



the painted box

by Wendy Thomson

One of the nice things about writing this column is having a printed record of happenings and changes over the past eight years.

Every October I flip thru' the pages of my Painted Box scrapbooks and all the little beings that "peopled" my life are right there in front of me, and all the goings-on are re-created.



Eight years doesn't seem that long, but the changes there've been are many—especially over this past year! What surprises me is that so many changes were due to doors opened up by these writings.

In '68, we had been living south of Acton for eight years. Beth and Jim, 10 and 8, were going to Speyside school. David was about to start kindergarten and leave off taking things at home apart. Husband Gord was tied to a factory job in Oakville, and I tended the house.

Of course, that was just the basic family. Rounding out the edges were the cats, Cock-eyed Cat, her daughter Little-cat, HER daughter Miss Tansy Cat, and our big Thomas-cat. And, of course, there was the hound, Rip Van Winkle.

The pasture held my mare Black Velvet, the kids' pony Earl Grey, Papa-geese and his family, and Banty-rooster (who thought he was either a goose or a dog.)

Joining them over that year was Pepe the gosling, Daisy-pony, Andy-the-ferret, and countless other things, mainly cats.

The writing of our experiences made them much more enjoyable because I was reliving all the good things over as I wrote, and I'm still reliving them with each re-reading.

Last October arrived at the farm in Buck Creek, Alberta—Gord, Jim, David, and I, Rip's daughter Sue, her mate Ky, and their daughter McPhee, Miss Tansy Cat, and Minnie-the-ferret.

Within a week, we'd bought 160 acres and 28 head of cattle; otherwise, the future was pretty uncertain. What are we doing now? I guess the only things unchanged are the 160 acres, and David (now 12) who is going 15 miles to school in Drayton Valley and taking things apart at home.

The cow herd swelled to around 40 and then was sold. The house has grown a fair bit after we took down one of the log buildings on the quarter and rebuilt it onto the front as a living room.

Miss Tansy Cat, after months of fruitless searching, finally found a tom this summer and happily produced six smoke-grey kittens who live under a granary and storm the house periodically.

Our first sad notes were the selling of Ky and McPhee. Then, last month, after a very happy, playful summer, Minnie-the-ferret went into decline and died of leukemia. Two weeks later, another

Remembrance theme Auxiliary meeting

The November meeting of the afternoon auxiliary of Knox Church Women's Missionary Society centred on the theme of Remembrance. Following poems Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and An Unnamed Man, Miss Anderson led in prayer at the conclusion of which a moment of silence was observed. Mrs. Near was in charge of the program and was assisted by Mrs. MacPherson, Miss Clark, Mrs. McIntyre and Mrs. Dennis.

A story of the poppy was read and also one of the establishment of Remembrance Day. The history of two churches was also given. One was the former Sheridan Methodist Church in Oakville, established 156 years ago, which will become the Women's Institute Hall at the Ontario Agricultural Museum at Milton. The second church,

which has already been 70 years in the process of building and will not be completed until 1980, is the National Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul at Washington, D.C. It is the sixth largest church building in the world. Canada has donated to its construction. It will be administered by the Episcopal Anglican Church.

Mrs. Near also told about commemorative communion tokens which were struck during 1975, the centennial year of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The communion token, a token of love, was used first in Scotland to exclude spies from the communion celebration. A poem entitled, Memories of an old lady, written by a lady in Dundee, Scotland, was read. Following the business period a time of fellowship was enjoyed.



OVER \$180 was raised by the women of Trinity United church at a tea and bake sale Saturday. Wendy Dedman of the C.G.I.T. pours a cup of tea for Mrs. Truus Veldhuis and Mrs. Betty Fosbury. "Make a Miracle Happen" was the money-raising theme.

Free Press Family page Christmas plans are made by club

The regular afternoon meeting of the Acton Golden Age Club was well attended. President, R.L. Davidson welcomed the good turnout. Mrs. Reed read the minutes of the previous meeting as prepared by Mrs. Robertson. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Mrs. Annie McCutcheon, a charter member and Mrs. Mamie Allen, a more recent joiner.

Cards of appreciation from these members' families for expressions of sympathy at their time of bereavement, were read.

Mr. Davidson reminded those members who were members of the Sunshine Club of the bus trip to the fall fair. He also announced the Annual Christmas dinner given by the Rotary Club and Canadian Legion, was to be Nov. 30 at 6 p.m. Any members needing a ride were to phone Mrs. Robertson or Mrs. Mann. Mr. Davidson had been inquiring about bowling and had been told four lanes would be available Monday and Wednesday afternoons and maybe Fridays. More information will be given out later.

The Zone Rally was being held Nov. 8 at the new arena in Milton. Mr. Davidson urged all who could to go and boost the club and new president. Mrs. Mann gave a detailed financial report.

The Membership fee this year will be \$2 along with the Star Club fee. The president asked the members to pay their fees promptly. He had a suggestion box for any suggestions for improving the club, and also slips for those who wished to put in their names for bowling.

Regarding the annual supper asking the Anglican ladies to cater was unanimously approved. Further information will be given at a late meeting. There will be an exchange of gifts at this party.

Bus trip
Clarence Denny had suggested the club go on a shopping and 'see-the-lights' trip, leaving at 3 p.m., stay at Kitchener to shop a couple of hours, eat there and come back to Guelph and tour around to see the lights. Cost of the bus would be \$1 to \$1.25 each.

Another trip suggested was to Simcoe and vicinity. Prizes: eucure, ladies Mrs. Fountain, Joe Fuller; gents, Mrs. Devries, A. Lambert; crokinole, gents Mrs. Spear, Mrs. Townsley; ladies Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Mitchell.

Among the November birthdays saluted were: Mrs. Masales, Mrs. Townsley, Mrs. Graham, Miss Hall and Joe Fuller.

Dr. Philbrook

Member of Parliament Frank Philbrook will be speaking to the newly-formed Trinity United Church Men's Club Sunday evening, sponsored by the same group.

Dr. Philbrook will be speaking on the role of the church in the political arena. The public is welcome.

Reports, plans Trinity U.C.W.

The U.C.W. of Trinity United Church met Tues., Nov. 9.

The leader Mrs. Lidkea opened the meeting with a short reading.

Mrs. Force began the devotions with the hymn There Is A Voice in the Wilderness Crying. Her subject was The Gift of St. Andrew. It began with the reading of the 12th chapter of John, in portions by three members of the unit. The ending thought of Mrs. Force's talk was that "Wishes often come true if we really work at them. I believe that everyone of us has enough in our makeup for a good beginning, do you?" Mrs. Post sang a beautiful solo I Cannot Tell and the devotions were finished with the hymn Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult.

Reports were given by the various groups, and plans made for the tea and bake sale on Feb. 13.

The meeting closed over a friendly cup of tea and sandwiches.

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Free Press Personals

Mrs. Les. Wilson, R.R.2, Rockwood is a patient in Guelph General Hospital, following surgery.

Miss Gladys Sanders, Kitchener, has returned home after spending 10 days with her sister Mrs. Florence Sayers and family, and attending the funeral of her brother-in-law, the late James Sayers.

Friends and relatives Sunday brought congratulations to Mrs. Mary Graham, who was celebrating a special birthday. Her niece and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cabelda of R.R.3, Guelph were hosts for the afternoon reception and family dinner party. Mrs. Graham's sister Mrs. Annie Sockell, Guelph, her five nieces and their families ranging down to a five week old baby, a niece from Scotland and friends from Acton were present for the occasion.

Mayor Tom Hill will be out of hospital soon, and is planning to be in Acton for the Meet the Candidates night.

Invitations are out for former members and people from other congregations to attend the special anniversary services at Knox this Sunday. A noted band formed of clergymen, The Lost and Found, will be playing in the evening.

Rotarians and their guests enjoyed the evening at the Mohawk raceway Tuesday.

Visiting on the weekend with Dorothy and Clarence Rognvaldson were their daughters—Robert and Janet Taylor, Michelle and Jennifer of Elliott Lake; Nansi and Gerard Coquard, Catherine and Christopher of Montreal. Also visiting with the Rognvaldsons this week are Mrs. F. James of Kitchener, Alberta and Mrs. Florence Lavinette of Oshawa.

The new manager of the Toronto-Dominion bank John Bumstead and staff held an Open House in their bank Friday. They talked with visitors about their various services, and offered cups of coffee and cookies during the day. Mr. Bumstead had ordered corsages for all the staff and there were special decorations and small gifts.

The Corporation of the Town of Milton

APPOINTMENT OF VOTING PROXY

Any person whose name is entered on the polling list for a polling subdivision in the municipality and who is,

- A person other than one who is in a hospital or other institution, where a polling place has been provided on such premises for the purpose of polling or where provision has been made to attend upon such persons for the purpose of receiving their ballot, and
- A person who is certified by a legally qualified medical practitioner, by a certificate filed with the Clerk, to be physically incapable of attending a polling place;
- A person absent from his regular residence by reason of attending an educational institution and expects by reason of such absence from the municipality to be unable to vote at the advance poll or on polling day; or
- A person who expects to be absent from his Polling subdivision during the election period including the advance poll and polling day by reason of his being engaged for hire or reward in the business of transportation by railway, air, water or motor vehicle,

may, on forms obtainable at the Office of the Returning Officer, 251 Main Street East, Milton, appoint any person to vote in his stead who is entitled to vote in the same municipality.

Such persons must be appointed and certified by the Clerk of the Municipality during the two week period following nomination day. (Period from November 16th, 1976 to November 30th, 1976 inclusive, but not later than 5.00 p.m. Tuesday, November 30th, 1976.

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