



It's spring! And the (potential) patter of little feet is once again a big thing in our household. No, it isn't another Easter rabbit, although I did get a bit of a jolt recently when I opened the back door and found two large rabbits calmly finishing off the dogs' food.

I promptly accused my husband of bringing in some spring entertainment, but it turned out the bunnies were just passing through. But that night we were awakened by the distinctive sound of a cat making a nest in

the bedroom cupboard. Patty-cat was 'way in the back of the shelf holding bath towels and sheets, studiously re-arranging them to suit. Evidently it didn't (suit), for her next stop (after a brief three o'clock hello on our bed)

was in son Jim's room. He doesn't mind a bit of purring and will often wake up long enough to give a cat a few pats on the head, but Patty figured someone (Jim) should wake up and tell her what was going on. (This was her first litter). Barring that, she wanted to crawl under the covers and make her nest in there. Needless to say, she was ejected.

She then decided to give up the idea of having kittens, and settled down on our bed for a sleep. This suited me fine, as the day was a busy one for me; I was photographing a wedding and wanted to be up early. Seven o'clock I bounced out of bed, grabbed a quick breakfast, then stuck my head in the kitchen sink to wash my hair. Something was wrong. Just as I reached for the taps, a soft purring close to

my ear made me twist around and look, upside down, at Patty sitting in the sink beside my head. I removed her once. And twice. Both times she was back in the sink faster than I could get bent back over with the water on. Finally I shut her in the bathroom, promising I'd finish my hair in there.

And the whole time I was rolling rollers, she lay on the sink top, purring. Her round belly, sticking out each side, kept giving independent heavens and kicks, and she turned around to glare at it now and then. With hair done, I started in on my camera case, taking everything out and loading it back up with flashes, films, cameras, and cat.

Cat? Yes, there she was again, trying the impossible feat of fitting her bulk into a

six-inch square compartment, shedding liberal amounts of cat hair over everything. I took her out, put her in bed first with David and then with Jim. Although she was obviously getting close to her time, she wouldn't stay put and came back into the kitchen uttering plaintive meows with each step.

This time Patty headed for Miss Kitty who had just awakened and was cleaning her face in the middle of the floor. Grabbing Kitty by one ear, Patty tried to drag her out of the room, presumably to act as "mid-wife". Kitty objected to keep peace in the family. I took pity on Patty and went back to bed, taking her with me.

We lay talking for an hour with no signs of a birth being imminent. I drowsily rubbed her stomach and visualized me appearing at the wedding

with an extremely pregnant cat toddling along behind. However, with a very surprised look, Patty finally went into labor. I carefully lifted her into the box I'd prepared and, knowing she'd follow if I left, sat and rubbed her back till the first kitten was born.

With a look that obviously dismissed me, Patty set to work on the new arrival, cleaning him from end to end, rolling him over and over in spite of vigorous squawking on his part.

And, dismissed, I was left to go back to my own work—starting with cleaning all the cat hair out of my camera case.

The Ladies' fair board is planning a reunion for Saturday, July 8.

Obituary

Frances Hurst dies in Aurora

Frances Beatrice Hurst, a former school teacher and native of Acton, died May 21 at Willow Estate Nursing Home, R.R.2, Aurora.

Miss Hurst was born in Acton, the daughter of Sarah McClure Newton and Francis Hurst. She attended Acton public and continuation schools, Guelph Collegiate, and the University of Toronto. She also took several art courses at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto.

Miss Hurst began her teaching career in Acton, and then taught at Richards Landing, St. Joseph's Island, Mindenwya, Manitoulin Island, and Creemore, where she was principal of the continuation school. She spent the last 19 years of her teaching career at Richmond Hill high school. She was highly respected by fellow teachers and loved by many students during her long career.

She was an honorary member of the University Women's club, in which she held many positions. Miss Hurst travelled to Australia and Japan as a Canadian representative of the club. She was also a member of the Lakeside chapter of the IOOE in Acton.

Funeral service was held May 24 in Acton, with the Rev. A. McKenzie officiating. Pallbearers were Jon, Mike and Mark Hurst, David

Perrott, Newton Hurst and Ted Robbins. She is survived by brother Joseph of Acton, and sisters Mrs. Lawrence Frowe (Vera) of Bobcaygeon and Mrs. Thomas Wylie (Adelaide) of Rockwood. She will also be fondly remembered by several nieces and nephews. Miss Hurst was predeceased by her parents and one brother Newton.

Grad news It's graduation time for university and college students! The Free Press is pleased to publish free of charge graduation pictures and articles about graduating students from this area.

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