

Jan. 1996

Dear Brothers, Sisters & Families:

It's time I put pen to paper and write a few things to you. First of all: on July 13, '96 Martin's family reunion will be at (Freedland's Park Bldg. - cellular telephone tower.) Sit down dinner (Free) 1:00 P.M.

I think I have made the best of the choice I had for this awful winter weather. The windows have helped so much and the ^{NEW} electric pad for my bed works just fine.

Christmas holidays with Jan & Jean was so great! Seeing the boys and their spouses and kids - well it hardly lets up. Also two nice visits with Jim and Carolyn and their kids. So, Jan, Jean and I had dinner at a very nice place with our Cousin Larry Bates - his wife Joan was ill, couldn't come along.

Hope you will call or come to see me any time - I need those "things" to recharge the batteries! I'm maybe going to inquire about an Alaskan cruise in June with the group from St. James Parish - can't think too long - there is a "cut off" date.

Don't forget the family reunion particulars! Please God bless and keep ^{you} all!
Lane, Elaine

Cadillac, MI
January 25, 1996

Dear Family:

I have duly noted the date of the next reunion as (July 13th at Freeland), just as a reminder to anyone reading this in the months to come. We just recently returned from a 2 week vacation to the Orlando and Panama City area. You guessed it, the weather wasn't great. The first 3 days were stormy (over twice the January normal precipitation) and cool. There were two days that got quite nice in the afternoon. Wore a short sleeved shirt only one day and no sunning at all. We planned to stay at St. George Island on the Gulf, but it was so cold that we gave it up. We had also planned to go to the Baltimore area to visit son Mike, he was just getting out from that monster storm that hit that part of the country. If you want a storm, just send us there.

We are tentatively planning an April-May trip to the Hot Springs Ark. area and other points west.

Have you noticed the new typewriter ribbon, also that it hasn't improved my typing or spelling. I doubt that I will ever get any better even with practice.

Our family is in good shape at this time and it appears that all of you are at least on the mend. Cousin Mary Rose Vadeboncoeur from the Mesick area is hovering near death of very old age. Her daughter Rosemary moved her in with them on Christmas eve. She ~~is~~ lived next door to them in her own home, but became bed ridden and had lost her sight. She had not been expected to live even until Thanksgiving time.

We are very happy to see Elaine doing as well as an Arizona transplant could be expected to do. A cruise trip to Alaska, boy you are going to give us all ideas.

We have talked to Mary and company several times in recent months, and the same goes for Frank's so we are up to date OK.

The Rochester branch seems to be as active as ever and under control. Jan mentioned Jackie's aunt, she is quite recovered from the bus accident, but blames all her pains on the accident - we remember all those pains before the accident. She has Arthritis in her back.

Over

The mention of retirement is getting quite frequent in the letters and it appears that along with becoming Grandparents we all are living with it and actually liking it.

Yes John we all have many memories tied in with that old house and farm. I wish I was able to own it. May our memories all be good and lasting for ever more.

Having the grand children over for very short periods is very good for retired folks and I pity anyone that is deprived of the joy and pain that goes with this phase of life. Some of us get the chance to see neighbors and friends children growup and may lend a hand from time to time, which helps too.

That is one snowy cross you picture there Martin. Is that wreath material or something more durable? Thanks for doing it. Retirement will come to you to, and maybe faster than you think, lets hope that is by choice and you both are able to enjoy it.

SEE YOUALL ON JULY 13th

Joe & Jackie

2-3-96

My Dear Bro's + Sisters,

Received the letters this week and have read them twice. I started to answer them wed., but got busy in the Beauty Shop and then got a call for prayer at Fergusons Nursing home. We called on Sun Crest while we were in Lapeer. Moms friend Katherine Totski is 102 yrs today and doing quite well. She lives at Sun Crest.

Its wonderful to keep in touch this way, as we see each other so seldom. We enjoyed visiting with Jan, Jean + Elaine at Christmas also went on to see Jim + Carolyn. It was a stormy cold days, but was

2

well worth the effort. I only wish we could have visited with all of you at that time of year. Life is so short. We will see all of you on July 13th at 1 p.m. and pray we can all make it. That's at the Freeland Park Bldg.

Rogers Mom passed on Dec 6th just one day before Dad (Dec 7 1961). She was almost 100 yrs. We went to Flint almost daily and we were with her when she left - so peaceful. We still see Betty every week or so, but it's nice to have a break.

We celebrated our 20 yr anniversary of having our prayer meeting on the last Sun of the month. We had 25 people, which isn't bad since the Super Bowl was on. It lasted until mid night, which isn't unusual. I'm glad it's just once a month, but love it.

Jan its so good to see you when you have your perm. your work at the library sounds great.

John I'm glad all is well with your family. Retirement seems to agree with you.

Frank you wrote such a nice merry letter. We really enjoyed it as we enjoyed all of them. So glad you are doing well and your Family members too.

Jim your letter was great too. We're praying for Sheila. Its so hard to get them little ones, but when its over it doesn't seem so bad. Glad your having fun with your trailer. We all need a break.

Marty - How nice of you to send a picture of the new grave cross. We don't get up there often enough.

We can tell you love grandparenting as we all do. God is so good.

4 inarty we miss the good old days
when you popped in on your travels.
we seem to see the others more often.

Elaine - It was so nice to see you
at Christmas. Hope you are snug
and cozy. we are having a real
good blast of cold weather, but not
much snow here in Inlay city. your
trip sound like something nice to
look forward to.

I love our telephone chats from
time to time.. I may just buzz you
when I finish this..

Joe - I see you came back early.
Theres no place like home, even
with the snow. I expect your trip
to Hot Springs will be fun.

we all have some good memory
of our child hood and the farm.
I try to remember the good times.

There isn't much new with our
families so I'll stop for this time
Love you all
Eris (Mary)

#19

FEBRUARY 14, 1996
(HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY)

DEAR ONE AND ALL:

I JUST READ OVER MY OLD LETTER AND MUST CORRECT SOMETHING I SAID. THE "LIBRARY FRIENDS" DONATED \$110 THOUSAND OVER 4-5 YEARS INSTEAD OF ONE YEAR - I MISUNDERSTOOD. ANYWAY, I'M STILL GIVING 7-9 HOURS PER WEEK. JEAN AND I NEED THAT BREAK FROM ONE ANOTHER - TOO MUCH TOGETHERNESS CAN BE BAD.

JEAN IS DOING WELL AT PRESENT. I BELIEVE HE WILL TRY TO HAVE AN ARTIFICIAL VALVE PUT IN TO TRY TO CONTROL THE LEAKAGE. HE DOESN'T WANT TO TRAVEL EXCEPT BY CAR THE WAY HE IS. IT'S BEEN A FULL YEAR SINCE HIS LAST SURGERY (TURP-TO REMOVE SCAR TISSUE). AND YOU GUYS THOUGHT VALVE JOBS WERE FOR CARS.

SOME OF YOU SEEM TO GET YOUR PERIODIC FIX FROM THE LETTERS. BETWEEN THAT AND THE REUNIONS - WE'RE KEEPING IN TOUCH JUST FINE. MOM AND DAD MUST BE VERY PLEASED AS THEY WATCH OVER US.

JOE AND JACKIE - I THINK YOU BETTER GIVE US ON FLORIDA. I HAVEN'T HEARD MUCH GOOD YET FROM YOUR TRAVELS THERE. JOE - WHY DON'T YOU GET A DICTIONARY NEAR YOUR TYPEWRITER. I TAKE SPELLS WHERE LOTS OF WORDS JUST DON'T LOOK RIGHT. I SURE HATE TO MAKE A MISTAKE ESPECIALLY ON THE OCCASIONAL BUSINESS LETTER I HAVE TO WRITE.

WE HAVE ABOUT 3" OF NEW SNOW TODAY. WE ARE STILL IN THE LOW TEENS FOR TOTAL SNOWFALL THIS WINTER. WE SURE HAVE LUCKED OUT. I GUESS THAT DEPENDS ON WHO IS TALKING - THE GUY THAT PLOWS OR SHOVELS OR THE GUY THAT PLAYS.

JOE AND PAT ARE SELLING THEIR MACHINES - THAT SPORT HAS GOTTEN TOO DANGEROUS. 27 OR SO DEATHS THIS WINTER.

I HOPE RICHARD IS FULLY RECOVERED BY NOW. AND I HOPE HE'S GLAD HE WENT AHEAD WITH IT. TAM IS ALSO DOING WELL SINCE HER HEART ATTACK. SHE IS BACK TO WORK ON A LIMITED BASIS AND GOING TO HEART RE-HAB 2-3 TIMES A WEEK. THAT EXPERIENCE SURE MAKES YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR LIFE STYLE.

ROB IS GETTING READY TO TAKE THE BUILDER'S LICENSE TEST. HE WANTED SOME HELP WITH THE MATH PROBLEMS. HE CAME OVER THIS AM AND WE GOT THRU THEM. IT WAS A GOOD BRUSHUP FOR ME BECAUSE I SURE WAS RUSTY. FRACTIONS, ANGLES, TAXES, SQUARE FOOTAGES AND ETC. I HOPE HE DOES WELL.

JOHN - HOW MUCH LONGER BEFORE YOU CAN GET SOCIAL SECURITY? I JUST TRIED TO FIGURE THAT OUT FOR MYSELF - I BELIEVE YOU WERE BORN FEB. 23, 1935 (AM I RIGHT) IF SO, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DRAW IN ANOTHER 18 MONTHS. AND A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU. YOU PROBABLY WON'T HAVE THE LETTERS BY THEN SO IT WILL BE BELATED. HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD ONE AND MANY MORE.

THOSE BABY GRANDAUGHTERS ARE SURE SWEET - OUR LITTLE ABBY IS 5 MONTHS NOW, 17-18 LBS. AND GETTING A PERSONALITY. SHE WOULD LOVE TO GET UP AND WALK. OF COURSE, WE LOVE OUR BABY BOYS TOO. MAC IS CUTTING LOTS OF TEETH AND TRYING TO TALK. THE UNCLES ARE ALL CAPTIVATED BY THOSE TWO. THE AUNTS AND GRANDPARENTS ARE TOO.

MARTY - THE CROSS ON THE GRAVES SURE IS BEAUTIFUL. THE SNOW BACKGROUND MAKES IT STAND OUT SO NICE.

WE ARE STILL FIGHTING WITH BLUE CROSS ABOUT THEIR LACK OF COVERAGE FOR JEAN'S CRYOSURGERY. IT LOOKS LIKE THEY ARE STARTING TO PAY AS OF THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. THAT DOESN'T MEAN THEY WILL PAY BACK BILLS. WE WILL HAVE TO KEEP NAGGING THEM.

TAKE CARE ALL OF YOU - WE WILL SEE YOU IN JUNE IF NOT SOONER.

P.S. IF WINTER COMES, CAN SPRING
BE FAR BEHIND? 5 WEEKS

LOVE,

Jan and Jean

JOHN - I GUESS YOU CAN DRAW S.S. IN A YEAR. JUST BECAUSE
JEAN AND I WAITED UNTIL 62½ DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO.

March 96

Dear Family;

It's a real nice day outside for a change, I suppose all of you are ready for spring to get ^{here} - I sure am, everything considered we have come through winter pretty well. I came close to going into the hospital in early Feb. but a few shots and some medicine and a lot of oxygen I got by, there has been a lot of colds + flu around but we dodged that bullet.

John. - you wrote a pretty short letter didn't you or maybe it's because it's type written, we used to have an elect. type writer but that went down below with Mike when he was doing something from collage - now he tells us he can't buy type cartridges for it so I'll have to keep on scratching.

Jim. I imagine you are out there sweeping and dusting in that 5th. wheel by now? it won't be long before it's time to hit the road hey? how much longer does Carolyn plan on teaching?

Marty. - before you get this you will have gone to and returned from your trip, hope you had an enjoyable and restful trip, liked the picture of the cross on Mom and Dad's grave - sorry to say it's no longer there the wind must have blown it away or someone took it, we have been putting a wreath out there the ~~for~~ past few years and I ~~type~~ ^{tie} it on real good.

Claine - glad to hear that you enjoyed your holidays, we had a good time also as I hope you all

we were sitting here yesterday staring ~~at~~ out into the snow and Betty said you would be leaving next month for Alaska, I said boy if she is she better be taking her mittens so she got the Family letters and said it was June. Betty's Sister Mary writes that they have had a lot of sickness in Ar. this winter it's been quite cold.

Joe. As I reread these letters while answering I can't help but think that no wonder you guys with your world travels have so much to write about, lucky all of you and glad to hear it, we don't go very much or very far these days, I'm so careful not to get a cold I'm lucky if I get out to church and take Betty to the store once a week, you asked about the cross - its spruce boughs and ribbin etc.

Sis. - Glad to hear everything is well with you guys, sad to say there is some heart ache in your area! Vicki, Dove, & Sora have lost their home - we don't know all the details yet but he was great at going to the bank and borrowing more & more on the house and he would always be 3 yrs. behind on the property taxes, they are renting a place on M-53 just N. of Newark but have to be out by April 1st.

Jan. - Glad to hear you and yours are doing well also, Richard is back to work full time and is doing just great, he is trying to get caught up on the bills now, Baby Kevin is doing fantastic - he thinks he has to talk on the phone everytime it rings.

Love & Best wishes to all. Frank & Betty

March 17, 1996

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I received the family letter a few days ago. I have a few minutes now so will answer these letters. Each and every letter told a story of our dreams and desires. In earlier years it was who could stay out of town the longest. Today it is concerns over someones worn out typewriter. Who can write the longest family letter. Or the pitfalls of daily living. The truth of the matter is (we) all have a great deal to be grateful for. Health, faith, fresh air companionship and family unity is also important in our every day lives.

I am surely looking forward to 2 23, 1997. As we grow older our thoughts and prayers turn to freedom from the rat race. This is followed by those wonderful social security checks. At this point we probably could be considered old folks.

I have been trying to walk two miles daily. This is probably the best kind of exercise for older folks. Caution should be considered when first starting.

We are just now beginning to come into spring. This means leaf raking is just around the corner. I am sure you are all looking forward to mowing grass as well. There is something about longer days and more sunlight to improve ones outlook.

There were eight or nine coyotes shot between Elmer Nedos and the Pine river to the north this past winter. Two bobcats escaped but will see there end next year. This should help the fawn crop grow up a little safer.

I will have to close for now. May God bless each and everyone of you.

Your Loving Brother,

John

April 8, 1996

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have been stalling a little bit in case Sheila delivered early but the news today is that she will probably go full term (April 20th). It has been a difficult pregnancy for her so we are anxiously waiting for the birth.

I have been working a lot on Mark & Sheila's house. We finished off the upstairs and they moved their bedroom up. It really looks nice.

Now for some sad news Karen never did find another job here and John decided to take a job in Kalamazoo so they moved back to Battle Creek. They put the house up for sale, showed it one day, and sold it. They will close the first week in May and all without a realtor.

This has made us very sad since we will not see the grand daughter as often as we are used to. It also made me a lot of work. I had to move the fence line over to the lot line and move all my grape vines. I also have to empty the back garage since it was on Karen's lot. That is keeping me busy finding space to put it all.

Jeff will be graduating from U. of M. in about two weeks. We are very happy for

him. He has to take his finals after he graduates. Life is normal.

Brian is still in Maryland. He is much busier now and has more friends out there now so he seems much happier. He will be home for Jeff's graduation.

Carolyn is so busy with teaching this year. She is off this week for Easter so she is relaxing a bit. She has at least 4 years to teach yet.

I have been busy with St. Vincent de Paul since our warehouse and store burned Dec. 15th. People have been so generous with clothing, furniture and money. I flew to Chicago to meet with Sears executives about purchasing their Highland Park store building and I flew to Los Angeles to look at some sorting operations for cloths. We expect to set up our sorting operation at the Sears building.

We do expect to rebuild a store and service center at the Gratiot location. We are working with the archdiocese on a corporate fund raiser.

Well I better get this into the mail. I hope to see all of you on July 13th if not before. God bless you.

Your loving brother
Jim & Carolyn

HI SISTERS AND BROTHERS:

4/18/96

I RECEIVED THE PACKET FROM JIM LAST WEEK SO I BETTER GET IT ON ITS WAY.

JUST SO YOU ALL KNOW, MY FRIEND TOOK THE CROSS OFF THE GRAVE AS IT WAS LOOKING PRETTY BAD. I WILL GET HIM TO MAKE A NEW ONE IN THE FALL.

AS FOR MY CATERER, SHE IS GOING TO BE OUT OF TOWN ON THAT WEEK IN JULY, SO I AM GOING TO PRESS ANOTHER INTO SERVICE. HOW DOES FRIED CHICKEN, MASHED POTATOES AND GRAVY AND A VEGGIE WITH ROLLS OR HOMEMADE BREAD. ALL I WILL NEED IS A COUNT ABOUT TWO WEEKS AHEAD OF TIME. IF ANYONE TALKS TO ETHEL ROSE, WE SHOULD ENVITE HER.

OUR TRIP TO MAUI WAS FANTASTIC. IF ANYONE WANTS ANY TIPS, JUST CALL OR WRITE. IT IS TRULY PARADISE.

ELAINE, WE WILL BE UP TO SEE YOU BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.

JOE, YOU SHOULD BE IN HOT SPRINGS BY NOW. I HOPE YOU WILL TELL HILERY AND BILL TO HANG LOOSE. STAY OUT OF THE TORNADOES.

SIS, WE DON'T GET TO IMLAY CITY MUCH AS WE SEEM TO ALWAYS BE HEADING THE WRONG WAY. WE WILL SEE YOU IN JULY.

JANICE, IT SOUNDS LIKE JEAN IS HANGING IN THERE. IF HE NEEDS ANY EXTRA JOBS TO DO, TELL HIM TO HOLLER. YOUR TYPEWRITER SURE WORKS GOOD. IT LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE ON A WORD PROCESSOR. THEY SURE ARE GREAT.

FRANK, THIS HAS BEEN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DAY. UP TO 60

DEGREES AND IT MAKES ME WISH I WAS UP NORTH WALKING IN THE WOODS. SINCE ALYSSA HAS BEEN BORN, IT SEEMS SO HARD TO GET UP NORTH, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY LIVE WAY DOWN IN BATTLE CREEK. ITS SO HARD WHEN THE KIDS LIVE SO FAR AWAY.

JOHN, YOU HAVE THAT TYPEWRITER WORKING WELL. NOW THAT YOU ARE RETIRED, YOU CAN BURN IT UP WITH SO MUCH EXTRA TIME. ARE YOU GUYS GOING TO TRAVEL AS SOON AS PAT RETIRES. THEIR IS SO MUCH TO SEE AND DO IN THIS GREAT LAND OF OURS.

JIM, WE SHOULD BE HEARING ANYDAY, ON MARK AND SHEILA'S BABY. IT HAS BEEN A LONG HAUL. ALL WE CAN HOPE FOR IS THAT HE IS HEALTHY. I WILL MAKE UP A VACUUM TAPE FOR HIM AS SOON AS I GET SOME TIME. IT IS A MIRACLE HOW THIS TAPE WORKS. TO BAD OUR MOTHERS HAD NEVER HEARD OF IT.

GUESS I BETTER GET BACK TO WORK. LOVE YOU ALL.

SONDA AND MARTY

May 5 1996

Dear Families,

Wow, what a surprise to receive the letters in only 3 months. It sure is a pleasure to read them all and pray for each others needs and share in each others joys. Jan I believe it was your idea and it ~~is~~ sure was a good one. How are you and Jean doing now? I felt led to pray for you both, also for Nicki & her family. I really would like to find Nicki and help her if possible. We tried many times to see them, but no one was home. We are planning a fast trip up north soon, so we will be seeing you Frank & Betty, also Elaine. We have to go to Onaway soon on business. We may plan it around Rose (Loyers) V's internment if it works out for us. Perhaps we'll see some of you there.

John I'm not retiring but I'm slowing down in the Beauty Shop somewhat. I'm gearing up in other areas as long as God gives us strength.

I expect to go with Roy to the Egyptian Event again this June and perhaps we will go to Hawaii again this Summer. Its not definite yet. I would rather wait for a wedding graduation or something special to make that trip. I'm really a home body.

Elaine speaking of the weather. we are so glad Spring has finally sprung. we seemed to get more snow after the 1st day of spring than we had all winter, at least that's how it was in Imlay city.

Jim & Carolyn I just heard your little Grandson is here. we are so glad for you. Sorry Karen & John moved, but I'm sure you will see them real often. If they don't get home than you will

3/ pack up and go see them. Life is too short to miss out on all the fun.

We have 3 Grand Children graduating this year. The twins are going to Michigan. Jans Joshua is going in the Army. as they offered him a good package on electronics Education. He has been hooking up Satilites Dishes for a teacher of his and repairing TV's also.

Marty cant wait to see all of you in July. Holler if you want us to bring something. Its no trouble for us.

Joe it sounds like your job on the Commission isnt too boring. Its good to find something to do that helps somebody.

Hope I wrote a little to each one of you and we'll see you all real soon now.

God Bless and keep you all
Love

Si, Rog
+ Family

April 1996

Dear Families:

It's hard not to write about the weather, it's a such a BIG thing in my day. I'm glad spring is coming. Considering how awful it was I did good. — a dozen winters in the desert doesn't make one used to 100" plus, snow. It stayed so long! It was record for H. L.

Had Easter dinner with Joe and Jackie and it was nice to see all but fine of things. I drove over and back, just had been there on the Monday for an appt. With an ear spec. He helped me alright.

Maybe you wonder about my days? Solitaire cross words, house hold tasks on the priority plan — some reading. Occasionally take my neighbor to the store and let out. She would eat out every other day, I think, Cabin fever is real. She's a walker so she can get out more now that spring is almost here.

Will call Ethel Rose soon, maybe she can't come to Mich. this year — it's been hectic, they moved to Yakima.

I'm not going on much more, you all know
I wish the best of everything for everyone. We
are grateful for God's blessings, so many!

Come visit anytime - it makes life worth
while!

Love to all,

Elaine

Cadillac, MI
April 29, 1996

Dear Family:

Its letter time again and it finds us with weather that is calling for a chance for snow tonight. Spring so far has been a tease of a few hours to a day of spring like weather. Our precipitation has been above the long range average for the last six years in April. 1984-1989 had been below average, thats how averages get that way.

There are no abnormal sicknesses to report, just the usual ailments of family life and getting older.

We delayed our planned Hot Springs and western trip in favor of house repairs and reported unsettled weather everywhere. If it isn't tornadoes or snowstorms its very hot weather.

We will plan a trip up along the St. Laurence river in Quebec for late September if all goes as expected. There elections last fall delayed that trip.

Our youngest grandchild is going on three and none expected, so we may be getting out of the baby business, for a while atleast.

Family employment has been better this year but changes are pending at all times and everywhere it seems. The youngest three are in a state of flux with jobs and locations. Two of them may be in Florida before Winter.

As of this date we don't know the date for cousin "Mary Rose Vadaboncour's" internment at the Catholic Cemetary in, near, Harrisville, but it is expected soon.

John, you were considered (old folks) when you were 30, by some people we could name. It's good that you are walking rather than running. We walk almost every decent day from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 hours and recycle returnables to help police the area of trash.

You mention leaf cleanup, I hauled 8 canvas loads of cleanup trash just to get a good look at the grass, this past week. We still have some snow windrow left from the snowplow activities around our circle. This is the latest I have ever seen snow piles from the winter.

John, if you are seeing bobcats they must be straying from the Greenbush area. In the past this only happened when the snowshoe rabbits were in decline and the cats only stayed for two years. The cat that I shot was one of these strays and it must have been in the mid 40's.

Its nice to notice that others have wild fingers on the typewriter, and with the pen I might add.

I sincerely hope all the ailing or recuperating become well for the reunion in July. We may see some of you in Harrisville well before that time. We get to see Elaine quite often now that she retired up north.

Frank we have an office supply that will likely have the typewriter cartridge you need. I got ribbon for my old Royal. It was old in the early '50s. Let me know the needs and I will see if its available. Please don't envy the travelers among us. Each of us has to live our assigned time and environment as best we can. I see good in each of our situations and try to forget the hard or bad times. E We likely have what we have for a higher purpose that may not be evident now.

I got appointed to the county planning commission to help the community and keep me from ge-tting too staid. The first meeting we had to deal with a proposed (nudist camp), it didn't make it but we expect an appeal.

The business growth in the region is getting intense, and the property values are going crazy. There are homes in the \$500,000 range being built in the Grand Traverse area. Lake side properties are out of sight.

God bless us all

Joe & Jacky

#20
MAY 30, 1996

DEAR BROTHERS, SISTERS, IN-LAWS, ETC.

HI EVERYBODY. I'VE BEEN WAITING UNTIL JEAN AND I WERE ALL DONE AT THE HOSPITAL SO I COULD GIVE YOU THE VERDICT. JEAN HAD HIS URETRU OPENED UP AND A HERNIA REPAIR. BOTH WERE SUCCESSFUL. I HAD A BREST BIOPSY. THAT TURNED OUT FINE TOO. THANKS TO ALL FOR THE PRAYERS. I'VE ALSO BEEN DOCTORING FOR 3 MONTHS WITH LEG AND HIP PAIN. I BELIEVE IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO BURSITIS. IT'S A LONG STORY SO I WON'T GO INTO IT HERE. THERE MUST BE BETTER DAYS AHEAD.

YES JOHN, WE ALL DO A LOT OF COMPLAINING BUT ALL OF US HAVE MANY THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR. WE SHOULD PRAISE GOD ON A DAILY BASIS FOR OUR GOOD FORTUNE.

I ALSO HAVE A GOAL TO WALK TWO MILES DAILY. I DO IT IN THE HOUSE. IT'S ROUGHLY 50 FT. FROM MY BACK DOOR TO THE FAR BEDROOM WINDOW. 52 ROUND TRIPS MAKE A MILE. WILLPOWER IS THE ONLY THING THAT STOPS ME.

JIM AND CAROLYN - WE ALL REJOICE OVER THE BIRTH OF MARK AND SHIELA'S BABY BOY AND WE ALMOST SENT SYMPATHY CARDS TO YOU OVER KAREN AND JOHN'S DEFECTION AND THE WORK IT CAUSED YOU. MAYBE SOMETHING GOOD WILL COME OF IT IN THE END. DOES FOUR MORE YEARS OF TEACHING FOR CAROLYN MEAN SHE WILL RETIRE IN THE YEAR 2000?

MARTY - ETHEL ROSE CALLED ME LAST SATURDAY. I DID INVITE HER TO THE REUNION. SHE WON'T BE COMING. SHE HAS HER HUSBANDS 90 YEAR OLD FATHER LIVING WITH THEM AND ALSO VANESSA. FOR THE PRESENT, SHE IS PRETTY TIED DOWN. ALSO, WHAT IS A VACUUM TAPE?

ELAINE, WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR YOU TO GET INTO YOUR LITTLE CAR AND BUZZ DOWN FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS.

JOE - SEVERAL YEARS AGO CHUCK AND ELAINE AND JEAN & I DROVE UP ALONG THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER. IF I DID IT AGAIN I WOULD EITHER FLY MOST OF THE WAY OR PLAN ON AT LEAST TWO WEEKS. WE ONLY HAD A WEEK AND MOST OF THAT WAS DRIVING.

WE WENT UP AS FAR AS THREE RIVERS AND THE TOWN WHERE OUR GRANDPARENTS WERE BORN (GREEN ISLAND).

SIS - I WAS JUST THERE FOR A PERM THIS WEEK SO I GUESS WE HASHED OUT ALL THE NEWS. WE DO EXPECT YOU GUYS TO FIND YOUR WAY TO THE REUNION IN JULY. WE PROBABLY WON'T SEE YOU TILL THEN.

MARTY - I'LL DO THE BEST I CAN TO GET YOU A HEAD COUNT FOR THE REUNION. FROM PAST EXPERIENCE - I HAVEN'T HAD A LOT OF LUCK GETTING MY GUYS TO ATTEND. I'LL SEND ALL OF THEM A FLYER WITH THE DETAILS AND DEMAND AN RSVP. THE MENU SOUNDS FINE TO ME. LET US KNOW IF WE CAN BRING SOMETHING.

OUR ROBERT WAS SUCCESSFUL GETTING HIS BUILDERS LICENSE. HE BOUGHT A LOT IN LAKE ORION AND IS BUILDING A HOUSE TO SELL. I HOPE HE MAKES OUT OK.

I GUESS THATS ALL THE NEWS FROM HERE FOR NOW. TAKE CARE AND HOPE TO SEE ALL OF YOU SOON.

LOVE,

Jan and Jean

Dear Sisters & Bros.

6-18-96

Guess I better get scratching something here and send these letters along, Betty & David had to run Crystal down to Metamora to meet her Mom to go back to Tennessee for 5 or 6 wks. (she is not too happy about it though) that was on fathers day and they dropped Cris off and went up to Brown City and picked up Sara to come back here and spend a month or so - it made a long day for them but Dave had to work on Monday.

Bettys sisters are coming here for a few days this wk. and Edna from Fla. Mary from Az. and Laura from Pontiac and all 4 of them are going over to Travers City for a couple of days and work the casinos, then come back here to be with their Dad for his 89th. birthday on the 27th. it will be the 1st. time in a long while that they could all get together and do something.

This weather is for the birds, its rained for 2 days & nights and they are calling for rain everyday the rest of the week - at least we dont have to water the flowers, we got a peek at a fawn a few times but their mothers wont let them come in the yard yet.

John - hope everything is going O.K. for you now, I suppose Nebbie is home for the summer? talked to Elmer Nedo the other day he said you had called, you must have a big phone bill, (over)

believe me there are still an awful lot of coyotes around here at least.

Jim sorry to hear about Karens misfortune I guess its like they say "in everyones life a little rain must fall" as for you being so busy moving things around I think thats pretty normal for you isn't it.

Marty - you may not get these letters before the levonion but anyway I will have to call you with a head count hopefully by the 1st. of July, Betty, Sara + I should be coming for sure unless something comes up at the last minute.

Elaine sounds like you toughed out the winter reasonably well it helps remind you what a real snow bird does don't it? I was surprised to hear you had that much snow, Houghton is a pretty big lake is it possible you get some lake affect snow from that?

Joe - now I know how you and Jackie pick up your money for vacations - picking up bottles along the road 10¢ apiece theres some good money to be made, I've seen some guys doing that and some carry a sign, will work for food. ha ha, Betty says we can get the tapes here but we have to buy a full box at a time - about 20 yrs supply in our case.

Sis - glad to see you and Ray at Rose L. - V. interment and that you and yours are doing fine, we were rushing to get back home to meet the bus and pick up Kris, just as we got to the corner up here a Blazer came around the corner and waved so we stopped and it was Bill + David + Joshua they said they were up for a week fishing and said they would stop back but we didn't see them again.

Jan - you didn't have anything to say to me in your letter so I won't have anything to say to you either so there anyway hope you are all feeling better now and we will see you at the reunion.

Love to all of you

Frank & Betty

P.S. Elmer really looks like a bush whacker don't he? he seems to be aging more than the rest of us don't you think? Joe he asked if you ever come over this way anymore.

July 2, 1996

Dear Brothers & Sisters;

The family letter arrived a few days ago so I will get you all caught up on happenings up here.

I broke down this year and purchased a riding lawn mower and trailer. This golf course up here was getting my patience. The molds are adding insult to injury. The weather has been just great the last few days. This is especially appreciated after eight months of winter.

It sure looks like I will have to go in for shoulder surgery as I fell on the ice last winter. I have since had two cortizone shots. There is always a hope of a miracle.

Being retired is like being in another world. The nice thing is being ones own boss. The future is yours to build on or destroy. I miss those social security checks however.

We are looking forward to meeting again on the 13th. Atleast this this time half the family members will not end up on the river bank (sic).

Janice there is 10,560' in two miles, you must have a very large house.

Why are you all picking on (Joe). First it was his spelling, then typing then beer can discovery. The last insult was dealing with sunshine camps. I guess life is only what we make it.

Some time in August we are expecting a new paved street and drive way. So the next time you all are up this way the area will have changed for the better. Will have to close for now and may God Bless each and everyone of you all!

Your Loving Brother
John

July 12, 1996

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I received the letters the other day so I will get this ready to take to the family reunion tomorrow. It will be great to see all of you again. We are all healthy here.

As most of you know Mark & Sheila had a baby boy, Ryan Michael, on May 2nd. He was two weeks overdue so they induced labor. Ryan was 9 lbs 4oz and 21½ inches long. He is now over 14 lbs and we plan to bring him to the reunion. Sheila will be working so she will not be able to come.

Carolyn will also miss the reunion since she is in St. Louis. Last summer I purchased a ticket for Jeff to visit Brian in St. Louis. Then Brian was transferred to Maryland and we had a ticket which we couldn't use. I then switched it to Carolyn to visit her niece.

Karen and John are starting to build their new home in Battle Creek. Karen is working at a temp position at Kellogg's. We pulled our trailer up there for a few days in mid June. We have been able to see Meghan a few times in the past month. We hope to have her here for a few days next week. While we were in Battle Creek we were able to visit Dana and Alysa.

Jeff has graduated and is sending out resumes. We are hoping and praying that the

right job comes along soon.

I have been very busy with St. Vincent de Paul. This spring I was nominated by St. Vincent de Paul for the Governor's Honor Roll for volunteers. I received a nice certificate from the governor's office and one from the legislature. In June I was elected president of St. Vincent de Paul for the archdiocese of Detroit. It is a big responsibility and at times a big pain in the neck.

I am glad that many of you are doing some traveling. We are planning to go to Disney World and the Smokey Mountains at the end of this month. It will be nice to get away from the phone.

We all made it through the long winter (especially Elaine) and we now have a beautiful summer. The garden is looking good. Most of the fruit trees are fine except for my two best apple trees. They have very few apples for some reason.

Well I better close this for now. We will see you all tomorrow and hopefully the weather will cooperate. God bless all of you.

Your loving brother
Jim & Carolyn.

HI BROTHERS AND SISTERS

JULY 15TH, 1996

WELL, ITS ALL OVER. NOW WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANOTHER REUNION FOR AWHILE. IT WAS SO NICE FOR ALL OF YOU TO COME TO FREELAND, AND WE COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR A FINER DAY.

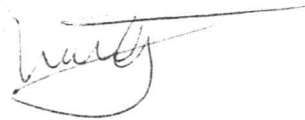
THE BEST TREAT OF ALL WAS SEEING THE NEW BABY'S AND WATCHING THEIR REACTIONS. THEY ARE JUST LOVEABLE. WAS GLAD TO SEE 58 PLUS BABIES AND WE RAN OUT OF ALMOST EVERYTHING.

IT WAS GOOD TO SEE AUNT EMMA AND CHUCK. HE SEEMS SO LAID BACK AND NOT MUCH BOTHERS HIM. ITS GOOD THAT AUNT EMMA HAS HIM SO CLOSE AND AVAILABLE.

NOT MUCH NEWS TO REPORT AS WE JUST TALKED WITH EACH OF YOU JUST TWO DAYS AGO. I FORGOT TO TELL YOU ALL BUT THE CLASS OF 56 IS HOLDING THEIR REUNION IN OSCODA ON AUGUST 17TH. SHOULD SEE JIM THERE AND MANY OTHERS.

SEE YOU ALL.

LOVE

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Trudy', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

July 18, 1996

Dear Families

Best I keep the momentum going, it's not too long since our last letters were here, some are keeping track, the revisions are great but they are over so fast, the letters gives me time to spend a little time with each individual - Right

There isn't anything new going on in my life the social season is over and nothing to write about - freaky weather, I don't think so.

I'm trying to decide to get new carpeting for the living room. I spend so much time there. No one to take me 'off the hook'. Make the decision! I'll read the letters twice, maybe one more time before I get them in the mails

Please remember I welcome you improvised visits calls, letters etc. I can't seem to get social here. Alaska ^{to} never materialized - trip called -

Lack of interest I guess.

Seems as tho I'm not addressing each of you - but I'm hoping and praying every day for your well being, your hopes and dreams, for your families ^{too} that's quite alot. Love to with you all,

Justin Heim.

Cadillac, MI
8-4-'96

Dear Family:

Time again to get these letters on the road. We are all fit as can be for the shape were in. It seems that I spoke with each of you only yesterday, so it will be slim picking in this letter.

Our trip to Montreal & other points in Quebec Province in getting pretty high on my list of things to prepare for. We will likely leave about 9-11 or 12 and get back about 2 wk's later. We are taking our time-share at a resort Nw of Montreal before we go up the St Lawrence sight-seeing.

~~IX~~ I expect Jim and Carolin are just returning from their trip to the Blue Ridge Mountains, that just has to be good at this time of year.

Our oldest son Tim and his wife Debra are just building a new home south of Midland. They sold their other home so fast that they had to rent for a time while building, not a good idea, but an eligible buyer is hard to come by some times.

We have been replacing a wood burning fireplace with a modern natural gas unit that takes no air from the house, and is controlled just as with a gas furnace. Works nice to take the chill off on cool mornings. Our old chimney developed some cracks, and we found that the old unit was very poorly built, so it was take it down before it fell down on us. While we were at it we dry walled the side walls of the garage.

Our wild blue berry picking ended due to dry weather. Only 1.53" of precipitation in July, we would normally get close to 3 inc-hes. The Raspberry picking is just fair. The black berry crop will be fair at best, depending on our getting adequate rain soon. We expect to try some tame blue berry picking some time this week near Ludington.

Jackies aunt Margaret in Grand Rapids is suffering with a stress fracture in her left foot. She was the one in the bad Buss accident last year. It seems that we spend a lot of time with her in her time of need, knowing that by the grace of God we aren't in her shoes -- but might be some day and would like someone to help us cope with our needs.

End of page & end of letter, Love to you all.

Se d fache

8-12-96

My Dear Family,

I've read the letters a couple of times and will answer while I have a few minutes.

Marty I've been meaning to tell you. Uncle Leo Martin - your God Father - is in the Lutheran Home in Frankmouth. Rog and I visited him yesterday. We have been trying to see him regularly as he enjoys it so much. The Home is on Genesee Ave and very easy to find if you ever get a chance to see him. You folks did a nice job on the reunion. We enjoyed every thing. I was pleased with the turn out of my Family and everyone elses too.

Jan its nice that we get together regularly. We keep you both in our prayers. This to shall pass.

* Frank + Betty - we see you folks a little more than most as we do go up north at times. Thanks for the picture of Elmer Nedo. We can't keep up with the people up there like you can. We are not sure were Vickie lives.. wish we had an address.

John so glad you like retirement. Does Pat get to retire too? What happened to your Social Security Check? you should be getting those. I'm gearing down but I don't plan to retire any day soon. Its to much like Fun to work.

Jim. We sure missed Carolyn + Sheila at the reunion, but really enjoyed all the men that came especially that little one. It looks like your retirement is very very busy with St Vincent's. Some how we gear up instead of down with our other activities. Congratulations on the award. What an honor.

Elaine I do want to get up there this summer. Life has been so busy here. Joshua has gone off to the Army after he graduated + the twins are going

3/ off to College soon. I've got Jonah painting on the house. I pay him by the section not by the hour as he dilly dallys alot.

Joe + Jackie it sounds like you will be traveling soon. We had our week at the Egyptian event in Kentucky and expect to take a few short trip, but otherwise we are catching our breath from the summer parties and open houses.

I may be teaching pre-school this year again. There is a real shortage of teachers and I don't want ^{my} class to be dropped. We shall see. Praise God for good health and strength to keep going.

Our Families are still the same at this writing. No new babies or wedding coming up.

We love you all very much and expect to see all of you at the reunion here on July 12th. Its change over time in the Factory's for our ship. Hope its good for everyone.

Love
Bill R. Lall

SEPTEMBER 9, 1996

TO ALL OUR DEAR FAMILIES:

SUMMER IS ABOUT OVER. WE DID GET THE FRONT LANDSCAPING DONE AND THE GARAGE IN THE BACK IS DONE EXCEPT FOR HANGING THE BIG DOOR. I'M SURE IT WILL FILL UP FAST. WE PROBABLY WON'T HAVE POWER, LIGHTS, OR HEAT BACK THERE UNTIL NEXT YEAR. JEAN HAS ALREADY BOUGHT AN OLD 1952 FORD 8N TRACTOR TO RECONDITION. IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE HE SHOULD HAVE LEFT IT OUT IN THE JUNK YARD WHERE HE FOUND IT. HE'S GOOD AT MAKING A SILK PURSE OUT OF SOW'S EARS. IF ANY OF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, ASK ELAINE.

I'M STILL HAVING HIP AND LEG PAIN. I WENT TODAY TO GET A NEW PHYSICAL THERAPY ORDER. I HAD ONE IN EARLY JUNE BUT BLUE CROSS HAS A RULE THAT AFTER 60 DAYS THEY WON'T PAY FOR IT SO I DECIDED TO TRY TO WORK IT OUT ON MY OWN RATHER THAN FIGHT WITH THEM. IT DIDN'T WORK. I CALLED THEM AGAIN AND TOLD THEM IT WAS MY OTHER LEG SO THEY WILL COVER ANOTHER SESSION. JEAN IS FEELING QUITE GOOD.

FRANK - IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS PRETTY LIVELY THESE DAYS. NO MORE NAPPING AFTER BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER. TOO MANY INTERRUPTIONS.

JOHN - I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN ABOUT BEING YOUR OWN BOSS. YOU GET UP IN THE MORNING[&]THINK ABOUT A FEW POSSIBILITIES - MAYBE YOU WILL GET TO ONE AFTER LUNCH OR MAYBE IT CAN WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW OR EVEN NEXT WEEK. THAT IS IF YOU DON'T HAVE A DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT. I'M EVEN GRUMPY IF I HAVE TO GET UP BEFORE 8:00.

SINCE THE REUNION, ELAINE AND KAREN HAVE HAD GALLBLADDER OPERATIONS. BOTH ARE DOING WELL AND HOPEFULLY WILL FEEL BETTER WITHOUT THAT CANTANKEROUS LITTLE ORGAN.

JIM GAVE ME SOME YELLOW TRANSPARENT APPLES TO MAKE APPLESAUCE. IT SURE MADE ME THINK OF THE FARM AND THAT TREE THAT WAS OUT NEAR THE ROAD. THEY SURE MAKE GOOD APPLESAUCE.

YES, MARTY, I AGREE THE BEST PART OF THE REUNION IS SEEING THE NEW BABIES. IT'S EASY TO SEE HOW A HUG FROM YOUR GRANDAUGHTER COULD MAKE YOU MELT RIGHT INTO THE GROUND. IT WAS A VERY ENJOYABLE DAY AND A PLEASURE TO SEE EVERYONE. THE PICTURES WERE GREAT TOO. THANKS A BUSHEL FOR THEM.

WE WANTED TO GO UP AND BRING ELAINE BACK HERE FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS. SHE FEELS SHE NEEDS TO STICK CLOSER TO HOME AND HER DOCTORS FOR AWHILE. BOTH OF THE TWINS MANAGED TO STOP IN TO SEE HER THIS SUMMER. OUR JOE HAS DECIDED TO TAKE A BUY-OUT FROM GM. HE COULD HAVE STAYED ON IN A BORING JOB AND A BIG CUT IN PAY SO HE DECIDED TO MOVE ON. PRAY THAT HE WILL FIND SOMETHING SUITABLE TO MOVE INTO.

JOE - I JUST TALKED WITH YOU A FEW DAYS AGO. I JUST WANT TO TELL YOU THAT I'M PLANNING TO BRING MY BAG OF ROCKS THE NEXT TIME I SEE YOU SO I CAN GET SOME PRACTICE IN. OK? PROMISE YOU WILL STAND STILL. HAVE A GOOD TRIP TO CANADA. YOU'RE DOING A GOOD JOB IN YOUR MINISTRY OF HELPING OLDER LADIES GET AROUND. KEEP IT UP. SIS, I PLAN TO SEE YOU IN OCTOBER BUT I KNOW I WILL TALK TO YOU BY PHONE BEFORE THEN.

I PLAN TO CURTAIL THE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING THIS YEAR. MY LEGS WON'T TAKE ALL THAT WALKING. GIFT CERTIFICATES WILL HAVE TO DO. TAKE CARE ALL OF YOU -KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS AS WE WILL REMEMBER ALL OF YOU.

LOVE TO ALL,

Jan and Jean

OCT.

My dear family members:

I hope this finds all of you feeling well and happy, I guess its time for us to set our sights on a big weather change, it sure has been a roller coaster this past few weeks.

We have been keeping ourselves pretty ^{busy} around here for quite a while getting things done that need doing before its to nasty outside to do them - between our place and the inlaws down the road it keeps us busy this time of yr.

I went down to town about a month ago to my doctor for a cold and his nurse gave me a Corticosteroid shot in my right hip and the next morning my hip was aching and as the days went by the pain was going ~~down~~ down my leg after a few days of not being able to sit or get comfortable in any position I went to a chiropractor after 3 visits he said he couldn't help me so back to my doctor - apparently she got me in the Cyatic nerve and I've been going to physical therapy 3 times a week since, it does feel like there is improvement thank God.

John I suppose your street is all paved by now? I bet it looks nice I wish we could get this road paved - see you in deer season.

Jim not much has happened since you were up to

the class reunion but was glad to see that you are getting some recognition for the work you have been doing with St. Vincent Reports - they say that the cream rises to the top.

Marty sorry we didn't see you when you were up to the class reunion - we had a good time at the family reunion everything seemed to go real well, I was not much company there I know but I was pretty stressed at that point - having to run Sara down to Inlay City when we left there it made a long day for me it was 9:30 P.M. before we got home.

Elaine was glad your operation was a success and you are pretty well mended by now, talk about new carpeting we need it in the living and dining rooms hope the season is kind to you.

Joe I'll bet that was a pretty trip up the St. Lawrence maybe one of these days we will get so funds sorted up and go on a trip like that, I mentioned to you that Betty's dad decided to get a new Buick La Sabra - we have been trying to talk him out of it for the last 2 yrs. being he hasn't driven for 4 or 5 yrs. now but he made up his mind that he wanted 1 more new car and that was it, much more comfortable for me with the elect. seats and air.

Lis you said you would take a few minutes to answer the letters - it takes me a few hours

sounds like you are busy as usual, I marvel at some of my Brothers & Sisters on how busy they keep themselves there are times that I feel like an old pup sitting around here and don't feel like putting 1 foot ahead of the other.

Jan I can sure feel for you and the leg and hip pain you have been having - if its anything like I've been having you probably haven't been getting much sleep.

I guess I've scratched long enough so better close for now and say that as we move into the holiday season ahead I hope you all have a happy and healthy time of year and the new year.

God Bless all Grand & Betty

P.S. Is you asked about Vicki's address, all I can tell you its up 53 N. of Imley City. I don't know how far but its about 2 miles or so S. of M-90 - I think its Willis Rd. or something like that go E. 1 or 2 miles To Bentley

left About 1 blk To TRAILER. No Phone
4584 ~~BENTLEY~~ BENTLEY Rd. BROWN CITY

Nov 18, 1996

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Enclosed you all will find and hopefully enjoy stories of yesteryear. Please make copies for your own enjoyment and forward on.

The results of the first three days of hunting on the farm. Atleast sixty deer seen of which atleast seven were bucks. I got a 4 pt on the 15th. This was followed by a 8 pt and spike on the 17th. And they say heaven is what you make it. A bobcat was also wasted in order to save a turkey gobbler.

In regards to social security benefits. I expect to sign up in early Dec. the first check will be in early April. After over 40 years of feeding (Uncle Sam) it is high time something is returned.

We finally were able to get my tractor shed built. A nice paved road was also completed. And of course a new paved driveway. This completed my projects for this year.

The weather up here this fall has ben downright beautifull. Everywhere but here people are diging themselves out of two three and even four foot snowfalls.

I visted mom and dads gravesite Sunday morning for a few minutes. I knew how dad always seem to come home with 8 pt bucks. So I decided to get one for the gipper mom concered.

In regards to health we are all presantly hitting the high road to good health. Of course some days are far more enjoyable than others.

I would like to take this time now and wish each and everyone of you a (Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year).

Your Loving Brother,

John

The Twelve Bottles of Before Rationing

I had twelve bottles of Christmas Whiskey in the basement and my wife told me to empty the contents of each bottle down the sink or else. So, I proceeded with the unpleasant task. I withdrew the cork from the first bottle and poured the contents down the sink with the exception of one glass which I drank.

I withdrew the cork from the second bottle and did likewise with the exception of one glass. I withdrew the cork from the third bottle and poured the contents down the sink with the exception of one glass which I drank.

I pulled the bottle from the next and drank one sink of it and threw the rest down the glass. I pulled the sink out of the glass and bottled the drink and drank the pour. When I had everything emptied. I steadied the house with one hand, counted the bottles, corks and glasses and sinks.

With the others witch were twenty nine and as the houses came by I counted that again. I finally had all the houses and one bottle which I drank. I am not under the alcofluence of incohol, but tinkle peep I am I'm not half so thunk as you might think. I feel so feelish and don't know who is me. The drunker I stand the weaker I get.

Even so I have got the wifest little nice in the world.

What Pat Announced

Father Boyle was sick and was unable to celebrate mass. On Sunday morning he called Patrick, the old sexton (mass server) and told him that he was sick and to inform the people, explaining that due to his illness they couldn't hear mass, and that would be no sin on their part.

Patrick stood at attention occasionally saying "Yes, Father". Father Boyle said, "You might as well as make the announcement for the week: Next Thursday confession will be heard for the first Friday; Tuesday will be the Feast of S.S. Peter and Paul and the collection for the Holy Father, the Pope. A package has been found in the church. Owner may have same by calling the sacristy. On Wednesday, John Clancy and Mary McCool will be married in the church. Anyone knowing why these persons should not be married should make known their reasons to the proper authorities."

Patrick carried out Father Boyles instructions as follows. "Ladies and gentlemen, Father Boyle is sick and that is no sin. Next Thursday will be the First Friday. Tuesday will be the Feast of John Clancy and Mary McCool. The Pope will be here next Sunday to take up the collections. On Wednesday S.S. Peter and Paul will be married in this church and anyone who says they shouldn't be married will find their reasons rolled up in a package by calling at the sacristy."

A Jewish Conception of a Catholic Church

It seems that in a certain town the Jews built a fine synagogue right across the street from a little Catholic Church. However, the crowds at the synagogue were very small in spite of the beautifully finished building, while the crowds filled the little church across the street two or three times on Sunday.

One day the Rabbi and his assistants were discussing the situation. "They must have something over there that we haven't got here." He said, "Sam, you go over there next Sunday and see what it is."

Sam went over and reported as follows:

"You are right. They do have something we don't have here. The first thing I get in they try to snatch my hat but I pulled it on tight and they quit as soon as they saw I meant business. The people then washed their faces and hands, and so did I figuring on getting something to eat.

"Then the usher takes me right up front where I could see good. Just as I sit down a little butcher came out with a lighted stick and lit some candles. I guess they couldn't afford electricity. Soon a big butcher came out with two little butchers. There must have been something in the middle of the floor because they all tripped. Then, the big butcher got into some kind of argument with the little butchers.

"I couldn't understand it as they were talking too fast but the big guy couldn't get anything on the little guy. No matter what he would say they came right back with a snappy answer. You could see the crowd was for the little guy because they kept jumping up and down all the time.

"After a while the big guy wanted to read something but one of the little guys ran up and took the book from him.

"Then I learned about the gambling. The Big butcher turned and said, 'Dominoes two bits and up'. Then two guys came up the aisle collecting the bets. Now, I don't ordinarily bet, but I put in two bits just to see if they were on the up and up. The big butcher and the little ones didn't settle the argument yet and the little ones kept running around tripping and ringing bells. I think they were trying to get his goat. Then all of a sudden a lot of people jumped up and rushed to the front to sort of a counter and before I had a chance they had eaten all the lunch.

"Then I saw the big butcher puttering around a lot and all of a sudden he turned around and said: 'Bennys got all the dominoes'. I got up and left because I knew that I had lost my two bits."

Re: Payment of Taxes

To: Collector of Taxes

Dear Sir:

For the following reasons I am unable to meet your demand for income tax:

I have been bombed, blasted, burned up and sand bagged, walked upon, sat upon, held up, flattened out and squeezed by income tax, super tax, tobacco tax and every society, organization and club that the inventive mind of man can conceive to extract what I may or may not have in my possession for the Red Cross, Black Cross, Double Cross and every other bloody cross or hospitals in the town or country.

The government has governed my business until I do not know who the hell owns it. I am inspected, suspected, examined, informed, required and commanded so that I do not know who I am, what I am or why I am here at all. All I know is that I am supposed to have an inexhaustible supply of money for every need, desire, hope of the human race and because I will not go out to beg, borrow or steal money to give away. I am cussed boy cotted, talked to, talked about, held up, held down, rung up, strung up, robbed and damned near ruined.

The only reason I am clinging to life at all is to see what the bloody hell is going to happen next.

Yours Faithfully,

John (Broke) Citizen

Dec 16, 1996

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have had the letters for a while so I better get busy and send them on. I really enjoy hearing from each of you.

We are all relatively healthy here now. Carolyn has her regular winter cough. She had an abscessed tooth this week. It has been quite painful.

Karen and John are building a new home in Battle Creek. It is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as big as the house they built here. Carolyn and I went up last Saturday to work on it. (Carolyn was hanging wall paper and I was hanging light fixtures). They hope to be finished enough to move in by Jan. 1st. We hope to see them a couple of times before then.

Mark and Sheila are doing fine. Ryan is pulling himself up to a standing position now. He is getting very mobile.

Brian got a new job here in Fivonia so he moved back from Maryland. He works for "Air Flow Sciences". His work so far has been analyzing air flow through power plants to improve emission control. He likes his work and is very busy. Brian bought a house in Royal Oak last week. It is an old home so I will be working on it after he takes possession.

Jeff got a good job with a Japanese auto supplier "American Yasaki". He has been working on the electrical harness for a Nissan car but has just been switched to a truck and a developing car. He also is very busy.

Carolyn's class size is down this year but it hasn't been easier for her since she just does more for them. She is always overwhelmed at this time of year getting them ready for Christmas.

The presidency of St. Vincent de Paul has become a full time job (no pay, just job). We dedicated the ground at the site of the fire today. We hope to begin building in the spring. The fund raiser is going fine. The pledges that came in today totaled \$625,000. I am enclosing today's program. I was on television today but they only got me from the back. My talk was left on the cutting room floor. Such is life.

Well I better get this ready to go. God bless all of you during this holy season and through out the year.

Your loving brother
Jim & Carolyn.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN BOARD

Art Van Elslander, General Chairman

Sen. Spencer Abraham	Adam Cardinal Maida
Mayor Dennis W. Archer	Bella I. Marshall
Sharon Bernard	Msgr. F. Gerald Martin
Msgr. Francis X. Canfield	Edward H. McNamara
James R. Carron	Emmanuel L. Miruzzi
Rev. Malcom Carron S.J.	Carmen Munoz
James A. Dumont	John E. Nantais
Gov. John M. Engler	Leo J. Padilla
Bishop Bernard J. Harrington	John S. Scherer
David B. Hermelin	Nate E. Shapiro
Dean A. Johnson	Rabbi M. Robert Syme
Diana C. Jones	Frank D. Stella
Damon J. Keith	Rev. Edgar L. Vann, Jr.
Beth Konrad	Robert J. Vlasic
Sen. Carl Levin	

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

James A. Dumont, President

Phyllis Arango	Carrie Moore
Raymond Bierman	John Nantais
Joseph Clark	George O'Connor
Quentin Clark	Nancy Denault-Panther
Charlie Hitt	Raymond A. Pfau
Betty Hogan	Alan Pigeon
Dean A. Johnson	Salvatore Pizzo
Emmanuel L. Miruzzi	Beatrice Shepard

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Society's Capital Campaign Office
2929 East Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48202

FAX: (313) 972-3147

E-Mail: SVDPCmpgn@aol.com

PHONE: (313) 972-1765

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



When you walk through fire,
you shall not be burned;
the flames shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord, your God.
Isaiah 43: 2-3

REDEDICATION CEREMONY

Society of St. Vincent De Paul
2950 Gratiot Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

Monday, December 16, 1996

BLESSING PRAYER RECLAMATION SERVICE

O God, ever faithful and true,
you have visited our land
and you have favored our city.

We gather in this great Advent season of expectation
and soberly recall that this place and all its good work
was completely reduced to ashes and ruin just one year ago.
You have moved the hearts of so many wonderful people
to open their hands in generous love and heartfelt compassion
in the selfless and energetic spirit of St. Vincent De Paul.
We ask you to ignite our spirits with the fire of your love
as we reclaim this land
for even greater works of charity and justice
as we stand at the threshold of the Third Millennium.
With the psalmist we know

that if the Lord does not build the house,
in vain do the builders labor.
In the tradition of the Great Jubilee and in the Spirit of Detroit
we proclaim anew: *speramus meliora, resurget cineribus*,
we hope for a better world, which shall rise up from these ashes.
Therefore we reclaim this land so new seeds of hope will be planted,
we embrace again our mission to serve "the least of these"
through a person-to-person ministry of restoring human dignity.
Grant that the inspiring community undertaking we begin here today,
for your glory, the common good and well-being of the poor,
might serve as a spark of faith-filled renewal for everyone.
Glory and praise to you, our God, who makes all things new.
You truly call us to be salt and light for a Renaissance City.
You bless and support this ecumenical and civic effort,
and you promise a new springtime of grace
this day and everyday, world without end. **AMEN.**

Adam Cardinal Maida
Archbishop of Detroit

PROGRAM

Opening Comments

James R. Carron
Executive Director
Society of St. Vincent De Paul

Greetings

Mayor Dennis W. Archer
City of Detroit

Introduction of Cardinal Maida

Mr. Emmanuel L. Miruzzi
Trustee
Society of St. Vincent De Paul

Blessing Prayer and Comments

Adam Cardinal Maida
Archbishop of Detroit

Song

Most Rev. Moses B. Anderson, S.S.E.
Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit

Greetings -

Vincentians

James A. Dumont
President of the Board
Society of St. Vincent De Paul

Campaign Volunteers

Art Van Elslander
General Chairman
Capital Campaign

Reflections -

Rev. Edgar L. Vann, Jr.
Council of Baptist Pastors
Second Ebenezer Baptist Church

Ms. Diana C. Jones
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

Chilton Brown

St. Vincent De Paul Camper - Detroit

Closing

Most Rev. Bernard J. Harrington
Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit