

the painted box

By Wendy Thompson

My nine year old brought home a couple of recipes the students had made at school. I found they're great for mixing up in a hurry when I really haven't got time to bake anything.

BUTTERSCOTCH CHIPIT SQUARES
Melt 1/4 cup butter and a 6 ounce package of butterscotch chips. Beat in 1/2 cup peanut butter.

Add 1/2 cup coconut, 1/2 cup chopped walnuts, 1/2 package miniature marshmallows.

Pour into an 8" square buttered pan and cool in frig for an hour. Cut into squares.

NOTE: As the recipe didn't say what size package of marshmallows, I got the large pack and just kept pouring them in until the mixture wouldn't hold any more.

CHOCOLATE OATMEAL COOKIES

In a heavy pan, mix 2 cups white sugar, 6 tsp. cocoa, 1/2 cup milk, pinch salt, 1 tsp. butter. Bring to a full boil remove from heat.

While still hot, add 1 tsp. vanilla, 1 cup rolled oats, 1 cup coconut.

Drop by spoonfuls onto waxed paper, cool in frig till solid.

You know, it's kind of maddening to spend hours in the kitchen fussing over a new recipe, just to have it meet with silence and indifference when served. And then the following day, to rush home after a day of shopping with little time to get supper on the table, throw a whole lot of odds and ends together, and get raves from the whole family!

The following did just that. **HAMBURGER CASSEROLE**

Brown 1 1/2 pounds hamburger in a skillet, season with 1 tsp salt and 1/2 tsp pepper. Make 2 cups gravy, using one of the packaged mixes like Gravy, thickening it in the skillet along with the meat. Add a shake of dried minced onion and any leftover vegetables that happen to be sitting in

the frig. (I had about 1 cup of peas and 1 cup mixed vegetables.)

Heat well and pour into a large casserole.

Using one of the packaged biscuit mixes like Easy Bisk or Bisquick, mix up a batch of drop biscuits. Drop these on top of the meat and bake at 400 degrees for 30 minutes.

The next recipe is right out of my pressure cooker cookbook. I find it's great for when I've got engrossed in something and forgotten to put the chicken in the oven in time for it to be roasted by supper-time.

PRESSURE COOKER CHICKEN AND DUMPLINGS

The first part is the part I heartily dislike, and that's getting the darned chicken in small enough pieces to fit in the cooker. It helps if there's a man around to cut it into serving-sized pieces.

Anyhow, place pieces in the cooker and add 2 cups water, salt and pepper, a shake dried parsley, 1 stick of celery (sliced), and 1 scrubbed carrot (also sliced).

Cover the pressure cooker, and cook 20 minutes at 15 pounds pressure. Then let pressure drop off it on its while you make dumplings.

DUMPLINGS
1 1/2 cups flour
4 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
1/8 tsp. poultry spices
1 tsp. shortening
1 well beaten egg
two-thirds cup milk

Sift dry ingredients. Cut in shortening. Combine milk and egg and add. Mix well. Cool cooker and remove lid. Lift out chicken and keep warm in oven. Make sure there are 3 cups water left in cooker and thicken slightly if you like.

Drop dough by spoonfuls into gravy, close cover securely but don't use pressure regulator. Simmer 15 minutes without looking. Serve with the chicken at once.



CELEBRATING SIXTY YEARS of a happily married life are Mr. and Mrs. Louis Vickers who were feted to a family dinner to celebrate their December 17 anniversary. Previous residents of Acton, Mr. and Mrs. Vickers lived here during the years of 1924 to 1938 when they moved to a farm in the Town of Cayuga and back to Acton where they have resided at their home 280 Peel Street for the past nine years. Celebrating with them were their daughter Bessie (Mrs. Newton Hurst) and their two sons, Ivan Vickers of Acton and Ross of Dunnville, and their families. The Vickers are the proud grandparents of six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Although the celebration date was actually Monday, the dinner was held on Sunday.

Free Press Family Page

Gifts, cheques from L'Arche at Christmas

Prior to the November meeting of L'Arche Auxiliary, there was a presentation at the Acton Public Library. Mrs. Pat Garton and Mrs. Ruby Lausten gave Mrs. Isabel Watson three books on retardation donated by the auxiliary in memory of Mrs. Janie Robbins. Mrs. Robbins before her death earlier this year was one of the group's oldest members and always made the quilts for fall fairs. Most auxiliary members were present.

The normal November meeting was held after at the home of Mrs. Pat Garton. The meeting was started in the usual manner with a prayer for the mentally retarded read by Mrs. Julie Conroy. Mrs. Shirley Skeggs read the minutes.

usual exciting Christmas parties with Santa in attendance. Draw tickets were distributed to all members to sell and the lucky winner will receive a holiday for two in the Bahamas with \$500 spending money.

Buy gifts
Christmas gifts have been purchased for the three local boys, and one girl who live in the Ontario Hospital School, in Orillia, also the one small boy who lives in the Christopher Robin Home, in Whitby. Several of these children will be spending Christmas at home with their families.

Cheques were also given to the Tinkerbell Nursery, Sunshine School and A.R.C. to enable them to have their

The next meeting of the auxiliary will be on Jan. 23, at the home of Mrs. Shirley Skeggs.



NURSERY CLASS thoroughly charmed the large Jingle Bells while teacher Kathy McGillivray coached from the side.

Spirit of Christmas prevails at meeting

The Spirit of Christmas pervaded the A.C. Stewart Hall of Knox Church on December 13 as members and friends gathered for the annual Christmas meeting.

An inspiring service of worship, including scripture readings, prayers and singing of the old familiar Christmas Carols, was led by Miss Isabel Anderson, president, with members assisting.

Luthers' Cradle Hymn All enjoyed a duet rendered by Mrs. A.H. McKenzie and Mrs. Jessie Anne Gibson. Mrs. McKenzie also contributed a solo, God's Gift to

BATON twirling to Jingle Bell Rock is Tammy Hunter at St. Alban's concert Sunday.

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Officers for 1974 are as follows: hon. president Mrs. A.H. McKenzie; president, Miss Isabel Anderson; Secretary, Mrs. G. Sprowl; Treasurer, Miss R.C. Clark.

Program Committee, Jan. Mrs. G. Sprowl, Miss I. Anderson; Feb. Mrs. A.H. McKenzie, Mrs. H. Allison; March Mrs. A. Near, Mrs. W. J. McIntyre; April Miss R.C. Clark, Mrs. R. Algie; May Mrs. C. Hanson, Mrs. C. Sprowl; June Mrs. H. Buchanan; Sept. Mrs. O. Moran, Mrs. A.M. Macpherson; Oct. Miss R.C. Clark, Mrs. F. McCutcheon; Nov. Mrs. H. Mainprize, Mrs. A.J. Murray; Dec. Miss I. Anderson, Mrs. E. Mellor, Mrs. R. Algie.



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Immigration discussed by area W.I.

Mrs. John Bird, provincial board member was in charge of a meeting of the executive of Subdivision 12, Guelph area Women's Institutes held at Acton Public Library on Dec. 10. She reported on the provincial board meeting held Nov. 28-30 and told members the projects this year are the Erland Lee Homestead and the Sight project.

There are 1,295 Ontario branches with a membership of 30,693 and 2,618 life members, it was reported. The Pennies for Friendship collections amounted to \$10,015.88 and this money is used to finance the Associated Country Women of the World office expenses and travelling expenses of the president and officers in visiting smaller countries, also expenses for sending leaders and teachers to these countries.

Food forums will be held on poultry, knitting and baking as well as one workshop on nutrition in each of the 144 districts. Date for the Guelph area convention was announced, Nov. 25 and 26, 1974. Tweedsmuir history books should be mimeographed. Several good meeting topics were suggested.

A discussion was held on immigration and new Canadian immigration policies were called for. Present laws are not being enforced and too many immigrants can come to Canada, members felt.

This year the nation granted amnesty to thousands who were illegally living in Canada and another 100,000 did not register. Members felt the country has become pretty attractive to people from other nations, thanks to the guaranteed income, baby bonuses and the welfare system.

Personals

Debbie Drinkwater and Carol Jones have just returned home after a three month excursion which took them through Western Canada to Victoria B.C. and south to California. While in California, they met Dave Cookley who was also visiting there.

Library board members and staff enjoyed a social evening together in the board room of the library last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McLeod left Tues. for Ottawa to attend a family dinner given by their daughter, husband, and family in honor of Mr. and Mrs. McLeod's 50th Wedding Anniversary on Dec. 20. Congratulations from many Acton friends to this well-known couple.

Attendance was somewhat disappointing but those who attended the teachers' dance at Acton Meadows golf course Friday enjoyed the evening very much. The social evening together was for all the town's teachers, but many were involved in other things so near Christmas.

Tyler Transport Christmas party is a traditionally good one, with this year no exception. It filled the music centre Saturday night. The Tylers always seek out a new Santa Claus but this year the man they had in mind couldn't come. So after a family conference, five-year-old Angela Tyler agreed to make the annual big appearance. But Angela knew she couldn't be Santa Claus; she could only see her way clear to be an elf. So the Tyler party applauded a very slightly-scared elf instead this year.

In hospital

An Acton woman is in Hamilton General Hospital suffering second and third degree burns over her body. Dr. Vucovich and firefighters Bern Van Fleet and Will Doyal assisted the woman before she was taken to hospital by ambulance Friday.

False alarm

A false fire alarm was sounded Saturday by a group of youths at the Station Hotel. Police investigated.

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NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS

... because the question of human rights is being jeopardized, the teachers of Sunshine School stand behind the walkout of Tuesday, December 18th.

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GEORGETOWN

Parks board swan song

The town of Acton's last parks and recreation committee sang its swan song at a meeting and Christmas party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gil Malcolm Thursday night. Parks and recreation will be taken over by the new town of Halton Hills in the new year.

Members of Acton's last committee are chairman Diane Spielvogel, Lou Bonnette, Gil Malcolm, Ed Woods, Ted Pratt and councillors Orv Chapman and Barry Incoe. Harold Townsley is arena and parks manager and Doris Townsley secretary.

The committee voted unanimously to donate \$1500 towards renovations and furnishings for the council chambers which are to be used for a senior citizens centre in the new year.