

# THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER

VOL IX NO 7 LATE JUNE '91

"My - dog - has - fleas!" -- anou.  
"When Ah itches, Ah scratches!" -- Ogden Nash



# FLEA BLOOM!

SO MUCH NEWS SINCE LAST ENNL, EDITOR GOES FOR THE JUGULAR

Spf'd. And that means, I returned from England to find the animals frantic and the house filled with fleas. Not that everyone else's house (with animals) isn't the same, in the hot weather we'd been having. So animals got bathed, sprayed, foam-ed, bedding washed, house vacuumed, etc., but I've been reluctant to bomb the house -- it's expensive and not good for man nor beast (nor plant) & has to be re-done when the eggs hatch. So, I tried out a flea trap I'd read about, and it's keeping the situation under control fairly well. You fill the shallow pan with detergent - water (otherwise they swim to shore) the fleas heat and fall in -



## Barn fire (occasional flyor spider.)

Three area fire departments were on the scene of an early morning barn fire on Colley Road for more than five hours today as firefighters battled to save livestock inside the barn.

Damage to contents of the barn was minimal, said Turtle Fire Chief Dick McCaul, and more than 50 chickens and several hogs were saved from the burning building.

McCaul said firefighters responded to Fire No. 317 Colley Road shortly before 1 a.m. today to battle a large blaze which really "lit up the sky."

Town of Beloit and Clinton fire departments sent tankers and extra help to the fire scene, McCaul said.

The fire was basically under control within an hour but firefighters stayed on the scene until almost 6 a.m. this morning due to flare ups located in the wood frame of the barn and straw inside.

The roof of the building was burned off but the first floor saved, McCaul said. The cause of the fire appears to be sparks coming from a nearby trash pile which was burning.

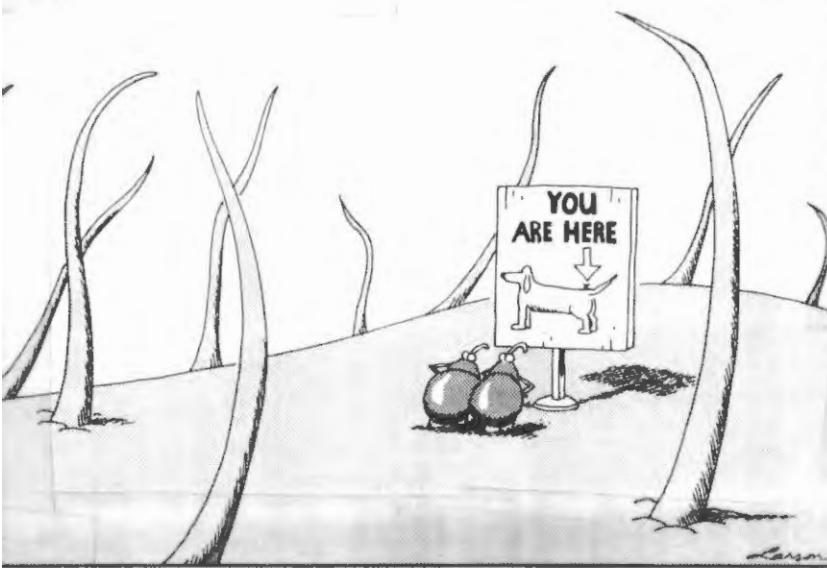
The building is owned by Ronald Dougan and Tom Schendel occupied the residence and barn.



Something else happened while I was away, the Obeck barn (Dougan Farm #4) adjacent to Chez Nous burned down. The man living there was burning trash, & some must've blown against the building. The man spent 20 minutes protesting to me that it wasn't his fault, when I stopped to see the smoking ruins. The barn is pretty well gone.... I'm reminded of the Hill Farm house (Farm #3) that burned down on Christmas Day, 1950, the day Katie Schmidt was born. Craig called me at Ma & Pa Jackson's, said we might as well come out & enjoy it, since there was nothing that could be done -- no water for the firetrucks. It was spectacular: blue sky, grey house, white shaw, red flames. (Where are Craig's movies?)

## DAMARIS OFF ON SUMMER ROMPS

Columbus, O., N. Carolina, etc. (Mps, too) ENNL  
Ed recently visited Damaris in Mps & had a grand time. Even helped make fritters! Walked in the new sculpture garden, went to a spectacular art opening of WARM - women's art. Enjoyed Cheswick the cat, Damri's cooking (we had pigweed & strawberries among other things!), Damri's friends, Powderhorn Park, & the warmth of her unusual church. D's activities this summer: Mps: Doing art activities with 4-5 yr olds in a park reading program, Book Start. Making a swimming pool quiet with kids at a YMCA camp. Right now she's at a conference in Columbus for 8 or 10 days, "Quilt Surface Design." From August 15 till Sept. 7 she'll be in North Carolina, attending the Penland Craft School. She's recently designed some books I & others think ought to be published. But how do you manage everything? (and still make a living?)



# THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER VOL IX NO 7 P 2

## E.A. HAS DIED AFTER LONG BATTLE WITH CANCER.

I had several long conversations with E.A. the last months, and she was always cheerful, positive, full of news. About Grandpa's cardiac arrest she said, "There's a measure to not being dead that's delightful--once you've been dead, you're not afraid any more." And, about all the good things & rich experiences, loving family & friends she's enjoyed, she said, "The Lord has given me so many perks this side of Jordan I can't imagine what more there is for me to receive!" In Alexandria the flags were at half mast, the 2nd time in history for a woman. The Mayor, a Senator, a congresswoman spoke at her memorial service. (There was a private family one, too, & one at the Church of the Savior.) Front page of the Alexandria Journal, E.A. was a great woman, and everyone knew it! I did not see E.A. often, but she was with me. I am missing her.

"Cancer is no fun..."  
Dec. '81



"I do not forget you in my prayers."  
-- Dec. 31

"I make no plans but to rejoice in the richness of my life & the delight of my family."  
Elizabeth-Anne Campagna  
Dec. '81

## CHAD HAS SPECIAL MEMORIAL ISSUE

Some of you may notice you didn't get VOL IX NO 6. This was a special memorial issue to Chad Walsh, which many friends and family contributed to, and it came to a great many pages and additional postage. So I didn't send it to those of you who didn't know Chad, or knew him only slightly; sent lots of copies to people who don't ordinarily get the newsletter. IF YOU WANT A COPY, though, let me know. I'll commemorate Chad in this issue with one of his beautiful love/death poems, this one read at the Memorial:



### A CHAD STORY:

Spld. This didn't make it into the Special issue because I didn't hear the details till I delivered the issue to friend Martha Robertson, who'd earlier said, "Be sure to include the Staples poem!" She now tells

me she'd read somewhere, back in '73, that Chad Walsh was speaking at SSU. She was familiar w/ his work, had read the Staples poem in the Sat. Review. SSU was a new university, she hadn't been out there yet for any reason. She was so impressed by the warmth of the evening, Chad's poetry, the geniality of the Lit faculty, that she enrolled as a student (one of our best ever!) and subsequently came to work at SSU as our beloved Keeper of the Faculty Files. She's just now retired, & she's contributed the cartoon on this page to all retirees, & all struggling (& starting struggling!) teachers who read ENNL. session lasted all afternoon and included a faculty-student baseball game! -- and they offered her the job. She considered, & accepted! It's at Northwestern Military Naval Academy, on the shores of Lake Geneva. She'll teach English + journalism. Have 13 in a class. All boys. Faculty/administration camaraderie. Run (or once run: Julie Hombostel's Bishop father was on the board) by the Episcopal Church. There should be enough order + discipline to teach. Elle's cleverer than is no cushy job -- the pay is lower, & the boys will be mainly rich Chicago kids w/ low self esteem -- not making it in their public school, or perhaps sent off by a family in crisis, etc. Even discipline-problem kids. But Elle has sympathetic smarts, savvy, & sheep dock. More on this elsewhere in this issue.

### THE FINAL RESTAURANT

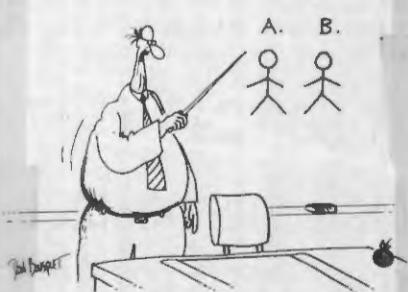
Let me go first. This final restaurant Is strange to both of us, but I will go And find the table. Sit out here and wait. When you are very hungry, come. I'll show You where they've seated me, and how to read The menu with its funny alphabet. Perhaps by then I'll know what food you need And what is best to drink. For when they set My table, I'll say "Two" and make a "V" Of fingers if they have no English. I'll try To watch what others take, so I can be Half naturalized for you. For you were shy And speechless east of England. Let me study New words. You'll want my lips, and they'll be ready.

### ELLE LANDS JOB!

Lake Geneva, WI: This would be THE headline of this issue if it weren't for all the backlog of headline news, driving me to FLEAS. BUT! This needs a brief preface. Elle finished interning in January, and spent spring semester as a sub-all OK till she went for 6

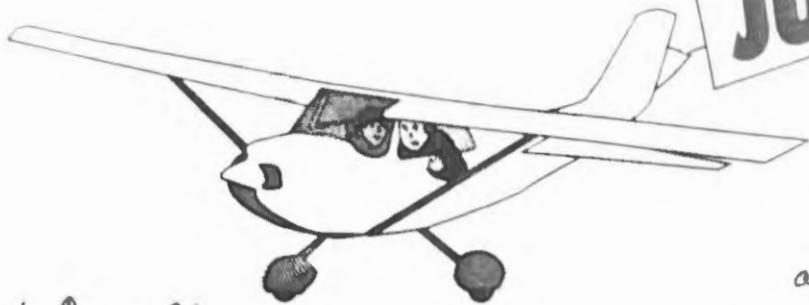
weeks to Big Foot High, in Wallworth, Wis., a school with NO discipline from the administration, where she was subjected to every sort of humiliating harassment by the students. (but supported by the teachers, not the principal + superintendent.) She then took a long trip East, visiting Marcus, Sara Dell, etc., came back refreshed, & blanketed the area with her resume's ~ quitting Big Foot! She then spotted a private school on a news sheet, applied, they phoned to come interview, which

### WOODROW F. BUCHANAN ELEMENTARY



A. B.

"NOW CHILDREN, IF TEACHER 'A' HAS THREE YEARS TO RETIREMENT AND TEACHER 'B' HAS TWENTY-THREE YEARS TO RETIREMENT, WHICH TEACHER IS THE POOR DEVIL AND BY HOW MANY YEARS?"

**JUST MARRIED**

drawing or photo--both enlarged--from stationery designed by Megan. Michael does fly a plane, and their driveway is a heliport!

Santa Cruz, CA.

How can I describe how rich, warm and wonderful Megan and Michael's wedding was? I can start by giving details -- the setting, long in doubt, turned out to be Michael's (now Megan's) home south of Santa Cruz, on a hilltop where the view is almost all green tree tops, and the gleam of the Pacific fills one third of the horizon. Right out in the country, and lovely! As guests arrived, in the days (and up to hours) before, we pitched in with Megan and Michael in vacuuming, washing windows, generally sprucing the place up. There was great camaraderie, getting to know each other, kids running and playing. On the day, as the hour of one drew near, the weather cleared, everyone changed from work clothes to wedding clothes, newcomers were greeted with cries of joy, and the ceremony was held in the garden, amid lemon trees, growing flowers, and large wonderful flower arrangements. It was simple and beautiful. The minister, a lovely woman neighbor, did the minimum required. Michael and Megan, unrehearsed and unmemorized, told each other in their own words what they meant to each other, their joy in finding each other, their hopes and desires for, and faith in, their future together. Michael's three children, Michaeljohn, Matthew and Melinda (isn't it a good omen that Megan is an "M," too?!?) were right up there, and an acknowledged part of the proceedings. Michael's brother Dan was best man, and Megan's youngest sister Elle was maid of honor. There was no set liturgy, but all the essentials. Megan was radiant, and everyone else glowed a lot, too.

Afterwards there was a super reception, with food prepared by Barb Lewis Barker, and John Lewis. It was a particularly satisfying day because so many of those Megan loves the most managed to come -- her sisters, and Joe + Cressie, her godmother Carol Dell (but alas, not godmother Maddie Hamblin), Alison + Paul were there, myself, Jess Barker and Emily and Audrey and baby Jess, Bob Jackson, Dan + Karen Ryan, Annabelle Dirks, some other friends of Michael's. Gramp (RAD) couldn't make the trip, but there in spirit.

On the day before, we had great fun shopping for the wedding flowers -- Megan selected an armload of spring blooms, and the women florists hugely enjoyed participating in the planning for the next day, rather than 6 months early! On the wedding morning, Elle made up the bridal + bridesmaid's bouquets, and one for Melinda, and lapel roses for the boys and men. Jackie hit the supermarket + brought out pots & pots of flowers to set all around, + later be transplanted into the garden. ... The day was such a relaxed and happy one, I can't emphasize enough. And Michael and Megan's love permeated all. Michael's children seemed to accept a new grandma in their stride, and Melinda went off with her new cousin Cress to spend the night in and forth, and Dirks'



I, snug with Carol and Deni at Annabelle's home in Santa Cruz, saw them dressed in their sleeping bags - but they [and Gillian + Joe] weathered the storm warm and dry.) Megan is continuing work at ETR, a small publishing firm near Santa Cruz, where she's customer service rep. Michael is (I think) an electrical contractor; he was doing work on M's building at the time of the fateful Halloween party! Their address is: P.O. Box 2266, Aptos, CA, 95001, and phone: 408-688-9273. If you plan to send a gift, I advise you to send it to Megan Ryan. PERSONAL - at her work: E.T.R. Assoc's, 4 Carbonero Way, Scotts Valley, CA, 95066, switch of that P.O. Box. It gets all upset at packages.

Michael is a splendid, sensitive man, and we all know how special Megan is. Their future augers well!

**Megan T. Jackson and Michael J. Ryan**  
March 16, 1991

# THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER VOL IX NO 7 P 4

Maybe you don't recall the contests of Vol. IX No 3, Jan. '91, but Pat Dalvit is the hands-down winner. She was the only entrant! The contest now is to send your vote for her best captions!

I would rather sit on a pumpkin,  
And have it all to myself than to  
be crowded on a velvet cushion

Hitch yor wagon  
to a star

My time is not  
yet come



Mine eyes have seen  
the coming of the Glory  
of the Lord



Give me a kisse, and to  
that kisse a score;  
Then to that twenty, add  
a hundred more;  
A thousand to that hundred;  
so kisse on,  
To make that thousand up  
a million;  
Treble that million, and  
when that is done,  
Let's kisse afresh, as  
when we first begun



It is to the middle class  
we must look for the safety  
of England.

In bed we laugh,  
In bed we cry;  
And born in bed,  
in bed we die.



What's the use of worrying?  
It never was worth while, so  
Pack up your troubles in your old  
kit-bag,  
And smile, smile, smile.

Arguments out of a pretty  
mouth are unanswerable.

It is very nice to think  
the world is full of  
meat and drink  
With little children  
saying grace in every  
Christian kind of place.

The thing that goes the farthest towards making  
life worthwhile,  
That costs the least, and does the most, is just  
a pleasant smile.

It's a long time  
between drinks

Yond Cassius has a  
lean and hungry look

The nearer the bone  
the sweeter the meat

There's not room  
to swing a cat.

Howard Milner's fly  
is open

A pig bought  
on credit is  
forever grunting.

(see above)  
\* But what  
an entrant!

A cheerful look  
makes a dish a feast

Who are you making  
the pills for?

There was an old hen  
And she had a wooden leg.  
And every damned morning  
She laid another egg;  
She was the best chicken  
on the whole damned farm---  
And another little drink  
Wouldn't do us any harm.

# THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER VOL IX NO 7 P 5

BRITISH CRIME IN FACT AND FICTION TOUR  
SANGAMON STATE UNIVERSITY -- May 14 - June 2, 1991

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

10:30 am: Arrive at London's Heathrow Airport, where we are met by a British Heritage Tours courier. Transfer into London via coach. Check-in to the Holland House Youth Hostel and nearby Earl's Court Youth Hostel, our base for the next seven nights bed and breakfast.

1:45 pm - Group I : A minibus collects 13 for transfer to New Scotland Yard. Guided tour at 2:15 of the Central Command Complex. 3:45 p.m. transfer to Trafalgar Square. Free time to collect travel cards, exchange money at American Express, see portrait of Richard III at the National Portrait Gallery, etc. Either return independently via travel card or at 5:30 rendezvous in Trafalgar Square with main coach for ride back to hostels.

(Group II did these activities in reverse.)

## THURSDAY, MAY 16

10:00 am: Meet at the Temple Tube Station for a morning walking tour of "Legal London". The walk explores the 800 years accumulation of customs, traditions and absurdities of the English Legal System. We tour through the inns of court where lawyers have lived and been trained since the 14th Century. We visit the magnificent Royal Courts of Justice reflecting on the many colourful characters honest, dishonest and malevolent who have practiced here over the centuries, from "Hanging" Judge Jeffries to Rumpole of the Bailey. We will pause at Eade and Ravenscroft, the makers of barristers' wigs. The tour ends with a visit to the Old Bailey to witness the courtroom. Then a pub lunch at the Witness Box, a famous pub in nearby Fleet Street which is the haunt of crime reporters. Here the walls are adorned with newspaper cuttings of famous murder trials.

2:00 pm: Coach collects us at the Witness Box for transfer to the Gordon Museum at Guy's Hospital. Mr. Daws, Curator, will give us a guided tour of the museum's forensic exhibits. Transfer by coach back to central London for a tour of the Houses of Parliament and a chat with Chris Mullin, M.P. Westminster Abbey if time. Dinner on our own.

7:30 pm: Assemble at the theatre (we'll let you know which) for a performance of Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap.

We had lots more than the forensic exhibits - lots of early medicine exhibits, pictures.

We saw Chris Mullin at 11 AM, & so missed going into the Old Bailey.

Actually, both the Sh. Holmes & J. the Ripper tours were by a v. engaging man, Richard (Knight?), who worked there up on his own, is v. knowledgeable & dramatic & fun, & is afraid of M. Fido's. At the end of the Ripper tour, in a dark alley, a man (prob. homeless) came up, in a cape, & stood in the dark behind a grating, watching us. NOT a part of the "act." It was fairly unnerving to Loretta & some of the rest of us! After our print, he was still there, watching. We shared the tipped him!

## FRIDAY, MAY 17

10:30 am: Meet at the Covent Garden Tube Station for a Sherlock Holmes walking tour, ending up with lunch at the Sherlock Holmes pub.

Afternoon: A guided tour with Walter Easey, of London policing from top to bottom -- an inner city police station in Islington, a return to New Scotland Yard, and a visit with the government association at a council estate. Meeting time and place to be announced. Dinner on our own.

Evening: Meet Martin Fido, who has published several books on Jack the Ripper, at Temple Hill tube station for a guided tour through Whitechapel in the Ripper's footsteps. We visit obscure alleyways where the murders took place, hear Fido discuss the theories that have been put forward as to the Ripper's identity (including his own solution), and take refreshments at the Jack the Ripper Pub. Exact meeting time to be announced.

## SATURDAY, MAY 18

Full day for independent visits and sightseeing: see handout for suggestions.

Evening: 6:00 p.m.: Buffet supper at The Lamb Pub, Lambs Conduit Street (tube stop Russell Square). Our guests will be our lecturer, and members of Britain's Crime Writers' Association. 7:00 p.m.: Dr. Stephen Leadbeater from the Wales Institute of Forensic Medicine will lecture on "Pathological Errors in Mystery Books" and on pathological fact and procedures. There will be a break between lectures for you to refill your pint.

## SUNDAY, MAY 19

8:30 am: Depart Holland House by coach for Cambridge. Meet local guide Janet Jeacock at 10:00 for a walking tour of Cambridge. 11:30: "Change-ringing" at St. Bennet's church, the oldest church in Cambridge. The bell master, Gareth Davies, will

# THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER VOL IX NO 7 P 6

give a short talk followed by a ringing demonstration. He used to ring at Tolleshunt d'Arcy so he ties in with both the Dorothy L. Sayers and Allingham themes. He is giving this demonstration and talk free of charge, but asks that we all make a small contribution to the church (e.g., one pound per person). Pat Watt, president of the Allingham Society, her husband, and Barry Pike, member of A. & DLS societies and prime organizer of the London Boucheron last fall, will join us for the day.

12:00 noon: Depart Cambridge for the Sudbury home of Ralph Clarke, President of the Dorothy L. Sayers Society. Picnic lunch on his grounds, with a talk and display of DLS material.

2:00 pm: Depart Sudbury for a tour of the Elizabethan "stately home," Kentwell Hall. Continue by coach for a tour led by Pat Watt of Marjory Allingham sites in Essex, to include Wakes Colne (Margery's first home and the mill), and then on to Tolleshunt d'Arcy (to see her grave, her house, and get the general feel of the area) and if time, Tollesbury, for a sight of the fish lofts and the Essex Salttings. Return to London at about 7:00 pm for drop-off at hostels. Dinner on our own.

## MONDAY, MAY 20

Full day for independent visits and sightseeing. See handout if you need suggestions.

## Catherine Aird's TUESDAY, MAY 21

writing style is writing style is  
to plan while 6K Canterbury and Canterbury Cathedral, setting of T.S. Eliot's Murder in the Cathedral. Free time for lunch.

write each page as perfectly as she before 5:00 pm to return by coach to London. Dinner on our own, evening free.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

9:00 am: Coach collects us at Holland House, departing London for Hampshire and a stop at the village of Nether Wallop, (St. Mary Mead in the BBC "Miss Marple" series). Continue to Salisbury Plain for a brief visit to Stonehenge, then into Salisbury for a picnic lunch on the green in front of the Cathedral.

We actually picnicked at Stonehenge, in a windy field.

The Giant is always a hit - startling + amazing. 2:30 pm Continue to Gillingham for tea at Lower Langham Farm with Hugh and Jessie Perkins and Sue and Mike Crosfield, who have hosted previous SSU classes and will be our failsafe contact in England. Travel through Dorset via the Cerne Giant, one of England's hill chalk figures, to the Litton Cheney hostel (once a cheese factory) for dinner at 7:30 pm, bed and breakfast.

## THURSDAY, MAY 23

8:45 am: Travel to Torquay, arriving at 10:00 for a guided tour of the Agatha Christie Exhibition. Free time for lunch.

1:30 pm: Visit to Torre Abbey to see the Agatha Christie Rooms. Leave Torquay at 2:30 pm to travel to the Maypool Hostel. This is the original setting of Christie's Dead Man's Folly and stands adjacent to the house where she lived. This private home is now lived in by her daughter, Mrs. Hicks, who is allowing us to visit the grounds around 3:30.

Evening: After dinner at 7:00 pm, optional showing of Dead Man's Folly or Ordeal by Innocence, two Christie mysteries with a connection to the hostel.

We'd expected a friend of the Hicks to show us around, but it turned out to be the Hicks themselves! The estate is adjacent to our hostel, but before we found it, we walked round about 4 or 5 miles! The return was just across a cow pasture!

## FRIDAY, MAY 24

9:00 am: Depart Maypool hostel, traveling through Devon and Cornwall to Truro to meet author Jessica Mann, who will discuss her books and join us for lunch.

2:00 pm: Continue on to Helston for tea with author Jean Stubbs at her home. Return to Fowey to check-in at the Golant Hostel for dinner at 7:00 pm. After dinner (tonight or tomorrow) perhaps we can persuade our driver to take us to the nearby scenic headland that is the site of Daphne Du Maurier's Rebecca. Du Maurier's home, Menabilly, is hidden in the trees.

## SATURDAY, MAY 25

9:00 am: Depart hostel for a 10:00 am visit to the home of author W. J. Burley in Holywell near Newquay. Walk along the Cornwall cliffs and coves, pausing for a picnic lunch.

2:00 pm: Continue to Penzance area to visit the prehistoric village of Chysauster. Return to Golant hostel for dinner at 7:00 pm, bed and breakfast.

and also had scratched out a drawing of a sea monster -- a new world frigate sea turtle!

# THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER VOL IX NO 7 P 7

SUNDAY, MAY 26

They treated us v. snootily at this fancy place → in contrast to all the other English hosts. This was only "commercial" one, & it was fancy.

9:00 am: Depart Golant hostel, touring across Dartmoor. Mid-morning coffee and biscuits at the Manor House Hotel at Moretonhampstead, used as Baskerville Hall in the original screen version of Hound of the Baskervilles. Picnic lunch on Exeter Cathedral lawn.

1:00 pm: Leave Exeter, travel to Glastonbury with its Arthurian associations. The energetic can climb the Tor for a breath-taking view. Wander through the Abbey, and don't miss the peace of the remarkable Chalice Garden.

4:30 pm: Depart Glastonbury, continue across the border into Wales to check-in to the St. Briavel's Castle for a special medieval banquet at 7:00 pm. Bed and breakfast.

MONDAY, MAY 27

9:00 am: Depart St. Briavel's for Haye-on-Wye, the "village of bookshops." Two hours of free time to browse in Britain's largest collection of antiquarian and second hand books.

12:00 noon: Continue to Ludlow for a picnic lunch along the river.

2:00 pm: Travel to Shrewsbury for a "Brother Cadfael" walking tour that includes a visit to Shrewsbury Abbey (where Ellis Peters sets her books) and the grounds of the Castle. After the tour we'll each be given a "Town Trail Leaflet" which pilgrims can use to locate further Caedfel sites. Check-in to the Shrewsbury Hostel for dinner at 7:00 pm.

Robt. Barnard says his

contract calls for 6k. every 2 (?) yrs... he says he produces 3 pretty good books to 1 sorta poor book, say cheafully, that that's an O/L ratio!

TUESDAY, MAY 28

9:00 am: Travel to Chester, a picturesque town of half-timbered houses. Free time in town, followed by a picnic lunch at 1:00 pm by the river with our trip organizers, Louise and Paula, from British Heritage Tours.

2:30 pm: Continue to Haworth, for a walk to the famous Bronte waterfall. Check-in to the Haworth Hostel for dinner at 6:30 pm. The wardens, Dawn and John Poyner, are old friends.

7:30 pm: After-dinner talk by author Robert Barnard.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29 I'm not disagreeing. It does show the power of having to produce regularly for a living -- sometimes you just plug on with "Santa Pooh."

10:00 am: Visit to Bronte Parsonage and museum. 11:30 am: Depart Haworth for York, where we meet Mary O'Regan of the Richard III Society for a picnic lunch and chat in the gardens adjacent to Yorkshire Museum. Free afternoon in town, with a visit to the Jorvik Viking Center highly recommended. Walk the city walls, and for a special delight, go to the Museum of Automata.

5:00 pm: Return to Haworth for dinner

Broughton-on-Water, which has a miniature village of Broughton so exact that the miniature has a miniature, and that miniature has a tiny one! Fun, fun!

The four Corgans sat at their Table (dressup) for the banquet, as peasants were "below the Salt." Lord Missoura told us we'll have bad news on taxes after the Manor feeds us!

In Oxford, ENGLAND Maggie Devereux stuck with us. On our day in the Cotswolds, Sue & Barbara Lawrence recommended

THURSDAY, MAY 30

9:00 am: Depart Haworth for Nottingham, where law professor Jennifer Craven-Griffiths has arranged a tour of the local courts, followed by a picnic lunch and a tour of medieval Nottingham Castle and Sherwood Forest.

3:00 pm: Depart Nottingham for Oxfordshire to check-in to the rural Ridgeway Hostel. Dinner at 7:00 pm, bed and breakfast.

FRIDAY, MAY 31

9:00 am: Travel to Oxford for a lecture at 10:00 by author Colin Dexter. Lunch at a really special pub hidden in the heart of Oxford: the Turf. Try their gooseberry wine. 1:30 pm: Meet our guide at the Martyrs' Memorial for a walking tour of the city and its colleges. Free time to explore Oxford.

5:45 pm: Depart Oxford to Ridgeway

SATURDAY, JUNE 1 After breakfast the coach will travel to Oxford via White Horse Vale where we'll visit England's most famous hill carving, the prehistoric White Horse. Those who wish to stay in Oxford may; others may travel into the Cotswolds seeing Minster Lovell, Burford, Broughton-on-Water, and other Cotswold villages. Pick up Oxford Contingent at the Martyrs' Memorial for return to Ridgeway.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

10:30 am: Depart Ridgeway for Heathrow

For further details & serendipitous happenings on this extraordinary itinerary, + personal comments, See elsewhere in this issue.



Historic note: Until his life's destiny was further clarified, Robin Hood spent several years robbing from the rich and giving to the porcupines.



## BRITISH CRIME TRIP IS EDUCATIONAL • FUN-FILLED SUCCESS!

England And what made it so? I could fill another issue this size, but I'll hit the two major factors: 1) the splendid people who came on this trip, and 2) how wonderful the English were to us! They went all out to be welcoming, & MUCH MORE than hospitable! Taking 2) first: Stephen Lea & Beattie (see our itinerary) came from Wales to give us his witty lectures. We met for a buffet at the Lamb pub (colorful!); friend & ENNL reader Anna Davis made all arrangements, and brought the projector & screen on her bicycle! Donald Rumblelow, author & former pres. of Crime Writers' Ass'n, attended, & talked tons, too... Chris Mullin, M.P., showed us through the Houses of Parliament, then talked to us for 3/4 hour: he's the author of A Very British Coup (dramatized on Masterpiece Theater) and he was instrumental in the freeing of the Birmingham Six. The police of Islington, Daphne Gibson, and others, provided a half day's tour. Scotland Yard welcomed us for tour & talk. Mr. Daws at Guy's Hospital gave a fascinating tour/lecture with displays, such as a series of preserved stomachs that had ingested various lethal poisons (& one very pink suicide by boiling water)... Janet Teacock of Cambridge was a superb tour guide, and for some, Gareth Davies & his bell ringers, who demonstrated--after explanations--change ringing, in the lovely setting of St. Benet's, was the highlight of the trip. Pat Watt & Barry Piko (see itinerary) were great additions to the day, and traveled w/ us from start to finish, giving their enthusiasm & expertise. A great treat was to eat our picnic in the spacious gardens of Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Clarke, enjoy the ducks & duck houses on the river bank, & marvel at the river itself going right under the house: a former mill. We were served coffee, & Ralph Clarke gave us an "off-the-cuff" talk on all aspects of D.L.Sayers work, and the activities of the DLS society. Pat led us to Allington sites.... In Canterbury, Catherine Aird greeted us with tea in her garden, and chatted with us about her writing, most engagingly.... The next day in Dorset, we visited the Croftield farm again! and were entertained by Hugh & Jessie Perkins, Sue & Mike Croftield, and Tom & June; they served us 5 or 6 different cakes, tea & sandwiches galore, we trooped thru the computerized barn, admired the new sunporch, recalled the past two times our coach has pulled into their yard. (Mimi, Rose & Carol had come before. We missed Jan Grimes!)... At Torquay, none other than Agatha Christie's daughter, Mrs. Hicks, & her husband, showed us through their library, gardens & grounds, formerly A.C.'s (see note on itinerary.)... In Perranporth, Cornwall, the butcher's wife got up at 4 AM to make pastries for us. ENNL reader & semi-cousin Pam Taylor brought them over to Truro for us all, and we ate them in Jessica Maun's garden, who served us coffee & wine & lemonade, and her sharing of her thoughts on mysteries & her own writing was another highlight--followed by her archaeologist husband, Thomas, who's been excavating Tintagel. Their youngest daughter helped out, & listened with interest to all the proceedings. Oh we went to Jean Stubbs; she'd finished a novel that A.M. & it was publication day of another! (Some of us had managed to buy it a day early, & already read it--she was flabbergasted!) Her talk was excellent, and her tea: she'd made scones & saffron buns, w/ clotted cream & home-made jam. We raced back to our hostel, dizzy with Maun & Stubbs hospitality! The next day John Burley & his wife were just as hospitable, another splendid talk, & Q+A session, and we all went out to the beach for our picnic. Some hiked the cliff path to Perranporth, then, & the rest of us went onto the Stone Age village of Chysauster. Pam Taylor travelled the Cornwall coast w/ us; on our return to the hostel she drove a carload to the Haworth country, & Huddersfield. ... In Chester, we lunched w/ Louise Selfe of British Heritage Tours, who reads alot of this possible, and at Haworth, Robert Barnard took awkward public transportation from Leeds & back, to talk tour at the hostel. Another informative, entertaining, terrific talk! Dawn & John Paynter, Haworth residents, were their loving selves, & Sally, their son, came to see us. (We entertained him in the States, Summer '89.)... Mary O'Regan traveled from Leeds to York to talk w/ us about the Richard III Society, and her own interesting translation of legal documents work, which had been sparked yrs. ago by her interest in Rich. III. We had a fascinating afternoon w/ Jennifer Craven-Griffiths, sitting in on court sessions (& learning Br. system of "Magistrate's Courts"). ... Maggie Devereux & the Women's Institute arranged for our meeting with Colin Dexter (& provided tea, coffee and Dexter certainly gave us a hilarious talk on experiences, writing experiences, & his views on writing). Highlights at Oxford not on the itinerary: our last night we went to Sung Evansong at Christ Church College, & sat up near the choir. And the night before, Joe Marnie and his Morris dancers, & 2 clog dancers, came out to the hostel & we had a big dance! I invited all the hostel guests. They did Morris & Clog dancing for us, and led us in doing all sorts of dances. Joe played the accordion, there was a banjo player, & Joe brought out a violin for Jo Schmidt, who fiddled w/ the band! Not only that, we had a rehearsal the n. before, w/ lots of dancing. A grand finale! (Jo had met Joe at a fiddle summer school, 12 years earlier--told me he lived near. I telephoned; he responded by coming to dance!) So this is a bare-bones account, but it shows you how many people went way out of their ways to give us a super time. THANK YOU, ALL!





Wednesday 5 June 1991

CYPRUS MAIL Wednesday 5 June 1991



■ An amphora based on an Iron Age design, £450 (left). Vase from the early Bronze Age £140 (right)

"We're in the game of loving these things and making them the same way they were made thousands of years ago."

trying to produce to live and produce accurate replicas, but we're not in the game of making fakes. We're in the game of loving these things, and making them the same way they were made thousands of years ago."

The task they have set themselves requires a great deal of study, of attention to detail, and of accuracy. The science in their art means they must weight and measure wet clay for an individual piece, hone and shape it when it dries, and exactly reproduce intricate patterns and designs.

"It's huge discipline," says Nancy, who acts as the "quality control" part of the business and is frequently responsible for reducing Ara's efforts to "big piles of broken pieces". Ara too, is thorough, and permanently trying to perfect his techniques.

Ara and Nancy say the quiet village life in Neo Chorio gives them a wonderful framework in which to live and work. Apart from the fact they rejoice in the absence of noise, crowds and pollution, the couple are continually stimulated by the beauty of their environs. "It's visually wonderful," says Nancy. "We look around and see the sea, the wheat fields and the olive trees in the wind." Nancy says their village neighbours are a little interested in the pottery, but more so in Ara's skills as a mechanic, handyman, and vegetable grower. Any repair or maintenance jobs he does in the community are usually paid for with meat or other homegrown produce. Nancy jokingly points to a large beautiful patterned urn displayed in the corner of the exhibition room. "That took ages to do," she says, "but when one of our neighbours saw it, he said 'twenty okes of haloumi', meaning it would hold about that much! In village life you really have to rely on our own resources."

Nancy Hocking does not hesitate when you ask her about the future. "There's so much still to do," she says, "such an endless source of new and fresh material."

*Nancy Hocking's ENA, Ed's daughter, visited Paris & living in permanent; long time ENA reader. I miss her in London.*

\* goat cheese

# The secrets of the 'ancients in clay'

A husband and wife pottery team recreate history at affordable prices, reports **Marianna Kanarakis**.

PAPHOS potters, Ara Nigogossian and his wife Nancy Hocking are staging their first major exhibition in Nicosia, in what they describe as "an attempt to

interest the city Cypriot" in their work. The couple have worked from Neo Chorio village for the past three years, reproducing ancient Cypriot pottery from the

## Iron and Bronze Ages.

The exhibition, staged upstairs in the Craftbox shop off Makarios Avenue, began on June 1, and will continue for two months.

The work on show comprises ceramic pots, bowls, and decorative

pieces based on those from the early Bronze Age - around four thousand years ago - to the middle Iron Age up to around 600 BC. Much of the original so-called Cypro-Archaic art was unearthed from tombs and graves in Cyprus.

When they first decided to reproduce the ancient pottery using original techniques, Ara and Nancy had little previous experience with ceramics, but chose the Cypriot pottery because "it had an innocence and a joy not found in later pre-Hellenistic art".

The couple were living in London up to 1988 - Ara working long hours as a mechanical engineer with a racing car business. Nancy Hocking describes a "rush hour" existence in London, where the couple were "getting to the point where life was a bit heavy". By



■ Assortment of vases and bowls ranging from £35-£115

Spring of 1985 they were ready for a change, and eager to do something in Cyprus where Ara was born and the family regularly visited. A friend suggested pottery, and by the following week Ara was attending two pottery courses. Three weeks later, he was throwing the first of many pots.

"He had a natural aptitude," explains Nancy. "He has engineers' hands - skilled hands, and strong."

Despite their enthusiasm, it took Ara and Nancy three years to quit London and move to the village home which they had rented for several years in Neo Chorio, near Paphos. There they immediately encountered difficulties with the design, firing and glazing stages of their work, and it was several more months before they settled down to start producing.

From the uncertain and sometimes frustrating beginnings, their venture has evolved into a highly skilled and respected operation. Ara throws and fires the pots, while Nancy calls upon her sculpture degree and natural resources to develop glazes and decorate their work. They continually research and experiment with new forms and products, often taking detail from originals in the British and Cyprus Museums.

While the British Museum has actually put in an order for their material, and Nigogossian/Hocking pieces and now displayed as far away as Belgium, the United States, Germany and Hong Kong, Nancy jokingly comments that she and Ara "are definitely not a commercial success". It is true the couple steer away from mass production and sale. "It's a balance between



■ Nancy Hocking: "endless source of new and fresh material"

## The plunge that refreshes



Staff photo by J.B. Maloney

In temperatures fit for neither man nor beast, the waters at Sweet Allyn Park In Shoptiere offered relief.

The above, of course, is the best swimmin' hole in the world, the Shoptiere dam -- I write this having just returned from my own plunge there. I love this picture of a Mother Having Fun. (Note tail, ears.)

### ALSO JUST MARRIED: TREVER DOUGAN AND JACKIE HERRING

Oregon. This article will wait on a letter from Jackie, telling us all about it. I know she writes wonderful letters: She wrote me one a few months ago, and I will answer it as soon as I can find it. Trever, you can add in details too, of course. We'll publish in next issue.



### ELLE GRADUATES! BELOIT M.A.T.

Bebit, May 12. The sun hot, the grass green, the chairs all lined up before Middle College as of yore, the lump-in-the-throat academic parade with friends still in it (Roxie, John R, Talie) and the longer line of fresh-faced graduates, Mom perched on an Indian mound, watching. A proud moment. Afterwards, Ellie and her friend Bob Gynn, also a graduate, put on a tasty cookout for family & friends. Roxie & Talie came, and E + B's interning teachers from Hononegah + Darien-Darien. A great day! Elle plans to continue living with Grandpa (the cats) on the farm, while teaching at Lake Geneva. She's doing temp work this summer, & raising HUGE tomatoes!

### COUSINS, COUSINS EVERY WHERE

Mips. I figure every "Wardner" I run into is related on Mom's side; I once spotted a Wardner scientist in a Discover article, sure enough, he was a cousin. I figure the same with "Trever"; any spelled that way has to be related, on Dad's Mother's side. A "Trever Nightengale" signed a trenchant letter to Time, when I was in Mips. recently I found Nightengale in the phone book, & got a hold of his father--Donald Trever Nightengale. (Trever is 26, getting a Ph.D in Philosophy at U. of Minn.) We're cousins his ancestor, William, came over in 1870 when our ancestor, his brother, Joseph, did. Our grandma Emilee was 16 mo. old. Our common ancestors are "The Ancestors" on my dining room walls: Joseph Trever & Maria Dale Trever.

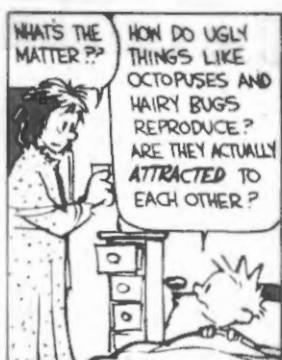


Just another picture of the Bride!

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Beavercreek, OR, June 9'91 Dear Jackie:

Your brother was called by our local church to be in a skit. He was not too interested until he was told he was to be the voice of God! I immediately called our son David because he so loves irony. He asked, "What is Dad going to say? 'Turn off the God-damn shaver,' or 'turn down that God-damn music'? Isn't he afraid of being type-cast? And who plays the doctor -- God???" Love & Kisses, Barbara

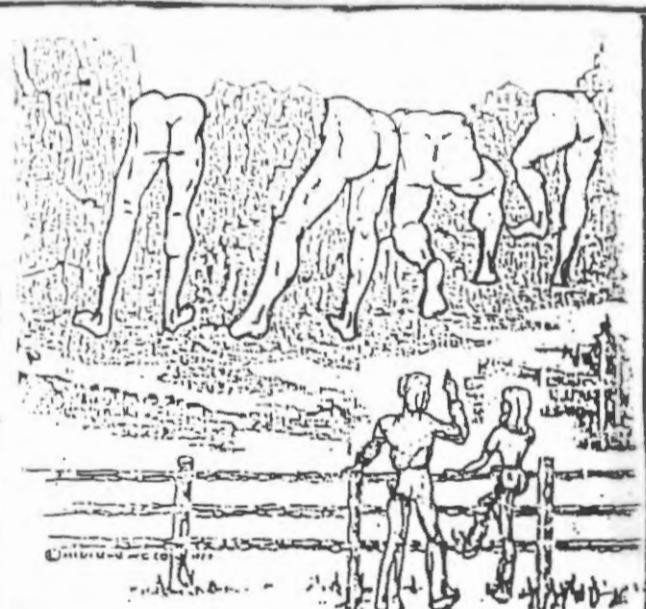


**NEWS BRIEFS**

Beloit Christina Parente graduated from Beloit High this June, & Grandma Eva Walsh was there. Beloit & Spfld. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: RAD's bff's favorite author has a new book out, essays, rave reviews in NY Times: Bully for Brontasaurus, by Stephen Jay Gould. Read his essays on MUSIC, & LANGUAGE, if paleontology isn't broad enough for you. Lake Geneva Our first cousin Gene Campagna went to Northwestern Military Academy when he was in his teens - one year? Two? Anyway... he wasn't very happy there, I understand. Another Lake & tie (besides Camp Eleanor, and the Meth. Church camp Jo, Pat, Tack & Craig (not Camp E.) attended, is that Gr Group Wesen Joseph Dungen met Gr Group Eunice Trever there - they were both waiting on table at College Camp. More Lake Geneva ENNL reader Jan Grimes is there right now, w/ her whole family - clan, and Polly Gosfield, ENNL readers (and class entertainers, along with Sue & Michael Crawford) Hugh & Jessie Perkins' grand daughter - Polly is meeting oodles of cousins.

Helston, Cornwall When we were being entertained at author Jean Stubbs, her friend introduced herself as Anne Hocking. I quick got Paul, they talked; sure enough, they are related. As I say, cousins everywhere!

Spfld. Even a double issue like this, I've omitted things. Not only Trever/Jackie's wedding, but Shirley Raye's book (can't find the sheets yet ☺), Tom Therese's limericks on Grandpa's pulling out the catheter, Hap Hornbostle's contribution on gasless beans, and more & more & more. You'll just have to wait for Volume X #1, next fall. Will there be any congratulatory letters, singing telegrams?

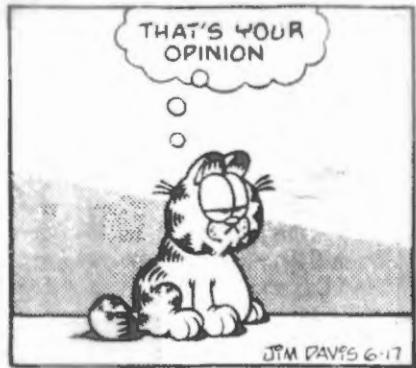


"...near as I can tell,  
we're somewhere  
behind Mt. Rushmore

After RAD had chortled at the above cartoon (he's been reading this issue in process) he said, "Can you identify them?" (Can you?!!)



© 1991 United Feature Syndicate Inc.



JIM DAVIS 6-17