

#14

1-16-94

Dear Family's -

The holidays are over and time to get this show back on the road. Elaine seemed to enjoy her stay with us. I know she was overwhelmed with Christmas Eve. I'm thankful she didn't get sick. There was flu and colds all around us.

Jean won't be having his treatment until March. His Doctor has him on 10 weeks of hormone therapy - designed to shrink the prostate. No side effects have shown up yet.

We went to see Sister Act II. this afternoon. There's a couple more I'd like to see before Lent starts. Mrs. Doubtfire and Grumpy Old Men.

This afternoon I punched holes in all the family letters.

(I've been keeping copies since

we started in 1988.) There's a couple of things I'd like all of you to remember. Don't write to close to the edges. Date your letters (Marty skips this quite often.) Also, the Dumont Gang as a closing could refer to any of us. You get the picture. John - I hope your cars are running good. It's much too cold to be working on them.

We enjoyed having Ethel Rose and Vanessa for a few days. We (2) went with them to see Aunt Jane. Also, Jean went with them to the courthouse in Pontiac so she could get death certificates for Ed. She's been super busy since she went back to Washington. They belong to a boating or sailing club. She'll get back to genealogy this spring. John sounds like he will retire in about 3 years. If all goes well, I'll be done in November this year. I haven't told them at

works yet. Maybe we will be able to do some traveling.

Joe + Jackie - I think I'll stay away from Florida in October. Brief like that, we don't need.

Between Bob + Ron - they got 3 deer last fall. I believe the farm they hunt on has been sold so that may be the end of that easy hunting.

Chuck spent several days in Reno with Bryan and Ashley. Both he and the birds have an awful time when he has to leave. As of now he is talking about moving back out there. He says he doesn't want to grow old and miss 10 years of their growing up. I think he's right. That's something you can't get back if you miss it the first time. My heart cries for children with broken families.

We have a house vacant again. The winter months are hard ones to find new tenants. The couple we had got transferred to

Kansas City. Both of their families
are from there. Lucky for them.
Jean and Ron are painting
over there now.

Well, I'll close now and
hope you all keep warm and well.
Love to all of you
Jan and Jean.

P.S. Our gang are
all OK and
busy with daily
living.

2-7-94

Dear Brothers & Sisters,-

I've had this letter for a couple of weeks so guess I better get busy and get it on the road again, always wait a few days hoping something exciting will happen but I guess this time of year in this area there is not a lot that is going to happen.

Old man winter stepped back and really took a whack at us this winter didn't he?, I don't think its been above the freezing mark in the past 45 days or so, about all we have been doing is shoveling snow - plowing snow and chipping ice - but I guess thats a lot better than sitting on some beach somewhere and sweltering to death what do you think? @ Betty & I have done real well so far this winter as far as sickness knock on wood and thank God - hope you are all as well.

Our family is doing quite well at the present, some are working more hrs. than

anybody should have to and others not quite as much as they would like but that's life.

Kevin is really getting serious with a ~~gta~~ gal that works where he does, they came up a week ago so she and her 2 children boy 5 + girl 10 could see where we live and watch the deer, Mary is Mexican and was married to a white man but that didn't work out for whatever reason, she seems very nice and to see her and Kevin together is a matched set if you ever saw one they seem really happy together, they both are going back to church so maybe some good will come from it.

John we have not seen any sign of drilling in this area yet - maybe when the weather breaks, after you get your 3½ yrs. in and retire you and Pat will probably be traveling all over the world hey? I am sending these pictures along of your deer thought you might like them.

Jim it sounds like things are pretty much normal for you, as far as Nan Etten Lake for the Family reunion this yr. they are in a real bind trying to get facilities on the base leased out and hagling with ^{the} Air Force that what happens at the beach is very low on their list of priorities that they ^{don't} want to even talk about it.

(3)

(cont.)

we could possibly just have it on the beach but I was in hopes of having the pavillion in case of bad weather.

Marty reading your letter you mentioned the deer, I looked out back and there they all stood so had ^{to} take a break from this one feed, they just stand there till I take something out, we have been feeding shelled corn and hay since the weather got cold.

Elaine. hope your stay at Jan's over the holidays was enjoyable as I'm sure it was its to bad you are so far away at those times that you need something done in and around your place, there is surely enough of us around but that is a long drive.

Joe sorry to hear you and Jackie had such a bad Florida trip but traveling like you guys do I guess you have to expect to have a bad trip once in awhile, Betty would have went down in your trunk if she could have and not complained either - she loves warm weather.

Sis glad to hear that you and yours are
ing well, in this day and age I guess we are
ahead in the ball game if our families are
healthy and working, we will surprise you
one of these days and stop in.

Jan sorry I guess should have read your
letter 1st. I have gotten a little close to
the edge a few times, you should have
been a drill sargent in the military the
way your barking out instructions on
how we should write - getting a little
testy in your old age dont you think?
we sure hope Gene's therapy works we
have been praying for him, I get
checked every couple of yrs. and have
some enlargement but I guess thats
normal at my age.

And in closing I did not see a horn
all deer season so on the last day just
before dark I did take a doe on one of
Sweets block permits at a location other
than here - by the way Jim I owe you
some steaks if I can figure a way
to get them to you.

With all our Love and Prayers I'll
send this on its way.

Betty & Donk

2-27-94

Dear Brothers + Sisters;

Att: To all family members as of 2-23-95 I plan on getting out of the rat race. Its true I will be a young man of 60. I will have 36 tough years of factory life. I see no reason why anyone would put money before health.

I am enclosing my latest hunting results from 93. I have nothing to say about the little six point I missed. Since I have been using a deer call I have shot 4 and missed 2 in four yrs.

Starting in April of 94 thru to Jan of 95 there will be at least 300 antrium wells drilled in Alcona Co.

In the years of 95-96 there will be 300-400 more. In regards to the farm area we have no lease or drilling plans yet.

Bessers is expected to go not atleast until July. They have hired atleast 35 employees lately. Their sales from last report has gained 25-35% in the last three months.

Debra is planing on joining the students at Oakland University this fall. Its scary the way life is for us humans. It seems we are children one day and the next day getting old. The only thing we can hold onto ~~to~~ are memories of our past.

Considering the winter we have managed to survive through sickness hasnt bothered us much. It has probably ben to cold for the bugs to multiply.

After all these years I have not ben able to figure my brothers + sisters out. Where do they find the time and money to go on all those trips, what the secret?

your Loving Brother
John"

April 9, 1994

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

When the letters came I was going through tests due to abdominal pain. The doctor suspected gall-bladder. He also took blood to check cholesterol and PSA. He said the prostate was fine. I decided to wait for the results before writing. We finally got them this week so here goes.

He said the gall-bladder is fine. The cholesterol is a bit high at 237. The PSA is fine at 0.8. I suspect the pains (which come and go) are related more to stress than anything else. He recommends a "colonoscopy" as a general rule for people over 50. I may schedule that soon. Other than that I am fine.

Frank, since I have not heard from you of any change in the status of the Van Etten Park, I will continue with plans to have the reunion here. After checking with each of you we have selected Sunday July 24th from 1PM to whenever. Mark your calendars and let me know when you can as to how many can come. If the status changes at Van Etten Lake we will deal with it then.

We finished Karen and John's house about Jan. 7th and they moved in right away. It is very nice. It is also nice having them

living next door. They are our best neighbors. Karen is working on her masters degree. She will finish it in August. She just got back from her second trip to Germany for her company. She is doing fine. John is working a lot of hours at Beaumont Hospital and is working part time at Perry Drugs.

Mark and Sheila are both working. Mark at Exide Corp. and Sheila is doing hair at Penneys. They stop by once in a while.

Brian is awfully busy at U. of M. working on his masters degree. We went up to see him and went to mass and breakfast on Easter Sunday. It was good to see him. He should finish his masters in December.

Jeff is working on co-op at Coltek here in Troy. They are an automotive supplier. He will go back to school soon and go full time all summer. He has really enjoyed the work that he has done on co-op.

Carolyn and I have 10 more weeks of school and I have 4 weeks of driver ed before I see all of you in July. We are supposed to go to Portland Ore. in August. I just hope it doesn't turn out like Joel & Jackie's trip to Florida. That was a real downer.

I expect that I will be talking with each of you in the near future about plans for the reunion. I am looking forward to

having you all here.

May the good Lord bless and keep all
of you close to his heart. God bless.

Your loving brother
Jim.

TO THE DUMONT FAMILIES
FROM MARTY

MAY 9TH, 1994

I HAVE BEEN HOLDING THIS BACK SO ELAINE WON'T HAVE TO DRAG THIS PACKET WITH HER ON HER FLIGHT TOMORROW. I PLAN ON CALLING HER AFTER THE MORNING RUSH SO I AM SURE THAT SHE IS UP.

WE SPENT A WEEK IN PANAMA CITY IN LATE MARCH AND I SPENT FOUR DAYS IN NEW ORLEANS IN APRIL SO I GUESS I AM TRAVELED OUT. BOTH TRIPS WERE UNEVENTFUL.

DANA HAS NOW TRANSFERRED TO PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AT KELLOGGS AND SHARI SPENT THE MONTH OF JANUARY SUBBING IT SAGINAW TWP. AND LANDED A SPECIAL ED. TEACHING POSITION IN FEBRUARY AT BRIDGEPORT. SHE HAS A SUMMER JOB PROMISED AT THE SAME SCHOOL AND A FALL JOB PROMISED ALSO. SHE SURE IS HAPPY.

JOE, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU NEED A TOUR GUIDE WITH WHEELS FOR YOUR NEXT VACATION TO FLORIDA. I COULD HANDLE THAT.

SIS- WE MAY GET A CHANCE TO SEE JOHN AND GAYLE AS WE ARE TAKING ABOUT A HAWAII TRIP NEXT YEAR. WE BETTER START LOOKING FOR A CONDO NOW, I WOULD GUESS.

JEAN, I HOPE ALL IS GOING WELL WITH YOU. I GO AND GET CHECKED YEARLY, SO I CAN KNOW WHATS GOING ON. MOST MEN DO NOT REALIZE THAT IF THEY DON'T HAVE PROSTATE TROUBLE BY AGE 50, THEY ARE LUCK. TAKE CARE. JANICE, DID YOU NOTICE THAT I DATED THIS? FRANK, THE PICTURE OF THE DEER IS JUST GREAT. I SURE MISS SEEING THOSE BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS UP THERE. SOME DAY MAYBE I WILL OWN A LITTLE SPREAD UP THERE.

JACK, I HOPE YOU ARE FEELING BETTER AND BACK TO WORK. WE
WILL PROBABLY HAVE HAD OUR SUMMER PICNIC BY THE TIME YOU
READ THIS.

JIM, GUESS YOU ARE BACK TO NORMAL AND HAVE EVERYTHING
UNDER CONTROL. HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE YOUR DAUGHTER AND
SON IN LAW LIVING NEXT DOOR? I AM NOT AM SURE THAT IT
WOULD DO MUCH FOR EITHER FAMILIES PRIVACY.

I JUST TALKED TO ELAINE AND SHE IS LEAVING TOMORROW BUT WILL
DRAG HER FEET BEFORE COMING UP TO THE NORTH TILL IT WARMS UP
A LITTLE. SEE YOU ALL IN JULY..

LOVE

MARTY

6-1-94

Dear Sisters & Bros:

Nothing much to say - hope this finds all of you and yours doing good in every way. I'm glad to be back in Michigan once again - "roughin" it and finding cool temps.

I'm not in good health and can't seem to find what's ailing me. I do know I have a heart condition ANGINA - have nitro-glycerin pills to take, have plenty of trouble with the foods I eat, what agrees with me today might turn on me tomorrow.

Wish Joe & Jackie would stop by and take the letters along. Marty and Linda brought them! Sis & Fog may come by Fri ^{3rd} sometime. I was going up to Pessis but I think I hear the ^{air} sprayers - plane for gypsy moth.

Memorial Day I went with Sherica & Rick to Ray's home in Clare - he has a really good pool there 5 grand kids were there - had a spaghetti feast and watched those 4 little boys and Sarah the whole day didn't need to be rocked to sleep that night. It was Ron's birthday 43 yrs. He's having health problems and is scheduled for tests.

Have nearly completed a form for application to an apartment in Rochester Hills, Equal Housing Opportunity. They want my whole history. I guess that will be O.K. My Cousin has lived

there for several years, she thinks it would
be just right for me.

I hope I can get to the pension - I
don't want to drive down alone, Martin offered
to have me drive with them but if I can get
to Saginaw I should be able to get to Troy!
Thank you Marty & Linda.

I was able to rent a garage for the leg olds.
One thing I can feel good about out there. Its
new paint job doesn't need that heat.

Heard from Joe last evening, they are
planning to drive over afternoon. I was
of a mind to hold them until they came!
Sis & Rog stopped for minutes on their
road to Onaway. Haven't had a graduation
announcement from Debbie, suppose it's
going So. West.

As I write this: Jean is on my mind
and prayers his surgery is scheduled for
Wed. the 8th. Jean has most of the week
off, her Joe will be there with her.

For now God bless to one and
all, Visit me when you can, either
place Love, Elaine

Cadillac, MI.
June 8, 1994

Dear Dumont Clan

We have been back from our Vancouver Island, British Columbia vacation one week this past midnight and have about caught up with the spring chores.

Several times I have read "I don't know how some of you can travel like you do", so as a partial answer, here is our method. Just before I was able to retire, I was assigned to four months duty in Florida on a winter mapping detail. While in Florida, we traveled on our three day weekends, and became acquainted with "Time Shares" or partial ownership of a resort complex. There are at least three associations and probably thousands of resorts around the world with such ownership patterns. Some resorts are partially owned by full time owners and some by part time owners such as us, with only one week per year. Some people own weeks in several resorts around the country or several country's. The usual system is to have the year split into weeks, with the more desirable weeks coded (blue) the next best (white) and the least (red). The price varies with the code and the quality or demand for the various weeks. The association organizes the trading of weeks between owners, and in some cases renters, if the owners are not using their units. We pay property tax and a maintenance fee every year on our partial ownership. The biggest problem that I see is to find one that you like well enough to want a vacation there every few years, or would like your family members to use your time on occasion. These resorts are as varied as are individual homes. Some are similar to bed & breakfast types, to motels, to very fancy golf & ocean-side marina complexes. The usual cost would be from about \$100 per night to who knows what. Our resort in the Orlando, Florida was renting for \$200 per night for the 2 BR units back in '88. Our week cost over \$12,000, which is week 52 (Christmas-N Year) which is in high demand. We could sell it easily, but this could be a big problem with some weeks, especially in a poor resort in a limited use area. We will help you see what's available if you wish.

All our family is well and some are on the move like every year. Kathy is to be married in August.

On our vacation we saw virgin timber like I never expected to see ever. Some that were large trees 300 years ago when the forest was burned in a wild-fire; that killed all the undergrowth but left the mature trees, whose bark was resistant to the fire. One 15' stump from one of those trees that had to be cut, did no damage (Western Red Cedar). 4-6' diameter trees growing about that same distant from each other, with very straight trunks maybe 200' plus tall. We had a unit overlooking a protected bay on the east side of Vancouver Island, with Canada Geese for alarm clocks (up to 2 dozen congregated at times on a point just off the complex). Will tell you more when we see you.

Today is the day that Jene is to be made Bionic, we all are praying that fix is safe and all is well now and forever.

Hope to see you all at the reunion in July and the potential retirees are encouraged to have faith and get off the treadmill as soon as possible. Don't worry about my typing, I just don't care about mistakes any more, they are just too common to fight.

Joe & Joe's



"Breeding the Special Individual"
Straight Egyptian Bloodlines

Roger and Mary Bruce
685 N. Summers Road
Imlay City, MI 48444
(810) 724-6003
FAX (810) 724-2577

6-24-94

My Dear Brothers + Sisters,

I've just read all of your letters one more time and now its about time to put in my two cents.

We will be seeing all of you in just one month. That is such a nice thought. We have a couple of nice things going for Family unity.

I am anxiously waiting to hear how your tests are coming out Frank. you are waiting to see if you must go to Ann Arbor or not. We have you on our prayer line. We have been planning to get up there for some time. Hang in there Brother Love.

Pat + John we are glad you are getting alot better. Its rough when the



**Ro-Mar
Arabian Stud**

"Breeding the Special Individual"
Straight Egyptian Bloodlines

Roger and Mary Bruce
685 N. Summers Road
Imlay City, MI 48444
(810) 724-6003
FAX (810) 724-2577

? babys grow up on us and go off to college or were ever. Thats life you know and we must roll with the punches.

Marty + Sonda it will be nice to see you at the reunion. we haven't seen you since last year.

Joe + Jackie your busy with a wedding. That is so exciting. we pray for that young couple.

Jan + Jean we are praying for you. you will beat this problem and life will go on. Praise God for his healing touch.

Jim I'm glad you are better. The stresses of life can cause alot of things. Thank you + Carolyn for coming to see me. It was a

3) wonderful lift that day. God Bless you for your thoughtfulness.

Claine I'm sorry you are ailing with stomach problems. I know how that is, but I'm so well since I lost my gall bladder in Feb. We pray you will be all better soon.

Our Family's are holding steady at this point, but I can't say for how long. I will let you all know if things change. All I want to say is pray for Bill and Chiyoko. We have been doing a lot of that lately.

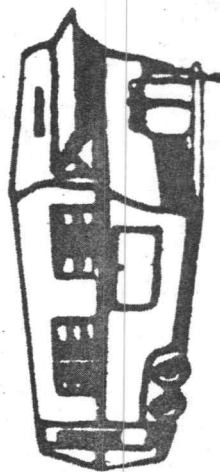
Love you all and will see you all real soon

God Bless you all

Sis, Roy
+ Family's

Western Michigan
Camping Paradise

DUMONT LAKE CAMPGROUND



3106 125th Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010

Telephone
(616) 673-6065

YOUR HOSTS
Pat and Susan Riley

DUMONT LAKE CAMPGROUND, INC.
3106 125th AVENUE
ALLEGAN, MICHIGAN 49010



MAPCO MEMBER

WOODALL MEMBER

Want to relax in a peaceful setting? Dumont Lake Campground is the camping paradise in Southwestern Michigan.

We welcome you for the day, week, month, or season and provide rustic-to-full hookups.

Our season is from May 1 through October 31.

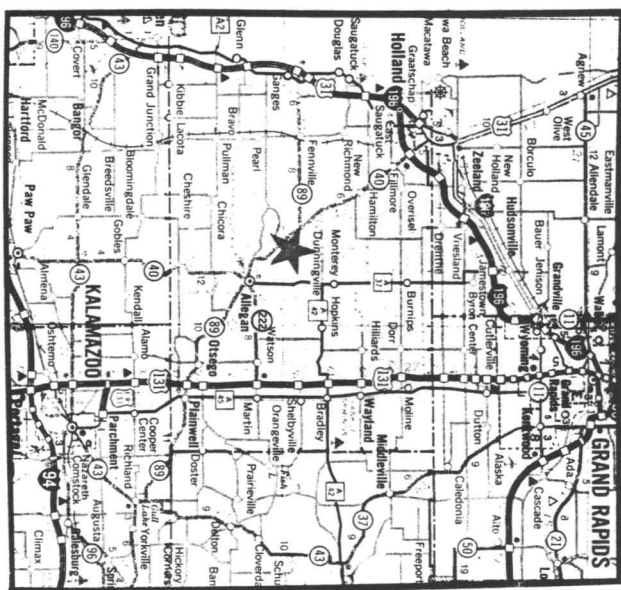
We Offer:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| * Clean Restrooms | * Trailer Rentals |
| * Flush Toilets | * Game Room |
| * Hot Showers | * Dump Station |
| * Shady Sites | * Good Swimming |
| * Grassy Sites | * Boat Launch |
| * Rustic/Full Hookups | * Honey Wagon |
| * Group Area | * Laundry |
| * Camp Store | * Firewood/Ice |
| * Large Fire Rings | * Pavilion Available |

Located 20 miles from Holland, 5 miles from Allegan, 12 miles from Fennville, 28 miles from Grand Rapids, 15 miles from Hamilton, 150 miles from Chicago.

Activities for all. Children, Young Adults, and Seniors alike enjoy all that this bountiful area has to offer. Get involved, if you wish or just relax, enjoy the lounging, peaceful atmosphere. Above all get away from the busy and hectic rat race.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| * Lake Swimming | * Ford Museum, |
| * Boating | Grand Rapids |
| * Fishing (ponds free) | * Saugatuck Dinner |
| or in Dumont Lake | Cruise |
| * Shuffleboard | * Grand Haven Coast |
| * Horseshoes | Guard Festival |
| * Pool Table | * Kellogg Bird |
| * Video Games | Sanctuary, |
| * Potlucks | Kalamazoo |
| * Horse Races | * Amway Corporation, |
| * Special Events | Tour, Ada |
| * Campfires | * Winery Tour |
| * Allegan Antique Shows | * Allegan County Fair |
| (Last Sundays-April | * Golf Courses |
| thru September) | * Allegan County |
| * Hunting in State | Museums |
| * Game Area | * Walking Trails in |
| * Holland Tulip Festival | State Game Area |



RESERVATION FORM
(CUT OFF AND SEND IN TODAY)

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF ARRIVAL _____ TIME OF ARRIVAL _____ AM/PM

DATE OF DEPARTURE _____ TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS _____

PLEASE RESERVE _____ SITE(S) \$ _____ Enclosed

Each campsite reservation requires a one day deposit. All reservations will be held until 6:00PM unless otherwise specified.

Send this form and check to:

DUMONT LAKE CAMPGROUND, INC.
3106 125TH AVENUE
ALLEGAN, MI 49010

TO RESERVE YOUR SITE JUST MAIL THE ATTACHED FORM

A one week advance notice of reservations cancellation is needed for deposit return.

All holiday weekend reservations must be for at least a three day duration and no deposit refund will be given for cancellations.

#15
July 4, 1994

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

I want to write this and try to get the packet off to Frank at St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw. Maybe they will spread a little cheer in a less than cheerful situation. Frank - know that you are on our minds, in our hearts and in our prayers these last few days BIG TIME. God willing everything will be better by and by.

We are having our own batch of troubles - Jean had his Cryosurgery on June 8th. He came home the next day. The recovery is more complicated than we had in mind. Things improve for a few days and then we have a set back. The latest is an allergic reaction to (we think) an antibiotic called Floxin. His body turned a bright red over about 50% of his lower body - then hives appeared and swelling here and there - we controlled the itching with milk of magnesia. The redness progressed upward - needless to say the medicine was halted immediately. At the moment, were coasting. He hopes to get the catheter out this week.

I finally purchased the rest of my flowers for around the house and got them planted. In the fall we may have some landscaping done by a nursery down the road. Before that, we need to put in a sidewalk and put up some gutters.

I'm hoping to get a flyer out to all our kids about the family reunion at Jim's. They can put it on their fridge's with the details and as a reminder.

We haven't gone on vacation this year yet - when Jean is back on his feet maybe we'll take a drive somewhere in Michigan. The big stuff will have to wait until next year. Tom and Gale have a beautiful baby boy. He was born on Aimee's birthday (April 22nd.). He's doing great - He was 12 lbs. a couple of weeks ago. He has big dark eyes and lots of dark hair. We all think he is something special. Both parents are 37 years old. I guess it's time to get started.

Frank and John - Thanks for sharing the deer pictures with us. We like a few meals of venison but that's about it.

They are probably more fun to watch than eat.

Frank - I didn't intend to sound like a military sargent.

The instructions were to make it easier to copy and punch to keep in a notebook. I'm sure you knew that but you just had to tease a little bit. Some things never change, do they?

John - Does Debra plan to live on campus at Oakland?

Maybe we will have a chance to see her. Give her our phone number when she comes.

Yes, Marty, I did notice that you dated your letter - stayed away from the edges and used double spaced LARGE PRINT. I like it.

Joe - Vancouver Island sounds good to me. We have been thinking about taking a trip out that way. We have a video on the Danali Pass area. Also, we would like to visit Ethyl Rose in Washington state. Maybe next year. We also want to take a longer trip up the St Lawrence Seaway and do some more research on the Dumont family in Riviere-Du-Loup. We also want to go on a Steamboat River Cruise.

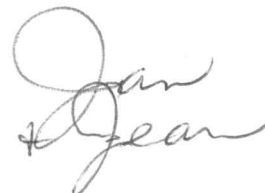
Elaine, I hope you get your medication sorted out so it does what you need it to do. When it's wrong, it can sure mess you up.

Joe - I kind of like your attitude about your mistakes. Does that go for forgetfulness too. We all suffer from CRS these days. If you have to ask what that means - you probably knew but forgot.

Well, Jean is waiting to have lunch. I have a short prayer I say daily for our kids. It would work for the rest of us too.

"Lord, send whatever help is needed spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally or with substance abuse and for those that are unmarried, send their christian life partner into their lives so they can get on with their christian walk on earth. Amen.

Love to all,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jean" with a small cross or flourish at the end.

8-21-94

Dear Sisters & Brothers

There is not a lot to write about here but thought I had better scratch something down and get this on its way.

You all know the surprise I got on the 3rd. of July, after doctoring for 4 or 5 wks. Thinking I had pneumonia things sure came crashing down in a hurry and what took place in the next 2 wks. is pretty much a blur, they kept me on the I.C.U. for a wk. Trying to get my lungs cleared up enough to make it through surgery, after 14 + days in the Hosp. needless to say its good to be home, everybody says that I'm looking better but it seems awful slow coming to me, I take my walks every day rain permitting but get tired awful easy.

Aunt Bertha was over to see us the other day, she is very depressed her own family don't bother with her much.

a week ago I had to go down to
Tawas to see a new Dr. so stopped in
to visit Aunt Emma for a while, she
was so glad to see us.

I am just having an awful time
trying to write this letter, I can
think of so much to say but just
can not put it in writing, guess I
better close and promise to do better
next time.

I want to thank all of you for
coming to see me in the Hospital or
since at home, I thank you for your
cards and phone calls and I very
much thank you for your prayers
without them I'm sure I would not
be writing this letter.

Your Loving Brother
Frank

P.S. Hope all of your aches and pains
are feeling better.

Sept 5, 1994

Labor Day

Dear Brothers & Sisters;

As we all get older the tone of the family letters get meeker. Its more concern for ones health less for trips on their lasting memories. As for health and its severity a great deal lies with our daily (stress) or crosses we have to carry.

The following is a good example. Theresa totaled her car, value \$600 - \$65 ticket add \$3,000 insurance increase for 3 yrs. Debra is on her way to Oakland University ^{6 years}. One of the vehicles is in the driveway with a flat. I have just had surgery for a torn ligament. I do not know if I will get paid for a 3-6 week period.

All the above must have a silver lining somewhere. Only God knows what we will face tomorrow and the next day.

Dad + Mom
Buy again

The latest turn of events is raising "heck" with my retirement plans. After 36 years in Bessers I deserve a less stressful situation than what I am facing.

There is always Christmas, deer season, spring and trout fishing to look forward to. Grand children to visit, grass to cut, and sleeping. If we have shelter, warm bed and food to eat we are luckier than most. "Just" think only seven more months and will graduate from you know where.

Health wise I am paying the price for a torn ligament. The rest of the family is flourishing far better. A few breaks in life we would all be grateful for.

Maybe soon my retired brothers and sisters can give me a hint on what to expect in retirement. Besides more time to fish, sleep, travel, lower income, less taxes, more health problems, poorer writing. Will close for now and my God Bless all of you.

Your Loving Brother
John

Oct. 2, 1994

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It was great getting all your letters and I will get this one in and send them on their way. At this time I am feeling fine. It feels great not to be ailing. The whole family seems to be doing fine at the present time.

The big news here is that Karen and John are expecting. She is due on St. Patrick's day and I am looking forward to finally being a Grandpa. I sure am going to enjoy that.

As you know I did not retire last summer. I was looking for them to offer an incentive to retire but they were not smart enough to do that. My plan now is to finish this school year and then retire. We are taking it one day at a time. Some days I am ready to tell them what they can do with their job. Some days are better than others.

Just after the family reunion we purchased a travel trailer. It is 6 years old and is in good condition. We are looking forward to doing some traveling. Now I am looking for a pick up truck big enough to pull it. Hopefully I will find one by next spring. I need to find a balance between need for power and need for economy.

Now for the kids. Karen received her masters

degree in August, That was in finance, Brian
will finish his masters degree in December, That
will be in computational fluid dynamics, Every
thing else is the same as before.

Well I guess that is all the news for
now. Take good care of yourselves and each
other. God bless all,

Your loving brother
Jim.

TO THE DUMONT FAMILIES

OCT.21ST. 1994

FROM MARTY

I HAVE SAT ON THIS ENVELOPE FOR A WEEK WAITING FOR SOMETHING NEW TO HAPPEN BUT NOTHING IS NEW SO I GUESS I BETTER WRITE AND GET THIS ON THE WAY TO ELAINE.

FIRST OF ALL, I AM INCLOSING A FOLDER ON DUMONT LAKE. WOULDN'T IT BE SOMETHING TO ALL MEET AT THIS LAKE FOR A DAY OF CAMPING. I AM CURIOUS TO KNOW THE HISTORY OF THIS LAKE AND MUCH MORE. JIM, WITH YOUR NEW CAMPING OUTFIT, WOULD YOU MAKE A TEST RUN AND LET US KNOW ALL ABOUT IT. THAT MAY BE A GOOD SPOT FOR NEXT YEARS REUNION.

ELAINE, WE THINK OF YOU OFTEN AND ARE SO HAPPY THAT YOU ARE BASKING IN THE WONDERFUL SUNSHINE. I WILL SAY THIS. I THINK THAT THIS FALL THE COLORS HAVE BEEN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THAT I CAN EVER REMEMBER. WISH IT WOULD LAST.

JOE, THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND IS YOUR WORLD TRAVELING. I WISH I COULD DO THAT BUT I GUESS MY TIME WILL COME. WE PLAN TO GO TO THE BAHAMAS BETWEEN JANUARY AND APRIL.

SIS, I GUESS HAWAII IS OUT FOR NEXT SPRING BUT THEIR IS ALWAYS NEXT YEAR. LETS HOPE.

JANICE, HAD A CHANCE TO SEE JEAN WHILE I WAS
THERE WITH ELAINE. I AM PRAYING FOR ALL OF OUR
SICK AND HURTING FRIENDS AND JEAN IS ON THE LIST.

FRANK, I JUST HAVE TO GET UP THERE ONE OF THESE
DAYS AND VISIT. I WOULD GUESS THAT YOU ARE TOEING
THE MARK. DO YOU HAVE MOST OF YOUR STRENGTH BACK
OR WILL THIS TAKE A LONG TIME.

JACK, WON'T THAT BE GREAT TO RETIRE AND THEN ALL
YOU HAVE TO DO IS WALK IN THE WOODS. MY KIND A
LIFE.

JIM, AS I SAID BEFORE, I AM LOOKING FOR YOUR
EXPERTISE ON GOOD PLACES TO CAMP.

SOME DAY I WOULD HOPE TO HAVE A FIFTH WHEEL AND
TAKE TO THE HIGHWAYS FOR A LONG TIME.

BOTH GIRLS ARE STILL AT THEIR SAME JOBS AND STILL
COMPLAINING SO ALL MUST BE WELL.

WE WERE UP TO THE SOO TWICE THIS SUMMER AND FALL.
IT IS SO NICE TO SPEND TIME UP THERE. I LOVE IT
IN THE SUMMER AND HATE IT IN THE WINTER.

GUESS I BETTER SIGN OFF.

LOVE YOU ALL.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Frank', written in a cursive style.

Oct. 28, 1994

Dear Dumonts:

This will probably be my last family letter from the sunny Southwest. Maybe some of you haven't heard I've sold this house and am to return to Houghton Lake about the middle of April '95. I thought I was getting into an apartment in Rochester Hills but that seems rather remote now, having an application from Casa Maria I can't fill it out until I'm in Mich. That will also take a waiting period. My whole life in Detroit is with me here and I'm trying to rid myself of all of it, was I!

The weather is nearly perfect here, it was too hot when I arrived but it's getting fine now - no heat or A.C. needed.

Don't see Cousin Dorothy Quелlette, we phone each other, I don't go away from Sun Lakes. Gave Chuck's Laundry organ to St. Stevens, the church is in the Church but the organ is in the rehearsal room. Oh well.

I hope you all are trying to live good healthy lives, I'm doing alright, working hard around here, doing the big room window in and out, can only do two at a time.

It was good to see Jackie and Joe for their brief stay - always thank God for any of your visits. Maybe see more of you in Mich.

My news is scarce, no family to write about, nice people around me here, very involved which I don't have at Houghton Lake but perhaps I can change that, oh I'm friendly with my old neighbors up there but they don't do anything or go much. Here there is too much to do, have to watch it.

I'm not volunteering this year, too much cluttering my thoughts, a little problem with eyes, vitreous floaters and they do need volunteers. They have some schools on the year round program. My neighbor and friend Pat Klein has just started to volunteer, she worked with a 5th grade Mexican girl who speaks no English! Many challenges, especially for the whole morning period, the teacher, Carmen Leathers is Mexican, thank you God, 26 kids!

So I ramble on. I do pray for all you with those major health problems and you know who you are and I pray God will take care in every way ^{for} all your dear ones

Love,
 Elaine

Cadillac, MI
Nov. 8, 1994

Dear Family:

I have, like some of you, waited for some newsy news to put in this edition of our traveling letter. It is such a nice day for this time of year, that I must get this done and in the mail.

Health wise we have been quite good in our whole family in recent months, and we pray that our ailing family members are well on the mend. Alergies are the biggest problem that our family faces year-around.

We had a two week driving trip to see Elaine and Jackies sister Marilyn in the southwest. Put over 5,000 miles on the Cougar in October, and are up to 94,000 in less than six years. This has been our best car by far. We had to escape the mountain area to avoid the snow threat, here we haven't even had flurries yet.

We have been trying to arraing a winter in the Florida area, but no concrete plans yet. Everything is too expensive or for too short a time. If we can get a place for January thru mid April we are gone after Christmas. I hope for a situation where you all can visit as you can get away for a winter bteak. You all notice that my typing and spelling is consistently bad, as usual.

Elaine, we all pray that your changes in living environment will all turn out successfully by this time next year. We all will be closer again.

Our children are still having their ups and downs, as are yours judging from the letters. Kathy's wedding and life in Lansing is going fine except for her very bad alergy problems.

Don't you all agree? Elaine and Jan have always been the military sargent types, but what would we do without them? I might even fall into that catagory when I reflect on it.

It was good to hear about aunt Bertha. Frank, I expect deer hunting stories in pour next letter. We have some buck rubbing activity just off our lot, this past week. John will always have his hunting and fishing exploits, and we do like to hear about them all.

Our retirement experiences have taught us to lighten up and live as you had hoped for in your past dreamings, because your time together is unknown and your health will slow for active life styles, which will lessen the will to travel.

There will be plenty of time for rockkng, for most of us, and the lucky ones will be those that go quickly, and hopefully ready for what ever awaits them.

Mike and Pamila, in Maryland, are building a new home, and experiencing the associated problems. All of our family are employed but all feel the pressure for greater income to live full lives. It appears that this will always be true, from my memory of my life to date. I am happy for those that have gone on for more education, since I experienced the years of stress and denial that is necessary to achieve those higher degrees. The TV view of higher education is mostly a myth from my experience, it is mostly hard grinding work that you must, once started, finish with the hope that it will be found worthy for the degree sought. Once you have this education, you hope to be fortunate enough to be able to apply it in your lifes work. Higher education without future work experience, is of little value. When I think about the expence and years of effort expended in my education I really value the technical school that are much more available for the young people of this era.

I expect Jim has his truck and is an experienced camper by now, because we are counting on him for the advice that Martin requested. Rembember? I hope you and your family make time to use the equipment more than some that I have watched thru the years.

I find that local duties are calling. Voting day; mower repairs; shopping etc. are all calling. Time to get this in the mail. See you all at the reuunion or possibly in Florida.

Johnnie



11-28-94

Dear Bro's + Sister,

No we haven't left the Church.
This stationary is for use with our prayer meetings etc.

Jan is coming on the 30th for her permanent and I want to have my letter ready to go. I just read them all again and daughter Jan read them too.

Jan's Robert is working on construction. They build most any thing. Its so good to have him working. Rog + Ann came home for Thanks giving. We had 22 for dinner, but I didn't do any thing as it was my birthday. Every thing is still the same with the other Families.

(Thanks) Elaine Im glad you are getting squared away and are busy with your friends. Its always better to have something to do. Joe + Jackie it would be wonderful to see you down in Florida.

"Come and hear, all ye that fear God,
and I will declare what He hath done for my soul."

Psalm 66:16

2
Romar Ministries



Unto Thee O' Lord

Jan I'm so glad Jean is improving
we sure have been praying for him.
Frank + Betty we keep trying to get
up there again. Its good things are better.
John + Pat I expect you are doing
better by this time. Keep healthy!

Jim + Carolyn we really are excited
about your grandbaby. There's nothing like it.
Marty + Sonda your Dumont Lake
Camp grounds sounds really nice. Hope
we can arrange it sometime.

Rog wanted you to see his latest
Stallion. He is in training now.

Our prayer for all of you is:
May God Bless you and keep you.
may he make his face to shine
upon you and may he give you
his perfect peace.
We love you all
Sis

"Come and hear, all ye that fear God,
and I will declare what He hath done for my soul."

Psalm 66:16

16

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

12-15-94

DEAR FAMILY:

I WILL TRY TO GET THIS WRITTEN, COPIES MADE, AND IN THE MAIL SO FRANK WILL GET THEM BEFORE CHRISTMAS. WE WERE HAPPY TO HEAR FROM YOU (FRANK AND BETTY) WHEN YOU WERE DOWN RECENTLY - I HOPE THINGS HAVE CALMED DOWN FOR DAVID AND HIS FAMILY. ALSO GLAD THAT YOU ARE DOING SO WELL. BEFORE LONG YOU CAN QUALIFY TO RUN IN THE BOSTON MARATHON. DON'T WE ALL WISH WE WERE IN THAT KIND OF SHAPE.

JOHN - ARE YOU KEEPING A DIARY OF ALL YOUR MISHAPS? I CAN TELL YOU ONE THING ABOUT RETIREMENT - I DON'T KNOW HOW I HAD TIME TO WORK. MAYBE IT JUST TAKES LONGER TO DO THINGS. I KNOW IT'S GREAT TO DO WHAT YOU WANT TO - IF YOU WANT TO - AND WHEN YOU WANT TO. SO FAR I'VE OCCUPIED WITH GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS.

JEAN DID GO IN FOR A COLONOSCOPY ON TUESDAY THIS WEEK. NO PROBLEMS SHOWING UP THERE. HE IS FEELING MUCH BETTER LATELY BUT IS HAVING A PROBLEM WITH INCONTINENCE. THIS WILL PROBABLY LAST FOR SEVERAL MORE MONTHS. HE HAD A CATHETER IN SO LONG THAT HIS MUSCLES HAVE TO BE RETRAINED.

JIM - I KNOW YOU WILL ENJOY YOUR NEW TRUCK. WHEN SCHOOLS OUT - MAYBE YOU CAN TAKE A TRIAL RUN OUT TO DUMONT LAKE CAMPGROUND. I AM ANXIOUS TO FIND OUT HOW IT GOT IT'S NAME. MARTY - WHERE DID YOU PICK UP THE BROCHURES?

ELAINE - HOW DID YOUR TRIP TO SONOMA TURN OUT? I GUESS WE WILL TALK TO YOU LONG BEFORE YOU ANSWER IN THIS LETTER.

JOE - YOUR LETTER TO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ABOUT YOUR INSURANCE WAS VERY INTERESTING BUT DID YOU REALLY INTEND FOR ALL OF US TO READ IT?

WHILE I'M THINKING ABOUT IT - YOU SHOULD ALL READ A BESTSELLER OUT CALLED "EMBRACED BY THE LIGHT" BY BETTY EADIE. SHE HAD A NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE. IT SURE GIVES A BROADER PICTURE OF BEFORE AND AFTER LIFE ON EARTH. I'VE BOUGHT 4 COPIES SO FAR. EVEN MY KIDS ARE IMPRESSED AND PASS IT ON TO OTHERS.

YES IT WAS GOOD TO HEAR ABOUT AUNT BERTHA. WE HAVE BEEN GLUED TO HOME THIS PAST YEAR BUT HOPE THINGS WILL CHANGE WITH THE NEW YEAR. SIS AND ROGER - THAT IS A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF YOUR HORSE. SOME DAY

I HOPE YOU WILL REAP SOME MONETARY REWARDS FOR ALL THE YEARS OF WORK AND WORRY.

ALL OUR GUYS ARE WORKING (EXCEPT ANDY - HE STARTED A SEASONAL LAY-OFF FOR ABOUT 6 WEEKS THIS WEEK). THIS AREA HAS VERY LOW UNEMPLOYMENT NOW. IT IS QUITE DIFFICULT TO HIRE GOOD HELP DOWN HERE. EVERYWHERE YOU GO YOU SEE HELP WANTED SIGNS. I IGNORE THEM ALL.

MAY GOD GRANT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND GOOD HEALTH AND PROSPERITY IN THE NEW YEAR.

LOVE,

Jan and Jean

FRANK: THAT NEWSPAPER CLIPPING DOES LOOK LIKE OUR MOTHER.
DO YOU SUPPOSE THE LORD HAD MORE THAN ONE COPY?