



Just a Few Knights Ago

1998
KNIGHT
FAMILY
CALENDAR

Christmas, 1997

Our seventh family calendar seemed like a good opportunity to put my seven kids to work. We asked them each to draw on their memories (to the extent they still have them) and give us twenty recollections from their childhoods. The result is this collection of nostalgia that has been collecting mold for four or five decades. Dennis received the lists and hasn't shared them with me, so I will be reading the anecdotes for the first time along with you. I'm sure I'll learn things I didn't want to know.

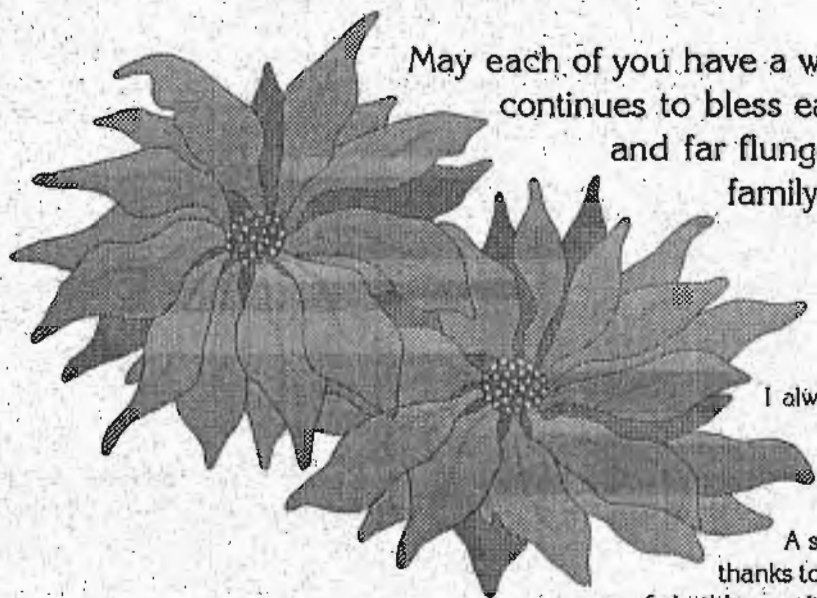
May each of you have a wonderful Christmas, and I pray the New Year continues to bless each member of my happily extended, diverse and far flung brood with the prosperity of love which our family has enjoyed for lo these many years.

Love, Mom, Grandma, GG

I always liked listening to the gathered grownups reminisce, in no particular order, about nothing in particular, to no one in particular, and for no particular reason. That's what this calendar is about. Now that the Knight kids are the graybeards, it's our turn to shoot the breeze, and it's up to the rest of you to get what you want out of it.

A special thank you to Maureen for her wonderful sketch of Pixie Guarding the Castle, and thanks to everyone for the support I get every year in putting the calendar together. If there are any goofs in this one, it's Jimmy's fault.

Denny



I remember shoveling snow . . .



-Tim

On a freezing winter's morning, Mom would get out to take us all to school in the Buick woody.

-Maureen

How cold it was, walking home from school or ice skating, especially crossing the foot bridge in the wind.

-Mick

One especially cold winter, when Dad would be at work, we would walk to the Rainbow Grocery with mom to get ingredients to make fudge or cinnamon pudding.

-Jerry

Often on a winter's Saturday I would ice skate with my friends on the frozen Laramie river, with a bonfire in the middle of the ice.

-Maureen

We had great fun tubing at Happy Jack, drinking hot chocolate and eating sloppy joes.

-Mick

If I remember right, it was the day I was born. Dad and Oren Johnson walked to the hospital to see the caboose of the Knight clan. It was winter time and cold, and a fairly long walk from the west side to the hospital. I'm sure they stopped and warmed their spirits along the way. When they crossed the tracks, a train came by and they got cinder dust all over themselves, and they arrived at the hospital with their faces covered in soot. They washed their faces with snow, but not very well. After a peek at me in the nursery, they went to visit Mama. She said they were a sight to behold, but, myself, I thought they looked pretty cool!

-Tim

When Tim was born I wore my prettiest pink party dress to first grade. My first grade teacher honored me with a beautiful rosary. I was so excited walking home from school that day because I knew that when I got there, I would get to see for the first time my new baby brother lying in a beautiful bassinet. Tim was cute, but I admit all that tape on his ears alarmed me.

-Kathi

He had been home from the hospital only a few days when I brought the whole wrestling team home to see my baby brother Timmy.

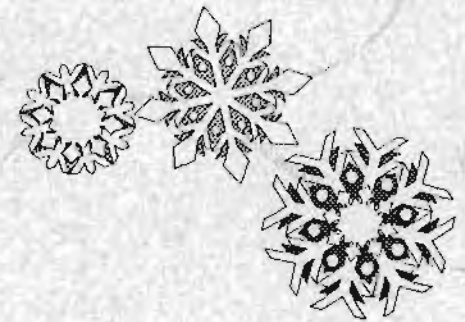
-Jerry

For winter, Mom and Dad bought us new parkas. Mom linked mittens with yarn and strung them through the arms of our coats for security and convenience, but to my minor embarrassment, I disliked having to bundle up, but by the time we reached school, I appreciated both the coat and the mittens.

-Denny

Mom's warnings often went unheeded. Once I had to run into Davidson's grocery store to fetch Mom to come to the car and help get Kathi's tongue unstuck from the frozen chrome trim in the Buick. Of course, Mom reminded her "I told you not to do that!"

-Jim



. . the smell of Dad's work clothes, covered with smoke, soot and cinders . . .

-Jerry

How embarrassing it was to go to the Fox Theatre on a Saturday afternoon to have your big brother on stage doing a kiddy show with the moniker of UNCLE DENNIS. Yikes!

-Jim

Maureen and Dennis working at the Fox Theater allowed us VIP snack bar privileges.

-Kathi

My job at the Fox Theatre not only allowed me to see all the movies for free, but on Saturdays my little siblings were admitted free and I had my own money so I could load them up with goodies.

-Maureen

Green and orange neon socks and shoelaces were a fad one year. One Sunday, I put on a pair of neon socks to wear when serving mass, but Mom caught me and made me change to something more pious. Then, at mass, Father Bartek was wearing orange neon socks!

-Jerry

I shoveled snow!

I shoveled snow!

I shoveled snow!

-Tim

When I was old enough to be the sitter, I enjoyed making sloppy joes. Mom would leave the fixings handy, but I would always dig out a few extras. The mixture got a dash or two of tabasco, some mustard and worchestire sauce, and whatever else I could think of. It's a good thing I didn't know how to make fudge, because tabasco was my favorite ingredient.

-Denny

Our dog, Cinder, came home after being missing for about a week. He had been shot in the hip with an air gun.

-Jerry

I hated getting cinders in my eyes when I went downtown.

-Mick

I would lie awake at night and listen to trains coming and going, wondering whether Dad would be in soon. I loved the sound of the big steam engines and their whistles, but I was in awe of the power of the "big blows", those huge jet turbine locomotives that could awaken the whole town.

-Denny

Maureen taught Kathi to dance while doing the dishes. Fortunately, it was only the girls who rocked and rolled, and not our dishes.

-Jim


Dennis wore a banana skin and coffee grounds on his head after I threw a sack of garbage at him. Dad just sat there, flabbergasted and amused.

-Kathi

Jerry sometimes would take us to school in his car and if we didn't behave, he would threaten to make us get out and walk. He never really scared me, though.

-Kathi





. . the aroma of Mom's cinnamon rolls baking . . .

-Jerry

Before we had television, we would sit in the living room and listen to the radio. Once in a while we would call in a special request for a song that we wanted to hear. A lot of times Maureen or Mom would make us a treat of homemade fudge or popcorn while we listened with our ears glued to the radio speaker.

-Kathi

Maureen and I would play canasta, sometimes with Mom and sometimes with John and Anita Herod. We would listen to "I Love a Mystery" with Jack, Doc and Reggie, which was a really good radio program.

-Jerry

Dad liked to watch "Meet the Press", and it seems he expected me to sit down and watch it with him. Lawrence Spivak was the moderator and, I thought, the most boring person in America. The frequent guest Dad loved to hate the most was H.L. Hunt, a wealthy arch-conservative food canner whose sons went on to do such nasty things as trying to corner the silver market and owning the Kansas City Chiefs.

-Denny

Maureen was sixteen, and much too grown up to accompany the rest of the family on our Sunday afternoon drive. When we arrived home, Maureen was in front of the TV watching a really wild rock n' roll singer named Elvis on the Ed Sullivan Show. Thank God they had the good sense to show him only from the waist up. Dad let Maureen know she needed to be more selective in her viewing choices.

-Jim

I was unable to contain myself watching Elvis on the Ed Sullivan Show, and Dad scolded me, saying "straighten up, Maureen!"

-Maureen

I remember Dad waiting in anticipation through most of the Ed Sullivan Show for the appearance of the animals, expecting a circus act. To his disappointment and chagrin, it turned out to be The Animals, a rock group.

-Jim

Shoveled snow. Lots of snow.

-Tim

It was our first TV, and I was impressed with having a picture to watch, but I didn't quite understand why we wanted to sit and watch the test pattern (even if it was a nice picture of an Indian.)

-Mick

Our first television was a Packard Bell, which we recognize now as a manufacturer of computers, but just as full of bugs. I remember Mom letting me stay up late to watch the only thing on, a test pattern for Channel 5.

-Denny

Larry Birleffi did his sports show live in the Channel 5 studio in Cheyenne at 5 p.m., and an hour later could magically do radio play-by-play of a Wyoming basketball game from some such exotic location as Lincoln, Nebraska.

-Denny

I remember my First Communion, and all of the preparation and anticipation.

-Mick

... five boys sharing one bedroom ...

-Jim

I ran to meet Jerry returning home from school to give him the news that President Roosevelt had died. He didn't believe me, and called me a liar. He soon found out I was telling the truth.

-Maureen

After Mass on Easter morning, it would be a tradition for either Dad or Jerry to take us for a ride in the car so the Easter Bunny could hide his treats around the yard or in the house if there was snow.

-Kathi

At the onset of the first Easter following the war, we were advised by older friends that we should request our baskets have Hershey bars and Double-Bubble chewing gum. These delicacies were unknown to us; how lucky we were because we received both!

-Maureen



Mick and I were very young when I decided to play "barber" and give Mickey Don a hair cut. It must not have been a very good one because I got spanked.

-Kathi

Mom gave me a perm and a curly hairdo called a "poodle" (a term used in the '50's but called an "afro" in the 70's), which I wasn't too crazy about! She took my picture to send to Jerry when he was in the Navy because she thought I was sooo cute. (Embarrassment)

-Kathi

I'll never understand why my parents and my brothers would allow my sisters to dress me up like a girl, with lipstick and all, and then *take pictures!* It was very embarrassing, but maybe I was an inspiration for Dennis Rodman.

-Tim

When the ice was breaking up on the river, I would stand on an ice floe and break it off and ride it down the river like a raft. I would usually get off before I reached a barbed wire fence which spanned the river just before the white bridge. Once I was riding the ice floe with my shoes beside me on the ice. I decided to try to make it to the white bridge by jumping the barbed wire. My timing was off a little, and I caught my foot on the fence, tumbling and knocking my shoes off into the river. I think I only found one shoe, and I don't remember what happened to me when I got home.

-Jerry

The heavy equipment was provided and operated by the City of Laramie, and you'd have thought Dad was the mayor. He was moving the heavens while the workers moved the earth. The river was about to flood, and they were building a dike in the alley that separated our block from the river bed. The day was saved, and Dad was left with the task of trying to get the city to come back and remove the levee. I don't think they ever did.

-Denny

... Dad making the most delicious homemade ice cream ...

-Kathi

It must have been in the mid fifties, when I was 9 or 10, when Mom and Dad decided to raise the house. This was an exciting time with construction people working under the house with jacks, slowly raising the structure. One of the workers found a Halloween mask and bought it, and Dennis made off with the proceeds. As part of the project, the bathroom was remodeled. One particularly talented carpenter filled his mouth with nails, spitting them single file into the drywall and driving each one home with one swing of his hammer. (One might think I've gone batty at 50+, but I swore then it was true, and I still believe it to be so!)

-Jim

When Dad built the addition to the boys' bedroom, I was amazed to see the horse hair insulation stuffed in the walls. I reckon my favorite tool was dad's 'wrecking bar', as he called it.

-Mick

Many years before it became our home, the structure at 718 Spruce was the Wyoming Tannery, and there must have been plenty of hair. What couldn't be jammed into the walls for insulation was buried in the yard. Hair, when compacted, is almost impossible to dig through!

-Jim

Dad had a new electric mower. One morning while trimming the lawn I ran over the cord and cut it cleanly in half. I think Dad got his temper from Denny.

-Tim

I begged Jimmy to play house with me out in the sandbox. He finally agreed but only if he could be the dad. At his request, I packed a lunch of mud patties so he could go to work; then he took off and I didn't see him for the rest of the day.

-Kathi

Dad replaced a broken fuel jar on our Model A with a mustard bottle. Very proud of his ingenuity, he and I set off for town. Halfway up the viaduct, the mustard bottle broke and 2 fire engines came to put out the fire. I think, however, not before the car was ruined.

-Maureen

Dad was only using do-it-yourself frugality and ingenuity when he decided to remove the cottonwood tree stumps on the south side of the house. He packed the stumps with coal which he picked free from the rail yard. To get the fire really hot, he pumped oxygen into it with bellows until his arms gave out. While recuperating in the shade of one of the remaining trees, it occurred to him Mom's Electrolux could exhale as well as inhale. How could he know the machine would burn up after only running 12 hours a day for five days?

-Jim

Dad got a big kick out of me the day Father Meyers asked me to paint the rectory screen door during a CYO project. I did just as instructed, screen and all. It wasn't easy getting every little hole filled in, but I did it! (Dad offered to buy a new screen door for the rectory.)

-Kathi

Some things were still primitive on the lots abutting the Laramie river. The city sewer system had not extended that far, and some houses didn't even have a cesspool, dumping their sewage right into the river bed. Thank the Lord I don't remember, only that I've been told that at a very early age I fell into a place in the river where sewage drained, and very nearly drowned! Jerry and Maureen thought this was very funny and laughed until they were blue. Mom and Dad didn't find it funny at all and severely reprimanded Jerry and Maureen.

-Jim

The day Maureen got married, I cried and cried. I wasn't ready for her to leave the family nest. I adored her.

-Kathi

. . playing dominoes with Grandpa . . .

-Kathi

They were simple games and toys we used to play at Grandma and Grandpa's, but what fun!

-Mick

Mom, Dad, Maureen and I went on a vacation and the younger kids stayed with Grandma and Grandpa in Loveland. We stopped in Glenwood Springs and bought a blueberry pie right out of the oven, and stopped in Glenwood Canyon and ate it beside the Colorado River. It was the best pie I ever tasted!

-Jerry

Every summer, we would go to visit Aunt Suzy and the Bechtolds at the resort parks they managed in the Big Thompson Canyon west of Loveland.

-Mick

I was setting up the croquet court at Grandma and Grandpa's house. I was bent over putting in a wicket when Jimmy, who was three or four, hit me over the head with a mallet and knocked me cold.

-Jerry



Grandpa liked to take me fishing with him at Loveland. Once, his car wouldn't start and he startled himself and me both by saying, "Dammit!, the battery's dead." It was shocking that he could use such strong language.

-Jerry

We would always spend time with Grandma & Grandpa during the summers in Loveland. I fondly remember smelling bacon frying and coffee brewing from the upstairs bedrooms while waking up to roosters crowing.

-Kathi

I spent a week with Larry Beman at Grandma and Grandpa's house in Loveland. Grandpa had gone to Kansas to officiate at a wedding, and Grandma needed help taking care of chickens which they kept in five or six different coops around town. I left the gate open at one of the coops, so Larry and I spent the whole day trying to round up chickens.

-Jerry

Grandma taught us how to make spinning toys out of string and buttons.

-Jerry

Some of us got to watch the circus tent being raised. One of the roustabouts hoisted me up on an elephant's back to help him put a hook in a ring!

-Mick

Baseball on television was a wonderful new experience, and hilarious with Dizzy Dean calling the game. His partner, Buddy Blattner did some whizbang beer commercials on camera between innings.

-Denny

The first boxing match I ever got interested in was between Joe Louis and Billy Conn, and there was a lot of excitement building for days before the fight. Dad was really excited, and so was I. I could hardly wait to hear it on the radio. Then, about a half hour before the broadcast, Maureen and I got into trouble and Dad sent me to bed. As soon as it came on, though, Dad came and told me I could get up and listen to it.

-Jerry

It seemed like a good idea when the City made a Huck Finn pond at Optimist Park, but it wouldn't hold water.

-Mick

... the best catch I ever made in Little League baseball ...



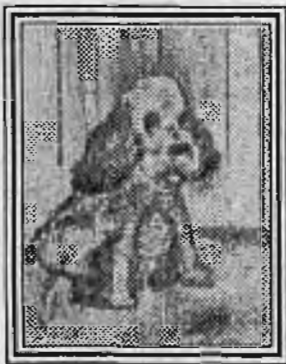
-Mick

Our dog Pixie was my special friend, a beautiful red cocker spaniel. I used to love to watch her stalk birds. I'll never forget how she used to get porcupine quills in her nose. Ouch!

-Mick

Some of us, I think mostly Jim and I, liked to make up a bedroll and sleep out in the back yard. We would lie and gaze into the depth and density of countless stars sparkling in the pristine Wyoming sky, and soon sink into a sound sleep. One morning I woke to a big surprise. Pixie had claimed the other end of my bedroll as a warm, soft place to deliver her latest litter of pups.

-Denny



I remember the day when Mommy, Daddy, Jerry and I held hands and entered our new home at 718 Spruce.

-Maureen

There is nothing better than the smell of a freshly mown lawn, especially in the Knights' yard.

-Tim

We went to the drive in movies for a buck a car and Dad acted like we were sneaking in.

-Kathi

On Tuesdays the whole carload could go to the Skyline drive-in theatre for a buck. I remember seeing "The Boy with Green Hair".

-Denny

I went to the drive-in with Jerry and Rosie in their blue Mustang. Kevin was brand new.

-Tim

One of the big events of the summer was our family's annual trip to the Denver amusement parks and zoo.

-Kathi

Occasionally, our septic tank would have to be unclogged. I remember one particular time as Dad and Jerry commenced to work on it, they talked (and I listened) about hoping it would be a simple job and take only a few hours standing up to their knees in _____. On the other hand, it could be worse and they might spend two days up to their knees (or deeper) in _____. Much to my delight, the latter happened and I had two full days of 4-star entertainment. Thanks, Jerry!

-Jim

TV was new and I was very impressionable. I could see no reason why a person properly fitted with a sheet couldn't fly from the roof of the chicken house and land safely on the ground. That is, someone other than myself. Tim, however, was younger (I think he had just begun to walk). He made the perfect test pilot (crash dummy). The flight didn't kill him, but it didn't do him any good, either. Was Mom ever mad!

-Jim

. . summer picnics in the mountains . . .

-Mick



The day the war ended, all the kids on the block had a parade with pots and pans as instruments. That evening, we went to Second Street to join the town celebration.

-Maureen

When we lived on North 3rd Street, Mom and Dad heard a loud, droning noise from the west side of town. Dad finally decided it was a race track, and he carried me on his shoulders across the railroad yards and found where they were having midget auto races. The walk home (with me on his shoulders) was treacherous, in pitch black with ditches and barbed wire fences to cross.

-Jerry

I remember being in the back room of the Home Bakery and seeing lots of flour, huge mixers, and Dad in a white baker's hat and apron. Memories of the aroma and the taste of the sugar cookie linger with me still.

-Maureen

I learned to bake on the porch of our 'chocolate house'. The ingredients were from a semi-solid mud puddle, and the utensils were an oversized serving spoon and a nice, wide stair which I used as a cookie sheet.

-Maureen

We spent many summer evenings playing hide & seek with the neighbor kids in Laramie, and with the neighbor kids in Loveland when we would be at Grandma and Grandpa's.

-Maureen

One afternoon Mom was entertaining some women, probably her Altar & Rosary Society group, and she sent me to the Co-Op to buy sodas. The store displayed them in a chest type vending machine, with the bottles standing in ice cold water. I purchased 8 or 10 bottles, and the clerk put them in a paper bag for me, without drying the bottles. I didn't get half way before the bag gave out. I'm not sure how, but I made it home without breaking anything but my arms.

-Denny

Mom would work literally all night getting us ready for one of dad's "we're leaving in the morning" vacations. How she managed this, I'll never know.

-Tim

It was funny to me, but I'm sure Kathi was very frustrated when she declined to use the coffee can for personal business while traveling to California in the '64 Impala. Rest stops were very sparse.

-Tim

How did the mosquito sprayer always know when we were having a picnic in the back yard?

-Jim

I suppose the reason I enjoyed mowing and edging the lawn was because I was good at it. Mom said so.

-Tim

The neighborhood kids would peek over our back fence while Dad cooked on our outdoor fireplace.

-Jim

After a summer rain, we would turn over big rocks and find salamanders.

-Denny

We spent a lazy summer day making stilts and having fun learning to walk on them.

-Maureen

Dad bought me a new fishing pole with an awesome Eagle Claw reel.

-Tim

Dad and Low Water Johnson converted our Buick woody so they could hide all the fish they never caught.

-Jim

... the world's best playground, the Laramie River, right in our back yard . . .

-Mick

Mick was running down the river with Dad in hot pursuit. He had decided to take the day off from school. Dad gave up when he realized Mick knew the river and all the hiding places better than he did.

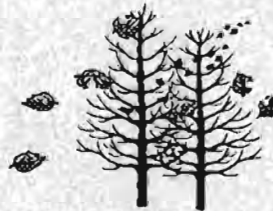
-Jim

I would sometimes sneak off to the river after Mom told me not to, and then wonder how she knew where I had been. I never did figure out who told on me. Suppose it had anything to do with being covered in mud from the knees down?

-Jim

One day, Jerry took me and his .22 rifle on a safari up the Laramie river. We took a lunch, including bottles of pop for each of us, but forgot to bring a bottle opener. Jerry finally shot the lids off the bottles, but then we couldn't drink the sodas because they were full of glass.

-Denny



Sometimes casseroles or creamed peas and the like stayed in the refrigerator a little too long. At cleaning time, Mom would send me, one at a time, to dump bowls of unidentified hairy substances at the river. I would carry the vessel at arms length, turning my head aside and constricting the muscles in my nose. I hoped the stuff would fall out cleanly with a vigorous shake, but it never did, and I would have to scrape it. I gagged a lot! I didn't seem to learn from this experience, however, as I am reminded when I finally get around to cleaning out my own refrigerator.

-Denny

An evening out meant we would drive to the dairy and choose a flavor for a double dip cone. Then we would park on 2nd Street and watch the people walk by. Another part of the entertainment was the motion neon sign of a lady in a rocking chair, outside the Laramie Furniture Store. We were convinced that Grandma Knight was the model she portrayed.

-Maureen

There was a neon sign over Laramie Furniture with an old lady rocking back and forth in a chair. We were sure it was Grandma Knight.

-Jerry

Was there ever a grocery store better than Jimmy Davidson's?

-Denny

Mick would walk me to school—first grade at St. Lawrence. Scary.

-Tim

Jim would walk me home from school, buy me a pop, and tell me not to tell Mick. That was fun!

-Tim

I spent a weekend with Denny when he was working at Woolworth's in Cheyenne. While he was at work I drank all of his cokes. I found out Denny can have a temper, but then later on he let me drive his new car. It was a real neat Volkswagen.

-Tim

... cattle drives by our front door ...

-Jim

On Saturday mornings we often rode our bikes uptown to Barney Deti's second hand store and bought used comic books at 3 for a dime. Barney sewed the loose covers on so they were better than new.

-Denny

Dad would send me to buy him a pack of Chesterfields from a vending machine at the garage over on Cedar Street. The cigarettes cost 17¢ a pack; you would put two dimes in the machine, and 3 pennies change were wrapped inside the cellophane. Dad would give me the pennies for running the errand.

-Denny

I would ride along with the neighbor kid, Donny Shaner on his paper route across town in the neighborhood around 9th & Grand. I sometimes went with him to collect, often again to the same house. I was there when he broke (and had to pay for) the fork on his bicycle going over a curb hell bent for leather with a load of papers. I concluded there wasn't a lot of profit in the distribution side of the newspaper business.

-Denny

Dad took me to my first football game one Saturday afternoon to see the Plainsmen beat the Cheyenne Indians.

-Mick

Jerry came home after being initiated into the Laramie High School Athletic "L" Club with a mohawk hair cut.

-Kathi

Dad traded cars with the neighbor, Mr. Shaner. They were both robbed, but neither of them could complain because they were each sure they had saddled the other with the greater lemon.

-Kathi

Why, when I was in trouble with Mom, would I run to the bunkbeds for safety? They were enclosed on three sides, and there was no way out but through Mom. She always had me when I did this.

-Jim

It was very scary watching the news one evening with Mom and Dad to learn of a terrible accident and fire on Mick's ship, the U.S.S. Enterprise. It was unclear what had happened and we didn't get much if any sleep that night until we finally heard from Mick that he was okay.

-Tim

I remember Dad's great excitement (and mine, too!) when Jim came home from the Navy.

-Tim

I was completely surprised the day Jerry came home from the Navy. Dad and I had been digging on the south side of the house that morning, and when we came in for lunch, there was Jerry in the living room. I was overjoyed.

-Mick



... the smell of ham and beans simmering on the stove ...

-Jim

Mom and I took Maureen to the airport as she left for Germany, with her toddlers, Nicky & Barbara wearing dog leashes, and baby Charlie in her arms. Good luck!

-Tim

Mom sold the piano, and we watched the piano movers haul it away.

-Mick

We took trips to Children's Hospital in Denver to take Micky Don for treatment on his legs. I think it was the first car we had with a radio (that worked.) I remember listening to Pete Smyth and the song by Dennis Day, "The Owner Told Clarence the Cocker".

-Jerry

I liked to hang out with Maureen and her girl friends, dancing to her rock 'n roll records in the living room. My favorites were "Hound Dog" and "Goodness, Gracious, Great Balls of Fire!"

-Mick

American Bandstand was first called Philadelphia Bandstand, but it still starred Dick Clark. Maureen would turn it on for her own entertainment, but I stuck around to watch the girls in ponytails rock and roll.

-Denny

Maureen often made fudge on the nights when she would be the sitter for the rest of us kids. It was always delicious, even the times when we had to eat it with a spoon. Sometimes, Maureen would only make the treat after we served as her audience while she pantomimed to some of her favorite records. She was the sole authority of how much appreciation we should show, and sometimes she wouldn't be satisfied with less than a standing ovation. You were a great entertainer, big sister, and we're hoping you might still make a farewell tour.

-Denny

Mom served an elegant Thanksgiving dinner on a fine lace tablecloth covering a table made up of 2 sawhorses and an outhouse door.

-Maureen

One of my great adventures was to explore the attic over Oren Johnson's garage.

-Mick

I accidentally started a fire in the boys' bedroom, and Mom got me out of there in a hurry! Thanks, Mom!

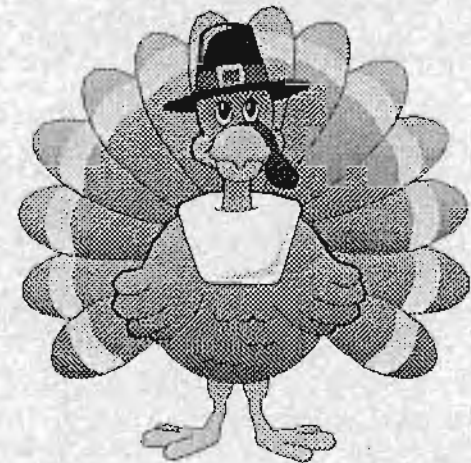
-Mick

We watched the sky of Laramie glow red the night the Holiday Furniture store caught fire and burned an entire city block to the ground.

-Maureen

During the war, there were occasional blackouts when all lighting was forbidden, and Mom and Dad would let us sleep with them. In the daytime, Jerry and I would watch the sky for enemy bombers. Needless to say, the only ones we saw were imagined.

-Maureen

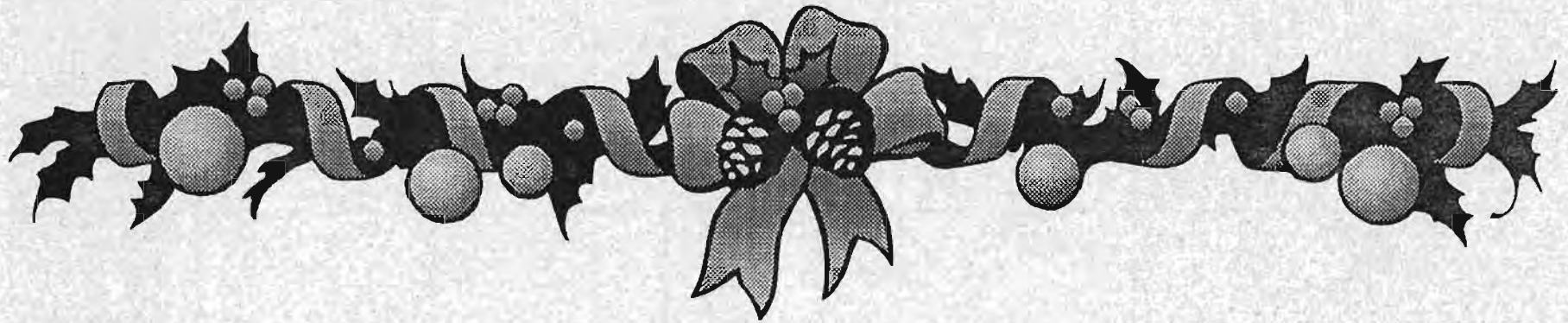


It seems like there was an awful lot of snow, especially on school mornings.

-Tim

and Mom's million dollar fudge at Christmas time!

-Denny



We got new bikes for Christmas during the blizzard of '49, but it was several days before we could go outdoors to ride them.

-Denny

Grandma & Grandpa would come from Loveland to spend Christmas with us. I remember the homemade gifts they would put under the tree. Their warmth, tranquility and love would radiate throughout our home whenever they came to visit.

-Kathi

I remember Mom sitting all day at the sewing machine making me a formal while the little kids ran around tearing up the house, with Day saying to spoiled rotten me, "Don't you think you could help your mother out and peel the potatoes?"

-Maureen

Mom's love and devotion to her family made every event or holiday just as special as it could possibly be. Many times she stayed up all night to sew, cook, and create to get her family ready for a special occasion.

-Kathi

I never was crazy about shoveling snow.

-Tim

Jerry let me ride on the back of his tricycle, which he was fortunate to have gotten before the war. I was unable to have my own because of the war.

-Maureen

I was grounded the month of December, 1956 for some sort of transgression. However, about the 27th, Dad was at work and I conned Mom to let me go on a blind date with friends. That evening about 8 my friend Phyllis brought this little guy named Mac to the door. Needless to say, that was the beginning of the end of my days in Laramie.

-Maureen

I loved to fish, and I enjoyed skiing and hunting, but especially I loved growing up in Laramie. I have good friends and a great family. Our calendars over the years have been great fun. Thank you, Denny. Thank you, Mom. Thanks to all of you.

Love, Tim

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to All of Our Wonderful Family