

Papa the Great

Papa was a man of many talents:
sewing, weaving, dancing, cooking, baking,
leather tooling, mushroom growing, beekeeping,
woodworking, and wine and jewelry making.

He tapped maple trees to make his syrup,
picked fruit for jellies, each jar a special one.
He built a harpsichord for his daughter
and several sets of drumsticks for his son.

Papa was a native Minnesotan,
a teacher, salesman, scholar, PhD.,
persuasively debating any topic,
with confidence, while dressed impeccably.

Hockey was his passion---he both played and coached.
He even refereed the game for years.
Hockey scholarships and awards bear his name
and in the stands are echoes of his cheers.

Exercising body, mind and spirit,
jogging, roller-blading, jumping rope,
he read and traveled, always seeking answers,
intent on never running out of hope.

Papa won a full amazing lifetime,
colorful, active years---all ninety-five---
and in his family's hearts and minds forever
Papa the Great will always be alive!

By Debbie Pea 2010