

"PERFORMANCE COUNTS!"

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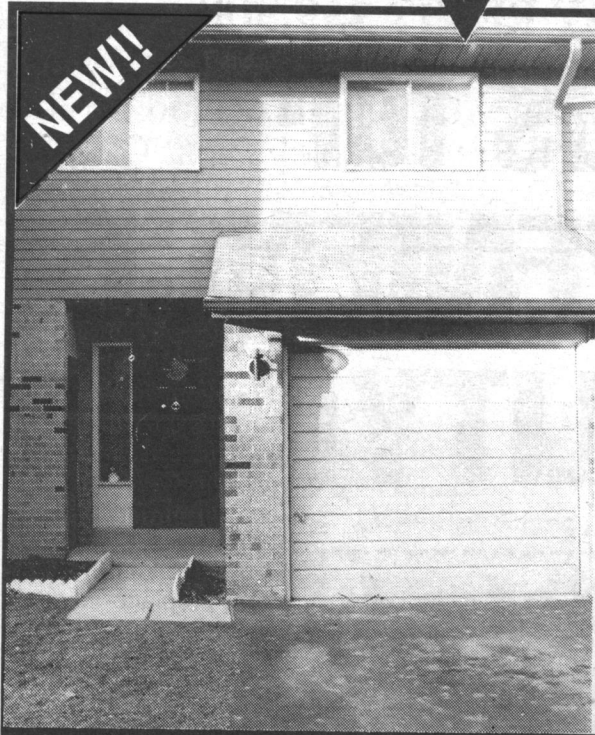
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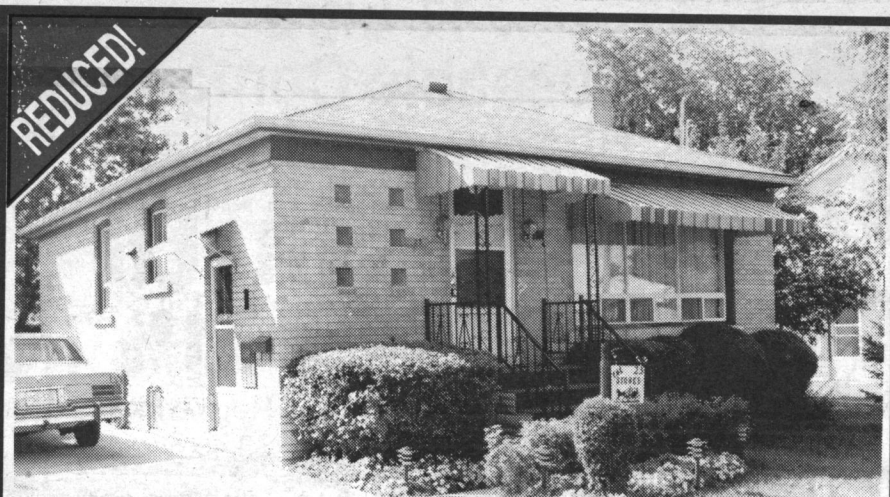
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"PERFORMANCE COUNTS!"

Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale

You find books anywhere (and everywhere)

By Sharon E. McKay
 Special to HHTW

"Mom - they're here!"
 It's a seasonal thing - the arrival not wind, snow and biting cold but of The Books! Boxes of them - all lined up on my front porch.

Left to my kids, the boxes would be ripped open, promotion paper tossed aside, and the books smuggled off to parts of the house I don't know about (and don't necessarily want to know about).

There is the rule of course - "Don't touch the books until I've read them". Right. Since when does anyone listen to me!

Which leads me to two books, the first is called The Treasures of Trinkamalee by Tim Leslie Spinks and Alice Andres (Annick Press).

I had every intention of mentioning this book in the column today. I'd read it, loved it, so where the heck was it? I found it between my 10-year-old's mattress and wall. It's been read several times. The pages are turned back, it's a mess. But

Parent - to - Parent

small wonder, it's a wonderful, magical book.

A sense of right and wrong

This book has that age-old quality of absolute consequences found in very old tales but lost in many modern dish water stories. For example, (and at the possible expense of reducing this lyrical book to cold fact) - three sailors set off to rob a palace. They get caught. One is killed, the other two are sent to prison - forever! Riveting, not violent, but with a sense of right and wrong mixed in with the magic of Arabian tales.

I'll now put the book back where it belongs - between the wall and the bed.

Then there is Michael Kusugak's Northern Light, The Soccer Trails (Annick). Admittedly I believe Michael Kusugak is possibly the most gifted children's writer today and this latest book proves my point.

Kusugak's Northern

Lights allows reality of life to temper fantasy. Kataujaq, a little girl, had a wonderful babyhood in the north. She played games with her mom, traveled by dog sled with her grandma and dad. And then something dreadful happened:

"One day, a big sickness came. So many people were sick. Kataujaq's mother coughed and coughed and they sent her away, way down south in an aeroplane. And she never came home again. Nobody told Kataujaq what had happened. She was too little. Her mother just never came home again." (excerpt)

Many parents, teachers too, have a fear of allowing children the experience of sadness. Pity. The fear of a parent dying (for example) is what all children grapple with. In Kusugak's skilled hands, children not only fall in love with a little girl, and feel her pain, but they see their own fears materialize. Along the way they are carried off into the northern lights and experience story telling at its best.

Something completely different

And now for something completely different - ta-da, Cowboy, A Kid's Album by Linda Granfield (Douglas & McIntyre). It's true, cowboys are "in". But first, a pop question.

Where did the term "cowboys" actually come from? The old west? Mexico? Buzzzz. Wrong.

It's a 2,000 year-old word that can be traced back to Ireland, of all places.

Try this one. A cowboy bellies up to the bar and orders a drink. The cost? "A bit." How much was a "bit" worthy?

You'll never guess this one. Twelve-and-one-half cents. (Bec, it would appear, was 10 cents.)

Granfield is not new to children's non-fiction writing. All About Niagara Falls and Extra! Extra! are two books of hers you might recall. Her style is simple, direct and readable.

A note: All books mentioned in this and any columns to come have been read to groups of young children, often in a school setting or parent-child centre.

From the desk of Marilyn Worrall*...

ARTHUR F. JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES LTD., REALTOR

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MARILYN WORRALL
 *Sales Rep.

Dream (Drèem) - A series of images, ideas, a wild fancy or hope.



If you are looking forward to your "dream" home, why not let me help!

Give me a call with your particulars of size and style of house, area and time frame and I'll be more than happy to be on the look-out. When the right property comes along, I'll be sure to let you know.

What a simple way to make your dream come true!

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Duplicate Bridge

Monday afternoon duplicate bridge winners:

1. Wyn Lansdell and Earl Ryder
2. Elsie Whitham and Karol Tobiasz
3. Norma Maynard and Rene March
4. Lala and Mike Ranosz

Don't forget Dec. 13 is our Christmas bridge.

For more information, contact Norma Maynard at 877-8918.