

THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER

VOL 2- NO 2- OCT, NOV, DEC '83 and maybe even early JAN '84

"No organism can long survive in an increasing environment of its own waste products" -- Sci. American
(repeated from earlier ENNL because of increasing pertinency.)



QUILT ZAPOPPIN'!

DAMARIS IN 4 (COUNT'EM) SHOWS: FAVORABLE REVIEWS!

John Camp



Women's co-op opens Lowertown art gallery

The WAVE art gallery opened Thursday night with more than 300 people on hand to commemorate the opening of the second new gallery in Lowertown in the last month.

WAVE, at 249 E. Fourth St., is operated by a women's cooperative affiliated with the WARM gallery in Minneapolis.

It joins the Wall Street Gallery, at 300 E. Fourth St., which opened last month, as the newest art attractions in Lowertown. The Wall Street is operated by the St. Paul Art Collective.

I've watched the progress of the WAVE gallery ever since a local women's group found the warehouse-like space behind a luggage shop. The space was all right for a warehouse. But for an art gallery, it didn't look too promising. The walls were a wreck. Grime sat on everything, and access — through the luggage shop — was terrible.

Things have changed since then. The women did some extensive carpentry, put in new walls and fixed up the lighting. They cleaned it up and set up a new entry. Though the entryway could still use some work, it all came together.

The show now hanging on the new walls also works well. Although there is the usual amount of clutter you can expect from an all-members show, there are some pieces that are quite nice.

I liked paintings by Ruth Caprow and Deborah Wagner, drawings by Karen Bacig and Kristine Cottom, and a quilt by Damaris Jackson. I have fairly conservative taste in art — there were other pieces that seemed skillfully done, and might seem appealing to you. That particularly applies to photography where I have been so exposed to news photos that I simply can't judge art photography.

As this new art venture begins, gallery hours will be somewhat limited, so pay close attention. WAVE will be open on Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday it will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The gallery will be closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Stop by.

SHOW #1: All-Member show at the new WAVE art gallery. See review at left. Sept-Oct.

SHOW #2: One-woman show at the Unitarian Church, Oct-Nov.

SHOW #3: Juried show at WAVE gallery, 3 art quilts (4?) accepted! Nov.

SHOW #4: Women's Coffee House, Dec.

Mps. Damaris Jackson has been going great guns as a quilt-quilter! The ENNL Editor was unable to be present at the Unitarian opening, but the Hathaways, who attended, estimated the crowd at 200 (high?, says Demi) and commented on the attractiveness of the show and the festive spirit that pervaded it. The ENNL ed. flew up 2 weeks later & was impressed both by the show, and the number of people in and out of the gallery in an ordinary day. 20-30. One large brick wall held four large quilts, the other had 16 of DW's smaller works, including her four quilt "FOOD ISSUES" grouping. The fabrics against the warm brick walls were particularly attractive. Since Demi is telling stories in her stitching, people begin looking from afar & then move in closer & closer as they realize there is more to see; pictures and even words — and stories — with her stitching, in addition to the larger pictures made of the different fabrics. [Damaris Jackson has been developing her art quilts thru a grant by the Dougan-Jackson corporation.]

NEST EMPTY AGAIN

Spld. Jan 25 '84. With the departure of Elspeth to Dartmouth Dec. 28, and of Gill, Cressida and Megan to their respective homes, Jan 15, 816 N. 5th St. is empty again. The editor of the Empty Nest Newsletter has concluded that the main reason there have been so few ENNLs since last June is that the nest has been so full. Meanwhile news does not wait for the newsletter, and almost everything in this issue will not be new to most readers. Indeed, the real Empty Nest Newsletter is Vera Wardner Dougan.



"This does it!" Charles thought. "It's time to do something about these troublesome eyebrows!"

LACY RESIGNS!

Spfld Alex Lacy, President of Saugamon State U., has resigned under pressure, although both he & the Regents deny that this is the case. The Univ. community, with the exception of Alex's kitchen cabinet, staged jubiliations. Now, of course, the worry is will some one worse replace him? Will the U. survive yet another upheaval? Some of us "yoost go on painting."



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The delight of all kiddies. Built on steel frame and consequently strong enough to hold 150 pounds. Safe, practical and beautiful. Can be used either ride or to pull. Made by a fine maker of quality toys. Is made of good quality plush and is exceptionally well shaped. Natural looking eyes. Leather collar. Pulling cord is attached to front axle. Length, over all, 21 inches; height, point, 8 inches. Shipping weight, 8 pounds.

DOWN MEMORY LANE: AND DO YOU REMEMBER BUSY LIZZIE? (OR WAS IT HELPFUL HANNAH or SUSIE SWEEPER?)

DROWNS IN BATHTUB ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

Champaign Megan Jackson's downstairs neighbor, a woman so unpleasant & difficult that Megan moved out in November (but then had to move back in again because she couldn't get out of her lease) drowned in her bathtub New Year's morning. She was 27 and looked sixty; a welfare mother with 5 children, the youngest a baby of 5 months. After an absence of a week, the common law husband & 5 kids moved back in. The woman did not seem to have any friends, & was teaching her children to be as bitter and nasty as she was. "It was hell living over her," says Ms. Jackson, "but I never wished her to DIE." A silver cloud of the November upheavals is that Megan ended up with a compatible roommate, who helps share expenses.

The third child knows who he is

Someone who has wisely remained anonymous once said that children are like waffles. The first one should be used to season the grill and then tossed out.

Studies made on first children say they're not all that bad. They are usually shy, serious, sensitive, are academically superior and more likely to be an Einstein.

Second children, on the other hand, are relaxed, independent, cheerful, lean toward creativity and are more likely to be a Picasso.

No one has had the courage to find — let alone study — child No. 3 and the ones that follow, whom I call "et ceteras."

Is there life after the first two children? What are the et ceteras like?

I have discovered the third child has a few attributes of his own. He has itchy feet and joins other families for three or four months, often without being noticed. He is not intimidated by anyone, has a great sense of humor, and is apt to be a game-show host.

Part of their uniqueness is that third children have no history. There are no footprints of him in the baby book, no record of his baptism, no snapshots of his birthdays and no report cards to show he ever was.

Their childhood diseases are uneventful, their first words fall on deaf ears, and toilet training is a lonely affair with no one to applaud their b.m.'s.

The third child learns early that he is odd man out and has broken the family symmetry. Kitchen chairs come four to a set, breakfast rolls four to a package, milk four cups to a quart. Rides at Disneyland accommodate two to a seat, the family car carries four comfortably, and beds come in twos, not threes.

The third child is the one who gets called the other two's names before the mother finally remembers his. He goes through a lifetime of comparisons: "You're not going to be as tall as your brother ... as smart as your sister ... as athletic as your father."

I personally feel there's a lot to be said for the "et cetera" children who get a fast family shuffle and who thrive on neglect and somehow appear one day all grown up.

They not only know who they are and what they are, but they've dealt very early with the two things that most children fear the most: competition and loneliness.



THIS COLUMN REPRINTED FOR GILLIAN, KATIE, et cetera. Erma a. Bombeck

SARA D., SARAH PARENTI, CAITLIN, et cetera.

*Good Old Rock Point

UNMOVABLE COOP GRACES STOOP

Beaver Creek. Dr. Dougan (Craig) the architect and builder of a 2 1/2 story luxury duck and chicken coop, has finally conceded that the coop is too heavy to move, and will therefore stay on the front porch of the Dougan domicile, where it was built, and where it dwarfs the front door. A gracious A-frame, the coop also provides a hay loft and quarters for Vincent Van Gogh. Vincent and the chickens enjoy looking into the Dougan dining room while they are lying a bed, laying, or chawing cud. "I love having my friends around me," admits Dr. Dougan.

MAKE THE KID PUKE: DR. DOUGAN

Spfld. When Cressida Broten, 17 mo., on a solitary foray, found and spilled a bottle of pills all over the upstairs hall at 816 N. 5th while on a visit to her doting grandmother, ENNLed, there was no way of telling whether she'd swallowed one, although her mouth held no shards. Unable to locate the family Dr., Louis Wainer, in Vermont, the editor put in a call to Dr. Dougan on the opposite coast, the baby's great-uncle. Uncle Craig recommended regurgitation. IPIKAK Syrup from the drug store performed a speedy service, Cressida bore no grudges, & was well enough to go to St. Paul's coffee hour & meet the new dean of the Cathedral. "She had really packed away a large breakfast," observed her mother, who had to change all her Cressida's clothes. There was no evidence of pills.

GORP* INVADERS ILLINOIS!

Spfld. Whoopie! The new Dean of the Cathedral is Father Richard Pugliese, formerly of Vermont, and apriest-in-charge who remembers Ellie at Rock Point. "She was very bright!" he says. He also shared Northfield (Vt.) pulpit with Dan Goldsmith & knows of the Dougan family. J. Jackson has become a church-goer again.

WELCOME ANN JACQUELINE!

Beaver Creek, Ore: Upon learning of the birth of a grandniece to Lee and Jackie Jo Dalvit Gutarte, of Philadelphia, Uncle Craig exclaimed, "Where did they get the Ann? Why didn't they name her 'Craig Jacqueline'?" Ann weighed over 8' & has lotsa hair! (8½, to be precise!)

CONGRATS, TOM and TRACY

Montana Word has filtered through the mountains that there's been a wedding! Here's a toast to Tom, Tracy, and Rory the ring-bearer. We wish you a life of lively interest, and we all look forward to meeting the new members of the family.

GRAMPA DIDN'T BOUNCE

Beloit. The odds finally caught up to him! While Gram & Gramp seem always to be taking nosedives or pratfalls (See ENNL Vol. 1 #12 p. 2 for RAD, and Vol 1 #12 p. 2 for VLD also) they have never come to real grief till Grampa fractured his knee cap just before Xmas. This bouncing propensity is because of all the milk they've always drunk, it is believed. RAD is out of cast & mending nicely. From now on he vows he will buckle his galoshes when feeding the birds.

ENOCN RICHARD WEIGHS IN

Out West Somewhere But ENNL didn't catch the weight. Son of Ricky and Juanita(?) Dougan,

TREVER DOUGAN RINGED

Corvallis Ore. "And there in the wood, a piggy wig stood..." ENNL isn't sure of the name of the pussycat. Further news out this one later. (Grampa says "Joyce"! (on a full scholarship at Northwestern!))

ET TU, CINDY SUE?

(-- and to the same guy!)

DAN+JULIE, BART+BONNIE PG

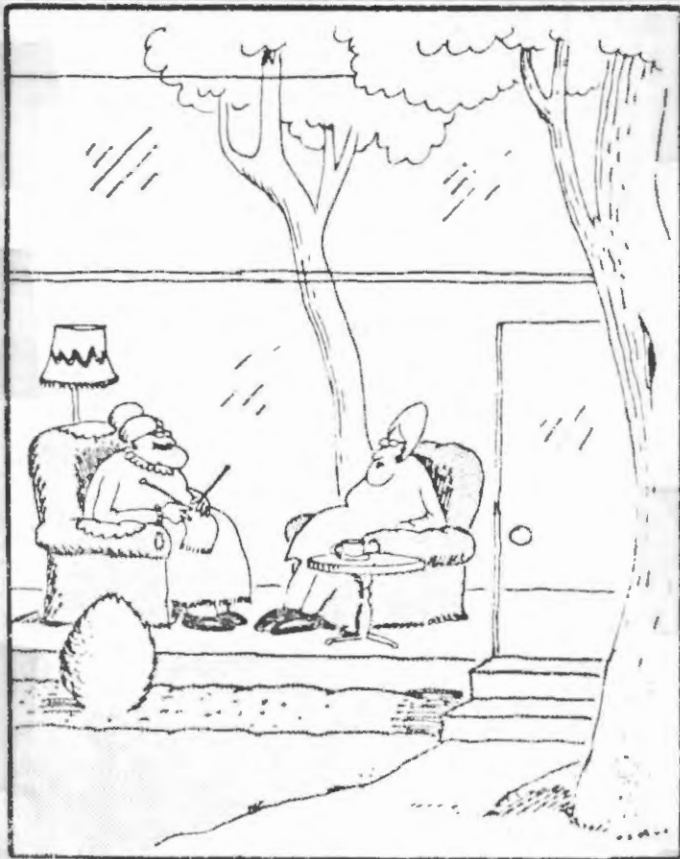
Beloit "The great-grandchild count boggles me!" reports RA Dougan, great grandfather of all these arrivals & prospective arrivals. "Had I but known, back in 1924..."

DAVID HEGGIE HAS TO COUGH UP or go to JAIL \$350,000

Beloit And pay it to the Weltr's. This sensational Turtle Township horror tale will be documented in later item.

COEUR OK AFTER FITS

FOR THE RON DOUGANS • CARL WELTYS:



"Of course, living in an all-glass house has its disadvantages ... but you should see the birds smack it."

NEWS BRIEFS (SOME VERY OLD!)

Florida Jo & Karl are vacationing in Florida for the month of February. Yum!

Spfld. Damaris Jackson, Suzi Mudge, Elspeth Jackson, Megan Jackson, Gillian Jackson, Jackie Jackson, Cressida Broken, Mighty Mouse & Ms. Mary Muffet congregated at 816 N Fifth for a late Xmas, Dec. 27. Gillian Jackson & her daughter stayed the night. Megan Jackson was able to be present much of that time. G. M. Cress & Jackie visited the Ronald Dougans in Beloit, Wis. Muffet visited her cousin Couer.

Beloit While Ronald Dougan does not spring about on his broken leg as vigorously as Ellie Jackson did (she was able to cast to swat a soccer ball) he is still unusually active.

Reno, Beavercreek, Spokane & Seattle In November J. Jackson managed to piggy back three steps w/ family or friends on a paid visit to Spokane.

Boston Rt. after the Spokane trip, J. Jackson turned around and flew out to Wellesley Hills to visit her oldest friend, Lee Lowenstein, who is ill. While there the group enjoyed an apple tasting party w/ apples Jackson had been given in Minneapolis. Of the 9 varieties, a backyard apple, the "Lowenstein Apple" won. 2nd was York, 3rd was Regent.

Champaign Megan Jackson attended a Halloween party clad entirely in silver.

Beloit Karl Schmidt has brought down a really splendid radio for the RADs.

Spfld. Recommended: Turtle Diary by Russell Hoban. (Adult bk by ~~Frank~~ author)

Colorado Mimi Baldwin, close friend of JJ for many years, has moved to Glenwood Springs, Co. She is sorely, sorely missed.

Spfld. Cressida Broken, while visiting her grandmother & aunts, was host to a baby party. Guests were Erin & Katie Grimes, Laura & Carol Belman, Emily Bark, Stephen Kopecky, and moms. Entertainment was a plastic slide & Uncle Craig's marble game, the best toy ever invented.

Vancouver While Craig & Barbara Dougan paused at a corner, motorizing through a wild life park, an EMU stuck its head through the car window, poked its long neck past Craig & gave Barbara the once over. This newspaper has heard of a bird with a button but that may be a photocopy.

genealogy joke (Oregon)

BETTER BE THERE MAY 6!

Beloit It's the gala celebration of Ron & Vera's 60th wedding anniversary, put on by Treble Clef to honor them both. Plan to be there, fiddles & other instruments in hand! It will be not only a great celebration, but a great reunion.

AND IF YOU CAN, FEBRUARY 25!

Champaign And "there" is at the Opening of Megan Jackson's Senior Art Exhibit, a one person show to be held at the McKinley Foundation Feb 24 - March 8. A reception in Ms. Jackson's honor will held Sat. afternoon, Feb. 25.

ATTENDS "VEILED PROPHET" BALL

St. Louis Ellie Jackson attended the most famous ball in the country (well, the Mid west) on Dec. 19, a guest of somebody somebody the Third, whom she knew from Dartmouth. (Really hoity toity affair. Ms. J. had a lousy time. The temperature was 24° below zero, & her date made her walk 2 blocks in open high heels. Then he started drinking & his manners degenerated. He knew all the debutantes there, & Ellie didn't. The presentation of 120 debutantes (Pretty girls on the arms of their ugly old fathers) prevented any dancing. HOWEVER, Ms. Jackson looked marvelous in a 60 year old gown: the rose beaded black satin that VWD bought in Paris for her trousseau. No debutante looked better in her 2000 gown, than Ellie in her priceless one. (Oh, Ellie also got her fingers slammed in a car door.) VWD purchased the gown from the Queen of Rumania shop on the Rue de Royal. When asked by her granddaughter if there were other sizes of this gown on the rack, VWD replied, "What rack?"

EATS ALL OF ROAST BUT THE STRING

Spfld. After hearing Isaac Stern play Mozart, Gnesco, & Joe Francka May sonata, on the last rumont that originally played that composition, J. Jackson entertained two friends for dinner. While they went to see the Eastman bathroom, Muffie ate the roast.

FORMER ARCHEOLOGIST

CONFESSES (From our lone Nantucket subscriber.)

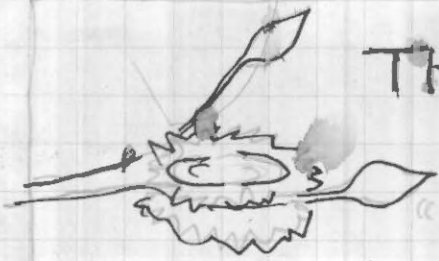
A former student has discovered the secret to debris removal in the Jackson home. In the belief that every bedraggled brassiere may someday find a matching pantie, JJ refuses to trash any item whatsoever. However, a crafty student managed to clear one square foot of Jackson bedroom by convincing JJ she would look fetching in Mimi's cut off Bermudas, an antique girle, nursing bra, orthopedic oxford, and an open heeled argyle. The student packaged the items and went rapidly to the Salvation Army drop box before JJ decided to wear the ensemble to church. It is not known if JJ regrets her generosity as emphatically as the Salvation Army does. (Carol Miller, former assistant to GNNLEd.)

The former name of the Magazine,

PARAPLEGIA LIFE

was

SQUEAKY WHEEL.



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JJJ WOWS IN ND