

# THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XVI, NOS. 1, 2, 3\* FALL '96

"The seasons change..."

Song passes not away."

-- Sir William Watson



# DAD DIES; ELLE MARRIES

MANY OF YOU KNOW THE ABOVE NEWS, BUT IT HASN'T BEEN RECORDED HERE

## THIS ISSUE THREEFOLD: 2 SPECIAL EDITIONS

Dear Ones: There hasn't been an Empty Nest since (I think) Dec. 15, '94, and that one was "only a feeble attempt at the news," and mostly cartoons. (No, there was one late Dec. '95, to tell about the England trip; some of the news in here I see was in there, and the book publication date has proved to be wrong.) But since Dec. 95 momentous things have occurred. I'll miss much of the news that's gone on the last couple years, but will do my best. The reason for the hiatus: the usual. I put all spare time (and much that wasn't) into Round Barn, and ENNL has been one of the casualties. I also was spending considerable time at the farm. Dad's death should have been reported immediately for I know some of you haven't heard, but that took time away from everything; I barely kept up with school, and I still haven't thanked everybody for their cards and sympathy. If you haven't heard from me, you will.

**THE PLAN OF THESE ISSUES:** No. 1 will contain general news. No. 2 will be Dad's special issue. No. 3 will be Elle and Royce's.\* 2 and 3 should each have been a Special Edition, one out last March, the other out this July. Please pretend you got them when you should have.

## STORIES FROM THE ROUND BARN WILL BE PUBLISHED FALL OF 1997.

I told you it was going to be this fall, but Northwestern U. Press didn't move quickly. I even worried that it all might fall through,



The drawing of the round barn is by Megan Jackson Ryan.

since I don't yet have a contract. But I have recent assurance that it will be 1997; they're working on the publication schedule now, and what will be left in and what cut, and the price. My editor Reg Gibbons says they plan a beautiful book with lots of photographs. I will of course keep you posted, plaster you with publicity! for you are my first line of buyers. What I'm hoping--and telling the press--is that most of you (and others: students, colleagues, friends who don't get ENNL, Beloiters, etc.) will not only get a copy for themselves, but will enjoy it so much they'll purchase more, for family members and friends. **SO KEEP IN MIND: Your Holiday shopping for 1997 can be a snap. Get a Round Barn for everybody! (Autographed!)**

\* Just 2 issues this time: It's taking a long time to do 2, and also I don't have wedding pix yet: So, next issue will be



Wedding. Elle says, "By Empty Nest Standards, our wedding was so fresh new for quite awhile!"

"I said no to drugs, but the F.D.A. said yes."

**HOW ABOUT THE 2-VOL HARDBACK?**

What's coming out next fall is a reasonably priced paperback of some of the stories, but there are many more. The whole massive work should be out a year later and I think will be titled simply The Round Barn. What my editor plans is a two volume hardback which will contain all the stories, including the ones in the paperback, and all the history, science, biography, letters, etc., etc. I suspect the publication of the hardback might depend on the reception of the paperback, another reason I'm praying it will be reviewed enthusiastically, sell well, and hoping you'll all promote it. For the paperback doesn't begin to tell everything I've wanted to tell, all the rich variety of the Dougan Farm and its myriad influences. It will also leave out some of the best stories. **IF YOU HAVE MARKETING IDEAS FOR THE PAPERBACK, LET ME KNOW!** It's an unusual book and needs to be marketed creatively. The Press is receptive to ideas.

**The National Geographic Uses Our Tom Schmidt to Counter the Publicity of Bridges of Madison County!**

Dear Member,

I just got off the phone with Tom Schmidt, our travel writer for THE ROCKIES. He called us from a gas station in Libby, Montana, to report on his findings along the Kalispell-Coeur d'Alene route through Idaho and Montana.

"It's absolutely gorgeous here," he said. "Great hulking mountains, dense evergreen forests. And the Kootenai River runs right through town."

We'd sent Tom a sizable package of research materials to help him scout out the best routes and most interesting sites in his 15,000-mile tour of the Rocky Mountains. And we thought we'd found all the best drives. But Tom - doing exactly what we'd hired him to do - offered a suggestion:

"Listen," he said. "You can stop this tour where you'd originally planned - at Coeur d'Alene. But I suggest you extend it down I-90 so travelers can check out the 1850s mission built by Jesuits and Coeur d'Alene Indians, stop at Thompson Falls, and tour the Clarks Fork River Valley that wraps up the back side of the Cabinet Mountains."

"I'm not kidding. It's really one of the most spectacular drives in Montana."

We'll defer to Tom and modify our itinerary to accommodate this not-to-be-missed driving experience. Personal recommendations like this are the reason we hired experts like Tom for all our guides.

So now Tom is busy packing his blue van with wife, Terese, ten-month-old son, Patrick, a border collie named Scooter, a mountain bike, and his laptop computer...getting ready to head south and check out Colorado.

Tom's the best resource we've found when it comes to the Rockies. And you'll find the same knowledgeable direction from the regional travel writers of our other guides. Start your adventures soon by returning the enclosed Reservation Card today.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth C. Newhouse

Elizabeth L. Newhouse, Editor  
National Geographic's  
DRIVING GUIDES TO AMERICA

P.S. Sorry to report...Tom got "skunked" in the fly-fishing department. We wish you better luck!

**DAD WANTED TO LIVE TO SEE IT IN PRINT**

But he read and reread the manuscript, and of course has been my major source all these years. Right up to the end he was contributing material.

**OTHER RECENT DEATHS**

I wish I could have had this book published a few years ago, so Dad could have seen it. And there are others who have contributed who are now gone. I deeply miss Eloise Marston Schnaitter, my main source after Ron and Vera and probably Craig. But she read the manuscript regularly, too. Lawrence Langklotz has died, and Roscoe Ocker, and Occie Berg, and now, this summer, Howard Milner--all former milkmen, all in the book, especially Roscoe and Howard. Olive Fonda has died. I'm sure there are other deaths I haven't yet heard of, and I regret them all, especially if they never read their own stories. I miss them.

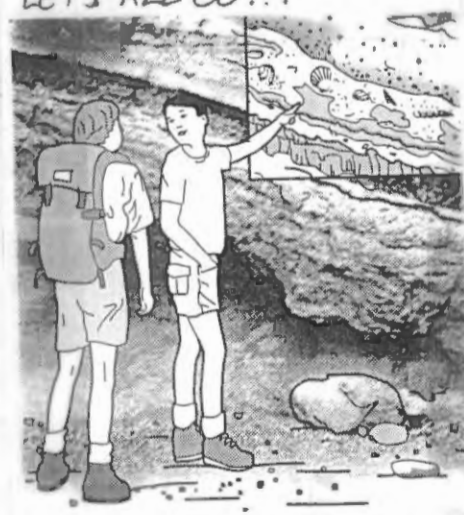
**NEWS BYTES**

(Near) Albany Caitlin and Martin Reid are the parents of Chad Hendry, June 25, 7lb 10oz. And 20" long! Blackchair! We congratulated him at the lake.

Kinderhook, NY: Marcus & Mary McGuire have moved into their large farmhouse.

Wolcott, VT: Dawnaris Jackson is starting her 2nd year teaching Kindergarten at the Green Mountain Waldorf school. She has some 20 little charges to try to civilize! We visited Dawni's farmhouse this summer (Cross, Elle, Royce) on the 2nd visit, saw him in an icy mt. stream.

Bilbao, Spain Terry & Debbie Dougan's son Scott is being married there, end of December. LET'S ALL GO!!!



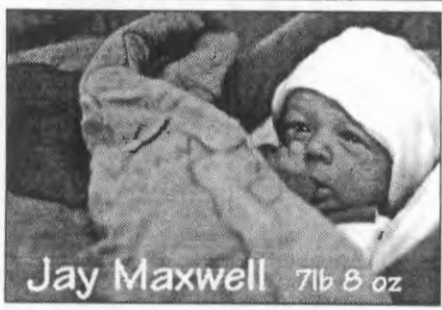
Aptos, CA Megan Jackson continues to draw for Mcgraw Hill in Monterey, California.

Bowling Green, Ohio: Tim Veach has landed a fabulous tenure-track job, and they want him to build up the Dance Dept.!!

DID THE BIRTH OF JAY MAXWELL RYAN EVER GET REPORTED IN THESE PAGES? JULY 6, 1995, SO HE'S NOW OVER A YEAR OLD AND AS CUTE AS A BUG!

thank you!

Born to Megan and Michael Ryan



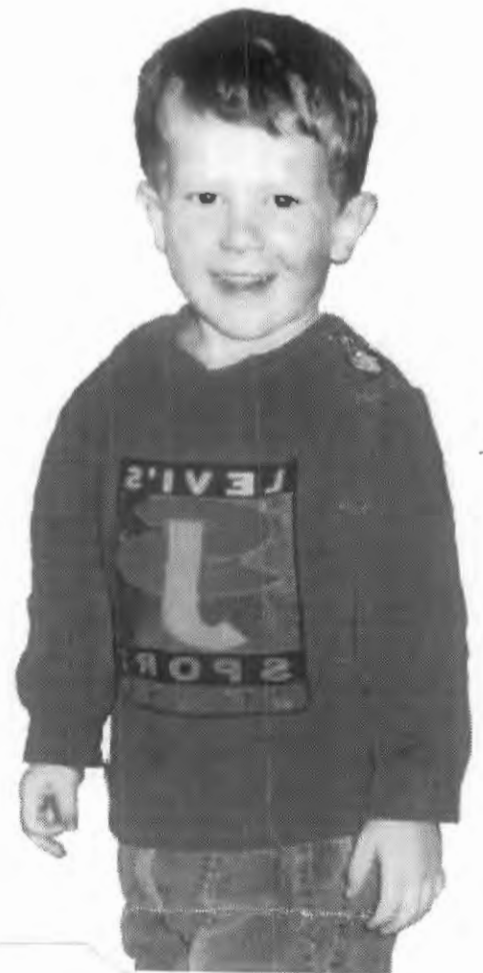
on  
July 6  
1995  
at  
9:45 am

Jay Maxwell 7lb 8 oz

*(Jay's business card!)*



All those Ryan children are handsome, but then, look at Megan and Michael. I'll print here a pic of Jay, from quite a while back, and also old ones of Mark and Andy so you can see for yourself. And isn't Jay Maxwell a distinguished name? We have a Wardner Maxwell: Maxwell Perkins, the famous editor, but I don't think M&M knew that. Then there's a favorite author of mine, William Maxwell, and the fine British composer, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies.



ENGLAND TRIP A SUCCESS; WE'LL GO AGAIN?

Of the 25 who went on the England trip this year, "British Literature and Landscape," several were family members or old friends who read ENNL: Cressida Broten (granddaughter) was our youngest, nearing 14; she got along fine, had a good time, and was more mature than some of our 20-year-olds, and older! Our oldest was Paul Campagna (first cousin), and he also got along fine; one student has a page of "Paulisms" in her journal! Then there was Trever Dougan's wife, Jacki Dougan, and her sister Mary Monaghan, who also enjoyed themselves. Elizabeth Weir went again (she frequently visited Dad, and owns the Dougan 3-legged cat, Limpy), and Cordelia Koplow, Corky, whom we've known since Kent State days. We had more rain than usual this time, which damped our spirits only a bit. Several people saw the Queen in a parade on our first day--we all would have, had we known she was going by, a block from where we were lunching at the Sherlock Holmes pub. Several more sat adjacent to the President of France at "Phantom of the Opera." (They recognized him from the parade, and knew they were seated by someone important because he was snuck in and out of the theater by security when the lights were out, and they all had been frisked with metal detectors before being allowed in the dress circle!) Some highlights among many: David Flood, choirmaster and organist at Canterbury Cathedral, came to our hostel and spent the evening talking with us. And we had a lovely morning at the home of author Catherine Storr (some of you know Marianne Dreams, and the movie "Paper House"). We again had a fabulous tea at the Crosfield farm in Dorset, entertained by Hugh and Jessie Perkins, Sue and Michael Crosfield, June and Tommy, who've helped every time before, and Jess's brother and wife. And, the final Morris dancing at the hostel, with Joe Marn's and his Wyverns was spectacular! As to going again: After such a trip, how can I not? Probably once more, spring '98. Our beloved coach driver Dereck is saving our thermoses, ice chests and mugs and plans to stock up on supplies, plus buy our first picnic. Tell me if you'd like to go! Prob. my last school-sponsored trip.

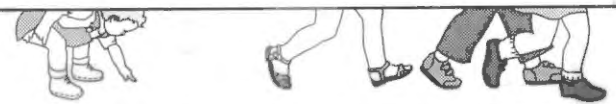
NEXT EXCITING ISSUE: Elle & Royce's WEDDING!

Gib and Judy Hocking, old friends and ENNL readers, met us in Winchester and spent the day with us, going to tea at the Crosfields. Their daughter Wendell Hocking, my godchild, was the "originator" of my England class trips: she took me bicycling in 1984, was it? and that was when I got the idea to take classes there, and how to do it cheaply: youth hostels! She also introduced me to her aunt and cousin, **Winnie and Pam Taylor** in Cornwall, and I've been to Cornwall regularly since. Pam is my cousin, too. I visited her in March of this year; also had a day and two nights in Ireland with **Helen Kaufman**, my colleague from Parkland College in Champaign; we co-led the 1992 Fantasy trip to Engl.

Laurel Marshall, Director Quality childcare  
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CHILDREN in MOTION



SO, WHAT'S NEXT? HOW ABOUT A REUNION?

We've had the Chez Nous contents appraised, and this fall us four sibs will figure out what we personally want; then, I guess, there'll be an estate auction. The house and land is being appraised, and we'll have to decide about selling. I sure wish it could stay in the family, but I don't see how. Adam and Margaret Lem are living there now, as caretakers, and Gene Shepherd is continuing to farm the land. Everyone had such a good time being together at Dad's funeral, and then a good many family reassembled for Elle and Royce's wedding--now we're thinking, let's have a Dougan reunion without a reason, and have it out west, near Jeremy and Tom Schmidt, and Karla Dougan Pendexter. We have such a large Western contingent, and us midwesterners would surely come. Dorothy Lueken has already done some research on places to stay in the area. Paul, you and Mig are Dougans by long association! Send some ideas and input, all you Dougans! Is it a good idea? When? Where? And how abt tracking down some western Trevers? Great-gram Eunice had a bevy of western sibs.



The above picture is not an ad for Laurel, but another example of Megan's work. She's doing some freelancing, so think of having her do some work for you!