

# THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER

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"Quoth the raven, 'Nevermore!'"



## HOW DO WE LOVE THEM?

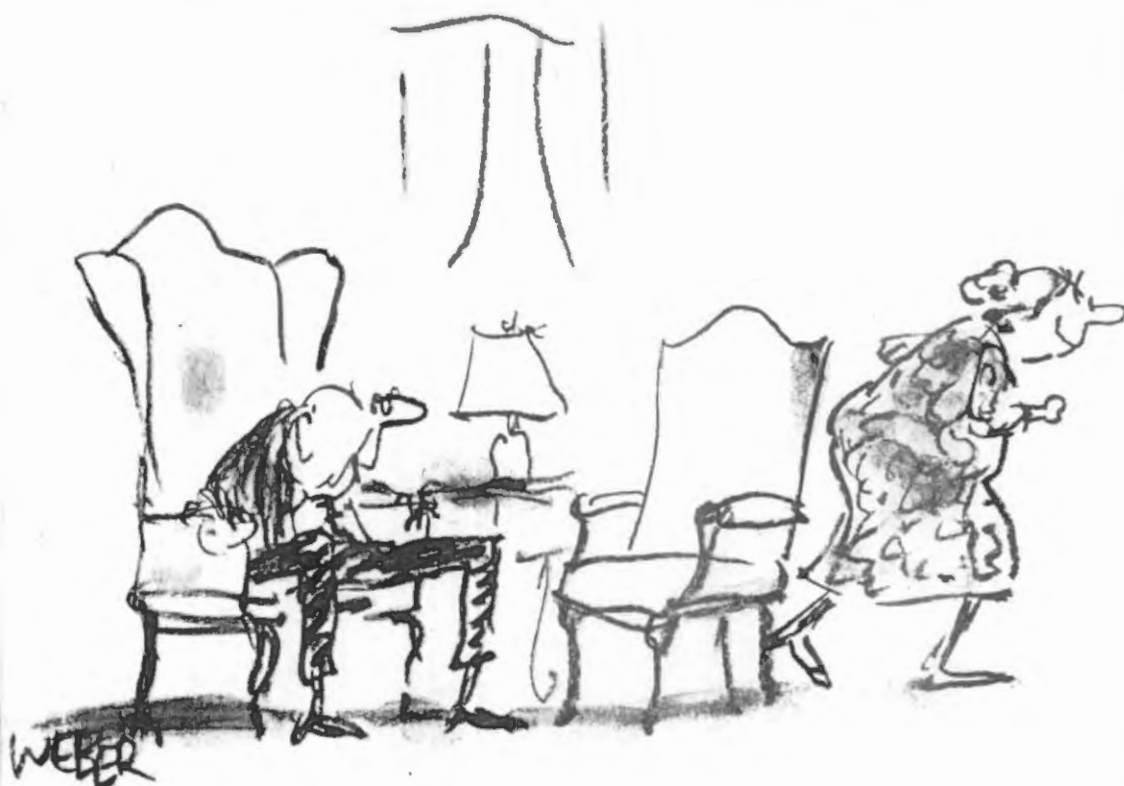
LETTERS ABOUT RAD-VWD COMING IN!

JACKIE DALVIT GUTHRIE writes: "I had so many memories to choose

When I was a student at the University of Wisconsin, I would often get away from the student unrest to spend a relaxing weekend in Beloit with Grandma and Grandpa. One evening we were, as usual, reading quietly in the livingroom when a spring thunderstorm rolled across the sky - huge yellow/black clouds, great gusts of wind, trees blowing wildly. When the wind and rain bursts reached a particularly high level, Grandpa leapt out of his chair, grabbed me by the arms, yanked me to my feet and pulled me across the livingroom and out the front door as I screamed for Grandma to "save me" from her crazy husband.

Grandpa continued to haul me, protesting and kicking wildly, across the front lawn, across the gravel driveway, and into the field at the top of the hill. There, with the rain pelting us, and the wind practically knocking us off our feet, Grandpa shouted above the thunderclaps, "I want you to remember this moment with your Grandfather!!" I stopped struggling. It was only then that I really saw the beauty of the moment. I turned to look at Grandpa who was sensually soaking in the excitement of the storm and reveling in the glory of the farmland in the eerie storm light. We stood there quietly for a few minutes then walked happily back inside to reassure Grandma. Jackie Dalvit Guthrie

from. Stephanie & I were lucky to live near Grandma and Grandpa until we were 13 yrs old. Now we experienced the dairy on an almost daily basis and we spent a lot of time on the farm. If I have time I'll write up the time Grandpa took us to see "hamburger being made" (we actually went to a slaughter house). The time he cooked a puff ball for us to eat and my biology teacher told me it was poisonous; Grandma's "mouse" face - her marvelous hats stored away in mysteriously deep closets...."



"Hurry, hurry! When you get back, we'll finish rehashing 1924 and get right on to 1925!"

## POLLY MERSKY HEARD FROM

RON & VERA: How do I love thee? Let me count how many overnites I had at your house when Jim (Mahle) and I were wearing out the highway between Beloit and Rockford Colleges ('42 to '44.) You always had room for one or two more at the table. One event stands out in my mind. You had a beautiful litter of Boxer pups and somehow one got under the wheels of our car in your driveway. Ron's philosophical acceptance of the calamity will always be appreciated.

Earlier memories include a trip I took from Mason City, IA to Beloit with my aging G'mother Kirk (Wesson's sister.) I had such fun playing with Jo, Pat, Jackie and Craig. Imagine my joy, as a city girl, to be able to play with your pet goat, Butter!

More recent memories are the good times Sam and I have had when we've visited you - or seen you at my daughter Jo's wedding in Rockford in 1980.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY - #60!!

*Cousin, Polly Mersky*  
Minneapolis

do: there is no reason these little articles can't be salted through the next several issues. AND, since not all our readership will be reading the letters in the album, the ENNL Ed. will select out choice bits for this publication. Please! Let's hear from more grandchildren! Children! Nephews & neices! Friends! Have you an anecdote?

## WEATHERSFIELD TO HOST WARDNERS

Weatherstfield, Vermont If that name in the headline grabbed you, then you're ONE OF US, and belong in Weatherstfield, Vermont, July 26, 27, 28 & 29, at the WARDNER FAMILY REUNION! Plan to come and join the fun and meet a lot of cousins that you never met before! Remember the square dance & pig roast of 10 years ago? Remember the Cemetery hopping, the baked bean driver, the climb-up Wardner Hill? So far from our branch the following think they'll be going:

RAD, UWD, Paul Campagna, the Ed of the ENNL (JDT) and may be Megan Jackson. WHAT ABOUT YOU? (Ask for details.)



## Mig Schafer Reminiscences

Maitland, Fla. ... most of the stories I can recall about your Mom and Dad and us are, already in print - like "oo is, oo aint" and "a touch of red is becoming." I do, however remember an incident to illustrate your dad's sense of humor. We were all in our beds on the porch of the cottage at the lake (Lake Pleasant, wasn't it?) and Vera was wondering and sort of worrying about whether or not she would achieve the presidency of some club. I don't remember now whether it was a local one or the Federation of Music Clubs. Anyway, Ron assured her she didn't have a chance. That didn't sit well with her and she demanded to know why! Ron reached over and took hold of the offending part of her anatomy and declared, "Not enough bosom!" [Mig is VWL's niece.]

## PARENTS HAD SEX LIFE!

READ ALL ABOUT IT IN OUR TABLOID SECTION, ADDED TO THIS ISSUE.

TABLOID EDITOR: PATRICIA DOUGAN DALVIT

EDITORIAL NOTE: The Ed. of the ENNL did not know that Vercouteran was going to ask everyone for a letter to go in an album for Vera and Ron. The Ed. will see to it that Jackie Jo's, Polly's, Mig's and Pat's contributions will go into the album: possibly via this medium. HOWEVER! The reminiscences the Ed. had in mind were of the sort that you might write to the Empty Nest, but might not write in a letter to an album: (those you might feel should be more formal) so if you haven't written anything yet, please

## HIGH WIND IN CHICAGO

Chicago A recent 80 mph gale in a city renowned for its breezes, blew cousin Paul Campagna over the 16 tracks, into a fire hydrant and then into a large cement flowerpot. Paul escaped serious injury, but lost his glasses. Later, he sent out the houseboy from his apt. bldg. to go over the terrain. The houseboy found both lenses of the glasses unbroken in the flower pot.

## Briefies

Green Bay Katie and Richard Yde are expecting again !!! Cheers !!!  
St. Paul Hard luck for the Dan Schmidts - Their house was burglarized, then Dan fell off a chair changing a light bulb & had to have 12 stitches.  
Galesburg IL JD Jackson took the occasion of a job at Knox College (workshop) to pay a visit to Mary Creighton, former Ed. of the Galesburg Post, which published JDT's 1st book. Aunt Mary was delighted, as was JDT.





# FAMOUS CARTOONIST BUYS A MEGAN PAINTING!

Champaign Nicole Hollander, well known feminist cartoonist and creator of the character "Sylvia" (on right in hat) on a recent visit to the U. of I. saw Megan Jackson's Sr. Art Show, and purchased a 2-picture composition titled "Border and Boreder." The first picture, within a flowered border, shows a young woman in jeans on a love seat with a daisy. The second picture is of the same scene but with the woman upended, feet on seat back, head on floor, daisy shredded. Ms. Jackson is honored by this first non-acquaintance purchase, and in an exclusive ENNL interview stated, "It augers well for my career!"

## DIDN'T HAVE TO EAT BABY

Reno. This news is old, but it's never been reported in the ENNL. Last Jan. 15 Ms. Gillian P. Jackson, accompanied by Ms. Cressida Ingrid Brutentz, departed for their home in Reno (from Springfield) via American Airlines. The pair was due to arrive in Reno about 8 o'clock. But, it was blizzarding in Reno, so A.A. went on to Sacramento and dumped the passengers. Instead of putting them all up at a hotel and sending them back to Reno the next morning, they kept them sitting around the terminal till about 11 AM, & then loaded them on two old school-type buses, without toilets or heat, and sent them over Donner Pass. In a blizzard. The bus Gillian & Cress were on broke down about an hour into the mountains. The other bus said they'd go along & send help -- they left and were never heard from again. About an hr. later a police trooper stopped by, refused to make any phone calls for any of the passengers, but said he'd call the bus barn. He vanished for an hour, returned to say the number was disconnected. The driver gave him the number of his wife, who knew how to reach the barn, the trooper vanished & was never heard from again. Meanwhile, every time a passenger went outside to pee, cold blasts filled the bus. Little Cressida sucked her mitten dry. About another hour later, another trooper appeared, startled, and said, "Does anybody know you're here?" He too took the driver's wife's number & vanished. But about an hour later, a bus finally showed up, all the passengers transferred to the new bus, and were carried over the pass and delivered to the Reno airport at about 10 AM. Fourteen hours after they were due, and unfed, unslept, untoileted, and cold. Fortunately Gillian had enough diapers with her. She and Skip wrote a letter to the address the airport people gave to all the irate passengers, and as of the end of April, they have had no reply. The Ed. of the ENNL, who had confidence that Gillian & Cress would arrive home the night they left, has not yet written A.A. but will -- perhaps send this article. She was not told about the fiasco till sev. months after it happened. The bus could have come to grief on the blizzardy roads. The passengers--esp. babies--could have come to grief in the cold. Moral of this story: BOYCOTT AMERICAN AIRLINES! BOYCOTT AMERICAN AIRLINES! BOYCOTT A.A.!

## SYLVIA .. BY NICOLE HOLLANDER



## Over 50% of adults still read books

(Thought you'd like to know)

**MORE BRIEFIES**  Phoenix The Ed of CNN had a fabulous week in tropical Phoenix, working in the schools and at a conference sponsored by a group which promotes children's writings. She stayed in a private home, enjoyed her hosts so much, and the many exciting people she met. The kids were great, too. From there she went on to a splendid weekend with Gillian Skip & Cressida in Reno. In return for sharing her Round Trip ticket at a casino she got a free pull on a slot, it came up bars & out plunked 20 silver dollars!

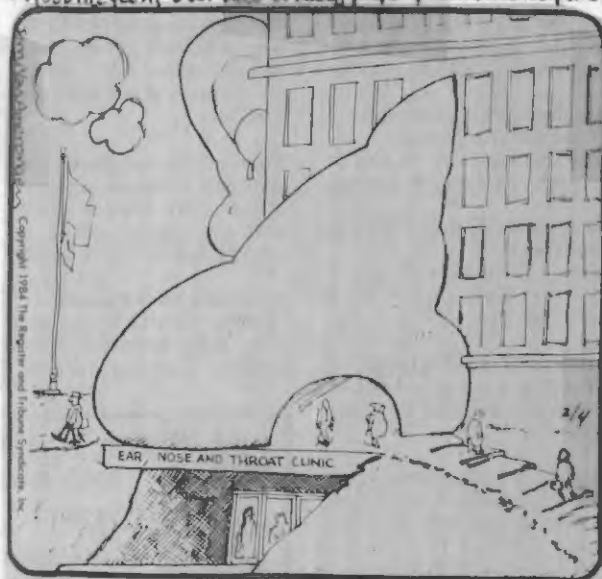
Sprfld J. Jackson was the host of 1400 kids on SSU campus April 11. (67 classes & teachers.) The weather was the ONE GOOD DAY before and since, and the day went off without a hitch. Mother Goose & Goose roamed the grounds, also Sucoy, with writing advice, a Poet from Massachusetts, and Marian Levin as the Lidsay Lifter. There was continual reading at a central outdoors mike - of children's writing - and each class had a special campus activity, (ie, chem lab, art lab, computers) JJ has sworn never to do this again: too time consuming: but they may twist her arm for next year.

Dartmouth Ellie Jackson made a 3.6 last term! She's decided on an English major, and may modify it to an English/Art History major. Ellie recently visited NYC, where she saw Marcus & Megan McGuire, and Tony.

Beloit Ms. Mary Muffet of Sprfld, cousin of Cover Dbr, Chez News, and commonly called "Fleur de Lis" by Grampa Dongan, received a new name on a recent visit. Cover & Fleur are now "Vib and Yang".

England London, Dorset, Cornwall, and other spots in the British Isles are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Megan Trevor Jackson & Jacqueline D. Jackson May 15, for a month long cycling and gallery-visiting holiday.

MIPS Damaris had work featured in a craft show Mar. 17-18 and a quilt show Mar 24-7. A quilt of hers was reviewed somewhat critically in a publication, but has a half page pic - the only one!



The city fathers hope Basil Tweed, architect of the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic, won't be bidding on other medical specialty clinics.



"O.K., so happy anniversary—over and out."