



THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER

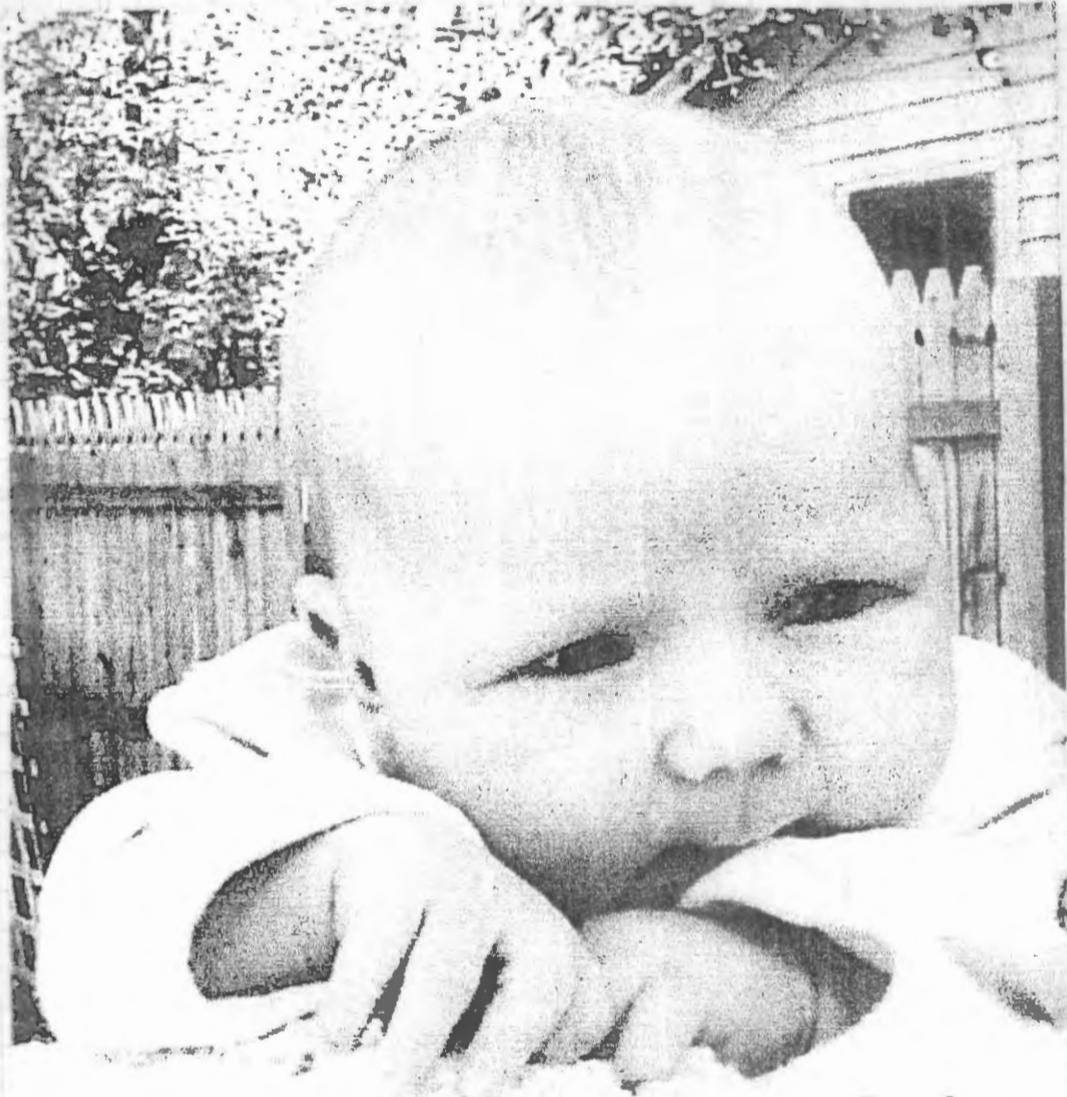
VOL XVIII NO 1 JUNE 2000

"What does little birdie say
in her nest at break of day?"

--Tennyson

BABY DEBOW MAY 10!

RACHEL TAYLOR DEBOW, 8 1/2 LBS, 20 1/2 INCHES AND BEAUTIFUL!



13 days
old.
(She's on
shoulder.)

Beloit WI After 9 months and 9 days of comfort, little Rachel was still reluctant to leave her snug security, and so was induced. Grandma sped up from Spfld in time to get in on the action and was at Elle's shoulder while Royce, doctor and nurse were at the business end, and what a thrill to see the wee bairn finally come popping out! (Yes, she was reluctant to the last--so the labor took quite awhile. Elle was magnificent.) Royce cut the umbilicus, and an hour later gave Rachel her first bath. It is such a miracle! the whole process, that in nine months a single cell can become a little being capable of breathing and eating and living on her own! With her own will and personality, and all senses busy taking in the world. What a fantastic thing! How fantastic she is--as is each one of us.

Delavan, WI Little Rachel celebrated her 1st night home by keeping her parents up. The next night they took her into their bed; she slept from midnight to 7 am! Needless to say, she now rarely sleeps in her pleasant crib, in the fresh painted nursery with friezes on the wall, pictures, lamps, a cool changing table. She does get nursed in there, often, in a splendid rocker, guzzling like a little pig. By 3 weeks she was up to 10 pounds! She has an aversion to being alone, though, so she spends lots of time being held, or in a snugly against her mother's or father's stomach or back. She's an exceptionally beautiful baby--have Elle send you email photos for proof. Nice note: May 10th is her great-great-grandpa Wesson Dougan's birthday! AND her cousin Kestrel's!

BEN AND KARL ANDREW: STARS!

West Bend WI: Everyone agreed that Ben Yde, 9th grade, was amazing as the lead in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," the West Bend High Schools' Spring 2000 production. Dick Yde was one of many parents constructing the set, Katie Yde plied thimble and needle, and brother Josh played electric bass in the orchestra. Ben's beautiful voice is being trained by Kit Reuter-Foss, a Madison person who's sung at the Met, and does opera gigs all around the country. She's thrilled with him. Way to go, Ben! And,

Evanston IL: The following week Karl Andrew Schmidt was one of the stars in "The King and I" at New Trier High. KA was never considered for the lead because of his 6' plus height, but he did ably as second in command, and his grandma Jo reports that he, too, has a fine voice. Neither production was reviewed by the local presses, alas.

GRADUATIONS GALORE, NOW COLLEGE State Line, NV: Cress Broten, graduating June 15, will attend UN: Reno in the fall. Pretty hard to resist, when Nevada takes its tobacco money and gives it to high school seniors with a B average or better who will go to a Nevada college! The savings will allow Cress to pursue her language interests with a Junior year abroad, and widen her education beyond Nevada's offerings where she sees fit.

West Bend WI. Josh Yde graduated June 6 from West Bend High and is headed for UW Madison with a v. nice science scholarship. Josh, just don't give up your cello!

Wilmette IL. Karl Andrew Schmidt is going to Western Michigan, will study automotive engineering, also has a scholarship. He graduated from New Trier with honors, and a special honor in English.

Rhode Island: Matt Schmidt has graduated from Brown University's Engineering School with an Award of Excellence in thermodynamics. He is taking a job in Washington, D. C.

WE'VE HAD TOO MUCH DEATH

So many cherished people--and ENNL readers--have died since the last issue. Julie Hornbostel, dear friend and friend of the family: teacher, writer, mother, grandmother, Hap's wife (a story about Hap will be in the Big Book)--too, too young! A serene and beautiful spirit. And Scottie Cook, who worked on the farm for many years and was beloved by us all. Jim Howard, who also worked on the farm, and has a whole chapter in Stories, just died at 95. Lewie's mother, Anita Dalvit. She was almost 100, and Scotty, 90, so though we mourn and miss them all, they lived long and loving lives, as did Amos Grundahl, of Rock County Breeders, also much featured in Round Barn, and LeRoy Wardner, who with Mom started the Wardner Family Historical Association. Ginny Davenport, another blithe spirit. Ercell Kullberg, Krista Sweeney. . . . I wish I could write obit articles on all these beloved ones.

HEATHER KNOCKS UIS SOCKS OFF

Spfld. Heather Dell interviewed at UIS in January, for a tenure-track position in Women's Studies, and against stiff competition, GOT IT! Everyone is ecstatic. Said Pat Langley, head of Women's Studies, "After our first two candidates were so good, I figured to beat them Heather would have to knock our socks off. Well, she knocked our socks off!" The ENNL Ed has allowed herself to preen a feather or two, for having brought Heather to lecture here several years ago, which predisposed her to apply; a lot of people remembered her favorably. She is eminently competent, and conducted her interviews with just the right balance of warmth and professionalism.

www.tintin.be/QuickIndex/index_gb.htm

Tintin fans: check it out!

Especially amusing is the link called Marlin-spike 421. . . Have fun!



816 N 5th Spfld IL 62702

217-544-2916

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April 24, 2000

or
jjackson@uis.edu

You haven't had an issue in a year, and this should be one--but I'm waiting to print it till after Elle's first baby is born, due May 1, and what I have to say here shouldn't wait. So, read my "lead" article, (soon to be placed after baby news) and about the two parties.

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Let me know if you select this party & you'll get an invitation & well need an RSVP. You are welcome at both parties.

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5 mi from Springfield. Let me know if you're coming. Send a map.

Love Jackie

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Picnic set for Jacqueline Jackson

Students, former students, friends and co-workers are invited to a retirement picnic potluck Friday for well-known local writer and writing teacher Jacqueline Jackson.

Jackson was one of the founding faculty at Sangamon State University (now the University of Illinois at Springfield) where for 30 years she taught and mentored local writers, many of whom have since won awards for their work.

Jackson has played an important role at UIS and in the local writing community, and her writing classes were so popular they often filled up within the first few hours of registration.

In 1995, she won the Friends of Lincoln Library's Writer of the Year Award. Two of her students also won the competition that year and credited her teaching for their success.

The author of 12 books, Jackson is retiring from UIS to devote her time to completing her major work, a history of farming and agricultural development in Wisconsin.

The picnic will be held from 4:30 p.m. until dark at the Rochester Park Pavilion, in Rochester. (For people coming from Springfield, take Illinois 29, turn right at the first Rochester stoplight and go past the ballpark.)

Hotdogs, buns and charcoal will be provided.

Guests should bring food to share, their own soft drinks and folding chairs. Children are welcome.

There also will be a "Dark and Stormy Night Competition," and guests are asked to bring the worst first sentence to a story they can write for the competition.



Jacqueline Jackson

SOME NICE HONORS

The faculty voted me this spring to be Grand Marshall for graduation--a lovely honor though it carries with it dress rehearsal, honors convocation, and two identical graduation ceremonies! But I got to lead everyone in, bear the impressive mace, and stand front center till all were seated. I thoroughly enjoyed it! At the earlier retirement luncheon, complimentary things were said about me there, so that was pleasant, too.

JJ'S ENGLISH PROGRAM PARTY!

Spfld. It was held May 15 at Jo Saner's lovely home on Lake Springfield. Many good friends came, some in book-theme costumes! The weather was fine, the food delicious, the talk fun. We specified no gifts, but if anyone wants to donate in my honor, please send a check to Friends of Brookens Library, c/o Ned Wass, UIS, P.O. Box 19243, Spfld IL 62794 and say it's for the Jackie Jackson fund. The money will go toward children's books; each one purchased will have a JJ nameplate. Donors will be listed in a Friends brochure.

AND YET ANOTHER PARTY!

Because room was limited at Jo Saner's house, we didn't invite my students and former students--yet so much of my life here has been my students, I and they held a picnic on May 19 for whoever wanted to come. Many students, community friends, Reading and Writing and Radio teachers, and faculty braved very cold weather and we had a warm and wonderful time! See the advert my friend Martha Miller put in the paper. Darol Bellman saw it, over in Missouri, and made the long trip! I think everybody found someone they'd been in class with at some time. The Genskows made a video of the program, and I'll get copies made that we can circulate to any of you who have a yen to see what went on, and hear about some of the crazy (and fun, and nice) things we did together over 30 yrs. I was much touched!

AS TO JACKIE'S PUBLISHING--

Spfld Here's the revised schedule. Instead of More Stories from the Round Barn being out in time for holiday giving 2000 (a disappointment), the paperback of Stories will be. I'll send you a notice. Then More Stories, hardback, will be out for the following holidays--Fall publication, 2001. It ain't my fault, nor my editor's. Northwestern U Press's high honors have had the manuscript for More Stories since September '99, but are now getting around to it. It does give me time (along with retiring) to finish the BIGGUN!

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Let us know if you're coming. JJJ
Need a map.
Love,
Jackie*

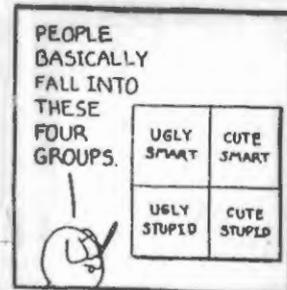
HOW ABOUT THE BARN ITSELF?

People keep asking me that. Once Bill and Mary bought it from the Springbrook group (Boutelle) thus snatching it away from us, and we also lost our land on the highway where we would have put it or a replica, we, the officers of Friends of the Dougan Round Barn, pulled back from any further involvement, judging the plans, finances, etc. unsound. We had interest in our project and some people had given money, but as yet we had no actual card-carrying members--we were just getting a mailing out for membership and contributions. It's impossible for tax complications to give back the money and so we are giving it to the Hoards Dairy Museum in Fort Atkinson. The other group has now formed a board and has plans, and if they can raise the cash--and the project is increasingly expensive--to save the barn, well and good. But we, and the Dougan name, are staying out of it. If you're approached and want to give money, it's up to you, but we suggest proceeding with caution.

WHAT ABOUT CHEZ NOUS?

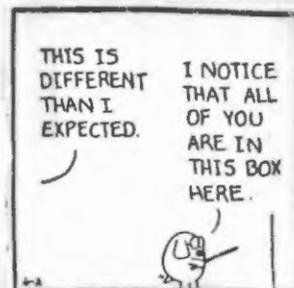
Beloit For now, still standing, still with furnishings, still beautiful. Gene Shepherd still farms the land and uses the buildings; there's a caretaker for the house. I go up frequently and work on books and papers, culling material for The Round Barn. Chez Nous still yields up treasures --last week I found boxes and boxes of letters Mom had saved from family members over the years, with some photographs and other materials scattered throughout. I'm shamelessly reading the letters and will get them to you writers eventually. May I compliment you all on your writing ability and your regularity in sharing your lives with Mom and Dad. What family now will be able to boast such a legacy? (I think Dad instilled in us all a psychological fear [\$] of using the long distance phone, so we WROTE!) I hope to get the Empty Nest out more often now I'm retired, and I will add old family material and call it "From the Archives."

FROM THE ARCHIVES: PETER'S HAIR (Pete's at the University, you can date this by internal evidence.) Madison, from Jo: ". . . Peter is considering doing it too [housepainting] especially since he got fired by the city street engineering dept. for refusing to cut his hair any shorter. (He'd had two haircuts and looked great.) He's appealing to the personnel board, and our alderman is appealing for him. The city must be crazy. First they said he wasn't measuring up to the grooming requisite, then they changed it to read that it was a matter of safety! So he started wearing a cap, still no dice. His hair was a good inch above his collar, his side burns were not even as long as Jerry's, and the hair in front cleared his eyebrows. They can't have fired him for any reason except that they're uptight about the younger generation and HAIR. It's absolutely nuts. This would have been his third summer working on that crew, and they wanted him back. He works hard. (The firing was done by the city traffic engineer John Bunch who apparently believes anybody who won't wear a crew cut is ipso facto a disrupter and ready to destroy our form of government.) Bob Resch [Peter's winter employer], who really can't stand hair, and makes no bones about his distaste for Peter's taste, took him back for the summer and jokingly says he'll appear for the city--the hearing is a week from today. He knows his feeling about hair is a personal prejudice only. Well--all this is interesting experience for Peter. . . ."



The Editor's oven burned up abt 10-12 years ago. She hasn't baked since. Once retired, she may replace it.

SYLVIA



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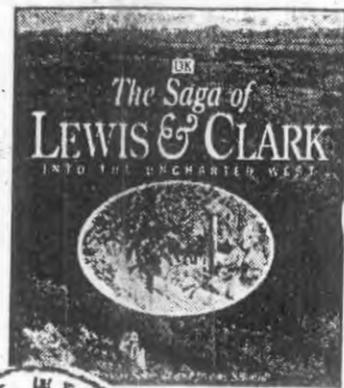
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Love Jackie

Spaces for Nicaragua with Peg Spfld. Peace activist Peg Knoepfle is leading a group to Nicaragua, July 21-August 3. Theme: labor and economic rights, and the focus will be on sweat shop workers, women and peasant farmers. \$1000 covers all expenses except airfare. For info call Peg at (217) 438-6079 or email her: jikpsk@ctnet.net

TOM AND JER PRODUCE A WINNER!

Chicago Tribune, Sunday, February 6, 2000



Travel journals

"The Saga of Lewis & Clark: Into the Uncharted West"

(DK Publishing, \$35)

Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark sojourned under political necessity through geographical uncertainty into historical celebrity. But brothers Thomas and Jeremy Schmidt maintain, in 210 beautifully reproduced hardbound pages, that the Lewis and Clark Expedition was first and foremost a travel story. The Schmidts should know. They took a trip, too, following in the footsteps of the 1804-06 expedition. This book blends their own travel experiences with those of the renowned explorers, but there's never any question that the story is Lewis and Clark's. What Ken Burns achieved with his television series on the Civil War, "The Saga of Lewis and Clark" accomplishes in print. It's a visual feast. Pictures figure prominently:

The letter from President Thomas Jefferson entrusting the expedition to Lewis; the naively simple 1802 map by Antoine Soulard; journal entries and sketches penned by the explorers themselves. Paintings, some by Charles M. Russell, and drawings depict native culture, wildlife and historic scenes. Photographer Wayne Mumford also followed the trail of Lewis and Clark, hitting the same places in the same seasons they did. His photographs of the Great Plains, the Salmon River Mountains, the Columbia River Gorge, the Pacific Coast illustrate the obstacles the party faced almost 200 years ago — and the scenery that rewarded their perseverance. This is the kind of book you wish someone would give you for your birthday. And then leave you alone to savor it.



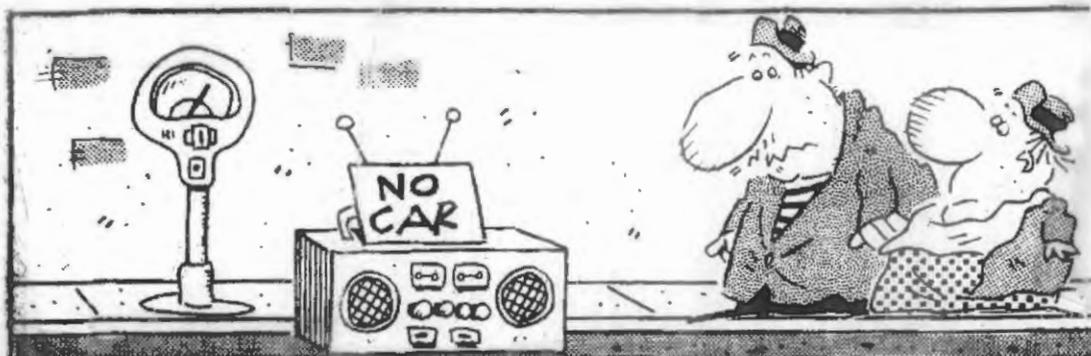
BITS AND PIECES

Italy again saw Jo Schmidt, 7 days under the Tuscan sun in Cardonna, 4 in Rome.

Scotland Jackie and cousins Paul Campagna and June Shafer will be in Scotland in October with a Beloit College Alumni group. They plan to take a side trip north to the ancestral home of all us Forbes-descended Wardners. Jackie and co-teacher Karen Moranski are leading a class to Scotland, June 2001. It's already full but we know by past experience that many will drop out--so let us know if you'd like to be added to the waiting list.

Michigan The Dan and Julie Schmidt family have bought a home on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan near Grand Haven, and are calling it "Chez Nous II." Dan is doing most of the work of winterizing it so that it can be used year-round. We all loved our happy holidays on Lake Michigan at the Ruckmans' place; Mom would bring a sitter and everyone would get a grand vacation, including the sitter! I particularly remember Chris. So, Dan and Julie, beware of family descending! Oh joy. (Remember too that you all have an open invitation to a Vermont cottage, that only a few of you have taken me up on.)

Spfld A deer totalled Jackie's little red Mazda last November. After Jackie recovered from Sticker Shock she bought a 2000 Saturn wagon with a thief-proof radio, so her Mazda's famous "NO RADIO" sign has been retired. Friend Kevin Brown educated Jackie on cars, and rode with her to test drive them: Jackie was driving a 2000 Ford Something when, while at a stop, she was rear-ended by a Dodge RAM, which pretty much demolished the Ford.



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WHAT? JACKIE RETIRING? Spfld. She always said she was going to stay forever, like the Pope, but various things have changed her mind. Have you noticed there's not been an ENNL since last May? And jolly few of you have heard from me? That's because there's NO TIME! And that means work on the BIG BOOK hasn't progressed, either. Dave Everson's sudden death last spring has affected us all, and Judy has urged me to get on with my book, for no one else can write it for me. So I'm heeding her advice, and my editor's, and **RETIRING TO FINISH THE BIG BOOK**. I love my job, my student friends; I love the University, with all its great glories and grievous faults, so I'm a reluctant retiree. (But in the fall I'll be back teaching "Writing from Family Materials" and spring '01 co-teaching a class going to Scotland June '01--wanna go? Tell us now!) By retiring there'll not only be unbroken time to write, I'll also be able to see more of kids and grandkids, go on an Elderhostel with Annabelle, travel around some and see those of you I've been longing to see. Get back to England. Play my cello. Clean the incredible paper piles in my house. (You'll believe that when you see it, right?) Clear out the papers still at the farm. There are lots of pluses. Still, I've really dragged my feet.

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MAY 15. Spfld. It will be held at Jo Saner's lovely home on Lake Springfield, 26 Virginia Lane, 5 pm, and will be a potluck, with main dish provided, so bring a side dish of any sort. You Empty Nest readers are invited, though I know most of you are too far away. Judy Everson and Karen Moranski are planning it; they say a Jackie party must have a theme --so it's **BOOKS**. If you're so inclined, come as a book character, whether mystery, fantasy, sci fi, children's (including Alice and nursery rhymes) or your own favorite book figure, be it Captain Haddock, Captain Ahab, or Captain Hook; Grendel or Grundahl (the artificial inseminator in Jackie's Round Barn). Or follow a Peter Pan theme, and come as what you'd like to be if you ever grow up. OR, dear ones, come simply as yourself, a reader, or possibly a bookworm. If anyone wants to donate in my honor, send a check made out to UIS Friends of Braxton's Library Ned Wass. The money will go to the "Jacqueline Jackson Children's Book Fund" and each book purchased will have a JJ nameplate, including the donor's name. (No presents for me, please!)

See school calendar on envelope.

Let me know if you select this party & you'll get an invitation & well need an RSVP. You are welcome at both parties.

NOW, THE PROBLEM OF PARTIES . . . I'VE BEEN BOPPING AROUND HERE FOR 30 YEARS, fairly gregarious, and so know a number of faculty and staff pretty well, plus townspeople and students. The latter frequently are townspeople, and some keep taking classes forever. So how to limit any party to the size of Jo Saner's house (if it rains) and manage parking on Virginia Lane, etc? **SOLUTION:** In consultation with **STUDENT AND FACULTY FRIENDS**, WE'VE DECIDED TO HAVE TWO parties--the May 15th one for faculty, staff and out-of-town friends, plus in-town nonstudent ones, and a second for students present and past, and anyone who didn't make the first or wants to come to two. (Likewise anyone who can't make the second should come to the first.) So it's pretty flexible. **PARTY #2** will be a **PICNIC** at the Rochester City Park Pavilion, *4:30 PM May 19 till ?, hotdogs and buns and fire will be provided, bring a side dish to share. We'll make it **A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT PARTY**, so bring the worst opening sentence you can write, for the competition. Prizes, of course! This a jeans type party, but come costumed if you wish.

5 mi from Spring field. Let me know if you're coming. See send a map.

Love Jackie

In Memory of Julia Conkling Hornbostel

August 5, 1938 – February 4, 2000

Julia Hornbostel spent her lifetime dedicated to teaching. She first taught at Beloit College and then as professor of English here at UW-Rock County for 31 years. Julia was named Teacher of the Year in 1990.

She pioneered the subject of Women's Studies within the university system and presented a number of papers on the subject to support the program. She also introduced the coursework concerning African-American Studies, in addition to teaching subjects in introductory and advanced English Literature. Julia published a book based on the diaries of Nellie Tallman, documenting the life of one of the longest residents of the Tallman House. The book, "A Good and Caring

Woman," is the principle reference for the Tallman Restorations.

Julia loved to travel and spent many vacations in England with her husband "Hap," hiking the walking paths, and started a popular program at UW-Rock County to provide community people with an affordable guided tour of Europe.

Julia never stopped teaching—always trying to provide a better way of life for thousands of her students as well as giving guidance and love to her family and to her colleagues. "No one has done more to support students and colleagues on this campus than Julia. She was respected – and loved – by all of us", said Linda Reinhardt, Associate Professor of Psychology at UW-Rock County.



Julia died of cancer on February 4, 2000 at home in the company of her family. Julia is deeply missed at the UW-Rock County and in her wider community of friends and students.

In Loving Memory Of Scottie Clara Cook 1909 - 2000



Obituary

Scottie Clara (Turman) Cook, 90, 5635 N. 65th Street, Milwaukee, WI, formerly of 2255 Burton Street, Apt. 3, Beloit, WI, departed this life and entered into eternal life Saturday, April 8, 2000, at her home. She was born August 31, 1909, in Houston, Miss., the daughter of Simon and Betty (McShan)Turman.

Scottie confessed a hope in Christ at an early age and joined Emmanuel Baptist Church in Beloit, WI. She married John Ellis Cook on October 16, 1929. Scottie was a former Common Council Member of Beloit, WI. She was also Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star of Rebecca Chapter No. 4 in 1955 and a former member of the Women's Culture Club.

She was employed at Dougan's and Beloit College but spent the majority of her time as a homemaker.

Scottie had a memorable personality and was loved by all she touched. She was a very caring and witty person who could always make you laugh. Once you meet her you would never forget her charismatic ways. She will be greatly missed.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her daughter, Barbara Vance; son, Ronald L. (Vera) Bryant; four granddaughters; Shirley (Terrance) Gibbons, Sheila Vance, Marquisha Keith, Erica Hodges; three grandsons; Ronald Bryant Jr., Demetrious (Crissie) Bryant and Elisha Bryant; two great-grandsons; Jalil Gibson, Demetrious Jr., all of Milwaukee, WI; one brother-in-law, Alec Cook, Detroit, MI; loving and caring nieces, nephews, great grandchildren and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and nine siblings; Jesse, Nettie, Frank, Willie, Florine, Alma, Odel, Geneva, Eugene.

The Empty Nest Newsletter is produced very sporadically by Jackie Jackson, 816 N. 5th St., Spfld IL 62702. News of any vintage is appreciated and might get printed. 217-544-2916 jjackson@uis.edu
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