



"Thou, linnet, in thy green array,  
Presiding spirit here today..."

- Wordsworth

# TOOTHPICK ENSHRINED

RON DOUGAN EXPRESSES APPRECIATION FOR FIDELITY

Beloit Ronald Dougan has bronzed and mounted, with appropriate sentiments, the wooden toothpick which accompanied him to England and back, giving 20 days of unstinting service. Says the travel-frayed toothpick, which returned home bloody but unbowed, "My greatest challenge was gooseberry pips."



## GOOD NEWS!

Beloit The bad news of the last issue about the amber-milk bottle theft is hereby retracted. The man now living in the Big House noticed that the cases of bottles were gradually disappearing (as Jackie & Craig sporadically moved them up to Chez Nars!) and so he stowed them all in a room in the Big House for safe keeping!

## MARY ELLEN CAMPAGNA HAMLIN RECEIVES MENTAL HEALTH AWARD

### Mental health group gives seven awards

BLACKSBURG (Virginia) Seven awards were presented at the recent annual dinner of the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County.

The Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Emma O. Nolen, a teacher at Bethel Elementary School, and the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program. John Yon and Martha Spencer, deputies in the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, accepted the DARE award.

Sally Bohland, a guidance counselor at Christiansburg High School, received the Professional Award for a commitment toward the prevention or improvement of treatment and care of mental illness.

Mary Hamlin, a local writer, received the Media Award for outstanding contributions in the coverage of mental health issues.

Ester Youngs received the Mattie Lou Smusz Award, which recognizes someone involved in volunteer activities serving people with mental illness. Youngs has headed "I'm Thumbody," a mental illness prevention program which has reached more than 800 students in Montgomery County.

The Gunnar Teilmann Award went to the Rev. Herbert Myers for his volunteer work at Montgomery Regional Hospital, Smithfield Plantation and the ecumenical food bank. The award is for a clergy member in Montgomery County who is dedicated to serving the needs of others.

Mimi Baldwin says, "You'd think by the time we've got, we'd have a few answers."

Alfred Payne won the Roswell E. Round Award, which recognizes an ongoing history of volunteerism in the field of mental health or exceptional service. Payne has been involved with the Mental Health Association, Blacksburg in the '80's, the United Way, Hospice, the Christmas Store, Rotary Club, the Torch Club and the Blacksburg Ministerial Association.

Great going, Mary Ellen! Most recent work is on Depression. Have you all noticed how many of the family are WRITERS?!!! Must be in the GENES!!!

## EMPTY NESTERS GO TO ENGLAND

England, passim. A lot of the joy of the trip for the ENNL Ed was spending 20 days in the company of you regular Empty Nest readers. Mimi Baldwin from Colorado, with whom I shared a damn cliff walk by the sea in Dorset--Jan Grimes who kept us all smiling--Sara Crowner, who treated our scraped stomachs--Shirley Raye Redwood of Los Alamos, who wrote us poetry--Debbie Meister of Kentucky, who got us smelling--and of course Ron Dougan ("The hero of the trip!" said Jan) and my co-teacher, Mary Coffman. In addition we met with ENNL regulars over there: Maggie Devenaux in Oxford, Hugh & Jessie Perkins in Dorset. We're sorry Cornwall was deemed too far to pursue King Arthur at Tintagel, with Pam & Winnie Taylor. And we did miss Nancy Hocking, now living in Cypress. And OH YES, who did we run into in Westminster Abbey but ENNL reader Julie Hornbostel from Bebit, + U-Rock, Jamesville, bringing over a class of her own! This marks the end of Children's Lit tours for awhile, but there may be a Mystery Novel trip (Br. Cadfael, Lord Peter, etc.) combined w/ an SSU legal studies class & Scotland Yard in 1991. Make your reservations now!

# EVERY DAY A HOLIDAY!!

England When RAD was going through customs, at Heathrow coming in to England, we got him a wheel chair-- the man pushing it asked, "Are you on holiday? Sir?" Replied Grandpa, "When you're my age, every day's a holiday!" That became the watch-phrase of the trip, every day a holiday! And it was a grand trip again, AND a holiday--though quite a lot of work, too. RAD weathered the trip triumphantly, did a lot of walking, took a tumble on way to Dickens House (he blames his new Keenleys, which are wider soled than he's used to.) No harm was done besides glasses frame + bad scrape on hand. Trip highlights: again, the PEOPLE! Catherine Storr had us to her flat, London (Hampstead); we talked books, and books-into-movies, & the class loved it. Maggie Devereux went with us to the White Horse; we had another perfect White Horse day complete with larks, sheep, vistas, hill fort excavation, & Maggie's lovely essay. We had Tolkien poetry on the wayland Smith long-barrow. Maggie went with us to hear Walt Hooper, at the Kilns, talk about C.S. Lewis & Tolkien; what a rich, rich time! Dawn's John Poyner at Haworth Youth Hostel were again splendid hosts. (Dawn's son Sam is currently visiting Springfield, taking in Lincoln & legislature, our two industries, plus soccer and 4th of July.) Hugh & Jessie, Michael & Sue, June & Tom entertained us again at the Crosfield farm, and that was the peak of the trip for Grandpa, also for Jan Grimes, ENM reader + cousin who introduced me to Hugh & Jess in 1979. Rosemary Sutcliffe met with Caitlin Adams & Jan Grimes, on our last day, & the two reported the visit back to us with joy. We had AGAIN 20 days of sunshine-- a little TOO hot, the first 10 or 12 days, can you believe! Cecil was again our intrepid coach driver, & tipped many a pint with Grandpa at the pub, evenings. We had a picnic by the Dee in Chester with Louise Selfe + Paul, our British Heritage Tour hosts. And Grandpa and Jackie had a happy afternoon in London with Anna Davin, at her home. Thank you, dearest ones, for our memorable trip!

**SWEATSHIRTS A HIT (WE THINK)**  
England. We gave Catherine Storr an SSU sweatsh- but NEXT time we'll design a "PAPER HOUSE" one! Walt's lemon yellow T shirt sported a handsome lion, framed with "ASLAN LIVES." Katie Waters stenciled the White Horse on a dark green sweatsh. for Maggie; Hugh's navy one said "EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY RELIC", and for Jess's mum's remarks on a lighter (royal) blue sweatshirt, see next column.

**"AS MY MUM USED TO SAY..."**  
Dorset Jess is forever quoting her mum: "Ketchup is an insult to the cook," "Teeth's a worry, coming & going," "Cast not a clout till May be out" (but, the mouth or the blossom?) We put two of Jess's mum's sayings on a shirt. Front: "MEN ARE A NECESSARY NUISANCE." and on the back: "THEY AREN'T MADE LIKE US."



"CAN YOU CAPTION THIS PICTURE OF TIM VEACH?" CONTEST. (Tim is currently laid up with "Baresni Kot Foot," and is recuperating at his parents in Chatham for the summer.)



NOT FEAR, GUILT, BUT SHAME, RESENTMENT, ANGER, ETC  
 ~ EXCLUSIVE ENNL SERVICE OFFERED ~

1. WHAT DO YOU STILL SQUIRM ABOUT, WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF AWAKE IN THE WEE HOURS? SOMETHING YOU SAID OR DID (OR DIDNT SAY OR DO) LONG AGO OR NOT SO LONG AGO? CONFESS IT IN THE EMPTY NEST AND GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST! NO FEE FOR ABSOLUTION. (Grandpa, can we tell about the petition you didnt sign?)
2. OR WHAT DID SOMEONE (OR A BLUEJAY) DO TO YOU IN THE PAST THAT YOU STILL SMOULDER ABOUT EVERY TIME YOU THINK OF IT, AND YOU THINK OF IT TOO OFTEN? (Uncle Craig's his Micky Mouse comic books in the Chez Nous attic is a case we refuse to reopen. There have been hot letters of accusation and denial already published in ENNL.)
3. OR WHAT ARE THE BUZZ WORDS THAT CAN STILL GET YOU UPSET IN 30 SECONDS OR LESS? Grandpa's failing memory can't remember Joan's, and we are not about to tell him. You may not wish to remind any of us of your own -- but you know others; don't you, and the story behind them? We could always get Grandma on "Mr. Pripps" and "desserts."

SEND YOUR SHAME, EMBARRASSMENT, RESENTMENT, REVELATION, ETC. to ENNL (and receive a bumper sticker with a appropriate remark.)

A WARNING: This isn't the sort of thing I like to print in ENNL, but after another particularly nasty killing of a young girl (18) here in Illinois, I want to say it:

1. Don't stop for any car flashing lights at you, aka police car, till you get to a lighted intersection. This is now Illinois law: you don't have to, even if it is the police. We had a horror here, last year. GO FAST!
2. If you come to a road block, ie obstruction placed on road, DON'T STOP! -- do a U turn fast, go back to civilization, & from there report the obstruction.
3. Don't stop for a man waving arms in middle of road as if in trouble. Swerve, report back someone needs help.
4. Don't stop for someone having car trouble. Report back.
5. Keep driver & passenger doors locked, so someone won't climb in w/ you at an intersection, or pull you out. (Happened here at 4th & Adams in broad daylight.)
6. Look in backseat before you drive off. (N. Grand & 5th)
7. If YOU need help, lock your doors & put one of these visor signs up that calls for POLICE.

BARNY SCHMIDT WINNER IS DOC DOUGAN!

BeaverCreek, Or. Dr Craig Dougan has been the ONLY one to enter our last issue's caption contest, but he sent in 18, prob. to be sure to beat out Sam Mersky. He explains that Dick Estelle does a v. poor "chapter a day" type program out of Michigan, sells cheap. A sample of Craig's captions:

- "Dear Dick Estelle, Uncle Craig & my dad say you are cheap. Well, I have a little radio station here..."
- "Dear Grandpa Dougan, Can you pick up WSCD on you hearing aid?"
- "Dear Uncle Craig, Here at WSCD we need a co-host/versial program. Would you consider resurrecting 'The Morbid Hour'?"
- "Dear Dick Estelle, I don't like the way you pronounced 'Uranus.'"
- "Dear Dick Estelle, I don't like the other way you pronounce it any better."

