



Yep; a 2-Note Song this issue, mates!

4 ♀: Gotta get some England travellers!

2 ♀: Hey-- the BOOK is actually on its way!!!

THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER

VOL XIV NO 1 LATE DEC. '95

"The simple bird that thinks two notes a song..."
-- Davies

YES FOLKS THERE'S STILL AN ENNL

BUT YOU MAY NOT SEE ANOTHER AFTER THIS ONE FOR AWHILE

ROUND BARN GOING TO PRESS AT LAST!

Don't know if you've noticed, but you haven't had an issue of your favorite newspaper in ages. The reason is, **THE BOOK**. Something had to give, in order to get it finished, and ENNL has been one item. Other omissions: I've neglected too many friends, letters, my chamber music group, tried not to neglect family, kept up with my students and classes pretty well but cut out some of the fun things we do that take a lot of preparation. And exercise--I'm squishy lard from not taking time to exercise. (See drawing by Cressie elsewhere in this issue.) ^(NOPE, NO ROOM) I've been putting in 16 hour days, and working right through weekends and vacations. Now, is the book FINISHED? Yes-- and no. The YES: A paperback of 220-300 pages is being edited right now! It'll be called Stories from the Round Barn, and in general the cutoff date is Grampa's death in 1949. A lot of the stories will be omitted, and all that I call "accounts." There will be galleys in June, for the American Booksellers big meeting, and the book will be ready for sale in August or September. So make your Christmas list for '96 now! Then a year later (97) the whole work should be out, in two hardcover volumes, probably 2000 pages, and that will be pretty expensive, so if you don't buy it, get your local library or college to do so. I have you all on my list; you'll all get notification of both publishing events. My editor, Reg Gibbons at Northwestern U. Press, is wonderfully enthusiastic. So I hope his faith will be rewarded, and that all you friends and family will gobble up copies for everyone you know, to get the book off to a fast start. You won't be sorry. It's a very good book, and how could it help but be, with WJD, RAD and VWD as stars? When the editing is done, early in January, I'll start working with the art editor on

JACKIE VICTIM OF HER OWN STUPIDITY

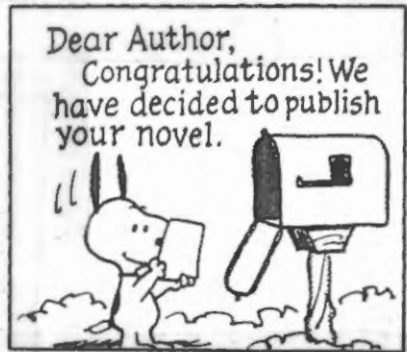
Why do I do it? Take another class to England! This is the real reason I'm breaking silence with you all; I'm dumb enough to take another gang over, and the same thing is happening--lots of pressure for me to do it, and then when I'm committed, and money (mine) has been invested, there aren't enough people. Many ENNL readers can tell you it's a super trip, and CHEAP! and far exceeds in interest most commercial trips, and we go places such trips never take you. So S.O.S. --tell you family and friends to come along, May 13-June 1. Rose Corgan is going again, and any trip Rose is on is a great trip. I have no co-teacher this time, so there's no pressure to get enrolled students: I already have enough for the class to make. But I need 20 warm bodies in order to get our low prices on the airplane, and all the places we go by coach in England. So far I have 14. I'll print our itinerary on another page. It's a pot pourri trip, this year. Some children's lit, some adult lit, some mystery lit.

Tales from The Round Barn



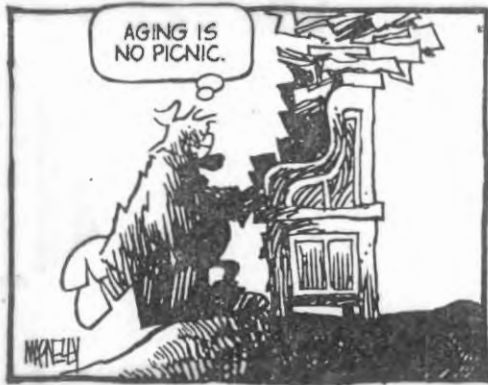
by Jacqueline Doogan Jackson

selecting the photos to go in--I have thousands! And maps and documents. As for the NO: the hardback isn't finished yet, so as soon as I'm not needed on the paperback, I'll plunge back into finishing that behemoth manuscript and getting into it as much as I can before the press calls halt. I still have loads of material. **Important:** If you have any marketing ideas, let me know.



The round barn drawing above is by Megan Ryan and was used when my stories were published weekly in The Beloit Daily News in the early '80s.

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BIRTHS AND DEATHS AND MANY OTHER MILESTONES HAVEN'T BEEN REPORTED.

And I will miss some, I know. In a later issue I will make amends and write more, maybe even pictures. I haven't reported my new grandson, Jay Maxwell Ryan, last July 6. Trever and Jacki Dougan have had another baby; who else? And Eloise Marston Schnaitter has died, to my great sorrow, but her words and wisdom will live on in Round Barn; she's been such a rich source. Also, Aunt Mary Creighton has just died at 100 --she and Mom were almost exactly the same age; she outlived Mom by 7 years.

Post Publisher Dies Monday At Age 100

I had my first work published in the Galesburg Post when I was 10. So it was Aunt Mary who launched me! This fall, I got to see Tim & Pete Creighton when they came to Spfld for the Senior Olympics. (tehnis) I reminded them of their errant ways, when they were kids at the lake with us!

BRIEFS

Spfld. The editor's university, Sangamon State, has been the victim of a sudden, hostile takeover. We're now the University of Illinois at Springfield, thanks to Illinois' new Republican legislature. What this coup means, besides giving us freshmen and sophomores, is anybody's guess, but it's a can of worms. We may lose our graduate English program. I can always retire.

Newspapers Everywhere. We are lamenting with loud wails the cessation of Calvin and Hobbes. How can Bill Watterson do this to us? I could live without The Far Side--but life without Hobbes??

Our senator Paul Simon sent this on his family card:

We do not choose to be born.
 We do not choose our parents,
 Or our times or country of birth,
 Or the circumstances of our upbringing.
 We do not--most of us--choose to die
 Or the time and condition of our death.
 But within all this realm of choicelessness
 We do choose how we shall live--
 Courageously or in cowardice,
 Honorably or dishonorably,
 With purpose or adrift.
 We decide what is important and what is trivial.
 What makes us significant is what we do,
 Or refuse to do.
 We decide and we choose
 And so we give definition to our lives.

--Joseph Epstein

MORE BRIEFS

Canada Somewhere. Robertson Davies has died, too, but has left a rich legacy, and his last two books are on coming to terms with death, and I hear are splendid.

Shrewbury, England. Ellis Peters, of Brother Cadfael fame, has also died. Jo Schmidt says her final book may be her finest.

Movie Houses Everywhere: Jane Austen is IN! Go see "Sense and Sensibility," with Emma Thompson, and "Persuasion" is out, and "Pride and Prejudice" is going to start in January on A&E--somebody tape it for me!

Spfld A male cardinal sleeps on your editor's porch every night, out of the wind and snow. I'm buying sunflower seeds, which he and the bluejays and squirrels all enjoy.



EACH EGG REPRESENTS ONE OF LIFE'S CONCERNS AND THE GOAL IS TO GIVE EACH THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY WATCHING AND GUIDING ALL THE OTHERS.



THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER VOL XIV NO1 P 3

J. JACKSON'S **BRITISH LITERATURE AND LANDSCAPE**: MAY 13-JUNE 1, '95

May 13: Leave Chicago O'Hare at 4:30 p.m., British Air.

May 14-18: **London**, staying at Holland House hostel in Holland Park, Kensington. Activities: British Museum, Westminster Abbey, Dicken's Home, Sherlock Holmes pub, a visit with author Catherine Storr, Highgate Cemetery, theater, etc., plus free time to explore.

May 19: Travel to **Knole**, birthplace of V. Sackville-West, then to **Sissinghurst gardens**, ending the day with **Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral**; stay at Canturbury Hostel.

May 20: Ashdown Forest and Poohsticks Bridge; on to Kipling's home, Batemans. Pause at Jane Austen's home, and thence to **Winchester** hostel.

May 21: Visit Winchester Cathedral, Nether Wallop (Miss Marple), Stonehenge (Tess), a possible stop (or wave) at a Dorset Farm, sleep at **Salisbury**.

May 22: Visit Hardy's Cottage in Dorset, picnic at Lulworth Cove, then to Maypool Hostel near **Torquay, Devon**. We'll hike through Agatha Christie's gardens (neighboring the hostel) with the head gardener; see Christie movies at hostel.

May 23: A free day. In Torquay (a busy tourist town) is the Agatha Christie museum. Down the coast is Dartmouth (where Christopher Robin has a bookshop) and beyond, the coastal footpath; other sights. Maypool again at night.

May 24: Travel north, stopping at Exeter Cathedral; then Glastonbury Abbey and Tor (King Arthur); perhaps pause at Bath (Austen); end in Wales at **St. Briavel's Castle** (a real one) for a medieval banquet and overnight.

May 25: On north to Daresbury church, for the verger's lecture on Lewis Carroll, then to Haworth and the Bronte parsonage/museum. Mystery writer/Bronte Society officer **Robert Barnard** will talk to us at Mankinholes hostel.

May 26: Perhaps ride the Railway Children's steam railway in Haworth (E. Nesbit), and weather permitting, a hike over the moors to the Bronte waterfall. Then to the Lake District, staying at Thorney How hostel near Grasmere.

May 27: Beatrix Potter's museum and cottage. Wordsworth's Dove Cottage; Museum of the Romantics. Thorney Howe again (and also tomorrow night).

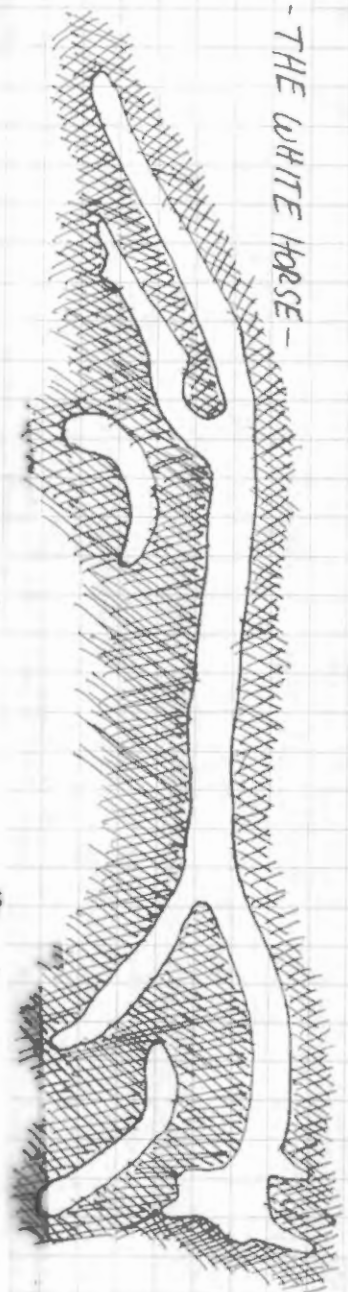
May 28: A launch ride on Lake Windemere (Arthur Ransome) and an evening poetry reading by a Wordsworth descendent at Wordsworth's Rydal Mount.

May 29: South to Warwick Castle; a play at Stratford; Warwick hostel.

May 30: On to Oxford; talk with Walt Hooper, C. S. Lewis's literary executor, at The Kilns. Lunch at the Turf. Launch ride down Ratty and Moley's river. Stay at Ridgeway Hostel (five elegantly remodeled barns out in the country.)

May 31: Visit prehistoric White Horse and longbarrow (Tolkien) on the Ridgeway, an ancient footpath. Picnic at Godstow Nunnery, where Carroll first told the Liddle girls about Alice's Adventures. Free afternoon in Oxford or Cotswolds. Morris Dancing at the Ridgeway hostel in the evening.

June 1: Leave Ridgeway for Heathrow and departure.



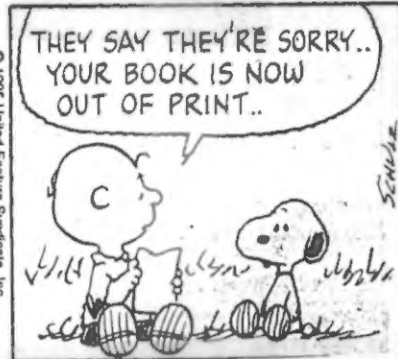
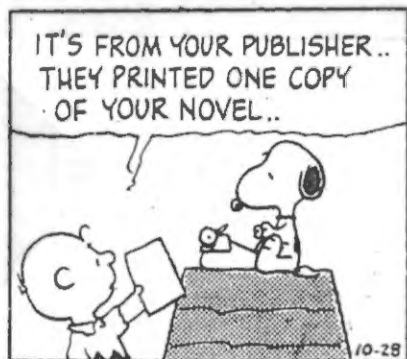
In '94, our trip cost just under \$2000, including almost everything. Prices, alas, have gone up. We figure \$2250 top, in '96. But it will depend on the pound vs. the dollar.

YOICKS!!

THE TIME HAS COME...

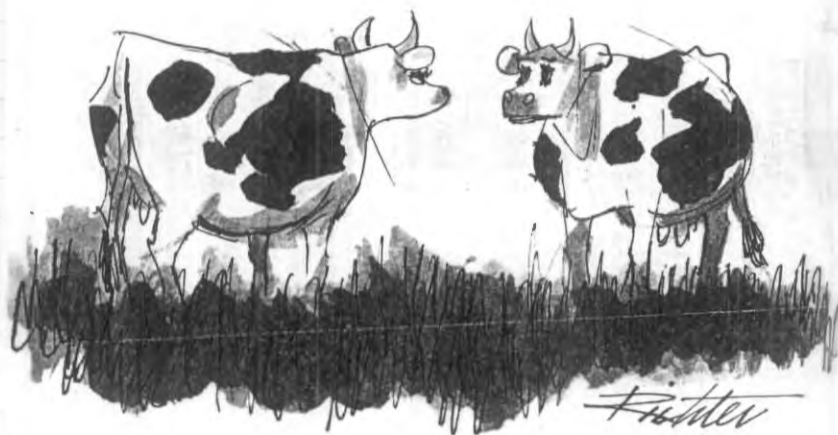
TO TELL YOUR FRIENDS!





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Schulz



"I'm very comfortable with my bovinity."

Community policing areas

The Springfield Police Department has started new neighborhood patrols aimed at personalizing police service in six high crime areas.



SOURCE: Springfield Police Dept. Office of Economic Development The State Journal-Register

Illinois Times

SPRINGFIELD'S INDEPENDENT WEEKLY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1999 VOL. 20, NO. 30

The new team

Sangamon State tries on the U of I uniform



MIKE CHANER 1995

- DEATH ROW JUSTICE WATCH:** Last plea for clemency for the condemned (PAGE 3)
- THINKING PAINS:** Why is it politically correct to be stupid in America? (PAGE 14)
- LUCKY CHUMS:** Boys of the Lough lilt in Irish spring at SSU Aud (PAGE 18)

The map above shows the "high crime" areas of Springfield, all in the N.E. quadrant, exc. #6. Your editor's house is the dot I have put under the numeral 1.

Spfld Mighty Mouse, once Elle's cat, is now 20 plus yrs old and a terribly demanding old bag of bones--all 3 lbs of her. Muffie Sue is getting old, too--14, but still a good watch dog. Hell, we're all getting old!

Idaho Did Tom and Terese's baby Patrick get reported? I bet not and he's a big boy!

Beloit Elle slid into a train t' other night on icy Colley Road but was not injured nor were her cats, coming home from the vet. She could easily have been killed. Damage to her car hasn't been assessed yet. We have much to be thankful for!

Spfld I guess I haven't reported winning Lincoln Library's Writer of the Year award for nonfiction last spring. It was a clean Jackson sweep; the fiction and poetry winners were my students!

Happy Holidays, and advertise the England Trip!