

# the painted box



By Wendy Thomson

Being sick, when I was small meant all sorts of nice things, pillows bolstering up one end of me and a hot water bottle warming the other; small meals on trays arranged to brighten a dull day, and new books of cut-outs and Things-to-do, to make my stay a happy one.

## Lollipop and mumps

Of course, I doubt if my mother remembers things quite this way (Do you, Mother-of-mine?) judging by her comments in recent years. Apparently, I always managed to be sick on a holiday and ruined quite a few plans (including those of my best friend with whom I shared a lollipop and the mumps). And also, no matter what I had, I never appeared ill. The worse I was, the healthier I looked, and my mother always felt apologetic when showing the doctor in. There I sat, rosy and beaming.

I guess, I'm still that way, but there's no sympathetic mother handy to see past the rosy glow. The first time I was sick, after Gord and I were married, was on an evening when we had company. Halfway through dinner, I wrapped myself in a blanket, and sat and shook. My discerning husband diagnosed the trouble instantly—"It's your imagination." Two hours later, I was carted off to the hospital with pneumonia.

The next time I took to bed was about five years later. Gord came and sat beside me for a few minutes and said worriedly, "I don't like to see you like this," went out, closed the door, and didn't see me again till I was better. No,—that's being unfair—he did bring me a bowl of soup.

There have been times when I thought everybody must be blind, not to see that I was on the point of keeling over with some terrible disease. Then I'd look in the mirror and there would be that face looking disgustingly healthy.

Even the thermometer does me wrong. Usually, I'm somewhere around 97 degrees, so a two degree fever puts me at only 99. "Your temperature's only up two-tenths of a degree, dear."

Fever of 96  
Then, of course, half the time it goes the wrong way anyhow, and I have a whopping fever of 96, and sitting with that blinking thing in my mouth for 10 minutes won't change it.

I won't say that I was planning on being under-the-weather one day, a while ago. But my elbow was getting another shot of Cortisone, and the way it left me the last time, I just thought I'd be ready for it.

All the washing, ironing and scrubbing was done ahead of time. A small bunch of flowers was arranged beside the bed; along with a few good books. I decided against the radio for soothing music, because there's always some annoying dodo who keeps popping up with "Hi, I'm Mary..." Or the character who thinks WE'RE dodos, and says "In case you think you haven't heard right, let me repeat that..." They ruin a person's peace of mind.

Anyway, my planning finished up with Gord being in town to pick me up when I left the doctors, as I could barely drive home the last time.

Fly in ointment  
Then came the fly in the ointment—Frank Drea. I think I put that the wrong way. What I meant was, after making all the preparations to curl up in bed in misery, I realized that the day of my shot was the day Frank Drea of the Telegram was to speak at a Tri-Angl dinner, and I COULDN'T miss that.

Since the last prescription for a pain-killer hadn't worked in the least, the doctor wrote one out for Demerol, which is pretty strong stuff. I figured that I'd get to that

dinner, even if Gord had to carry me in.  
Then, wouldn't you know, the Cortisone shot hardly made a twinge. My flowers, books, and turned down bed were entirely wasted. I walked into the church hall on my own two feet, ate a huge dinner, and enjoyed the talk immensely.

Sum comes up  
When the discomfort started later, I congratulated myself on the foresight in having Demerol on hand. With elbow sandwiched between pillow and hot-water bottle and a pill somewhere in my stomach, I miserably watched the night go by and the sun come up. Demerol doesn't work on me.

I guess I might as well accept the fact that I can't be down-and-out sick—I've got to gum it up somewhere along the line.

## Present skit to Ladies' Aid

The Ladies' Aid of Knox Presbyterian Church met in the A. C. Stewart hall on Tuesday, April 27, at 2 p.m. The president opened the meeting with a poem "April". The hymn Unto the Hills Around was sung and Mrs. McIntyre led in prayer.

The roll was answered with a household or housecleaning hint. The secretary read the minutes of the last meeting and the treasurer gave a report.

After the business period, Mrs. Mann read the scripture from the 85th Psalm and Mrs. Hansen led in prayer. After the offering Mrs. McIntyre led in prayer and the hymn Come Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love was sung.

Present skit  
Mrs. McIntyre and Mrs. Near, each wearing old fashioned costumes, presented a skit entitled "The Institute", which was enjoyed by all present. The Lord's Prayer was repeated and everyone moved to the kitchen for a lovely lunch prepared by the committee in charge.

## Couple living in Don Mills



Dorothy Page and Jim Worth were married February 20 and are now living in Don Mills.

The marriage was performed by the Rev. Frank Byrne, pastor of Acton and Cheltenham churches, assisted by the Rev. Jack Hanna, pastor of Bay Ridges church.

The bride is the former Dorothy Page, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Page, R.R. 4, Acton. The groom, Jim Worth is

the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lambert Worth, Timmins.

Mr. Worth is the manager of the King James Version quartette, formerly the Churchmen's Quartette, Canada's leading gospel quartette.

Gifts and congratulations were received at an Open House, held at the home of the bride's parents a week after the wedding.



MR. AND MRS. Edward Parent are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their niece, Susan Patricia Height, to Mr. David Neal Stone, of R.R. 2, Rockwood. The wedding will take place May 22, 1971 at 3 o'clock at St. Alban's Anglican Church, Acton.



## Extend help

# Need homemakers

The new Red Cross homemaker service, just becoming established in this area, last week had calls for help but only one application from a woman who wishes to be a homemaker.

The Georgetown branch of the Red Cross is somewhat surprised at the lack of applications and is advertising again this week. (see Help Wanted.)

Fill calls  
In Georgetown, there are eight homemakers available. Local calls for help had to be filled with women from out of the area, which involves the paying of transportation. The Red Cross would much prefer to send local people to calls near their own homes.

For the first time, this much needed Red Cross service is being extended from Georgetown out into Acton, Milton, Esquesing and Nassagaweya.

## Rewarding work

Working as a homemaker is a rewarding occupation. She is a responsible, mature woman who is selected and then supervised by the Red Cross. She is paid a standard fee.

A normal homemaker's day could be from about 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a rest period during the day. She does her best to make

family life as normal as possible, doing light housework, preparing meals and caring for children, the sick or elderly and doing simple nursing if necessary. She's not expected to do heavy housework or catch up on accumulated work.

## Different cases

When is a homemaker needed? The Red Cross receives calls from homes where the mother is ill at home or in hospital. Perhaps she's away having another baby. A convalescent just discharged from hospital may need help, or someone disabled because of an accident. Elderly people who want to stay in their own home may call on a Red Cross homemaker to help.

In many cases, the help of a homemaker permits the husband to continue working.

The Red Cross explains that fees charged the family are adjusted according to ability to pay. There is legislation which provides assistance for those who qualify but have financial difficulty.

Full pay  
Supervisor Mrs. Laney Brands

of Georgetown wondered if possible applicants realized homemakers receive full pay for their work. This is by no means a volunteer job.

To make their services here possible, the Georgetown Red Cross is anxiously looking forward to more applications from would-be homemakers this week.

"The sooner we find help, the better the service will be," explained the Red Cross public relations chairman Mrs. Connie Nieuwhof to this paper Monday.

## Appointment

The Honorable George Kerr, has announced the appointment of Stuart Cramp of Campbellville to the Halton County Board of Health as well as provincial grants to the Halton Region Conservation Authority for further work in the Kelso and Rattlesnake Point Conservation Areas.

The \$29,800 grant for development work at Kelso will help finance landscaping, road and parking improvements.

## Free Press News Briefs

CEMETERY gates have been moved to their new locations. There is still only room for one car to pass through. So it's still a one way trip to the cemetery?

FATHER Lloyd Ryan of Guelph assisted Father Morgan with masses at St. Joseph's church on Sunday.

PEOPLE who object to American imports are reminded Mother's Day is also a U.S. importation.

MILTON shopping plaza is being extended straight south of the Caravan restaurant on Ontario St. There will be a Royal Bank and four or five new stores.

THE library had fairly good response to its recent "forgiveness" week. However quite a few books are still not returned, although personal requests have been made.

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