



the painted box

By Wendy Thomson

There's a rustling of leaves, the sound of heavy breathing, and a strange popping noise in the raspberry patch. All I can do (other than start hollering) is pick a little faster and try to stay ahead of it.

I guess it's our own fault. During the strawberry season, in order not to waste fruit, we showed our dropped berries to the hounds who devoured them eagerly.

Next thing we knew, the dogs were out in the patch all times of the day, muzzles buried to the eyebrows in the leaves, smelling out ripe fruit.

By the time the raspberries were ready, the dogs were confirmed "berry freaks" and moved in on the canes.

Now it's simply a contest to see who can pick the fastest. Old Sue roams up and down between the rows. Sometimes I hear her; other times she's absolutely soundless and, being black, almost invisible in the shadows.

Trespasser
More than once I've lifted a heavy fruit-laden branch, to be brought face to face with a dog with a raspberry (just popped off a branch) in its mouth and an eye that accuses ME of trespassing!

Young Rip is a little more assertive. As soon as I spot a rip berry and reach for it, he's right there pushing to get at it first.

We don't dare set down our berry pail and sometimes I can see by the look in his eye that if the pail isn't coming down to him, he might come up to it!

I suppose now that I've mentioned Young Rip, I should introduce him fully and also write about something I've been putting off for many months.

You'll remember that we drove here to Alberta with the three hounds, old mama Sue, her mate Ky, and their year-old pup McPhee.

Paradise

Well, for the two younger dogs, this was just a hunter's paradise, and they set about running everything they could, deer, elk, coyote, and of course porcupine.

At the time, Gord didn't have the time to try to channel these instincts. Then when Sue had pups in December, I found myself having to make the heart-breaking decision to sell my two dogs.

They were bought by an avid hunter, a Stanly Stewart from Ponoka, and I'll admit to much weeping as they left and for long after they were gone.

I hear Ky and McPhee did us proud with their hunting skills, but I really do miss quiet Ky who was my constant companion on every walk and many drives.

Gord kept the one male from the litter of four, and named him Rip, after his grandpappy, our first black

and-tan who was in so many of these columns, including the first in October, 1968.

Personality
Young Rip is a personality on his own, unlike any of the other dogs, an exuberant, over-whelming long-legged character, he seems to consider life such a joyful experience that he hates to waste a minute of it.

It's bad enough that he carries off and buries anything we leave outside (socks, boots, motorcycle parts and things like that) but he also goes to the neighbors and brings back everything from sandals to their carwash brush.

To him, anyone sitting down outside means only that they want to be closer to him and he's so willing to oblige!

That's why my suntan is almost non-existent these days. Whenever I gather the strength to brave the inevitable turmoil, and stretch out on the blanket, within two minutes there's an ecstatic dog sprawled across my lap or sitting on my head chewing my arms.

And he's just so happy that I never have the heart to send him away.

Plan 75th anniversary

The Halton District Women's Institute executive met in Milton on Wednesday, August 25, to make plans for their 75th anniversary luncheon.

The luncheon will be held at the Lion's Hall located inside the Milton Arena on Thompson Rd. at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 9.

The W.I. expects to have 175 guests in attendance.

Former and present presidents and secretaries will be honored and the guest speaker at the luncheon will be Mrs. Herb Maluske of Chelsey. Mrs. Maluske is the F.W.I.O. President.

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LONELY LITTLE tomato in a petunia patch—outside the arena.

Manor craft entries win

Four residents of Halton Centennial Manor received honors at the Homes for the Aged craft display held in the Queen Elizabeth Building at the Canadian National Exhibition this year.

Miss Mary Anne Ford was a third place winner for her fun fur flowers. Miss Dorothy Thomas, a third place winner for a cross stitched tablecloth, also received honorable mention for embroidered pillow cases. Miss Rose Tobichaud and Mrs. Elita Pompeu gained honorable mention for their contributions of an afghan and crocheted apron respectively.

At Brookville 52nd anniversary for Storey reunion

The descendants of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Storey met again on August 21 at Brookville Hall to celebrate the 52nd anniversary of their reunion.

President Gerry Thatcher welcomed the guests and at six o'clock a delicious lunch was served by Marguerite Bowman and Gerry Thatcher. Afterwards sports and races were enjoyed by young and old.

Margaret Carnochan, daughter of the late Arthur and Margaret Stewart (nee Storey) of Nassagaweya, received a gift in honor of being the oldest member present and Margaret Syquist of Cranbrook, British Columbia, was presented with a gift for travelling the farthest distance to the reunion. Margaret is the daughter of the late William and Mary Simpson (nee Stewart) and her grandparents were the late Arthur and Margaret Stewart.

A two minute silence was observed in memory of the following relatives who had passed away during the year: George Brownlee, Dorothy Ann Allain (nee O'Rourke),

Harold Early and William Wilson. The business meeting was chaired by Willard Price and Dolores Doughty acted as secretary. Glen Brownlee was nominated president for next year; Alan Thatcher was nominated vice-president and Willard Price was nominated secretary-treasurer.

The reunion came to a close with Dorothy O'Rourke playing the violin and Warren Brownlee accompanying her on the piano. Warren also played a beautiful solo called Clair de Lune.

Friendships are renewed

Recently a surprise visit was enjoyed when Mrs. Emma Martin, Catalina, Newfoundland and Mrs. Jean Hunt of Toronto had dinner with Mrs. John Bird, Ash Grove W.I. In the afternoon they visited at the home of Mrs. A. Gates when a few of the Greenock members gathered for tea.

This friendship has grown through exchange visits; twinning with a sister province in the Federated Women's Institutes in Canada.

Greenock at museum

Wellington Centre F.W.I.O. branch members have been assisting Sunday afternoons during the summer months at Wellington Place Museum.

Greenock W. I. took their turn Aug. 15. Mrs. R. Sinclair and Mrs. D. Milton as hostesses.

Mrs. C. Aitken and Mrs. G. Wallace served tea and cookies in the Ada Currie room. This room has been specially set up to accommodate F.W.I.O. in the county.

They reported a very good day as a picnic for an Antique Car Rally was in progress.

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