THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER VOL. XXIV NO. 1, December 2005

# WHAT WEDDINGS!

I will make you brooches and toys for your delight Of bird-song at morning and star-shine at night." -- R. L. Stevenson

Tracey Robinson and Karl Schmidt Saturday, July 23rd, 2005



Pamela, if you'll just have a seat over there, I'll start my mating dance.

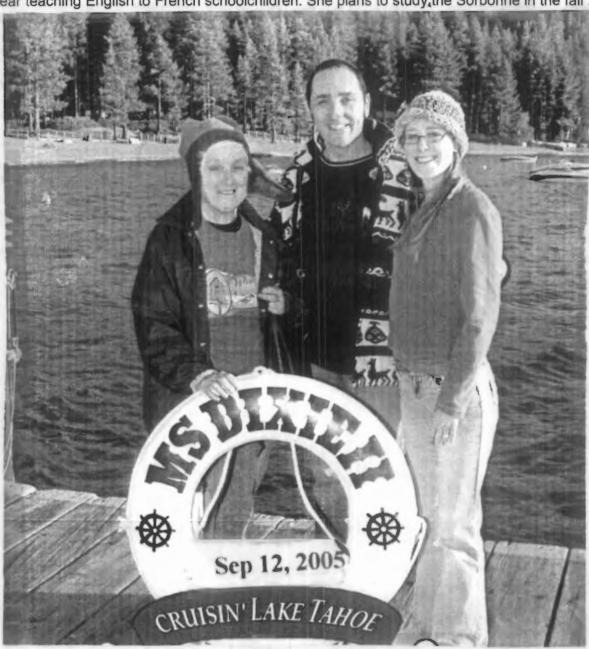


## LET'S HEAR IT FOR WEDDINGS

Winnetka and Madison: How to write about the weddings? They were both extra-beautiful. The brides were radiant, and the grooms were, too. And the parents, the grandparents, everybody. Karl Andrew and Tracey's wedding, in July, in Winnetka, was perfectly planned from our early alerts to save-the-date, to the following day brunch at Dan and Julie's, where Dan cooked huge pans of bacon, great danes (of guests, in the garage) were much admired by the little ones, and one little guest had a guinea pig. Oh, the service? The music--Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Massenet--there wasn't a dry eye in the house. Our Ben Yde sang like an angel. The service, simple and moving. Grandpa Karl read from "Our Town." Rain held off till into the reception, then it began to sprinkle and everyone moved inside, including the quartet, but dinner was almost about to begin, anyway. The food was delish, the company at my table excellent, there were toasts aplenty, and then we danced the night away. My grandkids were ecstatic, for them a wedding leaps right from the bride (for Rachel who observes breathlessly) to the dance. Weather for the Yde wedding Oct. 1 was like a comfortable summer day. Again, every detail in place, beautiful music: Schubert, Handel, Purcell, Widor. Ben Yde, who was also best man, sang again movingly. Other family musicians were Sonia Micksch and Paul Micksch. Grandpa Karl read from "The Little Prince." Both programs of the services thoughtfully let us know who everybody in the wedding parties were, and their relationships to the couples. The reception at the Edgewater Hotel was good food, good company, many toasts, followed by wonderful dancing. At the end of the evening, Wyatt DeBow pulled the fire alarm on his way to the car in the parking garage (a red handle totally unprotected and right on a three-year old level). Up at the reception, the grooms men yelled "Save the groom!" and carried Josh out. The bride walked out by herself, and the band carried out their instruments except for the drum set. The false alarm caused much hilarity outside, even to the firemen; those most chagrined were the parents of the small culprit, who printed his name to notes the next day saying he would never pull an alarm again unless there was a real fire. Two wonderful, memorable weddings!

### NOW FOR ENGAGEMENTS!

Paris: Cressida Broten and Laurent Dupeyroux have announced their engagement. The wedding will be in Paris on April 15, for the immediate families. Later in the spring there will be a reception for the French and European relatives and friends, in the foothills of the Pyrenees, where Laurent's parents live. And toward the end of summer, date not yet set, there will be a reception at Lake Tahoe for the family and friends who live on this side of the pond. Cress is into her second year teaching English to French schoolchildren. She plans to study, the Sorbonne in the fall.



Lake Iroquois: This summer Colleen Pratt and Addison Bouchard announced their engagement; we're advised to hold May 26, 2007! Addison is in grad school at Dartmouth; Colleen commutes to a social work job in Montpelier.

AS FOR BABIES: Kurt and Erin Pratt Violette's Andrew was recorded in the last ENNL, and David and Katherine Case Ricklefs were waiting. Mazzie Jean is now here, and the Toby Veaches have Annaliese. Dan and Veronika Dougan's baby, Danika, was born July 1 in Minneapolis. The pictures that come on cards and over the email are laugh-outloud, these babies are so cute, so funny, so hugely enjoying life! We also like to see older siblings.

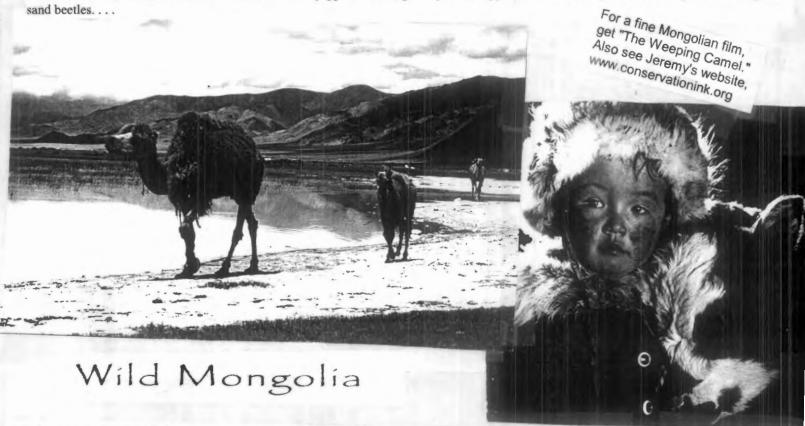
#### A BIT FROM FIVE CLOSELY WRIT PAGES BY KESTREL, ON THE MONGOLIAN TRIP, SUMMER '05

Sanbaino (hello in Mongolian) from Mongolia! . . . Our trip from Jackson to Ulaan Bataar, the capital of Mongolia, was a little hectic, but we're here enjoying ourselves now. . . In Beijing, after a week of shopping, swimming, badminton, skateboarding, busting our guts watching security guards fall off the skateboards, visiting the Forbidden City, being hassled by rickshaw drivers, and fooling around eating Chinese food, we reluctantly left for Ulaan Bataar (UB). My dad met us at the airport; he had to leave a day later for Dalanzadgad, the biggest city in the Gobi.

My mom and I had a week in UB to ourselves, so my dad introduced us to a Mongolian woman named Oyunna who spoke good English. She took us out to Hustai National Park where we got to ride horses around the camp. My first time on Mongolian horses. They're awesome, short, but very strong. I'd call them ponies, but the Mongolians get offended because they feel it demeans them. That night, we took a jeep out to see the native wild horses called Tahki, or Przwalski. They're beautiful. Sand-colored with a dark brown or black stripe down their backs, and zebra stripes on their knees. They have short erect manes, and 66 chromosomes, instead of the usual 64 most horses have. They wouldn't let us ride horses over to see them because they don't want the herds to mix, and diseases to be passed..

We landed in Dalanzadgad where my dad and Ted met us with our guide and translator Byaamba. We got into one of the many grey Russian vans with a driver named Tuvshin, got groceries, sent some email, and headed out to the Three Camels ger camp, about 1 1/2 hours from Dalanzadgad. A very posh place with bathroom attendants, and solar panels on every ger. My dad got one of his terrible stomach pains that he gets about twice a year, usually when he's traveling. A little before supper, Ted had to lie down with a bad stomach ache. My mom, Byaamba and I had a quiet meal, and then Byaamba suggested vodka for the men. At first my dad rejected the idea, saying that it would only make it worse. He was finally talked into the idea, had just a little, then asked for more. The color came back into his face, and he was able to sit up. For a while he wouldn't admit the vodka had helped, but eventually he decided it had, and Byaamba earned a nickname "Dr. Byaamba." The next day, Ted still wasn't feeling good, so Dr. Byaamba had the cook make up some rice gruel, and that cured him. Later on, when my dad burned his finger on the stove, Byaamba's cure was soap and vodka. Hahahaha. . .

Near the end of our time in the Gobi, we headed down to the Khongoran els, or Horse-colored dunes. We camped out at the base of the dunes, where we got to ride camels. The next night we stayed at the Gobi Discovery ger camp. It's nice, but nothing compared to the Three Camels. The next day, we headed out with the ranger to go see the saxaul forest. We camped by the saxauls, watched camels in the oasis, found a camel skeleton, and some vertebrae that looked like piggies. The ranger stayed for supper, and we sat on the dunes talking and watching the



AND FROM JEREMY: "I've been going to Mongolia since 1993. One of the most compelling landscapes, and perhaps the most welcoming culture, that I've ever experienced. I've been there at all seasons of the year, in the remotest parts of the country, a total of, say, 15 trips. I haven't counted. Reindeer herders, eagle hunters, shamans, the world's finest horse riders, 2.5 million people in a country the size of western Europe, 30 million sheep, 4 million horses, few roads, no fences, no powerlines, clean rivers and lakes, forest, desert, steppe, high mountains and vast native grasslands. Travel is hard, but it's hard not to love the place." Below is an explanation of Jeremy's Conservation Ink project there.

Established with a grant from the National Geographic Society in 2002 by environmental journalists Jeremy Schmidt and Ted Wood, Conservation Ink is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Its mission is to encourage conservation and environ mental education in national parks in developing countries through the production and sale of park-related publications. It produces map-guides, postcard sets, and other publications where such materials do not exist, with the goal of returning the after-costs profits to selected conservation projects. At the core of the mission is the establishment of a locally-staffed, independent business venture that serves as a country's sales and distribution center for Conservation Ink's publications and other conservation-related items. The publications are sold through local retailers, travel businesses and the parks, and are directed at local and foreign visitors. This approach is modeled after the successful, non-profit Natural History Associations in America that publish and sell interpretive materials for U.S. national parks. Proceeds from their sales return up to \$50 million annually to park programs.

A secondary benefit of the publications is the creation of a public image of professionalism and sustainability for the park system. Just as one can't imagine Yellowstone without a single publication, for instance, no national park should be without an illustrated guide or map to help direct a tourist's visit. For a tourist economy to be sustainable in the eco-regions that include parks, visitors must be able to purchase interpretive materials in the parks, gateway towns and major transportation hubs. For parks to be sustainable they must prove the value of "wildness" to the regional and national economy. Inadequate funding threatens parks worldwide, and even a small amount of money can make a large impact on the future of a park.

In 2003, Conservation Ink chose Mongolia for its first parks initiative. Mongolia is a country of diverse ecosystems and of critical habitats for many of Asia's threatened species. The country's formally stated objective is an ambitious one: to set aside 30% of its land in protected areas. But Mongolia is also debt-burdened and poor after years of Soviet occupation. Protecting vast areas from mineral or industrial development is a goal Mongolia may not be able to afford in the short term. Conservation Ink realizes that protection is not a given in this climate, unless the parks demonstrate their value. Our goal is to aid this process through publications and the projects that our publications help support.



This photo was taken in 1899 at the funeral of Joseph Sanderson Trever, great (and great great) grandfather of many ENNL readers. Notice that the deceased has been cut out and pasted in beside Maria Dale Trever. Lower left is Lottie, pasted in, who died at 22 from pneumonia brought on by a wet and icy trip home across Lake Winnebago; she'd been tending a sick relative. Middle row right, inserted, is Aunt Kate Roney who didn't come the 2,000 miles from Oregon. The rest of the children are: Uncle Joe, Aunt Ria Fadner, Uncle George, Aunt Jennie Perkins, Uncle Bert, Aunt Polly Smith, Aunt Betsy Mortimer, Eunice Dougan, and Rose Trever, who was epileptic and a bit retarded. A twelfth child, Willie, died in England maybe age two, before they emigrated. I've found a photo; shall I insert it?



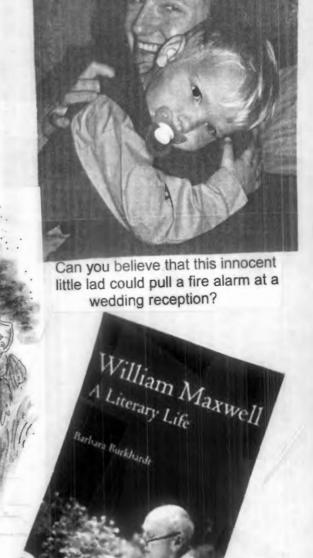
I'm in the midst of a gargantuan project: putting all the farm pictures on disk, plus all the Jackson young kids slides, plus all Ron and Craig's stereoptican slides. For good measure, I've put in all the ancestors, labeled by name. I've also put in all the Dougan sibs(Jo, Pat, Jack, Craig) from Little House days, and some from Chez Nous. When finished, there may be a set of 4 or 5 disks, some 5000 photos, but they'll be grouped with intros, so that there won't be an impossible jumble. You'll be able to view a great many shots at once, enlarge one, download it if you wish, either ordinary reproduction, or fine reproduction. How am I able to do this? My friend and techno-wizard, Mitch Hopper, is doing the work. (Among other things, he invented a machine that copies the stereo slides; no professional studio could do it--I tried,) While this is being somewhat expensive, I consider it worth every penny--preserving a heritage that we can all share, rather than having the pix in folders and albums inaccessible in my attic. I'll be giving sets of disks to Dougan sibs and all kids of Dougan sibs who want them, and to various cousins. The sets won't be expensive, we can't tell yet, but maybe \$10--so if you aren't being given one, or if you want ones for the next generation down--Jo, Pat, Craig's grandkids, etc., let me know. Anybody is welcome to order--some of you not-relatives may be just plain interested. ALSO--if any of you have farm slides, ancestor slides, to add to the collection, send them to me, I'll have them copied, and send them back. And also, if any of you want Mitch to do this job for your own pix, he's a real expert. He says anybody can do it for themselves, but how many of us will? (Maybe Jer and Tom.) Look at Mitch's website (it's fun, creative, and packed with goodies): www.brainmist.com; email: id@brainmist.com



You know those buskers told about in the last issue? Here's a pic showing Patrick and Colleen Schmidt and friend on a street corner in Bozeman. Also a poem featuring Colleen's words, just printed in Illinois Times: the editor said he loved it! Others have also said so.

#### kinquote poem #5

colleen eight having just played some mozart and a bit of vivaldi polishes her new fiddle lays it in its case thank you daddy for getting me this violin--the sound! when I vibrato I can hear my heart beating in the strings we too dear colleen oh we too

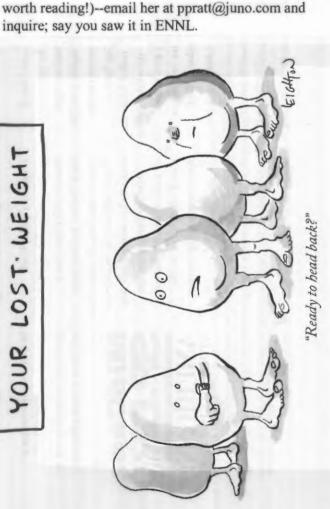


"Did anyone plunder something good to read?" Jackie's had friends and former students publish books recently: Lola Lucas: At Home in the Park: Loving a Neighbor hood to Life (this is Enos Park, the part of Springfield I live in) is a collection of lovely essays; Martha Miller, Tales from the Levee, are stories that take place on N. Fifth St., in the former infamous Levee district between where I live and downtown (you've read her Springfield mysteries); and Barbara Burkhardt: William Maxwell: A Literary Life. Not mentioned in ENNL last year was Carol McCartney's Our Pike County, The Soul of Western Illinois, and Christy Cameron's "peanut butter" romance, Who's Watching the Kids? Now we need to get Jeanne Handy's environmental essays into a collection; a book for Carol Manley's prize winning stories; Yosh Golden's Japanese-American stories (Yosh was born at Manzanar Concentration Camp). All these have seen print, but merit book circulation. As for Mitch Hopper, read his great

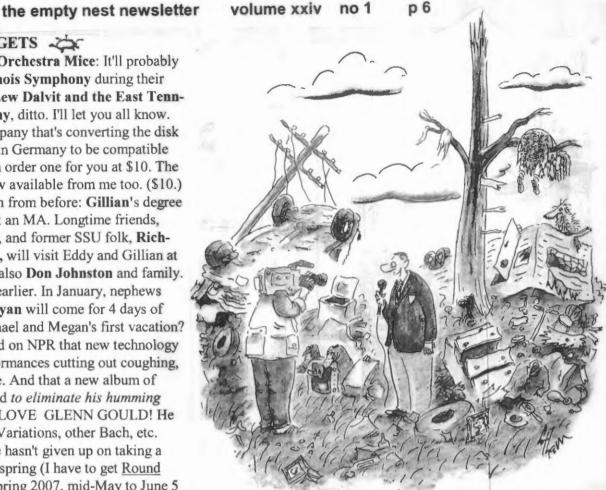
stories: www.brainmist.com.

NEW HOUSE, NEW ADDRESS, NEW JOBS Delavan WI Well, it's not new, it's older than the last, but it's bigger, a shared study for Royce DeBow who now needs a home office, and for Elle's desk and files; bedrooms for each kid plus a guest room, large yard, glassed-in porch, huge dry basement, attic--it's only three blocks from their former house, on a less busy street and-get this--kitty corner from the wetlands property they bought on Lake Comus that you heard about in the last issue. Royce put in a dock, and built a little bridge over the stream--now they'll put up a tentgazebo that was on special last fall, and will have their summer place on their doorstep. Address: 311 N. Fifth, Delavan WI 53115. Jobs: Royce resigned as assistant to State Representative Lothian to become "Government Affairs Director, S.E. Wisconsin," for the Wisconsin Realtor's Association. Elle is now "Reading Specialist," Wilmot Union High School, Wilmot, Wisconsin.

OUR LOST WEIGHT



Ob. NEWS NUGGETS Springfield: Update on Orchestra Mice: It'll probably be put on here by the Illinois Symphony during their 2006-07 season, and by Lew Dalvit and the East Tennessee Regional Symphony, ditto. I'll let you all know. I've found a Chicago company that's converting the disk of the production filmed in Germany to be compatible with our equipment; I can order one for you at \$10. The reprinted OM book is now available from me too. (\$10.) Stateline, NV: Correction from before: Gillian's degree in Nutrition is an MS, not an MA. Longtime friends, readers of this newsletter, and former SSU folk, Richard and Mary Johnston, will visit Eddy and Gillian at Tahoe at Christmastime, also Don Johnston and family. Linda Johnston visited earlier. In January, nephews Mark, Andy, and Jay Ryan will come for 4 days of skiiing. Will this be Michael and Megan's first vacation? Somewhere, USA: Heard on NPR that new technology is reissuing old live performances cutting out coughing, etc. Making them pristine. And that a new album of Glenn Gould has managed to eliminate his humming along! THAT'S WHY I LOVE GLENN GOULD! He sings with the Goldberg Variations, other Bach, etc. Ireland, anyone? Jackie hasn't given up on taking a class to Ireland, not next spring (I have to get Round Barn out of limbo) but Spring 2007, mid-May to June 5 or so. 20 days. My last organized trip. Dereck will be coach driver again, and there's the possibility of meeting Douglas Gresham, C.S. Lewis's stepson, (seen the movie? It's good!); also the possibility of meeting Frank O'Conner's widow and daughter. We'd go to Yeats country, etc. Focus on Irish lit and culture. I hope to bring along a resident Irish harpist; we'd have our own music, plus she knows the good-music pubs. No need to commit, now, but I do wish for indications of interest. Aptos.CA: Didn't get in the last issue that at the Ryans' school production of Scenes from Shakespeare, Jay was a boatswain in The Tempest, Mark was Benvolio in R&J, while Andy was the tortured Macbeth himself! Katrina: Pam Pratt spent several weeks down south after the hurricanes, as a "behavior health responder." She's written about it in essays she'll perhaps share (well



"But the weather looks great for the rest of the week."

#### AND MORE NUGGETS

Beavercreek, OR: Barbara Dougan, who's been undergoing reconstructive surgery after her cancer operation, and who sends entertaining emails about all people and procedures involved, says her doctor reports she's doing just fine, is looking fine, and will soon be able to pucker!

Columbia University: Andy Munkacsi, who used to live here with his alligator and mushrooms, has finished his Ph.D at U of Minn. Goodby to corn smut and hello to yeast--as a post-doc he'll be working on the human genome in some fashion or other, but still with fungi. Andy, your prof Jim Veselenik says call him!

Willoughby OH: Sean McPhillips is in an accelerated BS/MD program at Northeast Ohio University College of Medicine which works with three consortium universities; he'll be 2 years at Kent, then 4 yrs in med school with a guaranteed seat--he was one of 35 chosen from 800! He's eligible for a fat DAR scholarship if he can prove his heritage, so we found Mom's DAR ID which might prove valuable to any of you descendents: it is Nat.# 519076 (Vera Wardner Dougan); she was affiliated 10/15/66. Three Wardners fought in the revolution; we are descended from Phillip. We thank Joan Wootton and her sister Eleanor for getting Sean prompt info!

Tahoe: ENNL Ed took two trips this fall: to Gillian and Eddy's, to see Cressida and Laurent in from Paris (C. had to renew her green card). We all enjoyed hiking, Boggle, geocaching, cruising on the Dixie (see picture) and vegging out watching such gory flicks as Slingblade and Fargo ("They're really good movies, Mom!"--I ended up agreeing). Megan, Michael and the boys flew up from Aptos and it was all fine and food and fun. We geocached with the "Flyin' Ryans," too.

Minneapolis: The second trip was to Damaris's, where ENNL Ed was introduced to Herwig, the instructor of the form of massage/healing she is studying, and to a healing group; spent an afternoon with Andy Munkasci and then a grand party at Jerry and Debby Dougan's with Pat and Connie Dougan, and their two little ones, Dan and Veronika Dougan and their two little ones, and Polly Mersky. All us cousins! Demi and I stayed over, reveled in Debby and Jerry's hospitality, also took a long hike along the Mississippi palisades with Jerry.

#### THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER VOL. XXIV NO. 1, December 2005

Stop Press! Supplemental page!

I didn't discover I had this most interesting news until the newsletter was finished and going to press. But here it is, and still in time for Mozart's birthday. -----Way to go, Uncle Lewie!---

# East Tennessee Regional Symphony

P.O. Box 5970, Johnson City, TN 37602-5970 Lewis Dalvit Conductor/Music Director

Long-time member of and subscriber to the ASOL, Lewis Dalvit. Conductor of the East Tennessee Regional Symphony, has initiated an orchestral program focusing on the

arts education of young people throughout a tri-state region.

For its November 7<sup>th</sup> inaugural concert at the new Niswonger state of the arts auditorium in Greeneville, Tennessee, the East Tennessee Regional Symphony performed a 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary HAPPY BIRTHDAY MOZART concert, complete with an innovative PowerPoint presentation that introduced 1,200 third through sixth grade children to the

historical period in which Mozart lived and composed.

"Examining the 18<sup>th</sup> century" in 25 minutes, students were shown examples of the arts, fashions, architecture, political climate, scientific discoveries, sculpture, current events, sports, significant personages, theater and dance from that fascinating period called "The Age of Enlightement", 1700-1799. Many of the 120 color slides were from the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C. and were shown on a large screen above the orchestra as the musicians performed Mozart's music.

Dalvit is convinced that too often the arts have been isolated from life. His orchestral mission for the ETRS is to present educational children's programs that will help students understand and appreciate the role of the arts in their own society and in the societies of the past, thereby stimulating and developing a sensitivity to the arts that exists in every child.

" I was amazed to see how interested the students were in the slide presentation about fashions, inventions, and life during the 1700's. While they were looking and learning, their ears were being treated to the sweetest Mozart pieces"

Christine Ingram, Program assistant for the Gifted and Talented Education Program

"I loved how the slide presentation tied together world events that occurred during Mozart's time. This gave students a reference point for the atmosphere in which Mozart composed his works'

Amanda Waits, teacher in the Gifted and Talented Education Program Ms. Melinda Whiting, Editor in Chief



MAESTRO LEWIS DALVIT

A Pierre Monteux protégé, Lewis Dalvit has conducted extensively in the U.S., Europe, Canada, Middle East, Mexico, Central America and at Carnegie Hall, where he conducted Toscanini's Symphony of the Air

His educational programs for children have been recognized as innovative and unique by the United States Congress and the National Endowment for the Arts.

As founder of the St. Andrews Summer School for the Performing Arts, Dalvit has received three international awards from the Canadian government.

Among the numerous superstars who have performed under his baton are Leontyne Price, Van Cliburn, Roberta Robert Merrill, Mikhail Peters, Baryshnikov, Lili Kraus, Benny Goodman Chet Atkins, Vincent Price, Jack Benny, Doc Severinson, Dinah Shore, Ella Fitzgerald, and the entire cast of Sesame Street.

The East Tennessee Regional Symphony is proud to welcome the dynamic Maestro Lewis Dalvit as its first music director.





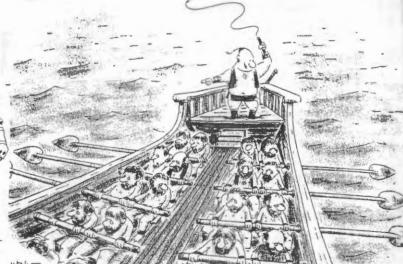


"At least they're not swilling at the public trough."



"String quartets! Minor rhapsodies! Little symphonies!"

marie



"Excellent. Now just the altos."