

the painted box



by Wendy Thomson

I once had a friend who seemed to divide the art of living into parts and her conversation was always about "Life's Little Surprises," "Life's Little Disappointments," "Life's Little Trials, Puzzles, Joys, Worries, Aggravations" and so on.

She was a good friend but she just about drove me crazy! Maddeningly, for the past few weeks, I seem to have caught on to her way of thinking.

Now, I LIKE things like surprises (most of them, anyhow.) A letter in the mailbox is always a small surprise, as is a knock on the door or a phone call, particularly when it's a friend I haven't seen for awhile, saying "Are you going to be home? I might drop in!" I'm quite open to being surprised that way.

But surprises can sometimes get out of hand. My husband and I seemed to be trying to outdo each other lately, and at last count he's one up on me.

Next surprise
It began with Gord's Easter present to me, a rabbit. For Gord's birthday, I surprised him (and how!) with a pogo-stick, saying it was (a) to take Rabbit for walks with and (b) for days when the car wouldn't start.

Gord promptly beat THAT surprise with 15 tons of sod for Mother's Day. The kids and I spent a week in battle with our existing weed-bed, trying to get it in some sort of shape to lay sod on.

My first step was to run into town for weed sprayer, hose, and sprinkler (\$17). On getting home, I found that Gord's weed killer can's directions were for gallons and acres. My mind seized up and refused to work it down to ounces and square feet. (One of Life's Little Aggravations.)

Back into town I went and bought a can of ounce-and-square-foot weed killer, plus another \$5 feet of hose, another \$2 (broken out of the kids' piggy bank).

On the way home I stopped at Alma-around-the-corner's, parked on a hill, pulled out the emergency brake, and SURPRISE! It came off in my hand!

Mood gone
By the time I got back home and got the sprayer loaded and together, I was in no mood for any more of Life's Little Trials, Tribulations, or whatever. Then I turned on the sprayer to find that the deflector that makes the thing spray was missing, and ended up with a frozen finger from holding it over the nozzle. But I got the weeds all sprayed (JOY).

Then it rained that night and washed it off again (Frustration).

Anyhow, we finally got the sod down and if it takes, that'll be another of Life's Little Surprises.

The next thing I did, was gather piles and piles of clothes with all kinds of ground in dirt and grass stains, and started in on six loads of wash.

Two loads later, SURPRISE! The pump that pumps the water out of the laundry tubs quit. (Aggravation.)

Shirts, yet
Through all this, Gord was either planting corn, up in Port Elgin, or at meetings in Toronto (for which he needed a continuous supply of clean shirts).

After a few days of sneaking peeks at the four piles of dirty clothes and two tubs of dirty water, I resigned myself to the fact that they weren't going to do anything on their own. It was up to me. (One of Life's Little Challenges.)

Last night I found an old sump pump, stood it in the laundry tub, connected up the hoses, ran them outside, and

went to plug it in. There was no plug (Trial).

I'll skip lightly over the next 15 minutes (skip, skip) and just say I finally got it going, the water removed, and the laundry done (Triumph!).

Of course, with the back door held open by the hose, within 15 minutes the basement was full of mosquitoes, kittens, and one fat dog who's insisting, again, that she's going to have puppies and can she please make a nest in the laundry since I won't let her make it on our bed?

What next
Anyhow, I'm now enjoying one of Life's Little Contentments, half an hour outside in the sun, beside a newly sodden lawn. My husband has just left (in a clean shirt), rabbit is on one foot, Blackcat on the other. (Dog is on our bed.) The wash and ironing is all done, (stealing beds, dishes, vacuuming, and windows, all of which I'll do—tomorrow.)

Right now, I'm just going to sit and think what I can surprise Gord with for Father's Day. A second rabbit maybe?

B.A. degree at McMaster



CATHERINE (KRUL) GORDON
Catherine Gordon (nee Krul) received her Bachelor of Arts degree at a convocation at McMaster University, Hamilton on Thursday, May 24. She also attended in the past year Hamilton Teachers College and graduated with Honors on May 18.

Present at Convocation were her husband Allan and her parents Mr. and Mrs. John Krul, Acton and Mr. and Mrs. Ross Gordon, Guelph.

Will teach
Cathy attended the Robert Little Public School and Acton District High School. She also studied for two years at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

She is now employed with the Halton County Board of Education and will teach English at the Frontenac Public School in Burlington.

New bike, car collide Tuesday

Lynn Dawe, riding a brand new Super Cycle, received minor injuries when she and her bicycle were in collision with a car driven by Thomas Henderson, Elmore Dr.

The accident happened on Mill at Willow Tuesday at 4.45 p.m. Lynn is 15 and lives on Homesway Place. Damage to the car was estimated at \$50 and to the bike \$25.

Mr., Mrs. D. Reed greet many on 50th anniversary

A delightful event took place Sunday afternoon and evening when many relatives, friends and neighbors gathered in Acton to honor an esteemed couple, Mr. and Mrs. Donald (Dan) McDougall Reed on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary.

Open House was held in Luxton Hall from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. when over 150 well-wishers signed the gold guest book which was in charge of the grandchildren. The bridal table was centred by the beautifully decorated wedding cake which had been made by their daughter, Flora Edmondson, flanked by several floral arrangements, which had come as gifts, and by gold and white candles. The golden theme was carried out in all decorations. A large floral decoration created of white flowers with the names "Dan" and "Elsie" in gold flowers and a large heart to match, was very eye-catching.

Another large table displayed cards and gifts. Many guests attending came from Iron Bridge, Algoma District in Northern Ontario, as well as Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, Monteth, St. Catharines, Burlington, Waterdown, Teeswater, Elmira, Durham, Guelph, Rockwood, Brampton, Flesherton, Norval, Georgetown, Victoria Corners Toronto, Belleville and Ottawa.

The groom of 50 years "Dan" as he is familiarly known, was born in Algoma, a son of the late James Stewart Reed and Catherine McDougall. The bride, the former Elsie Hendry, was the daughter of the late Robert Hendry and Jane Brown also born in Algoma and taught in schools there. She had worked at the Northern Academy, Monteth before her marriage which took place in Monteth, June 20, 1923, the Rev. Mr. Foe officiating.

They settled first in New Liskeard and had a family of five — two daughters and three sons. A grievous blow saddened their lives Aug. 25, 1937, when their elder daughter, Donna Elhel, met instant death by drowning at the age of nine years, and again on Sept. 25, 1970 by the shocking sudden death of their grandson by marriage, David Lidkea in a fatal car accident.

Linda Perry graduates
Linda Perry graduated Saturday afternoon as a radiographer. The graduation ceremonies were at Convocation Hall at the University of Toronto followed by a dance for students in the evening at the Constellation Hotel. Linda took her course in radiology at the Toronto Institute of Medical Technology and begins her first position July 3 at Humber Memorial Hospital.

Present for graduation ceremonies were her parents Mr. and Mrs. Charles Perry, brother Don and Anne Perry, sister Mrs. Mary Lou Hubble, Kingston and grandmother Mrs. Davis, Severn Bridge; Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Denny, Churchill and Vern Denny, Lucan.

Run-off
The bike rodeo run-off between the two public schools is this morning (Wednesday) at the arena. The mayor is to present council trophies to the winners. There were 700 boys and girls who took part in the rodeos at the schools with about 40 selected for today's run-off.

On July 13, 1949, Mr. & Mrs. Reed and family moved from South Porcupine to their newly acquired farm property near Flesherton, where their son Garnet, wife and family now reside.

Retired to Acton
In the fall of 1961 owing to the ill health of Dan, they retired to Acton to an apartment in the home of their eldest son, Stewart. Mrs. Reed has taken an active part in community life, having been secretary of the Acton Golden Age Club for nine terms and is active in U.C.W. work, especially quiltings.

Following Open House a family dinner was held at Acton Meadows Golf Club when all their four children and partners, 14 grand children and one great-grand child sat down.

All family here
Among the guests at Open House were all members of their

family circle; son Stewart, his wife Nan, their son Bill and his wife Lynda, Ottawa, Gordon who flew in from Thompson, Manitoba, daughter Gail Mrs. D. Lidkea and her little daughter Tasha, Barbara and Heather, all of Acton; their daughter Flora, her husband Hain Edmondson and their family, David, Ross, Donna and Jamie, Burlington; their son Garnet, his wife Jean and family Laurie, Rosalie and Robbie, Victoria Corners; and youngest son, Don, his wife Gail, and sons Darryl and Jeffrey, Teeswater.

Many were the congratulatory messages, cards and gifts received. Congratulations were received from Governor-General Roland Michener, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Premier Wm. Davis, Geo. Kerr, M.P.P., Terry O'Connor M.P. for Halton County and Opposition Leader Robert Stanfield.

Free Press Family page

Weatherman unkind to R.L. grade 8 trip

Many of the group have sniffles and colds and one teacher isn't back to school yet, but nevertheless the Robert Little grade eight trip to Ottawa was enjoyable. Air conditioning at Carleton University is blamed mainly for the colds that developed on the rainy weekend.

The group left early Thursday morning with popular bus driver Ken Budd. Their rooms, which were actually suites, proved perfect for the pizza party and dance that developed one evening. The R.C.M.P. musketeer ride and Ottawa Rough Riders were also in the same building.

Saw sights
The group took in the parliament buildings, war museum, aeronautical display at Rockcliffe park and the museum of science and technology, and they drove past the prime minister's and governor-general's homes. Shopping and swimming were included.

Pouring rain prevented them from stopping at Upper Canada Village on the way home, however.

They met Brookville students who were also in Ottawa at the same time on a school trip.

Trip slides shown fair ladies' division

The ladies' division of the Acton Agricultural Society met at the home of Mrs. M. Madill on Thursday evening, June 7. Business arising from the minutes was discussed and Mrs. J. McEnery reported on a meeting of the entertainment committee of the men's board, she and Mrs. Matthews had attended. It was decided that the next meeting take the form of a picnic supper, if possible, on August 23.

Mrs. Matthews showed her pictures taken on their trip to the west coast of Canada and south to Mexico. They were beautiful pictures and everyone enjoyed seeing them.

Cut hand
On Saturday a New Toronto man cut his hand at Fairy Lake. He was taken by a friend to Georgetown hospital.



OBSERVING THEIR golden wedding anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Reed received congratulations from their family and many friends at Open House in the parish hall on Saturday. They live on Tidey Ave. (Photo by D. Pink)

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