



The Gardners

Christmas 2002



A cold wind is blowing, and winter is here.
The lights are all up and now Santa is near.
We're happy and healthy and warm in our home,
Though one of our offspring has started to roam.

Once again all in all, we're all doing quite well.
We've collected a few more good stories to tell.
As holidays come and our loved ones are near,
We're reflecting on things that have happened this year.

We started with Marily pacing the floors
And knocking on Delafield's six thousand doors,
Explaining with patience why people should care
About city taxes and who should be mayor.

She made a good show, but did not win the race,
In spite of her spirit and marathon pace.
She did it with honor and without regret
And left an impression that none would forget.

The boys' high school band took a trip for a mouse,
To march down the Main Street outside Mickey's house.
With grandparents there, we lined for our view
Of Marily's one Disney World dream come true.

We had quite a scare with our new SUV:
A day trip to snow board that turned out to be
A frightening ride and unpleasant thrill
For Grant and his friends on the way to the hill.



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They slid on the ice on the interstate, then
The Land Rover rolled over and over again
And stopped on its top in the snow upside down,
Dozens of miles from the next nearest town.

They got out okay, at first feeling so bad,
But soon realized what good luck they had had.
They all wore their seat belts and all stayed within
For their couple of thousand or so degree spin.

An ambulance ride and short ER stay,
But no long term problems to get in their way.
Some cuts on a hand and a stitch in a head,
Sore muscles and joints and a few days in bed.

We looked on as Grant passed a milestone in May,
To get his diploma for high school, and say,
"In twelve years of school, it all went pretty well,
Except for that chemistry teacher from Hell."

He went to the top with his saxophone play,
Achieving Wind Symphony status his way.
A brief summer off, and with plenty to do,
Now he's in Minnesota attending the "U."

Now Warren is sixteen and drives on his own,
A junior in high school, almost fully grown.
He's mostly a good kid and rarely a fuss,
Except that his mother has taught him to cuss.



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New wheels on the Cougar and shirts from Goodwill,
His tastes are eclectic and drawings are still
Amazing creations in pixels or pen,
As he draws and erases and draws them again.

Our summer vacation we won't soon forget,
For Marily set up our best event yet.
She rented for our solo riverboat ride
A fifty-eight footer with hot tub and slide.

I keep playing basketball all the year 'round
In gyms and in parks and the places I've found.
In Senior Olympics, I just missed the Gold,
But did pretty well for a guy who's so old.

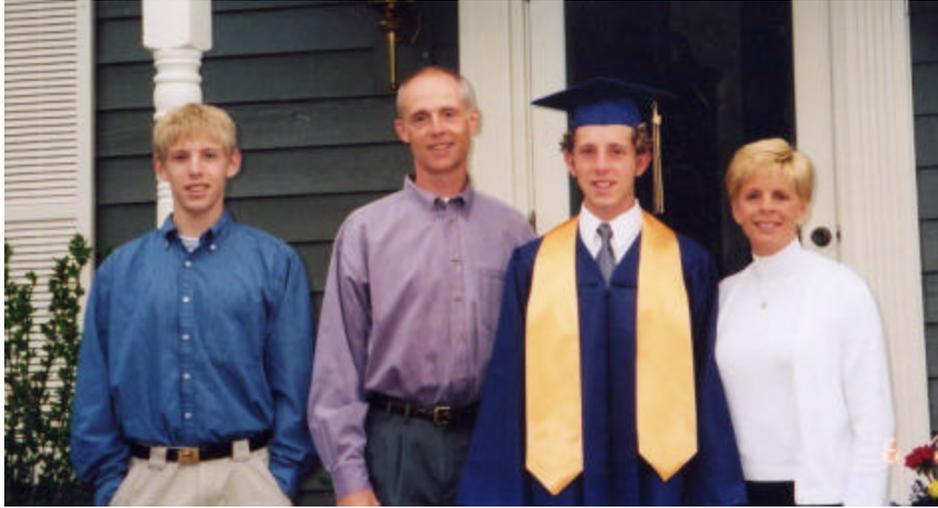
With Marily working again every day
The city still finds she has something to say.
She's building a boardwalk in Delafield's moors
To honor the veterans of our nation's wars.

We traded our boat and acquired new pets,
And major appliances caused major debts.
The mix in the house now is closer to right.
The fish didn't last, but the new bird just might.

So we're sending out once again all our good cheer
And hoping for joy in the coming New Year.
Our wishes go out to you for it to be
A great Happy New Year in 2003.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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June 2, 2002



December 22, 2002



Larry, Marily, Grant, Warren and Ubie

marily@wi.rr.com