

the painted box

by Wendy Thomson

This is the time of year when a person should make resolutions, I'm told. But that's something I'll have to think on. Instead, I'm counting my blessings and letting good things that happened in '72 drift through my mind.

The three offspring are more easily counted as blessings now that they're back at school. I confess. The house is quiet except for the crackle of a log on the fire and Chopin's piano music on the radio.

I'm so content right now, that the extra-special times in the Rockies seem a little unreal. There was the day I climbed over a boulder halfway up a mountain-side to come face to face with a little pica, his mouth full of grass, intent on stacking it up to dry.

Another day, a group of hikers and I sat in the sun, quite high up, eating mountain mix (mixture of Smarties, peanuts, and raisins and extremely good) sipping a drink made with lemonade mix and glacier ice brought down by the head guide.

The one memorable night with the hikers, was the last night when some of the group put on a little show. Part of it was a fashion show of hiker sleepwear, and you wouldn't believe what one woman wore!

She started off with a complete set of ski underwear over which she wore heavy insulated pyjamas, flannel pyjamas, a sweater, woolen booties, mitts, and a scarf. To make sure she stayed warm, she slept in THREE sleeping bags.

And that's no joke, either! One special daytime incident was when the Riders came by with an extra horse, picked me up in the hiker camp and I rode up the river with them for lunch. After days on foot it felt great to be on seat.

Hiccup cure
But there was plenty of interesting things back home that I would have missed if I'd stayed on like I was tempted to. A smallish thing, but important to me, was reading in a magazine here that a useful cure for the hiccupps is to take a spoonful of white sugar (just take it dry!) It's worked countless times for all of us!

Then there was the small picnic I had here one day in late August for the friends I'd missed seeing all summer and their kids. Very Spadash, but I DID enjoy it!

Up in the mountains I would never have come across the small card that son Jim got out of

a slot machine. . . . "My loved one: — The days I fall to hear from you are dark and dreary. The sun doesn't shine and I am lost in a wilderness of doubt. Tell me again Lover that I am the only one. That you love me only. You are so wonderful and fair and I make such a poor companion, it is hard to realize that you are truly mine. Please write at once, every day — tell me lots of lovely things about yourself, what you are doing to be true to me. Your Lonesome Lover."

And all we ever got out of slot machines was bubble gum!

All in all, I guess the whole year balanced out. I wouldn't for the world have missed the night with the riders where one of the cowboys pirouetted through his own version of Swan Lake Ballet, but if I hadn't come home I wouldn't have been here when Mike, the Riders' head guide arrived in the fall, for a solid eight hours of "Were you there when . . . ?" and "What happened after . . . ?"

I don't mean to imply that there was any real question of me returning to Acton or not. It's just that life up in the mountains is so simplified that it's a temptation to just drift on and on.

And this Christmas topped the year off terrifically! My sneaky husband surprised me no end, after assuring me that I'd get no other present since he'd just bought the vacuum cleaner. From the family, I received everything from oven mitts (badly needed) through fondue pots to a stereo outfit. No — no green toilet seat, but everything else, instead.

Which reminds me, — I haven't been able to find any fondue recipes except a basic cheese one, and I'm getting all anxious to try the pot. So if anyone has recipes of interest, my number is 853-2428.

I'll wind this up with wishes for everyone, for a really good and happy New Year.



(Photo by Wendy Thomson)

The peaceable kingdom

Free Press Personals

Their whole family was home for Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Marz—Paul, Peggy and Ted Lawson of Milwaukee, Wisconsin (with their dog Snokey); Peter and Brenda Lawson of Kingston; Harry and Lois Lawson, Harry Jr., Cathy and David; Linda and Gerry Ockendon and great-grandson Jason of Acton.

Sheriff and Mrs. Mac Sprowl, former Sheriff Andrew W. Frank and Mrs. Frank, Local Registrar and Mrs. Gordon E. Madill attended the Sheriffs and Registrars Convention held at the Skyline Hotel last Thursday and Friday in Ottawa.

Lieut. Stewart McCulloch has left for Esquimalt B.C. after a month's leave spent with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim McCulloch, Nelson Court. While he was home the family went to Arizona and saw London Bridge which their namesake, Bob McCulloch, brought over to the States.

Jack McCutcheon, who worked for Goy Cartage Ltd. for 20 years, was honored at a party given by the staff and company. He was presented with gifts including a three-piece luggage set and wine basket and, from the company, a barometer engraved with his name and the dates, 1952 to 1972. Jack McCutcheon has assumed other work and all wished him success.

Visiting with the James O'Rourke family were, Mrs. Jennie E. Lamb from Guelph, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O'Rourke, Rockwood.

Welcome to Acton! That was the message from the Hi Neighbour Welcome Service to quite a

few new families in town recently. Mr. and Mrs. J. Van Ryk and two children moved from Woodstock to 5 Kingham Rd. Mr. and Mrs. R. Muckle and two youngsters came from Georgetown to 11 Division St. Mr. and Mrs. W. Heenev and family are at 51 Nelson Ct.; they moved here from St. Catharines.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Kohlsmith and youngsters came from Kingston to 136 Elmwood Dr. Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Markie and children came from Oakville to 183 Main St. S. He works in Acton—that's unusual for newcomers!

Another new Actonian who works near here, at least, is R.M. Barrett, who has moved with wife and six children to 174 Poplar Ave. from Milton. He is with the Milton detachment of the O.P.P. which patrols north Halton.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Porter and two youngsters live at 64 Longfield Rd. They moved up from Brampton.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Theda, from Malton, are at 172 Longfield; they have three children.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Roduck and children have an apartment on Churchill Rd. S. They're from

New Brunswick and he is now with the Georgetown police force. Mr. and Mrs. P. O'Meara are at 16 George St. in the new Bovis subdivision. They're from Port Credit and both are teachers.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Coates came from Mississauga to 97 Churchill Rd. S. They have one child. Air Canada, salesmen, kiln operator, policemen, teachers are included in the list of new residents.

Greetings to them all.

Vera and Ernie Parker were honored at a surprise party attended by 40 friends and relatives Saturday night on the occasion of their 25 wedding anniversary.

The couple were guests of daughter Denise Sargent and her husband Mike at a dinner at the Mohawk Inn, then returned home to find the house full of friends. Daughter Moira Dyc and her husband Andy arranged the surprise party.

A three tier cake was made for the occasion and the couple were presented with several pieces of silverware. Guests were present from Ancaster, Dundas, Hamilton, Stoney Creek, Guelph, Alliston and Caledon.

Free Press Family Page

Mrs. Tom Watson Daughters' president

The Daughters of Knox held their January meeting on Monday evening in the Miss Ellen Anderson Room.

The president, Mrs. Robert Paul presided and opened the meeting with all singing Living for Jesus and repeating the motto. Mrs. Harold Swallow read the minutes of the November and December meetings.

New president Mrs. Watson took the chair and conducted the business. Arrangements were made for the serving of refreshments for the Brampton Presbytery meeting at Knox Church in February. Roll call was answered by 12 members and one visitor.

Mrs. Robert Paul and her group conducted the worship, opening with hymn Just as I am. Scripture was read by Mrs. McKenzie followed with prayer by Mrs. E. A. Hansen. The meeting closed with the hymn The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Ended and the Mizpah Benediction.

Lunch was served by the group in charge.

W.I. suggestions for Centennial

Suggestion for Acton centennial year answered to roll call at the January meeting of Acton Women's Institute.

Ode and Collect. Thank you notes were received for Christmas remembrances.

Halton origins
Miss Nora Kenney, reporting for Historical Research, had a very worthwhile report on how Halton began and got its name. Mrs. Denny gave a report featuring music.

Mrs. Nellis was convener for the program with court whist played. Lunch of biscuits, cheese and jam was enjoyed.

Home nursing course begins

Do you know how to promote safety? Prevent needless home accidents? The how and when of artificial respiration? How to administer medication?

Do you know how to care for bed-ridden members of the family? And how to act in emergencies?

The Georgetown Red Cross home nursing course will give answers to these common, everyday problems. Many persons can benefit from this

knowledge. A Coming Event in today's paper gives information on the next course, open to people in Acton and area.

Several successive days of sunshine is a treat this week. Unusually bleak weather ushered in the changing season this year. Some Actonians, impatient for Old Sol, are off to Florida already and more are getting packed.

Peace Garden slides shown Lakeside IODE

Slides of the Peace Garden, in Manitoba and North Dakota, were shown to members of Lakeside chapter of the I.O.D.E. at their meeting last week in the Legion hall. Velma West showed the pictures and gave the background of the establishment of the international garden.

A silent tribute was given in memory of the late Hon. Lester Pearson.

Calendars given
Marguerite Taylor reported

I.O.D.E. calendars had been presented to schools by herself and Vera Inglis - 23 to the Robert Little school, 17 to the M.Z. Bennett school, 25 to the high school, six to the Sunshine School and one to Speyside School.

Alice Waldie reported 14 families had received gifts at Christmas time, with candy donated by Schneiders candy factory in Rockwood.

Used postage stamps collected will be given to the Junior Red Cross.

Y.M.C.A. News and Happenings

GLORIA BROWNE
Y.M.C.A.
Program Co-ordinator



The Y's Men are busy remodeling and redecorating a room that we can use for a lounge for discussions, reading, quiet games etc. We would sincerely appreciate donations of used furniture in good condition. We need chairs, chestfields, end tables, coffee table, very large rug, desk, lamps and a radio or T.V. in good working order. 853-1670, or 853-1552.

Please spread the word amongst your friends and your neighbors that we are trying to build a strong, viable Y.M.C.A. and would appreciate their interest.

Basketball
The ladies' basketball is in full swing and would like a little competition to test their metal. There is room for more young women if they are looking for active sport.

From now to mid-June the membership fee is \$1.50.

New programs
Registrations 7-9 p.m. January 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18.
LADIES' SLIM 'N TRIM starts Mon. Jan. 15. Fee \$10 plus membership 20 sessions. Mondays: YMCA from 8:30 to 9:30; Wednesdays: M.Z. Bennett gym, 8:00-9:00.
CHILDREN'S SWIMMING starts Fri. Jan. 12. Fee \$10 plus membership, 20 weeks. Bus from YMCA at 8:30 PM Fridays. Mothers requested to take turns on bus.

TEEN CRAFT CLASS starts Wed. Jan. 17. Adults welcome. Fee 15 cents w/ky. plus membership or 35 cents weekly. Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:30. Variety of hobby crafts to suit your interests, bottlecutting, candlemaking, jewelry making, paper mache, petal-dip flowers, macrame, many others.

THURSDAY NIGHT SPECIAL starts Thurs. Jan. 18. Fencing lessons, gymnastic lessons, and Do-it-yourself YOGA. Fee will be very low for members. Those who wish to make only occasional appearance may pay weekly fee, no membership charge.

YOUNG MEN'S AFTERNOON starts Sun. Jan. 14. Basketball, pool, or whatever grabs you. We will stay open every Sunday afternoon. Drop in at your convenience. Time: 1:30 to 4:30 Sundays. Fee: Membership or 35 cents weekly.

Y.M.C.A. FRIDAY DANCE, NEXT DANCE Fri. Jan. 12, 13½ and up only. Every other Friday a dance for fun and friendship. We will experiment with one dance for teens only, then one dance for kids under 14, then for teens etc. If enough teens are interested we will try for a band and maybe four dances per month, week-about-kids and teens.

Adult chaperones needed. Please help.

Night school registration

Grab your coat — It's registration night for night school tonight (Wednesday). Although some school children brought home information on this term's classes to parents, the advertisement in today's Free Press is first indication for most people in town and district.

Three classes are offered — typing, bridge and pottery.

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January Clearance & Discount Sale

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- CHILDREN'S SEAMLESS LEOTARDS** Ass'd. Colors **99¢**
- GUARDIAN BRAND MULTIPLE VITAMINS** Plain 100's Plus from 100's **\$1.79** **\$1.98**
- DEE TEE HEATING PAD** 3 Position Heat Switch **\$4.99**
- DEE TEE SHAMPOO** Regular 17 oz. Normal, Oily, Dry **99¢**
- SWAN PINK LIQUID DETERGENT** 24 oz. **39¢**
- ADORN HAIR SPRAY** 6.3 oz. **\$1.19**
- ANTIPILOGESTINE RUB** 2 oz. **99¢**
- BABY SCOTT DIAPERS** Regular 30's **\$1.83**
- BABY SCOTT DIAPER PANTS** **53¢**
- BIRTHDAY CANDLES & HOLDERS** 24 Candles, 12 Holders **37¢**
- CLARA VACUUM BOTTLE** 1 Pint Size **88¢**
- CLEAR SANDWICH BAGS** **66¢**
- CONTAC-C COLD CAPSULES** 20's **\$2.09**
- DEE TEE THERMOMETERS** Oral, Rectal, Baby **99¢**
- DEE TEE VAL-U COTTON** 1 lb. Roll **88¢**
- DELSEY BATHROOM TISSUE** Ass'd. Colors 2 Rolls **37¢**
- HANKSCRAFT DELUXE VAPORIZER & HUMIDIFIER** **\$6.98**
- KOTEX NAPKINS** 12's Reg., Super, Plus **57¢**
- MISS CLAIROL CREAM FORMULA HAIR COLOR** **\$1.66**
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