

# PRAIRIE FIRE

Newsletter of the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

VOLUME 12, No. 12  
October 30, 1975

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251-7526 or 266-2022

## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

- FRI  
OCT 31 9 PM HALLOWEEN PARTY at Rachel Siegfried's home, 5209 Tolman Terrace. Wear your costumes and bring an ingredient for the witches' brew. Also, if you have a spare pumpkin bring it. Please give Rachel a call before you come so she knows how many people to plan for. 271-2173
- SUN  
NOV 2 10 AM "THE ROAD OF LIFE AND DEATH: RELIGION OF THE WINNEBAGO" This program has been rescheduled due to a conflict in time arrangements. The program will be led by Mr. Walter Funmaker, a member of the University's Anthropology Department and a Winnebago. LRYers and Middle School people are welcome. 1806 West Lawn Ave. 255-6157
- SUN  
NOV 2 11:30 AM SKI EQUIPMENT EXCHANGE Please bring your winter sports equipment to Prairie, 1806 West Lawn Ave., to trade, exchange, borrow, sell, etc. If possible, please give Vivian Meyer an inventory of your exchangable equipment before the sale so that we have an idea of how much space to plan to use. Direct questions to Vivian Meyer. 251-7526.
- MON  
NOV 3 8 PM PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING will convene at the home of Daniel Willard, 2217 West Lawn Ave. 256-2801
- THUR  
NOV 6 7:30 PM FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING will convene at the home of Vivian Meyer, 142 N. Franklin St., 3rd floor. 251-7526.
- FRI-SUN  
NOV 7-9 1975 ANNUAL MEETING CENTRAL MIDWEST DISTRICT, UUA Will be in Bloomington, Illinois. If you are able to attend part or all of this time, contact Richard Perry at 255-6157. We can defray at least part of your expenses.
- SUN  
NOV 9 1 PM NEWSLETTER DEADLINE by which I need your information to be placed in the Nov. 13th Newsletter.
- SUN  
NOV 9 10 AM SINGLES EVENT Once again we are planning a trip to the Spring Green Restaurant on the Wisconsin River. Please call Vivian Meyer in order to make reservations. 251-7526
- SUN  
NOV 9 10 AM "HUMANISM AND AFRICAN RELIGIONS" a program to be led by David Wiley, Chairman, Department of African Studies at the University. (See recommended reading list.) 1806 West Lawn Ave. 255-6157

THUR		<u>BOARD MEETING</u> at the home of the Nettletons,
NOV 13	7:30 PM	645 Sheldon St. 221-1244.
SUN		<u>"MYSTICISM"</u> A program led by Dick Bonser. More
NOV 16	10 AM	information will follow at a later date.
SUN		<u>"FAMILY PROGRAM"</u> More information will follow
NOV 23	10 AM	at a later date.
SUN		<u>"THANKSGIVING PROGRAM"</u> More information will
NOV 30	10 AM	follow at a later date.

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October Ruminations....

Ruth Calden has thoughtfully shared with us her experiences in Kentucky visiting Betsy Roberts:

"At the peak of October color, I set out for a week's tour of Kentucky and Virginia with my good friend and former Prairie member, Betsy Roberts. Betsy drove up from Hazard in her faithful Nova for our reunion in Lexington. Betsy had the trip all mapped out - a color tour with historical highlights - a respite from her job in Hazard as an unemployment claims analyst with the state of Kentucky. From Lexington on, I drove while Betsy poured over the maps and both of us nibbled on a peck of Wealthy apples and a box of bourbon and rum filled chocolates called Rebecca Ruth candies. Rebecca Ruth Boone, after whom these devastatingly good candies are named, now lies beside her husband Daniel in a Frankfurt cemetery.

It was, in the words of the old song, "Jolly October" and we gloried in the spectacular mountain scenery of West Virginia and the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. "Seems like we are just appreciating the reds of the dogwood and the orange of the maples," said Betsy. "Today I'm going to pay attention to yellow trees."

In Appalachia, however, the grandeur of the mountains gave way to a dominant impression of human poverty: wispy children, abandoned dogs, rumbling coal trucks, hillsides raped by strip mining, garbage polluting mountain streams. Appalachian towns have amusing or striking names: Rowdy, Fisty, Viper, Mousie, Blackey, Lothair and Jeremiah. Here families' ties are often the only social ties and of vital importance. As a northerner I struggled with the intricacies of Betsy's kinfolk relationships. Talk about extended family - this is it!

Outside of Hazard in a narrow valley, we stopped to see the pioneer home of Betsy's grandma. It is a two room cabin, divided by a trotway or breezeway but unified by a roof and porch running round the house. Because many of these historical homes are threatened by dam construction, the state of Kentucky is removing them to safety in an area called Pioneer Village. Later Betsy pointed out an area which will be under water once the dam is built. "I'll believe it when I see it," replied Betsy's mother.

At Pound, Virginia, Betsy took me into a small church beside a rushing stream where I copied an old southern hymn tune "Arise" from the hymnal. Betsy had heard it sung here and wanted to share it with Prairie friends. Sometime soon the recorder group will play it during a Sunday service.

October is also the month for ghosts and we had them a-plenty. At Pleasant Hill, Kentucky we stayed overnight in a restored Shaker village. The room, lit by tiny hurricane lamps, was under a staircase and we could almost hear the tramp of Shaker feet on the stairs. The Shakers have vanished from Pleasant Hill but their beautifully simple tools and furniture remain and the echo of their songs and dances enhance the sparse white meeting house. Outside the village, in the rolling Kentucky countryside, the hills are graced by handsome fieldstone fences - the labor of countless unknown black slaves. The past encroaches on the present and the very stones cry out.

It was a journey into the past. Beginning at Lexington, we saw the homes of Henry Clay, the Great Compromiser, and nearby that of his fiery anti-slavery cousin, Cassius Clay. Mary Todd Lincoln's home is marked as a historical site in downtown Lexington but is sagging and awaiting restoration. In Virginia, I

stood in awe before Monticello and marvelled at what had proceeded from the ordered and enlightened mind of Jefferson - a new plow, a storm window, a seven-day clock as well as the three famous achievements inscribed on his tomb - author of the Declaration of Independence - Statute of Religious Freedom for Virginia and father of the University of Virginia. Jefferson was a childhood hero of mine who has held up.

It is worth the thirty mile trip from Monticello to Staunton, Virginia to see the birthplace of Woodrow Wilson at the Old Manse of the First Presbyterian Church. Visitors are encouraged to see a film based on old newsreels showing Wilson's frustrated attempts at bringing world peace. Young visitors enjoyed Wilson's highly polished Pierce-Arrow car at the foot of the garden.

Near the Virginia-Kentucky border on the way back to Hazard, we rounded a curve and came upon a transfigured sight - a magnificent maple with a blanket of brilliant orange leaves at its feet. Above, a blue cloudless sky and beneath the tree, white tombstones, half submerged, half emerging from the orange coverlet of leaves - the names obliterated by the elements. Someone's beloved dead, I thought, the unsung dead, all those good folks who are left out of the history books. For them, at October's end - All Soul's Day approaches.

--Morning comfort-- Fry sliced apples dipped in sugar in bacon grease until caramelized and brown. Breakfast isn't breakfast in Kentucky without fried apples."

--Ruth Calden

#### Upham Woods...Special Prairie Time

Once again Upham Woods fulfilled the need to retreat and renew. There were many new faces at Upham this year and many who had been there on a number of occasions in the past. The weather was beautiful and the company exceptional. Whether one spent time canoeing in the old channel, hiking on Blackhawk Island, dancing or singing in the Lodge, or communing with one another at Hagen's Tavern - a good time was had by all.

Thanks for organizing the retreat goes to Elizabeth Harald in particular and to a number of others as well. But we may all be proud of our consideration and thoughtful behavior as a group...and wait for that special time to come around again next year.

A special thanks goes to Hermine Davidson, who drove up to camp alone to be sure that those who wished to folk dance were able to do so. Though Hermine could only be with us for a few hours, we appreciated her efforts in making the trip and leading the dances.

#### Minister's Notes

Richard Perry would like to call our attention to two recommended readings for the November 9th program "Humanism and African Religions." David Wiley, the leader of the program, suggests the following books:

John Taylor, The Primal Vision

John Mbiti, African Religions and Philosophy

Both are available in the University Memorial Library and probably in the Madison Public Library.

#### Social Action Fete Successful

The Social Action Committee would like to thank all those who supported the subsistence meal fund so generously. The Social Action Committee was able to send \$75 to UNICEF on behalf of Prairie Unitarian Society.

#### Milwaukee Folk Festival Soon

The Wisconsin Union Outreach and Services Committee will provide free bus transportation to and from the Milwaukee Holiday Folk Fair on Sunday, Nov. 23. Free bus tickets may be picked up in Room 507, Memorial Union, beginning Nov. 5. Admission to the Fair is \$2.50 at the door, or \$2.00 in advance. Deadline for ordering tickets in advance is Nov. 11. Call the Memorial Union for more information.

### Mime Troupe at La Creperie

The Mime Company of Valley Studio, directed by Reid Gilbert, will be appearing at La Creperie, 508 State St., Friday, October 31 and Saturday, November 1. Show-time will be 9:30 p.m. On Sunday the performances will begin at 8:30 p.m. Call La Creperie at 251-9554 for more information.

### Ski Club Slowly Gearing Up

The following is a spotty report on various skiing activities;

- The ski/winter sports equipment exchange this weekend (see calendar) will get us all thinking about our equipment needs for the season. Perhaps we may also consider a winter clothing exchange, especially kids' stuff, since the clothing for this season is both expensive and kids tend to grow out of last year's clothes. In any event, we will shoot, hopefully, for equipping all those who wish to ski or learn how to ski so that all may participate.
- We have already gotten offers for cross country skiing on various peoples' property. Also we may consider state parks, golf courses, the lakes, etc. for cross country. For downhill skiing we may consider weekend trips, every-week-end day trips in a bus rented for that purpose, family season passes at one area with occasional excursions to different areas, etc. Vivian Meyer is in the process of getting information from the DNR, local chambers of commerce, and others about skiing which she will put together and pass around to interested skiers.
- We now number about 27 cross country skiers and about 21 downhill skiers. If anyone else would like to be put on our unofficial membership list please call or speak to Vivian at church on Sunday.
- Ron Fluim has mentioned that the Madison Ski Club will soon be having their annual ski exchange. Only members may participate but membership is only \$5. Also, their organization may be an alternative for participating in week-long trips, discount packages, etc.
- "Ski Scene" will be starting up on Channel 15. The TV program may be seen on Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. (If you're hot for hot dogging. They have some nice photography though and their travels to Chilean glaciers and European-Alps provide excellent material for ski fantasizers.)
- All ideas, suggestions, recommendations, and offers of assistance are in order. We need your input!!

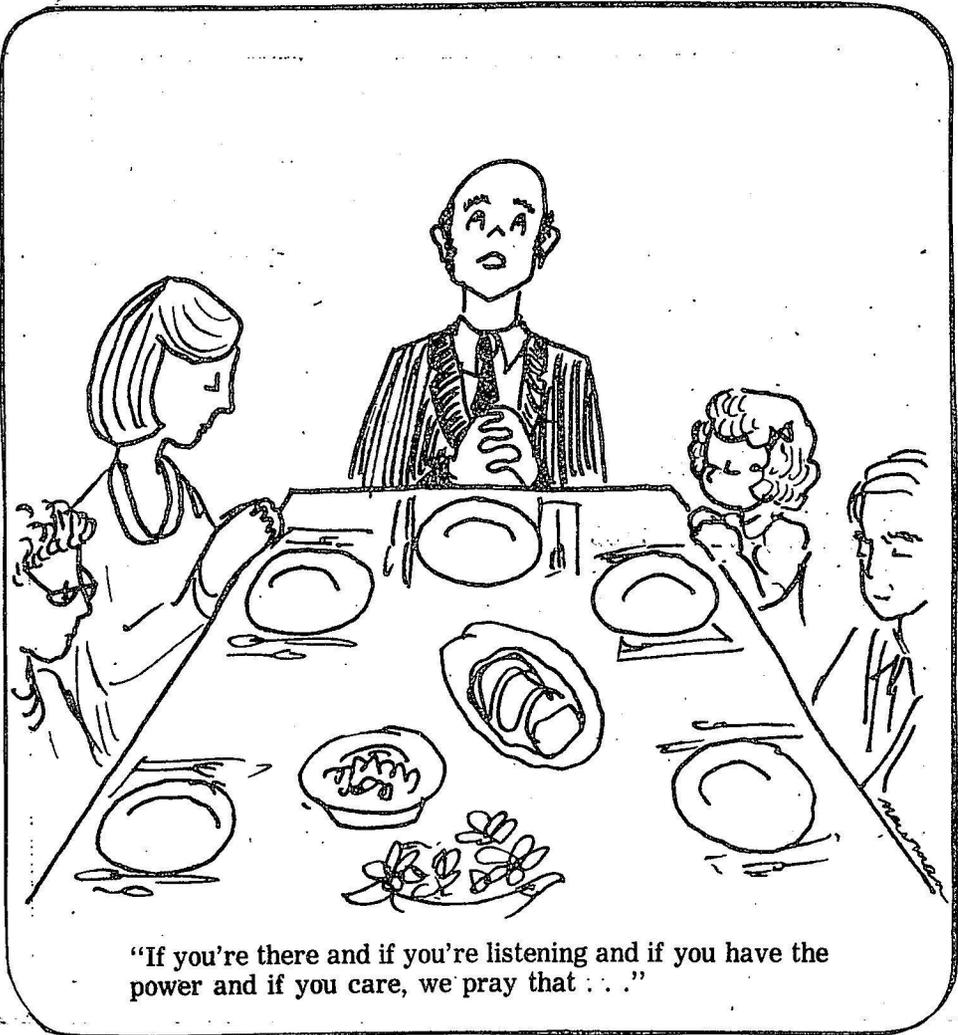
### Bicentennial Corner

"Now is the seed-time of continental union....Freedom hath been hunted round the globe....receive the fugitive, and prepare in time an asylum for mankind."

--Thomas Paine, Common Sense  
January 1776

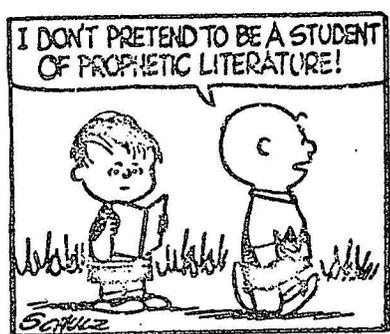
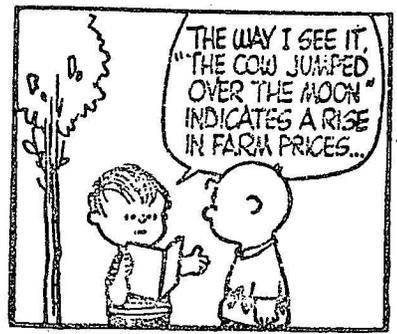
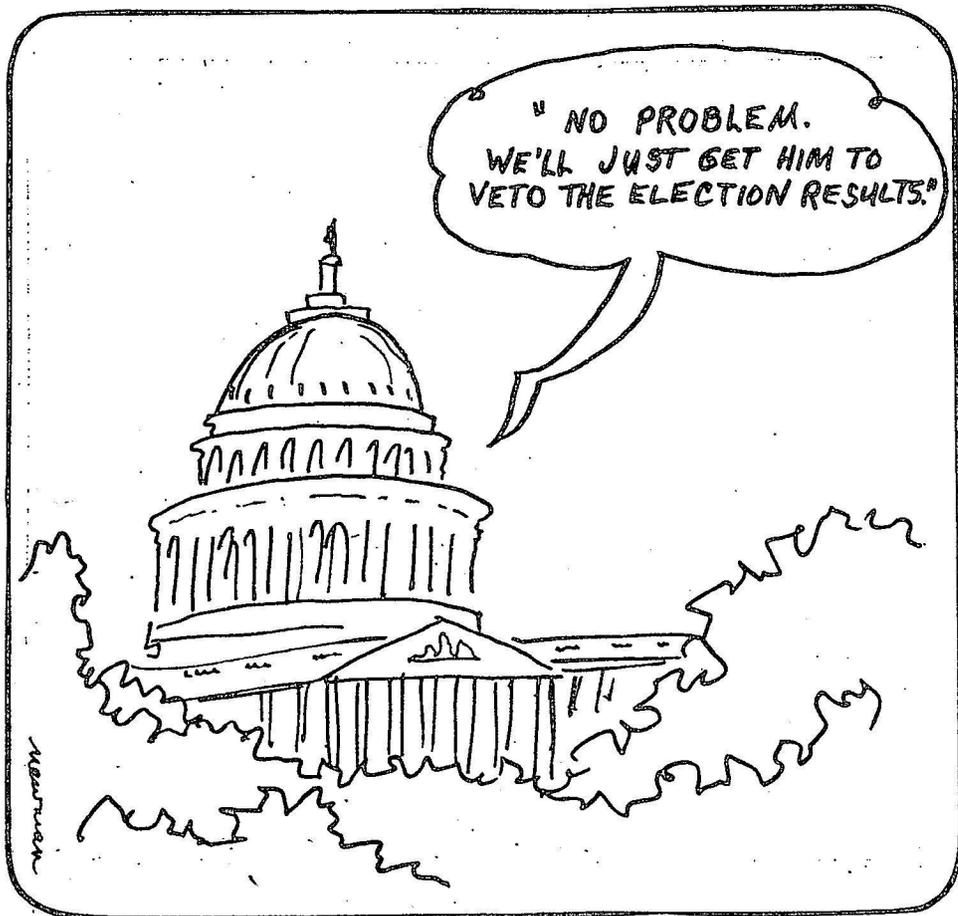
"O that moral science were in as fair a way of improvement (as natural science), that men would cease to be wolves to one another, and that human beings would at length learn what they now improperly call humanity."

--Benjamin Franklin, 1780



"If you're there and if you're listening and if you have the power and if you care, we pray that . . ."

--reprinted from the UUA World



--from The Gospel According To Peanuts by Robert L. Short

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