

the painted box

by Wendy Thomson



One thing that's sure to disrupt the household routine enough so that nothing much (including column-writing) gets done, is for us to have company. I just can't bring myself to leave the circle of warmth and talk, to do things that should be done, like cooking and dishes and sleeping, and whatnot.

To begin with, our weekends lately have been a little hectic because son Jim comes home from Northern Alberta Technical Institute and three or four of us spend quite a bit of time playing cards, talking, and generally getting re-acquainted (after a five-day separation). Meals are at odd hours with whoever happens to be here at the time, staying too.

One week-end, however, was a doozie! Friday noon, Gord and I popped into Edmonton, stopped by the airport, and picked up daughter Beth and the man in her life, Ray. Although we had seen them in Ontario last fall, the boys hadn't see Beth at all for over two years, and only now and then in the two years before that.

So there was much to talk about—who had grown, who hadn't, whose voice had changed, which cat was who, what size the dog was—all the important things in life.

In honor of the occasion, I simmered up a big pot of Beth's favorite dish, Italian spaghetti sauce, and the seven of us (Jim's Heather was here too) headed for the table, and not much talking was done for awhile.

Then we got going at it again till all hours. I quit around 10:30 but the lights were still burning way past that.

Saturday I was just telling myself I MUST get some writing done, when I saw broad grins on the faces of the kids outside. A green truck was pulling in; our friend/trail guide/roughneck (a guy who works on the oil rigs) Roy had come up from Nordegg to see what was new with us this spring.

So eight of us sat down to dinner, after I emptied the

freezer to make sure nobody went hungry. (Still wasn't getting much cooking done, what with all the catching up to do in all directions).

Somewhere along the line it was decided to have a party. Unfortunately, I had to head out with my camera for awhile and left Gord, Roy, David, Beth and Ray, Jim and Heather, and their friends Keith and Cindy all arranged around the kitchen, on counter tops, chairs, and floor.

Came back two hours later and by the look of it, nobody had moved, they were so busy trying to top each others' jokes.

On Sunday, things settled down a bit. The kids headed for Buck Mountain and I pattered. Figured there wasn't much point in starting anything as I'd probably just begin and somebody would walk in.

Today is Monday. I've put in a day's work in town and would have liked to head straight for bed, but all the family has gone to judo practice and the house is quiet except for Patty "prpping" to her kittens in the next room.

It's a good time to do some writing if I could only think of something to write about. Maybe if I go soak in a hot tub something will come to mind.

Either that or I'll go to sleep.

Reunion plans made by group

The Ladies' Division of the Acton Agricultural Society finalized plans for their 20th Anniversary Reunion at their monthly meeting last Thursday. The Reunion, to pay tribute to past members, will be held on July 8, starting at 3 o'clock, at the home of Mrs. Wm. Thompson. The program will include entertainment, games and a buffet supper. Invitations will be sent out this week to all former board members.

Mrs. C. Storey, a member of long standing, will make and decorate the special anniversary cake. A well known area cook, Mrs. Storey walked away with the prize for the most points in the

baking section at the 1975 Acton Fair.

President Carmela Cobham is once again convening the Baby Show. She reported on the arrangements made. As usual, it will be held in the arena on the Saturday afternoon of the fair. Last year's donors have agreed to sponsor this year's Baby Show.

The meeting also decided to participate in Back to Acton Days again. Prizes for their draw will be displayed. Pay-as-you-pull tickets will be available at the display. The draw for an afghan, a macramé hanging and a needlepoint cushion will be made at the Acton Fall Fair.

Ladies' Aid busy month

A month of activity ended with the Ladies' Aid of Knox Church held their regular meeting on May 29 in the Dr. Stewart Hall. Four banquets had been catered to during the month, with a large wedding at the end of April.

Mrs. Harry Murray, president, opened the meeting with a reading "Glory". Satisfactory reports were given by the secretary and treasurer.

Pet superstitions were aired when the roll was called. Dates for two wedding banquets in the fall were given.

Mrs. Murray outlined a few plans for the outreach "Second Century for Christ",

that is being planned as a church project.

The worship service was taken with Mrs. D.S. Morrison reading the Scripture and Mrs. W. J. McLeod offering prayer. Readings were given by the committee of the month with Mrs. G.S. Matthews reading. It takes a Mother's Love to Make a Home, and two poems by Edgar Guest Self Pity and Beautiful Promises of God were read by Mrs. McLeod.

Mrs. Matthews conducted a contest which was won by Mrs. C.M. Davidson.

Mrs. Ruby Hansen expressed thanks to the committee for the nice lunch of sandwiches and pickles which were served with a cup of tea.



ED CLARK saws some paneling to be installed at the Acton Community Services offices in the Y. Renovations are expected to be complete by next week sometime.

Do's and don'ts

Fire prevention officer Larry Brassard has some do's and don'ts for reporting a fire.

The first thing, he said, is for everyone to make sure they know the telephone number of the fire department - 853-1212.

The caller should calmly and clearly state his or her name, and report the fire, giving the full address, not just a name like "Joe's place."

After the caller has given this information, he or she should wait and see if the dispatcher has any further questions. It will only take a few seconds and could save precious moments, and maybe lives.

Those living in the rural areas, when reporting a fire, should state to the dispatcher the line or sideroad they live on, and between which line or sideroad they live. They should also specify whether they live in Nassagaweya or Esquising.



ACTON CITIZENS' BAND and Georgetown Choral Society drew a large crowd to their Summerfest concert in Georgetown Saturday.

Personals

April birthday parties were enjoyed by Lions club members and residents at Jeanette's home for senior citizens and Acton Seniors residence. Ninian Lindsay, Agnes Carberry, Bernice Hergett and Albert Scott were the people who were celebrating their birthdays in April. Visiting on behalf of the Lions were Neil and Ruth Miller, Peter Papillon and John Dennis.

Chris and Elsie Swackhamer assisted by daughter Diane hosted a family gathering at their home on Arthur St., in celebration of Chris's 65th birthday on Saturday, June 3, 1978. All Chris's brothers and his sister were able to be present: Mary and Harold Swackhamer of Hamilton and grandsons Tom and Stephen.

Special tea for workers

The Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society is holding a tea tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon specifically for the Activity Group workers. The tea, a first of its kind, will be held at Trinity United Church.

Free Press Family Page

Friends-in-deed Club members bring bowling hardware home

by Mrs. Emily Price
We had a very good turnout at our meeting on May 30 at M.Z. Bennett school when the election of officers was chaired by our past president Herb Dodds to conduct the election.

The slate for the year is much the same as last year; with Anne Dodds, as president; vice president, Ruth Courtney; secretary, Marj McDonough; and treasurer, Marion Keelan. Two new members were welcomed to our organization. Let us all get behind the executive and give them the help they need for their terms in office.

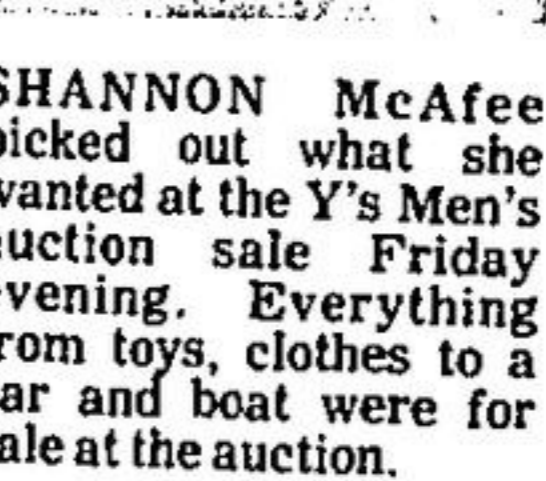
Following the meeting, games were enjoyed in the gym and then a delicious lunch was served by the social committee.

Congratulations go to Sophie Oehrich and Mary Dagle for winning first and third prizes in their category at the Handicapped Bowling held at Lucky Strike Bowling Lanes in Stoney Creek on May 28. Sophie won first prize, bringing home \$50. and a trophy, and Mary won third

with a prize of \$15 and all Carling beverage set. We all think they did a great job and Acton will be remembered at Stoney Creek.

Our next outing will be on Saturday, June 17 when we will be having a picnic at Toronto Island, so, we are hoping the weatherman will co-operate and we will have a good day.

We would like to thank Barb Murchinson, Marge Patterson, and Juanita Lamarche for their help in making up the tickets for the "Friends in Deed". The prizes can be seen at Acton Home Furnishings and tickets are to be in by our next meeting, which will be at M.Z. Bennett school at 7:30, June 27. Let's all get out and make it a good meeting.



SHANNON McAfee picked out what she wanted at the Y's Men's auction sale Friday evening. Everything from toys, clothes to a car and boat were for sale at the auction.

ERIN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY 6TH ANNUAL "BIG COUNTRY-WESTERN" DANCE
SAT. JUNE 17 9 p.m.-1 a.m. AT ERIN ARENA

THE FAMILY BROWN
Reading right to left: Dad - Joe Brown bass; Ron Sparring, drummer; son Barry Brown, rhythm guitar; sister-daughter Lewanda Brown, lead vocalist and tambourine; Dave Dennison, lead guitar; sister-daughter Tracey Brown, vocalist.

Tickets available from Members or call 833-9708 or 833-2073. Also available at Erin Co-op Store, Main St. or McArthur's Automotive, Main St. Erin.
Under Special Occasion Permit.

North Halton
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877-1211



CELEBRATING APRIL birthdays at Jeanette's Seniors residence were Agnes Carberry, Bernice Hergett and Albert Scott. Representatives of the Lions club put on the party.

109 at Annual

"The Women's Institute is Talking" Are you listening? was the Theme for the 74th District Annual of Wellington Centre Women's Institutes. This meeting was held in St. John's United Church, Belwood, with Belwood W.I. as hostess for this annual meeting. Mrs. Franklin Armstrong and Mrs. Albert Sobol of Speedside, W.I. looked after registration with 109 Women's Institute members registering.

Mrs. L.A. Jefferson, the new Provincial Board Director for Subdivision 12 did the ratification of the District Directors. The Pennies for Friendship collection was presented at this time.

Mrs. John Burnett, President of Wellington Centre in her address urged all branches to try and send a delegate to Area Conventions and Officers Conference. Wellington Centre was one of two districts with perfect attendance at Guelph Area Convention last year. Mrs. Burnett felt that she was very fortunate to have been able to go on the return visit to South Vancouver Island Women's Institute in August of 1977.

The report of Standing Committees, chaired by Mrs. Matt Leuty first vice president were given. Public Relations-Mrs. Enoch Kraft; agriculture and Canadian Industries-Mrs. Raymond Grose; citizenship and world affairs-Mrs. Archie Gates; education and cultural activities-Mrs. Harry Burr; family and consumer affairs-Mrs. Edgar Gray; resolutions-Mrs. R. John Reid; curator-Mrs. J. Irvine Black; farm safety-Mrs. Albert Rogers; Wellington County historical research society -Mrs. Oliver Somerville.

Entertainment for the morning session was given by the members of the Fergus W.I. This was songs pertaining to W.I. These messages in song were written by Mrs. Reg. Brett a member of this branch.

Mrs. L.A. Jefferson, the Provincial Board Director in her address asked that consideration be given for donations to the Eriand Lee Foundation Fund. It is hoped that by 1980 \$1000 will be collected, the interest from this to make the home self supporting. Ontario Week at the Eriand Lee Home is June 5 to June 9.

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Rescue unit formed by Canada Works project.

New jobs. And a better place to live. Canada Works, a Federal Government job creation program, has done it before and Canada Works can do it again.

Get your group to agree on a project you can all support. Most importantly, it must make use of and improve the skills of unemployed people in your area, create at least 3 new jobs, and make for community benefits that last.

Complete your application carefully and on time.

If your idea is good enough, Canada Works may be able to contribute to the necessary funding.

To apply, just go to your closest Canada Manpower Centre/Canada Employment Centre or Job Creation Branch Office. Pick up the application form and the "Guide to Applicants".

Canada Works is for your community. Your province. Your country. For all of us. So let's get working on some new ideas.

CANADA WORKS

Employment and Immigration Canada
Bud Cullen, Minister

Employment and Immigration Canada
Bud Cullen, Minister

Apply before June 24.

GOING, going, gone! Max Storey sells another item to a buyer at the Y's Men's annual auction sale. The sale was held in the arena.