



the painted box

by Wendy Thomson

On the bottom of the freezer, sitting all alone, is one rib roast. Every week I eye it wistfully but decide to leave it for an emergency (like when we've had nothing but peanut butter sandwiches for a month and Gord is threatening to leave.) There's comfort in knowing it's there.

It's ridiculous really. Here we are with 67 pigs in the barn, two heifers in the field, and no meat to eat. Every shopping day I try to figure how to make one pound bacon, one pound wieners, one pound hamburger and one pound sausage last nine meals (seven suppers and two weekend lunches.) Once I figure it out I'll let you know.

Gord's talking of not only putting in a garden this year (my enthusiasm knows no bounds) but also of obtaining some sort of meat on the hoof (or foot or whatever) to run around out the back.

I'm a little dubious about the whole thing, from past experiences. Our first project involved 10 young chicks. A low-lying fog and two low-creeching dogs closed in on them together one morning. Scratch to chicks.

Next venture The next venture was pigs, three of them in the reinforced chicken pen. That was 'round the time I caused Gord's ankle to be broken, so it fell on me to be chief pig-feeder and water-carrier.

The real work came whenever Gord wanted to check over his livestock. He'd fold his 6'2" into the wheelbarrow, haul in his cast, and say "Okay, Sam—to the market at a gallop!"

That was my signal to stagger off down the drive with him. If he had the pail of water in there with him it made things quite interesting.

Pigs were the thing for the next few years. Having even five or six outside kept us hopping with their adventures. And often there was a bit of beef idly munching around the pasture.

Chicken bit Then Gord decided to try the chicken bit again. It was a pretty sad affair. We seemed to be running a self-serve counter for wild animals and hawks. One in particular would sit in a tree down by the creek where I could see him from the kitchen window and I'm sure he stuck out his tongue every time I looked his way.

One day I'd had about enough and thought I'd just fix him right in the tail feathers. I got Gord's gun, loaded it, and was down at the pen before it registered that I'd loaded with a slug rather than birdshot and I'd got ten how to unload.

That hawk seemed to know my predicament and just sat. I got so mad I let fly with the slug and almost knocked myself flat with the recoil. The hawk flew off, and I'm sure he just about killed himself laughing. Now there's a thought!

Anyhow, lately we've been buying chicken from one of our neighbors, nice big eight pound, raised-outside, good-tasting ones. Instead of serving a large platter of meat like in the "old days" I ration it out quite carefully.

Starters The first meal consists of five portions—two drumsticks, two thighs, and then both wings are one serving. The kids take turns having the wings.

Second meal is the breast done in one of a variety of ways and the third is all the remaining scraps added to giblets for a pie. And maybe soup stock made with all the bones. We had the following recipe last night.

CUBED CHICKEN WITH MUSHROOMS

- 3 cups cubed chicken, either cooked or raw
- 2 tsp. soy sauce
- 3 tbs. cooking oil
- 2 tsp. soy sauce
- 1 cup green peas
- 1 1/2 cups sliced celery
- 1/2 tsp. sugar
- 1 1/2 cups stock or water
- 2 cups sliced mushrooms
- 2 tsp. cornstarch
- 1/2 cup cold water

Season the chicken with salt. Sauté it in oil in large heavy frypan till golden brown. Dash 1 tbs. soy sauce over the chicken and mix. Add peas, celery, 1 tsp. salt, sugar, and stock or water. Stir, cover, bring to boil and simmer 4 minutes. Add mushrooms, cover and cook 4 minutes. Mix the remaining 1 tbs. soy sauce with cornstarch and cold water. Stir into chicken mixture till the sauce is thickened. Serve hot with rice. 4 to 6 servings.



THE ICE is out at the community centre — right out onto the ground. Heaps of slush are still colored with the red and blue paint of hockey markings as they gradually melt away.

Easter services

Timely sermons, special music and flowers—and large crowds—meant Easter at the town's churches on Sunday.

There were services on other days as well during the season.

The three interdenominational Holy Week services at Knox were well attended. The innovation this year was the 60-voice choir which led the singing.

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A LIFE MEMBERSHIP was the award presented to Doris Fryer last Mon., Apr. 8, by Acton Women's Institute president Dorothy Simmons, for a president who has served over 30 years of faithful membership. Afternoon tea culminated the pleasurable meeting conducted at the Church St. apartment of Mrs. Fryer.

Free Press Personals

Grace Nelles attends historic installation

The Y's Men held a "bunny hop" dance at the music centre Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Timbers enjoyed a trip to Great Britain.

Lakeside chapter members are working on a special centennial quilt, which will be the sought after reward in a draw later. Blocks are being embroidered by some of the talented members.

Mr. and Mrs. William Doll of Riverton, Manitoba, are visiting with the Rognavaldsons.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Rognavaldson of Elliott Lake are visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tatton and family.

Dr. and Mrs. W. G. Onions are taking a trip west to settle on a retirement home. There'll be replacements in the United Church pulpit for a couple of Sundays.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lemon and Dean, with Mr. and Mrs. Yvon Gionet of Guelph, visited with Mr. and Mrs. James Gardener and family at Wardsville on Good Friday.

Former Actonian Cathy Masson, Georgetown, was one of 500 swimmers in a marathon swim in Brampton to raise money for the mentally retarded.

Bill Mainprize had a marvelous two week trip to the Hawaiian Islands.

Best get well wishes go from many friends to Mrs. Colin MacColl, who's in Toronto General Hospital.

Best wishes from many friends go daily to St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton, where Henry Harbers is lodged for awhile. Come back soon, Henry, and get the ads in the Free Press straightened out!

On a buying trip from Bangladesh, Bruce Eaton visited his mother, Mrs. Lillian Eaton, and attended Easter Sunday church service here with her.

Free Press Family Page

W.I. life membership presented to Mrs. Fryer

Special tribute was paid last Mon., April 8, when a life membership in Acton Women's Institute was presented to Doris Fryer of Church St.

Miss Dorothy Simmons of Bowser Ave., Institute president, made the presentation to Mrs. Fryer, who records faithful service in the Acton group for over 30 years, having served in all offices including especially those of secretary and president.

Mrs. Fryer's only affiliation with the W.I. has been with the Acton branch. She feels that their group have attempted to live up to their motto, "to serve home and country." She recalls how, over the years, they managed to assist the needy by supplying coal when it was scarce. "We have also assisted by supplying blankets and quilts for burnd-out families," said the

worthy lady who feels that the Women's Institute provided many services to the community when and wherever it was required.

Others awarded She recalls the days of driving membership when the W.I. was an important function in the Acton district, but sees that television, mothers working, and more organizations in the district have taken their toll on Women's Institutes both locally and elsewhere.

Although the Acton membership has dropped considerably the group continues to meet the first Wednesday of every month at the Acton library.

Only four ladies in the recorded history of the Acton W. I. have received the special life membership award including Mrs. Margaret Davidson, now deceased, Mrs. Lily Wilds, Mrs. Elvina Wilderspin who

was honored only recently, and now Mrs. Fryer.

Monday's presentation was made at Mrs. Fryer's apartment home on Church St. as she is recovering from recent hospitalization and could not attend the regular meeting. Also on hand to view the presentation was another Acton W.I. member, Myrtle Lambert. She recalls the days of thriving membership when the W.I. was an important function in the Acton district, but sees that television, mothers working, and more organizations in the district have taken their toll on Women's Institutes both locally and elsewhere.

Lionettes hold successful euchre

Acton Lionettes first euchre venture was a success recently and proceeds for the event are slated for the Lions swimming pool campaign.

To conclude the evening, Teresa Matheson and Louise Papillon were co-conveners who served lunch assisted by other Lionettes.

The euchre was held at St. Alban's parish hall on Fri., April 15, and 15 tables were filled from 8 until 11 p.m. High scorers were Mrs. R. McEnery and Hec Lambert; prizes for low scores were taken by Jean Precious and Stella Brunelle and, lucky winners of door prizes were Phyllis Robertson and R. McEnery.

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Florida tickets prizes

A hospitable event at the curling club was the Hospitality, sponsored by Bowen and Zuccola real estate. Club members brought guests, many of them from out-of-town, for the three day event two weeks ago. Ab Robinson's team won the Hospitality trophy and

First golfers

The first golfers of the season were out at Acton Meadows Friday.