

1-13-97

HI DUMONT FAMILY'S

NOW THAT ELAINE IS BACK HOME, I WILL GET THIS LETTER GOING SO YOU CAN ALL KEEP UP ON THE NEWS.

ELAINE AND JANICE ARE BUSY LOOKING AT ALASKA CRUISE VACATIONS. WE SHOULD ALL GO WITH THEM.

JOE, I AM INTERESTED IN HOW THE GAS LOG TURNED OUT. THOSE ARE SO NICE. I AM TRYING TO TALK DANA AND MATT INTO ONE BUT THEY LIKE BUILDING A FIRE AND HEAR THE CRACKLING AND SNAPPING OF THE WOOD BURNING. ALSO, HOW WAS THE CANADA TRIP?

SIS, WE HAVE A DOCTOR HERE IN FREELAND THAT IS INTO ARABIANS. HE HAS A NICE HORSE BARN AND HE REALLY DOES ENJOY THEM. HOW DID YOUR HOUSE PAINTING GO LAST SUMMER?

JANICE, SOUNDS LIKE YOU GUYS ARE AS BUSY AS EVER. THAT IS SO NICE THAT YOU DECIDED TO GO TO ALASKA WITH ELAINE. I JUST LOVE TO TRAVEL. SHOULD HAVE BEEN A TRAVEL AGENT. SPEAKING ABOUT SORE JOINTS, MY DOCTOR SAYS THAT IT IS OK TO HAVE PAIN AS THOSE JOINTS ARE 58 YEARS OLD AND I SHOULD NOT EXPECT ANYTHING DIFFERENT. NOT MUCH HELP, IS HE.

FRANK, I GUESS YOU ARE BACK HOME AND DOING BETTER NOW, SO HOW ARE THINGS. I BET YOU ARE ENJOYING VICKIE THERE. THOSE SHOTS IN THE BUTT SEAM TO LINGER (PAIN I MEAN) BUT SOONER OR LATER YOU SHOULD FEEL BETTER.

JOHN, THEY SAY IF YOU EAT TO MUCH OF THAT GOVERNMENT BEEF THAT YOU WILL GET FAT. PLEASE DON'T LET THAT HAPPEN TO YOU. THE BEST WAY IS TO SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS. I LIKE YOUR NEW TYPEWRITER. IT IS SO PLAIN TO READ JUST PLAIN NICE. WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE PAT ON A LONG VACATION? YOU KNOW, FLY SOME WHERE AND LET IT ALL HANG OUT. YOU ARE LONG OVERDUE TO GET OUT OF MICHIGAN. HOW ABOUT FLORIDA. SPEND SOME MONEY.

JIM, HOWS IT GOING. WELL, I KNOW, BECAUSE I JUST GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH YOU. KARENS HOUSE SURE LOOKS NICE. I GET LOST EVERYTIME THAT I LOOK FOR IT. I WOULD GUESS THAT THEY WILL SELL IT IN A COUPLE OF YEARS AND BUILD ANOTHER ONE. I LOOK FOR THEM AT ST. JOSEPHS EACH TIME I GO TO MASS THERE BUT HAVE NOT SEEN THEM AS YET.

AS FOR US, ALYSSA IS TAKING UP A LARGE PORTION OF OUR LIFE. SHARI IS ENGAGED AND PLANS AN AUGUST 9TH. WEDDING BUT THAT MAY CHANGE. SHE MET STEVE AT THE GYM AND HE JUST CLOSED ON A HOME IN SAGINAW TOWNSHIP ON FRIDAY. WE PLAN TO GO TO THE GRAND CAYMEN ISLAND ON MARCH 16TH. AND SHOULD BE THERE A WEEK. WE ARE STAYING AT TREASURE ISLAND OUTSIDE OF GEORGETOWN. WE WANTED TO PUT VYNAL SIDING ON THE HOUSE THIS SPRING, BUT I GUESS WE SHOULD SAVE UP FOR A WEDDING.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL SOON.

LOVE AND KISSES.

London Friends

Jan 20, 1997

Dear Dumonts, Bruce & Marcia:

Must get my thoughts together and write - I expect Joe and Jackie one of these "good weather" days if Joe ever gets over his awful cold! You understand, his next in line for these family letters we all are starting to look forward to them more and more, when they hit a snag all of you ask me where they are?

Since my last letter I had surgery which has helped so much, still have digestion problems but am not on prescription medicines for it. Thank you God! I'm coping with this winter better than last winter, maybe my blood is thicker.

Had a wonderful Christmas with Jan & Jean - all those young people and Tam & Gayles two precious kids. For Thanksgiving Joe & Jackie took me to Tim and Rube's newest home - some more young people and precious grand kids - I am blessed and I thank you all for everything.

Almost forgot - Sis and Reg took me north to see Evelyn Martin Munson - Reg had no idea ~~for~~ many of my roots ^{were} in that part of Michigan.

Jan & I are planning a trip to Alaska, its taking some time so I can't give specifics but we don't want to miss the family reunion 7-12-97! Sis wouldn't forgive us.

Houghton Lake has just survived TIP UP TOWN
first weekend - Jim's, Mark and Shula Came
by yesterday. Mark played Soft Ball on the ice -
regular event, Dave Rasema lately of the Tigers
pitched him a "fast" one, Mark was impressed!

Haven't driven my car to Mass this year
Frank & Betty Giaccone take me along and we
always eat ~~out~~ out, mostly brunch on Sundays
dinner on Saturdays. I'm getting spoiled. It makes
the time pass even faster than I can think.

I envy those of you who type - once I could
type and had a typewriter in Arizona but that
is history now like lots of phases of my life.

"As the days grow longer the cold grows
stronger" some writer penned one day and I
guess they were quite right!

For this time I hope all of you who
aren't feeling tip top get better, Spring is coming
with brighter days ahead, we have to take the
Thorns with the roses, you know.

God Bless and Keep you all,

Elaine

Cadillac, MI
1-22-'97

Dear Family:

Letter time again and a feeling of not much to write about -- maybe that is a sign of good things to come. I have recently visited with Elaine; Frank and John, so to them we just say hello again.

We are in the grip of mid-winter that is somewhat milder than average in my memory. No Florida trip this year, we had our trip in September this year for a change. Our trip to Montreal area was quite different - the language problem gave us some difficulties at the grocery store but otherwise we were able to cope quite well. Many people there speak enough english so that you can communicate and the signs are often bilingual. The land features are quite different as you get north of Montreal into the winter-sport area. The mountains of the Laurentians are quite low and mostly forested over. Expressway roads extend way up into the ski areas. Mount Tremblant is a winter play of the rich area folks. That complex has one lift that rises about 2,000 feet in one mile, with a service complex at the top, and another lift that is much like a bus in size. This area is a must to see if you go to that area.

We finished our trip by going up the (actually down) St. Lawrence River to River DeLup where the highway to Maine started. We spent the night there, where some of our relatives were raised. The phone book had pages of Michauds and Dumonts. A weekend and language problems combined with weather and schedule problems prevented much effort at searching relatives. Our motel manager was helpful in providing some leads that I have passed along thru Elaine to Jan. We were intrigued by the moose crossing signs, but saw none. We picked up Ex 95 and followed it all the way to Baltimore Maryland where we visited son Mike before returning home. Even in late September we saw quite a bit of fall color.

All of our family are currently in good health for the shape some of us are in, either healed or patched or under treatment. Even Jackie's Aunt Marge is in passable shape for a change.

OVER

We are working on a possible Alaska trip for July with daughter Kathy and her husband of Lansing. We are finding it quite a task with all the possibilities and the killer cost involved along with the time away at gardening and lawn care time, also with blueberry picking time, and reunion time, to name a few.

Jim your schedule is running over and over and over--slow down a bit before you two burn out. Being rich and famous isn't everything. I read that some where.

John seems to be getting with this retirement thing and living for a change, next thing they will be flying to Miami or some such place for a long weekend. Go to it.

Elaine is patched up and getting acclimated to the north again and ready to be a globe trotter along with Jan. We all wish you two a very enjoyable and safe trip.

Marty the gas fireplace works fine. Ours is controlled by a Honeywell Thermostat just like the furnace but doesn't require electricity except for the fan for air circulation around the outside of the closed chamber. It is a direct vent type that takes air for combustion from a second pipe surrounding the exhaust pipe. It can go thru the wall or into a chimney pipe setup, depending on the location. Tim has one in his new house that is controlled by an electric switch and can be open or closed as you like. When closed it takes combustion air from an outside pipe. His has to have electricity to function while ours will serve without the fan in power outages. I just read about one that needs no chimney or outlet of any kind, it burns so efficient that the flame is blue rather than yellow and has to be doctored to give the yellow glow. With ~~that~~ that furnace they include carbon monoxide sensors and shutoffs and oxygen depletion sensors as well. Can be set up almost anywhere.

John those funny peaces have been around for a while but nice to read again, thanks we needed that.

Sis and Rogs just keep on truckin much like the battery commercial bunny, who of you have sited them lately? I heard of a sighting up near the old farm lately. We wish you good health and success in your efforts now and always.

Hope to see each of you in good health come reunion time.

Joe D. Macquell

2-8-97

My Dear Family,

I'll start my letter now and finish after Church. I still sing at the 5:30 evening mass on Saturday. That frees me to teach pre school on Sunday at 11:00 mass. I have two helpers and we have from 12 to 17 from 3 to 5 yr olds. Praise God its only 1 hr. we have 24 registered but they obviously miss alot.

Our lives are full as ever and our Families have the usual problems. Jan & Robert are building on their 11 acres this year. Everyone says its a real test for a marriage to build a house. I hope they make out alright. we pray for all the marriages in our Families. John is building another house in Hawaii. He

² Plans to rent or sell either way its profit. John + Gayle are planning to be here for the reunion.

It looks like our various Families are on the mend. Frank + Lucie are getting better. Jack + Pat looked well when we saw them. Elaine came thru her operation well. I'll see you Jan on the 10th and I'll give you the letters. Joe + Jackie sounded great. We better pray for you Marty + Sandra as you have a wedding coming up. You will get thru it. Jim + Carolyn stay well and keep on truckin'.

I loved all your letters, but mines going to be a little short this time.

I love you all and will see you July 12th. The reunion will be from 1 to 5. We will eat early.
God Bless you all
His a Hog

22
Feb. 15, 1997

DEAR BROTHERS, SISTERS AND FAMILIES:

THE LETTERS HAVE ROLLED AROUND ONCE MORE. THIS LETTER BEGINS THE 22ND ROUND AND THE BEGINING OF THE TENTH YEAR OF OUR ROUND ROBIN LETTERS. I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT THEY HAVE ADDED ENJOYMENT TO ALL OF OUR LIVES AND KEPT US MORE IN TOUCH THAN WE WOULD HAVE OTHERWISE.

I AM STILL HAVING MUSCLE AND JOINT DISCOMFORT ON A DAILY BASIS. I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO RESIGN MYSELF TO THE FACT THAT I'M 65 THIS YEAR AND THIS MAY BE WHAT THE REST OF MY YEARS WILL BE LIKE.

ANYWAY, MOST OF YOU HAVE HEARD THAT ELAINE AND I HAVE BOOKED A CRUISE-TOUR TO ALASKA IN JUNE. JEAN WILL NOT TRAVEL THE WAY HE IS AND WANTS ME TO GO WITH HER WITH HIS BLESSINGS. THERE'S LOTS OF THINGS TO DO BEFORE THEN. A WEEK FROM TODAY - CHUCK, ASHLEY AND RYAN ARE COMING FROM RENO FOR A VISIT. WHILE THEY ARE HERE, IV'E ARRANGED A PHOTOGRAPHER TO COME TO THE HOUSE AND TAKE OUR FAMILY PICTURE. THERE WILL BE 30 OF US THIS TIME. I HOPE IT TURNS OUT OK AND I'M SURE MOST OF YOU WILL GET TO SEE IT SOMETIME DOWN THE ROAD.

ALSO, IN MAY OR EARLY JUNE, WE WILL BE TAKING CARE OF TOM AND GALE'S TWO TODDLERS FOR A WEEK. HE WON A TRIP TO MADRID, SPAIN FOR A WEEK. I HOPE THEY GO IN MAY SO I'LL HAVE TIME TO REST UP BEFORE OUR CRUISE.

THE THIRD THING IS THE CHOIR I JOINED LAST FALL. WE PRACTICE ONCE A WEEK AND WE'RE SCHEDULED TO SING AT VARIOUS CHURCHES AND GREEKTOWN AT LEAST 4 TIMES IN MARCH ALONE. THE SEASON RUNS THRU MID-JUNE. NEXT YEAR THEY ARE PLANING A TRIP TO ROME TO SING AT THE VATICAN. IF I'M STILL WITH THEM, I SUPPOSE I'LL BE GOING WITH THEM. IT'S PRETTY SCARY TO THINK ABOUT SINGING THERE.

FRANK, I FEEL FOR YOU, WHATEVER THIS PROBLEM IS, IT GOES FROM ONE AREA TO ANOTHER. AT ONE POINT I COULD NOT SIT DOWN TO EAT MEALS, READ OR EVEN REST. NOW I HAVE A HARD TIME TO ROLL OVER IN BED. I THINK EVEN A HOUR OF IN-ACTIVITY MAKES THE MUSCLES TIGHTEN UP SO AS SOON AS YOU MOVE - PAIN.

I HOPE ALL OF YOU ARE THRU WITH YOUR SICKNESS AND HOSPITAL VISITS. ALSO, THAT VICKIE IS WELL ON THE WAY TO GOOD HEALTH AGAIN.

JOHN - I ENJOYED READING YOUR HUMOROUS STORIES. MOST I HAD READ BEFORE BUT NOT FOR A LONG TIME. I WILL MAKE COPIES AS I CAN THINK OF PEOPLE THAT WOULD ENJOY DIFFERENT ONES. I EXPECT YOU ARE COUNTING THE DAYS TO THE FIRST S.S. CHECK. ISN'T YOUR BIRTHDAY IN FEBRUARY. HOW COME YOU HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL EARLY APRIL? YOU GUYS MUST EAT VENISON QUITE A LOT. ROB AND HIS FAMILY EAT IT MOST OF THE TIME.

MARTY - YOUR TRIP WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT. IT'S A GOOD THING YOU PLANNED IT NOW AS IT LOOKS^{like} OTHER THINGS WILL BE COMING UP FOR SUMMER. GOOD LUCK ON ALL OF IT.

ELAINE - WE TALK ON THE PHONE ALL THE TIME SO I WILL MOVE ON TO JOE'S LETTER.

JOE - WE HAVE WANTED TO GO BACK TO THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BUT WILL NEED AT LEAST TWO WEEKS TO TRAVEL AND DO SOME FAMILY RESEARCH. IT'S HARD ENOUGH BEING THERE IN PERSON WITH SOMEONE THAT SPEAKS FRENCH. IT'S NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE ON THE PHONE. HAVE YOU FIRMED UP YOUR TRIP TO ALASKA YET? ELAINE AND I LEAVE JUNE 22nd OR 23rd. THE LAND PART COMES FIRST FROM ANCHORAGE AND THE SECOND WEEK ON THE SUN PRINCESS FROM SEWARD TO VANCOUVER. SPEAKING OF THE OLD FARM - I BELIEVE IT WAS MARTY THAT SAID THE STAIRWAY UPSTAIRS IS GONE AND THERE IS A SPIRAL STAIRWAY THERE NOW. JEAN AND I WENT TO IMLAY CITY EARLY THIS WEEK. ME FOR A PERM AND JEAN TO SEE BROTHER MO.

JIM - YOUR LETTER GOT OUT OF ORDER. WE HAVEN'T TALKED FOR AWHILE BY PHONE - PROBABLY SINCE CHRISTMAS WEEK. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. WE ALL NEED A MINISTRY OF SOME KIND. IT EARNS STARS IN YOUR CROWN FOR LATER.

SIS - WE JUST TALKED THIS WEEK SO I'LL LET YOU TELL YOUR OWN NEWS. SPRING IS JUST FIVE WEEKS AWAY. KEEP WELL ALL OF YOU AND KEEP THE LETTER MOVING.

LOVE TO ALL,

Dear Brothers & Sisters

3-17-97

thought I had better get busy and send these letters along, was talking to John the other night and I told him this is such an uneventful time of year I can't think of anything to write about and maybe I should just change the date on the last one and send it again.

Dec. & Jan. were not good for me but things are somewhat better now as long as I use my saline nasal spray and the bubbler humidifier ~~on~~ ^{on} my oxygen hose - no more nose bleeds since thank God if I do I guess its into the Hosp. for surgery.

Vicki & Lora came up the day after X-MAS and had a good long stay with us, she was in such bad shape that it took some untrunkful happenings to get her up here - we got in to some Drs. and got started back on the mend - she has so many things wrong all ~~caused~~ ^{caused} from her thyroid condition, her weight was 287 lbs. the thyroid was supposed to be between 3.5 & 5.0 hers
over

was 237 along with many other things on her blood work were way out of whack, for the 1st. week or 2 she wasn't sure where she was but after she started taking her meds. she started losing weight and getting more alert and talking to us, when she left here she had lost 52 lbs. and was smiling and laughing about how baggy her clothes were, the last we have heard she is going to see Dr. in Yak not a specialist like she should be seeing but at least she is going - I could write a letter just about her but I'm sure we all have our problems.

"think spring" we are ready for it - I've got snow piled 8' high along the drive, we have set some records for total snow fall this year, but compared to a lot of the country we are very lucky. but I hope it starts warming up pretty soon - we have from 12-18" of snow in the yard yet and if it don't start leaving pretty soon we wait be mowing our lawn till after the 4th. of July.

John -

I just talked to you so there is not much more to add except are you still walking?, you should have a treadmill in your basement and stay off this Ice.

Jim -

It sounds like # you are up to your you know what in alligators doing 14 things at the same time I don't know how you do it, we had a sad thing happen here last Fri. - school was cancelled because of a storm and a 10 yrs old boy was out playing on a swing set - another boy came over to play with him in the afternoon 3 or 4 hrs. after he went out and he found him hanging on the set, I guess the cord on his hood ~~smen~~ some how got caught on a bolt, they own the Mikado Market - his funeral was today.

Marty.

Like I said not much to write about up here - you mentioned to Sis that a Dr.
over

there in Greenland loved Arabians, when Mom was in the hospital in Rochester they had a Dr. that was raising them I wonder if it could be the same one, only people with Big Bucks have those.

Elaine.

We heard from you by phone a short time ago and we were glad to hear that you are on the mend and getting by with a little help from your friends, I guess by the time this letter gets back around you and Jan. will have gone on your Alaska Cruise, I hope you gals have a great time and even better weather.

Joe.

Was glad to hear you guys enjoyed your trip up in Canada - its amazing how much they are just like us - they are a good ~~the~~ neighbor, its too bad somebody going up there can't get a phone book to bring home with all those names - it would be nice to keep.

Sis.

We were glad to see you & Reg. up here in Jan., I gave you all the gossip starting this letter, I don't know if you know Dominic's Allico he was an usher here at St. Raphael's allways at the door greeting people - at ash wed. mass he dropped dead in church - everybody felt so bad.

Jan.

I'm sure you are getting edgy about the trip coming soon - I was wondering what kind of a swimmer you were? I don't think I would dare that a trip like that - I'd have to be one fast walker because I couldn't swim across my living room. ha. ha., David, Crystal, Mike are going to ~~FL~~ Florida over the Easter vacation they need a break working 7 days a wk, hope your pains are gone by then - have a great time.

That's all folks and all our love to you and yours.
Frank & Betty

April 9, 1997

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The big news up here in Alpena Co is the winter of 97. It seems our normal snowfall is 80 inches per year. This winter however 178 inches has fallen. I believe this record goes back to 1875.

April 3, 1997 was one of the most important days of my life. Yes I waited atleast 45 years to even the score with (Uncle Sam). Now I know why my paychecks of yesteryear look so darn small. Social Security was to pay off the oldfolks; just kidding of course.

The project that I took on in Alcona Co some time ago has extented into Alpena Co. It seems like the oil companies is so much smarter than the average landowner. Money will never take the place of honesty. These landowners with my help is now playing on a level playing field. We all were raised to help others in need. I guess this is my calling in life.

On the medical front: In the years past I have had a great deal of problems with hoarseness. Recently I tried zinc lozenges as advertised on television. This product sure saved me as I called over 200 landowners in a very short period of time.

What I like most about retirement is I can control my own life. Stress is probably the thing most troubling for all of us. This raising of kids, complaining bosses, college cost, lack of sleep would only be starters.

It will soon be time to get started cleaning up the yard. Of course you all know what follows after that. In regards to trips it looks like one is planned for the U P sometime in May and again later this fall. The family reunion will come sometime in between. In the meantime I would like to wish you all the best.

Your Loving Brother,

John

April 28, 1997

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It was great to get the letters but now it is time to get them on their way. I am sure you are waiting for them as I do.

I will not write about my family much this time since not much has changed since the last letter. The major change is that Brian is now living in his house and Jeff has moved in with him so Carolyn and I are now here with no children at home. Isn't it great.

Two weeks ago I went to St. Louis for the mid-year meeting of St. Vincent de Paul. It was just a lot of meetings. I was not feeling well since I went to the dentist the day before I left with an abscessed tooth. He did a root canal.

Carolyn flew to St. Louis after work on Friday to meet me. We went to St. Charles, Mo. to see a bedroom set which she fell in love with last year when she was there. We ended up buying it and we will go back in 4 to 6 weeks to get it when it is built. It is Amish made solid oak.

Last week Thursday disaster hit us again as fire destroyed our store in Flat Rock. We still do not know the cause of the fire. We will re-open again in another store building tomorrow. I was interviewed at the fire by most TV and radio stations. John called me to say he saw me on TV in Alpena.

Marty, you should be back from the Grand Cayman Island now and back to work. I don't know if Karen and John will build again but I would not be surprised. You do not see them at St. Josephs since they go to St. Phillips. They are planning on putting Meghan in pre-school at St. Phillips in a year or two.

Elaine and Jan, I am so happy that you will take your cruise to Alaska. I am sure you are looking forward to it. I know I would.

Joe, if I understand it correctly, you also will get to Alaska but not on a cruise. If you are driving I hope you don't have problems with the roads. I have heard some horror stories lately about bad roads. But heck, we see that with Michigan roads.

Sis, we are looking forward to seeing you at the family reunion. It will be good to see everyone.

Frank, I am glad that you and Vicki are on the mend. You have the longest letter and I enjoy reading them. Hope to see you at the reunion.

John, we just had a good talk last night so I will say no more.

I will quit and get this ready for the mail tomorrow. God bless you all.

Your loving brother
Jim & Carolyn

HI DUMONTS, BRUCES, MARIONS, NIMMOTHS. 5-15-97

WOW, WHAT A YEAR.

TALKED TO ELAINE LAST NIGHT AND SHE IS ON THE MEND. SHE SOUNDS GOOD FOR WHAT SHE WENT THROUGH. JUST FOUND OUT THAT ST. MARYS. IN SAGINAW ARE DOING A NEW PROCEDURE THAT JUST TAKES A SIX INCH CUT ON THE CHEST AND THEY DON'T HAVE TO SPREAD THE RIB CAGE OPEN. THEY TAKE TWO RIBS OUT AND DO IT THAT WAY. TIME IN THE HOSPITAL IS CUT TO THREE DAYS.

BEFORE I FORGET IT, ARE WE ALL AWARE OF PROPER ETIQUETTE ON PHONE CALLS. NEVER BEFORE 8 A.M. AND NEVER AFTER 9.P.M. UNLESS IT IS AN EMERGENCY. WOW, AM I GETTING SMART.

I THINK WE WILL GO FROM WINTER DIRECTLY INTO SUMMER. WE ARE GETTING OUR APRIL SHOWERS IN MAY. AS LONG AS I CAN PLANT MY TOMATOES BY JUNE 1ST. I WILL BE HAPPY.

JOE, YOUR TRIP THE QUEBEC SOUNDS VERY INTERESTING. I WOULD LOVE TO GO UP THERE WITH SOMEONE WHO SPOKE FRENCH. I WILL BE WAITING TO HEAR ABOUT BOTH YOURS AND ELAINE AND JANS CRUISE TO ALASKA.

GRAND CAYMAN ISLAND WAS MUCH LIKE MAUI BUT ONLY THREE HOURS IN THE AIR INSTEAD OF 9. THE FOOD WAS HIGH AND THE MILK WAS \$4.25 PER GALLON. EVERYTHING IS SHIPPED IN. A GOOD MEAL WAS \$30.00 EACH WITH NO SALADS. ONE NIGHT WE HAD SALAD BAR BUT LETTUCE IS VERY EXPENSIVE.

SIS, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU STILL HAVE A HECTIC SCHEDULE. ITS GOOD TO HEAR THAT JAN AND ROBERT ARE BUILDING A HOME. GOOD INVESTMENT.

JAN, YOU ARE ABOUT TO REST UP AFTER BABYSETTING AND GETTING READY TO FLY TO THE LAND OF THE WHALES. YOU SHOULD SEE MANY THERE AS THEY ARE UP THERE FOR THE SUMMER. HOPE YOUR SINGING VOICE WILL GET YOU A TRIP TO SEE THE POPE. TALK TO HIM ABOUT LETTING PRIESTS

MARRY. IN ANOTHER 10 YEARS, WE WILL HAVE NO PRIESTS UNDER 60. THATS BAD.

FRANK, IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH YOU ARE BUSY TRYING TO KEEP YOUR HEALTH IN LINE. WE ALL KNOW WHAT THAT IS ABOUT. WE JUST ARE NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER.

JOHN, LAST TIME I TALKED TO YOU, YOU WERE ABOUT TO GO AFTER SOMEONE WHO STOLE YOUR TIMBER. GOOD LUCK ON THAT. WE SENT LOTS OF SNOW YOUR WAY AS WE DID NOT WANT IT. I CAN'T IMAGINE 178 INCHES OF SNOW. MUST BE A SNOW BELT THROUGH THERE. YOU SAID YOU WERE HEADING FOR DA UP. I HEAR THEY TALK FUNNY UP THERE. IS IT TRUE THEY ALWAYS START A SENTENCE WITH DA.

JIM, I HAVE BEEN WONDERING WHEN YOU ARE GOING TO REALLY RETIRE. I SEE LESS OF YOU NOW THAN WHEN YOU WERE TEACHING. SOMETHING DON'T ADD UP. THE REASON I MENTIONED KAREN GOING TO ST. JOSEPHS IS THAT SHE TOLD ME THAT AFTER THEY MOVED INTO THE NEW HOUSE, THEY WOULD PROBABLY SWITCH TO ST. JOSEPHS, AS IT IS CLOSER. WHO KNOWS.

WELL, WE WILL SEE YOU AT THE REUNION AND MAYBE AT THE WEDDING ON AUGUST 9TH. ITS STILL ON. HAVE A NICE SUMMER.

LOVE AND KISSES.

Louise Thayer

Dear Families: 6-8-97

This is a great big BIG thank you for your prayers, good wishes, flowers, visits and in all-your general support for me during my time with poor health. I'm even so much better but haven't had an O.K. from The Surgeon. - tomorrow is now my appointment if it doesn't change?!!

Joe and Jackie have given me their very best in all aspects. Thanks again.

It's such a pretty time of year and I can get out doors and take walks which I have to do to help my breathing, I walk indoors too because staying in one spot too long isn't good!

I guess I'll be brief this time, hope we'll be together at Sis and Rogé's reunion in July.

Love & Prayers
Elaine

Cadillac, MI
June 10, 1997

Dear Family:

Today Jackie and I safely delivered sister Elaine to her home in Prudenville. The last six weeks have seemed like a dream, as we escorted her thru her triple bypass experience and early recovery. All appears to be recovering about as expected according to what we have been told. She claims she didn't get a warranty though.

Our trip plans for the cruise are still on go and we must now shift to getting ready with no fooling around. It still seems like a story we have read about rather than the real thing. Will tell you more at the reunion.

May broke records for 6 days with snow in the local forecasts, but today is in the high eighties and very dry. Late winter gave us higher than normal snow, April was dryer than normal. May was wetter than normal. June is dryer than normal. At this rate we may turn out to have a normal year for total precipitation (can you imagine that)

Because of the recent communications due to Elaines operation and Rogers operation, I feel like I have just talked to each of you, and since the reunion is so close I feel like I am running on empty for news.

We did have our first experience with wild Racoons this past week. A female moved her brood of at least 4 youngones into a culvert in our circle, I saw them last evening while watering the flowers. They were quite feisty for onefooters. We planted some sweet corn and don't relish them being in the community come late summer.

The deer numbers are high and they roam the subdivision on a regular basis during the night sampling the new plantings.

I have a sharing agreement with a neighbor on a garden and Elaine and I enjoyed some asp-aragus this past week, a real treat for both of us but not for Jackie, who is more into spinach.

I have checked for wild blueberry blossoms, but found very few, it may be too early yet. The black and ~~raspberry~~ raspberry blossoms are nearly ready to pop. Every thing now depends on adequate rain and no more frost.

My typing is getting very ragged so see you in July.

Sincerely, *Jackie & Joe*

6-18-97

Hi Loved Ones,

Yesterday was our 47th Anniversary. It looks like we may make it to our 50th with a little luck and prayers. Jan + Robert took us out to ~~break~~ fast. We went out to lunch by ourselves, then took in a movie. He let me do my prison Ministry. (I offered to stay home.) When I got home he had a candle lite Steak dinner + bottle of something good all fixed. It was a treat.

We are really busy with Plans for the Reunion. We have a tent rented and tables spoken for. We are working on the Menu and expect to make a trip to Gordons soon for ideas. We'll get it together.

John + Gale are coming from Hawaii
so our Family alone will be more
than 20. I hope alot of the Cousins
will come to see John + everyone.

Elaine - your letter was short but sweet.
we are all so very happy over your
recovery. We will see you soon as
you and Jan are coming for a Perm.
Our prayers have been answered for you.

Joe + Jackie - we all are grateful
to you both for your wonderful support
of our sister. We thank you.

Jan + ^{you} really are busy with your
Choir and even get to go to Rome. Oh

well ^{my} Choir gets me into prison every
Tuesday Eve. ^(For mass) Ha. Sorry you and

Elaine missed your trip to Alaska.

Frank + ~~Betty~~ Glad the winter is over
and we are having a few months
of gorgeous weather. There's no place
like Michigan in the Summer.

3/ John + Pat your letter was nice and newy.
mine is short on news as I expect to
see you all soon and we can catch
up then. See you soon.

Jim + Carolyn - you really are keeping
busy, but you're too young to just rock.
I can't see any of us doing that. See
you real soon

Marty + Sanda - Bet you're busy with
wedding plans. It's very exciting!
Can't wait to see every one on July 12th
Marty don't worry about calling me
any time. I just love to hear
from my Family. See you soon.

Gods Blessings
and Love
Sis + Roy

JULY 5, 1997

DEAR ONES:

WE ARE ALL IN FAIR SHAPE HERE. ELAINE IS EATING GOOD AND GETTING STRONGER EVERY DAY. TUESDAY SHE WILL HAVE A STRESS TEST BEFORE SHE GETS GOING ON HER CARDIAC REHAB. HER DOCTOR IN TRAVERSE HAS BEEN THE HOLDUP. HER PLANS AS OF NOW ARE TO DO ABOUT FOUR WEEKS HERE AT CRITTENTON AND THEN TRANSFER TO GRAYLING FOR THE LAST FOUR WEEKS. I THINK SHE SHOULD DO THE FULL PROGRAM TO IMPROVE HER STAMINA FOR LIVING ALONE AND GENERAL OUTLOOK AND TO COPE WITH THE CURVES LIFE THROWS US. MY MUSCLE AND JOINT PROBLEMS ARE UNDER CONTROL WITH A DAILY INTAKE OF IRUDIS-KT (50 Mg. A.M. AND P.M.)

FRANK - FOR A GUY THAT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY - YOU WROTE A NICE LONG LETTER. I HOPE YOUR SUMMER IS MOVING ALONG WITHOUT ANY MORE MISHAPS. WE EXPECT TO SEE AT LEAST SOME OF YOU A WEEK FROM TODAY.

IT HAS BEEN A QUIET 4TH OF JULY WEEKEND.FOR US AND A LOT OF OTHERS IN THIS AREA. WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY STORM DAMAGE BUT IT WAS ALL AROUND US. ROB LOST A LARGE TREE, SOME FENCE AND THE AWNING ON THE TRAVEL TRAILER.. I WAS GLAD ELAINE WAS HERE AND OUR JIM AT THE COTTAGE NEAR WEST BRANCH. MOBILHOMES SURE TOOK A BEATING IN THE STORM. WE INSIST ON REPLACEMENT VALUE COVERAGE FOR OUR BUILDINGS. ALSO FOR HOMEOWNERS ITEMS. BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY. OUR CHORALE GROUP WILL BE ON MACINAW^{SP?} ISLAND ON LABOR DAY WEEKEND. WE WILL STAY ON THE ISLAND TWO NIGHTS AND SING AT ST. ANNE'S ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON MASS. ORDINARILY WE WOULD AVOID THAT AREA ON BRIDGE WALK WEEKEND BUT THAT'S THE WAY THE MOP FLOPS. SOME PEOPLE LOVE CROWDS.

A LOT OF THE LETTERS ARE TALKING ABOUT TRIPS HERE OR THERE. AS MOST OF YOU KNOW - ELAINE AND I HAD TO CANCEL OUR CRUISE. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING OUR MONEY BACK. WE EXPECT A FULL REFUND EXCEPT FOR OUR TRAVEL INSURANCE MONEY. IF A CRUISE IS IN THE CARDS - IT WILL HAPPEN DOWN THE ROAD. I'M GLAD WE FOUND OUT ABOUT ELAINE'S PROBLEM BEFORE WE WENT AND NOT WHILE WE WERE GONE. SHE IS PROBABLY IN BETTER SHAPE (heart-wise) NOW THAN ALL THE REST OF US. WE SURVIVED TOM'S TODDLER'S OK. WE ENJOY THEM SO MUCH BUT IT'S NICE TO SEND THEM HOME AT NIGHT.

JEAN IS REBUILDING AN OLD 8N FORD TRACTOR. HE ENJOYS THE CHALLENGE TO GET SOMETHING OLD BACK TO A USEFUL ITEM. RIGHT NOW THE FENDERS TIRES AND WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE IS OFF OF IT. IT LOOKS LIKE A BIG RED BUG SITTING IN THE BACK GARAGE. SOMEBODY WILL WANT TO BUY IT WHEN HE GETS IT DONE.

OUR JUNE USED BOOK SALE NETTED THE LIBRARY ABOUT \$8000.00. WE WORK HARD TO HAVE THESE SALES EVERY THREE MONTHS. THE BOOK DONATIONS KEEP COMING AND COMING.

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE TO TELL YOU ABOUT. AS IT IS I PROBABLY WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO TALK ABOUT AT THE PICNIC.

HAVE A NICE SUMMER -

LOVE,

Jan + Jean

8-1-99

Dear Family.

Its been awhile since I got these letters and have been holding off writing hoping something exciting would happen - but not much " happens around here this time of year.

We saw everybody at the reunion so not a whole lot to talk about, we got Cris back from Tenn. and she was glad to be back and we had Lora up for a week, she is in driver training and had to squeal this visit in, Vicki + Dave came up and took her home the next day as Dave had a job he had to finish that day, Vicki is doing quite well she has lost I think 92 lbs. so far but has a goof ways to go yet, she is in a lot better spirits and looks so much better even her voice sounds like she is so much younger.

We are not going to be going to the weddings but we wish both couples the

very best in life

I don't know how many if you might remember Willie Sayon he was pretty close with Uncle Adeline in their younger years, he told me alot of storys about things they used to do, anyway he past away at 83, and I know that Roger knew Florence Goddard they used to live on the E. side of Nanette lk. she passed away at 94.

Its been extremely dry here so far this summer our lawn looks like we dumped acid or something on it, Betty has a good bunch of flowers all over the place and has been watering alot.

Its going to cost more to go to town with this new gas tax increase - I think I will jack the car up take the tires off and let it sit, I'm trying to buy a donkey from the neighbor. we got this old wagon out here I thought Betty can just take him out to town - I
(over)

haven't told her yet I don't know
what she will say or maybe I do.

Like I said there isn't much to
write about so better close and hope
to do better next time God willing.

All our Love Betty - Frank

P.S. Sis had a good time at the
reunion, it was nice to see everybody.

August 31, 1997

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

After reading and rereading the latest family news letters lifes joys has gone clean out the window as far as excitement gos. Recently three beautifull (baby) skunks has decided to move into the lower flat of my tractor shed. I decided not to charge rent as they have no income.

We have recently gone thru a period of bad luck. Life was so bad for awhile, we hit bottom twice. Life is nothing more than a bundle of good times and bad times.

Todd however recently received some very exciting news. He was able to land a teaching job near Mount Pleasant. This is a newly built charter school some eight miles from town. Debra has left to go back to college. This will be her fourth year of a six year term. Theresa to seems to have finely decided to settle down at a steady job.

It will not be long before deer season opens up. This year I have decided to take only two. Three is just a little greedy as others are getting only one. They look like they came thru last winter in fine shape. There are few acorns this fall so it is back to shelled corn as there primeary bait.

I just finished spreading (48) yards of dirt and (12) yards of limestone. It seems like it is to much work or no work at all when we retire. Boy do I look foreward to sleeping in, in the morning. The lawn is just now getting back to a green color, it took a real beating this summer from lack of rain.

I will have to close for now and wish you all Gods best blessings.

Your Loving Brother,

John

Sept. 23, 1997

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thanks again for all the letters. It has been good reading and re-reading them. I am over due getting to the writing part. I hope you will understand that I have been a little busy.

It was nice seeing all of you at the re-union. I wish I had had more time to stay and visit. I was scheduled for mass Saturday evening and a camp program in Lexington, Mich. on Sunday.

About six weeks ago I had to terminate our executive director. It was not a pleasant thing to do but it was necessary. I have been working full time since then (for no pay) but I now have an interim executive director in place and a search committee to find a permanent replacement. Things are looking better and I am starting to cut down my time involvement.

Last week I had to go to Lansing to sign a contract to receive a \$500,000.00 grant. It is scary signing contracts like that. It will be used for a health care center.

Last Wednesday I drove to Louisville, Ky. for our national meeting. There was nothing spectacular happening. Just lots of meetings. I did get to Churchill Downs Thursday evening and on ^{Saturday} Carolyn said "Enough is enough" and she took me

to the "Louisville Slugger" factory and museum. We got to see them make baseball bats. It was very interesting. We came home Sunday.

We got to go out with the trailer twice this summer. First we went to Amish country in Indiana for a couple days. We went to Shipshewana and Nappanee. In August we went to Hershey Pennsylvania and then to Philadelphia. It was nice getting away for a few days.

Well fall is just about here. The leaves are trying to turn and some are falling. It won't be long before John heads for the woods. John do you have two or three deer tied up out there waiting for you? Take good care of your tenants (the skunks).

Frank, I am glad Vicki is coming along and losing the weight. We are all pulling for her and keeping her in our prayers.

Well I guess I better quit for now and get this ready for the mail. God bless all of you.

Your loving brother
Jim & Carolyn

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS: 10-14-97

WOW, THE CYCLE TOOK FOUR MONTHS SO THAT MUST MEAN, NO NEWS.

WELL, ELAINE AND I MADE NEWS THIS PAST WEEKEND. WE WENT UP TO INDIAN RIVER BUT MISSED THE SIGN AND BY THE TIME WE FOUND OUT WE HAD GONE TO FAR, WE COULDN'T FIND A TURN AROUND AND ENDED UP AT THE MACKINAW BRIDGE. WELL, IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY AND THE COLORS WERE JUST GRAND SO WE CRUISED BACK TO INDIAN RIVER AND HAD LUNCH. THEN WE WENT UP TO THE SHRINE TO SEE THE CROSS AND THEN ON TO TOWER. WE STOPPED AT THE CEMETERY TO SEE ELAINES MOM AND OUR BABY BROTHERS GRAVE. IT WAS REAL MOVING FOR ME AS I HAD NOT BEEN THERE AND 59 YEARS HAD ALREADY PASSED. WE THEN WENT ON TO ONAWAY TO THE FUNERAL HOME WHERE EVELYN MARTIN MUNSON'S HUSBAND WAS BEING SHOWN. I SAW SO MANY PEOPLE THAT I HAD HEARD ABOUT, BUT NEVER MET. ABOUT 4 O'CLOCK WE HEADED BACK DOWN 33 TO MIO AND ROSCOMMON AND HAD DINNER IN THE BIG CITY OF ROSCOMMON, THEN ON TO ELAINES HOUSE AND HOME TO FREELAND. WOW, WE PUT IN A BIG DAY.

JOE, YOUR LETTER SOUNDS AS THOUGH YOU ARE STUDYING TO WORK AS A WEATHER FORECASTER. IF THEIR IS ANY MONEY IN IT LET ME KNOW AND I WILL TAKE UP THAT HOBBY WHEN I RETIRE. WE FORGOT TO THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR TENDER LOVE AND CARE(BOTH YOU AND JACKIE) ON ELAINES BEHALF. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE WOULD DO WITHOUT YOU TWO. GOD WILL BLESS YOU FOR IT, I AM SURE.

SIS, THANKS FOR THE GREAT REUNION. I HAVE PICTURES SOMEWHERE AND AS SOON AS I FIND THEM, I WILL GET THEM OUT.

JANICE, IS THAT IRUDIS-KT SOMETHING LIKE GERITOL? I HAVE NOT HEARD OF IT. I KNOW LAWRENCE WELK SURE COULD DANCE AFTER HE DRANK THAT GERITOL STUFF. I AGREE THAT EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE REPLACEMENT COST ON THERE HOMES, BUT I KNOW OF NO COMPANY THAT WILL GIVE REPLACEMENT COST ON MOBILE HOMES. IF YOU LIVED IN FLORIDA, YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND WHY. I WOULD LOVE TO SEE JEANS TRACTOR. I BET IT WOULD BRING BACK MEMORIES.

FRANK, I LIKE THE IDEA OF JACKING THE CAR UP AND BUYING A DONKEY TO GO TO TOWN. FOR SOME REASON, I AM NOT SURE BETTY WOULD GO ALONG WITH IT. YOUR DRY LAWN WAS TYPICAL FOR THIS SCREWY SUMMER.

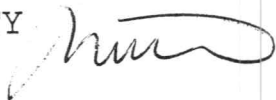
JOHN, I THINK YOU SHOULD SHOOT ONE DOE FOR EACH OF US AND WE WILL STORE IT IN OUR FREEZERS FOR YOU AND WE WILL COOK IT FOR YOU AND EAT IT FOR YOU. THAT WAY, WE WILL CUT DOWN ON ALL THE DEER BEING HIT BY CARS. THE SNOW SHOULD BE ABOUT READY TO FLY IN OSSINEKE.

JIM, AS A TEACHER, YOU WOULD HAVE GONE ON STRIKE FOR THE PAY YOU ARE MAKING NOW. AND NOW YOU ARE WORKING YOUR YOU KNOW WHAT OFF, AND MAKING NOTHING. I CAN'T QUITE FIGURE THIS OUT. WHERE IS YOUR UNION GO-GO SPIRIT?

AS FOR US, WE ARE PLANNING A CANCUN TRIP. WE ARE GOING OVER TO SEBEWING TONIGHT TO LOOK AT VIDEO'S OF A CONDO THAT A GUY OVER THERE WANTS US TO RENT FOR A WEEK IN CANCUN. WE WILL DECIDE AND MAKE PLANS TO GO. THAT IS ABOUT ALL WE DO IS WORK 51 WEEKS OUT OF THE YEAR AND GO SOMEPLACE NICE ON THE 52ND.

THE WEDDING WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH. THEY BOUGHT A GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPY TO LOVE UNTIL SOMETHING ELSE COMES ALONG. I HOPE THEY WILL WAIT AWHILE. GUESS I BETTER GO. ' LOVE YOU ALL.

SONDA AND MARTY

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'Marty', written in dark ink.

Oct. 19, 1997

Dear Everyone!

Thank God we haven't lost the "art" of letter writing, each letter has some bright note or interesting "something" that makes them nice to read.

Fall and the color has been so pretty here, I'm glad I didn't miss it. I have a new neighbor people from St. Clair Shores, former Detroiters Marleen & Gerry Smith, too young for S.S.A. & they both have jobs already.

About the most activity I've had lately was: Martin drove me to Quaway to see Evelyn's husband Tom. He had been in the nursing home in Cheboygan for 3 yrs. He's at home now. Martin's letter will fill in the details, it was a day to remember!

I must mention Joe & Jackie came one Monday and washed all my windows and screens - Jackie said because that woman will not get to them before the cold weather sets in. She came the next Fri. or so. She only could stay 2 hrs. for other jobs. Thanks Jackie & Joe.

John & Pats' Debbie is the last one in College of my pieces and nephews so I say sorry to Debbie, it won't be too long now.

Evelyn and Joyce sort of yell all over Marty - he reminded them of Dad, Phyllis is not very into conversations. Keeping this brief, closing with my best to one and all, Love, Elaine

Oct. 27, 1997
Cadillac, MI

Dear Dumont Family:

Letter time again on the first snow day of fall, our quite usual late October about 2" snowfall. Some areas apparently got up to 8 inches. Our son Ron bagged a deer last evening as well.

As you can see my typing hasn't improved with disuse. Hope the rest of you can do better. I notice more of you are attempting to use the machine of old.

We had a phone contact with Elaine today, and all appeared to be well, except that she is refusing all holiday invites this year.

Our fall colors were generally quite muted with the exception of some Red Oaks that were nearly as good as Red Maples, the best oaks I have ever seen for color. The trees still have quite a few leaves yet but the snow will take care of that. We appear to have no Beech nuts and not many acorns, so the squirrels will need some help this winter.

Our only travel plans for the next year are very vague for next spring, or later. Our family seems to be quite well at this time, or on the mend. Ron has had a layoff and Joe is changing jobs but the rest are stable for now.

The new express-way around Cadillac has begun construction which will take four years to complete. The east interchange is about 2/3 mile west of our subdivision and due to the 1/2 mile of woods between us, we don't expect much sound problem. Yvohn's home is at the North interchange and there is an expected problem. Her Craig just had his 14th birthday. Denise is pregnant with her third and Kathy is trying for her first. Deer season is upon us and I expect to do a little hunting. I have been helping to acquaint two of the nephews with some of the hunting preparations in the woods. We plan to check out the hunting sites this next weekend.

It seems that we all have had an unusual amount of contact of late and there doesn't seem like much to remark about. John will have some wild hunting stories next time I expect, and Martin will have been to the hot country, and Jim will be up to his ears in charity work as will Mary and Jan. Frank, Elaine and I will just shovel snow and sleep the winter out. See you all next year on the same page if not on the phone. Happy holidays.

Joe & Jackie

11-9-97

Hi Loved Ones,

It's that time again to answer the letters. It takes about 4 or 5 months to get them around. We enjoy them so much.

Rog and I took a nice trip to Texas in October. We went to Des Moines and visited a friend at the Basilica there. Bro Patrick works in the inner city. We took 35 down to visit Joshua + Maria at Fort Hood. They actually live at Copperas Cove in their own house. It was fun to see them and help them a little. We traveled 300 miles across to Cleveland Texas and spent some time with Shirley's girls. Shirley passed on in September and they needed us as much as we needed to see them. Jean + Dawn just live 4 miles apart and a tornado came thru while we were there. It took a roof off the fire house right between the two farms. Rog was ready to pack up and come home.

We didn't leave early and had a nice trip home... Stopped alot and came home to a freak storm

21
with lots of snow in Lansing.
not much in Inlay city. It was
a nice trip, but we are glad to
be home.

David Manick got married the
end of October. He is Donna's son
(Jim's wife) and he is stationed at
El Paso Texas.

Jan + Jean I am glad I had
a trip to talk about as every one has
had them. Glad you and Elaine are
getting a refund from your Alaska
trip. I don't see how they could refuse.
I'll see you Tuesday.

Frank + Betty. We sure did know
Florence Goddard. She is Roger's aunt.
She must have passed on a couple
of days after Bill + Rog visited her.

We are sorry we missed you on
our quick trip up there. We just ran
up to see Sammy while she was in
from Phoenix. It was great to see
you at the Reunion and we will see
you soon.

John + Pat Deer season is upon
us so I know that's a busy time
for you folks.

Glad the Family are doing well
and working.

Jim + Carolyn. Glad you got to the Reunion. Hope to see more of your family next time.

you are sure busy with your none paying jobs. Those kind build the Mansions in Heaven.

Jan + Robert will be moving soon to their home on Cade Rd. Its only 7 miles away so I will see them often.

Rog + his boys live with us as he is not able to get on & leave the Cult they were involved in. Praise God that Roger got two of his 3 boys to leave with him. Please pray and fast for that situation. They have been here since last January. Its a privilege to help them. Marty + Sandra - The wedding was wonderful. We sure enjoyed ourselves. Sherry seemed so happy and her young man seems very nice.

Glad you and Elaine had a nice trip. We've ^{not} seen Evelyn since her husband passed on.

Elaine - Thank you! Love you. Will call soon. My news are all over these pages.

Joe + Jackie, your family seems to be doing well. It was nice to see you at the wedding & the Reunion. Keep in touch.

We love you all
Din + Rog

NOV. 23, 1997

DEAR SISTERS, BROTHERS AND ALL WHO ARRIVED LATER:

I NORMALLY WOULD'NT ANSWER THIS SO PROMPTLY BUT IN VIEW OF TURKEY DAY AND CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS, I NEED TO GET IT ON IT'S WAY FIRST. TOM'S FAMILY AND MYSELF HAVE HAD A BOUT WITH THE FLU WHICH IS ANOTHER REASON I'M NOT ON SCHEDULE. I HAD A FLU AND PNEUMONIA SHOT TOO. I GUESS THE FLU I HAD WASN'T COVERED UNDER THE SHOT. THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SAY.

THERE'S ANOTHER ANGLE CONCERNING REPLACEMENT VALUE INSURANCE COVERAGE - WHICH IS - SUPPOSE YOUR HOUSE BURNED ONLY PARTIALLY DOWN. NOW YOUR CITY INSPECTOR WANTS YOU TO UPGRADE THE ELECTRICAL ALL OVER THE HOUSE. WILL YOUR INSURANCE COVER ALL OF IT OR JUST IN THE BURNED OUT PORTION? THERE WAS A DISCUSSION IN TODAY'S PAPER ABOUT IT. I GUESS IF THE BUILDING IS FAIRLY NEW - IT WON'T MATTER.

ANOTHER THING I RAN INTO LATELY - THE BIRTH CERTIFICATES MOM GAVE US WHEN WE LEFT HOME. DOES YOUR'S HAVE A RAISED OFFICIAL SEAL ON IT? JEAN AND I WENT TO APPLY FOR A PASSPORT AND THE POST OFFICE WOULDN'T ACCEPT WHAT WE THOUGHT WAS OUR OFFICIAL BIRTH CERTIFICATES. WE HAD TO SEND TO LANSING FOR NEW ONES. THERE'S A LOT MORE INFORMATION ON THE NEW ONES (SUCH AS - TIME OF BIRTH, ARE YOU LEGITIMATE, ETC.) OUR CHOIR IS PLANNING A TRIP TO ROME IN AUGUST NEXT YEAR SO WE WANT TO BE PREPARED IF WE END UP GOING.

I STILL GO TO THE LIBRARY TWICE A WEEK WHEN I CAN. OUR USED BOOK SALES NETED THE LIBRARY \$41,000.00 FOR 1997.

ROB AND HIS 14 YEAR OLD STEPSON HAVE BAGGED THREE DEER SO FAR. THEY EAT VENISON YEAR ROUND SO THEY ARE GLAD TO LUCK OUT. THEY BOW AND RIFLE HUNT ALL THRU THE SEASON.

JOHN, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN ABOUT BABY SKUNKS. ABOUT TWENTY YEARS AGO, WE HAD THE PLEASURE OF A MOTHER AND SEVERAL BABIES CROSS OUR YARD. IT IS A SIGHT YOU WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER.

WE TOO REJOICE IN VICKIE'S GREAT HEALTH PROGRESS. GOOD HEALTH IS ONE OF OUR MOST PRICELESS POSSESSIONS. LITTLE THINGS WE CAN ALL HANDLE - IT'S THE BIG ONES THAT PUT US IN OUR PLACE AND MAKES US ACKNOWLEDGE WHO IS IN CHARGE.

I GUESS JIM IS BEHAVING LATELY - I HAVEN'T HEARD MUCH FROM HIM LATELY.

WE WENT OVER THE MACINAW BRIDGE LABOR DAY WEEKEND. OUR CHOIR SANG AT ST. ANNE'S CHURCH ON THE ISLAND SO WE STAYED TWO NIGHTS THERE. AFTER WE LEFT THERE - WE DROVE AROUND THE GEORGIAN BAY AND CAME HOME BY WAY OF SARNIA.

MARTY - ORUDIS-KT IS SIMILAR TO EXCEDRIN, ALEVE, BUT SEEMS TO WORK WELL FOR ARTHRITIS. HIGHER DOSES ARE BY PRESCRIPTION.

THE PICTURE IS THE END RESULT OF JEAN'S TRACTOR PROJECT. THAT'S THE NEW GARAGE IN THE BACKGROUND. HE IS STILL WORKING ON THE GAS AND HEAT FOR HIS "DOGHOUSE". HE SOLD THE TRACTOR ABOUT A MONTH AGO. IF I REMEMBER RIGHT - THAT WAS THE THIRD ONE HE OVERHAULED. I'LL BET MIKE CRINGES EVERY TIME HIS DAD BUYS ANOTHER JEWEL. MIKE HAS A SNAP-ON TOOL ROUTE AND GETS AROUND THE THUMB AREA QUITE A BIT. HIS DAD HAS HIM SCOUTING PARTS ON A REGULAR BASIS. SOME DAY MIKE WILL BE GLAD HE HUMORED HIS DAD WHILE HE HAD THE CHANCE. MY BIGGEST REGRET WAS TO LEAVE MY BABY TWINS AT HOME INSTEAD OF TAKING THEM TO SEE HIM (DAD) WHEN HE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL IN SAGINAW. I CAN STILL SEE THE DISAPPOINTMENT ON HIS FACE AND IT'S BEEN MORE THAN 35 YEARS.

I ENJOYED ALL OF THE LETTERS EVEN IF I DIDN'T COMMENT ON EACH ONE.

WE HAD A FAIR AMOUNT OF COMPANY THIS AFTERNOON - Ron, Sherri, Danielle, Tom, Mac, Abby, Andy, Jim, Sam and her girlfriend.

MY SUPPER IS CALLING SO UNTIL NEXT TIME - TAKE CARE AND MAY GOD GRANT YOU ALL THAT IS GOOD FOR YOU.

LOVE,

Jan + Jean

11-5-97

Dear Sisters & Bros.

Letter writing time again and I don't know where to start, it was a pretty show deer season around here this yr.

Haris got a spike but that's all, one of our Bros. done pretty well until he started to miss after opening day thank God - we have ^{to} save a few for seed.

I'm kind of proud of myself getting on this letter so soon this time, I always set on it for a while wondering what am I going to say this time and I'm sad to say we got some pretty bad news today.

Vicki called about noon and asked for our prayers, she and Dave had just got back from the Drs. office, she had went in for x-rays on her thyroid last week and the Dr. called and said he wanted her and Dave in today for a talk, it seems the x-rays showed an enlargement from the last one, he wants her to go in for a cat scan and depending on what that shows maybe a MRI after that, so guess what no insurance the Dr. said that it's possible that if it's the right type it may be controlled with medication if it's not and need surg. they are looking at \$100,000.00, Vicki asked the Dr. if it could wait till June

H

and he said no more like the end of jan., I guess she was thinking Sara would be out of school then, by the way Sara does not know anything and they don't want her to, we are not telling Chris either yet, so needless to say we are asking all of you for your prayers, she is in pretty good spirits and says she is not afraid of dying she is just placing all of her trust in God.

We took Chris down to a school dance tonite from 7:00-10:00 the 10th. graders are putting it on for the 7th. & 8th., she was one of 3 girls in the 7th. picked for princess they won't know until the dance who won, we have to go pick her and her girl friend up in just a few min.

11-6

She won - there are well over 100 students in her grade so we are pretty proud of her, she sure was not expecting to win - she voted for one of the other girls! The funny thing about it was her boy friend was picked the prince, they had a real fun time at the dance.

We had a very quite Thanksgiving this year and that suited me just fine, we are expecting a large group at Xmas time it sounds like everybody but Nicki and her family will be here.

III

It sure has been mild for this time of year so far - hope it stays this way, except for the road being muddy one couldn't ask for more.

Joe Michaud past away about 3 wks ago - just a memorial service at the American Legion I didn't go.

Bethys Dad has moved to another foster care home - he was not getting along with the other people where he was and it was best to move him, he is doing just fine now - the lady where he is now cooks more like he was used to eating at home so he likes that she is George Sayons daughter and her mother is living there also, I had a nice talk with her about 2 wks. ago she knew Uncle Adolor real well, she asked me if Aunt June got remarried and I didn't know - strange how we grow so far apart when we don't see each other anymore.

Well I better close and hope to do better next time, wishing all of you and yours will have or have had a very Holy and happy holiday season and lets pray for a better new year.

All our Love Frank + Betty

December 20, 1997

Dear brothers and Sisters,

We had a fair deer hunting season this year with five deer taken by six hunters. There were seven taken in 1996. One bobcat also was delivered to bobcat heaven.

The timber rustling that was done down on the farm back in 1995 should be coming to a conclusion in three or four months. I do not think the two parties that were responsible will be looking forward to going into court.

The weather up here so far this winter has been just what I had ordered earlier. I did notice the other day that my snow shovel has been getting a bit rusty and probably close to retirement.

Debra has plans to get married on July 25th 1998 in Detroit. I have been informed that I must dress up in one of those funny looking suits and wear a compass.

Our health so far this winter has been good, but have experienced more stress than we would like. I am still taking those mile and a half walks every day. This is probably the best way to get rid of stress and improve ones health. The peace and quiet of the empty nest at times gets a little unnerving sometimes.

What are we suppose to with that big raise coming due in January? This would be the first time that Uncle Sam has ever given me a raise in 62 years.

I would like to take this time and wish each and everyone of you a Merry Christmas and a joyfull New Year; may (God Bless) you all until next time.

Your Loving Brother,

John