



The Gardners

Christmas 2007



Another year is almost gone
And now it's Christmas time
As I sit down to document
The year's events in rhyme.
Despite some rough times here and there,
We know in many ways
We'll realize when we look back,
These are the good old days.



In January, Meem and I
Went down to Sanibel
To spend some time with Mom and Dad
And blow her knee to hell.
A simple bike ride to the beach
Got quickly out of hand.
She lost her hat and lost control
And tumbled in the sand.



Her ACL and PCL, her
Ankle and her pride
All suffered from the harsh effects
When earth and girl collide.
We got her home and she got well
Enough to do just fine
Without the need for surgery
Or even start to whine.





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Wisconsin summer season's short,
And always busy, too
With CBA and VMR
And other things to do.
Too many toys; too little time
To get outside and play;
We had some fun until it rained
In August every day.

I got to motorcycle some
On weekends for a ride
To just enjoy the beautiful
Wisconsin countryside.
We got our boat out, weathering
A rooster's mad attack.
We used it twice all summer long,
Then had to put it back.

We still support two boys in school
That drain our dollars dry,
But Meem and I both took new work
That popped up in July.
By month end we both had new jobs
And different morning drives.
Hers is longer by two miles;
Mine's cut by 35.



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The boys went through some changes as
'07 year progressed,
With Warren's new epiphany
That civil is the best
Engineering discipline
To seek for his degree,
But Grant's construction management
Still fits him to a "T."

Grant worked in Minnesota for
The spring and summer, too,
While Warren came back home again
To work the survey crew,
And Grant decided that he'd work
The Spring semester till
He started back to school this fall
With money for some bills.

The boys are both approaching now
A graduation date
After finding out at times
The path's not always straight.
But Grant's now on the job full time,
With classes every night
And little time to do much else
But know his future's bright.





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Our trips to Minneapolis
Were frequent all year long
To check our house and see our boys,
Sometimes with kin along.
This summer Ralph and Joyce were thrilled
They got a chance to see
The boys' place when we took them up
In Laurie's SUV.



With Harry and with Carolee
We made the trip again.
The standout of our time was that
We'll sure remember when
We spent, without a map, but with
A dozen OnStar calls,
Almost half a day to find
The Minnehaha Falls.



We had a brief late summer scare
When Warren watched the news
And saw the frightful bridge collapse -
A route they often use.
Some frantic calls to locate Grant
Revealed that he was fine.
Although quite close, he luckily
Was not there at that time.





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The Gardner get-together at
The Weldy's house this fall
Saw little Claire in arm restraints
And Noah growing tall,
So great to see most everyone,
Although we had to send
Our love to Grant and Warren, who
Had classes to attend.



We went to Cincinnati for
The Klopfer wedding day.
Elizabeth got married when
Mike gave the bride away.
We welcomed Nathan to the clan,
And left poor David vexed
When comments came at rapid pace
Implying he was next.



So now our boys are home to have
A quiet holiday.
These times are growing rarer as
The years just roll away.
Our family and our friends are things
We all appreciate,
So please be sure to keep in touch
Throughout two thousand eight.





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Grant, Marily, Warren and Larry

July 21, 2007

Minneapolis, Minnesota

(note the soon-to-be collapsed I-35W bridge in the background)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!