

the painted box



By Wendy Thomson

This was the spring I was bound and determined to head off into the swamp and pick fiddleheads. But every time I went down to check, through April, there wasn't a sign of the ferns anywhere. I forgot about them for a while. Then on Mother's day, daughter Beth returned from a walk with the pockets of her denim jacket stuffed with violets and fiddleheads, a strange combination.

Needless to say, we didn't eat that night but picked most of the lint and violets out of the pot before I put it on to boil. The fiddleheads were fabulous! I was going to rush out and pick basketfuls to put in the freezer, but then I started to itch.

No, it wasn't an allergy, but just one small blackfly bite. Or rather, SMALL blackfly. - BIG bite. Right on the shinbone. It started to swell and swell, my leg ached, I felt miserable, and I was confined to wearing either jeans or long skirts, the mess that one bite looked.

Head next

And then my head started itching. Another bite right on the hairline. My neck grew sore and stiff. I became more miserable. And it would have taken a lot more than a few fiddleheads to have me into the blackfly country. My husband blamed the size of the bites on me scratching, but I can truthfully say I left the darned things alone. I have had marvellous self-control, ever since my poison-ivy days. That was when I only had to look at a leaf from a distance and I'd break out. Even in the middle of winter, (when I looked at a twig.)

After I was married, all our summer plans had to include finding out if there was any poison ivy in the area we wanted to visit.

I wish we could have done the same with the mosquitoes. The first summer, we drove to Honey Harbour where Gord was helping a friend build a cottage. We arrived just in time to find a flattish rock, unroll the sleeping bags, and crawl in. Ignoring Gord, all the mosquitoes in the area descended on me in a horde. I promptly disappeared into bag and spent the whole night mentally weeping and wailing and wondering if it was easier to smother inside or to stick my nose out for air and have 16000 mosquitoes all jump on it at once.

Quiet spot

The next night we drove around

in the car until we found a spot that seemed bug-free, stretched out on the car seats, and slept. Maybe it was the way the grass was cut short around the tombstones or maybe it was because the chances for biting around there weren't usually too good, but the graveyard was relatively mosquito-less.

This sleeping spot might have bothered some people, but as far as I was concerned, a ghost could have draped itself over the hood of the car and rattled the hub-caps with his toes, and I wouldn't have cared less as long as he didn't bite.

The third night, we rented a boat, putted out to a small domed rock island about 18 feet in diameter and stepped balanced on top, hoping the waves wouldn't splash too high.

We didn't dare move all night as it would have been easy to roll off the peak, down the side, and float off into Georgian Bay. A little difficult to explain, that - "Now here I was sleeping peacefully, minding my own business" - Still, there were no bugs.

Back to store

Anyhow, once the bugs started biting, this year, I decided I was getting too old to brave the swamp in search of something I could buy already frozen and pot-ready. I guess my pioneering spirit is wearing a little thin these days.

Maybe this would be a good time to print the recipe for my favorite:

RHUBARB PIE

- 4 cups rhubarb cut in 1" pieces
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/4 tsp mace
- dash salt
- 1/2 cup orange juice.

Wash rhubarb. Combine the rest of the ingredients. Pour over rhubarb and mix well. Spoon into prepared (unbaked) pie shell and cover it with top crust. Seal the edges well, cut holes in top, place on a cookie sheet to catch drips, and bake at 425 degrees for 50 minutes.

Donations totalling \$450 for Y programs, lounge

Members of Y's Menettes met for their monthly meeting on June 4, at the home of Sally Leatherland. Club president, Lynn Robertson gave her monthly report and all members were pleased to hear that their fashion show was a profitable success. Members organized their annual barbecue to be held on June 19. This social evening also includes guests who helped and participated in the fashion show. This Saturday the girls will be busy selling coffee, donuts and lots of used clothing at their giant annual rummage sale held in the arena.

Make donations

One of the main items of business was deciding what to do with the money raised from the various projects during the year.

A donation of \$250 is to be given to the Y board for programming and equipment within the Y.M.C.A. A further \$200 will be given to the Y's Men's club towards the completion of a new lounge in the 'Y' building.

The new executive was elected during the meeting. Carol Campbell is president with Pat Nellis as vice-president, secretary Anne Usher; treasurer Murg Wallis; bulletin editor Kathy Henny and press correspondent Lynn Robertson.

Special guests for the evening were Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Benson of Acton. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful scenic slides they showed of their Caribbean cruise. On behalf of the club, Lynn Robertson expressed her thanks to them for sharing some of their interesting and exciting experiences.

A delicious jello dessert and coffee concluded a pleasant evening. The Y's Menettes have adjourned for the summer and start back to regular meetings in September under their new executive.



Mr. and Mrs. Horace Medland of Acton are proud to announce the graduation with honors of their son Dennis Richard, from the University of Toronto with a degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. Dennis is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario and Blakelock High School, Oakville. His practice is located in Milton Plaza.

Projects success plan fair booth

L'Arche Auxiliary met at the home of Mrs. Patricia Garton with seven members present. The Auxiliary welcomed two new members Mrs. Ann Krystein and Mrs. Sandra Marz.

After prayer for the Retarded ment by Mrs. Patricia Garton minutes were read by Mrs. Shirley Skeggs.

One child has been accepted for Summer Camp and plans are being made for three teenagers to attend Camp Bellwood for three weeks where they will enjoy the companionship of new friends in a happy camping and recreation environment.

Members are very pleased with the public response to the Flowers of Hope Campaign and hope soon to have the final figures.

Good response The staff of the Tinkerbell Nursery were very pleased with the results from the rummage and bake sale a profit of \$70 was made which will be used to buy equipment for the Nursery.

Several Auxiliary Members went to the Sunshine School on June 1 to assist with their tea and bazaar.

The A.R.C. Industries also had their 7th anniversary Open House

on May 24 and again help was given by members of the Auxiliary.

Booth at fair They were hoping to have our Booth at the fall fair again this year and a letter has been sent to the fall fair board requesting space for this venture. Again they will be displaying ceramics made at A.R.C. Industries by the trainees and will be showing slides of Tinkerbell Nursery, Sunshine School and A.R.C. Industries.

Mrs. Jenny Kuiken reported on the nursery saying that they have to vacate their present location in Georgetown due to the school's expansion. They are looking for premises that would be suitable in the Georgetown - Acton vicinity. They have to find somewhere suitable ready for the re-opening of the nursery in September.

Anyone with a Retarded or Handicapped child two years or over can register them by contacting Mrs. Jenny Kuiken 853-1175 or Mrs. Patricia Garton 853-6675.

Next meeting will be held at Mrs. Patricia Garton's on June 27. This will be the final meeting until September.

Free Press Family page

Holiday in Hawaii reviewed

A pot luck supper was enjoyed by 23 members and 10 guests before the Lakeside chapter of the I.O.D.E. meeting Tuesday of last week.

Members who had enjoyed a trip to Hawaii in the winter shared their experiences. Vera Ingles narrated her slides. Hazel Orr and Marguerite Taylor added interesting sidelights of the trip and showed some of the things they brought back. The program was enjoyed very much.

Donations made

A donation of \$10 was made for toys for Eskimos, as requested by

headquarters. Members were informed by headquarters that \$500 had been sent to Iceland to aid volcano victims.

The chapter flags were carried on Decoration Day and placed at the funeral home for the funeral of a former member Pearl Boyd, Arlene Coultrup reported.

Grace Nelles gave a short report of her trip to the provincial annual meeting at Charlottetown. Mrs. Nelles also agreed to represent the chapter at the centennial meeting called by the Chamber of Commerce.

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Legion ladies

The Legion Ladies' Auxiliary held their last meeting for the summer with president Bob Angell and vice president Gord James installing the new slate of officers.

Two new members were also initiated.

The Auxiliary sent a donation of \$300 to Sunnybrook Veterans to be used on bus trips.

Area pilots

Pilots Tom and Barbara Brotherton of Limehouse placed second in the second annual Goelpl Air Rally with a 99.0965 per cent score.

In first place was Helen Barter, one of only three women pilots among the 31 entered. Miss Barter from Milton and her copilot Simone Breukel of Scarborough had a 99.189 efficiency score for the 246-mile race. They flew a Cessna 172 and won \$250.

Jim Potts and P.R. Posno of London were third with 99 per cent.

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