

January 2002

We are so blessed with family members. In fact, we're "on a roll," adding three more this year! Our granddaughter Marilyn married Mark Warren, giving us a fine grandson-in-law. Ron and Cindy added the lovely and talented 17-year-old Monika to their household, conferring on us yet another granddaughter. Marilyn and Mark have presented us with our first "great-grandblessing," Mark, Jr. We're beginning to think we might be getting old, having our son, Ron, now answering to "Grandpa"!

The wedding was beautiful and charming, being all "homemade." Besides the homegrown wedding party, the gowns, special music, preachers, reception, i.e., the decorating, cuisine, master of ceremonies/disc jockey, photographers--you name it, all provided remarkably well by family members. A great day of celebration and reunion!

Carl turned 75 this year. Our children honored their dad with a surprise party at a picturesque country restaurant. After the sumptuous brunch they presented him with a model of the LCI-G 458, the ship he'd served on in WWII. He was overwhelmed, to say the least. The ship had been beautifully and authentically handcrafted by a member of the national LCI Association and holds a place of prominence in our home.

We attended a reunion of Carl's shipmates in Hampton, Virginia. This is always a significant get-together and becoming even more meaningful as their numbers gradually diminish. This was an especially tough year, having lost their beloved "Skipper" as well.

Carl was honored last fall for his 22 years of dedicated service as a member of the Binghamton Regional Airport Advisory Board and serving as Chairman since 1988.

Dottie's high school class still comes together annually for their luncheon in Maryland. It's both delightful and comforting to be with those you've known for so long. Yet, as with the shipmates, this group is dwindling all too quickly. Do you suppose we're getting old when our Christmas card list is down by about a third?

One thing that really keeps us going is the pleasures our family provides--especially the joyful noises of the six-years-and-under crowd. It's fascinating to observe and listen to them as they play as well as being involved in some of their activities. It takes us back for a time to our parenting days and even our own childhood experiences. Young again?? Perhaps, but it's no doubt a sign of aging when it hurts to "be the horsie" and when you're thankful for *their* nap time as well as your own!

We still savor time spent at our "sanctuary by the sea" and especially happy when we are sharing it with family and friends. Yet, the travel, upkeep and expense is something we can do without. Since simplifying our lives is a definite priority, we've recently put our dream place up for sale. We pray another family will soon enjoy it as we have for more than ten years. We really must be getting old when our arthritis and energy level dictate our lifestyle!

One of Dottie's favorite things is keeping in touch with cards and notes and phone calls, and we greatly appreciate your efforts to do the same. But don't you know we're getting old when a postage stamp costs more than a movie used to when we were kids?

Yes, we have our share of aches and pains
The dimming eyes, forgetful brains
Still, thankful for the remedies
When all is done and said--
and "if it weren't for the pharmaceuticals, we'd be dead!"*

May God bless you and yours and keep you safe. We love you.

Dottie and Carl

*last phrase borrowed from a song from Newfoundland

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Christmas Afterglow

With the hustle and bustle and even the fun
Of preparing for 12-25
My most favorite time is the quiet and peace
That the "being all over" provides.

By tree lights and candles the creche comes alive
The angels are singing their song;
As "The Baby" is sleeping the lambs and
The shepherds and wisemen are humming along.

My heart is in tune to the day that has passed,
The meaningful worship and joy;
Then the kids in their 'jammies with squeals of delight
Discovering a new favorite toy.

The cards and the letters so lovingly sent
Now tenderly re-read with care;
Their beauty and message more special this year
More willing our true thoughts to share.

May the gift of the Savior bring peace to your soul
And keep you and yours in His care;
And the great gift of Love from the Father above
Be something you're willing to share.

Let the love flow! Enjoy the afterglow!

-- DJW

NOAH



M. and M.



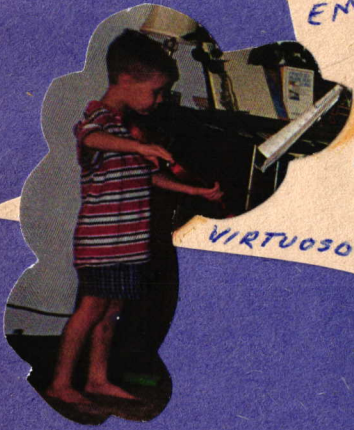
RON AND CINDY AND FAMILY
NOAH AND SEAN



STEVE



EMMA



VIRTUOSO



DON AND SUSAN AND FAMILY



MISS MEG



M. and M.



GRANT



FLOWER GIRL



DOTTIE

ABBY



HOLTZ FAMILY

JIM EMILY

EVA KAREN

REBEKAH ANTHUR

BABY



MARLY



MARK

MARILYN



THE LCI-G 458

75TH BIRTHDAY

CARL



THE WAUS FAMILY

BETHANY



ALLISON

MIKE

LEIGH

We wish for you the love and peace and joy that Christmas brings to last you all the year.... Remembering that without love, there is no peace, no joy.

Dottie and Carl

2001