



A Christmas story:
My donkey Anna Belle

PART 5
By Jennifer Barr

With the coming of spring, Belle's amusing antics increased. She developed a gourmet taste for cat kibble and came cantering up gaily to help our barn cats gobble their nightly meal. She was particularly fond of slurping the milk, sampling the canned meat (liver being the favorite) and swiping the rabbit greens. Nothing was sacred.

During April, she suddenly went off her feed! Visions of obscure diseases haunted me, until I thought to look in her mouth. Thank goodness she was only teething. So she was babied along on cat kibble, moistened with milk, until the teeth came through.

One advantage of the warmer weather was that Anna Belle could have free exercise. It was found that, not only would she not run away, but that it was hard to get her to leave the security of the stable. Once out, she played around the lawns and garden areas quite happily, occasionally chasing the dogs or, as I saw her once, trying to take a dead mouse from a cat.

Of course, all the children adored Belle and brought her quantities of treats. Of this, Jane the dog was very jealous. Jane relished carrots and apples, but only if she had stolen them from an unsuspecting horse.

One day, Belle accidentally dropped a piece of carrot. Jane grabbed it and crouched frantically, holding it in her paws, chewing with obvious enjoyment. Belle didn't think much of this and went to retrieve her goodie. Jane snapped at the donkey's nose with surprising severity.

Humph!

Belle leapt back, eyes flashed fire and clunk! The tiny but accurate forefoot came down on Jane's nose, rattling her teeth and causing her to spit out the carrot, which Belle crunched up. Jane didn't steal any more of the donkey tidbits.

foreleg out, and whacking the cat with a sack of wet bran. The effect on the cat was quite startling.

One day, Mack brought in a load of straw and piled some broken bales in a straight stall — a made-to-order playpen for a donkey. What fun she had, rolling merrily in great mountains of straw with dinky legs waving. Up she'd leap and gallop up the aisle, spreading as much straw as possible with her sloppy boot shushing along.

Finally, a diagnosis was made. The lameness was due to a weak shoulder muscle not being properly activated by its nerve, a possible birth defect, or the result of an early injury. She would probably outgrow it, but in the meantime the boot was relegated to the stable cupboard and the liniment was brought out.

It was a relief to know that only the cats and dogs were in pain and not Anna Belle.

(to be continued)

Plane doesn't show passenger goes home

Gunner Allerellie of Rockwood, formerly of Milton, probably takes a dim view of air charters after his experience over the Christmas weekend.

Mr. Allerellie was one of about 160 people stranded in Toronto, at border points and Niagara Falls airport on Sunday on a charter flight that was supposed to take them to London, England. The plane did not show up and airport officials at Niagara Falls said it had not been scheduled to arrive Sunday.

Mr. Allerellie intended to make his first visit to Denmark since he came to Canada 12 years ago. He, along with another passenger, was told they might be able to get aboard a charter flight from Montreal to Brussels at a cost of \$150 one way. After several calls by the travel agent involved, it was reduced to \$40 for Mr. Allerellie.

He got aboard a flight for Montreal but just before take-off

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was called off the plane and told by the Ontario Overseas representative that the charter from Montreal to Brussels had been cancelled.

Mr. Allerellie returned home.

Breads can be used in a variety of ways. Use breads or cereals to "stretch" casseroles, meat or fish dishes. Save stale breads for dressings, toppings or desserts.

ROCKWOOD 1971

Welcome, New Year

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Ont. - County share cost new home

Wellington County has received a cheque in the amount of \$90,000 toward the province of Ontario's share for the capita cost of construction, equipment and furnishing of Wellington Terrace, a residence for the elderly in Elora.

The total estimated cost of the new residence is \$2,020,130, of which the province and the county will each pay half.

Wellington Terrace replaces the former home, a century old stone building. The new residence is designed to meet the specialized requirements of varying degrees of care, and will accommodate 179 residents.

The new home is built on a rolling site overlooking a new residential subdivision in Elora and includes a multi-use auditorium, assembly room, craft room, adjacent program room, chapel, a small barber shop, a beauty parlor, as well as various sitting areas located comfortably throughout the home.

The residents moved into the new home in August.

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