

THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VIII, NO 2, OCT 23, '89

"I heard a bird at break of day
Sing from the autumn trees
A song so mystical and calm,
So full of certainties..."—William Alexander Percy

WATCHES MOUSEHOLES

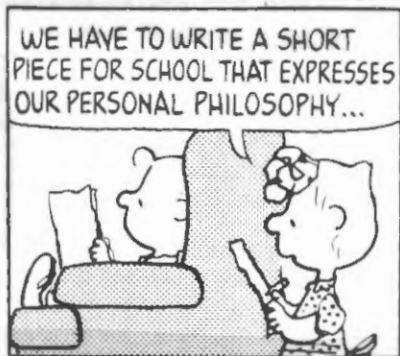
"IF YOU CAN'T LICK 'EM, JOIN 'EM," SAYS RAD. "NOT THAT I'D WANT TO LICK 'EM!"



Beloit, Wis Ellie Jackson has moved in with her grandfather at Chez Nous. She's going to Beloit College & getting her Master of Arts in Teaching; one of her instructors is Roxie Alexander, long time family friend & ENNL reader. Weekends Ellie commutes to Chicago, where she is still holding her job! It's a rugged schedule, but it's working out well for both R.A.D. and Ellie. (Unexpected to Grandpa) additions to the household have been Ellie's two large handsome long haired black & white cats, Bonnie and Clyde. The cats revel in all the space, & can travel the length of the living room without putting paw to carpet. Mrs. Lem spoils them. They spend hours lying atop the easy chairs watching the bird feeder. They did relish going outdoors, till the barn cats treed Bonnie for two days, and bit a hunk out of her shoulder so that she had to have antibiotics. Now they're indoor cats. One of their pleasures is watching mouseholes. When Grandpa finds them crouched in front of one he draws up a chair and joins the vigil. "It's a welcome change from TV, and a sport the three of us can enjoy together," he says. "While Ellie's at school, evenings, we often watch for hours." However, Ellie has noticed that when Grandpa goes into a room, the cats usually go out. She suspects him of being too free with his cane for their liking.

EMPTY NEST STARTS 8th YEAR! Spfld. With the special Earthquake Edition, The Empty Nest Newsletter starts its 8th year of publication. The Ed. thanks you all for your letters & telegrams of congratulation. However, if there is anyone on the mailing list who does not look forward to each issue, who does not devour every word, and who wearily consigns the Empty Nest to the waste basket, the Editor would like to know, and with no hard feelings will remove that name from the list. Printing and postage come to a fair amount each issue, and every publication ought to trim its list once in awhile. Since many of you never asked to receive ENNL in the first place, here is your chance to halt it. Suggested sample letters: "Dear Editor, I can't read your printing without a magnifying glass, and also your humor is crude. Please discontinue my subscription." Or, "Dear Editor, I don't want to go on reading a newspaper whose editor is a Democrat, and whose hero is Steven Jay Gould." Or, fashion your own letter. Better yet, keep on the list and SEND ME NEWS TO PRINT, so that you will help fashion the contents of this publication -- like EA Campaigna does, and the Merskys, & others.

The Empty Nest Newsletter is published sporadically at the whim of the Editor (and when she finds time.) Send news & advertising to her at 86 N. 5th, Spfld, IL 62702, or phone 217-528-0945.



SUMMER NEWS: WE FINALLY MET PAUL!

Lake Iroquois Yes--at long last! Finally! We thought he must be fiction. But NO, he lives and breathes! Does he measure up to all the hype? OF COURSE! He stayed at the Lake several days, and one evening we were lucky to eat dinner at Rockhaven when Paul and Alison were the cooks:

PAUL & ALISON'S CHICKEN BREASTS

1. Sauté breasts.
2. Add generous amt of white wine
3. Simmer covered for 12 minutes
4. At 6 minutes, add LOTS of mushrooms.
5. Season w/ lemon pepper, serve w/ rice.

Simple AND Delicious!

New Brunswick Ron Dougan, Paul Campagna, & Mimi Dalvit flew out to Pat & Hewie's for the regular summer visit. Jackie Jo, Annie, & David Myung Woo Gutliere were there too. The hosts were busy with the St. Andrews summer music festival, which is a success & growing!

NYC Caitlin McGuire is back at Barnard for her Senior year after a yr. at Oxford & summer at Salzburg.

PHYSICAL SPASTICS CLIMB CAMELS HUMP -- UP AND DOWN IN FIVE HOURS!

Camels Hump. That's Alison's headline, not mine! Sarah, Christina, & Giuseppe Parente and Alison Walsh accomplished this feat. (Irena Case, now, runs up & down a mountain 2 times a week! she alternates Camels Hump & Mt Abraham.

NYC. John, and Megan McGuire are to be married next summer. He is finishing his PhD in History at Columbia. On their way to Vt. this July they stopped at Albany to sleep in Demie McGuire's apartment, where they'd never been before. They called Demie to check something and Megan said, "But Mom, why do you have Elton John posters on your walls?" They were in the living apartment. They tiptoed out past the sleeping occupant, leaving a long distance call on his phone bill.

NYC. Marcus McGuire has finished an Environmental Studies program at Albany & plans further study in environmental work.

CHARLES & LESLIE WED Wellesley, Mass. Lee Hiller's oldest son, Charles Lowenstein, and Leslie Sween, were married in July on the lawn of the John Lowenstein residence. It was a beautiful ceremony. The ENNL Ed sat with Lee's sisters Judy, Cookie & Neppie, & cousins Mark & Deena Luccoff. Mark Lowenstein, brother of the groom, sang spectacularly with the band at the reception. There followed, for some of us, an all night party at Cookie Hiller's, starting with swimming and ending with everyone sacked out on the floor. A SUPER TIME! Thanks, Charlie & Leslie!

HOT DOGS FOR 7th

Lake Iroquois Cressida Broten celebrated her 7th birthday with a large hot dog roast for 25 lake denizens of all ages, followed by swimming. Cress has made great strides in her swimming, paddling, reading, art work. She had goddaughter time this summer with Alison Walsh.



England, Spain Melanie Hamblin is off late summer to these places, first to bum, then take a job. She finished Santa Cruz with a major in Poly Sci. Lake I. A pleasure for ENNL Ed this summer was learning to row an ocean shell - or beginning to.

S.F. Charcoal Tyrone Walsh, large temperamental feline of Alison W. suffered benign neglect this summer. Had throat abscess & infected teeth but not the jaw cancer originally feared. Alison says that the cost of the cure was close to the limit of the value of Charcoal's life.

Madison WI Giuseppe Parente is a Sr. at the University, majoring in Poly Sci. This summer he toured N. England, including Lake Iroquois.

Belbit WI Christina Parente is a Jr. at Belbit High, is one of the managing editors of the Tucrescent, & is working at Belbit Public Library.

Seattle Chad Hamblin has left Vancouver and is in Japanese Studies at U. of Wash.

Lake Iroquois Erin Hamblin did a lovely painting this summer, impressionistic, of two sailboats.

Pennsylv. Erzell Kullberg celebrated her 80th birthday with Demie, Don, Megan & John coming down. Erzell was at the Lake late summer.

Duke University Heather Dell has been accepted for PhD work in Anthropology, & has a full scholarship. Her masters thesis is being published as a book.

University of Virginia Sara Dell has returned to the U. of Va. & is working on finishing her Masters in Anthro.

Voglis. Chad Dell is here in Communications, & has been funded for his Ph.D. He is working at PBS-TV, a technical director for a newscast. He's also teaching a course in television camera.

El Paso Joining Joshua & Irene Marie in August was Matthew James, son of Ocsama Case Quijas and Sammy Quijas. Irena Case went out there. All are doing fine.

CHAD HOME AT LAKE & CONDO

Vermont Our beloved Chad Walsh landed in the hospital early summer with pneumonia, and went from there to a v. nice nursing home. He came back to the Lake mid August, in time to enjoy many visits, and now he and Eva are back at the condo. A home care person comes in 3x a week, & Chad goes to a day care facility 2 days. They exercise, play word games, etc. Chad says it's rather enjoyable "1/3 of the people are congenial, which is about par for any group." Eva plus time out of house for herself & has people in for dinner once a week.



WE HAVE HAD SOME DEATHS SINCE THE SPRING ISSUE...

Louise -- (Vermont) **Lizzie** -- (Santa Cruz) **Cookie** -- (Boston, Milwaukee)

Louise King died in June, after a brief illness. Many ENNL readers knew her indomitable spirit, in spite of diminutive size and some physical problems. Things were always more cheerful with her around. We are missing her. ENNL Ed visited Don in July; he's continuing to live in the house near Perkinsville, daughter Katie & son-in-law Mark have built on the place. Don was Jackie's major professor at Beloit, & he worked on the Dougan farm summers. He and house have been beloved friends of RAD & VWD.

And Lizzie Barker, 3, died later in the summer following her second heart surgery. What a wonderful little spirit she was, indomitable, too, though so handicapped. She made life cheerful & worthwhile for all around her. She was making such progress. Lizzie has been a special, special treasure, stays focus of Megan Jackson, who lived with Barkers awhile and has been nearby since. She gave great joy, & received it. She lived & died having known pain & discomfort, but totally surrounded by love.

Cookie (Ruth) Hiller, youngest sister of Lee (see ENNL Vol 2 #5 for Lee's memorial issue) died at about the same age, of the same cancer. And here is a third indomitable spirit! See p.2 of this issue, "Charles & Leslie Wed" for the party Cookie hosted in July. She hosted another on Oct 5. She left money & instructions in her will for an immediate party, supplied the guest list, ordered everyone to laugh & have a good time, and for each to pick out a piece of her artwork to keep. All there say it was a gala party with laughter & tears & closeness.



GRIEF IS THE PRICE WE PAY FOR LOVING

Tidbits from Gillian in Reno--

-Joe won \$50 on his paycheck when he cashed it at The Nugget. (G & J take advantage of the casinos' paycheck cashing lures, but they never then spend any of their paychecks!)
-Gillian got an \$1100 Pell grant out of the blue! And a \$250 scholarship from the Chem. Dept. - Also, Gillian has a former Chem teacher doing post-doctoral work in fiber optics at UCLA, & she's urging Gill to apply there to grad school, on acct of how highly she's thought of at Reno. Gillian hasn't realized how highly she's thought of at Reno ("they never tell me!") and knows little abt fiber optics, & hasn't even considered grad school, but... well... maybe it's worth taking the GRE's, just in case, & investigating. And there ARE grants for women in science-- so who knows?



It's a wonderful thing about a doggie,
It's a wonderful thing about a doggie,
When you give it a choice
Up or down or sideways or anyways
It always stays up
When you give it a choice.

A cat

Just as soon as you open your hands,
The cat is fifteen feet away.

-Cressida Broken, 7 yrs 2 wks.

TACTILE JOURNEYS: Fiber Surface Exploration November 1-30, 1989



NORTH SUBURBAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS, 6666 EAST RIVER ROAD, FRIDLEY

(MN.)

Carol Adleman

❖ Blueprinting ❖ Quilting

Linda Nelson Bryan

❖ Painted Silk

Kathleen Grittner

❖ Hand Printed Fabrics

Norma Hanlon

❖ Art Jewelry
❖ Hand Made Paper

Damaris Jackson

❖ Quilted Drawings

Marliss Borenz Jensen

❖ Yardage ❖ Wearable Art
❖ Hand Painted and Dyed

Marit Lee Kucera

❖ Hand Dyed Art to Wear



Note: There is of course, too much news for this issue. Contest winners in next issue, plus all the news I'm allowed to print.
-JJ

NEWS NOTES

Portland R.A.D. is visiting Craig & Barbara & animals, Oct 16-Nov. 2- being wined, dined, & shown home movies, and read diaries. The dog brings in the rolled up newspaper, looks at Craig, then Barbara, then delivers it to Grandpa. "It hasn't taken him long to learn who's who," says R.A.D. Beloit Ellie, at Chez Nous, says she knew she'd miss Grandpa, but she hadn't expected to miss him as actively as she is! Reno Ann Herbert Scott, long time friend and ENNL reader, had an autographing party for her new book on Sept 16 at the "Once Upon a Time" bookshop.

SOMEDAY RIDER

By Ann Herbert Scott • Illustrated by Ronald Himler



MIps. Damaris Jackson's ENNL article, "125 ways to get into Your Studio" was printed in The Professional Quilter. They used big type, and nicely grouped the categories, but we were first! Covington, KY. Phil & Corky Koplow say that any Jackson daughter can call them collect, and they're welcome it. The number is 1-606-291-1198. Powell, WY. Phil Kendall was inaugurated as President of Northwest College on Aug. 27. ENNL Ed was invited, & would have gone to represent S.S.U., but was told Cullum Davis was doing the honor. Then Cullum didn't go, & it was too late.

MIps. Polly & Sam Mersky took their first cruise ever, on the inland waterway to Alaska. They had a marvelous time. Sam doesn't like travel, all the bother, but on a cruise it's all done for you, he says.

There'll Always Be a Grandpa

When JJ was with RAD this summer & he was being particularly irritating abt mealtime decisions, she said, "We should put you on an ice floe with your lunch like the Eskimos do & float you out to sea." Grandpa cocked his head thoughtfully. "Do they get lunch?"

This fall RAD was blowing his nose excessively yet didn't seem to have a cold. JJ wondered if he'd developed an allergy. "Why are you blowing your nose?" she asked. Responded RAD promptly, "Because I can't reach it with my tongue."

--And an Ellie
When little Cover D'Or was put to sleep, the Vet, a few days after, sent a condolence card w/ dog by fireplace, "We know how you're missing your companion," etc. Grandpa was impressed & touched. Shortly thereafter we all read in the paper abt a pit bull that had attacked & killed a 2-yr-old & had to be destroyed. "Do you suppose the Vet sent the owner a card?" Ellie asked.

Hinesburg Pond (aka L. Troquois) Speaking of games, a major joy of the summer was getting to know Pam & Allen Pratt, d. & s-in-law of Joan & Dick Hughes who've (shh!) fixed up the boat house for a little camp next to Mole End. Cressie became best friends with Colleen, and Gillian and I, the Pratts & older daughter Erin, PLAYED BOGGLE till the wee hours; the summer ended with an entire neighborhood BOGGLE game & cook-out. Pam & Allen, Gillian's word "YONI" is correct in its spelling and meaning (see Webster's Unabridged, also see LINGAM.) We're looking forward to NEXT SUMMER!

COOKIE MEMORIAL GAMES

Mequon, WI Cookie was buried in Milwaukee, Friday Oct 6, the day after the Boston party, and I was grateful to be called & asked to come. The graveside service was moving. Afterwards we all went to Neppie's house in the woods (with deer!) and many people came. There was food & drink and talk & laughter & tears. After the bulk of the guests had gone, the family: Judy & Neppie (sisters) Charles, Adam & Lisa (nephews & niece) Mark & Dena and Philip (cousins) and I settled into what turned out to be the "Cookie Memorial Games Marathon Weekend." She would have loved it - and her spirit was certainly there, directing. We played Scrabble, Scrabble, Scrabble, Dictionary, Rummy Kins, the original of Pictionary which the Lowensteins played as kids & is much better than the commercial version - and the games were spelled with lots of eating, naps, walks by Lake Michigan, runs, one-on-one talks of people to each other, sleeping on the floor in sleeping bags, a trip to Cookie's favorite ice-cream store for cones. It is wrenching for every one to have Cookie gone, but what a wonderful and healing way to spend the days following her death. Oh - and Charles read Cookie's wonderful will, and Lisa read splendid stories out loud to us. I didn't return to Spfld till I had to (after Sunday brunch at Dena & Mark's, yummy) I returned enriched, quiet in soul, & thankful to be made such a part of the extended Hiller family.

