

Jan, 15, 2003

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Carolyn and I arrived here in Port Richey yesterday. It is quite nippy here (53° now). It will go up to 66° today and down to 45° tonight. Tomorrow should be better but colder again this coming weekend.

Next week we will be going south to Punta Gorda, and Naples the following week. Early February will be at Disney World and we head back home Feb. 11th. I realize that none of you have any sympathy for us and this cool weather but hopefully it will warm up before we return.

Before I left home I got the addition on Jeff & Emi's house to the point where the dry wall is going up on the 1st floor. I hope that they can finish the dry wall, tape it and paint the rooms before I get back. If so, I can finish the $\frac{1}{2}$ bath and hall.

I imagine that all of you have heard by now that Brian and Sandra have a baby girl (Henna) born Nov. 12th. She had a problem with her hips but they put her in a brace and she is doing fine. She has an ear infection now.

Mark was snowmobiling in the U.S. on Jan. 3rd and had an accident with the snowmobile. He hurt his hip but did not want to go to the hospital up there. His friends

loaded the snowmobile behind his truck and Mark drove back home. He went to the hospital when he got here and they operated at 4AM for a broken hip. They put in 3 pins. He is home now and frustrated that he can't do things.

Elaine + Jan + Jean, I saw each of you before I left so nothing is news.

Sis, I missed you but we talked on the phone. I hope you are feeling better.

Joe, I imagine you + Jackie are back in Cadillac now. I hope your trip to Florida was great.

Frank and Betty, it was good to spend some time with you when we were there. I hope the very best for you both. Stay out of the doctors offices and hospitals. Enjoy the natural scenery and entertainment.

John, you too need to stay out of the hospital. Maybe you and Pat can get in some short trips.

Marty, I enjoy your e-mails. Keep it up. It is your turn next for Florida.

Well I better close this for now and find a post office. Love you all.

Your loving brother

Jim + Carolyn

01-24-2003

#39

DEAR DUMONTS, NIMMOTH'S, BRUCE'S, AND MARION'S:

WELCOME TO MICHIGAN WINTER. ORLANDO, FLORIDA WAS 28 THIS MORNING. HOW SWEET IT IS.

ELAINE, I JUST TALKED TO YOU YESTERDAY SO I HAVE NO NEW NEWS FOR YOU.

JOE, I TALKED TO YOU ABOUT ONE WEEK AGO AND NOT MUCH HAS HAPPENED SINCE. I WAS GLAD THAT YOU PUT THE ARTICLE ON CASA MARIA IN WITH THE LETTERS. THE LETTERS MADE IT ONE FULL CYCLE IN FOUR MONTHS. THAT IS GOOD.

SIS, I MISSED YOU THE LAST TIME THAT I WAS IN IMLAY CITY BUT HAD A CHAT WITH ROGER. HE SAID YOU WERE OUT DOING LADIES HAIR. MAYBE NEXT TIME. JUNE WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT AND YOU WILL BE OFF TO HAWAII. I WISH I COULD DO THAT AGAIN.

JAN, I CORRECTED MY NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS ON YOUR E-MAIL REGISTRY. I NOTICED THAT JOE HAS NOT SET UP AN E-MAIL ADDRESS SO I GUESS I BETTER OFFER MY SERVICES TO HIM. IF HE EVER GETS ON LINE HE WON'T HAVE ANY TIME FOR WORK AROUND THE HOUSE. ON FRANKS IS THAT DUMONT@FAMVID.COM OR DUMONT@FAMUID.COM.

FRANK, WE TALKED A WEEK AGO. NOT MUCH IS NEW SINCE I SAW YOU LAST.

JOHN, I TALKED TO YOU THE NIGHT BEFORE LAST AND YOU FILLED ME IN ON ALL THE SCOOP. I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU TODAY ALSO, SO I BETTER GET

ON THE PHONE TO YOU BEFORE I FINISH THIS SO
I CAN ADD ANYTHING NEWSY. WELL, ALL IS WELL.

JIM, I TALKED TO YOU LAST NIGHT, AND YOU WERE
IN PUNTA GORDA, FL. AND WERE LEAVING ON SUNDAY
FOR NAPLES, FL. I WOULD IMAGINE THAT YOU WILL
NOW BE PAST THE COLD WEATHER AND WILL ENJOY
THE REST OF YOUR VACATION. BEST OF LUCK.

WE WILL LEAVE FOR ST. PETES BEACH ON MARCH
27TH AND COME BACK ON APRIL 7TH. AND I CAN'T
WAIT. I AM WALKING 3 1/2 MILES EVERY MORNING
AT A NEW SPORTS CENTER IN SAGINAW TOWNSHIP.
IT SURE MAKES ME FEEL GOOD AND BURNS THE
CALORIES UP ALSO. GUESS I BETTER GET BACK TO
WORK. LOVE YOU ALL. SONDA AND MARTY

3-3-03

Dear One and all:

It's a real gloomy day, I'll try to forget it! There wasn't any mention of Ground Hog day - Who needs it, they should put it to ~~rest~~ rest like the 20th Century.

Right now my penmanship has failed me! Try a new pen from Laughlin NEV. This A-17. I have been getting my Cards - Birthday and Christmas cards for mailing to Boulder, NEV. ST. Jude ^{RANCH} for Children, I used about 50" of tape and I'm not too sure they will take it at the P.O., Are you aware how much mailing is - I have been ordering from the phone and the mailing some times is more than the article.

I missed the youngest gr. child's B. day Rebecca Lee Bruce, Chris and Mindy's this place had been in the throes of an epidemic one thinks its over and soon you hear of a new case, our Sunday Cook is down now, she cooks for the school, ~~my~~ ^{she} has brought a new bug?

Let's pray that Nasa finds theirs and soon, what a loss of beautiful minds and experience!

By rights I should do this over - Call if you need further "help"!

my next door neighbor has gone back to
her home where her gr. papa built after
he arrived from Scotland, its a Centinela ^{SENTINEL}

Home and now, she's near 90 yrs! I'll miss her
to be sure. I hope I don't get a smoker next
door?!,? This lady was the only one of our 5
tablemates who escaped the bug, some had flu
shots and some didn't - go figure.

Hope Jim and Carolyn will be home and
rested and glad to be in Michigan, Marty and
Londa will be next.

Brother John sure has been through the "mill"
last I talked to him he's improving Aunt you
John?

No one has mentioned Family Reunion, what
ever you all decide I'll go along, its my and JOE'S
turn or NOT?

Been to lunch, got mail and am "sort" of out
things interesting to write.

Excuse please the stationery, misspelled
words, any other mistakes.

Come to Casa Maria, let me know
God bless and keep all of you and yours
Love, Elaine

Cadillac, MI

Feb. 13, 2003

Dear Family:

It seems that we have just talked with at least half of you in the last month, so I feel without news.

Last evening we made arrangements for the '03 family reunion. Elaine & I offered Frank & John's familys' the opportunity to take the next turn due to their need for a closer site at this stage in their life. Elaine & I will take the '04 turn instead. The time is Aug. 2nd, at Charbaneaus resturant in AuSable, about 1 PM. No other notice should be necessary as at least half of us already know, and the others will know shortly, so put it on the calenders. There is a large smorgesbourne and other special food needs can be taken care of. If any extended close family members wish to come they are welcome and will be provided for. We know that there will be conflicts as there always are, such as cousin Ethel Rose Rasmussen, who will not be in Michigan until mid August, so just due your best.

Jim and Carolin are due in from Florida and will bring some warmer weather with them, according to the weather man. We have had colder and snowier weather than normal since we returned from Florida about Jan 10th. We even broke some local record for low temps. Over 90" of snow to date in this area. Reported -15° here this AM. I have much snow blowing to do after this letter exercise.

Our Florids trip this winter was better than usual, with nice afternoons and no rain. Two or three mornings had frost or freeze warnings in the fruit areas but the damage apparently was minimal even later in January. Only the Valencia's were being harvested for juice and they can stand more cold at that stage.

It appears that everyone is on the mend healthwise at this time.

Gasoline prices are rising fast and I hope this will not cause us problems in August.

Jan I feel that we will ^{know} so much about our distant relatives that you should write a book on the subject.

Kathy's twins are on the verge of walking and tomorrow they are to be treated to baby sitting training with cousin Jessie Bruce and her room-mate from MSU, while the parents have an evening out. She really needs it most of the time. The boys are doing fine. We are pleased to hear of the Detroit cousins progress as well.

Those of you that can should complete your vacation plans even if there is a war. Go to safer places at safer times and act wisely at all times.

May God and your guardian angel be with you at all times.

J. J. [Signature]

2-28-03

My Dear Families,

I'm glad to hear every one is on the mend. We are pretty well here since my knees got better from a fall and a one day Flu. We stay pretty well as a rule.

We had to plow our drive way yesterday for the first time this winter and I hope the last.

I will be going to Hawaii for the 5th time. Bill and Jan^{villes} are going also. Rog will stay here to care for Mike + Middle also a mare is due to fowl at that time and this one usually has to have help. She is the one who produces black Fowls. The wedding is on the 21st at Kona's painted church and they want anyone to come, who would like to go to Lisa's wedding. They are coming back here and will be going to Makinaw Island on the 30th.

We will have a small reception for you
about Sat July 5th. Hope any and all of you
will be able to come here if you can't go
to Hawaii. I plan to leave for the wedding
after Father's Day and our 53rd wedding anniversary.

Jim: I just talked to you. So glad your feet
are getting better. See you soon. Its nice
that Dawn works near you and can visit.

Joe - Guess you really got snow as usual. We
miss seeing you this winter. So glad
Jessie was able to baby sit for Kathy. I'm
sure it was nice for her to get away
from college too.

Frank - We sure appreciate your putting
wreaths on the grave. Glad you are doing
better. We will see you soon.

Jim - you are so busy. We are hit with
the same club. Glad you got a nice
vacation. You both deserve it. Poor

Mark - that must have been terrible
for him to travel so far with a broken
hip. Glad he's better. now also praise God
for Lenna's wonderful news.

John - Good news from you! Right!
We sure wish everything is better
and are praying for that. We will

3/ get up that way when the weather breaks.
and things settle down.

Elaine - we talk almost daily and see
each other often. we met for lunch
and drinks yesterday. Love having you
near and so does our children and
grand children.

Love to all and see you soon,
Sir, Roy + all

Tag Line: God gave us relatives, luckily we can choose our friends.

Dear family:

It's time I let go of these and get them on the snail mail truck. I just put our income tax in the mail this afternoon. We also had to itemize a expense list for the new garage over on Gerald (Rental). It looks like I didn't mention it in my last letter. It caught fire in Nov. The tenant's kid had himself a pad rigged out in the garage (couch, TV, heater, etc.) He had lamp cords to plug everything in. The parents are dumb and he's dummer. Anyway we had to prove every little expense to get reimbursed.

Attached is a little true story about Limerick School. I sent it to a guy that has stories and facts from different counties in Michigan. It's on the Internet. You can beam it in by going to (<http://www.willett.org/ovid/limerick.htm>).

My scanner took a dump so I want to take the letters with me tomorrow to copy them at the library. I will look for a new scanner (or maybe at dual purpose machine when I get time. (Dual - Printer, scanner and copier).

I talked to Betty for a few minutes this afternoon so I know they are OK as of now. Thanks, Frank for Aunt Bertha's obit. Did I tell you that one of Manley McDonald's sons was living down the street from one of Aunt Bertha's descendants?

We had an ICE storm several days ago. Four of our families were out of power so there was a mad scramble for generators. (Mike, Joe, Rob, & Tom). Tom still is out. Joe has been on and off a couple of times. Rob and Tom have major tree damage. A man in Oxford was killed when a branch came down on him as he was cleaning up. Very dangerous to be under the trees.

John - I hope you are getting back to being well again. And don't worry about the things you can't control. I'm convinced that God let this war happen for the greater good down the road. He knows what he's doing - He made the WORLD - RIGHT. There is a master plan for everything and everyone - we will never understand why certain things happen to us. I have a little wooden cross from church to wear during Lent. It says JESUS on one side. On the other side it says ALWAYS TRUST ME.

Jim - your family has had your share of crosses lately. I understand Genna is coming along fine, Jeff's accident and your niece's death. The WHY of it all remains unknown. At least you got away to Florida even though the weather wasn't the best. Rob and Vickie were down for a week too. It rained all the time except for about a day and a half.

That brings me to Marty's letter. Another Florida playboy. I see you gave us David's web site address. I'll have to check it out (when I get time). I don't know how I had time to work out. I wish there was a close by place to walk indoors. I think I could manage that. The suitable malls are 8 miles away and not practical on a daily basis.

I had lunch with Sis, Elaine and Rog on Tuesday last week. I went for a perm and a chance to visit with my favorite sisters.

I keep hoping that the news will announce SURRENDER FROM IRAQ. Each day brings more lives lost. I know I will breath easier when that tyrant and his henchmen are out of commission. PRAY THAT THEIR HEARTS WILL CHANGE AND THEY WILL PROMOTE PEACE INSTEAD OF KILLINGS.

I just got a book by a Michigan author. It's got a dozen stories about the Rogues, Desperados, and Cut-Throats that resided in Michigan mostly in the last half of the 1800's and early 1900's. My, My, I never dreamed there were such going's on. Murderer's, graft, saloons, bordello's and everything else that we now have law's against. Which reminds me, did you see in the story in paper. We have a beautiful Albanian Catholic church just a couple of blocks from us. Last Sunday, during the consecration, a guy came in church and pumped several shots into another guy. Killed him. People thought it was a terrorist attach. They were jumping out of windows. Cardinal Shocia (sp.) had just dedicated the church a few weeks before. On Friday, they had a cleansing and rededication ceremony. They said the church had been desecrated and they couldn't use it until it was cleansed. Several men parishioners grabbed the shooter and held him down until the police got there. He had two guns. It was from a feud that goes back about 10 years in Albania. The priest was very shook as was others.

Dawn Bruce (one of Bill's twins) has been over to visit us a couple of times.

She is working about 3 miles from us. A very pleasant young lady.

Joe - I often think I would like to write a book. It takes a whole lot of writing to fill a book - plus, who would be interested except family. You will have to be satisfied with the little story about the Limerick School for now.

While I was at Sis's last week, we watched a foal being born on video. The gal that owns the horse was there and she delivered that baby even though it was breech. She had to shove it back in - turn it and get it going the right way. I don't think she (the gal) weights more than a hundred lbs. First foal for the horse. Truly remarkable. She saved them both. Her men were away from the house when this happened.

OK - enough from this end for this time. See you all at the reunion. Jan

Jan + Joan

Limerick School, Alcona County, Michigan

A Story of Limerick School

Contributed by

Janice Dumont Marion

Limerick School was about a mile from our farmhouse in Alcona County. My brother and sister went to school the same year. Joe was sick a lot his first years so he was held back a year. In 1937 I started school. We carried our lunch in recycled syrup pails. They had covers and a bail handle. We always had homemade cookies, an apple and a sandwich made with homemade bread. We loved getting a loaf of (store) bread. It was a real treat for us. Our lunches and coats were kept in an area around the furnace in the back of the room. One of the students was a braggard and would say things like: My Dad can bit a snake in half. Or, My Dad can jump over the school house. I remember going to school as a family to get childhood shots probably given by the county nurse. Another time, we had to make a lunch basket to be bid on by adults or parents of the students. I recall when I first started school - the teacher said I was too smart to be in kindergarten and put me in 1st. grade. I always wondered if that was true or just to eliminate a grade from the eight grades taught. One neighbor girl was somewhat of a bully. She was a little older than us but we had to walk home together. She would threaten to knock us down the bridge hill. Our Dad told the teacher about it and she had orders not to touch us. She said "All she had to do was touch her land and then she could do what she wanted." We were always pretty scared but the next year our school was consolidated with the larger Oscoda School District which was a 10 mile bus ride. My most traumatic experience at that school had to do with the chemical toilet in a room behind the teacher's desk. The pit was open except for a narrow board to sit on. I went in there with my winter coat over my shoulders. To my horror - my coat slipped off my shoulders and into the mess below. The teacher fished it out and sent someone across the road to see if the neighbor lady would wash it. I was 5 or 6 years old and was totally embarrassed. I was painfully shy to begin with. I still feel sorry for Mrs. Woods to have to wash that coat.

The surnames that I can remember are:

Teacher- Grace Gill

Students - Dumont, Lee, Anderson, Merkel, Gill, and Coppler. Keep in mind that there were no more than a dozen or so students.

Created on ... April 05, 2003

4-30-03.

Dear Family,

Just a few lines to let you know that the Family Reunion is set for Aug. 2 at 1:00 P.M. at Charbonneau's in Escudo that's just S. of the ~~bridge~~ bridge. I thought we could meet at 1:00 & eat at 2:00, there are several great attractions in the area as you all know & mass at Sacred Heart at 4:30.

John, We talk every few days so nothing new to tell you except that you might not be so depressed if you stopped ~~with~~ watching the Tigers.

Jim, It sounds like you guys had a pretty good trip to Fla. Betty's Sis Edna is in Port Charlotte that's N. across the Peace River from Punta Gorda, is Marks accident going to cause him any problems at work?

Marty, you must be back in Mi. now you wanted David's E-mail it is Humont @ Jamvil. com.

Elaine, why are you asking us to excuse your stationary I think its

great, I've got to compose notes with you when we meet on our eye problems.

Joe, It sounds like you guy had a lot more snow than we did we have to be way below our precip. over the last 6 mo., we had to plow the drive once this winter after an 8" snow fall.

Sis, We saw you and Rog not very long ago, glad you get up here as often as you do, Betty has been busy getting the yard and the flower beds cleaned up for Crystal's open house - I wish I had half her energy.

Jan, I'm so sad that you did not include me in the walk to Limerick school I very well remember Mary Lee walking over to the barbed wire fence at Giddord rd. Touching it and saying she could do anything she wanted to us, I remember once in a great while we would have a penny to spend at Smith's store and I would get a stick of Pinocchio bubble gum.

Love & Prayers to All Betty & Aron.

May 13, 2003

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On May 19th I expect to go into surgery on my shoulder. I should be in my second home for only one night. I expect to be in a shoulder sling for four to sixteen weeks. This time period is based on the wear and tear of the joint.

Jan, I sure enjoyed your letter on the Limerick School. I did not realize they had (indoor plumbing) in that school back in those days. You could be a real winner writing short stories. The title could be (BACK ON THE FARM) by Janice Dumont Marion.

I am looking foreword to seeing you all at the family reunion on August 2nd 2003. Please notify your family members and let brother Frank or myself know by July 15th. The get together is expected to start at 1 pm and dinner at 2 pm. Please notify everyone the food is on the south side of the Ausable river west side. I am getting hungry just thinking about those thick juicy steaks.

There is a wedding planned on the banks of the pine river on July 12th. This will be in the general area of where we had the picnic table many years ago. The reception will be at the Mikado hall.

The weather up here lately has been less than great. However the lawn looks the best it has in years, proving mother nature makes all things beautiful. We only have to look south and beyond, in order to thank God for our blessings.

Just think it has been 40 years this September since we both said I do; my how the years fly by. I will have to close for now. (SEE YOU ALL ON AUGUST 2ND)

May God bless each and everyone of you.

Your Loving Brother,

John

June 16, 2003

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Jan says I have been sitting on these letters too long so here goes. A lot has happened since I last wrote. We had just arrived in Florida. It was cold there. It was a cold winter and then a long cold spring. It is finally warming up.

After we got back from Florida I finished the 1st and 2nd floors at Jeff's house (the addition that is). Now it is Carolyn's turn. May 1st we started on her new kitchen.

We started by gutting the kitchen and broke out all the old ceramic tile. Then came the re-wiring, re-plumbing, and dry wall. The new cabinets arrived 3 weeks ago and they are installed. I am waiting for 3 more cabinets (change of plans). When they are installed I will be ready for the counter top measurements. They will take 4 weeks after the measurements are taken. During those 4 weeks I plan to start the addition.

Work with St. Vincent de Paul is coming along as usual. I am on a search committee to find a new executive director. The executive director I hired 5 years ago was so good that he was just hired as the new national executive director. I pray that we can find another good one as well.

Mark is finally healed. He has a new and better job now. He is still in the big battery business. Keren lost her job at Eaton via corporate re-structuring. She has had a lot of interviews lately.

I think Sis is in Hawaii now for Lisa's wedding. I hope they have a great time. I believe Joe and Jackie are also there. I hope to get there some day.

John, I imagine you are doing better now that your shoulder surgery is behind you. We are going to have to find a way to keep you out of those hospitals. Are you both still involved with St. Vincent de Paul? hope all is well.

Frank, continue to take it easy and care for all the animals. Betty, make sure he follows all the rules. We will see you, Aug. 2nd.

Marty, We will have to celebrate your 65th birthday at the family reunion. That is quite a milestone for all the family.

Elaine, Sis, and Jan, I have talked to each of you lately so there is nothing new to add.

Joe, continue to enjoy life and stay happy.

Well it is time to close. Love ya.

Your loving brother
Jim and Carolyn

HI DUMONTS, BRUCES, MARIONS, & NIMMOTHS:

THIS IS ROUND ROBIN #40

NOT MUCH HAPPENING HERE. AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE REUNION ON AUGUST 2ND. I FOUND A NEW WAY TO LOOSE WEIGHT. IT REQUIRES WALKING 3 MILES PER DAY, PREFERABLY BY 8 A.M. AND EATING A SMALL SALAD WITH VINEGARETTE DRESSING FOR LUNCH. NO SNACKS AND NO BREAD OF ANY KIND. REGULAR EVENING MEAL (NO BREAD) AND A SNACK AT NIGHT, COULD BE PIE OR ICE CREAM. WATCH THE POUNDS GO OFF. IT WORKS IF YOU DON'T CHEAT. OH, BY THE WAY. STAY AWAY FROM RED MEAT. TRY IT.

ELAINE, YOU SAID YOU WERE STRUGGLING WITH THE LETTER. I THINK WE ALL STRUGGLE WITH GETTING THIS OUT AND GETTING IT IN THE MAIL. I WILL BRING YOUR PAPERWORK THAT I AM SAVING FOR YOU TO THE REUNION.

JOE , WE DID SPEND OUR VACATION IN FLORIDA AND IT WAS GREAT. WE HAVE ALREADY BOOKED MARCH 25TH TO APRIL 8TH. FOR NEXT YEAR. I WOULD LOVE TO OWN A PLACE NEAR ST. PETE'S BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT LIFE WILL BRING.

SIS, YOU SHOULD BE BACK FROM HAWAII BY NOW. I HOPE IT WAS A WONDERFUL TRIP FOR YOU AND ALL OUR FAMILY WHO WENT. ROGER WAS TENDING THE NEW BABY, HEY.

JANICE, EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE E-MAIL, WE DON'TN USE IT MUCH , DO WE. SORRY TO BE SO BUSY. HOPE JEAN IS TENDING TO HIS KNITTING. I HAVE RAN INTO A FEW COUPLES NAMED DUMB AND DUMBER. THEY COME THRU THIS OFFICE QUIT OFTEN.

FRANK, I JUST TRIED TO E-MAIL YOU AT DAVID'S EMAIL ADDRESS. I AM NOT SURE IF IT IS UP AND RUNNING OR NOT. ARE YOU SEEING AND BAMBIE'S OUT BACK OR NOT.??

JOHN, I DO AGREE THAT IF YOU LISTEN TO THE TIGERS, YOU WILL AGE FASTER. FOR SOME REASON, THEY DO NOT HAVE IT ALL TOGETHER. MAYBE THEY NEED TO SPEND SOME MONEY ON PITCHERS.

JIM, HOWS THE NEW KITCHEN COMING? ITS ABOUT TIME THAT YOU STARTED DOING SOMETHING FOR CAROLYN, INSTEAD OF THE KIDS ALL THE TIME. YES, I AM GOING TO HIT THE BIG 65 IN AUGUST, AND I HAVE SIGNED UP FOR THAT SOCIAL SECURITY AND SHOULD GET THE FIRST CHECK IN NOVEMBER. WON'T THAT BE GREAT.

GUESS I BETTER GET BACK TO WORK. TAKE CARE AND GOD BLESS.

love
forada & frank

July 18, 03

Dear Families:

Excuse my penmanship, Arthritis in my wrist!
It is such a grand day today, had a good rain
last night.

Talked to Jackie & John today, all are talking
"Reunion". Glad you are "recooping" John. Hope
and pray for Sis this Mon. Also called Carolyn!

Saw Jan, & Jean on Tues. This week, seems
they are getting about O.K. Sis, Jan, Jean &
Jamie and I had lunch Tues. Jan's "hair do" day.
They don't get up here much.

Life at Casa Maria flows by even when
we aren't "having fun". There is an ice
cream social in Aug, all are invited! I'll
check the date, I'm in the So. Rec. room writing.

My ^{EYE} surgery seems is O.K. - I'm supposed
to have the other one done in Aug.

Ethel Rose called, they will be in Michigan
after the Reunion. They really are on the go.
Putting in a sprinkling system before they leave.

I have been sitting on these letters -
needed envelopes - Marty sent several for
awhile - All self addressed! This room is a
busy area, but there so to speak.

Wish I had some thing more to say, I
think of all of you and hope for the best, you &
my family these years and I thank God for you all.
Have a good rest of summer, hope to see you soon. E.

Aug. 7, '63
Cadillac, MI.

Dear Family:

Since we just had our yearly reunion Aug. 2nd at the outlet of the Au Sauble River, where we were all in attendance for the first time in years, there is little new news. It was a pleasure to see you all, as well the family members who made the effort.

We attempted to find housing for the night in Oscoda but none was available so we traveled to Mikado and the cemetery on our way home. We visited the Oscoda beach with Kathy and ~~Devonne~~ and children. Sean enjoyed the cold water especially well which was a surprise. Sunday afternoon Jean and Jan visited and spent the night. Monday noon we all visited Aunt Neomi at Oscoda and had lunch together. Aunty had been ill recently but seemed fine while we were there. She is near her ninetieth birthday but still drives her car.

The black berries have started to ripen this week. Raspberries have been going strong for a couple of weeks. Our weather continues cooler than normal so everything is ripening slower than normal. We noticed that grain harvest started last week, north of Lansing. Corn growth seems shorter than normal all over the region. Our precipitation seems to be above normal with spotty drouthy areas.

We are planning a trip to the Dells of Wisconsin for mid Sept. and have made plans to be gone to Florida Dec. 2-22 in the Orlando and Tampa areas.

Ethel Rose is due here the 1st week of September for their big vacation.

It just occurred to me that with slight variation the whole family seems to be rather good health wise for the shape we are in -- keep it up please.

I didn't hear it but Marty must be retiring very soon?

The big Mars approach hit the neighborhood yesterday and I expect the papers and magazines very soon. Aug. 27th is the big night.

May our God be with you all.

PS Thankyou to our Reunion hosts
Frank/Betty & John/Pat for all
your good work

Jackie & Joe

Aug 14 2003

My Dear Family,

It was just great to see all of you at the reunion and was glad I got there even tho I got two heart stents put in three days earlier. I made the trip in fine condition, but must go back for 2 more stents about the first of Sept. I expect to get this behind me and I'll be better than ever. Thanks for all your prayers they are greatly appreciated.

Thanks Joe + Jackie for coming to Hawaii. I especially loved your being there. We don't get to spend such quality time very often + your God children were very happy to see you also.

John + Gayle are expecting a son ~~after~~ daughters. They are excited. Now we must go to Hawaii again!

That was a great story about Limerick School Jan. Remember Frank was eventually with us and Uncle Bills. Alongs, Fred, Georganna, Donna Miller came also + the Rivers boys. Those were the days!

Jim + Carolyn. Those pictures of your new kitchen are wonderful. It's a pleasure to work in such a lovely room. So glad it's

2 Cousin Ethel Rose + Bob came yesterday and spent the night. We spent alot of time on geneology and looking at picture. I had Elaine come for dinner and also we all went for breakfast at the Big Boy. They wanted to get an early start for Oscoda and I wanted to work. Its Ethel Rose's class reunion, also they are checking on the Family tree during their travels. It was a pleasure to have them. I delayed the letters till after they were here.

Frank you are looking good. You too Betty and that lovely Family. So many came! It was nice to see some of the children there. John you + Pat Frank + Betty put on a great reunion. It was so very glad to get there. Nice to see your Family. Marty Happy Birthday again. Nice to see Sandra + Sherry.

Elaine I just say Hi to you. Glad you are near.

I'm writing this on the deck with the sun going down. Its beautiful + peaceful. Gods Blessing be upon you all.

P.S.

We are having alot of Black Fools this year.
They should be easier to sell.

HI HO! HI HO! NOW WHERE DID MY ANCESTORS GO?

IT'S TIME TO GET THESE ON THE ROAD AGAIN. HURRICANE ISABELLE IS ALMOST GONE AND MY LIFE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE SLOWING DOWN MUCH.

WE HAD A NICE REUNION IN OSCODA AND I HAVE A PICTURE TO PROVE IT. ELAINE SAID MARTY DID NOT PLAN TO HAVE COPIES MADE FOR ALL OF US THIS TIME SO I WILL MAKE COPIES OF MINE IF THAT IS THE CASE. THAT WAS THE FIRST PICTURE OF ALL EIGHT OF US IN SEVERAL YEARS. IT'S A GOOD ONE TOO.

AFTER THE REUNION, JEAN AND I TOOK A LITTLE TOUR AROUND TO VISIT THE BROTHER'S. ON SATURDAY EVENING WE WENT TO THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY AT OSCODA/AUSABLE. WE LOCATED THE GRAVES OF GRAMMA MCGILLIS'S MOTHER AND DAD (AMELIA PAQUETTE AND DAMAS LOYER. THEIR HEADSTONE IS ABOUT THREE FEET HIGH. IT IS ONLY ABOUT 200 FT. FROM JOHN RAPHAEL DUMONT AND EUGENIE MARTIN'S PLOT. IT'S NOT FAR FROM THE EAST (OLD) END OF THE CEMETERY, A FEW FEET FROM THE ROAD GOING OUT ON THE NORTH SIDE, NEXT TO A BIG TREE.

WE HAD ETHEL ROSE AND BOB FOR FIVE NIGHT'S. WE ENJOY THEIR COMPANY BUT THAT WAS LONG ENOUGH. WE DID A LOT OF COPYING OF DATA AND PICTURES. BOB IS REALLY INTO THE NITTY GRITTY OF WHERE OUR GRANDFATHER DUMONT HAD BOUGHT LAND. IT SEEMS LIKE HE BOUGHT LAND ON BOTH SIDES OF THE RIVER (200 ACRES) ON THE EAST SIDE (THEN SOLD IT LATER) BESIDES ON THE NORTHWEST SIDE. THAT NORTHWEST MAY HAVE BEEN PURCHASED BY THE OLDEST BOY (JOSEPH) AND LATER TURNED OVER TO UNCLE ADELORE.

JEAN'S SECOND WORLD WAR MEDALS ARRIVED A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO. HE HAD FOUR MEDALS AND A COUPLE OF PINS COMING. THAT MADE ME THINK OF DAD'S FIRST WORLD WAR RECORD. I HAD HIS DISCHARGE PAPERS HERE SO LAST FRIDAY WE TOOK THEM DOWN TO THE VA OFFICE AND TALKED TO THE VETERAN COUNSELOR. HE IS SENDING TO ST. LOUIS TO SEE WHAT HE CAN FIND OUT ABOUT DAD'S FILE. FROM THE DISCHARGE PAPERS I KNOW THAT HE ENLISTED IN 1917 FOR FOUR YEARS. THEN THAT WAR ENDED IN EARLY SPRING OF 1919 AND HE WAS DISCHARGED. ELAINE WAS BORN IN NOV. OF THAT YEAR. I'M REALLY ANXIOUS TO HEAR FROM THEM. IT TOOK ABOUT 8-10 WEEKS FOR JEAN'S TO COME. I'LL LET YOU ALL KNOW WHEN I KNOW.

AFTER WE VISITED FRANK AND BETTY'S FAMILY ON SUNDAY, WE WENT TO OSSINIKE TO SEE JOHN AND PAT. I WANTED TO SEE AUNT NAOMI WHILE WE WERE NORTH SO WE HEADED ACROSS M-55 FROM TAWAS AND BEFORE WE KNEW IT WE WERE

ABOUT 30 MILES FROM CADILLAC SO WE DECIDED TO GO ON TO SEE JOE AND JACKIE. WE ENDED UP SPENDING SUNDAY NIGHT THERE. THEN ON MONDAY WE WENT TO THE USED BOOK STORE THAT IS OWNED BY CHERYL HAZEMER. MOM WAS HER MOTHER-IN-LAW'S GODMOTHER WHEN SHE WAS IN DETROIT. SHE IS MARRIED TO A DECENDANT OF GEORGE LOYER. AFTER THAT VISIT, JOE, JACKIE, JEAN AND I WENT DOWN TO CLARE TO VISIT AUNT NAOMI. HOME FROM THERE. I STILL HAVEN'T CAUGHT UP WITH MARION MAYES. ALTHOUGH JUST AS WE WERE PULLING OUT FROM AUNT NAOMI'S, ONE OF MARION'S SON'S AND HIS SON DROVE UP. AT LEAST WE GOT TO MEET THEM.

JEAN AND I SIGNED UP FOR A 14 WEEK BIBLE STUDY CLASS. WE BOTH THINK IT IS TOO DEEP FOR US. WE SHALL SEE.

CHUCK IS BACK IN TOWN. THE HOUSE (RENTAL) NEXT DOOR WAS EMPTY THE END OF JULY AND HE DECIDED HE WANTED TO BUY IT. HE THOUGHT FOR AWHILE HIS DAUGHTER ASHLEY MIGHT COME HERE FOR HER LAST TWO YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL. WELL, SHE IS DEAD SET AGAINST THAT. SHE WANTS TO FINISH SCHOOL WITH HER FRIENDS. HE DECIDED TO REMODEL THE KITCHEN WHILE HE WAS WAITING FOR PHASE II OF THE BUILDING THEY ARE WORKING ON IN PALM BEACH, FLORIDA. HE IS JUST ABOUT FINISHED WITH THE KITCHEN AND HE HAS TO BE BACK IN FLORIDA ON SEPT. THE 28TH.

WE HAVE ALSO BEEN THROUGH ANOTHER RE-FI ON OUR HOUSE THIS SUMMER. WE GOT THE INTEREST DOWN JUST BELOW 5%. I NEVER IN MY WILDEST DREAMS THOUGHT I WOULD EVER SEE THAT. ANYWAY, IT ALL MAKES FOR A HARRIED LIFESTYLE.

ON SUNDAY, OUR CHOIR WILL BE SINGING AT ST. DOMINIC IN DETROIT.

I'VE STARTED CANNING PEARS. I WILL ONLY HAVE ABOUT 18-20 PINTS - SPACED OVER 4-5 CANNING SESSIONS. IS IT WORTH IT? ONLY WHEN YOU EAT THEM. I ALSO DID BLACK RASPBERRY JAM AND APPLESAUCE FROM BROTHER JIM'S TREE.

FRANK - I'M REALLY SORRY I DIDN'T INCLUDE YOU IN THE WALK TO LIMERICK SCHOOL. I STILL DON'T REMEMBER YOU BEING THERE. I GUESS I WAS TOO OCCUPIED WITH OUR TORMENTOR.

WE HAVE SEEN JIM AND CAROLYN'S NEW KITCHEN - IT'S VERY NICE. HE IS HARD AT WORK ON THE SMALL ADDITION. ONE OF THESE DAYS HE IS GOING TO GET THE MESSAGE THAT HE'S GETTING TOO OLD FOR THAT SORT OF STUFF.

I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH AN ORTHROPEDIC SURGEON ON MONDAY. I MAY BE GOING IN FOR BACK SURGERY. PRAY THAT ALL GOES OK.

JEAN SURPRISED ME AND ENROLLED IN ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AND ALSO FOR THE USHERS CLUB. I'VE BEEN YEARS COAXING HIM TO GET INVOLVED.

AFTER READING ALL THE LETTERS AGAIN, IT SEEMS LIKE QUITE A FEW OF US ARE HAVING OR PLANNING OPERATIONS. SO FAR EVERYONE HAS MADE IT THROUGH FINE.

OUR MIKE (AGE 50) WAS DIAGNOSED WITH CARDIOMYOPATHY. IT IS WHERE ONE MUSCLE OF THE HEART BEGINS TO HARDEN UP AND SO CAN'T PUMP PROPERLY. NO CURE EXCEPT A HEART TRANSPLANT. HE IS TAKING A MUSCLE RELAXER. TOM HAS JUST FINISHED THE SERIES OF TESTS. WE DON'T HAVE THE RESULTS OF THE LAST ONE. IF IT COMES BACK LIKE MIKE'S - IT COULD BE HEREDITARY. THAT WOULD MEAN EVERY FIRST GENERATION RELATIVE WILL BE TESTED. IF THAT HAPPENS - IT COULD EFFECT ALL OF YOU IF IT COMES DOWN FROM MY SIDE OF THE FAMILY.

IT'S GOING ON 11:00 BELLS SO I WILL CLOSE NOW AND GET READY FOR BED.

WEDNESDAY, I DROVE TO IMLAY CITY TO RECORD ELAINE ABOUT OLD TIMES ABOUT THE FARM. JOE -WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT KATE'S (THE HORSE) DEATH. WERE THERE OTHER HORSES BESIDES THOSE TWO?

TAKE CARE EACH OF YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU ABUNDANTLY.

LOVE, JAN AND JEAN

MARY DUMONT IS SATURDAY BRIDE OF ROGER BRUCE

Miss Mary Dumont of Flint, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Amil Dumont of Mikado, and Roger Bruce, son of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Bruce of Mikado were principals in a Saturday morning wedding at St. Raphael's church in Mikado. The Rev. Fr. A. Narloch, assisted by James and Martin Dumont, brothers of the bride, as altar boys, performed the double ring ceremony. White carnations and baskets of spring flowers banked the candle lighted altar. White satin bows marked the pews.

"Ave Maria" and "On This Day, Oh Beautiful Mother" were sung by Dorothy Jones of Greenbush.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was dressed in a white satin gown trimmed with lace and illusion at the shoulders, the full skirt ending in a long sweeping train. A fingertip length veil of imported lace was held in place by a tiara of seed pearls. Her flowers were a bouquet of white rosebuds and blue tinted carna-

tions. Her only jewelry was a pearl necklace.

The maid of honor, Miss Janice Dumont, sister of the bride, wore a yellow lace and net gown, a picture hat and carried a basket of blue tinted carnations and ivy. The bridesmaid, Gladys Bruce, sister of the bridegroom, wore a blue lace and net gown fashioned similar to the maid of honor's gown, a picture hat and carried a basket of pink carnations and ivy. Mary Ann Waszkiewicz, the bride's cousin, acted as train bearer. She wore a pink dotted swiss dress. James Fowler, nephew of the groom, carried the rings on a satin pillow with satin streamers.

Joseph Dumont, brother of the bride, was best man and Hugh McVeigh of Detroit was the other attendant. Francis Dumont and Robert Bruce seated the guests.

Mrs. Dumont wore navy crepe with white accessories for her daughter's wedding and Mrs. Bruce wore dotted brown chiffon with white accessories. Both mothers wore corcages of gardenias.

A wedding breakfast was served to the immediate families at Ewing's lodge in Oscoda. A reception with two hundred guests attending, was held later in the day.

The young couple went to Houghton lake on a short honeymoon and will make their home in Flint.

THE DAILY TRIBUNE

Royal Oak, Mich SEP 29 1960

Twin Arrivals Add Up to 13

Thirteen may be considered an unlucky number by most people, but it isn't by two sisters who have that number of children between them. Latest arrivals are two sets of twins.

Twin boys, Robert Gerard, 4 pounds, 9 ounces, and Ronald Gerard, 4 pounds, were born Aug. 9 in Mount Carmel Mercy hospital, Detroit, to Mr. and Mrs. Jean Marion (Janice Dumont), 23824 Easterling, Hazel Park. They have seven children.

Sept. 23, in St. Joseph Mercy hospital, Pontiac, a boy, John Paul, 6 pounds, 15 ounces, and a girl, Jan Paulette, 6 pounds, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Roger Bruce (Mary Dumont), Pontiac. They now have six children.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Amil Dumont, Mikado.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Hector Marion, 304 East Woodward Heights, Hazel Park and Duncan Bruce and Mrs. Ruth Ashley of Flint.

Maternal great-grandmother is Mrs. William McGillis of Alma.



J. & J. Photo, Oscoda

MRS. ROGER BRUCE

BETROTHED



Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Hughes of Pontiac recently announced the engagement of their daughter, Betty, (above) to Frank W. Dumont, son of Mr. and Mrs. Amil Dumont of Mikado. The Hughes family formerly resided at Mikado.

*Mr. and Mrs. Leslie P. Hughes
request the honour of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter*

Betty Lorraine

to

Mr. Frank W. Dumont

son of

Mr. and Mrs. Amil Dumont

Saturday, the twenty fifth of September

nineteen hundred and fifty four

ten o'clock in the morning

St. Raphael Catholic Church

Mikado, Michigan

Reception

Camp Nissakone

Oscoda, Michigan

BETTY HUGHES SATURDAY BRIDE IN MIKADO RITES

Before 200 guests Saturday morning at St. Raphael church in Mikado Miss Betty L. Hughes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Hughes of Pontiac, spoke her marriage vows to Frank N. Dumont, son of Mr. and Mrs. Amil Dumont of Mikado. Rev. Fr. Raymond Mulka performed the 10:30 ceremony before an altar banked with roses.

Attendants were Mrs. Mary Bruce, Clarkston, matron of honor, and Miss Edna Hughes, sister of the bride, bridesmaid. Mrs. Bruce wore a waltz length dress of pale green orlon and carried green carnations centered with white roses. Miss Hughes' dress was similarly styled of yellow orlon and her flowers were yellow carnations with white roses. Their head-dresses were of tiny flowers matching their gowns.

A waltz length chantilly lace gown over satin was worn by the bride. A tiara of seed pearls and rhinestones held her fingertip veil secure. She carried an arrangement of red roses centered with a white orchid.

Joe Dumont of East Lansing was best man for his brother.

Both Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Dumont, mothers of the principals, wore navy with navy and pink accessories. Their corsages were of pink carnations.

A reception was held in Oscoda after the ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Dumont left on a honeymoon in the Upper Peninsula. For travelling the new Mrs. Dumont wore a gray gabardine suit with red and black accessories and the orchid from her wedding bouquet. They will make their home at 4300 Fowler street in Drayton Plains.

10-15-03

Dear Family!

I guess I better get this letter going, its been a rollercoaster ride this past month, I went in to see the Dr. about 5 wks. ago becaux of a sore elbow - cortizone shot in the elbow, a wk later back to the Dr. a burn toe more x-rays - cortizone shot in Great toe right foot very painful, last wed. to the Hospital blood work & EKG pre op for eye surgery on the 22nd. this morn back to the Dr. severe cold - large shot in the rear back! cortico steroids for 6 days, yesterday the Eye Dr. called and said I had to see my Dr. right away there was some abnormalities on my EKG. be the Dr. in 1 hr., to morrow I'm set for a perfontine stress test at the Hosp. it takes 4 to 6 hrs. for the test so I don't know what's going to happen on my eye surg. I'm going back to 69 since I turned 70 everything has gone south on me.

ruptured tendon

Is anybody else having any problems? I hope not.

(over)

John I just talked to you so nothing
new to add

Jim, I suppose you are through with
your kitchen and addition by now I
imagine you do the concrete work to with
all your skills, its great to keep busy
as long as you know your limits.

Morty. your diet sounds except the
3 mile deal would have to be in a wheel
chair, I lost 5 lbs. last wk. for no
reason, we are custom feeding a few
deer.

Clair, Reading your letter it looks
like you are seeing alot of our clan
wish we could be in that group but
its just not in the cards right now.

Joe. I think you lunch date with
Aunt Momi in Escada was a miss
print here, these motels are getting
in the habit of not having a room
unless you are staying longer than 1
nite.

(3)

Sis, we were so surprised to see get out of your car at reunion we got there at the same time! I was so glad to see everybody it started out for a party of 30-40 people but we ended up with 55-60 nice turnout great day.

Jan. it sounds like you have a lot going on, I hope you are doing well with your back surgery if you haven't had it yet I wish you the best, we all have our problems but we are still here so I guess we are doing something right.

P.S. I forgot to mention Betty's Uncle Jack London passed away he was in our wedding, it was just a couple of months ago he lost his sister Elenor.

May God bless and love everyone. I remember all of you in my prayers morning + night

Love
Betty + Frank

October 28, 2003

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I recently received the family letter from brother Frank. I received a phone call from him last night, with good news. The eye surgery he had done came out very well. I do not know how any of us could handle vision loss, it sure would be the pits.

I have noticed for some time now a change in these family letters. It is not in the content, but more in the (it can wait until I am darn good and ready to respond). Perhaps some of us is too busy trying to scratch out a living. Others falling all over themselves trying to see what (God) created an man destroyed.

I did manage to pick up a cold virus recently. This little bugger put me out of commission for some ten days now. Beyond that I am very grateful I am living up in (Gods Country) Surely you all could find two seconds in twenty four hours to thank God for your safety and health.

I am surely looking foreward to deer season. My new 7x8 DEER BLIND WITH carpeted, floors, windows, rifle stand and swivel rocker can expect a real test. That area is being run over with coyotes this year. I am thinking about thining a few out in my spare time.

Recently our neighbors son was arrested and sent off to Jackson prison. He broke into several business places and tried safe cracking. There is a guy by the name of Simpson that did something far worse and is out playing golf, where o where is justice being served?.

I will close for now, and wishing you all Gods Blessings.

Your Loving Brother.

John

Nov. 30, 2003

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is thanksgiving time and a time to thank God for all of our blessings. I have been blessed and I pray that all of you can say the same. We thank God that no one is in the hospital and that Jan has come through her surgery and is improving all the time.

When I wrote last I was working on Carolyn's kitchen. Well, it is finished and Carolyn loves it. I am working on the addition and it is progressing fine. I got the rough heat and rough electrical inspections last week. I expect to get the rough plumbing and rough construction inspections this week. Then I can insulate and start dry wall. John was a big help. Once I got the deck on, he brought his crew from Battle Creek and put up the frame in one day.

I have been trying to finish Jeff's garage as well. I finished the vinyl siding and put in electric power this week. I have about one day of interior wiring to finish it.

Carolyn and I plan to spend the month of January in Florida. We will stay at Kountry Karpis near Naples. We will have my cell phone incase anyone needs to reach us. The number is (248) 763-7248. We plan to leave Jan. 1st and arrive Jan 3rd. We will start back Feb. 3rd but

I am not sure if we will make other stops on the way home.

At the present time everyone in the family is fine. Henna turned 1 on Nov. 12th. She is starting to walk.

Karen and John have purchased land in Fountain Hills, Arizona (a suburb north and east of Phoenix). They plan to start building soon and may move as early as August. If their plans go as they say, we will probably go to Arizona instead of Florida next year.

Carolyn and I plan to go to Phoenix in May for a wedding and again in September for St. Vincent de Paul.

I pray for good health (both physical and spiritual) for all of you. Remember to keep God as #1 in your life and everything else will work out. God bless and keep you always.

Your loving brother
Jim and Carolyn

ROUND ROBIN #41 ENDING

DEAR FAMILIES:

JIM SENT THIS ABOUT 14 DAYS AGO AND SONDA HAS FINISHED READING SAME SO I GUESS I WILL ATTEMPT THIS AND GET TO ELAINE SO SHE CAN START ROUND ROBIN #42.....

JUST TALKED TO ELAINE YESTERDAY, AND SHE MADE IT THRU HER MEDICAL CHECKUP WITH FLYING COLORS SO THATS GOOD NEWS.

JOE SHOULD BE GETTING BACK FROM FLORIDA IN 3 DAYS, THEN JIM TAKES OVER TILL FEBRUARY 4TH, THEN WE GO DOWN THE LAST OF MARCH AND BACK HOME IN APRIL. MORE ON THAT LATER.

SIS, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE WELL ON TRACK FOR RECOVERY AND WE HOPE YOU DON'T OVER DO IT AND THINK YOUR A NEW SPRING CHICKEN AGAIN.

JANICE, WE KEEP IN TOUCH ON E-MAIL TWO OR THREE TIMES A WEEK SO NOT MUCH NEW WITH YOU. WHAT TOWN IN FLORIDA DOES CHUCK GO TOO?

FRANK, I BET YOU HAVE SOME SNOW TO SHOVEL NOW. IT IS LOOKING LIKE A WHITE CHRISTMAS FOR SURE. ARE YOU SEEING MANY DEER? MY THREE MILES PER DAY GETS TO BE REAL BOREDOM MUCH OF THE TIME BUT I KNOW IT IS GOOD FOR ME, SO I DO IT.

JOHN, TELL PAT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO SOUTH FOR A MONTH, AND FLY DOWN THERE AND RELAX. IT IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH AND YOU WILL LOVE IT. YOU CAN MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS ON THE INTERNET. SPEAKING OF INTERNET, LET ME KNOW WHAT YOUR INTERNET ADDRESS IS AND I WILL ADD

IT TO OUR ADDRESS BOOK. WE HAD SPAGHETTI WITH TODD AND JENNIE A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO. THEY ARE SURE FUN TO BE AROUND.

JIM, ITS ABOUT ONCE PER WEEK ON E-MAIL. I WONDER IF CAROLYN WILL TAKE A LAP TOP WITH HER SO SHE CAN BE IN TOUCH WHILE DOWN SOUTH WITH THE GRANDCHILDREN OR NOT.

AS FOR US, SEVERAL OF OUR FRIENDS ARE TRYING TEXAS FOR THE WINTER, AND I AM LOOKING HARD AT THAT AREA. HARLINGEN, WESLACO, MCALLEN, PHARR, MISSION. THEY SAY IT IS ALL ORCHARDS AROUND THERE AND ITS NICE AND WARM. LOTS OF SENIOR PARKS AND LOTS TO SEE AND DO. IF SONDA DOES NOT WANT TO CHECK IT OUT, I MAY HAVE TO DO IT ALONE. WELL, SO MUCH FOR THAT, AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL. HAVE A HAPPY 2004.

LOVE,