Everything's 'Cricket' in magazine artist's new job

NE OF the funniest fan let-lers 5-an Grolley ever get was to an inchworm.

Wormes are my Ille? Gralley re-called the micriwe with a laugh.

Vitting and illustrating books according to a lifelong good, and with her recent addition to "Cricket Mag-anino" as staff illustrator, she draws for the monthly "Buggle" cartoon strip."

name as hata masses of the mothly "Baggle" cartoon strip."
She's lucky for a number of reacons to have the "Cricket" Job, she caid.

"To be able to write and libustrate my own atorics every meath — not fast flustrate someone close's ideas, but create my own and give it life — is the closest thing to book illustration," Gralley gaid.

Gralley inherited the Buggle strip from longiture friend Trian Schart Illyman, who originated it when "Cricket" began years ago as ancessor to "St. Nicholas Magazine."

"ST. NICHOLAS MAGAZINE" IS

one of the oldest and best children's magazines, Gralley explained, "Cricket is like the heir to that mag-

Her characters include Cricket,

Landon Criziet, Ladybag, Marriy (a gir), not a boy Indivorm, as ilyman polited out to Gralley when abe liter started), and some new additions created by Gralley to bring the "ganga" number to some 200 del characted by Gralley to bring the "ganga" number to some 200 del characted by Gralley to bring the "ganga" number to some 200 del characters, "Tho actual aga-span for readers is creeping up." Gralley noted, of her audience. "It used to be 3- to 12-years-slits, but it's approaching a both ends to 6- to 14-year-slits now." Every month Gralley creates as Stoy that will involve the "gang" Stoy that will involve the "gang" as the draws than to scale, abe says, in a strip a little more than on India, The soury starts on the 'Ut-choos' page, with referes the Characters, has a half-page in the middle, and ends on the last two or three page.

the new artist of the strip. But her worries were groundless, as another fan letter proved.

"One kid wrote: 'Dear Gang, how does it feel being drawn by another artist?" Griley recalled. "It take that zeriously, because readers do put a lot of bellef in the characters."

As a protege of Maurice Sendak (author-Hilustratior of "Where the Wild Things Are") when she studied at Parsons School of Design in New York, she learned to "really respective, the fact with kids." Gralley said. "You can't be fake with kids. I always try to real. I know they're already dealing with the highest kinds of fears and deepest joys in their lives," he said.

with the highest kinds of fears and deepest joys in their lives," she said.

IN ANOTHER INSTANCE, one girl had written to Gralley asking for advice. Her boytriend was presuring her to have sex, "and here she was, writing to a cricket, a ladybug, and a fireily about it," Gralley said.

big, and a friely about it, Grandy begins the capacity of the margins of short stories in the magatine, to explain unfamiliation of Sendak, began doing free lance lills, Gralley said.

Gralley, at the recommendation Thompson (an age of Sendak, began doing free lance lills, Gralley said.

for "Cricket" while she was still a four a proper stories of the about the stories of the about the time was acceptance by the readers as

with Schart, a Caldecott award winner ("It's like the Academy Award for illustrators," Gralley asid) for her book, "St. George and the Dragon."
"We sent cartoons back and forth to one another, for about eight years," Gralley said.

Hyman was ready to give the "Buggie" strip a real and go on to other projects, Gralley said.

"She'd neumbered all the cartoon letters we'd sent back and forth and the property of the projects, or alley said, and the property of the said.

For Gralley, it was "like magic," the said.

She'd always wanted to be a book.

For Gralley, it was "like magic," the said.
She'd always wanted to be a book litartarlo, but before taking on "Cricket's" Buggies, she'd put per goal saids to make ends meet goal saids to doing regular likustrating for "The New York Times." The Detroit Free Press,' and J. Walter Thompson (ad agency) to pay the bills, Gralley said.
The offer from "Cricket" came juck at the time when she'd decided she didn't want to put off her original goal any longer.



Artist Jean Gralley respecting young readers' feeling

Newsy tidbits on variety of subjects

EWS notes:

• The book buttness is booming. With cales elimbing, children's paperbacks made the meet impressive gains last year, and more new authors than ever made the best-celler lists. According to the "West Coast Review of Books," overall book sales amounted to something in the neighborhood of \$9 billion. Non-fiction books comprised about 55 percent of the market.

the market.

Mure money matters: Clive
Ousler recently signed a contract
with Simon & Schuster for \$5 million
to write two more novels starring his
detective here Dirk Pitt, first heard
from in Cussier's best-selling 'Raise
the Titaniet' Novellet Mark Helprin
add Illustrator Caris Van Alleburg
recently agreed to put together

"Swan Lake," a children's book, for \$801,000 — reportedly the largest amount ever paid for a book for children.

• Changing limes: "Reader's Digest" has relinquished its No. 1 spot as the magazine with the largest circulation in the United States. "Modern Maturity." the publication of the American Association of Retired Persons, is the new front-runner, with a circulation of 17924/738, out-distancing "Reader's Digest" by about one million readers.

• Goodness-gracious-there-goes-the-old-neighborhood department When the results were in for "The Best American Short Storles 1988," those involved in judging were a bit supprized. Manusc of all authors were withheld from judges this time arround as they considered stories for

the prestigious collection published annually by Boughton Miffilm. Out of 20 stories chosen, only six were authored by 'name' writers.

• In honor of the 100th birthday of detective fiction writer Raymond Chandler (1888-1939), Knopf has published "Raymond Chandler Fhilip Marlowe: A Centennial Celebration." For the collection, 14 private-eye writers were asked to contribute a story in the style of Chandler, and wiln Marlowe as the main character, Authors include Benjamin Schutz and Jeremiah Healy. See what you think.

Authors include Benjamin Senutz and Jeremlah Healy. See what you think.

• A recently established fund will furnish grants to writers and editors stricken with ADDS, who are faced with acute financial emergencies due to medical expenses. The PEN Fund for Writers and Editors

with AIDS will furnish grants of up to \$1,000, and those in need may apply for assistance more than once. "The situation of writers stricken with AIDS is desperate," says fund director Christine Freidlander. For more information, write or call Freidlander. For more information, write or call prediction at PENA merican Center, 568 Broadway, New York 10012 or call (212-334-1560.

• Grey Castle Press (Pocket Knife Square, Lakeville, Conn. 06039) has come to the ald of young readers who are visually impaired. "The Nancy Drew Files," by Carolyn Kenne, "The Hardy Boys Caselles," by Franklin W. Dixon, and "Choose Your Own Adventure" and "The Babysitiers Club" by Ann M. Martin, have been brought out in large print books have been available in large



book break

print for some time now, not so for children's books.

• Now that spring is here, those of you who are getting out to walk or run may want to try an "audio book" in your Walkman for a change of pace. Recent releases include Stephen Coonts "Final Flight," read by George Kennedy, Anne Tyler's Breathing Lessons," read by Jili Eikenberry, and Kurk Douglas, reading his autobiography, "The Ragman's Son." All run for about \$15.95.

Keep in mind that what you'll be

hearing will be a condensed version of the book liself (sometimes highly

of the book itself (sometimes highly condensed).

• Look for the screen version of Elmore Leonard's "Cat Chaser" as theaters this summer. The thriller will star Peter Weller and Kelly McGillis, Final screenplay was put together by Leonard.

The last word: Keep your eyen Birmingham playwright Kitty Dubin. Her comedy-drama, "The Last Resort," recently opened it Austin, Texas, to applause, applause.

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