

# the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

Well, I'm up (somewhat) and about (also somewhat) and dashing around madly trying to get caught up on things I've had to let slide, the past month or so. And then keeping poor Gord awake by crawling into bed with a hot water bottle and lying there moaning with aching legs.

But yesterday it was windy and sunny, and I was restless, so I borrowed a car for the day, grabbed my camera, and took off at 6 a.m. Before I got back (at 7 p.m.) I put 150 miles on the car, had one flat, just about got run over by a horse and run down by a beer truck, was offered a receptionist's job, and had a marvellous time.

**Nodded**

That full time job was tempting, but then I thought of giving up the freedom of taking off on windy days and decided I couldn't stand it. Besides, I got a glimpse of "office politics" and would rather stick with a job where I can thumb my nose at anybody (within reason) and walk off.

Anyway, today, after all that running around, I'm back in bed with a box full of old letters and things, for company, making the most interesting finds.

I came across a dandy love letter I'd forgotten all about, as well as one from a crack-pot, and one from a dog, —yes, really! A little black spaniel called Penny. Leaving out most of his comments on grammar and spelling, he wrote:

Dear John,  
First, I must apologize for my typing, but it's been so long since I last typed, that my paws have lost the touch. I'd write, but my writing's even worse.

I was chatting with Ian the other day, and we got around to talking, as conversationalists sometimes do, —or did we? I can't remember now. I guess we did, but on the other hand, we mightn't of —correction, "mightn't have."

Forgive my mistakes. I was put out of school after the masters saw through my disguise and got a little snooty. You'd think they'd never heard of a dog going to school.

One day, the headmaster came into the room, not looking where he was going, and stepped on my tail. I yelped, whipped around, and bit him. He lost his equilibrium —or was it his balance? Well, he lost it anyhow, and in falling grabbed my ear.

which had come untied from the top of my head. I always wore it that way so no one could see I was a dog. It was cooler in summer, too.

I got madder and bit him again. That time I took a piece right out of his trousers and he had to sit on the floor until somebody came with a blanket. I thought it wise to leave. I was feeling pretty low, then I met Ian, who took me home for tea and crumpets and I've lived there ever since.

I was saying something about a conversation, wasn't I? I can't remember now what it was and I never did learn to read. I guess it'll just have to go unsaid.

You know, —no, I guess you don't or I wouldn't be telling you. In that case, I should say "You don't know" but that doesn't sound right. Canadian grammar, I'm sure, is the worst possible subject to figure out, full of dozens of mistakes and contradictions. It's enough to put me right off writing which might be just as well.

What a household, today! Everyone's too busy to scratch my back or take me for a walk. Do you know why dogs like their backs scratched? I being a dog, do. I'd tell you if it weren't for the well known fact that humans cannot understand doggy feelings and cannot expect to until they improve their ways of living.

After all, there are the finer things of animal life which are entirely beyond human conception.

I really must go as I have a few old bones to mull over.

Your canine friend,  
Penny.

Pure nonsense, of course, but it cheered my day up.



DURING POLICE Week groups of students visited the police station to see the special displays set up inside and out. Here Cons. Don Marr of Burlington shows a group of Robert Little grade 2 students one of the force's motorcycles. Police Week continues till Saturday. (Photo by D. Gibbons)

## It's quarter century now since flood relief sent

Although it seems hard to believe, it's now been a quarter of a century since a group of Acton people got together to arrange to send parcels to flood victims in England. The disastrous floods occurred along the River Ouse in May, 1947.

The Scout and Guide Mothers was one of the organizations that answered a call for supplies from the old country. They made a collection in Acton and garnered over 700 pounds of food, which were sent to a central depot and then shipped overseas.

Some of the women slipped their names and addresses in the parcels and several of them heard from those who received the gifts.

### W.M.S. service of remembrance

On Thursday afternoon, May 11, the meeting of the afternoon auxiliary, W.M.S. was held in the Ellen Anderson room of Knox Church.

Miss Isabel Anderson presided and opened the meeting with the reading of a poem I Love a Tree. A brief service of remembrance followed in which all paid tribute to the memory of Mrs. Margaret Davidson, a much loved member who has gone from among us but shall not be forgotten.

Program conveners, Mrs. A. M. MacPherson and Mrs. G. Sprowl followed the theme Giving, and presented it in a very fine way. Taken in three parts it showed how each one is able to

At least one has kept up her correspondence and her friendship has grown over these 25 years. She is Mrs. Joyce Milton, who as a Women's Institute member went to nearby Houghton to help distribute the parcels. She wrote to Mrs. E. Jennings, now of Eden Mills, and thus the long association started.

The Jennings have been to visit her twice, and last summer she was here visiting them. She is the Huntingdon correspondent for her local weekly newspaper.

Among the women who collected for the flood victims were Mrs. Jennings, Kathleen Dodds, Nan Hurst, Peg Coon, Elmerna Spielvogel, Eve Kirkness and Sylvia Jones. Mrs.

Spielvogel has died since and Mrs. Jones now lives in Morrisburg.

Mrs. Milton has sent Mrs. Jennings magazines which include photographs of the delightfully scenic area, and the Jennings took pictures there of the area of the river which flooded 25 years ago this spring.

## Free Press Family page

### Stones delightful hobby fair board ladies learn

The regular monthly meeting of Acton Ladies Fair Board was held at the home of Mrs. A. Robinson, May 4, with 11 ladies in attendance. The president Mrs. E. Archibald called the meeting to order, Mrs. C. Aitken read the minutes of the last meeting and gave the financial statement.

After a short business discussion the program committee Mrs. C. Aitken and Mrs. E. Archibald introduced their guest for the evening Mrs. H. Bessmer. In 1930 the depression year, she and her husband became interested in arts and crafts. She brought along a wonderful display of stones which they had gathered from different places in Ontario, B.C., and U.S.A. Some were in the rough stages. She explained how the stones were cut with a diamond saw, and how they were shaped and polished to be made into necklaces, brooches, rings, etc. It involves a lot of patience and hard work.

Many stones  
Some of the stones in the collection were amethyst, Thunder Bay; apache tear from Arizona; sodalite, Bancroft;

pieces of rock from emerald mine, North Carolina, also rubies from rock in the ruby mine, North Carolina. Also shown were delicate drawn thread work brought from Las Palmas, Canary Islands.

This was a wonderful display thoroughly enjoyed by the ladies. Lunch was served by the

hostess Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. W. Thompson, and Mrs. C. Storey. Mrs. Isobel McDonald was courtesy convener.

The next meeting is to be held at the home of Mrs. C. Storey, lunch Mrs. K. Alger, Mrs. E. Archibald; program committee, Mrs. W. Linham and Mrs. Robinson.

### Fashion Show

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## 25 silver dollars for Mr., Mrs. Winter

Miss Nancy Winter came home from Althouse College of Education, University of Western Ontario for the occasion of her parents' 25th wedding anniversary on May 10. A surprise gathering of neighbors, friends and relatives of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Winter took place on Friday evening at their home. A setting of white daisies and pink

roses decorated the centre of the table along with a double tiered white wedding cake. The cake was made by Miss Doris Cripps and decorated by Miss Mina Cripps.

Many beautiful gifts, flowers and cards were received. One of the gifts was 25 1972 silver dollars in the form of the number 25.

## Free Press Personals

Mrs. J. A. Chisholm and Mrs. J. Frank visited in Wingham on Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Jim Currie.

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Johnston of Bowmanville spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Massales.

Young Chris Swetman flew back from his new home in Montreal to attend Saturday's Acton (OMHA) Minor Hockey banquet here.

New families to town were greeted recently by the Hi Neighbour Welcome Service.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Wood and two children have moved from Toronto to Elmore Dr.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Collins and two children come from Brampton to Church St. W.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Brown, Churchill Rd. S., came here from Parry Sound. Newcomers to the Churchill Rd. S. apartments are Mr. and Mrs. D. Scott, who were in Georgetown before.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Price have moved from Georgetown to Mason Blvd. with their two youngsters.

### Car struck

Last Thursday police investigated an incident at the Polypenco parking lot, when a vehicle apparently backed into a parked car. The parked vehicle was owned by Ross Morrell, Church St. Driver of the other vehicle has not been determined.

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