



the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

In my last column, I mentioned that someone had objected to the way I portrayed life here. Maybe an explanation is in order.

An Acton reader had sent one of the first columns I'd written from Alberta to Joanne Bengier in Drayton Valley, with a note that both being writers, we might have something in common.

Not so, stated Ms. Bengier to me in the first page of four. "I pride myself on ACCURACY and TRUTH!!!"

Good heavens—what have I written to deserve that? I immediately hauled out the first few Alberta columns and pored over them to see where I'd gone wrong.

Aha—when I'm inaccurate, I do a good job! With my very bad habit of thinking one word and saying another (like instructing Gord to turn left when I know I mean "right") I wrote that Buck Creek is 90 miles east of Edmonton. In error.

It's not. We're 90 miles WEST. We must be—we can see the Rockies from the top of the hill down the road.

After much reading and soul-searching, I can find no other inaccuracy and/or untruth. Actually, it all boils down to the fact that Ms. Bengier and I have a totally different outlook on life—and I much prefer mine.

While I sit and listen with great interest to the tales told by hunters from Ponoka, Flatbush, Blakfolds, etc., the Bengiers hold anyone hunting on their property until the R.C.M.P. arrives.

And while I was fascinated by the story of the muskrat legs, Ms. Bengier writes "How dare you depict us as so primitive!" It's a good thing I hadn't followed that story with the one about the naked government official behind the oat stalk.

Ms. Bengier hoped for equal space to tell about the progressive things in Drayton Valley, the color televisions, and washers and dryers, and curling rinks, etc.

More interesting Well, I'm not knocking the importance of plumbing and hydro, and a progressive society, but neither am I hooked on it. I just think there's more interesting things.

I've kept track over the past couple of weeks of things that made me pause a bit. There's the daschund whc

The end is near

Acton mail order customers of the T. Eaton Company have received letters thanking them for their patronage over the years and informing them of final dates for placing orders from the catalogue and collecting the same.

April 3 is the last day on which you can place an order from the catalogue and all outstanding orders must be collected from the Mill Street office by April 22. The order office will close its doors April 24. The period between that date and the May 5 close out target date will be used by Eaton's employees to complete any Acton business.

Personals

Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Hunter and Mrs. Hilda Ashley of Erin spent Sunday with the latter's daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Couture and Bonnie of Guelph celebrating Mrs. Ashley's birthday. She is 80 on March 24.

Just a few of the group from Acton were visible on the Tommy Hunter show on TV Friday night. They had taken a bus trip to Toronto to see the show filmed a couple of weeks ago.

Many people are off to warm places in school break. How about a phone call to let us know the news? Winter vacations are happy events we like to share.

Mr. and Mrs. George Bowman and Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Landsborough arrived home Friday evening from a fourteen-day bus tour including Washington, St. Augustine, Kennedy Space Centre, Orlando, Disney World, Miami Beach, St. Petersburg, Busch Gardens and Tampa.

Firefighters and their wives enjoyed bowling together Saturday night. Everybody went back to the fire hall for a late supper of chili and thickly-cut fresh bread.

refuses to sleep unless he's rolled up in a blanket, preferably flowered. He belongs to a family that has been and a whimsical pony affectionately called Nicolas P. Picalas, Registered Wonder Horse.

I've come across and learned a bit about the "Two by two" religion; and watched a farmer take brief aim with a handgun and shoot a coyote in the middle of a furious fight with his black lab.

Folks in this area have been telling us about the day in 1967 the wind chill factor took the temperature down to 104 below (F.) and livestock froze where they stood; and I've driven into the mountains late at night in a windstorm. That was an interesting experience all right, particularly as I didn't know where I was half the time.

A gift Last month I started writing an entirely separate column for the Drayton Valley newspaper. The day after the first one was printed, I found a charming old gentleman on our doorstep with the paper in one hand and two chocolate bars in the other—"Coconut" he explained. "Folks—need roughage too."

He's read my account of our arrival in Alberta and come to welcome us and stay for supper. We all had a truly interesting evening.

Shortly after waving him out the door at nine o'clock, we had to bundle up and go push him out of a small snow-drift.

Five of us were hefting on the front and getting absolutely nowhere when it was discovered he was in first gear while we were trying to push him back!

As we tottered back to the house, all covered in snow, Gord looked at me in half-amusement, half-exasperation and said only "My wife..."

I know—my writing sometimes provides more "interest" than we're ready for on a cold winter's night, but I really don't think we'd ever have it otherwise.



WINTER PROGRAM OF Yoga, a high school night school course, is winding up for this term. However the course will have spring classes, and will continue on to June. New members will learn the various poses of the art. Shirley Krause doing a full twist, Janie Marshall in the full lotus position and Lynda Krueger doing the alternative leg stretch show what can be done in a reasonable length of time at the classes. The legs in the background belong to Karen Johnson in a shoulder stand, with Brenda Gignac being assisted by instructress Melanija Bray in a head stand.

Love, communication way to raise children

Family relationships was the topic for the March meeting of Greenock branch of the Women's Institute held at the home of Mrs. Chester Allan.

Mrs. R. Sinclair, the president, opened the meeting and read from the Home Economics news what Mrs. Lorraine Holding, Home Economist, had to say about nutrition and family meals. Good nutritional health can be maintained by following Canada's food guide.

Mrs. G. Leslie gave the current events. The roll call was, "a child rearing tip or saying," and the motto was, "how the twig is bent so grows the tree". Mrs. Ed McGeragle, convenor of family and consumer affairs, gave a reading on "children learn what they live".

Social workers Mrs. Wayne Aitken introduces Miss Olive Anstice and Mrs. Barbara Green, social workers, Guelph. They work

with the foster home, finding homes for teenagers. Miss Anstice has a university degree from England and post graduate diploma. After coming to Canada she worked with adoption for 4½ years and for the past 4½ years with the foster home and parent department for teenagers.

Miss Anstice, a fluent speaker, gave many pointers on rearing children. Love and communication with children are the basics. Kids need wisdom, tolerance, encourage-

ment and a sense of humor in order to grow up to shoulder responsibilities, also never expect a child to be a carbon copy of someone else. She recommended a book, "People Making" by Virginia Satir for parents.

Mrs. Green who has been a foster mother four years gave a few ideas of what her work with teenagers is like.

A social time was spent after the meeting. Mrs. G. Wallace and Mrs. A. Gates were conveners of a delicious lunch

Margaret Mackenzie speaks at W.I. meeting

The March meeting of the Dublin Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Ken Smith, Sixth Line, Nasagaweya with a good attendance of members and visitors on a snowy night.

Public relations was the topic this month and the women were pleased to have as guest speaker, Miss Margaret Mackenzie, Acton's newest lawyer. As Miss Mackenzie had to leave early, she was the "first item of business". She conveyed to the membership the importance of having a last will and testament. Her subject was estate planning and she gave a description of the dependents' relief act. She stressed not only the importance of having a will but making certain it is in a safe place, namely a lawyers office so it is easily accessible upon death. Everyone realizes what a messy situation it is for the family when there is no will or if it isn't found.

Extend thanks After thanks was extended to Miss Mackenzie the women proceeded to officially open

the meeting with the Institute Ode, Mary Stuart Collect and the Lord's Prayer, led by the president Mrs. E. Norton. The minutes and correspondence, including a letter from the provincial president, was read by Mrs. D. Hunter, secretary. Due to a change of secretary in mid-winter, some of the correspondence was delayed in reaching us.

The following items of business were discussed: the members are invited to attend the 25th anniversary of Silverwood W.I. in the form of a euche, March 27 in Stewarttown; district meeting to be held April 5, 1976; Officers Conference to be held May 4, 5 and 6 in Waterloo. Their delegate will be Mrs. E. Norton; home economics forms were dealt with whereby the branch has asked for, needpoint for beginners and personalize your pattern.

These are training schools. They voted to say "yes" to a food forum called "Poultry Please"; Mrs. E. Wilson attended the recently held can-

cer workshop with Mrs. A. Diamond, representing our branch; a sizeable donation was given to the Friends-In-Deed, Acton's newly formed club for handicapped persons.

Mrs. G. McMillan had an interesting contest awaiting the ladies and the winners were Mrs. A. Near and Mrs. F. Kirtan.

The meeting was closed with the singing of O Canada and the Institute Grace after which Mrs. E. Wilson gave the branch courtesies thanking the hostess and the social committee of Mrs. H. Blyth, Mrs. B. Rennie and Mrs. J. Vandenberg. During the lovely lunch, Mrs. K. Smith handed out the cancer kits to canvassors. A well-attended and busy meeting came to a close.

French Knots plan covers

The Dublin North French Knots held their sixth meeting at the home of Mrs. Anne Dodds on Wednesday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was opened with the 4H pledge, then Bonnie Methelal took the collection. The next meeting will be at the home of Penny Kirtan at 7 pm on Wednesday, March 24, 1976 Roll Call was what ideas they had for the exhibit on achievement day. Each person put their own answer down.

Then they began to show our leaders what they had done on learning stitches article. They helped with any troubles. Mrs. Dodds showed how to fringe placemats. Later each thought, what we would like on the covers. One was chosen. Then they decided the cover for booklets. They then had their snack.

Popular Yoga course is extending into spring

Spring Yoga classes will be held at Robert Little school soon in conjunction with the high school night classes.

Yoga is the only course which will be offered by the night school in this season. All other courses have finished or are near completion of their winter classes.

This popular program has been well attended for the past few years, and anyone from beginners to advanced are invited to attend. Some women sign up for the program in September and stay

with it until the summer, learning various poses and exercises. Some have stuck with it for several years.

Melanija Bray will, once again, be the instructress. Boria Shean, the night school program co-ordinator, has more information for those interested.

Prints of the pictures taken by the Free Press at the fashion show are on display in Marilyn's Boutique.

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