

the printed box

by Wendy Thomson

Do most farm wives hit a slump where country living loses all enjoyment? Is there always a point in time or experience where everything formerly enjoyed—sights, sounds, smells, and incidents—all seem blah?

The other day, when the sun was shining and the wind blew coolly, I gave myself a good shake after weeks of tending solely to the house, and took a long walk around the property. Then I came back to the house, sat down and cried. The peace I used to find in such a walk didn't come, and I felt only a great sense of frustration and disappointment.

Of course, maybe that's the unfortunate but natural progression of country living. When we moved here 14 years ago, it was an idyllic spot of natural beauty and solitude. We were the only house on our one mile stretch of road other than Wm. McIntyre's farm. Usually, only one car a day went by (the mailman), wildlife being the more common sight. We roamed as freely as it did, and knew just about every deer run and groundhog hole in half the concession. It was our private heaven for five years.

Of course, when the other houses started springing up, we couldn't complain. After all, other families had just as much right to this kind of life. Unfortunately, the more houses built, the more traffic and less wildlife there was.

Start farming
We'd bought the 23 acres to give our hunting dogs a bit of freedom, but with all that land just sitting there, we gradually started in on the farming bit.

First we got another dog, a cat, 13 chickens, and five pigs. Then came a pasture and cow; a hay barn, horse, goose, ferret for the barn, twine for the mare, ducks, and so on. We had just about everything, at one time or other. Those years were frivolous but extremely happy.

But over the last year or so, with prices and expenses soaring frivolidly had to go. Some disappeared on their own. My huge old Thomas-catt vanishes around June; Rabbit took to the bushes in July. In times when animal shootings and poisonings or dog maulings aren't that

unusual, all that I could hope for was a quick and easy death for them.

The geese and ducks were sold, as were the ponies and horses. With grain prices up, all the pasture was needed for planting corn for Gord's pigs.

Last life
However, I'm still hanging onto my mare, Black Velvet and have been job hunting so I can keep her and board her out somewhere. It might be better to sell her but I'm reluctant.

Other than that she's just about the only thing I have that is my very own, she's also my last tie to that peaceful life. Most horse-owners know how relaxing a horse is. On days full of tension and frustration, a stroll out to the pasture to just sit on the hill and watch is more tranquilizing than a handful of pills.

There's no peace in the pasture now. I COULD go back I suppose, but sitting on the dirt watching pigs, with cornstalks rustling seven feet above my head just wouldn't be the same.

Velvet is running loose in our neighbor's fields right now, and every now and then I hear her hollering and dash across the road to feed her a carrot before she takes off again.

No time, room
Well, maybe I'll climb out of my slump by the spring and rediscover country magic again.

It seems sad, though, that we moved out here with plans of hunting and horses, only to find that in order to keep the place, we have no time for one or room for the other.



SURROUNDED BY princesses, Miss Acton Fair 1973 Anne Luty rides on her float in the parade. With her 1. to r. are, Verna Fisher, Karen Cole, Helen Guenther, Joyce Denny and Shirley Bonus. (D. Gibbons photo)

Rockwood industry described to W.I.

Charles I. Kirkness, of Acton, was guest speaker at the regular monthly meeting of the Dublin Women's Institute on Thursday evening. It was Canadian Industries night, and the convener, Mrs. Charles M. Davidson introduced the speaker to the ladies.

He took as his subject, an industry in a neighboring village, Northern Stag Ltd. in Rockwood, and outlined the origin of this firm—the growth through the years, and the many articles that are marketed. Their products are mostly for sportsmen and have gained world markets.

Many articles were shown by the speaker, and the ladies

were intrigued with them and very interested in his talk. Mrs. J. C. Dennis thanked the speaker for his informative talk.

Large turnout
Mrs. James Ismond, Dublin Side Road, was hostess for a large turnout of members. Opening numbers were presided over by Mrs. Clark Armstrong, the president.

Roll call was answered by An Industry in North Halton called by Mrs. M. Hunter, secretary.

From the correspondence, a training school will be held on October 18 and 19 at Milton and the theme will be Creative Stitchery. Mrs. K. Smith will attend as leader from the branch.

The 34th Annual Area convention of the Women's Institutes will be held in Kitchener on November 1 and 2. Mrs. C. Armstrong will be the official delegate, with others expecting to attend the banquet.

A donation of \$10 was approved to be forwarded to the Muscular Dystrophy fund.

Short reports of standing committees were given by the chairmen, Agriculture by Mrs. H. Besley; Education by Mrs. H. Doida, and visiting by Mrs. D. Moffat.

First at fair
Mention was made of the success of the branch at Acton Fall Fair when they were awarded first prize for their exhibit in the Kitchen Kapers class; also the 411 Seniors, first prize, for their exhibit. Mrs. F. Kirton and Mrs. W. Lauby are the leaders.

The class in the Homecrafts Section Acton Fall Fair sponsored by the Dublin Branch will be amended, and Mrs. Armstrong and Mrs. M. Hunter will look after the details.

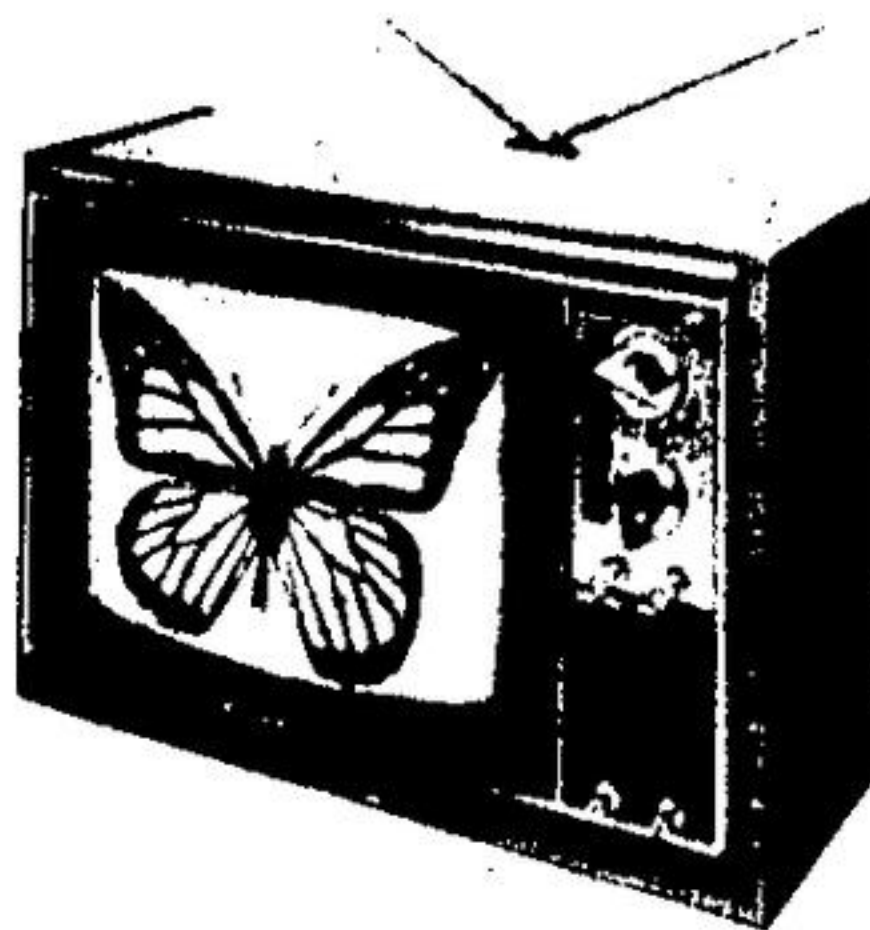
Mrs. W. Frank conducted two contests with several prize winners.

Bus trip
Mrs. M. Nellis reported on the annual bus trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake and other points. It had been

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Still accept night school students

Late registrations have already boosted night school registration to 150 or so, according to co-ordinator Boris Shean. He points out this week that more registrations can be accepted in all classes running except for one, sewing. Mrs. Hannah's sewing class is completely filled and the only way to accommodate more would be to have another dozen for a second class.

There are eight classes which have sufficient registration, but will also accept more all this week or on the first night. These are typing, brush up your office skills with Mrs. Bowden, conversational French with Miss Menifec, fitness and recreation with Bruce Andrews, all on Mondays; introduction to needlecrafts with Mrs. Bessem, interior design and decoration, small business bookkeeping with Ian McGillivray and yoga with Mr. J. Bray Wednesday.

There are four classes which will meet on the first night, but unless more people than are registered show up, they will have to be dropped. These are landscape design and European cuisine Mondays, creative painting Tuesdays and bridge Wednesdays.

All classes begin the first week in October, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd. More information in the display ad in today's Free Press.

More details
New high school teacher Paula Curran, who sells her own prints, explains that the creative painting class could include colour study and theory, color mixing in oils, looking at palettes of famous artists, basic composition techniques, practice sketching, painting in oil or water color, still life, scenes and live models, print making and collages.

Class members can make their own Christmas cards and gift wrap, she says enthusiastically.

Miss Curran would like to have some of the long-time painters from past groups join the class, too.

Mrs. Pokluda from Sheridan Nurseries explains that in her course in landscape design she covers

foundation designs for new homes, shrubbery, pruning, fall bulbs, care and preparation of lawns, fall care of plants and propagation from cuttings.

In interior designs, room by room schemes will be discussed as well as types of furniture, drapes and floor coverings.

Week later
Those registered in small business bookkeeping are reminded their class begins a week late, Wednesday, Oct. 10, says Mr. Shean.

Due to the number who will be at the high school on Mondays and Wednesdays he is hoping to have arrangements made for the cafeteria to be open for coffee break to add to the sociability for the classes.

Wins grain competition

By A. Mac Armstrong
Joanne Wilson of R.R. 3 Georgetown placed first with mixed grain at the 4-H field crop club achievement day. Ken McNabb was second; Scott Harris of R.R. 6 Milton was third; Cecil Patterson of Milton was fourth; and John Reid of R.R. 6 Milton was fifth.

Ken McNabb placed first with hay, John Reid, second; Doug McPhail of R.R. 2 Georgetown third; Glenn McClure, fourth; and Dennis McClure was fifth.

The top exhibits will be going to Erin Fair to compete in the Inter-Club Competition.

NOTICE To Halton County Residents

Re Proposed Hydro Transmission Corridors

I shall be appointing, as your warden of Halton County, a special committee of the county council to meet with concerned residents and groups about the Ontario Hydro proposal to construct the 500 KV Hydro Transmission Corridor across Halton County. The committee will be named immediately following the Halton Regional Election Monday, October 1st, 1973.

Anne J. MacArthur, Warden, Halton County.

Group planning dessert bridge

Wednesday, September 19, Trinity Activity Group held their first meeting of the fall season at the home of Mrs. I. McGillivray. They began a bible study course under the able guidance of Mrs. McGillivray and related it to life today in Canada.

They made plans for the next dessert bridge night, to be held on October 19 at 8 p.m., in Trinity United Church's basement. They hope to have delicious desserts to serve in order to make this evening the success that the spring dessert bridge enjoyed. Tickets will be available from any of our members at \$1, each and everyone will be most welcome to come and enjoy a good sociable evening.

African trip
They are planning on having the October meeting at the home of Mrs. C. Rognvaldson, who will be showing her movies which were taken this past summer in Africa, when she and her husband went overseas to visit their daughter and family.

NOTICE

As required by Section 40, Subsection 5, of the Assessment Act R.S.O. 1970.

a) The last day for appealing your assessment is October 31st 1973.

b) The Assessment Roll may be examined at your local Municipal Office and the Roll can be discussed with the Assessment Commissioner or an Assessor at the Regional Assessment Office.

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