



the painted box

by Wendy Thomson

The first thing we do these mornings after getting up, is check the sock and see how it passed the night. I just went to the back door to look a few minutes ago, and it seems a bit damp from the morning dew, but comfortable otherwise. It brings more than a few puzzled glances when the sock is brought into a conversation with no explanation, but we more or less take it for granted. The other day, while having lunch in town, I was bemoaning the fact that there seems to be so much to do in the house that I hardly get out in the sun over the weekends.



MINNIE LEAVES the safety of her sock to play "Catch-me-if-you-can" under a sheet of plywood.

Then I said "The only excuse there is these days is to go out and talk to the Sock." You can imagine the comments on that! Things got all the more complicated when I tried to explain that the Sock was out the back in a cage so it wouldn't get away. Evidence It all ended up by one friend coming home with me that night to see what I was talking about. When we got here, I asked for David if he'd fed the Sock that night and when he said no I got a piece of stewed beef out of the frig and away we went. Sure enough, in the middle of the cage, there was a man's large grey work-sock. As a matter of fact there were two—a fairly grubby one with a red trim and a newer one with blue, both lying flat out in the sun.

Other without having to come into the daylight at all! Charging tactic Not that she minds the sun that much, but Minnie is really a nocturnal animal and is at her liveliest as the sun goes down. If she is taken out of her cage then, her antics just about break everybody up. She bounces around on all four feet, giving little "whumpy" noises, making all sorts of evading and charging tactics. She got going so fast the other night that her body was travelling faster than her feet (or maybe it was going in a different direction) and she kept falling over. When she's had enough, she looks for the sock, disappears inside, and that's it for another day. As I was typing this, a delivery man went around to the back door, and as he passed the cage, I heard him call "Hey there, Sock! How're ya doing, kid?" I guess whatever we've got must be catching.

However, as soon as I tapped on the cage the new sock stirred, bumped around a bit, then a pointed nose appeared in the opening followed by two beady eyes fastened greedily on the meat.

Yes, it was Minnie-the-ferris brought up from the barn because there was nobody down there to keep her company. Now, because of all the attention she's getting, Minnie is becoming more and more of a character. And the funnier she is, the more attention she gets.

All in all, it means that quite a bit of time is spent watching the goings-on in the cage and we are becoming more and more intrigued by them.

At the end of Minnie's cage is a small wooden box where she sleeps. An old sock was provided for her to be on, but after one quick sniff around the edges, she proceeded to disappear inside it and make it her burrow, even to the point of enlarging the hole in the heel for the back door.

Every few days Minnie would haul it out the small hole in her box and lie it out to air, so after awhile we gave her the second sock.

I don't know just what goes through her mind as she arranges and re-arranges these in her box and cage, but now that the weather is here, she leaves them pretty well out of the cage. It probably makes things considerably more comfortable and gave her box wall-to-wall carpeting, too.

While Minnie might nap inside now and then—and I caught her lying on her back with her head out the hole watching the clouds, the other day—she really lives in her sock. Most of the time, when we look out the window, all we see is a grey sock sleeping peacefully or bumping around trying to get comfortable that's the reason for the nickname.

I so today, that she has things fringed a little differently. She pulled the opening of the sock around so that it lies up directly with the hole in her box, and she can slip from one to the

Friends united after thirty-two years apart

A back view of Jack Holmes did not stop Fred Hadfield from recognizing him at Malton airport last week after 32 years of being away.

Mr. Hadfield, a native of England, came to Canada in 1929. In 1933, he was hired to be the farm manager for Frank Holmes, a local drover.

While there he was treated like one of the family as well as head man, Mr. Hadfield (no relation to the hockey player Vic) recalls many a night when he stayed up all night playing midwife to some cow with bad timing.

300 foot rope together, and the calves and ponies he brought into the world. Canadian winters of the past were discussed as well as past hobbies.

While working for Mr. Holmes' father, Mr. Hadfield made a "good wage." He started at \$30 a month plus room and board, and was up to \$40 a month when he left. Even though he was only

here for a few years of his life, Mr. Hadfield lost quite a bit of his English accent, most of which he did not regain. He sometimes confuses people with his voice as they try to pinpoint where he is from but cannot.

Friendly here He still favours Acton over England. "There is not the neighbourliness in England there is here. Nothing is too

much trouble for anyone around here."

Mr. Hadfield said he remembered the day he saw his first Bonanza program in England. He remembered Lorne Greene as a radio announcer for CBL radio before the war. He felt he could relate to the show with a familiar Canadian voice on it.

"This Sunday, Mr. Hadfield will return home to England ending what Mr. Holmes termed as "the best reunion" he has ever been to or had.



FRED HADFIELD, left, and Jack Holmes were united last week after 32 years. Mr. Hadfield managed the Holmes farm before World War 2, went overseas with the Canadian Dental Corps and never returned.

Joined Dental Corps In 1939, World War 2 broke out. February 5, 1943 was a date Mr. Hadfield will never forget as that was the day he last saw any of the Holmes when he left to go overseas with the Canadian Army Dental Corps. He was stationed in England, and when the war was over, he stayed there and got married.

The years went past and Mr. Hadfield's wife and Jack Holmes' wife Ruth corresponded, keeping the friendship alive. A few years ago, Mr. Holmes' sister visited Mr. Hadfield at his home in Warrington, Cheshire, and rekindled his ties to Acton and the Holmes family.

When he landed at Malton, Mr. Hadfield spotted Jack Holmes up the hall, walking away from him. "There was some distinctive characteristic I'll never forget in his walk," the visitor said with his mixture of Canadian and English accent.

Catch up The past week and a half have been busy for the two. There has been 32 years of catching up to do for the two "Brothers". Mr. Hadfield recalled the days they made a

Social evening for C.W. League

May was Membership month and with a view to increasing enrolment, St. Joseph's Catholic Women's League members planned a social evening to welcome some new and old faces of the parish.

Following a short business session the president said a few words of encouragement and briefed those present on the activities of the Catholic Women's League.

Members were asked to reflect on the spiritual reading for the day. A few games of bingo were enjoyed and prizes were given.

Lunch time was well spent getting acquainted with some

new members. The evening was considered a success by all who had worked towards that end.

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Mrs. J. Dennis given Dublin life membership

Members of Dublin Women's Institute had to journey quite a few miles for their regular meeting on Thursday evening to enjoy the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. David F. McKnight in their new farm home on the Second Line of Eramosa Township.

Mrs. E. Norton presided for her first meeting as president, and conducted the opening exercises with a good attendance of members and two visitors.

Many suggestions for improvements were given when members answered to the roll call. "My pet peeve while doing my grocery shopping," Consensus of opinion was that prices varied for the same article in the same store and prices were unduly and unnecessarily high in some cases.

Several articles of correspondence were read by the secretary Mrs. N. Douglas, including an invitation to all Canadian Cancer Society canvassers to attend a pot luck supper on May 27 at the Acton curling club.

Dublin Branch will cooperate with Centre Wellington District in entertaining some W.I. members from British Columbia who, being our sister province are presently in the area.

Two wedding reception parties, an auction sale and a bowling banquet will be catered to in the early summer. Mrs. C. Armstrong reported on having attended a meeting at the Acton library in which members formulated plans for the annual Decoration Day Services to be held in Acton Cemetery on June 1, and the usual donation was given to support it.

Short standing committee reports were given by Mrs. D. Appleyard, on Canadian industries; Mrs. W. Lasby on Cultural Activities and Mrs. D. Hunter on the work of the curator committee.

A splendid concise report,

with a bit of humour thrown in, was given in a very interesting manner by Mrs. D. Hunter, who had attended the Officers' Conference for the Guelph Area at Waterloo University recently. The ladies enjoyed hearing of the accomplishments of the Conference, when over 600 ladies had attended from all over the province.

Several members hope to attend the Halton District annual in St. Paul's United Church, Milton, next Wednesday, May 21.

A pleasant feature of the meeting was when each member was presented with a distinctive oval wooden pin with each one's name on it and the lady to her right pinned it on her. These pins were made in British Columbia of various woods.

Anniversary Mrs. Norton, president, outlined the final plans for the Branch's 50th Anniversary on June 14 at Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton. Invitations have been mailed to former members, neighboring institutes and others, and all are looking forward to a memorable day in the history of Dublin Women's Institute.

Life member Kind words were spoken by Mrs. A. Near of the interest shown and work done by Mrs. J. C. Dennis for many years, especially as press reporter and in other ways in the Branch, and she presented her with a Life Membership pin, with Mrs. W. J. McIntyre having the honor of pinning it on and also presenting the Life Membership certificate. Mrs. Dennis replied and thanked everyone for the unexpected honor and said although her efforts were minimal, she had enjoyed the work and her association with the members very much over

a long period of years. As each grandmother entered the meeting, she was honored with a corsage, by the committee. Mrs. K. Smith and Mrs. D. McKnight, this being Grandmothers' Program. The poem "My Grandmother's Rocker" was read by Mrs. Smith. Contests especially for Grandmothers were won by Mrs. Duncan Moffat, Mrs. N. Douglas and Mrs. J. A. Van Fleet.

Two other contests were presented and winners were Mrs. E. Norton, Mrs. H. Dodds, Mrs. M. Nellis, Mrs. C. M. Davidson and Mrs. W. Ritchie.

A lunch served by Mrs. W. Lasby, Mrs. D. Hunter and Mrs. F. Kirton, assisted by the hostesses, was composed of cake and strawberries and enjoyed by all.

Mrs. C. McIntyre thanked the hostesses, the lunch committee and all who had taken part in such an interesting evening.

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