

## *The Vase*

The Vase has been travelling around North America since 1984 and has been in the "safekeeping" of many members of the family throughout the years!

Dennis has provided the details of how this all started:

"Dad was visiting us when we were living in Markham the first time. I don't remember the exact year but it was in the mid-eighties. Donna had purchased a raffle ticket at the Markham Christmas Fair. Dad was at the house when the call came through that she had won a prize. She was quite excited as she complained that she never won anything. She rushed right back to the Arena to pick up her prize.

She came through the door beaming and held up the vase. We looked at it and Dad said: 'Donna, the kindest thing you could do to that vase is to drop it!' It broke me up as I was not used to Dad saying a bad word about anyone or anything."

In light of Dad's opinion of the vase, Dennis and Donna packed it up in early 1984 and sent it to him as a joke. (If there was a note or letter with it, it has not survived.) In the same spirit, Dad returned it to them as an anniversary gift a few months later.

And thus "The Vase." began its travels! It has provided a great many laughs over the years, and the clever and witty letters are very entertaining!

May 17, 1984

Dear Dennis and Donna:

Many happy returns on your wedding anniversary!

I'm sending along this valuable artifact to you as the pressure is getting to be too much. All members of the family would like to claim it, but you being the oldest son, I think it should be in your hands.

Also, there are several museums after it -- even that new Ceramic Museum in Toronto would like to have it and would offer a lot of money for it! But I don't think money means that much when you have such a valuable treasure that you can hand down for generations in your family.

I have seen several write-ups on this masterpiece and am sure that you will be approached often to donate this valuable article to some place of honor.

I will be glad to dispose of it as it is risky to keep in the apartment, and I am sure you have access to vaults, etc., in Toronto that we don't have out here.

I am sure you will enjoy this treasure for many years to come.

Best regards,

Dad

May 29, 1988

Dear Dad

One of the problems we have encountered in our move to Virginia, is that U.S. Customs will not allow us to take valuable pieces of Canadian art out of the country without the permission of the Canadian government. As a result, we will not be allowed to take our precious piece of pottery with us. As you are aware, this vase has a special meaning to us and therefore, we do not wish to sell it.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could keep this vase in safekeeping until we move back to Canada. A piece of art such as this is meant to be seen, so we encourage you to put it on display in your apartment. Please be careful though. Objects of art such as this have been known to disappear. In particular, please be careful when Eileen is around. I have noticed that she has an unusual interest in this vase.

Again, thank you for looking after our vase while we are away.

Your Son

Dennis

June 19, 1988

Dear Dennis & Donna,

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of the valuable vase, and glad to say that it survived the trip by mail. I noticed the high postage that you paid, most of which I presume was the high insurance that you put on it.

I will do my utmost to protect this artifact until your return to Canada. I will be in contact with the MacKenzie Art Gallery about safe storage in temperature-controlled rooms and see that it gets the care it deserves.

I have not made it public that this valuable article is back in Saskatchewan. I'm sure you can understand the reasons for that. I am sorry that you would have problems getting it into the United States through customs, and I am sure the Canadian Government would be reluctant to see it leave the country.

I have been in touch with President Reagan to relax the rules a bit, but he says that he, being a lame duck President, and after consulting with Nancy and their astrologer, suggests that I wait until Jesse Jackson becomes President and then re-apply. So I will do that.

In the meantime I will do everything I can to protect it, and make sure that it is returned to you on your return to Canada.

Dad

January 2, 1989

Dear Dennis and Donna,

I have had a very guilty conscience ever since your visit at Christmas. I knew you were glancing around the apartment for a glimpse of this valuable art object that you left me for safekeeping. When you finally got enough courage to inquire about its safety, I assured you that it was in good hands. But I could see you were doubtful.

Now that the Free Trade Bill has passed, we are free to return it to you. I got in touch with the Minister of Trade and Commerce and he assured me that it was OK. There has been some concern with valuable art leaving the country, but in your case being a Canadian citizen who will be returning to Canada some day, the way is clear now for me to send this valuable property to you. I am sure you will be pleased to have it in your possession once again. Besides there is so much better security in Washington with the Pentagon, etc, compared to it being kept in Regina.

I will insure it for its value as close as I can.

Yours truly,

Dad

P.S. Attached is my horoscope -- which bothers me somewhat! So it is better in your hands!

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Member of opposite sex says, "I will be your mascot!" Attention centres around home, domestic activities, possible sale or purchase of art object, luxury item. Libra will play paramount role.

219 Larkin Ave.  
Markham, Ont. L3P 4Y7  
June 21, 1992

Dear Eileen & Jim,

Donna and I really enjoyed the wedding. It was a good opportunity to get caught up on everything and in particular, the maturing of our neices and nephews.

You must be very proud of your family. You have some wonderful grandchildren and your children and their partners seem to be well on their way in terms of careers. It must be very special to have an architect son, re-model one's home.

Dad and I have discussed this and have agreed to give to you, the very valuable vase that we have been sharing for a number of years. As you know, this item has a very special meaning to both of us and for this reason, we would be very proud to see it proudly displayed in your own very special, re-modelled home.

I know that you may find it difficult to accept this gift but I assure you we have given this much thought and we are delighted to see this work of art in your possession.

All the best

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis".

Dennis

# Season's Greetings

Regina SK -- 24 December 1992

Dear Nick and Lorraine:

It really breaks my heart to have to write this letter. It was a difficult decision -- but, that's life!

Condy and I were thrilled to receive this valuable "objet d'art" from Dennis and Donna and we have been proud to display it in our newly-renovated home -- or at least we would have been proud to display it -- if we could have reached a decision on the best possible place to put it!

But all good things must come to an end -- and we feel that it would be too selfish of us to keep it any longer. Since you are now settled in your new home, it only seems fitting that you should be allowed the privilege of having this priceless heirloom in your safe-keeping. I'm sure you will find a place of honor for it -- somewhere that is appropriate for a treasure such as this!

We are sorry to see it go, and now understand what emotions must have been experienced by Dennis and Donna -- and Dad -- when they were faced with the same situation.

It seemed too risky to send this via Canada Post and so we have waited for this opportunity to make the transfer in person! And with so many witnesses!

We know that you will treasure it as much as we have!

Merry Christmas!!

Condy + Lillian









Banff, Alberta  
July 16, 1994

Dear Pat and Gwen,

Turning "40" is a huge milestone that many of us here are proud to have reached! Nick and I thought long and hard on how we could best mark this great occasion.

After many hours of deliberation (and with heavy hearts) we've decided to part with "the vase". As you know, this valuable piece of art is a family treasure and this is a very difficult decision!

Because of our very active household, we've never felt comfortable displaying this work of art. What if it had been broken or damaged accidentally? It's also very tempting for would-be thieves.

So, we have stored it carefully in its original box and wrapping on the highest shelf we could find in our home.

As both of you turn 40 this year, we feel (with double certainty) that you deserve this gift.

Please take good care of it! If you have a security system in your home, it should be safe to display it!

Enjoy!!

Love,

*Nick and Lorraine*





March 12, 1998

Dear Patti & Jeff:

The birth of your first child is an event to be treasured. And speaking of treasures, we can think of no better way to welcome William Archer into this family, than to present his parents with another treasure, "the vase".

"The vase" remains a priceless family tradition. While it comes to you in it's original box, it should not remain there. You should keep it on prominent display in your home (out of the reach of toddlers - won't be long), as we have for the last four years.

When it was presented to us, it was suggested that we have a security system installed in our home. We never did this, and as a result spent more than a few sleepless nights worrying about the safety of "the vase". It is our belief that the Grande Prairie detachment of the RCMP is prepared to provide extra security for your home. We think the odd cold beer and barbeque should attract at least one officer to frequent your home.

The sheer beauty of "the vase" aroused the curiosity of many a guest in our home. You may or may not experience the same response, since it is a well-known fact that Albertans don't appreciate "art" in the same manner as your couth relatives from Saskatchewan.

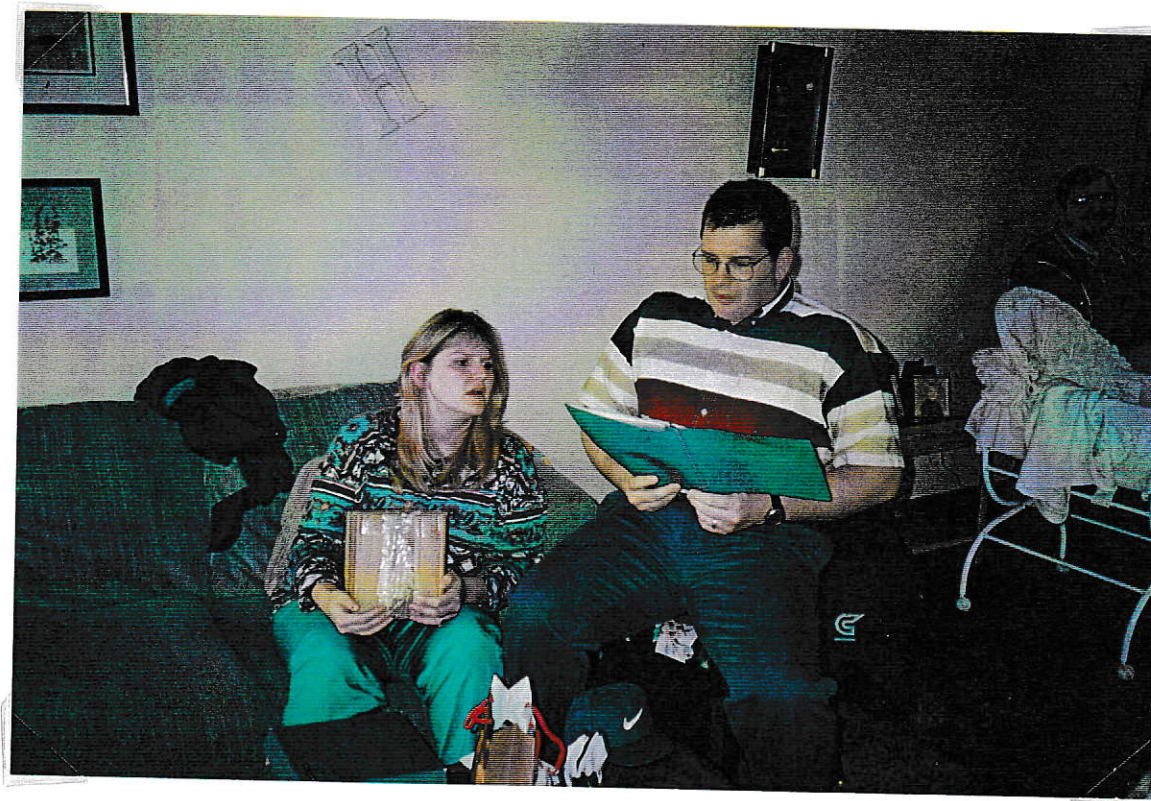
We are confident we are passing on "the vase" to good hands. Guard it, cherish, and enjoy it, because at some point in time, you will feel the compelling urge to pass it on. Once it's gone, it's gone (finally)!

Love,

*Pat + Gwen*



BECAUSE OF OUR VERY SPECIAL OCCASION, WE WERE ABLE TO  
COMMIT THIS SPECIAL MOMENT TO THE WORD OF GOD. IT IS OUR  
HOPE THAT YOU WILL ENJOY THIS SPECIAL OCCASION. IT IS ALSO OUR HOPE



Grande Prairie, Ab  
July 17, 1999

Dear Great Grandpa William Maloney,

I am very grateful to be here celebrating your birthday with you. It is, however, with a heavy heart that I pass on a family treasure to you, otherwise known as "the vase".

When I received "the vase" for my Baptism, I thought my cares of how I would support myself when I'm older were over. I figured that people would come from all over the world and pay good money to get a glimpse of this unbelievable piece of art.

I was a bit confused when my parents packed "the vase" away during my ownership. They assured me it was for protective purposes and that such art would be subject to thievery if the crime element of Grande Prairie ever found out about it. Many of my friends have heard the legend of "the vase", but never had the good fortune to view it.

I know that passing this treasure to you is like putting it in Fort Knox. "The vase" is as good as gold, and I know that you will have a special place for it in your new home.

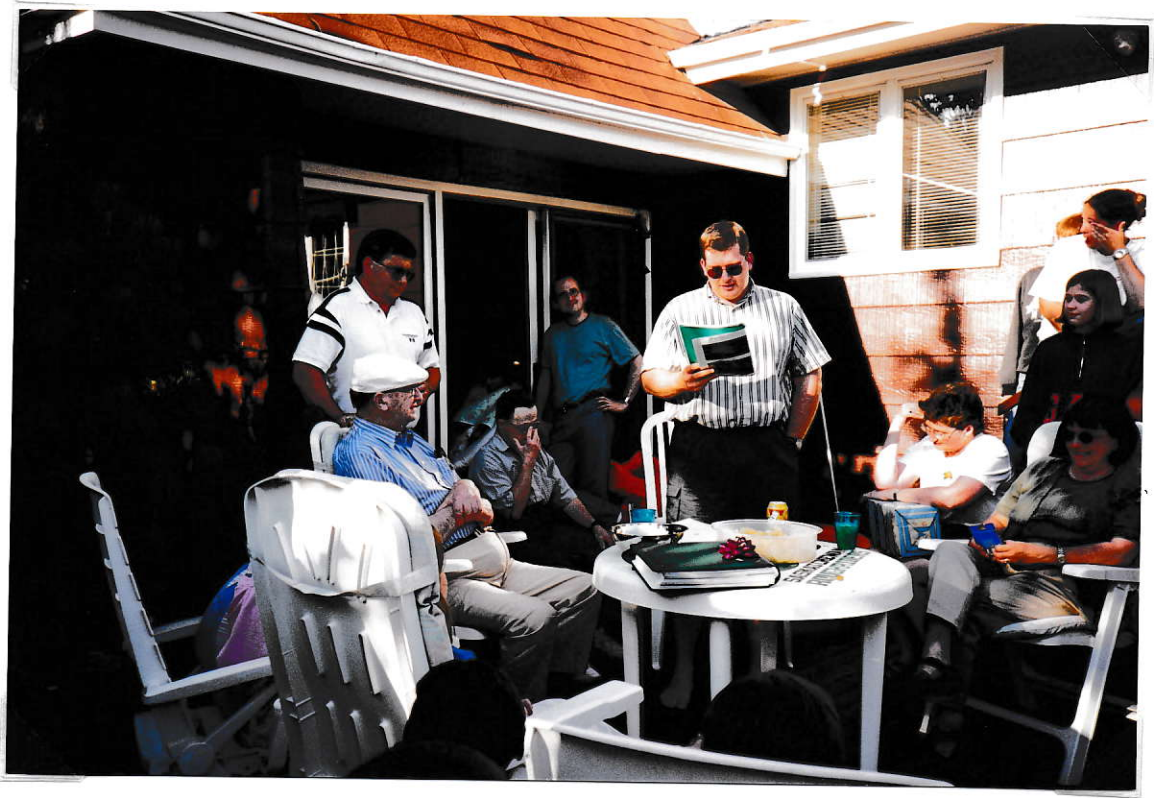
I was told that "once the vase is gone, it's gone (finally)! I'm not sure what Uncle Pat and Aunt Gwen meant when they gave it to me, (I'm only 16 months old) but I do know that now that it's gone, there's a great big void in my life.

Anyway, HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREAT GRANDPA!!! Remember, it's all in the name.

LOVE

William Archer Hanson

Billie



Regina SK  
June 2000

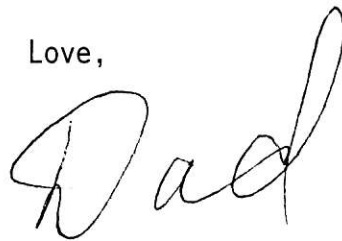
Dear Tom & Lorna Mae:

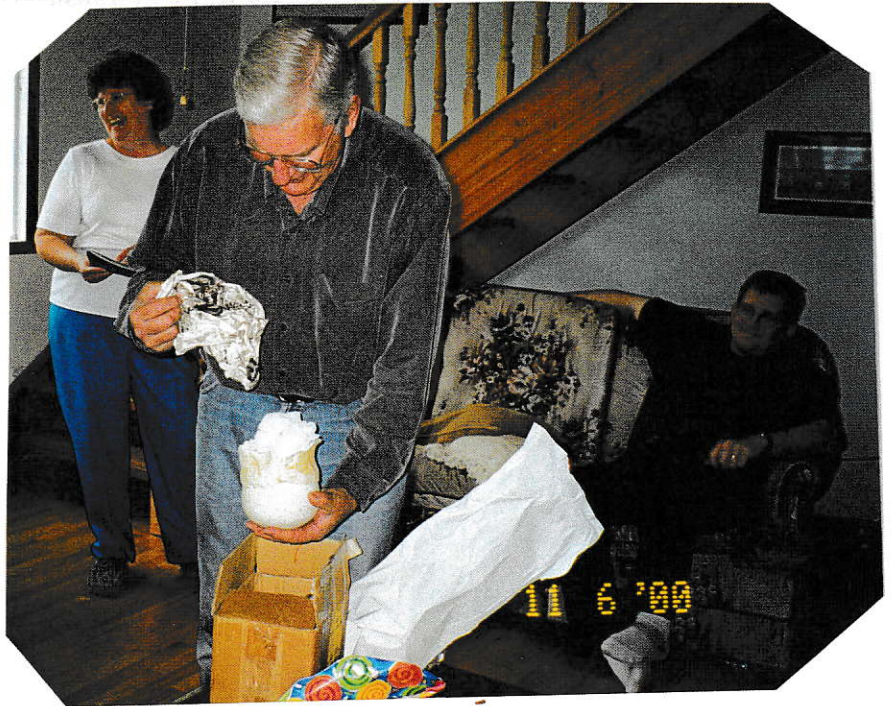
This is the third time I have had to pass on this valuable artifact in its original box. It gets harder all the time, but I can think of no other place than your new home (by the lake) for safekeeping. I understand there is a workshop as well, and with Tom's great talent, I am sure he will build a case for its security.

As you know, this "vase" has been passed around to different members of the family who have all done a great job showing this artifact to select people. I am sure that you will do likewise. You will have many tempting offers for this valuable vase --in its original box--but I hope you can resist, as the family would be heartbroken if this work of art were ever to leave the family.

So, despite strong urges to keep it, I shall honor you with the future possession and hope you enjoy it as much as I have. I have been in touch with Premier Klein who is planning to add extra money in his budget for security, if needed; he is very pleased to have this valuable art in the Province of Alberta--where most rich Canadians live. Some of them even get to retire by a lake!

Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dad". The letters are fluid and connected, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail on the "d".





July 13, 2002

Dear Tom and Lorna Mae,

I was listening to the news the other day while the G8 conference was being held in Kananaskis. The bulk of the news surrounded the security in place. My mind started wandering as I was thinking about security for these leaders of state. I then started thinking about security surrounding their precious items. Often, heads of state travel with Chains of Office, Crown Jewels, etc. and I was envisioning what sort of velvet-lined cases would be required.

I then realized that in our family is a valuable artifact that travels from location to location with much pomp and circumstance. I asked myself if it has any special protection and the answer was "*not quite yet*". It is especially vulnerable while in transit as its case is an old cardboard box!

Our vase is truly fit for a king so, who better than the "King" himself to insure its safety. In loving memory of Gordon, I am presenting to you a one-of-a-kind tapestry which I am certain was handcrafted by someone, somewhere. It is to be used to shroud and protect the vase while in transit. He would want it that way.

With the shroud, comes the legacy of perspective. If it is important, make it important! If not, it "*doesn't matter*"!

I anticipate that those who display the vase in their homes will now proudly hang the tapestry next to it. It should only be taken down to wrap the vase and dry inevitable tears when preparing to give the vase to the next honoured recipient.

Yours truly,

Pat and Gwen

P.S. Now "*me finally got it*" -- no, now "*you finally got it*"!



*SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION, PROTECTION,  
CIRCULATION AND DISPLAY  
OF VALUABLE ANTIQUITIES AND ARTIFACTS*

2 September 2002

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

With the family growing as it is, there are members complaining that they don't get a chance to be guardians of the "VASE" – in its original box.

So a panel of family members had a meeting to do something about it. The members of this panel asked to remain anonymous. For safety reasons, the request was granted.

It was decided that a time limit should be imposed. No one should keep the artifact for more than six months – preferably less. This decision was made although we realize how hard it is to part with this valuable keepsake. To be fair, I think the panel made the right decision.

We investigated this subject with the Royal Antique Society in London. They advised us that we had every right to pass laws, as this would go a long way in keeping the family happy.

So, if you have any questions, you could inquire at the Supreme Court of Canada – not to me!

Sincerely,

*W.J. Maloney*

CEO, Chief Curator and Chairman of the Board  
(Newly Appointed)

# November

Nov 2 2002

Dear Ryan and Kim

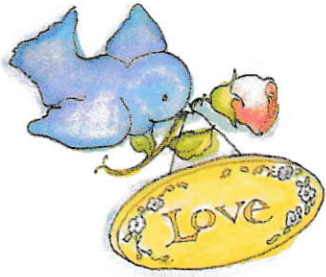
After careful consideration and after seeking the guidance of a higher power, your Aunt Lorna-Mae and Uncle Tom have decided that this priceless heirloom of the Maloney family should be reunited in the clean environment that it always thrived on, in Weyburn Saskatchewan. Your wedding day is a perfect time to receive this gift, as part of a new beginning.

Considering the care that your parents did give to this delicate artifact, and the clear and present danger it is now experiencing in "Greenhouse Gas Alberta" we know that it will be preserved and nurtured as we pass it on to a new generation of Maloneys. Your parents may come to your house often (too often) just to admire the vase.

May you both experience many hours of pure pleasure and inspiration from the aura of mystic that surrounds this work of art. We have had this great pleasure since 2000 and with regrets must pass it on

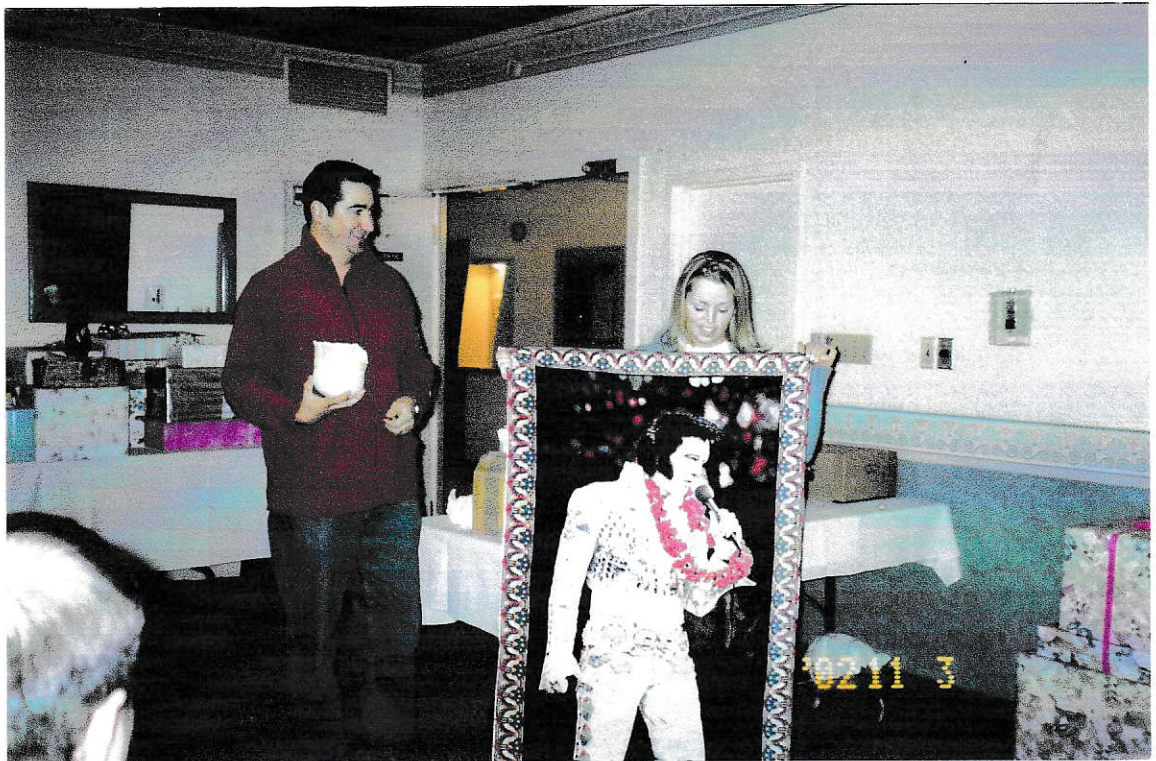
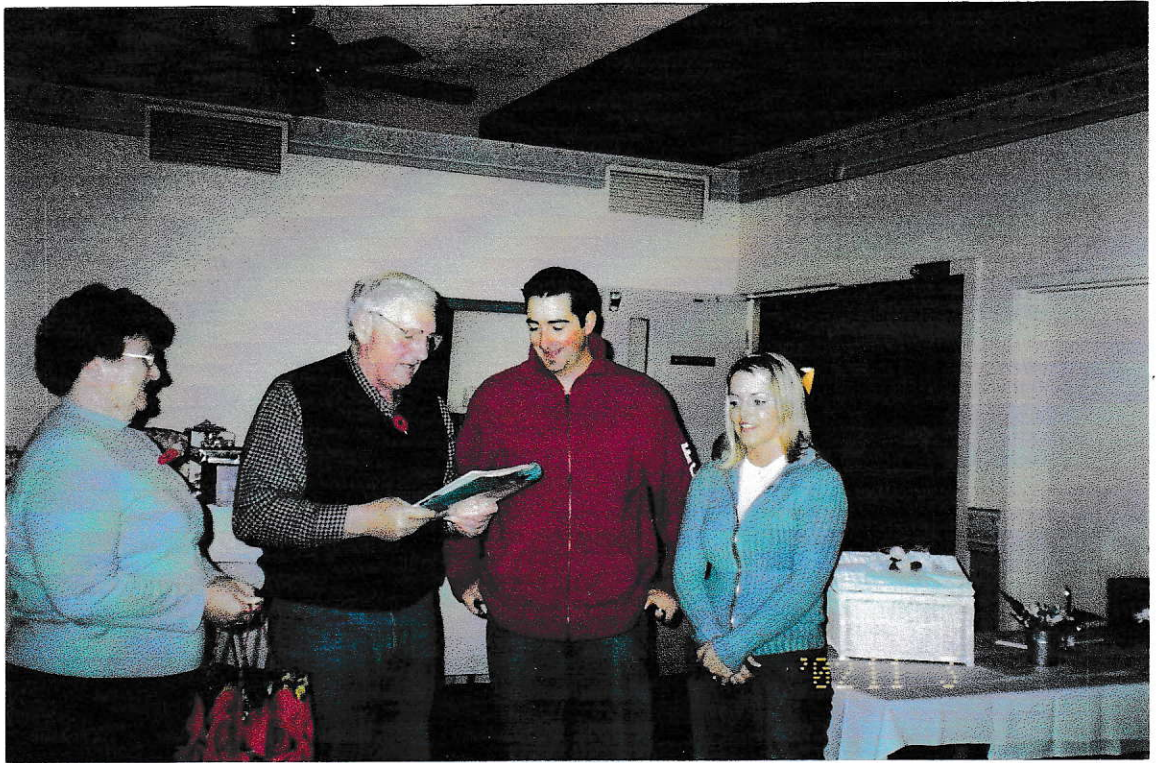
The velvet "Elvis" wall hanging protects the vase while in transit, but we know that you both will want to hang it up in your new home. Gordon would be so proud of you.

God bless you;  
Uncle Tom & Aunt Lorna-Mae



250







*~Calgary, Alberta ~May 17, 2003*

*~Dear Erin & Brett:*

*Ryan and I thought long and hard about what we should write to you on this joyous occasion, your wedding day. Although we have only had "The Vase" and "Elvis" for a short seven months, it is with great sorrow that we hand it off to you both so that it may finally return to its homeland of Toronto. We know that you will be more than happy to receive this priceless vase and display it in your new home. You should be warned though that the curator of the Ceramic Museum in Toronto has been after this rare, priceless piece since May of 1984 and will probably be approaching you with quite a substantial offer to "take the vase off your hands". However, we know that no sum of money is worth giving up this precious family heirloom and that you will keep it with you always. We also bless you with the beautiful Velvet Elvis Tapestry in hopes that it too will bring you as much happiness as it has brought to us and that you will come to love it the way we have.*

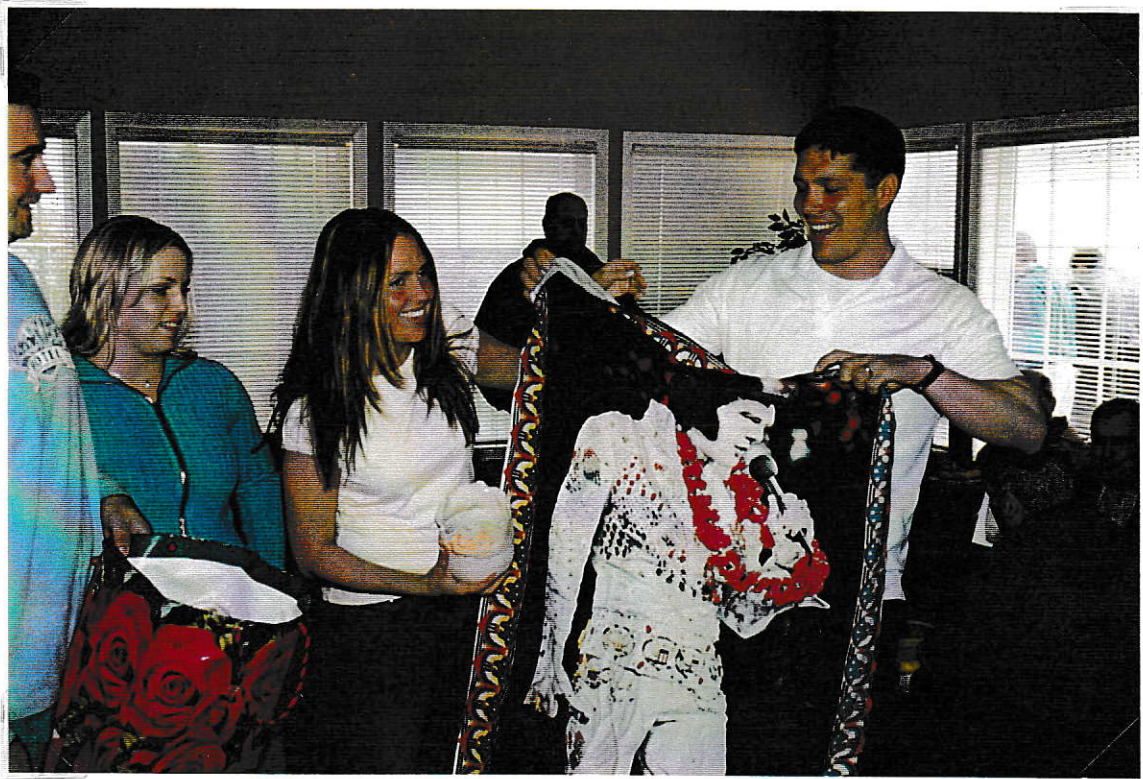
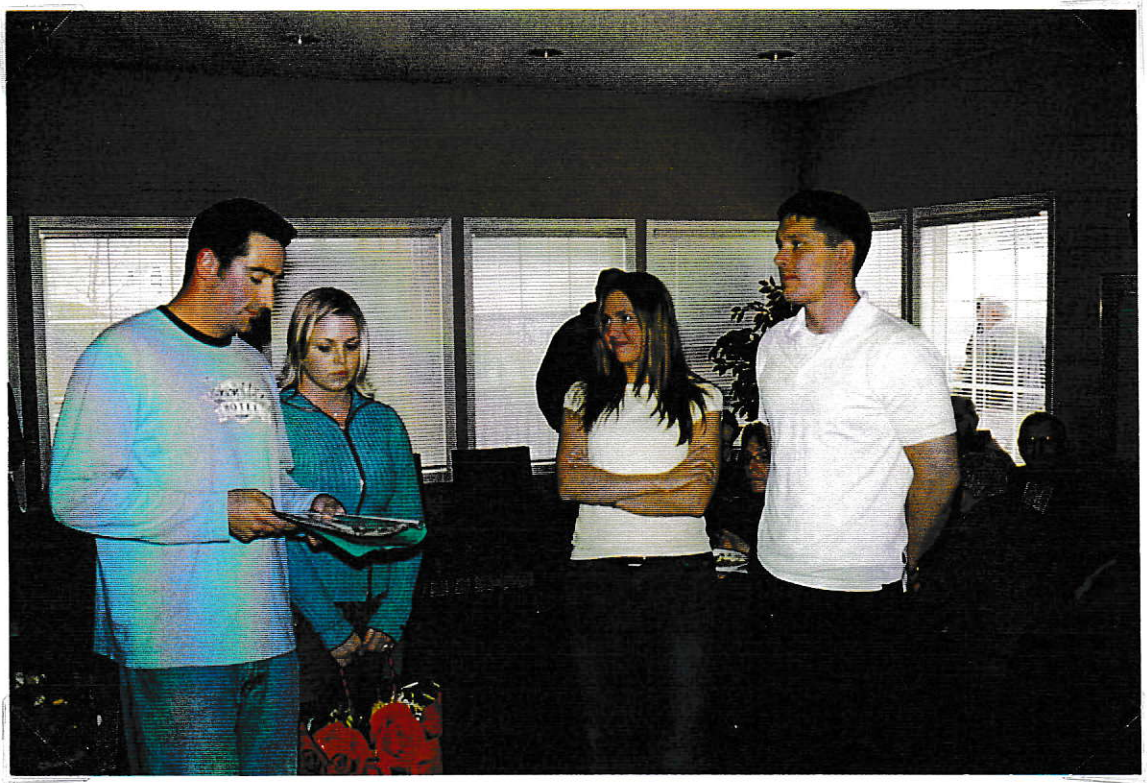
*Congratulations Erin & Brett, we wish you all the happiness in the world and that you love each other as much in fifty years as you do on this day.*

*May you be poor in misfortune,  
Rich in Blessings,  
Slow to make enemies,  
Quick to make friends,  
But rich or poor, quick or slow,  
May you know nothing,  
But happiness,  
From this day forward.*

*~Love Ryan & Kim*



*Love  
is  
priceless...*



OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2003

HELLO EVERYONE,

WELL, TODAY IS A SAD DAY FOR BRETT AND I. A SAD, SAD DAY. WE HAVE NOW BEEN MARRIED FOR JUST OVER FIVE MONTHS AND, AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH A SPECIAL ARTIFACT FOR THIS ENTIRE DURATION. THIS ARTIFACT IS A VASE – NOT JUST ANY VASE, BUT REALLY THE MOST HIP, COOL, AND CHIC ACCESSORY THAT WE EVER COULD HAVE DREAMED TO DISPLAY IN OUR CONDO.

THROUGHOUT THE PAST FEW MONTHS, THE VASE HAS SAT IN A GLASS DISPLAY CASE IN THE CENTRE OUR 20 SQUARE FOOT LIVING ROOM. FRIENDS FROM NEAR AND FAR HAVE COME TO ADMIRE THE VASE AND ARE FORCED TO SUPPRESS THEIR JEALOUSY OVER NOT HAVING SUCH A CLASSIC ORNAMENT OF THEIR OWN TO DISPLAY IN THEIR TORONTO CONDOS. HOWEVER, WE MUST TELL YOU – WE HAVEN'T ALWAYS BEEN AS CAREFUL ABOUT SCREENING OUR HOUSE GUESTS AS WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN. ONE EVENING, NOT TOO LONG AGO, A MYSTERIOUS HOUSEGUEST WAS ODDLY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE GLASS CASE. WE FEARED THAT THIS MYSTERIOUS GUEST MIGHT HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN THE CURATOR OF THE CERAMIC MUSEUM WHO WAS PLOTTING A HEIST. BUT UNFORTUNATELY, WE MUST WARN ALL OF YOU, THE TRUTH WAS FAR MORE DISTURBING. WE CONFIRMED THAT THE HOUSEGUEST WAS IN FACT AFFILIATED WITH THE CERAMIC MUSEUM BECAUSE HE ACCIDENTALLY LEFT BEHIND A REVEALING BUSINESS CARD. TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS DANGEROUS INDIVIDUAL, WE CALLED UPON MY FATHER, NICK MADUCK, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION. AND AS IT TURNED OUT, THE MYSTERIOUS HOUSEGUEST WAS PART OF A SOPHISTICATED UNDERGROUND NETWORK PLOTTING TO STEAL THE VASE. AND AT THE HELM OF THIS UNDERGROUND MAFIA IS SOMEONE WE ALL KNOW VERY WELL – OUR UNCLE AND NEIGHBOR, DENNIS MALONEY.

SO NOW YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THE DEPTH OF OUR SADNESS – NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE TO FACE THE FACT THAT IT IS TIME TO PASS THE VASE TO ANOTHER MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY BUT WE ALSO HAVE TO CONFRONT THE NOTION THAT ONE OF OUR OWN CANNOT BE TRUSTED. FOR THAT REASON, WHEN DECIDING WHOM WE SHOULD PASS THE VASE ON TO, WE HAD TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL TO ENSURE THAT THE VASE WENT TO SOMEONE WHO COULD SUFFICIENTLY PROTECT IT.

SO GIVEN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU CAN IMAGINE THAT WE HAVE BEEN TOSsing AND TURNING FOR COUNTLESS NIGHTS CONTEMPLATING THIS DECISION. DANA AND RALPH, ON THIS SPECIAL WEEKEND, YOU ARE BEGINNING YOUR LIVES TOGETHER IN A STABLE AND HAPPY HOME. YOU ARE AN IDEAL CHOICE TO BECOME THE NEW PROTECTORS OF THE VASE – YOU ARE BOTH HEADSTRONG, TOUGH, AND CAGEY, AND WE BELIEVE THAT YOU TRULY UNDERSTAND THE SCOPE OF THIS RESPONSIBILITY. BUT WE DID NOT CHOOSE YOU – AND BELIEVE ME, IT HURTS US MORE THAN IT HURTS YOU TO TELL YOU THIS.

FOR MANY SIGNIFICANT REASONS, WE WOULD LIKE TO PASS THIS INVALUABLE HEIRLOOM AND TAPESTRY TO PEGGY MALONEY. PEGGY, YOU HAVE JUST ACHIEVED AN INCREDIBLE DESIGNATION AS A C.E.B.S (CERTIFIED EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SPECIALIST). THIS HAS BEEN A PHENOMENAL ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR WHICH YOU HAVE ENDLESSLY PERSEVERED TO ACHIEVE FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, AND WE ARE ALL VERY PROUD OF YOU. THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS DESIGNATION HAS PROVED TO US THAT YOU ARE NOT JUST A SUITABLE CANDIDATE FOR THE VASE, BUT REALLY THE ONLY CANDIDATE GIVEN THE TROUBLING TRUTHS WE HAVE RECENTLY UNCOVERED. YOU KNOW PEOPLE IN HIGH PLACES IN THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY AND WE BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE SUFFICIENTLY EQUIPPED TO PROVIDE THE VASE WITH THE KIND OF PROTECTION THAT IT NEEDS. YOU ARE ALSO CUNNING AND WISE, AND WE KNOW THAT YOU WILL KEEP YOUR EYES OUT FOR VASE HUNTERS. IN ADDITION TO THIS, YOU LIVE WITH THREE BIG, STRONG BOYS AND ONE VERY STRONG GIRL, AND WE KNOW THAT THEY WILL WORK WITH YOU TO STAY ON GUARD 24 HOURS A DAY.

SO IT IS WITH LOVE, PEGGY, THAT WE PASS THIS TREASURE ONTO YOU. PLEASE PROTECT IT WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART.

LOVE ALWAYS,

BRETT AND ERIN ELOFSON





July 3, 2004

Dear family,

We are all gathered here today to celebrate a dual event. The first is the truly remarkable milestone of Dad's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday; the other, the celebration of our family. Both are events that are coveted by many. It also means that it is time for us to relinquish the vase. It is with a heavy heart that we do.

It has been proudly displayed in our home for 8 ½ months, a very short time indeed to admire such a priceless piece of art. But alas, we are starting to be concerned that its location has been discovered. Regina City Police report that residential break & enters have risen significantly in the past few months and they are at a loss to explain the sudden increase. At our house, we think we know. The boys and Renee have done an amazing job protecting it, but with many new commitments, university, school and sports they are concerned they won't be able to maintain the 24 hour protection.

First and foremost, this vase is a piece of art, an inspiration, a thing of beauty. We deliberated and finally agreed that it should be given to Darryl. Darryl, our hope and dream is that this wonderful vase will give you artistic inspiration in your award winning designs of Sport and Recreation facilities across our great country. Its shape has been said to resemble a stylized flame. Whether you are designing an Olympic venue or a community recreation complex that may be the starting point for future Canadian Olympians, may it inspire your creativity.

Erin and Brett suggested that with my insurance connections I investigate coverage. I did contact friends at several specialty carriers and try as they might, they could not get their underwriters to come up with a quote. Property/Casualty premiums have greatly increased in recent years and risk guidelines have tightened. A friend who works for an international firm, based in London and well known for insuring anything (well, almost anything) –for a price did have a suggestion for us, albeit completely off the record. His suggestion was that we needed to get the word filtering out that the vase is really not a priceless piece, but something a child made at school for their parent, a gift from the heart for a special occasion such as Christmas, Mother's Day or Father's Day. Once again Darryl, this is a believable rumour for you to originate as you have a fine young creative family who I am sure, bring you and Karen treasured art work on a regular basis.

So Darryl, we pass on the "torch".

Love,  
Aunt Peggy, Marc, Scott, Tim and Renee



May 26, 2006

Dear Family,

Today is the end of the long Journey. One that started in July of 2004 at Grandpa's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. Karen and I were granted the ultimate privilege. We were given **The Vase!** Oh, how it changed our lives. From a life of leisure and fun, we emerged into one of intense responsibility. We would now be the keepers. Those granted the ultimate responsibility of guarding this family heirloom.....It wasn't easy.....

Shortly after returning from Grandpa's Birthday celebration, we embarked on vacation to Norway, Ireland and England. We couldn't bear the thought of leaving **The Vase** behind. Surely it would be stolen and sold to some obscure collector of fine art. We decided to take it with us. That was the only sensible thing to do. So we packed it up and away we went.

And what an adventure it was. Apparently, the legend of **The Vase** is widespread and it became a source of curiosity wherever we went. Police escorts from the airport and tables at the finest restaurants were the order of the day. We soon tired of the incessant phone calls from those who wanted only a chance to see this artifact. We left the hustle and bustle of the rich and famous and decided that something else was in order. So we took **The Vase** back to the Maloney homeland....back to Ireland. In Ireland, we were able to take a break from the frenzy that surrounded our other moves and settled back to enjoy a few pints. **The Vase** was a big hit in the pubs. It was here that we discovered the meaning. No, not of life...but of **The Vase**. It was a simple discovery in a peaty pub that revealed the true meaning of this mystery. This is no simple vase...it holds exactly two pints of Guinness. Surely this was no coincidence. The origin of this treasure has now been revealed. It is a Maloney sized pint glass!

Now, we feel it is time to share this discovery with the world (and we can't take the responsibility any longer). It is time for this valuable piece of family history to return to Toronto, in proximity to the greatest museums in the Country. We know that it will be in good hands and it is with great pleasure that Karen and I pass on this fine object to **Paul and Rhonda**. Our final task is a small piece of advice. Screen your calls and be careful, because after a couple of Maloney pints, the sharp bits will knock out your teeth!

Sincerely,

Darryl and Karen



July 5, 2007

Dear Family,

Just over a year ago on the occasion of our wedding, Rhonda and I were thrilled and honoured to receive from Darryl, Karen and family a gift unlike any other. A gift that cannot be described with words alone. It must be observed, studied, perhaps even experienced to fully understand its remarkable beauty. My first reaction to receiving this gift was pure unadulterated joy. Rhonda's could more aptly be described as subdued enthusiasm...very, very subdued.

That gift, of course, was the precious vase that we have all become familiar with over the years, in fact, many of us have had the pleasure of possessing at one time in our lives, if an object of its kind can actually be possessed. But, how does one care for the vase? How does one display it? It has been rumoured that many caretakers have hidden this treasure away in the deepest and darkest recesses of their homes. For shame! To deprive the world of its sight is akin to shielding the light of the sun from the tiniest seedlings yearning for life.

Rhonda and I decided that we should, nay, we must display this vase in our home so that all of our friends and family could share in its glory. We decided that the only way to do the vase justice was to consult with a feng-shui master who could guide us in making the right placement decision. An old acquaintance of my mother-in-law and expert on all matters zen, Master Xiao, was called in to advise. Upon seeing the vase for the first time Master Xiao, a kind and benevolent teacher, exclaimed, "That is the ugliest damn thing I have ever seen!" He recommended that we immediately remove the vase from our home and speak of it no more. When pressed for an explanation, Master Xiao would only say that he had read about an object of its kind, but prayed that he would never encounter it. Refusing his recommendation I demanded that he tell me where to place the vase so that its energy would enhance our lives in a positive manner. Silently, Master Xiao pointed to the balcony.

So it is with a heavy heart that Rhonda and I must now pass along the vase. We have had over a year to enjoy this remarkable artifact, despite Master Xiao's opinion. I believe that Sean and Molly are the perfect couple to care for and display the vase with pride and joy. We have one reservation, however, given that the vase's new home is in California we fear the ever looming-threat of an earthquake. As a precaution we have added to the vases case an emergency earthquake repair kit.

Sean and Molly, I now pronounce you the keepers of the vase. May you love it and keep it from harm until the time comes when you too must pass along this prize, that time will come, even though it feels like an eternity, trust me it will come.

Love,

Rhonda and Paul



Master Xiao



July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Dear Family,

The day that we have been dreading has finally come upon us. On the eve of our wedding over four years ago, Molly and I were bestowed the most wonderful gift; undoubtedly more prized than anything we had ever and will ever be given again. Yes, we are talking about "the vase"; the "Holy Grail" of the Maloney family clan. It has changed hands 17 times over the last 27 years, and it is about to experience the next leg in its amazing journey.

When Molly and I received the vase from Paul and Rhonda in Carmel, our initial elation turned to shock, surprise, and fear. We were shocked that they would dare cross the border with such a priceless antiquity, risking seizure and confiscation by customs agents. We were surprised by the fact that it was even more hideous than we had remembered. And lastly, we were fearful that we were not going to be able to do this wonderful piece justice, and both display and protect it like so many had before us. As newlyweds, could our marriage take so much pressure early on? We reluctantly accepted this new responsibility, put it back in its special holding box draped in a whole lot of Elvis, and we brought it home to San Francisco. It has been with us through two homes, the birth of two children, and many other life milestones. It has even survived a few earthquakes, just as Paul and Rhonda predicted. We are the longest running holders of the vase, and although deeply treasured, it hasn't seen the light of day since the last Maloney gathering at our wedding. Rest assured, we have kept it hidden not because of its unique craftsmanship, imbalance, pale color, and general repulsiveness, but instead because of the immense value it holds on the open market.

You see, ever since bringing the vase back to San Francisco we have been approached by many suitors who have attempted to acquire this mysterious piece or art. We have had the SF Museum of Modern Art, the de Young Museum, and private collectors from around the world offer us exorbitant amounts of money to purchase the piece. Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's CEO has offered to buy it because he has money to burn. Justin Bieber wants it for inspiration for his next album. Oprah inquired about doing a segment on it during her farewell show! Even President Obama has suggested an overseas sale as a solution to the looming U.S. debt crisis. The attention has been overwhelming to say the least, and we have had so many inquiries that we have had to install a security system solely for its protection. The unwanted attention has made our home the target of many robbery attempts, and with two small children, the stress of having it in our possession has become too much. Hence, our decision to pass it on...

Deciding on whom to pass the vase onto has been challenging, and we have stewed for months. However, after many sleepless nights, we have identified the perfect protector. As the famous quote goes:

***"If you love something let it go. If it comes back to you, its yours forever. If it doesn't then it was never meant to be."***

Well Dennis and Donna, as both creators of this invaluable piece and co-initiators of this wonderful tradition, it looks like it was, "meant to be!" With your new condo in Toronto, we imagine you have the perfect place to display the vase with both pride and joy. We hope that this decorative focal point will give you goose-bumps every time you look at it, and be a conversation piece until it finds its way somewhere else. And if you do decide to pass it along to someone, rest assured it will eventually come back to you again. It is your destiny.

With Love and Thanks,

Sean, Molly, Nora, and Clara

The Vase

Ma-Co-Re-Ma 2011

Kelowna BC

Life is full of little surprises. Yesterday, I wasn't expecting to see the vase let alone to receive it. I wasn't thrilled but was toying with keeping it for a while until Donna pointed out that our modest condo move, was greatly overshadowed by a new home event in Edmonton. A new household is being established that will be home to a very special person, the first **Great, Great Grandchild** in the clan.

James and Sharon, before I present this treasure to you, I do have a few instructions. First, the vase cannot be displayed in the nursery. We can't bear the thought of the new member of the family waking up and having to look at it several times a day. Second, we understand Sharon has a very large family with close to 80 cousins living within 5km of your townhouse. Undoubtedly, you will be having a lot of company. You can't display it in your living room. We cannot have your family thinking this is the best the Maloney clan can do in terms of a house warming gift. That doesn't leave many options. So James, I suggest you take it to your new work location and proudly display it on your desk. I expect you will really impress the hunters and fishermen at Wild TV!

James and Sharon, over to you.

Dennis



7 September 2018

Dear Family,

Several years ago, summertime in Kelowna, at a Maloney family event, we heard what is now considered to be an apocryphal story. As the story goes, when first laying eyes upon The Vase someone was quoted to have said something along the lines of, "if you would do that Vase a favour, you would drop it." When this story was repeated, the patriarch of the legacy of The Vase threatened to do just that.

"NO!" shouted the Maloney clan, in unison, as only our voices can. The present, and former, holders of The Vase, pondered their position. In their wisdom, Dennis and Donna passed The Vase on to us, Sharon and James, as we were celebrating the coming birth of our child Bailey. We have stored this precious treasure in relative obscurity since. The Vase has seen us through prosperous times, however we cannot guarantee its security any longer.

A few weeks ago, our car was pillaged and among the things taken were some keys that could allow entry to our home. We suspect the curator of the Ceramic Museum in Toronto to be behind the raid, but there is no way to be sure. As we are not in a position to ensure its continued security, the time has come to pass The Vase to another deserving Maloney.

Renée and Julien are celebrating their wedding today, and we cannot imagine a more fitting couple to hold The Vase and its veil, The King. Be sure to protect this priceless artifact and precious family heirloom, and may it bring you as much luck and happiness as it brought us.

James, Sharon, Bailey and Breanna

