



Rip Rap

February Meeting

When: Wednesday, Feb. 5
Where: JR Ranch, Hudson
Dinner: 6:30
Program: 8:00

Argentine Trout Safari with Bob White
(see back page for details)

President's Lines:

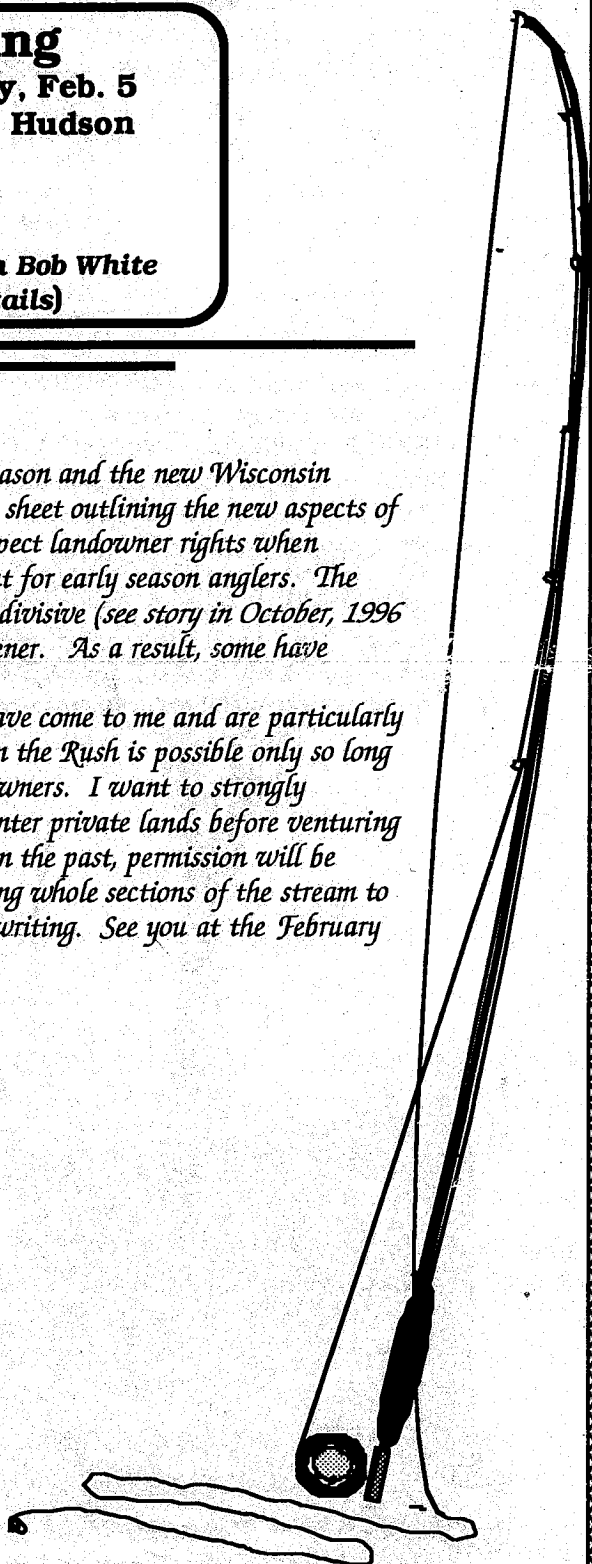
This month I would like to talk about the upcoming early season and the new Wisconsin trespass law. Elsewhere in RipRap (see insert) you will find a fact sheet outlining the new aspects of this ordinance. Every angler should be aware of the changes and respect landowner rights when gaining access to their favorite stream. This is particularly important for early season anglers. The debate over the establishment of the Wisconsin early season was very divisive (see story in October, 1996 RipRap). Many property owners value the tradition of the May opener. As a result, some have posted or threatened to post their land.

Reports of postings by property owners on the Rush River have come to me and are particularly troubling since the Rush has so little public access. Fishing access on the Rush is possible only so long as good relationships exist between the angling public and the landowners. I want to strongly encourage all of you to review the fact sheet and ask permission to enter private lands before venturing out in March. Do not assume that because access has been allowed in the past, permission will be freely given this time. Lack of goodwill could cost us dearly by closing whole sections of the stream to fishing. Always get permission to cross private land, preferably in writing. See you at the February meeting.

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Sincerely,
 Gary Horvath



Tracy Peterson releases previously unknown secret killer fly recipe.....

"This is one of the first patterns I had been asked to tie for the shop. Mike Alwin said it was called Bob's Beadhead Flashback Strip Nymph. When I asked him what it looked like, he said: 'I dunno, I just made up the name, you do the fly.' This fly has caught everything from local trout and smallmouth bass to muskies, as well as countless panfish and largemouth bass in regional lakes "

Hook:	TMC 105 #6
Bead:	Copper 3/16
Thread:	Brown Uni-thread 6/0
Tail:	Grizzly Rabbit Strip with Flashabou
Wingcase:	10 to 15 strands of Flashabou
Thorax:	Fox Squirrel, off the hide
Collar:	Mixture of Fox Squirrel and Rabbit

1. Place bead on hook, secure hook in vise. Wrap thread behind the bead to secure it to the hook shank.
2. Tie in two strands of Flashabou, then add a Rabbit Strip tail, and finally tie in another two strands of Flashabou to the top side of the hook shank. Cut Flashabou to the length of the tail.
3. Secure 10 to 15 strands of Flashabou to the hook shank. Dub a small amount of rabbit near the back of the tail to cover up the tie in point.
4. Create a dubbing loop. Cut a section of hair from the hide of a Fox Squirrel, place in the dubbing loop and spin. Wind forward to just behind the hook eye.
5. Pull Flashabou wingcase over the top of the thorax, separating the Squirrel to create a flat dorsal surface. Tie off and clip the ends of the Flashabou.
6. Dub a small amount of Squirrel and Rabbit on your thread and form a fur collar at the head of the fly.
7. Tie off, whip finish, and cement.



Tracy Peterson poses proudly after delivering a lecture on tying Bob's Beadhead Flashback Strip Nymph to an almost totally appreciative audience....

Another Killer, from Mike Alwin...

This fly is the most nondescript fly you've ever seen, yet we sell dozens of them here in the shop. Customers who try them swear by them and it's the one fly I won't be without. The pattern originated from my attempts to imitate the emerging Baetis, which is classified as a swimming mayfly. The trick to using it is to quarter it downstream, imparting absolutely no action. Geezer and I call it 'stupid fishing' and there's a growing cadre of anglers around here who are practicing this simple and effective technique. While the architecture of the fly can be adapted to a number of other emerging insects, it seems to be most effective for the Baetis, perhaps because the spring creeks in our area produce so many of them.



Hook: Tiemco 3761, #18

Thread: Black or Grey 8/0

Tail: Woodduck or Mallard flank fibers, slightly shorter than the hook shank.

Body: Grey dubbing, preferably with a little Antron mixed in, producing a slim outline.

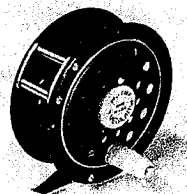
Wing: Marabou, either light or medium grey, tied sparse and angled up over the back, clipped to about half the shank length.

Jim Humphrey on Reels.....

In the February, 1996 issue of RipRap, Skip James discoursed on the utility and quality of fly reels, concluding, accurately I thought, that he'd not pay a premium for reels hand carved from bar stock and adorned with disc drags. In the May 1996 issue, Mike Alwin asked "Can you stand a few more paragraphs on reels?"

I've been thinking about reels ever since. I have used Pflueger Medalists (later, Shakespeare) since before World War II, and they have never failed, even on the run of cutthroat from the Yellowstone, rainbow from the Rio Grande and San Juan, and respectable browns from several Midwest streams. Mike noted that the Medalists were 'the most durable and enduring,' although susceptible to distortion if dropped

Those old faithfuls were made in Akron, Ohio. Now they, like everything else it seems, are manufactured overseas, but the construction appears to be identical (if not quite so well finished). Both my 1494 and 1495 reels have side plates separated by pillars, a click mechanism, and a simple and sturdy adjustable drag. Because very little is perfect in this world, the Medalists can use some tinkering. Sometimes a reel will shed one of the screws that hold the side plates to the pillar, so I back out each screw and add a drop of Elmer's Blue to permanently seat it. And about once a year I bathe the brake mechanism in Armorall. And that's it...except, I never drop a reel.



Kiap-TU-Wish Bulletin Board

Why do we Brush?....

Kiap-TU-Wish carries out a brushing project on the upper Kinnickinnic each winter. While some members think this is to make the stream more open for flycasters, the real reason has to do with habitat improvement. According to Dr. Robert Hunt's study of trout streams, **"the best stocks of trout in abundance and growth rate tend to be found in meadow-type reaches."** Another study by White and Brynildson advocates the maintenance of a **"sturdy turf"** of grasses, broad-leaved annuals and low shrubs through use of such techniques as controlled burning, periodic mechanical brush cutting, application of selective herbicides, seeding and fencing to exclude livestock. Then a radical concept, they discouraged the planting of trees next to Wisconsin trout streams unless there is reasonable evidence that summer temperatures for trout would be improved by doing so. Dr. Hunt summarizes the benefits of brushing:

"If increased solar heat does not produce deleteriously high water temperatures, reduction of woody shade canopy could have several beneficial consequences for trout and the sport fishery they sustain:"

1. *Increased aquatic weed growth creates shelter, and promotes scouring and the formation of undercut banks.*
2. *Grassy stream banks are less susceptible to erosion, and accentuate channel sinuosity (curves and bends).*
3. *Aquatic weed growth provides shelter for insects and other invertebrate trout food.*
4. *Meadow banks grow lots of grasshoppers and crickets which provide food for trout when numbers of aquatic insects are on the decline in mid summer.*
5. *Trout grow larger because they have more shelter and more food.*
6. *Open banks enhance angler access.*

The Wisconsin DNR has carried out research to scientifically validate these management techniques. One study was carried out on the Kinni from 1972-77. It found that there were more trout in three of five treatment zones, and increased growth rates, (more big ones) in all five zones.

Hunt, Robert; Removal of Woody Streambank Vegetation to Improve Trout Habitat, Wisconsin DNR Technical bulletin No. 115, 1979.
White and Brynildson; Guidelines for Management of Trout Stream Habitat in Wisconsin, DNR Technical bulletin No. 39, 1967,

Two Families donate permanent conservation easements to The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust...

The Maureen Ash and Richard Purdy family donated one of the two recent conservation easements to the land trust. They raise draft horses and crops on their 180 acre farm, which is located at the headwaters of the Rocky Branch tributary to the Kinni. Another family set aside more than three quarters of a mile of river frontage and opened the riverbank to public use.

Mounds Dam Update...

Excerpts from Representative Sheila Harsdorf's recent letter.

Mr. John Hagman of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has indicated that they (sic) will be meeting with the consulting firm of Short, Elliott, Hendrickson, Inc. within the next few weeks to begin the process ...to prepare documents for the bid letting process. Mr. Hagman also indicated his intent to give the contractor one year in which to complete the removal.

In approving removal of the dam, the Building Commission required the DNR to make every effort to mitigate the environmental impact resulting from the removal of the dam and to replace the shore fishing opportunities that would be lost..., including sediment stabilization and dredging, construction of shore fishing stations and supporting facilities in the Rattle Bridge area, installation of a floating fishing pier in Little Falls Lake, improvement of lake and shore fishing access on other area lakes, and ...working with the local chapter of Trout Unlimited to expand fishing opportunities in the area. Once the removal is complete, the DNR expects that another year of work will be necessary to complete the added contingencies.

Editor's Note: How about a portable shore fishing structure on the Willow Branch for handicapped anglers, provided and maintained by Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of TU.

Jon Jacobs proposes changes to Chapter's bylaws....

I intend to introduce a motion at the March, 1997 business meeting to amend Article III, Section 1 of the chapter's bylaws. Here is the relevant section with my proposed changes in bold print:

Section 1: The property and affairs of the chapter shall be managed and controlled by a Board of Directors composed of **seven (7) elected members. At least four three year term board members shall be residents of the state of Wisconsin. In even numbered years, there shall be elected one (1) board member whose term shall be for two years and whose name shall be placed in nomination from the floor by a qualified member with the second of a qualified member. Nominations for the two year board member's term shall be limited to two (2). Candidates for the two year term must be present at the meeting. If there is more than one candidate, voting shall be by secret ballot. If there are no nominations from the floor, the position shall remain unfilled until the next even numbered year's annual meeting. Any board member elected to the two year term position must be elected by a majority of the qualified members present at the business meeting. At each annual meeting in March there shall be elected by the qualified membership two directors, each of whose term shall be for three years.**

I believe this change would benefit the chapter in several ways. First, the chapter has always attracted the 'brightest and best' to serve on its board. The current board is an example of this and I am proud to number every board member among my friends. However, the chapter has grown over the years and the issues with which it deals have become increasingly complex. I believe my friends could use some more help. Adding a board member would provide that help. Second, it's unusual to have a board comprised of an even number of members. Adding one would greatly lessen the chance of a tie vote. While the president has tie breaking powers, this is an option that should be used as sparingly as possible. Third, the board position as I'm suggesting it would democratize things a bit. Note that nomination is from the floor and that there are no state residency requirements. Fourth, note that my proposal creates a two year term. This would 'turn' the board a little more quickly, just in case there is a suggestion of stagnancy. There are additional benefits to the two year term. Perhaps there is a good person out there who is shying away from a three year commitment. We tend to denigrate single issue candidates, but perhaps there is someone who cares deeply about one very important issue and who could bring it to the board in the context of a two year term. Perhaps a good person would be interested in a three year term after having served a two year term.

I have been active in Kiap-TU-Wish for twelve years and have thought about introducing this proposal for a number of years. I think its adoption would be in the chapter's best interest. Lastly, please note that the first election for this position would be held a year from now if the bylaws are amended. I suggest this both because it would give us a year to prepare for the change and to avoid the appearance of some sort of hidden agenda and, please believe me, there isn't any. Think for giving this proposal your careful consideration.

Sincerely,
Jon Jacobs

Fishworks designates a new parking location...

Because of deep snow and narrow roads, Marty Engle requests that Fishworkers park on Cemetery Rd. instead of at the Kinni bridge on County J for the remaining Saturday work days. To get to the new parking location, from Hwy 65, turn east on County J, then north on Cemetery Rd, (.2 miles before you get to the Kinni bridge), proceed .2 miles until you see the three mailboxes on your right and other cars.

NEW WISCONSIN TRESPASS LAW FACT SHEET

Are the proposed trespass law changes now in effect?

Yes, Assembly Bill AB 13 as signed into law as Wisconsin Act 451 making changes in the trespass laws that hunters, trappers, anglers and other recreationists need to know.

What is the basic concept of the trespass law?

It is trespass for a person to enter or remain on ANY LAND if the person receives notice from the owner or occupant not to enter or remain on the land. For certain types of land (fenced, cultivated, undeveloped or land that is occupied by an agricultural structure), notice is not required, and it is trespass for a person to enter or remain on the land without the express or implied consent of the owner or occupant.

What is the most important change I need to be aware of?

Under the old law, people needed to get permission before entering any agricultural land, fenced land or posted land. Under the new law, people need to get permission for entry on all private agricultural land, fenced land, and UNDEVELOPED land whether they are posted or not. Basically, people need to get permission before entering any private lands. This includes forest lands, grasslands and wetlands as well as farmland.

Are there any exceptions?

Yes, you may go up to a private residence to talk with a landowner or occupant and/or ask for permission to enter private lands. However a person must leave such premises if requested to do so by the owner or occupant.

What is the penalty for violating this law?

The penalty for violating the trespass statute is a civil (not criminal) forfeiture. The maximum penalty for violating the trespass statute is a forfeiture of \$1000. A person who receives a trespass citation may choose not to contest the citation in which case the person forfeits the deposit which is \$203.

Who enforces the trespass law?

Trespass laws are enforced by county sheriff or local enforcement officers. DNR wardens are not authorized to enforce trespass laws.

What if there are no fences or signs warning a person that he or she is about to enter private lands?

Recreationists are responsible for knowing property boundaries and should obtain a plat book if they are unfamiliar with the land ownership where they recreate. Ignorance of property boundaries does not exempt a person from prosecution under the law.

Won't it be easy to inadvertently cross over from public lands to private lands?

Recreationists can look for tell-tale signs of private lands including buildings, cropland, pasture and fences. But again, it's the recreationist's responsibility to know where he or she is. Only private lands adjacent to public lands and private inholdings within public lands require notice to prevent access under the trespass law. This notice could include a minimum of 2 signs per 40 acres located in conspicuous places or personal oral or written contact by the occupant or owner. Private lands adjacent other private lands leased for public hunting or enrolled in forest laws requiring public access are not required to provide such notice, permission must be sought before entering these lands.

Is it OK to take a short-cut back to a road across private land, chase dogs across private land, or follow wounded game onto private land without first getting permission?

No, this would be a violation of the law.

Is written permission necessary?

No, but this is a good idea. A written note would clarify to any person or law enforcement officer you come in contact with that you indeed have permission.

If someone obtains permission to do one activity on private lands, can they assume they have permission to be on those lands for other activities as well?

No. You may only enter private lands to do what you specifically have permission for. Any other activity would be considered trespass. For example, if you received permission to turkey hunt, you could not pick morels or asparagus or come back later to hunt small game or deer unless you also obtained permission for those specific activities.

*One thread binds us together....
the thread of shared experience.*

Skip's Loose Threads.....

Last month's iteration of a popular fly fishing magazine lies open next to my chair. On the cover is a precisely focused photo of a huge fish being released into impossibly clear water by a kneeling guy dressed in a bright red shirt, his outfit complimented by a banana yellow kerchief and black Stetson, cradling a \$500 rod in the crook of his elbow. There are snowcapped mountains in the distance, along with a Jeep Cherokee and a few horses for good measure. Amazingly, there's neither a can of Coke nor a pack of Marlboros in evidence. The magazine is full of the latest fly fishing technology, including rods that are related somehow to Trident submarines, lines that sink in six different ways, a leader so fine and strong it could be employed by the Mafia instead of wire as a garrote to wring the life out of a recalcitrant debtor. Too, the glossy pictures of exotic destinations like Alaska, South America, New Zealand and Russia at once seduce my imagination and make my credit card cringe. I'm not much interested in the feature articles, obviously pitched to those who have been in the sport for less than a year: how to tie six important fishing knots, secrets to the successful double-haul, the importance of Blue Wing Olives, reviews of the latest tackle and clothing, catching salmon on the Ponoï. Does this publication with its high energy commercial hucksterism, shouted encouragement for the armies of tyro fly fishers and ads for tackle with planned obsolescence help fill the void that exists in all of us when we're not fishing for trout?

Fishing friends like to talk over coffee at the fly shop for hours on end about tackle and techniques, sharing tales of success and failure. Finding the 'good stuff,' the missing piece of the puzzle, is closer in the camaraderie of human conversation than in the glitz and breathless glamour of the magazine, but it's not to be found there either, at least not in its purest form. But just a stroll along a stream that you've fished more than once can put the smile back on your face, the feeling of communion back in your heart, can make time and all its crashing superfluity stop cold. When you've been selected by God, Nature, Destiny, as a fly fisher and acquired the gifts of grace: knowledge of your quarry, effortless proficiency with a rod and line, a predator's concentration coupled with a human's capacity for reflection, you take up the quest to seek out other believers, to bare and share the badges and bruises of those life transforming experiences astream.

Seeking out and sharing with others in this mystical society is what we crave and also what satisfies the craving. It has nothing to do with technology, marketing, magazines or videos. There are quite a few books written by fly fishers which convey the sacramental quality of our sport, the reverence in which the trout and its habitat is held, and the best of them fill the 'empty place' easily. Izaak Walton's pastoral prose is his confession of love for it. Halford and Gordon's correspondence imply in every literate line their shared Credo. Bergman, on hands and knees in a snow storm, engaged in the seduction of a brown trout from the Firehole, manages to convince anyone who can read that he too is not only a convert, but a proselyte. Marinaro, the only author who declared his personal infatuation for trout not only with words but with photos, shares himself shamelessly with others, chiefly Charley Fox, but moves us to understand how one can focus a life on a ten-foot wide spring creek called the Letort. Twenty-two year old Ernest Schwiebert, fresh from European travels with a diplomat dad, has the audacity, enthusiasm and skill to produce a little book in which the graceful, precise water color images of Mayflies reveal an obsession with trout and their environs that convinces that he, too, is one of us. There are others: Jack Atherton, Datus Proper, Leonard Wright, and of course, those that try to put the feelings and memories directly into words: Haig-Brown, Lyons, Traver, Maclean, Gierach.

I find that my own 'empty place' finds some solace in the employment of antique rods and reels in my fishing. I seem to feel the warmth of former hands on this cork grip, share rhythmic strokes with other arms and wrists in this gentle exercising of the cane, hear the screech of old reels as ancient trout run for freedom. How many initiates have held this rod, listened to this reel, waded this water, felt the throb of a good fish through the line, rod, arm, head, heart, soul?

Words, at least in prose, usually fail me when I try to express my deepest, most mystical moments in the pursuit of trout, but sometimes they come if I'm lucky and feeling literate at the same time. We fly fishers stagger around blindly, hoping to meet someone who will understand what we feel but can't express. Terrified even when we find a trout fishing soul mate who might listen without laughing, we clothe the nakedness of our emotions with conversational camouflage: tackle talk, bravado over a big fish, discussion of fly patterns. For most of us, the limit of intimacy with another is a knowing look, a glance that conveys that we're both members of the club, initiates in the fraternity, true believers. Now is a good time, amid the cold and snow, to seek out someone who, like you, suffers pangs of an 'empty place.' Put a little Spring in your soul by sharing the warmth of your mutual love of trout fishing.

RifRaf...

Poetry by Jim Humphrey

Canoe in the Study

*The prow of the canoe thrusts aside the curtain
breaks the pane without sound
tilts sideways to pass the casement
avoids the tangled branches of flowering crab.*

*And we are free in sunlight, two stories up
and floating, Indian-quiet in current, invisible.
The paddles dip and trail their sparks
a Phoebe stops her call mid-way and cocks her head*

*Between us and the river are snags of trees
the rocks of rooftops, the strands of phone
and power that cross the stream
or fence imaginary cattle this side or that.*

*We are free in April!
reaching for the River that searches for the sea.
If illusion holds, we'll find
blue water and white sand this day.*

Where the Old Indian River

*Where the old Indian river
with the French name, St. Croix,
winds down from the height of land
through glaciated hills
toward the Father of Waters;
where it picks up the Kinnickinnic
there you will find me.*

*These old, cold, clearwater streams
with the strange names,
restlessly moving under the Pole Star
to make one with the lazy catfish rivers
pull me to them....*

*And my mind is a leaf
moving with them to the sea.*



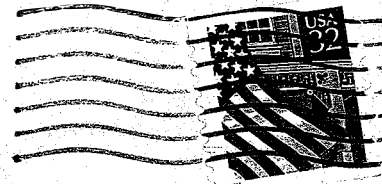
*The Kinnickinnic sleeps
fitfully, lost in a dream
of Spring, a memory of
Fall, restless beneath a
blanket of white, both
snow and steam...*

Looking North from the County J
bridge, Friday, January 17, 1997

RipRap is honored to present previously unpublished works by our most illustrious and distinguished local angling writer. Jim Humphrey's recent book, Wisconsin & Minnesota Trout Streams coauthored with Bill Shogren has become a best seller for fly anglers in the upper Midwest.



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DEADLINES

MAR 2/15
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Now on the Internet at:

<http://www.spacestar.com/users/lambcom/kiap.html>

Right Now, It's Summer in Argentina....

**Let recent Fly Rod & Reel 'guide of the year' Bob White
take you fishing with a gorgeous slide show at our
February 5th meeting.**

Bob White and his wife, Lisa, have spent the past twelve winters guiding fly anglers on Argentine waters that offer sport for both rainbows and browns in country that looks like the American west, but fishes like Montana before it was discovered by the media. An artist that illustrates books by John Gierach, White uses his camera as a sketchbook, catching a cloud formation, light on the bend of a river or the quiet beauty of a fence line on film, later transforming the photographic images into paintings on canvas.

Let Bob's slide show guide you on a first class \$650/day fly fishing adventure, from deplaning at Buenos Aires, to comfortable quarters at a remote hacienda, with sumptuous meals, fine wines and feather beds. You'll fly fish several rivers under his expert tutelage, catching rainbows planted in 1904 from pure Shasta stocks, combing undercut banks for giant browns, all in the uncrowded majesty of vineyard covered hills. During the filming of *Evita*, Madonna had some unkind things to say about about her hotel accommodations, but then, she never got out of the city.

"Don't cry for me, Argentina" unless I miss the February meeting!