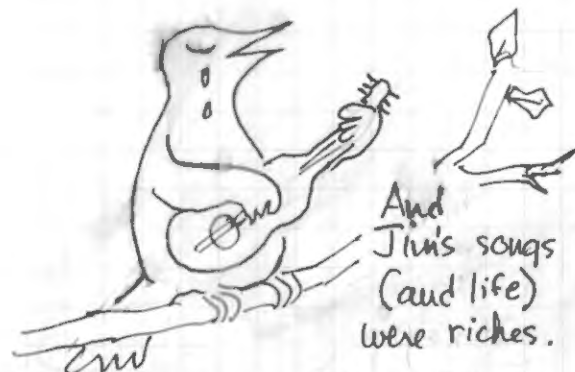


THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER

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"A tune is more lasting than the voice
of the birds.

A song is more lasting than the riches
of the world." -- Padriac Colum



JIMMY JACKSON DIES IN CALIFORNIA JULY 2

San Mateo, CA. We'd hoped he'd have longer, and so did he, but the illness accelerated. Audrey, who was with him, says it was apparently a peaceful and painless death. Jim had been diagnosed last January as having a rare form of lung cancer (a "mist" rather than a "mass," and not related to smoking). However he'd had symptoms at least since the previous April, and doctors hadn't been able to diagnose the trouble. As the cancer progressed, his breathing was more and more curtailed. Jim was 62. His body was cremated and his ashes scattered in the Pacific Ocean out beyond the Golden Gate Bridge. Besides Audrey and daughters Anne, Barbara and Jane, Megan Jackson (niece) and Bob Jackson (brother) were there.

Jim taught math at San Mateo Community College. I've regretted that the cousins (Damaris, Megan + Gillian parallel the ages of their Jackson cousins fairly closely -- though the James Jacksons didn't have an Elspeth) weren't able to get to know each other, growing up, or for D, M, G + E to know their aunt and uncle. Jim was a dear man. He had a kindness and gentleness to him, warmth and tolerance, and was very much like his father Sumner in his whimsical sense of humor. He also had Sumner's love of music.

Jim said, as he was in the hospital near death, "It's not so hard, going back and forth over the gunnels." Goodbye, Jim. We're missing you.

ST ANDREWS ARTS FESTIVAL, LEWIS DALVIT, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR brings Soviet actors to New Brunswick, as well as chocolate moose.

The Comedy Theatre, one of six self-supporting theatres in the entire Soviet Union, has been a recognized center for the performing arts for sixty years. Accustomed to performing primarily Russian plays season after successful season for Russian audiences, this group was among the first in Russia to present an American play directed by an American director, Bill Raiten, Artistic Director of The New Surry Theatre. That was on April 9, 1989, and it has been performed four times each month ever since. They are very excited about bringing two one-act Chekov plays, The Proposal and The Bear, to American theaters -- *Canadian* goes this summer.

The St. Petersburg Theatre, comprised of many experienced actors from among all the theatres of Leningrad, was established a year ago through matching funds from the U.S.-based SOROS Foundation and the Ministry of Culture of the Soviet Union. They are housed at 19 Leteyni Prospect in a beautiful building that once belonged to the family of Pushkin. Performances by this talented repertory group are already delighting the audiences of Leningrad and are helping to achieve the theatre's ambitious goal of bringing back the glory that was once St. Petersburg. This summer, to give American audiences a broad view of their capabilities, they will be presenting forty minutes of Russian vaudeville.

The Leningrad Dixieland Jazz Club, "home away from home" for members of The New Surry Theatre on our Soviet tour last October, is pleased to present David Goloshechokin and his Leningrad Swing Jazz Band in a performance that will be hard to hold to 40 minutes. Goloshechokin toured the United States last year with The Leningrad Dixieland Jazz Band. They performed in 30 cities and at the Sacramento Jazz Festival. Goloshechokin appeared on The Johnny Carson Show and Good Morning America.

The above are just a portion of the festival this summer: a film festival, piano, vocal, band workshops, music workshops for children, dance, and concerts galore of all varieties.

What about the Moose? See p. 3 (For cartoon for this article, see p. 4.)

News Note: Lewis & Pat Dalvit will be moving to Johnson City, Tennessee, in Sept. where Lewis has accepted the position of Musical Director and Conductor of the Johnson City Symphony Orchestra. More on this move (and address) as it becomes available.

Writer finds truth...

Seven months in Himalayas opens horizons

AS A FORM OF WORSHIP, Tibetans lie on their bellies, inch their feet up to their head, stand, bow, then lie down again until they circle the 35 miles around Mt. Kailas in Tibet.

Three years ago, local writer and adventurer Jeremy Schmidt walked around Kailas, a mountain Hindus, Buddhists, Tibetans, and other pilgrims have revered for centuries.

Although Schmidt and his traveling companions — his wife Wendy, and photographer Patrick Morrow and his wife Baiba — did not pay homage by traveling like inch worms, they will never forget what they saw in Tibet.

"There is no other word than haunting," Schmidt said.

"The Hindus see it as the throne of Shiva and the Buddhists see it as the physical representation of Mt. Meru, the spiritual center of the cosmos," Schmidt explained. "They say that one trip around the mountain is enough to atone for the sins of a lifetime."

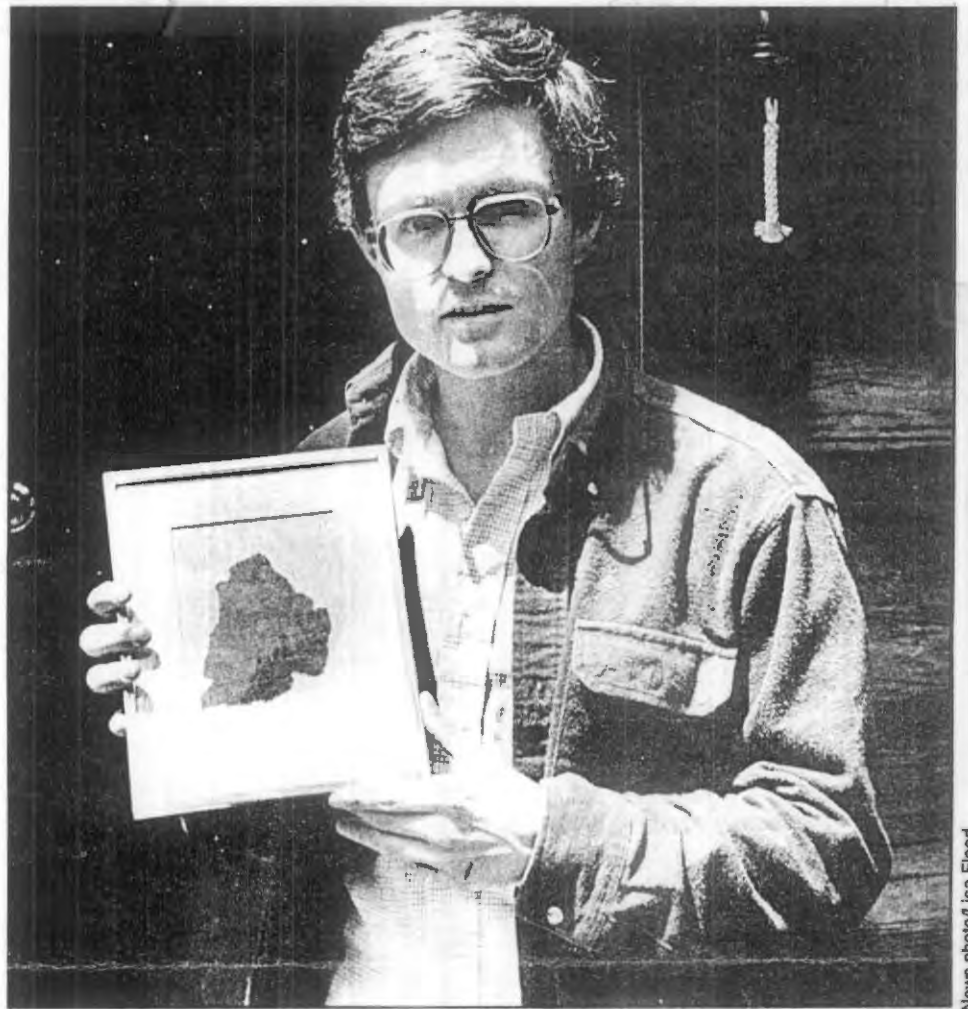
Schmidt and his wife, who have been married 11 years, live in a classic cabin off Fall Creek Road, where the two enjoy "all the Teton sports," including skiing, hiking, boating, and fishing. Although Schmidt originally moved to the valley in 1973, the couple returned to the area in the fall of 1986 after spending five years in Arizona.

In the 1970s Schmidt worked as the winterkeeper at Old Faithful for two years and was an intermittent Park Service employee for four. A Park Service grant which allowed him to travel around the world in 1977 photographing national parks changed his life. "That spoiled me and I never went back."

Since then Schmidt has focused on writing adventure travel accounts for magazines and natural history and travel publications for Yellowstone. Wendy is an OB nurse at St. John's hospital.

Schmidt went to Tibet to gather material for an adventure travel book about trekking in the Himalayas, "by seat of the pants travel," explained Schmidt. Morrow, who wrote *Beyond Everest*, a story of his seven-summit adventure, was responsible for the photos.

"The point of the trip was to see as much of the Himalayas as we could,"



Jeremy Schmidt holds a scrap from a Tibetan holy book found in the Saky monastery in central Tibet.

Schmidt said. Traveling by bike, bus, hitchhiking, or walking, Schmidt observed the physical landscape as much as he focused on the cultural differences between the people from the north and south. The difficulty of traveling in this region — how mountain politics and border control get in the way — is also an important part of Schmidt's view of the region.

In the early stages of writing his manuscript, Schmidt's publisher backed out. Despite this letdown, Schmidt went ahead and finished his work, which he envisions in the classical tradition of Paul Theroux, Evelyn Waugh and Bruce Chatwin.

Recently he received Mountaineers Books' Barbara Savage Award, which recognizes excellence in adventure writing and includes a cash grant and publication for his book, *Everything is Never Clear Here: Seven Months Circling the Himalayas*.

This is the first year the award

has been given and Schmidt's book will be out next spring.

The adventure of these four travelers began in Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, and stretched west to the Karakoram Range in northern Pakistan, then back through India, Nepal, and Sikkim. The Hunza Valley, in northern Pakistan, where people, who believe in fairies and magic, are said to live 130 years, Mt. Makalu, in the eastern region of

Nepal, and Kashgar, an oasis on the silk road in western China, were a few important stops on their trek through the Himalayan region.

The highlight of the trip, Schmidt admitted, was traveling through western Tibet, an area now closed to visitors who wish to move about on their own.

Schmidt hitchhiked 12 days from Lhasa to Kailas through the central plateaus of Tibet and visited an eastern region called Chang Tang, where they met nomads living in tents and tending their yaks and sheep.

cont on p 4

Jackson Hole Close-Up

BY LISA FLOOD

If you liked his Field Guide to the American Rockies you'll love his Around Mt. Kailas in Eighty Days.

... in travel



FIRST! IN CHA-CHA

Cleveland. Ms. Stephanie Dalvit McPhillips entered a National (U.S. + Canada) dance competition held in Cleveland, and in the Amateur Division, danced off with 1st prize in the Cha-Cha, 2nd prize in Swing, 3rd prize in Fox-trot, and in Waltz she placed in the top six. For all this she received (besides honor + adulation) an engraved trophy - 1 plaque. (The visiting pros got \$10,000 if they won.) For her cha-cha, swing + rumba (why no prize in that, Steph?) Ms. McPhillips wore a black sequined gown with av. low back (a slit skirt); for the waltz, + foxtrot, her dress was white beaded. Her partner was her instructor in the dance lessons she's taking.

FILE-DON'T-PILE

takes hold for some! Spfld The ENNL Ed would have brought you this cataclysmic news



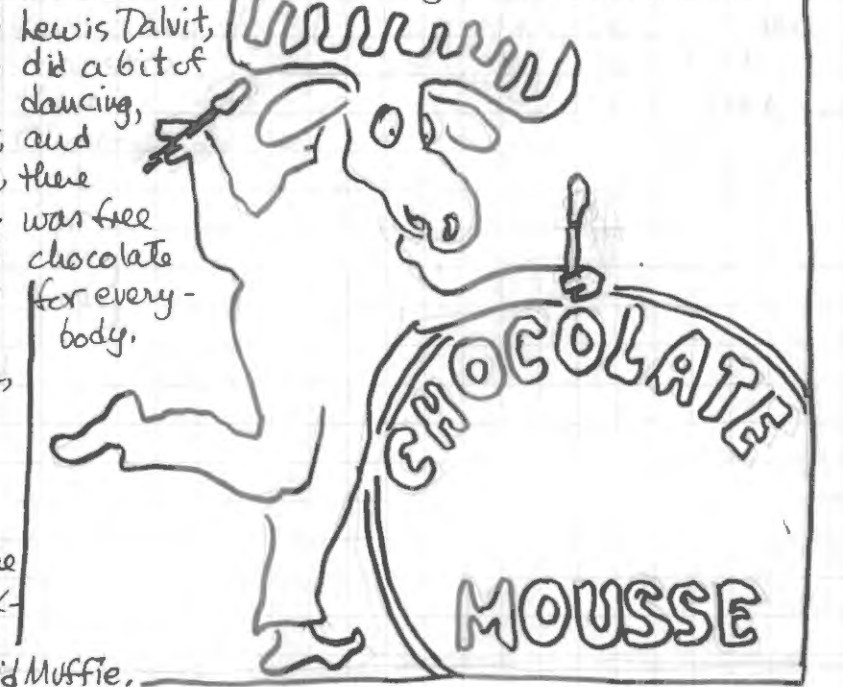
sooner, but File Don't Pile, (on loan from Phyllis Walden, who is ever optimistic about curing JJ of her chronic problem) was lost under a pile for 5 months. When found, she bought copies for Demi, Megan, Gize, Elspeth + Jan Grimes - all of whom recently bought



File cabinets to help them attack their paper problem. At last report, they're all finding FDP an immediately usable system for the likes of US. (I'm making slow progress, but, PROGRESS! It's by Pat Dorff, St. Martin's Press.

CHOCOLATE MOUSSE AT POPS CONCERT

St. Andrews N.B. A joint venture of the St. Andrews Festival Orchestra and a local chocolate factory was a "Chocolate Pops Concert" this summer. The Moose shared conducting honors with Maestro



was free chocolate for everybody.

NEWS NOTES ♪ ♪ ♪

Albany, N.Y. Demie McGuire's new job is Director of Marketing for State Wide Media Group Inc. She is touting New York news products in New York State for television, radio + cable. She's also lost 40 lbs. + looks great!

NYC Caitlin McGuire graduated this spring from Barnard College of Columbia U., English Lit major, + dean's list! Went to England for 2½ wks after graduation, had a llama (in Cumbria) named McGuire after her. When she was in Oxford her Jr. year, she rowed, stroking 1st boat, for St. Anne's, coached the men's 3rd boat; the men gave her a black leather bullwhip in appreciation for the agony she put them through. Future plans: a deep breath + looking around.

Chicago Maudie Hamblin's still director of Grad Studies at U of Chi (or is that Students?) and Bill is still working for the Bar Ass'n. Erin is still singing with the Chicago Children's Choir.

WORLD COMES TO RA DOUGAN

Beloit. Ron Dougan, when he sits in his front window + looks out over his lawn, has seen this summer: A v. fat woodchuck who lives under the bushes; a raccoon + 5 cubs who climb up the bird feeder for sunflower seeds (a sight when 4 or 5 are crowding up there!); a family of skunks, the usual rabbits, gophers, pheasants, birds; and the other week, for the first time, a deer! A whole lot of entertainment.

MUFFIE WARNS; JACKIE MUFFS

Hinesburg Pond. A huge crackling in the middle of the night caused Muffie to go wild. Jackie sat up in the porch bed + looked out the screen, saw no fire, all serene -- exc. for crackling. Told Muff to shut up + go back to sleep -- and missed the biggest event of the summer: a moose walked down beside the porch, took a drink from the lake, looked in the door of the quaking neighbors, + left (crackling the underbrush) by the same route. "I tried to tell her but she wouldn't listen," said Muffie.

I wanted a Frank & Ernest Guru joke to put here, but can't find one, so this will do for Lew, Pat & others →



Cont from p. 2 - WRITER

"You can't duplicate the Tibetan side of this trip," Schmidt said. "It isn't possible to wander at will through Tibet. It's never been technically legal, but now if you go to Tibet, as far as I've been able to learn, you go from checkpoint to checkpoint, and you're supervised all the time."

Schmidt said the journey through Tibet was the hardest traveling he has ever done. All four travelers experienced sickness, which often held up their trip. "This was sort of a reoccurring theme — who's down and out at the moment," Schmidt said.

"The unfamiliarity of the place, the high altitude, and the different conditions — they just hammer you. Only when we were leaving there were we finally ready for Tibet."

Schmidt said he is determined to return.

"I get these longings for being there again with those people because they bring me right back to earth. They give me perspective."

The juxtaposition of the summits and the small villages is extraordinary, explained Schmidt. "When you're traveling in the country you have your feet in the reality of the human condition and you have your head surrounded by these divine mountains. Your eyes take you from

this local scene of little farms all the way to the summits. It's like seeing God and his subjects all in one view."

Schmidt and his companions ended their trip with a 30-day trek in eastern Nepal. They did not make a complete circle back to Lhasa as planned because the area was closed.

They departed from Darjeeling, India, where a civil war was being fought. "That really sent us scurrying home," Schmidt said.

Relieved to be back in Jackson, Schmidt and his wife returned to their writing and home publishing ventures. Schmidt continues to work as a freelance writer for *Equinox*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Audubon*, and *International Wildlife*. At present, he is working with Wendy on a book of maps of Yellowstone, which they are publishing out of their cabin.

Schmidt said he still has an itch to return to the Himalayas to explore more of the region. Although he says his bags are packed for his dream trip — zigzagging through the Himalayas and learning more about other cultures — he said he always appreciates home when he returns.

"Traveling is always a circular thing and you always come back bringing some new perspective on your starting point."

THIS ISSUE TRUNCATED Spf. I didn't get it finished at the Lake, and once on back at school the deluge hits, I'm going to the World Mystery Conference in London tomorrow, 5.19. I'll try to get this last issue of academic year 89-90 (Vol. VIII) printed today.

I THANK ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE SENT CHECKS TO SUPPORT ENNL! You shall be anonymous in these pages, but not in the Editor's heart!

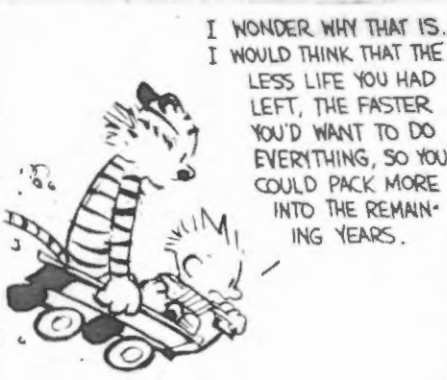
LOTS of summer & late summer news (even earlier) will have to wait for the next issue.

BUT, Alison Walsh & Annabelle Dirks have both had recent surgery. Both are recuperating well. You can call Alison at 415-567-8708, or 415-924-3841. Annabelle's number is 408-423-4837.

COMING IN OCTOBER: 1st issue of ENNL Vol. 9.

Now for some jokes: called Ron Dougan the other night who said, "I'm sitting here reading my favorite author — Lovingly, Ron." (RAFTS collected letters)

Well, we DO have to go like a maniac, just to keep up with what we used to do, easily!



Dedicated to Annabelle, myself, & all other oldsters struggling to learn! ←

