

Joy is not available in larger denominations than the birth of a child. Our family was enlarged and enriched with the birth of HAILEY EVELYN HOVLAND on March 31, 2000. Gary and I have greatly enjoyed the bragging rights of the new Grandpa and Grandma status, and are making the most of the opportunity to dote on our beautiful, healthy granddaughter. We feel extremely fortunate that Tanya and Chad live only a few minutes away!

The past year featured other bright spots such as our children's successes, wonderful family events, and the many simple pleasures of our daily routine ... all of which brought light into the long shadow cast by the loss of my Mother in August of 1999. Although I continue to miss her, I am able to see the many ways she remains a part of my life.

Gary spent the better part of the summer in Dodge Center MN making a new road. He is now in St. Clair (near Mankato), in sub-zero temperatures, moving a river away from some houses.

Commuting back and forth daily provides what typically would be considered ample windshield time, but Gary spends most of his leisure time roaming the countryside on his motorcycle. He put nearly ten thousand motorcycle miles of road behind him in one year. His longest trip was visiting Jaslyn in Chicago last summer. Other than a thunderstorm that followed him through Wisconsin and a walking tour that strayed into a seedier side of Chicago, he and Jaz had a great time! It seemed for a while this summer that whenever Gary got out on his bike the skies would open up and he'd end up very wet. Weary of being rained on, he bought a rain suit in August and, sure enough, we then went two and a half months without rain! In spite of the long work hours and motorcycle touring, he puts out around 75 pounds of bird feed weekly for "his" songbirds, pheasants, and ducks. We were rewarded with quite a variety of waterfowl visiting our ponds this spring and now that the ground is snow covered, groups of twenty pheasants at a time gather to spar over Gary's cracked corn pile.



Northern Shoveler visiting briefly

Tanya took a leave of absence this school year to spend time with daughter Hailey. Chad continues to teach in Farmington. Because I work in Farmington, I've gotten the nod for a couple babysitting opportunities! Tanya obtained a certification for a special type of tutoring which she does several afternoons a week, in their home.

Nick (Gary's son) is working as an educational assistant in Edina. He will soon be a long-term substitute teacher. Music continues to be his vocation and avocation. He's living with a roommate from college, and just recently acquired a four legged roommate, Armstrong, a very cute Cocker Spaniel.

Crystal (Gary's youngest) is attending St. Cloud University preparing to teach special education physical education. An outstanding three-sport athlete all through high school Crystal continues to excel in college and missed the national finals in pole vault by a fraction of an inch. She also participates in other track and field events.

I continue to love the challenge and the constant change provided in my educational technology job. The school district is undergoing a major transition in leadership at this time and the outcome portends to be very good.

With only one daughter at home now, the farm chores require more of my personal attention than in the past. It certainly seems that the bales of hay, armloads of wood, and shovels full of manure are heavier now than ten years ago! I also tackled a couple major projects; one, a very substantial, albeit ugly, bridge of masonry and rough sawn oak over a small muddy crick in the horse pasture. The project's lack of aesthetic qualities and the fact that they were sure the horses would never use the bridge provided Lesanna and Dorissa several days of laughter. However, I had the last laugh, as within a day of completion, the unmistakable clip clop of horses hooves gave witness to the fact that the horses indeed had chosen the clumsy structure over wading through the mud. My other "construction" project involved turning a portion of one of our sheds into a crude aviary constructed of chicken wire and plywood. This is home for our ducks, including three wood ducks we saved, as eggs, after raccoons pillaged their nest and drove away the hen. I also stole some time to do a little sewing, photography, and reading.

**J**aslyn Jean is a fifth year engineering/soil science student at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her friend, Jim, graduated last spring and is working on his Master's degree in the intricacies of endocrinology and reproduction. An engineering internship in Chicago consumed her summer. She continues to work on the same research project for which she received a grant the previous summer. As is typical for students she is just settling into her fifth apartment/room in so many years, and is tired of moving! Jaz has always maintained a very active life style; running, biking, working out, and participating in various sports. Rugby has been one of her passions for the past few years, but she is taking a hiatus due to aggravation of a chronic back problem.

**L**esanna Lyn successfully completed her high school career by attending the University of Minnesota during her senior year. She officially became a college student this fall when she entered Carleton College (Northfield, MN). In addition to a rigorous academic schedule she has been working as a student photographer. Always the artist, Lessy finds time for pottery and painting. Following the ceramics course she took at the U of M, the pots coming off her wheel are very professional looking compared to the creations she made years ago using clay from the ditches on our farm. Her musical interests, violin and sax, have been somewhat neglected during the frenzy of freshman year.

**D**orissa selected a new middle and last name and is now officially, legally Dorissa Sage Zemirah. She is enjoying her second year in the Northfield High School, now a junior. Chemistry and art are her favorite subjects this term. Belly dancing, painting, and animals consume her time away from academics. Dorissa welcomed our recent snowfalls as she invested last year in a pair of snowshoes. Her last excursion was somewhat ill fated in that her small dog Spritzen (Rat Terrier) tangled with a barbed wire fence while chasing pheasants. Several rolls of gauze and tape later, Spritzen is healed.

## CREATURES

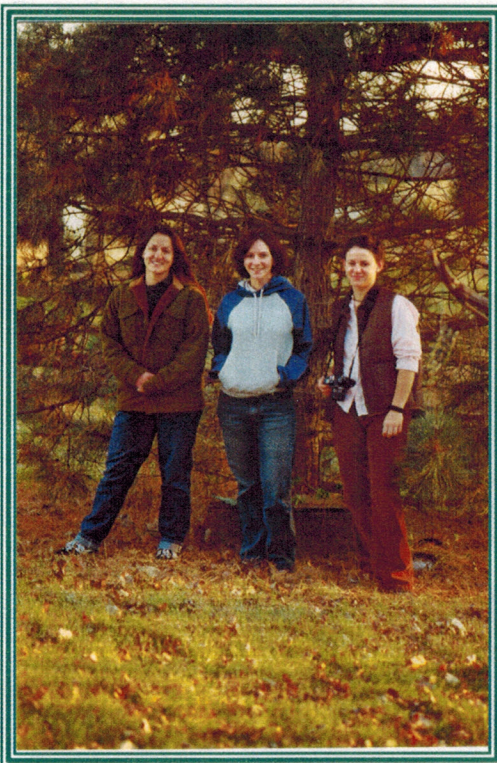


The horse population remains at five, with the two elders (Breeze and Skeeter) marking their 27<sup>th</sup> year come January. Trotzig, a German Shepard puppy, has been with us since February and is turning out to be a wonderful dog. She is pictured on the couch with Zah Zu. We lost a dog, Bo, our big, lovable Humane Society mix, to debilitating arthritis, reducing the canine quantity to an all time low of four. Kirby, my Mom's bird, is still trying unsuccessfully to teach our two cockatiels to talk. Two cats, five caged rabbits, numerous rabbits "on the lam", eleven ducks, four rats, and one iguana complete the zoo.

Happily I report that my Dad's mother, **G**randma Rodruck, turned 98 last May and many family and community members turned out to help celebrate. The Arnesens in Owatonna, continue to be wonderful, dear friends through the years. Gary's brother, Ed, remarried this year. Sadly, my Mom's sister Marilyn lost her husband Gary last spring. He was only 56 years old, soon to retire from a successful career as a track coach at Drake University in Iowa.

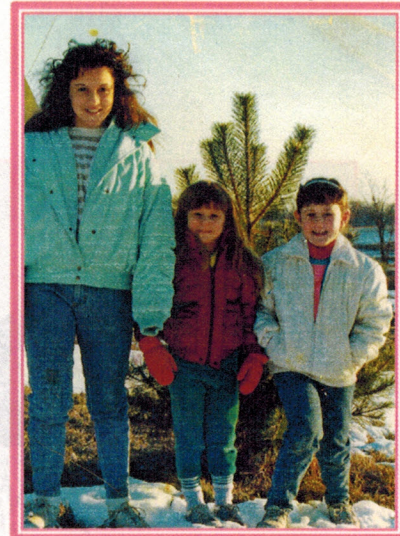
My brothers' families and our family created a design for Mom and Dad's gravestone. A stonecutter in Mankato MN transformed a beautiful, flat piece of black granite into a lovely marker with the names, dates and an etching of chickadees. Fortunately Mom had expressed her wishes regarding a gravestone shortly before she died, as she commented on replacing the original stone marking Dad's grave. Many of the Harpole/Wilden family helped place the stone.

The holidays provide impetus to look back ... remembering the traditions, happiness, and catastrophes of the past. Our first Christmas card after the girls and I moved to the Northfield farm, in 1988, shows Jaslyn, Dorissa and Lesanna standing in front of a tree in our front yard. Twelve years later I captured my three young ladies in a similar pose in front of the same tree.



We hope the year 2001 is a happy and safe time for your family. We intend to make it that way for ours.

Very best wishes,  
Rosalyn



# Scrapbook

Crystal pole vaulting at St. Olaf.



Newly hatched wood ducks.



Hailey Hovland, a few hours old, March 31, 2000.

Fall colors at Carleton College (taken by Lesanna)



Spring at our farm, apple trees in bloom.



Les and Doris Lahner's Christmas card fifty one years ago, showing Rosalyn with a Burroughs machine.

A senior picture of Lesanna taken at home



Hailey (8 months) in the Rosalyn's old high chair ... folded down into a play table.

