



the painted box

by Wendy Thomson

Sometimes when somebody (usually a husband) mentions all the modern conveniences around the modern home and how lucky today's women are, I have to grit my teeth to keep quiet.

And there have been times when I've almost wept in frustration after hearing comments about how much more a wife should be able to do and/or how much better it should be done with all the gadgets at hand.

To begin with, as far as I'm concerned, many modern conveniences aren't—they're modern inconveniences. Things might be fine to start with, but before long something goes wrong and many housewives are driven to madness, drink, and/or Harlequin Romances.

When we left Ontario last year, I had a much-needed rest from the quirks and foibles of our 18-year-old collection of appliances.

After years of tending to things like a 'frig' that set up ghostly whinnings in the middle of the night and that spent some days waiting for me to turn my back so it could calmly defrost and empty itself all over the kitchen floor, I had acquired a deep mistrust of anything electric.

We arrived here with only the necessities—books, beds, pets and paintings. Over the past 12 months, whenever Gord felt my nerves could stand it, he introduced a new appliance to the house. Once I could handle that, another one was added.

The last one, the stove, arrived last week, and I've proved I can cope once again—no tantrums, no throwing the circuit-breakers, no pulling plugs out of electrical outlets by their cords, in a rage.

Yes, everything is running smoothly and humming happily as yet (which is just as well because new ones or some parts have to be shipped from Winnipeg or Toronto!) Right now I can smile fondly at the recollection of all those appliances that caused so many broken fingernails and so much anger and anguish over the years.

There was the freezer that waited till I was bent double, fishing for something from the bottom, and then would drop its lid square across my backside.

And the stove whose one

back burner would go on a rampage every now and then, refusing to be anything but modern.

Across the other side of the room sat a toaster who threw a fit once a morning and jittered all over the counter.

The washing machine was a little independent too. The drain hose would acquire a life of its own and start swinging all around, drenching anyone (me) in the vicinity.

For quite a length of time, I had a drier that would decide when it would or wouldn't heat, an iron that wouldn't steam, a vacuum cleaner and an ironing board both held together by surgical tape, and a kettle whose cord kept melting with great displays of sparks and smoke and such.

Of course, sometimes the fault could be traced directly to two and four-footed things, of which we had plenty.

It wasn't till after a kitten pulled down the bedroom lamp by swinging on the cord, that we had to turn it on by pushing the switch through and to the left while turning the socket slightly to the right (on the lamp, not the kitten).

Anyhow, last week, just to keep on the good side of the new stove, I sat down and had a long talk with it about the weather and problems in cooking today and things like that. (If it works with plants, why not stoves?)

Then I got out the instruction book provided, intending to read it cover to cover. It fell open at the centre page and what was the first thing I read?

Under "Table of Substitutions", designed to lend a helping (?) hand to beginning cooks, the suggested substitute for one pound of butter was one CUP of margarine or one CUP of shortening.

Oh Mr. Simpson or Mr. Sears or whoever! I have a feeling that this is NOT going to be a lasting love affair!



KONNIE PATRICIA STEEL, Acton, and Dean Ronald Johnston, Georgetown, were married in Trinity United Church, Acton, on October 16. William Stuckey Photo.

Johnston - Steel wed in October

Trinity United Church, Acton, was the setting for the October 16 wedding of Konnie Patricia Steel and Dean Ronald Johnston.

The bride, of 200 Churchill Rd., S., Acton, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Steel, R.R. 2, Acton. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Johnston, 61 Shelley St., Georgetown. Both are employed at National General Filter Pro.

The Rev. Charles Beaton officiated at the double ring ceremony. The bride's sister, Donna Yukie, Acton, was the maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Louise and Jo-Ann Robert, Welland, and Carol Jenner, Acton.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Rick Jenner, Acton, was the best man. Ushers were Geoff Burk, Kitchener, Doug and Dale Johnston, brothers of the groom, and Perry and Gary Steel, brothers of the bride.

An evening reception and dance was held at Acton Meadows Golf Course. Following a two-week honeymoon in Florida, the couple made their home in Acton.

November has proved to be another busy month for Theta Phi.

The first meeting in November started with a Chinese dinner in honor of the new pledges. Then on to Sigrid Robson's for a meeting and coffee. The sherry gift was brought by Susan Johnson and won by pledge Katy Butler and program was given by Donna Moore. It was a busy meeting with plans being made for a progressive dinner to be held on the 20th, a children's Christmas party and a Cookie House raffle.

The second meeting on Nov. 16 was at Susan Johnson's. Co-hostess was Diane Tappin and the sherry gift was brought by Donna Moore and won by Diane Tappin.

The final plans were made for the progressive dinner and Christmas party to be on Dec. 5. The program for this

evening was given by Carol O'Bryne with the help of Sigrid Robson. To present her program Carol brought everything necessary to make the cookie houses for the raffle, the proceeds of which will go to benefit the Acton Rest Home. The girls made four houses and had fun doing them.

The social for this month was the progressive dinner and was a great success. The evening started at 7:30 at the home of Marlene and Earl Steckley for hors d'oeuvres and punch. From there it was on to Susan and Bill Johnson's for a sit down roast beef dinner and finally on to Terry and Ken Grubbe's for dessert of cherries jubilee and coffee. The evening ended with dancing and more coffee.

Last but not least everyone in Theta Phi would like to congratulate member Cheryl Beaton, finally, on the birth of her son Stephen Russell, a brother for Christine and Lori. Members hope to see her at the next meeting.

Busy month for sorority

Vesper service at United Church

Throughout December 1976 Canadian Girls in Training will sing and celebrate the joy of Christmas in churches from coast to coast with a Vesper Service written by Elizabeth and Peter Moffat of Sanford, Manitoba.

Peter and Elizabeth bring to the service, as they do to their team ministry and marriage, the theme of God's gift of love. The CGIT Candlelight Vesper Service reminds us this year that wise men still seek Christ, and that God accepts us for what we are, not for what we own.

CGIT's 30,000 girls and leaders invite you to attend a Vesper Service, and to re-discover with them The Gift of Christmas—Then and Now.

Offerings received at Vesper Services are the only regular source of income for the National CGIT Committee, which provides Bible Study, leadership and other resources for CGIT groups and camps from Bonavista to Vancouver Island.

Trinity United CGIT will be holding their service Sunday Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Christmas cards from A.H.S. biology teacher

An AHS teacher who specializes in the cool and antiseptic subject of science turns her after hours to painting warm and colorful Christmas cards.

Eva Sansom, especially prepares her cards to convey, as she says, a "loving, comfortable attitude". Mrs. Sansom, who teaches science to

grades 9 and 10 and biology to the 11s, said that the cards weren't meant just for Christmas, but suggests that they could be sent at other times to convey this season's spirit.

The cards attempt to marry images with brief verses such as: Visions of sugar plums—the non-fattening kind, and Wishing your Fantasies come

True. There are five cards in all, printed on papers which are also chosen to enhance the meaning.

This is the first season that Mrs. Sansom, R. R. 4, has tried marketing her cards. They are available in the following town stores: Morse Hardware, Acton Jewellery and Jenry's Nook.

St. John Ambulance draw winners listed

Many Acton people visited the St. John Ambulance display in Milton mall and bought tickets on the draws. Divisional Officer Blair Beemer announces the winners of the draws: microwave oven Fred Alderson,

Freelton; cassette radio Robert Dredge, R. R. 3, Milton; toaster oven Mr. and Mrs. Trotter, 12 Clare Court, Acton; electric knife, Doug Cook, Milton.

The display was set up by No. 488 Milton Combined Division of St. John Ambulance which has several Acton members.

Mr. Beemer says anyone who would like more information about St. John Ambulance could call him at 853-2030. He was pleased that so many Acton people saw the exhibit and bought tickets in the draw to support the division.

Singalong Christmas

Christmas carol song sheets are available at the Free Press office. All the old familiar carols are on the sheets, including such favorites as O Come All Ye Faithful, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, The First Noel, Silent Night, etc.

There's no charge.



THE FIRST PHARMACY in Callander, home of the Dionne quintuplets who made the town famous when they were born there in 1934, was opened last week by Stephen Boyne Clement, B.Sc., son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Clement of Milton. Residents and doctors are very happy about the new service, as the closest place for filling prescriptions had been North Bay. His mother is the former Betty Gibson of Acton.

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