

THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER

VOL IV NO 2 OCT-NOV '85

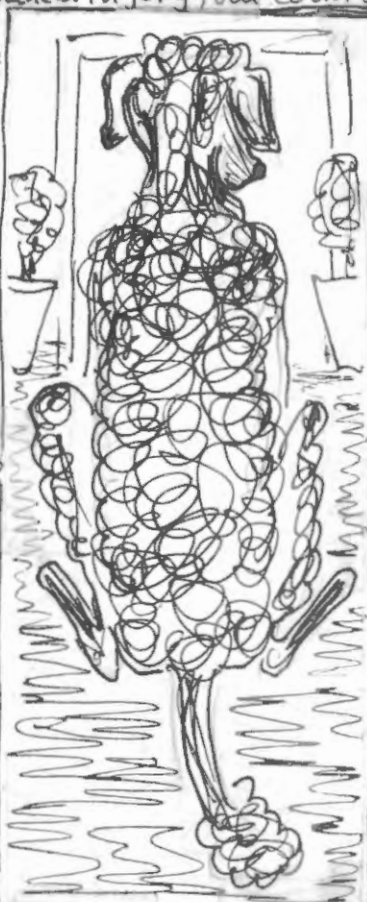
"And hark how clear bold chanticleer, warmed with the new wine of the year, tells all in his lusty crowing!" -- J.R. Lowell "Vision of Sir Launfal"



CHARLIE ATTENDS WEDDING

BUT COEUR D'OR TUMBLES R.A.D.; BANISHED TO CAR

Madison, Wis. Charlie Schmidt, large black poodle of Joane Karl Schmidt, was a model guest Oct. 5 in the Schmidt living room, where Wendy Baybr and Jeremy Schmidt exchanged vows. Cousin Cover d'Or, however, when taken from the car after the trip from Beloit, got her leash tangled with Ronald Dougan (grandfather of the groom)'s feet and sent him head-over-heels into the gutter. RAD sustained no permanent injury, but Cover did penance in the car, thus missing the ceremony. "It was very brief," reports Charlie, who stood directly at the feet of the bride & groom throughout, "but very nice." Family members were present, including Tom S. from Rochester; Dan, Julie, Karl Andrew & Sarah S. from Mpls.; Katie, Dick, Sonja, Joshua & Benjamin Y. from Green Bay; Peter S. & friend Pamela from Wash. D.C.; Wendy's mother, brother, sister & brother-in-law from Eau Claire; Jo & Karl S., of course; RAD & VWD from Beloit, and the ENNL Ed. from Springfield, IL, who had threatened, if not invited, to come as the Press, & write innuendos. Jeremy assumed her she was a guest in her own right. Judge Richard Bardwell officiated. The bride & groom, in jeans & untucked shirts till near the start of the ceremony, vanished & reappeared with Wendy beautiful in a soft grey wool suit w/ silk blouse & fluffy tie, small flowers in her hair, & a lapel corsage. Jer-Jer looked great in a blue-grey tweed coat & grey slacks. ^{A GREAT} EVENT!



AP Photo: Major View at Baylor-Schmidt Nuptials

NICE WEDDING TRADITION!

Madison, Wis. At Wendy & Jeremy's wedding celebration, there was a camera that rumbles & then regurgitates the picture. Everyone there had to take a picture of some scene of the festivities, mount it in a special photo book, and write a caption. Hilarious were the snaps and the commentaries. Try this at your next wedding! (or "event")

CHIP OFF THE OL' BLOCK

Madison Pardon me, that's the "late middle aged block." (See Vol. IV #1) Katie Yde, daughter of Jo Schmidt, made the cake: a heavenly confection called a "framboise," or maybe that's the raspberry liqueur that permeated it, & the cake part is called "genoise." Anyway, it was a butter/cream/raspberry cake with an almond paste layer & a raspberry layer, & the frosting was framboise buttercream/raspberries, & it looked as marvelous as it tasted: Katie's a pro at cake decorating, & in addition there were fresh flowers on top - small winter reddish lilies that matched Wendy's, YUM! (P.S. Jo cooked a great wedding dinner.)

FLASH: ELLIE JACKSON TURNED 21 NOV. 6!

"WHAT ELSE DOES A BEAR DO IN THE WOODS?" asks Uncle Craig, & answers, "Plays the cello!" See p. 6 for report on CELLO - BEAR CARDS by Megan J.

DAMARIS & GRANDMA DECLAIM

Beloit, WI. Damaris Jackson, Mpls., recently took a week off from making quilts & futons, in order to spend some time with her grand parents VWD & RAD. While there she helped Gump shop & cook, and she & Grandma memorized a huge swath of Lowell's "And what is so rare as a day in June?" and other poems. Demi also visited Jim & Martha Gammons & sons, in Jamesville, & Talie & Tau & twin red heads (sons) in the house (store) they're fixing up in Beloit.

RELUCTANT HONOREE

Beloit College. NO WAY was Ronald Dougan going to go to his 60th College Reunion dinner, he was absolutely adamant. He didn't know anybody, didn't want to leave Mom -- Jackie urged him, said she'd go with him -- no avail. Mom finally had to tell him that he was going to receive a citation at the Golden Hood Dinner, for all the good things he's done for Beloit C., Beloit, & larger community over the years. He then went grudgingly! Mimi Dalvit stayed with Mom. RAD had a good time, and received his honor graciously. You deserved it, Dad, and more!



[GROOM]



[BRIDE]



"The fact is, Leonard, I'm not your real father."

HOW YOU GET CHOSEN FOR FOOD COLUMN
Madison, Wi. You may be wondering how To Schmitz, that late-middle-ager in our last issue, got into the Wisconsin State Journal. She'd seen something in the Food's Column that interested her, called the Food Ed to see where she got French sorrel; Jo was having trouble growing it. It took the Ed. only a moment to realize she was talking to a pro--and asked if Jo'd like to be featured in one of the Sunday food columns. Jo said sure-- & you saw the results.

JOKE: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FARMER AND A PIGEON? ANSWER: A PIGEON CAN STILL MAKE A DEPOSIT ON A JOHN DEERE TRACTOR.

ROUND BARN GETS A BID!

Spf 16, IL. Now... is it THIS → a nice letter? Would you believe I haven't answered Jill Dean yet? (as of Dec. 8th.) (She understands about overwork.) ANYWAY- Northword may be IT. I do intend to send samples of R.B. to several places during Xmas break, tho-- see what Little Broomsticks-- they seem to have a new ed. who doesn't know me--and U. of W's Press, & N. Ill. Press. But I think Jill would be great to work with. My problem, of course, is TIME to get the book FINISHED. I've put in for a sabbatical again, didn't get one this year, which would've been ideal. If I don't get it, I may take a personal (unpaid, gasp!) leave next fall. This semester I've had 30 writing students, & next sem. the president is again refusing to put any lids on classes. It isn't fair! I'm contemplating refusing to teach writing, only lit. And then cut down the writing I require. However-- with Northword wanting Round Barn, our sabbatical committee may be impressed. But a lot of us are vying for 7 slots. (Sabbats. are never restful at SSU.)

OVERHEARD AT CHEZ NOUS: RAD urging VWD on, WVD nearly blind: "Just trust me!" VWD: "I do!" RAD: "I've known that sort of trust: if you push a cow, she pushes right back!"

IDEA FOR XMAS GIVING

Embossed w/ your loved one's name: Magnifying Glass for reading ENNL



Northword

Post Office Box 5634
 Madison, Wisconsin 53705

Jackie Jackson
 816 North Fifth Street
 Springfield, IL 62702

20 September 1985

Dear Jackie,

I am virtually certain my schedule is even worse than yours. Believe me, I appreciate your patience and diplomacy.

I love ROUND BARN and would love to publish it. I have been confronted with quite an unexpected problem, however--my marketing and distribution partner will be in California (of all places) for the next year. Her husband, a professor, is taking a leave of absence from the UW. In Wendy's absence, the routine packing and shipping and invoicing of orders is sure to fill my evening hours, so I am not taking on new projects right now as I simply will have no time for editing and production matters.

If you would like to try the BARN elsewhere, I'll bid it a fond and reluctant farewell. It surely must be published, and the sooner, the better. But if you don't get a taker soon, please get back in touch next fall. I really do think the book is neat and would thoroughly enjoy working on it and with you.

Should I drop it at Jo & Karl's? An excuse to stop would be nice. And is that wedding Tom's????

Best,
 Jill

(No, it was Jeremy's) see p. 1.



Pin-Lock Art Studio
24-218 STATE ST.
CHICAGO

CHRISTMAS BONUS FOR ENNL READERS

And that is this dear picture of Vera Arloine Wardner, age 5. (Wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandma, grandma-in-law, great-grandma, aunt, gr. aunt, cousin, or [and] friend, in relationship to each ENNL reader. (Did I miss any?) This photo vanished for awhile, at Chez Nous, which made us all realize how much we treasure it. If ENNL Ed. gets a negative made, would any of you like copies? Price will be listed in next ENNL. This publication plans also to soon print a charmer of Ronald Arthur Dougan, with perhaps dog & calf.

REPORT ON GRANDMA'S HEALTH

Beloit (As of Dec. 7.) Still not-so-hot, but VWP is holding her own: quite a lot of pain, but usually some good parts to every day, & some days are pretty good! Grandpa is scrupulous with medicines & prepares meals, reads aloud, etc., & To gets down when she can (cooks goodies!) and Jackie gets up when she can, bringing that bundle of cheer, Muffie (Fleur) to visit her cousin Cover, & to sit on Grandma's feet. Continue yr. calls & letters, Grandma loves them!

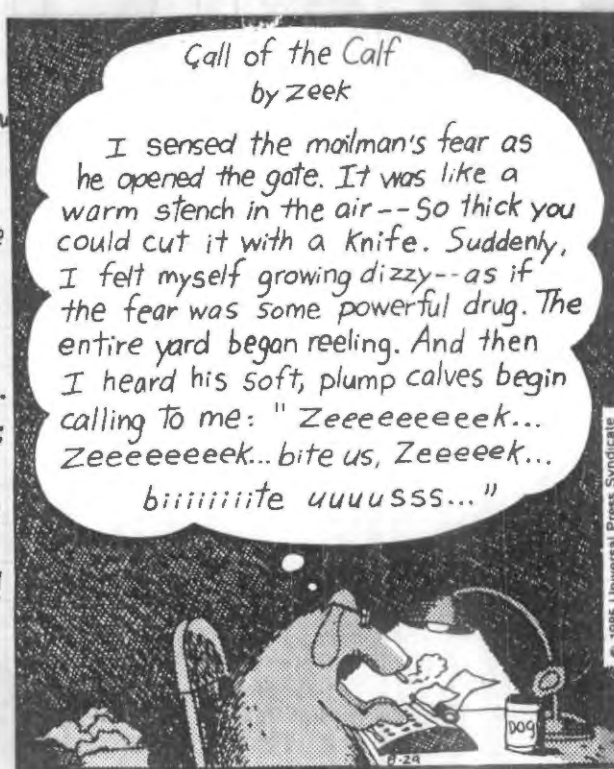
REPORT ON ENNL & ENNL EDITOR

Spfld, IL I guess it's a good thing I'm too busy to get out this publication as often as I'd like (it's my recreation!) -- I never have time to sit around & pine. This issue should've come out abt Nov. 20, & you've sent in SO MUCH NEWS & LETTERS! which hasn't gotten in -- but more next time, whenever that is. Re Subscriptions: ENNL is FREE, published sporadically, but contributions willingly accepted. A really LARGE contribution will go for a word processor. ENNL PHILOSOPHY, as expressed recently by Ron Dougan, "It makes the cheese more binding."

SEES SUN DOGS

Between O'Hare & Beloit

On June 19, '85, returning from England, the ENNL Ed saw the first "sun dogs" of her entire 57 years. "Sun dogs" are two "spots" of rainbow (not arcs) on a level w/ the sun, abt 15° to either side, and abt 15° above the western (or Eastern) horizon. These sun dogs just sat there, on bits of cloud wisps in an otherwise clear blue sky, and finally faded. A remarkable sight! An astronomer-friend explains them as refraction from moisture below the horizon, plus more complicated reasons. JJ expects to see Halley's comet soon, & after that all she is missing with the unaided eye (she thinks) is will o' the wisp, St. Elmo's fire, ball lightning, and that phenomenon when the whole world turns GREEN.



Creative dog writing

Overheard at Chez Nas: RAD: "You wouldn't think that Coverd or would like tea bags, would you?" JJ: "You didn't give Cover my TEA BAG, did you?" RAD: "I took off the string."

NEWS BRIEFS

Lincoln, IL: Was Gerardo's baby's birth, Alejandro, recorded in ENNL? Vivian's too, of course. In June! He's very cute. Gerardo's the one who's been working at Gateway across the street, & bunked here nights he had to work late. We owe to Gerardo the spotting of the Peeping Tom.

Beloit, WI: Eloise Schwaetter, found a puff ball as big as a basket ball, & RAD, ENNL Ed, Ellie & others feasted on slabs big as beef steaks. Unrivaled, however, is the fall of '70, when Dad & Eloise found one as large as a hassock!

Madison, WI: Jo Dougan Schmidt, at the ripe age of 60, has developed ASTHMA! "It could not happen to a better set of lungs," JDS reports, "since I test out at 125% of capacity for age, height & weight." She has what's known as "twitky" bronchial tubes, and it's not to worry. The doctor is working on allergies, & Charlie is glad he's been eliminated.

Seattle: Rita Bresnahan has received her first publishing news! She's one of 17 contributors to a collection of "faith journeys of women scholars of religion," titled A Time to Weep & a Time to Sing, Winston Press, Mpls., ed Marge Jo Meadow. Congratulations, Rita!

Peterborough, N.H.: Megan Jackson is in this city, living w/ god mother Carol Dell for awhile. Megan's (and Carol's) address is: 5 Old Jaffrey Rd., Peterborough, N.H. 03458.

Beloit, WI: Ronald Dougan says that he likes Brazil nuts.

Mpls.: Suzie Hudge has gone back to school and is enjoying it. She's recently replaced her well-travelled car w/ a new Toyota, which roomie Dawaris Jackson drove to Beloit to visit Gram & Grandpa.

TAKE EXTREME MEASURES

Jackson, Miss.: Pat & Lewis Dalvit, charter members of the Anti-Social Society, have taken extreme measures against encroaching civilization, a mall built very near their rural property. They have moved their entire house, and two large magnolia trees from one end of their lot (near the mall) to the other. The move is recorded for posterity on video. Especially awesome is the dissembling & reassembling of the large brick fire place & chimney. The move itself was so gentle that eggs on the windowsills (don't you keep eggs on your windowsills?) did not roll off & break. The tree-mover surrounded the trunk like a post-hole digger (or an apple corer), punched out the root-cylinder, laid the tree over its shoulder, carried it to its new hole, stood it up in it, tamped the edges, and it was a perfect fit. Voila! Instant shade! And view-blocker.

SHAMROCK SURVIVES SHOCK

Spfld.: Sometimes amidst the gloom there comes a heart warming story. Last spring, whilst Megan & JJ were a month in England, house sitter Carrie Levin watered all plants but Megan's Shamrock, a tiny-leaved, dainty flowered plant, unfortunately unnoticed behind the coffee maker on the counter. When JJ returned in June, it was a green-dead threat hanging over the edge of the pot... ALL BUT A PALE FLUSH OF GREEN on one protruding

root-bulge. Jackie started watering, & instructed Ellie to keep it by the sink and feed it tenderly, daily, & maybe it'd survive. On JJ's return from VT. in August she entered the kitchen & cried "Good God!" -- a prayer. For there was the shamrock, no longer dainty, but HUGE -- leaves and flowers TEN TIMES what they'd been before -- and healthy. It had somehow mutated from the shock. "Begorra!" said the shamrock in an exclusive ENNL interview. "I thought I'd had it. But it must be the luck of the Irish." However, it cannot account for the size.

HI, SWEETS! WANTA RIDE OVER TO THE BAIT SHOP AN' WATCH THE NIGHTCRAWLERS WIGGLE?



LEISURE.....

Response is rolling in on our poll of ENNL readers' leisure time activities, to help out Tom Schmidt in his Leisure Editor job. The ENNL Ed. likes to go through Ronald Dougan's Republican mail, confiscating the 22¢ stamps on the contribution-return envelopes. Pat Dougan Dalvit states, "Picking lint off people. Due to my astigmatism, I can only see to pick off vertical lint, however." Cousin Bobbie Carr Smith writes, "Tell Tom that for real excitement he should try balancing my checkbook & reconciling my bank statement. That will get the ol' adrenaline flowing in short order. For a math professor's daughter I take after my mother. She taught History & English." More on Bobbie Smith's leisure, & YOUR KICKS, in next issue. Write in!!!

MORE NEWS BRIEFS

Reno, Nv. Guess who's pulling A's in Biology, Chemistry, and an Ag class abt controlling creepie crawlies things, and is more than squeaking by in Poly Sci? !!!

Bebit About that nice picture of VWD at age 5: She says, "I so well remember that day, taken to town to have my picture taken. The white blouse was called a "gamp" and the flowered dress was my best one, of cashmere."

Mayfield Village, O. Family personal-nutritionist Stephanie McPhillips has begun her Ph.D. work at Union Conrad School - a U. w/o walls. At the opening conference in Massachusetts, she wowed 'em - JDJ learned by the Academic grapevine.

Greenham Common, England JDJ's come & gove, it was a significant time, & more in the next issue. She hasn't yet reported on last May-June's trip to England, with Megan.



Sep 1d, IL. Cello-Bear cards are a HOT ITEM! We've sold 1,000 without really trying, & are all out except dark blue. JDJ is planning a 3rd printing, of gold, & spring green. They make nice note cards, too, so order even beyond Christmas. Megan Jackson is the artist, and we've had orders as far flung as Arizona, Green Bay, Atlanta, & England!



CHALLENGE CONTEST

ENNL readers are invited to send in photos of themselves, or other ENNL readers, to challenge Uncle Lewie's "MOST-PHOTOGENIC-MEMBER-OF-THE-CLAN" crown. The winner COULD BE YOU! (The judge, Lewis Dalvit, says that his decisions will be final.)

Germany When last heard from, Polly & Sam Mersky were tootling around the Black Forest area, on the 1st European trip, and soon to go to Paris & Madrid. Send up adventures!

ONE-TWO-SIX

Jo, Pat, Craig, VWD & RAD all independently and correctly identified that number as Aunt's Ida & Lillian's phone number when we were kids. Next question is to Jo & Pat: what's 3 1/3 after 5?

HERE IT IS, FOLKS! WHAT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! THE THIRD ANNUAL CAN-YOU-CAPTION-THIS PICTURE-OF-UNCLE-LEWIE CONTEST!!! To stimulate new creative juices, he's not in his familiar tie & tails garb, this year, & chalk has replaced his baton. (He's wearing his Belhaven professor hat.)

Rules: Any no. of captions may be submitted. Captions winning in the Vulgar Division will be translated into Greek for publication in this family newsletter. We look forward to hearing from Craig, Sam, Bobbie, and Pat Dalvit, for starters! (RAD?)



QUITS JOB

Chicago Not Lewie, folks, but Grandma back when she was a Micolodean pianist, as

a young woman. Her stint was very brief, less than a week. She hated it - "You had to keep playing constantly, and had to watch the movie, and when it sped up and got exciting, to watch the pace & excitement of the music to the film. Same with slow & dreamy & romantic parts. It was NO fun."

CRESSIE CORNER

Reno, Nv. On Raising a Non-Sexist Child: (overheard) Cressie reciting Humpty Dumpty: "All the King's men and all the King's women..." (Gill to ENNLed: "I guess I'm doing something right!") Grandma Jackie was in Reno in Oct., & heard Cressie sing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." She carries a tune accurately (3/4), rhythm is perfect, & really belts out, "Bring me some peanuts an' crack-er-JACK!" We have it on tape; if you're lucky it'll be in your stocking.

YES, VIRGINIA, there MIGHT be a December issue. (IF NOT, HAPPY HOLS!)



"The one on the left is her personal nutritionist."

SSU NEWS October 2, 1983

Jackson's story dips into anti-nuclear activism

by Bob Tita

Gran, which is short for Granny, lives outdoors regardless of the weather. It would be nice to live in a tent, but the muncher would just take it, so plastic will have to suffice. Gran's job is rather boring at times, but she feels that the future of the world depends on it.

Gran is a character in the fictional story, "Granny Lives at Greenham." The story was written by Jacqueline Jackson, an SSU literature professor. While vacationing in Britain during the summer, Jackson visited with nuclear disarmament demonstrators outside the Royal Air Force/U.S. Air Force base at Greenham Common. Cruise nuclear missiles are housed at the base.

The demonstrators, all of whom are women, have maintained a constant vigil outside the base for more than four years. Jackson said the women are driven from the area by British police on an almost daily basis. The demonstrator's makeshift camps are demolished by the police. Most of their belongings are thrown into a garbage van, which is called a muncher. Sometimes the women are arrested.

As soon as the police leave, the women begin to filter back to the area outside fences and rebuild the camps.

"It's kind of a grim game that sometimes erupts in violence," Jackson said. "Granny Lives at Greenham," tells of a young girl

named Betsy who visits her grandmother at Greenham.

The story was written for children and attempts to explain the importance of the disarmament movement and the need for preserving the world.

"I think kids are deeply disturbed and frightened by nuclear war," said Jackson, who also has written 10 other children's books.

She believes the story provides children with hope for the future, unlike the Dr. Seuss book, "Butter Battle," which Jackson said offers children a pessimistic outlook for the future of the world.

"This book is my first step into activism. It seems to me an appropriate step."

"When I got to Greenham, the story jumped at me. I realized that it was counter to the Dr. Seuss book because it gives hope. There is something you can do if everybody works for peace that's a force the world can't resist," she said.

The controversy surrounding nuclear disarmament has caused some publishing companies to refuse to print Jackson's story. "My publisher told me that he can't use it on account of the subject," Jackson said.

"I've never been one to believe

that a story can't say anything. I've always felt that a story has a right to say something. The best stories are the ones with deep meanings."

Jackson is confident that the book will be published. Her daughter Megan did illustrations for the story.

"I think it (the story) might be used by churches and by parents who want to show that here is something that can be done," she said.

Jackson said the story represents her contribution to the anti-nuclear movement.

"This book is my first step into activism. It seems to me an appropriate step because I'm using my expertise and talents," she said.

Jackson said the women at Greenham Common come from several different countries and represent a variety of social and educational backgrounds.

"There were older women, but most were in their 20s and 30s," she said. The characters in the story are a composite of people who she met at the camps.

According to Jackson, the women have not invited men to join them at Greenham because they fear that men would organize a hierarchy and leadership within the camps.

She says she has tremendous admiration for the "grit" displayed by the women.

Jackson feels the disarmament



Jackie Jackson (You only start to see the mess) Photo by Darrell Dorn

(Yes I know it's a busy picture) (Shows my FEET which have always been perfect!) movement is not as strong in the United States as it is in Europe

because Europeans realize they can not escape a nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union.

"I think a lot of us still have the feeling that it can't happen here," she said.

"Why are you here, Gran? What good does it do?" Betsy asks her grandmother in the story.

"Maybe this isn't the best way to work for peace, out here in the cold, but who knows the best way?" Gran tells Betsy. "All I know is, it's the only way with hope, the only way to have power over fear I've had to act, to give my life trying to save what I care about."

JACKSON OFF TO GREENHAM NOV 21-DEC 1

Spfld, IL The above article doesn't garble things too much. I read the story to my writing class, and one told a reporter. Any way, the book is not quite finished. I need to return to Greenham & really stay there at least a short while, to be sure I've got it right. But more important, to earn the right to write such a book. So, perhaps with help from a grant from the IL Arts Council and with polypropylene underwear & a gortex bivvy sack for my sleeping bag (thanks to Ter-Ter for his expertise on rugged camping) I'm off to rough it around the campfires of Greenham. An exclusive report in ENNL when I return! I'll also go to Dorset (ENNL correspondents Jessie & Hugh Perkins) to see them & bring back photos of dog Dummie, for Megan's illustrations of Torti (first published in ENNL). I was about to try out my gear in a rainy November backyard overnight, but Ellie said, "Never the phase," Don't get sick before you go, Mom! Some things you don't need to practice!"

PLANTS TOMATO ON GR'PA

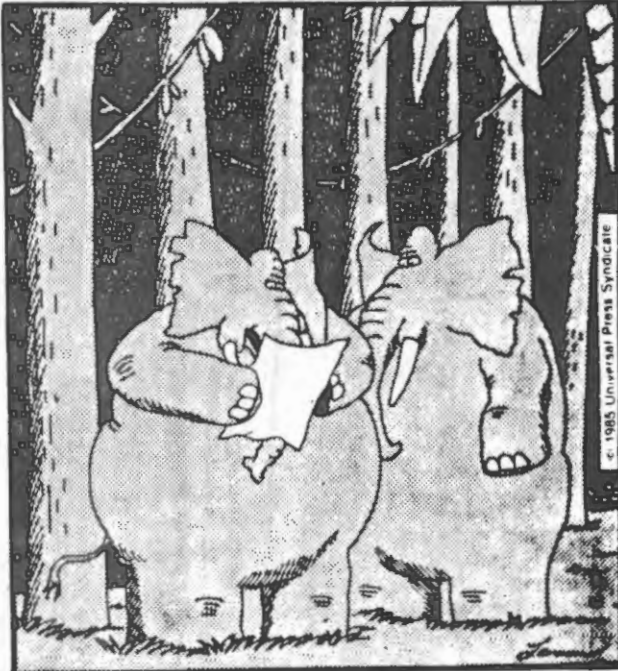
Beloit, WI It was quite a few years ago, but time means nothing to the readers of ENNL. There is a large cement planter at the foot of W.J. Dougan's grave in the ancestor's corner in the cemetery at the end of Colley Rd., & one year R.A. planted a tomato in it. It grew luxuriantly, lots of yellow blossoms, & RA checked on it occasionally; just as it was coming up to lots of tomatoes, the cemetery people destroyed it as inappropriate. "My father thought it was entirely appropriate!" said R.A.

BARGAIN! \$250 BUYS SPACE

Beloit, WI. Well, R.A. has finally given up on buying that angel-columned Mausoleum he's fancied for so long, and arranged with the cemetery officials to buy 6 more plots, at \$250 each, just to the east of the ancestor's corner. Due to the crowding in that corner I'd figured on cremation, and then my urn lowered out of W.J. Dougan (I'm sure Grandpa would mind) with pinches of ashes first flung to the breezes over 1) Chez Nous (back pasture) 2) Lake Iroquois 3) Dunduff in Dorset. But now it looks like I can stretch out, in the vicinity of W.J. & Eunice, Nona, Lillian, Delcyetta, etc. If any of you readers are interested in reserving space in this special spot, let R.A. know. I think he's contributing, not charging.

BEARS SON AT FORTY-SIX

Ft. Atkinson area, Wis. She probably wouldn't have, if she'd had access to birth control, & then where would a lot of us be? Delcyetta, wife of Arthur Dougan, was born, according to her tombstone - in 1822, making her 46! when W.J. Dougan was born.



"According to the map, this should be the place—but it sure don't look right to me. ... Well, we're supposed to die around here somewhere."