



the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

I'm not particularly superstitious, but Friday, Feb. 13th I figured there must be SOME sort of reason for things going so very wrong.

To begin with, some strange sort of bug snuck up on me and almost floored me by bugging up the muscles a person breathes with! Do you know how difficult it is to try not to use breathing muscles (whatever they're called)?

And when it came time to sneeze, cough, or yawn, I was in sheer agony! However, a quick trip to the doctor brought relief to a fair degree and I was ready to take up living again.

A trip

That came in the form of an invitation from my husband to go with him to deliver a load of lumber to Cactus 5, a drilling rig 75 miles off in the wilderness.

So I dashed home (incidentally, all these quick dashes and trips are 16 miles one way, but I'm getting used to it) to get warm clothes then back into town.

Just this side of Drayton Valley I came across an accident. On the long bridge over the North Saskatchewan River somebody had side-swiped a car, putting it into the railings, then left.

Other cars were wheeling around and past, although a woman and four children were banging on the windows and screaming to be let out. I stopped alongside, got the doors open, and the injured two out of the car and out of the way.

But this was Friday the 13th so things didn't stop there. I began to be berated by the other drivers from both directions for blocking traffic by stopping on the bridge (where was I supposed to go — over the side?)

Burning

I must admit I lost my temper and all but boxed one guy's ears. I left them burning, though. So much for my good deed.

In town, I hopped into the lumber truck, and we headed for somewhere in the Brazeau area. By this time it was dark. For the next few hours from what I could see by full moonlight, we drove through fantastic country, not seeing one sign of life after we got west of Lodgepole, other than moose, deer, and coyote tracks in the snow.

After a few wrong turns, we located Cactus 5 which was quite some sight. It's one thing to see movies about drilling for oil, but a rig is much more impressive in real life, especially all lit up at night.

Chains

The lumber was dropped and we headed on back. But Friday the 13th wasn't going to go without one final kick, it seemed. On one of the really bad hills, Gord had to stop and put chains on the truck. Even with them, we almost didn't make it to the top.

Then the fun really began. The chains provided weren't the right size; one had slipped off, wrapped around the axle, and broken the brake line.

There were no tools, the flashlight was dead, and my rib-pulls were at home. Woe was me!

Toofar

We were too far from anywhere to walk. I didn't have warm enough boots anyhow. I guess we'd have had to spend the night there, but there was plenty of gas in the truck and we both had our warm parkas so it wouldn't have been TOO bad. But I WAS beginning to realize how drastic a situation could become.

Luckily a truck came along on its way to the rig, and the driver helped untangle the chain, pinch the line, and get us on our way.

It was 2:30 in the morning when we stumbled in our door and I found the 13th had another surprise left.

In Friday's mail was a letter from a woman in Drayton Valley who'd been sent out one of my columns and didn't agree with how I depicted life here. Quite aside from "being a drop-out from a progressive community" I supposedly fabricate or embellish the stories I write. Considering how my day had just gone, that was just TOO much!!



Y'S MENETTES and Marilyn's Boutique are combining forces for a fashion show this year. Y's Menettes Nancy Aldridge and Sally Leatherland who will model outfits they have made Friday, chose accessories with the advice of Marilyn Ottaway and Marianne Bacchus. Marianne, who's on the Boutique staff, wears a peasant dress she will model.

Golden Agers enjoy huge pot luck supper

by Mrs. Elsie Reed

In spite of thunder, lightning, heavy rain and slushy wet streets, a good crowd turned out to the regular evening meeting of the Golden Age club which started off with an appetizing and bountiful pot luck supper. A great variety of good food was arranged on a centre table and all did full justice to the selection of salads, meats and desserts.

A short business meeting quickly dealt with routine reports and finalized details for the bus trip to the Tommy Hunter show.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Mrs. Annie Edwards. Owing to the illness of Mrs. Merkle, the Rhythm Band program had to be cancelled and instead euchre and crokinole were played. Winners, Euchre: ladies Mrs. L. Dennis and Mrs. F. Cutts; gents: Mr. Graham and J. B. Watson. Crokinole: ladies Mrs. M. Spear and Mrs. Elsie Reed; gents: A. Mann and L. Graham.

Next meeting was held March 2. A bus load of the Golden Age club boarded a Tyler's bus at the Laxton Hall at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, and took off for Toronto to view the taping of a Tommy Hunter show. Arriving in the rain, they joined a long line-up of other eager-folk before handing in their tickets and moving into the over-booked studio where workers were anxiously hurrying around to find room for extra seats to pack everyone in. Several bus-loads were there, including one from Port Perry and a group of children from Moose Factory.

Tommy Hunter soon appeared and his easy, casual manner and fine personality brought out long and spontaneous applause throughout the evening, as did the other male singing stars, the O.K. Corral Dancers and all the group. An old favorite Al Cherny, Fiddle Champion of fame, was a delight. Many remembered Bert Niosi from the Happy Gang days on radio for many years. His band was just marvellous. They were on stage at the Canadian National Exhibition last year and may be making a repeat appearance this year. The Rhythm Pats and several other well-known regulars of the show were not seen.

It was a very interesting and "learning" evening - to see the intricate lighting and the huge cameras being moved around. Each technician, as well as the performers, had to know his job. It showed some of the tire-some monology and hard work the TV stars have to endure in order to put on an entertainment for viewers even after the years of acquiring the knowledge, technique and qualifications of their chosen profession and/or career.

Free Press Family Page

Making plans

Workshop, campaign for Cancer Society

The Acton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society held their meeting at the home of Mrs. Marion Patterson, Education Chairman for the local area. Plans for the upcoming Cancer Society campaign for April were discussed.

Since campaigning is such an important part in the functioning of the society, a campaign workshop will be held March 16 at 8 p.m. at St. Joseph's church. The aim of the workshop will be to help the volunteer acquire a knowledge of the society, so when specific questions are asked while canvassing, they will be able to answer knowingly or will know where to refer the donor.

This workshop will also instruct the canvasser on the proper approach to take while canvassing.

A film on canvassing will be shown and any questions will be answered. Organizers hope most of their captains and canvassers will attend as well as anyone interested in campaigning or helping the local branch in any other way. Anyone who wishes to campaign but is unable to attend the workshop please contact Arlie White, 853-1587, Campaign Chairman. Volunteers are particularly needed from the new housing areas. The Cancer Society also needs volunteers in all facets of its work: campaign, services (drivers, knitters, sewers), and education.

Plans for a small garage sale were also discussed for early May.

In memory

Elma Braida, In Memoriam Chairman, reported giving to the society in sympathy for lost ones through In Memoriam donations and bequests from October to February total \$1,795.00. Mrs. Cathy McGillivray, Service to Patients Chairman, reported the volunteers to be very busy this month. Local volunteer drivers made two trips to Toronto, four trips to Hamilton and two trips to Guelph as well as some visiting.

The Activity Group Ladies were busy knitting, as well as making some colorful felt tote bags required for the Princess Margaret Hospital Lodge patients.

At schools Education Chairman, Mrs. Marion Patterson has visited the schools with literature and educational supplies for teachers, libraries and nursing offices. Pauline

Leslie has presented "Celly," the cell to many of the kindergarten to grade 3 classes. "Celly" is a positive program dealing with decision making and smoking awareness and is geared for children up to grade 3. Education vice-chairman Carole Korpela is busy year round keeping literature racks filled in all the industries in the area as well as the doctors' offices and pharmacies.

The Cancer Society is willing to present programs dealing with education and services to any group wishing them. Films, speakers and literature are available through the local branch volunteers.

The next meeting will be on March 16 in the form of the previously-mentioned workshop. Anyone interested is most welcome.

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Daughters of Knox hold March meeting

The regular meeting of the Daughters of Knox was held March 1, with president Mrs. William Toth in the chair. She opened the meeting with the reading of a poem entitled "Fences".

After the singing of "Living for Jesus" and the repeating of the club mottoes, the minutes of the last meeting were read by the recording secretary Mrs. E. A. Hansen. The treasurer's report was also read and adopted. A copy of the report of the annual Brampton Presbyterial meeting was circulated.

Give reports A report on the last monthly euchre was given and the date of the March euchre announced. It will be held March 30.

Mrs. Tom Watson and her group then presented a chapter from the study book entitled "Walls Between You and your Children." Members were divided into two groups, and a picture of a parent and child was passed around. From the position of the people in the picture and the expression on the faces, the members were asked to give their ideas regarding the feelings between them, for instance hostility or love.

Mrs. Jack Pink read portions from the "Diary of Anne Frank". Questions and answers followed.

During the worship period, the hymn "Little Drops of Water" was sung. The Scripture portion was read by Mrs. William Nellis and the prayer was given by Mrs. A. H. McKenzie. The offertory prayer was given by Mrs. Robert Paul.

The meeting was closed by repeating together the Mizpah Benediction, after which followed a time of fellowship and refreshments.



WINDOW SILL banked with blooming amaryllis brightens winter days for Mrs. George Benton. These are the largest and most spectacular blooms she has ever had.

Mimosa members hear of life in Denmark

Mrs. Roy Wheeler was hostess for the February meeting of the Mimosa Women's Institute which began with a dessert luncheon.

The new Provincial project is to be a Women's Institute hall at the new Agricultural Museum at Milton.

The nominating committee is to be Mrs. Jake Pedersen, Mrs. Emerson Lane and Mrs. Frank Longstreet.

Mrs. Ernest Root gave a report on the Food Forum which was held in Guelph in February.

Mrs. John Root had information concerning the Essay Contest which is sponsored by the Wellington County Historical Society.

Mrs. Jake Pedersen gave a talk on the theme "Nutrition" telling of several good meat substitutes.

Mrs. Clarence Beatty introduced the speaker, Mrs. Kristen Skousgaard who lives in Kitchener but originally came from Denmark. She told of life in general there and also several customs. She had several pieces of beautiful needlework, also many books with pictures. It was very interesting and informative as she and her mother-in-law who had come with her answered many questions. It seems they have

BINGO

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Personals

Pearl Harris and Connie Gordon flew last Thursday to Victoria, B.C., where they plan to stay for a while.

Breeders Association dance at the Riviera, Norval, Friday night.

Rob Hindmarsh, 5th line, Erin township, caught a 711 pound tiger shark off the Florida Keys and set a record for the Keys. And they've been keeping records there for 42 years. He is eligible for a huge trophy if his record holds till the end of April.

A group from this area attended the Holstein

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