



THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER

VOLI NO 6 NOV 2 1982

"Bye Bye Birdie"



"GRANDMAS" WOW AT

ASSISTED BY J.S. BACH AND E. GRIEG



SCHMIDT & YDE BACHING & FILLING

Beloit, Oct 21, 1982: At the Oct. meeting of the Treble Clef, ancient Musical Organization of S. Wisconsin [Dr. R. Craig Dougan, at age 3, asked his mother, Vera Leardner Dougan, "What's all the trouble about?" "What trouble, Craig?" "The trouble in Trouble Clef."] Joan Dougan Schmidt and Lola Estenson Yde performed together the Bach Double Concerto for two Violins, with Damavis Jackson's friend Lucy Sumner at the piano. The duo is billed as "The Grandmothers," since each violinist is the grandmother of Sonja Lynn Yde, age 2, and Joshua Lawrence Yde, age nearly 4 mo, of Ashland Wisconsin. The grandmothers wore identical granny blouses, black silk with mutton chop sleeves, high necks, & frilled cuffs & neck. The long skirts were contrasting plaids. Ms. Schmidt's was on loan from her sister, J.D. Jackson, and is the Forbes tartan. A surprise feature of the program was "The Grandmothers Minuet," by Edward Grieg, which Schmidt & Yde had just discovered that week. They played it before the Bach & it was pronounced "charming." The Treble Clefers were delighted with the virtuosity of the talented pair, who played before blown-up color photos of their mutual grandchilden.

JDJ CREWS FOR BALLOONIST
Spt Id., Oct. 25. JD Jackson assisted in the inflation of a hot air balloon near Lake Springfield, and then in "chasing" the balloon to its descent in a corn field. The balloonist, Dr. Jack Baldwin, treated the whole crew to dinner at the Ground Round. Champagne was served, for Dr. B. passed his test on this liquid and is now a licensed balloonist. He plans to take JDJ, p.

JDJ WOWS IN N. DAKOTA

Grand Forks, N. D: JD Jackson, author of a number of children's books, and renowned teacher of children's literature, has been on the circuit for all of October. Starting in Lincoln, IL., which you all read about in the Sunday Supplement of Issue #5, she progressed on to a writers conference in N. Dakota, first speaking at 2 high schools there. At the conference she participated in two panel discussions; lead two workshops; read a number of manuscripts and met with the writers individually; and had the banquet night speech: a reading-lecture on the ROUND BARN. Many copies of *Shail & Spruce Gum* were sold, and the entire stock of *Spring Song* JDJ brought along. In between events JDJ would change to swim suit and plunge into the heated pool outside her motel room. She also recorded an interview for her radio show, went to parties, dinners, an excellent & moving performance of *The Elephant Man* by U. of N. D. drama dept, spoke at the public library, and gave a showing of the video tape of *The Endless Pavement Musical*. She returned home exhausted.

PRETENDS WATERFALL

Grand Forks, Oct. 13: JD Jackson, on arrival at her motel room late in the evening, went to bed and lay there being annoyed at an air conditioner operating noisily nearby. "I'll just pretend it's a waterfall," said Jackson to herself, and promptly fell asleep. When she awoke and went for a quick morning swim, she discovered that there was a waterfall into the pool, right outside her sliding doors.

LOCATES WORKSHOP

Reed Lake, IL. JD Jackson did a 7 day workshop at Reed Lake College near Carbondale, on Oct. 22. The arrangements for this workshop were made over the phone in the summer, & translated into Jackson's date book only as "S. Ill - workshop - Claxton." When it got to be two weeks before the event, & it had not yet been confirmed by mail, she began to be concerned. She recalled it was near Mt. Vernon, & so called Mt. Vernon & asked for Claxtons. Then she started calling the list of Claxtons and hit pay dirt on #2: They flew of a Claxton in a nearby town who taught at a community college in Reed Lake. This Claxton proved to be the arranger for the conference. When JDJ finished her work at the conference, the arranger asked her what fee had been decided on. JDJ had not the faintest idea, & was waiting to see what she had agreed to come for, hoping it was not too little. The fee was renegotiated. JDJ plans to keep better notes in the future.



IMPORTANT POLL ON INSIDE PAGE: ALL READERSHIP URGED TO RESPOND



WALSH WINS AWARD

Cable, Wis. Oct 30: At the elegant Telemark lodge, at an elegant banquet, Chad Walsh was presented with an elegant bronze medallion embedded in an elegant wooden plaque, for being the author of the most distinguished book published by a Wisconsin author in 1981. The book is Chad's poetry book, *Hang Me Up My Begging Bowl*. Walsh has won other prizes: He was the first to win the "Best Wis. Author" \$1000 prize (see Walsh, p. 2.)

DEMI LISTS NEEDS, WANTS
FIRST OF EMPTY NESTERS TO RESPOND
 Mlps. Ms Damaris Lee Jackson has sent the ENNL a list of her Xmas needs & wants, & has thoughtfully included something within the range of every pocketbook. The Ed. of ENNL urges all participants to send their lists, then all branches of the family will have choice.

- D's X-mas list:   HO HO HO
- * 2 c. measuring cup (Goodwill low OK.)
 - * decent steam-iron (priority)
 - * wool sox (white, & dark colors)
 - * any cotton calico - preferably good quality. [i.e., you include]
- (This is wierd, but if I have the receipts I can take it off as a business expense.)
- * Order an experimental wall-hanging/quilt from me and let me keep it for 6 months so I can put it in shows. This is so I can get known in a new style. "Art world," etc. \$40.-
 - * \$5.- supports a quilt square which I keep. This enables me to try new things, afford to experiment.
 - * Any plain colored 80-100% cotton fabric.

- I LOVE FOOD and am too cheap to get myself:
- * Canned poppy seeds
 - * " black olives (pitted)
 - * Artichoke hearts in oil.
 - * Green olives (pieces fine, in jar)
 - * Brie cheese
-
- * Good quality blank tapes
 - * 1 month YMCA membership (\$10)
 - * Slide film Kodak mailers (20 exposure)
 - * Sweatpants, comfy, any color.

TREASURE FOUND IN N. DAKOTA
 Grand Forks, N.D.: While in the swimming pool at her motel, JDJ commented to a mother on the swimming prowess of her youngsters. Later, in the hot-tub pool, she talked to the mother, a Mrs. Kouopasek of Winnipeg, & learned that all her children are adopted, and 3 of the 4 are hand capped. Mary, 6, a Cree Indian, is blind from her mother shifting gasoline. Ann, 3, born of a 13 yr old Ojibway mother on dope, has turned out to be normal. Wendy, 2, of Irish parents, was born with her stomach & intestines outside her body. The baby, Ula, is deaf, blind and spastic. The four little girls are being raised as normally as possible, with therapy daily for Ula, & a govt teacher alongside Mary in school. JDJ raced from the pool and borrowed a tape recorder, & later got Mrs. Kouopasek on tape, for her radio show to Illinois school children (cont. next column).

N.D. TREASURE, CON'T: One of the questions JDJ asked was about discipline: "Some people feel so sorry for handicapped children that they indulge them." Responded Ms. K, "And then you just have spoiled hand capped children, don't you? We believe in spanks on the bottom. And we don't have to give them very often." Ms. K. left to meet her husband, a winning doctor, at a restaurant, taking with her another girls dress & in identical English frocks & tights, and the baby in her special chair. JDJ was grateful to have stumbled upon - correction, swum upon, this treasure.

NO EMPTY NEST & MORE BRIEFIES
 Beaver Creek, Or: Rebecca, one of the members of the Dougan Duckyard hasnt moved for three weeks. She is sitting on a mixed clutch of 10 eggs. A number of these have been contributed by her sisters. Rebecca wonders if this might be a good idea for Women's lib. "Only one sits, the others are free to go about their business," she quacks. "I'm a hombody, sort, myself."

DUCK POLL TAKEN
 Beaver Creek, Or: The 13 ducks in the Dr. Dougan Duckyard have recently completed a poll on slug preference. Findings show that green spotted slugs are preferred 13-0 over brown. The green-spotted slugs are usually found around the dog shit, the brown amongst the foodstools. "It occurs to me," says Dr. Dougan, "that feeding habits might affect the taste of the slugs, and the taste of the slugs might be the basis for the ducks' preference. There is no scientific evidence for this, it is just a shot in the dark."

FROM GRANITE TO QUARTZ
 Butte MT: Tom Schmidt has moved from 25E. Granite St. to 58 W. Quartz, Butte, Mt. 59701, a 4th floor apt. w/ view of Butte and mountains. Tom's two cats, who have never been outdoors, can now walk out on the window ledges, & enjoy the view. Says Tom, "They absolutely flipped!"

SLUGS QUERIED
 Beaver Creek, OR: Slugs destined for the Dougan Duckyard were recently queried on their feeding preferences. A total of 17 green spotted slugs came out unanimously for dog shit, while 14 brown slugs were emphatic in their preference for mushrooms. "We know we are less tasty," said the spokeslug for the brown contingent, "but we can't help what we like." S/he added that s/he has heard that Reno slugs prefer coffee. "De gustibus non disputandum" quoted the spokeslug.

EDITOR WARY OF POLL RESULTS Spfld: The editor of the ENNL urges readers to be cautious about the findings of the slug poll. "These statistics were achieved under duress," she states, "when the slugs were given a choice of their final meal before the duckyard."
YDE LOSES! Ashland, Wis: Dick Yde lost his bid for the Republican D.A. job in a very close race. We predict victory next times, on whatever ticket!

MINNEAPOLIS: Damaris Jackson reports that she (w/help) has made 3 qts of hot sauce, pulled in most of her garden, re-done 2 ceilings, helped put in boiler, fixed rust spots on car, polyurethaned porch, plus storm windows, caulking, etc.
Spfld: Megan Jackson, Bob Wesley, and JD Jackson celebrated Ellie Jackson's birthday Nov. 6. with a champagne dinner before the fire place. Menu was beef & veggies on rice, salad and cranberry torte. A high light was seen in Wesley's new white Mustang with removable roof panels. Very, very elegant! "Sorry you weren't here, Ellie," say the well-fed celebrators.

HANOVER: Ellie Jackson was presented with a cake and balloons on her birthday, a service provided by Dartmouth entrepreneurs, for a fee. "Love from Mom."

Near Wash, D.C. Peter Schmidt, noted lawyer, & cousin of all Jacksons, is practically commuting to Dallas, where he is representing Braniff Airlines, which has gone bankrupt. Schmidt is currently working on employee pensions.
Spfld: JDJ reports, "Wear back to square one in the potty training of Miss Muffet."

VWD TO BE HONORED
 Beloit. Any of the family near Beloit on Nov. 23 should go to the Beloit-Jamesville Symphony Concert, where Vera Wardue Dougan will be singled out for praise.

CANTICLE TOPS!
 Beloit: The ENNL Ed. has heard one broadcast of Canticle for Leibowitz, Karl Schmidt's production over NPR, & it was absolutely splendid. While Canticle is half over, or all over, in Wisconsin, it can't start anywhere else in the country till abt Nov. 10, when it goes on satellite. Check yr local NPR station & don't miss it!

EDITOR'S CORNER
 The ENNL is published as often as the Ed. can get it out. There is lots more news than time, this week, BUT DO KEEP SENDING NEWS! Thanks, Jo, for \$25 to defray cost of ENNL to Schmidt Nests. Now all I need is their addresses.

Botanist: Acid rain may be killing Vermont forest

NEW YORK (AP) — A mountaintop Vermont forest once "deep green and dense" is now scarred by "gray skeletons of trees" that look as if a hurricane has ripped through them — and the most likely cause is acid rain, a botanist says.

"Fifty percent of all the trees that were alive on this mountain have died since 1964 — that's a staggering number," Hubert Vogelmann, chairman of the botany department at the University of Vermont, said Wednesday.

"I hesitate to say acid rain is unequivocally the cause, but we've been trying to eliminate other things. We can't find a disease. We can't find an insect pest. There are no climatic trends that we can identify."

The mountaintop, called Camel's Hump, lies 30 miles east of the University of Vermont in Burlington and receives 50 or 55 inches of rain a year — acid rain.

All rain is slightly acidic. Carbon dioxide occurring naturally in the atmosphere dissolves in falling raindrops to form carbonic acid, a weak acid.

But acid rain is composed of raindrops that have fallen through polluted air. The pollutants dissolve in the raindrops, increasing the rain's acidity to levels that are toxic to animals and plants.

The problem is not limited to the United States. Acid rain has been found everywhere from Bermuda to the Arctic Circle, where it exists as acid snow.

Camel's Hump is frequently shrouded in fog. "We have recorded acid fog as acid as vinegar," Vogelmann said.

He was in New York in connection with the publication of an article called "Ca-

Vogelmann first studied Camel's Hump in 1964, but the possible effects of acid rain did not become known until 1977. In that year Thomas Siccoma of the Yale University School of Forestry analyzed the soil of Camel's Hump and found high levels of cadmium, zinc, lead and copper — metals known to be toxic to plants.

Vogelmann returned to the mountain then and found not only that half the forest had been destroyed, but that the destruction was continuing.

"We think the firs are going next," he said. "This year we noticed for the first time the browning of needles on fir trees."

Examination of growth rings in trees showed that growth had slowed dramatically in the 1950s and early 1960s, about the time, Vogelmann said, when acid rain began falling on Vermont.

High concentrations of aluminum were found in the outer, stunted growth rings, he said. Aluminum, normally immobilized in soil, is liberated by acid rain and can then be absorbed by plants.

Laboratory studies then showed that the absorption of water by spruce seedlings was impaired when aluminum was added to the water.

The Midwest has frequently been blamed as the source of the pollutants that drift northeastward over Vermont and the rest of New England, but some say the scourge is at least partly produced by New England's own factories and utilities.

Tree death due to acid rain has been described by scientists in West Germany, and it may also be happening in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey, Vogelmann said.

Vogelmann said he plans

tastrophe on Camel's Hump," which will appear in the November issue of Natural History magazine, published by the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Further study of soil chemistry to determine in more detail how acid rain might be harmful to trees. "One of the things we've discovered is we know very little about forest soils," he said.



Dead spruce trees on Camel's Hump in Vermont's Green Mountains may be the victims of acid rain. Fifty percent of all the trees alive on the mountain have died since 1964.

THE E.N.M.L. SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT. V6L1#6, P1A.
 Camel's Hump, to those who do it (use), is a short drive (along like to the P) from Nole End, the Jackson cottage on Lake Irvington's.
 If it is called "My Magic Mountain" by Hattie Hawkin, J.D.J. veined dead trees, to her & way, last yr., & wondered at the cause.

GO TO NEXT COLUMN, TOP (2) GO TO NEXT COLUMN, TOP (4)

Nation/world

U.S. defends Midwest against acid rain study

WASHINGTON (AP)—Reports that Midwestern power plants have been shown to be principal contributors to acid rain in the East are "incorrect and irresponsible," the Reagan administration said Monday. The administration attacked a report in Science Trends, a trade newsletter, on a draft study by 50 scientists who have been studying the causes and effects of acid rain for two years.

"The new findings strongly suggest that pollution from coal-burning utilities, primarily in the Midwest, is killing fish, destroying lakes, damaging structures, disrupting ecosystems and potentially threatening human health, both in this country and Canada," the newsletter said.

BUT KATHLEEN Bennett, assistant administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, said that nowhere in the 1,200-page document were there any conclusions linking acid rain with Midwestern power plants.

"Time and again, the document points out major uncertainties in our knowledge about the transformation, transport and effects of acid rain," Bennett said.

Scientists who have worked on the study began a two-day meeting Monday in Raleigh, N.C., to discuss their findings. The document, which is a collection of individual papers, must be submitted for scientific review and public comment before it is released as an official report. Bennett said that would not come before March, 1983.

WHILE THE administration was criticizing the study as an uncompleted document, environmentalists were praising it as added evidence to indict Midwest utilities as major contributors to acid rain, which has been blamed for the deaths of hundreds of lakes in the Northeast and Canada.

"This is just more confirmation of growing evidence on the acid rain problem which the administration refuses to accept," David Hawkins, of the Natural Resources Defense Council, said after reading the 1,200-page document.

Environmentalists have been pushing for a bill that would clamp additional controls on sulfur dioxide emissions from Midwest power plants, controls that are opposed by the administration on the grounds that not enough is yet known about acid rain.

The study said that since 1950, emissions of sulfur dioxide in the Eastern United States have more than doubled and electric utility contributions have tripled with the largest increases coming in the Midwest. Sulfur dioxide is thought to be a main cause of acid rain.