

the painted box

by Wendy Thomson

Kismet? Fate? Whatever you call it, life is sometimes a lot less worrisome if you believe in it. I've found. Not only in little things but in fairly important matters as well.

For example, in the "little things" department, when I go grocery shopping, I rarely look at the prices. Oh, I might if the item is one I've never bought before, but with the ordinary basic stuff I figure there's no point in checking prices as it has to be bought anyhow. Knowing the ever-increasing prices would only be worrisome.

Or the photo contest. My summer photography was planned with the Star Weekly's competition in mind. The negatives were chosen and sent away, but when they didn't come back on schedule it was easier to say "Well, I guess they weren't meant to be entered" than to sit and fret.

And the important matters? I find that Fate is steering me around in quite an odd way and I'm curious to see where I end up.

Changes
A short time ago, I wrote about changes in our small farm over the years - from 25 acres to putter around on and enjoy, to a medium-sized sow operation.

My own personal decision was what to do about my mare, Black Velvet. There was no room here for her, and she wasn't being ridden. I lay awake many nights trying to find a reason for keeping her.

My husband thought it was so I could say "I have a horse". Not so. I rarely mentioned her, but that didn't mean I didn't think about her!

The only answer I could come up with was "She's my security blanket." No, I don't hold her against my cheek and stick her tail in my ear, but in a world of indecision and uncertainty, she was (and is) a constant. A "constant what" I'm not sure, but constant she is.

She's important in that her purchase from Roy Ineson five years ago opened a door to totally new experiences, not only in riding, but in friends, writing, and travelling. Maybe I have a feeling that if she goes, everything else will start to fall apart.

Saving
Anyhow, whatever my reasons, I decided in September to hold on to Velvet as long as possible. With a bit of

extra writing, I figured I could board her out, and set to work saving.

Things went along perfectly. Insonson assured me they'd find a stall for the horse, my bank account crept up to the one-month's-board mark (writing doesn't pay particularly well and it doesn't help that I'm paying off a bank loan on July's trip out west.) Much of the writing I did took me over goergeotown way, and I could see it would be easy to stop by Insonson's every day for a good riding session.

On the 11th, Mary Hatch arrived with ruck and trailer and Velvet was whisked down to the farm and installed in the stable. Then fate took a hand.

As we were returning home, we saw ahead of us a number of cars on the side of the road. It was very obviously an accident.

The end
Yes, our faithful truck had met an unexpected and unfortunate violent end on one of those little knobby back road hills. And that meant the end of all my carefully thought-out plans. No truck, - no extra writing jobs and no daily trips to ride Velvet.

"The best laid plans of mice and men..." and all that. A new decision must be made soon. I can either quit writing, sell Velvet, and settle down to making soup and mending socks, or I can try working full time and buy myself the very necessary car, - "a car to follow the stories and do the writing to ear the money to pay the bills incurred by the horse that Wendy rides."

It doesn't make too much sense, does it? Of course, I might end up selling Velvet in the end through lack of funds, but it won't be just because I've given up without some sort of a struggle.



Rest in peace

Bert Hinton guest speaker

A very informative resume of the history of community colleges was given to members of Lakeside chapter of the I.O.D.E. by H. H. Hinton. He was speaker at the November meeting in the Legion hall.

Regent Grace Nellis gave a report on the national convention she attended in Charlotte. A new rose commemorating the 75th anniversary of the I.O.D.E. will be sold for 1974 fall planting. A reading on Remem-

brance Day was given by Bessie Musselle with a minute's silence.

Letters of appreciation were read from Diane Housfield and Joanne Anker, winners of the chapter bursary awards.

IODE calendars will be distributed to the schools.

Donations are to be made, \$5 to the Canadian Scene, \$10 for Concern for Children fund, \$5 for the Peace Garden and \$25 to the emergency and welfare fund.

Annual auction for Dublin W.I.

Mrs. W. Pierce, Sixth Line, Nassagaweya, was hostess for the November meeting of Dublin Women's Institute on Thursday evening. A good attendance of members and one visitor was present.

After the opening exercises, presided over by Mrs. C. Armstrong, president, roll call was responded to by "a thought for world peace."

Mrs. M. Hunter, treasurer, gave a detailed financial report which showed a substantial balance.

4H Achievement Day will be held on December 8, at St. Paul's Church, Milton, with the theme being "Accessories for the Bedroom."

A new class for competition in the Acton Fall Fair prize list, sponsored by the Branch, will be crochet work for 16 years and under.

Standing committee chairmen reported for the month as follows: Agriculture Mrs. H. Besley; Education Mrs. H. Dodds; Family and Consumer Affairs Mrs. E. Norton; Visiting Mrs. C. Armstrong, and on Quilting Mrs. W. Frank, who displayed a quilt that had recently been completed.

Mrs. E. Wilson handed in the proceeds of a successful booth held at a neighboring auction sale.

Christmas party
Mention was made of the Christmas Party to be held at the home of Mrs. C. McIntyre, Sixth Line, Nassagaweya, on December 6. The family party will be held on December 15 at Brookville Hall at 5:30 p.m.

Mrs. W. J. McIntyre reported on the Tweedsmuir History workshop held in Brookville recently. Ten members from the Branch

attended, at which Dublin and Tweedsmuir Institutes were the hostesses. There was a good attendance, at the workshop from neighboring branches and much information was obtained for the compiling of the Tweedsmuir History books.

Mrs. K. Smith and Mrs. C. Armstrong reported on a Training School they had attended in Milton recently. The course was on Creative Stitchery, and they hope to instruct a class on this subject in the near future.

Sessions
A report full of interest to the members was given by Mrs. C. Armstrong, the delegate to the 34th annual Women's Institute (Guelph Area), which she attended on November 1 and 2 at Bingham Park Lodge, Kitchener. 352 ladies had attended the sessions. They were informed that there are 30,800 Women's Institute members in Ontario at the present time. Mention was made of the large attendance at the banquet, and also of the address of the guest speaker, who spoke of her life in Russia, but now is a resident of Kitchener.

A large collection of fruit, vegetables, baking, flowers, etc. were presented for the annual auction sale. Mrs. J. C. Dennis, an auctioneer, disposed of them, realizing a nice sum for the treasury.

A bounteous lunch was served by the lunch committee, Mrs. D. McKnight, Mrs. C. McIntyre and Mrs. H. Blyth, assisted by Mrs. Pierce, the hostess.

Mrs. E. Wilson expressed thanks to everyone who had assisted with the program, the hostess and to the lunch committee.

Remembrance meeting theme

Remembrance was the theme for the November meeting of the Afternoon Auxiliary W.M.S. of Knox church, held at the home of Mrs. H. Mainprize.

Miss Isabel Anderson presided and, following a prayer for peace, called for a period of silence in tribute to the memory of those who had served their country in two World Wars and the Korean War and also those who had served their church through two centuries.

Following the chosen theme, Mrs. Allison read the 91st Psalm and Mrs. Hansen led in prayer.

First settlers
Mrs. Mainprize took the study topic and with the aid of a poster, showed the arrival of the first Highland settlers to the eastern shores of Canada, having spent 77 days on this hazardous transatlantic voyage from Scotland. Their first church services were held in homes but soon they had a wee kirk constructed of logs.

This year, from July 1 to Sept. 16, the bi-centennial celebrations of this historic event were held in Pictou Presbyterian, when a replica of the original log church was

constructed as part of the celebrations. From coast to coast preparations are now being made for the centennial celebration of the Presbyterian church in Canada. Plans were made for the special Christmas meeting with customary white gifts and messages to the shut-ins.

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GRANDMA SHOWS Leslie Norton, three, a scrumptious big box of candy at Lakeside I.O.D.E. bazaar on Saturday. Leslie came up from Bramalea for the event where her grandmother Mrs. Dot Norton was helping raise \$800.

Free Press Family Page

Lakeside bazaar raises \$800 at Legion Saturday

Over \$800 was raised Saturday at the annual Christmas bazaar held by members of Lakeside chapter of the I.O.D.E. Kilt Dowling convened the event with the close assistance of regent Grace Nellis and members. A delicious tea was served at one end of the Legion Hall, convened by Lucille Cooksey. Other tables displayed hand-made articles, sewing, knitting, bazaar novelties, toys, candy, salads, jams and jellies, pickles and baking.

There were several draws. The handmade afghan and pillow were won by Bernice Reid of Guelph and formerly of Acton, who had donated several of her own lovely handmade articles for sale. A huge carton of groceries was presented to an astonished Mrs. Harry Mainprize who was still there at draw time.

Young Kathy Coats won the white decorated Christmas tree skirt, Helen Jaecque both a cake and candle; Violet Preston of Glen Williams a box of candy; Myrt Schneider another candle; Ruth Courtney an apron and Vera Inglis the bouquet from the tea table.

The Legion hall was packed as the bazaar opened at 2

p.m. As the bazaar workers started moving out,

Chorallers started coming in with a complete new set of decorations for Pub Night.

W.I. spoons given visitors

The November meeting of the Acton Women's Institute was held in the Acton library with 13 members and five guests present.

President Miss Simmons opened with a reading Wonderful Grandma and a prayer.

Marie Hargrave presented a W.I. spoon in appreciation to Mrs. Helen Jocque.

Reports were given by the following conveners: Mrs. Roy Lindsay on care of Christmas cactus; Mrs. Myrtle Lambert gave out safety tip folders; Mrs. Doris Cooke read about Nellie McClung for whom a stamp has been issued; Mrs. Pickett sent the report about the W.I. District Day; Mrs. Mabel Denny on Art today.

Christmas
The Christmas meeting will

start with a pot luck luncheon at 1 p.m. and will feature a gift exchange.

Mrs. Grace Nellis introduced the four visitors from the visiting institutes, Mrs. McCullough, president of Greenock Institute; Mrs. Gordon Johnston who showed slides of a recent trip to the W.I. Banff convention; and Mrs. George Wallace who showed several photos on a poster of their trip.

Marie Hargrave thanked the last three ladies and presented them with W.I. spoons. Mrs. McCullough was asked to draw the winning ticket for the quilt. The winning number 287 was Mrs. Joan McTrash R.R. 4, Acton. Lunch was served by the lunch committee Doris Cooke, Doris Fryer and Marie Hargrave.

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