



THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2 * 7 May-June '84

SPECIAL ENGLISH EDITION

CYCLER SEEKS PEN PALS FOR ILLINOIS (USA) SCHOOLCHILDREN

WRITER/PRODUCER OF "READING AND WRITING AND RADIO" ON PROWL IN BRITAIN ~

Illinois, USA Jacqueline Jackson, Editor of *The Empty Nest Newsletter* (circulation 40), Professor of Literature at Sangamon State University, Springfield, ILLINOIS (USA) and also writer and producer of a weekly radio show for Central Illinois Schoolchildren which encourages creative writing and language arts, is again cycling in Britain, May 15-June 14, '84. "Last year's trip was so enjoyable that I have to go again," said Jackson when interviewed. Her daughter Megan is accompanying her. While there, Jackson will try to find school classes who would like to correspond with an Illinois pen pal class. Last year's trip resulted in only one alliance: a Sherborne Dorset class wrote a class in Chatham, Illinois, and the two groups have had a fine time getting to know each other and each other's countries. However, a large number of Illinois kids sent stories to a teacher near Cambridge, who has used them with her children. We hope to have a number of pen-class alliances as a result of the current trip.

88 PEN-CLASSES

Springfield, IL Reading and Writing and Radio, a writing program for kids, has had 88 pen-pal classes facing WSSR's listening area in 1983-84 school year. Classes have exchanged not only letters but photos, valentines, cassettes of songs & writings, & have even graded each other's book reports. On April 11, 1400 students met their pen pals at a Writing Jamboree at the SSU campus, hosted by RWR. A blast!



ENNLEditor enjoying cycling holiday in Cornwall

CHATHAM TEACHER DELIGHTED WITH BRUSH PEN PALS

Chatham, IL Peggy Goodwin, Ball-Chatham 5th grade, corresponded with Caroline Rose's class in Sherborne, Dorset. Mrs. Rose, whose mother has had a life long relationship with a foreign pen-pal, including visits, hopes that some of these student pairs will develop life-long relationships. The children have exchanged photos of families; stickers, historical information of their respective areas; information about sports, school systems, etc. while the teachers made the initial matches & opportunities, now about twelve pairs are busily corresponding on their own.

From Thomas Bailey Aldrich:

It was very pleasant to me to get a letter from you the other day. Perhaps I should have found it pleasanter if I had been able to decipher it. I don't think that I mastered anything beyond the date (which I knew) and the signature (which I guessed at). There's a singular and a perpetual charm in a letter of yours; it never grows old, it never loses its novelty. . . . Other letters are read and thrown away and forgotten, but yours are kept forever — unread. One of them will last a reasonable man a lifetime.

Letter to Professor Edward
Sylvester Morse

I have read your glorious letters, Where you threw aside all fetters, Spoke your thoughts and mind out freely In your own delightful style.
BESSIE CHANDLER: To Mrs. Carlyle, St. 1 (In Century Magazine, Nov., 1883)

HOW TO HAVE AN AMERICAN PEN-CLASS

Springfield, IL Our school year runs from about Sept. 1 till about May 31, so the classes we are arranging for will start FALL 1984! Send your name, school address, class size and average ages of your students to:

Jacqueline Jackson
Pen-Class Exchange
Brookens 389
Sangamon State Univ.
Springfield IL 62702 (USA)
We will match you with an appropriate class, and you will receive letters in Sept. (Our kids are 7-13)

DEAR PENCIL-PAL,
IT HAS BEEN A LONG
TIME SINCE I LAST
WROTE TO YOU.



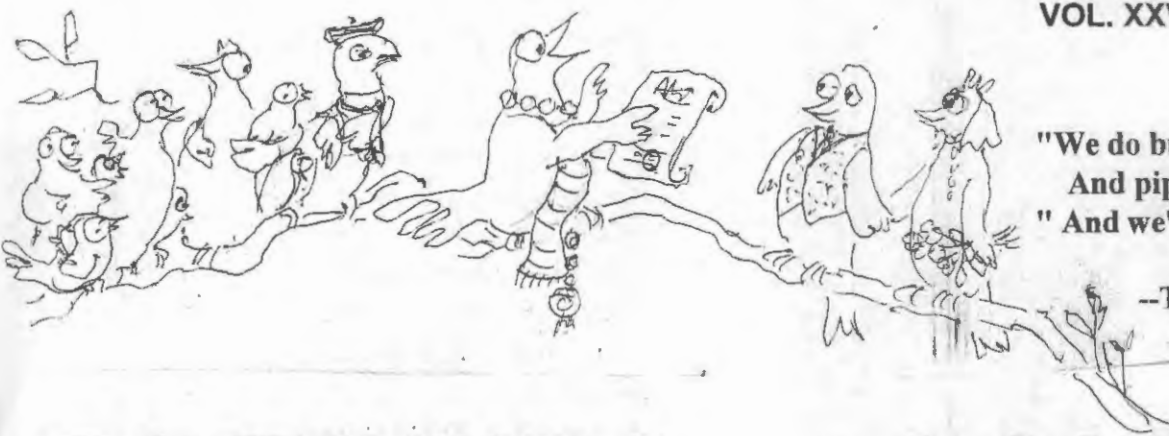
I WOULD HAVE WRITTEN
BEFORE, BUT I FORGOT
ALL ABOUT YOU.



SOMEHOW THAT DOESN'T
SOUND RIGHT...

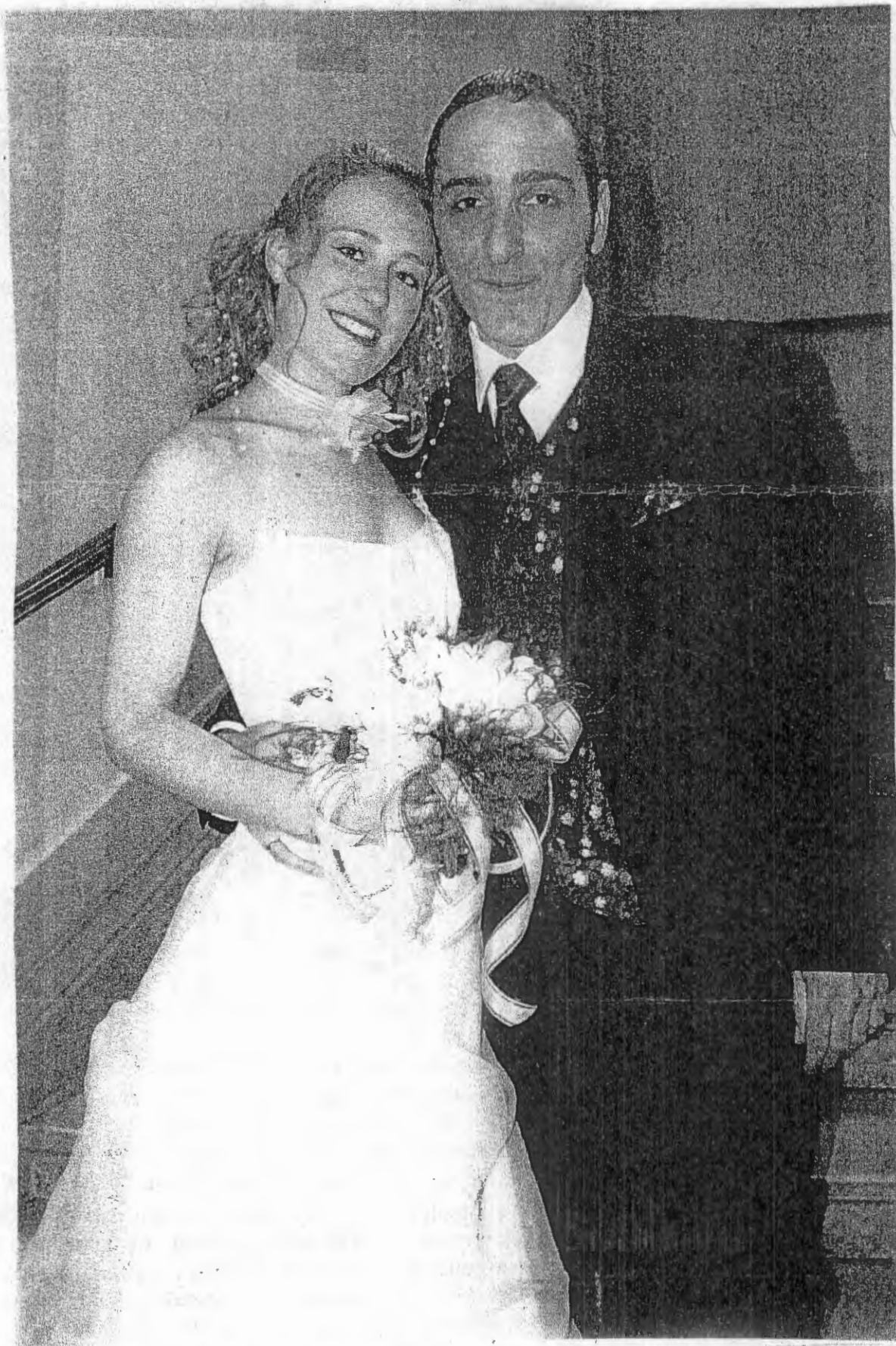


Schwarz



"We do but sing because we must,
And pipe but as the linnets sing . . ."
" And we'll be as happy as
birds in the spring . . . "
--Tennyson and Blake

CRESSIDA AND LAURENT



Mr et Mme LAURENT DUPEYROUX, April 15, 2006, Paris



pariswedding poem #2

in the days after the nuptials
 why go right home again when
 there's the glory of *sainte-chapelle*
 the eiffel tower an exclamation point
 against the sky the cluny's unicorn
 the *musee* of musical instruments'
 boggling octobass where you must
 stand on a ladder to play it
 then contemplating the effluent of
 a great city rushing beneath our feet
 three hours of pungent *egouts*
 we peer down every dim corridor
 for a glimpse of jean valjean later
 the endless walls of bone and skulls
 artfully stacked by eighteenth century workmen
 who labored by torchlight in the catacombs
 re-interring millions of bodies from
 the choked churchyards overhead
 a stroll through the *pere-lachaise*
 where not quite every path leads to
 jim morrison's grave and the
gendarme paris must hire to protect it
 apparently nobody bothered to guard
 oscar wilde where the naked male
 on his tombstone has had his *kiki* whacked off

grilled salmon, Ed's famous chili, coleslaws, salads, shrimpies, etc. and terrific cake. Champagne, of course. Cress's friends decorated the pavilion with glorious vases, flowers, bows. Frisbees and fun and a high wind, but Gillian had rented heavy plates so no dinners flew into laps. Also a duck pond where Wyatt spent his time trying to fall in; the kids all collected snails. At six o'clock Cress and Laurent vanished and returned in their wedding finery so everyone could see how elegant the couple had looked on April 15. Her wedding dress and his westket got worn twice! (Thrice? in the Pyrenees?) Megan, Michael, Mark, Andy and Jay came from California; Damaris, Elle, Rachel, Wyatt and Jackie from Midwest, also Bob Jackson; Jacki and Trever Dougan from Oregon; the Broten grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins. (Ingrid was sorely missed.) About ten family came from France! Almost everyone stayed well into the week, our group straining the seams of Gillian and Ed's Tahoe condo. Mr and Mrs Laurent Dupeyroux will continue to live in Paris.

pariswedding poem # 1

quel evenement!

my *ravissante petite fille*
 in a cloud of organza
 the *mari tres elegant*
 in his silken flowered vest
 shiny black dress shoes
 the mayor resplendent in
 tricolored sash ceremony as
 snazzy as at a church then
 five courses or was it six
 at the *restaurant prive*
 caviar appetizer *fois gras*
poisson with zucchini dressing
boeuf baked in pastry *fromage*
salade creamy wedding cake
 with unexpected lumps of berries
 toasts and more toasts in two tongues
 even a little spanish forming (for some)
 a bridge kisses and more kisses always
 on both cheeks kisses kisses kisses



Paris; Reno: Only family went to the Paris wedding; Gillian, Ed, Skip and his wife, me, and Laurent's family. Later his family had a reception in the Pyrenees for all the French clan, then Ed and Gillian hosted one in a Reno park for all the American family and friends. It was barbeque style, with ribs, chicken,

ORCHESTRA MICE WOWS 'EM IN EAST TENNESSEE

→ comic moments that were good foil for the star. The excellent choreographer was Susan Pace. Lew Dalvit conducted with assurance and the orchestra played well--the cheese grater was a hit.. These days because of union and hall rental costs there can't be the

weekly rehearsals we so enjoyed in Sinfonia: there was only one practice before the dress rehearsal. But the show went on, and was terrific. My part? I was narrator, and Lew worked me hard. I had to learn to read a whole score (before I'd only had to read the cello line!), come in on time with my words, practice slowing down, e-nun-ci-a-ting more clearly, lowering my voice, etc. I thought I knew all those things, but didn't. Jackie Guthrie came from Philly to play in the violins, she also played the cheese grater. Her partner, Gerry Cloud, took scores of pictures. Pat Dalvit was in the violas, and behind scenes kept a full household healthily fed, vitaminized, and as rested as she could manage, hemmed

Johnson City, TN: September 8 and 9 were the dates, and the cast was fifteen mice and a full orchestra--and oh yes, the narrator and Sutton, for whom the show was ostensibly given. This time it was in English. In July, when John and Martha Hicks visited Vermont, Martha worked with Jackie on adding a few couplets here and there, for when the text was translated into German for the 2004 performance, it was longer, by nature of the language--and so, the English no longer quite correlated with the music. Martha, you recall, who lives in Germany and teaches at a music and art school, had the idea of turning my book into an orchestral ballet for kids and adults, and with John's support and help (he composed the honeymoon riffs) did the script, score, and provided many of the great touches. She and John also visited Johnson City and conferred with the choreographers. What a gift to us all! Lew frequently shook his head and said, "Martha's a genius!" as he noted yet



skirts, ironed outfits. Demi Jackson from Minneapolis couldn't play because of her broken fingers, but was the only one to see the German AND English performances. Different, she says, but both fine. A DVD will soon be available for you to show your local or regional symphony and ballet school; also we have copies of the book. A good article has come out in Illinois Times, with pix. Let me know if you want a copy for yourself or to show.

another of her details in the complex performance. The shows were different: mainly in mice-portrayal. The German mice wore brown suits, with full caps and ears, while the Tennessee mouslets were nattily dressed in suitcoat tails, tights, ballet slippers, and small head-band mouse-ears. They did act mouse-like, but were trained dancers, and older, whereas the young German mice were not ballet students. The mother mouse, Clarrissa, was the most different, dressed as a ballerina, and doing a fine ballerina performance. And father Sam had a few

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The New York Times

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2005

Some New Help for the Extremely Gifted

By MICHAEL JANOFSKY

RENO, Nev. — Misha Rafflee is 10 years old. An eighth grader in her final year of private school here, she reads up to six books a month, plays violin and piano and asks so many questions that her teachers sometimes get angry at her.

Driven by an insatiable curiosity, she wants to be a brain surgeon. Her parents expect her to have a bachelor's degree by the time she is 14 and a medical degree soon after. The pace will be wholly dependent upon her teachers' abilities to feed an intellect that in her current setting often goes wanting.

"I do wish they would go faster," she said of her classroom activities. "If I could go at my own pace, I could go forward twice as fast."

By next fall, Misha may have her chance. She has applied to the Davidson Academy of Nevada, a newly formed public school at the University of Nevada, Reno for profoundly gifted children, those whose test scores and evaluations place them in the 99.9th percentile.

It is a rare opportunity. Children like Misha, who have I.Q.'s of 160 and above, constitute only a tiny fraction of the 72 million children who attend the nation's public and private schools. Their needs are often overlooked as federal and state governments concentrate their resources on slower learners to lift test scores in reading and mathematics to a minimum standard.

While federal spending for the Bush administration's education law, No Child Left Behind, is to reach \$24.4 billion in the current fiscal year, the Department of Education

A category of student often overlooked if schools concentrate on the average.

has allocated only \$11 million for programs aimed at "gifted and talented" students. Recognizing that children with unusually high aptitude require special attention and more rigorous coursework, many communities try to serve them through schools that offer specialized classes, accelerated learning programs and dual credit for high school and college.

In addition, a small but growing number of charter, magnet and early-entrance schools are tailoring their curriculums to prepare students for college. And foundations, like the Institute for Educational Advancement in South Pasadena, Calif., are forming to help gifted children find programs to challenge them.

Susan Aspey, a spokeswoman for the Department of Education, said the "vast majority" of federal spending for children in kindergarten through 12th grade was for the neediest children. Why so little money for the brightest children?

"Unfortunately," she said, "we don't live in a perfect world with infinite resources."

Education experts familiar with the needs of the most gifted students say there are scarcely enough programs to serve them.

"We are undercutting the research and development people of this nation," said Joseph S. Renzulli, director of the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented, at the University of Connecticut. "No one would ever argue against No Child Left Behind, but when you ignore kids who will create new jobs, new therapies and new medicines, we're selling them down the river."

Nancy Green, executive director of the National Association for Gifted Children, said that state and local efforts were admirable but that their inconsistency reflected lost opportunities. A new survey by her association found that among 39 states that responded, 24 spent as much as \$10 million on programs for gifted children but 7 spent less than \$1 million and 8 spent nothing.

"For a nation, I'm not sure why we value equity over excellence," Ms. Green said. "All kids are entitled to an appropriate education for their ability, not just those we're teaching to a minimum standard."

A 2004 report by the International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development at the University of Iowa charges American schools with impeding the development of the country's brightest children and calls the lack of more programs for them "a national scandal." It warns, "The price may be the slow but steady erosion of American excellence."

The Davidson Academy would be an unusual addition to the options available to especially smart children, according to its founders, Bob and Jan Davidson, a retired couple who made a fortune designing educa-

tional software. In 1999, they created a foundation dedicated to serving highly gifted children and, as part of it, a summer scholarship program that enables students aged 12 to 15 to earn up to seven college credits at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Mr. Davidson said the academy, an outgrowth of the summer program, was the nation's first public school for gifted students created by a private foundation and codified by state law. In June, Gov. Kenny C. Guinn signed a bill that authorized public schools for "profoundly gifted pupils" to operate in a university setting.

"Our families in the summer program started asking us to start a school," Ms. Davidson said. "We told them that we were not interested in raising their children. But they told us that if we built a school, they would come."

With plans to accept 30 applicants for the first year and twice that for the second, the academy will be open to any students living in Nevada who can perform at a sixth-grade level or better and can demonstrate excep-

tional abilities through achievement tests and letters of recommendation. Already, Mr. Davidson said, applications have arrived from students in California and the East Coast whose parents said they would be willing to move to Nevada.

The curriculum is intended to be flexible, Mr. Davidson said, to satisfy the individual needs and interests of each student. Some courses will be available for dual credit in high school and college; some, for just college credit. Students will also have a choice of taking courses in the usual manner of 15 weeks or in an immersion format of 3 weeks. In either case, students will be invited to specialize, but they must also take classes, like history and civics, that are required for a public high school diploma in Nevada.

The Davidsons said they intended to cover all student costs — a minimum of \$10,000 a student each year — except for those courses taken only for college credit. They are also assuming some of the construction costs of a \$50 million building where the academy will eventually be

housed. The state has agreed to pay \$31 million of the construction costs.

For Misha's parents, Kambiz, an associate dean at the university, and his wife, Simi, a former bank economist, the academy could not have come along at a more opportune time. They have watched their child in wonderment — "She was reading at 2, reading chapter books at 3," her mother said — and worried how to keep her stimulated next year.

Misha seemed overjoyed at the prospect of attending a challenging school near home. She can keep her friends, continue swimming with her community team and remain as violinist and associate concert master with the Reno Philharmonic Youth Symphony Orchestra.

"It would be a lot better if it started this year," she said of the academy. "A lot of times now, I ask three and four questions that are really complex, and the teacher stops and says, 'We're not getting into that; let's go on to another subject.' At the academy, I know I could ask whatever I wanted and the teacher wouldn't get mad."

Reno, NV: Magnifying glass time, folks. The Times article is '05, the other—a bit if it—is from August, when Davidson Academy began. Kestrel Schmidt is one of its students. Wendy and Kestrel were at the ceremony, also Gillian and Ed, Cress and Laurent (Jer in Mongolia). The US Sec. of Ed. spoke a certain amount of twaddle. But, here's the scoop—Kestrel's school in Wyoming was going to have her take beginning Spanish (she's fluent), geometry, etc. that she's already had: prospect for anything but Dullsville and rebellion were strong. Jer, Wendy, and Kestrel heard of Davidson, thought, what the heck, Kestrel creamed the exam, ditto her interview. Jer and Wendy, both freelancers, have rented their Jackson house and moved to Reno. If it works out, they'll stay four years. If not, they can return home. The only thing Reno lacks for Kestrel is figure skating, but that's available at Tahoe near Gillian and Eddy's, a bonus to give the cousins opportunities for get-togethers. All Schmidts plus Jennie and Aaron were there last weekend (though G and E were in Pasadena). Cress, you recall, had a largely free college education at UNR on Nevada tobacco money. Gillian: "Nevada's in danger of becoming known as an education-friendly state!"

Opening ceremony held for gifted student academy

Lenita Powers (LPowers@RGJ.COM)

RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL
August 23, 2006

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings said Tuesday a new Reno school for profoundly gifted students will become an example of academic excellence "where the sky is the limit."

Speaking at the opening ceremony for the Davidson Academy of Nevada, Spellings praised the 36 students who qualified for the school's inaugural class by testing in the 99.9 percentile on IQ or college entrance tests.

"In just a few years, these students will be pioneering new fields like nanotechnology and supercomputing," she said. "You'll use your language skills to bring countries and cultures closer together, and I'm sure one of you will develop new renewable sources of energy."

Established by retired educational software developers Bob and Jan Davidson of Incline Village, the academy is a free public school on the University of Nevada, Reno campus. In the United States, 1.5 million students, half of all gifted students, are underachievers because they are not being challenged academically, Bob Davidson said.

"Many of our nation's brightest students are either tuning out or dropping out," he said.

The Davidson Academy's mission is to change that by providing some of the most gifted students in the nation with an individualized educational program based on their abilities, not their ages.

"In other words, we are tailoring the school to fit the student instead of having the student fit the needs of the school," Davidson said.

Reno: Report from Kestrel, Oct. 8: For the most part it's pretty okay, she says; she's liking the other kids: "They're awesome!" She likes Misha from the Times writeup. Her classes are Latin, English, history, math, science. She can go at her own speed especially in math. A great PE program, they're rock climbing. Music: a jazz band. Quite a few kids are taking UNR classes, one almost exclusively. so were Kestrel a fiddler, say, she could take lessons at UNR and play in the orchestra as I presume others are. Three main teachers, plus language, PE, and jazzband persons. You bring your lunch, but Fridays all eat at the UNR cafeteria. They're allowed no soda, caffeine, junk food. "It's healthful and there's great variety." On Reno? "It's okay, but too hot and too big!"

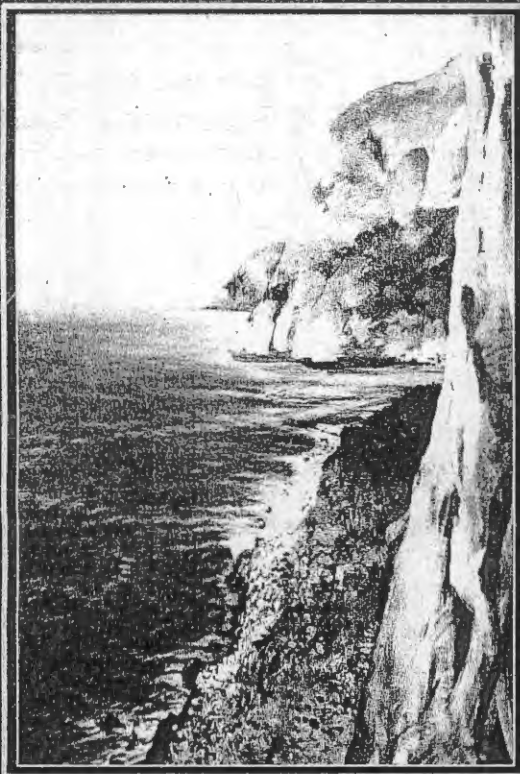


"Never, ever, think outside the box."

CLOUD AND GUTHRIE COLLABORATE ON ART

MAGICAL IMPRESSIONS OF ITALY!

Extraordinary new acrylic canvasses by master artists Gerry Cloud and Jacqueline Guthrie. Collaborating together, the painters synthesize shimmering colors, atmospheric light, and the spirituality of the Italian aesthetic experience. Capri, Positano, the Amalfi Coast, Pompeii, Herculaneum, Naples and many other scenes of Italy are explored with intuitive expertise. Landscapes, seascapes, and architecturally significant locales are visually interpreted to arrive at exceptionally painterly statements. The magical result of this collaboration is a museum-quality series of work celebrating the Italian panorama.



"Island Off Capri" Acrylic on Canvas 24 x 18 inches 2006



"Positano Perspective" Acrylic on Canvas 24 x 36 inches 2006

Philly: Don't ask me how they do it, but Jackie Jo Guthrie and Gerry Cloud have teamed up to make wonderful art together. They had a show at the Qbix Gallery in Philadelphia all September. These black and whites don't do the pix justice, but through the wonders of the Web you can go to www.Qbix.com, select the artist, Jacqueline Guthrie, and voila! the pix in all their glory will come up. Gerry is a fine photographer and graphic artist; he and Jackie are working on publicity and brochures for Lew Dalvit's "Summer School for the Performing Arts" that he's led now for 20 years in New Brunswick. More on these in the future.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Expert

THOMAS SCHMIDT



Thomas Schmidt is the author of the *National Geographic Guide to the Lewis & Clark Trail* and co-

author of *The Saga of Lewis and Clark*, a book of essays about their journey across the continent. He has followed the expedition's route from the mouth of the Missouri to the mouth of the Columbia—paddling some portions, hiking others, and camping. Tom also has written extensively about the nature and history of the Rocky Mountain region in his book *The Rockies*.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Expert

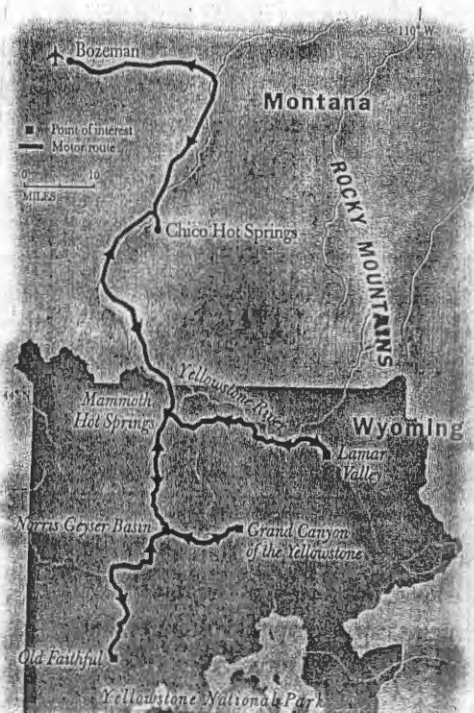
JEREMY SCHMIDT



Few people know Yellowstone country better than wildlife biologist Jeremy Schmidt. Jeremy has

spent more than 30 years in the area, working as a winter keeper, park ranger, naturalist, photographer, and author. His writing includes several books for National Geographic; also articles for NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC and NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER magazines. His four-season knowledge of Yellowstone will enrich your experience in this magnificent park.

Jeremy will accompany the December 26 departure.



Sail along the mighty Columbia and Snake Rivers for a view of the forested mountains, snow-covered volcanoes, and desert canyons first surveyed by Lewis and Clark. Our voyage follows the path of the Lewis and Clark expedition from Astoria, Oregon, to Clarkston, Washington, on board the expedition ship M.V. *Sea Bird*.



SCHMIDT TRAVEL: Not counting Jeremy's back-and-forths to Mongolia, Mama Jo and Tom spent ten days in Italy in September; in October, Papa Karl went with Tom on the Columbia River where Tom is the naturalist/historian/lecturer on a Lewis-and-Clark National Geographic tour (Tom's guiding trips may slow down once he becomes a full-time third grade teacher); and in December Jeremy is leading a National Geographic tour through the Yellowstone area.

HEALTH REPORTS

I don't know about all of you, BUT: Craig and Jackie both got pace-makers. **Craig** was more spectacular; in April he blacked out and got an ambulance ride. **Jackie** only thought she might, so she hightailed it to Vermont and between Dr. Sara Packard on the lake, and cardiologist Dr. Winget, had one put in July 6 in Burlington. At music camp **Damaris Jackson** broke two fingers, unfortunately on her finger, not her bow hand. They're healing slowly and take therapy. **Lew Dalvit** has had corrective surgery from his botched appendectomy in 2004, is doing okay. **Mig Schafer** came to Chicago last spring to visit relatives (including me) while her sight is still good enough--alas, she's suffering from macula. And **Barbara Dougan** is again fighting cancer: you are much in our prayers, Barbara.

Since the last issue, we grieve these loved people:

- Jane Walsh**, Boston, my close friend from Yale Divinity School days.
- Margaret Lem**, 79, Beloit, who took loving care of Chez Nous, and Dad up to his death. She saw to it that his and Mom's graves were always decorated, along with her husband Adam's.
- Pat Anderson**, 97, Beloit. Pat, newly widowed, came to help at Chez Nous in '49; it wasn't long before Dad offered her the Big House. She stayed 20 years and tended the hired men with tender care, especially those from Scandinavia; two new ones came every six months. She always said it was a great place to raise her children. After a few years she married Ralph Anderson, one of the trusted farm workers. It was a happy union. I was amazed to discover from the obit that she had 13 grands, 22 great-grands, 8 gr-gr-grands & 1 gr-gr-gr grand, plus numerous step grands!
- Lois Westlund**, Milton, Wisconsin, wife of choir director/Milton College professor Bernie Westlund, mother of Martha Gammons, and the dearest of souls.
- Nicky Harmon**, Rochester, N.Y., another rare person, whom I've cherished since living in Cambridge in 1955-56. The Harmon daughters used to visit our three in New Haven, and we have great photos of shared bubble-baths, and seven little girls asleep.
- Jo Saner**, 94, Springfield, who for many years generously gave her presence and house on Lake Springfield to my writing classes, making every Monday a party; she also quietly gave money to some of my students to go to conferences; and for one, paid all his expenses so that he could leave his job to student teach.
- Anna May Smith**, 91, retired from SSU, a gutsy fireball who inspired all us women on the SSU faculty as she limped her cheerful, determined way towards feminist goals, mowing down administration bureaucracy and everything else that stood in her way, while we trailed behind, learning and cheering.
- I didn't know cousin **Chuck Kirk** the way I've known his sisters, Polly and Dorothy, but he died this spring. I also didn't know Paul Martin well, but Jo was in my Beloit High class, and a good friend, as is Alice Davis, who also lost her partner this year.
- and a beloved dog, **Coco**: Ed and Gillian's faithful friend of many years died peacefully in their arms, and is so missed.

NEWS NUGGETS

Spfld. My house was broken into twice this summer; the security system, installed after the break-in two years ago, scared the intruder(s) away. Both times the kitchen door was kicked in. I now have a steel door, outside sensor lighting, and have cleared my yard of tons of foliage. My "isolated" house is now more visible and presumably less attractive to intruders.

Oregon: In Spfld Jackie is working with Mitch Hopper to archive loads of farm materials, 25 years of radio shows, other things, AND the family 8mm movies from the 40s and 50s which Craig has sent from his home. These will be culled (Craig loved zoos), indexed, and made available you as DVDs. Watch Ron Dougan catch a fish with his bare hands! The cullings will go on a separate DVD so Craig can still watch his elephants, giraffes, and seething alligator pits at his leisure.

Alaska: Ed Ferranto is an engineering officer on the Kennicott, a ferry for the Alaska Marine Highway System, going from Bellingham, WA, up the s.e. panhandle, across the Gulf of Alaska, to the Kodiak Islands (s.w. part of the Aleutians.) Most of the villages along the way see the ferry twice a month, and depend on it for everything--athletic teams, school bus, mail, etc. Ed reports wildlife, waterfalls, native communities. Nasty weather on the whole but when the sun's out it's unbeatable. Eleven ships have to dovetail all schedules. He's going to keep on with this awhile, see what winter's like. "It's a fickle industry--we engineers change jobs at the drop of a hat. We're gypsies." More pluses: the pay's pretty good, and he gets home on a regular basis.

Lake Iroquois: Thanks go to Sara Packard, who rents a Dell camp, for reviving the tradition of poetry and cultural events such as when Chad and Eva were alive. Summer '05 we had one with music, recitations, writings. This summer we had several--snacks or meals on the Dell deck, with talents not limited to music and writing--the last meeting included dousing for the Dell cesspool. We used my workshop techniques a few times, such as everyone bringing a significant item of clothing and writing about it, or something symbolic of the lake. We've started small, Carol Dell, Sara Packard, Damaris Jackson, Katrin Fletcher, Irena Case, myself, some new folk from across the lake. Sara's mother and stepfather came both years; Sy shared his hissing cockroach story. These enriching experiences are a wonderful way to create community, give us the opportunity to know each other better.

Massachusetts: **Ashley Rose Violette** is here! September 26, 8 lbs, almost 22 inches! She and brother Andrew will have a very special nanny: Alan Pratt is retiring from high school teaching after this semester; his retirement job will be taking care of his grandchildren. "It's a chance I'll never have again!" Alan says. He'll stay overnight a couple nights a week, too. Lucky Violettes!

The Globe Is Warming. Why Aren't We Marching?

To the Editor:

Re "Glaciers Flow to Sea at a Faster Pace, Study Says" (news article, Feb. 17): The world we have known is history. A mere 1 degree Fahrenheit global average warming is already raising sea levels, strengthening hurricanes, disrupting ecosystems, threatening parks and protected areas, causing droughts and heat waves, melting the Arctic and glaciers everywhere and killing tens of thousands of people a year.

Yet there are several more degrees coming in our grandchildren's lifetimes.

It is easy to feel like a character in

a bad science fiction novel running down the street shouting "Don't you see it!" while life goes on, business as usual.

Climate change is the biggest thing to happen here on earth in thousands of years, with incalculable environmental, social and economic costs. But there is no march on Washington; students are not in the streets; consumers are not rejecting destructive lifestyles; Congress is not passing far-reaching legislation; the president is not on television explaining the threat to the country; Exxon is not quaking in its boots;

and entire segments of evening news pass without mention of the climate emergency.

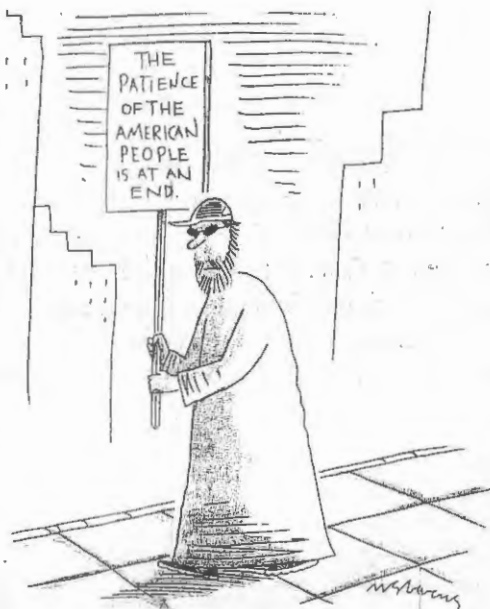
Instead, 129 new coal-fired power plants are being developed in the United States alone, and so on.

There are many of us caught in this story. We must find one another soon.

JAMES GUSTAVE SPETH
New Haven, Feb. 20, 2006

The writer, dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, was administrator of the United Nations Development Program, 1993-99.

doing all she can with money, voting, personal and group activity. Note the writer of this NYT letter. Nobody at our school is marching, about anything.



IF THERE ARE EVER FUTURE ENNL readers

I don't want it thought this editor was unaware of the dire state of our world, its environmental crises, this war and our insane and arrogant leaders, etc. Deeply concerned, and

ANDY, WE'RE PROUD OF YOU! Read about the District championship game; Andy-parts marked. He reports that at Sectionals in Monterey, he hit a homer in game one, which they lost; game two they won; he hit another homer in game three, but they lost and were out of the tournament. He was hailed as one of their most valuable players. Andy also went to Catalina Island with his Linscott class; **Megan** went along as parent helper. Other Ryans: **Mark** has started 9th Grade at Aptos High, big change from Linscott! but says, "I'm a natural there!" Then said don't put that in the newsletter, but I said I'm your grandma and I'll print it. He's on the staff of Whitestag Leadership Camp, working with younger kids, hopes to be a patrol leader. **Jay** is playing the trumpet; at Yosemite his class climbed Vernal Falls, lived in tent cabins. All three are Boy Scouts; **Michael** is working with them on their Aviation Badges. **Michael and Megan** have bought a maintenance hangar; Michael hires mechanics to repair planes. Last January all three boys visited **Gillian and Eddy** at Tahoe, and skied. **Gillian** this fall is active in the Weston Price Nutrition Group which promotes traditional foods: raw milk, butter, eggs, organ meats, etc. Google Weston Price for more.

LITTLE LEAGUE DISTRICT 39 11-12 ALL-STARS



Richard Muñoz/Register-Pajaronian

Watsonville American second baseman **Andy Ryan** (left) and Aptos' **Cort Peterson** look to the umpire for the call after Peterson slid safely into second base with a double during the third inning on Tuesday at Vine Hill School in Scotts Valley.

After all the dust settles, it's Watsonville American

Emerging star Mendoza wins pitching battle against Aptos' Koenig

By **RICHARD MUÑOZ**
and **MIKE OXENDINE**
FOR THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

SCOTTS VALLEY — After 20 years, the wait was finally over: The championship banner was headed to Pinto Lake.

Albert Mendoza pitched a shut-out and Luke Miller doubled to drive in the game's only run, leading Watsonville American to a 1-0 victory over Aptos in the final of the Little League District 39 11-12 All-Stars tournament on Tuesday at Vine Hill School.

The same group of All-Stars from Watsonville American was

eliminated last year in the championship round by Aptos, which has seen its fair share of District 39 glory in recent years.

"Everybody kept talking about beating them because of last year," said Watsonville American second baseman Andy Ryan, who turned in three sparkling defensive plays to help preserve Mendoza's shut-out. "They always beat us when we get this far. After a while, you get tired of being thrown down. But not this year."

Not with a team that allowed just two runs in five games — the other run coming last week in a

hard-fought 2-1 win over Aptos.

"Two very well matched teams — it was just meant to be this year," Aptos manager Cort Peterson said. "We played two back-to-back games, you know it's everyone that came out. Pitching was there and played great, it's just turns out sometimes."

Jared Koenig provided strong pitching this time. He matched Mendoza just three hits and strikes including all three batters in the fourth inning, a

up only one walk — one fewer than

Wednesday, July 19, 2006 — 139th

Andy on front page!

All American

Watsonville American defeats Aptos to win the Little League District 39 11-12 All-Stars tournament.

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STOP PRESS! Just before ENNL went to press, Illinois Times printed this article. Pardon so much on Orchestra Mice!

Of mice and maestros

Springfield author's children's story makes its U.S. stage debut in Tennessee

By MARISSA MONSON

Originally published in 1970, the children's book *The Orchestra Mice* had been out of print for decades when its author, Springfield resident Jacqueline Jackson, got an unexpected phone call.

The woman on the other end of the line was Martha Hicks, an American teacher of wind instruments at an arts high school in Bielefeld, Germany. Hicks, who had been given the book during her studies at a conservatory in New York, kept *Mice* for 30 years and read it to her young son.

Hicks tracked down Jackson — a long-time professor of English at the University of Illinois at Springfield and contributor to *Illinois Times* — on the Internet in the hope of collaborating with her.

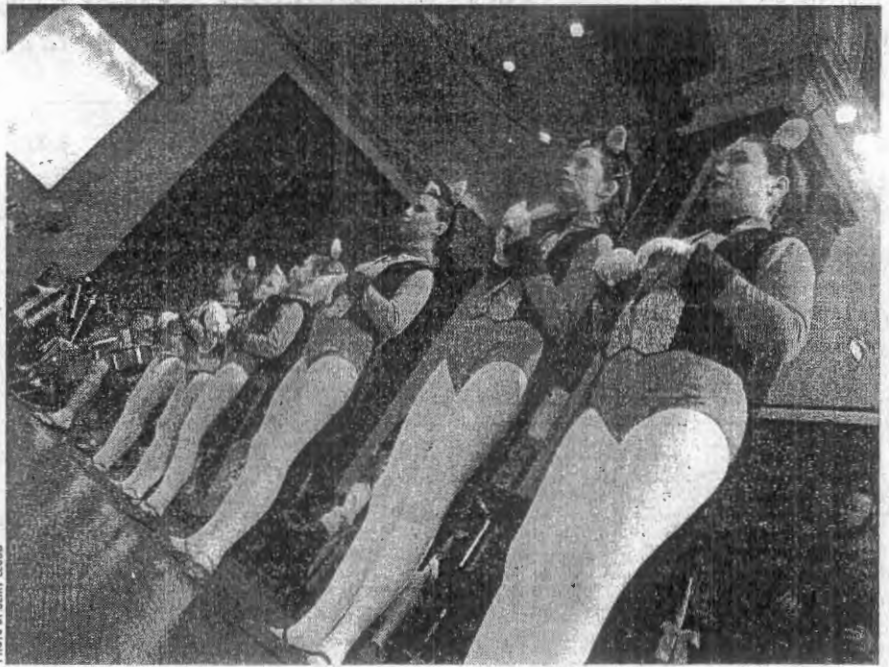
"She said she'd like to turn [*The Orchestra Mice*] into a musical and how would she go about getting permission," Jackson, 78, says.

"I said, 'I own the copyright — be my guest, and I'll go see it.'"

An orchestral production made a perfect match for the story of mice who find their way to an orchestra hall by way of a hole in the wall and spend their evenings listening to Beethoven, Brahms, and Bizet. Hicks wrote the score and translated the story into German.

The German performance debuted in November 2004 and sold out the auditorium for three of the four performances.

To Jackson's delight, there was interest in producing American version, but it came from an unexpected place: the Smoky Mountain region of Tennessee. On Sept. 8



Dancing mouselets caper through the East Tennessee Regional Symphony/City Youth Ballet production of *The Orchestra Mice*.

and 9, at Milligan College, located near Johnson City, the East Tennessee Regional Symphony and City Youth Ballet presented the American premiere of *The Orchestra Mice*, featuring Jackson as the narrator.

Buoyed by the strong response to the productions in Germany and Tennessee, Jackson says she hopes the Illinois Symphony Orchestra will consider presenting a Springfield performance.

The book chronicles the courtship and marriage of two mice, Sam and Clarissa, who live in the case of a string bass. The mice wake up to a litter of 12 mouselets, which they decide to raise musically, teaching them to harmonize and play instruments — a story similar to Jackson's own tuneful childhood spent playing the cello amongst her siblings. Jackson says she wrote the story long before it was published, inspired after reading what she considered a subpar mouse story while babysitting.

Jackson's strong, confident voice meets the demands of the narrator's job, but the retired professor admits that getting ready required more work than she expected. Jackson says she had what amounted to a three- or four-day voice tutorial with brother-in-law Lewis Dalvit, conductor of the East Tennessee Regional Symphony.

"He wanted me to slow down. He wanted me to lower my voice. I was used to reading to kids, where I would hit the main words," Jackson says. "He wanted every word to hit but the main words to hit most of all."

Jackson's familiarity with scores proved

useful during her duties as narrator; she was accustomed to reading one line at a time or following along while listening to a music performance. As narrator, Jackson needed to know when to come in.

"This has been a new experience for me — and a growing experience," Jackson says. "It showed me I still have things to learn. I may have white hair, I may be retired, but I still have a lot to learn, and I learned a whole lot both in watching the performance [in Germany] and pitching in with some ideas but in actually being part of the cast [in East Tennessee]."

The East Tennessee cast also featured dancers from the City Youth Ballet. Artistic director Susan Pace and assistant director Traci Honeycutt took on the task of choreographing movements for the 12 dancing mouselets and the lead dancers portraying Sam and Clarissa. The City Youth Ballet arranges plenty of original ballets, but the difficult choreography for *The Orchestra Mice* took about three months to complete.

"It was hard, one of the hardest ballets I've ever done. Some of the music was not made for dancing; we had to kind of make it that way," Pace says by telephone. "I had no choreography to go from because the Germany production was a play, more or less."

Once Jackson receives the DVD recordings of the performance in East Tennessee, she'll send some out to ballet companies and orchestras, including the ISO, hoping to see her family of mice onstage again.



Jackie Jackson rehearses *The Orchestra Mice* at Milligan College.



Andy (see p. 7) says we really shoud show the team, not just him. So here's a bunch of them, & Andy is full-face on the left. This → say it's not Andy, but I say it woud well be!

