

Jan. 5, 2004

Dear Families:

It was rather nice to have "the letters" during the holidays, kinda like having a visit from each of you. And your "thank you" phone calls were pretty great too! — my prayers for each and all that you stay healthy and have meaningful jobs, pretty iffy these days, that is to say those who are in the job market.

Don't have any news, my life is pretty dull most of the time. Casa Maria news is pretty hum drum most of the time but there <sup>are</sup> things to do if one "tries". I'm not into TV much — only the cooking show; I would look differently if I had the chance now.

It was good we all <sup>3</sup> could make the reunion of 2003, we aren't exactly a small family! The young ones will "come in" sometime.

Thank you for your Christmas cards and pictures — I have to weed weed out some "pics" to make room in this space I have, do you think Mars would have some room for me?

There is a Bible class before noon today, I have my favorite instructors, I'll choose.

~~My~~ May God keep you, each and everyone in the palm of his hand always

Love & Prayers from one who  
cares, Elaine

Cadillac, MI  
January 14 '04

Dear Family:

Got the letters a couple of days ago. They took a week to come from Elaine, apparently by hand delivery. We have had phone visits with Elaine and Jan within the past 10 days.

Today we have already received 8" or more of snow and is expected to be very cold in the morning. Up to now the lake ice has been unsafe for snow mobiles but the ice fishermen have been walking on, from the near shore.

Today we received Jesse's letter from Hawai<sup>i</sup> so we have the new baby news. This year past has been the pits with various kinds of medical problems family wide. I am just recovering from the type "A" flu after having received the shot, it was different than any flu I have had in the past. Please forgive the skips--this old <sup>type</sup> writer is as bad as an electric- for me.

I may be able to add memory to the horse questions. My mind tells me that we had Kate and Ted until about '40. I don't remember seeing the horse dead. Next Dad bought a watch-eye chestnut mare that proved too dangerous to use. She may have been abused--would bite and kick. Next Dad bought a yearling Belgian colt to try raising and training. Before long Dad bought a used Ford Furgison tractor (in \$'41 I believe) The tractor was a revolution for the farm. By '44 we had a new John Deere combine. You had to modernize or quit farming since there was no help due to the war. We did custom work on the side to help make it pay. The old thrashing crews were a thing of the past by that time. Wrack your brains and add to that guys. In '48 Sis and I graduated and the rest is for the younger members.

Aug 14 is the Saturday we have picked <sup>for the family reunion</sup> unless there is major reason for change, and in Cadillac at Lakeside Charlies where we have been before. Anything else is too out of bounds for various reasons.

Our Florida trip was quite good, but we brought the cold as usual. Two days at Disney were excellent by our standards. May God bless youall. *Jo & Gus*

1-21-04

Dear Bro's + Sisters,

Guess I better start writing while I remembering a few things from the past. Joe I recall when Kate died she was mired in the Duck sand in the swamp. Ted came running up and down the lane until he got Dad attention. Dad followed him down to the river and found her. We were so sad to lose her. I think Dad bury her down there. Do you remember Bloom, the Bay mare? She had a beautiful little Filly, but the baby didn't live long. I cant remember why she died.

On a happier note. John + Gayle got their little son in Hawaii. He is a beautiful baby. They called him J.R. John Roger. They have 4 beautiful daughters.

2/ Roger J. has his first Grandchild Breanna Faith  
Joe + Valerie are the happy parents.

Bill's daughter Darlene + Jeff are expecting  
a baby girl in Feb.

Joe + Jackie Aug 14th is fine with us for  
the Family reunion if its alright with the  
rest of our clan.

Sorry you were so sick with that terrible  
flu. None of our family got it.

Frank and Betty glad you are all on the  
mend now. We hope to make a  
trip up your way when the weather  
breaks. Your jokes gave me a chuckle.

Jan + Jean - just had a nice visit  
with you when we brought Elaine down.  
Can't believe all the hardware you have  
in your back. Glad you are recovering  
nicely. Our prayer a with you.

Jim + Carolyn. Its nice to think of  
you basking in the sun. Good for you.  
Love your kitchen and enjoyed our visit.  
wish it was longer.



3/ Marty + Sanda: miss you! we don't see you enough. Hope you find a winter vacation you like. I like home.

John + Pat - Hope to see you when we make a run up north. If we ever can. It's a real winter this year. Sorry you got so sick John. But glad you didn't miss out on hunting.

Jan ~~has~~ been - divorced for nearly 2 yrs. and is planning to marry on April 4, 2004. Roy and Bill have not dated enough (if at all) to find someone. I just pray God keeps them in his care as I'm sure you all do for your little families.

Elaine - you are doing your winter Olympics this week and I know you are having a ball. Good for you.

Love to all of you  
Sis Roy  
+ all!

P.S. I hope you like "memo from God"

Dear Families:

I have a new program that came with the new tower. I hope It's not planning to give me a hard time. I lost all my data From my old one so I had to start out fresh. I swear computers can cause ulcers or worse.

Gee Frank – do you have any parts left that hasn't been Adjusted someway? I'm glad these glitches come one at a time and can be fixed. We just have to be ready when our Number is called.

I had my back surgery on Nov. 11, 2003. I stayed in the hospital for 6 days – a nursing home (for some rehab) for another 3 days. They couldn't get their act together – so I had Jean and son Joe spring me out of there. I was much better off at home. I think they drag their feet so they can bill Medicare for extra days. I was out of it most of the time for the first two weeks. To control the nausea – I ate something everytime I took medication. The family doctor prescribed a brand new medicine for nausea. Joe went to get it filled - they wanted \$1000.00 for about 20 pills. Yes, you read right – THOUSAND. Needless to say, we took the frequent food way out. I've given up the wheelchair and the walker. I'm hobbling but getting around fairly well. I felt worse after I saw what they installed in my spine. I have (8) 2 and a quarter inch titanium screws , a couple

of rods and a turnbuckle to hold the two side together.

Jim and Carolyn – I know that you have left the camp ground. You are either roaming or are on your way home. No need to hurry – we've got quit a bit of snow piled up and They predict more.

John, did you get a deer this year? My Rob got (2) 6 Points And an 8 point. He uses a bow and arrow and hunts right near home. He always mounts the rack for his rec. room. The last one he had processed and donated it to a soup kitchen.

Speaking of deer - A week or so after Jean and I got married Dad wrote us the only letter he ever wrote us. I saved it and searched a whole week for it. I couldn't remember where I put it. I'm enclosing a copy for all of you to read. You will recognize his writing. Also, his "Keep this under your hat" expression. The original is a gem I will keep. Marty - This letter starts Round Robin #42. If you recall, I started it in (I believe) 1988 and passed to the next

youngest (Frank) and so on in the correct pecking order. Chuck is working in Temple Terrace, Florida. I think it is near Tampa but I'm not 100% sure. He has about 6-8 weeks left there. His company, based in Washington state is being sold so I think that will be it for him. We sold him the little house (next door) in September so I think he will be back in Michigan for good. The kids are almost out of school. They love California and he hates it.

Hey Marty – my spine surgeon says the rosary when he runs. He has a rosary in every suit (maybe that's sweatsuit). It could pass the time better. Pick your favorite subject to pray for. That will kill two birds with one stone. Just a suggestion. Have you seen the little finger rosaries? By the way – you didn't sign your last letter.

Elaine – you claim your life is pretty dull- maybe you could say that about Houghton Lake. Casa Maria seems very busy to me. Bloom where you're planted. Did you ever hear that expression ?

Joe, maybe it was pony express that delivered the letters to You last time. I remember the horse names of Kate and Ted but don't remember the other two. Memories are strange things. Each one remembers everything different. We will put the August date (14<sup>th</sup>) on the calendar. Keep reminding us in your next letter.

Sis - The MEMO FROM GOD WAS GREAT. It's also nice to be up to date on the grandkids and the greats too. I think my page is about to run out so I'll sign off.

Daily prayers for all members of our families. Love, Jan & Jean.



1951  
Helen 1888

Gratitude and  
Nov 1, 1951  
Helen & Jack

Just a note to tell  
you I went back to the  
wheel ~~and~~ Sunday  
night with a light  
after you ~~left~~ but I  
didn't see any thing.

Monday afternoon 3 of  
them came in the  
field and I went down  
the lane to the River  
and along the River flat  
till I came to our  
lunch table. and  
looked over the hill  
and they saw me

and stop eating & shot  
me that fast but it  
didn't move. I shot again  
and did not see it fall  
I got up on the hill  
and could see one on  
the ~~ground~~ <sup>bank</sup> kicking at the man

I don't know. I. Jack  
and Martin had a hard  
time handling in that  
light it took a long  
and line to have it  
up a tree. we couldn't  
pull it only 3 or 4  
feet at a time on  
the ground to add

2-12-04

Dear Family,

Here I go trying to write about something exciting and there isn't anything right now! we don't have much of anything up here except snow and we have alot of that, Wayne has a plow on his pickup so he keeps our drive plowed out (thank God for that) and last Sunday he and David got up on the roof and shoveled off about 20" of snow.

It is not my practice to get out much in the winter but is breaking me of that habit she has been going down to the Oscoda ~~healty~~ health center for Phy. therapy on her back and left leg. 3 times a wk. we thought she had a sistance problem but after many treatments and an MRI she is going over to West Branch to a specialist for a shot in her back.

John, you better get down here and see this new tower, they are  
(over)

working on it almost every day  
weather permitting.

Jim, as always per. your  
letter you sure stay busy that's great  
I wish I could ~~do~~ do those things again,  
it's good as long as you take time  
for your vacations.

Marty yes we are feeding some deer  
a group of 4 that we call our own and  
some others sometimes, Son Kevin got  
2 8pts bucks 1- in bow season and  
the other in shot gun season son Wayne  
got a nice 10 pt. right back here in  
his blind in musket season.

Elaine - your days sound about as  
lively as ~~our~~ ours but this time of year  
slows us down a little bit and it gives  
us time to reflect on what God has  
given us, lent starts in 2 wk. :

Joe - as far as the horses go I  
don't think can help but for some reason  
Prince & Nell stick in my mind as for  
the tractor and combine I remember  
driving up near Mikado to Barlow's



to combine grain for them, ea. time I would go north when I got to the top of the Lee hill I would take the tractor out of gear and let her roll - we would really be cooking by the time we got down, I think about that now and it scares the daylight's out of me.

Sis! we got to see Bill and the boys in the deer season, Josh shot a small deer and they were really giving him the business for that, they hung it in our barn to butcher. <sup>Hung</sup>

Jon. We were so glad to hear that your back surgery turned out so well, I'm sure it's going to take some time to heal, how did your back problem start do you know? Betty is making me vacuum and all that stuff, is Jean helping you? I'm sure he is., I'm going to have David run me a copy of Dad's letter.

I Love you all and wish you God Blessing

Betty & Fred

P.S. Marty we love to hear from you on the E. mail.

Feb 23, 2004

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today is the big 6/9 and what a bumpy roller coaster I have experienced.

Sis, I had chased cows on the farm for ten years. I had never found quick sand in all that time. There were however several springs in the wooded area. As for kate she died because it was time for her to go. I am sure Ma and dad felt a real loss at the time.

Jan, it is hard going through surgery, the pain, recovery the uncertainty and above all the cost. Going in to the the hospital four times in one year is something I will never forget.

You have all probably wondered why Brothers Frank and I is not excited about (long) trips. Every one of us was not cut out to think the same, wear the same style clothes enjoy the same things, etc. If this was the case God would have made one man and one woman and then made a copy machine. Yes I believe there is different colored folks out there as well.

Marty, the next time you receive a check please be sure to (sign) it and then cash it. The family letters requires all family members signature.

Yes the latest family reunion turned out much better than I expected. The folks that took the pictures and enlarged them deserves a big thank you.

We have had a very rough winter up here so far. The snow recordings is over 100 inches and six weeks yet to go. I believe the average tempature was also below normal.



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The next time you all come up in this area be sure to drop by the farm. It seems there is a 500 foot cellular tower being installed across from Tommy Lees old house.

The road south of Alpena is due to be torn up this summer. All material above the gravel will be removed for a four mile stretch.

Over the past several years I probably have mentioned spirit activity up here. For atleast fifteen years now spirits have visited us. Atleast 75-80% of the time it would be me alone. This experience would happen two to three times per year. Last year it was the out of body experience when I had surgery. A unpurchased steel bank showed up. Two days later it was a marx train engine. This year (it) visited me on February 1-7 and again on the 15th. As I said earlier when God blessed us as babies I probably got a little extra.

Santa brought Pat a new computer for Christmas last year. Our E-Mail number is pdltdp @ yahoo.com Please do not ask me to explain what the above really stands for. The word processor is more than I can handle.

Will close for now, and may God bless each and every one of you.

Your Loving Brother,

*John*

Mar. 7, 2004

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The letters came a few days ago so I better get busy and send them on their way. I enjoyed hearing from all of you.

Carolyn and I went out to see Elaine today. We had a nice visit and then went for dinner in town. She seems fine and it was good to see her.

Florida was great this year. We arrived there to 80° weather but most of the time the high around 70° and the low around 50°. I caught up on my magazine reading and read 7 novels while we were there. After we left Naples we went back to Disney World for 4 days before we headed home. Now we are ready for spring.

I am sorry to hear that some of you had the flu. I am glad you are all fine now. Our family is doing fine although Sheila did fall and broke her wrist. She continued working with a cast on.

I can't add to the history of the horses but I can shed some light on the tractor. Joe, you are correct that it was a 41 model. As I understand it Dad and Mom bought it from Uncle Jim in 1942. As I remember it someone backed into the maple tree and broke

the plow on the 1<sup>st</sup> day. It proved to be a great tractor and the combine was a great machine. They worked well together. I remember many good days with Dad and those machines.

Marty, if we end up going to Arizona next winter I may get a chance to check out Texas in the winter. There appears to be many highly rated camp grounds in the areas you mentioned.

Sis, we are so happy for John and Hayle getting a boy. Express our congratulations to them and God bless them all.

Joe, we have Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> marked on our calander. We are looking forward to seeing all of you.

Betty, I hope the physical therapy is helping you. Back problems are no fun. Right Jan. Carolyn is going to Curves three times a week. She hasn't seen any weight loss yet but it sure has brought her high blood pressure down.

Jan, I sure enjoyed Dad's letter. I would like to get a copy of it.

Well I better close for now. Have a good spring and summer. God bless you all.

Your loving brother  
Jim and Carolyn

P.S. We will be in Phoenix April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>

APRIL 15, 2004 TAX DAY

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

HI YA-ALL

BACK TO WORK AND ALL SUNTANNED. TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, WE DID NOT WANT TO COME BACK TO WORK AS WE HAD 14 DAYS OF SUNSHINE WITH NO RAIN.

I JUST TALKED TO ELAINE AND WE WENT OVER THE WORLDS PROBLEMS WITH NO PROBLEMS BEING SOLVED SO LETS GO ON TO JOE.

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU ARE UP TO YOUR EARS WITH MEDICAL PROBLEMS. HOPEFULLY THAT HAS CORRECTED ITSELF. I REMEMBER THE HORSES AS DAD LET ME TAKE THE REINS (ABOUT two) AND I KEPT UP FOR ABOUT FIVE FEET AND THEN FELL DOWN BUT DID NOT LET GO AND WAS DRAGGED ACROSS THE GRASS FOR A WAYS BEFORE LETTING GO. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ABOUT 1940, SO YOU ARE RIGHT ON. AUGUST 14TH. IS ON THE CALENDAR SO WE WILL TALK TO YOU BEFORE THEN WITH A COUNT.

SIS, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR LIFE IS STILL JUST AS BUSY AS EVER. I HAVE TO GET DOWN TO SEE ELAINE ON BUSINESS SO WILL STOP SOON. WHY DON'T THE THREE OF US DO LUNCH. SORRY TO MISS THE WEDDING BUT FLORIDA WAS ON THE AGENDA AND MY BODY NEEDED THAT.

JAN, HOPE YOU ARE BACK TO RUNNING A COUPLE OF MILES A DAY. KEEP YOUR BODY IN GOOD REPAIR AND MAYBE IT WILL LAST FOR ANOTHER 25,000 MILES. I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE HAD DAD'S LETTER THIS LONG. IT SURE BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.

ALSO, NOW THAT I KNOW THE SEQUENCE, WE ARE ON ROUND ROBIN #42 WHICH WILL END SOON.

FRANK, YOU MENTIONED A TOWER GOING UP. IS IT FOR CELL PHONES OR WHAT? SOUNDS LIKE THE BOYS ARE DOING WELL WITH THE GOVERNMENT BEEF. THE FREEZER SHOULD BE FULL. THE EMAIL SURE IS NICE. I MISS TALKING TO SIS AND JOE, BECAUSE THEY ARE FIGHTING THE E-MAIL PHENOMENON. ITS NICE FOR DAILY FREE CONTACT. ALSO THANKS FOR THE JOKE SHEET.

JOHN, SORRY ABOUT NOT SIGNING THE LAST LETTER. I WAS IN SUCH A HURRY, THAT IT GOT BY ME. I WILL TRY TO DO BETTER. THIS LARGE PHOTO IN THE PACKET IS SURE NICE. NOW, I DO SEE THAT THE TOWER IS CELLULAR. THEY ARE POPPING UP EVERYWHERE. I HAVE YOU IN THE E-MAIL FILE AND I EXPECT YOU ARE GETTING NOTES FROM ME.

JIM, I HAVE TALKED TO YOU TWICE IN THE LAST THREE DAYS SO NOTHING IS NEW SINCE. SOUNDS LIKE YOU WILL BE SPENDING SOME TIME IN THE GREAT STATE OF ARIZONA. ENJOY EVERY MOMENT OF IT. WISH THEIR WERE MORE LAKES OUT THERE.

AS FOR ME, I HAVE DECIDED TO WORK FOR ANOTHER TWO AND ONEHALF YEARS TILL SONDA WILL HIT 65 AND THEN TAKE IT EASY. HOW ABOUT THAT. WE HAVE PLANNED OUR FLORIDA TRIP NEXT YEAR FOR MARCH 10TH THRU THE 24TH SO THAT IS IN THE WORKS. IT WAS SO NICE THERE AND WE TRIED TO BRING A LITTLE NICE WEATHER HOME WITH US. SEE YOU ALL IN AUGUST. LOVE YOU ALL. MARTY AND SONDA

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Marty', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the signature.

April 24, 2004

Dear Family!!

One would think I have lots to do? Some times. Last night I got my nights rest about "Jeporday" time, Alex Index show. Today I'm run up since 5:00 A.M. About noon I'll be a mess.

Last Tues. sister Jan brought Joan Gates, Larry's widow, to have lunch with Sis & I. You wouldn't have liked the conversation, mostly we talked about the major illnesses we have been thru. Sounds pretty drab when you think of it. I sure see enough of that around here.

Sorry, I had to change pens. your letters are all so neat.

Tomorrow Casa Maria is having a pie social, hope I get one of the Roger Bruce's to take me to Farmer Jack's to get some pies. Then next weekend we are having a Garage Sale as is the whole town so I can be busy if I can feel well and strong. There are so much things this place needs. Wish I had some Real news but I think of all of you and thank God for you too. Hope that your health will be better than you hoped, that's a lot I know but take time to ask God and thank him too!

Love & Prayers Elaine

Guya & Gals!

Just now re read all your letters -  
I know you <sup>ALL</sup> remember to Thank God!

Thank you for lots of your gems.

But get the quarter back!!

E.

Cadillac, MI  
May 4, 2004

Dear Family:

We have had a change in the reunion plans. Due to limited travel abilities of several of our number the August 14th sight is to be in AuSable, at Charbens<sup>us</sup> where we had it recently, with noon hour arrivals and 1 pm meal. The reservations have been made with the assistance of Frank and family. Make reservations for motel ahead of time if you plan stay overs. Last time we had to drive home due to no motels available, in the whole region. We plan some type of identification tag to better acquaint with our younger members.

Spring is having a hard time arriving this year, we have had very few normal temperature days (most are 10-15° below normal). Some of the leaves are just starting to come out. The precipitation has been above normal, with some of it snow showers. If there is actual global warming, it is not evident in this part of the country.

With the picture of the group inclosed we shouldn't need one this year. John has strongly recommended the AuSable river boat trip as a before or after recreation trip for all ages of the family. We enjoyed a stop at the Oscoda beach with the Lansing grand kids. There is the farm; church and cemetery that should also be a must.

I have over a month battle with a cold like illness and Jackie is getting phy. therapy for a back ailment that appears to of been hereditary in origin, but it appears that we all will live with the improvements noted in the letters.

We have had phone visits with several of you recently so most of the news is old already but I was surpris-ed by Marty and the retirement plans. Somebody better talk to / that kid. Even the relay tower is old news.

Jackie's sister & husband have retired and will eventually be moving back to MI from New Mexico. Our immediate family has had two job changes and one grand son employed in the few months.

Dads letter seemed strange to me. He made it to the 2nd or fourth grade from what I can remember so it shouldn't be a surprise.

There is no quicksand on the farm or anywhere in that region. The closest to it would be mucky spots in the swamp or river region. It require-s very special sand size and



Moisture conditions. Spring action along shallow lakes or ponds would be the most likely spots to find quick-sand.

Our experience in Texas has that it can be very dry or very wet, it can be very pleasant or barren and desolate, it can be the very best or like hell on earth. The south western part is the most desolate, where even goats have a hard time surviving.

See you all in August.

Love,  
Joe & Jackie

5-16-04

my Dear Brothers & Sisters,

I've just spent a wonderful time on the deck reading the letters again. Its so good to have moments like that.

I talked to sister Jan and she said next years reunion is Jan + Jim with Marty + I after that. I couldn't remember for sure. We will see all of you Aug 14th at Charbonnais. We have made reservation at Lake trails for the 13th + 14th for Elaine, Rog, Michelle + I. I can't help but remember last year and how I'm so much better now and hope all of you are much better as well.

Marty I talked to you earlier and you assured me you were on the mend. Our prayers are answered.

Frank, Spring is here. Now you can get out and do things. The Guys love to Fish & Hunt up there.

2/ Jan + Doug wedding came off on 4-4-64. Thank  
you to all the ones who came and for all  
the gifts. Thank you for joining us for  
dinner at Lucbys. It was a nice ending  
to a nice day. Doug's sister + Husband  
flew in from Florida for the wedding  
and flew back right after. What a wonderful  
show of sisterly love.

Jim + Carolyn - So nice you get away  
from your projects and take vacations.  
Nothing like visiting your little Families  
to get you to go. I like that too. Hope  
to see you when get up this way again.

Jan - you are the best genealogist + secretary  
this family has. We do appreciate you.  
yours sisters love it when you come  
up to Imbay city.

Joe + Jackie I sure hope you two are  
getting better. So glad you came to the  
wedding. you never miss anything that  
I can think of and your appreciated.

John I'm not quite sure what the  
"Mary Train engine" appearing means.  
and what is "it" ~~is~~. Can you figure  
whats going on? We can talk when  
we see you. Pray alot.

Dear Elaine I just saw you today and  
you are having a bout of congestion.  
Hope you'll be well tomorrow

Love to all my Dumonts and  
their loving, patient spouses.  
Sis  
+ Roger

Think about this. You may not realize it, but it's 100% true.

1. At least 2 people in this world love you so much they would die for you.
2. At least 15 people in this world love you in some way.
3. A smile from you can bring happiness to anyone, even if they don't like you.
4. Every night, **SOMEONE** thinks about you before they go to sleep.
5. You mean the world to someone.
6. If not for you, someone may not be living.
7. You are special and unique.
8. When you think you have no chance of getting what you want, you probably won't get it, but if you trust God to do what's best, and wait on His time, sooner or later, you will get it or something better.
9. When you make the biggest mistake ever, something good can still come from it.
10. When you think the world has turned it's back on you, take a look: you most likely turned your back on the world.
11. Someone that you don't even know exists, loves you.
12. Always remember the compliments you received. Forget about the rude remarks.
13. Always tell someone how you feel about them; you will feel much better when they know and you'll both be happy.
14. If you have a great friend, take the time to let them know that they are great.

**My Dear Families:**

**I've been holding the letters for some time so I could fill all of you in on Chuck's situation.**

**For those of you that don't know – about a month ago – just after we came back from up north - he came over one evening and said that his Dr. had just called him and told him to check himself into the hospital. He had jaundice and he wanted to figure out why. They did an ultrasound – it was inconclusive – the next day they did a Cat Scan. It showed a tumor in his bile duct. The following day – they did an Endoscopy. This told them that he had a cancerous tumor that was blocking both left and right fork of his bile duct. They managed to get a stent into one side to get the liver to drain the backed up bile. He stayed at Crittenton for a week to get his numbers stabilized. They then referred him to Harper Hospital where in Detroit. They claim Harper has the best equipment and doctors for this situation in this area. We went to consult with Dr. Steffes. Of course they didn't accept Crittenton's Cat scan - they scheduled him for an MRI (a week later). Then another week to find out the results. They still don't know how involved the liver and large vein behind it is involved. They've decided that because he is young enough and in good health – that it's worth attempting to remove it. (along with the bile duct and 35-40% of his liver). It is tentatively scheduled for July 13<sup>th</sup>. It's very serious and quite rare. Needless to say - we are all stressed out and just marking time. We need everyone's prayers. We are putting it in God's hands and trying not to worry constantly.**

**There – I really dumped on all of you, didn't I?**

**Ever since John said he was collecting marbles – I've been thinking about that game a lot. It seems like I remember when we were going to play a game - we would try to be first to say (fan evers on you and evers for me). Whatever that's supposed to mean. Do any of you boys remember that expression?**

**We sure enjoyed seeing John's and Frank's. We tried to phone Joe And Jackie from Freeway Fritz's but we couldn't get through. So,**

Instead of going to Cadillac (we were afraid you weren't home), we went on to Gaylord so we could get into the Diocese offices's before the weekend. It turned out the microfiche film was so poor - I couldn't read it. So a lady there gave me a card to take to St. Anne's in Harrisville and Sacred Heart in Oscoda. I did get some records I wanted at both places. I will bring them to the reunion.

Frank, I just re-read your letter and joke page. I enjoyed them again. Yes, we did see the new tower. And as far as the roads giving us trouble - I think the worst stretch was between Harrisville and Oscoda. We went back and forth a couple of times. We haven't made reservations for the re-union. I believe it will be a up and back the same day. I think we will be taking care of Chuck then.

Jean has two projects going. He's building a trailer (Rob is doing the welding). He also bought an old Ford 8N tractor. He gets me looking on E-Bay for parts. I found him an original tachometer on an auction this past week. He thinks the computer is wonderful when he finds something he wants - most of the time he bemoans the time I spend on it. Oh well, he'll have to get over it.

Jim, if you didn't copy Dad's letter when you had it - just remind me when you come over and I will copy it for you.

Marty, I made it to OPC all five weekdays this week to walk a mile. My average is more like 4 times a week. It sure helps my weak leg. When I got home, I did several outside windows and screens. These days they get hosed down and squeegeed off. I have found out that I can live with lower standards. In fact, I can't even see the standards like cobwebs and dust bunnies. To think that I used to wipe finger marks off the walls every week. My oh my.

It's 11:00 p.m. and I'm sure I'm getting to the end of page 2. Keep us in your prayers these next weeks. We love you all and wish you all good health and rewarding retirement years.

Happy summer -

Love, *Jan and Jean*  
Jan and Jean

7-10-04

Dear Families,

Here it is almost the middle of July and we haven't had much of a summer yet, 2 wks. ago we had  $35^{\circ}$  in the morning back in May we had the air conditioner on 90 figure.

We had all the Family up over the 4th. and a good time was had by all, David has gotten another boat! its a 26' catamaran - he has been on vacation the last 2 wks. and he has been putting all of his time into the boat its looking nicer every day.

We have our regular group of deer coming in they won't let the fawns come yet but any day now, Bettys favorite doe comes in and if she don't get any attention right away she just lays down and waits

John it looks like you are in for a long haul with the Chiropractor I mentioned in my last letter that Betty

had to go over to West Branch for a  
shot in her back, she had to go  
3 wks. in a box but it was useful.

Jim I didn't need anything in  
your letter about building a house  
or remodeling something for somebody,  
are you having problems or just clearing  
clear?

Marty, you are the last one of us to  
hold a league job! 2 1/2 yrs. ~~is~~ is not  
a long time if it's not stressful at all,  
we don't need much anymore  
for some reason.

Elaine, I want to thank you for saying  
my letter was so neat! if ~~it~~ seems  
like it gets worse every letter, as  
for your letter in going to send you  
a few letters.

Yes, talked to you not long ago so  
like you say not any new means, see  
you in August.

Yes, the boys were here about 3 wks. ago



III

we were glad to see them, they said they would be back over the wk. and but we didn't see them, don't know if they got any fish. see you in Aug.

Jon? We also were glad to see your red Jean, it sure sounds like the roof fell in for many of us lately but there is always someone that is worse off, our hope and prayers will be with you guys and Chuck in the coming days and wks.

Love and Prayers to all of you and hope to see you all at the Reunion in Aug.

Betty & Frank

July 19, 2004

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Jan, we all realize your family is going through a very trying time. Your brothers and sisters have you all in their prayers daily. Last year many of you prayed and sent cards to me in my very trying health problems.

Joe, it is not your fault the world famous Ausable canoe races was scheduled the same weekend as was the Dumont family reunion. Regardless what we try to do for the good of everyone, the road ahead sometimes have bumps in it.

Marty, Brother Franks house is only five minutes time from the ten buck club sign. Perhaps after you retire you can gain back that five minutes. Perhaps (we) should all quit chasing the rainbow and get back to our family roots.

Frank, all your brothers and sisters would enjoy having deer and other wild game playing in there backyards. There is others that enjoy traveling. Living in Gods country and enjoying his creations sure beats chasing dreams.

Jan, I do not recall (fan evers on you and evers on me). However I do recall playing little league baseball in the cow pasture. I also found out I will never make it to the big leagues.

I have not had to deal with (cousin it) since June 26th. That is the spirit that has visited me ten times since Feb 1, 04. Being only humans we can not control Gods plans for each and every one of us. The wind is a good example you can not see it yet objects come and go sometimes without being seen.

Nothing exciting has ben happening up here lately. The gardens seem to be atleast ten days later than normal because of the colder than normal June weather. I will have to close for now and look foreward to seeing you all on the 14th of August.

Your Loving Brother,

John

Aug 6, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Today is the day for my shoulder surgery so I better get this letter written while I am still able to. The doctor says I will be in a sling for 4 to 6 weeks and then therapy. Carolyn will add on the end how the surgery went.

I have talked to Elaine, Joe, Sis, and Janice lately. Frank, I am not doing a lot of construction lately although I did build a porch at the back addition this week.

Karen and John have moved to Arizona. We packed their furniture etc. three weeks ago. They seem happy and hot in Fountain Hills. We will see them in September when we go to Phoenix for the National meeting of St. Vincent de Paul.

Since they left we have been very busy for St. Vincent. We have had so many calls for assistance. We have been making home visits, picking up furniture and then delivering it. It seems that all of the other organizations which help people are out of money so they are all coming to us. Thank God we are still able to help.

As many of you know, I have been asked to accept the St. Vincent de Paul Award in November (Nov. 7th). I am honored and thrilled

(over)

to receive it, I would like all of my brothers and sisters and their spouses to attend the banquet. It should start around 4 P.M. and finish around 7 P.M. I will take care of the tickets. If you are not able to come I will understand but I will need to know.

At the present time we have two grand children on the way. Brian and Sandra are expecting their second (a boy) in September and Jeff and Emi are expecting their first at the end of January. We plan to postpone our winter vacation until after the baby is here.

Jeff has to go back to Japan in about a week. He will be there about 3 weeks.

Emi's mom will come from Japan to stay with Emi while Jeff is gone. I am sure she will be back again in January or February.

I will see you all next week at the family reunion. God bless you.

Your loving brother.

Jim & Carolyn.

SATURDAY AFTER SURGERY - Everything went well. The tear was quite large and was repaired with screws that will dissolve in about a year. They also trimmed some bone spurs. Pain medication is a big item now but seems to work fairly well. Sleeping is hard. Jim is in the recliner. The hope to be able to come to the reunion if he feels well enough.

Carolyn

HI DUMONT FAMILY EXTENDED: AUGUST 26, 2004

ITS BEEN A LITTLE OVER A WEEK SINCE WE ALL MET AT OSCODA, AND A GOOD TIME BY ALL.

I JUST TALKED TO ELAINE AND WE TOOK CARE OF THE LOCAL GOSSIP. ELAINES FRONT YARD IS GETTING SOME FRESH LANDSCAPE SO IT SHOULD BE PRETTY NICE.

JOE, AND ELAINE, THANKS AGAIN FOR THE NICE JOB ON THE REUNION. DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY NEW IDEAS ON SPICING UP THE REUNION SO MORE YOUNG ONES WILL COME? WE HAD SOME REAL DOWNPOURS LAST NIGHT. THE FIRST REAL RAIN IN OVER A MONTH. THANK YOU GOD.

JOE, I AM NOT A WORLD TRAVELER, SO I DID NOT REALIZE THAT THEY WERE BUILDING THE CELL TOWER UP ACROSS FROM THE FARM. I HAVE TO RELY ON SOMEONE MENTIONING IT. SORRY ABOUT THAT.

SIS, I UNDERSTAND THE MOTEL WORKED OUT FINE FOR YOU. WE STAYED AT THE HOLIDAY INN IN TAWAS, AND THE KIDS WOULD NOT GET OUT OF THE POOL, SO I TRIED IT AND IT WAS GREAT. WE HATED TO LEAVE.

JAN, IT SEEMS THAT YOUR BACK IS ON THE MEND AND TIME HELPS BRING OUR BODIES BACK TO NORMAL. KEEP YOUR CHIN UP AND ALL WILL BE WELL. JEAN IS INTO ANOTHER FORD TRACTOR, I SEE. I THINK I WOULD ENJOY THAT ALSO.

FRANK AND BETTY, YOU BOTH LOOKED GOOD AT THE REUNION. MUST BE THAT FRESH MIKADO AIR THAT KEEPS YOU BOTH HEALTHY. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE DAVID'S BOAT. I THINK CARVER MAKES

A GREAT BOAT. WILL HE USE IT JUST FOR FISHING OR DOES HE HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND? YOU SAID THAT DOE HAD PRESENTED YOU WITH SOME PRETTY FAWNS. I BET THEY ARE GREAT.

JOHN AND PAT, I GUESS YOU MADE IT TO SAGINAW OK, AS SHARI SAID SHE TALKED TO YOU AT THE SHOWER. GUESS THAT WENT VERY WELL ALSO.

JOHN, WE HAVEN'T SEEN A RAINBOW IN SO LONG, THAT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE. MAYBE IN TWO YEARS AND THREE MONTHS, I CAN START CHASING RAINBOWS.

JIM AND CAROLYN, PACK YOUR BAGS AS ITS ARIZONA TIME. HAVE A GREAT TRIP. THE PICTURES OF THE REMODELING LOOK GREAT. WISH I HAD YOUR TALENT.

AS FOR US, YES, WE ARE STILL WORKING AND HAVE OUR FLORIDA VACATION SET FOR MARCH 10TH TO MARCH 24TH. AT NORTH REDINGTON BEACH. WE WORK 50 WEEKS AND REST FOR TWO WEEKS. WOW, WHAT A LIFE. THIS SUMMER, THEY HAVE TORN OUR STREET UP. THEY HAVE PUT IN STORM SEWERS, LOWERED THE STREET TWO FEET, PUT NEW GAS LINES AND METERS, NEW CURBS AND GUTTERS, NEW DRIVEWAYS AND SIDEWALKS, AND LANDSCAPED AND IT IS JUST WINDING UP SO WE MAY BE BACK TO NORMAL BY SEPTEMBER. WHAT A YEAR IT HAS BEEN. SEE YOU ALL IN NOVEMBER. LOVE YA

SONDA AND MARTY



Dear all of you!

Sept. 2004

● I have just called and talked to Linda, such a miracle! She sounds like herself and is being a Good patient and not complaining of anything wrong! Thank God for all things.

Wed. Sept. 8 I went to Detroit to see the memorial to Father Solarsus - last time I was there I, and Chuck, took them some great carests from our garden for their Soup Kitchen, how it has changed, the friars have made it a ~~stone~~ shrine to Father! He may be made at SAINT. My penmanship is for a field.

Our sister Carol Anne here, took me along with people from our nearest parish. What a treat!

It was good to see you all at our reunion, hope we can get together again at Jim's day, Nov 7.??

If I talk about weather that's not very original but it sure has been "freaky"! Here. Michigan isn't alone!

It won't be any day soon I'll get this in the mails, tomorrow is Sun., don't know how I'll get in Mon. yet Liz & Rog have busy Mondays.

Stay & be well each and everyone of you and I will try to do the same

God Bless us All,

(over)

Elaine

Forgot to write how much I'm enjoying our  
Butterfly Garden at Casa Maria. The statue of St.  
Francis of Assisi finally is in place and too a  
solar powered waterfall, 3 little clay pots and a  
dish of water, when the sun goes under the water  
stops! Lots of wild flowers, hybrids. Anything to  
lure the B. Flies. Our Master Gardener is a  
M.S.U. Grad, has the ~~credentials~~ credentials to prove  
it.

God Bless all.

E.



CADILLAC, MI  
Oct. 12

Dear Family:

I AM TRYING A different typewriter as you CAN IMAGINE, LITTLE SUCCESS.

We talkwith ELaine quite often and with JIM Last evening,so there is little that is news at this time. We plan to attend Jim,s award affair as most of you , and expect this will about complete the year ON THE ROAD FOR US. WE have been to Knoxville and the Canada color train as wellas some family trips since we wrote LAST. Our sun room addition ia nearing the carpeting stage,but it is going slow when you depend on FAMILY spAre time.

Fall is getting here fast, but the leaves are mostly still on the trees and color is still quit good.

Michael visited from Maraland for a couple of days. Kathy,s family had Roberts grand Mother die Sunday morning. The rest are about as usual with the normal illls. We pray for the best for those you all write about.

With fuel prices going sky high Iexpect we will travel less until it normalizes. I promise to try to do better with trye-writer next time.

May God be with each of you.

*Joe & Jackie*

10-18-04

Dear Family Everyone,

Well its been 5 months since my last letter. We saw all of you at the reunion and we will see all of you at Jims Honorary Dinner. We are doing great as Families go at getting together now and again.

I'll be getting Elaine tomorrow to give her a Perm. She wants it before Nov 7th. We are all looking to that occasion. (forward that is)

Marty and Sonda we are so thankful to God for such a wonderful Miracle. God is so good.

Frank + Betty we do hope to get over to see you next time we get up your way. Our sons get up there more than we do. They love to Hunt + Fish. Roger J. Sons have been coming up to see us from N.C. It so good to see them.

Congratulation on your new grand Son.

2 John + Pat. Congratulation on your new Granddaughter. Sorry we couldn't make it to the Christening. I'm sure it was very nice. Babies are such a blessing.

Joe + Jackie - So glad your room is getting finished. It will be nice to see you and all the Family in Nov.

Jon + Jean Its so great to hear how Chuck snaps back after a treatment. He has such a wonderful spirit and ~~we~~ pray for his complete recovery.

Jim + Carolyn. we love your new addition - and your Kitchen is lovely also we probably will see you before you get this letter. Congratulation Jim. you deserve it.

Love all your letters guys. Keep them coming.  
God Bless + Keep you all.

Love  
Sis. Rog  
+ all

P.S. Good Health to all of us.

Round Robin      #44      11-28-04

Dear Families:

Chuck is doing OK. He hasn't had an infection in several weeks and is in his second series of three chemo treatments. He went by himself to have the pump removed this morning.

Danielle (Ron's daughter) had to have her gall bladder out recently. She will go back to school after Thanksgiving week end which is tomorrow.

Jean's brother Moe was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer a couple of weeks ago. We went with them down to Karmanos for his first doctor visit. He had bad hiccups for three days. Chuck's oncologist gave him (2) shots to stop them. They are going there tomorrow for a biopsy to be sure of what is wrong. We can't hardly keep up with all the medical problems.

Frank - did your guys get their deer this year? We've been getting them in our yards this year. Ron even put out a salt lick, carrots and apples. Of course he can't shoot them here. It's nice to see them. Rob got a 6 point and an 8-point so far.

John, have you got any more room in your basement? I found that purchasing marbles on the internet was good therapy to get my mind off Chuck. I went from marbles to cast iron vintage savings banks. I have quit buying and will try to navigate (selling) after the first of the year. There is too much going on now. The internet had been quite a learning experience. Maybe it all started when our neighbor had an old fashioned auction across the street. I bought about (2) dozen vintage oil cans from him.

Jim, you seem to be getting back in shape from your surgery. We enjoyed seeing you, Joe's, Marty's and Sis, Rog & Elaine. You certainly earned your award. What percentage of it belongs to Carolyn? So often - a guy's support system is not recognized. It was great to see your new grandbaby.

Marty - I too, will be glad to see 2004 take it's leave. That's providing that 2005 will be a lot better. We will talk via e-mail if anything interesting comes up.

Elaine, as far as I know, you are OK health wise at the moment.

**I guess the hernia and the bronchitis will be ongoing.  
I will call you soon. I plan on going there in a couple of  
weeks for a perm.**

**Joe - give that typewriter a new home - I don't think even  
St. Vincent de Paul would like it. That reminds me of a  
problem I have with some of your letters. I know they will be  
treasured down the road BUT when I copy them for the  
archives - when you write all the way to the edge - I can't  
get it all on the copy. Please - all of you - try to stay at  
least an inch from all edges. Thanks.**

**Sis - I hope both you and Elaine had nice birthday's this past  
week. I plan to be up for a perm. Thanks for all the nice  
letters. I am worried about Aunt Naomi. She had a  
falling out with Marion. She moved to Florida with Joey.  
That was just before the hurricanes hit. I suppose I could  
ask Manley McDonald if he has heard from her.**

**I will have to close for this time - I am cooking a roast and  
will have 3-4 stragglers for supper.**

**May God watch over and keep all of you.**

**Love, Jan and Jean**

Dear Family Members:

12-16-04

Well here comes that fat man in red Ho Ho Ho, I'm sitting here at the dining room table with a heavy heart today - we had to put Boddy down on Sat. morning, he was having a hard time breathing and it was almost a constant cough, we don't realize how much we need a pet like that until they are gone

As I'm trying to write something that makes ~~sense~~ sence there is a doe and her 2 fawns out here eating some sugar beets that Betty cut up with the shovel, we have about 6" of snow on the ground now and we are supposed to get another 1" today.

John I know you and Pat are in Saginaw today - hope the roads were not too bad, I talk to you quite often by phone.

Jim we were so glad to see you and Carolyn up here, we were glad

you had such a nice awards dinner, I wish we could have been there, it would be nice to be back in az. right now how?

Marty hope your trip to Fla goes good, I don't know how much damage there still is down there, Betty's sis Edna and Gail needed some dry wall repaired and the insurance co. sent over 3 guys to fix it - in 3 hrs. they had 1 sheet up, it was driving Gail crazy watching them, we are taking care of Bambi as well as we can.

Elaine, glad you are doing well I'm going to send you another shipment of cartoons, Betty sent your Xmas box to Sis & Bagers as we know how you like to open it early, hope you had a Merry Christmas.

Joe where did you find that writing paper? it sure is diff. I hear you about waiting for help it take time don't it? the last 2 yrs. the boys had to get up



on the roof and shovel the snow off.

Sis. it was our great Grand Son, Sara says he is up to 10<sup>th</sup> 20x. now and is doing so good he rolled over by himself the other day he loves the X'mas tree lights and just smiles all the time. I don't think the boys had any luck this year.

Jan. I know these are ~~trying~~ trying times for you guys try to keep your spirits up we are praying for you and yours daily as far deer hunting I don't hunt anymore but Wayne got a 5 pt. with bow + arrow,

I guess I have messed this letter up long enough sorry about my pen-messing.

Wishing all of you the very best in health in the new yr. and Merry Christmas this year.

God Bless Betty & Don

December 27, 2004

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

Santa has come and gone leaving the house quite <sup>21</sup> and Peacefull. As you can see my word processor broke down.

For I am following your instructions in regards to letter borders. I am hopeful all my brothers and sisters gets good grades on this one.

Those of you that is making fun of brother Joe's (typing) please don't. Fighting double vision all ones life and tangling with spirits is surely carrying a cross. Burdens come in all shapes and sizes - we all have them. I have had 13 visits by spirits in the last 11 months. In 2003 it was the out of body experience and a antique on both Good Friday and Easter Sunday. I am looking forward to even more excitement in 2005

Page 2

Deer season was the first time in 15 years that atleast one buck was harvested on the farm. I did see more does than expected and did get in some target practice. We would normally get 4 or 5 per season.

The weather so far this season has been colder than normal. I understand we can expect (RAIN) later this week. Just think spring is only four long months away.

As we all look around the world we can realize the blessing we have in regards to warmth, food, safety, cars, television and worship to mention a few. As sinners we probably never will appreciate Gods blessings.

I will have to close for now and wish each one of you a very happy new year!

Love Brother,  
John