



The Gardner Christmas Chronicles
The Years in Review

Gardner Christmas 2012



The Gardners

Christmas 2012



This year's poem is dedicated to Virg, my sister's loving husband of 40 years.



Virgil Weldy

March 25, 1948 – July 1, 2012

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The Gardners Christmas 2012

Once again the changing seasons indicate it's time
To summarize the year's events in cryptic verse and rhyme.
We've had our share of happiness,

But also some extreme duress.

But all in all for more or less

We chase the problem blues away

And treasure every single day

We're living free and we can be a close-knit Gardner Clan.



Throughout the year our little clan was kind of ER prone
For GI problems, swollen throats, and just one broken bone.

And Meemo's schedule had to pay
For more than one extended stay,
And when they took one part away
A misbehaving pancreas

Caused yet more time away from us

When doctors found that it shut down and had to start again.



We woke one morning soon to find our favorite tree half-gone.
It fell across the sunroom roof, but mostly on the lawn.

And now our shaded patio

Is in the sun again, and so

We have a decade more to go

Until on sunny summer days

We're shielded from the burning rays

In a shady spot when days are hot for outside lunch again.



Once Mother Nature had exposed our patio retreat
The summer went for weeks on end in triple digit heat.
Through all of August and July
We watched the lawns turn tan and dry
And crops in fields curl up and die.
The only good thing was, you know,
We rarely ever had to mow
But as summer waned it finally rained and mostly greened again.



We had a family visit planned for summertime this year.
But plans were changed with news that tore apart our family sphere.
And though it's still our family,
We've had a sad catastrophe.
It's not quite how it used to be
In bygone days of yesterday
Since Lana's Virgil passed away
And the grief of loss upended the extended Gardner Clan.



But Mom and Dad and Lana came to our house later on.
Even though it wasn't quite the same since Virg was gone,
We had the chance to reconnect,
A nice diversion, I expect.
To use the time to best effect
We scheduled all the weekend days
To help us through this mourning phase.
Among the thought detractors were some tractors from the past.



We've all spent time away from home on travels for our work,
In what those who don't travel for a job might think a perk.
For us it might be tiresome,
But Grant's was a St. Louis slum.
At least his trip that had become
The ding-dong-door-knock trip from hell
Concluded when he slid and fell.
He took a fall on skates too small and broke his arm again.



Grant had one day shaken by an unexpected spin,
Though scary, the result was better than it might have been.
His early morning driving bliss
To work in Minneapolis
Was stopped when his car went amiss
To hit the median instead
And slam and bump him in the head.
Now he's dealing with the healing to get back to work again.



Warren supervised this year out North Dakota way
He doesn't like the weather much, but surely likes the pay.
And though the landscape's not on par
With other places near and far,
Someday he'll get to Trunkajar,
Where he can go to work, it seems,
If only in his idle dreams
And even try to live nearby his loving Gardner Clan.



Gardner Christmas 2012

Now we're all together back at home for Christmas cheer
Looking forward to some great things in the coming year.
There's not much that we're wanting more
To add to all the family lore
Than keeping what we're thankful for
And have the chance again to say
We're always healthy every day
And that's the sum of wishes from this close-knit Gardner Clan.



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Warren, Larry, Grant and Marily

December 25, 2012 | Delafield, Wisconsin

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!