"The Incredible Mrs. Chadwick" and her story in paperback

by Shirley Whittington A remarkable woman

lies buried in Woodstock Ontario. She was one of

the cleverest and boldest embezzlers of all time

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and she was a Canadian. although she carried on

Incredible Mrs. Chadwick "with the kind of in-Paperjack by John S.

Born in a small Ontario learned how to part

(Author Crosbie admits from one bank to another. that the first thirteen her scandalous career in years of her life are Betsy Bigley was The says he has told the story and her story is told in a ventiveness of which birth to a son, sent him Betsy would have been home to her parents in The rest of Betsy's career in clairvoyancy. A

story is based on fact. She Ontario, she was the began her career with daughter of a railroad rubber checks, drifted into prostitution, then mortgaged her sister's destined to travel through furniture and set herself life first class, and by the up as a clairvoyant. She time she was 13, she had continued to finance countless caprices with gullible men from their checks and letters of credit which bounced

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Her first marriage to traded in counterfeit shy Dr. Springsteen of Cleveland/lasted a dozen days. Then, posing as a helpless widow, she gave Ontario, and resumed her poor working man named Joe Lamb was the next victim to be fleeced. Here the law caught up with Betsy, alias Florida Blythe, alias Madame

Convicted of forgery. she spent the next three vears of her life sewing shirts in the penetentiary. She emerged

Lydia de Vere.

unrepentant, and set herself up as a madam once again, but didn't have to ply her trade very

A widowed and chinless doctor, Leroy Chadwick. rescued her from the house of pleasure and installed her in his own house. Soon, he proposed and Betsy went on to glorious heights. She

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china, silver, furniture. clothing and jewellery. At Holt Renfrew, in Toronto, she bought a sealskin dress, At Ryrie-Birks, she bought fifty-six diamond rings. She took six ladv friends on a tour of Europe, and gave each one a brass bound trunk full of finery to take on the voyage. Eventually she

bankrupted her husband.

great deal of financial

capital out of a letter she

furnishing her Cleveland

home with outrageous

opulence. She bought

Carnegie's signature.

This is when she really milked the fraudulent Carnegie connection. She pretended to be his illegitimate daughter. shyly letting the secret drop where it would do the most good. ("Promise me you will never tell!" she begged one conhave yet to meet him, (Carnegie), I love my father and would not in

> any way to hurt him.") Amazingly, people believed her. More money was advanced by bankers eager for a Carnegie connection. Betsy opened a small and enormously profitable mortgage company. This kept her in furs and jewels until one of her shareholders demanded to see a

financial statement. She

borrowed from banks, was arrested, tried and sentenced to ten years in securities, and made a the Ohio State penetentiary. Her extravagantly furnished home was forged with Andrew seized to pay off creditors and sightseers gawked Betsy spent wildly, through it for fifty cents a

Andrew Carnegie was a spectator at her trial. He denied any connection with her, and cheerfully refused to prosecute her for using his name for fraudulent purposes. "I is glory enough for me, said the millionnaire. "that my name is good. even when I don't sign it Mrs. Chadwick has shown that my' credit is A-1.'

The Incredible Mrs. Chadwick is put together with imagination but seems to have been produced sloppily. The tremendously interesting photographs are fuzzily reproduced, and require magnification to make much sense. Proof reading seems to have been capriciously done. A fidante. "Even though I man speaks with "an unwonted lear." At one point Betsy feels "happier and securer" than ever before.

Still, it is a remarkable and entertaining story All the more so because it really happened. And it happened at a time when women were supposed to stay in the parlour or kitchen, and out of the business world. Betsy Chadwick gave a

lot of gullible men the business.

Simcoe County to sponsor recreation conference

will be holding a con- County Council in 1975. ference in early October focusing on the co- held at Georgian College the county.

The conference is a from the workshop result of, and is part of, a

The Simcoe County feasibility study Recreation Committee requested by the Simcoe The conference will be

operative planning and in Barrie and it is hoped the establishment of that positive recomrecreational facilities in mendations and subsequent action will evolve

Happy Cooker

Fresh peaches are in the stores - expensive, but no more so than many other fresh fruits. Canadian consumers prefer the redskinned freestone varieties. Ontario peaches are recognized as being much juicier than imported peaches and they are also easier to peel.

Because of their softer texture, they must be carefully handpicked and it takes a work force of over 5,000 pickers to get Ontario's tender harvest

Shoppers are urged to select peaches with a full creamy yellow background behind the red blush colouring if they are intended for fairly prompt consumption. Fully ripened peaches should be kept in the refrigerator to avoid spoilage and firm fruit should be purchased for home canning.

Peaches provide an excellent source of Vitamine A, and preserving or freezing insures tasty desserts long after the harvesting season.

desserts long ager the harvesting season. Varieties like Redhaven, Envoy, Velvet and Loring are suited for freezing. When frozen peaches are intended for use as pie fillings, packages containing just enough for one pie should be used.

And here's how the Ontario Food Council suggests preserving peaches.

Dry Sugar Pack Method: 6 cups sliced peaches, 1 cup of sugar and ascorbic acid mixture. (Follow instructions of ascorbic acid

Peel the blanched peach, slice into bowl and sprinkle with sugar mixture. Continue, peach by peach, until peaches and sugar have been well combined. Allow these to stand until sugar has dissolved

and starts to draw juice from the fruit. Pack in rigid, moisture-vapor-proof containers, leaving 1/2 inch head space. Place a crumpled piece of waxed paper on top

of peaches, to keep fruit well covered with juice. Seal, label and quick freeze.

If you'd rather use a fruit cellar than a freezer to can peaches, this is how the Council suggests going about it.

Purchase your fruit when flavour and quality are at their best. Choose bright, fresh quality peaches, free from bruises and discolouration. Sort for ripeness, and allow too firm peaches to ripen at room temperature.

Make syrup for fruits either thin or heavy, and prepare approximately 11/2 - 2 cups syrup for each quart used. Place peaches, a few at a time, in a wire basket or in a large square of cheesecloth. Plunge into boiling water for 1/2-1 minute and dip immediately into cold water. Remove skins.

Cut in halves and remove pits. To keep from discolouring, immerse immediately in brine made of 1 tsp salt to 1 quart water. Drain thoroughly before placing in jars for processing.

Pack fruit in jars. Using a jar funnel, fill the jar with the prepared hot fruit and syrup. Wipe the rim of the container with a clean towel to remove any food particles. Place lids in a saucepan of boiling water.

Remove one lid from boiling water at a time, to

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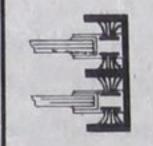
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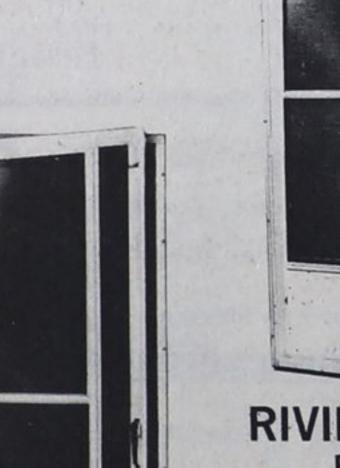
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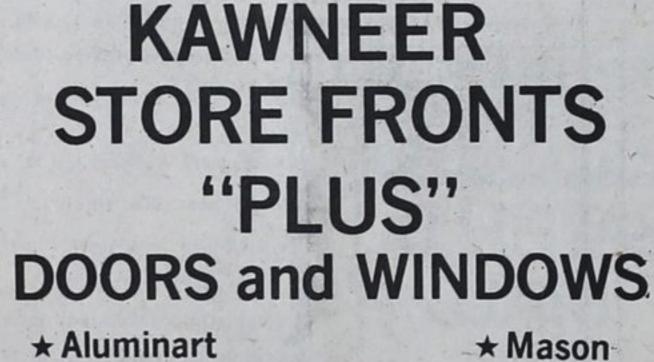
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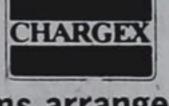
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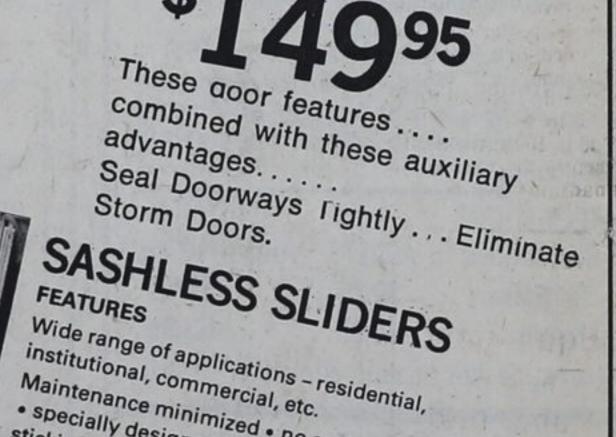


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