

"Sing no sad songs for me..."
--Christina Rossetti



EAT SPINACH; SAVE MOVIES

THE EYES YOU SAVE MAY BE YOUR OWN: ALSO THE PICTURES

1. Recently on NPR news, and in both science magazines I read, and then in Time and other magazines, so all you with Wardner blood have probably heard: while there's still no cure for macular degeneration--what Mother was blind with the last ten years of her life--you can do something to prevent it: eat spinach! A long-term test just completed say those who ate spinach or collard greens at least weekly didn't get macula anywhere near the percentages expected. (I'm finding collards toothsome! My eye doctor also advises wearing good sunglasses.)

2. Speaking of degeneration, also heard on NPR this week: don't throw away your old movies after video transfer! They're discovering video tape has a short shelf life--I didn't hear the whole newscast, but it develops something like "sticky shedding" after some years, and valuable film libraries are peeling away. The advice is, copy your videos every five years. (But every time, I know you lose resolution--so eventually you won't have much anyway. Maybe they're working on that?) You can bake your degenerating videos in a 130 degree oven 6 to 8 hours; this will allow you to copy the tape if you do it within a few days. (Better get exact recipe; I know you don't baste.) BIG QUESTION: Which Dougan family has the video Rotary made of Ron Dougan, "This Is Your Life"? We need to copy it!

3. Speaking of movies, your editor managed, with the aid of the Boutelle Agency and lawyer Dave Collins, to wrestle away from the finder (the notorious Pete Hadley who is holding all our Dougan amber bottles hostage in the basement of the Big House) the 35 mm film he found in the milk house. I located a Chicago firm that could copy it; it turns out to be 3 1/2 minutes long, and was certainly for use in the local movie theaters as an advertising short. Appropriately

starts with the manure spreader spewing manure all over the screen, and ends with the Milkman's Babies, Jo, Pat, Jack and Craig. ARE WE CUTE! Grandpa Wesson is driving two teams of horses. I date it spring, 1932, from Craig's agility on a tricycle. Amazingly, Pat remembers the day and has given details! Copies may be found with Ron Dougan, Jo, Pat, Jack and Craig.

YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS STILL AN ENNL

But when was the last issue? (Just checked; March, '94.) The reason: the BOOK. I've dropped out of sight to friends and almost all family, and quit all extracurricular activities. ENNL has been a fatality. But it will revive! This brief edition is to let you know we're still here and functioning (more or less). Job keeps getting in the way, but I'm staying out of school battles; the voice of the turtle ain't heard in the land. I've promised Northwestern a manuscript by mid January. Starting tomorrow, I'll put in 16 hour days. ROUND BARN is getting FINISHED!--though there'll always be more material to go in. 22 pages, with pictures, is in the June '94 Tri-Quarterly, and it looks wonderful; fascinating reading, too--everyone tells me, and I believe it or I wouldn't have been working on this thing for the past twenty years! The book is sorta hefty.

WISE WORDS FROM W. J.

Recently Dorothy Kirk Lueken sent me some info on Aunt Lillian, and added a bit about Wesson, her great uncle, our grandfather. She was 17 or so, visiting, and they were talking about her future. "He asked me if I knew what an educated man was. I said no, and he said, 'An educated man is one who has taught his mind to think, and his hand to act, and his heart to feel.'" Here is a message worthy to share with all of you, for this holiday season, or any season.



NOTE: It's not too late to send me your Round Barn stories, diary bits, etc. And photos. I'll be working on the photos after the Mrs. goes to the editors. I'll be careful.

A Not Even Feeble Attempt at the News:

So much has happened since the last ENNL that there's no use going into any news until a more leisurely issue. Babies have been born: a Mc-Phillips, a Schmidt (Tom & Terese), a Veach, a Lowenstein, a Weaver (Moore), was Trevor and Jacki Dougan's baby reported? Others omitted? Vital Statistix in the next issue. Stories abt David Guthrie could fill a whole ENNL. We are grieved by deaths: Bobbie and Edward Smith, Bernie Westland, Fred Kullberg, Jack Wright, Joyce Schnaitter. (Eloise is now in Bloomington so I am seeing her some; she continues to give help on the book. Filled me in on Wesson and

Eunice's love life! It's sad to see her house next to the Dairy up for sale.) Gladdened by marriages --maybe Caitlin and Martin were reported, but not Marcus and Mary McGuire. The Dairy continues to degenerate, as do us all, though I don't plan to retire till they kick me out. Elle tries valiantly to keep up Chez Nous. (Grandpa doesn't like to spend money on a plumber.) I may take another group to England--some of you have asked--but not Spring 95. Haven't reported on the triumphant Spring '94 British Crime trip, either. Later. Jo Schmidt was a joy to have along; as Karl says, "Jo always cleans her plate."

