



the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

One of these days I'll learn to enquire further into kids' projects before I go along with them. David, our youngest and his friend Allan, knowing that I'm interested in photographing old buildings, became quite enthusiastic about a logging camp discovered on the south-west corner of Allan's quarter section. From their portrayal, I could just about picture the abandoned camp, and agreed to join them on their next jaunt.

Last Sunday, six of us set out, the two boys, two teenagers, and two mothers. If I'd known where the "short walk" was to take me, the group would have contained only one mother.

We drove almost to the southeast corner of the quarter, left the truck in a pasture, hopped a few gullies, slid down a hill or two, pushed our way through a couple of bramble patches, and arrived at the stream.

After 10 minutes of scrambling along the banks, I looked up to see the truck gleaming on top of the hill to our left, an easy climb away, and pointed it out to the boys.

The fun of it They were astounded to find that I would have preferred just walking down the hill and missing out on all the "fun" of the long way around!

The camp was just across the stream, they assured me. All we had to do was find a way across. We went (slid, scuttled, climbed—you name it, we did it) along for another while, following the stream north, looking for the beaver dam that seconded as a bridge.

It turned out the dam was almost the whole way back to the house again and I was fuming quietly to myself by the time we reached it.

After watching the other five wobble and splash across, I was ready to call it quits and go home, but was persuaded to continue.

Across I scrambled, muttering under my breath all the way, and on we went, wet shoes squishing with each step. Where did we go? Back south again, down the east side of the stream, right back to where we started!

Cocky sparrows The boys hopped blithely along, like a couple of cocky sparrows, with encouraging cries of "It's just around the bend" (every time they came to a bend). The girls followed with waning enthusiasm, and the mothers brought up the rear.

My David stayed well in advance after hearing what would happen to him if my camera got dropped in the water during one of the scrambles along fallen

logs bridging small streams. Without warning, the silence was broken by frantic shrieks from somewhere in front of us. I couldn't even begin to imagine what one of the kids had fallen into, stepped on, slid down or been attacked by.

Vicious ants Rounding the next bend, we came across one of the girls in a frenzy, hopping on one foot, stripping off one shoe and sock, pausing only long enough to gasp "I stood on an ant hill!" From then on, I kept a wary eye out for vicious ants.

A few more bends and we were there. Where? I'm not sure. All I saw was one old tin can, two old wells, and an old logging road—a road, it was pointed out, that we could have driven right in on!

I was tired, scratched, bitten and sore. And there was no way I was going to retrace my steps. (I was sure the beaver would appreciate not having six pairs of feet tromping back across their roof-top, too.)

There were two other choices—crawl 20 feet across the stream using a fallen spruce as a bridge, or else swim. The first choice would probably lead to the second anyhow. But what to do with the camera? Carry it on top of my head or between my teeth? Decisions, decisions.

Then there was a roar on the other side of the stream, a flash of blue, and number one son came charging down the hill on his motor bike. Problem solved.

He rode back to the truck, drove it out to the road, east over the bridge, and back south again, down the east side of the stream, right back to where we started!

It's at times like that that I'm quite willing to forget the theory that "the family that plays together stays together". I could cheerfully have pushed David down one of the beaver trails, launched him into the stream, and left him floating with the ducks, to cool off his over-enthusiastic sense of adventure for awhile.



The beaver dam crossing ... see The Painted Box

Free Press Family Page

For mentally handicapped

Tinker Bell Nursery helps pre-schoolers

It's understandable that when parents discover their child to be handicapped, either mentally or physically, they are shocked and upset. In Halton there is no reason for them to bear the situation alone.

Beginning with Tinker Bell Nursery for the Mentally Handicapped through the Developmental Centre, Sunshine School, to ARC Industries and eventually to living as independent adults at the newly-built residence on Trafalgar Road, the life of the retarded person is able to follow much the same pattern as the rest of society.

Registrations are being accepted this week for children from two years of age at Tinker Bell Nursery in Milton. Because of the formation of the Developmental Centre, and the fact that some of the nursery-age children are going on to Sunshine and other schools, Tinker Bell is left with eight children.

"It would be a blessing if only eight children need our services but we know we haven't reached everyone in North Halton," Jennie Kuiken, founder and director of the nursery says.

Sponsored by the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded, the nursery facilities at E. C. Drury School have capacity for 30 children. The four large bright rooms are equipped with everything the young child needs to develop everyday living skills.

Motor skills The program includes toileting, eating, dressing, and the development of motor skills. The children are encouraged to learn at their own rate and special help is given when needed.

Therapists visit the nursery on a consulting basis from Surrey Place, an assessment centre in Toronto. Psychologists, speech therapists, and physiotherapists are available to the children. Advice on proper placement of the child when he is ready to

leave Tinker Bell is also given by these specialists.

Big difference Sue Evans is a supervisor on staff with Tinker Bell. She



MUSIC FASCINATES this young lady at the Tinker Bell Nursery for the Mentally Handicapped. The program also includes self-help and everyday living skills.

Free Press Personals

Attending the Bowling Proprietors Association of Canada 1976 five day annual conference at Kelowna, B.C. are Ken Hulford, Acton's bowling impresario, Mrs. Hulford and Y.B.C. program director, Sylvia Mages.

Mrs. Margaret Topham of Richmond Hill visited during the week with her friend Mrs. E. Lidkea and Laurier Michaud.

Terri Yalowica, who graduated from Sheridan College Secretarial (Medical) is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. Yalowica, Rosemary Ltd. She attended high school in Toronto and then Acton high school. She is working at Foodland.

A huge crowd gathered Sunday at the Ukrainian camp on the fourth line, when

a Spring Fest opened the summer season there. Mass was celebrated in the morning and in the afternoon there was a program of speeches, music, dancing and soccer games. Friends met again and enjoyed visiting and eating Ukrainian specialties.

Mrs. L. C. Reed was joined on Decoration Day by Mr. and Mrs. Stew Reed and Heather, Acton, Mrs. Gail Lidkea, Tasha and friend, Acton, Mrs. Blaine Edmundson, Donna and Jamie of Burlington and Mr. and Mrs. Garnet Reed, Laurie, Ronnie and Robbie of Victoria Corners.

Visitors from Aldershot, England with Mr. and Mrs. D. Clendinning, Brock Ave., have been her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs.

Leonard Lodge. This couple had never been to Canada before this Saturday when they arrived. They plan to return home on June 19, but not until they see various sights in the area. Guelph, Niagara Falls, Ontario Place, Burlington, and Toronto are on their agenda along with the big shopping centres in the nearby cities.

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Women's Institute June meeting

The June meeting of Acton Women's Institute began by repeating the Mary Stewart Collect and pot luck lunch at 1 p.m. in the board room of Acton Public Library.

Mrs. George Hargrave read the minutes, treasurer's report, and correspondence. She also gave a report of the District Annuals she had attended.

President Miss Dorothy Simmons told of the Cancer Society meeting she attended in Knox Church.

Business items were discussed and several donations given.

Conveners, Mrs. Cooke, Mrs. Roy Lindsay, and Mrs. Earl Lambert read papers. Roll call. My plans for the summer, was answered by 11 members.

Contests were won by Doris Cooke, Jean McLean, Myrtle Lambert and Agnes Holmes.

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