

the painted box

By Wendy Thomson
"I really should have known better." That's becoming a fairly well-used phrase around here. Then I sit back and try to figure how such a situation developed.

But I really SHOULD have known better than to buy chocolate Easter rabbits for everybody in the family except me. My reasoning was that four ounces of pure milk chocolate was the last thing I needed (little did I know!) Besides, I was trying to hint that I had no real interest in being pleasantly surprised over something I had bought and tipped out to place on the table Easter morning, myself.

My husband, on counting one rabbit short, made all the appropriate noises and comments, then took off in the car. What I was really hoping would turn up was a few spring flowers, or even a handful of fresh-picked pussywillows. But when Gord came roaring in an hour later, I could see at a glance that something was up. He had That Look. His story went along the line that he couldn't find a store open with chocolate rabbits so he got the next best thing, and led me to the dinette.

Not candy
You guessed it. There, sitting all bewildered on the table was one small white rabbit.
Now, we've had everything under the sun in this house before—chicks, ducklings, goslings, a dyeing goose, a ferret, a pig in the basement, baby mice found in a hay bale, a weasel the cat dragged home, and I forget what else. I even tried to bring the pony in once.

But because of hungry cats and hunting dogs, we figured a rabbit just wouldn't last too long. However here he was and here he was to stay. It seemed. We got out the old ferret cage, popped him in it with a huge wad of alfalfa, and tucked him in the corner.

Same name
We named him Rabbit (what do you expect from a family that calls their cats "Cat?") and everybody took to him right off. Blackcat lay on top of the cage watched every move Rabbit made. Rab didn't mind, seemed glad of the company. After awhile they got around to rubbing noses thru the wire. Blackcat got a little too enthusiastic if Rabbit was let out of the cage, however. Remember how Sue, the hound, tried to adopt six ducklings last

spring? Well, she took the same attitude on Sunday. If it was a baby, it must be hers. We had a hard time trying to keep her from licking it to death.
I guess I really didn't become a convert until I let Rab out Tuesday morning, to run around the living room. When I couldn't catch him again, I sat and watched and became absolutely enchanted!

Wiggles and twitches
Quite aside from all the fancy footwork—the high heel-clicking leaps, the abrupt racing take-offs—Rabbits movements are fascinating. When he eats, his whole face wiggles and twitches. His tongue is not slow and lazy like a cat's, but a long quick thing that shoots out and back in so fast you can hardly see it.
And his ears! They're something else again! I couldn't help but laugh this morning when I caught him in a corner, his head down, ear laid across his lap, giving it a good cleaning.

Pancake flip
He'll lie down in one position for awhile, usually on his side but sometimes on his stomach with feet straight out behind, then there'll be a brief flurry as he flips himself over like a pancake to come down on the other side.
When all the running and hopping is over, Rabbit heads for "Mamma", his foster-mother being an old horse-blanket with red fringe. Once settled in a fold of that, he sucks away on a piece of fringe before dropping off to sleep.

What the end of THIS tale is going to be, I don't know. Rab won't become a stew, he can't be let to run loose, and I hate to see him caged. I guess we'll just have to wait and see.



POURING TEA at Saturday afternoon's St. Alban's Church spring tea and bako sale was an honor reserved for Mrs. Jack Creasey. Here Mrs. Creasey fills a cup for Mrs. Ted Pratt as Miss M. Rowles looks on. (D. Gibbons photo)

Free Press Family Page

Mrs. R. Lindsay heads Bannockburn W.I. slate

The final meeting for 1972-73 of Bannockburn Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. C. Coles, Highway 7, with a good attendance.
Mrs. W. Linham, the president, was in the chair and opened the meeting with the Institute Ode followed by the Mary Stewart Collect. Roll call was answered by suggestions for roll call for next year and payment of fees. The motto was taken by Mrs. C. Coles, Take Time for Ten Things.
Mrs. Coles gave a report on the district directors meeting which was held in Milton where plans were made for the district annual on May 23 in Knox Presbyterian Church and the dinner tickets were sold. A Family and Consumer Affairs forum will be held in Milton on May 15-16.

Balance shows
The auditor's report was presented by Mrs. B. Lindsay who reported the books in good condition and a substantial balance showing for the year.
Reports were given by the standing committees.
After two years as president Mrs. Linham expressed her thanks to everyone for the support she had been given and wished the institute every success in the future.

Officers elected
Mrs. S. Matthews took the chair for the election of officers which are as follows: hon. president, Mrs. W. Linham; president, Mrs. R. Lindsay; 1st vice president Mrs. S. Matthews, 2nd vice president Mrs. D. Vaughan, sec. treas., Mrs. S.

Morrison, district director Mrs. W. Linham, alternate Mrs. C. Coles, curator Mrs. C. Sinclair, Auditor, Mrs. W. McDonald and Mrs. R. Lindsay, pianist Mrs. C. Coles, asst. pianist Mrs. W. McDonald, program committee Mrs. Sinclair, Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Baron; branch directors Mrs. B. Leitch, Mrs. Griese, Mrs. DeHaan.
Standing committees
Agriculture & Canadian Industries Mrs. Leitch and Mrs. Fox, Citizenship and World Affairs, Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Coles, Education and Cultural Activities, Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. O'Rourke, Family and Consumer Affairs Mrs. Lindsay and Mrs.

Vaughan, resolutions Mrs. W. Roszell, public relations Mrs. S. Matthews, flower committee Mrs. T. Gordon and Mrs. O'Rourke.
Mrs. R. Lindsay, the new president, took the chair and business for the coming year was dealt with. Arrangements were made to have the fence at the Pioneer Cemetery taken down and Mr. S. Morrison was to keep the grass cut. Donations were made to the Acton Fair Board for the baby show, also a donation was made to the Cancer Society.
The meeting closed by all repeating the Lord's Prayer and a social hour spent over a cup of tea.

Ladies' Aid sees slides
The Ladies' Aid of Knox Church met in the Dr. Stewart Hall on April 24 with 13 members present. The president opened the meeting with a poem Easter Promise. Mrs. McIntyre led in prayer. Roll call was answered with different ways to use apples. The business part of the meeting was taken up with preparing for a dinner on May 23. The buying committee is to purchase some new utensils for the kitchen. After the business was finished Mrs. Hansen read the scripture

and Mrs. Mann led in prayer.
Mrs. Mary Matthews showed slides of their trip to the west coast and through the United States to New Mexico. Everyone enjoyed them very much. A friendly half hour was spent over the tea cups.
About 30 formed a work party on the weekend at Blue Springs, to ready the grounds for a busy summer of courses for scout and cub leaders.

Two university students plan second recital here

For the second time, two Acton students of music will present a concert in town. Julie Smith, a student at the University of Western Ontario, and Joe Petric, who's at Queens, are preparing for their second joint program.
It will be Sunday evening, May 13 at the M.Z. Bennett school, with no admission charge. They had a similar program last year. They hope to make it a tradition— albeit a short-lived one—each spring until after their graduation.

Piano student
Julie Smith has just completed her second year in music education at the University of Western Ontario where she studies piano with Miss Marlon

MacLennan. Prior to this she studied piano for 11 years with Mrs. Dorothy Richardson Scull of Georgetown. Her study with Mrs. Scull was under the Trinity College of Music in England and she received several awards from their Canadian Teachers' branch in Toronto. She also played in the Pool and Kiwanis music festivals.
Her plans in music are to teach elementary school music and perhaps to open her own private piano studio. She has two more years at Western followed by a year at Allhouse College of Education.

Free bass accordion
Joe Petric has just finished his second year at Queens where he

is studying toward his Honors Bachelor of Music degree in history and composition. His instrument is the free bass accordion which has the same arrangement as any keyboard instrument. His instructor at Queens is also a lecturer at the University of Toronto and is actually the only qualified accordion instructor available.
She studied previously with Joseph MacCallisto of English associated with the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto.
He has participated in Canadian accordion competitions and will be competing next week at the University of Toronto in Canadian-wide competitions.
He hopes to do post-graduate work at the U. of T. in performance in accordion.

Hopes to perform
He will likely teach, but is also looking forward to performing after graduation. He has recently translated a book on the art of playing the accordion from Russian into English. The Russians are ahead of us in the playing the free bass accordion. Joe explains "They're past masters."
His repertoire includes various tunes such as standard keyboard works by Haydn, Bach and Scarlatti, as well as original works written for the accordion recently.

Rockwood visitors present program

By Mrs. D. G. Robertson
A group of members from the Rockwood Sunshine Club visited the local club and presented a fine program.

The gathering was held in Lupton Hall, and the various numbers were introduced by Mrs. Max Milne.
With Mrs. W. Early at the piano a lively sing song of favorite pieces was enjoyed.

Musical numbers
Next was musical numbers with Victor Smith violin, Henry Leuchman mouth organ, Bert Davidson and his famous tub playing toe-tapping music, Mrs. Early piano. Sandra Early sang The Robe and The Old Lamp-lighter with piano accompaniment by her grandmother.
Mrs. D. McNabb gave two humorous readings A Child's Version of Grandmother and I'm Fine, how About You.
T. D. McCutcheon's solo How great Thou Art was well received.

Laurie Early, not to be outdone by her sister, sang God's Little Candles.
Two readings An Inside Job and Just Charge it to the Taxpayer were given by Mrs. Max Milne.
The final chorus The Easter Parade had all the Rockwood group singing.

Return
Three Georgetown schools will have entries in the music festival here next Wednesday. Georgetown has not been included for several years.

Ivan Harris expressed the thanks of the local group to the Rockwood club, who received a standing ovation.
A delicious lunch of sandwiches and cake was served by the ladies from Rockwood, who are also members locally.

Free Press Personals

Mr. John Baillie and daughter Norma will visit on May 5 with Mr. Baillie's sister Mr. and Mrs. J. Best of Hockley Valley on their 55th wedding anniversary.

Weekend visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Cam Leishman included Cpl. Allan and Mrs. Leishman and daughter Allana on Saturday, and Jeannie McCaig, Diana Henderson and Mrs. Dorothy Evans, Toronto, on Sunday for tea.

Miss Pat Braida of Kingston is visiting this week with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. S. Braida. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Armand Braida and studies at Queens University.

Rev. A.H. McKenzie and a group of the young people of Knox Church took a hike on the Bruce Trail Sunday afternoon.

Over 30 spent a pleasant evening together Monday when the ladies' fair board entertained the wives of directors Mrs. S. Matthews was hostess for the group. Court whist was played and the winners were Mrs. W. Lambart, Mrs. C.J. Aitken, Mrs. Bounell and Mrs. M. Madill.

Mrs. E.H. Vincent of Toronto spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Johnston.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Denny visited at the home of his cousin Mac Sprowl before returning to Western Canada.

Mrs. R. Spielvogel returned home Friday after a three-week bus trip to California.

Wendy quizzed on CBC noon

Free Press columnist Wendy Thomson was interviewed on CBC Radio Noon recently by Joan Watson on one of her favorite subjects—Rocky Mountain trail rides.
Mrs. Thomson has devoted several columns to her experiences on the rides, which she tries to attend each year.

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PRINCIPALS' RECOGNITION DAY
SATURDAY, MAY 26th

In June 1973 Garnet McKenzie and Elmer Smith are retiring from their positions in the elementary schools in Acton. Three separate functions are planned for Saturday, May 26. Friends, former pupils and teachers are invited to attend one, two or all three of these special events.

Because of catering arrangements, orders for tickets must be in by May 16.

AFTERNOON RECEPTION
2 - 3.30 p.m., Acton high school gym. This is an informal gathering with no charge. Light refreshments.

BANQUET
6 - 8 p.m., Acton Curling Club. Dinner and presentations. \$4.50 each, in advance.

DANCE
9 - 1 a.m. Acton Community Centre. Music by The Shaynes. Restricted to those over 18. \$2 each, in advance or at the door.
If you wish to attend both the banquet and dance there is a special advance rate of \$11 per couple. (Normal cost would be \$13).
If you have not received a letter from a class representative, would you please consider this your invitation?

Please send me:
_____ banquet tickets at \$4.50 per person \$ _____
OR
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OR
Banquet and dance tickets for _____ couple(s) at \$11 per couple \$ _____

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