



the painted box

by Wendy Thomson

I went completely out of control in Scotland, when it came to taking pictures, ending up with a great stack of color slides as well as color and black and white pictures.

In spite of that, there were still hundreds of things I didn't get on film that I would have liked to. One was the inscription on a tomb at the cathedral ruins in Elgin. I had run out of film by then, but copied out the words which were:

Sacred to the memory of
The truly loving (and as truly beloved) Spouse of
John Forsythe to whom she was an inestimable treasure
Endeared to Him,
By her Piety, Prudence, Candour, Sincere Affection
and Many Virtues.

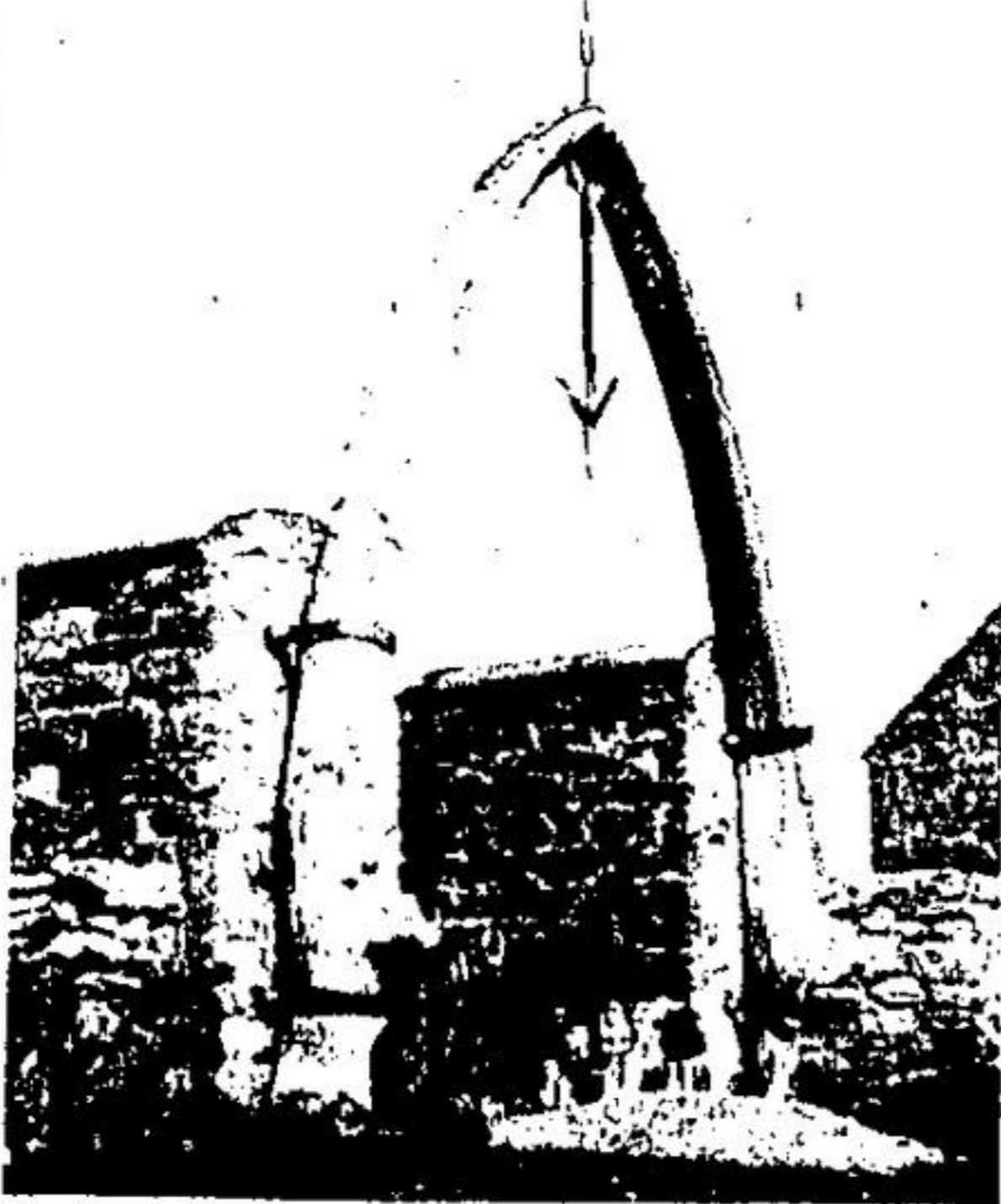
He most deeply laments her departure
and with tears inscribes this Marble,
as a mark of his veneration and unfeigned sorrow,
for the irreparable loss he sustained in Her death
and to perpetuate the Remembrance of
So Worthy and Amiable a Wife
Whose Remains were entombed here
the 17th February, 1820

By the time I finished reading this twice, I didn't believe a word of it.
This week—a recipe from Aberdeen.

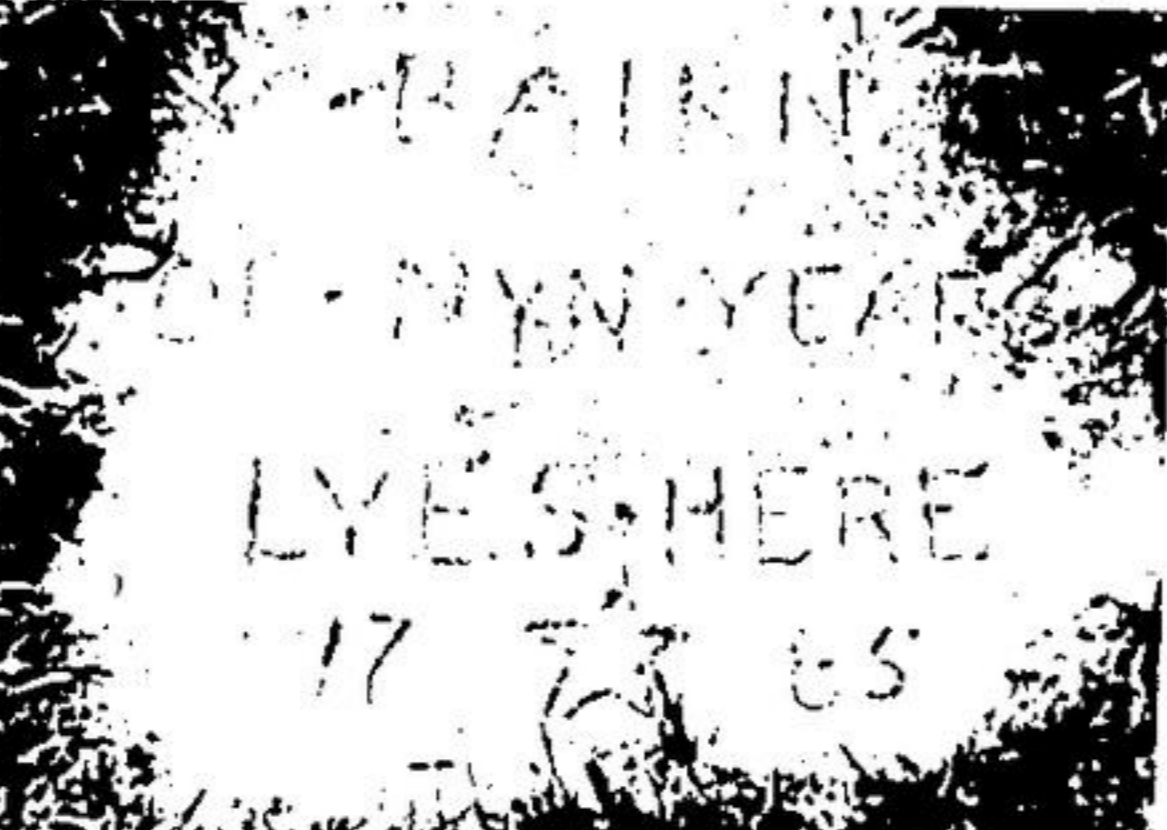
COCONUT ICE
2 lbs. sugar
1/2 c + 2 tbsp. milk
1/2 c + 4 tbsp coconut
a walnut-size piece of butter

Dissolve sugar and butter in milk and boil 7 minutes. Remove from heat, add coconut and beat till creamy. Mark well before cold.

(NOTE: Although there was no mention of pouring it into a pan in this recipe, the writer must have taken it for granted everybody would know that.)



ONE HOUSE south of Barvas on the Isle of Lewis has an added touch to their stone wall. A huge rib-bone of a whale (complete with the death-dealing harpoon, still) arches over the gateway.



OLD CASTLE ruins often have the remains of a graveyard still evident. 190 years after this "Bairn: of nyn years" died, the epitaph is still legible.

Witness says power going north

In testimony before Environmental Hearing Board proceedings last week in Hillsburgh interested Citizens Group witness John Schneider stated by the time the 500 kV power line from Bradley Junction and Georgetown is built all the power on the line will be going to Northern Ontario.

He said he couldn't understand why Ontario Hydro is going to bring power down the line from Bruce to Milton or over to Toronto and then send it back up to Northern Ontario.

He said Ontario Hydro lawyer J. B. Southey had previously stated all power coming out of the Upper Georgian Bay generating station would be coming south and that the new corridor was needed because all other lines were already filled.

Schneider concluded this just wasn't true.

Citizens say

More study of alternate corridor routes need

The Interested Citizens Group fighting the Bradley Junction to Georgetown 500 kV hydro corridor wants the Environmental Hearing Board to bring in an interim report and force Ontario Hydro to come back with evidence about possible alternative routes.

The citizens' lawyer, Robert Smith, made this suggestion during his final summation before the Environmental Hearing Board Thursday in Hillsburgh.

He asked the Board to consider very carefully the citizens proposal that the terms of reference of the Board be expanded and that they look at other possible corridors.

Smith charged that Hydro never really looked at northern routes as an alternative to the Bradley Junction to Georgetown route and that the Board asked for evidence concerning putting the 500 kV line on an existing corridor.

He noted if it was put on an existing line most studies would already have been completed and only some field work would be required.

He said evidence showed the decision on the route was made before an environmental study was started and termed Hydro witnesses' evidence as advocacy testimony.

Smith suggested that since the decision on a route had already been made it was only natural for Hydro officials to try and find reasons to justify the route but added he would have preferred frank "yes" and "no" answers from witnesses since they were discussing scientific facts.

Smith said all he was suggesting was the Board do the same thing the Solandt Commission did—file an interim report requesting an expansion of the terms of reference, and added the terms of reference could be expanded without hurting Hydro's timing.

He asked the Board to request Hydro to produce evidence showing why the Bradley Junction to Georgetown route was needed at all and said it was "a simple way to get at the real truth."

Smith said there was bitterness among the interested citizens group and that it was necessary for Hydro to prove to the public that there was no other possible route.

He noted the only piece of evidence the Solandt Commission didn't thoroughly examine was the evidence presented by the citizens and that was because Hydro told the Commission not to.

He requested the Board appoint an independent group to complete the field work Hydro has done inadequately. He said it would take only a few weeks and could be done while the Board carried out its deliberations.

Smith said other possible routes might prove to be cheaper if they were properly examined but there was no way of knowing until they are studied. He said this was one way residents could be satisfied that there was only one possible route and that they must accept the Hydro lines.

During his summation Smith attacked Hydro evidence as being inaccurate and incomplete.

He said that most witnesses agreed agricultural land should be avoided and yet Hydro considered only one

route and never looked at existing northern routes.

Smith complained that there just wasn't enough evidence available to be sure there weren't any harmful effects to persons health from hydro lines. He added just because Hydro said they had never experienced any health problems didn't mean anything because there were too many unknowns.

He suggested more study was needed about the medical effects of 500 kV power lines before Hydro started stringing them up over people.

Smith wondered why Hydro only examined effects on people working with farm equipment that was 14 feet high when evidence was at hand that there is a tendency to have larger farm machinery.

He said the best evidence presented at the hearings was from the farmers themselves and he reminded the board that they had even crossing fields under the wires let alone working under them. He suggested there weren't any farmers who had attended the hearings who would carry out farm operations around the towers or under the lines after hearing how inconclusive evidence is about medical effects and the dangers of hydro lines.

Smith admitted that Hydro was going to pay the farmers compensation but wondered how they were going to compensate for the mental stress caused by the lines. In addition he said they couldn't compensate the farmer for the

restrictions and interference by the lines and hydro on his farm operations. Smith also pointed out there was a visual impact on the farm caused by the lines because many residents were proud of their beautiful farms which were blighted by the power lines.

He said he was amazed at the number of mistakes made by Hydro considering the small areas examined and the fact few field studies and interviews with farmers were conducted.

Smith said Rick Symmes, who wrote a letter supporting Hydro's choice for the corridor, wouldn't have lasted long under cross-examination and he noted the letter from the Ontario Federation of Naturalists was only one person's opinion and didn't reflect the views of the group.

Smith read letters of support for the Citizens' position from several municipalities the route crosses including Halton Hills and Erin Township.

He concluded that Hydro would contest their request for study of other corridors because of time and money but he said this just wasn't a factor. Smith told the board further study could be done while it deliberates its decision and other routes might well be cheaper.

He reminded the board that if they ignored the deep concern of residents all along the corridor Hydro would go ahead and push their lines and towers through prime agricultural land.

Smith concluded the board should give the concerned citizens the satisfaction of knowing that if they are going to be hurt by these hydro lines that there was no other possible alternative.

Letters attack Hydro

Two letters condemning Ontario Hydro's decision to run a 500 kV power line from Bradley Junction to Georgetown were read into the record of Environmental

Hearing Board proceedings last week.

One, from Redford Gardhouse, claimed Hydro should have avoided class one and two farm land but didn't

and he complained about the amount of land taken out of farm production by hydro lines.

He contended in his letter that an independent study of the line is needed and that Hydro has submitted false information. Gardhouse said the choice of Limehouse for Niagara Escarpment crossing has been predetermined.

Another letter, from Dr. Fred Gilbert, stated that Hydro had overlooked the ecology of the area the power line will cross and that it was apparent from the outset of the hearings Hydro has been trying to discredit evidence presented during the proceedings.

No health danger says hydro designer

According to Peter Ralston, the man in charge of designing the proposed 250 foot, 500 kV, hydro corridor from Bradley Junction to Georgetown, Ontario hydro has provided more than adequate clearance between the ground and the height of the hydro lines.

In testimony before the Environmental Hearing Board in Hillsburgh on August 6, Ralston stated that the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) suggests a clearance of 40 feet is safe but Ontario hydro has established a clearance of 45 to 47 feet just to be on the safe side.

He noted the CSA standards he was referring to were the most recent developed and pointed out that at a 40 foot clearance electrical static shocks from the hydro lines were not noticeable most of the time.

Ralston explained the lowest clearance allowable was 31 feet but the CSA suggests 40 feet just to be on the safe side. He added that hydro had established a clearance which is at least 14 feet higher

than the allowable level.

He said the clearance levels are established by Ontario Hydro after taking a number of things into consideration including how hot the line can get, air temperature, possible icing conditions, the greatest amount of power the lines could ever be expected to carry, and electrical effects on people and machinery under the line.

Ralston pointed out that hydro had taken into account the effects of electrical magnetic fields and electrical static shocks on both farm equipment and large transport tractor trailers. He noted there was a large difference between what effects on people and machinery depending on whether machinery was used on the farm or used for transporting goods on highways. Ralston added the biggest farm equipment taken into account in Hydro's study was 14 feet high.

He continued that tests

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