

the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

My luck seems to be holding as far as making quick concise telephone calls are concerned. I spent one whole morning trying to get hold of a school friend with no results.

It began quite simply (as most of my problems do). My husband asked if I was doing anything the following Sunday and suggested we go visit Merv and Wilma Thomson, old friends (although unrelated) we haven't seen for quite a few years, and now living in Newmarket.

That sounded a great idea, and early the next day I sat down with my telephone, got information, only to hear their number was unlisted.

Next, I hauled out the Oakville phone book to look up Wilma's mother. She'd moved.

The next step seemed logical. Can't phone so send a telegram. I couldn't remember where to look for telegrams in the phone book so phoned friend Alma who was more wide-awake than I and gave me the number. Things went smoothly until the woman in the telegraph office asked the phone number to which I was sending.

When I explained that if I knew that I wouldn't need to send a telegram, she informed me that Newmarket has no delivery. No phone number, no telegram.

So I dug up the number of another school friend, one in Richmond Hill. The three of us kept in touch with one another (more or less), so I figured Annette might have the number. She didn't but offered the number of yet another friend in Richmond Hill.

Tom was quite pleased to hear from us after so many years, and had Merv and Wilma's number two weeks ago but lost it, so why didn't we all just go visit him and he'd tell us how to get to the Thomson house in Newmarket. We accepted and that was that for the time being.

In between the phone calls, there was a complicated drama unfolding all around me, and I was having an awful time keeping everything straight.

To begin with, Tansy-two had had four kittens in a

Chiquita Banana box under the TV in the living room, and hound Sue kept trying to fish them out and mother them. (Two ounce child and hundred pound mother).

Cock-eyed cat had her three kittens in another banana box in the den. Miss Tansy-cat's banana box was here in the bedroom and she was about to give birth, but she wanted company and kept sneaking into the den and carrying off one of Cock-eyed Cat's kits, amid loud wails and squawks.

It just wasn't my day, to put it mildly. However, on Sunday we did get to Tom's and had a marvellous visit, then headed on up to Newmarket. Wouldn't you know it — nobody was home.

Still, now we have another excuse for a Sunday drive. What I'm going to do, is cut this out of the paper, put it in an envelope, and send it to Merv and Wilma with a little message —

"WILL YOU PLEASE SEND US YOUR BLINKING PHONE NUMBER?!"

A recipe? If the price of beef ever comes down far enough for you to be able to afford a small roast, this is quite good.

SMOTHERED BEEF
3 pounds rump
flour mixed with salt and pepper
3 large onions, sliced
2 tsp. fat
2 tsp. prepared mustard
1 tsp. celery seed
1 cup tomato juice
Brown meat with flour and brown in fat. Add mustard, celery seed and juice. Pour over meat and simmer three hours.
(Note: Can be done in the oven, at 300 degrees.)

Wedding of interest



MR. AND MRS. Barry Thomas Vincent were married at Allenford. His family is well-known in this district.

Barry Thomas Vincent and Eileen Loree Campbell were married Saturday, March 16 in Allenford United church.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Vincent of Allenford and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Vincent (Gladys Holmes) formerly of

Acton. He is a teacher. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Campbell of Dawson, Yukon. She is a graduate nurse.

Following a Caribbean cruise, they'll be living near Allenford.

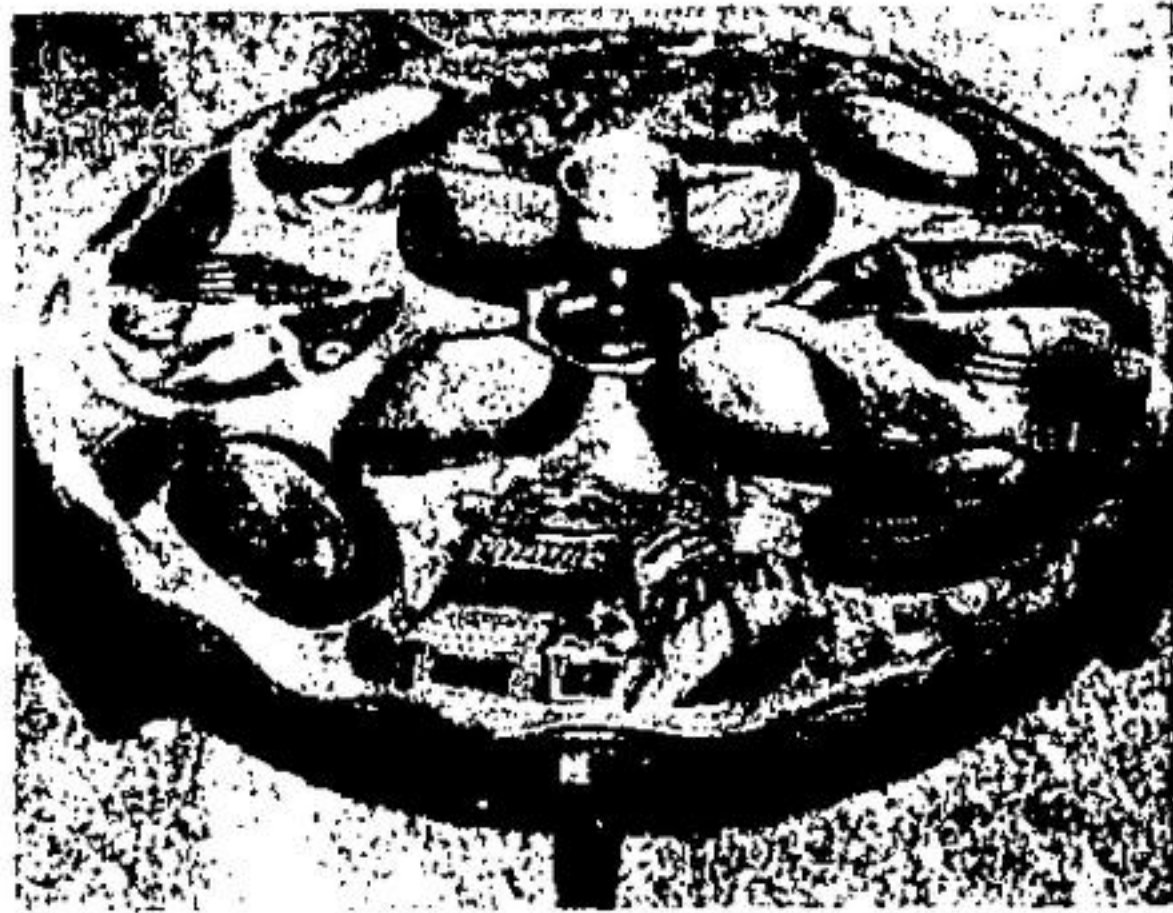
April sale plans laid

The Heather Club, Knox Presbyterian Church, held their regular meeting at the home of Mrs. James Inglis with 11 members present. President Mrs. Harry Norton opened the meeting with the Lord's Prayer. Mrs. Charlie Kirkness read the scripture. Business was discussed and final plans were made for rummage and bake sale in April. Donation of good used

clothing will be gratefully accepted.

The story of Lydia was read from the study book by Mrs. Charles Kirkness. A short period of discussion followed. The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Kirkness.

A social hour was enjoyed by the members. The April meeting will be held at the church.



Fascinating, but Canada best says Acton lady of Haiti trip

The lady whose annual vacation trips supply Free Press readers with interesting accounts of visits to exciting places recently returned from a two week stay in Haiti.

"The most exciting country I've ever been in," says Margaret Cohen of Peel St. who shared her southern experience with another Actonian, May Allan of Longfield Rd.

Mrs. Cohen describes her 14 days of living in Haiti as the first but last. Although she found the country fascinating and tremendously interesting, she says she would never want to go back again.

The traveller who has toured such places as the Barbados, St. Lucia, Trinidad, Tobago and much of Europe, decided this year to get away from commercialism. She felt she wanted to visit a country untouched by Americanism, some place different.

certainly found it in Haiti," she says, and tells stories of voodooism, primitive living, and poverty, with children unclothed and desperately poor.

The lady traveller says the Spanish decor and architecture in Haiti are breathlessly beautiful with island sceneries mountainous and rugged. She says that, once in Haiti, you are quickly aware of its politics and she and her companion took pictures of the gleaming white palace of president Duvalier.

According to the Acton visitor, 60 per cent of Haitians never read or write and living conditions are deplorable. "Many of the people live in absolute squalor without homes to stay in," says Mrs. Cohen who describes seeing elderly people sleeping under plastic bags along the roadside during rainy weather.

"With today's Canadian living standards," she said, "it is unbelievable that such

deprivation exists and yet, in our few days in Haiti, I saw dire starvation with children suffering from malnutrition. Many had all the symptoms of poor health we read about in brochures on the ravaged countries of the world."

"If you can't speak French, don't go," are her words of advice and apparently, visitors not versed in the language, find tremendous handicaps in not being able to relate to the people.

Voodoo drums are real, according to Mrs. Cohen who says they are constantly to be heard in the background. Attending a voodoo ceremony she found them horrifyingly stimulating and frightening as she saw native women taken over by spirits and using living sacrifices.

Swimming on the island is out, according to Mrs. Cohen, aquatic enthusiasts have to confine their abilities

to hotel swimming pools as getting to the Caribbean Sea from their hotel in the small town of Petionville, near Port-au-Prince, was a two hour ride over rough roads.

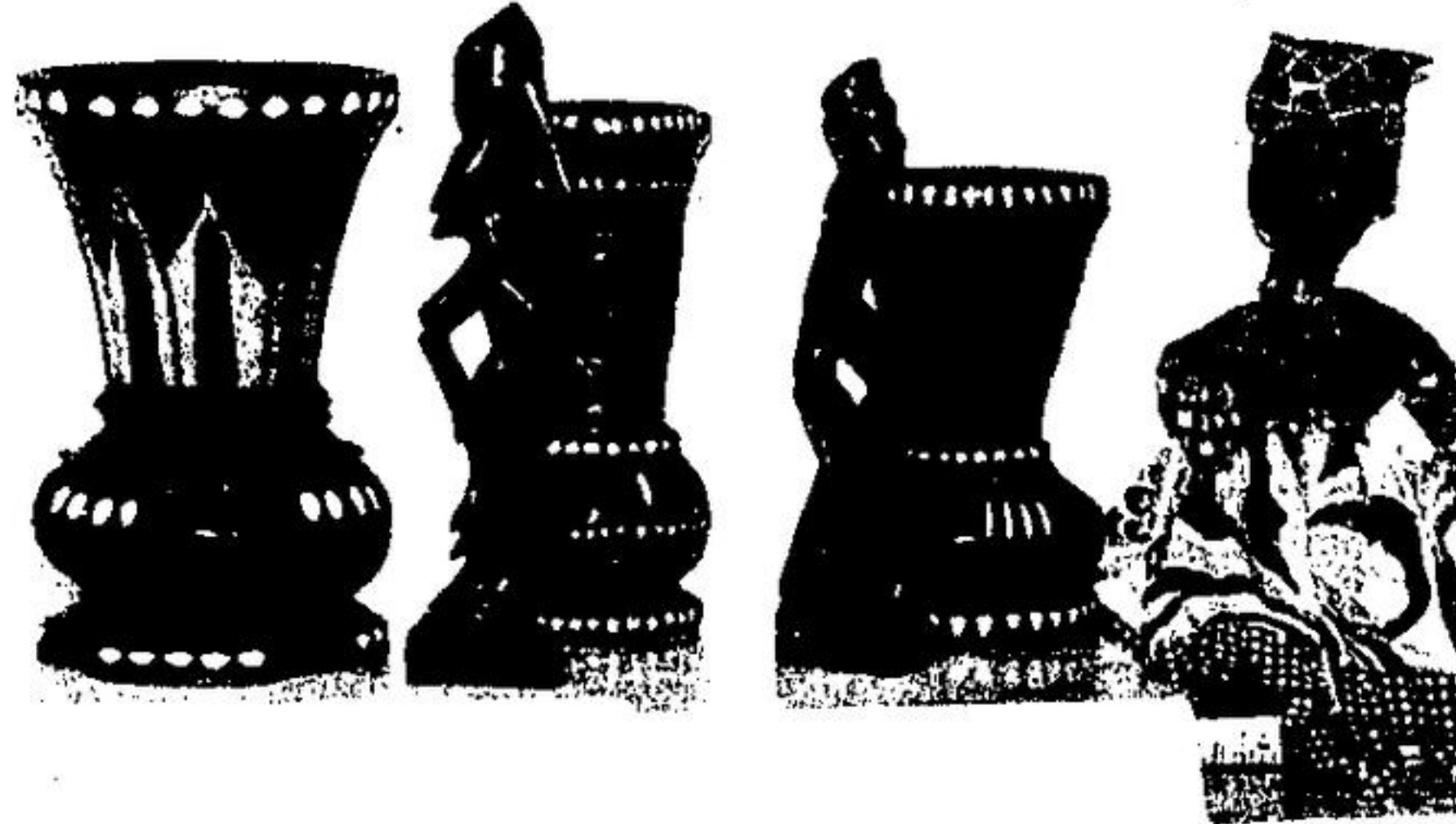
The country which is attempting to make tourism its new forte is also low on unpolluted water and the Acton ladies say that, to drink anything but distilled water was asking for trouble. Other than at the hotel, they would have to pay 90c for a 30 ounce bottle of consumable water. She related food costs, with chicken selling at 70c a lb. and eggs \$1.76 per dozen.

Squalor Living conditions were related by Mrs. Cohen as filthy. Describing the market place she said it was most intriguing with colorful natives carrying baskets on their heads selling myriads of amazing items at minimal costs with the necessity of constant bartering.

Margaret Cohen says she is glad she has visited Haiti. To her it was a mixture of fascination, raw life, and fear. She is adamant in saying she would not want to go back but feels it is a must for every traveller intending to round out his sphere of travel knowledge.

Few places are perfect, is the philosophy of the Acton travellers. She is happy to have made the trip but relates that, as the plane in which she was travelling touched down at the Montreal airport, everyone cheered.

"In all my years of travelling I've never seen it happen before," she said, "but arriving back in Canada, after visiting Haiti, the passengers were so glad to get back they cheered." "There is absolutely no place like Canada," says Mrs. Cohen and she is happy to return to her easy, uncomplicated life in Acton.



MARKET PLACES were one of the fascinating features for an Acton lady who recently returned from a two week visit in Haiti. Margaret Cohen of Peel St. took the trip recently with a friend, May Allan of Longfield Rd. She enjoyed the bating for trinkets and curios she was able to bring back to Canada. She is shown with a hand-carved table, sculpture and vases created by Haitian natives.

Free Press Family Page

Folk Mass for Trinity group

Trinity Activity group met at the church Wednesday, March 27.

A short business meeting was conducted. Curtains have been purchased by the committee for the church nursery and a rummage sale is planned for the spring.

Mrs. Marion Patterson, in charge of the devotional prepared a folk mass with Jean McLean at the piano for the

singing and the members taking part. The purpose of the folk mass was to offer worthy praise and worship to Almighty God, using some contemporary forms of music and ceremonial. This liturgy is based primarily on a preparation by the people and clergy of St. Mark's in the Bowery, New York.

A very interesting film was shown by Mrs. Kathy McGilivray from the federal

department of labor on discrimination, prejudice and bigotry. It was followed by a quiz on how open-minded are you? with discussion over a cup of tea.

TOWN OF MILTON

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN WORKS YARD TELEPHONE NUMBERS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

WORKS GARAGE - Nipissing Road 878-7211
- Brookville

WARD 1 - Trafalgar 878-7172
Night Calls

WARD 2 - Milton 878-7141
Night Calls

WARD 3 - Nassagaweya

Commandments for shoppers

The March meeting of Greenock Women's Institute was held at the home of Miss Elva Pearen. Mrs. J. McCulloch conducted the meeting. Roll call was a housekeeping trick slick and quick.

Mrs. C. Allan gave the meditation on the Lord's Prayer, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Mrs. McCulloch warned members of the dangers of taking antibiotics if a person suffers from allergies. Allergic people should carry a tag at all times so that a doctor will know in time of emergency.

Annual meeting The next meeting will be the annual meeting and a pot luck lunch at noon at the home of Mrs. J. Hache. Greenock members plan to go in a body on Sunday night to the Holy Week services in Knox Presbyterian church.

Mrs. C. Binnie and Mrs. R. Sinclair were conveners for

the program. Mrs. C. Binnie gave hints on how to buy a wardrobe, and nine commandments for shopping to the best advantage. Do not do impulse buying on credit as it costs more.

Mrs. R. Sinclair gave several items of interest on nutrition, consumer, safety and college royal. Mrs. E. Johnston and Mrs. J. Hache were the lunch conveners and Mrs. G. Johnston courtesy convener.

Urge ban

The showing of obscene films on Global TV or any television station should be banned according to Lorne Smith, a trustee of the Lambton County Board of Education.

Smith appealed to school boards, teachers' federations and county and regional councils across the province for support.

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BOYS: Ages 5-12

Monday 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

BOYS GYM

INSTRUCTOR: GERRY SPROAT

GIRLS: Ages 5-12

Wednesday 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

GIRLS GYM

INSTRUCTRESS: STEPHANIE LISTER

BEGINNING MONDAY, APRIL 15th

REGISTER AT CLASS

FEE: \$6.00 Y' MEMBER

\$8.00 NON MEMBER

* LIMIT OF 25 FOR EACH CLASS *

* CORRECTION *

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<p>Men's FLANNEL SLACKS</p> <p>Wool Blend, Checks, Unfinished Cuffs</p> <p>Sizes 28-40</p> <p>Reg. to \$22.96</p> <h2>\$14.00</h2>	<p>Girls' BLOUSES</p> <p>Polyester Gingham</p> <p>Size 8-14X</p> <p>Reg. \$2.96</p> <h2>\$2.00</h2>	<p>Ladies' COTTON SHIRTS</p> <p>Size S-M-L 38-40</p> <p>Reg. to \$3.96</p> <h2>\$2.50</h2>
<p>Boys SPORT SHIRTS</p> <p>Size 8-16</p> <p>Polyester</p> <p>Reg. \$5.96</p> <h2>\$4.00</h2>	<p>Cotton PILLOW CASES</p> <p>All White</p> <p>Reg. \$1.00</p> <h2>2/\$1.50</h2>	<p>L.P. RECORDS</p> <p>A Wide Selection—Pops—Big Bands—Western</p> <p>Reg. to \$3.96</p> <h2>\$1.00</h2>

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