

LIFE STORY

Here I sit in the quiet twilight  
Weaving dreams of days of yore--  
Times of sadness, times of gladness  
Happy memories galore.

Carefree child days, tag and jump rope,  
Making mudpies and playing store,  
Bouts of chicken pox, mumps and measles,  
Swinging on the bedroom door.

Playing house with neighbor, Jenny,  
We each had our favorite doll.  
Climbing trees, picking flowers,  
Four-leaf clovers on a grassy knoll.

Tangled hair and ribboned braids,  
Daily walks with friends to school,  
Stressful tests, happy A's,  
Trying to be, oh, so cool.

Summer jobs picking beans  
Earning 35 cents a day.  
Buying pencils, notebooks, candy.  
Costs were less but so was pay.

The first date--scared and shy.  
What to do? What to say?  
Funny movie, walking home,  
Linking arms along the way.

Gym and swimming, football games,  
Those special dances with good friends.  
Days of cramming for the finals,  
Graduation--a beginning, not end.

Applying for a job one day--  
Secretary, clerk and more.  
Got the job, what a thrill.  
Hope I'm equal to the chore.

Nearly five years with the company--  
Learned a lot and did so much.  
We were like a second family  
And we still keep in touch.

Eves and weekends filled with fun  
Went out with friends every chance--  
Movies, skating, picnics, swimming  
And, oh, how we loved to dance.

First apartment with a roommate ~  
Learned to shop and clean and cook.  
Budgets, decor, sharing secrets--  
Lots of fun and lots of work.

Meeting, talking, flirting, dating--  
Oh, those were joyful days--  
Interacting with each other  
In happy or distressful ways.

Then a wonderful thing happened--  
Didn't know it at the start,  
That this chance meeting would end  
In "until death do us part".

Love at first sight--  
It happens, you know.  
It happened to him--  
He told me so!

How my heart races yet  
At the thought of it.  
We had so much in common--  
We dovetailed--we "fit".

He was quiet but romantic.  
Love letters he penned,  
And on the way to our meeting  
The letters he would send.

Our wedding--June 4, '47  
Words cannot say  
What happiness we felt  
That glorious day.

First baby-to-be, tho' lost  
Still lives in my memory  
In heaven, my little angel  
Waits for me.

A happy year together--  
Making a house a home.  
Soon another little one  
Was waiting to come.

Then we began to search and choose  
A place to build our dream  
Here on this ancestral land  
With concrete, brick and beam.

A cold and snowy April Day  
We moved into the garage,  
And in that cozy atmosphere  
To three grew our "menage".

While we laid down block on block  
And raised rafter and stud,  
Jim helped along by hiding tools  
And adding sand to the "mud".

He climbed the ladders after Dad,  
And "baby-sat" with Ed.  
Then, when Ann came to join us  
He made sure she was fed!

In '53, the move was short--  
Just six feet across the grass,  
And in '54 was given us  
Another little lass.

The years flew by and there was Bill  
And Betsy and then Sue.  
We decided it was time  
To add a room or two.

The patio sprouted two rooms--  
Everyone helped along.  
Even Sue at two-and-one half  
Mixed mud to show she was strong.

The house grew and so did we--  
There were Marilyn and Jeanne.  
How could we help but win  
With a whole baseball team.

Marilyn was a "miracle"--  
She showed prayers' worth.  
With God's help and Doctor's skill  
She survived her birth.

Soon Jim was off to college,  
His "purple bomb to park.  
While others went to Roncalli,  
East Side school and Clark.

In '66, a special gift  
Arrived at Christmas season.  
Not planned but loved, Linda came  
With no rhyme or reason.

A late surprise with blue, blue eyes  
Nancy came to us  
If this goes on, I'm afraid  
We'll have to get a bus!

Well, we did! We outfitted it  
And traveled far and wide  
To Appleton, Chicago, Texas, Grand Canyon  
What fun we had inside.

One by one, the children left  
For school, jobs and marriage.  
"Goodbye, Big Blue" we said and then  
A maxivan became our "carriage".

It took us with two to California--  
Sacramento and Pebble Beach.  
To Van Nuys, Lakewood and on to Bill's--  
The lessons travel does teach!

The van soon became a "workhorse"--  
Moving this one or that.  
Six of them moved in just one year  
To another house or flat.

Dad and I downsized to a Subaru--  
And gas was cheaper as well.  
Since there were only the two of us  
We could afford a motel.

Ah, yes! There are many memories--  
Couldn't cover all of them here.  
They all come to fore from time to time  
Memories of a life so dear!

*about 1990*