

THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XVI NUMBER 2 SEP '97

"Bobby Shaftoe's gone to sea,
"Silver buckles on his knee;
"He'll come back and marry me..."
--nursery rhyme



GILLIAN RUNS OFF WITH SAILOR

THEN GIVE THREE CHEERS AND ONE CHEER MORE...



ENNL Reader: Well, what's this all about? Don't keep us in suspense!

ENNL Ed: Sailor's Name: Eddy Ferranto (as in Eddystone light)

--Home: owns a duplex in S. Tahoe, Nevada

--Profession: Marine Engineer

--One Professional Occupation: Ships out to sea for one, three, six month stints.

Q: Where in the world has he sailed?

A: Easier to ask where he hasn't (says Eddy). Two places: Africa and Antarctica.

Q: Has he another professional occupation?

A: He is the Captain of the M. S. Dixie
And a right good captain too!

He's very very good

And be it understood

He commands a right good crew.

Also, he's never, never sick at sea, and
Never says a big, big D!

Q: What, never?

A: Well, hardly ever.

Q: And what sort of ship is the Dixie?

A: A paddlewheeler cruise ship on Lake Tahoe.
Q: Wowsie! ... Family?
A: Divorced; is putting several kids through school
Q: By any chance was Gillian champagne brunching on the Dixie when Eddy spotted her? (Or she him?)
A: No, Gillian was working full-time (10 hrs a day mandatory) as a quality-control chemist at a metallurgy plant in Carson City, which left little time or energy for social life (and she wouldn't have afforded such expensive fun, even had she preferred it to contra dancing and song-fest), while Eddy was lonely at sea, or captaining the Dixie and not caring for tourist-type-bimbos. Both Eddy and Gillian wanted a committed, caring relationship, but how to find someone suitable with the same desire? Each decided to try an expensive dating service (that matches people by aims and interests, not like the free personals in the Shoppers Guide). AND, almost at once, they were directed to each other! (Gillian says, tell ENNL readers that we overcame great odds--pursued every avenue--fought our way through hoi polloi.) But it looks to ENNL Ed. as though they cut through the brush pretty quickly. Didn't take them long to realize that their aims and interests indeed meshed; not only that, they liked each other. Eddy went to China and they both thought about things; liking turned to love; and Gillian has moved in. Cressida has a loft room and is going to S. Tahoe High, a

small school where the kids ski after classes, and then come home and do their homework--she can still see her Reno friends on weekends, and she thinks Eddy is cool. Gillian has quit her job, will manage renting the other side of the duplex to rich skiers (all you rich skiers, take note) for they live two blocks from "Heavenly" which spans the state line and has more miles of ski runs than any resort in the country. She'll get a job once she and Cress are settled in the new life--she's busy right now organizing 2 households into one.

Q: Eddy's interests?

A: Similar, natch, to Gillian's--camping, hiking, mountain climbing, skiing, banjo, games, sailing, reading, puzzles ...

Q: Has Eddy met Gillian's sisters and her cousins (whom she reckons up by dozens), and her aunts?

A: So far only one sister and the six Ryan kids; he also just missed meeting a niece (Jacki Dougan).

Q: Hmmm, does he know what he's getting into?

A: We hope so!

Q: Where can we send our three cheers plus one?

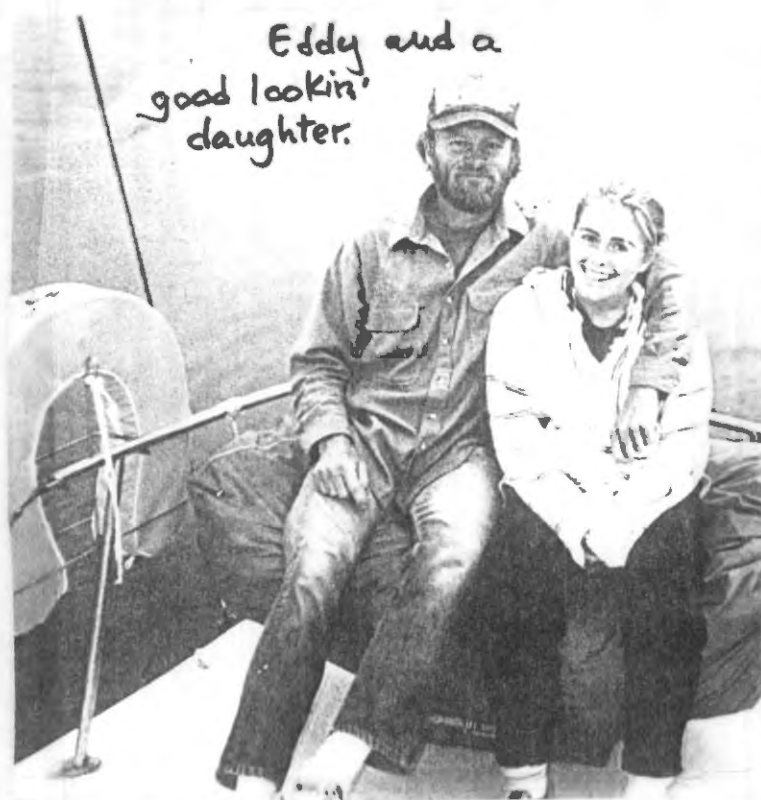
A: P.O.Box 6642, Stateline, NV 89449; (702) 588-1931. I don't know their e-mail.

Q: When will the wedding be?

A: Way down yonder 'neath the greenwood--oops! Wrong song. Looks like next summer, after one of Eddy's kids gets back from a junior year abroad.

Q: And will we dine and dance on the Dixie?

A: Where else? !!



Eddy and a good lookin' daughter.

THERE'S BEEN AN M.S. DIXIE CRUISIN' LAKE TAHOE SINCE 1949

First as a family pleasure boat, then expanded to become Tahoe's first public paddlewheeler in 1972. That vessel was retired in 1993, replaced by the state of the art 570 passenger M.S. Dixie II.

The story of the Dixie II's first journey, from the Upper Mississippi River shipyard to Lake Tahoe, could be a small book. Built to completion in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, then separated into four sections, it covered nearly 2,000 miles through six states on specially built trailers. The largest shipments were nearly as long as a football field.

The final hurdle was the Cave Rock Tunnel, just four miles from Zephyr Cove. With the highway closed and hundreds looking on, the 275 foot long rig inched through the curved tunnel, with two inches clearance on either side and a full six inches clearance on top. When the last section emerged from the tunnel, the crowd cheered, the transport crew high-fived and the Dixie II's owners heaved a sigh of relief. Then, down the road to Zephyr Cove Resort for final assembly and the Dixie II began her service to the public in May 1994.

Since her launch in 1994, the M.S. Dixie II has been an award winner. Almost immediately after commencing operation, she received the coveted "Best New Construction" designation from the Passenger Vessel Association as the finest new tour vessel to go into service in 1994.

In June of 1995, the Dixie II earned the title of "Best Boat Cruise" in a poll of Lake Tahoe residents and visitors, winning again in June, 1996. Rising above the competition is a way of life for the Dixie II.



A story: Gillian has a friend, Ky, whom she sometimes goes contra dancing with, out to eat, etc., but there's been no romantic interest. Ky had signed up for this dating service and urged Gillian to try it. So she filled out all the papers, paid her big bucks, and the first person whose name they sent, for her to meet--was KY!

I am never known to quail
 At the fury of a gale ...

NO NEWS AB'T ROUND BARN in this ISSUE?

I'm taking a breather (and giving you a rest)-- but **NEXT ISSUE** is **ENTIRELY** on **THE BOOK**-- so **STAND BY!** And think, **Holidays! GIFTS! FRIENDS!**
MEANWHILE:

WE'RE OFF TO ENGLAND AGAIN!

WHY DO I DO IT? IT'S IN MY BLOOD, I GUESS--
BUT THIS IS PROBABLY MY LAST TRIP BEFORE I RETIRE.

"British Lit: Medieval, Myth and Mystery."

Dates: May 18-June 6, 1998. 24 "students." Cost: 'Twas \$2200 in '96; it'll probably be another \$100 now--fares are up. Includes airfare, overland travel, all lodging, all breakfasts and dinners (exc. London dinners) and some lunches. Tuition extra, but those who go as Sr. Learners pay \$10 to enroll, and we also have some spots for those who just want to come--as long as we make our class quotas. My co-teacher is our new, young, vivacious, able medievalist, Karen Moranski, so we'll emphasize King Arthur and Chaucer, stay several days in Canterbury, etc. Still include Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Morris Dancing at the Ridgeway! More details soon. Let me know if you're interested, and spread the word. Call me at (217) 544-2916, or office, 786-6779, or write me at 816 N.

Fifth St, Springfield IL 62702.

These ENNL readers can vouch for these trips: Dad (from heaven!), Rose Corgan, Elizabeth Weir, Mimi Baldwin, Jo Schmidt (all more than once!), Cordelia Koplow, the Hathaways, Jan Grimes, Sara Crowner, Jacki Dougan, Mary Coffman (co-teacher), Helen Kaufmann (co-teacher), Cressida Broten, Annabelle Dirks, Paul Campagna, Bert Prather, Shirley Rye Redmond. (Who'd I miss?)

She's Crackers!



On stage tonight ...

Josh Yde

Same boy, 2 pix, front and side, like in the police line-ups. (See p. 6 for Souja Yde) Josh played a sonata with the Moraine Symp in March of '96. He's also a pianist and composer. (Wouldn't great gran be proud!)



Sweet sounds

WHAT ABOUT BEN? Youngest Yde, Ben, is no slouch, either. This summer he played *Vida* at the UW Music Clinic, and sang with the Drama Theater Chorus. AND, as a soloist, he sings like an angel!

A foursome of talented young Washington County musicians will join the Moraine Musicians in concert Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at Cedar Theatre. The youngsters -- Jessi Koch, Adrienne Koleas, Michael Wolf and Joshua Yde (pictured) -- won a January competition to earn the privilege to play with the Moraine Musicians. (Staff photo: Chad Hug)

DAMARIS QUILTS JOB; OFF TO HAWAII

Demi put in two years as a Waldorf kindergarten teacher, but found it a seven-day-a-week job, exhausting, a living but not a life (no time, energy) and not much of a living--the pay and perks very low. So while there was much she liked, and many people she cares about, she's left. (There is no central administration at a Waldorf school, so the teachers, besides teaching, must do all the administration, planning, recruiting of students, etc.) She may still try to find a job in Vermont, for she loves Vermont--but at the moment she's being a nanny to a family she was nanny to, five years ago in Minneapolis, and has accompanied them to Hawaii. She may stay on in Mlps, but first will return to Vermont for the final two weeks of her resonant kiniesiology workshop in October. (She will stay with Eva.) We should know her plans by mid-October.

BITS AND PIECES ☞☞☞

Idaho: Not yet reported in ENNL: The birth last Nov. 8 of **Colleen Baldwin Schmidt**, daughter of Tom and Terese, sister of Patrick. Now almost 11
Wilmette: **Karl Andrew Schmidt** has bought his great-grandpa Dougan's Chevy Caprice. He's now 16 and can drive it. Wouldn't Gramp be pleased?
Aptos CA: **Mark Ryan** recently had his first day of kindergarten! **Andy Ryan, 4**, is now in pre-school; **Jay, 2**, in daycare. Megan is on a reduced work schedule where she stays home two days a week so she can more time with the boys, but reports there is still never enough time!
Springfield IL: **Cheswick**, Damaris Jackson's 15 yr old cat, is making a good adjustment to living with the Ennl Ed. Demi will fetch Chez when she settles down again.*

Hinesburg Pond: **Mole End** has been reroofed!

OMITTED FROM ELLE/ROYCE ISSUE: I concentrated on the wedding and forgot to tell about the elegant shower that Jo Saner hosted at her home on Lake Springfield, for all Elle's and my friends. It was a lovely thing to do and we had a festive time.



Robert Schuchman

This doesn't look like Mom and Dad, but you can bet that this is what they're doing!



Jackie and Marian Levin dancing as crash dummies at a UIS sponsored Alcohol & Driving seminar. Hot & wet inside them rubber heads!

ADAM LEM DIES

Beloit: His various systems finally shut down, aggravated for a long time by a bad heart. He died at home Sep. 7, on his 69th birthday. Jackie came from Spfld and Elle from Milwaukee, Aug. 30/31, to see him and be what comfort we could to Margaret, and then again we both (and Royce) saw him Sep. 5, 6 and 7. For non-family readers, Margaret was housekeeper at the farm for 14 years, took care of Dad his last years, and since Dad's death she and Adam have been caretakers at Chez Nous. What always struck me most about Adam was his cheerfulness, his willingness to pitch into any task, especially plumbing, and his delight in the farm. He was a dear and good man. We'll miss him. Margaret will continue taking care of Chez Nous, and staying out there. She says she'll bring her big dog, nights. Both Adam and Margaret were/are loving-hearted people, salt of the earth.

More Unhappy News: Barbara Morrow Dies

Kent, Ohio It happened last November. Barb got pneumonia and died, before the doctors realized how sick she was. Many of you are familiar with Barbara's illustrations for two of my books: Chicken Ten Thousand and Spring Song. Her husband Bob illustrated The Orchestra Mice. Barb was a loving and caring and gentle person, and wonderfully talented. For the memorial service held this summer, her son Tom and his music group did an excellent theme and variations on the Spring Song tune. Bob has given me the tape. I'll copy it; ask.

More Unhappy News Yet: Govy Vercooteran.

Beloit: He was 86, one of the sweetest and most thoughtful guys in the world, and close friend of Mother and Dad. He fell off his roof a few weeks ago; broke ribs and pelvis, and died of a heart attack on the operating table. Govy, we grieve.

(And I won't go into how much I am grieving for Di)

DLJ MANAGES MUSIC CAMP; COMES TO LAKE

Lyndonville VT: Damaris was the manager of a three-week music camp, sponsored by an organization called Vermont Music and Art something, held at the Lyndonville State College. Most of the participants were older. She saw to everyone's needs, but also had time to play her viola in various chamber groups. When the ENNL Ed visited, she heard quartets coming out of almost every window! The sounds mingling and bouncing off the mountains. On the last night program Damaris did an improv dance to poetry, together with a violinist also improvising, and it was one of the loveliest things the Ed. has ever seen. Beautiful and moving. *And it was taped!* I'll let you know how to get a copy. . . . When Demi wasn't at the camp, or tending to business up north, she was at the lake with Cressie and Jackie. What a joy and blessing to have her! (She was wind-surfing pretty well by the time I had to leave.)

SUMMER SUPERCALIFRADJA--ETC. ETC.

Hinesburg Pond, VT: What with Cress there for month, and Damaris in and out all summer, a pretty good weather (cool) and our side of the lake having elegant potlucks every night, and a string quartet of Damaris and Marci Yoss, violins, Gabe Feingold, 10, viola, and Jackie, cello--well, it made for a super summer. (We performed at Gabe's birthday party; everyone came so we just closed off the road and had the party, music and all, in the road.) When you add in all the great people-- Pratts, Joan Hughes and Betty Wright, the Ringiewiczzes, Feingolds, Barrys, Weavers (swimmer Kate broke 5 records for 8 and under, at State!) and Alison and Paul in their snazzy new camp, and Eva at Rockhaven, with all the Walsh family rotating visits--what a community we have! Then up on the road are Irena and Jerry Case, and Irena's garden kept us in fresh produce all summer. We gave her a special vote of thanks, but she was in Ukraine and didn't hear it. Next summer! --I haven't mentioned the cutthroat UPWARDS games, the climbing of Snake Mountain, the swimming of the lake. And dear ol' Hele Stolper with her ills, but sticking it out!--with all of our help. (I did get some writing done, can you believe it.)



Minneapolis: Since the Fall '96 ENNL, there have been TWO weddings in the **Jerry/Debbie Dougan** family. Jackie didn't make it to Bilboa, Spain, for **Scott's** (and really regrets it!) but did get to Minneapolis for **Patrick's** lovely event and had a smashing time. (Where we saw videos of Scott's wedding!) That family is getting pretty diverse: Scott's bride is Spanish, Patrick's came from Korea and was adopted here, with her brother. The third son, **Dan**, is working in Russia, for Matrix International, shippers and movers, and his job is to get food into all corners of Russia. He brought three beautiful living-room size rugs from Afganistan to the wedding--for Scott, for Patrick, and for his folks. It was quite a package unwrapping! Jerry and Debbie visited Dan in St. Petersburg this summer, went to a 4 1/2 hour Glinka opera, with three intermissions, and at every intermission the sun was shining! It gets dusk around 12:30 am; there's a mystical glow till 2, when the sun comes up again. These are called "white nights" and people go a little crazy, during that 1 1/2 hour, Jerry says. One popular sport is watching the drawbridges on the Neva go up, a sight that's ignored in the daylight. . . . Scott has managed to transfer his postdoc work from Berkeley to NYU so that he no longer has a transcontinental marriage. He's also moving up the food chain--he did his thesis on flies, next came work on amphibians, now he's working with zebra fish.

GIFT FROM THE SEA

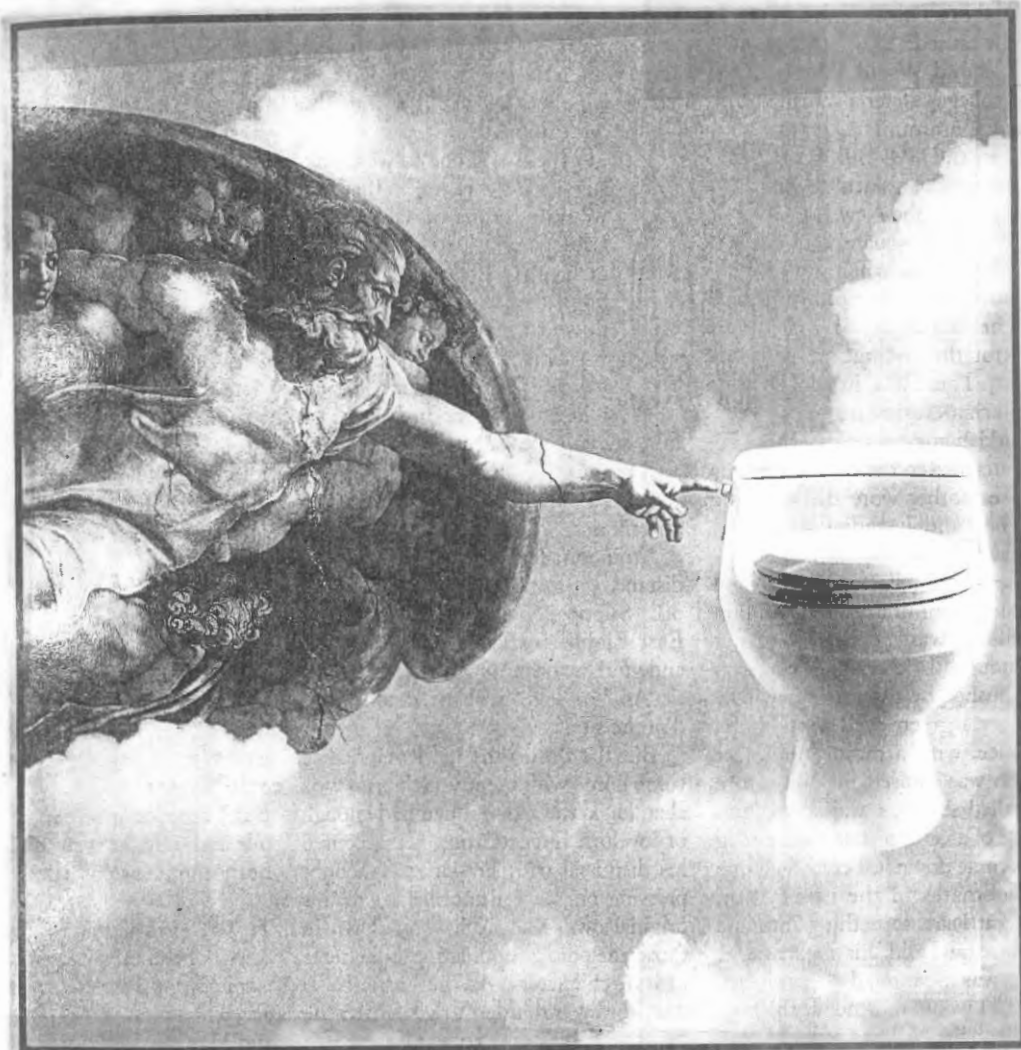
Hinesburg Pond: It floated up between the Jackson and Pratt camps and sank--an aluminum Grumman canoe in good shape, with a paddle in it! (It sank because it was totally filled with water, and got jammed into the rocks.) Jackie bailed it and got it on shore. No identification. NOBODY CLAIMED IT, so eventually Alan Pratt painted "J/P Lake Iroquois Gift Horse" on the bow. So we have us a joint canoe, and it's certainly easier to use than Jackie's old, old OldTown fibreglassed war canoe.

GIFT FROM THE LAND

Spfld. Andy Munkacsi, a biology grad student who lives at 816 N Fifth, too, and is doing his thesis on fungi, is keeping the house in mushrooms. Puffballs as big as basketballs are in the frij; we've had puffball alfredo, puffball spaghetti, sauteed puffball, puffball French toast, and other delicacies. He has things growing in his room I don't ask about. (Also, alas, his pet alligator is growing so large that he must find a new home for him. I will miss Elvis's inscrutable eye, and how he downs a hamster.)

These are some of the little woodcuts that are in Barbara Morrow's illustrations for Spring Song.





THE BOLD LOOK OF KOHLER.

The KOHLER San Raphael™ toilet. It's an environmentally friendly toilet that sacrifices nothing when it comes to power and performance. Maybe it's the 2" trapway. Maybe it's the sleek one-piece design. Either way, KOHLER has the touch. See the Yellow Pages

EXODUS TO (AH!) ITALY

Florence, mainly: Four family members went to Italy this spring/summer! Jo Schmidt urged the ENNL Ed to come along on an art history tour from the U. of Wisconsin, and it was a dream trip! Not only that, Julie Schmidt came, too! There were about 15 of us; neat people, whom I enjoyed. We went to Rome (Vatican, etc. and I got blessed by the pope willy-nilly, for I was in the crowd), then Florence for a week, all the famous galleries, plus little churches with marvels of art, with trips to Fiesole, Sienna, Pisa, etc. Finished with a few days in France, where we visited the Louvre, Versailles, Monet's garden, Cluny Museum, and Jackie bought a Tintin T shirt and also visited Jim Morrison's grave in the Pere Lachaise. (Drove steadily visiting it; Chopin, Abelard and Heloise, etc., are ignored.) I thought I couldn't take such a heavy dose of art I'd never had a course in, but I gobbled it up and was eager for more. Saw all the famous things, including the real thing from this ad, with the colors all bright and clear: the restorers left a few dark patches to show those who objected to the cleaning, just what the ceiling used to be like! We had wonderful knowledgeable guides, and our UW prof was great. In Florence we stayed at a villa belonging to (or leased to) the U.S. of Wis and Michigan, with extensive gardens (incl a maze), statuary, incredible meals. I had fun naming the art works, and interestingly, those are the ones I remember best: Madonna of the Ice Cream Cone; St. Catherine of the Lower Bunk. I plan, when I get my art history degree, to do a study on

severed heads (treatment of the neck), also why there are no children over two in religious paintings. (And no girl cherubs.) And when I go to art school, to do a triple triptych of the BVM washing and hanging out diapers, slaving over a hot stove, scrubbing floors, etc. She's always shown with a naked Jesus in her lap, no diaper, and doing no work. Well, I could write you a book. For other family member, see following article.

SONJA YDE FIDDLES IN ITALY, SPAIN

I think a lot of ENNL readers chipped in to help Sonja make this trip with the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. What an opportunity for a bunch of hardworking, dedicated kids! They gave well-attended concerts every other evening, all over the two countries, and in between, visited the famous sites and the galleries, seeing Botticelli and DaVincis, and also swam in the Mediterranean. Writes Sonja to all of us, "Another reason I enjoyed the tour so much was because I finally got to know some of the people in MYSO. During rehearsals there isn't really a chance to meet anyone, but there was lots of time to socialize on the trip. This trip is one of the best experiences I have had." (Next year Josh goes!)

West Bend: Our multi-talented Sonja soloed with the Moraine Symphony Mar. 22 '97, playing the Scherzo from the Litolff Concerto Symphonique No. 4. From the program: "Sonja Yde, a junior at West Bend High School, won the Senior Piano Division of the Generation NeXt competition." ENNL Ed attended the concert and was impressed! Mom Katie was in the violin section, and Sonja played there too except for her solo. Ydes put on a terrific pre-concert feast for all the guests who gathered.