

# The Knight Family Calendars

## 10,957 Days Arranged in Rows of Seven

by Dennis Payton Knight

In 1991 I spent a fall weekend visiting Mom. She was seventy-seven then, the age I am now. That Saturday she shared with me a collection of poems she had written when she was younger, and I was struck by both her depth of expression and the humor her writings capture.

I said, "Mom, we have to do something with these. You can't just keep them in a box." We visited more, and later that evening it struck me. We would put them into the form of a calendar that all of us, her kids, grandkids, kinfolk and friends, can use and treasure.

Thus the 1992 Knight Family Calendar was born, the first volume of a series that will reach thirty with the 2021 edition, when it will have spanned 10,957 days, 1,565 weeks, 360 months, 30 years. All those grids, covers and facing pages, if bound into a single book, would be roughly 850 pages long.

Mom died in 2004, but the calendar tradition goes on, a diary of the extended Knight family which includes my own first generation of seven siblings and our four Kemp cousins of about the same age. We have grown into a big tree of about 175 people with some 200 birthdays and anniversaries to observe. We currently print and deliver some sixty copies of the calendar, one to each family unit. As children reach high school graduation age they begin to receive their own copy, and the circulation grows.

I get to be the arranger in chief, keeping track, compiling monthly grids, and adding facing pages befitting each year's calendar topic. With the coming edition, we will have had thirty distinctly different, stand-alone themes that the entire family has contributed to. After that first edition of Mom's poetry, we've enjoyed recipe collections in some years and photo collections in others. Sometimes family members have been asked to provide answers to questions designed to elicit personal stories. One year we featured photos and memories dedicated to our Payton family heritage on our mother's side. Another was dedicated to the Knight heritage on Dad's side.

In recent years, the 2016 calendar featured photos and memories of only the first Knight generation and our Kemp cousins. In 2017 we had a retrospective of the twenty-five previous editions, in 2018 we tasked family members of every age to tell us how they have been "Perfectly Spoiled." In 2019 we got some seventy contributions telling us about places to go, people to see and things to do. 2020's theme, "Kids Only," has photographs from all our generations catching us in the act of being children.

And now another year looms. So, all you Knight family members, write this down: The 2021 Knight Family Calendar, our 30<sup>th</sup> edition, will be photos and short writings about dishes, even meals, you've made from recipes found in the pages of our previous calendars. *More to come...*