



"Croaked the raven, 'Nevermore . . .'"  
... Edgar Allen Poe

## SAME OL' STORY: THIS TIME SCOTLAND

I should quit these trips and probably this newsletter too, BUT . . .

I haven't been twisting anyone's arm to go to Scotland with us this June (as on every OTHER one of my 8 or 9 trips) because we had lotsa enthusiasm and a waiting list--but the waiting list has evaporated, and people who were on our firm or almost firm list have also evaporated, for various reasonable reasons--financial aid not coming through, still paying for a wedding, having a family wedding scheduled right in the middle of the trip, ill health, can't get off work that long, trip too late in the season, etc. etc. It's not like people don't WANT to go.

**SO-- if you have a yen to visit Scotland, or can twist someone else's arm to go--and you who've been on our England trips know that we run an unusual and inexpensive trip--please exert your powers! You don't need to take the class or pay tuition though if you WANT the credit, we can enroll you for 4 hours.**

Whoever comes, we'll provide with our reading list and materials. Data:

--June 11-30, "Scottish Literary Culture" Teachers: myself and Karen Moranski

--\$2600 includes airfare and everything else except some lunches

--U of Edinburgh and Glasgow U speakers on history, literature, culture, politics

--visits to Edinburgh, Stirling, Glasgow, Inverness, Iona (Book of Kells), Lochs Lomond, Katrine and Ness, Stirling and Edinburgh castles and Palace of Scone complete with Stone of, various famous ruins, Skaar Brae on Orkney, a 5000 yr old excavated village, maybe Skye. A whiskey distillery, single malt. Bobby Burns sites, ditto Sir Walter Scott, Stevenson, even Barrie. Robert the Bruce and Wm Wallace monuments. Singing and dancing and bagpiping. Incredible scenery. Yummy haggis. Great coach driver, Dereck again.

You can call our secretary Julie 217-206-6779 or email me (jjackson@uis.edu) for more information. Please spread the word!

## REST OF THIS NEWSLETTER THE NEWS THAT WAS LOST FROM THE LAST ISSUE (SOME OF IT ANYWAY)

**FIRST SOME GOOD NEWS:** NORTHWESTERN U PRESS HAS BEGUN PRODUCTION OF MORE STORIES FROM THE ROUND BARN; IT SHOULD BE READY NEXT FALL FOR HOLIDAY GIVING. SO MAKE YOUR LISTS! I'LL AGAIN PROVIDE ANY NUMBER OF BOOKS TO YOU FOR WHAT IT COSTS ME--PROB AROUND \$16 AND POSTAGE. (IT'S A HARDBACK, COMPANION VOLUME.) DON'T WORRY, I'LL HIT YOU FOR THIS IN THE FALL. DID YOU DOUBT IT? (I'M NOT SO LOVABLE AS I USED TO BE, AM I.)



HAVE YOU SEEN THE BELOIT POETRY JOURNAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
VOLUME? WOWSY!



(card by  
Mark)

Santa Cruz: Mark Ryan turns 9, has skating party

to Grandma and Annabell  
Please come to my

who:

Mark Ryan

when:

Friday, Feb. 16, 2001

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

where:

Santa Cruz Roller Palladium

1606 Seabright Ave.

Santa Cruz

BIRTHDAY PARTY

**Travels and assorted news notes:**

**Reno:** Your editor visited Cressida and went to college with her for two days in January. Met her suitemates, was impressed in general.



**State Line, Nevada:** Your editor visited Gillian and Eddy on top of the mountain above Tahoe in January. Beat once at Boggle. (With handicap.)

**Los Altos:** Your editor visited Marie and Nils Lang-Ree in February. Nils worked on the farm in the 50's for a short while and is related to Gilbert Gjostvang. Was treated royally.

**San Jose:** Your editor visited Roberta and Eck DeKay, formerly of Springfield, in January. Was treated royally.

**Santa Cruz:** Your editor visited the Ryans and Annabelle Dirks in Aptos and Santa Cruz in February. JJ worked in Mark, Andy, and Jay's school for two days. Was treated royally.

**Delavan:** Your editor goes up to Wisconsin every chance she gets, works on emptying Chez Nous (endless job), stays with Elle, Royce and baby Rachel, which makes it a joy. Demi came down for Twelfth Night Revels with the Gammons clan, and was a joy. Ate with the Gene Shepherds last Sunday; Gene says nobody has told him not to plant this year so he's continuing to farm till someone in authority tells him not to.

Actually on all my travels I'm treated royally. I don't know why I stay home, in the total chaos of my house. Shoe can't compare.

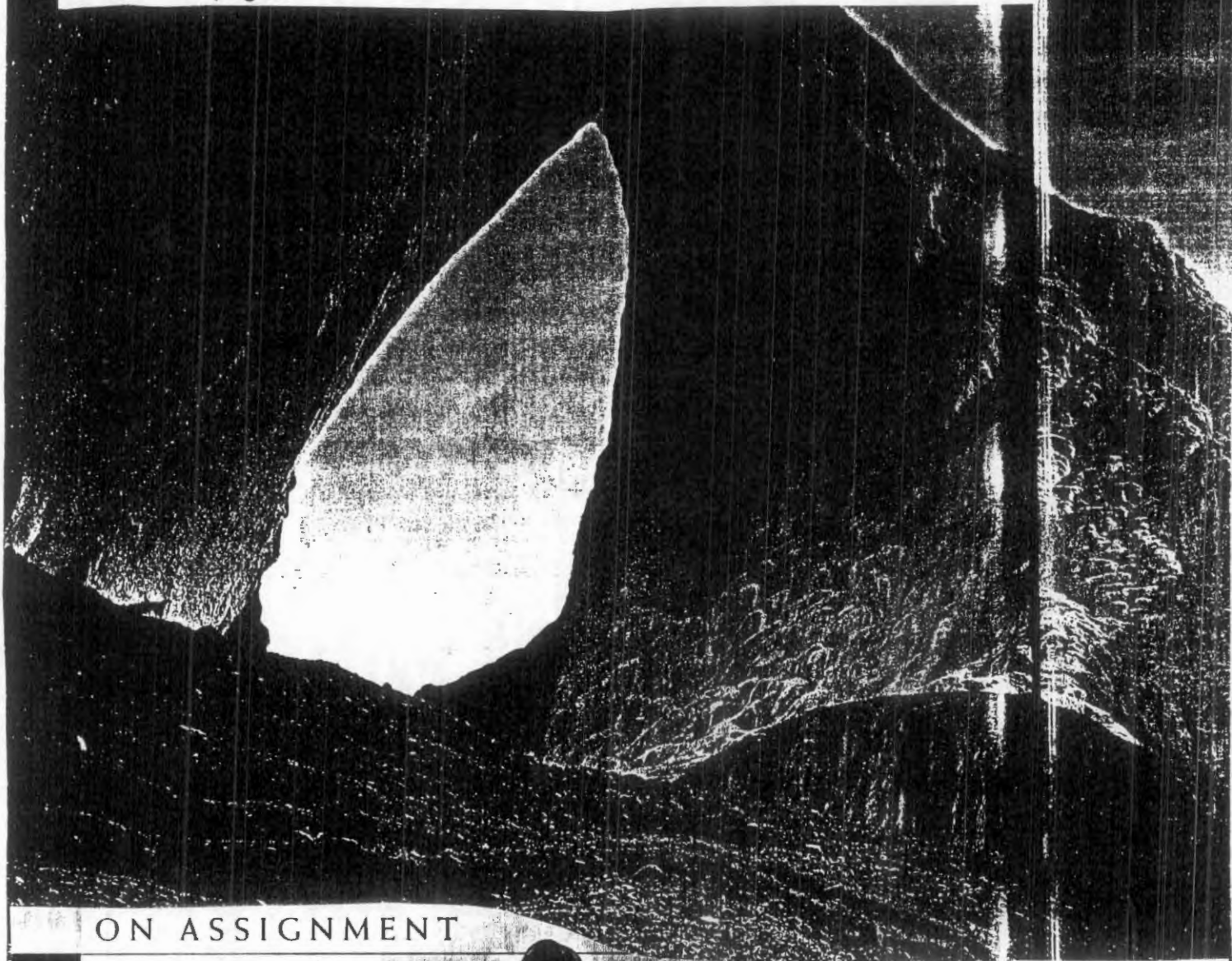
**Spfld:** New computer has glitches. Email indicated sent was not sent.

Other problems. I shall return to pencil and paper. Or papyrus. Or clay and cunieform.



## jeremy makes national geographic

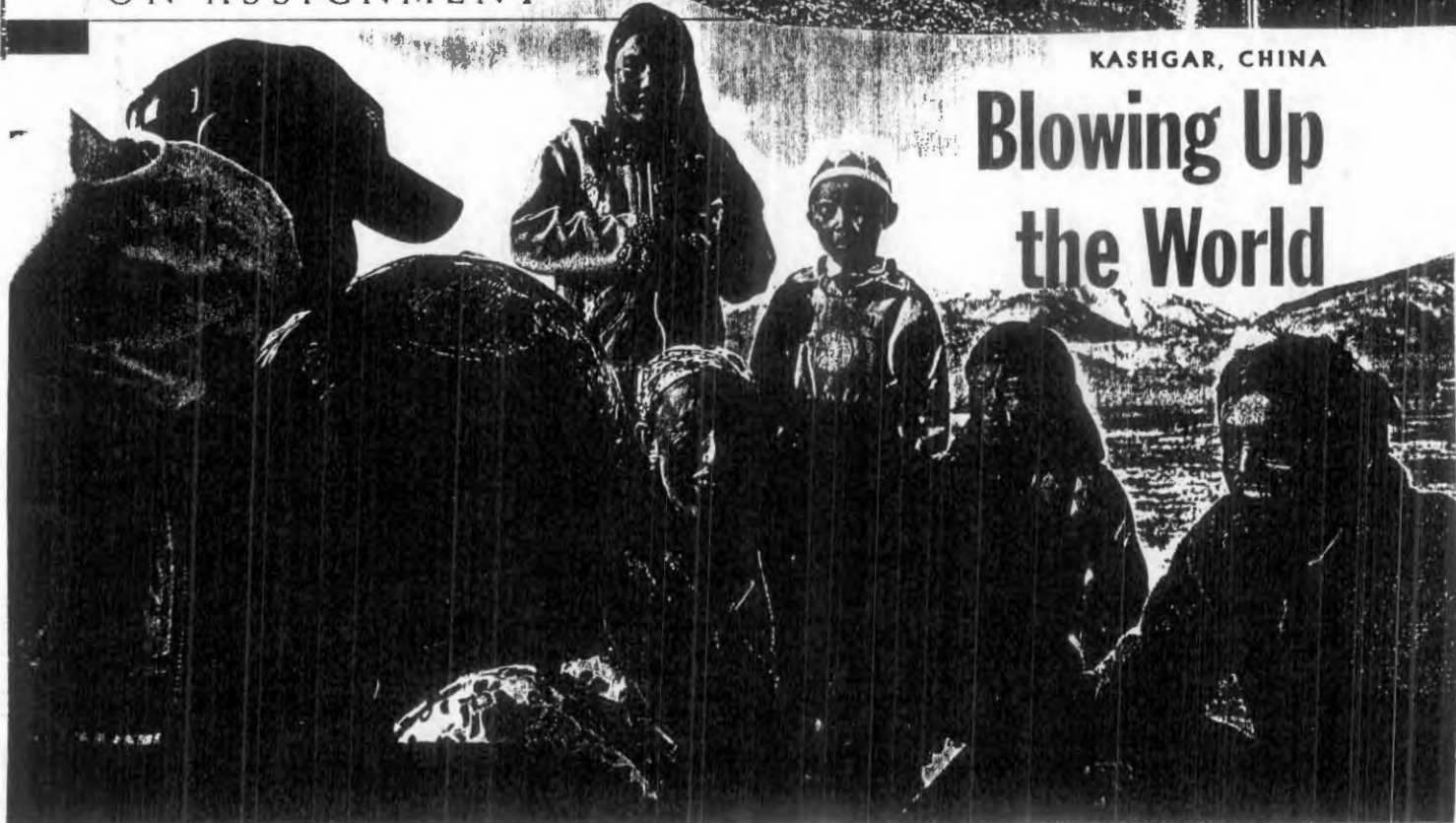
It's the December 2000 issue, the one with polar bears on the cover, the article's called "Journey to Shipton's Arch." They took 200 rolls of film and the mag only printed a few pix but two of them are Jer's, and don't miss an actual photo of him in the back pages.



ON ASSIGNMENT

KASHGAR, CHINA

## Blowing Up the World



GORDON WILTSIE

Jeremy Schmidt, at right, takes an inflatable globe with him wherever he travels on writing assignments. Blowing it up, as his guide in Kashgar does here, "is a way to get people to understand where you are from

and where they are. It's a great conversation starter and good entertainment too." Jeremy first went to Kashgar in 1987 during a nine-month trip through Asia; the Shipton's arch expedition was his first return visit. "I was

afraid this beautiful old city had been overrun by a modern invasion," he says. "I was pleasantly surprised to see that it still had the feeling of an outpost, with mud-brick buildings and shady lanes."

Found the article on George (Joe) Lentell, Chez Nous's closest neighbor and model for Lonzo in my Taste of Spruce Gum. Joe died suddenly two weeks after this was published. It did give him great delight.

BELOIT DAILY NEWS, Tuesday, October 17, 2000

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## A remarkable fellow is Cousin George

THOSE AMONG US who are handicapped in some way but manage to deal with their affliction and lead satisfying lives, should be an inspiration to the fortunate ones whose bodies and minds are able. We think too often how "unlucky" those with disabilities are, but probably not often enough how "lucky" it is to have been born "normal."

I thought of those stereotypes the other day as I met with my cousin, George Lentell, over at the Meadow Park home in Clinton. George is being cared for there, in the wake of a fall that broke his leg. He hopes to go home soon. He can't wait to get back to his current project.

George, who has lived with cerebral palsy since birth almost 73 years ago, builds churches. Not big churches; doll-house-size white-painted churches with pointed steeples and red plastic windows. He builds them in two sizes, the largest being about two feet tall, the other about half that. They can be a tabletop item, the centerpiece for a Christmas or Easter scene, or, whatever.

WHEN ONE CONSIDERS the limitations that his affliction places on him, one marvels that George is able to saw the plywood panels, cut out the window openings, fasten everything together, and paint his churches. But, relatively speaking, those accomplishments are minor alongside the things that George has done most of his life despite unsteadiness and being virtually unable to speak.

Challenged by his late father, Howard, since he was a toddler, George acquired the ability to work with tools, operate and fix appliances, drive cars and farm tractors, make electrical and plumbing hook-ups, and so on.

GEORGE'S RECENT mishap has him confined to a wheelchair, but he is anxious to be rid of his leg cast, so that he can get about with his walker, and get on with the building of churches. He's built eight, mostly with the help of Rose Carlson, and the willingness of the staff at Meadow Park to let him use part of the activity room as a workshop. Rose cuts out the panels and helps him put them together. Friends, relatives and staffers at Meadow Park have ordered more,



William D. Behling

and Christmas is coming.

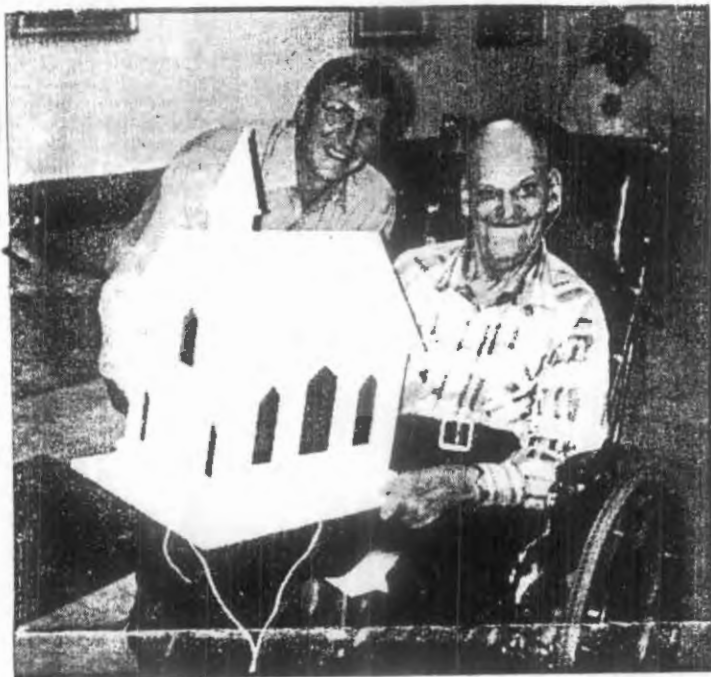
George and his older sister, Ruth Vogel, live in the Colley Road home their father built almost 50 years ago. Both parents are long deceased. Brother and sister have some mobility problems, which is why they consider Rose Carlson one of their major blessings. But, in a pinch, both George and Ruth can drive. George has a restricted license, having passed the necessary tests, and can navigate outlying roads and streets. When Ruth was hospitalized recently, George drove to the hospital for daily visits.

CARING FAMILY MEMBERS, friends and neighbors have been a big help. The late Ron Dougan employed George on his dairy and seed farm and later he worked on the Ronald Freitag farm. Dougan employees Roy and Fanny Veihman and Erv Fonda were good friends, and neighbors Betty, Bob and Carol Lang are close by and willing to help when needed.

George may owe his life to Dick Post, another neighbor, who rescued him when he was trapped beneath his lawn tractor, years ago.

A major accomplishment for George, in recent years, has been learning to use his computer. He turns out fancy greeting cards and banners. And he writes checks to pay his bills. His father and sister and some tutors have taught him a lot. He's learned a lot on his own too, by watching and listening to others, watching television and reading books and newspapers. And he's an avid user of the Internet.

ONE OF THE BRIGHTER moments in George's weeks of confinement to a wheelchair at Meadow Park came recently. His pastor, Gene Van Galder of the First Baptist Church, came for a visit. He went home with a birthday present: one of George's little churches. The



Submitted photos

Above, George Lentell, right, with his pastor, Gene Van Galder, and the church that was George's birthday present to Van Galder. Below, George Lentell and Rose Carlson, with one of the model churches George designed, and they worked together to build.



preacher was surprised and delighted; the gift-giver beamed, and the onlookers applauded.

Cousin George is, in my book, a remarkable guy. Sure, he was "unlucky" to be born with a handicap that would doom a lesser person to a life of dependency and little to live for. But George has been

"lucky" to have had the gumption, the perseverance, the intelligence and the encouragement of many, to lead a good and useful life.

All of which suggests that the terms "unlucky" and "lucky" are relative.

William D. Behling is editor emeritus of the Beloit Daily News.

did I mention sad deaths last time? Marie Knilans, who's been so helpful with my work, pix from her will be in the next book. And Tom Kelley, whose dad worked on the farm, and who supplied me with pix for the first book.



## On E-Mail:

While E-mail has added benefits to my life, it's also increased the general chaos, because now it has to be dealt with too, along with mail--which gets lost and not answered (often even when it's not lost), answering machine (which goes unanswered), etc etc and there's something abt e-mail that makes people expect a prompt answer, myself included. Or important dated material is sent on email, so you don't dare ignore it. However, a benefit of the internet and email is that some people who have read my books in the past have found me on the net, and written. So far I've had letters on Julie's Secret Sloth, Ghost Boat, Paleface Redskins, Taste of Spruce Gum, Snail, Endless Pavement, what others? A musician from Germany wrote me from a music and art high school for permission to make an operetta from Orchestra Mice. I told her to go ahead with my blessing.

And here's a benefit of the net--we can find books! I'm woefully short of my own out-of-print books, and want to make up collections for the grandchildren, but Gillian found a bunch of mine on Alibris and I bought 7 books for \$108, delivery free since I ordered more than \$50. There are other locales, too. Barnes and Noble, others. Some of mine are incredibly expensive--Palefaces is going for \$150 to \$250 on some sites, and Missing Melinda for about as much. Sure gives you pause. Recently Marian Stocking, thinning her bookshelves, sent me back a bunch of mine, and how welcome they are! Not sure I thanked her, but I will, I will.



Last issue I mentioned finding the dead sea scrolls at the farm, and said I'd explain in this issue. Here it is: back in fall of '79 I found WJ's letters to Trevor in college. Dad felt sorry his father had never written him. I said of course he did, you just didn't save them. But then in a few years his Soph. year letters showed up, and I realized one just didn't throw out WJ's letters. And then I found his Jr. letters, and I printed up the three sets of letters in a volume for the family called "Your Loving Father." But it's been a lot of years since then, and I'd given up on Dad's Freshmen year letters. BUT! in an unlikely place at the farm, where I thought I'd searched before, here was a whole scroll of letters with familiar handwriting showing--I knew instantly these were the missing Freshman year letters, and they were. Many from Gram. The only real detail she ever goes into is her troubles with Esther, which I've copied and plopped right into the proper place in More Stories. Poor Esther, it's a wonder she grew up as loving and generous as she did.

### SOLVING THE MAZE

Within sight but tantalizingly out of reach, Shipton's arch beckons Mark Newcomb, Jeremy Schmidt, and local guides (above). Like Shipton, the team was initially stymied by the labyrinth of peaks and slot canyons guarding the arch. After the successful climb Schmidt (below) sketched the span with stick figures on top for the men of Mingyol, where the elusive arch inspires local legends. "This guy got really excited," Schmidt says. "He began yelling to the others in Uyghur, 'They actually got on top of the thing!'"



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, DECEMBER 2000

More on the Arch!

## Dougan Round Barn Friends make Donation to National Dairy Shrine

The organization, Friends of The Dougan Round Barn, Inc., headed by Robert Hallett, Beloit, Wisconsin, President; Lloyd Hornbostel, Roscoe, Illinois, treasurer; and Jacqueline Dougan Jackson, Springfield, Illinois, ex-officio member, recently donated \$4,100 to the National Dairy Shrine organization. The donation made on behalf of the late Wesson Joseph Dougan and his wife, Eunice, were made in honor of their award winning farming practices that led to "Master Farmer" awards from such magazines as the Prairie Farmer. Later in life, the Dougans were awarded Honorary Recognition Awards by the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture and the Board of Regents for their forward-thinking farming practices.

In order to honor the works of the early 20th century farmers, friends of the Dougan family established a fund to preserve the Dougan's Round barn and

the history associated with it. The group is formally known as "Friends of the Dougan Round Barn, Inc." Goals were to preserve the round barn and the history of the Dougan Family. But the barn saving project became unrealistic. "The most logical choice to honor our grandparents was to have the funds donated to National Dairy Shrine," said Jackson. "The history of the dairy farm is being preserved in a series of books written by me - Stories from the Round Barn, Northwestern University Press."

Karen Potratz, a member of National Dairy Shrine's executive committee, was among those present to accept the check. "This generous gift will be used to support National Dairy Shrine scholarships, awards and programs. Gifts like these allow us to preserve dairy history and help the next generation of dairy leaders get off to a good start through our scholarship program," she said. "Our sincere appre-

ciation and thanks go to the members of the Dougan Round Barn Organization."

National Dairy Shrine, the "Hall of Fame" of the dairy industry, has over 16,000 lifetime members located in all 50 states and in many other countries. Its goals are to record the history of the dairy industry and to honor past, present, and future dairy leaders. Several scholarships are provided each year to college students and a Museum and Visitors' Center is maintained in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin.



Those in attendance for the presentation were: (front row seated) Jan Kohls and Joan Dougan Schmidt; (standing) Steven Larson, past president of National Dairy Shrine; John Wimet, city manager of Fort Atkinson; Carolyn Weh, Fort Atkinson Historical Society; Sue Hartwick, curator for the National Dairy Shrine and Hoards Museum; Barbara Lorman, president of the Fort Atkinson Historical Society; Jacqueline Dougan Jackson (presenting check), ex-officio member for the Friends of the Dougan Round Barn Inc.; Lloyd Hornbostel, treasurer for Friends of the Dougan Round Barn Inc.; Karen Potratz, (accepting check) member of the National Dairy Shrine executive committee; Bob Hallett, president of Friends of the Dougan Round Barn Inc.; Diane Adendroth, vice-president of Fort Atkinson Historical Society; and Gene Meyer, past president of National Dairy Shrine.

If you know of anybody's who's nettled because he/she contributed money to saving the barn and then didn't get it back, let me know and I'll send a personal check. We did our honest best.

