THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER VOLUME XXII, NO. 2, June 2004

'Tis finished? Say not so! For birds still sing, the wind doth blow . . --Anon



SONJA, CRESSIDA, ROYCE GRADUATE!

JENNY/AARON/HUBBA HUBBA/BORA BORA

LEWIE PULLS THRU; PAT CONDUCTS

EDDY BREAKS A LEG SNOWBOARDING

CRAIG: PSA A-OK! (.06) no writeup, sorry, Craig! (No picture extent)

DEMI: CHICKEN POX A SECOND TIME

MUCH TRAVEL: ITALY, SPAIN, EGYPT, FRANCE, DORSET/CORNWALL, BAHAMAS, TURTLE TOWNSHIP

ANNIE: CHANTER; DAVID: BMX BIKER

ROUND BARN MS OFF TO EDITOR

Man trapped by junk in home

Piles of paper collapse on him

RACHEL'S HEAD STUCK IN RAILING

CHEZ NOUS STUCK IN CORNFIELD









How could it

Graduation News, Summer Activities, School News, Etc.:

Madison: Sonja Yde has graduated with a double major: Music (Violin Performance) and Business, which means she has bachelors degrees from both L&S and the Business School! She received High Honors in each. (Sonja, did you have to go through two ceremonies?!) Now she's at Aspen at the music festival, where she and Paul Micksch, her fiance, are both working for the summer. They'll be married Aug. 28. Reno: Cressida Broten graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno, "With Distinction," with a minor in French and a major in International Affairs. She's off to spend the summer in France with her friend Laurent, then in the fall has a job in France teaching English to French children. We all know where to go on vacation! Delavan, WI: Royce DeBow has graduated with a B.A. in Business Administration, summa cum laude, from American Intercontinental University, one of the leading on-line universities, which also has physical campuses in Atlanta and other places. The graduation ceremony was on-line, a first for this university, with Pomp and Circumstance, every graduate's name read aloud as a pen scrolled it on a diploma, and an excellent graduation speech by Al Gore. Royce had such a good time getting his B.A. he intends to push ahead for an M.A. in Public Policy from New England College; which is also online but requires several campus stays.

<u>Wooster, Ohio:</u> Annie Guthrie is one of a select group of Wooster College students to receive an Azimuth Grant, part of Wooster's Lilly Project Internships. She will live with two religious communities in St. Benedict, Minnesota, for six weeks while studying and practicing Gregorian chant. Sounds like a splendid summer!

WE WERE ALL PLENTY SCARED, BUT LEW IS GETTING WELL!

Johnson City, TN: Most of you know how close Lew Dalvit came to not making it, this March. A burst appendix resulted in massive infection, clots, and all manner of near-fatal complications. He hung on by a hair (all that healthy living Pat has insisted on came through) and is on the road to recovery. Long ICU stay. Lew writes, "I am gaining strength rapidly though I must stay on querminine, a blood thinner, for six months to clear up the clots and I will be on Flagel (for intestinal problems) till I reach Canada. Then comes the big test--we all hope the infection does not return." The ENNL Ed doesn't know whether Lew will be doing any conducting this summer, or how much of the St. Andrews music school and festival he'll be running, but she bets he'll do everything he's done before. In Johnson City, everyone was supportive, but Pat Dalvit most of all, who took over conducting the Youth Symphony in concert. See the clipping!

Patricia Dalvit to conduct in absence of her husband

■ Maestro Dalvit recovering from complications from surgery.

Patricia Dalvit will pick up the baton from her recovering co-conductor husband so as not to miss a beat in leading the youth orchestra in its final concert of the year May 14 at 7 p.m. at East Tennessee State University's Mathis Hall.

Maestro Lewis Dalvit is recovering from emergency surgery to remove a ruptured appendix. Through many ensuing complications he has maintained his sense of humor, and he will be back on the podium for the 2004/2005 season beginning with the free Concert in the Park on Sept. 19.

Patricia Dalvit has had a successful career of teaching and training strings, forming and conducting youth orchestras, and of playing professionally in orchestras throughout the world. Together, the Dalvits have worked as a team in helping to build musical organizations in the many communities where they have lived and worked

The hour-long program will feature the young and talented musicians of the youth orchestra as they perform works by Handel, Haydn, Holst, Tansman and Bloch.

There is no admission charge for the youth orchestra concert.

Teachers whose students will be performing in the concert are Tim and Kim Barrett, Erin Keene, Ann Gouge, Katie Hamilton, Nicole Misterly, Caroline Sparks Giles, Laura Sparks Harrington, Susan Sterling, Tom and Debbie Stites, Galina Timofeev.

For more information, call the Johnson City Symphony Orchestra office at 926-8742.

From staff reports



Tensions mount on the Lewis and Clark expedition.

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Bonus: Karl phys

Moving day Beloff Daily News 2/6/04

Robert Hallett oversees the moving of "Chez Nous," or Our Place, Thursday afternoon along a cornfield just east of Beloit. The historic mansion, which was

purchased from the Dougan family, weighs nearly a quarter of a million pounds and could take several days before it arrives at its new location.

CHEZ NOUS IN CORNFIELD

Turtle Township: Pretty great looking house, huh? That's where it was in February, and that's where it still is! Minus some of its 56 wheels, for it has to sit there till next January. The story: mover Bob Hallett repeatedly told the new owners (they got it for a dollar) that they had to have the pathway to the new location ready by Jan.1, for the house had to go on a road before the frost postings went up, in Feb. Well, Jeffers didn't get the way ready till Feb. and then only half the way. I went up and took pix as our grand house moved majestically across the stubble and stopped at the road, for Jeffers hadn't yet cut the branches and bridged the ditches. He did, in a day or two, dumped the cuttings in the ditches and left on a cruise. Irate homeowners complained to the city abt the brush in their ditches, and Beloit revoked Hallett's license for a week. That was the crucial week--it thawed, the postings went up, and Jeffers returned from his cruise to find the house wouldn't budge till next winter. Hallett has retrieved wheels that he needs for other jobs. How much rent is Jeffers paying for the land Chez Nous is occupying? Stay tuned for the next exciting chapter!

POXED!

Demi's chicken pox was a surprise, cut her out of some important schooling she'd paid for, and she also exposed a lot of people including her students before she realized her plight. Her doctor says people CAN get it twice. The virus stays with us; may surface in later life as herpes-type stuff--shingles, cold sores, etc. And, chicken pox for a second go-round!

CRESS'S CELEBRATION, RYANS COME

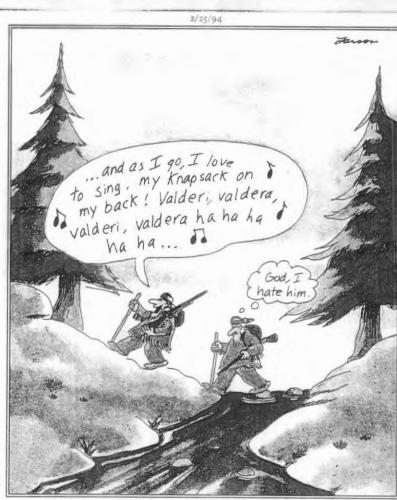
Reno: Skip Broten hosted a grand post-graduation fete for Cress, loads of good food (Gillian brought pots of chili; I learned how to fill mucho deviled eggs easily). Megan arrived with Mark, Jay, and Andy; they stayed the night at Gillian and Eddy's and we all had a very good time! Next day we all went to the beach at Tahoe; the boys climbed rocks and splashed in the icy water, with Coco the dog.

NEWS BYTES

Philly: David Guthrie is a BMX bike rider sponsored by Havoc Clothing; at the Spring Break BMX Bash he was the "Foot Down Winner." The pictures seem more flying than biking! See www.havocclothing.com. Ditto Philly: Jackie Guthrie is teaching Art History at Delaware County Community College.

Stateline, NV: Gillian Ferranto is pursuing an on-

Stateline, NV: Gillian Ferranto is pursuing an online MA in Nutrition; teaching chem labs at the local community college; playing recorder in an ensemble; working on their sailboat with Eddy.



More tension on the Lewis and Clark expedition

HEAD-IN-A-FENCE

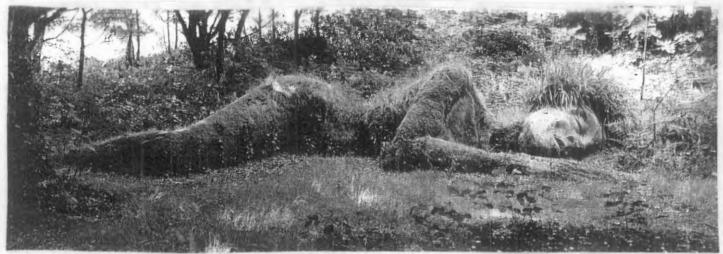
Spfld IL . Who? Rachel DeBow, just 4. Where? Old State Capitol railing. When? May 29, noon. Why? Why does any little kid poke her head between railings, and then can't get it out because her ears now go the wrong way? At first she didn't panic, then did, a crowd gathered, Royce and a hefty bystander tried to pull the bars apart; no success, 911 was called, but then Royce discovered that at the very bottom of the rail a solid look ing bolt was broken underneath, and he was able to get just enough give to ease her head out. 911 cancelled. Trauma? Well, a tear-streaked Rachel marched into The Holy Land restaurant where she'd lunched, to use the potty after her ordeal, marched up to diner Al Casella, now jowly and paunchy in his retirement and declared, "You have a GREAT BIG FAT HEAD so your head won't go between the bars, but I have a little head so mine went between the bars." The photo was taken the next day to save this memorable event for posterity



HEAD-IN-THE-GROUND

This troll is what you spot when you wander the "jungle" trail at the "Lost Farm of Heligan" in Cornwall; later you come on the sleeping maiden. Both by local artists, both had yogurt smeared on their faces to make lichens and moss grow. When Demi and I saw the maiden she had a daffodil growing by her navel! So--Demi and I went to England on her spring break, visited the Crosfields in Dorset and walked the lanes with Sue, met babies George and Lucy, read Michael's Crosfield history, drooled over a complete set of Swallows and Amazons! And grieved over the loss of Hugh and Jessie. Then on to Cornwall where we stayed with almostcousin Pam Taylor in Perranporth, and the three of us traveled/hiked all over, including Heligan, but here are some Demi-words in a letter to

Martha Gammons. "We visited the Eden Project: Impressive white Buckminster Fuller type biodomes in an old clay pit in depressed mining country. I loved the 12 paintings right on the clay walls in the tropical dome done by two Peruvians: the spirit life of various medicinal plants. We also visited the Lost Gardens of Heligan (to Eden and Hellagain in one day!) where the same visionary man who was the impetus for Eden had crawled through underbrush and discovered on overgrown estate, abandoned when most of the help died in the 1st world war, and got it restored to its several-hundred-year old pattern--manure heated pineapple growing frames, fig trees and grape vines under glass, a huge walled kitchen garden with espaliered apple trees, a "jungle" area with fern trees from New Zealand, wild and gnarled rhododendrons in blossom, and again the commissioned art made it for me: the head of a huge gnome growing nose up out of the ground and covered with moss and bracken, and a green woodswoman resting peacefully on her side, wild bracken hair, daffodils alongside her."



WEDDING!

Chicago: Jennie Schmidt and Aaron Solomon were married May 30 at the Chicago Cultural Center. Two of Aaron's uncles and two of Jenny's--Dan and Tom Schmidt--carried the huppah. Jenny's brothers, Matthew and Dylan, accompanied her. Ben Yde, now studying at Lamont Conservatory, Denver University, began the service with Bist du bei mir, with Sonja Yde at the piano, and, by popular request, sang it again after the final breakfast. The program was a playbill, "starring Jennie Schmidt and Aaron Solomon," picturing each, at about 4 years, Aaron in shirt and tie, Jenny in a wedding dress! The couple honeymooned in Bora Bora, hence my frivolous headline. Aaron's a grad of the U of Chi law school and is a practicing Chicago lawyer. Jenny, a grad of Wesleyan, Connecticut, will enter the Business School at U. of Chi. in Sept., heading for an MBA.

ED FERRANTO'S LEG NOT LIFE-THREATENING, BUT A LONG TIME HEALING Stateline, NV: Ed called Gillian and said "I pulled a Bono," and she replied, "No you didn't, you're alive." (Heavenly was where Sonny Bono killed himself!) First accident Ed's had in all his years skiing and snowboarding. He hit a tree in a remote, steep, but legal area of the resort; the snow was deceptive. "The ski patrol put me on a backboard then strapped me into a sled to take me out of the woods. I damn near froze to death (he lay there several hours) but have learned that it was a good thing because it slowed my internal bleeding. I got 4 units of blood in the operation. No morphine till 3 hrs after the accident. Friends on vacation in Hawaii loaned us their house in Stateline; I could never have managed the thousand steps at our place. Now I'm pretty well--limping, but on my own steam, and will be doing two boat jobs--one regularly here at Tahoe, and then S. F. when there's time. My doc, Dr. Orr, is considered the best bone doc in the west. He's the traveling physician for the U.S. ski team and athletes come from Europe just to have him operate on them. I was lucky he was on call that day, otherwise he doesn't take new patients. He used my films in a lecture to other orthopedic docs to demonstrate his procedure for fixing an unfixable break. He's let me keep some exrays so I can show folks my new bionic leg when they visit!" AND WHILE WE'RE TALKING BONES, I think I reported in ENNL that Pat Dalvit tripped on a shoestring and broke her leg near the hip; it seemed to heal well but many months later proved to be in trouble and she had to have a hip replacement! Lately it's been bothering, but she's now had it checked at the Cleveland Clinic and it's ok. Moral: Keep your shoe laces tied!













David, which ones are you?

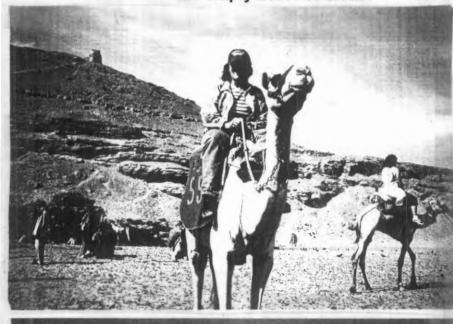
The Editor much regrets that time and space have not allowed writeups of Jeremy, Wendy and Kestrel's year in Spain, and Jo and Terese's trip to Italy. Next issue! With other omitted news.

WHAT? THE BIG BIG BOOK IS FINISHED AFTER A LIFETIME? Who could believe it. Spfld. Well, the moment has come to get it to my editor, LOOKING like it's finished. There're still lots of details to check, transcripts, papers to sift, but this will get it into the pipeline and bring it to the appalled attention of the publishers. Luckily I have a super editor to run interference. And here at 816, a godsend, Barb Olson, has been not only helping get the book ready but has been attacking and organizing pockets of mess. We can now sit down in the living room, eat off the kitchen table, and 4 card tables have been stowed. And it's being FUN! It gives me energy and hope. I'm not sure what it gives her. We've come upon such pitiful notes from JJ to herself as this semi-poetic bit from 1988, literally on a scrap of paper: "I am living a kind of death in this house: of suffocation and strangulation--I want a spring cleaning, sun and wind, a clean sweep, but I dare not do it for there are lost babies lying in the scrawled sheets, the untidy piles. Yet when I find one, it gets no farther than the files, or not that far, the pile-to-file. It doesn't breathe. Is it better to leave it dead, unfound? 'It will breathe, it will, it will, 'my desperation says." -- My son-in-law Royce remarked a while ago, "You must want to live that way, or you wouldn't." I don't. I just have priorities. He and Elle were here recently and both were impressed at the improvement. But they stayed at a motel (with a pool).





Clark's mother











MEGAN SWIMS IN RED SEA, CLIMBS MT SINAI WITH A CROWD OF CAMELS

Egypt: A crowd of lions is a pride, but there's not much proud about a camel--a snuffle of camels, maybe? They were ridden by tourists who didn't want to climb, though everyone had to, the last bit, and climbing beside camels, reported Megan, makes the trail hazardous to your health. They DID crowd. All left at 2 a.m. in order to see the sunrise, which didn't rise properly because it was snowing. The sun did come up eventually, but over clouds. Megan says she was nearly frozen. I asked, "How did it compare with Camel's Hump?" (Our climbing mountain in Vermont.) "WORSE!" Everyone huddled in a Bedouin tent at the top, and drank hot tea. Megan's classic remark to our group's lead er was, "At least they aren't trying to sell us a scarab!" Where was !? In bed:plagued by a sinus infection, so I didn't swim, either. Megan was a firm parent about my health! ---So--what can I say about this dream trip? There's too much, and I'm still processing it. Megan and I tagged along with a Beloit College class. Our two leaders, Prof. Gene Miller, Egyptologist at Beloit, and Okasha El Daly, Cairo University archaeology grad and Ph.D in Egyptology from U. College, London, got us into the bowels of London's British Museum and Petrie Museum and in Egypt all doors were opened to us, so that we saw and heard things ordinary tourists don't. Okasha kept reminding us, "You are students, not tourists!" and he saw to it that we had plenty to study. (Also, his family members all over Egypt kept rushing up and embracing him. Next time, we will eat at his mother's.) He lectured in the Nubian Museum of Mummification, on the medieval Arab discovery of heiroglyphs (and the translation of some, before the Rosetta Stone), an area of his original research, and we were allowed to attend. Ahead of time we wandered the elegant museum and saw mummified cats, crocodiles, ibises, etc--only a few humans. Our meals were off the beaten track. We sailed on the Nile, climbed down into tombs, marveled at the freshness of the tomb paintings, saw the workmen's village in the Valley of the Kings, learned how the rising water table and changing climate (Aswan dam and Lake Nasser) are harming, even destroying, the antiquities that dryness has preserved these millennia. Saw monster cabbages in fields, and in trees by the river's edge, white egrets sitting in the greenery, neatly spaced, about a dozen to a tree. The overlap of then and now was always with us. Megan was the ideal companion, with her background and passion for things Egypt, and she returned to her kids' school where she was participating in an Egypt unit with lots of material, and how to make papyrus. Too much to tell, this is the tiniest fraction. We will go again! Maybe a Beloit trip, 2005.



Okasha looking up from tour b depth. (+ someone.)



GOD LOOKING DOWN FROM