

Imlay City mi.  
1-8-02

Hi Dear Family,

Christmas is over and it was a great time here with Family + Friends. I'm getting things packed away, so I've sat on the letters about 10 days. It sure is nice to read them over a few times and to feel close to all of you as you go about your various lives.

Mike Bruce had a bout with infection and we feared he may be passing, but he rallied and is doing fine. Thank God it happened after New Year as we go there every day when he is ill.

We took Elaine for breakfast yesterday and then Shopping. Its nice to have a change of pace for all of us.

Marty, I'm glad we are all set for July 20th in Ireland. I'll be glad to send Funds early if need be.

Praying  
Keep on praying  
for all of us as we do for you.  
Prayer  
- how our phone chats and visits. Keep on praying  
for all of us as we do for you.

2  
Jim, very nice picture. Its nice to slow down if you can. Love to hear what your Family's are up to.

John, I love to stay home, but am happy for those who like to travel. We will have to go to Hawaii again, but have been there 4 times already. Its a must when you have Family there.

Frank - we are all pulling for you. Do hope you all will come to the next reunion. Prayer does move the mountains. Jan - Such a nice letter! I'll be seeing you real soon.

Joe. So happy to hear the twin boys are here. Mindy is still waiting for her little girl. Due the end of January. Lorie Fowler (Dale Fowler's daughter) is expecting twins in July. She has one little boy and has gone thru the same thing that Kathy has to have a Family. We pray for them. We love you all and hope to see all of you before the reunion. Love you and so do we.  
Sis, Roy + all

Tag line - Genealogists collect dead relatives!

Dear Family:

I have been hanging on to the letters longer than usual. They are starting to all sound alike. I don't know what the cure is but more time between may help.

Well, the holidays of 2001 and 2002 are history and we are gearing up for an early Lent and Easter. We just completed a mission at our parish.

Chuck is in Michigan for a vacation - work is slow - the hotel at Disney World is complete. He is on call to go back to Florida or elsewhere. He stayed one night with us - then rented an efficiency motel unit. He smokes and we don't allow it in the house. It's too cold outside. He and Jean are gone to buy some shelving material. They are going to build some shelves to keep canned goods up higher. Neither of us can bend very good and getting the right item from a lower cabinet has become a problem.


Our two brothers (John and Jim) are safely operated on and back home. Also, that Kathy's twins are safely here. I haven't heard how they are doing. They are probably doing well - it's Mom and Dad that need tending.

Jim, I'm sure proud of you for your St. Vincent de Paul commitment but now glad the reins are in someone else's hands. I wonder how long that will last. Here is your spelling lesson for the year 2002. Spell and repeat the following words 50 times and give the definition of each. This will be your only answer when someone asks you to take on another project. (Not Carolyn).  
NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO

Our Mike had a very serious surgery in November. After a couple of weeks of lower stomach pain and several tests, his MRI showed a lump in the appendix area. He was admitted immediately. They finally got to him at 8:30 that night. It turned out to be this. Everyone is born with a half inch polyp on the small intestine just before it goes into the colon. Most of the time it goes away but at least doesn't give you a problem. His had became impacted with debris and had stretched to 3 inches and attached itself to his colon. They sectioned his small intestine but were worried they would damage the colon when they attempted to separate the other end from the colon. They were able to get apart with no damage. (If it had made a hole he would have had to wear a bag for about three months). He spent seven days in the hospital. He was a very sick gut for several days. He had a tube down his nose (4-5 days) pumping out infection from his stomach cavity. He is OK now. We have only a few more grey hairs.

Enough for this time. Keep well and pray often for our loved ones, our country and the world.

Love, Jan and Jean



2-23-02

Dear Family,

I got the letters about 2 wks. ago so guess to better get them going again, Jan. mentioned that the letters are all sounding alike I'm sure mine or, not being world travelers like some of my brothers & sisters we live a pretty uneventful life up here.

How about this winter? I can't remember going through the winter months with so little snow, I think we have had 2 storms so far when we had to shovel and plow the drive about 4-6 ins ea. time, and the temperature well into the 40's several times and sunny days too, the farmers are going to pay for it this summer.

John, glad you are on the mend now it won't be long and you will be back in the collecting business again.

2-26-02

I got sidetracked (it don't take much) so here I go again, in my 2nd par. I was saying what a mild winter we were having - so guess what today a storm hit and they say we will get about 11 inches before its over you have heard the saying "open mouth insert foot."



Jim, just talked to you recently and how are you doing since your shunt has been put in? its about time you slow down, what do you thing, we were so sorry to hear about Carolyn's Brother.

Marty, you sure have a talent of covering all the bases in your letter, I wish I had that skill, as for the oxygen tanks they go by volume, I use the B tank for portable they are ~~about~~ about 3" x 14" they have a regulator that can be set from 1-4 liters depending on your needs - on 2 liters which I use will last about 4 hrs., its pretty hard to hide something that size along with the bag etc..

Elaine, I'm glad you are getting by as well as can be expected, its got to be a hummer to spend the winter mo. here when you were used to going down to AZ., it seems the most of us are content to stay with the changing seasons most of the yr.

Joe, just talked to you the other day how did your colonoscopy turn out? we got a card a pictures from Kathy and the twins

today they sure are cute, if we ever get another vacation I sure won't call you to pick a time and place to go - you don't seem to do well at that! ha. ha.

Sis, we were so glad to see you & Roger the other day you seem so much more relaxed since you retired, its so good that you guys can get around like you do and its much needed I might add.

Jon, I hear you about not being able to bend over very well anymore its like the old guy said "if God wanted me to touch my toes he would have put ~~them~~ on my knees", nuf said this time.

We love and pray for all of you & yours.

Frank & Betty

I sure messed up the back sheet.

OVER

MARCH 5, 2000

DEAR BROTHERS and SISTERS,

I would like to take this time and thank each and everyone of you that called, sent getwell cards, and visited me thru my latest sickness. The calls were the hardest to deal with since it is hard to speak with a tube down one nostril. No food for nine days and only three hours sleep per day was not my idea of - rest and relaxation.

Frank, I understand you are making plans for a Summer vacation over to Black River, please get Brother Joes expertise before taking such a dangerous trip, Okay.

Jim, That was a nice picture of you in the latest family letter. You had a very good reason to smile, after all how many people gets to retire twice.

Marty, It is no sin to (wait) and retire at 65 long years of age. Retiring is like being released from jail after 40 years. Both your mind and body will be overcome with joy. And as a added bonus Uncle Sam will be at the starting gate with a pension check. You will then wonder why they did not free you earlier.

Sis and Rog, a special thanks goes out to each of you. Your trip up here was both a surprise and a pleasure. I am sure Frank and Betty was surprised as well. The gift was certainly a added surprise.

Jan, I understand you feel the family letters are all sounding the same. Up here where brother Frank and I live (GODS COUNTRY) being laidback and all, nothing exciting ever happens. We have long since counted our grandchildren and great grandchildren. The round the world trips are just a dream. If everyone of us had the same likes and dislikes the world would not be very exciting.

PAGE TWO-

The most recent family letter mailed from here was dated October 20, 2001. As news reporters we would all wind up being retired early.

I am feeling much better now, since the surgery. You can not believe what the lack of sleep will do to both your mind and body. I expect to visit many garage sales this Summer, and collect many old things. God willing we will be able to take a (few) trips.

Since each of you are free to travel, feel free to come up to (GODS COUNTRY) for a visit.

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

Your Loving Brother,

John

April 12, 2002

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Well the warm weather is finally arriving and I am so happy to be able to get out into the yard. Isn't it great. I am about to get back to work on Jeff & Emi's house. This year we have to cover the soffits & fascia's with aluminum, put up the vinyl siding, put in a new kitchen window & door, put in new kitchen cabinets, and put an addition on the back of the house. Brian and Sandra also have a few projects in mind.

Carolyn and I will probably redo our kitchen this year also. That may include an addition on the back for a breakfast nook and deck.

as you can tell I am feeling fine now since I had my stint put in, I am walking  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles per day on the treadmill, 4 days per week.

Now for family news.

1. Carolyn is counting the days until June but feels that there is just not enough time to get everything done. She is going on a field trip with the school to the zoo tomorrow.

2. Brian and Sandra are expecting a baby in November. There is going to be a big change in life style for them soon don't you think. We are very happy for them.

Elaine, I enjoyed seeing you yesterday. We got your taxes mailed out and had a great lunch together. We need to do the lunch bout more often



Joe & Jackie. What are your travel plans for this year. Be sure to dodge the storms. We are planning quick trips to Boston, Philadelphia, and possibly North Carolina.

Sis and Rog. I haven't talked to you lately but I hear you are busy with the kids and the horses. When you need to cut back on your work, keep the kids and get rid of the horses.

Jan & Jean. I am trying to say no. I said no to going to St. Louis later this month but I agreed to go to Daylord in May.

Frank & Betty. Enjoy life as best you can. Thank God for all he gives us. Enjoy the peace & quiet. We are praying that all your days are pleasant.

John & Pat. That goes for you too. What is happening with St. Vincent de Paul up there?

Marty & Linda. How was your trip to Florida? You were going to look at a house down there if I remember correctly.

Well I better quit for now and get back to work. We will see you all in July. God bless you.

Your loving brother  
Jim & Carolyn

HI DUMONTS ONE AND ALL:

I HAVE SAT ON THIS PACKET FORE ABOUT THREE WEEKS AND I GUESS IT IS TIME SINCE TODD'S WEDDING IS SATURDAY AND I CAN PASS THEM ON TO ELAINE.

ELAINE HAS BEEN AT CASA MARIA FOR ONE AND A HALF YEARS NOW AND IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY SIX MONTHS. OH, HOW TIME FLY'S WHEN YOU ARE HAVING FUN.

JOE, WE HAD A RED TIDE OVER IN MAUI THE LAST TIME WE VISITED THERE BUT WE HAD A HEAVY RAIN AND THE RED CLAY WASHED INTO THE OCEAN AND IT WAS REALLY DIFFERENT. I THINK THAT BAD WEATHER MUST FOLLOW YOU, AS OUR 16 DAYS IN THE ST. PETE'S AREA WAS ONLY CLOUDED BY ONE DAY OF RAIN AND THE REST WERE UP TO 79 DEGREES. WE RENTED A PT CRUISER THIS TIME AND WE HAD A BALL WITH IT.

SIS, WE ARE ALL SET FOR JULY 20TH AND THE CATERER WILL SHOW UP ABOUT 2 P.M. SO IF WE START AT 1 P.M. AND RUN TILL 5, WE SHOULD DO OK. I WILL BRING EXTRA POP. I UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE ONE OF YOUR GRANDDAUGHTERS FROM HAWAII HERE AND SHE IS LOOKING FOR LONG TERM EMPLOYMENT. I WISH HER THE BEST.

JANICE, I TOOK YOU ADVICE ABOUT MORE TIME BETWEEN LETTERS, BUT STILL CAN NOT FIND ANY NEW THINGS GOING ON EXCEPT THE WEDDING COMING UP THIS WEEKEND. HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE. ALSO, I LIKE THE EXPRESSION "NO" AS I AM FINDING THAT I HAVE TO SAY IT ALOT LATELY. WE GET SO INVOLVED THAT WE JUST DO NOT HAVE TIME

FOR EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE'S REQUESTS. I HOPE  
MIKE IS BACK TO NORMAL NOW.

FRANK, YOU TALKED ABOUT THE WONDERFUL WINTER  
BUT WE MADE UP FOR IT IN MARCH. THE FARMERS  
SAY THE HAVE ENOUGH MOISTURE FOR NOW. I LOVE  
THOSE CARTOONS ON THE BACK PAGE. KEEP UP THE  
GOOD WORK AND WE WILL SEE YOU IN JULY.

JOHN, IF YOU WOULD JUST PICK UP AND GO, YOU  
WOULD NOT BE SORRY. THE WORST PROBLEM THAT  
WE EVER EXPERIENCE IS AIR LINE HEAD ACHES. IT  
SEEMS THAT YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE SOME MINOR  
GLITCH ON YOUR RETURN FLIGHT HOME. OTHERWISE  
SEEING THE WORLD SHOWS YOU HOW OTHER PEOPLE  
LIVE, AND THAT IS NOT ALL BAD.

JIM, I WANTED TO LOOK AT A PARK MODEL IN  
PALMETTO, FL. BUT WE MAY WANT TO GET A SMALL  
CLASS C MOTOR HOME, AND JUST CRUISE THE SOUTH  
DURING THE WINTER TIME ENDING UP IN ARIZONA  
EACH SPRING THEN CRUISE ON BACK UP NORTH EVERY  
MAY. WHAT A WAY TO LIVE, DON'T YOU THINK.

WELL, I HAVE RAMBLED ON LONG ENOUGH. LOVE YOU.

*John & Mary*

May 19, 2002

Dear Families:

It's time I got to this task, had those  
Since Todd's wedding, What a nice wedding,  
We didn't stay for the cake cutting! Hope the  
World will "smile" on them.

Life here is an undaff, I mean it's  
a big change here at present, hardly know  
half the residents now! Some are ending  
up in other facilities.

I had a real bad case of bronchitis  
but just had blood work done and I  
checked out A.O.K. Thanks God.

I sure wish I had some real good  
things to write about, no point in writing  
about the weather, it will change six times  
before you read this! But maybe it will  
"shape up"!

The next thing to look forward to is the  
family reunion for us Amil Diamonds. I sure  
wish Frank & Betty would make it. John said  
they are planning on it and let's say a  
prayer we will all make it! I like  
the spot Martin has for it.

Since newsey news is scarce, I'll  
say to each and all - God bless, Take  
care and hope to see you whenever!

Love,  
Elaine

Cadillac, MI  
May 30, '02

Dear Family:

I just reread your letters, here goes. It appears that the whole crew is off the badly ill list once again. I am as good as I ever will be and Jackie is in the process of scheduling surgery to keep her in good health for many years to come, at least that is the plan. She may fill you in more at the reunion.

We have recently returned from Las Vegas (mid May) to see our spring hadn't changed during the three weeks gone. We are about two weeks behind with our leaf development. During the trip, we observed the same delay in leaf development all across the country. The trees seem to know that it wasn't safe to come out just yet. Shortly after we returned we had a 24<sup>h</sup> morning. The on and off cold may hold down the insects.

We had cold windy weather on the trip west as far as St. Louis. Observed severe drought in New Mexico and on to Las Vegas. New Mexico ranches are out of business and Arizona to Nevada have only about one-quarter of normal precipitation. One study of tree ring data shows that New Mexico has had a history of drought that shows they can last up to 40 years, and average  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years. Don't buy any property in that part of the country.

We were not very impressed with the Las Vegas Strip (one giant tourist trap). Son Joe and his new wife Jenny liked it fine and could live in that climate as apposed to that of Grand Rapids. They have tourism and mining along with heat and periodic high winds. If anything damages their electric power or water supply they are out of business.

We traveled Salt Lake City by way of Zion Canyon National Park then East on I80, just far enough south to miss the late snow storms (we saw big drifts in the high country). We saw scads of antelope in the Laramie Wyoming area and much lowland flooding in Illinois.

The twins are doing fine and so are the parents. We have no trips planned but hope you all do take time while you are able. There will be plenty of time for home chores when you can't travel. See you all at the reunion.

*Jackie*



6-10-02

My Dear Family,  
I just had the most enjoyable time  
out on the Deck, in my rocker, reading  
the letters one more time before I  
answer them.

We saw some of you lately at Todd's  
wedding. For those who missed it. It was  
a wonderful, beautiful wedding + reception.  
A special thanks to Sherry, who opened  
her home to us between the wedding  
and reception. That was so thoughtful  
of her.

Jan, I just saw you this week. We  
had our usual good time.

Frank sure hope you will make it  
on the 20th of July. Betty I know you  
are anxious to get out and we all want  
to see you.

Jim + Carolyn we missed you at  
the wedding also. I know you had good  
reason for not being there, as did  
Joe + Jackie.

2/ Yes our Jessica is here from  
Hawaii and she wants to stay and  
go to college. We hope it all works  
out for her. She may be eligible  
for a grant since she works at  
"American tree". That would be great.

Jessica has been a finish Dry waller  
so she repaired my Living Room and  
front Hall way of a few cracks  
and bulges.

I haven't retired completely, however  
I try to keep my work to Thurs + Fri.  
That gives me time for my other  
Life.

Elaine and I had a nice chat  
this evening and I'll see you all  
in a few weeks.

The horses are not all sold,  
but we are hoping that will  
happen.

See you all soon  
God Bless you all  
P. + Roq.

Tag line - Genealogists live in the past lane.

Dear Family:

Chuck is back in Michigan for the time being. I'll sure put the skids on big jobs for his company. Jim bought a house recently so Chuck bought the mobile home Jim was living in. Chuck expects Ashley to visit him this month and Ryan in August. He wanted them to come together but Ryan is in summer school making up a class he needs to graduate. He doesn't want to do it in his senior year.

Jean and I decided to go pick some strawberries as soon as the temps got back into the 70's during the day. That was Thursday. We picked two bins full (about 16 lbs. Of berries in each. Then he decided to get a couple more. We ended up with 65# @ \$1.10 a lb. On the way home, I had my burning feet in cold water. I was shocked to find about eight water blisters around my toes on that foot. (none on the other). The feet and the blisters are still giving me trouble. We gave away 11 quarts. I cleaned and sugared 10 quarts for the freezer and made strawberry jam with the rest. (except what we ate over 2-3 days). So if you decide to get berries - think about the cleaning, processing, jars, lids and the hours on your feet. I think I made nine batches of jam and you can't leave it.

Frank, who said Sis was retired? She still works two days a week and fills the other 10 days with everything else. It makes you tired to keep up with her. We'll have to strap her to a rocking chair one of these days.

John, you sure do like the Alpena Hospital. You visit there so regularly. Pat is trained to recognize symptoms - so when she says GO don't give her a hard time. Thank goodness she knew how to get you there STAT.

This month, we have Sam's graduation party, The Dumont reunion, and the McGillis reunion. I let Manley McDonald know about - he may take Aunt Naomi. I've been wanting to make a day trip to see her again.

I have a full agenda for me and my guys. I committed to having the choir summer picnic at our house. It will be August 18<sup>th</sup>. I hope we can whip everything into shape by then. Nothing like a party to motivate you.

In my searching the internet for Gramma McGillis's ancestors - I went to a message board for the Loyer family. Reading everyone's mail is so interesting. If anything sounded promising - I sent them an E-Mail asking if they knew about Gramma's parents (Damas Loyer) and (Emma Ducette). These were the names from my notes one time when Mom was visiting me. It turned out that one of the people I wrote lived in Cadillac, MI. She sent me lots of pages of Loyer history and Paquette history. I will bring it to the reunions with me. This gal in Cadillac is Cheryl Haysmer. Her husband is a descendant of Hughie Loyer. Another amazing thing - when she showed Mom and Dad's wedding picture (I sent them snail mail) to her mother-in-law - her mother-in-law was so excited - she said Mom was her Godmother.

Page 2 (Later)

I liked the priest joke - who included it - no name on it.

I don't know if we will venture up north this year - there are three day trips to get over with - and the picnic. There is a possibility our choir will go to Canada in the fall. It seems that most members would prefer to go by train.

I do talk with Jim or Carolyn on occasion. If you want to talk with a real person - call around 9:30 at night. Maybe that will change with Carolyn's retirement. It will take a few months for her to get her retirement schedule fine tuned but I expect she will be over busy like some of the rest of us in short order. Just kidding you two.

John, do you have a book called "Bottle pricing guide" by Hugh Cleveland? The copy I bought has the values updated thru 2001. If I get up your way - I'll try to remember to bring it. I think it would be most helpful to get a handle on the worth of some of your collection. I could even mail it to you to see if you're interested.

Jim - if you're going to make NO work for you - you can't say NO to one project and YES to another in the same sentence. It sounds like you have enough projects around town to last you a year or two. Remember, all of us are over the hill and our bodies are protesting loud and clear. I found out after crawling around picking berries. When I did stand up, I could hardly stand up. I thought I was going to be eating strawberry leaves or straw before I got out of there. My legs quivered for hours.

Todd's wedding was just super. The Mass, the vocalist, the food, the cake, were all first class. I don't know how much you guys (John and Pat) had to do with the planning but whoever planned it did a bang up job. He deserves some happiness.

Marty, just keep on looking forward to your last day at work. Eventually it comes. And those Social Security checks make a big difference in how we live. We didn't even start to work on retirement income until around 1975. People didn't worry that much about it back then. Of course, we did have the eight boys to care for. Thank goodness that I had a decent job.

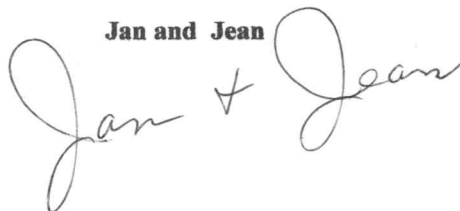
Elaine, I feel guilty all the time for not getting up there or calling more often. I guess I will make me a LOUD note to call you tonight. I made a new recipe for Old Fashioned Shortcake biscuits yesterday. Jean seems to like them so maybe it will be a keeper.

Joe & Jackie, we saw you recently so I'll skip on to the next one. I know what you mean about the Vegas Strip. I doubt we'll ever go back there. If we get the urge to help support the Indians there are plenty of places around here. There are even frequent senior citizen tour buses that go to the various casinos.

Sis, I just re-read your letter. Some body sure missed the boat when you were sitting in the rocking chair. Somebody should have slapped a couple of bungee straps around you while they had the chance. We will be seeing everyone soon in Freeland - God willing.

Time to sign off,

Jan and Jean

Handwritten signatures of Jan and Jean, with a plus sign between them.

7-25-02

Dear Sisters + Bros.

Had those letters for awhile so I better get them going.

John tells me the family reunion was real good, wish we could have been there but it is just too difficult for me to travel much distance anymore.

Things have been pretty quite around here this summer, Betty is keeping busy in her flowers and the house work and baby sitting me, we had a very hot couple of weeks. Thank God for central air.

We had some exnators up from Engelville a couple of wks. ago and while sitting at the dining table talking the nator said there goes a bear (S.P.H.) walking across the back yard. I went dashing off to the bedroom to get the camera and everybody was screaming - by the time I got the slider open all I got was a picture of his rump I think, Betty saw him again 1-wk. later.

I have to go for my drivers licence in sept. and I have been having trouble with blue blurred vision in my left eye



so thought I better get it checked, went to the optometrist she said I had the start of cataracts and wanted me to there bigger office down in Towns for a better exam, that test yesterday showed that I have Glucoma started they feel hopefully to treat it with drops for awhile.

David & Wayne are down in Tenn. now to get Crystal, she has been down there the last 2 wks. with her mother and not very happy about it, of course her boyfriend is here, they had transmission problems going down yesterday and are trying to fix that before coming home.

this weather is sure dry now, most of the towns around here are burning up but ours is pretty green yet.

I can't think of anything to say so I'll sign off for now and hope to do better next time.

Our Love & Prayers

Betty & Frank

August 6, 2000

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There is not much excitement up here to report in this family letter. However we most recently purchased a new (91) Buick Lasabre. Very soon we however will have to purchase yet another one.

Several of you had very kind words concerning, Todd and Jenns wedding. Jenn did the lions share of these wedding plans. Todd was one lucky guy finding his new bride. He has had a tough time dealing with so many unexpected problems, that life hands us sometimes.

We had earlier planned three in state trips this summer and fall. These plans may be in question however, because of two car purchases and stroke concerns.

Marty, The family reunion was a very nice family gathering. The grounds around the hall was well planned. It is nice to get away from daily problems even for a day.

Alpena General seems to be my home away from home recently. Gall bladder problems and strokes does not make a person a happy camper. These problems seem small however compared to world events; stock crash, wars, and terrorist.

In general I am so glad I can get up when I want to, go to bed when I want to. To some extent have at least some control over my life. Office visits and hospital stays are the down side of happiness.

I am still on the hunt for antiques, marbles, steins and metal toys, hummels, are my main interest.

I will have to close for now and may God Bless each and every one of you.

Your Loving Brother,

John

Sept. 8, 2002

Dear Brothers and Sisters

It is Sunday afternoon and I have held these letters long enough so here goes. The lions are getting their butts beaten again. The weather is good but too dry. Life is great.

Carolyn and I went to the Boston area for Hank's retirement party last month. Hank isn't retiring but we had a good party.

When we returned home the transparent apples were ripe and we canned apple sauce. The apples rot so fast if you don't get to them right away.

We started canning tomatoes two weeks ago. We canned 41 pints on the first picking. We then left for Philadelphia. While we were gone Brian picked the tomatoes and canned 34 pints of marinara sauce. We returned last Sunday and canned 42 pints this week. We want to can tomato sauce this week.

Thursday we will leave for North Carolina. We are taking the truck and trailer and spending a week or so in that area. We want to visit Greensboro and the fine china replacement facility.

I am sorry we missed Todd and Jenn's wedding. We met her at the family reunion and are very impressed. Jenn seems very nice and we wish both of them the very best.

I am enclosing a couple of pictures of Jeff

and Emi's house. Since I wrote last we put up the addition, installed the door and windows, boxed in the soffits and fascia, redid the front porch and deck, and installed the vinyl siding. We are working on the inside now.

Carolyn is enjoying her retirement this fall. She went back for 3 days this week to help a friend test her children. She enjoyed it.

It was great seeing all of you at the family reunion. Marty and his you did a great job. I only wish Frank and Betty could have been there. Sandra had some difficulty with the trip so they decided against going to Boston. She is looking very pregnant now and she and we can hardly wait.

Well I guess I have covered all the news from this end so I will get these in the mail. God bless and protect each and every one of you.

Your loving brother  
Jim and Carolyn

DEAR FAMILIES\*\*\*\*

# 38 - Sept. 27-02

I HAVE SAT ON THESE LETTERS FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS AND THEY DON'T GET FINISHED SO I GUESS I BETTER GET GOING.

JUST TALKED TO ELAINE AND ALL IS WELL SO I CAN'T TELL HER ANY NEWS.

JOE, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE STOPPED YOUR TRAVELING AND GETTING READY TO SETTLE IN FOR THE WINTER. WE HAVE ORDERED OUR TICKETS FOR INDIAN ROCKS BEACH FOR MARCH 27TH TO APRIL 7TH AND I AM ALREADY THINKING ABOUT VACATION. I WILL BE GLAD WHEN I CAN PICK UP AND GO WHEN I WANT TO.

SIS, I HAVE TALKED TO YOU TWICE LATELY SO NOT MUCH IS NEW. SELL THOSE HORSES AND TRAVEL THE WORLD.

JANICE, WE ARE DUE FOR LUNCH ONE OF THESE DAYS. I AM SORRY THAT I MISSED THE LAST INVITE. JEAN JUST KEEPS ROLLING ALONG. WHAT IS HIS NEXT PROJECT? JAN, YOU SAID ALL OF US ARE OVER THE HILL. HOW OLD DO WE HAVE TO BE, TO BE OVER THE HILL? I AM NOT SURE THAT I AM THERE YET.

FRANK, HOW IS THE LITTLE BAMBIE'S DOING? I REALLY MISS THEM. I REALLY ENJOYED THE JOKE ON THE BACK OF YOUR LETTER. SOME ONE HIT IT RIGHT ON THE HEAD, DIDN'T THEY. DOES CRYSTAL MISS GOING BACK TO PINELLIS PARK, FLORIDA. I HOPE SOMEDAY TO HAVE A DOUBLE WIDE THERE IN THAT AREA.

JOHN, WHATS UP? WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO PLAN A



WORLD CLASS TRIP FOR YOU. LETS START WITH  
MAUI, DON'T YOU THINK?

YOUR LETTERS LOOK SO PROFESSIONAL; I WISH MINE  
LOOKED THAT GOOD. IF I COULD JUST WRITE  
LEGIBLY, I WOULD LOVE IT.

JIM, I JUST TALKED TO YOU AND YOU HAD A NICE  
TRIP DOWN THE EAST COAST AND ALL WENT WELL.

GUESS I BETTER SIGN OFF AND GET THESE ON THE  
WAY. LOVE YOU ALL.

*Donald Thurtell*

Oct. 7, 2002  
Dear Dumonts, Bruce and Marione!  
No hope I can make this somewhat, readable  
and so on. My last letter was April 2002.  
Your letters are so interesting, getting better  
all the time.

Not too interesting around here, The residents  
get well, get sick move to other facilities  
best not to be too friendly with anyone  
try to be Good and Kind to ~~all~~ all. Some days  
that's hard and nearly impossible!

My weekend neighbor from Houghton St. -  
Bethy Yacono has died, Frank hasn't called  
or written, I found out by the phone  
disconnected and then called another neighbor  
to find out, a shocker to be sure!

The most pleasant thing is the Memorial  
for Mom, it's in place and now you will  
have another reason to visit Casa Maria!

Sister Carole Ann has been in Iowa for 2  
Weeks, Family Affairs, so things are very dull -  
she's the motivator for the place, a peacock  
trying to stir up a bunch of "turkeys".

Those of you who remember Father Nunan -  
he has been moved to Oakland Co. where he  
gets more care. They have named his part of  
the complex for him. Very apropos! The

whole town loves Father Nunan  
Wish this was more newsworthy.

Be well one and all  
May God bless and keep you, Love, Elaine

Cadillac, MI  
Oct. 17, '02

Dear Family:

It was 23 degrees cold this morning and threat of snow showers this evening.

Ron and Steve have been bow hunting for some time now (2 spikes and 1 doe). They have been able to buy extra doe permits due to slow hunter demand. The TB problem is slowing the hunting in the north country. The weather was quite warm for hunting until this last week. The leaves were slow to begin falling and the color is very washed out due to dry conditions in the last several weeks. A few trees had near perfect color.

We made our yearly trip to Manistee CO. for apple supply last Monday after a hard frost (needed for the red Delicious, to increase the sweet flavor). The farm near Bear Lake that we buy from had their poorest crop in 70 years, due to several heavy frosts last spring that cut the blossoming. This growing season has been strange in several ways.

It seems that we are getting together more by visits and phone judging from remarks in the letters and I feel the same -- lack of new information.

We plan to use our time-share in the Orlando area at the end of the year (leave the day after Christmas) and we expect to be checking on the possibility of staying over until spring in the Sarasota region. That area seems to agree with us during the winter months. Daughter Kathy's twins are in the teeth growing mode but haven't crawled as yet, they are in the 18-20 range in weight. This week they seem to be bothered with some cold like problem they got from older brother and that he got at preschool.

Yesterday we attended the funeral of Yvonne's inlaws Grandmother - Grandpaw died in ~~July~~ <sup>JANUARY</sup> and she needed to join him. May they both rest in peace forever.

I am inclosing the Casa Maria brochure and article from Elaine for your information.

Sis we had a short phone visit with Jessica when we were in Lansing about 9 or 10 days ago. It appears she is very busy working as well as studying. We hope she can visit the cousins at some point - Denise lives only  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile away from her dorm.

Jan we had a short visit with the Cadillac contact (Haysmer) recently at her used book store. I expect we have distant relatives everywhere and if not them we have their close friends. If only we were able to know. This typewriter is sure skipping up a storm.

Frank this bear thing is getting more common all the time. We aren't seeing them here at our place but within ten miles we have one of best bear nurseries in the state. The Mitchell swamp (thousnd acre swamp) just west of Cadillac is producing bears up to 3 or 4 in a litter, and they spread south and west mostly to populate swamp-s all over this region.

Marty I expect your <sup>vac</sup>ation plan will get you some 80degree weather by that time but we have seen 45 degree weather and very very miserable weather in that area in late February at the State Fair. Good vacation to both of you.

Jackie just reminded me of a repair job needed so duty calls.

Very sincerely yours until next letter.

Joe & Jackie

My Dear Family,

We have seen all of you lately. At Nickie's Funeral and we traveled up north to have prayer with Frank and John. We must be happy for Nickie as she is healed completely, but sad for our loss. Rog and I went to port Huron and prayed with her the day before she went.

We are planning to go to Hawaii next June for Lisa Bruce's wedding. That will be our 5th trip, but we must go for this special event. They plan to come here after the wedding where we will have a small reception. Hope all of you will come. You are all invited to the wedding at the Painted Church in Kona also.

I do hope Mike stays well so we will be able to leave, along with everyone else.

We visited Kathy + Rob on one of our  
trips to pick up Jessy from MSO.. The  
babies are beautiful and doing very  
well.

This letter is short mostly because  
we just saw all of you. I'll do better  
next time.

Hope you enjoy "your Hut is Burning"

Love you all  
Sis + Rog



Tag Line - Genealogy is not a hobby - it's a disease!

Dear Family:

I want to get these letters on their way before it's time for Christmas cards. Chuck left yesterday to return to California and his kids. He will be staying in the same house with the kids and their (2<sup>nd</sup>) step-father Phil and try to make a family in the midst of the loss of Nita. He said they will be coming to Michigan for Christmas. I'm not sure all of you knew that Nita died two days after Vickie. If not, I'll be glad to answer any questions.

I went to Imlay City last week to get a perm and to see our two sisters. I got a 2000 Buick Park Ave. a couple of days before I went. It has a lot of bells and whistles on it and I drove to Imlay City with the speedometer on kilometers and the temp. gauge on Celsius. I didn't know how to change it until later. I'm learning new tricks all the time. Jean's sister Helen wants to buy the 94 Olds 98.

We bought her a stool to put in her bathtub - it's for her birthday. I don't usually buy birthday gifts but she is always good to us. It's a gift so she can't refuse it. It will make it easier to manage bath time without falling - I hope. Maybe we can run it up to her on Monday (her birthday).

For those that don't know - I invited Aunt June's kids, Joyce, Carole, and Ron over a few Saturdays ago to listen to a cassette tape we made a few years ago (of their Mom) I also made them folders with some Dumont family history. We made lasagna and salad and shared a meal. To my dismay - Ron is a vegetarian. He had salad, bread and dessert. I got a nice thank you from Joyce. (Her new husband (Ted Petty) was with her). He seems like a nice guy. What a boring afternoon for him.

More and more records are being put on the internet all the time. Last night, I discovered that the cemetery records for Iosco County were there.

I just realized that I found Gramma McGillis' father and mother's graves in the Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery at Oscoda (Really Ausable).

Lot B12-27	Damas Loyer	1829-1904
Lot B12-027	Amelia Loyer	1832-1907

I found a number of other relatives there and in other cemeteries around there. I won't go into all of them here.

Rob got a 7 Point and a 9 Point in Bow Hunting season. I haven't heard anything about rifle season yet. I hear Joe's boys got three deer. Maybe more by now. Good

luck with rest of the season - all of you. Rob's family eat venison all the time if they have it. He is very proud of his 9-Point rack.

Frank and Betty - that bear story scares me. Do you ever venture out in the woods? Hope you are doing OK. That's all any of us can expect. The blurred vision could be caused by cataracts. Jean's sister had one eye done last week. It only takes a few minutes in the eye specialist's office. I guess if I had read farther - I would know that you are taking care of it. How are your eyes now?

Jim and Carolyn - We talk to you on a regular basis - We are all happy to welcome your newest grandchild (Genna) and know you are all just getting to know her. Jeff and Emi's house is looking great.

John and Pat - I just read your letter about the gall bladder attacks - it could be worse. Sandra (the new mother of Genna) was hospitalized twice in the last few weeks of her pregnancy with that. They thought she was going into labor. I see you have veered away from bottles. I would say you are full up with those. You really should make an inventory and have your collection appraised.

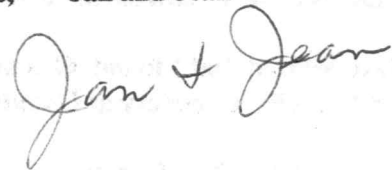
Marty - maybe we could say we are over the hill when we have at least one doctor appointment a month. What do you think? I guess it depends on how much maintenance we have to give our bods. Will see you when we go to Saginaw next (I think in January). I see what you mean about the handwriting. It looks like your signature is all ready to be doctor that signs prescriptions. (Just kidding).

Joe - Tell the boys to harvest all the deer they can. The herds are overpopulated that the DNR (I think) are planning to thin the herds in the recreation areas again this year. I pray they don't run out in front of me. They are really close in to the area. Your Kathy is on the verge of the real fun starting. I can just see them going in three different directions. Oh well, we had the same thing AND WAS EXPECTING YET AGAIN. I must E-Mail Cheryl Haysmer about finding our great-grandparent's graves. I'll read over her material again. She may already know.

Elaine and Sis - I just saw you gals last week. Keep well and we will be in phone touch. I'm going to close off so I don't have to go to a third page.

May God bless and keep all of you and yours.

Love, Jan and Jean

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jan & Jean". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Jan and Jean".

**Hi Marty and all:**

**These are the only family E-Mail addresses I have.**

**Sis and Roger -**

**rbruce@tir.com**

**Jim and Carolyn -**

**jcdumont@aol.com**

**Marty & Sonda -**

**Mdumont@~~Hot~~Mail.com**

*2539@Hotmail.com*

**Jan and Jean**

**-  
or**

**amilpop2002@yahoo.com**

**dumar@comcast.net**

*David + US  
DUMONT*

*dumont @ FAMVID . COM*

*SARA - MADAR  
GONCALVES*

*SARA @ GLIS.NET*

>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> I'm Fine - How are you? There's nothing the  
> matter with me,  
> I'm just as healthy as can be,  
> I have arthritis in both knees,  
> And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.  
> My pulse is weak, my blood is thin,  
> But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.  
>  
> All my teeth have had to come out,  
> And my diet I hate to think about.  
> I'm overweight and I can't get thin,  
> But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.  
>  
> And arch supports I need for my feet.  
> Or I wouldn't be able to go out in the street.  
> Sleep is denied me night after night,  
> But every morning I find I'm all right.  
> My memory's failing, my head's in a spin.  
> But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in. Old  
> age is golden I've heard it said,  
> But sometimes I wonder, as I go to bed.  
> With my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup,  
> And my glasses on a shelf, until I get up.  
> And when sleep dims my eyes, I say to myself,  
> Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?  
>  
>  
> The reason I know my Youth has been spent,  
> Is my get-up-and-go has got-up-and-went!  
> But really I don't mind, when I think with a  
> grin,  
> Of all the places my get-up has been. I get up  
> each morning and dust off my wits,  
> Pick up the paper and read the obits.  
> If my name is missing, I'm therefore not dead,  
> So I eat a good breakfast and jump back into bed.  
>  
>  
> The moral of this as the tale unfolds,  
> Is that for you and me, who are growing old.  
> It is better to say "I'm fine" with a grin,  
> Than to let people know the shape we are in. I  
> AM FINE HOW ARE YOU ?  
>  
>

Jan

12-11-02

Dear Brothers + Sisters!

I'm sitting here trying to think of something of something to say, it's a real nice day out 46° I wish Jenny had the wreaths ready for the cemetery I'd like to get them out there before it gets cold again.

John: we hear from you quite often did you get anymore bucks after the 1st one? none of our guys got anything no horns.

Jim: it looks like you have done a real nice job on Jeff's house, I don't know what it looked like before but I can imagine - I bet the neighbors are happy.

Marty: We were glad to have you pop in awhile back, you asked about Crystal and a place in La. I have no idea about that and she's not here right now to ask.

Elaine: see you are in the news no matter where you go hey? do they have a lot of projects like that for you folks?  
over (over)

after reading about you guys I turned the paper over and there was Phillip Hunkeler the house we bought in Ginglesville was from his parents & he was raised there.

Joe: I was just watching the weather Chan. and it looks like Fla. is getting some bad rain storms hopefully that will change by the time you guys go down, speaking of bears a guy got one 660# over by Curran in bear season.

Lis. - yes we did enjoy your sit is burning, sometimes like everything is going against you but only have to look around and you can see someone far worse off

Jon. - I'm sending this notice of Aunt Bertha's funeral we read about it in the Escudo paper well after the fact I've tried to call Barbara several times but no answer, my vision is not getting better - I have to go for a check-up in Feb.

I guess I've scratched long enough for this time so we wish all of you a joyous and healthy holiday season.

Frank & Betty



December 26, 2002

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It has ben ten days since I received the family letter from brother Frank; so I best get with it. The year 2002 was sure a bumpy ride for me, as it was for most of us. The signs are next year will be more prosperous.

Elaine, you must be very excited to be featured on the front page of a large newspaper.

Jim, the workmanship on that house (picture enclosed) is sure a fine job. I looks like you captured all the Dumont family carpentry skills.

Jan, the enclosed letter (the shape I'm in) sure fits most of us folks. However in the near future we can all look foreward to the fountain of youth.

Marty, a world class trip is probably not in the future. However, I would be so gratefull if (you) would deliver a (new) Buick up here; Where is your Christmas spirit?

The 2002 deer season on the farm would be best classified as a average year. Five of us hunting shot four bucks. There was a generous supply of does in the area. The hunting in Alcona and Alpena counties would have to be rated poor in most areas. The DNR and insurance companies in this area is probably laughing all the way to the bank.

We have had a wonderful winter up here so far. Some areas is buried under snow or wading in flood waters. I was able to get half of the yard raked this winter, this will help me in the spring cleanup. One thing I will not have to deal with in 03 is another gall bladder attack, thank God. Santa came recently up here as expected. He left some nice gifts along with a nice mess. All the kids and all the grandchildren was here. That is what Christmas is all about.

I will have to close for now, and may God Bless each and everyone of you in the coming new year.

Your Loving Brother,

John