

THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER

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"The seasons change...
Song passes not away."
--Sir William Walton



STORIES IN PAPERBACK

WITH A NEW COVER, TOO, "PEOPLE ORIENTED!"



S *Stories* **from the Round Barn**

**Jacqueline
Dougan
Jackson**



"These are stories with an extra voltage. Not only will they bring children from play and old men from the chimney-corner, but they will delight all who have a proper sense of a vanishing America, the America of the small independent farm with (sometimes) a round barn."-----
----Maynard Mack, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Yale University

YES, THE EMPTY NEST HAS DEGENERATED into a blurb sheet for the book--but since it's such a good book, and the better the sales, the more chance of the BIG ONE being published in my lifetime--I shamelessly go ahead. You can buy the paperback at your bookstore or at Amazon, B&N, on

the Net, where else?--or from me at my cost--\$10 and postage. (The hardback is still \$16 and postage.) Write, call or e-mail--I know you're getting this late for Christmas giving, but I'll try. Tell how you want it signed. 816 N. Fifth, Spfld IL 62702; 217-544-2916; jjackson@uis.edu

UPDATE ON MORE STORIES FROM THE ROUND BARN

It's been languishing at the press for over a year, along with other authors' books, so I trust it's still in the works. Ready Fall 2001? Never fear, you'll get a notice.

UPDATE ON THE BIG BIG BOOK

I'm getting to work on it, festina lente.

UPDATE ON RETIREMENT

Retirement? Whazzat?

UPDATE ON CHEZ NOUS

Beloit, WI Well, we've succumbed and fallen in line with the developers who have options on the land all around us, the best farmland in the world. (It's I-90 which is the root culprit. If the highway had gone w. of town, over sandy farmland, this area would still be farms and good ol' Turtle Township.) The area's zoned for residential, commercial and light industry. This means that at any time they can lower the boom and we have to be off the place in 90 days--or is it 60? So I am hard at work clearing the house of books and papers (sifting for Round Barn material, and finding some treasure), also clearing a lot of other stuff, Dad's and Mother's clothes, for instance, and all the stuff that was never thrown away in 70 years; some I'm glad wasn't. A big job.

WHAT ABOUT THE BUILDINGS?

They'll be bulldozed--though Gene Shepherd, who's farmed the land since Dad retired, may move Chez Nous and the big seed processing building (the one with the mural) to his land. It can be done. And Hap Hornbostel may take the stone from the smokehouse for an historical restoration project he knows of.

OK, NOW WHAT ABOUT THE R. BARN?

Bill and Mary, who got the barn away from us, have not been able to muster support and funding to restore it, so it's continuing to deteriorate. Unless some millionaire takes an interest, the city will demand it razed, and that will be that. Too bad we lost it; we'd've had it moved and gleaming on the highway by now.



DOES "FRIENDS OF THE DOUGAN ROUND BARN" ORG. STILL EXIST?

Nope. We've closed our books and given the money we'd started to raise to the National Dairy Shrine/Hoard's Museum in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin-- a most worthy recipient! If you gave money, it's gone to a splendid home. This place is well worth visiting--not only lots of dairy history, but a huge Civil War library and displays, too. And more. By the way, we have lots of beautiful "Friends of the Dougan Round Barn" stationery--want some?

GUESS WHAT ELSE TURTLE TOWNSHIP HAS IN STORE FOR IT--GRAMPA DOUGAN (WJ) MUST BE THRASHING IN HIS GRAVE.

An Indian casino. That's right. Just across Colley Road from the round barn, on Field#2 (See p. 238 in Stories.) Also a huge resort hotel, and all the accompanying strip stuff that goes with such an enterprise. Beloit is out of its mind, of course (Turtle Township didn't want this; Beloit took Turtle land) but Beloit's been groveling for a long time. This (if the county board approves it) won't save Beloit, of course. And the Indians, I hear, aren't pleased that their casino will go right next to the sewage plant that a few years ago Beloit saw fit to build right on the highway at the Gateway to Wisconsin.

DIDN'T GRAMPA SLEEP UNEASILY ONCE BEFORE?

Yes, but Olympia Brewery decided not to locate in Beloit, on the former Dougan farm.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE TREASURES YOU'RE FINDING IN CHEZ NOUS?

Forty or more books from the District 12 School (Dougan School, now on Beloit's Bartlett Museum grounds)--books Ronald, Trever, Esther, Eloise learned from. I'll write them up for Round Barn and eventually restore them to the school. And, the missing Dead Sea Scrolls, the story of which you'll hear about in the next issue!

Note: this issue is truncated in the interest of TIME, and because I've lost the new-issue folder full of ENNL news. Story of my life.

Grampa!

JACKIE, PAUL AND MIG VISIT FORBES COUNTRY

Aberdeen, Scotland. The three aging cousins were as frisky as pups on a wonderful alum tour sponsored by Beloit College in October. About 25 participants. We ate and slept well at the Stirling Highlander Hotel, had splendid lectures every day, visited Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling Castle, Scone Palace, Loch Katrine (a launch ride), Loch Ness (no, didn't see her though we looked), Inverness, and more and more and more. We had good weather, and what a dazzlingly beautiful country! Then the rest went home, while we three took the train up to Aberdeen, were met at Inchnachair by Malcolm Forbes (not the American M.F. who tried to buy Forbes Castle) and we had a wonderful dinner and overnight in the haunts of our ancestors. All you Empty Nest readers who are in the Wardner line of descent are Forbeses, you know--Olive Forbes was Morton Smith Wardner's mother, and Paul, Mig and I share Morton Smith for a grandfather. There was a large photo on a table of Malcolm Forbes' father when a young man and I stopped dead--he looked so much like Paul once looked. I have to find the photo of Paul, since he and Mig didn't see the resemblance. We wanted to visit Craigievar, the really OLD castle of the Forbes clan, but it's now National Trust and they closed it on Oct. 1.

WHAT! OFF TO SCOTLAND AGAIN?

Why do you think I went in the first place? Your editor, and co-teacher Karen Moranski, are taking 24 credit, auditor, or senior learner students to Scotland June 11-30, 2001. So far I'm not bending anyone's arm to go; we have a waiting list. But in case you want the trip (and you know how unique ours are), get on the list--my experience is that spaces keep opening up. Cost, which includes airfare from O'Hare and almost all else: \$2600.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATION

Beloit College, WI That's what was awarded to ENNL editor this fall at her 50th class reunion by the Beloit College Alumni Association. Not for the Empty Nest--that wasn't mentioned--but for the books and teaching and radio work and taking classes to England, etc. It ended, "Part of a proud Beloit family, which includes her father Ronald Dougan of the Class of 1925, her sister Patricia Dougan Dalvit of the Class of 1949 and her brother Craig Dougan of the class of 1952 . . ." Craig's med school roommate Fred Gobles also was honored, and Harry Hamilton, whose father is on my list for having worked on the farm--as most Beloiters did at one time or another! I wondered why Lewie hadn't been honored too but then found out he'd received one at his 25th class reunion!

WE'VE LOST FRIENDS THIS FALL

Don McQuire, husband of Damaris Walsh McQuire, died in mid-October of ALS. Don has been a part of the Lake Iroquois community ever since he married Demie about 1960. His field was history; he taught at New York's famous Styvesant High School, but he was a pretty good naturalist, too. We will miss him. I'll miss our berry-picking expeditions. --And close neighbor to Chez Nous, George (Joe) Lentell died suddenly of a brain aneurism in November. Joe was my age, and was the model for the capable "spastic" boy, Lonzo, in my book, The Taste of Spruce Gum. There was a big writeup of Joe and his abilities and his cheer in The Beloit Daily News, just two weeks before his death. Joe thoroughly enjoyed the warm publicity. What timing! Ruth, Joe's sister, says she's grateful for two things--that his death was quick and painless, and that he died before she did--for she was his loving companion and caretaker, and she worried who would take care of Joe, in his own home, if she were to go first.

Happy
Holidays
to
All!



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