

Cadillac, MI

1-8-'92

Dear Family:

In answer to your biannual letter packet. The plan for the annual reunion gettogether is July 25th here in Cadillac, with a backup date of July 18th in case of serious conflict. Jim has an apparent conflict in August as far as I have information on this date. If there is unavoidable conflict, please let us know at your earliest convenience. The cherries will be full season in the Grand Traverse area, and the wild blueberries will be in season as well as the tame strawberries, for the fruit pickers. The blackberries may be just starting.

No vacations of any serious nature for us to report in this letter, all our plans fell short. Denise and her family are now living in Haslett, just NE of East Lansing. Yvonne; Steve and Ron are all living just North of Cadillac. Mike in Bradenton FL. Kathy in Cheboygan WI. Joe in St. Joseph MI. Ken in Grand Rapids, MI. Tim just south of Midland. Tim and Deb are building a new home.

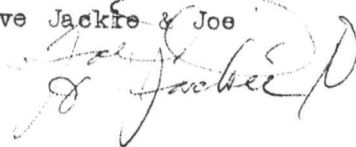
We have two expected grand children in the summer, for an expected total of seven.

Our snow is very short in depth for this time of year. We do have the ground covered, especially in the woods. The expectations for this winter is for warmer and less snow. I expect a dry to very dry April thru November, judging from my weather history studies for this area. I have records from 1929, and we have had six very dry years in that time frame, with the dryest following extreme wet years. Our last two years have been very wet thru the growing season. The time between extreme wet or dry years varies from 5 to 13 or more years. We are now over 13 years from the last very dry year.

All of our family is working at the present time, but layoffs are periodic. I hope all of you and yours are able to work as needed. I am still planning on some work if I can find it, at least part time. We have to keep busy to feel right. I doubt that any of us could retire cold turkey without going nuts.

PS See you all at the reunion if not sooner.

Love Jackie & Joe



1-13-92

My Dear Bro. and Sisters,
We are doing great with our letter. Its only been five months since the last one came. Thanks for all the news and the smiles too. We all enjoy reading them.

I believe my bunch are pretty much where they were in my last letter. Jan and Robert have their home up for sale so I expect they will be living near Imlay City when the letter comes around again. They have lived near Laper for the past 5 yrs.

John + Gayle are still in Hawaii and their change is that Gayle has a real nice teaching job. She has the 6th grad and starts at 26,500 a year. She is a busy girl since their baby is only 15 mo old. John is building their house when he has time. (with the help of his buddies)

24
Since its so nice to get a comment from each of you, I'll give to each one of you my 2¢ worth.

Claine - your Christmas-ree with all the good advice was wonderful and thoughtful to share with us. Thank you. Glad Dorothy enjoyed the letters. you be of good cheer for you are walking in serene health. P.T.L.

Joe & Jackie - So glad you have set the date for our next reunion. we will be there barring any emergency. Gods blessing on you both and all your families.

Jan + Jean - you did such a fantastic job on the reunion. Its going to be a hard act to follow. we will all have to do it the best way for each of us to handle. we enjoy seeing you from time to time. (weddings hair do etc)

Frank + Betty - we haven't seen you in awhile but we may be passing thru in Feb. we loved your humor with the false teeth.

Rog loses his when he's watching football games. How are your children doing? Gods blessings to all of you.

3/ John + Pat - Praise God your latest scare was not serious. I agree with your comments about big business. If the big shots would cut out their bonuses and raise there would be more for the worker and the worker is the one using the products. you do have a beautiful baby but I must say so do we. (several) Gods blessing on your family

Jim + Carolyn - we must compliment you on the beautiful wedding. Jim I never saw a prouder Father walking down the aisle. we almost didn't come as we had a real blizzard here, but the weather cleared and we took off. we had a wonderful time and enjoyed being with the family on this special occasion. Karen is a beautiful bride and she got a very nice young man. God bless all of you.

Marty + Sandra - It was wonderful to see you at the wedding. we must have them from time to time. The girls are so pretty. we enjoyed visiting with them and hearing first hand about their plans. It was such fun even if the weather acted up a bit. God bless you all.

We love all of you and feel so much
closer because of these letters. It was
such a good idea.

A note about our "Alycom" horse. He was
shown for us around Michigan this summer.
He took 9 Grand Champions 17 blue ribbons
and 2 red. He is high point in four of the
six areas of Michigan and has tons of trophies
and ribbons. I guess you might just as well
have a good one.

until we meet again you are in our thoughts.

Love
Sis, Rog
& the Bruce clan

9

Feb. 23, 1992

Dear Brothers + Sisters:-

Our very first letter was started in January of 1988. That's eight complete series in 4 years or an average of every six months. I'm so glad the idea came to me as some of you seem to really enjoy them. I have been making copies after each circle for a Scrapbook. It may be valuable family history for our descendants.

It's a beautiful Sunday in Michigan. 44° outside. My guys have been out doing things around the yard. Chuck has been back in Coliforma for the last 2 months as agreed on. I guess the work there is quite slow so his old boss is releasing him 2 months early to move back here. He leaves about March 3rd, driving a rented truck with his belongings. He will rent the Kennedy house that we bought last summer. Hopefully he

2,
will find work without too much delay. I'm sure today is very sad for him. His 2 children spent the weekend with him so he had to say goodbye until who knows when.

Frank, I loved your false teeth running around McGuire's counter story. We stayed there once for one of Joe & Jackie's weddings. I think the worse sticker shock we got was when we went to Great Lakes for Tom's graduation. I believe that room was about \$125.00 a night. Oh well, it only happens once in a while.

Boy I'm having trouble today. I'm crossing my l's and dotting my T's and doing some misspelling.

We are still eating venison from November. Ron got one with bow & arrow and another 8 Point in rifle season.

I guess most of you know we went to Arizona in October. We returned a day early to attend Jean's Dad's funeral. I'm so glad they are both with our Lord and not enduring drawn out suffering.

3/ Christmas was both nice and hectic. Chuck had his kids for 10 days. We went back with them. We were able to renew our acquaintance with our grandkids. We had only seen Bryan 3 other times and Ashley twice.

Jim seems to be quite gone on a gal he's been dating for a couple of months. It's nice to see him happy. He has been so lonely and unhappy for so long. I pray he's not working on his next broken heart (as the country song goes.)

We are currently trying to sell our old house. We can't develop anymore unless we sell something.

Sis, I gave Gayle a lot of credit to hold down a full time job with a baby. the older girls must be a big help. It's a given that both parents work now-a-days.

I'm wondering if most of that generation will own their own homes. Half of our 8 are home-owners. (Mike, Joe, Tom & Andy.) Andy just closed on his in January. Maybe down the road we will be

able to give an assist here and there. I hope so.

We have been watching quite a lot of the Olympics. The women of the U.S.A. did much better than the men. And several countries did so much better than the U.S. I enjoy the figure skating most of all.

Tomorrow my new computer will be set up. Then several training sessions. I pray that I can catch on quick. This old dog is getting too old to learn new tricks.
Peace and love to all of you,

Love,

Jan + Jean.

4-10-92

Dear Sisters & Brothers:

Was glad to get the letters the other day and to see that everyone is doing reasonably well for our age. Etc. etc.

the weather has been just wonderful the past week until this afternoon, I took Betty to get her weekly hair doo and get groceries - we just got home and the snow started coming down we have a good 3 in. on the ground now and its sleeting at the moment. I hope by the time you get here Elaine that this is over with.

Betty sister Mary & Carl from Ar. were here for a few days the 1st. of the wk., we had a good visit, Carl drove ~~the~~ his folks back to Mi. for the summer they are in their 80s and don't have any business driving that far alone, he has them talked into flying out in the fall.

We live such an uneventful life up

here that there just does not seem like a whole lot to write about, we have decided to get out 1 night a wk. so we go and play Bingo in Mikado its run by the good fellows and they do a lot of good with thier income like dinners. after fundrds etc., last week Betty won a jock pot for \$117.75 she got a little excited about that.

We had a good deer season and a great xmas, David, Richard and Mike got up for deer season and got a 3 pt. 5 pt. + doe in that order I got a 3 pt. so we were more seccessful than usual, at xmas David & Chris, Richard and Kevin were here - Mike had to work the next day a Wayne was on call at Indianwood so they didnt make and Vicki spent xmas at home with Daves family as usual.

Betty Dad has spent the better part of this yr. having surgery on both eyes and is doing pretty well but having some problem with this last one - may

have to take him back to his Dr. in Clarkston next wk., Mary & Carl asked him to come on out if he wants to and his eye is alright but he don't know if he want to go out now with the weather turning better here - after this snow tonight he may be looking for the 1st. plane.

We still have 7 deer coming in for corn, we lost grand ma the last day of the year, I think the guy up the road got her, they sure look shaggy now loosing there winter coats.

I can't believe how bad my hand writing^{is} getting I guess I'll have to start printing again.

Well I can't think of anything else to write about so Betty sends her best and we hope to see you all at the family reunion this summer, with all our love and prayers.

Frank & Betty

May 2, 1992

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

It's nice to hear from you all again. Basically your letters were written in or near winter season.

However it is spring time now a time for (dreaming) mowing grass and raking.

I have noticed lately of less trips planned, and more retirement dreams. I have also noticed a lack of a great deal of job prospects for our children & grandchildren. This has tormented each & everyone of us.

As you know Uncle Leo will be 90 years old on June 16th. I am hopeful each and everyone of you can pay him a surprise visit. Cake & ice cream at his house is the best that can be expected. Along with this we have Mikado days on June 19-20-21. There is a parade planned for June 20th. ^(Uncle Leo) He informed me last week he feels like a young boy. That's how a person feels when they have little or no (daily stress.)

2-

As for ourselves we are happy to have satisfied the tax man. Spring has finally come to northeast Mich. the gremlin spent the winter down south and has returned. Easter Sunday he slipped a large needle in my work pants pocket.

Theresa has ben cut back ~~back~~ from five days to two. Todd has found a summer job on campus. Both Pat & I are still marching off to work. We will both have ben working 33 years this summer. In this respect we have both have ben very very lucky. It has at times ben a real bumpy ride. however.

As you probably all know I became a grandfather again. It was a 7lb bouncing baby boy. Grand children are wonderful to have around. I also long for the peace & quiet.

Our health has ben good in general. It's the daily stress we all have to handle that makes life very hard. Well close for now and my God Bless each and everyone of you in your daily lives.

yours truly
John Pat & Family

May 31, 1992

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It was real nice hearing from all of you again, after 5 months I start wondering where the letters are and when I will get them. It is a real lift.

We worked hard on Mark's house until the end of March. He moved in in February. Once we got him to a comfortable stage we began to back off and started to catch up on our house. Since then I have been working on our yard, the garden, and the cars. There is always something that needs fixing.

Mark has a new job now. He is working for Exide Corp. in Auburn Hills. He is testing batteries for quality control. He is enjoying his work and we are very happy for him. Mark and Sheila are planning a May wedding in 1993.

Karen and John are doing fine. Both are working long hours and John gets back to Battle Creek when he can to work with his dad. John was very helpful working on Mark's house. He has the knowledge and equipment to speed things up.

John's sister is getting married in 3 weeks. We will be going to Battle Creek for the wedding.

Brian and Jeff are doing fine in school. Brian is working part time at Sears and part time at a computer store. He is keeping busy. Jeff is taking another calculus class this summer.

I was in Battle Creek three weeks ago. We had a driver education conference there. I was able to meet Dana for lunch. I really enjoyed seeing her and we had a nice talk. She is a fine young lady.

We have two weeks remaining in school this year and then I will have four more weeks of driver ed. We are looking forward to the family reunion this summer and then going to San Antonio the last part of August. I hope to get to Mikado sometime this summer but it won't be during Mikado Days.

It was nice seeing you Elaine on your way through this time. We will try to get up to see you when we have more time.

Carolyn and I will be celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary in June. Time sure flies when you are having fun.

Well I better wind this up and get this ready to mail. God bless all of you.

Your loving brother
Jim,

June 8th
92

HI SISTERS AND BROTHERS:

WELL, I RECEIVED THE PACKET FROM JIM SATURDAY AND IT IS MONDAY, SO I WILL WRITE A FEW LINES AND GET IT ON THE WAY TO ELAINE. LETS SEE HOW FAR IT CAN GET BY THE WEEKEND OF THE REUNION. WE ARE GOING TO BATTLE CREEK THIS WEEKEND TO TAKE PART IN THE LONGEST BREAKFAST TABLE AND AN AIR SHOW. SHOULD BE REAL NICE.

I TALKED TO ELAINE ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO AND ALL IS WELL UP THERE. ITS JUNE 8TH ALREADY AND I STILL DON'T HAVE A GARDEN IN. I GUESS I HAD BETTER HURRY ALTHOUGH THE WEATHERMAN SAID IT WILL GET DOWN TO 45 TONIGHT.

WE HAD BOTH DAUGHTERS ENGAGED A MONTH AGO AND NOW IT LOOKS LIKE ONE IS POSTPONED INDEFINITELY AND THE OTHER IS OFF. WHO KNOWS ANYMORE WHAT IS GOING ON IN THIS TOPSI TERVI WORLD.

SHARI IS STARTING HER STUDENT TEACHING IN OWOSSO IN THE FALL AND HOPEFULLY DANA WILL STILL BE AT KELLOGGS IN BATTLE CREEK.

GUESS I WILL CALL IT A DAY. SEE YOU AT THE REUNION.

LOVE

MARTY AND SONDA

June 92

Hello to one and all!

It's Uncle Leo's ^{90th} birthday and I'm going to miss it, did send a card and letter explaining, tho. Cousin Dorothy's 80th, the 25th, she was born the same year Arizona became a state.

Sure hate to give up the letters, I keep reading them - Joe & Jackie aren't home this A.M., presume they are with Denise.

Since our last letters I have been to Los Angeles (before it burned) to see Phantom of the Opera, very spectacular, next I have paid for the Chesaning Show Boat in July, Rich Little and Leslie Gore on the bill, hate the bus ride but it's the only way I get about.

Have stopped watering the grass & weeds 'cause I'm worrying about the well, it could run dry, when you guys & gals were on the farm did it ever happen?

It came close once while I was
still there. Mother Nature has her
ways, need I say more?

After ~~the~~ "big" Storm 6-30-92

Nothing of any note going on with me -
sure hope all is well with you and
yours. Hope to see lots and lots of you
at Joe's reunion and will pray for
good weather, Jackie!

God Bless,
Elaine

Cadillac, MI 49601
July 6, 1992

Dear Family:

Letter time again, and we just finished the July 4th weekend. John called last evening with his estimate of the reunion attendance and urging to us to visit Uncle Leo soon.

We have two new Grand Sons in the past two months. Daughter Denise of Haslett near East Lansing, and Sen Joe of Corunna near Benton Harbor. Both boys are doing well as are the parents. They plan to be staying with us during the reunion in just three weeks.

Cousin Mary Rose Vadeboncour plans to be at the reunion as a special guest, to see you all again. She is very old and ailing.

We sure are getting the cool weather, but have been getting enough rain to keep things growing fairly well, that which survived the severe frosts of June. There will be very little blueberries and cherries this year in this part of the state.

In spite of what you might think, I detect that everyone is in better than average good health and in no desperate straights, according to your letters. Thank God for this hasn't always been the case.

John spoke of pending job layoffs in Alpena, but we have actually been getting more jobs in the Cadillac area the last several months. Not good paying jobs, but work, which is vital for everyone, even retirees. I worked at Wallmarts for about three weeks in early spring, but resigned because of wage and hour disputes. It wasn't possible to have a regular evening meal together or even go to church on the weekend because of schedules. How does \$4.25 sound for wages, I draw the line at \$5 or I work for free.

Some of you wrote about home ownership and buying homes. Three out of nine of our children have homes being built or buying. I expect that may be average for most families in this part of the country, I sure hope the numbers get better in the near future.

End of page & letter. See you all soon

Joe

July 11, 1992

My Dear Bros + Sister,

I can't believe I'm finding the time to write. Our bunch went to the "Palace Summerfest 92" in Auburn Hills as Bill got five tickets for every one. I have seven Grandkids here right now but Megan is asleep and the other six are out playing ball.

John, Gayle, Lisa, Jessica and Megan got here wed. for a 3 week vacation.

One engine blew out about 30 min out of Honolulu and they had to turn back. They got here about 5 hrs. late and were a little shaken. John's work called and wanted him back as soon as possible so he's flying back next wed. They are trying to cram as much into this week as possible. The Family plans to stay until the 28th. I hope

² they will come to the reunion with us.
we've celebrated Jessica's 10th birthday
and will celebrate Joshua's 14th tomorrow.
Megan will be Christened tomorrow also.
This place is really buzzing since John's
got home. I counted more than 40 yesterday.
Ronnie, Sherry + Danielle are camping here
this week-end to see John before he leaves.
They are all doing alot outside and are
taking their shoes off when they are inside.
Rog and I are trying to stay cool and
go with the flow. We are enjoying
our big Family very much.

Jim was engaged, but that has been
called off. Perhaps some day.

Most of our Families are about
the same as last time.

See you all at the Reunion. It's
going to be wonderful.

We love you all
Sis + Rog

#10

July 24, 1992

Dear Family:-

I'm writing this in the car on our way to Cadillac for the reunion. If it turns out sloppy it's because it isn't easy to write neat in the car. Also, Michigan highways have a lot of bumps. I want to give these to Frank tomorrow.

The computer and I are getting along fairly well. On standard everyday entries, I can handle good. It's the tricky transactions that cause the expedient headaches.

I'm glad I made it a rule that the boys had to write. I'd bet some of them have written more letters lately than they ever did.

Chuck's kids are due to return to Reno on Sunday. He worked only part time while they were here. I took one vacation day a week to help him out and also spend time with them. He isn't used to being a full time Dad. I'm sure he's sending them home with mixed emotions. His ex mother-in-law will come to take them home. She works for Delta out of Seattle so she flies for less.

Here's a co-incidence for you. Jean's brother Jacques widow (Mary Ellen) is engaged to marry an old Army buddy of Frank's (Bill Schlegel). Bill is sure anxious to renew his

8-4-92

Dear Sisters & Brothers. -

I have been sitting on this letter for over a wk. now thinking that something would happen to write about but no luck, having just seen all of you at the Family Reunion there is not a whole lot to add.

Everything here is fine and the same as always except for last night - Betty's Dad fell in the bathroom - he was washing his glasses and had a seizure after bringing him around and getting him back in the living room he started to complain of pains in his back so we drove him to Alpena Gen., they x-rayed him and said it looks like he has broken ribs near the spine so with pain pills for the night and a script for today in hand we headed home, he seems to be doing pretty good today but sore.

We have been doing quite a bit of painting lately, the weather is so

2

nice for that job we thought we had better get it done now because Sept. + Oct. are probably going to be too hot for this ha. ha. if the weather would stay this way the year around - what do you think?

Our clan is doing pretty well right now Kevin & Mike are doing so well that they ea. sprang for new pickup trucks, I hope they haven't bitten off more than they can chew - although it does feel comforting to know that they have a safe and dependable ride for a change, I don't know if I mentioned before that Dave, Kevin & Mike are renting a house on St. Erion, I hope things get moving better soon so they can start thinking about building or buying.

We done our civic duty today hope you all done the same.

That's about all there is for now so till next time all our love and prayers
Frank & Betty
(P.S. over)

thought I would send along 3 photos
Uncle Leo's birthday party -
our little girls -
and my pets.

August 23, 1992

Dear Brothers & Sisters;

There is not much exciting happening up here at this time. Down on the farm, there is happenings! Someone decided a paneled house would look better covered with used oil. We have lost three deer so far on the road, two ^{more} spike horns. This is very unusual, so many so early.

We have been very lucky as far as working is concerned in this long drawn out recession. It has been trying to help others, in their time of need that come back to haunt me.

We (motored) on over to Indian River for outdoor mass last night. Mass outdoors seems more natural to me. I understand \$28,000 have been spent clearing the cross. That seems to be their only left at this time.

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We have enjoyed reasonably good health as of late. My double vision had returned as of last fall, it has yet to be corrected. A fourth eye surgery is trying to be avoided.

Even though Bessers have laid off 20% of their work force - the work load and sales have been improving as of late.

There is a huge gas well on the north end of (Lost Lake Woods). They expect to be finished the middle of September. The latest state lease at \$0 per acre for seven years is nothing to crow about!

I can't describe the crazy summer we have had up here weatherwise.

The folks in the southern states must figure a new song in the making. The title would be Sailors beware the lands not there.

I will have to close for now and await ^{for} a new family letter in three to four months.

With Love to all
younguns & gals -
(Dumont Clan)

Sept 3, 1992

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It sure was great seeing all of you this summer at the reunion. The weather was fine, the company was fine, and we all had a good time. It was also great seeing Mary and Roger, Jan and Jean and the family last Saturday at Tom and Gayle's reception.

We are back in school again and so far I am pleased with my classes. We are busy getting the students ready to take the state assessment test. It is always a very busy time getting everything started.

Carolyn and I had a good trip to Phoenix, Las Vegas, and San Antonio, Arizona and Nevada were very hot but Texas was great. San Antonio is such a beautiful city. One of the outcomes from the conference was a concern for disaster involvement. The Red Cross and St. Vincent de Paul have an agreement to train and use ~~vincentians~~ to run emergency shelters. Carolyn and I are going to be taking classes from the Red Cross. It should be interesting.

I am enclosing a clipping from the paper which I thought you might be interested in. I remember mom talking about the family going

out for weeks on the planes picking blueberries. Grandpa would go out and find the good berry patches and bring them to the patch. Someone came through the woods and bought the berries.

There is not much new with the kids except that Karen is in Germany this week for business meetings. She left a message on our tape machine yesterday, saying she was having a good time. She will be flying back on Saturday.

Well I better end this and get the letters ready for the mail. Be good and God bless all of you.

Your loving brother
Jim.

Somehow the blueberries survived the great Au Sable-Oscoda fire

BY ZELDA GARZA

I am 92 and there are not many people of my age left.

More than 80 years ago, when I was a young girl, my mother died. A couple of years after her death, my dad, James Somers, and I boarded with Walter and Annie Wild. He was a retired Great Lakes captain and town assessor of Au Sable.

In summertime he would station blueberry pickers in certain areas, and

MICHIGAN MEMORIES

every couple of days he and I would hitch up the horse and drive to the spots where the campers were and pick up the berries. Then it was home to sort and pack them in quart boxes and put them into crates. Then we would take them to the DC (Detroit and Cleveland Line) steamer docks so they could go to Detroit and other stops along the way.

We had many crates of berries stacked on the ground to be taken to the dock when the wall of flames from the great Au Sable-Oscoda fire closed in on the town and pushed to the lakeshore. The fire moved very fast and I recall how church steeples would fall and spread the fire more.

We threw a few things on the wagon and headed for the sand dunes. We had no time to take food, but some man came through the crowd with a cow and a tin cup and each child received a cup of milk.

When it was safe we returned to our home spot. Nothing was left except those crates of berries. The tops were scorched, but the bottom crates were all right.

Relief was set up in a few days, as soon as the railroad tracks were



In this school photo, taken in about 1912, Zelda Somers is the girl to the right of the tall boy at center.

replaced, and barrels of food and clothing, cots, stoves, tents and water were brought in for us. To a child it was fun after a while, but to older people it must have been terrible.

I have been back to Au Sable a few times since then, and things have changed. Oscoda is now the larger of the two towns and my old friends are gone. My sight is very dim but I'm young at heart, and Michigan always will have a place in my heart. I was born near Lincoln and two of my children were born in Alpena and Ironwood.

Zelda Garza now lives in Palm Desert, Calif., and would like to receive newspaper clippings about the Au Sable-Oscoda fire. Watch for Michigan Memories on Thursdays. Send your story, with an accompanying photograph of the time, to Michigan Memories, Detroit Free Press, 321 W. Lafayette, Detroit, Mich. 48226. Please include your daytime phone number.

HI BROTHERS AND SISTERS

9-11-92

THE LETTERS ARE COMING FASTER EACH TIME NOW AND I WILL TAKE A FEW MOMENTS AND GET THEM IN THE MAIL. ALL THE LETTERS WERE GREAT EXCEPT I COULD NOT FIND JANICE'S SECOND PAGE.

WE ARE HOSTING THE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION TONIGHT AFTER THE FOOTBALL GAME SO WE HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY PREPARING FOR THAT. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT EACH FAMILY TAKES THEIR TURN AND DOES AFTER EACH FOOTBALL GAME.

I HAVE MY 30 YEAR OLD FURNACE TORN OUT IN PREP FOR A NEW ONE. I WAS AFRAID TO GO ANOTHER WINTER WITH THE OLD ONE. ALSO ADDING CENTRAL AIR. ALSO JUST PUT IN A NEW POWER BOX. ALSO TORE THE DECK UP AND REPLACED A BUNCH OF 2X6'S. YES, I KNOW THAT THERE IS NO REST FOR THE WICKED.

SHARI HAS STARTED HER STUDENT TEACHING AT OWOSSO AND THAT WILL LAST THROUGH DEC. THEN IT IS BACK TO MSU FOR THE BALANCE OF THE YEAR. THEN WHO KNOWS WHERE FOR HER SPECIAL ED STUDENT TEACHING. DANA IS STILL AT KELLOGG'S IN BATTLE CREEK. I HOPE SHE STAYS THERE FOR A WHILE.

ELAINE, NOTHING IS NEW SINCE WE SAW YOU LAST. JOE, THANKS AGAIN FOR THE NICE PARTY THIS SUMMER. TELL DENISE THAT SHARI IS WORKING AT THE OLIVE GARDEN IN THE EVENINGS IN OKEMOS. I WOULD IMAGINE THAT SHE GETS BY THERE REAL OFTEN.

SIS, TELL JIM THAT HE DOES NOT NEED TO RUSH THIS GETTING MARRIED. WE ALL KNOW THAT SOMETIMES A LITTLE WAIT WON'T HURT ANYONE. YOU MUST HAVE HAD A WONDERFUL SUMMER WITH ALL THE FAMILY CLOSE BY.

JANICE, YOU WRITE GOOD FOR RIDING IN THE CAR. YOU SHOULD SEE MY WRITING JUST SETTING AT THE DESK. MAYBE WE SHOULD ALL STAPLE OUR SECOND PAGES SO WE DON'T LOOSE THE GOOD NEWS.

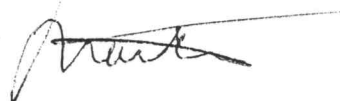
FRANK, THANKS FOR THE PICTURES. IT LOOKS LIKE UNCLE LEO IS TAKING A NAP RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PICTURE. THE DEAR AND THE YOUNG LADIES ARE ALSO VERY PRETTY.

JACK, IT LOOKS LIKE THE STATE LEASES ON OIL WILL NOT MAKE ANYONE RICH. SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT ALL THE DEER BEING KILLED. THE EARLY AUTUMN WEATHER WILL BRING MORE DEER OUT AND MORE WILL BE HIT.

JIM, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAD A NICE TRIP TO THE SOUTHWEST. SAN ANTONIO IS A BEAUTIFUL CITY. I SPENT FOUR WEEKS THERE BACK IN 1956 BUT DID NOT GET DOWN TOWN ONCE. IT WAS IN AND OUT.

I WOULD LOVE TO GO SOME PLACE BESIDES FLORIDA FOR A CHANGE. THE SCHOOL BOARD HAS THE ANNUAL MEETING IN ANAHEIM NEXT SPRING BUT WHO KNOW IF WE WILL WANT TO GO OR NOT.

WORK IS GOING GREAT AND I HAVE RAMBLED ON LONG ENOUGH. LOVE TO ALL,



9/16/92

Dear Families:

How about this Writing Paper? Hope I'll be able to take a course in Calligraphy when I'm back in Sun Lakes. Dorothy has the tools, she said I could have them. I have to do something, Mick & Wallop's home is sold, they have a new condo being built in Macomb Co. off Hall Rd. Should I say in the Utica Michigan area for the people from, UP NOT 7

There isn't anything to write about in my day to day routine, it was a good summer excluding the weather but I'd better not complain. The rains have come to Houghton Lake, torrential now - maybe I'll have to get pontoons for the place. I should be in Sun Lakes Oct. 3rd. Lord willing.

I reserved the Markay township hall for the last Sat in July for the Dunsmuir reunion - no money down - if that is agreeable to all & Joe & Jackie had a glance at the place.

See you what happened to the rest of your letter? Hope to send some literature about Kachina dolls for your gals, Jack. Martin you and Linda

haven't tried Arizona yet, ask Dana, it
ain't too bad as long as the mighty
Colorado River keeps on flowing.
I'm pleased with the numbers of you
who have made it there.

I suppose I had better think about
selling out there, it's so "dane" that I
am most of the time, I'm not very
social or I could be out every day.
Could be I'll volunteer for the school with
the Native Americans down in the reservation
if they need me.

It's a Saturday morning, wind chill factor
35° - that's winter in Sun Lakes. Boy I'm
spoiled!

So for this time, the best to all
and God bless and keep you
Love, Elaine

Cadillac, MI 49601
Sept. 28, 1992

Dear Family:

Fall is here for sure, last week we had 27 for our morning low temp. (23rd), and today it feels cool and is windy. Fall colors are very poor up to now and I doubt that they will get anywhere near like normal, probably due in large part to our cool summer.

We had visits from all three daughters and two of the sons in the last week so we are ready for a slight rest. Elaine is about to take her yearly migration to Arizona and some Fall heat.

We will have to bring in the green tomatoes if we ever expect to see them ripen. This year we will try bringing in the whole plant to let the tomatoes finish, we have been told that someone in the area does this with success. Usually they don't ripen well when they haven't started to turn red before being taken from the plant.

It appears that you all enjoyed the reunion and it should be another good time for next July with Elaine in Prudenville. I expect she will call for some assistance from us that are closer and that will be fine. If in the future any one of you feel like it is too much of a chore, don't hesitate to ask for help from anyone of us, it is farr better for us to get together than any attempt to outdo those that have been in the past, just go with what is available and handy, we will understand and help.

John: I would very much enjoy having a reunion down at the river on the old farm some time (please try to make it happen some year soon), I expect most of the others would enjoy it as well.

My fingers and this typewriter are not in very good sinc today so it must be a signal to quit.

Daughter Kathy got a teaching job in Lansing and now lives almost next door to Denise in Haslett. Son's Ken and Ron are in ITT Tech. Institute in Grand Rapids area. I don' enpect any other location changes for a few months at least. We hope you all are safe and well, especially Roger and his family in Kentucky. Life tries each of us to see what we are made of--for the long haul.

Joe

Inlay city m
9-29-92

My dear Bros + Sis's

How is this for fast moving letter
Joe's is dated 9-28-92 + mine is 9-29-92
The reason I'm writing today is I
plan to go to Rochester tomorrow to visit
with Jan + Elaine before Elaine goes
off to Arizona. It just took 2 months
for the letters to make the rounds
this time. We are doing great.

Elaine - Thanks so much for your
help to Rog + Ann + boys. For those of you
who haven't heard. Roger's Family had
a house fall down around them. They
were miraculously spared and have
relocated in Kentucky.

Joe - Thank you also for your help
to ^{Joe + Jackie} Roger's Family. They used it to get
utilities turned on etc. They are most
grateful.

Jan^{+ Jean} - we had a nice time at Lora
and Gayle's reception. Sorry we had to
leave early, but things were going
on at home that needed us here. We
had a nice visit with Jim + Carolyn.
It was a beautiful reception.

Frank^{+ Betty} - loved the pictures. It really
adds to the interest. Joe's idea of a
reunion down by the river sounds
wonderful. That will always be special.
John^{+ Pat} - Glad things are going well for
you and yours. That was a nice party
for Uncle Leo and he enjoyed it so much.

Jim^{+ Carolyn} - Its good we get to see each
other from time to time. Your Family has
really grown up on you as have all our
Families.

Marty^{+ Sandra} - I love your letters they are so
easy to read. Bet you shocked at how
fast this one comes.
Our Family has shuffled a little.
John's house is nearly done in Hawaii
they are dry walling now. John may come
back for deer season.

over

Rog is in Kentucky so we may see more
of him especially at holiday times. The other
are pretty much the same. We thank
God for the way he cared for our
Family in Miami. Also John's in Hawaii. They were
completely out of danger there.
See all of you at the next reunion if
not sooner. Our love to all of you.
Lis

#11
Nov. 1, 1992

Dear Family:

I guess I will try to type this letter this time. I've sat on them almost a month so it's time I got my buns in gear. There's probably three dozen good reasons why I'm so slow but I won't bore you with them.

I can't explain the missing 2nd. page of my last letter. Jim claims it was missing when it got to him so that only leaves Frank^{and John.} Whatever happened - we will live with it. I gave them to Frank at the family reunion.

We had big computer trouble last Friday at work. I let my gal do the payroll so she knows how to do it when I'm not there. She did something out of sequence and we got 253 pages before the printer stopped. Our software will not allow you to shut it off because if you ask it for something it prints it now or whenever you turn it back on. Due to networking (two or more computers and printers working with the same program) we printed three sets of checks before we got it right. Then - I had my coat on to go home and one guy brought his check to the office - It had paid him \$700.00 for 9½ hrs. of overtime. I did scan them but missed that. What a day. I think I will age 10 years in the next five trying to conquer the new electronic machines.

Frank, MaryEllen and your old buddy Bill Schulz were married on Sept. 12th. He still hopes to meet up with you for a good old chat sometime. He is a real nice guy.

Ron got a 4 Point buck the first day or two of bow season. Nothing since then. He hunts just north of Rochester and goes out at dawn and/or dusk quite often.

As I read over all your letters, everybody is so busy with the families, going on trips or working. I'm looking forward to a few more leisure hours after I retire. But I suppose that's a pipe dream. There's always too much of something or not enough. Time - money - motivation. Take your pick.

I plan to call Elaine when I get this letter written. Also, Joe and his family in Minneapolis. They are lonesome too. Aimee has just realized that moving meant not coming back after a couple of weeks. They should be here for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. Joe has vacation time to take advantage of. Joe came to Michigan on business and stayed with us for three nights. We saw more of him than when he was only two blocks away.

When Sis and Jan came to spend a few hours with Elaine on her way to Arizona, They planned lunch at the Red Lobster. I took the afternoon off - we met Phylis and Joyce Martin, also, ~~Joyce~~'s daughter and grand-daughter. We has a nice party. If I remember right, I had a computer problem that day too.

The river bank reunion sounds good to me too. It seems like I remember mosquitoes down there. I guess we would just have to come prepared.

I went up to Sis's a few Saturdays ago. She has been giving me my periodic permanents the last year or so. It gives us a chance to visit. How many of you have stopped in at the Imlay City Museum to see Mom's wedding dress on display?

Tuesday is the election and then the holidays are on us once more. Take care all of you as you prepare for this Holy Holiday. Love from,

Jan and
Jean

Dec 16, 1992

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

Well it looks like I have been elected to produce a family reunion in 1994. a picnic on the river most certainly would bring back many childhood memories. Robert French has offered to use his brush hog on the road. Frank has offered his camping potty to be used in the near by deer blind. I believe the biggest problem would be, table, chairs, and above all, could it be catered and by whom.

I have a very expensive cost on the road for 1993. Because of a very severe wet fall, the road took a real beating in deer ^{season}. Incidentally this road is or was gravelled all the way to the river bank.

It is very windy here today, with no snow on the ground and 44°. My snow shovel is getting all rusty and that's (good). We even had warning of a heavy rain storm for last night and that didn't happen.

Some time in early January I will have to go in for eye surgery for the fourth time.

Bessers has orders for 27 million in sales for the next six months. This is 5% above normal sales. They however have 25% of their workforce unemployed.

I bagged me a four pointer on Nov 15th. That's a seven, ten and four in the last three years. I usually see 20-25 deer per season in 6 or 7 days. This year however I had seen 135 deer. I believe there are 30-40 does in that area. This could double by next year.

The news has indicated a 17% avg increase in valuation for Alpena county in 1993. It kinda looks like the voters has just shot themselves in the foot.

I would like to take this time and wish you all a merry Christmas & a joyfull new year.

Signing off for now.

John