A CHRISTMAS STORY
For You from Dan & Helen Crow

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It all started when we bought our home in 1981. Our new neighbors made it clear that decorating for Christmas in Potwin Place is **very serious stuff** no matter your faith. Impressive creative energy has always gone into dressing up our neighbors' homes and our shared circle parks.

Trying to do our part,
we bought lovely wreaths and spotlights.
We hoped for a simple and
dignified holiday look
for our boxy, un-frilly house.

Jealous of our quick and easy installation,
neighbors dubbed Dan *"Wreath Boy."*
We stepped up our efforts, adding a
lighted Christmas tree to our side porch.

But some neighbors had a ~~better~~ bigger
vision for our holiday decorations...

First came *Tommy the Snowman* – unbidden, lighted, and bearing wreaths.

He is so cute we added him to our annual Christmas display.

Halloween, too.

Sometime later, more lighted yard art mysteriously arrived: *Santa Bobby* and *Kemmy the Snowman*. We named them (like Tommy) for the neighbors who have teased us the most.

One midnight under a full moon, we found new homes for Bobby and Kemmy on neighbors' porches. We thought *THAT* would stop the nonsense, but no!

Hello, Mr. and Mrs. Claus!

They appeared in 2011, motorized to
swing all day and night, complete
with an audible creak. Since they came
labeled with our names on their chests,
they are not so easy to give away.

So much for our simple and
dignified holiday look.

WE think these surprises are hilarious, *but* if YOU join the hundreds of people who will drive through Potwin Place in 2012 to share our Christmas fun, please, please, *please* do NOT think whatever you see at 400 Greenwood reflects our taste. We are just a little bit worried about what might turn up next.

May YOUR holiday season be filled with joyful surprises!

Dan & Cee

You can find more than even our mothers want to know about this story and everything else in our lives by visiting Dan's online journal. Just Google: "The World of Crow"