

THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER

VOLUME IX NO 5 MARCH 1'91

"A bird in the hand
is worth two in the bush."

...proverb

MYSTERY CLASS STILL IN BUSH

INCHING TOWARD 20; PEOPLE AFRAID TO FLY

Spfd, London, Cornwall, Yorkshire Oxford, Canterbury: "BRITISH CRIME: FACT & FICTION" is the best deal going: 20 days for \$1850, covers almost everything, with ME as guide! And SJP prof, Barbara Hayler, ENNL readers Jo Schmidt, Mimi Baldwin & Rose Corgan are going, Mimi & Rose have travelled w/ me (on the children's lit trips) before. We have 5 * spaces to fill by March 9. Our room & board bill is due in England the 11th, & we don't want to chance people's money. However, if we're only 1 or 2 short by then, we have till the 15th March to ticket on British Air, another big payment, and could get our quota by then. If we're down 1, we could raise our price up to what it was before - 1950- or 1925 - & that would cover a missing person, plus. We DON'T need any more bodies for the class (tho we'll enroll you) nor will the plane penalize us. It's the arrangements in England. WHY NOT COME WITH US? OR URGE A FRIEND? We have mostly faculty & "Senior learners" going, auditing, so it ought to be a ball. I am thinking we're going to make it, & am working hard to that end....
... Since writing the above paragraph on abt Feb 25 (it's now Feb 28) I've been up & down like a yo-yo. We may make it. The war seems to be over. We have lots of publicity out. Earlier today, I was thinking we wouldn't make it. Tonight ... that we will make it. ... ???

FEAST YOUR EYES & IMAGINATION!

Our hostels will include
several manor houses
a castle (with medieval
banquet)
a 5-barn complex, new &
elegant
a cheese factory

Chester

Shrewsbury:
Brother Cadfael

Colin Dexter & the
Oxford Colleges
(and Lord Peter)

Hound of the
Baskervilles

3 authors in
Cornwall!
Jessica Mann
John Burley
Jean Stubbs
... and perhaps
a stone-age
village,
besides cliffs & sea

Christie
centenary
exhibit

Cerne
Giant

Salisbury Cathedral

AND MORE AND MORE!

Haworth: picnic
with Robert Barnard
York: Richard III
Society (Tey)

Nottingham
- that crook
Robin Hood

Cambridge:
Sayers
&
Allingham
societies; change
ringing

Jack the Ripper
Sherlock Holmes
Scotland Yard
Old Bailey
Tower etc. etc.

Tea at
Catherine Aird's in
Canterbury

Miss Marple's village
around here (Nether
Wallop)

We'll see that
mystery, Stonehenge

(Note: P.2 was going to be in Megan's issue, telling about Chad. I moved it to this issue. Please get me your letters!)

CHAD DIES: THERE'LL BE A SPECIAL ISSUE

Our beloved Chad died Jan. 17 in Shelburne, Vermont. Most of you know this - and many of you were at the beautiful Memorial Service January 26, in body and in spirit. I have written many of you, asking for anything you'd like to have printed in a special memorial issue of this newsletter: pictures, your favorite poems, anecdotes, your own poems, etc., what it was like to be around Chad & know Chad. If your contribution includes Eva, be sure to include her! And we can use humor, so don't hold back on that! Any of you I haven't contacted, please feel free to write something, or call me to dictate: Address: 816 N Fifth St., Spfld IL 62702. New phone: 217-544-2916. Let's all make it a lovely & befitting issue, for someone we all loved & miss greatly.

There's been another death. Longtime friend and ENNL reader Mary Shura Craig died in January from complications following a fire in December. Mary was a writer of considerable breadth: children's books, mysteries, romances, historical novels. And of considerable output & considerable fame. She was president of the Mystery Writers of America at the time of her death. Being with Mary was always exhilarating -- she was colorful, warm, honest. I talked to her frequently on my WATS line, and always felt refreshed by our conversations. She was too busy to go to Bouchercon in London last fall, I wish she had. We wanted her for our lead speaker at SSU's Writers Conference last spring, but she was dated up two years ahead. I grieve. And I will miss her.

LONDON'S BEST PLAY
1990 LONDON EVENING STANDARD AWARD

"Shadowlands"

IS A STORY OF LOVE AGAINST ALL ODDS. CRISPLY FUNNY AND SUPERLATIVELY ACTED BY NIGEL HAWTHORNE AND JANE ALEXANDER." —David Richards, New York Times

NIGEL HAWTHORNE JANE ALEXANDER
in **SHADOWLANDS**
by WILLIAM NICHOLSON
Directed by ELIJAH MOSHINSKY



TODAY at 3
CALL TICKETRON TODAY: (212) 246-0102 GROUP SALES: (212) 398-8383
BROOKS ATKINSON THEATRE 47th St. W. of B'way

THOSE OF YOU IN THE EAST, GO SEE SHADOWLANDS!

NYC I saw it in London last March, and it is much superior to the TV movie w/ Josh Ackland & Claire Bloom. The screen writer has turned it into a play, & it's deeper & richer. It shows both Joy & Lewis more fully. And, it mentions Chad! Not by name, but reference. One of Lewis's colleagues says testily, "Where'd he meet her, anyway?" and Lewis's brother replies to the effect that she's a friend of that American who wrote that sort-of biography of Lewis. And you all know that's Chad, his C. S. Lewis. Apostle to the Sceptics. It's a beautiful and moving play & worth going a LONG WAY to see. I just might come to NYC to see Nigel Hawthorne play Lewis again! (The Joy of this production is different.)

(+ Claire Bloom would gutsy enough for Joy.)

NYT ad, Jan 27 '91

with Lewis giving a lecture, discussing pain, suffering and love. Why would a God who loves us let us suffer? he asks. The answer, he suggests, is that through pain we learn and grow. The truth is, however, for all his preoccupation with suffering, Lewis has not known it firsthand, at least not as a grownup. When cancer strikes Joy, Lewis discovers that he is deeply in love with her, and that experiencing pain in real life is quite different from describing it in a lecture.

In the second act, the play dwells at too great a length on Joy's illness, but "Shadowlands" remains an amusing, thoughtful and ultimately quite moving drama. Moreover, the direction of Elijah Moshinsky and the acting of the principals are first-rate. Nigel Hawthorne, repeating here his performance in London, is totally winning as Lewis, a shy schoolboy in the presence of Joy, tousling his hair and sending his body into bashful contortions. In the role of Joy, Jane Alexander is superb. Her counterpart in the London production, Jane Lapotaire, affected a broad New York accent that took the part toward caricature. Ms. Alexander, by contrast, brings out not only the candor, but also the refreshing humor and the deep feeling in this unlikely heroine.

WALL ST JOURNAL NOV 23 1990
New on Broadway.

"Shadowlands," the new play at the Brooks Atkinson Theater, is a rarity on Broadway: a well-crafted drama with a strong emotional appeal. Based on the life of writer C.S. Lewis, William Nicholson's play is a most unusual love story, but all the more affecting for that.

Lewis was the quintessential Oxford don and a dyed-in-the-wool bachelor. A famed writer of religious books and children's stories, he thrived on the conversation and camaraderie of the high table in his college. Well into his middle years a most unlikely companion suddenly appeared in his life. Joy Davidman was from New York; born a Jew, she had been converted to Christianity largely through reading Lewis.

With her son, Douglas, in tow, she showed up one day on Lewis's doorstep, ostensibly just to meet him. Gradually, however, this mismatched pair grew closer together: Joy eventually divorced her philandering husband and settled permanently with her son in Oxford.

When British immigration authorities threatened to expel Joy from England, Lewis married her secretly so she could stay, though the two continued to live as if they were not married. As Joy puts it, "people think we're not married but having an affair, when actually we are married and not having an affair." This is only one of many ironies in the play. It begins

Review by Edwin Wilson

Radio's Chapter a Day

WHA offers aural comprehension.

BY GEORGE VUKELICH

Karl Schmidt is emeritus professor of communication at the UW-Madison and one of the readers on Wisconsin Public Radio's "Chapter a Day" program. He came to WHA as a student in 1940. After a four-year military hitch with Armed Forces Radio in the Pacific, Schmidt returned to Madison and to what was then called "educational" radio. He created some of the most distinguished programming in WHA's long history, notably "Earplay," which provided radio dramas for the nation's public broadcasting stations. As producer, he was awarded a Peabody Award in 1977 for The Temptation Game by John Gardner; the Prix Italia in 1979 for Wings by Arthur Kopit; and an Ohio

State Award in 1984 for A Canticle for Leibowitz by Walter M. Miller.

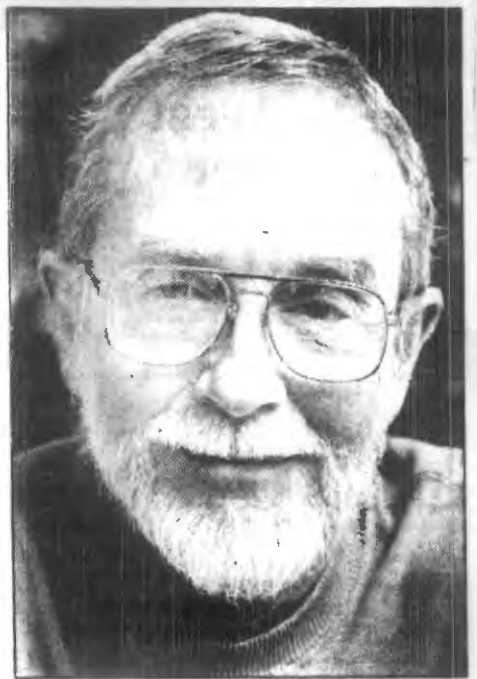
"One of the first programs I did at WHA—before World War II—was 'Chapter a Day.' Then I moved on to other things here, and it wasn't until after 'Earplay' ended in about 1982 that I went back to 'Chapter' regularly.

"I think 'Chapter a Day' is the oldest extant radio program in the world. It started in something like 1925—nobody's quite sure when H.B. McCarty began reading, but certainly no later than 1927—and it's been on the air every day, five days a week, ever since. There's not a radio program anywhere, even on BBC, that can make that claim.

"The satisfactions that I get from doing 'Chapter' are greater than anything else I've ever done in broadcasting, and that would not be the case if it weren't for all the rewarding bits of feedback that you get from listeners. That has convinced me that people still love to be told a story, and it's not just little kids. It's grownups as well.

"It makes me value the opportunity of being able to do this. I sort of feel at one with the people who used to read to the cigar rollers in Key West. I feel at one with the brothers who would read to the assembled monks at suppertime. I feel at one with those communal situations where people are using their eyes or other faculties, but their minds and ears are free for something else and they enjoy being read to.

"I also feel that our community is the



BRENT NICASTRO

Radio reader Karl Schmidt: 'People still love to be told a story.'

whole state of Wisconsin. Our mail reflects that, and the state's bookstores say that the sales of a book go up when it's read on 'Chapter.'



"The 'Chapter' team now consists of Carol Cowan, Jim Fleming and myself, who read the books on the air, and Jean Nelson, who edits them, gets them in shape for broadcast and arranges them into half-hour installments.

"On 'Chapter' there's a tradition of developing your skill as a storyteller. Carol Cowan can be absolutely magnificent when she reads. I can sit just enthralled listening to her, and I can learn from listening to her: what tricks she used, what her methods of emphasis and subordination are, how far to go in characterization.

"Jim Fleming has come a long, long way since he began on 'Chapter.' He's started reading a book this week called *The Remains of the Day* by a young Englishman of Japanese ancestry. It's about an English butler, circa 1935, whose new boss is an American who just bought the property, and the butler compares the old British society with the new. There are a half-dozen solid characterizations. Fleming worked on this for a month before he started recording.

"They say people's attention spans are getting shorter in this TV age, but we read Tom Wolfe's *Bonfire of the Vanities* and the reading took six weeks! It turned out to be one of the most spectacularly popular books we've had in years.

"The lesson might be that if you eat pap for a while, pretty soon you can't eat steak. Your system won't take it."

Madison, WI. Well, here's another writeup of Uncle Karl, and a good one, with lots of credits & quotes. The picture doesn't lend itself to captioning as well as the last one, but caption it if you will! Isn't it strange to think of any of us as emeriti? We're as young as we ever were!



Spfld. IL The ENNLED has recently bought a new computer, a (wait while I go look) "Mac Classic." The irony is, she scarcely knows how



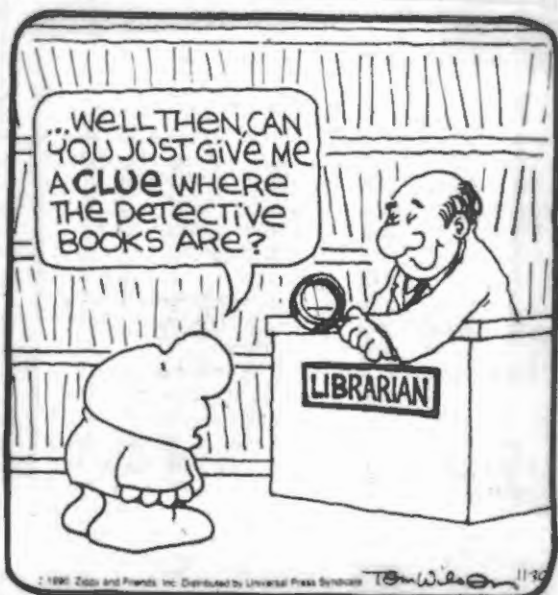
to use the old one yet. But recently did a radio show for kids using Welltris & Tetris as a metaphor, so she's showing she's "with it." (I identify w/ Shoe on many levels.)

NEWS NOTES
Spfld. All news not in those two issues will have to wait awhile. (As you know, our news is often well aged!)



ST. PATRICK'S DAY FUN GAMES: CAN YOU GET THE SNAKES OUT OF IRELAND?

Dear Folks, Good, you're getting used to the mirror writing for classified messages. I know it must be hard for you to believe how bad things have been down here, and what an absolutely despicable man our president has been (and is, I only say "has been" since he's no longer our president, but our Vice Chancellor! The job was created for him, with no necessity and no search, the \$18,000 it will cost comes from OUR budget (summer school has been pared to less than the bones, and I will get no summer money for doing the radio show preparations). Actually it will come to closer to \$200,000, and he will retire in a year and a half on a fat pension, so taxpayers will go on paying for him. That's why the year and a half job, to give him enough time in the state system to be eligible. While he is V.C. for the three agency universities, only we are paying for him. I am printing a letter elsewhere in this issue, if I can get a way with it, from a stranger who saw the Empty Nest with Rich Sherikis' letter to Durward in it. My colleagues are really impressed at the dissimulation of this newsletter! I tell Rich he's had more fan mail from that letter than I ever get! But it should prove to you that I'm not exaggerating. I am one of the seven, and proud of it, and proud that I am on the English faculty, who are saving this man for making the workplace impossible for us to do our jobs faithfully. The IL Human Res. Comm. has not yet made public their decision whether to take the case, tho the decision's been made. IF THEY DON'T, our lawyer will pursue him through the courts. This joint suit is the only way we can get him on sexual harassment, for the H.R. Comm. dismissed the charges as "isolated instances" and therefore non-punishable. It seems you can handle students all you want, so long as each time it's a different student. Anyway, we had as gala a party as SSU's seen in years, a retirement party for Durward on the day of his departure--the funny thing was, he didn't depart that day (Feb 1) but locked himself in his office and wrote memos and did business all dated Jan. 31. This fact added to the merriment of our party--hosted by Pat Langley, head of the Union bargaining team and singled out over the years for DL's special investigative. One of our super faculty and teachers. We brought appropriate food--I brought a crock of beans and balcony--and items to share in a program; Pat is putting everything into a scrapbook. (We may get over DL sooner than Wis. has because we have a sense of humor?) My contributions to the program were the "I'll Get You All" song I sang and danced at the Christmas party he tried to prevent, and the poem published elsewhere in this issue also in reverse. Since I'm not much of a poet, I want to call your attention to the last three lines, which you'll know--if you're a reader of 17th cent. poetry--is a play on Edmund Spenser's poem where the chorus is, "Sweet Thames run softly 'Till I end my song." Not only did I feel this was clever of me, but it will also make DL think it was written by "that son-of-a-bitch Sherikis". I also contributed two games: a large box with DL's lifelike head on it, cut out and hanging on twines, big letters, SOCK IT TO 'EM, and a dozen fat rolled socks each labeled (on masking tape) with one of his many outrages; people really got their backs into it, flinging sock balls called "Joanna Harner" or "Union Contract" which, if their aim was good, would hit the face and go into the box. I also made a huge board game with spaces for Durward's career, every time he did something dishonest or outrageous, you'd advance the counter with his face on it two, (2000)



By the way, on the day before his departure, when Durward locked in his office writing directives, one of them (pre-dated) was to eliminate the English Masters program!

This poem is called "Sweet Times Run Softly."
 D is for the Dirty Words he utters;
 U is for the Untruths that he spouts.
 R is for Reporters that he butters;
 W the Wonders that he touts.
 A is for the Asses that he pinches;
 R is for the Regents that he's conned;
 D is for Decrees sent down by Grinches;
 I is for the Lawuits that he's spawned.
 O is for his outrageous Outrages;
 N the Nifty Bucks (and perks) he draws;
 G the Gin he hasn't drunk in ages
 (since he was sent to Florida, "because").
 P is for his parachute of Plat'num
 (paid for by his Place of Past employ);
 R is for the Rampage of his spending
 E nailing Empty tills that can't deploy
 S ummer School, and Staff and Student Sal'ries.
 S uch the State of our resurgence Song;
 S weet times, please o please run Softly,
 U ntil, at last, we end with Durward Long.

THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER VOL IX NO 5 P 5

LETTERS (BY POPULAR DEMAND)

University of Wisconsin Center

ROCK COUNTY 2300 KELLOGG AVENUE • JANESVILLE, WI 53145

Professor Richard Sherekis
Department Of English
Sangamon State University
Springfield, IL 62703

January 25, 1991

Dear Professor Sherekis:

We're not acquainted, but we have something in common. We have both had unpleasant encounters (to put it mildly) with Durward Long.

In 1972 I was an assistant professor here. I won't bother with the details, but he tried to make me commute to another campus ninety miles away. I protested and obtained a private meeting with Durward's superior, the senior vice-president of the UW system. Durward was then the Chancellor of our fourteen campus system, and he was livid that I had gone around his back. He would have destroyed my career, I'm sure, but he was eased out of the state and sent packing to California.

Over the years, I have followed his path from one ugly mishap to the next. He is still a legend in our system among those of us old enough to remember him. We chortle every time we learn of another episode. The legislature in California got rid of his entire outreach program, undoubtedly in part to oust him. As I recall, there was even a legislative inquiry before he was bounced from Hawaii. Everyone here was astonished when he landed on his feet at Sangamon. Obviously, your selection system is inept.

A copy of your letter to Durward of August 30, 1990, has filtered up to me via the faculty grapevine. (I refer to your expression of pride in being on one of his many "shit lists." By the way, did you know that he fired three administrators at Hawaii before he was even inaugurated?)

I would be pleased if you would send me further material on Durward's capers at Sangamon. There is a ready market here for stories of his misdeeds. The poison he spread in our institution has not yet entirely dissipated, and it has been twenty years. Don't expect to get over Durward soon.

Sympathetically,

Stuart D. Brandes

Stuart D. Brandes

Professor of History

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Dr. Durward Long, who is applying for the Position-Better-Than-a-Presidency, for which you recently published an advertisement. I should say at the outset that I find it difficult to be objective about Dr. Long, since I have found his tenure as president here one of the most remarkable administrative performances I have observed in my twenty-five years in higher education. But conscience demands that I be frank about my enthusiasm for Dr. Long's candidacy, since I believe he is ready for the kinds of challenges your position seems to hold.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of Dr. Long's performance here has been his ability to give the university community a sense of common purpose, common objectives, a common mission. When he arrived here, this was a polarized campus. Some faculty hadn't spoken to some of their colleagues for years because of ideological and political differences which arose under Dr. Long's predecessors. And while faculty and staff relations were civil, they weren't discernibly warm, either, because most classes of employees had separate agendas, selfish concerns.

In six short years of deliberate action, Dr. Long has managed to massage and stroke campus cleavages, unifying diverse factions to a degree that is probably unmatched in American higher education. Faculty are now united in their vision of the university's primary needs; they share common concerns with secretaries about major priorities; janitors are united with cafeteria workers; and campus security forces are in harmony with everyone about what the university needs most at this time in its history.

Dr. Long's close attention to the many details of campus life--from the soccer fields to student pig roasts, from travel vouchers to the care and fondling of graduate assistants--has brought to the campus a familial feel, manifested best by the annual holiday party which employees now hold off campus, at their own expense, to help the university save money from its budget for special public relations activities like last year's gala twentieth anniversary celebration, which attracted over forty community members to campus.

And the money saved by that communal effort is only one of many remarkable economies which the president has implemented during his administration. He created the one-year equity adjustment, for example, which frees the university from costly long-term drains on its resources. He has kept clerical salaries lower than any in the state, despite heavy pressure from radical labor leaders. He has left costly positions like the head of university relations unfilled so that the funds for the position could be used in other areas.

And while he hasn't employed a full-time person in the public relations post for several years, he has yet managed to generate unparalleled publicity for himself and the university in the local community. Faculty members attest that they can hardly attend a community function without being asked about the President's feelings and spirits, and his hand goes out to many community leaders, as well as their wives, whom he hosts in his special section of the university auditorium.

But perhaps his most remarkable public relations achievement occurred just last year, when he distributed thousands of copies of a handsome, glossy progress report to the campus and local

community. Replete with 26 pages of full-color photographs and interesting information about the president's productive visit to Australia and the steady increase in the university's enrollments (which the president has generated all alone, without any help from anyone else, on or off campus), "Resurgence," received significant notice in the local media. Experienced public relations experts were astonished at the professionalism of the publication, and most said such a product would normally require forty to fifty thousand dollars and an extensive staff to produce. Imagine their surprise when Dr. Long informed a legislative committee that the entire publication had required only the part-time services of one staff member at a cost of only \$4,500. Needless to say, legislators are interested in the president's methods, eager to use him as an example for other administrators.

As I said at the outset, my feelings are deep but mixed about the prospects of Dr. Long's departure from SSU. On the one hand, I'm sure I'll never have an opportunity to observe at first hand an administrative style as unique as Dr. Long's. I know, too, however, that a man of his talents requires new and greater challenges. I hope you will consider his candidacy seriously, even though his departure from SSU would be an emotional occasion for all of us who have experienced his familial style. We will never see his like again, we know; but we feel his many talents require opportunities that will enable him to maintain his feel for hands-on administration.

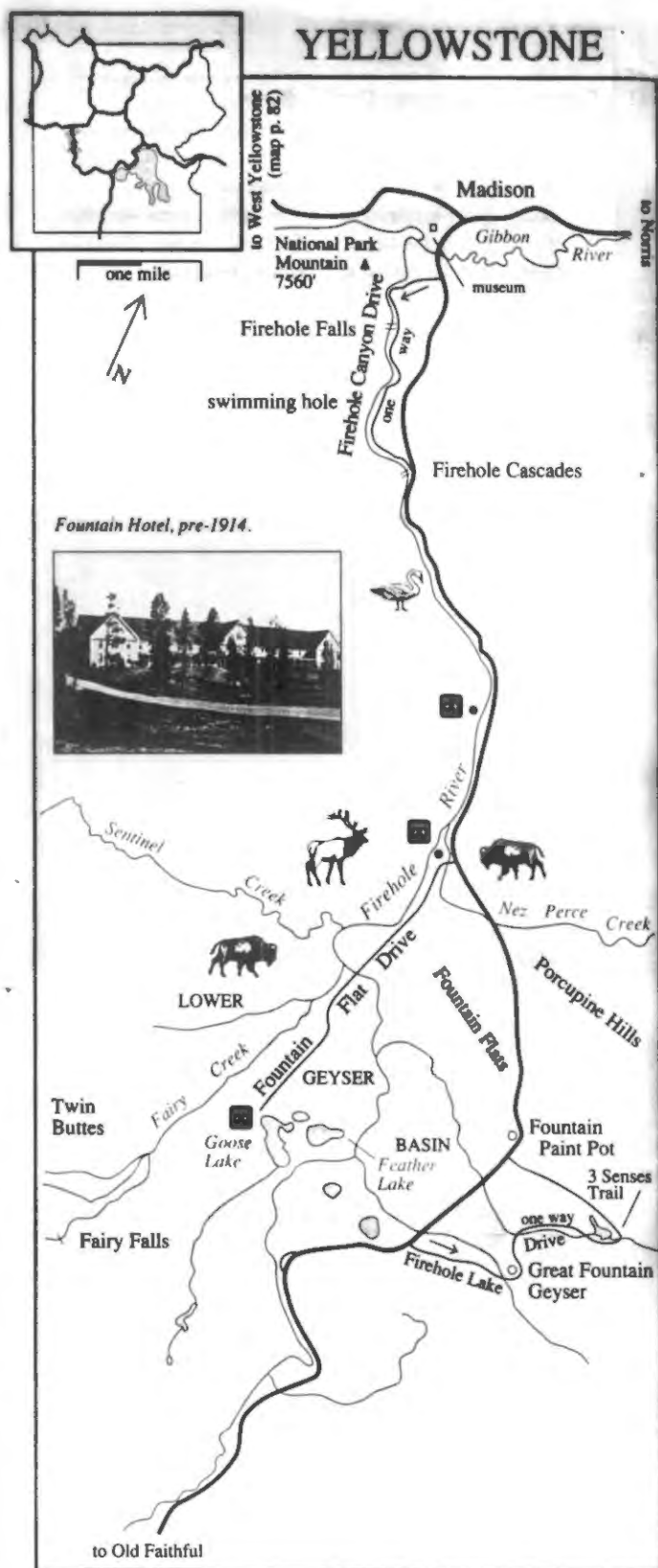
Very truly yours,

Richard Sherekis
Professor of English



I simply can't believe it!
We've gotten through an entire
issue without anything by or
about Jeremy Schmidt!

Oh no, we
couldn't do that.
We'd lose our
franchise.



YELLOWSTONE

FIREHOLE CANYON DRIVE

The one-way road (once the main highway) passes along 800-foot high lava cliffs. The road climbs along the canyon wall past the 40-foot high Firehole Falls and the Cascades of the Firehole. The Firehole River is one of the world's classic trout streams, though some stretches are so warmed by hot springs that they are avoided by fish.

FOUNTAIN FLAT DRIVE

Near the picnic area, surrounded by an iron railing, is the grave of Mattie Culver, a winterkeeper's wife who died at the old Fountain Hotel in 1889. The Drive crosses meadows and passes hot springs along the Firehole River. Near the second bridge is Ojo Caliente (Spanish for hot spring), a fine example of a crested hot spring. The Drive ends at Goose Lake, a pleasant place to picnic. Fairy Falls, a 200-foot high waterfall, is a 2.5-mile hike from road's end.

NEZ PERCE CREEK

is named for Chief Joseph's tribe ("the pierced noses") who passed this way during the summer of 1877. Having been ordered to a reservation in Oregon, they chose instead to flee, the US cavalry on their heels all the way to northern Montana, where they were finally stopped in mid-winter a few miles short of the Canadian border.

TWIN BUTTES AND PORCUPINE HILLS

To the west and east, respectively, these hills are piles of rocks and gravel released from the ice that melted when glaciers passed over groups of hot springs. The Twin Buttes were burned by the North Fork fire, the largest of the park fires, in the summer of 1988.

FOUNTAIN PAINT POT

A short boardwalk leads to a group of oxide-colored mud pots—pools of hot clay entertaining for their blooping and spitting. Also here are several constantly-erupting geysers, including Clepsydra, a fine sight at sunset.

FIREHOLE LAKE DRIVE

Opposite the entrance to the Drive stands a group of lodgepole pines killed by shifting hot spring run-off. By capillary action the dead trees have soaked up mineral-laden water, which colors their bases white and retards decay. These skeletons have stood here for decades.

The Drive passes several superb geysers and hot springs. The largest, Great Fountain Geyser, is one of the grand geysers of the world, erupting every eight to twelve hours. A few hundred yards further along the road White Dome Geyser sports a massive cone which erupts every 12 to 24 minutes in a jet of water that turns to steam and spray. Several short trails and boardwalks lead visitors to other groups of interesting hydrothermal features.

This is the page we promised--AT RANDOM!--from Jeremy's Free Wheeling Guide: Yellowstone-Grand Teton Road Guide. Wendy did the maps, a good half of the book! Come to think of it, this text may be by the co-author Steven Fuller, but it's all just as informative and interesting. (AND only \$4.95)

three, four spaces, the worse the offense, the larger the jump. Sort of like Chutes and Ladders, but with no chutes. The end was passing GO and getting \$18,000, advancing to the Vice Chancellorship, and then to the large round space at the end, aka hopscotch, called CHANCELLOR, SKY BLUE HEAVEN, while our now chancellor, who has done nothing about the outrage for 6 yrs except whitewash, disappears into a black hole. Others contri- buted poems, songs, (I'll try to reproduce some of the best in future issues) and the hit of the evening was Rich Sherik's generic letter of recommendation for DJ for a "better than a presidency" which he earlier boasted he'd been offered. The humors that EVERY WORD IN IT IS TRUE. I taped the program. So now we have an acting press: Wayne Penn, been here 17 or 18 years, and Becky Veach's boss for many years when Wayne was dean. We have an acting Vice Pres, and all our deans are Acting Deans except one, and he's a long been a corpse. I'd say Wayne is almost univer- sally loved and trusted. So better times are certainly in store,