

## Calendars are My Hobby

By Dennis Knight

It became a hobby rather by accident in 1991 when my mother pulled a little box from the shelf and shared with me a group of poems she had written over her then seventy-seven years. Some were funny, some were serious, all were from the heart, and all were well crafted. It occurred to me then that the perfect way to share them with her large and extended family would be to put them in a calendar.

That became the 1992 Knight Family Calendar, and it was such a hit it was inevitable we would create another for 1993. For that edition, we assembled a collage of family photos for each month of the year. Mom penned captions in her fine Palmer hand and I matched them with months. We took the project to a quick print shop, and by the end of Thanksgiving weekend we had produced our second Knight Family Calendar. Those two were the genesis of what has become a hobby I do purely for the love of it.

Each year, with help, I manage to come up with a new and completely different theme. A couple times I canvassed family members with ridiculous questions that produced a whole host of interesting articles. Sometimes we gather recipes, other times we gather photos on a specific theme. Once I made a calendar of my own essays. In more recent years, an edition was dedicated to photos and memories about our dad, a later was a similar collection about Mom, and the last two editions have been about our grandparents, maternal and paternal.

The tradition is now entering the middle of its third decade, and I'm sure we'll be able to come up with ideas for many more years. The 2015 theme has yet to be decided, but I have a collaborator, my great niece Cameron, and I know we will pull something out of the hat we share.

I will wrap this essay up by telling you about one of my favorite calendars to date. Mom was in her waning years and residing with my sister, Maureen and her husband in Las Vegas. Maureen came up with the idea of a wonderful project wherein family members of all generations would send questions to Mom and she would answer them in her own meticulous words and penmanship. Those questions and her answers became the 2004 Knight Family Calendar, and we titled it, "Grandma Answers."

I had intended to include here one of Grandma's Answers, and any would have been a good choice, but they all seem to exceed the informal limit of five hundred words; so instead, I will recite one of her poems that made up the first Knight Family Calendar.

### Let Sleeping Dogs Lie

Cash doesn't grow upon a tree,  
I've heard it said since I was three.  
So that leaves fruit and nuts to be  
The reason why you'll never see -  
Me, no never me, no, not me! -  
You'll never see me shake my family tree.