



the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

Readers of this column over the past years (5 1/2 of them!) must surely know by now the constant struggle I seem to be waging to achieve some degree of household management.

The silly part about it is that I'm quite capable of being super-efficient if I have to, instead of wandering around vaguely, making ineffectual stabs at tidying, dusting, and so on.

Take last week. Tuesday was so nice and I was getting so little done that I took off down to Georgetown in the afternoon. My mare was mooing around, making mother's eyes at a new foal in the next stall, but I hauled her out, dusted her off, threw on the saddle, and sprang (spring?) into it.

I hope there was nobody watching because some days I misjudge my spring and go flying right over. However, by doing a bit of mad scrambling I managed to stay up there and away we went for an hour, leaving all worries, cares, and housework far behind.

On arriving home, I just had time to get in the door before the phone started ringing. Friend Alice, constant companion of the horse adventures of my early columns, announced she was coming to lunch the next day. I was delighted, as we see each other only two or three times a year, these days.

It wasn't even 6 o'clock when I tackled the dishes (all of Tuesday's) Wednesday morning. By nine, they were done, floors vacuumed, beds made, windows washed, furniture polished, and everything else tidy and shining. I even cleaned off the top of the frig!

By ten, baking was in the oven, the table set, a new "lan and Sylvia" tape on, and the dog vacuumed. Of course, Alice and I were so busy talking that I doubt if she noticed past the clean dog who is very hard to miss, since she comes and stands on people's feet.

Those were two beautiful days—the one away from the house, with sunshine, snow, horse and lunch out (wonton soup and two egg rolls). The other was sunshine, furniture polish, an old friend, lunch in,

two big arm chairs pulled into that sun, and a real "heart to heart" talk.

Dusty dog Today I'm back to normal. Lunch was a peanut butter and lettuce sandwich. Dishes are in the sink READY to do. I've read all the stories in the new Redbook and given away a kitten that isn't even born yet. Beside me is a rumpled cat sleeping in my equally rumpled bed. On the floor is a dusty dog.

However, I HAVE been working on my new budget. I was only \$1.45 over it this week—the lowest I've been so far. And that was for the wonton soup, egg rolls, and tea.

Sometime I'll have to write about the joys of budgeting, but it must be worked at a little more.

A nice finish to this might be the recipe for the squares I made for our lunch. It was given to me by Mildred Lang, wife of Wellington County's Warden, and she told me she sometimes spreads a jam that nobody will eat, in between bottom and topping. I'll have to try that sometime if my kids will only leave me something!

MILDRED'S SQUARES
1 cup flour
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup butter

Cream butter and sugar. Add flour and mix well. Pat evenly into an 8" square cake pan. Spread lightly with jam, if you want.

Topping:
2 eggs
1/4 cups brown sugar
1/2 cup coconut
1/2 cup walnuts
1/2 tsp. baking powder
3 Tbsp. flour
1/2 tsp. vanilla
1/4 tsp. salt

Mix well, pour over base. Bake at 325 or 350 degrees for 25 or 30 minutes.



FRESH home-made bread was popular at the Christian Reformed Women's Societies bake sale Friday. Proceeds go towards mental retardation.

Free Press Family Page

Bake sale for retarded

Everything was sold at the annual Valentine bake sale held by the Christian Reformed Ladies' Societies last Friday. Proceeds totalling \$120 goes towards mental retardation in the local area.

This year's project is to supply crawlers for immobile children. Baked goods were donated by members of the congregation and the North Halton Ladies' Auxiliary for mental retardation.

Voice objections

The Catholic Women's League held their first meeting of the year on Feb. 12 in the newly-renovated basement of St. Joseph's Church.

Members were invited to attend the World Day of Prayer to be held at the Knox Presbyterian Church on March 1.

Plans for a St. Patrick's Day euchre and a spring tea and bake sale to be held in May were discussed and finalised.

President Pauline Gordon urged members to continue to voice their objections against the present abortion laws in the form of letters to Ottawa. When the meeting adjourned lunch was served and enjoyed.

Lady directors shown slides

The Lady Directors of the Acton Agricultural society met at the home of Mrs. W. J. McDonald on Thursday evening, Feb. 7. The president, Mrs. Smith, called the meeting to order and the secretary read minutes and called the roll. After the business period, Mrs. Davidson favored with a solo

and Mrs. McDonald showed slides of her trip to the eastern coast of Canada.

Lunch was served by the hostess and committee and a social half-hour enjoyed. Mrs. J. McEnery was courtesy convener. The next meeting is planned for Mar. 7 at the home of Mrs. M. Madill.

Decoupage is shown to group

Acton Y's Menettes met at the home of club president, Carol Campbell on February 11. Minutes were read by secretary Anne Usher and it was reported by Carol that \$32.32 was made at the book sale held at the Y on February 9.

Plans were made and discussions held with regard to the fashion show. A tentative date has been set for April 17. Committees have been formed to take care of the various aspects of the show.

Carol's mother, Mrs. Rydall joined the meeting after the business and demonstrated her expertise at decoupage and paper toile cutting. With Mrs. Rydall offering instruction and advice, each of the girls tried her hand. Coffee and dessert were

served after a very enjoyable evening. During coffee, the gift for the evening, brought by Donna Bateman, was won by Shirley Brostad.

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Ken Richard T. Potts, M.D., Member



Free Press Personals

A very well-behaved crowd of young people turned out for the Valentine dance at the Y Friday night. The youngsters danced from 8 till 11:30 to the music of Captain Crow, Cathy Smith, activity director, Don Marzo, Richard Masli and one married couple were on hand to chaperone.

There was a good crowd of about 140 at the fair board dance Saturday night in the music centre. Music was by Bob and Corey and catering by Acton Delicatessen. Bill Nelles was master of ceremonies and new president Ken Murray spoke. The event was very enjoyable.

It was a packed house at the North Halton Principals' Association dance Friday night in the band hall. Music was provided by the Glen Street trio from Guelph. The profits from this year's dance and from the last five years will be turned over to the swimming pool fund in memory of Elmer Smith, late principal of M. Z. Bennett.

A very successful euchre party was held on Friday in Knox church hall. There were 16 tables in play.

It's back to the cold and snow for Mrs. Lil Stapleton and her sister Mrs. Phyllis Huffman of Burlington. They have been in Phoenix, Arizona, for two weeks visiting their brother, Matt Tyler and Mrs. Tyler. The weather was beautiful—74 to 76 each day—and they picked their breakfast grapefruit right off the tree. They spent a weekend in California with nephew Bob Tyler, his wife, the former Betty Ann Kerr of Churchill, and their three children.

They had a big surprise one day when, arriving home from shopping, they discovered Ted and Gwen Tyler had arrived from Acton for an unexpected reunion!

The Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association produced a convention of well over 350 last weekend at the posh Hyatt—Regency hotel in

Toronto, including Dills, Coles and Downes from Acton and Milton. The Free Press was in a higher circulation category for competitions this year and placed fifth out of 20; our sports pages placed second, though. We learned a lot about newspapering and when we get rested up we just may try some of the new ideas!

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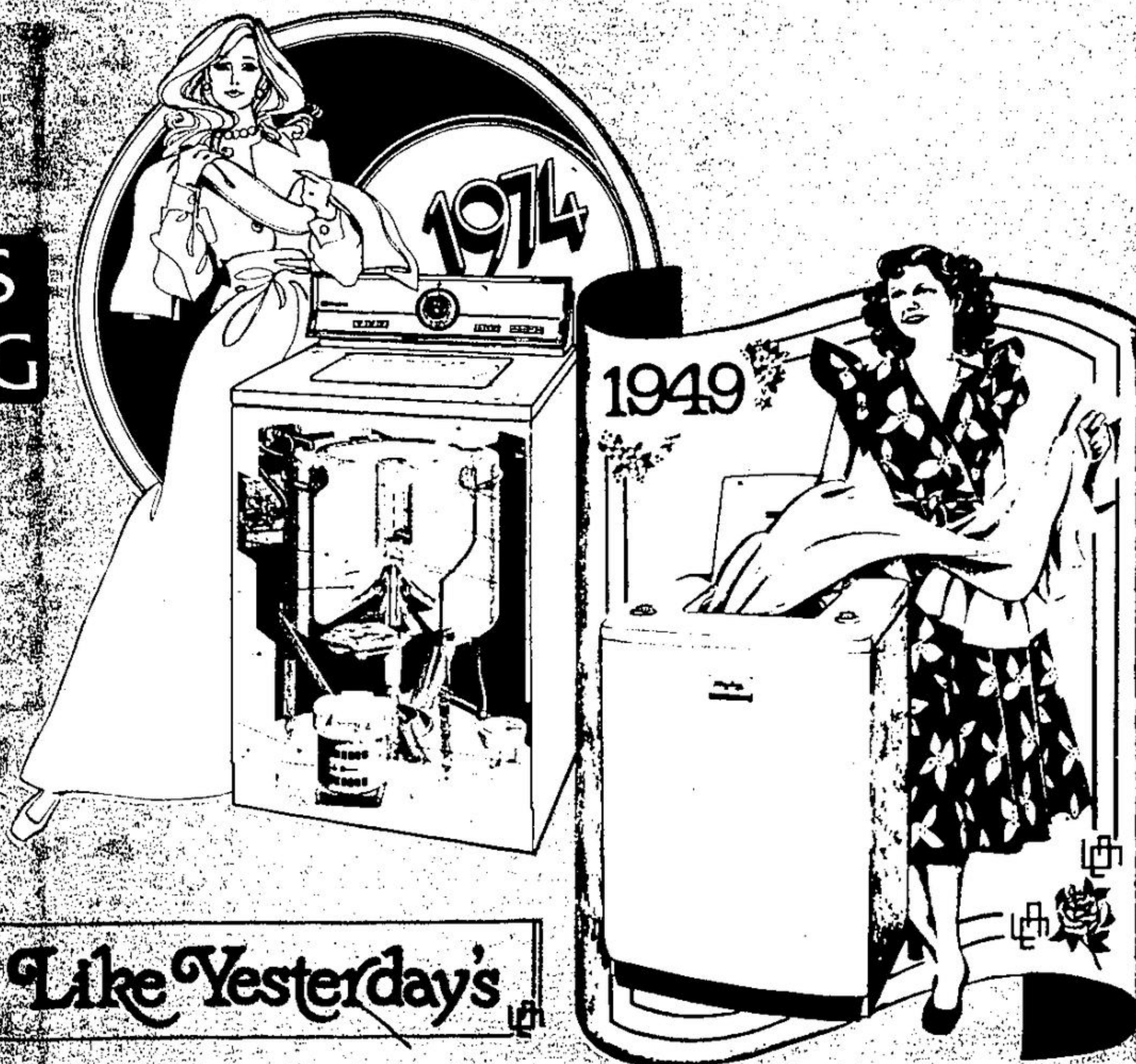
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