with Christmas tree, to welcome the 38 guests.

The Branch was organized on December 12th, 1925, in Dublin School. In the absence of the district president, Mrs. George R. Agnew, of Acton, Miss Applebe, the past president of the district, and Mrs. J. E. Gamble, of Acton, acting as secretary, attended.

Mrs. John F. Robertson invited the ladies to have their first meeting at her home on the Second Line, on January 13, 1926, and Mrs. William R. Bracken was named the first president and Mrs. Duncan McDougall, the secretary. Minutes of this first meeting were read Thursday night by Mrs. Alex Near.

Active branch. During the years Dublin Women's Institute has been a very active branch, and as the theme of all Institutes "For Home and Country", they have

endeavoured to follow it and be useful in the community. They have looked after the sick and shut-ins, the bereaved, those suffering losses by fire, catered at auction sales, and in many other ways.

During World War II many articles were knitted and sewn for soldiers in conjunction with the Acton Red Cross. 4-H leaders have been chosen from the group each year to instruct the young girls in culinary arts, needlecrafts, etc., and many girls in the neighborhood have learned the basic facts about homemaking from this same instruction.

Quilts specialty. A specialty of the members was the making of quilts, through the years, and many a beautiful quilt has resulted from their good workmanship.

Mrs. M. McCullough, the present president, occupied the chair on this anniversary occasion, for the singing of the Institute Ode and the repeating of the Mary Stuart Collect and Lord's Prayer.

Mrs. M. Hunter read the minutes and called the roll. The members responded to it by answering "What can I do to make Christmas happier for others". To share little remembrances and visit with the older people and the shut-ins in the community was the general consensus of opinion.

Mrs. W. Britton, as sales convener, handed in a further sum of money from their sales at Stewarttown.

Sacred program. The meeting was turned over to the program committee, and Mrs. Wallace Lasby conducted a very beautiful sacred program telling the Christmas story interspersed with the singing of Christmas Carols with Mrs. M. McCullough at the piano. An impressive candle-light service

was conducted by Mrs. W. McIntyre and Mrs. Lasby. Five candles were lit denoting the first for Christ, followed by one each for Joy, Peace, Faith and Hope.

A very meaningful and humorous skit "What the Institute means to a Family" was portrayed by Mrs. A. Near and Mrs. W. McIntyre, in old-time costume, and all enjoyed in full the meaning of being a good Institute member.

History shown. A beloved former member of the Branch, Mrs. Pearl Kennedy, of Acton, was present. She has been the Curator of the Branch for some time, and spoke of her work in compiling the material. She exhibited several pages from the Tweedsmuir History Book of the district. Many pictures of officers of the Dublin Women's Institute down through the years, as well as pictures of residents of the area, the history of the farms and other pertinent facts of interest, were perused by the ladies with much interest. It is a book of great historical value.

Several games and contests were captained by Mrs. McIntyre

and Mrs. E. Norton, and all enjoyed the fun time.

With Santa Claus' visit, each member learned the identity of her Secret Pal for 1970, and had many surprises. Each received a gift from their friend. New names were chosen for 1971.

The Christmas supper served buffet style with all the Christmas goodies were enjoyed by everyone. A beautiful 45th anniversary cake, made by Mrs. McCullough, and iced by Mrs. M. Nellis, centered the table, and Mrs. Pearl Kennedy was given the honor of cutting it. Mrs. W. Britton and Mrs. F. McCarron were the social conveners.

At the end of the evening, each lady present was given a pretty poinsettia plant as a memento of the celebration.

Memorable milestone. Mrs. Duncan Moffat expressed thanks to the hostess, Mrs. Blyth, and the committees in charge for providing such an enjoyable and memorable milestone in the history of the Dublin Women's Institute, and wished everyone the compliments of the season.

Season's Greetings



To everyone who has been so very kind and thoughtful during my recent illness I wish to extend my sincere thanks and wish them all the Compliments of the Season.

MARY MARKS

THE STATION HOUSE AND DINER

Make Tracks to the Diner for your Christmas and New Year's Party. Reservations Accepted Now. A Few Dates Left. We Also Cater to Outside Functions.

• MAKE TRACKS TO THE STATION •
ENTERTAINMENT
Thurs., - Friday Evening - - Sat., Afternoon & Evening
"THE RAINBOWS"

Visitors

Christmas visitors make the season happier. Please phone or mail the names of family, friends, or those who are away to the Free Press this season. The "Personals" column should be fat with news the next two issues.

Luncheon for Chapter

The December meeting of the Duke of Devonshire chapter of the I.O.D.E. included a delicious Christmas luncheon, with an exchange of gifts. Hostess for the very pleasant afternoon was Mrs. Newton.

Christmas meeting

The Women's Missionary Society, Afternoon auxiliary, of Knox Church held their Christmas meeting at the Manse on Dec. 10.

Miss Isobel Anderson, the president, opened the meeting with a poem and a prayer. Joy to the World was sung followed by a prayer led by Mrs. A. Near.

The theme of the meeting was the Christmas story which was presented in a very interesting way by Miss Anderson. Interspersed with the recitation of scripture was presentation of the story by means of songs.

Miss Bella Maye Roszell sang A Wonderful Star and was joined by Mrs. McKenzie for Away in a

Manger. The message for today is that peace - calm which strengthens - is a blessing which comes from God.

At the close of the devotional part of the meeting Miss Roszell was presented with a gift by Mrs. Moran on behalf of the group in appreciation of the many times she has helped by coming and singing at W.M.S. meetings.

The treasurer's reports presented by Mrs. Algie and Mrs. MacDonald showed that the group had had a successful year, financially. Members brought white gifts for the needy.

A delicious lunch provided by the committee was enjoyed by all.

Free carol sheets

To help readers celebrate the festive season in a joyful mood, the Free Press is offering free Christmas carol song sheets. They may be picked up at the office any day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The sheets feature favorite carols such as O Come All Ye Faithful, Silent Night, Joy to the World, Away in a Manger and other favorites.

Also available are sheets with secular sing song favorites such as Roamin' in the Gloamin', Let Me Call You Sweetheart, Down by the Old Mill Stream and others.

U.C.W. has Yule supper

Both groups of the U.C.W. gathered together Wednesday evening of last week for a pot luck supper and Christmas program. The women gathered in the Sunday school room of the church for the pleasant evening.

U.C.W. president Mrs. C.

Rognvaldson chaired the meeting, reporting on the bazaar and thanking everyone for helping. Mrs. J. Tatton read a Christmas poem; Mrs. Houston led in prayer and Jean McLean played the piano for the singing of carols. Dorothy Simmons said Grace before the supper.

To The Residents of Eramosa

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

"Sincere Good Wishes for The Coming Year"

WARREN PARKINSON

Datsun announces the 1971 economy drive



Datsun 1800 Sedan "1975"

More space than anything in its class. More no cost extras. 100 bucket seats, padded dash, wheel covers, locking gas cap and steering lock, front disc brakes, independent front wheel suspension, telescopic shock absorbers, heavy column and body construction. And you get up to 40 miles from a gallon of gas. What's a car economy drive is all about!

Datsun 1800 Hatchback "1975"

Just because you're economizing, you don't have to let yourself know. And if you're driving the Datsun 1800 Hatchback, then it never gets. Lock or wheel you get, get the 5 speed bearing engine and all the rest of it. The Datsun Hatchback, plus locking bucket covers and a load door. You'll love Datsun 1800. It's not very much money, but it's a whole lot of car.

the more-for-your-money car

NORTH END B.P.

233 Baseline Road, Tel: 878-3471 Milton, Ontario. There are more than 1000 Datsun dealers across Canada and the U.S.A.

Go visiting this Sunday...



Free Press Personals

Mr. Glen White is home again after being in hospital.

Beardmore staff held their annual Christmas party Friday in the music centre.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Waterson, of Owen Sound, were week-end visitors of their cousins, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Matthews.

Young AnnaBelle Barr has arrived at the home of the D. M. Barr's, R. R., Rockwood for an indefinite stay. She is formerly from Mono Mills.

High school principal Dave Katz and Mrs. Katz and vice-principal Joe Bray and Mrs. Bray entertained the school staff, wives and husbands at the Katz home Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Norton have returned from Norway and are living in Acton. Mr. Norton has retired.

Mr. Wilfred Duval Sr. is a patient in St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton.

Acton friends are sorry to learn Bob Watson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Watson, is a patient in St. Joseph's hospital, Toronto.

The Rotary Club's Christmas champagne dance is becoming a tradition. It was held Friday night in the Legion hall with the Shaynes playing for lively dancing. Pantdresses, pant suits and long gowns were the most popular outfits for the ladies.

COUNT THE shopping days till Christmas!

SNOWMOBILES are going morning, noon and night this week. More people than ever own them.

O.P.P. report

During the week of December 6 to Dec. 13, personnel of the Acton Detachment, Ontario Provincial Police, worked a total of 211 hours and patrolled 642 miles of town roads.

As a result of patrol five charges were preferred, seven warnings were issued and three property damage accidents were investigated. Property damage was estimated to be approximately \$900. A charge of careless driving was laid after one of the investigations.

Liquor, gas. Officers investigated nine general occurrences during the week. Included were a charge of "Impaired Driving" and "Common Drunk". At least two

people have started to celebrate Christmas early.

Liquor and petrol don't mix, as a drink or in a gas tank. So keep them separated and have a good Christmas. Don't start 1971 off with your driver's licence under suspension.

The stolen motor vehicle mentioned in the last report was recovered in the city of Guelph.

21 summonses

During the week a total of 21 summonses were issued to motorists who left their cars on the streets overnight. Overnight parking is not allowed in the town and vehicles left overnight are hindering snow removal. So don't wait for a summons or your car to be towed away, remove it

yourself and give the town work-

men a chance to do their job. Drivers! When driving in falling snow after dark, turn off those high beams! Always use the low beam instead. The low beam on your headlights, lights the road ahead below the falling snow. High beams hit the white snow flakes and create a vision-reducing effect. So, remember in falling snow at night, always use that low beam.

If you are proud of your car and keep it in top shape you may have the feeling that in an emergency, you could stop on a dime. The truth is, at 60 MPH on good dry roads, a motorist can only stop at the end of a string of 5,856 dimes, stretching the length of a football field.

21 summonses overnight parking

...by long distance!

Isn't someone waiting for your call?
Call any time on Sunday —
See your phone book for typical low night and Sunday rates.

Bell Canada