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## On the Road - Woman with the Striped Dress On...

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# On the Road — Woman with the Striped Dress On...

*A glimpse at "Life in the Trenches" — "On the road again/ Just can't wait to get on the road again..."*

Column Editor, **Don Jaeger** (Alfred Jaeger, Inc.) <don@ajaeger.com>

*This story was told by Edna Laughrey from Aux Amateurs De Livres. Now that the travel season is in full swing, I am looking forward to receiving stories from those commercial reps who have been pounding the pavement these last few months. Surely, some of you have encountered some humorous situations that we can all share. Now for Edna's adventure. — DJ*

## Woman with the Striped Dress On ... by Edna Laughrey

Participating in the **American Library Association** Conventions has been a major focus of my professional life. I became an active member of ALA within the first year of getting my MLS from the University of Michigan in 1969. Over the years I have encountered several unique experiences as a part of the conference circuit, and it is the first major snafu that I still chuckle about. At that time I was Head of Acquisitions at the **University of Michigan Library** and attending the **Business of Acquisitions Pre-Conference** in Chicago.

In the early evening of the day prior to the pre-conference, I checked into the hotel and found that my roommate, **Harriet Rubeldela**, Head of Acquisitions at the **University of Colorado at Boulder**, was already in the room and not feeling well. She thought she just needed food to settle the feeling of nausea. I quickly unpacked, put my clothes on hangers, and flung the hangers on the rod in the closet.

We soon headed off for food and to search for colleagues who were also staying in the hotel. As we ate, Harriet began to feel better and several other planning committee friends and speakers joined us in the restaurant. Upon

completion of our meal, the group of about eight decided to adjourn to the bar, where we could continue our discussions. Harriet and I did not return to our room until very late, and we immediately went to bed feeling confident about the next few days.

In the morning, we awoke with high hopes about the pre-conference we had helped plan. Our late night discussions had proven that everyone was excited about the topic and that the speakers and discussion leaders were well-prepared.

As I began to prepare for the day, I went to the closet, looked at my dresses and carefully selected the one I would wear on that first day. At this point I encountered a major disaster! As I pulled the dress from the hanger, I discovered that the dress seemed to stick to the wall. I gingerly tugged on the pieces of my dress that would not come loose from the wall and wondered why I was having this strange problem. When I finally got the dress out of the closet, I examined it and found a white streak on the arm and skirt of the dress.

I gently removed another dress from the closet and saw that it too was stuck to the wall. As I removed each dress from the closet, I found, to my horror, that each one was similarly stuck to the wall and had a white stripe on the arm and skirt.

Harriet selected her clothing and had no problem. Only my half of the closet had a sticky substance on the back wall. It almost appeared that the closet had been painted, but who paints half the back wall of the closet? Was this related to Harriet's feeling of nausea the day before? If the issue was a recently painted closet, why would a major hotel rent a room with a freshly painted closet? The

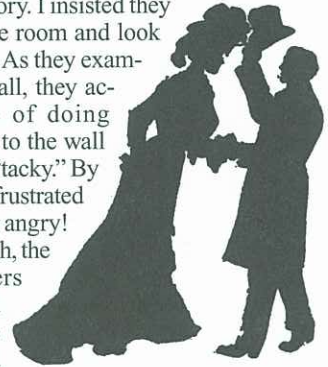
more Harriet and I talked, the stranger the situation seemed to be.

Wearing a lesser stained dress, I carried the most obviously soiled ones to the hotel manager's office. Instead of attending the early sessions of the pre-conference, I spent the next hour with the hotel management staff. They could not believe they had done anything to cause the stains on my dresses. First, the manager, and then the rest of the staff who joined us, flatly refused to believe my story. I insisted they come to the room and look at the wall. As they examined the wall, they accused me of doing something to the wall to make it "tacky." By then I was frustrated and getting angry! Sure enough, the work orders showed that the closet had been painted. They said they would send the dresses to the cleaners, and that the dresses would be back at the hotel that evening.

I went to the pre-conference in my slightly soiled garment, wondering what people would ask about the stains. No one asked.

The cleaners could not remove the stains, because the chemicals would have burned holes in the cloth. There was no time for new clothing, so I spent the entire week wearing clothing with a white stripe on the right side. Can you imagine the humiliation?

Perhaps I should feel content in knowing the stripe was not down the middle of my back! 🐾



## Rumors

from page 14

Noble's online venture, Barnesandnoble.com, for \$200 million. For the complete story see <http://interactive.wsj.com/articles/>.

This just out as we go to press. A Federal judge in California has ruled that publishers of journals and other collective works do not own the rights to sell the individual articles. The ruling on authors' rights, by U.S. District Judge Fern M. Smith, came in a copyright-infringement case brought in October 1997 by four freelance writers against **UnCover**. Hmmm. This could turn academe on its ear if the ruling holds. It has been appealed. In the meantime, see the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Monday, October 19, 1998, "Copyright Ruling Could Strengthen Authors' Control Over Writings, Observers Say," by **Goldie Blumenstyk**.

Just heard from **Corrie Marsh** who is now back at **Endeavor!** She will be at the **Charleston Conference!** Look for her.

Whew! That's all the rumors for now. More in December! Happy Thanksgiving! 🐾

## Group Therapy

from page 93

Similarly, the **University of Buffalo Libraries Health Science Library** maintains a list of active donation programs for books and journals on their Web site at <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries>. Another option is to make the indexes available at another location on campus, thus allowing more users access to the database at the same time.

In short, to save space and to avoid confusion among our users, and because we can think of no compelling reason to keep them, we discard the semi-annual volumes of **CA** after the **Collective Index** arrives. However, the library has just recently subscribed to **SciFinder Scholar**. In order to pay for **SciFinder Scholar** in the future, we are considering not purchasing the 14th Collective Index. At that point, deciding what to do with the semi-annual pieces will no longer be an issue. 🐾