

Jan. 15, 2001

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Here it is January and much colder than the last time I wrote. I surely prefer the warm summer days and am looking forward to spring. I am feeling fine now. As some of you know I left Brian + Sandra's reception early and ended up in emergency later that afternoon. I was having another kidney stone attack. I have since had two surgeries (out patient) to blast the stones and I am doing fine now.

I finished the front porch before the weather got bad but I did not finish the side walk (patio stones) so that will wait until spring. I usually get to slow down and catch up on my reading in the winter but not this year. I am rewiring Jeff's house and remodeling the bath room.

As I said in my last letter, we plan to go back to Japan in April for Jeff + Emi's wedding. We will then come back and have a wedding ceremony here April 28th. I hope all of you can come.

Now for the family reunion. Karen has invited us to have the reunion at their new home on St. Mary's lake north of Battle Creek. Jan and I were discussing the pros and cons about two weeks ago. Some may like the idea of a reunion at the lake. Others may not come if they feel it is too far. Let me know how

you feel on the subject. We can have it here or at the lake. No decision has been made.

Elaine, we saw you about 2 weeks ago. You looked good and I hope you are enjoying yourself at Casa Maria as much as this darn weather will allow.

Joe & Jackie, I hope you had a good time in Florida. I don't remember how long you will be there so I am not sure if you are home yet. Good luck with the planning commission.

Sis & Rog, thanks for stopping by to see us at Casa Maria. It was great to see you both. God bless you in all that you do.

Jan & Jean, It was nice seeing you last week with your choir. The program was nice and a nice touch for a Sunday afternoon.

Frank & Betty, I hope you two are not house happy by now. I imagine you have plenty of snow there by now. I will have to get my butt in gear and give you a call one of these days.

John & Pat, I guess that also goes for you. Spring will come soon.

Marty & Sonda, It was good to see you at the wedding. I hope we can see you before the next one.

God bless and keep all of you.

Your loving brother
Jim & Carolyn

THE DUMONT FAMILY LETTERS

JAN. 23, 2001

DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS & ALL:

RECEIVED THE LETTERS 3 DAYS AGO AND DO NOT WANT TO SET ON THEM SO WILL GET THIS GOING AND THEM GOING ALSO TO ELAINE.

JUST TALKED TO ELAINE ABOUT FOUR DAYS AGO SO I AM UP ON ALL THE SCOOP THERE. JUST TALKED TO JACKIE AND JOE AND I HAVE ALL THE SCOOP THERE. THAT BYPASS AROUND CADILLAC WILL SURE BE NICE AND WHEN THEY GET IT DONE UP AS FAR AS MANTON, I WILL HAVE TO GO UP AND SEE ONE OF MY INSURED'S MANSIONS.

SIS, ITS SOUNDS LIKE YOU ARE PUTTING A LOT OF MILES ON THAT CAR. WHEN WILL YOU BE SLIDING OUT OF THE HORSE BUSINESS? GLAD TO HEAR ROGER JR. IS BACK WITH THE REST OF US NOW.

JAN, SORRY THAT YOU DID NOT FIND GREAT GRANDPA AND GRANDMA'S GRAVE. SOMEONE MUST HAVE A MAP OF THAT CEMETERY THAT WOULD SHOW THE LOCATION. MAYBE A LITTLE RESEARCH IS IN ORDER. JEAN SOUNDS LIKE HE KNOWS HOW TO MAKE POT ROAST PRETTY GOOD. MAYBE HE WILL HAVE TO SAVE SOME SAMPLES.

FRANK, IT WAS NOT TO LONG AGO THAT I WAS THERE. DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE SMART TO STOP BY THE BREAD STORE AND PICK UP SOME TWO OR THREE DAY OLD BREAD THE NEXT TIME I AM COMING UP FOR YOUR FRIENDS OUTSIDE. I WOULD THINK THEY WOULD LIKE THAT AND IT WOULD BE DIRT CHEAP.

JOHN, SOUNDS LIKE YOU DID REAL GOOD IN THE DEER WOODS. I WAS NOT AWARE THAT YOU WERE IN TO ANTIQUES AND OLD BOTTLES. I COULD SAVE YOU SOME WINE BOTTLES BUT THEY MAY NOT BE WHAT YOU WOULD CONSIDER WORTH ANYTHING. DO YOU STILL HAVE THE ROADS TORE UP UP THERE?

JIM, ITS GOOD TO HEAR THAT KAREN'S OPERATIONS BOTH CAME OUT FINE. YES, I THINK IT IS A WONDERFUL IDEA TO HAVE THE REUNION AT ST. MARY'S LAKE. IT IS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL LAKE AND WOULD BE A WONDERFUL PLACE FOR A REUNION. HOPE ALL THE REST WOULD FEEL THE SAME. LET US KNOW.

FOR US, IT HAS BEEN BUSINESS AS USUAL HERE. I AM DOWN TO THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS TO WORK HERE BEFORE I CAN RETIRE AND FIND SOMETHING ELSE TO DO. SONDA ALSO WOULD LIKE TO WORK THAT LONG WITH THE GOOD LORD WILLING.

WE PLAN TO HEAD DOWN TO ST. PETERSBURG ON MARCH 22ND AND STAY TILL APRIL 3RD. WE WERE GOING TO COME BACK ON THE SECOND BUT IT SEAMS THAT THE AIRLINES GIVE EXTRA DISCOUNTS IF YOU COME BACK ON A TUES, WED, OR THURS. SO THAT MADE US STAY AN EXTRA DAY. DANA AND FAMILY WILL COME DOWN FOR ONE WEEK WHILE WE ARE THERE AND AN OTHER FAMILY THAT WENT TO CANCUN WITH US THREE YEARS AGO ARE COMING DOWN FOR NINE DAYS SO IT SHOULD BE A NICE TIME. NEXT YEAR IT WILL BE SHARI'S TURN TO COME DOWN WITH HUNTER FOR EASTER BREAK. IF YOU HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED THE TAMPA-ST.PETES AREA, YOU ARE MISSING OUT.

GUESS I BETTER GO. LOVE TO ALL AND STAY WARM.

Dana & Hunter

11-29-01

Near Families:

Dear Families:

Hello from Casa Maria, Imlay City.

My life has taken another 180°, again! I have much adjusting to do, mainly to thank God for my degree of health - there are some "Race" ^{CASES} ~~Plagues~~ here, I'm not even old some days. Thank you for your Christ mass remembrance, so on. I got thru it fine, had Eve dinners with Sis & Rog and various family members whom I never see thru the years, There are so many I don't expect to get around to half of them!

It's great having Sis close, phone calls are nearly every day, they sure have their hands full with Rog's bro. Don & Len.

I'll try not to give any news of you all that I get thru the grape vine, sometimes its hard to be entertaining with the pen.

What ever transpires for the next family reunion is O.K. With me, I'm always grateful to be able to attend!

I hope you and yours stay healthy and have a
good New Year and hope to see a lot of you thru
the months. No percentage talking about the
Weather, the moisture is good!

God bless your endeavors - ENDEAVORS. Wrong!

Love and Prayers
Elaine

Jan. 31, 2001
Cadillac, MI

ar Family:

On this last day of January we have a somewhat foggy but near freezing day. Yesterday we had near ^{1"} of ice to deal with, but no broken wires or big limbs. Most schools were out due to bad side roads. We have plenty of snow for the winter activities on the lakes and trails. The 4 Winns Boat Co. is still shut down, so that leaves three of the family out of work. There is hope for a buyer sometime next week. Outboard Marine Corp. went bankrupt in December and this left several good companies up for sale.

Our Florida trip was just so-so. The weather varied from freezing to 70° in two days. They had such severe frosts in Dec. that there was dead vegetation everywhere and it was starting to burn. We saw evidence of two fires in three days -- they were very dry from lack of rain for some long period. Apparently they are getting as hot as 80° now. We saw pool activity only one day and little at ~~that~~. They were trying to save the orange crop in mid-south Florida. If it gets frozen very much it is only fit for mice if they can get them fast enough.

We have had a spell of grand kids with flu-colds-synus you name it, this winter. So far we have avoided it here. At this writing everyone seems well or on the mend.

We have a possibility of three weddings in the next year - Jackie's sister's daughter Karen; Jim & Carolyn's Jeff and our Mike. No dates with Mike as yet.

We visited with Elaine last evening & with Martin last week, so along with the letters I feel right up to date on most of the happenings.

The reunion site will not bother us since it will be a big distance either way. We have 63,000 miles on our 42 month old Mercury which computes to 1.5K/m, a lot of miles for our age and situation.

May you all escape the winter blues and ills, and experience good weather on your planned travels. Easter and spring are not far away and then grass and gardens so smile

and may our Lord be with each of you.

Joe and Jackie



2-11-2001

Hi Dear Family

We are so blessed. Except for Chuck we are all still here. Rog has lost so many of his siblings and Don is slipping fast. We have been going to Flint everyday for so long. We took a few days off so Rog could get his Gall bladder out. He had it out last Sunday about 10 and he was home by 4pm. He is doing wonderful, but we are under alot of strain. God will get us thru.

We are talking about retiring. When the horses are all sold then I will close down the Beauty Shop. Its time to slow down.

I've talked to everyone lately so this will be short. I'll do better next time.

Love you all very much.
Sis (Mammy)

February 24, 2001

Dear Family:

It's Saturday a.m. The house is quiet. I think I will use this time to get this letter underway. Jean has gone out to Mike's to SUPERVISE the installation of a hoist in his pole barn. He has a car he's restoring and I guess it will be a big help for different things he's doing to it. Don't ask me what year it is or what make it is. I can't be bothered with stuff like that. I'm sure I've been told on several occasions but I can't remember. Have you gals noticed how our men talk about the most boring subjects? (motors, drill sharpeners, tires, building methods, you get the picture).

Elaine called this morning. I've had good intentions of calling her this past week. Things seem to get in the way and then I forget. I went in for a hip and pelvic X-Ray on Thursday. The fall I had in January is still giving me trouble. My Dr. wants to rule out a hair line fracture of the pelvic bone. I've been walking on it since I fell but not without pain and discomfort. Some days and nights it gets to aching so bad that I can't get comfortable or stay asleep. Oh well, I guess time will take care of it. Also, Jean hasn't been feeling well - he thought he had a touch of flu. But now his stool is very dark. His Dr. thinks he may have a bleeding ulcer. He will go in for an Upper GI test on Tuesday. Just for everyone's information - It is now believed that 90% of ulcers are caused by bacteria. (H-Pilori and those similar). Maybe 10% are caused by stress or other things. Robert took the prescription cure for ulcers a few years ago. It's very rough to take but it cured him.

I was sorry to hear that Joe & Jackie beat me to Elaine's. I wanted to get some more James Michener paper back stories there for Joe when they came after their March wedding in Grand Rapids. Maybe I will send them by snail mail.

Last week I was contacted by a descendant of our great grandfather's older sister Mary. She was the only one of the family that stayed in Nova Scotia when the rest of the family (Gillis and Ann with her seven brothers and sisters) moved on to Ontario, Canada. Her name is Rosemary McLean and still lives in Nova Scotia. She sent me (via E-Mail) her lineage of 7 or 8 generations. More is coming by snail-mail. We (me, Manley McDonald, and Neil McGillis) had managed to get lines on several of our great-grandfather (James's) sibblings but (Mary's) was a new one. No luck yet getting into Scotland. Enough about my hobby. It may be appreciated by some descendants of yours and mine down the line.

Some of you don't know that I made contact with Jeanette Bates back in December. She is the daughter of J. Victor Bates and the step-daughter of Daddy's sister - Aunt Evelyn. She is living alone in Phoenix, AZ. She has had 3+ failed marriages. She has five children - a couple of them live in Michigan. I haven't communicated with Roger since before Christmas. The other brother (James) died in 1993 or 94 of a massive heart attack but also suffered from colon cancer. He leaves a couple of children.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR'S - JULY 21, 2001
DUMONT FAMILY REUNION - FLYER TO FOLLOW.

John, do you go out to garage sales on a regular basis to look for old bottles or just to estate sales? I like to go to garage sales but don't go very much. I find that if you don't get there the first morning of the sale - you might as well wait for the next one. The collectors have beat you to it. I've got a lot of older cook books so I don't get very many now. My computer and genealogy have taken over my leisure time.

Marty - I think you are right about someone having a record of the graves in Springport Cemetery. I'll have to think on that. Probably at the Harrisville County offices. Some things just take an in person visit.

A couple of weeks ago - Jim picked Jean and I up and took us on a tour of the St. Vincent de Paul offices and the new building in Detroit. We were impressed. I wasn't aware that there was a pre-school on the premises. Maybe this is new for this building. After that he wanted me to see the John King Used Book store. We had the pleasure of riding in an old freight elevator. This is where he found his copy of "Beckoning Hands," the fiction book based on happenings at the Saradella Farm near Oscoda. I was very surprised to find another copy of it - which I bought.

Elaine says that she is playing Bingo and winning so often that they cut her prizes off. Too bad she's not in Vegas or Mt. Pleasant. Only kidding.

I do wish all of you a good year - free of illness - and safe and happy travel. And God willing - we will all see another roll around.

Love and prayers,

Jan and Jean

3-2-01

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

Got these letters a couple of days ago so here I go, its real quite here right now Bettys gone shopping for food etc., its sure is a great day here. the sun is out and its 42°

John,, haven't talked to you in a few days - you think last deer season was bad wait till this one comes around, we had 2 does and 2 fawns coming and in the last 3 wks. we have not seen any, alot of coyotes though.

Jim, you are right we do have alot of snow but a worse problem is ice - our drive is solid ice, I had Betty stop by the store in Lincoln this morning and get a couple of bags of sand that is helping a lot.

Marty, you were wondering about bread for the deer - thats what we had been feeding them all winter they love it, when we got near Alpena we would get old bread otherwise Betty would bake home made for them.

Wayne down here on the corner has a fawn living right around the house it seems her mother got killed when

she was just tiny and she looks so forlorn, they started throwing some bread out and now she will come up on the porch and burst the door when she is hungry some times she will come up here.

Elaine, so glad that you are getting adjusted there I know its got to be awful hard at times, hopefully this weather will be getting nicer ~~soon~~ soon then we can get outside more

Joe, sorry that the 4-wins closure hit your family so hard, they were about the biggest employer in Cadillac weren't they? I saw on the news last night the DNR were flying over looking for places that deer were being feed - I just saw them out front here - they turned around in the dr., I'm sure they have seen them feeding here in years past.

Sis, I'm sure you guys are getting tired, it takes its toll running every day, I went down a week ago for a CT scan of my stomach because of soreness they didn't find anything.

Jan, Re. my phone call I'm not having much luck getting ahold of those people on Springport Cemetery, so I'm
(over)

III

going to send the letters on and I will
let you know when I do.

I guess that will do it for this time,
I keep getting mixed up with my long hand
and my short hand, I hope you can read.

With all our love and best wishes

Betty and Frank

March 12, 2001

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I recently received the family letter; and now have some quiet time to work on the response.

Jim, I guess you would like some input in regards to where your family reunion should be. Troy would be closer and a (little) easier to find for most of us.

Marty, I had a poor deer season last year. However a buck was taken there with three main beams. This was a nine pointer and 150 lbs. I will never forget what that rack looked like.

Elaine, What is the secret in winning those big bingo prizes! Years ago you would have ben able to take the winning card home.

Sis, I believe these recent gall bladder problems is the direct result of pushing ones body to hard and to long. The human body was not met to be pushed to the limit. In other words there is no sin if (you all) stop and smell the roses before it is to late.

This has probably ben the longest winter for all of us for many years now. There is something about that beautiful warm sunshine to cheer a person up. It is fun to go to garage sales and see what human nature is all about; after a long winter. I expect to double my supply of antiques in the coming months.

Pat, has not decided to retire yet. This looks like yet another Summer of unplanned trips. Only the person retiring knows when it is time to give up the ghost.

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

Your Loving Brother,

John

April 8, 2001

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am way overdue in getting these letters out. We have been pushing to get Jeff & Emi's house ready before we leave for Japan. I got the vanity and toilet connected up yesterday. All that is left to do is caulk around the tub, hang the towel bars and toilet paper holder and hang the medicine cabinet. It looks great and I am happy that it is near completion. I had our nephew Roger Bruce do the tile work around the tub. He did a good job and it looks great.

Now for the wedding plans. We (Carolyn & I, Jeff & Emi) will leave for Japan April 17th and will arrive Wednesday evening. The wedding in Japan will be on Sunday April 22nd and then we (Carolyn & I) will fly back on Monday April 23rd. As you know the wedding here will be on Saturday April 28th. What a roller coaster.

I haven't talked to Jan lately but I believe we (Jan & I) will team up and have the family reunion at either Jan or my house on July 21st. Other than Marty, there was not a great push for having it in Battle Creek. When things settle down here maybe we can do more on the planning. Plan to come.

Today is a beautiful day but I understand that it will not last. It looks like a rainy week ahead.

I talked to Elaine & Sis in the last two weeks. They brought me up to date with all the news. Marty should be home by now so all should be fine in the Dumont clan.

I have been told that I have to give a closing speech for the reception in Japan. That is their custom. I will close this letter and get to work on the speech. Pray that we have a successful trip and that Emi and Jeff have a wonderful marriage.

God bless you all.

Your loving brother
Jim & Carolyn.

HI DUMONT KIDS-----APRIL 25TH OF 2001

WOW, THESE LETTERS ARE MOVING AT RECORD SPEED AND AROUND WE GO AGAIN.

ELAINE, I JUST SAW YOU MONDAY AND WILL SEE YOU AGAIN THIS WEEKEND AT THE WEDDING SO WE KNOW ALL THE HAPPENINGS.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, WE DID BRING BACK GOOD WEATHER FROM FLORIDA IN THE SUIT CASES, BUT WHEN WE OPENED THEM UP, WE FOUND THAT THEY HAD AN AIR LEAK AND MOST OF THE WARMTH DISAPPEARED.

JOE, WE SAW POOL ACTIVITY 11 DAYS OUT OF 12. THE 12TH DAY, IT RAINED SO WE WENT TO THE MALL. THATS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GO DOWN AFTER THE 20TH OF MARCH.

SIS, SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT ROGERS INLAWS LEAVING THIS WORLD, BUT THEY ARE TRULY IN HEAVEN NOW AND HAVE IT MADE. THATS GREAT IN MY BOOK. I HEARD YOU WERE PUTTING A COAT OF PAINT OR STAIN ON YOUR DECK. I HOPE IT CAME OUT O.K.

JAN, I HAVE JULY 21ST. MARKED DOWN FOR THE REUNION AND I THINK WE WILL HAVE SHARI AND HUNTER AND MAYBE DANA'S FAMILY ALSO. SINCE WE ARE DOUBLING UP, I GUESS IT IS MY TURN FOR NEXT YEAR. I WILL CHECK INTO RESERVATIONS FOR JULY OR AUGUST OF 2002. ALYSSA WAS ONE WHEN I HAD IT LAST AND SHE IS FIVE, GOING ON SIX NOW. IT WAS ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO SINCE A SAW YOU AND JEAN SO NOT MUCH HAS HAPPENED SINCE.

FRANK, I SURE MISS SEEING THE LITTLE DEER

BACK BEHIND YOUR HOUSE. THE LITTLE FAWN BEHIND WAYNE'S MUST BE GETTING BIG BY NOW, IF IT MADE IT THRU THE WINTER.

JOHN, YOU NEED TO PACK PAT UP AND GO DOWN TO FLORIDA AND RENT A HOUSE FOR SIX MONTHS IN THE WINTER, AND SEE HOW IT IS. YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE HOW WONDERFUL THAT IT REALLY IS. AFTER I RETIRE, I AM SERIOUSLY THINKING ABOUT IT. I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS WINTER WEATHER.

JIM, YOU SHOULD BE BACK FROM JAPAN AT THIS WRITING AND RESTING UP FOR THE BIG WEDDING THIS WEEKEND. IT SHOULD BE A GREAT TIME FOR ALL.

WELL, NOT MUCH IS NEWSY THIS TIME AROUND SO WE WILL SEE SOME OF YOU THIS WEEKEND AND THE REST AT THE REUNION. LOVE TO ALL.

Sandra & Frank

few Families all!

May 14, 2001

This is been around too long!
I'm writing from the So. Rec. Room - there may be
distractions. What a colorful May is at Casa Maria.
Flowers everywhere.

I am finding that I must "DIE to Self" here, & I
had it too good too long - every where I turn some body
needs a "HAND." or a cheery Hello, a smile. Or en-
couragement to carry on! I do thank God for my
blessings, health and so on.

We had a nice Mother's day, we were served at our
tables, Chicken Cordons Blue asparagus, Strawberry ~~short~~
sundae, table cloths plastic but nice.

Sir, Rog. Janie and Michelle and I went out for Brunch
yesterday - it made my day!

Jan & Jean came last week and got my Water Pit
operating. The week before Bill Brace picked up an
A.C. for me - so far I've ^{NOT} had to use it. We buy
our awa Plus 5.00 per mo. per yr. Whether or not
it's used. Thanks all of you for your help in any
Way.

Hoping you and yours are doing good in many ways.
God Bless you and keep you in the palm of his
hand This is all from Casa Maria & me
Love to all.

Ed...

Cadillac, MI

May 30, 2001

Dear Family:

Letter time again, but am I ready, I doubt it. It is a beautiful day with the am temp. in the thirties and we have had 11 to 12 inches of rain the first two months of the growing season. Local water levels are up to normal and above with predicted summer rainfall near normal -- so our greatlakes should start back up from the near record low levels of late.

We should have very good farm and wild berry crops this season. Your grass and weeds will thrive and your yard work will. All good news for retirees seeking some-thing to do. Mosquitoes will thrive everywhere.

With the crazy fuel prices we have had to put on hold most travel ~~plan~~ plans untill after the reunion. We would like to go to the Seattle - Vancouver BC area if things straightenout. With the weddings it seems that we have just visited with most of you so it seems that there is little to write about. Everyone seems to be with reasonably good health except for the usual allergies.

We have to get Pat and Sis retired or atleast semi-retired as most of the rest of us are, then it will time for the kids to make it official that our generation is retired.

Jan keep after them black-sheep of the family, sofar they have been fairly white but there must be some blacker types in the woodwork somewhere. Maybe it will be Elaine with her bingo playing before it ends. I hear that Frank is being investigated as an DNR outlaw for his game feeding? John may be in the same boat at the farm or is it the resort? Martin is high on Florids "The brush fire state" of late anyway but don't anyone reccomend California. July 21 is the big day --see you all there.

Joe & Jackie



6-3-1901

Dear Family,

Its Pentecost Sunday and we are finally able to slow down. Its raining off and on so that cuts down on the outside activity. we wanted to relax on the deck.

Rogers' brother Don passed on March 1st. He was ready and we are happy for that. We had been going every day to Flint to help with his care as he was in Hospice. After that we continued to go as we were getting his house ready to sell. What a job as his wife Libby has been gone for 26 yrs. That house sold. Then we concentrated on the small rental he had. The tenant left owing 2 mo rent but no matter. we wanted to sell.

it and. Close that Chapter. Its sold and we close on that one this week end.

Don's son Mike is our charge and we see to his needs. we visit him twice a week and take him out when he is able. He has M.S. and is 45 yrs old. He live at Sun Crest, which is the best in the state.

Elaine went to the Laper Hospital on Thursday night. Her ~~stress~~ test came out fine and they are working on gastric problems. we brought her home yesterday I'm so glad it turned out fine. She had a beautiful room and care.

we wanted to go up to the Class reunion but it falls on Father's Day and also our anniversary week end. we may try it any way.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on the 21st of July. Hope lots of our children can make it.

Love you all -
Sis, Reg + all

P.S. Elaine I hope you dont mind my report on you. 

we are praying for every ones ills!

Does any one know the Bread maker?

I am going to the market soon. I wish
to buy some bread. I am not sure if I can
find any. I am not sure if I can find any.
I am not sure if I can find any. I am not
sure if I can find any. I am not sure if I
can find any. I am not sure if I can find
any. I am not sure if I can find any.

I am not sure if I can find any. I am not
sure if I can find any. I am not sure if I
can find any. I am not sure if I can find
any. I am not sure if I can find any. I am
not sure if I can find any. I am not sure
if I can find any. I am not sure if I can
find any. I am not sure if I can find any.
I am not sure if I can find any. I am not
sure if I can find any. I am not sure if I
can find any. I am not sure if I can find
any. I am not sure if I can find any. I am
not sure if I can find any. I am not sure
if I can find any. I am not sure if I can
find any. I am not sure if I can find any.

I am not sure if I can find any. I am not
sure if I can find any. I am not sure if I
can find any. I am not sure if I can find
any. I am not sure if I can find any. I am
not sure if I can find any. I am not sure
if I can find any. I am not sure if I can
find any. I am not sure if I can find any.
I am not sure if I can find any. I am not
sure if I can find any. I am not sure if I
can find any. I am not sure if I can find
any. I am not sure if I can find any. I am
not sure if I can find any. I am not sure
if I can find any. I am not sure if I can
find any. I am not sure if I can find any.

Dear Family, In-laws, and Out-laws:

I can't believe these letters are beginning their "35" trip around. They started in January of 1988. That's over thirteen years.

I'll bring you up to date on Jean's latest escapade. It started with two or three days of black stools. He had a upper GI, middle stomach ultrasound, then a lower GI. All that turned up was a hiatal hernia. That still didn't explain the bleeding from somewhere. Our next step was for a colonoscopy. (He was due for one anyway). That Dr. decided to first do an endoscopy. That detected an ulcer. So the cure is medicine to calm the stomach acids so they don't back up into the esophagus. So far so good.

We've been dodging the rain to get the grass cut. We had a couple of good days so got cedar mulch down around the front shrubs and the flowers planted in the front beds. It seems I couldn't think beyond getting the flowers planted.

We are planning to take a few days to go up north. There are genealogy items I want to check on. By the way Frank, Manley McDonald (Aunt Esther's son) went up there a couple of weeks ago. He found our great-grandparents graves (James and Esther McGillis) at Springport Cemetery. They are on the first level near the road. He took pictures. I expect you would have to go to the archives in Harrisville for a listing of that cemetery's inhabitants.

I want to do some checking on Elaine's mother's people. Her grandfather is buried in the Cheboygan area. It is really slow progress. So many of those smaller towns are not computerized and don't have their records on the internet. The Huron Shores Genealogy Society have done a good job for Iosco County.

Betty - you must love those deer to bake home made bread for them. There are those among us that would almost kill for home made bread.

John - make sure your bottle collection doesn't call for a bigger house. Pat would never be able to retire then. We're hoping you guys and gals make it to the July reunion.

Jim - I just spoke with you today. Would all of you agree that after the major events of the last few months - there's nothing left for an encore. (Except the reunion).

Marty - speaking of turns for the reunions - I have a record of the past years - I will try to type it so all can have a copy and be able to tell when they are IT. Doubling up means we take a turn every four years instead of every eight.

Elaine, I'll be calling you in a day or two. Have you got your list ready? Yes, you do seem to be staying quite healthy compared to some of us and the guests at Casa Maria. Isn't it great that there are (assisted living) places for old people to go. We all need a little assistance from time to time.

Joe - you missed your calling. You should have been a weather announcer on TV. And speaking of good wild berry crops - aren't you afraid to go out into the woods? After all - you of all of us - know what bears can do. I know they taste wonderful -

but give me a supermarket and a tin can of berries. Not to mention mosquitoes and scratched up arms and hands. But go ahead if that's what floats your boat.

Sis & Roger - I know your strength comes from God. Otherwise, you couldn't keep going at that pace. God must have a cushy easychair waiting for you up there.

Since this has gone into a second page - maybe I will get the family reunion history down.

1 st	Aug. 1991	Jan	Rochester Hills
2 nd	July, 1992	Joe	Cadillac
3 rd	July, 1993	Elaine	Houghton Lake
4 th	July, 1994	Jim	Troy
5 th	Aug. 1995	Frank & John	Ossineke
6 th	July, 1996	Marty	Freeland
7 th	July, 1997	Sis	Imlay City
8 th	June, 1998	Jan	Rochester Hills
9 th	July, 1999	Joe & Elaine	Cadillac
10 th	Aug. 2000	Frank & John	Mikado
11 th	July, 2001	Jim & Jan	Troy

Make a copy of this chart for your future reference.

I leave you all in my prayers and God's care.

Love to all,

Jan and Jean

Jan and Jean

CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS:

1. The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth Into Joy."
 2. Our next song is "Angels We Have Heard Get High."
 3. This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
 4. Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
 5. The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.
 6. A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
 7. At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
-

6-18-01

Dear Brothers + Sisters,

Letty is flying around here washing the blinds and windows, I'm just trying to stay out of her way so I might as well work on this letter.

I guess we can't complain about our weather so far this summer, just take a look at what most others are getting and all I can say is count our blessings, floods, fire, drought, tropical storms, tornados

Everybody here is doing pretty well staying busy and out of trouble, Wayne is mowing some lawns but he gets pretty sore by the end of the day, Crystal is doing real good in school she ended up with all A's and 3.745 GPA, she is working part time at the Available Inn in Escoba, I'm on Oxygen pretty much full time now, I don't go very much anymore, we had central air installed and that helps a lot but if I go out in the hot sun it almost puts me on the ground.

John, see you pretty often so keep on collecting.

Jim, you just keep on rolling along, I

guess I just feel so depleted all the time its hard to see how you are so busy and yes we certainly wish all the best for Jeff & Emi.

Motty, at last writing we thought we had lost our dear Brut there still here, one of the fawns broke her leg in Feb. I thought she was a goner but it healed up and she is doing fine.

Elaine, I hear you on the air conditioner. I'm sure our electric bill will knock our hat off, as soon as the sun goes down ~~the~~ I shut it off and open the doors.

Joe, sounds like you are getting ready for berry picking, did you guys get that killing frost the 1st. week of June?

Sis, I put the article about the bread maker in the letters but I don't know where they live, we would like to try it.

Jan, it sounds like Jean, Elaine and I may be in the same boat with our gastric esophageal problems, I take Protonic pills for that.

Prayers and love to all.

Bette & Frank

July 3, 2001

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have recently received the latest family letter from brother Frank. Now that the boss has left for a while and it is quiet for a change, I will try working on this letter.

I have just recently came to the end of a case of asthma, it was no fun. I have cut back a great deal on my walking lately. My ankles and knees is failing me, this is probably the result of (old) age and 40 years of shop work. Where I worked carpeting and air conditioning was only a dream.

Could someone please explain to me why any family should have a black sheep. After all it is not what is on the outside but what comes from the heart. A good example would be, stay home drink a cold pepsi and watch the tigers get beat. Or feed the airlines and big oils coffers. The difference is the poor and hungry is forgotten.

As for the antique collection, everyone that has seen it has left with a smile and a better understanding what life was like a hundred years ago. Yes, and they usually left with a loaf of home made bread.

As regards to the family reunion, if a map is forthcoming and bake beans is served (we) expect to go, baring unexpected health problems.

I will have to close for now, expect to see you all soon.

Your Loving Brother,

John

July 21, 2001

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Well here it is "family reunion day" and I want to hand these letters off to Marty today so I am taking a break from the preparations and will pen a few notes. I will be seeing most of you today so I will briefly respond to the comments made in the letters.

There were four main topics of interest, retirement, a bread maker, black sheep, and so much rain.

1. Yes Joe, Sis and Pat should retire and enjoy life. I however need to add one more to your list, Carolyn. Hopefully this will be her last year. I also agree with Marty that Florida in the winter would be great. You need to keep busy though.

2. It is my guess that it is John and Pat that have the bread maker.

3. I don't believe that we have, or should have, black sheeps in our family. I agree with John on this one but I don't understand his comment about the airlines and oil coffers.

I know the poor and hungry are not forgotten.

4. Yes we had plenty of rain early but we sure need it now. My back yard is brown but I have kept the garden and new sod on the front lawn green.

I sure hope that all of you enjoy your day here today. I am sure that there will be a few things that will not go as planned.

but that's life. We will survive.

Now, back to the preparations. The boys and girls have the canopy up and they are setting up the tables. I am making the ice cream.

Well I guess I better cut this short for now. Frank I sure wish you could be here. God bless all of you.

Love

Jim + Carolyn

HI DUMONTS ONE AND ALL AUGUST 1,2001

WELL, HERE WE ARE AGAIN. I WOULD BET THAT ELAINE IS USING HER AC AN AWFUL LOT LATELY. IT SURE IS HOT HERE.

JUST READ JOES LETTER AGAIN AND HE SAYS EVERYTHING WILL THRIVE. THEIR IS NOT MUCH THRIVING AT MY HOUSE. EVERYTHING IS BURNT. I WILL ASK JAN WHAT ALL OF THIS BUSINESS ABOUT BLACK SHEEP OF THE FAMILY. I DON'T HAVE A CLUE.

SIS, JUST SAW YOU AT THE REUNION AND ALL SEAMED GOOD WITH YOU. IT WAS A FUN TIME RIDING AROUND WITH THE KIDS IN THE TRAILER. AND LOTS OF FOOD TOO.

JAN, YOU AND JIM DID A BANG UP JOB ON THE REUNION. YOU SURE HAD A LOT OF FOOD LEFT OVER. WHAT IS THIS BLACK SHEEP BIT THAT JOE IS TALKING ABOUT. ALL OF A SUDDEN IT CROPPED UP AND I DO NOT HAVE A CLUE. THANKS FOR THE SCHEDULE OF REUNIONS. I WILL CHECK TO SEE WHAT WEEKEND IS AVAILABLE IN FREELAND AND LET YOU ALL KNOW.

FRANK, WE MISSED YOU ALOT AT THE

REUNION. THAT CENTRAL AIR IS SURE WONDERFUL. SONDA WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO NAVIGATE IF IT WERE NOT FOR CENTRAL AIR. OURS IS NOT SHUTTING OFF THESE DAYS. I MISS SEEING THE DEER UP THERE. WE WILL SURPRISE YOU ONE OF THESE DAYS, AND POP IN.

JOHN, JUST SAW YOU A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO. I WILL WATCH FOR UNUSUAL BOTTLES AND SAVE THEM FOR YOU. OUR NEIGHBOR DOES THAT ALSO, BUT SHE WILL HAVE TO MOVE OUT PRETTY SOON AS SHE HAS NO ROOM TO MOVE ANYMORE.

JIM, ALSO GREAT JOB ON THE REUNION. EMI SEEMED IN HER GLORY THERE AND I THINK SHE FELT LIKE SHE FITS IN PRETTY WELL. SPEAKING OF AIRLINES, I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO BOOK OUR MARCH TRIP TO TAMPA, BUT MANY OF THE AIR LINES WILL NOT BOOK THAT FAR AHEAD. I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY THEY WOULDN'T WANT TO SET ON MY MONEY AS LONG AS THEY COULD. WHO KNOWS.

ALL IS QUITE HERE. SAME OLD TRIP TO WORK EVERY DAY. IN ABOUT 1,090 DAYS I CAN RETIRE. JIM, I WILL SEE YOU AT THE CLASS REUNION ON AUGUST 18TH.

UNTIL THEN, BE GOOD, YA'ALL AND GOD BLESS.

Love - Sonda + Hunter

Aug. 11, 2001

Dear Families:

Time to get there on their way, if I can write!!
Most of my time I can't account for, where does
the time go?

It was great to be able to see you at the
reunion - time was short and "sweet."

Had a surprise visit from Jim yesterday, came
at a most opportune time for me, I needed
that. Day before Sis and Reg came to take me
to lunch with Gail and John - they seemed to
enjoy. Mich. and I expect are now on their way
to Hawaii. Dear little Girls. MEGAN + Myleah?

Casa Maria Club House is still under construction -
can't even visualize the ^{NEW} look. Plumbing pro-
ject is holding it up.

I'm in the South Rec room, two of my favorite
Dadies are doing laundry. There is always something
doing - mostly people's failing health, so far I
have to Thank God and I do.

Joe & Jackie came down to take me back to my
home in H.L. - guess we got out most of the
goodies, my needs have changed drastically!

Dear Frank your letters are always so FUNNY -
you were blessed with a sense of humor believe me!
Hope you could breathe during this past HOT spell -
it was awful, thank Sis & Bill for the A.C., my
end of TEMPS this A.M.

Perhaps next letter I will be without real estate -
the papers are in the happen as I write.

John I thought I had an antique for
your collection - 2 qt. green ~~sammig~~ jar, it
wasn't there when we were there. Maybe I
have left too much behind but I am getting
too much stuff for the space I have, that
was another life.

Jan has had her granddaughters alot this
week, quite as Change eh Jan?

Marty don't spoil me with that wonderful Bread-
its great to see you anytime but you can come
to visit without that wonderful SPAAZ!

So for now I'll leave, I wish you and yours
the good blessings there are and if its not
so good bearable with Gadi's help

Love & Prayers
Elaine.

Cadillac, MI
8-20-'01

Dear Family:

Sept. 13th we plan on leaving on our trip to Whistler, BC Canada. The trip we delayed from last year. We have our week of time-share at a mountain ski resort that has become year around popular and building bigger as we visit. It is about 80 miles north of Van Wouver. We will fly to Sea-tac and rent a car for the trip north. On our return to Sea-tac we plan to meet Ethelrose & her husband for several days on the Olympic Peninsula across the bay from Seattle area. We were able to get senior tickets for \$405 by going midweek.

The black sheep remark occured in reference to Jans genelogy searching, probably while thinking of what she might find, just assuming that she hasn't already got one or more on record.

Our hot dry spell appears to be over for this year--we had nearly 2" of rain in the last 2 days and it is cooled to normal. It is too late for the gardens that didn't get watered and all but small ideal patches of wild berries. I found one small patch of black berries where the soil had more clay, that had normal berries.

It seemes that we all have talked or visited a lot this summer which makes hard to find news. Daughter Kathy's twins are coming along fine, and Ron & Tracy are engaged again. May the Lord help them all.

Our microwave oven and TV both died of old age recently and the main telephone tried to die but I was able to revive it for the time being. The trouble the kids are having with their cell phones makes me glad to keep the old style as long as possible.

It appears that everyone is about as healthy as usual and pray God that continues for years.

The coyotes must be getting more numerous because I hear them more often hunting during the night. We had twin fawns both nearby and they have been seen four times in the yard. We have had heavy grazing of the yard plants this year.

The X-way around Cadillac will be open to the north end (Boon Rd.) by mid October and to near the Manistee R. by '04.

Love to all

Jackie

8-29-01

Bros + Sisters,

Well today Wal sides are here to replace 23 windows. They were ordered in early June, but no problem as our Family from Hawaii have gone home, and Bill has moved to his new house in Grand Blanc. It is quieted down and no problem.

We had a good time with John, Gayle and their daughters Megan + Malia for 3 weeks. They were sorry to miss the reunion, but Malia got sick in the car coming from Chicago and they headed straight for Indy City to get cleaned up and sleep for 3 hrs until we came home. They really enjoyed their visit and are safely back home. Both John + Gayle are teachers so they get their summers off. John teaches English + History and Gayle teaches grade school.

Bro Marty and I have been talking and have decided to pair up for the Family Reunion. It is set for July 20th as Marty has already reserved the Park, so mark your Calendars. It will be in Freeland this time. We hope it will work out well for everyone.

Frank we hope you will be able to pack your large tank and come to this one. Thank you and Jan for your joke page. We sat on the deck and had a good laugh.

Jon your jokes were really good also. I'll be seeing you real soon for your perm. Elaine we really had a good time at Hawaiian Days at Casa Maria. Sister Caroline really works hard to make life interesting over there.

Jim, it was nice to see you when my bunch was here. It's not always that busy here. The reunion was so nice. You + Jan did a great job. Carolyn you sure have had your share of parties. Hope you can slow down soon.

Since I've seen you all lately I will
close this time and get by house in
order.

Love you all and I remember all of
you in my prayers.

God Bless you
Sis

P.S. Here is my joke page.

Dear Ones:

A wet blanket has been thrown over our spirits: Our refuge and relief lies with our God. Rosaries and prayers will reap the best course for our future and that of the world. God must guide our leaders according to his will.

I do believe that two important outcomes of last week's attacks are:

1. A tremendous surge in patriotism.
2. People crowding into churches because they know that this is where they can find comfort and guidance.

We recently found out that Jean's ulcer is healing nicely from a second endoscopy. This week he had a colonoscopy. They removed a small polyp. No report on that yet. Otherwise things looked good.

Since my last letter - we met for the reunion. It was very nice for those that attended. The attendance was down around 40. 63 said they were coming but didn't show up. It makes it very hard to provide for everyone and then deal with the leftovers. Maybe we will have to change to a siblings only overnight somewhere. What do you think?

Elaine seemed happy to see us at Casa Maria's Ice Cream Social. Sis, Roger, Jim, Carolyn, Jean, Me, Ron, Sherri and Danielle.

Frank - I liked your Senility Prayer for us old folks. Keep the oxygen flowing and enjoy what you can. Do you two do puzzles anymore. If I don't have one going, I feel lost. I say I need a rest so I can spend an hour or so at the puzzle board. I have been picking up the nicer ones at garage sales for a dollar or under, put them together and then price them for our used book sale. I have about \$46 worth for the sale coming up. I'm glad to hear that Crystal is doing so good in school. It is so sad when they think it isn't important. When they wake up - it's too late. Jean takes 600mg. Of Zantac a day. We get his medicine at the VA in Saginaw. They don't have the newer medicine like Protonic and Prilosec. They try to save money - and they should - after it's our money they are using.

John - How did this black sheep discussion come about? I'm sure that very few families had one. The dictionary describes a black sheep as "A person regarded as not so respectable or successful as the rest of his family or group." Does anybody know how this got started? I'd hate to have to go back and read two or three dozen letters to find out.

Jim - Have you had enough rain? We need some nice weather so Ron can get his basement in, and the house roughed in before the real cold weather gets here. Last week the rental house was tore down to make room for

the new house. He is building one very much like this one but a little bigger.

Marty, I understand you were down to see the banana Doctor. I hope all was well. Jean only goes about once a year now. We will see you the next time we visit Saginaw.

Elaine - We saw you on Sunday but now a visiting day. Too much noise. We did enjoy the ice cream. I will call you to go over your new found ancestors in a day or two.

Joe - I think I know what prompted the black sheep comments. In my genealogy searching - I may have commented on maybe finding the black sheep in the family. I haven't found any yet - even if I did, I may not tell you. When are Kathy's twins due? She is probably having a hard time getting around now.

Sis - I already know you are enjoying your new windows. You will notice a big difference this winter. We saw you on Sunday so I guess I will close for this time.

P.S. Pray for the world
more and more.

Love, Jan and Jean

Dear Ones:

A wet blanket has been thrown over our spirits: Our refuge and relief lies with our God. Rosaries and prayers will reap the best course for our future and that of the world. God must guide our leaders according to his will.

I do believe that two important outcomes of last week's attacks are:

1. A tremendous surge in patriotism.
2. People crowding into churches because they know that this is where they can find comfort and guidance.

We recently found out that Jean's ulcer is healing nicely from a second endoscopy. This week he had a colonoscopy. They removed a small polyp. No report on that yet. Otherwise things looked good.

Since my last letter - we met for the reunion. It was very nice for those that attended. The attendance was down around 40. 63 said they were coming but didn't show up. It makes it very hard to provide for everyone and then deal with the leftovers. Maybe we will have to change to a siblings only overnight somewhere. What do you think?

Elaine seemed happy to see us at Casa Maria's Ice Cream Social. Sis, Roger, Jim, Carolyn, Jean, Me, Ron, Sherri and Danielle.

Frank - I liked your Senility Prayer for us old folks.

Keep the oxygen flowing and enjoy what you can. Do you two do puzzles anymore. If I don't have one going, I feel lost. I say I need a rest so I can spend an hour or so at the puzzle board. I have been picking up the nicer ones at garage sales for a dollar or under, put them together and then price them for our used book sale. I have about \$46 worth for the sale coming up. I'm glad to hear that Crystal is doing so good in school. It is so sad when they think it isn't important. When they wake up - it's too late. Jean takes 600mg. Of Zantac a day. We get his medicine at the VA in Saginaw. They don't have the newer medicine like Protonic and Prilosec. They try to save money - and they should - after it's our money they are using.

John - How did this black sheep discussion come about? I'm sure that very few families had one. The dictionary describes a black sheep as "A person regarded as not so respectable or successful as the rest of his family or group." Does anybody know how this got started? I'd hate to have to go back and read two or three dozen letters to find out.

Jim - Have you had enough rain? We need some nice weather so Ron can get his basement in, and the house roughed in before the real cold weather gets here. Last week the rental house was tore down to make room for

the new house. He is building one very much like this one but a little bigger.

Marty, I understand you were down to see the banana Doctor. I hope all was well. Jean only goes about once a year now. We will see you the next time we visit Saginaw.

Elaine - We saw you on Sunday but now a visiting day. Too much noise. We did enjoy the ice cream. I will call you to go over your new found ancestors in a day or two.

Joe - I think I know what prompted the black sheep comments. In my genealogy searching - I may have commented on maybe finding the black sheep in the family. I haven't found any yet - even if I did, I may not tell you. When are Kathy's twins due? She is probably having a hard time getting around now.

Sis - I already know you are enjoying your new windows. You will notice a big difference this winter. We saw you on Sunday so I guess I will close for this time.

P.S. Pray for the world
more and more.

Love, Jan and Jean

10-12-01
Dear Brothers & Sisters,

I guess I had better pull myself away from Fox news and the taliban problem long enough to get these letters on the road.

John, I see you are getting your road at the farm fixed up, what is all the stuff about a block sheep in the family? I guess that went right over my head.

Jim, I understand that the reunion was real nice and wish we could have been there, I try to get Betty to go to things like that but she won't go without me.

Marty, you are so right about the air condit., it was probably all that kept me going this summer, we have an 8pt. + a 2pt. coming in.

Elaine, it sounds like you are getting your hooks into that place now, glad that you get as much company as you do - it sure does make the days and weeks seem shorter.

Joe, we were glad to see you guys a few days ago, and sorry that your trip to B.C. was messed up - I'm sure there will be an other time.
(over)

Lis, glad to hear that all is well around you guys, those new windows should make a big difference this winter, I can remember when we were kids at times when we were in bed and getting a Nor Easter we could feel the snow blowing around the windows.

John. I'm sorry that we did not get down to the reunion, when Betty talked to the kids very one said yes they were planning on going and I guess none of them showed up, I think as for a Block Sheep. Asame Bin Ladin is a good case in point.

Vicki & Dave have been getting up quite lately, he has caught a salmon the last 2 times and is really hooked on it now, last wk. end they had Lora & Mike with them.

I remember all of you in my prayers morning & night.

Love and take care Betty & Grand

October 20, 2001

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I received the family letter a couple of (days) ago and found them real interesting. The jokes had a great deal of amusement but most certainly showed a great deal what our lives are all about.

I can see this (black sheep) business has got you all going in circles. Jan, bless her was only trying to go back in the Dumont history, trying to find someone without a paddle. Back in the 1770s or 1780s a Dumont started a rebellion in France. Since he probably died in prison his genes probably died with him. I hope the above history lesson clears up all your concerns.

It is to early to tell you all of my deer season experiences for this year since the future is unknown at this time. We have lost four to six so far on the road near the farm, this is higher than normal, and is cause for concern.

It is nice to see most of you is enjoying your retirement or dreaming of same. We should not be relying on Uncle Sam for any free hand outs in (our) old age as he has a cash shortage at this time, so what is new.

I understand we are expecting a colder than normal winter in this area. However the gas prices are expected to be normal with above average supply.

We had two trips planned for this fall, things didn't work out as I wanted.

I will close for now, and may God Bless each and everyone of you.

Your Loving Brother,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John".

Nov. 18, 2001

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is Sunday afternoon and a good time to get these letters written. I held the family letters a while since I just saw most of you at Jan & Jean's 50th anniversary party. That was a great party! I hope we make it that far.

Everyone here is doing fine. I had a root canal done this week. They had to cut the tooth off to find the canal but they found it and took care of it. They are building a crown for it now.

Carolyn is doing fine. She has a better class this year and is looking forward to retiring in June. I sure will be happy.

Jeff and Karen both have new jobs since I wrote last. Karen moved from Jacobs electric to Eaton Co. in Marshall. Jeff has moved from American Yasaki to Nissan. He may have to go back to Japan again within the next year. Mark and Brian are doing fine.

Well I am no longer president of SVDP. My term ended Oct. 1st. Not having the pressure sure is nice. I am still on many committees but I will gradually cut those down.

I was shocked when they presented me with a statue of St. Vincent de Paul. We were at the banquet ending our national convention. Cardinal Maida got up after the dinner to speak. He usually talks about all that the society does but this time he starts talking about me. I

didn't know what to think. Then my successor got up and talked about what I had done for him and the society. They then called ~~me~~^{me} up and presented the statue. I didn't know what to say. I will enclose a picture with the statue.

Elaine I spoke to you yesterday so I know you are doing fine. It was nice seeing all of you at the party. Frank & Betty, It was nice that Marty, Linda, Carolyn & I got to see you when we went up for the class reunion. Take care of yourselves and the deer. We don't get up there enough. Hopefully we will be able to do more after Carolyn retires.

Sis and Marty, I have next years reunion on my calendar (July 20th). I hope we see you before then.

I will quit for now. God bless you all. Remember, Do the best you can and put the rest in the Good Lord's hands.

Your loving brother
Jim & Carolyn

HI DUMONT FAMILY +++

DEC.4TH. 2001

ELAINES LAST LETTER TALKED ABOUT REAL ESTATE UP FOR SALE AND NOW IT IS GONE SO SHE IS REALLY RELIEVED. I HAVE THE INSURANCE ON THE GUY THAT BOUGHT IT AND HE IS FINE SO FAR. TALKED TO ELAINE THE OTHER DAY AND ALL IS WELL WITH HER. SPATZ BAKERY CALLED TODAY TO SEE WHEN I WOULD BE STOPPING TO GET ANOTHER LOAF OF BREAD FOR HER.

JOE, THANKS FOR CLEARING UP THE BLACK SHEEP THING. YOU HAD US ALL WORRIED FOR A MOMENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE ON A TRIP AND WILL BE BACK SOON. HOPE YOU HAD A GOOD TIME. YOU SAID THE X-WAY AT THE MANISTEE RIVER WILL BE OPEN BY 04. ARE YOU SAYING THAT IT WILL TAKE THEM OVER TWO YEARS TO GET THAT FAR. THEY MUST REALLY BE TRYING TO DRAG THAT JOB OUT.

SIS, WE ARE STILL LOOKING GOOD FOR JULY 20TH AND JUST A CALL TO THE CATERER AS SOON AS WE GET A COUNT. AS WE SPEAK, YOU ARE ENJOYING YOUR WALSIDE WINDOWS. EVERY NIGHT ON CHANNEL 50, I SEE THAT AD FOR WALSIDE WINDOWS AND THINK OF YOU. THANKS YOU SO MUCH FOR THE JOKE LIST. THE GIRLS IN THE OFFICE HERE JUST LOVED THEM. GOOD GOING.

JANICE, AM GLAD THAT JEAN IS DOING A LOT BETTER AND ALL IS WELL WITH YOU. DO YOU HAVE AN ACCURATE COUNT FOR THOSE WHO ATTENDED YOUR REUNION SO WE CAN GET A CLOSE GUESS OR WOULD YOU NOT SUGGEST THAT WE GUESS. I AM GUESSING THAT THE CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN DO NOT CARE TO GET TOGETHER ONCE A YEAR. REMINDS ME OF THE OLD DAYS, DON'T YA KNOW. ALSO YOUR ANNIVERSARY PARTY WAS TOPS IN MY BOOK. THANKS.

ALSO, HOW IS RON'S HOUSE COMING. IT SHOULD BE ABOUT READY TO MOVE INTO. SEE YOU SOON.

FRANK, I HAVE SEEN MORE DEER BESIDE THE ROAD LATELY, AND AM WRITING A FEW CAR-DEER ACCIDENTS THESE LAST FEW WEEKS. THE DEER LOVE THIS WEATHER AND ARE ON THE MOVE. I HOPE YOU PLAN TO JOIN US ON JULY 20TH. WHEN I RETIRE, I WOULD LIKE TO DESIGN A MINI-TANK BACK PACK OR BELT PACK THAT WOULD HAVE ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE HOURS OF AIR, AND BE DISCREET ENOUGH THAT IT WOULD NOT SHOW AND A CANULA THAT WAS VERY DISCREET ALSO AND MORE PEOPLE WOULD FEEL LIKE GOING OUT IN PUBLIC THEN. I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY ONE HAS NOT BEEN DESIGNED ALREADY. I WOULD LIKE TO BE UP THERE WATCHING THE LITTLE BAMBIES COME IN FOR THEIR BREAD.

JOHN, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU ARE ADDING TO YOUR COLLECTION MORE AND MORE EACH DAY. I HOPE YOU WERE ABLE TO PUT THOSE TRIPS IN MOTION AND GET AWAY FOR A WHILE. WE HAVE ST. PETERSBURG PLANNED FOR MARCH 23RD. AND TWO FULL WEEKS THIS TIME. I WILL BE NICE TO ALL OF YOU AND WAIT TILL I AM 65 TO DRAW SO IT WILL FREE UP SOME MONEY FOR THE REST OF YOU.

JIM, AFTER CAROLYN RETIRES, IT WILL BE JUST 24 MORE MONTHS FOR ME. WON'T IT BE GREAT. HOW IS JEFF ENJOYING NISSAN? THE AUTO COMPANIES ARE GOING THRU SOME REALLY TOUGH TIMES NOW. AT LEAST KAREN DOES NOT HAVE FAR TO DRIVE GOING OVER TO MARSHALL. I HOPE SHE LIKES IT.

WE ARE GOING TO HUNTER'S THIRD BIRTHDAY PARTY TONIGHT AT BILL KNAPPS AND THE KIDS PARTY IS SATURDAY. SATURDAY IS ALSO A HOLY DAY SO I WILL SEE YOU ALL IN CHURCH. HAVE A GOOD DAY.

It's Christmas 2001!

12-21-01

Dear Families:

Jim says I have to get "The Letters" on their way. I'm sit on them long enough. Hope all your plans are in place with not too much last minute things to do. The Christmas plans around here are simmering down - I keep as busy as my health will allow, it doesn't take much to slow me down.

Thanks for your many pictures of your kids - some I don't get to see otherwise. They grow up so fast it's scary.

Casa Maria is trying to put on a happy face we with anything "Win some lose some"! They are trying for a better transportation system for us, so many can't get around otherwise. Roger sure totes me around enough. I do appreciate it so much.

Nov 30th I had my first year behind me - I guess I made a good move with the help of a lot of you and God. Also my Houghton Lake place is not mine and I'm pleased to be rid of it. Had it since the 70's!

Don't have any individual messages, just that you all have a good 2002, hope we can all meet in the good months for a family reunion. My very best to one and all and help me pray for our wonderful U.S. of A.
Love, Elaine

Cadillac, MI
12-28-'61

Dear Family:

Letter time again finds us home awaiting the call to come help Kathy & Rob with the new twins, Sean and Cameron, born 12-26-'01 by C-section. Kathy had to go to the hospital Christmas day with steady 7 minute contractions, where no slowdown methods were effective. Mother and both ^{babies} ~~parents~~ seem to be doing fine. Apparently the same can't be said for Grandpa. Robert's parents are with them at present but need to return to these Tennessee home soon.

Most of you probably knew that our planned west coast trip had to be cancelled due to the 9-11 attack in New York. We had to reschedule to early December to avoid losing our vacation week, so we drove to Panama City, FL. We had to deal with a big storm front on much of the way down. When we arrived, they were having a "Red Tide" event which is similar to the fish kills, along Lake Michigan, but the gas causes many people to cough like you have a cold attack. That lasted for a couple of days until the weather changed. Nobody was using the water, and few were walking the beach -- the resort business was at a very low point. The whole country was just marking time and expecting a recession. We left the resort about $\frac{1}{2}$ day early to visit the Alabama coast area to see what it was like since one our neighbors winters there quite often, and are there now. Coming north we had heavy fog for several hours the first day and several hours of rain the second day. Vacation trips can be a pain, to help balance the good parts.

We finally started to get our winter weather with snow on 12-22 which is about 5 weeks later than usual. The natural gas usage is lower to help balance the higher prices due thru the winter months. Gasoline prices are just over \$1 in this area of late. We paid as low as 0.99¢ on the trip south.

We can always use some more retirees -- don't back out Carolyn.

The family is doing well for our individual station in life so we will close for this time and see you all July 20th if not sooner.

Love: Joe & Jackie

