



the painted box

by Wendy Thomson

What a very odd Christmas! It was quite unlike any other we've ever had, being a series of so many ups and downs I feel like I've been on a teeter-totter for the past two weeks.

This is, of course, our first Christmas away from family and friends. After feeling so isolated lately, it was great when the Christmas cards with all the marvelous messages began arriving. Then our daughter flew in from Rockwood and Gord's mother bused over from Saskatchewan to fill the house.



Snow started falling (again) and the surrounding countryside took on another look, always beautiful. David dug out his snowshoes and began making his mark on the fields, breaking the great white expanses with erratic tracks.

Beth and Jim trudged off into the bush one day with an axe and came back with a little spruce tree to decorate with the seven ornaments brought from Ontario, special family things I'd held on to. Things were beginning to shape up, even though sparsely.

Then wouldn't you know I'd come down with the flu and spend the days following Christmas roiling out of bed to make meals and in again because I wasn't hungry.

No warning

One thing I couldn't resist though, was a trip to the windows at eight in the morning and five at night to see the sun rise and set. Ever since we arrived in Alberta in October, this has been a constant delight. Almost every day there have been absolutely beautiful sunrises and sunsets, sometimes coloring the sky from one horizon to the other. And so far a "red sky in the morning" has meant no warning to us.

Change

The very odd time, the cat would sidle fearfully into the house to lie beside its only trusted friend, the tan tom. We would come across Tom with the grey cat firmly pinned down while he carefully and thoroughly cleaned her.

I'm sure that relationship would have blossomed into something a lot more serious, but unfortunately the tom was killed on the road.

I should mention here that our own Tansy-cat had been watching all the goings-on with dismay, not as sole cat-of-the-house. Whenever she got the chance, she jumped the cats in fury and chased them out.

Mellow

With the Tom gone, the grey cat reverted back to her wild state a bit, clawing Jim quite badly when he tried to pick her up one day. Then unexpectedly she started to mellow, trotting around with a very confident air. Why? As the dogs grew more and more round, the cat took on the self-imposed task of lying with them, cleaning their eyebrows, purring calm into them when they were restless, and generally being a very successful midwife. That is how she came to be named "Middle", and has certainly earned her cap over the past month.

More about Middle and her domestication later. But now a belated New Year's greeting from the Thomsons in Alberta to readers of the Free Press.

Sharing

In the shed beside the house, which has a little woodburning stove to heat it, Gord built a big box and filled it with piles of straw. Happily resting in it are two mother-dogs sharing four pups, one papadog keeping a watchful eye, and peering over the edge with her little pointed face is Middle.

Middle? I guess I haven't explained about her. When we arrived here, there was not only the cat-in-the-bath tub (a tan tom) but also a half-

Free Press

Personals

A surprise 25th wedding anniversary rang in the new year for Lino and Hazel Marzo on January 1.

The party was held at the home of Mrs. Marzo's son and his wife, Harry and Lois Lawson on Churchill Rd. It was a very happy occasion for the family as it was the first time they had been together in over two years.

Six grandchildren and two great grandchildren of Mrs. Marzo were also there to celebrate the special time. In addition to Harry and Lois Lawson were Harry Lawson Jr., David Lawson, Cathy Lawson, and friend Michael Field, all of Acton; Paul and Peggy Lawson and son Ted, Linda Gorn, Milwauke; Peter and Brenda Lawson and son Peter, Kingston; Gerry and Linda Ockendon (nee Lawson) and children Jason and Julie, Preston.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Steckley and family of 18 Division Street have returned home after attending the funeral of

Mrs. Steckley's mother in Belleville, Ontario. Earl is Manager of the Bank of Montreal and Marlene is the Hi-Neighbour Welcome Service Hostess for Acton.

Older ladies and gentlemen confined to homes enjoyed visits from Lions club members over the holiday season. Several of the men visited Waldie's on December 17, bringing gifts and staying a while to visit.

Since the work of renovations at the new rest home in Acton made Christmas busy, they waited until January 9 to visit the patients there, as requested by Mrs. Kelly.

Acton's New Year's baby Gregory Eugene Braida has a new cousin, Ann. Just one day older than he is, Ann was born at Guelph General Hospital, too, only on December 31. Her parents are Dr. Raymond and Patty Braida of Guelph. Dr. Braida is a psychiatrist at Homewood.

Morning wedding for Brown - Lindsay couple

A pretty morning wedding on October 18 for Catherine Margaret Lindsay and Frederick Joseph (Ted) Brown saw many guests in Limehouse Presbyterian Church.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Lindsay, R.R. 1, Georgetown, and is employed by the Canada Post Office.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Brown, R.R. 1, Limehouse and works at home on the farm.

The Rev. Peter Barrow officiated at the double ring ceremony with Mrs. Jack Roughley as organist and Mrs. Harry Craig as soloist.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a gown of white sheer organza with a sweetheart neckline outlined with appliques of Chantilly lace. From the empire waist the skirt flowed to a chapel train, with Chantilly lace trimming a deep ruffle hemline. Long sheer sleeves with ruffles at the wrists completed the gown. A Juliet cap held a chapel veil edged with matching lace.

A bouquet of white and orange roses complemented the dress.

Anne Lindsay was her sister's maid of honor with the groom's sisters, Mrs. Betty-Anne Karn, Mrs. Mary Lou Denny, and a friend of the bride and groom, Miss Marsha Fry as bridesmaids. They were dressed in spice colored sleeveless jersey gowns with scooped necklines, a-line skirts, and long sleeve jackets tied at the front and edged with a lettuce leaf edging.

Michael Murdy, a friend of the groom, was the bestman with the groom's brothers-in-

law, Ray Denny and Bill Karn and the bride's brother, John Lindsay, as ushers.

At a dinner at the Acton Curling Club, the bride's mother received wearing a gown of turquoise jersey with long sleeves and a high neckline with matching roses in her hair. She wore a corsage of orange roses.

The groom's mother wore an olive green jersey sleeveless gown with a long sleeve jacket, with matching leathers in her hair and a corsage of pale green orchid with a yellow center.

The bride's mother made the wedding cake with the

groom's sister, Mrs. Mary Lou Denny decorating it. The bride wore a gold locket of her paternal grandmother.

Prior to her wedding, the bride was guest of honor at five showers. They were held by an aunt of the bride, Mrs. Mary Carberry; another aunt Mrs. Marie McCallum; Mrs. Harold Brown; Miss Debbie Dunn and Marsha Fry; and a cousin of the groom, Mrs. Sheila Shields. Fellow postal workers presented her with a gift as did the communities of Silverwood and Limehouse.

Following a honeymoon at Sauble beach, the newlyweds made their home at R.R. 1 Limehouse.



CATHY LINDSAY AND Ted Brown were married in Limehouse Presbyterian church on October 18. They are now living at R. R. 1, Limehouse.

Wm. Stuckey photo

50th anniversary on December 15

Mr. and Mrs. John Aldrie, R.R. 1, Acton celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 15, with a surprise party to top off the day.

The party was held by their family at the Guelph Golf Club, Victoria Rd., with 30 people attending.

Their son John and daughter Trisha (Mrs. Larry Taillefer), eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren lured the happy couple to Guelph, only to be greeted by Mrs. Aldrie's sisters, Margaret and

Joyce Kirk, Mrs. Lois Devro and Mrs. Betty Mallett, all from Niagara Falls.

Included in the gifts the couple received were a certificate from Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, and letters of congratulations from Frank Maine, M.P. for Wellington County, William Davis, Ontario Premier, Jim Snow, MPP for Oakville, and a telegram from Governor General Jules Leger and Madame Leger.

married in Welland on December 15, 1925. They moved to Crewson's Corners in 1932 from Welland and have been here ever since.

Mr. Aldrie was born in Scotland and came to Acton in 1911, when 11 years old, and then moved to Welland. Mrs. Aldrie was born in Montreal.

Four members join Golden Age

Over 55 were present for the opening meeting of 1976 of Acton Golden Age club.

R. L. Davidson extended his thanks for his re-election and expressed best wishes for the continued success of the club. He also thanked all, who had in anyway helped make it an enjoyable year.

A period of silence was observed in memory of Mrs. Ivan Harris, a beloved member.

Several thank-you notes were read for fruit baskets delivered at Christmas time.

Games Following adjournment several games of euchre and crokinole were played. Euchre prizes went to Mrs. A. Lambert, Mrs. J. Precious, Mrs. M. Milne and Mrs. D. Angell.

Crokinole winners were Mrs. E. Reed, Mrs. M. Spear, R. L. Davidson and Les Graham. The birthday song was for Mrs. M. Van Fleet, Mrs. E. Craig, Mrs. D. Angell and Mrs. N. Merkle.

Four new members were welcomed.

Biscuits and jam along with a cup of tea concluded the social time.

MEN'S SUIT & DRESS PANT

SALE 50% OFF

NOW AT

Tack & Togs

128 Guelph St. Hwy. No. 10

+ RED CROSS +

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC +

MONDAY, JANUARY 19th

1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. & 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

ACTON LEGION AUDITORIUM

For Transportation Call: 853-0630

BABY SITTING SERVICES AVAILABLE

"Because you give... someone will live!"

Daughters install slate

The regular meeting of the Daughters of Knox was held on Monday evening, Jan. 5, in the Mary Ellen Anderson Room of the Presbyterian church.

President Mrs. Brian Moore was in the chair, and opened the meeting by the reading of a New Year's poem entitled "Threshold Thoughts."

The annual reports were read and adopted. Rev. A. H. McKenzie conducted the installation of the officers for 1976, after commending Mrs. Moore's fine leadership in the year 1975 and her influence in the formation of the church's two new organizations - the Bertha E. Buchanan Young Women's Affiliated Group, and the Explorers.

New executive

The meeting was then handed over to the new executive, with president Mrs. William Spielvogel in the chair. The recording secretary, Mrs. E. A. Hansen, read the club's by-laws, and the

minutes of the December meeting. Mrs. Jack Pink read the treasurer's report.

Plans were discussed regarding the annual Presbyterian meeting, which is to be held in Knox church on Wednesday, Feb. 4.

Items that were brought forth at an executive meeting prior to the regular meeting on Monday night, were voted on, and passed.

Devotional For the Devotional portion of the evening, Mrs. Harold Swallow and her group were in charge. Mrs. E. A. Hansen read her own version of a short inspirational worship service, which was interspersed with a scripture reading by Mrs. Clifford Ashley, and a prayer by Mrs. Herb Price. The offertory prayer was in the form of a hymn, led by Mrs. Swallow, and everyone repeated the words together.

Following the closing hymn, refreshments were served by the group, and a social hour enjoyed by all.

Pot luck supper for A.C.W. members

The Ladies of St. Alban's A.C.W. met on January 7 for their annual pot luck supper with 19 members present.

After supper a short meeting was held. It was decided to cater to a wedding in the spring, also the Y board's annual meeting on February 11. Plans were discussed for a Valentine Tea and bake sale to be held on February 14.

Woman's World Day of Prayer was discussed and St. Alban's is to be the host

church this year.

A gift was acknowledged from Mrs. Snow and Lorna Clarke read a letter from Doug Dittrich telling of his decision to leave the north and telling about his new home in Kamloops, B.C. Louise Lindsay presented June Hunter with a little gift. A thank you was expressed for a good job well done.

A social hour followed at which court whist was played. The winners were Anne Carr and Louise Lindsay.

Lakeside chapter begins new year

The Lakeside Chapter I.O.G.E. held their first meeting of the New Year in the Legion Hall with 18 members present.

The Regent Mrs. J. Jocque in the chair the members repeated the prayer of the Order followed by the flag salute. The business of the meeting was discussed.

The executive meeting will be held in the board room at the Legion Hall as scheduled on the program. Mrs. K. Alger conducted a contest which was enjoyed by all. The meeting closed with the

Queen followed by a tasty lunch.



"Look, Montgomery, is 'Trees' the only song you know?"

We're Trimming Prices!

<p>Fresh VEAL SHOULDER CHOPS 85¢ LB.</p> <p>Fresh VEAL RIB CHOPS \$1.29 LB.</p> <p>Family Pack PORK CHOPS \$1.39 LB.</p> <p>Store Sliced PORK LIVER 45¢ LB.</p>	<p>Made Fresh Daily BREADED VEAL CUTLETS OR PATTIES 89¢ LB.</p> <p>Rib or Loin Portion PORK LOIN ROAST \$1.39 LB.</p> <p>Centre Cut PORK CHOPS \$1.69 LB.</p> <p>Swift's City O Vac SWEET PICKLED COTTAGE ROLLS \$1.29 LB.</p> <p>Swift's STORE PACKED SAUSAGE 89¢ LB.</p> <p>★ SWIFT'S EVERWEET SIDE BACON \$1.58 ★</p>
<p>Lipton 4 VARIETIES SOUP 4 oz. Pkg. 39¢</p> <p>Kellogg's CORN FLAKES 16 oz. Pkg. 79¢</p> <p>Nestles CHOCOLATE QUIK 16 oz. 99¢</p> <p>Glad GARBAGE BAGS Pkg. of 10 89¢</p> <p>Kleenex 200's ALL COLOURS FACIAL TISSUE 59¢</p> <p>Cindy LEMON or PINK LIQUID DETERGENT 32 oz. 49¢</p> <p>Pampers OVERNIGHT DIAPERS 12's \$1.39</p> <p>Carnation 2 lb. SHOT STRING FRENCH FRIES 59¢</p> <p>Pepperidge Farm 13 oz. CHOCOLATE CAKE 79¢</p> <p>Leo D'Or 6 oz. ONION RINGS 55¢</p>	<p>PRODUCE GOLDEN RIP BANANAS 14¢ LB.</p> <p>TOMATOES 49¢ LB.</p> <p>APPLES 59¢</p> <p>Kraft MIRACLE WHIP SALAD DRESSING 32 oz. 98¢</p> <p>Kraft IND. WRAPPED CHEESE SLICES 16 oz. \$1.39</p> <p>Kraft PURE RASPBERRY or STRAWBERRY JAM 9 oz. 69¢</p> <p>Carnival TOMATO SOUP 10 oz. 5/89¢</p> <p>Javex LIQUID BLEACH 59¢</p> <p>Kleenex BOUTIQUE 75's SERVIETTES 49¢</p>

OODLAND MARKETS

ACTON ONTARIO