



PROFILE: KAY ROSSMAN

Kathleen Walker Rossman and her husband Newell are well known to LCSNA members who regularly attend meetings, as they are willing to trek from Sarasota, Florida, to almost any location the Society devises, but they are at least as well known in another milieu-Syracuse University.

These two members of the class of 1939 were both recently awarded Syracuse's Senior Alumni Award. As reported in The Syracuse Record last May, between them they have many years of volunteer and professional service to the university, including Newell's positions as the first director of Development and vice-chancellor for university relations

Kay's involvement in community service has extended beyond the university to many areas and throughout her life, with achievements to her credit such as being president of the Girl's Club of Syracuse, organizing Literacy Volunteers of America, and serving as a hospital trustee. She maintains active concern in library and literacy projects.

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Members' Carroll Collections Are Feature of Fall Gathering

A 19th-century little girl was the cause of some 50 members and guests of the LCSNA converging on the Wheaton Public Library on October 5, 1991. Her name was not Alice, however, but Mabel Hutzler, and her sixth-birthday present in 1892 of a Looking-Glass became the nucleus of the David and Maxine Schaefer Carroll collection. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of this collection, we had an allday meeting in the D.C. suburbs focussed on collecting.

The meeting proper began at 10:30 a.m. when president Charles Lovett summa-

rized the results of the board meeting and brought everyone up to date on the state of the Society. Most encouraging was hearing that the first volume in our pamphlets series is in galleys and is expected in April. Charles also reported that progress is being made on Jonathan Dixon's new illustrated Snark, that thanks to hard work on the part of Francine Abeles and others the Society now has the proper IRS classification to accept contributions tax-exempt for the donors, and that a committee has been formed to plan for the 1994 International Carroll Conference in Princeton.

The president then introduced David Schaefer, who recounted the family origins of his 100-year-old collection. After that 1892 birthday present, David's mother's collection grew, notably in foreign languages on her father's department store buying trips in Europe. David himself became





Dr. Goodacre explores a bibliographical intricacy with a fellow Carrollian.

fascinated with Carroll's symbolic logic, a factor in his becoming a computer scientist with NASA. Although the collection did not languish, it was David's wife Maxine who urged him, even on their honeymoon in Mexico, to find editions of Alice for his mother's collection.

David discussed many of the collection's treasures and some intriguing Carrollian curiosities. For example, the spine on his Appleton Alice had become loose, revealing to the observant Dr. Selwyn Goodacre fragments of a London newspaper, indicating that the Appleton Alice was bound in England! He displayed the smallest Snark and the biggest "Jabberwocky," and shared with

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Editorial— Over There ...

When we see political cartoons of President Bush as a mad hatter, pass a pet store with a sign of a grinning cat, or come across a reference to *Alice* in the latest spy novel we tend to think that our culture is permeated by the influence of Carroll. This may be true, but, as a recent trip to England reminded us, Alice in America does not begin to reach the type of pervasive presence that she enjoys in her homeland.

When Selwyn Goodacre introduced me to members of the Swadlincote Rotary Club as the president of the LCSNA, they seemed genuinely impressed; at home such an introduction is frequently met with bewilderment. After a few days with Selwyn, we travelled to London for the British LC Society's Christmas party and raffle. The raffle table paid tribute to Carroll's popularity as it was piled high with Alice-related advertisements, playbills, and other ephemera. In America would a journalist show up to write a story on the Society dressed in full Mad Hatter regalia? Well, he did in London. Of course, the evening was capped off by viewing a video of the recent Alice toilet paper commercial!

Two days with Carrollian Edward Wakeling gave us an opportunity to explore his collection of video and audio tapes which led to the realization that Alice and Carroll are quite newsworthy in the UK. Television and radio coverage included stories about auctions of important Carroll items, the laying of the memorial stone in Westminster Abbey, and even a program on the 1989 Oxford Conference, featuring interviews with a number of Carrollians (including yours truly).

Our return to London took us to Mike Batt's £2 million musical of The Hunting of the Snark and the Prince Edward Theatre (to be reviewed in the next KL), and the reaction of the audience showed an appreciation of and frequently familiarity with Carroll's poetry not likely to be seen in the USA. Finally, there was Selfridge's. Twelve of the sixteen front windows of this Oxford Street department store were dedicated not to displaying merchandise for Christmas shoppers but to Alice. Each chapter of the book was illustrated by an elaborately designed and animated window display, and around each window was gathered a crowd of adults and children-delighted to share the spirit of the season with Alice.

It was, as always, a joy to visit a country where Alice is a national hero and to bring home the wishes of so many Brits that the Carrollians of America may have a joyous holiday and a prosperous New Year.

MEETING (continued from page 1)

us a very special book that Warren Chappell made for him and his sister.

August Imholtz commented briefly on the collection he and his wife Clare have assembled in the past 12 years. He noted the many friends they have made through their interest in Lewis Carroll and some of the books that friends procured in travels in Europe and the Near East. Friends in the Norwegian diplomatic corps, for example, obtained a Singhalese *Alice* while they were stationed in Kuwait from their maid on one of her visits to her home in Sri Lanka.

The third Washington area collector to talk about his collection was our vicepresident, Alan Tannenbaum. When he was working on developing an IBM spellchecker in 1982, he wanted to use "Jabberwocky" to illustrate how the program worked, and needing a copy of the text bought The Annotated Alice. That, an article on book collecting, and an 1892 Alternus began his now 550-item collection. His packrat mentality is tempered by an Aristotelian precision in classifying and recording (on an IBM, of course) the full bibliographic data and fine points about his purchases. Whenever possible, he attempts to get number 42 of any numbered edition, and knowledgeable realist though he is, Alan still hopes someday to find an 1865 Alice at the bottom of a tub of books.

Our next speaker, the editor of *Jabberwocky*, consummate bibliographer, and long-time collector Dr. Selwyn H. Goodacre, entitled his talk "Peripheral Carroll Collecting." While his primary collection includes over 1500 English editions of the *Alice* books alone, it was the off-shoots of his collection rather than the main trunk he discussed that morning.

Non-Alice books of Alice illustrators such as Tenniel, Furniss, Frost, etc. gradually flowed onto several shelves. Mervyn Peake's illustrated Alice led Dr. Goodacre to join the Mervyn Peake Society and, of course, become a Peake collector too. Then there are the postage stamps, both legitimate stamps from Great Britain and other countries and the phony philatelics Gerald King has invented for Wonderland. After recounting many more examples of the overactive collecting syndrome which can be discerned by the trained practitioner in the rapid and involuntary transformation of the hand into a claw, he closed by mentioning the channel he is currently trying to open—the early poetry of Florence Becker Lennon. Since many of her early poems were broadcast over a New York radio station, their waves are now somewhere far out in space—that would be going too far beyond the periphery even for Dr. Goodacre.

The formal portion of the meeting concluded with a delightful talk by Cathy Newman, author of the June 1991 National Geographic article "The Wonderland of Lewis Carroll." Enjoying more latitude than her editors usually allow, Cathy had her idea accepted in 1989 after having been turned down years earlier, and she began to map the internal and external geography of Wonderland. She viewed with a Carrollian eye such phenomena as girls' rugby and the bathing costumes at Eastbourne. At Christ Church she was not able to interview the Dean but did see the wine cellars once under CLD's stewardship and recreated the July 4 boat trip. The responses to her article were generally positive, including two in mirror writing. Her current assignment is an article on the English-French Chunnel, a word Carroll might have liked very much.

The informal rest of the day began with a delightful lunch at the Schaefers' house. We spent more than two hours looking at their collection, socializing, and generally enjoying ourselves very much indeed. For coffee and dessert, the group proceeded to the Imholtz house. Among the treasures to be examined there were the set of the young Ukrainian artist Oleg Lipchenko's unpublished Alice illustrations that August had recently brought back from the Soviet Union. [Another feature of this stop was a nifty microfiche of the Snark produced by August as a keepsake—Ed.] Around 4:30, most of the members and guests set out to the Tannenbaums' home in Washington Grove. There we enjoyed Alan's collection and Allison's wonderful cooking, featuring oysters, baked Borogoves, and Mock Turtles amid continued conversation. Certainly a white-stone day.

-August A. Imholtz, Jr.

OF BOOKS & THINGS

Looking Glass Letters

Collins & Brown of London has recently published *Lewis Carroll Looking-Glass Letters* in their series *The Illustrated Letters*. It is a handsomely produced volume which tells the story of Carroll's life primarily through his letters, edited and with additional text by Thomas Hinde. Unfortunately, as is frequently the case with series books written on a commission, the contents of the volume do not live up to its sleek look. One wishes that the publisher had hired a Carroll scholar to edit the volume, as well as a good copy editor to proofread it—one photo caption reads "After gaining a first-class degree, he became a permanent member of the common room, and spent

the rest of his life there...." The book is heavily illustrated, and the illustrations are well printed, but the choice is often strange. Full-page illustrations are often given over to relatively irrelevant subjects-a group of men playing tennis, a watercolor of the Crystal Palace, or a completely contrived painting of Victorians at the seaside, while items of real interest (the poster for the original West End production of Alice, Carroll's manuscript calendar of events connected with the publication of *Alice*, and a facsimile

of a Harry Furniss letter) are given small marginal illustration. Still, there is a wealth of material illustrated here-Carroll photographs that have seldom if ever been published, drawings by Carroll and Tenniel, and a few Carroll letters in facsimile. With the emphasis of the book on letters, one wishes that more had been reproduced in facsimile-those few that are, such as Carroll's first extant letter written when he was about five, only serve to tantalize. Though this book does not fulfill the promise of its intriguing cover, most Carrollians will want to add it to their collection. The text reveals nothing new and is not always completely accurate, but the illustrations, even those which are not relevant to the text, catch a bit of the spirit of Victorian England and give a glimpse at some seldom seen tidbits of Carrolliana. The book is widely available in the UK and sells for £14.99. The publisher's address is Mercury House, 195 Knightsbridge, London, SW7 1RE.

The Adventures of Alice

Newly available is Mavis Batey's *The Adventures of Alice*, concerning, as its subtitle reveals, "the story behind the stories Lewis Carroll told." This slim volume tells in narrative form the origins of the two *Alice* books, and while the information

is not new, it is pleasant to be able to read or refer to just this aspect of *Alice* without gleaning biographies and other reference works. Certainly for the amateur who might

pick this up out of curiosity or as a souvenir, Mrs. Batey's book provides a useful and entertaining introduction to the facts behind Oxford's celebrated don and his tale.

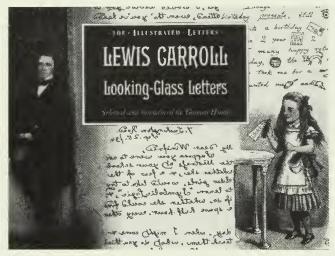
Perhaps the most interesting portion of the book for a Carrollian is the second half, devoted to *Through the Looking-Glass*. Although the origins of *Alice* are so well known to most even moderately serious Carrollians as to be almost trite, the true events and influences behind *Looking-Glass* are recounted

much less often, and so seem much more novel and absorbing. There are throughout the book a few small points with which one might quibble; for instance, Mrs. Batey associates the bonfire preparations at the beginning of Looking-Glass with the celebrations of the wedding of the Prince of Wales in March 1863. It seems much more probable that the setting is the eve of November 5, Guy Fawkes Day, as Alice says twice that she is "seven and a half, exactly," Alice Liddell's birth-

day being May 4. Considering all the debatable tales which abound concerning the true facts behind the *Alices* and their inspiration, though, this little book does a remarkable job of sorting through the dustpiles and producing a creditable account. Published by Macmillan Children's Books in 1991, this paperback retails for £3.50. —Stephanie Lovett

Lewis Carroll's Chess Wordgame

Martin Gardner was not about to let an entry in Carroll's diary for Dec. 19, 1880, slip by unnoticed. "The idea occurred to me that a game might be made of letters, to be moved about on a chess-board till they form words," wrote Carroll, and though he never invented such a game, Gardner has. The game is being marketed by Kadon Enterprises (1227 Lorene Dr., Pasadena, MD, 21122), and comes with a cloth checkerboard and letter tiles. Gardner gave us a private demonstration recently and Carroll would have been pleased—it is something like a cross between checkers, Scrabble, and Doublets. Players manoeuvre tiles in an attempt to form the longest word possible, while preventing the opponent from completing a word.





Lewis Carroll—An Essential Reference Library

Many of the respondants to our recent membership survey wanted more information on various aspects of Carroll's life and works. While the books cited in this piece will doubtless be familiar to many members, we hope that the following overview of reference works will help newcomers to navigate the maze of materials relating to Rev. Dodgson.

Primary Sources

Lewis Carroll left behind a vast amount of unpublished material at his death. Most of this took the form of letters and diaries, and much of it has since been published. The two primary sources which are indespensible to any student of Carroll are The Diaries of Lewis Carroll (1953), and The Letters of Lewis Carroll (1979). Although the Diaries, as edited by Roger Lancelyn Green, omit large sections from the originals, and though the volumes covering much of Carroll's relationship with Alice Liddell are not known to be extant, they remain the single best source for tracking Carroll's everyday movements and activities. While in later years entries become briefer, there is a wealth of material here. The two-volume edition of the Letters, edited by Morton Cohen, contains over 1300 letters covering Carroll's entire literate life. Carroll's views on hundreds of subjects, his feelings about hundreds of people, and his marvelous ability with the language are all revealed here. Other valuable primary (or nearly primary) sources include Lewis Carroll: Interviews and Recollections (1989) and, of course, a good collection of Carroll's published works.

Biography

The first biography of Carroll, written by his nephew Stuart Collingwood, was published shortly after his death and must be given some precedence, if only because it was a major source for virtually all subsequent biographies. Collingwood's book is full of family anecdotes and other material which cannot be gleaned from primary sources. Subsequent biographies have been written by Belle Moses (1910), Langford Reed (1932), Walter De La Mare (1932), Florence Becker Lennon (1947), Roger Lancelyn Green (1947), A. L. Taylor (1952), Derek Hudson (1954, revised and illustrated 1976), James Playsted Wood (1966), Jean Gattègno (1974), and Anne Clark (1979). There are substantial differences in point of view and general approach in these works, and exposure to as many as possible is an advantage to the Carroll scholar. One should also add to the biography shelf Phyllis Greenacre's Swift and Carroll: A Psychoanalytic Study of Two Lives ---- the only fully realized psychological study of Carroll.

Criticism

Few books have been picked apart by such a wide range of critics as *Alice in Wonderland*. The easiest way to sample the spectrum of Carrollian criticism is to dip into *Aspects of Alice* (ed. Richard Phillips, 1970). This includes an excellent selec-

tion of the most important Carroll criticism from before 1970, as well as an extensive bibliography. Former LCSNA president Edward Guilaino has edited three books which provide a good source of criticism since that time (short of perusing the MLA online bibliography)—*Lewis Carroll Observed* (1976), *Lewis Carroll: A Celebration* (1982), and *Soaring With the Dodo* (1982) all contain critical articles along with biogaphical and bibliographical pieces.

Bibliography

The complex bibliographical details of Carroll's publications have been of interest to collectors and librarians since before the publication of the first bibliography in 1924. Any collector of Carroll material must own The Lewis Carroll Handbook in its most recent edition (1979). Though still full of errors and omissions, it is the one indispensable guide to Carroll's publications. The Handbook has been through four editions (1932, 1960, 1970, 1979) and a serious collector will want all four as subsequent editions correct some errors but also omit certain sections. Other useful bibliographical tools include catalogues of particular collections (The Parrish Catalogue, Lewis Carroll atTexas, and Lewis Carroll's Alice-A Bibliographical Checklist of the Lovett Collection); Edward Guiliano's Lewis Carroll An Annotated International Bibliography 1960-1977; and books on specific subjects which include checklists (Alice in Many Tongues by Warren Weaver with its list of Alice translations, and The Illustrators of Alice by Ovenden and Davis with its woefully incomplete, but still useful, checklist of Alice illustrators).

Miscellaneous

Jabberwocky, the Journal of the British Lewis Carroll Society, has featured articles on many aspects of Carroll's life and works since it began publishing in 1969. Updated bibliographical pieces, texts of previously unpubished letters, book reviews, and critical articles all grace its pages. There are many other works on specific aspects of Carroll's life which will be necessary to enthusiasts interested in those areas. Helmut Gernsheim's Lewis Carroll Photographer (1949) explores Carroll's work in that art form in depth; Rodney Engen's recently published biography of John Tenniel and Justin Schiller's monograph on the 1865 Alice and original Tenniel illustrations provide a look at Alice's illustrator; Martin Gardner's Annotated Alice and More Annotated Alice are essential to any student of the Alice texts; and William Bartley's reconstruction of the unpublished portions of Symbolic Logic will lead the reader into yet another facet of Carroll's mind.

The above is only the tip of the iceberg. Books could be written on the subject of Carrollian reference works (in fact, one book has been written, but it is appallingly bad). With access to even some of the books listed above, though, you may begin your journey of discovery into the world of Lewis Carroll.



New York Snarks Over 80

Carrollian

What is the oldest continuously operating organization named after a Carrollian character? Surely it must be The Snarks, Ltd., founded in 1909 by a group of seven theatrically minded women. Since that time, The Snarks have produced plays in New York on a regular basis (annually until 1967, and since then twice a year). Their 1959 50th anniversary program stated that "not wishing to be restricted by a specific name, they organized around Lewis Carroll's poem-in-seven-fits, 'The Hunting of the Snark,' reasoning that since not even the author knew what a Snark was, there was plenty of leeway to follow any course promising interest or amusement." The Snarks have made an effort to present plays of merit which would not ordinarily be produced by commercial theatres. In addition to their scores of productions, they have organized classes in acting, playwriting, make-up, stage lighting, and pantomime, as well as hosting "Huntings"-stunt parties for members and prospective members. Representatives of the Snarks have now joined with the 65-years younger LCSNA, and we were happy to welcome them to our last gathering in New York.

Survey Reveals Diversity

You are not only doctors, lawyers, librarians, teachers and bookdealers. You are actors, editors, artists, police officers, rabbis, students, writers, and mail clerks. You are the 109 respondents to the LCSNA membership survey. Many thanks to you all for this tremendous response. Your diversity of occupations is matched by your diversity of ideas about Lewis Carroll, and this should bode

well for future gatheringsfor our meetings should always be a place for members to exchange ideas about Carroll Notes and his works. Many of you are involved in various writare involved in various writing projects relating to Carroll,

> and we hope you will keep us updated on those projects so that we may inform the membership of their progress and publication. Members expressed interest in virtually all aspects of Carroll and his works, mentioning specific interests in such topics as his sources of inspiration, his relationships with his contemporaries, aspects of dreams, Alice in popular culture, Victorian fantasy, and many others. We have already had the opportunity to use some survey results in the Knight Letter and in planning meetings. Our high percentage of book collectors has inspired the "Bibliographer's Corner," while the large number of members who expressed a desire for a West Coast meeting will be pleased to know that we will meet in San Francisco in the Fall of 1992. We hope to continue to use your ideas and suggestions as much as possible and hope, also, that you will continue to send pieces for the Knight Letter and suggestions for speakers. While one message which was clear from the survey results was "You can't please everybody," we would like to serve the membership in the best ways possible.

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Her interest in Lewis Carroll developed when she used her bachelor's degree in business administration to open the Cheshire Cat Gift Shop. Although she had always liked the Alice books, this new connection heightened her awareness of things Carrollian. Book collecting came as the next step, a natural one, considering her pervasive involvement with libraries and education and Newell's own collection of books on the Panama Canal (he was chief of the Canal Zone Administration's Research and Service Bureau in World War II).

Kay was among the people who discovered the LCSNA through the Smithsonian's coverage of the "Wasp in a Wig," and she attended the joint meeting of the British and North American LC Societies in Oxford in 1982. Her collecting focus has been on the different illustrators of Alice in Wonderland, and she says one of the remarkable aspects of her adventures in collecting Carroll has been the interest other people have taken in her collection.

Flag Kay down at your next meeting, and you're sure to have an interesting talk about illustrated Alices. Newell may well be the most patient Carroll widow on record, so if you're one of that brave and unappreciated band, you've found a fun and interesting compatriot!

-Stephanie Lovett

We recently came across BIBLIOGRAPHER'S an apparently unrecorded variant of the first edition

()of Sylvie and Bruno. At first glance, it appears to be the first American R edition, as it is bound in red cloth with the American decorations-a gold and black leaf decorated band across the top of the front cover and spine, N black floral design at the foot of the front cover, etc. There is a small difference from other copies of the American binding, though. The E publisher's name at the foot of the spine reads "THE MACMILLAN | COMPANY" rather than "MACMILLAN & C°." Internally, however, R the book collates not with the American edition, but with the first London edition. The title pages is dated 1889 rather than 1890, the Macmillan device is present on p. [ii], and the printer is identified as Clay on p [vi]. The only differences from the British edition internally are the white endpapers and the absence of all advertisements. In his bibliography of S & B (Jabberwocky, Summer 1975), Selwyn Goodacre mentions a copy of the American edition without ads in the Parrish collection, which may, if examined closely, be found to collate with this copy. This writer is inclined to believe that this variant was a sample made up for the American salesmen from the British sheets before the American sheets had been printed. I am certainly open to other suggestions, though...

From Our Far-flung



Timothy Halbur, a broadcasting major at San Francisco State, has produced an hour-long version of *Alice* for radio. The production features 17 actors, full music, and sound effects. Halbur says he has remained faithful to the story while adding twists like a beat poet Caterpillar and a jitterbug Lobster Quadrille. Copies of the production on cassette tape are available for \$10, postpaid, from the producer at 2712 A Sutter St., San Francisco, CA, 94115.

Soap opera actor Christopher Durham spends his free time creating works of art out of ostrich eggs. One of his favorite subjects to paint on the eggs is, naturally, Alice in Wonderland. The eggs, which open to display jewelry or music boxes, start at \$600. For more information call (212) 724-7443.

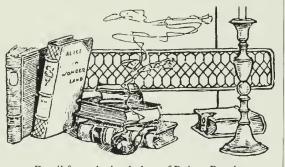
One of Martin Gardner's latest projects is a collection of Peter Puzzlemaker puzzle pages edited from the pages of *John Martin's Book*, a children's magazine founded in 1913. This charming collection of illustrated puzzles for children includes three inspired by the *Alice* books and illustrated after Tenniel. The

book is published by Dale Seymour Publications, P. O. Box 10888, Palo Alto, CA, 94303.

David Del Tredici's new Alice Symphony, the latest in a long line of Alice-inspired pieces, had its world premiere at the Tanglewood Festival in Lenox, Mass., on August 7. The New York Times for Friday, August 9, featured a favorable review of the piece beginning on page C1. The Continental Historical Society, perpetrators of the "Queen Victoria wrote *Alice in Wonderland*" hoax, has issued a newsletter aimed primarily at college professors to whom they are attempting to market their book. A curious piece of ephemera for the collector, but rather horrifying in its revelation that the supposed controversial authorship of *Alice* is actually being taught in the college classroom. The Society is located at 3145 Geary Blvd. #126, San Francisco, CA, 94118.

Alice jewlery continues to abound. The Metropolitan Museum of Art Christmas catalogue features a White Rabbit pin for (can you believe it) \$42, an Alice charm bracelet for \$52, and a Cheshire Cat necklace for \$22. Nature's Jewelry (27 Industrial Ave., Chelmsford, MA, 01824) offers a White Rabbit of onyx and motherof-pearl for \$18.

Museum Collections (921 Eastwind Dr, Westerville, Ohio, 43081) offers a set of four *Alice in Wonderland* sterling silver ornaments for \$148.



Detail from the bookplate of Robert Brooke found in a copy of *Sylvie & Bruno*

Correspondents

Expressions (Department E116-1, 120 North Meadows Rd., Medfield, MA,, 02052) offers a charming Alice tea set with playing cards on the mugs and the tea-pot, and with Alice, the Hatter, and the March Hare perched atop the pot. The teapot sells for \$94.95, and a set of four mugs for \$52.95.

Addison-Wesley Mathematics, a text book published by the Addison-Wesley Publishing Company in 1991, includes word problems based on some of Lewis Carroll's experiences. For instance: "In 1889 Lewis Carroll asked his publisher to raise the price of his book Sylvie and Bruno from 6 shillings to 7 1/2 shillings. How much profit would 500 copies earn at the higher price?" The problems turn on obscure Carrollian trivia such as his dissatisfaction with the printing of the 60th thousand Looking-Glass, and his negotiations with Arthur Sullivan to set Alice songs to music.

The Deepwood Estate, an 1894 Victorian home in Salem, Oregon, sponsors an annual "Alice at Deepwood" festival. The celebration, which was held for the fourth time on September 7 & 8 features

> a croquet tournament, a Mad Tea Party, and a chance to meet Oregon authors. Members of the Friends of Deepwood are costumed as Carrollian characters during the festivities. For the past two years, Deepwood has produced commemorative lapel pins (featuring Alice and the White Rabbit) for the festival. For more information on next year's festival, contact Sherry Bennett, 1226 Manzanita Way NE, Keizer, OR, 97303.

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