

the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

Every now and then someone phones to say how much they enjoy the column, BUT — have I ever thought of writing something more serious, helpful, or informative.

The answer is "Yes." I think about it. But when I go at anything seriously, I grit my teeth and have worn a hole in my one capped tooth. At \$100 a cap, I can't afford to be serious.

As for being helpful, — look at my recipes! The computer doesn't seem to appreciate the fine points of cooking (like the difference between a pound and a cup) so I've become a little wary of using anything more complicated than "Toast two slices of bread and butter them."

Informative? See last week's column on how to wash clothes. And here's another gem (not tried) found in an old cupboard.

"A cup of coffee is an unfailing barometer, if you allow a lump of sugar to drop to the bottom of the cup and watch the air bubbles arise without stirring the coffee."

"If the bubbles collect in the middle, the weather will be fine; if they adhere to the cup, forming a ring, it will either rain or snow; if the bubbles separate without assuming any fixed position, changeable weather may be expected." I'll bet you didn't know that! I'll have to try it sometime.

Another question that comes up, is why don't I get out of the house and into a "fulltime and challenging job that will use intelligence, ingenuity, and be interesting, etc." I can hear the laughter now, from all the housewives wondering what other job could use as much ingenuity as housewifing does.

I think I'm a fairly average housewife with fairly average problems, and find I'm being challenged right and left. My ingenuity is often strained to the utmost. Do unmarried women have any idea how devious a married woman must be to have and keep a screwdriver and hammer of her own in a kitchen drawer?

A recent example of my own inventiveness happened after my little AM FM radio lost its antenna in a brief argument with a bookcase. By astute and adept manipulation, I found that if I stuck one prong of a Silver Mark

spur in the broken antenna, put my index finger (right hand) on the rowel and faced north, all stations came in loud and clear.

Of course, it gets a bit tiring and I run into difficulty when I want to listen in bed, but I'll work something out.

And interesting? Take one hour of after-dinner relaxation last night. It was divided between picking lettuce out of a chocolate pudding, darning horseblankets, rousing a dog out of the sleeping bag, baking a duster in the oven, and accusing son Jim of being rude in saying the dog stunk and making him stify it to her face.

Ming Trees
Probably if I sat and waited for interesting things to come along, I'd have a long sit. It's often easier to go make something interesting happen. Like my Ming Trees.

For 10 years I've been interested in growing a Bonsai tree, an oriental miniature, but nobody ever gave me one. And since they take 300 years to mature, I figured I'd better not wait any longer. I bought and gave myself some seeds for Christmas and now have one sprout in my Asiatic Cypress pot. (Gord says it's a weed and will shrivel up if I keep going to check on it.)

"Agricultural Science Today"
Then there's the "Agricultural Science Today" course at Guelph. I forget just how I got caught up in that, but I now know the facts and fallacies of farming, basics of sheep, and enough about woodlots to make me want to know more.

This week it'll be Raising Cattle and Cow-calf operations. I don't know what I'll do with all this new-found information once the course is over, but something'll turn up, I'm sure,—something interesting, that is.

Wilkins - Bruce wedding at Knox church, Ospringle

In a pretty candlelight service in Knox Presbyterian Church, Ospringle, Saturday, December 9, at 5:30 p.m. Beverly Lynne Bruce, R.N. became the bride of James Nelson Wilkins.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Byron S. Bruce of Ospringle, and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Wilkins of Woodstock.

The church was decorated for the double ring ceremony with gold candelabra, pine branches and white satin bows on the pews.

Dr. T. R. Maxwell of Waterloo officiated, with Rev. D. Herbison of Erin assisting.

The wedding music was played by Mrs. Gordon Aitken, a friend and neighbor. Wesley Harris, violinist, played Adoration before the ceremony, and The Lord's Prayer and Canto Amoroso during the signing of the register.

Bride wears velvet

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a floor length, A-line gown of white velvet with maribu trim at neck and sleeves. Her headpiece was a maribu pillbox hat with a French sheer finger tip veil, and she carried a large ball of white divinity mums featuring a large orchid and baby's breath.

Miss Brenda Bruce, attending her sister as maid of honor, wore a gown of tulle velvet with beige satin lace trim at neckline and wrist. Bridesmaid was Mrs. Lorne Stephen of Oshawa, friend of the bride. She wore a laurel green velvet gown trimmed with beige satin lace at neck and wrist.

The attendants carried nosegays of pink sweetheart roses with heather and carnations.



BEVERLY BRUCE AND James Wilkins were married at Ospringle. Their honeymoon trip was to the West Indies and they are living at Woodstock.

Frank Wilkins, O.P.P. of Barrie, brother of the groom, was best man, and ushers were Robert Bruce and Bradley Bruce, brothers of the bride, and Dr. Lorne Stephen of Oshawa.

Reception

The reception for 110 guests was held at Acton Meadows Club. The table was decorated with candles and red poinsettia centrepieces.

To receive the guests, the bride's mother wore a floor length gown of beige crepe bodice and pressed gold lame skirt, with gold accessories, and she wore an orchid corsage.

The groom's mother assisted, wearing a deep rose knit floor

length gown, silver accessories, and an orchid corsage.

Live in Woodstock

For going away, the bride donned a peacock blue matie jersey long gown, and a fox cape, gift of the groom. She wore a gardenia corsage. After a honeymoon trip to Grenada, West Indies, the young couple are residing in Woodstock.

Guests were present from West Branch Michigan, Sarnia, London, Toronto, Oshawa, Guelph, Woodstock, Hillsburgh, Rockwood, Hamilton, Barrie, and Ottawa.

A telegram of best wishes was received from Mr. and Mrs. Don Young of Kenya, friends of the bride.

Name conveners to plan 25th anniversary of W.I.

The Greenock Women's Institute held their January meeting at the home of Mrs. C. Storey, Crewson Corners, Mrs. J. McCulloch, the president, opened the meeting with the ode, Mary Stewart Collect and read a poem Looking for the Sunset in Winter.

Mrs. C. Allan gave a meditation on New Year's resolutions, a scripture reading from Good News for Modern

Man, and read a poem, Leave your Failures behind You, followed by the Lord's Prayer. The roll call was, name a person who holds an office at area level.

The Greenock W.I. celebrate their 25th anniversary this year. Mrs. C. Allan, Mrs. J. McCulloch, Miss Elva Pearson and Mrs. G. Wallace will be the conveners to plan for it.

Reads letter

Mrs. K. Eckerich in charge of

program on consumer and family affairs read a letter written by Mrs. Brock Suddaby, Desbarats Ont. who is convener of family and consumer affairs for the province. She told about her work with the Women's Institutes in Northern Ontario before taking over the convenership. Mrs. Eckerich read articles on a survey of nutrition across Canada, textile labeling and the changing of beef grading.

Lunch was served by the conveners Mrs. C. Aitken and the hostess.

Mrs. R. McKeown was courtesy convener.

Mrs. Terry Heather Club head

The Heather Club held their January meeting at the home of Mrs. Helen Mason with 12 members enjoying a bountiful pot luck supper.

The meeting opened with the Lord's Prayer. Alice Waldie read the scripture. Meryl Kirkness, secretary, gave the annual report of the treasurer's annual report.

It was decided to hold the annual rummage and bake sale on April 27. It was also passed to pay for the cost of the new blackboards that were installed in the Sunday School room.

New officers

Following the business there was an election of officers for the coming year who are as follows:

past president, Mrs. Helen Mason; president, Mrs. Irene Terry; secretary, Mrs. Meryl Kirkness; treasurer, Mrs. Mary Mann; program and social convener, Mrs. Jean Leishman; membership, Mrs. Alice Waldie; press sec., Mrs. Amy Cook.

Following the election of officers, Mrs. Kirkness read a chapter of a new study book donated by Mrs. John Waldie about the women in the Bible. This month the story was about Deborah who was only mentioned in the 4th and 5th chapter of Judges. The meeting closed with the Mizpah benediction.

The February meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Terry.

prelude by conn

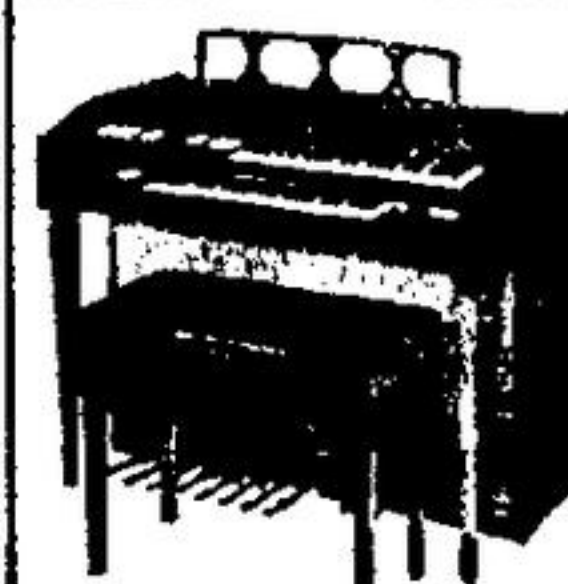


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Fashion show, draw discussed by L'Arche

The monthly meeting of L'Arche auxiliary for the mentally retarded was held on January 23 at the home of Mrs. P. Garton with 10 members and one guest present. The meeting was opened with the prayer for the retarded read by Mrs. P. Garton. Minutes were read by Mrs. S. Skeggs.

Mrs. R. Lausten reported on the dance to be held at the Acton Legion on March 3, where the Changing Scenes will be appearing. Tickets of \$3 per couple are now available from Mrs. R. Lausten 853-0975.

The Sarah Coventry jewelry show demonstrated by Mrs. S. Skeggs was held at the Acton Public Library on December 7. It was financially a great success and an entertaining evening was had by all. The necklace and earrings donated by Mrs. S. Skeggs for the draw was won by Miss Judy Beerman.

Fashion show

A spring fashion show is now being planned and Zellers of Georgetown are presenting their exciting new spring and summer fashions. This year the Auxiliary are providing their own models which will make it more

interesting. Draw tickets were distributed for Jake Kuiken who is the campaign chairman for North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded. These tickets are on sale from any Auxiliary member or for information call Julie Conroy 853-2063. This draw is for two weeks' vacation for two people in Barbados with \$500 spending money for the lucky couple. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Old Timers Hockey Game in Milton on March 16. All monies raised from the draw and hockey game will go towards the new proposed residence for the Mentally Retarded in the area.

Letters were received from Sunshine School, A.R.C. Industries and Mrs. J. Beeny, chairman of Tinkerbell Nursery thanking members for their Christmas donations.

10 at nursery

Mrs. J. Kuiken reported on the Tinkerbell Nursery. She now has 10 children presently enrolled,

two from Acton, one from Milton and seven from Georgetown. The nursery is in operation four mornings a week Monday to Thursday from 9.30 to 11.30. There are 26 volunteers on the list at present, some of them coming twice a week. However, she would like to have a volunteer per child, and is always looking for more. There is a transportation problem with the child in Milton and Mrs. Kuiken is anxious to find somebody willing to drive once or twice a week. The Association will pay mileage.

The Auxiliary now has 10 new members which means memberships have doubled in the last three months. New members are Mrs. G. Beerman, Mrs. A. Brown, Mrs. P. Leslie, Mrs. N. Silcock and Mrs. S. Skeggs.

Anybody interested in joining L'Arche Auxiliary for the Mentally Retarded is very welcome; next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. P. Garton February 28.

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Free Press Personals

Dr. Douglas Maplesden of New Jersey visited on Thursday with his mother, Mr. and Mrs. C. Cutts.

Father Hayes is conducting services at St. Joseph's church while Father Gillen is on vacation.

Tanned and rested, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Watson arrived back Sunday after two weeks at St. Petersburg Beach, Florida.

Brenda Morris of Kitchener visited on the weekend with her brother, Mr. and Mrs. Vic Morris and family.

Following the annual meeting of Trinity United church last Sunday after the service, about 40 remained for a pot luck dinner together.

Mrs. Jessie Kentner, who has been transferred to the Rehabilitation Unit of the Kitchener-Waterloo hospital.

Officers of the Acton police detachment report very encouraging news of the condition of their new chief, Corp. Bob Arbour. He is out of intensive care now and recovering well in Tilsonburg hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Moffat of Nassagaweya are flying to Vancouver to visit their daughter Norma and family, also Duncan's sister Flora Moffat and other cousins.

A birthday cake for breakfast? That's what Fred Wright was presented with at Watson's restaurant on Thursday morning, to start off his 80th birthday! The usual morning coffee group was there as well as some friends who had heard of the upcoming surprise. A former Citizen of the Year, Mr. Wright cut the cake and handed out cigars - all before 8 a.m.! He's been in the real estate and insurance business for many years and is a former secretary-treasurer of the fair. Mr. Wright lives alone and eats out at the restaurant regularly.

Mrs. H. Sayers enjoyed a 91st birthday dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. Ward Bruce and Mr. and Mrs. J. Sayers, Lynda and Lorna, were present.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ware of 255 Arthur St. celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Saturday at the home of their son George of Erin. About 30 relatives attended from Guelph, Bramalea, Mississauga, Toronto, Erin and Acton. A lovely buffet supper was enjoyed by all.

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