



the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

It didn't take long for me to realize that today was going to be one of those days. To begin with, my husband was in a huff because I messed up our bank account (I didn't really—it's just that my method of bookkeeping is a little different from his.)

Gord was just pulling out the drive (still in a huff) when the dog started making strange noises. In spite of my desperate prodding, he only made it as far as the front door before he was sick.

And when I went outside to drive to Hillsburgh for Erin Council meeting, one of my brand new tires was flat. The garage told me later it had a hole so big they had to use three plugs to repair it.

However, I did get to the township office. As a matter of fact, I'm there now and have time to write this because for the first time in the four years I've been covering the council meetings, part of the meeting is a closed one. So here I sit.

Still, I guess there's plenty on the positive side of the day, too. Whenever I bent over, the runs in my pantyhose went up and not down.

The car started right off, in spite of the cold. I didn't run out of gas. I was doing a sedate 40 when I topped the hill going into Acton and found a cruiser waiting on the other side. And I guess I should be thankful that my spare wasn't flat, as it usually is.

While at Hillsburgh, I had one of the best lunches I've ever had (in a restaurant) at the Welcome Inn; and the township treasurer told me a joke I hadn't heard before. Maybe it isn't such a bad day after all.

Back Home: Usually, round about now, I'm up to my ears in baking, buying, planning and whatnot. This year, though, I just haven't the time to whip up Christmas goodies. Can't afford it either, as far as that goes (not with all the dog food we've been buying these days.)

Christmas breakfast and lunch will be far simpler, and dinner will be more or less using what is on hand. Instead of the usual turkey and trimmings with pie and pudding and all that, I'll dig up the oversize Rib Roast I had the butcher cut a few months back and make Yorkshire pudding to go with it. For dessert, maybe just a fruit salad, because

everybody's usually stuffed by then anyhow.

Cake
There is one recipe I'd like to try for a quick Christmas Cake. It won't be half as good as the baked-and-aged kind, I know, but it's too late to worry about that.

Daughter Beth is flying home from Edmonton this weekend; maybe she'll feel industrious enough to mix it up for me, and perhaps some shortbread too.

One thing I'm bound I'll fit somewhere into our Christmas menu is (and it tastes far better than it might sound) rhubarb soup. It makes a very nice light dessert or something very special to sip when company drops in.

Rhubarb Soup
2 lbs. fresh or frozen rhubarb
8 cups water
1 stick cinnamon
2 slices lemon (1/4" thick)
2 1/2 cups sugar
2 tbsps. cornstarch
1 beaten egg yolk
1/2 cup heavy cream, whipped.

Cut rhubarb in 1" pieces and cook in water till tender. Drain liquid through sieve, discarding pulp. (I mush mine a bit to get all I can out of it.)

Return juice to saucepan, add cinnamon stick and lemon. Cook five minutes. Add sugar.

Mix cornstarch with 1/3 cup water and stir into hot juice. Cook, stirring for 5 minutes. Remove cinnamon and lemon.

Just before serving, combine beaten egg yolk with whipped cream and stir into hot soup. (Use the whole egg, not to waste the white. As a matter of fact, I sometimes use the whole half pint of cream, not to waste the other 1/2 cup.)

Serve hot. Makes 12 6-oz. servings. If it isn't used right away, it can be refrigerated and served cold. Or reheated as long as it isn't boiled.



AFTER PLACING first in both figures and free skating last week in Western Ontario pre-novice men's figure skating competition, Kevin Parker has now been chosen to participate in the Western Ontario team for the Ontario winter games in Thunder Bay. The talented 13-year-old from the Guelph Line will be the youngest on the team.

More firsts for Kevin

More honors have come to 13-year-old Kevin Parker, who is now considered a "top challenger" in figure skating competition.

At the Western Ontario sectional figure skating championships at London, Ontario, Dec. 5, 6, 7 and 8 he was very pleased when he attained a first in both figures and free skating. He was entered in the pre-novice men's division.

Last year he placed second in figures in the juvenile division, and first in free skating for a championship. This year he had been working very hard on the figure portion of his program.

All firsts
On Thursday he competed in figures and on Saturday in free skating. He was placed first by all five judges, receiving five ordinale from the five. He had a total of 77.96 out of 80 points.

In second place was Roger Colin Wright, 16, of Preston. There were eight competitors and Kevin was the youngest.

Since he has placed first, he will automatically be in the novice category next year.

Last year he also won the novice pairs with Patty Black, but this year he side-stepped it since a pulled groin muscle hampered his lifting. He will take up pairs skating again later.

Ontario games
He has now been chosen by the Canadian Figure Skating Association to participate in the Western Ontario team for the Ontario winter games championships to be held in Thunder Bay Dec. 26, 27, 28 and 29.

Kevin was chosen for his strong skating ability and officials want him to go as a senior skater, which calls for a four-minute free skating program. For a skater, that's quite a jump from his present two-and-a-half minute program. It takes a while to build up stamina but his pros think he is such a strong skater he can manage it in the two weeks required.

He will likely be the youngest member of the senior team.

Onward
Winners at this competition go next to Lethbridge for the Canadian Winter Games and it's possible they might be chosen for the Canadian team for the Olympics.

Kevin lives with his family on the Guelph Line near Brookville, but lately he's been going to school in London since he practices daily from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. After that, he does his school work, and his last report boasts 80 and 90 per cent marks.

He skates with the Four Star club in London, and his pros are John Coughill and Mrs. Marj Black.

Heather club

Eleven members were present at the Nov. meeting of the Heather Club of Knox Presbyterian Church. It was held at the home of president, Mrs. Harry Norton who opened with the Lord's prayer.

Reports were read after which a short business dis-

ussion was held. Mrs. Ken McKenzie read scriptures and the meeting was closed with the Magna benediction. A social hour followed, with the exchange of Christmas gifts culminating an enjoyable gathering.

On Jan. 22 a pot-luck supper will be held at the home of Mrs. Ken McKenzie.

Set date opening

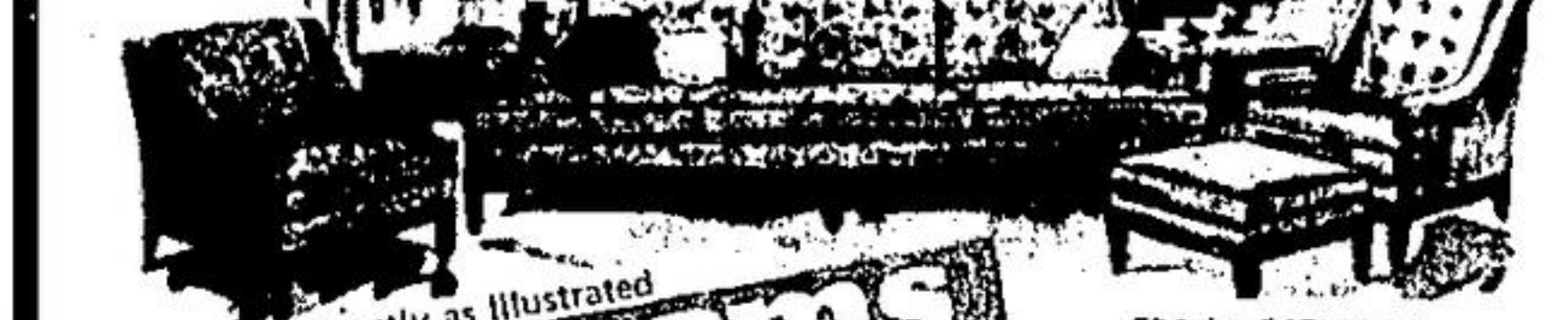
A committee has been formed to plan the official ceremonies to mark the opening of the Lions centennial swimming pool. They will be held at the high school Sunday, January 19. Representatives of the school, town and club are meeting.

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Works staff fetes Grant MacMillans

Mr. and Mrs. Grant MacMillan (the former Mrs. Christine Britton) attended a dinner party given in their honor previous to their recent marriage. Employees of the former Nassagaweya Township works department gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lasby, R.R. 1, Campbellville.

Acton W.I. meet

The Christmas meeting of the Acton W.I. was held in the board room of the library on Wednesday, Dec. 4. After a bounteous pot luck luncheon, the regular meeting was held. The meeting opened by all repeating the Mary Stewart Collect followed by the secretary-treasurer's report given by Mrs. Marie Hargrave.

was also served. Joe Lasby extended good wishes and presented Grant and Chris with a colonial style barometer on behalf of the township employees and their wives. Both Grant and Chris expressed their thanks.

Guests included Mr. and Mrs. Grant MacMillan, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Frank, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Stokes, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Mitchell and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lasby.

Buffet for IODE

An attractive buffet table was set up for the December meeting of Lakeside chapter of the I.O.D.E. Tuesday of last week. The tables were decorated with candles as well as the many good things to eat that members had brought and there was a decorated Christmas tree.

Eileen Currie presided for an amusing program which required members to "sing, say or do", with the gift exchange providing rewards for all the participants.

The University Women's Club of Milton and District held the annual Christmas pot luck supper and meeting at the home of Mrs. Billie Marshall. After a delicious meal prepared by various members a short business meeting was chaired by Mrs. Ethel Riddell, the president.

Free Press Personals

The Duke of Devonshire chapter of the I.O.D.E. held their Christmas meeting last Tuesday at the home of Mrs. H. Elliott. There was a delicious buffet supper, while George Elliott played Christmas music on the organ. About a dozen members spent a delightful evening together.

Kathleen Quinn and the late Paul C. Quinn. The wedding ceremony took place at St. Agnes Church and the reception was held at the Chateau, Halifax. The weather was sunny and mild all week end.

Our computer sluttered last week while reporting Jane Elliott's B.A. degree. It entails just two initials, not the four that appeared in last week's paper. Regrets to Miss Elliott B.A.

The Christmas season...a happy one with plenty of parties and visitors. Please let the Free Press know of any special events.

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