

Homefree

with Karen Parker

It's been a long time since a bicycle has been a part of me but it's beginning to be again. And oh what a splendid appendage!

You can pedal yourself an incredible distance in a reasonable length of time. It's energy efficient. It's a wonderful way to sightsee. It's healthy. It's fun.

What with being pregnant or having children too small or too numerous for biking I'd lost touch with my leg-powered wheels. The family has been getting into the sport. Eric cycles to work, ten miles, each day. The two biggest boys are testing their independence and my ability to let go with a pop-a-whistles and long hikes. The youngest is the terror of cats and squirrels on his trike.

I kept putting off joining them. The three-speed that I had ridden around on with the eldest behind me when he was a baby had succumbed to bike dust and never been replaced.

How much we miss by procrastinating. My father, luckily for me, ended this wasting time.

"I'm cleaning the basement, do you want your old bike?" he asked.

Well, I had to go and look at it and we had a lovely reunion. I found out you can definitely hug a bike. It's big and heavy with a wire carrier and sensible handlebars. It used to be black but 20 years in my parent's basement turned it a lovely shade of blue (leftover paint and a father who putters, if you didn't already guess).

When I took it out for a ride I discovered that the putterer had also tuned-up as well as painted. The bike rides beautifully in spite of its years.

There was a problem braking for awhile. I'd gotten used to hand brakes on my previous bike—this one has foot brakes. Occasionally I still stop by skidding my feet along the ground, hands locked in a squeeze grip on the handlebars where the brakes should be.

The world opens up when one is on a bike. The pace is slow enough to reveal all manner of interesting items, places, people. There's time to smile and be smiled at. There's an excuse for stopping at water fountains fruit stands, coffee shops, ice cream carts.

It's great to have wheels again, to feel comfortable on a bike. I'll likely never regain the total ease with which a child handles a bike. I'll never soar over a ramp in a spectacular wheeler.

But I look forward to many more early morning rides with the sun creasing the sky, dawn wind trickling slowly by, surprise then a smile on faces leaning out of doors to pick up a newspaper, the incredibility, a feeling of freedom.

McLean-Leitch vows exchanged

A pretty wedding took place at Trinity United Church, Acton, on June 18 when Beverley Jean Leitch, daughter of Bruce and Jean Leitch, Acton, and Earl William McLean, son of William and Eleanor McLean, Erin, exchanged vows.

Rev. Charles Beaton officiated at the double ring ceremony. Cousins of the groom, Beth, Elaine and Colleen Graham sang "We've Only Just Begun" and "The Wedding Song".



Beverley Jean Leitch and Earl William McLean were married June 18 in Trinity United Church, Acton.

Given in marriage by her parents, the bride wore a full length organza wedding gown with full length pester sleeves. The neckline was a Queen Anne design with fine ruffling around the edge. The silk flowered headpiece continued down to form a full flowing train. She carried a cascading bouquet of pink roses, ivy and baby's breath.

Annie Saunders, Acton, sister of the bride, was matron of honor. Frances Johnston, Brampton, sister of the groom and Valerie Saunders, Acton, niece of the bride, were bridesmaids. Their dresses were orchid pink with sheer pink overblouse. The dresses were made by Annie and Frances. They carried bouquets of pink and white carnations.

Bestman was James Johnston, Brampton, brother-in-law of the groom. Norm and Steve Saunders, Acton, nephews of the bride were ushers.

The mother of the bride wore a richly toned blue dress. The mother of the groom wore a open blue dress.

Howard Graham, the groom's uncle and a long time friend of the bride's family, was master of ceremonies at the reception and dance held at Erin Legion.

The wedding cake was made by the mother of the bride.

Prior to the marriage Beverley was guest of honor at many special gatherings: a miscellaneous shower hosted by Doris Ella, Frances Johnston, Doreen Burt

and Heather McLellan; a miscellaneous shower hosted by Anne Marshall and Diane Harris; a Jack and Jill shower hosted by the Graham family; a miscellaneous shower hosted by Pat Kerr and Dorothy Allen; a miscellaneous shower hosted Joyce Sprawl and Ruth Polo.

A stag was held by the best man and ushers at the Erin Agriculture Hall.

Following the honeymoon the newlyweds returned for an open house June 28.

Meanderings

by Habel Barkman



A super berry—super dear!

The fruit most seldom seen in supermarkets is the raspberry. If it is there, it is priced out of the range of most people.

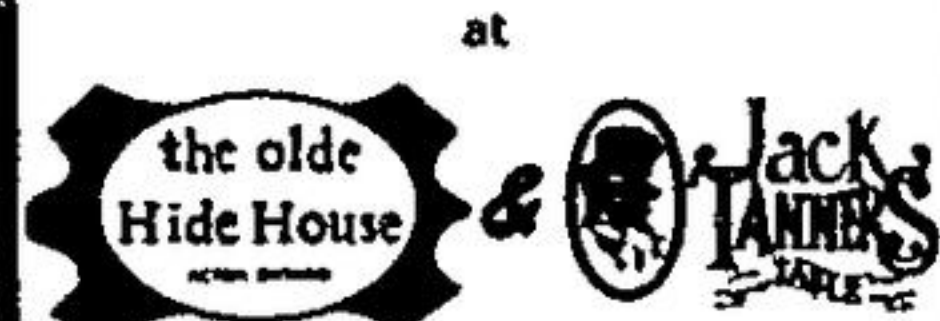
It is sometimes difficult to grow as it is plagued with all kinds of diseases, insects and fungi. I can recall earning summer money by raspberry picking. In those days the raspberries used to be in great abundance.

A favorite dessert of ours is an unusual one, but very easy to make. We make up a bowl of cream of wheat, using milk instead of water. Do not make it too thick, and beat it well to make it creamy. Don't forget a pinch of salt. Rinse out a bowl with cold water, pour in the cream of wheat and refrigerate.

Now, take a pint of raspberries, add a bit of water and some sugar to sweeten. Simmer for about five minutes and pour into a bowl, cover and refrigerate.

To serve, place a tablespoon or more of the cream of wheat in a dessert dish, add some raspberries with juice and eat the two together. In German it is called "Mannagrity und Himbeeren". It is very refreshing on a hot day, and doesn't use a lot of sugar.

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