

Hay Gypsy! It'll be your downfall

Winter is a peaceful place in the barn. Animals stamp quietly in the straw as they munch the bunch of dried weeds, grazers consider fine diggings. Chickens settle on the roost, rabbits work toothily down a stalk of celery like machines, doves coo amiably.

Until a horse gets loose and spends the night in mischief.

Total chaos at 7 a.m.
Oh, the times I have opened up a frozen barn door at 7 a.m. to peer into the steamy interior and gaze upon total chaos with a placid, stuffed, ton weight beast amid the debris.

This is one reason I don't keep a gun in the barn. I'd shoot the beast on sight!

Of course, it never happens when you have lots of time. It's only when you've overslept, you have a nine o'clock appointment, the kids are bitching over the bathroom, and the temperature hovers on zero (F!).

Just such a morning happened yesterday. I do morning chores alone. I'd rather have it that way. The kids do most of the evening work but morning is not a time to sort out job load and cope with two squabbling self-righteous teenagers.

I crunched out to the barn with a pail of hot water for thawing little waterers and (probably) the tap; kitty kibble for the kitty; bread for the pigeons; and carrot peelings for the rabbits. Paused at the workshop for oats, scratch grain and bunny pellets (we learned long ago to keep grain out of reach of horses, loose or otherwise.)

By now, I'm juggling with the finesse of a circus performer.

Opening the barn door with my remaining fingers and several toes, I enter - to fall flat on my face over the garbage can.

Cursing, swearing, picking carrot curls out of my hair, I grab the light switch and stare into Gypsy's blinking eyes.

SOMEbody (that old that does everything around here no one will own up to), had forgotten to do up her tie rope the night before!



Hay before and aft

An entire bale of hay and several of straw were festooned everywhere decorated with little piles of hay already passed through the digestive system. The water tap cover and the insulating sack were knocked over and trampled leaving the water to freeze totally solid. The storage area was a scene of complete destruction - the rabbits were peering out of their cages fascinated by the interesting turn of events. Their otherwise boring night had provided really grand entertainment.

The golden pheasant male was shrieking frantically. He hates being in the barn for the winter anyway and anything more than a whisper sets him off on his hysterical 40 laps.

Gypsy was as startled as I was when I tumbled into the barn. She back-stepped swiftly catching the peacock's tail under her hind hoof. Great flapping of wings, raucous indignation, and a partially tailless peacock flew up to a beam where wife and child joined him in bellowing obscenities.

The sheep spilled over their stall gate unable to stand the excitement any longer - they've always got to be in the thick of things. One of the horses kicked maliciously at Gypsy, jealous of her freedom. The donkeys brayed in unison, telling the world they wanted to be out, too.

What a way to start a morning.
There's got to be an easier way to earn a living!



Robert Kulperry, left, checks his compass bearing while Tim DeBoer watches during the Calvinist Cadet Corps Annual Snow Derby at the Rockwood Conservation area Saturday. Cadets and their sleighs from as far away as Preston took part in the rally-like event which tests cadets on such skills as compass work, fire making, rope work and first aid.

Ballinafad

'50s dance draws nostalgic couples

by Winifred Smith
Mr. and Mrs. William McLean opened their century old home on Thursday evening of last week. The occasion was a Euchre Party to help the Ballinafad W.I. raise funds. It proved to be quite successful. There were over 40 present.

Prize winners for the ladies first Mrs. Aggie Sinclair, second Mrs. Frank Smith. Mens' prizes were won, first by Lionel Watson, second by Norman Anderson. The travelling prizes went to Mrs. Watson and Tom Given.

A tasty lunch was served by the committee and

McCristall promoted

Former Acton resident Brian McCristall was recently promoted to the position of publisher-editor of The Surrey Leader at Surrey, British Columbia.

For three years Mr. McCristall was editor of the Abbotsford, Sumas and Matsqui News at Abbotsford B.C. The News is owned by Hacker Press Ltd. Previously he was editor of The Chilliwack B.C. paper.

Mr. McCristall attended Acton Public School and Bishop Macdonell high school at Guelph. He started his career in journalism as a sports and general reporter with The Canadian Champion at Milton.

hostess. During lunch time a special birthday cake was cut and served. It was in honour of the five members of the W.I. who all had January birthdays. An enjoyable time was had by all. The W.I. are hoping to sponsor another euchre in the near future.

A goodly number of couples attended the dance in the Community Centre on Saturday evening. It was sponsored by the hall board. Theme of the dance was "The Fifties". Couples came dressed as they did over two decades ago. Music was supplied by Disc Jockey Al Ledger. A pot luck supper was enjoyed and served buffet style.

It looked like Fairyland when we looked outside on Sunday morning. In spite of the wintery look, quite a large number attended Church. The Sacrament of Holy Communion was observed. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Volmar were admitted into full membership of the Ballinafad Church by transfer. The mens' choir favoured with the singing of an anthem. Lunch was served in the basement.

Following lunch, the annual Church meeting was held.

Eden Mills

Friendly Seniors meeting cancelled

by Mrs. Wilda MacDougall
Eden Mills United Church Women held their first meeting of the year at the home of the president, Mrs. Betty Snow. Mrs. Snow welcomed the ladies and opened the meeting, reading a poem on "The New Year". The devotional was taken by Mrs. Freda Thompson on the theme "Enthusiasm."

In the business period, the minutes of the last meeting were read by Mrs. Freda Thompson and the treasurer's

Limehouse

By Mrs. Art Benton

In the past month, year pins were presented to the following girls of the first Limehouse Guide Co.: first year Silvia Mildham and Elizabeth Majurey; third year Judy Thomson; fourth year Susan Brown, Kendall Bachelor and Margaret Olah.

Silvia Mildham also received her bird-watcher's badge. The Guide enrolment ceremonies will take place on Jan. 10 and the Limehouse Brownies will attend. Parents will receive further information on this.

The annual congregational meeting of Limehouse Presbyterian church was held on Wednesday evening, Jan. 17 with a small attendance. The W.A. of Limehouse Presbyterian church catered a hot roast beef dinner on Sunday for more than 300 of Knox, Acton congregation in honor of Rev. and Mrs. McKenzie and family who will be leaving for Perth soon.

Mrs. Bill Henry, who has been with her mother for nearly a month, left for her home in Elsa, the Yukon on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Sinclair arranged an evening of games in Limehouse Memorial hall on January 19 to honor his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell Sinclair on their 40th wedding anniversary.

Chimney fire

Acton Volunteer fire-fighters missed the first quarter of the Super Bowl Sunday afternoon when they were called to an Elmwood Dr. chimney fire. Fire chief Mick Holmes said the men arrived on the scene of the fire at the Van Der Eyken home and put chains down to the chimney to extinguish the flames.

Silver Wood

District president is speaker

by Mrs. L. Giffen
The first meeting of the New Year was held at the home of Mrs. F. Shortill on Jan. 11. There were 10 members and one visitor present. This was the Public Relations meeting.

We observed one minute of silence in memory of one of our members who had recently passed away.

Mrs. G. Burt gave a report on the Christmas gifts of fruit to the shut-ins.

Mrs. Scott gave current events.

We were pleased to have as guest speakers for the meeting our District President Mrs. J. McNabb. She spoke on the life of Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless as well as the making of a house log and a family tree. This was interesting as Mrs. McNabb had illustrations to explain both to us.

Councillors to attend conventions

Halton Hills staff members made sure their bid for attendance at conventions was made before the budget allocations were set.

General committee approved the following conventions, subject to inclusion in the budget. Recreation Coordinator to Ottawa for the Recreational Society Conference; Bob Austin and Frank Morette to the A.P.W.A. annual meeting in Toronto; C. Snow to the Good Roads Conference, Toronto; Bob Austin and Ted Ballinger to the Municipal Engineers' Association meeting in Toronto; D. Swackhamer to Rochester for the American Public Works Association; and G. Fendley to the C. S. Anderson Road School in Guelph.

A meeting of the principals of area 1 schools was held on Wednesday afternoon at Ospringe public school. Lorne Brown was host and took the men on a tour of the classrooms.

The grade 7 class which goes to Erin District High School for French lessons, will remain at Ospringe for the full day this week as exams are being carried out in the high school.

If you have anything you wish to donate to the pupils White Elephant sale on Feb. 8, you may leave it at the school.

CANADA FARM SHOW



Exhibition Place Toronto
Jan. 30, 31, Feb. 1, 2, 1979 10 am. to 6 pm.
Jan. 30 Old Time Festivals Contest • Jan. 31 Horse Pull and Sale
Feb. 1 - 2 Tractor Pull • Ladies Program Daily • Cattle Sales

Alert group says farewell to friend

The first meeting of 1979 for the Knox "Alert" Evening Group was held in the Mary Ellen Anderson Room.

The "Every Member Participation" Program was carried out, with Mrs. Bessie Musselle giving the Call to Worship. Excellent and appropriate readings were given by Mrs. Lena Mann, Mrs. Isabel McDonald and Mrs. Elsie Loucks. Another New Year's Hymn—For Thy Mercy and Thy Grace Constant Through Another Year was the choice of Mrs. Wilma Coles. After the reading "At Day's End" Babe Roszell closed with "A New Year's Wish for All" in the form of a Prayer.

During the business, it was decided to hold a

Ebenezer

By Mrs. Ron McLean
Next Sunday night, at 8 o'clock, the Youth Group are sponsoring a special program, to which everyone is invited. There will be a skit, and pictures of Africa, shown by Roy Curtis.

Bake Sale in April and to continue with the usual methods of raising money. A "Thank You" note was to be written to a past member for her generous donation, and a representative was named to the vacancy committee. It was decided to send \$100. to the Presbyterian Treasurer and to incorporate the Sr. W.M.S. as "Home Helpers".

At the close of the meeting Mrs. Nellie Merkley gave a parting address and Mrs. Irene Terry gave Mrs. McKenzie a farewell gift from the Group, for which she fittingly replied.

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Door Prizes
45 Mountainview Rd Georgetown
\$40 Prizes
Early Bird Games 7:30 p.m.
5 Prizes at \$20 each
DOORS OPEN 7 P.M.
BINGO STARTS 8 P.M.
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3 Special at \$70 ea.
\$600 Jackpot
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Winner:
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7TH ANNUAL **ROCKMOSA '100' SNOWMOBILE RALLY**
Sunday, February 4th, 1979
Starts between 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at
Rockmosa Community Centre
Main Street, Rockwood
• Lunch available at noon
• Prizes • Trophies • Draw
PLEDGE SHEETS AVAILABLE AT:
WINTERS ESSO, ROCKWOOD PRO HARDWARE,
PETTY'S GARAGE, ROYAL BANK, ROCKWOOD,
COUNTRY MART, R & M SHOPPETTE, SWANSTON'S FARM EQUIPMENT.
Free hot buffet from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for all participants.
For non-participants - Adults \$3.00
Children \$1.50
If weather conditions not suitable, rally will be held February 11th.
Ride for Community Improvement
Sponsored by Rockwood & District Lions Club