

Jan. 7, 1998

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Thanks for the gift of the letters coming at Christmas time. It was one of the best. I hope all of you had an especially good holiday and look forward to a good year ahead.

It has been unusually warm here lately and we have been getting a lot of rain. I understand the cold weather will be returning this coming weekend. Maybe we will get some snow then. Snow does not seem as dreary as rain does now.

I donated my old car to St. Vincent de Paul and we gave it to a deaf mother of three girls who is coming out of a domestic violence situation and needs transportation to get the kids to school and to get to work. We also supplied her with furniture and clothes.

As some of you know I hired a new executive director for the society and he began work this week. It will take some time to familiarize him with everything but my work load is getting better. I think he will do a good job.

I had a physical before Christmas and all my tests came back good. Now that

the holidays are over I have got to lose a few pounds. Other than that I am fine.

Before Christmas Carolyn's niece's son (age 24) was in a car-truck accident in Portland Oregon and the truck rolled over on his car. He is still in a coma and we ask your prayers for him. His name is Erick Fisher.

Frank we are continuing to pray for Vickie. Keep us informed of her progress. Keep after the F.I.A. to get her some help. Let me know if I can help.

I am glad that some of you have plans for trips to warmer climates. I have not figured out how to do that until Carolyn retires. I guess my time will come.

Jan, when I wanted a raised seal birth certificate I called Harrisville. They told me to send a check to them (\$3.00 each). When I got the birth certificates they had a space for finger prints so I took them to the police station and had my finger prints put on.

Well I better close for now. God bless all of you with health and happiness.
Your loving brother
Jim & Carolyn

1-20-98

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS:---

NOW WE ARE DOWN TO 3 MONTHS ON THE ROTATION. THATS GOOD.

IT LOOKS LIKE WE ARE ALL SETTLED IN FOR A LONG WINTERS NAP. NO, NOT REALLY.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR NEW BABY IN JUNE. ALYSSA IS COMING TO OUR HOUSE THIS WEEKEND TO GO TO THE CIRCUS. THIS WILL BE HER FIRST CIRCUS AND WE ARE REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

IT LOOKS LIKE ALL THE BRO'S AND SIS'S ARE IN GOOD HEALTH. MAN, YOU CAN TELL I HAVE BEEN AROUND SAGINAW TO LONG. WE HAVE A SHOOTING IN SAGINAW ALMOST NIGHTLY. IT MUST BE SOMETHING IN THE WATER THAT DOES IT.

IT SOUNDS LIKE JOE IS GETTING SOME THINGS DONE OVER TO ELAINES OR MAYBE ITS JACKIE THAT IS DOING THINGS AND JOE IS SUPERVISING. GOOD WORK YOU GUYS.

SIS AND ROG, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE DOING SOME TRAVELING AND ENJOYING YOURSELVES. THAT IS WHAT ALL SENIORS SHOULD DO. TRAVEL AND SPEND MONEY.

JANICE, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO ROME? I HAD PLANNED A TRIP TO ROME WHEN I WAS STATIONED IN LIBYA BUT THEN DAD GOT SICK AND THEY SENT ME HOME. ITS A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY AND YOU SHOULD LIKE WINE AS THEY HAVE LOTS OF IT TO DRINK. THE PICTURE OF JEANS TRACTOR REALLY BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.

FRANK, THANKS FOR SPEEDING THE LETTERS ON THEIR WAY. US, OLD TIMERS REALLY ENJOY THEM COMING EVERY QTR. THE DEER SHOULD BE IN VERY GOOD SHAPE WITH THE NICE

WINTER WEATHER THAT WE ARE ENJOYING. I HOPE VICKI IS ON THE MEND AND DOING WELL. WE ARE PRAYING FOR HER.

JOHN IS ENJOYING THAT NEW TYPEWRITER. IT SURE DOES A NICE JOB AND VERY PROFESSIONAL. DEBRA IS GETTING MARRIED THIS SUMMER. WHAT GREAT NEWS. I WOULDN'T BRING THE COMPASS, JOHN. THAT MAY GET YOU LOST. I ASSUME THAT PAT IS STILL WORKING 48 HOURS A WEEK. WILL SHE GET TIME OFF FOR THE WEDDING?

JIM, I WILL SEND ALONG A DISCOUNT COUPON JUST IN CASE YOU DECIDE TO TRADE THAT OLD PICKUP IN ON A NEW ONE. I HOPE ERICK IS IMPROVING AND WE ARE PRAYING FOR HIM. WE DON'T SEE YOUR KIDS IN BATTLE CREEK WHEN WE GET OVER. THEY MUST BE REAL BUSY.

WE WILL BE LEAVING FEB.21ST. OUT OF FLINT FOR CANCUN. WE LEAVE FLINT AT 2PM SO WE SHOULD BE THERE BEFORE DARK. LETS HOPE IT IS A SAFE TRIP. YES, WE DID GET TRIP INSURANCE BUT WE HOPE WE DO NOT HAVE TO USE IT.

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

GLAD TO HEAR THAT FR. JOHN DUNN IS LIVING AT CASA MARIA.

Jocelyn Hunt

1-26-98

Dear families of the Amel Dumonts.

Time to say a few lines from my house to yours!

I hope you all are over the effects of the holiday season? I did ~~fine~~^{FINE} - it went by much better than I could have hoped, I had never spent Christmas here at Houghton Lake, altho we caught this place in "72". There is plenty of snow, it should be good for what ails the earth for these winter months.

I'm expecting Joe and Jackie one of these days - maybe tomorrow, so this will be ready to pass to them.

Is there anyone of us that isn't praying for Vicki - Can't get it off my mind, hope by the time this makes the circuit it will have been taken care of and she will be on the mend. Please God.

I've been in touch with Cousin Dorothy she thought the last call I made I was in the Phoenix area, I wanted to let her know Joe Michael had died. Must check with Aunt Emma and Cousin Ethel Rose, these two "keep in touch". Speaking of families, Sister Jan is planning the next Reunion for about June 20th or 27th, her calendar is filling up FAST!! I'm keeping mine kind of open probably miss Debbie's wedding - I've missed a few of the nieces and nephews 'special' days.

I want to thank each and everyone for your good wishes and prayers - your many kindnesses and all - I'm doing quite good - one day at a time.

Love to all, Elaine

Cadillac, MI.
1-30-'98

Dear family:

We are dealing with sinus and coolds as most of you or yours are, but no flu as yet. We pray that the ill members of our family are on the mend. I have an experience that I wish to relate to you that may help someone sometime. Over the past two years I had various aches which I expected were most due to my advancing age. The thought come to me that some of you might be getting close as well. The ache in question was in the hip joint. Last August we sold our '95 Pontiac, mostly due to the hard leather bucket seats. Within two weeks I was seeing some improvement in the Joint ache, and now after about 6 months the ache is almost a distant memory. It had gotten so bad that I couldn't sleep on that side. The old type bench seat has been the remedy. While I am on the health subject, I now have found that I must take phosphorus to ~~offset~~ offset the effect of my high blood pressure and high colorestrol medications. This type problem might be catchig up to some of you as well.

This week w-e visited Elaine, picked up the letters and helped her with her shopping needs as we try to do from time to time in poor weathe-r. All is well we are happy to say, she is adjusting to the climate well and seems to be reaching an acceptable level of solitude and community activity. She is more self sufficient than mostpeople in her situation. Transportation, shopping, medical help, and knowing how and where to get things done are more available all the time in the area. Halpful neighbors are at hand.

We do appreciate all the helpful tips such as Jans BC seal experience, and Kathy said that she had sent her materials on the family tree activities, Thanks again.

The deer season proved to be very slow for me this year, but I miss the walking while hunting~~XXX~~ that I use to do with dad. He most enjoyed the slow interupted walk while hunting that allow-ed viewing of constantly changing woods and wildlife seens. Hunting is much more than game harvesting for most of us that partake of the sport.

Yes Frank the weather sure has been mild compared to the last two years and the snow amounpts are down especially up to mid Jan. Very poor ice conditions for winter sports and events are getting cancelled or changed due to lack of safe conditions. The snowmobile accidents aren't slowing up at all, we have one in Lake Cadillac that may have to stay until the ice melts. The body was found after several days of trying and only after use of a sonar unit from down state.

John those raises are usually raided by increased insurance costs the next month, so don't spend it right away. "GO GET THEM TIMBER RUSTELERS"

Jim that add to Jans BC tip was excellent and thank you both even though I don't expect to need it myseaf but the younger members of our families may.

Daughter Denise is due in March so we will have some news at the reunion if not before. At the rate of this letter round we will be seeing the letters before June.

Be kind to each other for we never know when will be the last time we ever see each other. The younger members of our families need to be reminded from time to time that life can'terribly slow in ending, as with mom, or over in an instant as in many accidents.

See you all at the reunion

Joe & Jackie

February 12, 1998

Hi Loved Ones -

Here it is just three months for the letters. I've had them more than a week now, so I got up early today and will get them answered before I do anything else today - ok. Moms Dear Friend Catherine Totjki went to Heaven on the 10th of February. She turned One Hundred Four (104) years on February 3rd. I Visited Catherine the day before her birthday and she was well that day. I never saw Catherine in bed - She was always dressed nicely and able to carry on a nice conversation. She was ready to go home with Jesus The Lord.

We have Great News - John & Gayle are expecting a Baby in August - Their oldest Daughter Lisa graduates from High School in June. Jessica is Sixteen (16) on the 4th of July and Megan will be Eight (8) in October - wouldn't it be great if they had their First Son in August - Let's all Pray that they have a beautiful healthy baby and a boy would be GREAT. Ha. We will be going this fall to see our new Grand-child. Right. We have a Beautiful Grt. Grand-daughter in Texas now - Josh and Marie have a darling new baby-girl. Her name is Alyssa Corynn and she was born on the birthday of Grt. Aunt Betty Bruce and Aunt ~~Michelle~~ Bruce - Dec 9th, 1997. These new wee-ones are our first family additions since 1990. So our next trip to Hawaii will be extra nice/fun.

Robert and Jan & Jonah have finally moved to their lovely new home on eleven nice acres. They are missed of course but Bill is now in-resident in our apartment since the divorce is final. I'm not sure that it will be forever. He is doing a lot of refurbishing in the apt. I hope to always have a member of the family in the apartment, but not for the same reason of course. Nothing has changed for Roger and the boys - they have been here for over a year now. They are Straight A Students in School - beautiful kids to be around. The last we heard from Ann is that she is going to Israel with the Cult that she belongs to.

We visited with Vicki this past week - and she is still hoping it's going to disappear. We had prayer with her and agreed with her heart's desire. She is so precious - and she is in excellent spirits and visiting her doctor on a regular basis. We will continue to pray for Vicki - she is on the Sacred Heart Prayer-line as are anyone in the family that we hear needs a special touch from The Lord.

This Weather certainly has been great - when I watch the weather reports I can't help but think that Michigan is the place to live - ha. We all have had good health this Winter.

John - We are looking forward to Debbie's Wedding in July - Marty - Hope to get to Flint to see U-OFF on your Wonderful Vacation on the 21st - Jim - We have Eric on the Prayer-line - hope he's much better - Frank - Vickie is going to be Fine- P>T>L>
Jan Hope You are better and looking forward to your planned trip.

From the Balcony Office of Roger of Ro-mar comes a Message to The Family
From - Mary Katherine Dumont Bruce - Health - Peace & Love from Jesus

Joe - Thank :You - for keeping tabs on Sister Elaine - even if she is very much a self-reliant person - right. You are precious to remember Sister - Thank You --

Yes, Father Dunn still lives at Casa Maria - and is very busy. He's trying to get a clearance so that he can say Mass at the Prison in Lapeer on Tuesdays. Rog is doing better with his new Computer for his Arabian Horse Business - ya ya - so he is typing up my letter for me this time - and HE sends His Love thru Christ Jesus to ALL of the family - We Love You All -

Sis + Rog
Sis & Rog



MARCH 5, 1998

DEAR ONE AND ALL:

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN. IV'E HAD THEM FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS SO I WANT TO GET THEM ON THE ROAD AGAIN. ALSO, THE NEXT FEW DAYS ARE GOING TO BE BUSY. FRANK, YOUR BUDDY FORM THE ARMY (BILL SCHULZ) DIED FROM CANCER YESTERDAY. IF YOU REMEMBER JEAN'S BROTHER'S WIDOW MARRIED HIM ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO. THEY LEARNED OF THE CANCER ABOUT FOUR MONTHS AGO. I FEEL SO BAD FOR MARY ELLEN. BILL IS THE 2ND HUSBAND TO DIE OF CANCER AND SHE'S ONLY ABOUT 60. FRANK AND BETTY - WE HEAR FROM SIS THAT VICKIE'S BRAIN TUMOR IS GONE - PRAISE THE LORD. NOW IF SHE COULD GET THE REST OF HER HEALTH PROBLEMS SOLVED - SHE COULD BEGIN A NEW LIFE. AUNT JUNE MARRIED DAVE MARTIN SOME TIME AFTER UNCLE ADELORE DIED. DAVE IS DEAD ALSO - QUITE A FEW YEARS AGO. AUNT JUNE IS IN POOR HEALTH TOO. I WILL ASK JOYCE TO BRING HER TO THE REUNION IN JUNE. WE'VE ALL ENJOYED A VERY MILD WINTER - I HOPE EL NINYO (SP.) DOESN'T PLAN A SURPRISE WINTER IN JUNE. JOHN - I HOPE YOU DIDN'T PLAN MUCH MORE THAN A SNACK WITH YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY RAISE. JIM - NOW THAT I'VE READ YOUR LETTER - I REALIZE WE HAVEN'T TALKED BY PHONE FOR TWO OR THREE WEEKS SO I'LL BREAK DOWN AND CALL AS SOON AS I GET A CHANCE. MARTY AND SONDA - I GUESS YOU'RE JUST BACK FROM CANCUN. THE TRIP TO ROME IS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 3-12. I SURE HOPE ALL GOES WELL. YOUR NEW GRANDCHILD WILL BE HERE JUST IN TIME FOR PICTURES AND BRAGGING AT THE REUNION. ELAINE - I EXPECT YOU HAVE CALLED SIS SINCE I WAS THERE FOR A PERM EARLY THIS WEEK. I NEED TO TELL ALL OF YOU THAT ANDY IS PLANNING TO GET MARRIED. IT WON'T BE IN A CATHOLIC CHURCH - AS OF NOW THEY PLAN A SMALL PRIVATE WEDDING IN MAY AND A BACK YARD RECEPTION IN THE SUMMER - THE LATTER PART OF AUGUST. THIS SEEMS THE BEST TIME FOR ALL OF THE BROTHERS AND MOM & DAD TO BE IN TOWN. MORE ON THAT AS THINGS DEVELOPE. SHE IS A NICE GAL NAMED SUSAN. SHE IS DIVORCED AND HAS TWO CHILDREN. THEY LIVE IN OUR OLD HOUSE. JOE - I HAD TROUBLE WITH BUCKET SEATS A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO WHEN I HAD ALL THOSE JOINT PROBLEMS. THANKS FOR CHECKING ON ELAINE PERIODICALLY. I THINK SHE IS DOING GOOD. WE ARE CAPABLE OF A LOT MORE THAN WE THINK WE CAN IF THE NEED ARISES.

YOU AND JACKIE AND MARTY AND SONDA CAN HAVE A BRAGGING CONTEST ABOUT YOUR NEW GRANDCHILDREN IN JUNE. WE WILL PRAY FOR SAFE DELIVERIES FOR BOTH OF THEM.

SIS AND ROG EXPECT A NEW GRANDCHILD IN AUGUST BUT TOO LATE FOR THE BRAGGIN. I'M SURE THERE WILL BE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES.

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW PAT (JOE'S) WIFE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH LYME DISEASE JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS LAST YEAR - SHE HAS BEEN DOCTORING FOR THREE OR FOUR YEARS TO FIND OUT WHY SHE IS PERIODICALLY SICK BUT IT WASN'T FOUND UNTIL RECENTLY. SHE IS DOING BETTER NOW BUT HASN'T WORKED SINCE OCTOBER. SHERRI (RON'S WIFE) HAS FIBROMYALGIA. IT'S A DISEASE OF THE MUSCLES AND JOINTS. SHE IS ALSO GOING BETTER. I COULD GO ON AND ON ABOUT THE HEALTH PROBLEMS I'VE HEARD OF RECENTLY BUT I WON'T. IT GETS TOO DEPRESSING.

PRAY THAT JEAN'S BODY WILL BE READY FOR AN ARTIFICIAL SPHINTER VALVE BY APRIL SO HE WILL BE ABLE TO GO TO ROME WITH ME.

TAKE CARE ALL OF YOU.

LOVE,

Jan and Jean

4-23

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

I been telling myself that I have got to get at this letter and until checking Jan's date I didn't realize it has been this long, I just don't seem to have any spark anymore.

1. We have been running the past couple of mo. with our offspring, Wayne got hurt at ITT AUTOMOTIVE in Escoda back around xmas, caught in between 2 machines and messed his neck up pretty bad, they have been jerking him around with Drs., Cat scans + MRI, we have had him down to Bay City twice to see a surgeon so it looks like he going in within a wk. or 2.

2. On Easter week end Richard was over helping some friends of ours on Gregory rd. down in Orion they were re-roofing their house and had not been at it 5 min. when he stepped backward off the roof landing on his side, he could not even move at first but he refused to

go to the Hospital, we found out about it on that tue. I think and we thought it was probably his back again, he is the head maintenance man over a 400+ apartment complex in Singellville and we thought he will lose that job now so we called him and asked if we come down would he go to the Hosp. He said yes (no insurance you know how that goes) so we made a flying trip down there and they checked him out and couldn't find anything out of place and sent him home with some muscle relaxers and Tylenol 3, he has been improving since ~~at~~ and is back to work as of Tues. thank God.

3. Vicki is doing quite a lot better now she looks so much brighter and her attitude is much better than a year ago, after finding out she did not have a tumor that gave her a real uplift - that shows what the power of prayer can do (thanks to all of you) and thank you Jim for your efforts it was greatly appreciated.
(over)

John, I talk to you quite often so not much to say.

Jim, glad to hear things are lightening up for you, we are praying for Erick keep us informed.

Marty, how did your trip to Cancun go? you guys probably came back with a nice tan?, the deer have done real well this winter but I have to stop feeding them on May 1st, Bovine TB they call it.

Elaine, glad to see that had a good Holiday and have made it through the winter, I hope all our winters are that good.

Joe, I agree with you on your car seats I can ride in my pick up for hrs. and not feel bad at all, so glad that you guys all slipping in on Elaine every so often.

Sis, It sounds like John and Gayle are starting all over hey? glad to hear that everyone is doing well.

(back of Page 1)

Jan, I didn't think I had that much to write about so at least you lucked out and got on the 2nd. front page, yes Jan I remember Bill Schulz very well - he was our organist and I was in the choir at church in Pomona he was a good man. we are praying for Jean hope he has good luck.

We came through the winter in good shape health wise - 1st. time in a long time.

I went into Alpena Gen. on the 9th. of April for an overnite sleep study I don't know what will come of that.

Well its time to get this thing on the rd. so until next time I Love you all and hope the cool breeze is always blowing in your face.

Betty & Frank

P.S. Betty is planting flowers all over.

May 10, 1998

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Here it is (Mothers) day and a appropriate day to write to all my brothers and sisters as in a private visit.

The weather is down right beautiful, no traffic noise, dogs barking or any one to fight with. One of our cats came up missing a couple of days ago. Pets like our own children are missed only after they are gone.

I have been unable to corral the timber rustlers inspite of three greedy attorneys and hundreds of prayers. It boils down to no one will own up to wrongdoing. Because of this attitude three families could be ruined financially, or at best get a new set of gray hairs.

I put a steel gate up down on the farm recently. The DNR is going nuts when it comes to protecting cattle and denying deer a few morcels of corn. One thing is for certain your brother expects pancakes and venison for breakfast sunday mornings, with or without the DNRs approval.

You are all correct in regards to the latest social security raise. But you know what, look on the positive side and give it all to charity they need it far worse. What I mean of course is we should be gratefull it is available to us.

It is nice to see each one of you enjoying other parts of the world. It is also nice to hear you arrived back to (Gods) country safe and sound. My better half loves traveling as for myself, peace and quiet, a cold pepsi and polka music will do just fine. Part of this reasoning comes from being pened up in a shop for 36 years.

I will have to close for now and look foreward to seeing you all on the 27 th.

Your Loving Brother,

John

June 1, 1998

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

About a week and a half ago I hit my elbow and got it bleeding. I put a bandage on and kept going. Fast Wednesday I hit it again and did the same. When I woke up Friday it was infected and swollen. I went to the doctor and I am on antibiotics. I have to soak it and keep it elevated. Since that is what I am doing I felt it would be a good time to write.

Yesterday a strong thunder storm came through while we were getting ready for church. It did not do us damage but it did blow down a large tree in front of our next door neighbors house. The people behind us lost power so I ran an electric line over to them. Their power returned last night.

It is a beautiful morning here. I took my walk and would like to get into the garden but that is off limits as directed by Carolyn.

As many of you know Elaine was in the hospital last week. Our prayers were answered and she is home and sounds good on the phone.

Now for an update on Erick. He was in the coma about a month. He came out and went through many surgeries. He went from the hospital to a rehab unit and he is now back in his own apartment. He is walking with a cane

and is back to work part time. He still has a lot of physical and mental therapy to go through yet but we are thrilled with his progress.

Frank, we are praying that Wayne, Richard, and Vicki are doing better now as well. Let me know if I can be of any help. Life is not always easy.

Marty, thanks for the discount coupon but I do not plan to buy another truck. I like my truck and expect it to last as long as I need one. I am only averaging 5000 miles per year on it.

John, take care of the cattle and the deer up there. We don't want the deer infecting the cattle with Lyme disease.

Sis, we are happy to hear the good news from John and Gayle as well as Jan and Robert. We will continue to keep Roger and Bill in our prayers.

Elaine, Joe, and Jan, I have talked with each of you in the last few days so I can't think of anything I haven't talked to you about.

Carolyn is trying to finish the school year. They are going to build 4 new classrooms so she will have to move her classroom into a temporary room now and then move again when

the new room is completed. It is very frustrating.

Karen and John are expecting their second child around Halloween. Karen's hips are bothering her. The damage was caused by the arthritis.

Jeff is in Japan now for two weeks with his work. He really was looking forward to this trip. I hope it all works out ok.

Mark's family and Brian are doing fine. Well I better stop this and get it into the mail. God bless all of you. See you at the family reunion.

Your loving brother
Jim

P.S. Jan and my phone area code has been changed to 248

DEAR DUMONT'S ONE AND ALL:

JUNE 16TH, 1998

IS NOW OFFICIAL-- DANA HAD A LITTLE BOY, ANDREW JAMES HALLER ON JUNE 10TH AT 4:30 P.M. JUST TALKED TO SONDA AND SHE SAID HE HAS GAINED 9 OZ. AND HE EATS LIKE A LITTLE BOY. (ALL THE TIME) SHE SHOULD BE HOME TOMORROW NIGHT FROM HER WEEK LONG STAY WITH THE HALLERS.

TALKED TO ELAINE AND ALL IS WELL THERE. I AM NOT SURE IF SHE IS GOING TO MAKE IT TO THE REUNION BUT SHE SHOULD HAVE ALL THE LETTERS BY THEN.

JOE, YOU TALKED ABOUT YOUR PONTIAC CAUSING YOUR HIP TO HURT. I HAD THE SAME PROBLEM WITH OUR PONTIAC WHEN WE WENT TO FLORIDA AND BACK. WHAT THE DOCTOR TOLD ME WAS MY WALLET WAS TOO THICK AND THE PRESSURE FROM THE WALLET CAUSED A PINCHED NERVE IN MY HIP AND THE BUCKET SEATS HELD THE WALLET TIGHT ON THE NERVE. OTHER CARS SEAM TO NOT MAKE THAT KIND OF PRESSURE.

SIS, IT LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE YEAR OF THE BABIES. DENISE IN MARCH, DANA IN JUNE, GAYLE IN AUGUST, KAREN ON OR ABOUT HALLOWEEN, SHARI ON NOVEMBER 26TH. AND HOW MANY MORE, I DON'T KNOW. WOULD YOU CALL IT A BUMPER YEAR. ROGER, WE HAVE HAD NO LUCK TRYING TO FIND YOU ON THE INTERNET. MY ADDRESS IS www.farmbureauinsurance-mi.com. WOW, WHAT A LONG ADDRESS.

JANICE, WE WILL SEE YOU BEFORE YOU CAN BLINK AN EYE. I HOPE WE HAVE A GOOD CROWD FOR THE REUNION. THEN YOU WILL BE OFF TO ROME. I GUESS ANDY IS NOW HITCHED. LETS HOPE IT IS A GOOD MARRIAGE AND THEY ARE HAPPY.

FRANK, IT WAS A SHOCK TO HEAR ABOUT BRENT PASSING AWAY. THE LETTER DID NOT SAY WHY HE DIED. MY MOTHER-IN-LAW TOOK FLOWERS UP TO THE GRAVE OF MOM AND DAD, SO IF YOU SAW THEM, YOU WOULD KNOW WHO PAID THEM A VISIT ON MEMORIAL DAY. SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT WAYNE AND RICHARD. YOU MUST TELL THEM GUYS TO WATCH THEIR BACKS CLOSER. I PRAY THAT THEY ARE ALL DOING WELL NOW INCLUDING VICKI.

JOHN, YOU KEPT YOUR LETTER REAL SHORT. DID EL-NINO HAVE

ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT. WE SURE HAD A MILD WINTER AND IT WAS REAL NICE IN CANCUN, BUT I WOULD RATHER GO BACK THE GRAND CAYMEN ISLANDS. PERSONAL CHOICE.

JIM, THE CLAIMS REALLY CAME IN HERE, AND A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE WITHOUT POWER FOR FOUR OR FIVE DAYS. WE HAD NO PROBLEM AT OUR HOUSE. I HOPE YOUR ELBOW IS BETTER NOW. MAYBE GOD IS TELLING YOU NOT TO WORK IT SO HARD AND TO CHILL OUT. JIM, YOU CHANGE AREA CODES FASTER THAN I CHANGE CARS. WHATS GOING ON? SEE YOU ALL SOON.

LOVE YOU ALL.

Hello to all:

June 20, 1998

You all have so many things to write about!! By comparison I don't have much. June is so pretty and fading fast. Wish I could can it. This photo of Marty and Alyssa is mine, he says he'll send me another, so enjoy it.

I have a week to get this written, I'm keeping the letters which I have read and re-read. Until they ³⁺⁵ come next week. Hope I'll be able to go with them, there isn't so much for me to look forward to these days, my life was too full while I was flying back & forth.

All the new babies coming along - I'm losing track of that generation. We wouldn't like it any other way.

I'm on new medication which seems to be helping - I think I've given it time. My rest isn't broken and I can usually get thru the night without eating. I'm grateful to our Lord.

I have some legumes in my planters and a hanging basket of Jushias. it helps to brighten the place. Had one of the ant Bldgs.

turn down and am waiting for the man to
come and paint the other one. Had the place
power washed - it needed it badly. Looks
much better. Wish I'd get going on having
new carpeting put down.

Thank God for the phone - second best to
seeing ~~who~~^{you} all but don't phone just come to
see me sometime, Sheila was the last
one, that was Memorial day. Thank Helen
Young, Sonda's Mom for seeing to flowers for Mom
and Dad's graves.

I guess I've gone on enough about me
for now.

I wish you one and all good health,
fortune and soft summer days

Love to all,

Elaine

Cadillac, MI

July 17, 1998

Dear Family:

Letter time again and with the latest for next years reunion. Elaine will be joining us with this change in format in '99. We have chosen the Grayling Holiday Inn with the largest Holly Dome in Michigan. The date is July 31 with Aug. 7th as an option if some one has a very strong conflict early. We have reserved a meeting room and plan to rent a room near by for use of any one for a rest, the room will be available for any of you wishing to stay over (with a cost share). There will be scads of parking just behind the meeting room. We plan to have a limited menu that each will be able to order from and delivered in our meeting room. The Inn is located between the I~~97~~/ I75 exit 254 and M72 entrance to Grayling. We plan to limit this reunion to the big 15 with any necessary guests on the bringer. More information will follow as we get close. We suggest you plan other activities on the weekend since it is so central to much of the vacation areas of the state.

We especially thank Jan & Jean for the reunion at there home estate and Martin for the photos of the participants and even the business promotion photo.

Since we have just had a visit with most of you, this will be quite short. I had a talk with Frank yesterday and they are very busy with the problems of life and family. We are especially thankful for Vicki's improvement. I don't remember ever meeting Brent Dumont so his passing was a complete surprise. We have relatives everywhere that we haven't the least knowledge of, and with the geneology error of recent experience, we may have apparent relatives that aren't relatives at all.

The wild and tame blueberries are ripe but not abundant due to extreme dryness and heat. The raspberries are close to done for the season. The blackberries blossomed well but all depends on adequate rain. I have picked several to date.

Cadillac is alive with construction on Xway bypass, schools, sport complex and a Magyer's Super store. The highway work won't be complete until 2002.

We have our tenth grandchild, Meranda Blankenship of E Lansing (Denise & Dennis). We plan on a trip to see Mike in Maryland and Williamsburg Virginia, just after Labor Day when the tourists will be back home and busy. We expect to spend Xmas week in Orlando this year (both trips are Time-share).

We plan on going to Debras wedding next week. I sure hope it isn't as hot as our's was some 41 years ago. Jan & Jean we wish the best trip yet, to Europe, and many more to come.

John, how often do you expect pancakes and venison for Sunday breakfast? That may not be healthy but I wish I could try it some time.

Jim you apparently need a bodyguard to save you limbs, maybe a padded suit? It truly was a year for new babies. May the Lord bless them all.

Sincerely

Joe
Joe & Jackie

July 28. 1998

My Dear Family

I just saw four of you at Debra + Jason's wedding, but didn't get much chance to talk. It was a beautiful, grand wedding. I loved the gowns especially the Brides. I am so glad I was able to get there. We were unable to attend the reception and I'm very sorry about that. I missed seeing Todd. John + Pat you looked great.

Our baby in Hawaii has not arrived as yet. It is due 8-5-98 so should be soon.

So happy Alyssa has a little brother Andrew. What a nice billboard Marty. We missed you at the wedding. Thank you so much for the pictures of the reunion. That was so thoughtful of you to do that.

Jim we got that storm also. We lost 5 trees, a barn + $\frac{1}{4}$ of a new

barn but thank God the house was not touched.

We are praying for Karen and all the others mentioned in the letters. I just got my prayer list and as I read about them I just wrote them down.

Frank I didn't see you at the reunion or the wedding, but we did have a nice visit when Rog + I went to our 50th class reunion in June.

Jon + Elaine I talk to you regularly on the phone. Its nice to keep in touch.

Joe + Jackie it sounds like you have a new idea for the reunion. Every one can do it the way they want to. We will be having our 50th wedding anniversary in 2000, so the cousins will see each other then. (Hopefully)

We love all of you. Will write more news next time. I've been busy on the memories so I've run out of steam.

Love
Sis

P.S over

P.S. Joe: The Class mates all ask about
you. They plan to have a 55th reunion.
Hope you can make it then.

Elmer Nedo

Ray Hendrickson

Jim Shugg

Dr. Andrews

Arnie Woods

Gordon Birdsey

Clyde Suncie

George Lombard

Bud Rick

Jack Cole

Loyde Cubalo

Jimmy Jabin

Elwin May

Bobbie Hart

Doris Colbath

Dorothy Spear

Joan Heenix

Dorothy Apsey

Elaine Franklin

Alberta Silinthorn

Mary Sumont

Norma Hilderbrand

Your yours is next year and I would
love to get to that one also. There was
many people we knew from other classes
and it was a great time.

How did you go to the event and
what was it like. I hope you have a
great time and see you soon.

AUGUST 20, 1998

DEAR FAMILY MEMBERS:

WELL, WE'VE BEEN TO ROME AND BACK AGAIN. JEAN DID FINE WITH ONLY A FEW ANXIOUS MOMENTS. HE IS GLAD HE WENT BUT NEITHER OF US WANT TO RETURN ANY TIME SOON. WE HAD A VERY FULL SCHEDULE WITH SINGING MASSES ALMOST EVERY DAY. I'LL JUST TELL YOU A FEW HIGHLIGHTS AND WIND IT UP. WE ATTENDED AN AUDIENCE WITH THE POPE ALONG WITH ABOUT 12,000 OTHER PEOPLE. HE EXTENDED THE PAPAL BLESSING TO ALL THERE AND EXTENDED IT TO OUR FAMILIES AT HOME AND ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE ILL AND THE CHILDREN. I TOOK QUITE A FEW MIRACULOUS MEDALS WITH ME TO GET BLESSED. I WILL INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE PER FAMILY. I WILL HAVE A FEW EXTRAS SO JUST ASK IF YOU HAVE A SPECIAL NEED. WE SANG A CONCERT AT ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH. ON SUNDAY MORNING WE WERE THE ONLY CHOIR SINGING FOR THE 10:30 SOLEMN MASS AT ST. PETER'S BASILICA. (THERE WERE 20 OR MORE PRIESTS AND CARDINALS). THE POPE IS VERY WEAK AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE MAY HAVE HAS A STROKE. WE DID TRAVEL TO HIS SUMMER HOME AND HAD A MASS THERE. WE HAD TWO PRIESTS WITH US. RECORD HEAT IN ROME - THEY CALL CEILING FANS AIR-CONDITIONING. WE WERE ON SUCH A TIGHT SCHEDULE - OUR GUIDE TOLD US WE HAD NO TIME TO STOP FOR A BATHROOM. SHE SAID "YOU PEE-PEE TOMORROW." OUR FLIGHTS, ACCOMMODATIONS, AND FOOD WAS MOSTLY SATISFACTORY BUT IT'S GREAT TO BE HOME.

SOME OF YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT ANDY AND SUSAN DECIDED TO CANCEL OR POSTPONE THEIR YARD RECEPTION. THERE WAS TOO MUCH GOING ON COMPANY DUE FROM ATLANTA, NEW FAMILY TO WORK OUT THEIR SPACE AND ETC. ANYWAY, IT'S OFF FOR NOW.

WE DO HAVE A BUMPER CROP OF BABIES THIS YEAR. OUR TENANT NEXT DOOR HAD HER BABY YESTERDAY. MAY JESUS KEEP THEM ALL WELL AND SAFE. WE PROBABLY WILL TAKE A JAUNT TO HOUGHTON LAKE IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. NOW THAT MOST OF THIS YEAR'S DUST HAS SETTLED. IT WILL BE NOVEL NOT HAVING A DEADLINE TO GET READY FOR. BY THE WAY - DOES ANYONE KNOW THE DATE FOR CLASS REUNION NEXT SUMMER? WE DON'T WANT THE FAMILY REUNION AND THAT ON THE SAME WEEKEND.

I DON'T BELIEVE I EVER MET BRIAN DUMONT EITHER. ANOTHER THING, JIM. WHO IS THIS ERICK YOU ARE WRITING ABOUT?

YOUR LETTERS POINT OUT HOW INVOLVED WE GET WITH CHILDREN, THEN GRAND-CHILDREN. I HAD TO BEG OFF TWO SITTING JOBS THIS WEEK BECAUSE I HAVE

A TERRIBLE COLD SINCE I GOT HOME. IT WOULDN'T DO FOR THE KIDS TO GET SICK JUST WHEN SCHOOL IS ABOUT TO START. SOME START NEXT WEEK TUESDAY AND SOME WEDNESDAY.

WE HAVE BEEN SPARED STORM DAMAGE AND POWER OUTAGES SO FAR. THE GARDENS ARE PRODUCING ABUNDANTLY. WE CAN'T HARDLY EAT IT FAST ENOUGH AND WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A GARDEN.

I THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TO THE REUNION. IT WOULD BE A MIRACLE TO GET 100% ATTENDANCE. MARTY - I LOVED YOUR BILLBOARD PICTURE WITH YOUR NUMBER 1 GRANDDAUGHTER. SHE WILL ALWAYS BE EXTRA SPECIAL JUST BECAUSE SHE WAS THE FIRST. THANKS ALSO FOR THE GROUP PICTURE YOU SENT. THAT WAS VERY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU. I SENT ON SOME OF THE PICTURES YOU LEFT FROM LAST YEAR. SOME TO FRANK AND SOME TO JOE. I DON'T KNOW WHO GOT SOME ON REUNION DAY OR WHO DIDN'T. YES, I AGREE THAT DEBBIE HAD A BEAUTIFUL DRESS AND A LOVELY WEDDING DAY. THEY WILL REMEMBER IT ALWAYS.

I FINALLY GOT SIS'S CHILDHOOD MEMORIES. I ENJOYED READING ALL OF THEM SO MUCH. I HAD TOTALLY FORGOTTEN THE "UP A BARN DADDY, UP A BARN." I CAN JUST HEAR DAD LAUGHING ABOUT THAT. HE USED TO TELL ABOUT ME WANTING SOME OF "PANTO'S" BABY BOTTLE TOO.

I GUESS I'LL WIND THIS UP FOR THIS TIME. TAKE CARE ALL OF YOU AND REMEMBER ALL OF US IN YOUR PRAYERS.

LOVE,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jan", written in dark ink.

9-21-98

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

I just read over my last letter and hope I can do better in this one on spelling at least.

Jon instructed me not to take so long this time in getting at this task so here goes.

After the mild winter we had last yr. and this summer being one of the driest I can remember I have a gut feeling that come the 1st. of Dec. I expect all hell to ~~set~~ break loose, it sure cut down on the lawn mowing this yr.

The summer as a whole was pretty nice, as I mentioned in my last letter we have flower beds all over the place and Betty is planning more, it seems like there was something in bloom all the time and the humming birds had a ball, I guess I bought my limit in landscape timbers and still have to get more this fall.

Looking shore it looks like the farther I get in this letter the more I'm blabbing about, well wed. is the 1st. day of fall and Fri. is our 44th and my 65th. - how time flies, it seems like only last yr. - not to Betty but to me. ha, ha.

over For page 4

4

I really enjoyed the old memories of our childhood.

2.

Betty and her sister Laura went over to Maine in June to another sister's (Edna's) wedding, they had a real nice trip and said the area (Bar Harbor) is a beautiful place, they had a room in our new brother in laws motel on Salisbury Ave with a nice view.

Last wed. I got a call at just after 4 p.m. it was Son David and he was in the Losco Co. jail, on his way to work he was stopped for going 5 mph. over and the Osceola cop was giving him a warning - when the cop called in to check over his reg. & lic. he found out there was warrant out for him from Pontiac friend of the court for child support of \$900.00, so the Banks are closed and we don't keep that kind of cash on hand, I got it in Milado and got him out about 7 p.m. needless to say he was hot and has another lawyer working on it now - that's another \$500.00 thank you, this was all resolved 3 yrs. ago in court in fact they had over-charged him at that time by \$400.00 and had to refund, it goes without saying one more case of some bureaucrats not doing their job.

7-22

John - David said he seen you coming out of your gate the other day - why didn't you stop over?

Jim - your bleeding elbow sounds like me - if
over

I bump my self a lot of times I will start bleeding its the Aspirin I'm taking, hope everyone is fine.

Marty: Brent had a massive heart attack, from looking at the picture you sent it looks like you are big in Greenland - looks good, now you are getting into the Grand Pa groove hey?

Elaine: you did not mention anything about being in the hospital when you were there, when reading the letters it was the first I heard about it, was very glad to see you.

Joe: the family reunion plans for next yr. look fine, we were at Hartwick Pines yrs. ago its a nice place to go for a walk in the woods, hope we are able to make it next yr.

Sis: glad to hear that everything is o.k. there except the trees and out buildings, we have not had a bad storm here in a long time - I'm just waiting for old man winter to rear his ugly head and I think we will get our share.

Jan: it was so nice to see you guys and thanks for the medal, I'm sorry we missed the reunion this yr but hopefully next.

I remember all of you and yours in my night and morning prayers, till next time love you all
Donk

P.S. Nicki is having very high blood pressure problems now.

October 6, 1998

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I recently received the family letter, from brother Frank and was very pleased to find all the letters from all our, childhood memories enclosed.

I am a bit puzzled about (Jims Memories) however. This time period was only 55 short years ago. I along with Jim and Marty laid a trap one night from the upstairs bedroom. Us three little ones pulled off - the first and last panties by parachute raid. Ma never moved so fast coming up the stairs in all her life. One thing is for certain (three) little boys had sore bottoms for a few days. Incidentally does anyone recall what ever happened to ma's heavy artillery piece? Yes, it is very funny recalling this one day in our lives, however there were fun times to.

Joe, you can plan on us joining you all in the family reunion coming up next Summer. Most all of us knows where Grayling is located. As a matter of fact I would have no objections if one is held there every year. By doing this everyone would travel 150-250 miles and above all no one would get lost.

Marty, I like that picture it shows the upmost love we have for our children. I only wish there were more love and understanding shown our children and less child abuse. After all what we see in this life we will reap. We are all reminded of this every day in the newspapers and television.

Jan, we really enjoyed the family reunion held at your place last Summer. The only bad thing about these reunions is that some of us gets lost trying to find these meetings. Sis circled the township hall here in Ossineke (3) times and never did find it a few years ago.

Page Two:

News closer to home is for the first time on page two.

On November 4, 1998 I will have to go in the hospital for eye surgery. This will be the fourth time trying to correct double or blurry vision.

The highway thru Ossineke is due to be torn up starting in early April of 99. This stretch of the highway is to be completely rebuilt and completed by October.

This year I will have a rye patch some one hundred yards in front of my blind; along with a five acre parcel only forty rods away. I understand the DNR wants us to play hardball with bambi this year.

We had enjoyed the nices Summer up here in some twenty years. The lack of rain at times kept it from visions of what heaven must be like. The biggest surprise was the lack of flying insects.

Come to think of it there does seem like an unusual increase in newborn babies lately. Maybe someone is doctoring up the drinking water.

I will have to close for now and thank each one of you for sharing with us your past memories.

Your Loving Brother,

John

Oct. 24, 1978

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have been holding off writing in hopes of this news. Karen had her baby last evening. Emily Erin arrived at about 8:30. Carolyn and I were painting at our house in Hazel Park and did not know she went into labor until Mark came to find us. We learned that Emily was born when we got home. Karen is fine. Emily has an infection and will be kept in the hospital for a minimum of 3 days.

Marty, your picture with Alyssa on the billboard was great. Congratulations and keep up the good work.

Elaine, it was great getting up to see you a couple weeks ago. I really enjoyed the day and hope we can do that more often. Keep the flag flying.

Joe we will put July 31st on our calendar for the family reunion. If there is a change I am sure you will let us know.

Sis, I was thinking of you and Roger and your trips to Japan. Jeff was there for two weeks this summer and the plan is for him to go back in January for about 6 or 7 months. We may go over while he is there.

Frank and John, take good care of the

deer this fall. If we have a hard winter we may lose a lot to starvation. It is better to eat them than lose them.

Jan, I will call you tomorrow when we get back to Troy. I will tell you all about it then.

Carolyn's new classroom is under construction. Hopefully she will be getting into it about the next time the letters make it around. The classroom she is in now is much smaller than a normal kindergarten room is. I went in yesterday and made cider for two classes in her room. It was a tight squeeze.

St. Vincent de Paul is doing fine. Nothing is ever trouble free but we are taking things in stride. I have been appointed Mid-East Region trustee (representing Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky) to the national executive committee. I will serve for one year - until a new national president is elected. Then, who knows.

Well, I better quit for now. God bless and keep all of you close to his heart.

Your loving brother
Jim.

THE DUMONT FAMILY ONE AND ALL

12-2-98

SHARI IS TO GO IN TO THE HOSPITAL TOMORROW TO HAVE HER BABY SO I WILL ATTACH A NOTE AND GET THEM IN THE MAIL.

ELAINE, I JUST BROKE BREAD WITH YOU FIVE DAYS AGO, SO I GUESS YOU ARE UP ON THE NEWS AS WELL AS JIM IS. SINCE A LEFT YOU, DANA HAS FOUND OUT THAT SHE STILL HAS A JOB WITH KELLOGGS AND IS SO HAPPY. SO IS MATT.

JOE, IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH YOU HAD A BUSY SUMMER AND YOU ARE GETTING READY TO HEAD FOR ORLANDO. I HOPE THE WEATHER IS NICE ALL THE TIME YOU ARE THERE. ENJOY.

SIS, WE MISSED YOU A DEBRA'S WEDDING BUT WORD IS THAT YOU ARE ALL WELL. HAVE NOT HEARD ABOUT THE HAWAIIAN BABY YET BUT MUST HAVE BEEN HERE AND GROWING FAST ALREADY.

JANICE, WHAT A NICE PICTURE OF YOUR GROUP IN FRONT OF THE POPE'S SUMMER HOME. I WISH I COULD HAVE BEEN THERE. I REALLY ENJOY TAKING PICTURES AND MUCH OF THE CREDIT GOES TO THE CAMERA. ELAINE SAYS JEAN IS DOING VERY WELL AND THAT IS GOOD NEWS. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

FRANK, SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAVE BEEN BUSY. I HAVEN'T SEEN LAURA IN YEARS. DOES SHE STILL LOOK AS GOOD AS WHEN I REMEMBER HER IN SCHOOL? I OFTEN WONDERED WHAT HAPPENED TO HER. THAT PICTURE OF ALYSSA AND I WAS ON STATE ST. IN SAGINAW ACROSS FROM THE HORIZON'S CONFERENCE CENTER AND I AM TOYING WITH THE IDEA OF DOING IT AGAIN.

JOHN, YOU DID A GOOD JOB ON THAT LETTER. I COULD NOT REMEMBER EVER DOING A PANTY RAID. YOU SURE HAVE A GOOD MEMORY. WERE YOU THE RING LEADER???? DID YOU GET YOUR DEER? HOPE ALL IS WELL AT YOUR HOME.

JIM, I JUST VISITED WITH YOU LAST FRIDAY AND YES, WE

ARE STILL WAITING FOR THE BABY. HOW IS EMILY DOING.
AREN'T BABIES WONDERFUL. I AM FINDING OUT THAT A
THREE YEAR OLD CAN BE A LITTLE SHIT WHEN SHE WANTS TO
BE. SHE WANTS YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION EVEN WHEN YOU
ARE BUSY. OH WELL. AND ANDREW IS SUCH A NICE BOY. I
JUST LOVE HIM TO DEATH.

WE JUST FINISHED UP PUTTING NEW SOFFITS, GUTTERS,
SIDING, STORM DOORS, WINDOW WRAP, ENTRY LIGHTS, ETC.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE A NEW HOME. EVEN SHUTTERS. I FEEL
BROKE. SEE YOU ALL SOON. LOVE AND BEST WISHES.

SONDA AND MARTY

STEVE AND SHARI HAD A BOY AT 6:11 AM
ON DECEMBER 4TH. 1998

HIS NAME IS HUNTER MATHEAU FRESORGER

AND HIS WEIGHT WAS 9'5" AND 20 1/2 IN
LONG. HE LOOKS JUST LIKE HIS DAD AND
HAS BIG HANDS AND FEET. FUTURE
FOOTBALL PLAYER. MERRY CHRISTMAS

Dear Families of Dumonts, Bruce & Marion: Dec 1998
What a joy to read your letter and memoirs
over and over. Since my last letter I've had a wonderful
Birthday/Thanksgiving to remember always! It sure
helps "most times" to be a squeaky wheel, I thought
I was going to be alone and it wouldn't have hurt me
but Thanks to Jim, Mark and Carolyn it was so great
I hope you all will be able to make the family re-
union for '99", it will be different, it's getting harder
to make plans, I've seen the Holiday Heli come
it's very pleasant and the personnel seems quite
accommodating, be there!

Marty and Linda have their other little boy,
Not so 'little', poor Shari.

Now I've missed another lovely wedding-Rebekah's
and Jason's. Sorry, so sorry.
My news is sparse, but how the time is flying,
hope Joe & Jackie come over once more before Christ-
mas so they can take this bundle of news and
memories.

Didn't do the carper thing - the out bldg. took too
long. Thanks Jim for "showing up" the old awning and
putting up the flag pole.
The plans at present are for me to spend Christ-
mas at Jan & Jean's when Jim will pick me up and
deliver me back here?

Chuck wouldn't want me being such a drag
on most of you but maybe after 9 yrs he won't
care, hope he's watching me.

Keep well everyone, our health is a gift we
tend to take for granted - seems like Jean is do-
ing so much better - baking bread and making
"Sunday gravy" - spaghetti sauce, isn't that the
best name!! Sorry Frank & Betty's Vicki has
other problems - high blood pressure - my dr has
cut down my thyroid dosage - she should
keep checking hers.

Had a Christmas card from Jack & Pat's Theresa
I'll return one to her but don't feel badly if I
don't get one out to you.

I don't care a hoot if none of you shoot
Bambi there are plenty around who will.

Now if Joe & Jackie stop in the so
precious letters will be on their way, it took
so long this time

Prayers, good holiday wishes
and God Bless and Keep you,

Elaine



Cadillac, MI
12-22-'98

Dear Family:

Letter time again on this the first very cold day of the winter season. (6-7) degrees and way below 0 wind chills with winter storm warnings.

I very recently found that I had a heart attack (mild) at one time in the past, that doesn't require any treatment until the next time. Scar tissue in the lower part of the heart causes a problem with high physical stress. Treatment for high blood pressure and high cholesterol with diet and exercise management appears to be the treatment of choice.

Yesterday I learned that I have a growth on the lower bowel something ~~like~~ small like a friction callice on the foot or toe. Plans are in the works to remove that. Also to have a specialist recheck my prostate. It appears I am in the doctors sights and I feel a bit like President Clinton must feel at times. I wonder if it might not be better to not have insurance and die stupid but a little faster.

I found the historical memory pieces interesting in the different views on the same happening from the different age view point. It was news to me of some of the things that happened after Sis and I left, and Grandmas stay across from the church in Mikado had not stayed with me.

We are planning to leave on the 24th X-mas eve for our time share stay in the Orlando Fl. area. Daughter Kathy and her Husband are planning to join us for several days and see the Citrus Bowl football game. With the medical stuff coming up in January we have to come back without much other wandering.

The family Christmas was this past weekend here so we would be free to leave on the trip. We usually drive down at 8 to 9 hours per day. We have been getting a fast flu like sickness in this part of the state. It seems to vary quite a bit from one to another person. I had it last week. One of the guys got it Saturday night, and slept most of the celebration last weekend. I hope your holidays turned out more normal and sick free.

From our point of view Elaine seems to be doing better all the time and we pray that it continues. I wish the same could be said for several of the rest of us. Lord help these younger ones for we have hidden problems we haven't dreamed of. Science may be able to help some of us with enough time and a lot of good luck and prayer.

Jan and Jean, your experience in Europe as well as daughter Kathy's makes me not interested in any more foreign travel.

Sis, your class reunion list includes people (Arnie Woods) that I don't remember going to Oscoda. You are a joiner and I am a loner so I have very little interest in class reunions.

I have talked to Elaine and Frank recently so they get off light this time. We had a warm and quite dry summer and fall as most areas had. Only October was wetter than average. I have 70 to 90 years of precipitation records for the growing season in this part of the state. I hope I can find some one interested in taking over the study some day. We sure are pleased that the recent crop of new babies are not close to home, although we do have one Grand daughter just trying to walk and getting all the babies pains and sicknesses.

Thankyou all that were praying recently thinking I was in danger or protecting me from such danger.

May the baby Jesus smile on each of you

Joe & Jackie

12-25-98

My Dear Loved Ones,

This has been such a wonderful Christmas Day. The "letters" came yesterday and I saved them for today to read. We have our Family Christmas on Christmas Eve.

We start with dinner (2 turkeys etc) at 3:00 mass at Sacred Heart at 5:30. (Rog & I sing in the Choir) then home to open all the gifts by 7pm. We are done around 9 so the little Families can go home and have their own traditions and time with the other side of their Families. The kids and adults draw names, but we get for everyone. I want to do this as long as I can. Christmas Day is usually quite. I love that too.

Rog & I visited Hawaii in Sept. to see our John Bruce Family there and meet our new grand daughter Malia. What a doll she is. We had a wonderful trip with the exception of a 5.5 earthquake on the big island. We just shook alot.

2 we have taken a few 400 mile road trips mostly - in November. One was up north to pray for Don Michael. Saw Frank + Betty and made six other stops including Bill Kahn at Tawas Hospital. I believe Nov 22 we made another nearly 400 mile trip visiting the sick but had a pleasant time at Houghton Lake taking Elaine to lunch to celebrate our Birthdays. I won't forget that. Hope you enjoyed yourself. I know it made my day to see you at that time Elaine.

Frank how is Don M. doing? Jack I'm sorry we missed you as you were back hunting at the Farm. Didn't think I should try to find you back there.

Marty how wonderful you have your little boy to go along with that darling little girl. Life gets better as you go along.

Jim what a beautiful bunch you're getting too. So happy for all of you.

Joe I sure enjoyed reading all the memories. I remember every thing after I got my memory jogged a bit by all of you. Jan I'm writing tonight so I can take these down when I go to see you + Elaine.

3 Its been such a nice day today. I got to
baby sit my great grand daughter Alyssa for
a couple of hrs. She is such a pleasure.
Joshua + Maria came home for Christmas from
Texas this year.

May the Spirit of Jesus be with you
this Christmas and thru the whole year.
Love you all
Sis