

**"Dear Elizabeth":**  
School days  
The fourth "R"

Mrs. Elizabeth Brinkman, Oberrahmede, Germany.  
Dear Elizabeth:  
In reminiscing with those of our school chums who still live near us, we all agree that we seemed to spend more time on the fourth R of those long-ago school days than on the other three all put together. Recreation was mingled with studies in many ways — a walk in the woods during recess time was for the purpose of making notes of the signs of spring for the next day's assignment, and turned out to be pure fun as we cavorted around like colts after being confined to a corral.  
We would vie with one another looking for the first May-flower or other treasures and race back to the schoolhouse when time was up. Or the hike might give the inspiration needed to write a composition on such topics as "The First Day of Spring" or "Thoughts about Mother Nature". Some of the less imaginative teachers kept us confined to the

schoolyard, but since there were many older boys and girls well able to keep an eye on the younger ones, most of the teachers gave us our freedom as long as we observed certain safety rules.

In the nice weather, we tried to reach the playground early enough to have a game of ball or touch-tag before school started, and the trees around the yard offered excellent opportunity for the boys to collect birds' nests and other specimens for nature study. The girls objected, though, when they tormented the squirrels, trapping and capturing them just for the fun of it.

It is not hard to confuse a squirrel and they end up doing some foolish things, often to the detriment of their well-being. In the early spring, too, the boys would collect "sapsuckles" for us, that delicacy which is formed by sap dripping on a mild day, then freezing into fragile icicles during the frosty night.

**Arbor Day meant fun for all**

On the first Friday in May, it was understood that there would be no lessons as that was "Arbor Day", originated when trees were ceremoniously planted. Since we needed no more trees around the grounds, we used the day to clean up the school house and the yard. Everyone was supposed to bring cleaning cloths, brooms, rakes etc., and sometimes a small plot was dug up and a few flowers planted.

Everything would be ship-shape by noon and after tidying ourselves up and eating lunch, we would proceed to hike three or four miles to the next school, where a competitive tournament of softball would be held between the teams of three or four neighboring schools. We who were too young to play would join the cheering section, hollering ourselves hoarse for our own team. The host school served a snack and lemonade before we started back home.

Lunch time in the warm weather was a veritable picnic in the grassy yard and I fully believe that is where the pot luck luncheon originated, as we shared our variety of sandwiches, hard-boiled eggs and home-made goodies with one another.

If Mother happened to be short of bread for sandwiches — sometimes there were four of us requiring lunches — she gave us a dime to buy cookies at the store and these were considered quite a treat by all who shared them. Rosy apples and other fruit grown on the farms were often carried. We never saw oranges except at Christmas time, and bananas were a very rare treat. We made good use of the

**Bloomers and heavy stockings**

Fleece-lined bloomers or long-legged underwear was the clothing which protected us from the elements and were a bone of contention to us girls. The legs of the underwear were always larger than our own legs and had to be folded over in an effort to look neat — an impossible thing to master under our home-made, hand-knitted, heavy woolen stockings.

Sometimes on the way home from school, we would jump on a passing sleigh driven by a neighbor as he returned home from the grist mill or store. Since the members of our family were so close to the school, we used to prolong our ride by going on to the next concession and walking back. I guess we got our excess energy from the hot porridge and hearty meals we consumed.

The rolling hills of the farm fields in the area made excellent spots for sleigh riding and many happy hours were spent at this sport. Sometimes a family would plan a sleighing or skating party for all the school children in the community and we would be collected up in a huge farm sleigh, kept warm with heavy buffalo robes and quilts.

Besides gathering the fallen leaves into great piles and playing hide and seek in them and collecting bouquets of golden rod and wild purple asters, our favorite autumn game was that of "dog and deer". Our group would classify themselves as deer and get a head start by running out of sight into the bush, then the dogs in the other group would follow and try to find them.  
If the deer could get back to

the starting point without the dogs catching them, it was considered quite a trick because there were steep hills on both sides of the creek, which made it difficult to escape without being seen. The girls often joined in this strenuous game when playing house and the quieter games got too boring.

The concerts at Christmas time followed almost the same pattern as those at the church, except there would be more mic recitations and dialogues. If you can picture most of the pupils at one time, plus the teacher and a few helpful parents, all up behind the makeshift curtains on the stage, getting ready for the various numbers on the program, you can imagine the confusion that reigned.

The biggest fun of it was getting into costume. Then Santa would make his visit, complete with home-made costume, pillow stomach and white wool whiskers. The children did a good job of making the parents believe that we thought it was really Santa Claus, when all the time, we knew it was the farmer over on the next concession who traded the job with someone from our school section for a concert at another school.

The school trustees undid the purse strings enough to buy a treat for every child, which was a colored net bag filled with a few hard candies and nuts, and we really looked forward to it.  
Since I've filled my space, I must leave the School Fair for another letter, as it was an event of great recreational and educational value.  
Best regards,  
Eleanor Coulter.



**Centennial bursary winner**



MILTON DISTRICT HOSPITAL W.A. presented its centennial year bursary for \$100 to Candy Striper Donna Lewington, 18, during an executive meeting held at the hospital last week. Donna has enrolled in the school of nursing at the Toronto General Hospital, and was the successful applicant chosen from several Can-

**W.A. boosts career in nursing  
Candy Striper receives \$100**

When 18-year-old Donna Lewington enrolled in the Toronto General Hospital's School of Nursing Wednesday morning of last week, she went with \$100 in her pocket which she expected would "go a long way" toward her chosen profession.  
A year ago Donna, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Lewington of 336 Pearl St., wanted to become a teacher. But the Candy Striper program at Milton District Hospital changed all that.

Diary president Mrs. D. Ptolemy presented the cheque last week during a W.A. executive meeting at the hospital, praising Donna's "admirable service", and wishing her all the best in the years ahead.

The W.A. bursary is available only to members of the Candy Stripers, and it must be used toward professional training to enter any profession relating to hospital work. "I am very honored to be the first to receive this bursary," Donna told the W.A. members as she accepted the cheque. W.A. Candy Striper supervisors Mrs. George Jackson and Mrs. Bruce Frame assisted with the presentation.

**Canadian missions  
topic for Knox women**

Mrs. Harold Magee was hostess for the September meeting of Knox Church Evening Department of the W.M.S. The president, Mrs. Denboer, opened with prayer and the hymn "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord" was sung.

Mrs. Brynkus had charge of the devotional and read from the second chapter of Acts, verses 32-42. This was the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Members were asked to comment on the results of Peter's sermon and to compare the Christians of that era with those of today. Following this discussion, the hymn "Just As I Am" was sung and prayer was offered by the leader.

The chapter of the study book was entitled "Missionary Growth in the Canadian West." Mrs. Elliott led the study, assisted by several members of the group. It was plain that Christian groups of all denominations had done their part in spreading the gospel story to the farthest corners of the land. This great task was begun in the early years of the 19th century and continues today.

It was interesting to note the power and influence of the Hudson Bay Company in the early days, and to hear that as late as 1924, a settlement in the interior of British Columbia had been without a religious service for 17 years.

The offering was received and dedicated and roll call was answered by 14 members. Reports were read and confirmed and it was announced that the Fall Rally would be held in Knox Church, Oakville, on September 27, with both afternoon and evening sessions.  
After the singing of "Zion's King Shall Reign Victorious", the president pronounced the benediction. A social hour followed with Mrs. McIntosh and Mrs. Armstrong assisting the hostess. At the next meeting, the guest speaker will be Mrs. W. Stanford Reid of Guelph.

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**Delegate president  
to home convention**

Mrs. Stan Allen, president of Halton Centennial Manor W.A. welcomed the members back September 8 at their first meeting following summer holidays.

Committee reports were given and the auxiliary prayer was said in unison. It was decided Mrs. Allen would be the Halton Auxiliary delegate to the Convention of Homes for the Aged in Ottawa.

An invitation will be sent to the auxiliary of Wentworth Lodge, Dundas, to a luncheon October 4 to exchange ideas on handicraft work.

A social half hour was enjoyed following the meeting.

**Personals**

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Tucker and family of Prince Albert, Sask., motored to Montreal and spent a few days at Expo. Then they motored to Milton and visited Mrs. Tucker's uncle Blake Hume and her cousins Gordon and Chisholm Hume. They went home by Niagara Falls to let the family see Niagara Falls.

—Acton Fair was held in conjunction with a three-day centennial celebration in Acton on the weekend. Georgetown's fair is this weekend.



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—The youngsters are getting settled down in school now and the extra-curricular activities are beginning.

—This year's centennial edition of Milton Fair promises many new features. Don't miss it, Sept. 29 and 30.

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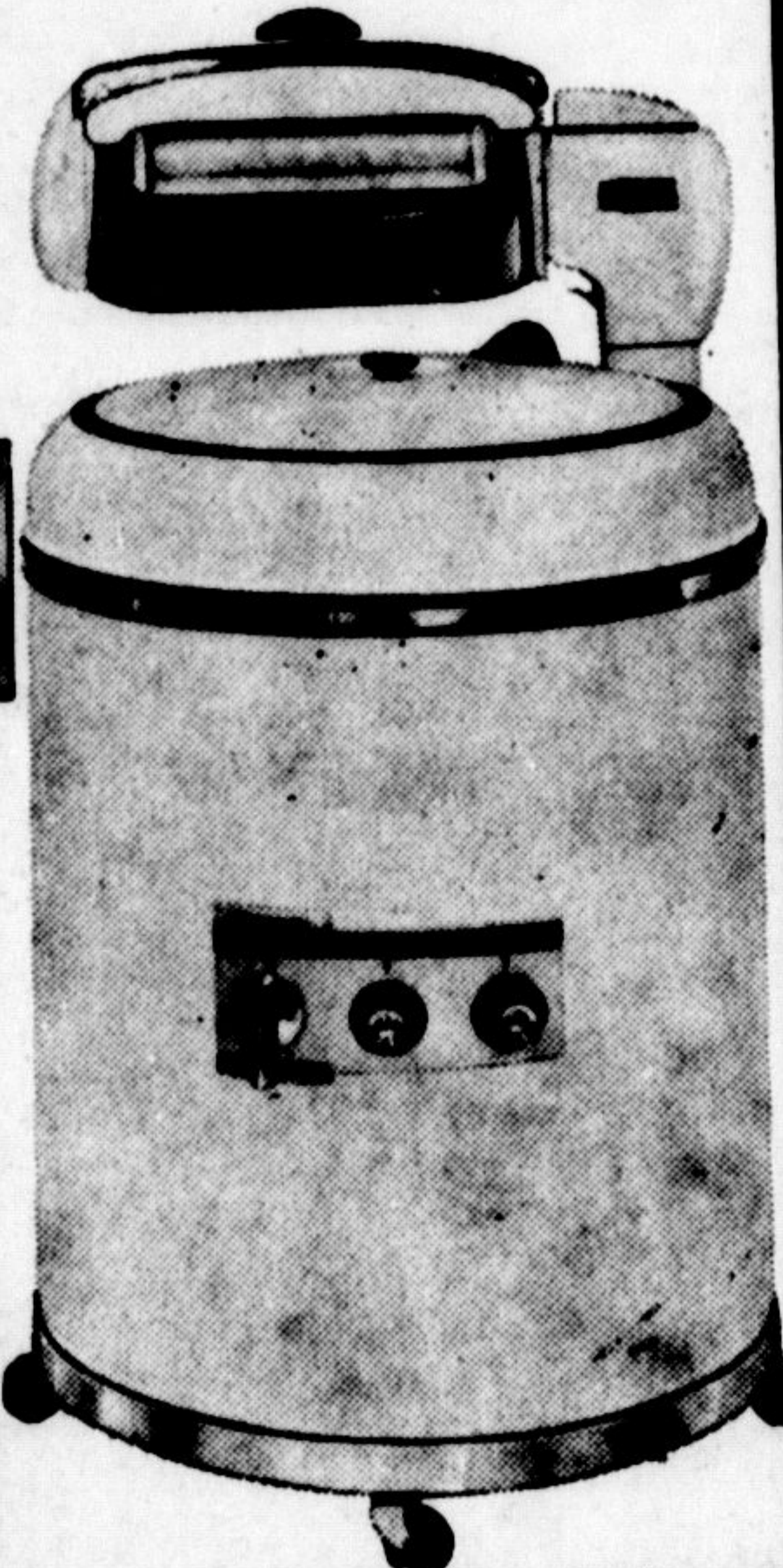
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