

Dick Bernard
6905 Romeo Road
Woodbury MN 55125-2421
651-334-5744
dick_bernard@msn.com
<http://www.outsidethewalls.org/blog/2016/02/09/>
(about Lois Phillips Hudson and her books)
www.chez-nous.net
www.amillioncopies.info

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This book comes as a gift in recognition of my Uncle and Aunt Vincent and Edithe Busch and my Grandparents, their parents, Rosa and Fred Busch.

February 2, 2015 Uncle Vince died at LaMoure ND, the last of his family to die. A year later, January, 2016, I received a copy of *Unrestorable Habitat*, written by Lois Phillips Hudson in the first decade of the 21st century. Lois Phillips Hudson was born in 1927, two years after Uncle Vincent, and spent her first eight years on a farm one hour away from the Busch farm, near Cleveland and Berlin, N.D. respectively. Along with tens of thousands of others, Vincent and Lois lived through the worst of the Great Depression. (Lois' meticulously researched 1962 book, *Bones of Plenty*, recounts 1934 in rural ND. Uncle Vincent always said 1934 was the worst year of the Depression – he was 9 years old. Unknown to them, Lois and Vincent were near “neighbors”. They never met.)

Unrestorable Habitat comes to you as a “free” gift. As you know, nothing is “free”. My quid pro quo, my hope, is that you not only read this book as a reflective piece, but that it be used as a springboard for book club and other discussions amongst people who can respectfully disagree with each other about the authors assertions and conclusions, while expanding the conversation to contemporary problems and proposed solutions.

You will readily note that this book is imperfect. Lois was an accomplished and published writer. Here, she conveys a strong opinion about her “truth”. She died in 2010, before she had finished this book about the present and past and future.

The editor who found the draft, wisely decided to print the book essentially as found, rather than make changes. What you read is an authentic and very real expression of opinion from someone who'd lived in the worst of times, to the recent present.

While *Unrestorable Habitat* is about perceived tensions between Microsoft et al and the local Salmon, it includes many flashbacks to the 1930s and WWII 1940s (Mrs. Phillips Hudson graduated from Redmond WA high school in 1945; Uncle Vincent from Berlin ND high school in 1942.) The book can easily stimulate one's thinking about similar issues found in every locale in the United States and indeed the world.

I hope this gift becomes a tool for solutions oriented discussion and conversation among people who may enter the conversation with, diverse opinions. I think Lois would be pleased; my guess is that my ancestral family members would be as well.

Dick Bernard
Born 1940, raised in the shadow of the
Great Depression, and during WWII.
in rural North Dakota