

# Christmas — 2006

What a fun year! So many things to juggle! As long as we're not dropping too many balls, the show must go on!

Emily's really blossomed these last months. She's nearly halfway through her junior year with its tests and college plans, keeping up her grades and becoming a member of the National Honor Society. But she still squeezes in lots of theatre at school, in the community and all summer long at the Bristol Renaissance Faire. Other honors include selection as an Illinois Music Educators Association All-State vocalist and a writing competitor for the National Council of Teachers of English.



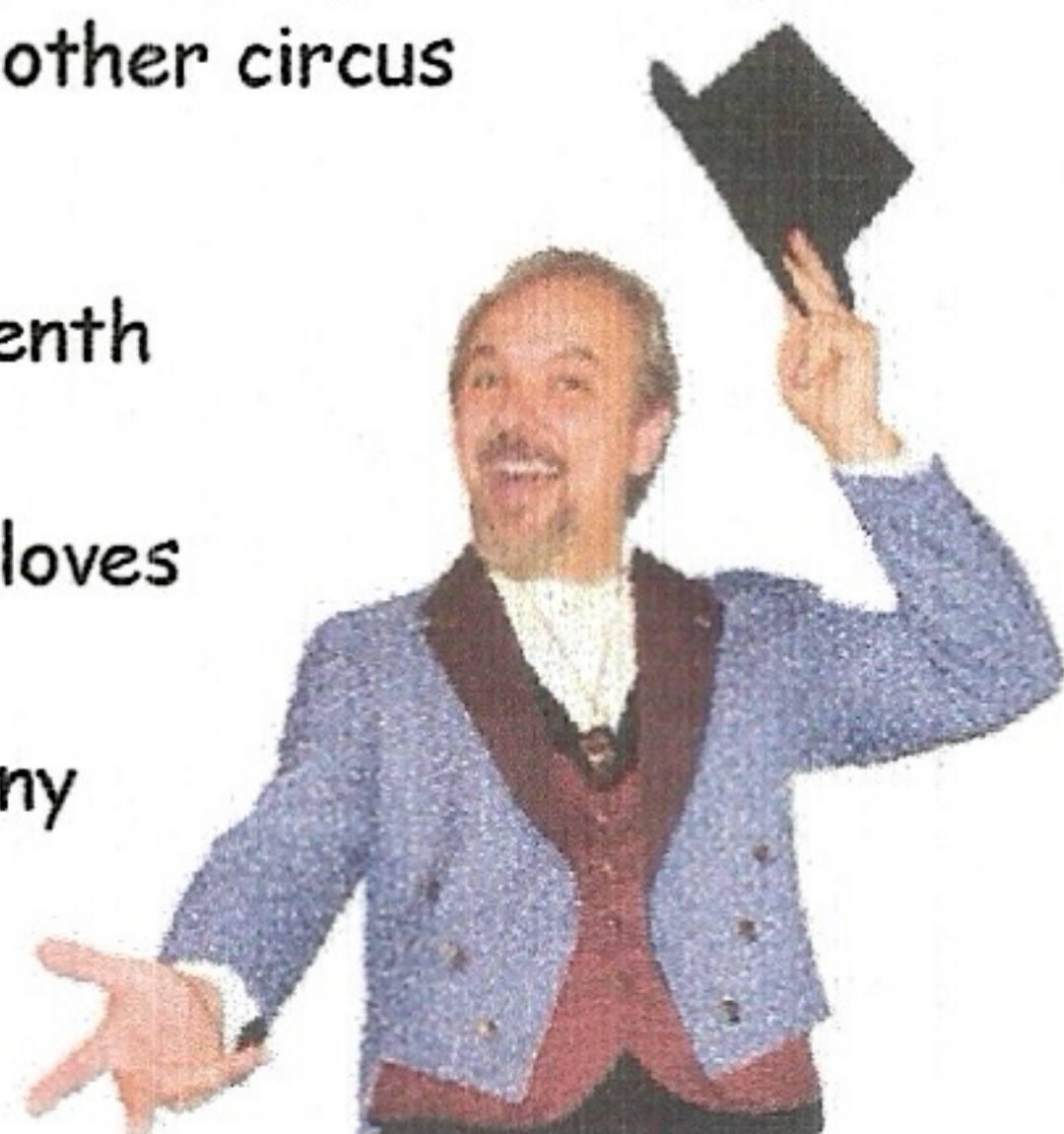
But more importantly, she's driving. Because she started in the spring, we've asked that she doesn't get her license until she has more winter experience, but it won't be long now!



Don also found outlets for his drama. He told ghost stories for the Park District and did a couple of radio theatre performances with the troupe from Those Thrilling Days of Yesteryear. This summer, he was in the cast of all three plays SummerPlace Theatre presented. His favorite was the first one—"Barnum! The Musical." Don was the Ringmaster, a sort of Greek Chorus for the story. He and Emily performed together and they learned how to juggle, unicycle, spin plates, hang from trapeze ropes and do other circus stunts.



Gnu Media celebrated its tenth anniversary this summer. Reflecting on how much he loves performing, Don recently decided to move the company in a slightly different direction. In the next year, Don will be sitting



in front of the computer less so he can do more presentations and consultations.

James' big news is that he purchased his first car—a 2003 Honda Element. He hopes to camp with it come spring, but he's certainly enjoying it now!

While still figuring out what he wants to study, James is working 40 hours a week and continues to practice with "the band" in our basement.

Before he turned 18 this year, he also completed his project and board of review for his Boy Scout Eagle award. For his project, he created plans and organized volunteers to build storage for signs and banners used by the Naper Settlement museum.

Kate's main job is keeping the rest of the crew on track, but she continues to work with Gnu Media and volunteer commitments. Em's Girl Scout troop still meets weekly, and Kate is encouraging them to complete their Gold Award, much like the Boy Scout Eagle.

For the United Way this year Kate painted a six-foot fiberglass dragon. (For you Chicagoans, we got Bill Jackson's blessing to do Dirty

Dragon!) Every other minute available has been spent researching and writing a book about Naperville history. With luck, this children's narrative will still be published before the year ends!

So you can see why we think 2006 has been fun! We are so looking forward to the possibilities in 2007, and we hope that the coming year promises many wonderful things for you as well!

Wishing you all the best,

—Don, Kate, James and Emily