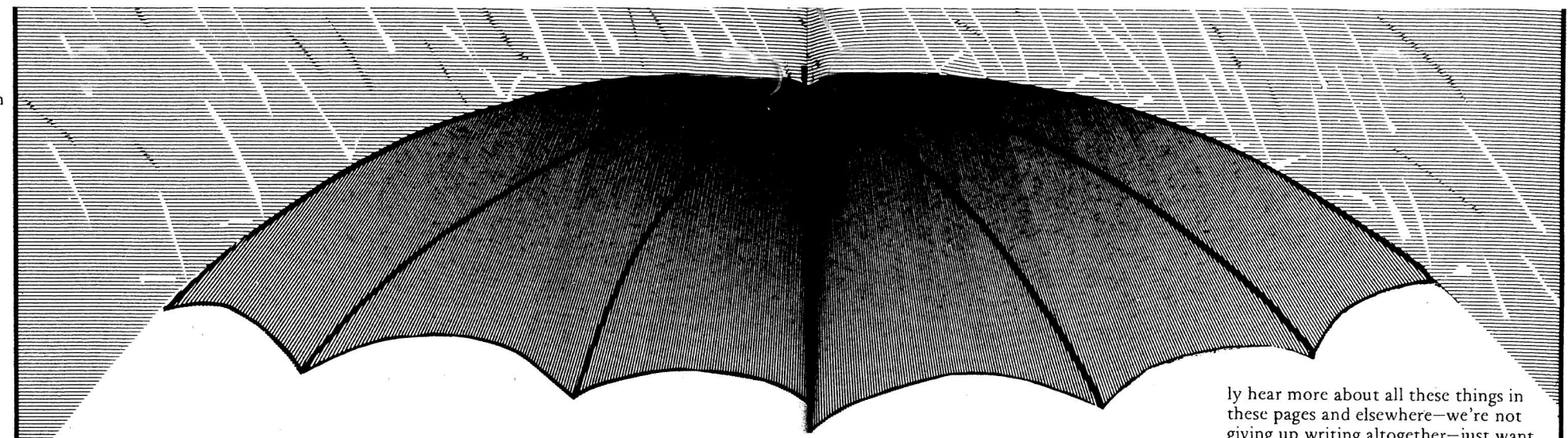

LETTING GO

It feels odd and rather sad to be parting ways with things so long familiar, with explorations followed so long together. But other urges call. New shadows appear through the mists of the future and their scent beckons again to less traveled fields where our hearts find greater nourishment. We have been with *RAIN* for four years, helping share new patterns that are emerging and becoming real around us. It has been an exciting time, and one which has been successful far beyond what most people could then conceive.

Many things only dreams four years ago have become commonplace and accepted realities—not complete, but fully alive and healthfully taking form now on their own strength. A renewable energy *present* is eclipsing fantasies of a nuclear future. A sustainable society is emerging from the cracks of an unrepeatable past. Projects and information and ideas once part of *RAIN* now appear in *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Sunset* and the *New York Times*, and have spread from paper to wood and glass and compost in our own neighborhoods. Special journals now track the burgeoning areas of passive solar design, alternative sewage, health care, urban agriculture, simpler lifestyles and community economics. Much remains to be done, and much that we and *RAIN* will help with in our own ways. But the time has come when Lane and I must become the last of the "old timers" to leave *RAIN*—to make room for new people and visions and to make new use of what the last four years have taught us.

We're slowing down (some), recovering from too much work, and making space to let in new ideas and dreams instead of pushing on the old ones. It's called recycling ourselves. We are feeling joyful about the process of again putting our efforts where our journalistic mouths have been—building our house, experimenting with various alternative systems, and simplifying our lives. We're excited at the healthy feeling of putting down strong, growing roots in our little coastal community. Tom ran for the sewer board and lost but discovered that people are open to his ideas. Lane's work with a birthing information council is proving an exciting way to develop community and self-help health care awareness. We feel the seeds of new ideas and awarenesses beginning to germinate. And of course Skye, the new member of our family, takes a lot of both of our time. You will undoubtedly hear more about all these things in these pages and elsewhere—we're not giving up writing altogether—just want some freedom from monthly deadlines. In fact Tom has plans for a new book in the works. Now if we could just find a way to earn a living!

It's always difficult to leave the security of the known and head off to new, unstructured days. But we feel strongly that it's time to shake ourselves up a bit. The same thing goes for the magazine. That old unknown!

Deciding to make the break, we threw the I-Ching. The image we got was The Well. "We must go down to the very foundations of life. The town may be changed but the well cannot be changed. They come and go and all draw from the well. The well is there for all. No one is forbidden to take water from it." So be it with the *RAIN*. Take it, and use it to nourish all.

If you want to get in touch, write to us at: Bender/deMoll, Neahkahnie Mountain, 38755 Reed Rd., Nehalem, OR 97131.

—Tom and Lane