



the painted box

by Wendy Thomson

Friends dropping in to visit these days tour the now-finished living room and invariably say "Aren't you sorry you didn't do this years ago?" They don't really believe me when I answer "No".

For us, the laying of the new rug after 16 years of treading bare plywood, marked the end of an era; for over those years this has indeed been a living room in every sense of the word.

To begin with, in 1959 when we moved into our 28 by 28 foot square box which is now (with appropriate walls) the living, dining rooms and kitchen, we (Gord and I, Beth a toddler, Jim a roaring six months, David unthought of, and one dog) managed fairly well through the first winter without the things that make life comfortable (like heat, hydro, and water). It's laughable now to remember us all (including the dog) piling into our bed to keep from freezing whenever the small space heater blew out.

The next spring our first tortoise shell kitten moved in, as well as a new dog (the other one was stolen) and 13 Easter chicks some nieces and nephews had lost interest in. They pecked around their box in the living room quite happily till a pen was built. Their first day in the pen, unfortunately, two dogs ate them.

Sequence

After that, I can't remember in just what sequence things moved in and left, or when what project was initiated and finished.

I vaguely remember huge ever-changing piles of building material in the middle of the room for finishing the first half of the house and starting the second—plywood, wallboard, ceiling tile, insulation, panelling, granite for the fireplace, etc.

In between, were small construction projects, set-ups for painting yards and yards of trim, and motors from this and that brought inside to work on because the weather was bad and the lighting in the basement workshop was poor.

No worry

It became second nature to me to clean around the edges of the room and not disturb what was in the middle.

But what has given us so much joy in the process of life and living, over the years, was simply that with uncarpeted floors, there was no worry over messes—exasperation, yes; worry, no.

Countless litters of kittens have been born in all corners of the house, but the living room has seen much more. There was the banty rooster who thought he was a dog and would come inside to visit with old hound Rip.

And Papa-goose who had a soft spot for people, would moosey in the door to sit and chat with whoever was around, sometimes bringing his family along, too.

Pope, the little gosling hatched with a crooked neck, spent his short two week span pattering around the living room picking bits of grass off the weed-strewn floor. He slept with a litter of kittens, puzzling the mother cat no end when she tried to wash him and the down stuck to her tongue.

New batches

Quite a few batches of new chicks and goslings (bought ones) spent their first days here in the living room (although confined to boxes) before being exposed to the outside world.

New born pigs have been brought up from the barn to lie in front of the fire if they've been overly chilled. And one March, in celebrating the boys' birthdays, two young pigs ended up touring the house.

If rugs had been down, there would have been no way our Andy-the-ferret could've become such a pet. Given the freedom of the living room once or twice a day, he provided many hours of delight with his silly antics, and had many a guest sitting in shock as he charged at people indiscriminately in mock ferocity.

The list of lives wouldn't be complete without mentioning last winter when Sue's litter of pups took over the whole room for a couple of weeks.

Memorable

And I can't forget that many times lives were in the balance here. The most memorable (mainly because it turned out laughably) was when Cock-eyed-cat came home to all appearances poisoned. After frantic calls to the vet and a good hour of agonizing, it became apparent that she was (believe it or not) dead drunk and in no danger of expiring.

These days, though, our living room is more of a sitting room, but I guess the feelings of "Take-off-your-shoes-and-don't-drop-crumbs" will pass.

As a matter of fact, I came home the other day to find another load of door trim laid neatly across it.

And by the looks of it, another birth is about to take place there. However, this time it's from the insect world. A cecropia moth cocoon is sitting in a peanut butter jar (the one that held pickled beets a few weeks back) and should emerge a five inch beauty before too long.

I guess that much birthing I can allow.



FIVE-YEAR-OLD Greg Leatherland examines a truck he purchased at the M.Z. Bennett bazaar

held Saturday in the school gymnasium. Jean Ager awaits another customer.

Free Press Personals

Latter Day Saints from all of this district held a special church service Sunday to honor mothers. They are meeting in the Etobicoke chapel until the new Brampton chapel is completed. Roses were given to all the mothers in the congregation.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray Harrison enjoyed their visit to Cornwallis, Nova Scotia where they attended the graduation of their son Kevin from the Canadian Armed Forces base. He is now at Wainwright, Alberta, in the Princess Pat Light Infantry Corp.

Mr. and Mrs. Garnet Reed, Laurie, Ronnie and Robbie of Victoria Corners, Ont. also Mr. and Mrs. Donald Reed Jr., Darryl and Jeffrey spent Mother's Day with Mr. and Mrs. Donald Reed Sr., Maria St., Acton.

Home during Mother's Day weekend were Mr. and Mrs. Mac Sinclair, Gina and Ian of Ottawa; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Park of Petrolia; Mr. and Mrs. Dave Syer of Sarnia and Miss Joanne Landsborough of Gravenhurst all of whom with Mr. and Mrs. Chas Landsborough, Bill and Ralph were guests at the golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Reid of Guelph on Saturday.

Harold, Carol and granddaughter Leslie spent Mother's Day and helped celebrate the birthday of Mrs. Anna Smith, Lake Ave. on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Day of Rockwood and Mrs. M. Smith of Acton were guests at the wedding of Bonnie Jean Burville of Waterdown to

Gary, Frank Greer of Burlington, Saturday, May 10 in St. James United Church. Gary Frank Greer of Burlington, Saturday, May 10 in St. James United Church, groom wrote their own vows. Ministers were Rev. John Porter and Rev. Norman Buchanan. Choir selections were by the McMaster University Choir, with choir-master Clement Carleise. Gary Greer is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Day of Rockwood.

Fire chief Mick Holmes and his wife Charlotte were at the annual Ontario Fire Chiefs' Association convention at the Sheraton-Brock Hotel, Niagara Falls, from May 4 to May 7.

On the Sunday, there was a dedication to all the fire chiefs who have died, Monday and Tuesday, workshops were held for the volunteers and a mixed workshop. There were 197 chiefs there from all over Ontario.

While the men were taking part in seminars etc., the wives went on shopping tours and to Marineland.

Mr. Holmes found the trip to be quite informative, as suppliers of new equipment were there with the latest items. He also got a chance to listen to problems of other departments and how they are handled.

The Catholic Women's League held a membership tea at the church Tuesday evening.

Many friends gathered at the Legion hall Friday evening to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Jon Chisholm, who are back visiting from Kitimat, B.C.

Daughters of Knox plan June tour

The Daughters of Knox met for their monthly meeting in the Mary Ellen Anderson room of the Presbyterian Church, on Monday evening May 5.

The meeting was opened by the reading of the story behind the hymn For the Beauty of the Earth by the president, Mrs. Brian Moore. Living for Jesus was sung by the members and the club motto repeated.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Mrs. Mac Sprowl and the treasurer's report given by Mrs. Jack Pink.

June tour

Mrs. Moore announced that arrangements have been made for the Daughters of Knox to tour the Armagh Home at Oakville for the June meeting.

Mrs. William Spelvogel distributed literature regarding World Vision kids, so that the members could prepare these during the summer months.

Bannockburn W.I. names '75-'76 officers

The annual meeting of the Bannockburn Women's Institute was held at the home of Wilma Coles on Highway 7, Esquewaug (Acton) on Wednesday, April 23.

Mary Matthews presided over the opening exercises and the roll call was answered by suggestions for future programs and roll calls and the payment of dues.

Minutes of March's pot luck supper meeting were read by Ada Sinclair. A donation to the Canadian Cancer Society was decided on and everyone was very pleased with the results from the local canvassing.

The ladies decided to help out at the garden party at the Manor in Milton. The cash book was read and audited and Ruth Linham gave a detailed and interesting summary as district director.

Officers

The 1975-'76 officers for the Bannockburn W.I. are as follows: honorary president Ruth Linham; president Mary Matthews; first vice president Jean Vaughan; second vice president Lois Henderson; secretary treasurer Ada Sinclair.

District director Ruth Linham; alternate district director Wilma Coles; curator Jean Morrison; auditors Jean Vaughan, Jean Leitch.

Program Committee: Ada Sinclair, Bertha Fox, Helma Morrison; pianist Wilma Coles; assistant pianist Isobel McDonald.

Standing committee conveners: Agricultural and

Canadian Industries Mary DeHann and Lois Henderson; Citizenship and World Affairs Wilma Coles, Isobel McDonald; Education and Cultural Activities Dian Ewart, Chris McKenzie; Family and Consumer Affairs, Jean Vaughan, Ann Hollis; Resolutions Marilyn Cox; Public Relations Officer Jean Vaughan;

Flower Convener Ruth Linham.

Reports

All of the standing committee conveners gave their reports. Ann Hollis read a verse entitled Take Time as the monthly motto.

A pleasant lunch followed the evening's business and the hostess was thanked for her graciousness.

Flowers of Hope marigolds again

The monthly meeting of L'Arche Auxiliary was held at the home of Mrs. Shirley Krause, on April 22. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Mrs. Shirley Skoggs. There were six members and two guests present.

The main topic of the evening was the Flowers of Hope campaign, due to start the week after Mother's day. The town was divided into areas, with a captain for each area. The captains were to see to the packaging of the seeds. (The seeds are marigolds again this year.)

In all 4,000 envelopes were to be made up. This would include the rural routes, which would be canvassed by mail. The Bank of Montreal kindly agreed to receive and hold any returned donations mailed in.

Always generous Members are hoping for a good response to the campaign. Acton is always very generous, and usually finishes with a total very close to both Milton and Georgetown.

Mrs. Kulken gave a report on the Tinker Bell Nursery, and some of the new equipment they had received due to the hard work of Jim Sewell who has been busy constructing some apparatus for them. Mr. Sewell donated his time and talents.

Several mothers with children at the nursery were at the meeting, and after the meeting was adjourned, over coffee it gave added insight to hear how they cope with their everyday problems, and how the children are advancing through the nursery.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 27, and anyone interested will be made most welcome.

Pot luck lunch before W.I. meet

The regular meeting of the Acton Women's Institute was held in Acton library May 7 at one p.m. with a pot luck lunch with ten members present, Miss Dorothy Simons, past president, presided.

Mrs. George Hargrave read the minutes and correspondence. Several items of business were discussed and voted on.

Mrs. Thomas Cook, convener of Citizenship and World Affairs, read a paper

Drugs seized

On Sunday at 12.15 a drug seizure was made in the park by Acton O.P.P. An out-of-town man has been charged. There were four liquor seizures in town during the past week.

on houses heated by the sun to be built in Ontario. Education and Cultural Activities convener Mrs. William Denny read a couple of papers.



MRS. NELSON LAMBERT had her 90th birthday on Monday. This spry lady received congratulations from Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Premier William Davis and other noted figures.

Promise of God theme for W.M.S.

The May meeting of Knox Women's Missionary Society, afternoon auxiliary, was held at the home of Mrs. A. J. Murray and her daughter Mrs. Ruby Hansen. The theme of the meeting was "the promises of God". The president, Miss Isabel Anderson, opened the meeting by reading some verses about spring.

Mrs. Mainprize, convener of the program for this month, conducted the worship period. Mrs. Near read the scripture lesson which was the story of the flood, as found in the book of Genesis. A solo sung by Mrs. McKenzie was entitled, "There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea". Mrs. Mainprize stated in her topic that there are promises in the Bible for every stage and condition of life.

After the singing of the hymn, Standing on the Promises of God, and the business period, a time of fellowship was enjoyed by all present.

Baptisms on Sunday

In Trinity United Church on Sunday, May 11 two children were baptized.

Robert Glen Inglis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Inglis R.R. 1, Acton; and Linda Gail Wayne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wayne of Acton. Welcomed into membership of Trinity by transfer were Mr. and Mrs. Mauno Marttala and Mrs. Valerie Johnston.

I.O.D.E. roses now delivered

The 75th anniversary I.O.D.E. rose bushes have been mailed out the past week. Many orders were placed in town for the special roses, commemorating the chapter milestone.

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