



The following is either a one-shot of limited circulation, a special occasion letter substitute; or it is the start of something I may wish never began, i.e., a full-blown letter-substitute cum personal zine. If I can really work it, I may use it as a continuing "feature" of my apa memberships and send only this part out to others with whom I am trying desparately to maintain some kind of written contact. In either case, I do not wish this publication to be reviewed or mentioned in fanzine review columns: this is just for YOU. And in both cases this is a (just named:) OBSESSIVE PRESS publication #50, by Jeanne Gomoll, 2018 Jenifer Street, Madison, Wisconsin, USA 53704; phone: 608-241-8445. All contents copyrighted c, Jeanne Gomoll 1979.

This is being written on the order of a change-of-address zine, only instead it comes to you not with news of boxes packed and new bookshelves, but of a different sort of change: one that (lucky you) won't involve your having to change your mailing lists.

Starting Monday, August 27, I will start work with the State of Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Parks and Natural Resources as a real live, *official*, artist. I will be called a "Graphic Artist 2" in fact and will do maps, illustrations for environmental impact statements, illustrations and layouts for brochures, and will edit and layout a newspaper sort of newsletter for the bureau. And I will earn a good salary.

Flashback... You may remember that I majored in Geography way back in 1969-1973 in the U. of Wisconsin, and decided way back then to forsake my plans for a career in Urban and Regional Planning in hopes of finding a way to involve myself in some sort of publication. That's when I found the Madison SF group starting JANUS up and threw my lot in with them. With no educational background in art, I made my work with the group into an apprenticeship so that throughout this last year I have been relatively certain that I would be able to support myself eventually with freelance artwork. I've also been applying regularly for graphic-related jobs (mostly in the Madison area, but also in Seattle), and recently I told myself that within 6 months I'd either have one of those jobs or be supporting myself on business I'd found for myself.

When they called me in for the interview they said it was primarily a job for a drafting-experienced person. I almost decided not to go to the interview since I have no background at all in that. But I did: they said to come in anyway, that my application looked interesting. It turned out that the thing they liked was the combination of publishing/art and my Geography background in environmental planning. (Finally I can tell people what I majored in without causing them to giggle or stare at me with puzzlement.) And as they described the position to me I realized that what they called "drafting" I called graphics and that nearly everything they showed me were things that I had a lot of experience doing. My

enthusiasm started showing and I came away from the interview feeling that I'd never been as confident and self-assured as I had at that interview. I figured that I really had a chance. However when I didn't hear for almost a month, I figured that one of the other several hundred applicants had gotten the job. Turned out though, that the people who made the decision were mostly on vacation that month and it just took them a while.

I got the letter last Thursday, and I've been carrying it around in my vest pocket ever since, pulling it out, unfolding it and showing it to anyone who hadn't heard my news yet. I'm hardly noticing that I won't be able to make it to the NorthAmerican after all. I'm really eager to start work in fact.

The Department of Natural Resources is a good place to work I think. It is not a popular political post (since the Department does a lot of unpopular things like save wetlands and oppose the nuke forces, etc.), but I think it will be a comfortable human place to work. I'll let you know. Right now I'm still riding high with the feeling that I've somehow "made it".

That's what I wanted to tell you. As I contemplated the number of people I wanted to know, and the couple days before I start work at the DNR, I realized that a one-shot info sheet might be the answer. But I have more room, so I'll tell you some more things.

Like for instance JANUS 15 is out in the mail now. We finished it about 2 months ago, and it sat around in our printer's office for all that time. That situation involves a lot of problems and we've talked about switching printers, but really at this point we can't afford that. Randy is a fan and essentially gives us his labor for nothing. However, in the interum, waiting for the issue to come off the press, we did practically all the typing on JANUS 16, and depending on when Randy can committ himself to doing that issue, I'll start laying out that issue. I do want to wait however, because this time I found out that if we lett the issue sit around too long, the wax has a tendency to dry out and allow pieces of paper to drift around a bit on the gallies. You may notice that when you see the issue. (And it's speeding to you right now, 3rd class snail).

Besides JANUS, I've been working on a logo for stationary/business cards for a Madison corporation, TECHNICAL RESOURCES; doing a little work for Madison General Hospital (some illustrations for brochures); doing a whole mess of illustrations for Joyce Scrivners FAMOUS FANNISH LEGENDS (Rosemary Ulyot's column in ENERGUMEN --doing all the illustrations over again that were not done by Alicia Austin), some art for KRATOPHANY and a Southern magazine that I forget the name of... I've been getting involved in the Madison Review of Books, helping Jim Cox correspond with the publishers and ordering free books (it's soooo much fun! It reminds me of being a kid and looking through the Penny's catalog at Christmas time: "I want that and that and that and that..."). Only they really send the books! Anyway. And I have been drawn into the monthly televised D&D game as the game artist: I draw characters and monsters to help out the tv audiences as they try to visualize the characters and action. I'm probably going to be involved in the planning of the WORT-FM radio listener survey if it ever gets funded. And I've even found time to do some reading, but there doesn't seem to be enough room here to list the books I've gone through recently. I've got the feeling that it's going to be a busy Fall...

If I decide to continue this letter-substitute on a regular basis, it will no doubt be longer. If not, I'll talk to you all again in another form, one way or the other. See you.

Love,
Jeanne