

Ode to Barbara Hafer 1997

When I grow up, said little Barb
in her cradle in L.A.,
I think I'll move my Mom & Dad
to Pittsburgh in PA

When they were ready and she was 2
The did what she decried,
And landed then in Dormont
Pittsburgh's lovely South Side

I like it here, said little Barb
And think that we should stay
I'll go to Dormont High School
and make friends with whom to play.

And then, perhaps, when I grow up
I'll try to be a nurse
Tho' some suggested politics
She thought nothing could be worse.

So little Barb, quite a headstrong girl
Got her act together,
And attended Duquesne University
Through fair and stormy weather

Then off to London went little Barb
A big girl now, of course,
Committed to giving tender care
To those whose plight was worse

And when she finished all her schools
She went into public health,
And confounded many simple fools
Whose first concern was wealth

She challenged Docs and Government
And fought for those in need,
without concern for her own self
Her commitment wasn't greed.

She became an early advocate
for victims of violent crime,
and realized that politics
was the power of the times

And so I met this little nurse
From Elizabeth, Western PA
Who won my heart from the very start
As in politics we'd play

She didn't know me and I didn't know her
but clones we seemed to be,
So she ran for County Commissioner
and won in '83

The men who laughed at her attempts
and those who did deride her,
Now recognize the strength she has
and fight to stand beside her!

I still don't know how it came to be
That money is her bag,
but she watches our State economy
without a moment's lag

She has sense and sensitivity
Though sometime hoof in mouth
But she's always there when needed
When others tend to go south

So, don't tell a soul -- and I'm sure you won't
What I think Barb could do best,
is next time run for Governor
and give all the guys a rest

I've missed you all so very much
And just with that I were there,
but I send my love and kisses
from west to east by air!!