

THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VIII NO 6 JUNE '90

"And as the mallard dives in
pool,

Let us dabble, dive and duck..."

- Anou, perhaps of Tudor date
(Oxford Dictionary of Quotations)

Chude
sing
cuccu.

GILLIAN GRADUATES!

JOINS WORKFORCE; BIOCHEM LAB IS FULL OF BUGS, A CAN (BLENDER) OF WORMS

Gillian's new address is 2108 N. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89501. Her parents are Tom and Joanne Jackson. She has a brother, Matthew, and a sister, Jackie. She also has a dog named Cressida.

Reno May 19 was the cold but happy day when Gillian Jackson crossed the platform at the U. of Nevada, Reno, and received her promise of a sheepskin, thus working the end of years of hard, and excellent work. Her B.S. is in Chemistry, like her Grandpa Ron Douglas. Shivering through the ceremonies, & playing games brought from home, were daughter Cressida, partner Joe Burnstead, sisters Damaris, Megan, god'sister Alison Walsh, mom Jackie, & Cress's Aunt Ingrid. Gillian was going to write "Gillian" on her card for the Chancellor but was assured that he never mispronounced names. Out over the loud speaker came "Gillian" with a hard G. We counted several other mispronunciations. The address, by a management big wig, was awful. ("Life is like a corporation.") Afterwards, Gillian, Joe & Cress hosted a clau/inguine/fruit dinner for family & friends, followed by many hilarious rounds of Balderdash, a commercial (& better) version of Dictionary. Gillian is now employed at a UN-R biochem lab; which is isolating the juvenile hormone. She takes big fat green smooth skinned tomato worms and turns them to puree in a blender. After that, ??? The lab is also home to assorted cockroaches, grasshoppers, etc.



JEREMY WINS FAT PRIZE FOR BK

That's BOOK, not BIKE, you troglodyte! P.2

TOM REPLACED BY ROBOT

That's Grandpa's headline; his mother Jo is incensed. P.2

DAMARIS GRABS GRANT

P.2

GRAMPA STARS ON HISTORY VID

P.2

CRESSIE® HITS® TRIPLE!

P.5

COON GETS STUCK IN BIRD FEEDER

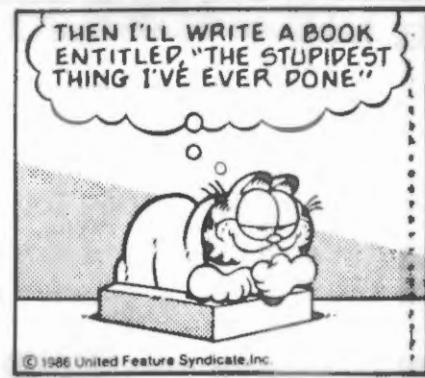
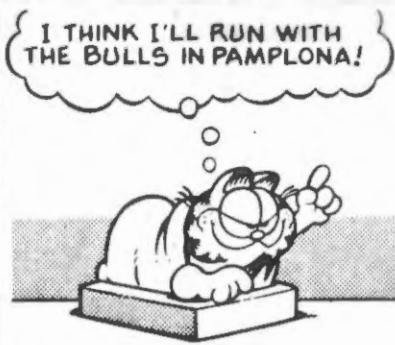
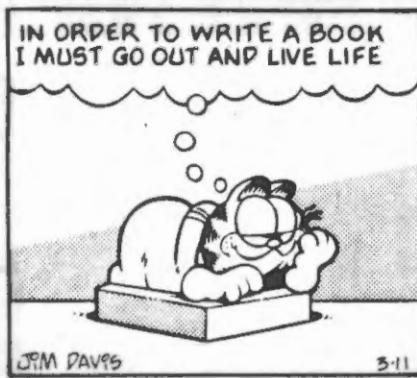
P.3

MATTHEW STRIKES OUT ON "TRIFID"

But he made it to third base, & I bet you couldn't spell it, either! P.5

MEGAN: CAR; ELLE: SCHOOL; JACKIE: GOOSE EGG; and MORE! GET YOUR MAG-mifying glass and read all the fascinating details, on the following pages of your favorite publication.

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-- Not if you sell it!

JEREMY Schmidt (Jackson Hole, WY.) has just won the Barbara Savage "Miles from Nowhere" Memorial Award, over two other finalists, for his book, Everything is Never Clear Here: 7 Months Around the Himalayas. The hardback, 320 pp. book, w/ photos, will be published by Seattle's Mountaineering Press, next spring. The prize money + advance came to \$15 thou! Terrific, Jer! And I understand that this isn't your usual "Wow, let's go too!" travlogue, but full of depth: what we'd expect of Jeremy.

Have we reported in these pages that TOM Schmidt, late of Milwaukee, en route this v. moment to WYOMING, has thrown over job, money, security with the Milwaukee Journal to move out by Jeremy + Wendy's FREELANCE? He and Theresa sold their newly-fixed-up house in two days! Before they settle in Jackson they'll spend a week in Tijuana, Mex., building houses with Roselyn + Jimmy Carter. Tom became fired up with this work by being assigned a Journal article on Habitat for Humanity; he ended up far more than reporting! Tom says, if you can't take risks at his age, when can you? (Gramp doesn't really believe a robot can replace Tom: they're losing a good man. Also Terese -- and Wendy -- can produce paychecks anywhere, by hanging out their nursing shingles. Go for it, Tom + Terese! Run with the bulls!

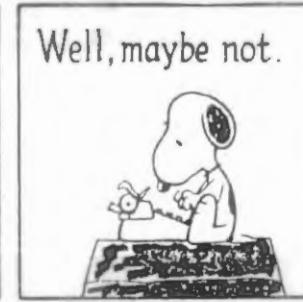
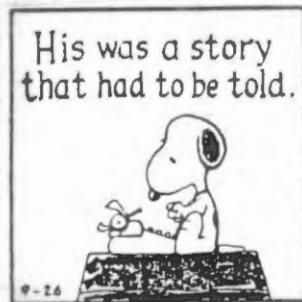
Dear Contributor,
We are returning
your dumb story



DAMARIS Jackson, Mpls., who's done some splendid school workshops, where kids designed and made their own quilts, went before a panel and convinced them to award her a \$1000 grant: Powderhorn Park, a beloved Mpls. park near her, and about which she stitched her Quilt International quilt, is having a centennial celebration, with much hoopla, exhibits, events, etc. Damaris will work with 100 (yes, one hundred!) neighborhood kids, to make two quilts for permanent display in the Powderhorn Park Building. D. also has been working at "Morning Club" at Wilder Elementary School; also making futons (artists must make a buck where they can) and has a quilt, new, in the current Minnesota Quilt Show. She will model a skirt at the quilt show. (Of her own design.)



RON DOUGAN, Beloit, thought maybe not, but Bill Guelzo of the Beloit Historical Society thought otherwise. One hour's worth of RAD is now on video (filmed at Beloit College); he talks to Bill about his history, & the farm's business's. Mostly it's Show + Tell, with loads of pictures. We'll circulate the tape. It'll be on local TV this summer, then in the Hist. Soc. Library. The format didn't encourage RA's marvelous stories, but we have a lot of those on audio, maybe I'll put together a collection. QUESTION: WHO HAS THE ROTARY VIDEO of RAD? (And why have I had such scant feedback on YOUR LOVING FATHER?)



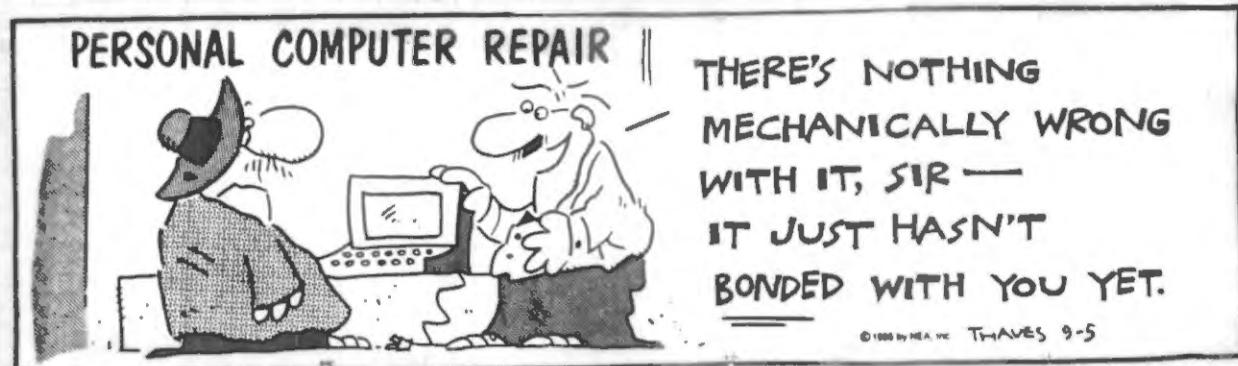
Family history can be quite a burden

Unless everyone writes or calls + says, "HEY, that volume is FANTASTIC!"

THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER VOL VIII NO 6 P 3

BRIEFS

West Bend, WI
Sonja Yde (9? 10?) got a Presidential Citation in Academic Excellence, AND one in Fitness!



NEWS BRIEFS

Sleepy Hollow, IL Author (and ENNL reader) Berniece Rabe was main speaker at SSU's Writers Conference, in May. Ever since, participants have been raving to me, & thanking me for bringing her. She & Walter took me out to dinner, stayed over, & Berniece worked w/ me next day, on my computerphobia.

Beloit The raccoon that lives in the front yard of Chez Nous is back this spring, in the hollow tree, & bolder than ever. She now climbs daily into the bird feeder & jams herself in, gorging on sunflower seeds. She hangs out both sides & is V. fat. Elle's cats go mad, inside by the picture window. There is also a v. large woodchuck in the lane.

Beloit Elle has now reversed her commute: she's at her old job in Chicago all week, returns to the farm on weekends. She had another successful semester at Beloit College, including student teaching at Beloit High, & will be interning at DeLavan-Darien in the fall, still living at the farm. MAT. in Dec!

Sparta Phyllis Walden loaned Jackie a book, File Doubt Pile (by Dorff) which is giving her the first real hope of conquering the paper mess she lives under. The system WORKS! (Probably.) However, shortly after its arrival it vanished; took it 6 mo. to surface -- it was in a pile. Now she's ordered copies for herself, & all daughters.

San Francisco Alison Walsh admired a quiet photo at Gill's grad, & subsequently bought the quilt for Paul's birth-day, telling him it was made by an "inter-So congratulate them for us. Nationally known quilt artist," when Paul Hope Trever will do as well." later remarked that the quilt, & a painting by Megan, were the favorites of his collection. Alison told him that the quilt was made by Damaris Jackson!

FROM RAD --

Beloit. "The world's a mess," says Ron Douglas. "Too bad I'm not going to be around to straighten it out!" At another time, while drinking his coffee, "Some day I'm going to be an old man. I'm not looking forward to it." He recently recounted a dream: He dreamed he was cloned, & all around were lots of Ron Douglas looking just like him. "I'd talk to one, and everything I had to say, he already knew. I'd ask another a question, something I really wanted to know, & he'd say, "I dunno." Anything I knew, they knew, & anything I didn't know, they didn't either. It was certainly boring!"

APP ROVES MATCH

Oak Bluffs, Mass. June 24, 1922. Remember Uncle George? (Of "Uncle George & Uncle Bert" fame, the song.) Well, I recently discovered a letter from him to his sister Eunice, Ron's Mother. Ron & Vera Wardner had been married in France on May 3, 1924, and were still there. Eunice & Wesson hadn't met Vera yet. George writes: "I saw Dr. Bysshe, the Superintendent of our work in France, at the General Conference, and asked him about Ronald & his work. He spoke well of Ronald, and in especially high terms of his wife said he was a most lucky wife said he was a most lucky

I understand Eunice & WJ heard this from other sources, too, and their apprehensions were eased.

Alumni Bestow Recognition Awards

Sangamon State University's Alumni Association presented its third annual Alumni Recognition Awards on May 10 at a reception at the home of University President and Mrs. Durward Long.

"It's important to give something back to the faculty and staff in return for all they have given to us and the University," Association President Gary Koch said in explaining the awards.

This year's winners, with some comments from the nominations, follow.

Becky Veach, program administrative assistant to the Dean of the School of Public Affairs and Administration, is an early alumnus of SSU and has two degrees (a B.A. in English and history earned in 1972 and an M.A. in history earned in 1973). On the staff of SSU since 1971, she has had positions ranging from graduate assistant to her current position.

"Becky's dedication to the students at SSU is manifested in many ways. For example, she is in charge of communicating every semester with current and former students to remind them of classes, course schedules and other special interest items. Becky also reviews all graduation reports to assure that students will really graduate on time and, of course, become alumni!"

"Becky Veach exemplifies the best of SSU—student, alumni and staff."

This recognition is well deserved, but it doesn't really begin to tell what Becky does, like run the whole school. (ENNL readers are more familiar with son Tim, who's danced on these pages. The BAD NEWS, the TERRIBLE NEWS, is that Jerry Veach has been transferred to Chicago & he & Beck will be moving. The ENNL Ed is devastated! How will she get along w/o her family? Her life line? How will SSU survive?!

How glad we are, Dad, that you went to

France & wooed Mom there, successfully -- and how we are all missing her!



ENNL READER HAP HORNBOSTEL LEADS AN INTERESTING LIFE

Beloit That's because he's so interested in everything. Grandpa says he can't pick up the Beloit Daily News without finding Hap looking out at him from some window of an abandoned house. This project is from the Wisconsin State Journal, Madison, & reflects Hap's interest in ancient American civilizations & its ties to Europe (a strong interest also of ENNL cousin Bobbie Smith of Atlanta.) Some day we will treat you readers with stories of Hap's hairraising boyhood escapades (we knew him when), the saga of the Shapiere clock, etc.

While we're at it, JULIE HORNBOSTEL is no slouch, either, as the article below indicates. Grandpa says you never know where you'll run into Julie, either; he stumbled over her at West min-



State Journal photos/JOSEPH W JACKSON

TV's "Unsolved Mysteries" made no promises but sent a crew to photograph what might be the site of ancient civilization under Rock Lake. Lloyd Hornbostel, left, a Rock Lake property owner, observes divers

along with cameraman Bob Wise, center, of Los Angeles and sound man Rick Patterson, of New York, who were tentatively capturing the find on film. (Rock Lake is N. of Beloit S. of Madison)

Rock Lake's lost pyramids

This unsolved mystery may unlock state's past
Divers may have discovered

By Mark Nepper
Wisconsin State Journal

LAKE MILLS — Wayne May knows the pyramids are there, hidden and preserved by about 45 feet of water in Rock Lake.

On Saturday he and others tried to convince a film crew for NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries" that the mounds submerged in the lake are actually man-made pyramids of unknown origins.

"We've got them on videos," said May of Lake Mills. "We sent them to these guys and they said, 'Hey there might be something there.' Even though filming was being done, officials have made no commitment to air the pyramid story.

May and Frank Joseph have made several dives exploring the structures and have determined they have uniform, straight sides and likely were man made. The mounds, about 12 feet high by 100 feet wide, were constructed of round rocks and cemented together. The plaster dates to before 2000 B.C.

People have put forth several

ed ancient altar
in Rock Lake



Residents and onlookers on the north shore of the lake.

theories about the pyramids. Lloyd Hornbostel of Beloit, who owns property on Rock Lake, said the pyramids are related to ancient copper trade routes. The lake is located on one of the south-

ern trade routes from Isle Royale in Lake Superior.

Historians have found evidence of food storage and copper pits surrounding the lake, Hornbostel said. The next step will be to try

I find some copper artifacts underwater. Then they have to be able to date the artifacts and the pyramids to determine specifically when this civilization flourished.

"The structures are at a level (about 45 feet deep) that the lake was around 1200 to 2000 B.C.," Hornbostel said. "This was the peak of the copper mining activity. This is a very significant bit of work here. We've come from being a joke to something that is very important. We can document our pre-Columbian history."

A slot on the national television show might give the pyramid theory even more credibility. But Mother Nature only allows about a two-week window of opportunity in spring where the water is clear enough for filming. Visibility registered at about 21 feet Saturday. Later in spring, when the algae blooms and the weeds begin to grow, the visibility starts to fade.

So an independent film crew for "Unsolved Mysteries" came to shoot while the window was open. Carey Lundin, associate producer for "Unsolved Mysteries," said they filmed the dive above and below water.

May said they got some good footage. "The pictures were as clear as a bell," May said.

Underwater crews photographed a structure the historians had discovered in December. The structure is about 4 feet long and 8 inches thick. It rests on two rows of round, softball-sized stones, May said.

"It's so perfectly shaped," May said. "There's no way a glacier set this down. It looks like an altar. We were jumping up and down on the pontoon boat because we got the pictures. That was the best part."

May also was excited about two other finds. A diver, running his fingers through the lake bottom silt, found a small bone about the size of a Hershey's kiss. Although it's just speculation, May said the animal bone (pictured on Page 1A) might be able to provide some kind of better time reference to the era of copper trade.

Camera crews also were trying to film a second structure, just discovered Saturday, that resembled the first altar, May said. They were less successful filming this structure because divers had stirred up the bottom.

The footage they shot eventually will become a story about this unsolved mystery, Lundin said.

Beloit woman honored as U-Rock's Teacher of Year

A strong commitment to teaching ... reflecting academic rigor applied with concern and caring" ranked English professor Julia Hornbostel as Teacher of the Year at the University of Wisconsin Center-Rock County, said to Don Lux, chairman of the Merit Committee.



Hornbostel

Mrs. Hornbostel, who has taught at UW-Rock since the campus opened its doors in 1966, was lauded by Dean Thomas Waltermann during Honors Night ceremonies May 11 for service distinguished both by quality and length.

Merit committee members selected Prof. Hornbostel, a Beloit resident, as Teacher of the Year after they reviewed student evaluation forms, research achievements and overall job performances for all faculty.

"In our discussion of the award each committee member seemed to have a favorite. However, one name seemed to come to the surface, Julia Hornbostel," stated Lux. "Julia's teaching evaluations were outstanding, and the committee took note of her 'personalized' teaching style," he added.

During a typical semester, Prof. Hornbostel teaches three sections of English 102, a writing composition course. She also teaches a literature course. Students are required to write several papers for each course.

In all, Mrs. Hornbostel estimates she has probably read more than 50,000 papers since she began teaching at U-Rock 24 years ago.

While the paper trail may seem never ending, she appreciates the variety of work.

"There is always something different because of the people involved," she said, noting that writing courses allow for more student creativity. She said the knowledge she gains through research papers is an

added plus.

"I'm always hoping that my students will become so capable that I will be more of a sounding board than instructor," commented Prof. Hornbostel. "One of the best measures of success in teaching is to become unnecessary."

Mrs. Hornbostel holds a bachelor's degree from Florida State University, master's degree from Indiana University, and has participated in additional seminars at UW-Madison. She served as an ad hoc instructor at Beloit College from 1964 to 1966 before joining the faculty at U-Rock.

During her tenure at U-Rock, she initiated the early organizational meetings of the UW centers faculty interested in establishing women's studies courses.

In addition, she has helped develop four University Forum series, developed and taught six new courses dealing with minority and women's literature, and published in various journals.

ster Abbey last June; at the Tiffany General Store (which see in this issue) etc. Julie's now in Ireland with students, and then comes a walking tour in England.

Julie supplies the ENNL Ed w/ cartoons, news, and bits of

Support & Friendship!
This article
can't else-
where. →

(Alas, like next issue!)

Tiffany spotlighted in N.Y. Times article

A Tiffany woman received national publicity from the New York Times this week for her out-of-the-way breakfast and lunch cafe.

Virginia Westover, owner of Tiffany's Store and Cafe, was given rave reviews in Wednesday's Living Arts section. The article was written by Dan Hurley, a former Beloit College student who frequented the cafe while in school, said Westover.

Since the review, several area residents and people from far away have come to taste her cuisine, said Westover. Many people have also called her, she said.

"I never knew how many people read the New York Times around here," she said. "It was a really nice

surprise."

Almost every ingredient used on the Tiffany's menu is fresh or locally produced, an astonishing fact for most New Yorkers.

Eggs are bought from a local farm, bacon and other meats are from a family-owned butcher shop nearby, and Mrs. Westover travels to Benton Harbor, Mich. three times in late summer to pick fresh fruit.

In business since 1978, orders are prepared one by one which makes the wait a little longer than many restaurants. But Hurley told busy New Yorkers in his review that even they should take time to stop at Tiffany's.

Tiffany, WI You all know the Twin Cities, combined population 250: Shopiere, where we swim below the dam, + Tiffany with the most beautiful railroad bridge this side of France (you should see the Baraboo circus train going over it at 7:00 AM on a summer's morn!) Dad & I took Phyllis Walden to breakfast at the Tiffany General Store, at Easter time, and 4 days later it was written up in the NY Times! The article is now framed beside the cattle sale notices, etc. Life at the Gen. Store is pretty much the same. More folk off the highway, Mrs. W. reports. But we haven't noticed other than the usual bikers & overall types.

ONE-HUNDRETH COMMENCEMENT

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA RENO



MAY 19, 1990

BIRTHDAY BASH!

Spcd. ENNL reader Martha Robertson gave a most WONDERFUL birthday party for ENNL Ed, May 3. Many friends attended, the food was fantastic, and presents ranged from the Oxford BK of Quotes (to help w/ ENNL masthead bird quotes!) to underpants to throw away in England. It was a grand, unexpected, and v. SPECIAL occasion. Thank you, Martha & Lew, for all you do for me, + for the party.

NEXT ISSUE: JJ'S MAR '90 ENGLAND TRIP

WESTERN HIGHLIGHTS

San Mateo, CA After Gillian's graduation the ENNL Ed went onto California & spent a day with brother - and sister-in-law Jim + Audrey Jackson. Jim is ill with a rare form of lung cancer. It was very good to be with them. We ate + talked + poked into family history. Jane Jackson, whom J.J. visited in London, has just arrived to spend the summer + teach music appreciation at Jim's College, also to record some of his piano music for Douglas Hofstader (of Godel Escher Bach.)

Santa Cruz, CA ENNL Ed was also entertained by Megan Jackson, Megan is now advertising for illustration work; please direct all your graphics + illustration needs her way. I VASTLY admire the drawings she's done on computer, + recommend her. She has recently retired her Dawes two-wheeler for a 4-wheeled Toyota Terrel, business move: she needs more mobility!

131 CEDAR #6 SANTA CRUZ CALIFORNIA 95060 (408) 429-5429

COMPUTER & TRADITIONAL

MEGAN TREVER

ILLUSTRATION

MEGANTREVER MEGANTREVER MEGANTREVER MEGANTREVER

Santa Cruz, CA A sight to amaze! ENNL reader old friend Anna Belle Dirks treated Jackie to a trip to a seal sanctuary; we hiked out to the shore and saw hundreds of supine beasts lying around in great masses, yawning, stretching, occasionally scratching (they have well articulated fingers, under a skin web!) sometimes humping along a few feet, then flopping exhausted. Moulting apparently takes all their energy! Annabelle also hosted a trip to Salinas, where we ate at John Steinbeck's house, a gourmet lunch! and visited the library's Steinbeck room. Apparently Salinas wasn't always happy with their most famous son. On our way, we went through the mission of San Juan Bautista; on our return, the Carmel mission. What a 4 star day, the last star being dinner (gourmet) at Annabelle's, with Megan. A. has all this lovely free time because she's been made redundant; her hospital has been hostilely taken over, and all the administrators fired. In April, ENNL Ed had the pleasure of hosting Annabelle and her niece Abby, in Springfield. They were visiting relatives + cemeteries. They say a highlight of their trip was my taking them to Oak Ridge Cemetery (2nd most visited in U.S.) but we bypassed Lincoln + viewed Mattie Rayburn, wife of B.P. Rayburn, looking down from her 40 ft. column on those who looked down on her in life!

MATTHEW GOES THREE ROUNDS IN SPELLING BEE

Bethesda, Md. Matthew Schmidt, 12, won at his school, then at the county competition, then lasted a number of rounds at the regional, till he went down on "trifid" (from the Latin trifidus, 3 into 3 parts, as a trident or milking stool.) A videotape shows him spelling with quiet competence + composure, I've also heard that he recently played an excellent piano recital - Moonlight Sonata and a Mozart familiar to Dagan kids from Paul Campagna playing it when we were kids. Matthew played his recital pieces for his great grandpa when he was in Beloit at Easter time. Good going, Matthew!

CRESS DON'T PLAY WITH BARBIE DOLLS; CRESS JUST PLAYS WITH BATS AND BALLS! Reno NV Cress Bristell, 7 plays in the Bobby Sox league; recently hit a triple! In this all-girl league, the inning is hit over till everyone gets to bat; everyone takes turns playing all positions, + no score is kept. Cheerleaders are those waiting to bat: see typical cheer above - ("We don't play w/ Barbie dolls) Cress in uniform in next issue.

As well
as
"business
image."
(She'd dropped
her last
name, for
a more
memorable
moniker.)

'Poems, in all their nakedness'

The Beloit Poetry Journal: Celebrating 40 years, but now making waves from Down East.

Below:

Subscriptions to the Beloit Poetry Journal are available at \$8 a year: RFD 2, Box 154, Ellsworth, Maine, 04605.

In the autumn of 1950, three months after the Korean "police action" began and when Beloit area spectators began anticipating the forthcoming basketball court exploits of Ron Bontemps, Babe Baptist, and Fran Stahr, a modest periodical made its debut.

The editors of Beloit Poetry Journal in that inaugural issue disclosed their basic game plan: "To get hold of the best contemporary poetry we can find and print it."

Furthermore, the journal's introductory message continued, the editors would avoid lengthy reviews and technical essays and devote at least three-quarters of the space to "poems, in all their nakedness." As a precaution against individual editorial crotchets, guest editors would be invited to oversee one or two issues a year.

And so the tradition began, with Chad Walsh, author/poet and Beloit English professor, and Robert H. Glauber, small press and magazine editor, setting the course, and the poet and novelist May Sarton sitting in the first chair as guest editor.

The contents gave every indication of promises kept: Richard Eberhart was represented with his *War and Poetry*, as was John Ciardi with *Elegy Deferred*. Walsh contributed *Epithalamium for Bob and Jackie*, and Sarton offered her own writing as well.

The cover design of the Journal was usually created by one of several Beloit

Marion Stocking, scholar, professor, birdwatcher, editor, is one of ENN's cherished readers.



Marion Stocking: Her Beloit Poetry Journal is thriving at age 40.

artists—Franklin Boggs, Verne Shaffer, '50, Mary Ross—and, in the early years, often repeated for economy's sake with nothing more than a change in ink color. The price for this periodic anthology of two dozen or so poems was 25 cents, little more than the cost of a pack of Chesterfields.

Now, with the Beloit Poetry Journal reaching age 40, its editor for 35 of those

equal to the task of arousing artistic controversy. Under the cover of a stark white tree with heavy black roots mired in the symbolic underground, the issue came off the press with, for the times, rather revolutionary content.

A prime example was Gil Orlovitz's *Not*, a caustic and irreverent commentary on contemporary institutions and values that left him testing the edge of the envelope, and others were only slightly less controversial.

One member of the Beloit faculty did not like what he read and set about mustering opposition among faculty members with what Emeritus History Professor Robert Irrmann called "pious proclivities." With Chad Walsh away on leave, Marion Stocking and her husband, David, found themselves on the firing line. Their critic, Stocking says, began sending marked copies to sympathetic trustees.

Up to that time the Beloit Poetry Journal had been published by Beloit College, although, in Stocking's recollection, the relationship was informal.

"There was no question," she says, "that [President Carey] Cronin intended it to be a College publication. He authorized it because he thought that the College needed an intellectual image to counteract the athletic image."

Funding for the Journal, nonetheless, was another matter, and Walsh, the Stockings, and others customarily played the role of impoverished poets who scrounged funds wherever such were to be found.

The faculty, meanwhile, debated the controversy and, says Stocking, supported the Journal, as did then-President Miller Upton, albeit uneasily. But since the relationship between College and Journal had been informal all along, especially the funding, the net effect was mostly a revised publisher's statement as

years can look back with no little satisfaction on what she's done to guide the magazine to middle age maturity.

Marion Kingston Stocking, who retired as emeritus professor and chair of Beloit's English department in 1984, still wears the editorial hat—though perhaps now an L.L. Bean creation, inasmuch as she does the work at her home in Lamoine, Maine, overlooking picturesque Frenchman Bay and Mt. Desert Island, site of the posh Bar Harbor summer resort and Acadia National Park.

For the Journal's 40th birthday edition—the forthcoming Summer 1990 issue—Stocking has marshaled a chapbook containing "a glittery list" of 25 new works from poets the magazine originally published in the 1950s: Gwendolyn Brooks, William Stafford, Adrienne Rich, and many others. Completing the circle, in other words, by both hewing to tradition and celebrating the new.

"When Chad and Robert defined the magazine in 1950," said Stocking in a recent telephone interview, "they did a superb job, and we have not changed it in any respect. What has changed, however, is the context. There were very few poetry magazines in 1950, and now there are thousands, so the market has enlarged radically. Poets have an enormous choice."

Nonetheless, despite this increased competition, the Beloit Poetry Journal has maintained a stable circulation base of about 1,200 over the years, sending its

quarterly issues to libraries all over the world as well as to subscribing poets and friends.

"The fact that we have continued to maintain the same position for all those years while the market has exploded is healthy," says Stocking.

Does this mean that poetry is thriving more than ever today?

"That's certainly true quantitatively," says Stocking. "There are many more people writing and publishing poetry, but qualitatively it is hard to say. My opinion is that the poems we publish today are stronger than those we published in the early years—more powerful in their imagery, more imaginative, more striking. Taking the strongest poems we can get is still paying off."

One possible exception to Stocking's comparison was the magazine's Winter 1957-8 issue, whose publication of several industrial-strength, new-wave poems fundamentally altered the journal's own corporate structure.

"This work bristles with revolt," wrote James Boyer May in introductory comments to the issue, which was intended to contrast the works of such contemporary British poets as Kingsley Amis with some cutting-edge material from the West Coast.

"May was sort of dean of historians of the little magazine movement and published *Trace*, an index to little magazines," says Stocking. "He was a Beloit [class of '25, May attended the college for three semesters]. We asked him if he would put together a sampling of poems from members of the Los Angeles underground," precursors of the beat movement then developing.

Many critics in the 1950s considered the MGM musical to be Los Angeles's principal cultural export, but the city's underground poets proved more than

well as a new-found freedom to go broke.

In any case, the break with Beloit College was official, and the Summer 1958 issue was listed as being "published by the editors," who, in addition to the founders and the Stockings, now included the poet David Ignatow. Looking back, Stocking dismisses the flap as a "tempest in a teapot."

"We've been completely independent ever since," she says. "I used to scrape together enough to pay printers. All of this was out of our pockets until this year."

A few federal grants have helped reduce the shortfall, which generally amounts to "a couple thousand dollars," she says. Now incorporated as a non-profit foundation, however, the journal can approach potential donors and offer tax deductions for contributions.

The Stockings moved the magazine to Maine upon their retirement in 1984. Marion continued the work on her own after David's death the same year.

In cultivating the Poetry Journal's special domain of "the growing tip of poetry," Stocking continues publishing mostly what comes "over the transom—but every other year we publish a chapbook [they've done 20 altogether]. Our last one was probably the most important we've ever had, John Rosenwald's chapbook of new poetry from the People's Republic of China [Winter 1988-9]. It's really a historic publication, the only place you can go to see what poets under 40 there have been writing."

Beloit Professor Rosenwald and his wife, Ann Arbor, are currently on the magazine's board, as are former Beloit teachers Brian Dibble and David Sander son and student Anna Finch, '83.

Although Stocking says she has more tasks staked out than she can possibly accomplish in her lifetime, she's

The historic Winter 1957-8 issue of the Journal that resulted in official separation from the College.

years can look back with no little satisfaction on what she's done to guide the magazine to middle age maturity.

Marion Kingston Stocking, who retired as emeritus professor and chair of Beloit's English department in 1984, still wears the editorial hat—though perhaps now an L.L. Bean creation, inasmuch as she does the work at her home in Lamoine, Maine, overlooking picturesque Frenchman Bay and Mt. Desert Island, site of the posh Bar Harbor summer resort and Acadia National Park.

For the Journal's 40th birthday edition—the forthcoming Summer 1990 issue—Stocking has marshaled a chapbook containing "a glittery list" of 25 new works from poets the magazine originally published in the 1950s: Gwendolyn Brooks, William Stafford, Adrienne Rich, and many others. Completing the circle, in other words, by both hewing to tradition and celebrating the new.

"When Chad and Robert defined the magazine in 1950," said Stocking in a recent telephone interview, "they did a superb job, and we have not changed it in any respect. What has changed, however, is the context. There were very few poetry magazines in 1950, and now there are thousands, so the market has enlarged radically. Poets have an enormous choice."

Nonetheless, despite this increased competition, the Beloit Poetry Journal has maintained a stable circulation base of about 1,200 over the years, sending its



nonetheless reduced her load somewhat. She has given up bird-banding but remains an active trustee of the nearby Standwood Wildlife Sanctuary.

Stocking has her own Latona Press and continues work for Johns Hopkins University Press, on an edition of Claire Clairmont's letters, part of her on-going research into the Byron-Shelley family circles.

All considered, she plans to keep the Beloit Poetry Journal moving forward to the half-century mark, no doubt a comfort to the 1,200 subscribers and far more readers of every issue. And even though Frenchman Bay is now home to the little journal that started on Indian high ground above the Rock River, Stocking's contributors still have no trouble targeting her transom.

"Every day I walk up the hill for the mail," she says, "I come down with another armload of work."