

#30 Round Robin

1-23-2000

Dear Family and Attachments:

Today I need to get this on the road again before I have to start gathering income tax information. I'll be glad when that project is over too. At present, we are all OK. I had something the week between the holidays. Not sick-in-bed sick but not good enough to go out. This past week I went to a couple of genealogy classes. I'm hoping to pick up some useful clues to get to Scotland via the internet. Another problem, we don't know which area to look in.

Frank - your picture of Dad is enclosed. Sis found one of Mom that she thinks is special. It seems to have a natural halo on it. If any body want a copy - put in your order. I can try to make a preferred size. As you can see - I found out how to use bold print and under lining. Now I can't get rid of the underline. Rome wasn't built in a day.

I talk to Elaine about every two weeks. She hasn't said any more about her hearing aid. I think if she had it she would be talking about. I do know she has a new set of steps on her back door of the trailer. Jim's project with Jean's help. I hope she uses them.

John, are you going to get your artery un-blocked? Speaking of arteries - I have to make an appointment for a six month ultrasound for Jean. I would think they would send us a reminder. We can't depend on somebody else - they may not ever call us. You mentioned a picture of Dad in the Navy - do you want one - what size and I believe Sis said she would loan you the original for a spell. Make your wishes known.

Jim and Marty - I just read your letters. We talk pretty often by phone. Frank and John have their initial notice about the reunion out so we will get together in August.

Joe & Jackie - How do you manage to drive such long distances? We prefer to fly to the area and rent a car to visit special sites. I guess it depends what you prefer. I find car travel very tiring. Maybe because Jean is such an aggressive driver. I took a trip with Jim a couple of years ago and I was amazed at how much difference a calm driver can make. We are so happy about Alex. How many grand s does this make for you?

I didn't have much of a problem getting rid of my Y2K rations. I used the few gallons of water in the washer and the medicine will get used

by and by. I forgot to draw the bath tub full for flushing. You can see how choked up about it I was. We knew God was already in the new millennium and had all systems ready to go.

Sis, I will be talking to you every few weeks. Also, I will need a perm in another month or two.

This past week I discovered Paul Marion's daughter-in-law has been working on Jean's mother's lineage. I found it on a message board on the internet. We are working together now. We had three missing generations. We now have them from a genealogist in Canada. I will be getting a family story ready for her line and getting it out to her children. We have only four generations back on the McGillis line. The mother's lines are so much harder.

That will be it for this time. Keep healthy. They say praying the rosary calms frayed nerves. I believe they are right. Another health bonus.

Love to all,

Jan and Jean

P.S. Jean is making corned beef and cabbage for supper. And he made some delicious hamberger soup yesterday. Here - taste it.

Jan and Jean



PLAIN PAPER

125%

COLOR

PUT PICTURE PAPER
GLOSSY SIDE DOWN.

Feb. 3-00

Dear Family members!

I was hoping for a nice sunny day to answers these letters to put me in a good mood but that dumb ground hog saw his shadow in Pa. yesterday so its 6 more wks. I guess.

Things have been pretty hectic around here lately, Wayne has been having all kinds of trouble with his truck with all those computers on them any more its hard to work on them anymore, they have it set up so if anything goes wrong you take them back to your friendly dealer to get it fixed.

Yesterday Betty had to take her Dad up to Alpena Gen. to have his feeding tube replaced, I guess that has to be done every 3 mo. or so, she was on her own because I had to take Wayne down to Escoda for phy. therapy appt. he has to go 3 times a wk.

How about this weather? here it is the 3rd. of Feb. and we haven't had to plow

2
our driveway yet this winter - hope it continues this way but about 20° warmer.

John - I just talked to you last night so nothing new to add.

Jim - it sounds like everything is normal with you RUN RUN RUN thank God your healthy allows that and I hope it lasts the next 50 yrs, no I didn't hunt this year at all not even out the back door, I did see an awful nice buck out there though.

Marty - glad to hear that you are doing great after surgery, I'm sure you have heard by now that the Family reunion is on track for Aug. 13th.

Elaine - Glad you are getting along so well, it was nice to hear from you the other day we were glad we could get over to your b-day party

Joe - it sounds like you guys had a fantastic trip to Canada and the west Coast, it sounds like going by car is the way to go I only wish I felt up to making a trip like that.

(over)

Sis - Glad to here you guys are doing well, I don't know if we will make it to your 50th. or not it will depend on which way the water is flowing at that time, if you know what I mean.

Jan - Thank you so much for the picture of Dad - do you have any idea how old he was at that time? Thank for reminding me about the IRS that's going to be my next project, I consider myself very lucky so far this winter no flu, colds etc. Thank you Lord.

I'm going to see if David can copy Mom's picture on his computer.

I've ran out of Brothes + Sistres so better close for now, our heart felt Love and prayers go with this letter.

David & Betty

P.S. David tried to copy Mom's pictures on the computer - they didn't come out as well as he would like - the smaller the clearer - if anyone would like one help yourself.

February 11, 2,000

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I received the family letter earlier this week, so now I have a little quiet time to collect my thoughts. I was especially impressed by brother Joes trip of a lifetime.

Joe : We are all so gratefull to be riding along with you and Jackie on your most recent trip thru the United States. Probably the most impressive part was the everyday details. Joe there is money to be made in writing short novels. You could call it (The Lost Frontier).

Frank : Thanks for having extra pictures of mom printed. In regards to the halo around moms head. Each one of us will have to decide as to what happened here. What is important is knowing both mom and dad is in heaven and waiting for us to join them..

As you probably all know by now we had a rather succesfull deer hunt last year on the farm. Five of us shot ten bucks, shot at and missed two coyotes, and one bobcat died of natural causes; with help. In honor of this new record a gate sign is planned and will be given a name. Hunting last year was either very good or very poor.

Plans have been changed in regards to the Harrisville hills road construction this spring. This work will be started after labor day this fall and will be finished next spring. Starting this fall all traffic will be rerouted throught Lincoln. A ten mile route thru Ossineke will be receiving a top dressing. It looks like the area south of squaw bay will also be torn up sometime in 2,000. Last fall they rebuilt F-41 north of Lincoln.

PAGE TWO

January of 2,000 was not a month that I could be much proud of. The entire month from start to finish I was battling the flue bug. Along with that I managed to gain six unwanted pounds. Being pened up in the house for 30 days was not fun. Since no heart surgery was being planned for the near future, I had to take control of my own destiny. Along with the above problems, there was blood pressure that was out of control.

February brought changes in my general health. At this time I started on (vitamin E). My blood pressure is slowing lowering to closer to normal. I lost two of the six pounds gained earlier. Most of all I feel far better than a month earlier. I believe our fear of strokes and heart attacks is atleast sometimes on our minds. Blockages regardless where they are at will cause either one or both. It is my understanding (Vitamin E) will slowly breakdown this buildup. The test results done earlier by Shaklee is enclosed. Ten days and a cost of 30 cents made me a believer.

As you all know the family reunion is all set for August 13th in Mikado. If any of you would have any questions in regards to this reunion please call brother Frank or myself. Since this will be catered we must know how many is coming no later than July 1, 2000. Everyone of course is welcome to come and enjoy both saturday and Sunday.

Will have to close for now, and may (God Bless) each and everyone of you.

Your Loving Brother,

John

Feb. 28, 2000

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is a beautiful February day and a good time to get these letters on their way. I really enjoyed reading them over and over. Everyone seems to be staying healthy so keep it up. We are doing fine except for Carolyn's knee. It is swollen and tries to pop out on her. Karen may have surgery this summer to replace her hips. The arthritis has done a lot of damage.

I imagine all of you have heard by now that Betty's Dad passed away last week. Carolyn went into school last Friday morning and as she entered the office the school secretary asked her if she knew a Frank Dumont. Carolyn said "Yes, that is Jim's brother". It seems that the secretary grew up around Alpena and so she frequently pulls the Alpena News up on the internet. She read the obituary there.

I had to go to our St. Vincent de Paul store in Capac Saturday morning so Carolyn and I stopped there before going to see Sis and Roy for lunch. We had a good visit and then drove to Lincoln for the funeral. It was a very nice service.

After the service we drove down to the Mikado cemetery to visit Mom & Dad's graves.

While we were there we noticed a new headstone for Arville McHill's next to Grandpa and Grandma's graves. It said 1939 to 1940. We then joined Frank, Betty, an extended family for dinner at the town hall before driving back.

When I got home I called our genealogy expert "Jan" and she found some information. Uncle Bill and Aunt Velma McHill's had their youngest child Velma Arville McHill's born in 1939. If any of you can shed more light on this, let us know.

Things are pretty normal here now with Carolyn and I, Mark and Sheila, and Karen and John. Brian and Sandra are in Germany and the ~~Czech~~ Czech Republic now on vacation. Sandra will come back next week and Brian will go into Poland to do some testing. That will take about two weeks.

Jeff's fiancée Emi from Japan came over for a visit Feb. 10th. She stayed until the 21st. We really enjoyed her visit. Jeff will probably be going back in April for two to four weeks and then she will probably return with him.

I have talked with Elaine, Jan, Sis, and Frank in the last few days so there is not much more to cover with them.

Joe, thanks for sharing you travel

experiences with us. It was some very interesting reading. Keep it up.

John, It sounds like you have enough venison to last you for a year. As we drove passed the farm on Saturday I thought it would be nice to stop and walk it over. We will save that for August.

Marty, I am so happy you are doing so well after surgery. I am very pleased with mine as well even though it pales with comparison. I put a message on your machine on Friday. We will be in touch soon.

My travels this year include St Louis in April, Cleveland in early June, Europe in late June and early July, Mikaho in August and Milwaukee in September.

Well I will get this in the mail. God bless and keep all of you.

Your loving brother
Jim and Carolyn.

DEAR FAMILIES

MARCH 8TH. 2000

ITS ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE OFFICE IS QUIET SO I MAY AS WELL GET STARTED ON THE LETTERS.

ELAINE, WE TALK WEEKLY SO YOU KNOW MORE THAN I DO. WOW, WHAT WEATHER FOR MARCH. WE ARE LEAVING FOR ST. PETE'S BEACH ON MARCH 31ST. SO IF WINTER GOES OUT LIKE A LION, WE SHOULD BE IN WARM WEATHER TO WATCH IT.

JOE, YOU SHOULD WORK FOR AAA AND BE A TOUR GUIDE. YOU KEEP GOOD RECORDS OF YOUR TRAVELS. HOPE ALEXANDER J. REID IS DOING FINE. WHERE DOES MIKE LIVE IN MARYLAND? BOCA RATON IS A WONDERFUL PLACE TO VISIT. JOE, DON'T FORGET TO CHECK INTO AIR CONDITIONING THIS SUMMER AS IT WILL BE A RECORD HOT SUMMER. HINT,HINT.

SIS, I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT WE WILL BE THERE ON 6-17-2000. MY MEMORY SAYS THAT YOU GOT MARRIED ON JUNE 10TH. BUT I MUST BE WRONG.

JAN, YES, I WANT A PICTURE OF MOM AND MAKE IT THE SAME SIZE AS EVERYONE ELSE GETS FOR EASE OF YOUR TIME. LET ME KNOW HOW MUCH. YES, YOU DO HAVE THE UNDERLINE DOWN PAT. NORMALLY, IF YOU HIT UNDERLINE AGAIN, IT GOES AWAY. HOW IS JEAN DOING? WE ARE FLYING UNITED THIS TIME TO TAMPA AND RENTING A CAR SO WE WILL BE FRESH WHEN WE GET THERE.

FRANK, SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR FATHER IN LAW PASSING. WE WILL REMEMBER HIM IN OUR PRAYERS. YOU WROTE YOUR LETTER ON FEB. 03, AND NOW I AM WRITING ON MARCH 8TH. SO THE

LETTERS ARE MOVING QUITE RAPIDLY.
JOHN AND JIM DID NOT SET ON THEM SO
I WON'T EITHER.

JOHN, YOU MUST HAVE A WORD PROCESSOR
AS YOUR LETTERS ARE SO NEAT AND
ORDERLY. ARE MASSES AT MIKADO STILL
AT 9:30 A.M. I AM GUESSING THAT WE
WILL NEED MORE THAN OUR SUNDAY GO TO
CHURCH SHOES IF WE PLAN ON WALKING TO
THE RIVER WHEN WE ARE UP THERE. I
HOPE IT IS A NICE DAY AND NOT
RAINING.

JIM, YOU ARE GOING TO BE A WORLD
TRAVELER AGAIN THIS YEAR. I DON'T
HAVE A CLUE ON ARVILLE MCGILLIS AS I
WAS JUST A NEW LITTLE BUNDLE AT THAT
TIME. I BET EMI IS A REAL GEM AND YOU
TREAT HER JUST LIKE YOUR OWN. SOME
DAY WE WILL ALL MEET HER. YOU WILL BE
GONE SOMEPLACE EVERY MONTH SO MAYBE
YOU COULD GET A WORLD WIDE PAGER SO
WE CAN PAGE YOU WHEN WE NEED YOU.

AS FOR ME, I GO TOMORROW FOR MY SIX
MONTH CHECK UP AND AM SURE ALL IS
WELL. WE HAVE BEEN OVER TO SHARI'S
HOUSE EVERY NIGHT PAINTING AND TAKING
DOWN WALL PAPER. SHE LIVES AT 5135

BROCKWAY IN SAGINAW, 48603 AND HER
NEW PHONE NUMBER IS 517-497-9671. IT
IS ABOUT 1/2 MILE FROM THE NEW WAL-
MART STORE AND ABOUT 1/2 MILE FROM
MY OFFICE. SHE IS DOING WELL.

DANA HAS AN INTERVIEW WITH MCDONALD
CORPORATION IN CHICAGO THIS NEXT WEEK
AND A COMPANY IN KALAMAZOO ON THE
FOLLOWING WEEK. SHE IS LEAVING HER
OPTIONS OPEN AS KELLOGGS ARE SHAKY.

GUESS I BETTER SHUT UP AND GET THIS
IN THE MAIL. SEE YOU ALL SOON. LOVE

Dana & Marty

Dear Brothers & Sisters All!

3-12-2000

This next week is "Shaping up" or
not for Joe, Jackie and I to go to Saginaw to
"look into" retirement places (2) for me for the near
future. Joe & Jackie are going motoring again! I am
trying not to be in their way but it's hard, I'm
always having them drive me. Nice trip 5+5.!
Sister and Rog, I hope I'll be able to help you cele-
brate your 50th.

Jan & Jean, The hearing aids are in a drawer - I
don't really know where - I'm saving them for Saginaw
iffy and when I move - that Company is going to
make them work or else. Good picture of Mom, thanks!

Frank & Betty We haven't talked since your father's
passing but you know I'm thanking and praying
for you.

John & Pat hope I can make the family Re-
union - it seems it would be nice to see the
kids again, I spent many anxious hours looking
for the Cars without a dog to help. I was
a city kid that was afraid of everything that moved.
I guess I never ever got the hang of being a
farmer's daughter.

Jim and Carolyn I wish you happy traveling -
always wanted to go to Okechamagan to see the "Play"
said it in Lake Wales - Spearfish Dakota - Very
moving.

Marty and Sonda - Hope you have found a nice beach in that part of Florida and that you have super weather! You are both needing a rest and relaxation time!

This has taken a different tack for me as a letter writer. I always hate to give them up because I go back and read them again - it's somewhat like having you visit except no interruptions - your undivided attention so to speak - that ain't possible in person what with the phone, T.V. neighbors dropping in - considering what "great" place to eat! I won't go on. You know what I am saying.

It's a cloudy, cold Sunday afternoon - We can not complain about the overall winter we have been given - some places have it so awful!

Bless God Bless and keep you one and all and hope to see you in the summer or before whichever comes first!

Love, Elaine

Cadillac, MI
April 6, 2000

Dear Family:

Letter time again as we are expecting a big spring storm.. We had an early hint of real spring like weather two week ago, then winter-like weather returned it seems.

We returned from an 8 day trip to son Michael's home near Baltimore about noontime yesterday. That area is about a month ahead of here. The cherry blossoms are nearing the end. I cut his lawn on the last day of March. The leaves are coming on strong on all the vegetation.

We visited some fourty acres of limestone cavern in Virginia as well as some of Blue Ridge Parkway on the best day there. We saw snow as we left Cadillac and saw snow going and coming back as well as some here when we returned and expect some tomorrow. So much for global warming. I expect that is why the citrus industry is steadily moving south in Florida. There is a record of a former thriving citrus crop on one of Georgiads islands about 200 years ago. Citrus trees can't stand cold and they are going south, so some weather predictors are reading the tea leaves incorrectly. I talked to Elaine this morning and was informed of John's latest visit to the hospital, and we hope he is feeling better than ever for an old fellow. I hope the Pine River deer herd can recover from the likes of you guys, and I plan to look close for deer signs after the reunion. It sounds like (23) will not be a good route for at least another year.

We kept one of Mom's pictures that some of you copies, thanks. Frank, you and Betty should get some releaf the rest of the year, you deserve it, and keep on helping others, that keeps us going.

Jim I sure hope your family can get their joints working better, it makes me sore just thinking about what you described. Some of this family sure are on the road a lot this last couple of years, when are the rest of you going to try it -- you will like it.

Recently with Elaine we visited with Martin and saw some of the Saginaw sites

That Elaine may visit in the future, with much pleasure we hope. Martin and Sonda should be back from their Florida vacation and Jin and Carolyn should be back from their April trip as well. We hope all are safe, rested and healthy for the condition we are in.

Sis, 6-17-2000 is on our calendar for sure as is the reunion. We have some very useful maps and guide books on the western areas if any of you would like to use them to better prepare for trips. We were not very well prepared for some of the areas we visited, so we picked up materials to use for possible trips.

I agree that Elaine's new steps are a super job by a couple of carpenters we all know.

Alex is number eleven for us and he is getting near to teething. We expect to go tomorrow morning to give Kathy some relief for a day or so. Grandma can hardly wait to take care of the little ones. Alex likes to ignore those who love him the most.

Elaine, we will get you to the reunion some way -- don't worry.

We have been making plans for a "time share" trip to Whistler BC just north of Vancouver. Some time in July probably, if gas prices ease up. We would fly to Seattle and drive from there. We will probably visit the Olympic Peninsula west of Seattle if the weather will cooperate.

See you all this summer.

Joe & Jackie

4-10-2000

My Dear Family,

Wow! the letters made it around in just three months. We're really getting good.

Our 50th party falls right on 6-17-2000, which is right on our anniversary. We threaten to elope but the kids won't hear of it. We are going to put our trip on hold until we see how Roger's brother Don comes out. He was diagnosed with throat cancer and given three or four weeks to live. He is making a miraculous recovery, but has made us guardian over his son Mike (who has M.S.) and also his Estate. Its alot of responsibility.

Jim I do remember Uncle Bill and Aunt Helma's last baby passing, but I'm not sure what happened. Possibly crib death

or pneumonia, which were common in those days.

I just called the Hospital to check on John. The nurse assured me that you were doing fine John and that you are going home tomorrow. You are on the phone otherwise I could have talked with you.

Frank I just talked with you on the phone today as you were bringing me up to date on John. I also talked with you Elaine so we are keeping in touch. Take care of yourself and take your time as you relocate. We pray the Lord goes before you.

Jan I'll see you tomorrow when you come for your Perm. I sure enjoy seeing you on a regular basis and bringing each other up to date on our Families etc.

Joe I'm so glad you and Jackie are coming in June. Hope to see all of you that can make it.

We love you
Sis & Roy

April 27, 2000

To All Dear Family Members:

We are really fast. The letters made it around in less than 3 months. Nothing like E-Mail contact but fast. Speaking of the computer -I go into the Gen-Forum postings. I love to read the messages of people looking for family members. Sometimes I get a surprise and find out somebody else is looking for the same information I am. We(Me, Manley McDonald and Neil McGillis) have all hit a brick wall when it comes to finding out more data on Mom's family from Scotland. I'm told that the families only added the Mc to their names when they immigrated to Nova Scotia. Our Great-Great-Grandfather (so far known as Gillis McGillis) may have gone by the last name of Gillis or Gillies. It seems hard to get into Scotland without spending more money on additional CD's.

Well Frank - you should get a nice sunny day this time around. It's sunny and in the sixties today. Jean and I did all the windows inside and out yesterday. That's a good job done. We changed cars this month too. We hadn't planned to change until later on in the year but this one came to our attention so we decided to get it. It's a 1994 Olds 98. It came from North Carolina and has only 42,000 miles. We should be able to get three years out of it. Our 93 Buick has 88,000. It's ready to sell now. No I don't know how old Dad was in that picture.

John - I sure hope all is well with your heart problems now. Did Alpena find anything else wrong when you got back there? When I told my internist that diabetes mellitus showed up on Dad's autopsy report - he took me off Tenormin and put me on Diovan. He said recent studies show that Tenormin speeds up diabetes if you have it. I understand that Vitamin E has to be the water soluble variety to correct buildup in your veins. Manley McDonald (Aunt Esther's son) and Aunt Naomi have expressed an interest in coming to the family reunion. If anybody has any objections - speak up.

Brother Jim and I took a trip to Farwell a few weeks ago to join Manley, Rita, and Aunt Naomi for lunch. We could hardly eat for talking. It was long overdue. The next time, Sis wants to go with us.

Jim - I don't remember seeing the Arvilla McGillis headstone next to Grandpa and Grandma's grave. Could it have been moved there recently? Maybe it's been there all along and we've had our attention on the other graves. Do you find having the house to just the two of you a little weird? It takes some. Getting used to. We still make regular batches of certain foods and freeze meal size portions for later. I like that a lot. It sure makes meal prep a lot faster on those days. Speaking of venison - Rob's family eat a lot of it. They

seem to prefer it.

If you have five trips scheduled for the next six months - when will you have time to take your trailer out? I guess you'll think of something.

Marty, I know we are all wearing glasses but what large letters. What size did you punch in? The last time we went to Saginaw Vets - Jean's blood pressure was down to 40. His VA doctor got a little nervous and did an EKG there. Then she called his Rochester Dr. He went into the office here a couple of days later - It was up to 52. From what I can find out - normal is between 60 and 100. The Dr. took him off Tenormin. Has Shari made any job changes? It sounds like stress to me.

Elaine - we talked a day or so ago. We never cover everything we want to. We had Andy's family for Easter breakfast at 9:30, Mike's for breakfast at 10:30, and Tom's for lunch. Rob's invited us for dinner but we like to stay home on holiday's so we don't miss visits or phone calls.

I just had an awful thought - Joe - you mentioned cutting grass on the last day of March. I expect in some areas the grass has to be cut all year round. I have more than I want in just April to Oct. But then again, they may not have to shovel snow. Jean's attitude is - LET THE SUN MELT IT. We hardly used the snow blade this winter.

Sis, we do expect to attend your 50th party. We also have Josh's graduation party that day so we will hit that one in late afternoon on our way home. It will be a long day.

I need to close this and get on to less enjoyable chores.

May God bless and keep all of you.

Love, Jan and Jean

A Box

A man punished his three old daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and he became infuriated when the child tried to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree. Never the less, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, "This is for you, Daddy." He was embarrassed by his earlier over-reaction, but his anger flared again when he found the box was empty. He yelled at her, "Don't you know when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside it? The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and said, "Oh, Daddy, it's not empty, I blew kisses into the box. All for you, Daddy." The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl and he begged for her forgiveness. An accident took the life of the child only a short time later and it is told that the man kept that gold box by his bed for many years and whenever he was discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us humans, have been given a gold container filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, friends, family or GOD. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

You have two choices - 1. You can pass this on to your friends or 2. You can file it and act like it didn't touch your heart.

As you can see, I took choice number 1.

Friends are angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly.

This came to me from my granddaughter Ashley who just turned 13. She lives in California.

HOW DO YOU LIVE YOUR DASH?

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on her tombstone
From the beginning... to the end.
He noted that first came her date of birth
And spoke the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years. (1934-1998)

For that dash represents all the time
That she spent alive on earth...
And now only those who loved her
Know what that little line is worth.
For it matters not, how much we own;
The cars.... the house... the cash,
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard...
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left,
That can still be rearranged.
If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real,
And always try to understand
The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger,
And show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives
Like we've never loved before.
If we treat each other with respect,
And more often wear a smile...
Remembering that this special dash
Might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy's being read
With your life's actions to rehash...
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?

MAY 13-00

Dear Family:

I guess I better get on this letter as I'll be catching it from you guys; I've been sitting here for an hr. pondering what to write about, we don't do a lot of traveling like most of you guys do so there isn't a lot to talk about.

This weather has been like a roller coaster all spring, I wish it would get like 70° and stay there all year - those hot days give me problems I just stay in the house with a fan on or if Betty talks me into going any-where I go straight to the car or truck and turn the air on.

Betty's flowers are doing good the tulips ~~were~~ were all up and here comes the snow and frost again, the last few days have brought rain showers and everything is just pushing out of the ground along with all those pretty little yellow flowers all over the lawn.

John - talk to you quite often - glad to see nothing turned up at Munson Med., the gals husband that doc's Betty has was having problems with blacking out and falling - they went to the Mayo Clinic and after a wk. of testing all day long they decided that he was having panic attacks when she was away.

II

Jim. - sounds like your clan is having their troubles with joints and arthritis hope everything works out for them! Betty came up here yesterday her left foot was really hurting her so we soaked it in epsom salts but that didn't do much good, she thinks it arthritis, sorry I was not much company at the funeral it was not a very good day for me.

Marty. - glad to hear that everything is going good for you and yours, you asked about Mass at St. Raphael's it is at 9:00 A.M. we are hoping that Mass would for all the highest family members hope everybody can make it.

Elaine. - we just talked to you the other day and happy to hear you are doing fine, we got a new cordless phone and I was having a time hearing you the phone has a volume button. or it if I just learn how to use it while I'm listening.

Joe. - we planted some apple trees (3) and they were just starting to bud and here come the frost - I thought that's the end of them for this year but now they are all leaves and buds.

Sis. - sorry to hear about Rogers brother Don one of my deer hunting partners from Consumers has just found out that he has lung cancer he is going to U. of M. for tests this wk., I'm not sure about your 50th. Hope we can make it.

III

Jan.- you were right about a nice sunny day this morning at least now it has clouded over and I just heard on the scanner that we are under a tornado watch until 6:00 PM. I just talked to Aunt Bertha and she said that Arvilla was Uncle Bill's Aunt Velma's baby 11 mo. old she died from whooping cough and Aunt Bertha didn't like to say it but she said it was neglect. Grandma McBillis called the priest and Uncle Jim and 2 others I don't remember who she said took the baby out to the cemetery and buried her, she said there was no head stone so that just turned up this past year.

I hope you guys can read this I feel like Janet Reno trying to write

Gods Blessings to all of you

Love Betty & Frank

May 22, 2000

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

After recently receiving and reading the most recent family letter; I feel my living like this is more like a monk rather than a family member. After thirty six years penned up in the shop I should be more gratefull for this peace and quiet.

Healthwise I am gradually improving as my walking is now increased to ten blocks. By fall this should improve to a mile and one half to two miles daily with only minor problems.

In case any of you has plans to travel (north) of Harrisville this year. U S 23 will be blocked off and rerouted thru Lincoln (after) Labor Day.

I sure have enjoyed the most recent flood of farm fed beefstakes. Let me remind you that this is beefstakes as in venison. I would have to agree ten bucks is a lot of venison.

My better half is atleast dreaming about retiring late this year. She to has had thirtysix years penned up in the hospital. A persons body usually tells you when it is time to get out of this rat race.

Reminder: Please notify me (before) July 1, 2000 in regards to who is coming to the family reunion. This would include yourselves, children and grandchildren. As the dinner is catered I must have a head count. You are all very welcome to come and enjoy both August 12th and August 13th. The drive thru the woods to the creek area and river area should bring back many memories of yesteryear. Please bring along a camera, movie if possible, comfortable shoes, comfortable clothes; last but not least a smile as your memories will come flowing back.

Please do not ask me where the hall is in Mikado. The latest information in this regards is enclosed.

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

Your Loving Brother,

John

June 5, 2000

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I just returned from Cleveland yesterday and I am sure happy to have those meetings over. Now we can concentrate on getting ready for our trip next week to Europe. We have to clean up and prepare Carolyn's classroom in the process.

Carolyn's knee seems to be doing pretty well now. She is doing fine. I just finished a bout with poison ivy. I don't know when or where I got it.

At our Cleveland meeting a woman asked me if I knew a Frank Dumont in Cincinnati. I said no. She said her neighbor was Frank Dumont so I gave her my card and address to give to him. Maybe we will find some more distant cousins. If I hear anything Jan, I will let you know. Thanks for all your help in tracing Carolyn's family tree.

It appears that all of you are either healthy now or on the mend. Lets pray that we can all stay healthy and happy.

John and Frank, I expect that Carolyn and I will make it to the family reunion. Carolyn may be taking care of Karen in Battle Creek at that time but I imagine that John can take care of her and the kids

for a day so she can come up. We will play it by ear.

We were surprised last week Sunday when we saw two deer walking down our street. It was 7:30 in the morning and I was just leaving for church. It was rainy but they were out for a walk.

We finally dedicated our new building. It was a beautiful day and a beautiful program. Now we have to finish paying it off. If you ever get down here try to stop in and look it over.

Jeff is back in Japan now until June 23rd. At that time Emi will accompany him back to the U.S.A. and she will be living with us. Jeff will then move back home and so we will have four here in the house. When Karen is operated on we may end up with eight here including John and the two girls. That will be quite a difference from now when there are only two of us.

Well I better get this ready for the mail. God bless all of you. I will see you in August if not before.

Your loving brother

Jim + Carolyn.



That blazing inferno ... it lit the night of December 15, 1995 for miles around the Gratiot Avenue warehouse and service center in Detroit. It turned 40 years of hard work and dedication into ashes in just a few hours.

Just a week after the fire, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, encouraged and motivated by His Eminence Adam Cardinal Maida, the Archbishop of Detroit, announced its decision to rebuild its warehousing facilities and to provide services at Gratiot that would match the needs of that community into the 21st century.

After six months of intense study and community consultation, the Society announced their intention to replace the facilities that were lost in the fire by creating a new center on Gratiot Avenue that would help the poor and powerless lift themselves up and out of poverty.

Cardinal Maida invited Art

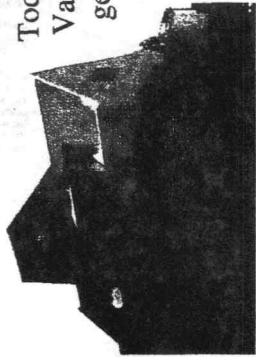
VanElslander to lead the way for a capital campaign to raise the \$5.8 million needed to build a new center of hope. Chaired by Art VanElslander, with Leo Padilla as Associate Chair, the Capital Campaign Cabinet was joined by other community and corporate leaders to assist the Society in raising \$6.4 million.

Promise



The Society is acting in a collaborative effort with many other agencies and will continue to serve and assist those in need. All of us at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are grateful for God's blessings and for our friends who made this day possible.

Today, we are able to dedicate this beautiful VanElslander Family Center because of the generous support of our Detroit community.



Thank you for joining us.

PROGRAM

Thomas V. Angott, Sr.

Division Chair for Capital Campaign

Music

Marion Duncan

Dominican High School Choir under the direction of Pamela Dawson

Governor John M. Engler

Mayor Dennis W. Archer

Art VanElslander

Chairman, Capital Campaign Cabinet

Leo J. Padilla

Associate Chairman, Capital Campaign Cabinet

Frank D. Stella

Development Committee Chairman

James A. Dumont

President

Roger T. Playwin

Executive Director

Cardinal Adam J. Maida

Blessings and Readings

Tour/Refreshments

SPECIAL THANKS:

- SHG Incorporated
- Detroit Collaborative Design Center,
- U of D Mercy School of Architecture
- Storen & Lewis
- Project Advantage Group

CAPITOL CAMPAIGN CABINET

Chairman
Art VanElslander

Associate Chairman
Leo J. Padilla

Division Chairs
Thomas V. Angott, Sr.
William E. Cassidy
James A. Dumont
Thomas P. Moore II
Carmen Muñoz
Frank D. Stella

Members
Senator Spencer Abraham
Mayor Dennis W. Archer
Sharon Bernard
Msgr. Francis X. Canfield
Rev. Malcolm Carron S.J.
Armando R. Cavazos
Daniel F. Curran
Edward Deeb
Governor John M. Engler
Charles T. Fisher, III
Bishop Bernard J. Harrington

David B. Hermelin
Dean A. Johnson
Vinnie Johnson
Diana C. Jones
Damon J. Keith
Sam Lentini
Senator Carl Levin
Adam Cardinal Maida
Bella I. Marshall
Msgr. F. Gerald Martin
Edward H. McNamara
Emmanuel L. Miruzzi
John E. Nantais
John S. Scherer
Nate Shapiro
Rabbi M. Robert Syme
Rev. Edgar L. Vann, Jr.
Robert J. Vasic
Executive Director
Roger T. Playwin

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

James A. Dumont, President
Joseph W. Clark
Althea Graham
Dean A. Johnson
George Kish
Janet Lawson
Loretta Murphy
John E. Nantais
Samuel Orlando
Raymond A. Pflau
Alan Pigeon
Bartholomew Seymour III
Beatrice Shepard
Fr. John West, Spiritual Advisor
Roger T. Playwin, Executive Director

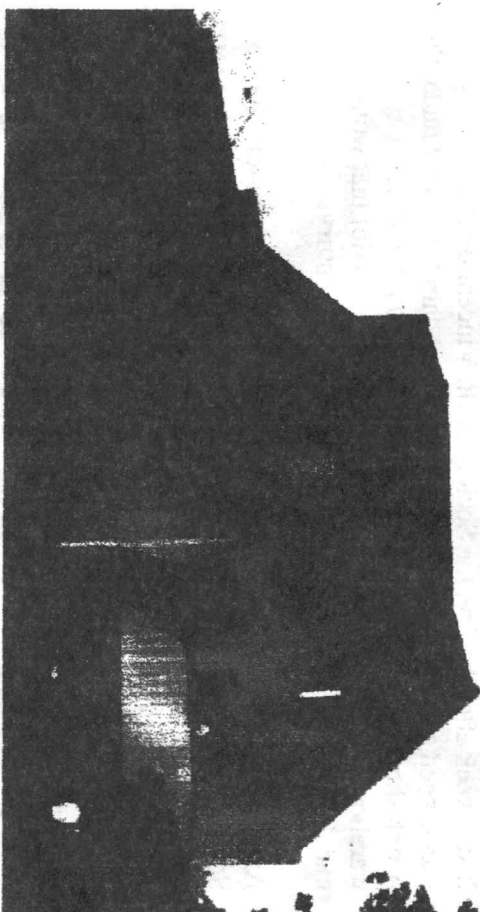
CENTER PARTNERS

American Red Cross, Health and Community Outreach
Archdiocese of Detroit Criminal Justice Ministry
Holbrook Avenue Federal Credit Union
Life Directions
Southeast Children and Family Development Headstart
and New Calvary Daycare Center
SER Metro-Detroit
Team for Justice
St. John Health System
Society of St. Vincent de Paul:
DePaul Employment
Thrift Store Program
Food Depot

*Unless the Lord build the
house, they labor in vain
who build it.*

Psaln 127:1

Dedication Ceremony

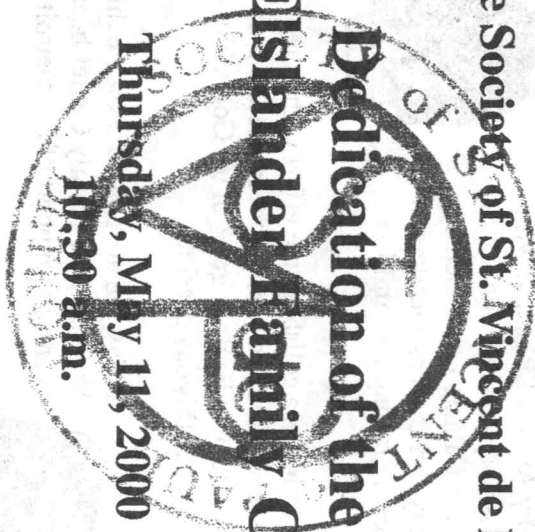


The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Dedication of the
VanElslander Family Center

Thursday, May 11, 2000

10:30 a.m.



6-14-60

DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS:

I HAVE HAD THIS PACKET FOR ABOUT FIVE DAYS NOW AND SONDA HAS FINISHED READING SAME, SO I GUESS I WILL GIVE MY TWO CENTS AND THEN GET IT ON ITS WAY.

ELAINE, I TALK TO YOU WEEKLY SO WE GO THRU ALL THE FAMILY INFO AND NOT MUCH NEW.

JOE, VIRGINIA SOUNDS INTERESTING. THAT IS AN AREA THAT I WILL WANT TO EXPLORE SOME DAY. YOU ARE RIGHT ABOUT US-23 AND THAT WILL GIVE US A CHANCE TO TRY OUT THE NEW ROAD FROM LINCOLN TO THE GREAT PAUL BUNYAN'S OX.

SIS, I AM SORRY THAT WE WERE DETAINED IN BATTLE CREEK ON YOUR SPECIAL DAY. I PRAY THAT YOUR SECOND FIFTY WILL BE AS REWARDING AS YOUR FIRST. HAVE NOT HEARD ANYTHING NEW FROM YOUR FAMILY SO HOPE ALL IS WELL. TAKING ON MORE RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT FUN AT OUR AGE. I HOPE ALL WORKS OUT WITH MIKE.

JANICE, HAS THE LETTERS GONE AROUND 31 TIMES ALREADY. IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY 10 OR 15. I CAN'T REMEMBER IF KATHERINE COPPLER WAS IN YOUR CLASS OR ONE BEHIND YOU. DO YOU REMEMBER HER. SHE HAD A BROTHER NAMED FRANK. ANYWAY, WHEN I WAS STATIONED IN LIBYA, SHE AND HER HUSBAND WOULD INVITE ME OVER TO THERE HOME FOR HOME COOKED MEALS AND STAY OVER NIGHT. SHE WAS MARRIED TO A SERGEANT FROM THE BASE AT OSCODA. ANYWAY, WHEN I LEFT TO COME HOME WHEN DAD HAD HIS HEART ATTACK, I LOST TOUCH WITH THEM. LAST YEAR, WHEN I WENT TO UNCLE FLOYDS FUNERAL, I RAN INTO BUTCH AND MARGARET COPPLER AND THEY TOLD ME THAT SHE WAS LIVING IN SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA. I CALLED MARGARET A WEEK AGO AND GOT HER PHONE NUMBER AND CALLED HER. SHE WAS SO SURPRISE AND CALLED ME BACK LATER TO CHAT. SHE HAD A SON THAT WAS KILLED BY A DRUNK DRIVER, SO SHE SPENDS ALL HER TIME WORKING FOR THE MADD PROGRAM OUT IN

SACRAMENTO, CA. SHE AND TOM DECIDED TO PART COMPANY AND HER EX LIVES IN GEORGIA. HE WAS A NICE GUY BUT VERY LAID BACK. THE TWO ADDED STORIES THAT YOU SENT WERE VERY GOOD. I SHARED THEM WITH THE STAFF HERE AND SONDA.

FRANK, IT IS TO BAD THAT YOU CAN'T TAKE OFF WITH BETTY AND SEE SOME OF THE SITES IN FLORIDA. WE TRIED ST. PETE'S BEACH, MORE SPECIFICALLY NORTH REDINGTON BEACH AND SONDA FELL IN LOVE WITH IT. THE GULF IS NICE AND THE PEOPLE THERE ARE REAL LAID BACK. THE PLACES TO EAT OUT ARE NUMEROUS AND VERY REASONABLE. ITS JUST WHAT SENIOR CITIZENS REALLY NEED TO KEEP THEIR SANITY. TRY IT, AND YOU WILL LIKE IT.

JOHN, IT SOUNDS LIKE ALL IS SET FOR THE GRAND REUNION. IT SHOULD BE INTERESTING AT THE FARM TO SEE HOW MANY ACTUALLY GO ALL THE WAY TO THE RIVER. I AM NOT SURE OF MY SQUAD. THEY MAY PETER OUT HALF WAY DOWN THE TRAIL. WHO KNOWS. IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU ARE GETTING YOUR STRENGTH BACK AND WALKING FURTHER EACH TIME. PAT RETIRING WILL GET YOU MOVING AND OUT OF THE HOUSE MORE. JUST TALKED TO YOU ON THE PHONE AND GAVE YOU OUR COUNT FOR THE REUNION.

JIM, THE WORLD TRAVELER- HOW IS IT GOING WITH YOU. THAT SHOULD BE A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE HAVING EMI WITH YOU. I WONDER IF SHE WILL LOST IN THE LITTLE CITY OF TROY AFTER BEING USED TO THE BIG CITIES OF JAPAN. ARE YOU AWARE THAT NEXT YEAR WILL BE OUR 45TH AND YOUR 46TH CLASS REUNION. IT SHOULD BE REAL INTERESTING TO SEE ALL THE OLD TIMERS. I AM PRAYING FOR ALL YOUR FAMILIES GOOD HEALTH WITH ALL THE KNEE AND JOINT REPAIRS COMING UP.

DANA AND MATT ARE AT A FOOD CONVENTION IN DALLAS AND ARE DUE HOME TONIGHT. WE HAD ALYSSA AND ANDREW FOR THREE DAYS AND THEN THEY WENT TO THE OTHER GRANDPARENTS FOR TWO DAYS. THEY WILL BE GLAD TO SEE THEIR MOMMY AND DADDY TONIGHT. I AM GOING TO CALL THAT SUPER 8 OR MOTEL 7 IN TAWAS AND MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR SATURDAY NIGHT, THE 12TH OF AUGUST AS THEY HAVE A NICE POOL AND THE KIDS CAN ENJOY 'THE WATER. GUESS I BETTER GET BACK TO WORK. LOVE YOU ALL.

Sonda & Matt

Dear Ones!

7-6-00

This is just a note - Jackie just phoned they are coming over to take me shopping and lunch - that's my life and I'm grateful!

Hope all of you and Yams are doing fine and planning to come to the reunion - I hope I make it.

It's raining now but is going to "clear up" - Joe knows. I'm sure he's right.

Summer is speeding by and I wanted to make up my mind to make my big change - I fear I'm "dragging my feet" as I have heard our dad ^{say} so many times. We seem to keep the good memories and isn't that positive?

Cousin Dorothy Quelltte is in a nursing home in Scottdale. Ethel Rose says to tell all her best!

This is short and sweet but it doesn't diminish my good wishes to one and all

Love & God Bless,

Elaine

Cadillac, MI
July 17, 2000

Dear Family:

I feel a loss for what to type to you-all at this time, for some reason. We have had recent get-togethers and numerous phone calls, and will be having the reunion soon.

Our summer has been mostly with the family's with the youngest grand-kids. Our British Columbia trip has had to be delayed due to fuel prices, and several short trips. We do have to spend some time at home caring for the place.

Frank, we planted a new apple tree last year and it failed to blossom this spring but is doing well otherwise, I expect fruit next summer (a dwarf early variety). The only wild berry that is doing well is the blackberry, every thing else got hit hard by late frost. We had high precipitation in May and good rain in June but only $\frac{1}{2}$ " in the past three weeks (just not enough in the heat of summer). This may turn out to be a normal prec. season but a very low crop for some our favorite foods. A food growers life is a lot of work and possibly a good crop, the Lord willing. Don't buy a farm to make a good living, it's too risky.

We have a reservation at a motel just north of Oscoda for the reunion, with Elaine, hope to see you all there. Frank & Betty assisted with the motel, thanks.

We all seem well for the shape were in (age mostly) and I pray that all our concerns are small or not of any consequence. The latest grand child (Alex) now has his first two teeth and growing so fast that you need to see him every couple of weeks to keep acquainted. They are in Texas for Rob's sister's wedding at this time. Mike is on vacation in Florida until tomorrow, he likes the hot weather more than the other members of the family.

I am on the County Planning Commission again and we have a very big problem for the August meeting. A Naturalist (nudist) organization is trying to build a campground near Buckley and the neighbors are in a big thither. We may be hard put to avoid it. Lawyers are involved on all sides and it will probably go to court for a final solution.

Joe & Jackie

7-19-2000

My Dear Bro + Sisters

I don't usually say too much about my children, but I can't resist this time. Even tho we threatened to elope they went ahead and threw us the most wonderful 50th party we can imagine. It started with them taking us into town where a horse + buggy was waiting. The rig was driven by Chuck Wiley, of TV game show fame, and also the Detroit parade Commission. They drove us home by 2:00 when our guests were arriving. Up in the sky was a small upside down rainbow. (God was smiling).

Father Mondragon came and blessed our marriage at 3:00. We had 2 guitarists and a Scottish bag piper player. That brought tears to the old fellows eyes.

We thank all of you for your generous gifts. Our Children, friends and Family enabled us to tear up the 3yr mortgage on our deck without ever making a payment. We are enjoying it so much. We even have our prayer meetings out there. This next January will be our 25th anniversary of the prayer meeting once a month. That too is only by the Grace of God

2/ Dinner was wonderful. Steaks were
grilled. K&C chicken. baked bean veggie
salads. Food galor. The cake was
6 tier and delicious.

Chris + Bill took a vacation week
just before our 50th to build a deck
for us. we got the material, but
boys + grand sons built our decks
in 5 days between the rain storms.
Jan + Mindy did the planning, but the
other girls did there share also. we
are so grateful and proud of our
Family for this wonderful party and
especially thank God for the grace
and good health to make it thru
50 years of marriage and for the
beautiful rainbow smile God gave us.
Our marriage has never been happier.
we expect to repeat our vows at St
Raphael were we were married 50 years
ago. See you all there.
Love
Sis + Bob





150 guest

AUGUST 10, 2000

DEAR FAMILY:

I'M GOING TO MAKE THIS LETTER ON THE SHORT SIDE THIS TIME. I WANT TO BRING THEM WITH ME WHEN WE GO NORTH FOR THE REUNION. I HAVEN'T BEEN UP TO PAR FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS. I'VE HAD A LOT OF LOWER BACK PAIN. I HAD AN MRI A MONTH OR SO AGO. IT SHOWS THE NARROWING OF THE SPINAL COLUMN FROM ARTHRITIS. I WAS AWARE OF THIS FOUR YEARS AGO - THE YEAR I HAD ALL THOSE PHYSICAL THERAPY SESSIONS. IT HAS BEEN CONTROLLED WITH PAIN MEDICATION. THE OTHER THING - I'VE HAD A SUMMER COLD FOR A MONTH. I WENT TO THE DOCTOR TODAY. HE PRESCRIBED AN ANTIBIOTIC. I NEARLY HAD A CORONARY WHEN I HAD IT FILLED. I WENT TO PICK IT UP AND IT COST \$78.00 FOR TEN PILLS. IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ME SICK ALL OVER AGAIN.

WE CAN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT NO RAIN. IT'S HARD TO GET A CHANCE TO CUT THE GRASS. THEY NEED TO GET SOME OF OUR DRENCHINGS OUT IN THE WESTERN STATES. LET'S ALL PRAY THAT GOD DUMPS A GOOD FEW DAYS OF RAIN OUT THERE. THAT SHOULD CURE THE PROBLEM.

JIM - YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONE WITH POISON IVY. TOM'S WIFE GALE HAS HAD A TERRIBLE CASE OF IT. BOTH ARMS, BOTH LEGS - SHE HAD TO GET SOME KIND OF SHOTS FOR IT. SHE'S BEEN TRIMMING BUSHES AND GARDENING OR I SHOULD SAY FLOWERING. AND DON'T LET THEM UP NORTH GUYS TELL YOU THEY HAVE THE MARKET SEWED UP ON DEER SIGHTINGS.

MARTY - NO, I DON'T REMEMBER A KATHERINE COPPLER.

I WANT TO REMIND ALL OF YOU AGAIN ABOUT STAYING AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE PAPER ON YOUR LETTERS. WHEN I COPY THEM, I LOSE A LINE OR A FEW LETTERS OR WASTE PAPER TRYING TO GET IT SET BETTER. MY PLAN IS TO OUTLIVE ALL OF YOU AND THEN SEND YOUR CHILDREN COPIES OF YOUR LETTERS. IT WILL GIVE THEM AN ACCOUNT OF SOME OF YOUR LIVES. OF COURSE, THE MAN UPSTAIRS MAY HAVE OTHER PLANS.

SIS, I COPIED YOUR ANNIVERSARY PICTURES ON THE SCANNER. THEY TURNED OUT REALLY NICE.

UNTIL THIS WEEKEND OR THE NEXT LETTER - LOVE,  JAN & JEAN

8-20-00

Dear Family!

I talked to Elaine by phone and she said get these letters going I don't care if you have anything to write about or not, since seeing all of you at the reunion there isn't much to add.

I hope everyone had a good visit and enough to eat? we sure had enough left over, Richard and Mike and one of their friends got there as we were cleaning up, Mike works in the afternoon till morning and they were driving at 90 mph. at times trying to get here before everybody left so Betty pulled things out of the frig. and fixed them while we finished cleaning then they came over to the house to visit for a couple of hr. and went back.

To any of you who ~~are~~^{are} interested Mikado is the Champs 14-12 in 14 innings, Joe how is your head?

after rereading all the letters I guess I don't have much more to add so I will send these along.

With Gods blessings for all of you.

Love Betty + Frank

September 4, 2000

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I usually do not have much excitement around here, however yesterday was unusually exciting. It looks like mom brought three half gallon milk bottles and two quart milk bottles up from Detroit back in 1910 or 1920 period. The two (brown) quart milk bottles is believed to be quite rare.

For those that was wondering how the Alpena-Mikado baseball playoffs ended at the family reunion; Mikado won 14 to 12. Joe, I understand while I was gone down to the farm that day you caught a foul ball. Some guys seems to have all the excitement while others just stand there in awe. I am hopeful each and everyone of you had a good time. Because of other commitments beyond my control I missed mass that day.

The weather up here this summer has been just beautiful with most days in the 70s and nights in the 50s and 60s. I honestly believe if there really is a Gods country it has to be in this neck of the woods.

Road work will be started on the Harrisville hills after Labor day, for those interested in traveling up that closed road.

Big oil has donated \$229,000 for improvements on the (Dumont) park in Allegan County. Jim, I believe you visited this park a while back.

I have been able to loose eight of the thirteen pounds that I had gained last winter due to health problems. This change came about because of less stress and daily walks. The decision to collect old bottles also helped me relax, this was helpful.

By the time this family letter gets back to me again, I will have my sights set on the 2000 deer season and the excitement it will bring. In the meantime each and every one of you are in my daily prayers.

I will have to close for now, until next time

Your Loving Brother,

John

Sept. 24, 2000

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It was so good seeing all of you at the family reunion. Thanks to John and Frank for a job well done. I expect to have the reunion next year here. Jan may join me in this effort. We are talking about working together on it.

I had another attack by the kidney stones this week but I am feeling fine now. I was in emergency on Wednesday and they took x-rays. I went to the doctor Thursday and they took more x-rays and the stones haven't moved. One is in the left kidney and the other is part way down toward the bladder. I have to go to Milwaukee this week and will go back to the doctor when I get back. If they haven't moved we may consider ultra sound.

I have been working on our front porch. I have doubled its size. I still have to put the railings on and finish the stone facing. I am sitting on it as I write. Today is a beautiful day about 60°.

Jeff bought a home in Royal Oak and took possession of it this week. It is an old home (1916) like Brian's but it will not take as much work to make it livable. We have been working on cleaning it up now. It is about 2 blocks from the Detroit Zoo, east of MainSt Rhode Island.

Brian and Sandra are busy preparing for their wedding in two weeks. I hope to see many of you there.

Jeff and Emi are planning their wedding for April 21st in Japan and then April 28th here at Guardian Angels. We will probably go back to Japan and then come back right after the wedding. Mark April 28th on your calendars.

Sis, I enjoyed seeing the pictures from your wedding anniversary. I wish we could have been there. God bless both of you. One of these days we will have to get up there to see the deck.

Karen is doing well after her first hip replacement. She will have the second replacement on Oct 9th, two days after Brian & Sandra's wedding. Carolyn will be taking 4 weeks off from school to take care of Karen and the girls.

Well I better close this off for now and get it ready for the mail. Stay healthy and God bless you.

Your loving brother
Jim & Carolyn.

TO THE DUMONT FAMILY_
DEAR FAMILY_

OCT. 9, 2000

NOW THAT THE WEDDING IS OVER, I CAN GET THIS LETTER ON ITS WAY. WAS GLAD TO SEE JOE AND JACKIE, JAN AND JEAN, JIM AND CAROLYN AND LOTS OF JIMS FAMILY AT THE WEDDING. THE WEDDING TURNED OUT REAL NICE.

ELAINE, I PLAN TO TALK TO YOU TOMORROW SO WILL NOT BORE YOU WITH BABBLE.

JOE, I SAW YOU JUST TWO DAYS AGO SO HAVE NOT MUCH TO SAY EXCEPT I WISH YOU WOULD LEAVE THOSE NUDISTS ALONE. IF THEY DON'T KNOW ENOUGH TO PUT THEIR CLOTHS ON, THEN LET THEM FREEZE. NO BIG LOSS.

SIS, WAS SORRY THAT WE MISSED YOU. IF I WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT YOU NEEDED A RIDE, WE COULD HAVE SWUNG BY AND PICKED YOU UP. THE PICTURES OF THE 50TH. WERE WONDERFUL. THE DECK IS BEAUTIFUL AND THE CAKE WAS NICE.

JAN, JUST SAW YOU TWO DAYS AGO. YOU ARE HAVING SO MUCH FUN ON THE INTER-NET. I GUESS I BETTER START LOOKING INTO IT. JEAN, SEEMS TO BE DOING QUITE WELL. KEEPING BUSY MUST BE THE ANSWER.

FRANK, I HOPE YOU ARE BACK TO NORMAL NOW AND TAKING IT EASY. SOMEONE HAS TO COUNT THE DEER IN THE BACK YARD AND IT MAY AS WELL BE YOU. SORRY THAT WE MISSED YOU LAST SATURDAY. YOU OR BETTY MAY REMEMBER

CATHERINE COPPLER OR FRANK COPPLER. OH,
HOW MY MEMORY SLIDES WITH TIME.

JOHN, YOU MENTIONED BIG OIL DONATING A
BLOCK OF MONEY TO THE DUMONT PARK. WHAT
DOES BIG OIL AND DUMONT PARK HAVE IN
COMMON. DOES ANYONE ELSE HAVE AN ANSWER?
MISSED YOU ALSO AT THE WEDDING. I AM
ENCLOSING REUNION PICTURES FOR ELAINE, SIS,
FRANK AND JOHN SO MAKE SURE THAT YOU TAKE
ONE. THE REST RECEIVED THEIRS AT THE
WEDDING. BE SURE AND CHECK OUT THE ROAD
WORK AND REPORT BACK WILL YOU.

JIM, YOU MISSED ALL THE CHATTER AT OUR
TABLE BUT I GUESS THEIR IS NO LOSS. WE
DISCUSSED OLD TIMES AND PROBABLY SHOULD
HAVE CALLED YOU OVER BUT YOU LOOKED BUSY SO
WE PROMISE WE WILL INCLUDE YOU NEXT TIME.

HOPE THE NEWLY WEDS ARE DOING WELL AND SEE
YOU ALL SOON, I HOPE. BEST TO YOU AND YOU
ALL HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON. LOVE YOU.

BYE. SONDA AND MARTY



Dear Brothers and Sisters & All!
This ^{These} just arrived Today. Jim & Jackie (Oct 11, 2000)
are planning to come tomorrow so I want
to have it ready.

It was a great family Reunion - so lucky we 8
could be there too.

My plans are much up in the air - People
are driving by but no one has come to look.
I'm trying to take it each day at a time with
the help of God. I'm glad I could spend the
summer of 2000 here - its nice - the Fall is
pretty too.

I love the pictures, all of them, and thank you
Narty for mine. I'm happy I could get to
Sis & Rogers 50th. Sorry I missed Brian and
Sandie's wedding.

I look forward to your phoning alot - it must
always make my day.

Haven't talked to Frank since he's home - I hope
he will have some peace and better health.

I'm still thinking Casa Maria will be my
next home - I was impressed with what I saw -
hope to have 2 rooms. ??

As you know my news is scarce so I'll close.
Wishing each and everyone all the good things in
life and God Bless you and keep you,
Gladys

Cadillac, MI
October 19, 2000

Dear Family:

This is a beautiful Fall day here in the Cadillac area (heavy fog in the area to the south). The temperature is in the mid 30's and the leaves are about 2/3's down, with the overall colors still quite beautiful. The colors were quite muted compared to most years in this area. Ve-ry spotty super colors. Elaine had some super trees in her community when we visited recently.

It seems that we all visited just yeaterday, but it was longer than that -- the time is flying lately. It must be the preporations for winter, with leaf mulching, house preporations, vehicle preporations, seasonal clothing changes etc.

We all are well again, although several have had the flu like ailment that Frank may have experienced just recently. Jackie is nearing the 65 year and in preporation for Medicare, all seems to be in order, which takes a load of health worry off our shoulders.

The X-way 131 in construction around Cadillac is to be opened for the first 2½ miles, up to the M55 interchange, by the 9th of Nov. That is less than one mile from us. Next year will see it about the same distance farther north, to the north of Cadillac, and in two more years up to just south of the Manistee River north of Manton.

I am a member of the county planning commission for the non city parts of the county and the tempo is speeding up with the complexity increasing every year. We seem to have a handle on the development with the exception of the usual conflicty between city and township and county units of government. Keeping them out of each others hair and getting public works done effeciently is a big cho-re. I believe that city regional government is the onl-y workable soloution, if we can get by the old township form of management.

We wish the best for those that have been ailing. We hope Elaine will be succesful in her planned change of residence. We hope for success for all hugiters and mental peace and physical wormth for those who wish we could be hunting but are getting too old for the riggers of the winter woods.

We are planning to use our time share in the Orlando area after Christmas. We will leave about Dec.27 and return about Jan. 10th or later as the mood strikes us and the weather will allow.

The pictures were super and thankyou all for your efforts.

May our Lord bless us all.

Joe & Julie

10-24-2000

Dear Brothers + Sisters,
what a nice surprise to get
the letter yesterday. We are recuper-
ating from our long week-end in Illinois.
We went to a Morab Horse Show just
to see how the combinations look. Half Morgan
and half Arab. It was a nice time
but it took us 10 hrs. each way to
Springfield, with our rest stops + dining.

So please to see all of you at the
reunion and thank you Marty for the
picture. It looks like Jan + Jim may
double up for the reunion. That leaves
just you + I. I think its going to be
hard for us to double up. What do
you think?

I'm sorry I missed the wedding.
I know it was wonderful and great
fun to be together. So very glad I
got to the Shower.

Page 1
We are praying for Karen's good
health with her new hips. A speedy
recovery Karen and God bless you



Bruce
685 N. Summers Rd.
Imley City, MI 48444

Carolyn for being such a good mother
and Grand mother. Jim we are
praying for you also. Those stones
can give alot of problems.

Frank we are glad you have recovered
from your bout of a virus. It was
nice to see you all again. The
roads are sure messed up there -
near John.

John we were impressed with your
antique collection. You have them so
neatly arranged in your basement,
and such a great variety. I expect
this interest is helping your health.

Claine we are anxious to have
you close. I'll call you every day and
drop in when ever you need me.

Hope you are keeping well.

Joe thats great you & Jackie are going
to have a break. I think we may
go back to Hawaii ^{Page 2} next year.

I am I sure hope you are feeling better.
Jean you seem to be doing well now.
we will see you soon and I plan
to call soon.

we love you all
God Bless you
Sis + Roy.

DEAR FAMILY:

WELL, ELAINE MADE THE BIG MOVE THIS PAST WEEK. SHE IS INSTALLED INTO CASA MARIA AT IMLAY CITY. FROM WHAT I HEAR, SHE HAS SPENT AN UNUSUAL NUMBER OF HOURS AT CHURCH. THERE WAS A MISSION GOING ON AND THEN SATURDAY NIGHT MASS. I DON'T KNOW WHY SHE WAS GOING BACK FOR 11:00 TODAY. SIS CALLED AND SAID ELAINE WAS WAITING FOR MAINTENANCE TO COME - HER TOILET HAD OVERFLOWED. HER PLANS WERE TO GO TO SIS'S FOR SUNDAY DINNER. FROM WHAT SHE SAYS, THE FOOD HAS BEEN DELICIOUS.

OUR CHOIR SANG AT ST. JOSAPHATS NEAR DOWNTOWN DETROIT THIS A.M. I NEVER WANTED TO GO NEAR DOWNTOWN DETROIT FOR YEARS. IT'S STRANGE TO GO THERE ON SUNDAY MORNING. THE STREETS ARE SO QUIET. I LIKE TO THINK ALL THE BAD GUYS ARE HOME IN BED. THEY HAVE A DIFFERENT WORK SCHEDULE THAN WE DO.

WE ENJOYED SEEING EVERYONE AT THE REUNION. AFTER WE LEFT, WE WENT TO SPRINGPORT CEMETERY. I DIDN'T KNOW IT HAD SEVERAL GRADES TO IT. IT WAS SO HOT AND I GOT SO TIRED GOING UP AND DOWN HILLS THAT WE LEFT WITHOUT EVER FINDING THE GRAVES OF OUR GREAT-GRANDPARENTS - JAMES AND ESTHER MCGILLIS.

JOHN - I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT YOU MADE A GREAT FIND FOR YOUR BOTTLE COLLECTION. I THINK EVERYBODY OUGHT TO COLLECT SOMETHING. I HAVE'NT HEARD MUCH ABOUT THE DEER KILL THIS YEAR. ROB GOT AN 8-POINT WITH HIS BOW. JOE GOT HIS VERY FIRST BUCK - A 6-POINT AROUND THE CADILLAC AREA. PAT'S DAD HAS A CABIN THERE. I SHOULD QUESTION THEM CLOSER ABOUT THE EXACT LOCATION.

JIM - I HAVEN'T TALKED MUCH TO YOU LATELY. I HOPE YOU AND KAREN ARE ALL HEALTHY FOR A LONG STREACH NOW. ALSO THAT CAROLYN IS OVER HER COLD AND LARYNGITIS. (THAT ONE WAS A DICTIONARY WORD).

MARTY - WE ENJOYED OUR MEETING NEAR SAGINAW. WE DON'T TALK MUCH LIKE WE DID LAST YEAR.

JOE - I EXPECT YOU HAVE MADE A BIG DENT IN THAT BAG OF BOOKS. JEAN READ A FEW - I TOOK HIM ONLY A DAY OR TWO EACH. MOST OF THEM DID NOT COME FROM THE LIBRARY. RON AND SHERRI LIVE AT AN APARTMENT COMPLEX - A TENANT MOVED OUT AND LEFT THEM. WHEN RON CALLED - WE KNEW YOU WERE LOOKING FOR LOUIS L'AMOUR. I'M SORRY THEY ARE NOT IN BETTER SHAPE. PITCH THEM WHEN YOU'RE

THROUGH. OR PITCH THEM BEFORE YOU'RE THRU. I DON'T CARE. I HAVE A COPY OF MICHENER'S "CHESAPEAKE" HERE. IT'S ABOUT LIFE ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY. DO YOU WANT IT?

SIS & ROGER - SORRY YOU HAVE TO EXPERIENCE WITH YOUNG ROGER WHAT YOU ARE. LIKE I TOLD YOU THIS MORNING - SOMETIMES WE ARE PLACED IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS FOR A REASON. OUR LORD KNOWS WHAT HE IS ABOUT. AND I'M SO GLAD YOU WILL BE CLOSE AT HAND FOR ELAINE. I PRAY SHE WILL MAKE FRIENDS THERE AND WILL BE HAPPY IN HER NEW SURROUNDINGS.

IT'S TIME TO CLOSE THIS OFF - JEAN IS MAKING POT ROAST WITH CARROTS AND POTATOES FOR DINNER - SO I COULD GET THIS READY FOR THE MAIL. JUST BETWEEN ME AND THE BEDPOST - I FORGOT I STILL HAD THEM.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL,

JAN AND JEAN

P.S. I DID MAKE A CHERRY PIE
YESTERDAY FOR DESSERT.

12-14-00

Dear Brothers & Sisters.

By the time most of you guys get these letters back the Holiday season will be long past but anyway we wish you will have or did have a good one.

The last couple of days have been an awful lot like X-mas Monday night and Tues. we got 6" and last night about 4" more so its here, from what I've been reading you guys probably got more than we did.

John I talk to you quite often so there isn't much to say - how are the french toast coming out?

Jim. - hope you are rid of the kidney stones by now and that Kater's hip replacements were good, sorry we didn't get down to Brian's wedding we don't get to do much of anything now I feel so sorry for Betty.

Marty. - I just saw you a few days ago for George Martin's funeral, I saw that in the paper but made no connection because all they said was he was from the Soginaw - Bay City area, I met some of the Treemans at Mary Rose's funeral but seen no mention of them here so I thought it was nobody I knew.

II

Elaine - I guess you are pretty well settled at Casa Maria now, from what I saw when Mom was there I'm quite sure you will find much in common with others there as time goes by, they used to have a room that they went shopping in do they still have that?

Joe - I did not know that Jackie was a child bride when you married her and yes medicare sure helps, as for hunting I didn't go out period. I didn't even see a buck in the back yard, Wayne got a 5 pt. & David got a 3pt. both back here on the 40.

Sis - I was so glad to see you guys when I was in the hospital you are sure blessed to be able to find the time and energy to do what you do - I'm ~~sure~~ sure you will ~~be~~ be justly rewarded one day, so glad you are there near Elaine.

Jan - It looks like you are doing just fine glad that Jean is doing good also.

Wishing all of you and yours a very Blessed and healthy new year.

Betty & Frank

December 27, 2000

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I have just recently received the family letters and the house is quiet again, now is a good time to answer these letters. I am happy to hear most of you had enjoyed the latest family reunion. That was the one up north in Gods country last Summer.

Sis and Rog, Thanks for stopping in and showing interest in my many antiques. The history behind many of these antiques sure would be breathtaking. I expect to meet more new people and find more (old) things in the coming months.

Marty, Big Oil and the Dumont park has nothing in common. However, it is my understanding the oil companies is required by law to donate a certain percentage of there loyalties to recreation areas. In this case the Dumont park received \$229,000 for 2001. I am not sure if they were chosen by a drawing or by need.

Joe, I trust that you will keep us all informed as to any new encampments over your way. The new expressway in your area is being built for a reason.

I have had good health so far this winter, but am concerned about to much weight gain; and lack of exercise. We have had our share of snow and cold weather for this winter. In all likelihood we will top 100 inches of snow, however the zero temperature or below really bothers me. I am having a hard time getting my better half to retire. Trip plans and federal taxes really gets messed up as things stand now.

As for deer season, this was the worst hunting in the last eight or ten years in that area. In 1999 we got ten bucks this year we only shot three bucks. The DNR and the crazy doe killers is not winning any brownie points in that area.

I will have to close for now and wish each and everyone of you a Happy and prosperous New Year.

Your Loving Brother,

John