

the painted box



By Wendy Thomson

Everybody seems to be keeping an eye out for signs of Spring, and the first robin, mosquito, groundhog, and crocus have been duly announced.

I admit that I was excited to see a mink at the stream, and stopped dead in the middle of the road at my first glimpse of a cardinal, this year but these odd sightings don't really mean Spring to me. The mosquito outside the hall window in February didn't signify anything other than he'd stumbled out of the house and wanted back in.

Sound off

I don't think it's just that the animals and such are there, that means Spring,—it's what they're doing. (I don't think that came out quite right, but I'll blunder on.) For example, a month ago I stood outside listening, and for long seconds on end there was absolutely no sound at all. Everything was cold and white and still.

Yesterday, the sun was warm and bright, and when I went to get the mail, the air was alive with bird sounds. I couldn't see many birds at all, but hear them I did. And there'll be one night soon, I know, that'll be anything but dead, with thousands of peepers letting go, full blast.

Over 26 robins

Likewise, one robin huddled against the wind isn't Spring. But today I counted 26 robins (and then lost track) all hopping around in the field beside the house, drawn by the (finally) exposed earth.

Spring means that the two hounds, instead of sleeping on the living room rug all day, head off into the swamp land and come back hours later, soaking wet, to tell me the raccoons are stirring.

A huge Blue Heron is looking the pond over, and a blinking big hawk has just sailed by, low down in front of the house, looking the field over.

Gord hasn't shown any signs of Spring, yet, but it shouldn't be too long.

And me,—well, I'm going at the spring, cleaning every now and then, which brings me to a

Helpful Hint.

If, as you are vacuuming it seems that you are accomplishing very little, check behind you to see if the hose is still in one piece. You might find that you've been going blithely along with only two feet of hose and left the rest of the vacuum in some other room.

Simple steps

If immediate repair is necessary, follow these simple steps:

1. A quick repair might be possible using only surgical adhesive tape, but if it seems that a splint or brace is necessary, find a piece of low grade wood in the fireplace kindling. A high-grade board will split evenly down the length, necessitating jumping on the pieces to break them crosswise.

A low-grade board will split off in odd-shaped pieces, just right for placing one on either side of the hose.

2. Bind down with tape, thoroughly and vigorously. Swear words commencing with "Q" are helpful.

3. If, when the contraption is back on the road, the protruding splint catches on rugs and dogs and things, fetch an old sock out of the mending basket, cut the toe off (or find one with a big enough hole already in the toe) and pull on over the splint. Hold in place with elastic bands, if necessary.

The splints will still catch, but won't hurt as much. All in all, your husband will be amazed at your great ingenuity.



PUTTING THE finishing touches on each other's special hair do's are Susan Gillies, Christine Galbraith and Karen Jackson. They were part of the Acton Figure Skating Club carnival cast. (Photo by K. Dills)

Free Press Family page

L'Arche Auxiliary plans Flowers of Hope Week

The regular monthly meeting of the L'Arche Auxiliary was held March 22 at the Acton Public Library.

Mrs. Ruby Laustsen reported on the Spring dance. Prize winners were: first spot prize was won by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hillier, second spot prize by Ron and Heather Parsons, and the two draw prizes were won by Brenda Hillier, and Mike Moore. Door prize was won by Ron Parsons.

The N.H.L. Oldtimers and Milton Oldtimers hockey game at Milton arena in March was a great success, reported Mrs. J. Kuiken. Proceeds from this will be used for the future residence. Now the snow is going some progress is hoped for as regards suitable land for the residence.

May is Flowers of Hope week, and the seeds are here. Volunteers will soon be busy packaging them ready for the door-to-door campaign, the week of May 7-14. It is hoped we will be as well received this year as we have been in the past. Funds will also go towards the proposed residence.

The week will close with a dance at the Milton Arena with the Shaynes providing the music. The theme will be The Roaring Twenties. It is hoped people from Acton, Milton, and Georgetown will attend as the workshop, nursery and residence serve the whole North Halton area.

Mrs. Jennie Kuiken reported on the Tinkerbell Nursery. She now has five children enrolled. If any parents of a retarded or handicapped child would wish them to benefit from this program they should contact Mrs. J. Kuiken 853-1175. She would also like more volunteers to assist her. With more help the nursery could operate three or four mornings instead of just two as at present.

The workshop is very busy at the moment, and they are expecting the usual flood of chairs to reweb once the weather gets a little warmer. If anyone has chairs that need rewebbing please call Mrs. Julie Conroy, 853-2063.

The next meeting will be on April 26 at the Acton library.



YOGA WAS a popular course at the high school Wednesday during the mini-school. For yoga, there's both theory—and practice. Pictured are Debbie Martindale, Diane Timbers (Photo by J. Jennings)

Speaker describes trip to Brazil

The regular monthly meeting of the fair board ladies was held at the home of Mrs. Isobel McDonald April 6. Sixteen ladies answered the roll call—the date of your birthday. Mrs. E. Archibald, the president, called the meeting to order. Mrs. C. Alken read the minutes and gave the financial report.

The ladies discussed the different committees for 1972 fall fair, Mrs. L. McLean and Miss Elva Fearen are on Miss Acton Fair committee, Mrs. W. Linham and Mrs. Isobel McDonald will be on the baby show committee, along with the regular committee and all other committees will be the same.

Mrs. Stan Mathews who was on the program for April introduced the guest speaker Mrs. J. Ingles who is a member of the Acton I.O.D.E. Mrs. Ingles along with a group of I.O.D.E. members went on a tour to Brazil.

Tells of Brazil

A map was shown to the ladies of South America and she pointed out how large Brazil was, about the same as Canada. Their first stop was Rio. Mrs. Ingles showed beautiful slides of Rio which has very high buildings and tremendous high mountains. The flowers are beautiful. Mosaic with designs on it is used on sidewalks also on buildings. She also stated that 35 per cent of the people were poor, but the wealthy were really wealthy. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed both the slides and her pleasant, easy to follow commentary.

Mrs. W. Linham thanked Mrs. Ingles and presented her with a small gift of appreciation on behalf of the ladies. Lunch was served by the hostess, Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Madill. Mrs. W. Linham was courtesies convener.

The May meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. A. Robinson. Lunch committee Mrs. W. Thompson and Mrs. C. Storey; program committee Mrs. E. Archibald and Mrs. C. Aitken.

Thrifty evening, anyone?

As an experiment, the Thrift Shop in the Y will be open for an evening this month. After the regular open afternoon Tuesday, April 25, there'll be an open evening Thursday, April 27. Hours are 7 to 8.30.

There's spring stock there now. Winter clothing has all been sold or gone off to the Salvation Army. Many of the donations of clothing from the Thrift Shop come from out-of-town—as far away as Toronto and Oakville. Word of the service has spread and friends of the organizers are saving up clothing there.

The shop, manned by volunteers, is open every second and fourth Tuesday afternoon. It closes up in June for the summer.

Lounging Lassies hear make-up talk

On March 25 at Hillcrest Church the Ashgrove Lounging Lassies 4-H club met for a special meeting on beauty care. Mrs. Ingles from the Georgetown Pharmacy was the commentator. She brought several products and explained how to use them. She demonstrated how to put on make-up on Marlene Hume and Verna Fisher.

Visiting the club this week were Silverwood and Limehouse 4-H members. Later Mrs. Ingles passed out some pamphlets and some sample make-up.

Meeting five The fifth meeting of the Ashgrove Lounging Lassies was held on April 8 at Hillcrest Church.

Committees were selected to work on the cover design and skit. Achievement Day has been changed to May 27.

Mrs. Mills talked on cosmetics.

hair care, shapes of faces and complementing hair styles. Mrs. Cunningham talked about fitting your garment. Then members did samples of a facing with a gradual curve and another facing with a sharp curve.

Art display

The work of the young artists of the Y.M.C.A. Junior Art Club is on display in the Family Store window. The group has been meeting in the library on Saturdays with Mrs. Laura Dittrich.

The work is very creditable.

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Centennial spoons sale new project of A.C.W.

Easter bunnies and colored eggs decorated the luncheon table for the April meeting of St. Alban's ACW. President Penny Bristow called the meeting to order with the hymn Christ is Risen, accompanied by Mrs. Ball. The Easter Even and Easter Day collects were read in unison, and the hymn There is a Green Hill was sung. The roll call was answered by various concoctions and remedies to cure the winter woes, "An Old Fashioned Spring Tonic." Many turned up noses belied the supposedly beneficial effect of these by-gone mixtures.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Mrs. Lorna Clarke, in the absence of Mrs. Alice Daby. Treasurer's report was read by Mrs. Joan Pratt, and a motion made to pay outstanding bills.

Centennial spoons

Mrs. Bristow reported on the purchase of the Centennial coffee spoons, commemorating the 100th year of St. Alban's. These were available for sale at the tea, and will be offered throughout the year. They are engraved with appropriate wording, and will make a lovely addition for a collector, or a remembrance for anyone who has been part of the parish during its existence.

The Rev. Dawson explained to the group the project underway to publish a commemorative magazine, outlining the history of St. Alban's, and including a picture of each family in the parish. These photographs will be taken on the week-end of May 12 and 13 and a group will be selected to telephone the families ahead of time to arrange appointments. The group has been asked to host the general meeting of the Diocesan ACW on May 18 beginning with Eucharist at 11 a.m.

Weight watchers start class here

A new weight watchers class will be officially opened at a meeting on Tuesday April 25, at St. Alban's, hall in Acton.

Group classes will be held every Tuesday says Mrs. Adelaide Daniels of Toronto, Founder and Director of Weight Watchers of Ontario Limited.

Mrs. Daniels, who lost over a hundred pounds herself on the weight watchers programme some years ago says, "Inside every fat person there's a thin one waiting to get out. Most overweight people are tired of dieting and other reducing fads.

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Mrs. Daniels, a well known speaker and outspoken advocate of eating sensibly, has established over 200 classes throughout Ontario to help thousands of overweight people tackle their weight problems. She recommends a medical checkup first.

The lecturer for Acton class is Bev Brown.

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