

the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

It seems silly to get excited about a day in Toronto, but I do. Or maybe it's just the thought of getting away from the house that's so appealing. Anyhow, once I decided to take off, a few weeks ago, my mind was in a constant whirl in the rush of making appointments, arranging transportation, and such.

Of course, things went far smoother in thought than they did in actuality. The first blow was to hear that my three youngsters would be home at noon, due to some sort of teachers' convention. (That isn't what they called it this time, — it changes from year to year, and I can't keep track.) Anyhow, that cut my "day away" in half.

One large problem was, of course, what to wear. One adviser said "No mini-skirts. — they're OUT." My mini has been "out" anyhow, since I melted a patch with a too hot iron.

Pants are "in" Every now and then, fashion news does trickle out this way and from what I'd heard lately, it was pants that were in. I brushed up my cord flares, and cleaned up fancy rubber boots to wear under them. It seemed logical that with all the snow we had here that particular week, (our barn had just about disappeared) Toronto would be vast avenues of slush.

With those ready, and my purse packed with about 9/4 pounds of odds and ends, I didn't have too much to do when the big morning came. Except hair. To maneuver it into some sort of half-decent arrangement is always a battle, and to keep it there is another. In damp windy weather, my hair not only goes limp, but it goes limp straight out on end, if you can figure that. I have to sort of glue it in place, and my spray gave out after one brief spritz. I ended up using that new spray stuff for men as a holder-upper. Didn't smell right but who's to care.

Into the truck I hopped and headed for the GO train in Oakville, only to find that that three minutes I spent hunting for hairspray had messed up my timetable. Rather than wait an hour for the next train, I decided to drive in, dreading the thought of the morning traffic.

Woman driver Much to my surprise, it soon became quite apparent that a woman in a truck was not considered as much "fair game" as a woman driving a car — especially a small one. That old truck, beat-up and worn, could not have been afforded more courtesy (and room) if it had been a Rolls. I was into Toronto in nothing flat.

It's been years since I've been into the city in the daytime, and I was appalled by the dirty, smoky air, after leaving a bright sunny morning up here. The smell, as I got closer, was like the stale air from inside an old beach ball. It was around about here that I noticed odd glances from other drivers, and it took me awhile to realize what they were looking at.

No one listened The thing that bothered me most, was the sight of a little man in a restaurant, chatting away to everyone who glanced his way, and to the air if no one did. He told small stories of his family in Poland. It seemed rather pathetic that, in a city teeming with people, there was no one to listen.

I thought of him that night when I went in to Acton, and spent one hour shopping and almost two talking. The lady in the library asked about the horses, one in an office asked after my mother. The friendly watch repair man philosophized for 15 minutes, then said "Say a word about me, sometime, eh?" And a complete stranger complained about snow removal and told me jokes over the bread rack. It's nice living near a small town.

Free Press Personals

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Manes enjoyed a week's holiday in the Bahamas.

Mrs. Edna Snyder and Miss Campbell, of Toronto visited recently with Mrs. Marguerite Taylor and Mrs. Mabel Symon.

Mrs. James McGladrey is visiting with Mr. and Mrs. George McGladrey at Thornton.

Some members of the Golden Age Club attended the Spring Flower and Garden Show in the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Davidson have returned home from a six week vacation in Mexico.

Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Macpherson accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Ross Gordon, of Guelph to visit the former's brother Mr. Frank Macpherson and Mrs. Macpherson in Streetsville, one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Mac Symon returned home from a two week holiday to Florida and an ocean cruise. They report the weather was "perfect".

Mr. and Mrs. John Wallace, of Unity, Sask. have been visiting with the former's sister, Mrs. C. Britton and family and other Nassagaweya friends.

Families of students on the Mediterranean tour are following their agenda day by day. Some of them called home word of their safe arrival.

Friends are glad Mrs. George Fryer has returned from Guelph General Hospital. It is hoped Mrs. Fryer will soon be improved in health.

Mr. Charles Cutts is improving following surgery in Guelph General.

Mr. Fred Kingsmill is having a stay in Guelph General.

Mrs. D. Leslie is a patient in Guelph General Hospital.

Mr. Harry Arbie is home again after an eye operation.

Mrs. George Benton, Mill St., is convalescing at her home after successful surgery at Grace Hospital, Toronto. Sister St. Madeleine of Toronto, Mrs. Benton's sister, is with her for a time.

Mr. Albert Newton, Churchill Rd. S., has been a patient in Guelph General Hospital where he underwent surgery.

Others who have been patients in Guelph Hospital are: Mrs. Edgar Dawkins, Mrs. Lulu Sinclair, Messrs. Reg Galloway, Murray Coles, Donald MacKay, Ken McKinnon, Norman Morton and Russell Murray.

Newcomers to town have been welcomed lately by the HI Neighbor Welcome Service.

Rev. and Mrs. Eckstein and family moved from Guelph to 145 Elmora Drive. Mr. Eckstein works at International Malleable Iron and is also the pastor of the New Apostolic church here.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Bendicks and children have moved to 119 Elizabeth Drive. Mr. Bendicks works at American Motors while his wife operates the successful new delicatessen on Mill St.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Ashby have come from Toronto to 14 Cobblehill Rd.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Weston and baby came from Milton to 45 Roseford Terrace.

Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Smith and four children came from Georgetown to 47 Churchill Road.

Again, most of the newcomers work out-of-town. Welcome to all of them.

Euchre, sale

A euchre and bake sale was held Friday evening in St. Alban's hall. Sponsors were Acton Women's Institute. The baking was soon sold and the evening spent at cards. Lunch was served afterward.

Bake sale

Dublin W. I. held a bake sale Friday morning in the Toronto-Dominion bank. It's a new, handy location for a small sale.



A BEAUTIFUL amaryllis plant, almost three feet high, decorates the living room window of the home of Mrs. R. Brook, 98 Longfield Road. Mrs. Brook, an avid gardener, brought the plant up from the basement of her home three weeks ago when it was only five inches high and nurtured it along to its present splendor. The plant has three blooms and the petals are of a deep rose and white color. Mrs. Brook also has several lovely African violets, geraniums and begonias. —

New venture

The "swap shop" — started by a concerned group of women — opens this Wednesday afternoon (today) for the first time. Volunteers have been sorting and pricing donations, and will be on hand in the Y from 1 to 4. The few organizers, who felt the thrift shop system was needed here in Acton and district have since been joined by other willing women. They have decided to put a small charge of clothing, boots etc. and the proceeds will go toward covering expenses. The service will be open every Wednesday afternoon.

Report convention to ladies' fair board

Mrs. A. Robinson was hostess for the ladies of Acton fair board meeting, Thursday evening March 4. Mrs. E. Archibald, the president was in the chair and Mrs. Isobel McDonald, secretary-treasurer, gave the minutes of the last meeting and the financial report. 14 ladies were present.

The judges for the 1971 Acton Fair were decided upon.

At convention Fourteen members attended the two day convention in Toronto. Mrs. W. Linham and Mrs. W. Thomson gave splendid report of the convention, and mentioned that among the invited guests were agricultural and fairqueens, Miss Anita Thibodeau, Acton Fair Queen for 1970, was present.

The ladies discussed the idea that the presidents and secretaries' names of the ladies board be recorded in the fair book as well as the men's names.

The hostess Mrs. A. Robinson, Mrs. R. L. Davidson, Mrs. M. Madill and Mrs. C. Aiken served a delicious lunch while the ladies enjoyed a social period.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. W. Thomson. Lunch committee is Mrs. A. Robinson, Mrs. J. Van Fleet and Mrs. F. Freeman.

Presentation made by U.C.W. for Dublin 4-H

The afternoon unit of Trinity U.C.W. met in the church parlor Tuesday, March 9 for their regular meeting. Mrs. H. R. Force chaired the meeting and Mrs. Wilderspin and her group took the devotional period. Miss Dorothy Simmons sang a beautiful solo.

Business was dealt with. Reports on sick and shut ins were given by Mrs. Shoemaker. A gift of a lovely carry-all bag was presented to Mrs. Eaton, on her retirement as leader of the group.

A social hour followed, the highlight being a beautifully decorated birthday cake for two members, Mrs. Eaton and Mrs. Bowman.

Group tours hospital

A group of 34 from Acton took the organized tours Sunday afternoon in the Princess Margaret Hospital and Lodge, Toronto. The trip was arranged by the local branch of the Cancer Society.

For the first time this year guides awaited the hundreds who attended the annual Open House. The volunteer guides took groups of about 20 to see the facilities.

New equipment Of particular interest was some of the highly specialized and costly equipment in the hospital.

A new blood machine purchased in January at a cost of \$40,000 does seven tests simultaneously in 30 seconds. These tests had to be done separately before.

The two cobalt bombs cost \$100,000 each. The cobalt has to be replaced every two years or so at a cost of \$70.

The bus was donated for the trip by Tyler Transport. Sunny weather made the trip pleasant.

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