

## Advice & more

# Mysterious signature becomes part of book's history



Bill Uhrich

**B**OOKS HAVE a history, almost like an apostolic succession of those who have laid hands upon them.

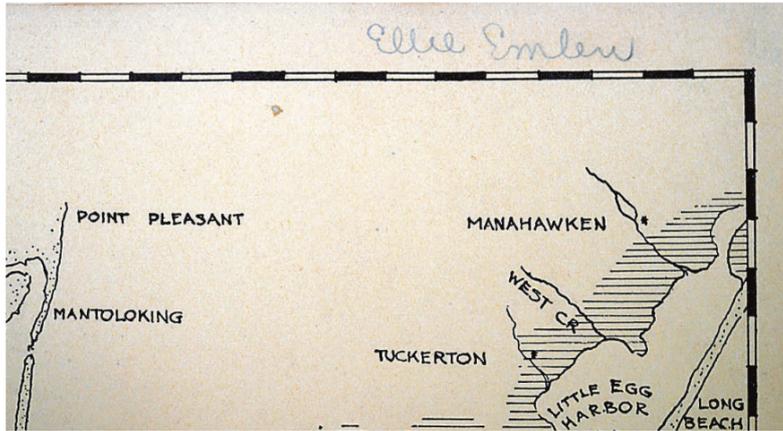
I wrote last week about the Holy Grail set No. 1 of Witmer Stone's "Bird Studies at Old Cape May," now in the collection of the Berks History Center thanks to Valerie Malmberg of Greshville Antiques and Fine Arts, who donated the books last year.

The set is inscribed by Witmer to his wife: "To Lillie M. Stone with love from Witmer Stone and with fond regards of the following who helped so much in the production of 'Bird Studies at Old Cape May.'"

Thirteen signatures follow, including those of Berks County artists and naturalists Earl L. Poole and Conrad Roland. But on the inside cover of the first volume is written in pencil another name, Ellie Emlen. Who was she?

With the help of Google and Scott McConnell of Haddonfield, N.J., Stone's biographer, who published "Witmer Stone: The Fascination of Nature" last year, I am able to fill in some details as to where set No. 1 resided in the years between Lillie Stone's death in 1940 and 2004, when Valerie acquired the set at auction.

Scott emailed me last week with a correction on the photograph of Witmer Stone that ran with the column. I erroneously wrote that the photograph of Stone



Who was Ellie Emlen, whose name appears inside the cover of set No. 1 of "Bird Studies at Old Cape May"?

pasted opposite the title page was taken outside his home, but it was outside the home of Herbert Brown, a lifelong friend of Stone's, who contributed some illustrations to the work.

I asked Scott if he had any information about Ellie Emlen.

After Lillie Stone died in 1940, he wrote, Arthur C. Emlen, a friend of Stone's and president of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club when Stone published "Bird Studies," came into possession of some books and other material from Stone's collections.

Arthur Emlen was one of the 13 signers of set No. 1. Ellie was his daughter. They took these materials to the family cottage in New Hampshire.

As a side note, a majority of Stone's library was acquired by Poole following

Lillie's death for the Reading Public Museum with a grant from Henry Janssen, who with Ferdinand Thun was a founder of the Wyomissing Industries.

Unfortunately, the museum deaccessioned Stone's books in the late 1990s, and his library no longer exists intact.

Before the deaccession, I had the opportunity to browse through Stone's books at the museum while I was researching "A Century of Bird Life in Berks County, Pennsylvania," and was fascinated by the contents of the library of a great early 20th century naturalist.

Back to Ellie Emlen.

Ellie was born in 1925 into an old Germantown Quaker family, and her father, who owned set No. 9, instilled a love of nature in his daughter.

A biography of Ellie written by her

husband, J. Wilson Myers, on the Brown University website, explains: "Birds were Ellie's passionate interest. Often, at sunrise, before the family was awake, she would walk quietly through Awbury (arboretum) with binoculars to watch and listen as the birds began to stir. In eighth grade, her spotting of a rare subspecies of warbler was reported in the local newspaper. Soon she went on DVOC field trips with her father and her favorite among his friends, ornithologist Witmer Stone, President of the Academy (of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia). The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club had been an all-male bastion until an exception was made for Ellie's enthusiasm. She learned to identify birds by their calls, color and shape, by their behavior, habitat and patterns of flight."

Ellie collaborated with her husband on archaeological expeditions and as the photographer for "The Aerial Atlas of Ancient Crete."

While on an expedition with her husband in Greece in May 1996, she suffered a seizure that indicated a brain tumor.

Her husband writes: "Leaving Greece, and after surgery in Boston, she was able to return home for another six months to rural Tamworth, N.H., but never recovered. Bedridden by a window looking out on her bird feeder, she was characteristically brave and even cheerful with visiting friends as she weakened toward a December death."

Part of her surroundings in that New Hampshire cottage was set No. 1 of "Bird Studies at Old Cape May."

Books have histories.

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## Quotable

*"Pride is an admission of weakness; it secretly fears all competition and dreads all rivals."*

**Bishop Fulton J. Sheen**, American religious leader (1895-1979)

## On this date in history:

**1913**, the American Cancer Society was founded in New York under its original name, the American Society for the Control of Cancer.

**1915**, the Lassen Peak volcano in Northern California exploded, devastating nearby areas but causing no deaths.



**1935**, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appeared before Congress to explain his decision to veto a bill that would have allowed World War I veterans to cash in bonus certificates before their 1945 due date.

**1939**, the foreign ministers of Germany and Italy, Joachim von Ribbentrop and Galeazzo Ciano, signed a "Pact of Steel" committing the two countries to a military alliance.

**1947**, the Truman Doctrine was enacted as Congress appropriated military and economic aid for Greece and Turkey.

**1968**, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Scorpion, with 99 men aboard, sank in the Atlantic Ocean. (The remains of the sub were later found on the ocean floor 400 miles southwest of the Azores.)

**1992**, after a reign lasting nearly 30 years, Johnny Carson hosted NBC's "Tonight Show" for the last time.



## Dear Abby

ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

## Housemate helps herself to dinner

**Dear Abby:** I share a large house with two other women. The homeowner, "Mary," works from a home office during the day. "Sue" is her baby sister. She has two small children and doesn't work. She lives here rent-free thanks to Mary's generosity. I pay rent. We keep all our food separate and eat our meals separately. We each have our assigned shelves in the refrigerator and cupboards.

Today I mentioned to Sue that I was making meatloaf tonight, and before I could say I'll save you a slice, she invited herself to help me eat it. I was so flabbergasted I couldn't think of a response. She also told both of her kids and a girlfriend of hers who came over to visit that "we" were all having meatloaf for dinner. I didn't realize it until the last minute.

I don't mind sharing once in a while, but I live on a fixed income. I had planned for the meatloaf to last the rest of the week for my dinners and sandwiches for lunch. I finally told her, just as the meatloaf was done, that I had made it for myself and not to share with everyone.

Now I feel like a heel, but I'm realizing that whenever I make a large amount of food, Sue seems to think it's to share. Why am I feeling bad about this when it was she who put me on the spot? How can I avoid this in the future? This isn't the first time it has happened. — *Puzzled in the West*

**Dear Puzzled:** You may feel guilty because you are not used to standing up for yourself, but if you don't speak up, this person will not respect your boundaries. Sue should not assume she's entitled to any of your food regardless of the amount you prepare. To prevent this from happening again, schedule a house meeting — without the children — and say it loud and clear.

**Dear Abby** appears daily, distributed by Universal Press Syndicate. The column is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



## Annie's Mailbox

KATHY MITCHELL AND MARCY SUGAR

## Sick woman gets harsh treatment

**Dear Annie:** I recently attended a large social event fundraiser with some close friends. We were seated at tables of 10, and finger food was passed around.

One of the women sitting at my table ("Claudia") said she couldn't eat much because she hadn't been feeling well. There were no outward signs of a cold or other communicable disease, so we just assumed she had a mild stomach upset. Two days later, Claudia notified us that she couldn't make a meeting because she had become much worse and was extremely sick.

Three days after the social event, five of the 10 women at the table came down with a flulike illness that included severe chest congestion and coughing. It lasted more than a week and was exhausting.

One of the other women is extremely upset and openly criticized Claudia for attending the event knowing full well that she was sick, and worse, picked up the finger food from a common tray that we all touched. The woman claims Claudia was selfish to attend without regard to the well-being of others. When does common sense come into play? — *Recovering at the Lake*

**Dear Recovering:** Unfortunately, there is rarely advance warning that "not feeling well" is going to turn into something serious and contagious. Had Claudia felt queasy enough to throw up or had she been coughing and sneezing all over the finger food, she should have excused herself and gone home, but that doesn't seem to have been the case. It's also possible that Claudia wasn't the source of the illness at all. Perhaps one of the food handlers was sick. These things happen. We think Claudia should be forgiven.

**Annie's Mailbox** appears daily, distributed by Creators Syndicate. The column is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the *Ann Landers* column. Please email your questions to [anniesmailbox@creators.com](mailto:anniesmailbox@creators.com), or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 Third St., Hermosa Beach, CA 90254.



## Grandparenting

Key Kidder

## 'Most sedentary generation ever?'

**Dear Grandparenting:** My grandson David's idea of the outdoors is the distance he must travel to get from his house to the car. He must be the laziest lump in the Western Hemisphere. David has no interest whatsoever in anything outside. The first thing he does when he finds himself outdoors is to complain that it's too hot or too cold. Happens every time! About the only place my grandson is comfortable is inside his hermetically sealed world with his chubby face staring into some contraption like a computer or cellphone.

I know you've heard this all before, but now it's my turn. It is pathetic how David's generation (he is 12) is so content doing little or nothing. It's like they don't even need their legs for all that much. They're missing out on healthy exercise and the greatest show on earth. Thank you hearing me out. — *Deuce, San Diego*

**Dear Deuce:** Are today's young grandchildren the most sedentary generation ever? You won't get any argument from us on that point. When grandchildren are awake in this day and age, they are either online or headed in that direction. According to multiple studies, America's teens spend an average of eight or nine hours each day using their various digital technology devices, not counting schoolwork. Adolescents are not far behind.

Getting out into the real outdoors has become problematic. Wander too far off and you run the risk of dropping off the grid and losing touch. What good are gadgets then? Why go to all that trouble in the first place when tens of thousands of enchanting virtual worlds are just a few computer clicks away?

That's why America and other developed nations are producing bumper crops of grandchildren resembling pale flabby lumps.

**Grandparenting** appears Sundays. Contact Dee and Tom Hardie and Cousin Key at 830 W. 40th St., Suite 304, Baltimore, MD 21211 or email them at [grparentng@aol.com](mailto:grparentng@aol.com).



## Hints From Heloise

HELOISE

## An end to confusion about ceiling fans

**Dear Heloise:** I've read a few hints in our paper about knowing the difference between the pull chains on ceiling fans. I have ceiling fans in my house, and remembering which chain turns on the fan and which one turns on the light often escaped me. So here's my hint:

First, I added extra chains to each pull chain so that I could reach them comfortably without help. Secondly, I made the light chain longer than the fan chain.

This helps me remember that the long chain is the light chain — L for L. Works for me! — *Teresa P. in Houston*

**Dear Heloise:** When my husband and I travel, I will cross-pack our clothes. I put half of my clothes and half of my husband's clothes in each suitcase and one change for us in each carry-on.

Then I make a list of everything in each bag so that locating something is easy. The lists go in each carry-on. If luggage comes up missing, everything is documented for the airline.

It takes a little more time to do this, but when our bags leave our possession, I know that we will have some clothes to wear should our luggage get lost. — *R.T. in Texas*

**Dear Heloise:** When we built our cabin on the lake, I didn't want to purchase a new king-size headboard. I bought a damaged one at a charity donation retail store and upholstered it. When I was ready to tuft it (a decorative way of securing padding or material to hold the padding in place), I decided to use white waxed dental floss. This floss worked really well because it didn't slip when I tied the knot in the back. I could even tie it once, walk around to see if it was right and then go back to finish tying it. — *Jacque G. in Texas*

**Hints From Heloise** appears Monday, Wednesday, and Sunday, distributed by King Features Syndicate. Send a great hint to Heloise, P.O. Box 795000, San Antonio, TX 78279-5000, or you can email it to [heloise@heloise.com](mailto:heloise@heloise.com).