

the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

There's a new game going on in this house, every now and then. It's called Follow-the-Rattle. It begins with a person going into any one of the rooms in the house and hearing a rattle. The trick is to track it down before it stops.

It might be up in a cupboard, in a drawer, under a bed or chair, or in a box, wastepaper basket or laundry basket. The closer the person gets to it, the faster it goes, until they come across a jet black face with a big smile on it. Yes,—cats DO smile.

This animal, called Blackit, Blackcat, Flat-out-Snodgrass, Tarbaby, and numerous other names, was from Tansy-cat's last batch, last fall. We thought we had a home for him, but somehow he never got there. To tell the truth, I like having him around mainly because he purrs so nicely and secondly, because he has a very odd sense of humor.

Aside from that, he does things that none of our kittens ever did. I spent one whole hour with him one day, playing Fetch. I found a small rubber ball that he played with by himself for quite a while, carrying it around in his mouth in the silliest-looking way. Then he found that I would throw it for him if he brought it to me.

Instead of rolling it, I bounced it across the rooms and down the hall. It bounced two or three feet high, and the silly cat went along right behind it, bounce for bounce, until it caught it in mid-air.

Changed rules

This went on for ages, but then Blackcat decided to play his own game of Fetch with ME doing the fetching. At first chance the ball would be rolled under the only chair low enough to catch it. Then Cat would sit with the most pitiful look till I got down on my hands and knees to try to fish it out. As I poked and prodded, the long slim black legs would be fishing along right beside me until he got one claw hooked in and away he and the ball would go,—for two minutes.

It was this cat that sat quietly on the couch while we all watched



Honor Mrs. Irene Swackhamer secretary of fair for 18 years

It was Appreciation night for Mrs. Wallace Swackhamer, at the Ballinacraigh hall Friday night when members of the Acton Agricultural Society, friends and political figures gathered to honor the popular secretary-treasurer of the Fair Board, retiring after 18 years on the job. "Irene", as she is familiarly known to thousands of exhibitors and friends across the province, took over the secretary's job in 1954 after assisting her father-in-law C. B. Swackhamer for several years. Her efforts in large part contributed to the success of Acton Fair over the last two decades.

Present plaque

After an evening of eucbro and dancing to music of Henry Arbie, presentations were held with Lloyd McEnery acting as chairman for the evening. A plaque inscribed "In appreciation to Mrs. C. W. Swackhamer for devoted service as secretary-treasurer 1954-1973. Acton Agricultural Society April 6, 1973" was presented by veteran Fair Board member R. L. (Bert) Davidson.

Mrs. Swackhamer was also presented with an upholstered chair and several leather articles.

Several people spoke praising her efforts over the years including county agricultural representative Henry Stanley, Acton mayor Les Duby, the Hon. George Kerr M.P.P. for Hallowell, Bob Jones representing M.P. Turry O'Connor and George Wallace, longtime member of the society as well as Fair president H. H. (Bert) Hinton.

Mrs. Swackhamer replied in well chosen words wishing her many friends in the agricultural society continual success and successors, Mrs. Jack Marshall and John Rowe, the best luck. She recalled the many friends she had made over the years through her work and expressed her appreciation for the honors conferred.

The committee in charge of the evening was composed of Mac Sprawl, Jack Marshall, Smith Griffin, Mrs. Walter Linham and Mrs. Joan Waldie.



ALMOST THE ENTIRE FAMILY of Irene Swackhamer gathers around to add good wishes to those already extended by members of the Acton Fair Board, friends and acquaintances, at a special night honoring the retiring secretary after 18 years on the job. She was presented with an upholstered chair, a plaque and several leather articles at the

appreciation night in Ballinacraigh hall. Seated beside her are husband Wallace, while left to right standing are Shirley (Mrs. Don Swackhamer), Rae, Janice, Don, Linda (Mrs. F. Thompson) and son-in-law Fred Thompson. Daughter Carol and her husband Bob Hyde were unable to attend. They live in the West.

(Photo by H. Coles)

Free Press Family page

Form new organization for area handicapped

A woman in a wheelchair approaches a store entrance. She stops. Will her chair fit through the narrow door? Will she be able to open the heavy door and hold it while she guides her chair inside?

These questions and several others were raised at the inaugural meeting of the Association for Handicapped Adults and Friends. The meeting, held Thursday, April 5 at the Georgetown "Y" office, was open to everyone in Georgetown and the surrounding areas.

This association is being formed for people with physical handicaps, covering disabilities relating to heart problems, walking difficulties, joint ailments, and visual and hearing impairments.

Tells of aims

Eric Baldkind chaired the meeting and was able to elicit a few aims and concerns from those attending.

It was stressed that this club is their club, and their ideas are

what will determine the future course and activities of the organization.

Not told

One person mentioned how refreshing it was to be asked what she would like to do, rather than be told what would be good for her. A gentlemen expressed delight that a group was being formed where he could meet others like himself in a social setting.

The committee hope that more people will attend the next meeting as the need for such a group has been vividly demonstrated.

The next meeting will be held at Harrison Public School, 59 Rexway Drive, Georgetown, on April 19 at 8 p.m. Refreshments will be served and there is no fee whatsoever. Transportation is available. Further information may be obtained from Mrs. Lorene Barton, Market Street, Georgetown, 877-8222 or the Y office there.

Lakeside sees slides

There was a considerable amount of business dealt with by Lakeside chapter of the I.O.D.E. Tuesday of last week, before slides were shown at the end of the evening. The slides depicted I.O.D.E. work abroad and in northern Canada.

Articles for a sale were on display including quilts. At the next meeting toys will be contributed for distribution in the north next Christmas.

Have booth

Members will have a booth at the auction sale at the home of Mrs. R. M. MacDonald May 5. They will attend Holy Week services April 18.

Golden wedding marked by Mr., Mrs. A. Kentner



Mr. and Mrs. Archie Kentner observed their golden wedding anniversary Sunday when many friends and relatives from Guelph, Acton, Limehouse, Brampton, Kitchener and Oakville called at the home of their daughter Marguerite Robinson in Guelph to offer congratulations.

Mr. and Mrs. Kentner have one daughter Marguerite Robinson and son Elwin, both of Guelph, plus six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A special event of the celebration was a beautiful buffet lunch.

Flowers, gifts

Many flowers and gifts were received by the couple along with a lovely gold tea service presented to the couple on behalf of the town of Acton by Mayor Les Duby.

Mr. and Mrs. Kentner were married in Hornby Presbyterian manse by Rev. Malcolm April 4, 1923 and have resided in Acton since 1942.

ACTON RESIDENTS since 1942, Mr. and Mrs. Archie Kentner observed their golden wedding anniversary at the home of their daughter Marguerite Robinson in Guelph.

Scottish background for Holy Week guest

Guest speaker for Holy Week services in town will be Dr. John M. Wilkie of Forest Grove United church, Willowdale.

Dr. Wilkie was born in Dundee, Scotland, and graduated from Edinburgh University receiving

his M.A. in 1942 and B.D. in 1945. From there he went to Oxford University to study in the Oriental School. He went to Durham University as lecturer in Hebrew and Old Testament and then taught at Cambridge. He

came to Canada in 1953

In 1963 he became the first full-time chaplain at St. Andrew's College, Aurora, moving from there to Willowdale. He's married with three sons.

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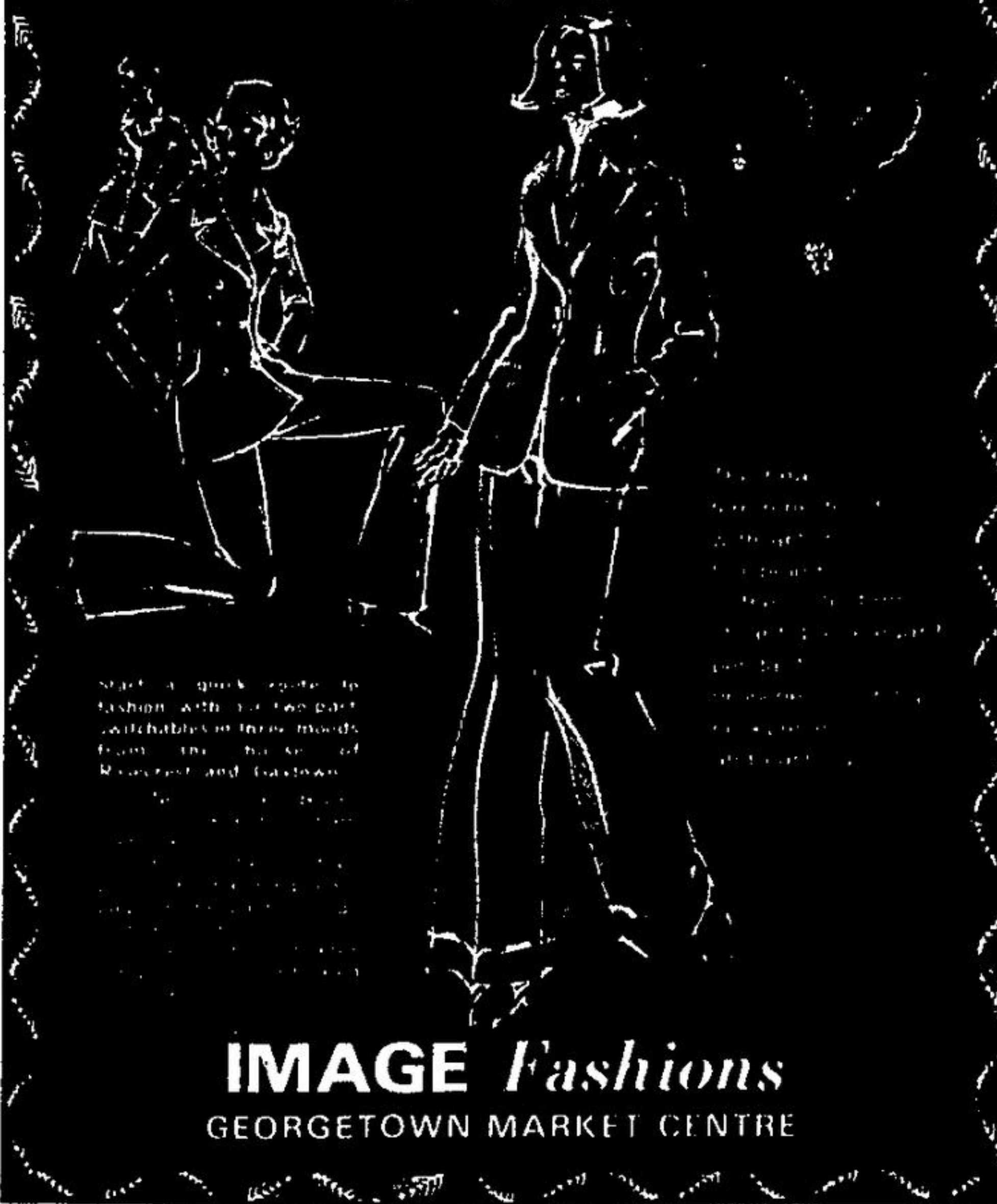


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