



# the painted box

by Wendy Thomson

I'm working!—and every other woman with a family of five, six cats, two dogs, a large house, living on a farm says "So what!"

The past few years, now and then I'd get bored with being "just a housewife" and think about working. What saved me from committing myself was having enough writing and newspaper work to while away my restless hours, and also a great dread of being confined in any one place for a length of time every day.

I don't know why I'm so much against the nine to five bit. The only other two jobs I ever had had definite hours. Way back when bobby socks and loafers were the thing, working in the tiny, dingy old Oakville Library after school was absolute heaven! I disappeared behind a stack of books and didn't come out again for three years.

Next (in the reversible skirt and kitten sweater years) came a job as Nurse's Aid in the Oakville Hospital. There I learned all about bed-baths, back rubs, square corners on beds, and cleaning bedpans.

Blood no bother

I also learned that while great quantities of blood didn't bother me a bit, a person being vigorously ill did. By the time they were done, I was often sicker than the patient. So much for that.

I must have developed my aversion to "working hours" after Gord and I were married (the pony tail and blue-jeans rolled up at half-mast years.) Being a very unsystematic housekeeper (and person) I developed a very easy-going style of living, writing, and cooking, that I hated to give up.

Therefore, an excuse was always found (or invented) for not going after any job that sounded interesting. And when I was offered work, my standard play was to say thanks but I was waiting till a particular job became available (setting the lights on one that to all appearances was quite unobtainable—that of working in the Free Press's photography department).

Surprise!  
Imagine my shock when the position was suddenly and immediately open and offered! What could I do but say good-bye to my carefree days and accept? Really, it wasn't that hard to do because although the hours were nine to five, the days were only Monday and Tuesday definitely, and maybe another half-day or so).

In order not to further disrupt my already disrupted style of home-making, I made a list of things to do Monday morning leaving for work. After getting Gord off to work at 6:15, I was to do three loads of wash, have a bath and put my hair in rollers, make the boys' lunches, water the houseplants, make the beds, mix the kitten food, put a pot roast on and peel the vegetables for somebody else to throw in later, wash the breakfast dishes and do some ironing in the time left.

All done!  
Much to my surprise, I got everything done but the ironing, and thought "This is great! No trouble at all!" Tuesday morning I did

more wash, the dishes, lunches, kitten-food and one bed. To heck with the rest.

Wednesday, I did nothing went to work early, knowing there was all day Thursday and Friday to get caught up.

Thursday, enjoying a great feeling of freedom, I lazed around the house and decided to run in to the bank. Within five minutes, I'd almost run over an old man, and had a flat in the rain in the middle of Mill St. Then I sat and wished for the safety and solitude of my little dark room.

What do I do here? Develop film and print up most of the pictures for the Acton and Georgetown papers. Most of the time I don't know what I'm doing, but more than one person that does a bit of work in there has confided they don't either.

Tom Hill loses face  
However, I'm learning. I know that Agnes McGinnis of the rockwood Trail Riders (and her horse) turns fuzzy at three columns but is fine at two, that Mayor Tom Hill loses facial expression at six seconds but is good at eight, and other equally vital bits of information.

Really, I've written all this about my first week at work so a year from now I can re-read it and have a good laugh about it.

Of course, it might just be that a year from now it'll all be exactly the same!

## More stories

The popular story hours at the library are beginning again the first Wednesday afternoon in October. The young pre-school children enjoyed these sessions last year very much.

## Fred Kingsmill marks birthday

Fred Kingsmill, formerly of Acton, celebrated his 90th birthday with over 100 relatives present at an afternoon tea held in St. Alban's Parish Hall on Sunday, September 15.

Mr. Kingsmill was born in Dover, Kent, England on September 15, 1884. He came to Canada in 1907 to Port Dover. In 1910 he left to homestead in Chaplin, Saskatchewan. In 1941, Mr. Kingsmill came to Acton and

worked for Beardmore and Co., until his retirement 12 years ago. He is now living at the Senior Citizens' Residence, 2222 Lakeshore Rd., Oakville. His wife predeceased him in 1968.

It was requested that no gifts be given, but in spite of this, the grandchildren had a photograph of their grandfather enlarged and presented it to him. He had given the picture to them as gifts a few years ago.

Two daughters from Chaplin, Saskatchewan attended with their husbands, Mr. and Mrs. Harry James and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Drysdale, and a third daughter, Mrs. William James of Monteith, Ontario. One son Charles of Acton was there with his family. The

out-of-town grandchildren present were Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Degazio of Sault Ste. Marie and great-granddaughter Michelle and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth James, both families from Sault Ste. Marie. One niece, Mrs. Helen Masales, from Royal Oak, Michigan attended also.



FRED KINGSMILL celebrated his 90th birthday on Sunday. An afternoon tea was held in the St. Alban's Parish Hall with over 100 guests attending throughout the day. Mr. Kingsmill's grandchildren presented him with an enlarged photograph of himself, shown in the picture.

## Quilters add to funds of U.C.W.

The Afternoon Group of Trinity United Church women met on Tuesday following the summer holiday.

Mrs. Lidkea president, welcomed the members. Mrs. Veldhuis read Psalm 23rd. Mrs. Lidkea had a reading on Creation, followed by Prayer.

Treasurer's report was given by Mrs. J. Lambert, showing all big outstanding bills paid and finances of the group good.

Art of Quilting  
A wedding rehearsal lunch and a lunch following a funeral, had been successfully carried out. Miss Dorothy Simmons, quilt convener, gave a splendid addition to the funds. In spite of diminishing numbers of members skilful in the art of making quilts there had been quilting done each week and several orders filled, but several orders are still ahead of them to be worked on. Birthday, sympathy and getwell cards had been sent out.

A detailed report on petty cash, parcels sent, knitting done, etc. was given by Mrs. Eaton. She stated she has wool on hand for anyone wishing to help out.

Those with a September birthday include Mrs. Dell Herrington who is recuperating in hospital with a broken hip, and Mrs. Mary McAuley who had been visited at the Manor by a carload of members and friends on her birthday, Sept. 9.

They took along a Birthday cake and treats and found her fairly well.

A carload had also visited

Miss M.Z. Bennett on her 94th birthday anniversary in Kitchener and a carload had visited Mrs. Chas Mason at "The Elliot".

Mrs. Shoemaker gave a further report on sick and ailing folk. There had been 23 house calls and 18 visits to hospital by the 16 members present.

A delightful letter was read from Mrs. Onions, in which she sent kindly greetings to all.

Wonderful couple  
It was agreed to send flowers and very good wishes to a wonderful couple who have been long time workers in the church and are celebrating their golden wedding anniversary soon.

Rev. Nelson closed the meeting with prayer.

Mrs. Wilderspin, convener, had unfortunately suffered a broken rib in a fall, was unable to be present. Other members of her group served lunch.

## Free Press Family Page

# Catering, fair plans made by Y's Menettes

Acton Y's Menettes held their first meeting of the fall season on Monday, September 9 at the home of Garry and Donna Bateman of Rockwood. A delicious barbecue supper and social time was thoroughly enjoyed by members and their husbands.

During the evening tentative plans to enter a Y.M.C.A. float in this year's fall fair were discussed and the details for their apron display were finalized. Since the Y's Men are planning to sell balloons at the fair the girls thought it was a great idea to accompany them by selling their recently published cook

books which are proving to be quite popular.

Commencing September 24 the Y.M.C.A. kitchen will be "bubbling over" once again with enthusiasm and a mouth-watering aroma of fresh vegetables, meat and gravy. The Y's Menettes have agreed to cater to the Y's Men

on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Meals will be served downstairs in the music room just prior to their business meetings.

The evening marked another successful annual event held by the active group and the months ahead are already shaping up with new and interesting ideas.

## Canvass two days

Firefighters were collecting door-to-door for donations for muscular dystrophy Monday and Tuesday evenings. "It's a big job" commented fire chief Mick Holmes, explaining there are so many homes to call on, and some of the firefighters were unable to help due to illness. A good response again this year is expected.

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