



THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XVII NUMBER 3 MAY '99

"Is it weakness of intellect, birdie?
I cried..." -- W.S. Gilbert

LAST MOO FOR BARN

Board of Friends of the Dougan Round Barn Toss In the Tit Cup

We were actually out of saving the original barn once Boutelle refused to let us have it on site or to move--and absolutely out once he sold it to Wieland and Frey in January. We still had hopes of building a full size replica beside the Welcome to Wis visitor center--and State and city, while not helping with money, were encouraging us. But then Wieland/Frey got to the owner of the land promised us, and he reneged, so that is that. It's too bad. A lot of us sank much time, money and hope into the project. Friends is still a legitimate chartered corporation, but on inactive status. Had that pair not gotten in on the act, we would have had the barn half restored by now, and being readied for its spectacular trip to the highway. See the article from the Beloit Daily News, and a copy of my letter in the paper the same day. DoDaDai Inc. (as Wieland and Frey are calling their enterprise) has magnificent plans for a dairyland theme park, but we doubt their ability to pull it off. (Old World Wisconsin keeps afloat with subsidies from the State.) A mediating team tried to get us--i.e., Friends of Dougan Round Barn--to sign on with Bill and Mary, but there were too many problems

with the barn's deterioration, the site, and personalities, besides the incredible cost, for us to want to urge anyone to support the new project in our name, or the Dougan families'. We're sending a letter shortly to those who've contributed money beyond buying a book at discount, explaining further; I hope we don't miss anybody. I print it in this issue.



^{p. 2} Above, the old Dougan round barn. At right is a view of the tall silo inside the structure. Staff photos

Continued from below:

About two years ago a group incorporated as Friends of the Dougan Round Barn was formed. Its objective, at the start, was to move the old barn and its supporting central concrete silo to a nearby site on the east side of I-90, adjacent to the state welcome center. Lengthy negotiations with the then-owner of the

Please see BARN P. 2.

Open house to launch effort to restore Beloit round barn

By William D. Behling

April 23 '99 Editor Emeritus

Time and the elements have brought it to a sorry and precarious state, but the history-rich Dougan round barn east of Beloit still waits to be saved.

Mary Frey and Bill Wieland are determined to see the old barn restored. They want it to be the centerpiece of a farmstead memorializing the qualities of hard working, innovative family enterprise that made Wisconsin America's Dairyland.

The master plan of the Dougan Dairyland Development Associates, DoDaDai for short, is an ambitious

one. Frey and Wieland formed a corporation and bought the former Dougan farmstead. It hasn't seen a dairy cow in more than 30 years, but memories of Dougan Dairy as a farming showplace remain an indelible part of the community's history.

On Saturday, May 8, the long-neglected Dougan barn and farmstead will be the site of one of the more notable events of Wisconsin Historic Preservation Week. There's to be an "open house" to give the public a chance to see the barn and other buildings "in the rough" and hear about the restoration plan. Those so inclined will be invited to become project volunteers, and/or financial contributors.

Frey and Wieland, with the encouragement of numerous state, county and local preservationist and historical groups, want to create what they call the "America's Dairyland Heritage Site." They envision a museum-like layout that will be an educational and tourism center. Exhibits, information and demonstrations will, they hope, one day bring visitors from far and wide to see what family farming, dairying and rural life was like early in the 20th century.

In a sense, the DoDaDai venture picks up where an earlier round barn restoration -- or replicating -- effort appears to have come to a premature and unhappy end.



"Stories," Bill, "Stories!"

Barn — Continued from page 1.

farmstead, Spring Brook Partners, Inc., ultimately failed. That left some of the leaders of the "Friends" group disappointed and bewildered by the way in which a noble and popular effort came to grief.

Just last January, the Spring Brook organization sold the Dougan farmstead of about 3.3 acres to the Frey-Wieland corporation. Since then, there have been repeated efforts by DoDaDai to enlist the participation of the Friends group.

Meanwhile, the Friends decided to build a replica of the round barn on the I-90 site, which they had an option to buy. The option, granted by landowner Lester A. Wallace, expired March 1 and Wallace declined to renew it.

Frey and Wieland asked the Friends group to become a partner in the restoration effort. Talks to that end were held but the Frey-Wieland restoration plan and partnership terms weren't acceptable to the leadership of the Friends group. President of the Friends organization is Robert Hallett of Beloit. A major proponent of the original move-and-restore plan was Jacqueline Dougan Jackson, whose grand-

father built the round barn. She is an "ex-officio" member of the Friends group. Jackson's book, "Tales from the Round Barn," recounts the history of the Dougan farm from the perspective of one who spent her early life there. The author contributed funds, including a portion of the proceeds from the sale of her book, to the Friends. Many preservation-minded people also sent money or volunteered to help restore the barn.

In today's *Daily News* Public Forum is a letter from Jackson, which says she and other family members concur with a decision by the Friends leadership not to become involved with the Frey-Wieland project. It cites numerous reasons. Hallett told the *Daily News* the Friends group will disband. But several members of the group have told the *Daily News* they don't want to give up on the barn project, and believe they should have a voice in any decision about dissolving the corporation. A spokesperson, Lloyd Hornbostel Jr., says the corporation has renewed its charter for another year and can't be dissolved without the approval of its members.

In January, when it appeared that a worthwhile historic preservation project might be in jeopardy if the DoDaDai and Friends groups didn't find a way to work together, a "mediation team" was formed. Former Beloit City Manager Daniel T. Kelley, former Rock County Historical Society Director Richard Hartung of Janesville, and Michael Kramer, executive director of the Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation, agreed to serve. The trio met twice with people from the two groups.

Kelley told the *Daily News* that although Hallett and Jackson say the Friends aren't going to get involved in the project, the mediators remain hopeful that some form of relationship can be forged. He said the committee will give both groups a report suggesting "a resolution for meeting the common goal of saving the barn."

Some members of the Friends group told the *Daily News* they're still interested in trying to restore the barn, and aren't in favor of having the Friends group disbanded. They say they'd like to have a meet-



ing to discuss the mediators' suggestions.

Hallett says any funds remaining in the Friends account will be "given back to the donors." Hornbostel says the amount is about \$5,000 and it's up to the membership to decide what to do with it, if the group is dissolved.

Those wishing to aid the DoDaDai project can contribute money, materials, ideas and artifacts. Information is available from Mary Frey at 363-2324. Donations on behalf of the project are being accepted by the Greater Beloit Community Foundation, 159 W. Grand Ave., phone 362-4228.

The barn's dome-like roof has almost an acre of decayed composition shingles that lay on rotting boards. The 6,000 square feet of board siding, windows and doors are badly weathered. ~~Roofers and wall studs~~ are rotted away where the sidewalls and roof meet. The circular milking floor where stanchions and milking machine pipes have remained unused since the dairy shut down in the Sixties, is more or less intact and in need of much refurbishing. The cavernous loft surrounding the

60-foot tall silo, is illuminated by daylight filtering through the thousands of holes and cracks in the roof and sidewalls. Its floor, supported by heavy joists and posts, seems still-sturdy except for some rotting spots. When it rains outside, it rains inside too.

The poor condition of the barn, which interlopers have no trouble entering despite efforts to board-up doors and windows, makes it a potentially hazardous place. City officials long ago condemned the structure as unsafe. But first for the Friends and now for DoDaDai, the city has held off on demolition orders pending plans to stabilize and restore the building.

Beloit's community development director, Paul Rasmussen, says the city has given DoDaDai until June 1 to come up with a plan to repair the barn. Wieland says his group will meet that deadline, that it has bids from barn-restoring professionals. A cable is to be placed around the wall so the rotted sill where roof and wall meet, can be replaced. That's supposed to make the building safe for re-roofing and re-siding. Wieland says.



NEWS BRIEFS

The Briny Deep. Ed Ferranto, Gillian's husband, is off to sea on Cal State's Maritime Academy training ship, "The Golden Bear," where he's a watch officer and in charge of teaching a cadre of cadets their shipboard jobs. Gillian and Cressida are missing Ed and taking care of Coco, who is a puzzled doggie--where's my master gone? Ed left end of April, will return end of August.

Madison WI. Uncle Karl came through his heart surgery JUST FINE!

Minneapolis. Damaris Jackson is finishing a successful first year with her Waldorf pre-school, "The Wooden Boat," and will carry it on another year. She'll be in Vermont again this summer as the manager of the Vermont Music and Arts camp, and we hope to see her frequently at the Lake, out on her windsurfer, or playing quartets with us.

Lake Iroquois. Cress Broten and Jon Morlang will join Grandma Jackie (and Cheswick) at the lake this summer. They plan to paint the cottage, swim, boat, climb Camel's Hump, eat lotsa potlucks.

THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER VOL XVII NO 3 P 3

To the Beloit Daily News editors and the people of the Greater Beloit area: Apr. 18 '99

Over the past few years there has been publicity about restoring the Dougan round barn. A group, Friends of the Dougan Round Barn, was formed to do so; I am an ex-officio member of the board. Our vision was to restore a building rich in history and move it to a prominent place on the highway, to be a splendid icon to those entering the Dairy State. We had been consistently told by the owners, the Springbrook Associates, that the barn had to be moved, and there was even publicity in a national magazine stating this. When a year later Springbrook reversed this position and refused to let our group move the barn, or, conversely, to buy the barn and site as we offered, we then envisioned building an exact replica alongside the Welcome Center. In January of this year, Springbrook Associates sold the barn, all the adjacent buildings, and the land they rest on to Bill Wieland and Mary Frey. In March the Friends group lost the land on I-90 where it had intended to place the barn.

The Friends board has studied the plans of Wieland/Frey to restore the entire Dougan farm buildings site. These far exceed the original restoration plans of the Friends group, in time, volunteers, and fund raising. Also, the Wieland/Frey purposes for the property are not consonant with the purposes the Friends envisioned and advertised at the launching of their project. Therefore the board of Friends of the Dougan Round Barn has decided not to be involved with the Wieland/Frey project. My sisters, Joan Dougan Schmidt and Patricia Dougan Dalvit, my brother, Dr. Craig Dougan, and myself have also come to this conclusion, as have our cousins, Dr. Jerome Dougan and Karla Dougan Pendexter, also grandchildren of W. J. Dougan.

The Dougan family, and the Friends board, wish to thank all the people who have been supportive of the Friends group. *Jacqueline Dougan Jackson*



This was
in the BDN
April 23, along
with Bill
Behling's
article on
the barn.

Dear Friends of the Dougan Round Barn who have invested in the saving of the barn:

The Beloit Daily News article of April 23, 1999, written by William Behling, and headlined "Open house to launch effort to restore Beloit round barn," may well have created some confusion for readers, in the varied quotes by different board members of the Friends of the Dougan Round Barn, plus Jackie Dougan Jackson's letter. We hope this letter will clarify matters for those of you who have had a special interest in the round barn.

The board of the Friends has not disbanded the corporation, but renewed its charter for another year. The corporation is on inactive status. The money raised before the Friends ceased taking contributions, due to losing the barn, will remain for now in a secure account with the Greater Beloit Community Trust, Inc. Some of the money had already been expended for stationery, mailings, publicity photos, and other necessary expenses, as well as partial compensation for two persons working on grants, mailing lists, and publicity.

We are sorry that we failed to acquire the barn, either to remove it or to restore it on site, through a negotiated settlement with the owners. When that fell through, we proposed using the land we had contracted for on the highway (as the spot to place the removed barn) to build a beautiful replica. That possibility vanished when the owner decided to withdraw his offer of the land.

Jackie's letter to area people through the BDN stated that the board of the Friends, and the members of the Dougan family, after careful consideration, had decided not to be involved in the DoDaDai, Inc. project. Our reasons are several. The barn has so deteriorated during the past year that to restore it now would cost far in excess of what we felt the Friends could manage. The acquiring of the entire site (land and other buildings) would further encumber the Friends. There are unanswered questions about the environmental problems associated with the site due to its historic use. It has not been adequately surveyed and tested. Pollution could pose potential future liability. Further, the DoDaDai, Inc. plan for the total property as an educational and tourism center is far beyond what the Friends envisioned. Plans by the City of Beloit for the Willowbrook truck route from the Industrial Park along the west side of the barn and the negative impact of the adjacent trailer park were also concerns.

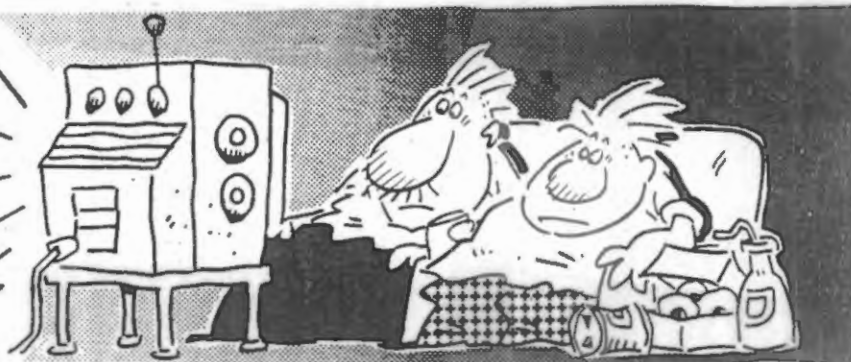
Again, we are sorry. Throughout all our negotiations, we acted in good faith. We will get in touch with you whenever there is any new information to impart. Please contact one of us if you have questions.

And this is
going out
soon to all
of you who
gave \$...



... it is
rather a
Gilbert &
Sullivan
comedy...

....AND NOW,
SOME BAD NEWS
FOR THOSE OF
YOU WHO
HAPPEN TO BE
CARBON-BASED
LIFE-FORMS....



-- And
then all
our names
& addresses
& phones. JJ's
is 816 N 5th
Spfld IL 62702
217-544-2916.
Selah.

THERE IS A LOT OF DEATH IN THIS ISSUE--and I haven't yet written about Eva Walsh, who died last October. I'll gather Eva stories and other Walsh stories over the summer to include in a special issue.

BELOVED INGRID KEADY DIES

Shurz, Nevada. It's with great heaviness of heart that I report what many of you already know--that Ingrid died of cancer May 6, at home. She had been doing fairly well, had been teaching half-days, but the chemo was ineffective. She was active to within a week of her death. Ingrid was Gillian's sister-in-law and a soul-mate. Cress is named after her aunt, Cressida Ingrid. Ingrid was the wife of Ash, mother of John and Willie. Their home is on the Walker River Paiute Indian reservation, and Ingrid taught at the Indian school there. Last year she was one of 14 Nevada teachers awarded special honors by the Reno Gazette Journal, and was the teacher chosen to be the speaker for the event. Her farewell service was held in the tribe hall, and the tribe has suggested naming their new school after her. Ingrid was a rare person, one of the bright spirits of this earth, an exceptional and loving woman. We are deeply grieving her loss.

MORE DEATHS . . .

Springfield. We recently lost our dear David Everson, one of SSU's founding faculty, apparently from a sudden heart attack, just as he was to take early retirement this May. He was associate chancellor of our school. He was also a writer of political science books and mystery books; his detective lives just a block down Fifth Street from me. The school's been in shock. Judy Everson has

AND BELOVED DOROTHY HATHAWAY Minneapolis. Dorothy, too, has died, late March. Dorothy had a long and valiant struggle with cancer; at its recurrence, she chose to live her last months without chemo. She went on playing her fiddle, seeing her friends, loving her grandchildren, labeling family pictures, playing lots of Scrabble and doing lots of laughing. My life has been enriched by knowing Dorothy and Bill; I met them through Bill's best friend, Bill Perlmutter, at Bill P's death in 1975. They made their home welcome to everyone. Damaris lived there for a while when she first moved to Minneapolis, and has been close to them ever since, often making music with Dorothy. Dorothy, a school music teacher till her retirement, once put on a splendid and original musical version of my and Bill Perlmutter's book, The Endless Pavement. She had an ebullient spirit, her life was a song, and how keenly, keenly we miss her.

been my English department colleague and several times co-teacher, in our years together. It is very hard. And then--

Bozeman, Montana. A week later, Bob Spencer, our first president, died. He's the one who hired me at SSU, on the recommendation of Bill Perlmutter, who was in on the founding of this school but never taught here. And Bob Spencer approved my tenure. He was a good friend, and his wife Edith is one-of-a-kind.

Life is short, Beloveds, even when it's long. Now that Jo and Karl's great 60th bash is over, how about that Dougan West reunion we've talked about? Fall '99? Spring, summer '00? Even winter? Near Jackson, WY? Karla, how ab't conferring with the two Schmidt families; could we meet somewhere in your area? We'd jump to come!

* **Dr. Mu says,** "By my cowculations, Jackie's discount allows her to buy her own book for **\$16 rather than the store price of \$25.** She'll send you any number of books at that price, plus the postage on the package. Return this blank to **Jackie Jackson, 816 N. 5th St., Springfield, IL 62702,** and send your payment when you receive the book(s). A moo-st handy way to give your family and friends a happy holiday!" (Make any day a holiday!)

Name _____
Address _____

Yes, I want _____ book(s), sent ☐ book rate ☐ first class

Autograph to _____



(Art by Mark Brennehan)

* It's still possible to order a book, or books, at my special discount--the price the paperback (not discounted) will probably be.

AND NOW FOR SOME GOOD NEWS: MORE STORIES FROM THE ROUND BARN IS IN THE WORKS: BIG BOOK ON HOLD

Such has been the success of Stories from the Round Barn that Northwestern U Press wants a sequel! My editor and I figure two books in the hand are worth the big one still in the bush, so I've gotten in a second manuscript. It'll not be out in time for fall publication, so continue to give Stories for gifts, until I blitz you with info on how to get More Stories. You'll be able to read more about Ron Dougan and Grampa, but this time Craig, Uncle Trever, and various milkmen and townspeople will also be featured. Plus I'll tell the whole story of what happened to Esther; many of you have asked. So what about the Big Book? I'm back at work on it, and have every hope that it too will be published, after More Stories. Your buying and publicizing the first two books will ensure this happening. What I don't want is a third sequel--"Even More Stories Yet from the Round Barn"--though I do have enough material for that one and another. Material that many of you have contributed, telling your experiences on the farm. I yearn to see these in print, in the Big Book.

BECKY VEACH BACK AT WORK

UIC Med School, Chicago. And is her staff glad! Becky, the quintessential workaholic is back to full days, after 6 months rehab from her stroke. She can manage most things, has to work her computer with one hand. Stairs sometimes a problem. Jerry has rented an office nearby so he can get on with his business and still help with transportation. Both just returned from Columbus where they attended Tim's dance company's first big performance.

STORIES from the RB A PAPERBACK?

It's a possibility; maybe this fall. If so I'll let you know.

Nope-Spring 2000!

it's slated for 9/9 or later 2000!
BEN YDE, West Bend WI, 8th grader, and your editor's grand-nephew, was taking a standardized test. He saw some familiar bottle caps on the page, and a familiar amber bottle. Turned out the story he was being tested on was an excerpt from the "Milkroutes" chapter from Stories RB. He called to tell me about it!

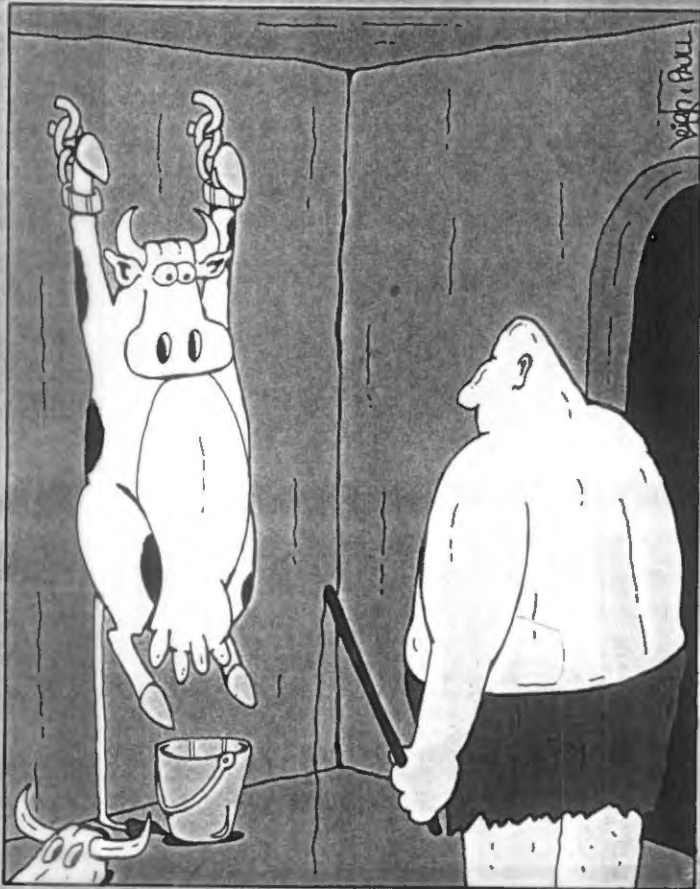
ELLE, ROYCE BUY HOME IN DELAVAN
Delavan's a small town once the winter quarters of Barnum and Bailey Circus, so the downtown sports various giraffe and elephant statues--more tasteful than it sounds. There are small lakes within the town, and big Delavan Lake nearby. The Wisconsin School for the Deaf is there, where Grampa Dougan (WJ) went to learn sign language. It's 20 miles from Beloit, so nearby! The house, on a quiet tree-lined street, is white stucco w/ green trim, distinctive eaves. Plenty of room for Elle and Royce (and three cats) and for a babe when one comes. Sunny rooms! All are happily settled in, esp. the cats. 401 McDowell, Delavan WI 53115

FOOT IN CAST SLOWS ELIZ WEIR

Lake Bloomington: But only slightly. Liz has tramped all over England on Jackie's trips, and Greece, Turkey, twice Russia, and goes all over as a Red Cross volunteer --Guam, Haiti, etc. But she came to grief in Israel recently when she stepped in a rabbit hole and broke her foot.



The horrible truth behind whipped cream.



"Now, Sally, don't think of this as a forced retirement ... it's more like we're just putting you out to pasture."

AVALANCHE HOSTS AVALANCHE!

Stateline, NV: An avalanche of people, that is. Not everyone's Spring Break coincided, except for Easter Sat-Sun, so some of the Jackson family came early, the week before, and some came late, staying the week after. So Gillian, Cress and Eddy had a lo-o-o-o-ng spring break! It blizzarded: Michael had a hard time getting in and out with his little plane, and some days it was too bad to ski. Ed's final trip captaining the Dixie he cancelled when only 9 of the 175 people showed up--but he'd have cancelled had more shown, for Lake Tahoe was a raging sea, with no visibility. We scarcely

STORIES FROM

Become a Friend of the Dougan Round Barn and help save the home where I spent so many contented years!



- Annual Memberships:
- \$10.00 and you're a BARN CAT
 - \$20.00 makes you a CUD CHEWER
 - \$35.00, be an UDDER WASHER
 - \$50.00, a MILKER
 - \$100.00, an ol' BARN HAND
 - \$250.00 (Wow!) you're a DAIRYMAN or DAIRYMAID
 - Over \$250.00, you're FARM BOSS

Lifetime Membership:

- \$1,000 You've bought the farm!

As a Friend of the Dougan Round Barn, you'll receive a membership card and an occasional newsletter chronicling our barn-saving progress. Those giving \$250 or more will receive an autographed copy of Jacqueline Dougan Jackson's *Stories From The Round Barn*.

Make out your tax-deductible check to: "Greater Beloit Community Foundation (Attn: Round Barn)", and mail to the Greater Beloit Community Foundation, Box 131, Beloit, WI 53511



MOOOOOOOO!

THE ROUND BARN

↑ Obsolete before ever used! I'm butter yellow and grass green! Want a few hundred? We have 1,000!

made it off the pier in the howling wind and driving snow. We played a lot of Scrabble: once in a while Royce got beat. Boggle: Cress can sometimes beat her mom but no one else can. We worked puzzles. Looked at movies about the sea. Ate lots of good food. Sat frequently in the hot tub in various combos. (The Ryan boys love the hot tub.) Late guests went to a stage show. Who all came? Megan, Michael, 3 little boys and Nini; Damaris; Jackie; Elle and Royce. Add Gillian, Eddy, Cress, her friend John, dog Coco, plus a young man who's living with them, and you have a full-to-bursting house. But everyone pitched in, and it was fun.