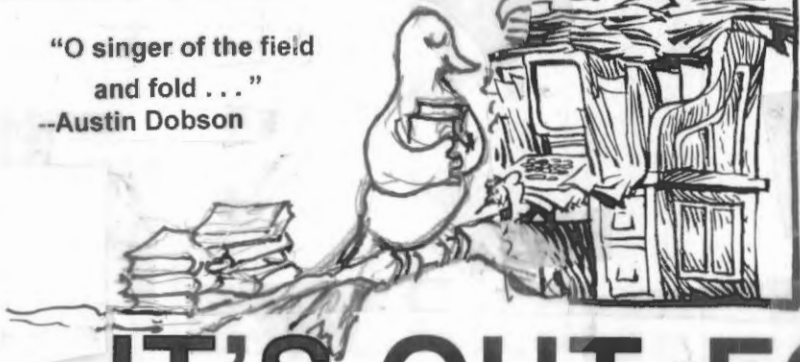


"Set upon a golden bough
to sing . . . Of what is past,
or passing, or to come." --Yeats

"O singer of the field
and fold . . ."
--Austin Dobson

THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER
VOLUME XXI, NO. 1, Sep-Oct 2002

"At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong /Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt and small,
In blast beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling (her) soul
Upon the growing gloom." --Hardy



IT'S OUT, FOLKS! AND BEAUTIFUL!

WHAT, YOU SAY?

--WHY, MORE STORIES FROM THE ROUND BARN--THE BOOK YOU'VE ALL BEEN
WAITING FOR! (RIGHT?) AND IN GOOD TIME FOR HOLIDAY GIVING.



More Stories From

THE ROUND BARN



JACQUELINE DOUGAN JACKSON

Here's the cover. Yes, that's Gillian on the right, age 7. She was visiting the farm on the day of a school tour, and got her picture taken along with all the Beloit kids. What are they watching so avidly? More Stories will tell!

Special note for Wisconsinites: See "Media Alert," p.4

HOW TO GET YOUR VERY OWN COPY OF MORE STORIES:

****IN SPRINGFIELD, BOOK SIGNING AND RECEPTION WILL BE AT LINCOLN MEMORIAL GARDEN, OCT 6, 2 - 4:30. Judy Everson is hosting. The book will be 10% off; 30% will be a donation to the Garden. We'll have a drawing for two vintage Dougan amber milk bottles. If you're Springfield area, we welcome you to Lincoln Garden!**



****ALSO SPRINGFIELD: I'll be at the Illinois Authors Book Fair at the Illinois State Library, Nov. 16, 10-3, signing books. Proceeds from the Fair expand the Library's collection of works by Illinois authors, and support the activities of the Illinois Center for the Book.**

****BOOK SIGNING IN BELOIT WILL BE NOV 9, 2 - 4:30, AT THE NEW TURTLE CREEK BOOKSTORE, E. GRAND AND PLEASANT. 10% off list! We'll have a drawing for two vintage amber milk bottles in Beloit, too. So if you're Beloit area, meet us at Turtle Creek!**

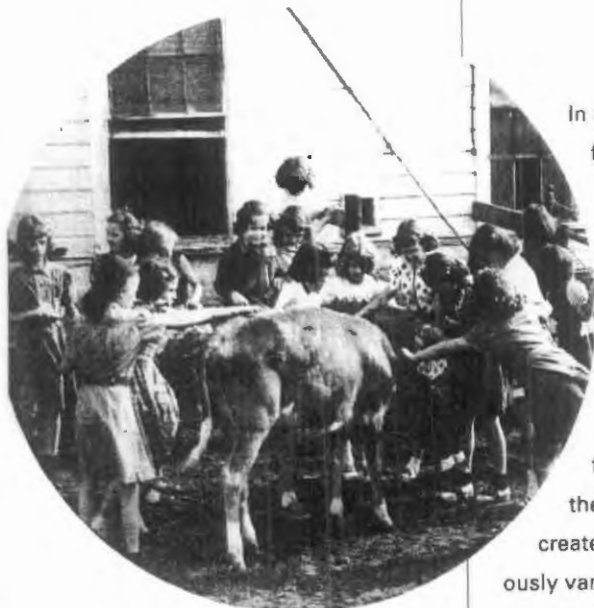
Other options: Order from **your own bookstore**, from **Northwestern University Press** directly, or from the **Internet**. Or, as I said in a previous issue, if you choose to buy from me, my offer is the same as last time--"I'll send you books at what they cost me--\$18, plus postage, and sweetly autographed." For as author, I can purchase at the bookstore rate, 60% of list. My interest isn't in making money (nor in figuring income tax on sales!), but in having the book circulate widely and sell well. It's no secret that there's the BIG book to come, that this work is my magnum opus, the love of my life (next to people) and that the Press will be more likely to print the GREAT BIG book (named, of course, The Round Barn) if More Stories does as well as Stories did, thanks to all of you, plus superb reviews! So order from me especially if you want multiple copies, or if you can't get to Beloit or Springfield. **Urge your local library to order it, too!**

More Stories from the Round Barn

Jacqueline Dougan Jackson

The much anticipated companion volume to *Stories from the Round Barn*

From the Spring '02 Northwestern catalogue, where More Stories was featured first of their offerings!



JACQUELINE DOUGAN JACKSON published her first story at age ten and has gone on to author eleven books in addition to the popular *Stories from the Round Barn* (Northwestern, 1998). She teaches at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

In *Stories from the Round Barn*, readers were introduced to life on the farm that W. J. Dougan founded in 1906 near Beloit, Wisconsin, where they had built an unusual round barn. Using anecdotes, stories, and vivid description, Jacqueline Dougan Jackson detailed her recollections of the hardships and satisfactions of farm life and the struggles—both communal and personal.

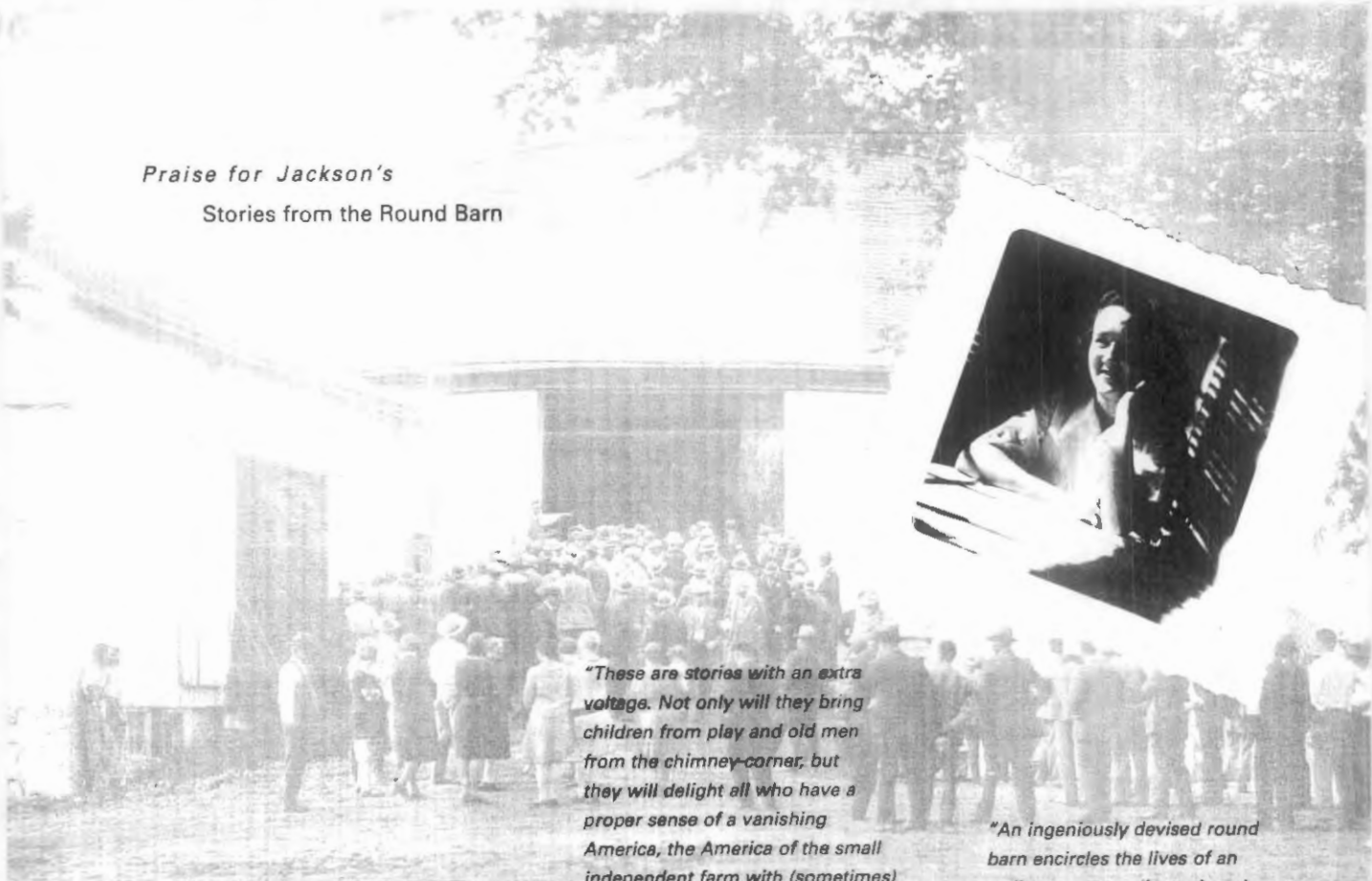
Those who are acquainted with the first book will find the familiar cast of family members: Grampa, Grama, Daddy, Mother, Jackie and her siblings, Daddy's brother Trever and the foster-daughter Esther, who are now joined by others who have a part in the life of the farm and the surrounding community. You will meet Miss Egan who creates a stir as a woman barn-hand, a one-armed milkman who mysteriously vanishes one fine day, and Aunt Lillian who almost single-handedly keeps the farm going through the 1918 flu epidemic. The life and times on and near the farm are marked with drama, but also comic relief as Jackson relates how Fritz, a neighbor boy, beats out Jackie in a World War II school scrap drive by acing her tractor with his steam engine, a Methodist cow sings at a Roman Catholic wedding, and Jesus makes an appearance as a Green Bay Packer. These are just a few samples of the rich narratives that Jackson has assembled as she continues her loving tribute to life on the Dougan farm as lived according to her grandfather's motto which he painted on the silo, "Life as well as a living."



Jacqueline Dougan Jackson
Photo credit: Royce DeBow

7 1/2 x 7 1/2 / 296 pages
50 black & white photographs
ISBN 0-8101-5135-9 cloth / \$29.95

Praise for Jackson's
Stories from the Round Barn



"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

"An ingeniously devised round barn encircles the lives of an ordinary, extraordinary American family living through times that echo our own. The book casts a wide net and wants reading aloud in classrooms to encourage the young to gather their own family stories, while there's still time."

—RICHARD PECK, AUTHOR OF THE LAST SAFE PLACE ON EARTH



"What I love in Jackson's energetic narrative is that she shows us functional people who know their own feelings. They love one another and their Wisconsin farm life. They practice kindness and openly despise sadism. Family members talk to each other about things that matter. Like any story-loving American I try to keep clear of both the cynical patter of our sitcoms and the self-centered bleating of so much contemporary literature. What a joy to come across Jackson's cheerful, serious, funny, visceral scenes! When I finished reading Stories from the Round Barn I said to myself, 'Yes, I had almost forgotten. Our species is capable of joy and imagination and decency. And here's a handbook for us.'"

—CAROL BLY, AUTHOR OF LETTERS FROM THE COUNTRY

"Jackson mixes biography and oral history into more than a charming tale of a lost rural life. This engaging work of creative nonfiction places this unusual barn at the center of her family's dairy farm near Beloit, Wisconsin, and uses it as a place to view the hardship and danger—as well as the rich pleasures—of a fascinating history."

—CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"When [W. J.] Dougan painted his cement silo with five 'Aims of This Farm'.... [t]he last aim was 'Life as Well as a Living.' In this heartfelt memoir, Jackson makes us see just what he meant."

—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

ALSO AVAILABLE BY JACKSON:



Stories from the Round Barn
2000
0-8101-5101-4 paper / \$15.95

3 Memoir

Order Blank for More Stories from Jackie: (Think, what easy Holiday Giving!)

Name _____

Address _____

Number of copies _____ Autographed? _____ If so, do you want a generic autograph or someone named in particular? (Or mixed, if more than one copy.) List the names; use another sheet if there's not space here. _____

Sent book mail? (Relatively cheap) _____ or first class? (Relatively expensive) _____

Mail this blank to: Jackie Jackson, 816 N. Fifth St., Springfield, IL 62702, or contact me by email: jjackson@uis.edu. I'll send the book(s) to you--no cost for handling--and bill you then---the cost is \$18 per book (60% of list), plus postage. If you wish a copy of Stories from the Round Barn, too, that is also now \$18, or paperback, \$10.



About this newsletter: This starts its 21st year of sporadic publication. It usually is 6 legal size pages (one stamp's worth) and contains news of family and friends, and jokes mostly about cows, writing, commentary on the news de jour, and cluttered desks. (Shoe's Uncle Cosmo is my hero.) Some of you are long familiar with it; others have received it now and then, usually when I'm wanting something (to sell a book, or to try to persuade you to go on a lit tour to England or Scotland with one of my classes, or when I'm feeling guilty for not writing); others have never received it till now, when I'm twisting your arm to buy More Stories, so that my publisher will be impressed and agree to publish the mother of both books, The Round Barn (but also, you WILL enjoy the book!). I got your names because you bought Stories, or a friend gave it to me, or I met you at a youth hostel or in a plane terminal, or you've been in one of my classes, or I know you (or of you) and think you really ought to have it, or --or--. I've never charged for the Empty Nest, for I can never promise there will be a next issue, and I also don't want to know if people don't want it. I send it out because it's a way to keep in touch, and because I love to. To get your name on or off the mailing list, write me.



News Bytes: Detailed stories, and missed news, in next issue

Germany: Our cousin Paul, age 85, crushed a motorcycle on an escalator; Paul had tire tracks all down his back and didn't even notice--nor was he aware till later of the blood in his shoe. No word on the condition of the motorcycle.

France: Cressida Broten, starting her Jr. year abroad, has visited Normandy, started classes, is in a studio apartment, craves snail mail: Write her c/o I.E.S., 77, rue Daguerre, 75014 Paris, France. Her email: cringrbr@hotmail.com.

Beloit: Farm sold, eulogy in next issue, unless it's too hard to write, then you'll have to read it in the next book. Buildings will be razed. BUT:

S. Beloit: Gene Shepherd, who's farmed the land since Dad retired, will move the house to his farm; if he also moves the barn with the Boggs mural on it, Jackie promises to repaint the mural. Help welcomed; it'll be color-by-number.

U.S. Coast-to-Coast: Gillian and Eddy flew to E. Coast for Ed's daughter Shasta's wedding, returned by Amtrak visiting family all the way. Jackie in Spfld (did the Lincoln bit)--Ed said the house wasn't as bad as predicted, and he liked the jungle shower; Elle, Royce and babies in Wisconsin; Demi in Minneapolis. A great Amtrak deal!

Cleveland Clinic: Pat Dalvit, who tripped on her shoelace in January and broke her hip, had hip replacement in August. (It hadn't healed right.) She's doing okay.

Springfield: Jackie's houseplants (really Megan's, which she left behind when she moved to California years ago), outdoors for the season at their usual backyard Summer Camp, were crushed by a falling mulberry tree; the tree, thick with flourishing foliage, is still to be removed so we don't know if there are survivors. Maybe crippled ones.

Italy: Jo & Karl Schmidt, Kate & Dick Yde are off to wine tasting in the Piedmont area.

Russia: The St. Petersburg wedding of Dan and Veronika was a week-long splendid blast, many Dougans attended, the youngest 5 weeks, who had to be born before she could get a social security number and passport. All authorities were alerted to rush the paper work through, and little Nicolette made it.

Ireland: In June, Annabelle Dirks and Jackie had a perfect-weather week in the area around Kinsale, with Alumni Campus Abroad. Saw lots, learned lots, ate lots. The group the week before had unremitting rain. You takes your chances.

Hinesburg Pond: Megan, with Mark, Andy and Jay, spent six weeks at the lake; lots of swimming, boating, biking, reading, pulling maple seedlings in the meadow. Of many highlights, a few: they climbed Camel's Hump, also to the top of Mt. Mansfield from where the road ends--a real hike (Jackie did much of it, Demi more). And spent two glorious days at the New Haven River at Bristol, with its miles of monstrous boulders, waterfalls, cold rushy waters, pools long and deep enough to swim a few strokes in, cliffs to jump from. Gram watched the swimmers while Demi and Megan collected gnarled driftwood to use in making artistic wooden (sometimes grotesque) figures.

Media Alert! Listen to More Stories from the Round Barn over Wisconsin Public Radio's "Chapter-A-Day" starting Monday Oct. 14 and ending Friday, Oct. 25. The reader will be Jim Fleming, familiar to Wisconsin listeners of "Chapter-A-Day" and known nationally for his program, "To the Best of Our Knowledge."

