

Dear Ones-

Well, the Christmas rush is over for another year. I was thinking the other day, Why is it so rushed? I decided it was the Christmas Eve Party with all the gang. Just doing the chores to have the house presentable takes more energy than I've got. We (Tam and I) decided that this was the 38<sup>th</sup> annual party we've had. We're getting tired and it's just about time for the boys to take over. Several of them have homes large enough for 30-35 people. Mike, Joe, Tom, Rob and Ron could all do it. Jim and Andy's are too small.

I've also decided to get out of the stock option business. I hate to admit defeat but I've come to the conclusion that the stock business is much like the casino's. You make a little money but you lose it all trying to make more. I'll have to call it a learning experience. The stock market was very volatile this year so it probably was not a good year to start.

The letters reminded me again to get a shingles vaccine. All of us should get the shot - even Frank and Marty. You two should be begging for one after going through a bout with it. The statistics say two more of us will get them. (Half of seniors over age 60 will get them).

Andy just called. He is out plowing snow. He has a few regular customers. We got 6-8" during the night. Out north of town where Mike, Joe, Tom and Andy live - they got close to a foot. This is the second storm that required heavy plowing so far this year.

Frank - I hope your health problems has improved a lot. Is sure is not fun to be out of commission. We will add you to the prayer list by Name.-

I almost forgot to tell you that (Pat and Vic) planned a Family cruise to the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, etc. for the end of March. About 15 of us are going. Some just can't afford it. In Mike and Tam's case (she has Menieres Disease) so she can't be on the water. We will have to board the puppies. Everybody works and they need a lot of attention.

John, your letter reminds me of an old man I saw at the

(OVER)

prescription counter. He schuffled his way to the counter using a walker.

The pharmacist greeted him and asked him how he was. The old man answered with a twinkle in his eye, "I'm still above the ground."

Also, I'll pass on your offer of 5 coons. My puppies would be coon food.

Jim and Carolyn - I will have to call you about Mark's hip replacement. Joe had one planned for his off season cement work. He told us he has put it off because of a Doctor friend telling him that some are having quite a lot of trouble after their replacement. He said he will use cortisone shots, Advil, Advil PM and a pillow between his knees to sleep. It takes the pressure off your hip bone. I know because I use a pillow myself.

Marty - it's great that you have volunteered at the hospital. Everybody should try it. I have about 10 years in at both the Library and our Catholic Choral group. We sang at a retirement home a few days before Christmas. Some of the residents were singing along if they knew the words. We got to "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas". An old man sitting in the front row burst into tears. That almost undid some of us. That song must have triggered something that made him cry. And yes, some of our siblings are missing out by not wanting a computer. You can look anything up and get all the information you need about it. I was able to supply Elaine with some much wanted information on the Mississippi Head Waters and Lake Itaska in Minnesota a couple of weeks ago.

I'm sorry to hear that Ron lost his house. It is so hard to finally get a home of your own and then to lose it - must be very painful. We will put him on our prayer list that things will get better for him.

Elaine and Sis, I see and talk to you quite often so I am going to close this off and go help Jean with supper.

Prayers, Hugs, and HAPPY NEW YEAR to all.

Love, Jan and Jean

Speakers on for music. . . *Peace in the Valley* now playing

Please scroll down slightly. It will then scroll alone.

## Can You Sleep While The Wind Blows?



## Can You Sleep While The Wind Blows?

Years ago, a farmer owned land along the Atlantic seacoast. He constantly advertised for hired hands. Most people were reluctant to work on farms along the Atlantic. They dreaded the awful storms that raged across the Atlantic, wreaking havoc on the buildings and crops.

As the farmer interviewed applicants for the job, he received  
A steady stream of refusals.

Finally, a short, thin man, well past middle age, approached the farmer. "Are you a good farm hand?" the farmer asked him. "Well, I can sleep when the wind blows," answered the little man.

Although puzzled by this answer, the farmer, desperate for help, hired him. The little man worked well around the farm, busy from dawn to dusk, and the farmer felt satisfied with the man's work.

Then one night the wind howled loudly in from offshore.

Jumping out of bed, the farmer grabbed a lantern and rushed next door to the hired hand's sleeping quarters. He shook the little man and yelled, "Get up! A storm is coming!

Tie things down before they blow away!"

The little man rolled over in bed and said firmly, "No sir. I told you, I can sleep when the wind blows."

Enraged by the response, the farmer was tempted to fire him on the spot. Instead, he hurried outside to prepare for the storm.

To his amazement, he discovered that all of the haystacks had been covered with tarpaulins. The cows were in the barn, the chickens were in the coops, and the doors were barred.

The shutters were tightly secured. Everything was tied down.

Nothing could blow away. The farmer then understood what his hired hand meant, so he returned to his bed to also sleep while the wind blew.

## **Moral of this story**

When you're prepared, spiritually, mentally, and physically, you have nothing to fear. Can you sleep when the wind blows through your life?

The hired hand in the story was able to sleep because he had secured the farm against the storm.

We secure ourselves against the storms of life by grounding ourselves in the Word of God.

**We don't need to understand, we just need to hold His hand to have peace in the middle of storms.**

A friend of mine sent this to me today,  
and I enjoyed it so much, that I wanted to send it to you.  
I hope you enjoy your day and you sleep well.

## **May God Bless You and Yours**

Graphics and layout by Linda Fitzwater



The Text of this beautiful story was forwarded to me by a friend without an author noted. We have just found that this is an Uncle Arthur story. I think the title was "I can sleep on windy nights" from -- Uncle Arthur's Online.



Right Webs  
2 Go by  
Bettye

1-28-08

DEAR SISTERS + BROTHERS

Here its Almost The END OF JAN. AND  
ITS 38° outside, They ARE CALLING FOR  
RAIN BUT NOTHING YET, The deer ARE OUT  
Digging IN The snow TRYing To Find some  
GRASS, Betty IS Doing ALL she CAN BAKing  
bread AND ANY OTHER SCRAAPS she CAN  
Find, IF They ARE NOT STANDING outside  
looking in They come on THE RUN when They  
See HER AROUND The door.

John I TALK To you AND PAT All The  
Time AND I KNOW THAT YOUR Feeding  
The wild life IN OSSINEKE.

JIM AS ALWAYS YOU ARE JUST HITTING  
The High SPOTS IN The ROAD, Betty HAS  
been bringing COMMUNION Home To Me IN  
A PICK THAT IS SUPPLIED buy The Church,  
When she goes up FOR COMMUNION she  
JUST OPENS IT AND FR. EKE DROPS IT.  
in - she DOESN'T BRING ANY wine Though.

MARTY I Feel so SORRY FOR you down  
There IN FLA. The HEAT MUST be  
Terrible do you HAVE AIR CONDITIONING?  
Keep The Jokes coming.

ELAINE: Sounds like you are having  
an uneventful winter like we are  
having up here I don't stick my head  
out the door except for Dr. appointments  
trying to get by this winter without  
visiting the hospital.

JOE, sorry to hear about Ron losing  
his house there is so much of that  
going on now, Crystal and Kevin are  
trying to buy a home in Fla. There are  
so many homes for sale now that they  
are dropping the price's trying to sell.

Sis, we to were glad you guys got up  
and yes I believe God is telling you  
to slow down and smell the roses, I  
don't hear you guys talk about the  
horses anymore, have you sold them?

JAN, Are you and Jean going into  
the puppy business? How many do you  
have? I agree that I should get a  
shot for the shingles but I'm still  
scratching I don't know if the shot  
would do me any good, glad to hear  
you are going on vacation. You are  
all in my prayers morning and night.

XXX +000

Betty & Frank

February 3, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

I received the most recent family letter from brother Frank a couple of days ago. August 14 th of 07 was my latest, come on folks!

It sure looks like most of you are into some most interesting hobbies and growing old gracefully. All winter I have had to enjoy and feed 62 turkeys, 12 deer, 1 bobcat 1 porky. The 50 lb bobcat had a paw three inches long by two and a half inches wide and was very hungry.

A couple of weeks ago I experienced something that ( no one ) has ever experienced or probably never will experience.

Six turkeys showed up in the backyard some ten feet from the house. Before I realized it four turkeys faced off. The two closest to me; one dropped it's head the other bit the back of her neck and held on for probably two minutes. The two in back locked jaws and pushed and shoved for some twenty minutes. While this adventure was going on three hens tried their darrest to break up the fight. Some fifteen minutes into the fight one of the hens barged between the two fighters. The jaws stayed locked inspite of this jester and the fighting continued for another five minutes. A very large tom turkey was the referee. Their was no charge for admission but what a experience it was for me. One hour later two deer paid our front yard a vist

Page Two

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Last deer season was an average year down on the farm.  
One ten point, one eight point and one spike came home.

We have had over fifty inches of snow so far and two  
more long months to go. Our average snow fall is 85 inches.  
Many of you love to travel in the winter time. Just think  
of the before mentioned enjoyment you are missing and why  
I chose ( Gods Country ) to live and enjoy.

Enclosed is a picture of Kahns store in Mikado as it  
appeared in the 1930s. At one time it was known as  
west Greenbush.

So far our health has held up beyond expectations and I  
thank God for this fortune. As a matter of fact we can all  
be gratefull we are all alive and comeplaining.

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

Your Loving Brother.

John

March 15, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It shouldn't be long before Marty and Sonda get back home to Michigan so I will get this letter finished and on its way. At the present time we are all feeling fine. Carolyn is having her 1 year check up. The blood test is fine (no sign of the celiac antibody). We are waiting for the result of the biopsy. We are hoping that it shows that the small intestine has healed. This doesn't mean that she is healed. It only means that she is eating the right food and must continue.

We had the best weather that we have ever had in Florida. (75% highs in the 80's, 25% highs in the 70's.) They really need rain though. We drove 1345 miles in 2 days to get back before a winter storm hit.

I see that you boys are feeding our wild life and enjoying watching them. Since I have been home I saw a herd of deer going behind my neighbor's house next to the woods. I lost count at 8 but I think there were 10 or 11.

Carolyn and I will fly to Arizona after Easter for about a week. We have 2 grand daughters making first communion and confirmation. It will be good to see all of them.

We will be flying to St. Louis at the end of

April and then drive to Columbus Ohio the first week in May. We plan to go to Alabama for a friends wedding in September and then come back to Louisville Ky. for our national meeting. I may have to go to Cleveland but that meeting keeps getting postponed.

Jan, I think everyone that has stocks have been hit hard. You are not alone. We need to just hang in there.

Elaine, I have just talked to you and hope to see you soon. I just hope it gets a little warmer.

Sis, I am happy that you and Roy got home safely from your trip. Thanks for going with Elaine for her check up.

Marty, I hope your trip home was uneventful. Have you two made any plans for next year?

Well I better close this down and get it ready for the mail. God bless all of you. I hope we can see each other soon at a happy time.

Your loving brother  
Jim and Carolyn.



Hi Dumonts, one and all.

Its April 5<sup>th</sup> and we should be on our way home today, but actually, we got home three weeks ago. We only stayed at Treasure Island for two months this time and Sonda wanted to travel during the last month, so we went over to Lakeland for two days and took in a couple of tiger ball games. Then we went down to Bonita Springs for another two days. Then, it was on the everglades and Sonda wanted to ride an airboat out into the swamp and that was very good. We saw a lot of alligators, etc. and then it was on the West Miami for three days while we had the vehicle repaired. We then went down to Key West, and that was just OK. I would never go again as it is a long way. We then went up to St. Augustine and stayed one day. Then it was up to Savannah, Ga. And we were going to stay at least one day there but the town was shut down for a St. Patricks Day parade and we decided to head for Atlanta. We came thru Atlanta at 5:30 P.M. and stopped in Sweatwater, Tenn. Only to find out that Atlanta had a tornado and we were sure happy to be away from that area. We got home about three weeks early and it has not been that bad.

Dana and Matt are in Hawaii for nine days so we are baby setting two kids and a dog. The kids are not bad but the dog is a trip. She is hyper and uncontrollable and it is so nice when she is sleeping.

Elaine, it sounds like Casa Maria is getting to you. Maybe a little vacation from there would help to get your mind back to a happy state. Sonda's mom is always complaining about the McBrite Manor but really it is a wonderful place for senior citizens as they are well cared for and the food is great. But, even great food can be not so good after you eat there for a long time. Maybe a trip up north would help out, hey.

Joe, we have to get you back to Florida, as they need your money. The price of gas is about the same all over. It's the taxes in Florida that get to you, but if we had to cancel the trip because of the taxes, then we shouldn't bother to go to Florida at all. Seeing the Tigers play was great but they sure play a lot better in spring training, than they do in Detroit. And, the games are less expensive to go to. Lakeland is a nice area. One of our farmers here, has a double wide north of Lakeland, and he works at all the spring training games.

Sis, I talked to Roger Jr. the other day, after looking for Elaine, and I never did get back to her. I owe her a call and will get to that shortly. Yes, the letters sure take the guess work out of wondering how the family is doing.

Janice, I haven't had an email from you in a couple of weeks. Maybe I should send you one just to see if your computer is still working. I am glad that Andy had a good time plowing snow. I watched it on the weather channel and got depress so I went for a walk on the beach. We played a lot of cards and did a lot of fishing. What a way to enjoy the winter.

Frank, I know what the pyk is all about. I helped out down in Florida as a Eucharistic minister as the needed 10 for each mass and they were always short, so they put me on the schedule. It was so much different than how we do it here in Freeland. I went to Battle Creek yesterday and saw six dead deer along the road so the kill count is raising pretty fast between deer and vehicles. I am glad that you had a good winter and it was great talking to you down in Florida.

John, it seems like I have seen that picture before. It was hanging in the back room of the store when I worked there 55 years ago. It seems like their was several different shots up on the board. At Dana and Matt's home south of Battle Creek , they have deer grazing out by the house every day and evening. They are protected there, in that subdivision, and the deer know it. They will run, only if the dog takes off after them. Do you sample the turkeys, and how are they to eat?

Jim, it looks like you will be a world traveler this year again. Isn't it great to spend all the kids inheritance. The economy really needs it so go right ahead. We talk so often, that I have nothing new to add, and I will get out of here and give you folks a break. Love you all.

Sonda and Marty

April 17, 2008

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

Such a pretty day! Too cool for going without a jacket but!! Doors and windows are open, Come in Spring!!

I'm doing O.K. for and old lady - 88 plus not taking my heart medicine but eating lots of prunes, hope that will help my other physical ailments. Casa Maria

In ten days there is an ice cream festival all are welcome, it's always a nice affair. Too bad petrol is so expensive. Chris and Mindy might make it. Everyone gets busy in spring. This has been my hardest winter in years, I'm staying in Michigan as long as I can any way.

All your letters are great and I hope you will always keep writing and giving me joy worth while or not. The years are so short! There is a big change of residents here, one ~~doesn't~~ doesn't even get to know their names and they are gone for any number of reasons. I'll be here nine years in Nov. A record for my life time! Not home second longest!

I'm hoping for the very best for you all and yours and I thank God every day, hope he keeps you in his care

Love & Prayers  
Elaine

Cadillac, MI

5-16-08

Dear Family:

In an effort to timely answer the letters, here goes.  
On 4-26-08 I had a fainting ~~different~~, repeated on the  
27th. Hospital and heart treatment.

Sent to Munson of Traverse City on 29th. Operated on  
for quad bypass - successful. Old silent heart attack  
confirmed. Treatment continues with rehab to follow  
next month, here at Cadillac Mercy H.

Jackie had a Cadillac Hosp. stay in February for  
stomach ulcers. She is healed and doing fine.

● Got the letters just before (event) Have talked  
with several of you since -- so little new news.  
talked with Jim this AM so we know much of  
what is happening.

Weather is very mixed this spring. Some things  
are early and some late -- looks like spring this AM.

Thank you all for the prayers and we hope you in  
as good health as you need for your state in  
life

Joe & Jackie

5-28-08

Dear Sister + Bro,

I read the letter to Rog on our way home from visiting Joe + Jackie in Cadillac. What a wonderful way to enjoy the trip. We found them doing very well after all they've been thru! Thank you for the nice lunch and prayer time.

We plan a trip up north the end of June, when John's Family are here from Hawaii. We will be awhile and will see both Frank and John.

When we arrived home from Cadillac and did our daily check on Elaine, we found Jim + Caroline there. Taking care of business. We went right over so we saw alot of Family that day. Daughter Jan took Elaine to the Dr. yesterday. She helps alot. We love having Elaine near.

We lost a Filly at birth, but we got a beautiful Stud Colt two weeks ago. We do hope to sell all the horses, but not until the Economy pick up. I hope soon.

I'm still going to the prison almost every Tuesday Eve. I miss more in the winter. They put on a wonderful appreciation dinner for us volunteers last Wed. We loved it. They gave out ~~aphagan~~ that the prisoners made as prizes. Four of the catholic group got one. Not me. I didn't need one.

Mike is in Hospice, but is doing well right now. We help with the church service on Mondays. That's Jessy (John's daughter). She is serving in Iraq right now.

We sure enjoy all the joke pages. very entertaining.

Love you Marty + Sonda. We haven't seen you much lately. Every one is so busy Jan, I'll be seeing you soon. Hope you sell all your puppy soon. You + Jean must be very busy.

I want to get these letters in the mail. I do better next time

Love you all  
very much.  
Sis, Rog  
+ all



Round Robin

#52

6-13-08

Dear Dumonts - One and All -

Please excuse this handwritten reply - my printer is out of commission.

It's 2 weeks since I got the letters.

I'm amazed that I am getting at the reply this quick. I say this because we have been super busy caring for our 9 puppies and of course the culprits that caused it all.

Ten of us managed to go on the cruise. It was nice to get away - of course we ate too much. You can control it better if you order ala carte and just what you can eat. It's the sit down 5 course meals (dinners) that does the most damage. We got off the ship at each port. I didn't like it when we had to do a lot of walking. There was always things to do on the ship. My favorite was an hour or so in the casino. Smokeey and Bunker did well at the kennel. We stayed at Pats parents in Bonita Springs for 2 nights before and 1 night after the cruise.



Her parents are very gracious about sharing.

Frank and Betty - We (Helen & I) were sure glad to see when we took John's treasures home. And I enjoyed reading the Book on Alcona County. I took it with me this week when I went for a picnic at Liss.

John and - Pat - I was happy to see you this spring. It was a treat from the usual for both Helen and me. Maury and Linda - I just re-read your letter. I chuckled when I saw - Hi Dumonts - One and All. I knew I'd heard that somewhere.

Jim & Carolyn - We saw you very recently when you came to see the Puppies. We put an ad in the Oakland Press a couple of days ago. We have sold (2) so far. It feels like giving up your baby.

Punkin had (7) males and (2) females. The runt weighed only 4 ozs. and the biggest about 8 ozs. Now they weigh from 2 1/2 to 5 lbs. We had to bottle feed them part of the time as she didn't have adequate milk for mine. She has been a good mother even if she is only a year old.

Helen and I went to lunch yesterday

at Macy's (Hudsons). We do that every couple of months. We were happily surprised to sell several other family and friends we don't see often.

I mention this because one of the guests was a family friend that has been very ill with pancreatic cancer. She was at death's door for a long time. But - she was in Hospice for (2) years. She is a pancreatic cancer survivor. She got well enough that they bricked her out of Hospice. I met her lovely daughter that's taking care of her. A real miracle. Praise God.

Well, I've scribbled long enough. If I can take these letters some where to get copied - I will be able to get them on their way.

Love, Jan and Jean

6-19-08

Printer still broke - Had to go to UPS to copy these.

We sold the 7th and 8th puppies last night. We are keeping the runt for now. He weighed 4 oz. AT BIRTH. He's at about 2 1/2 lbs. now.

Love to all - Jan



*A couple of the pups.*







Mr & Mrs James McEllis (Grandpa Wm. J. McEllis's father and mother)

Edinburgh, Scotland  
May 3, 1979  
Jeanette McKinnon Kelly

Duncan McKinnon from Glasgow, Scotland, Presbyterian

Serious plague, many dying, ad for Protestant woman to keep house and care for sick wife, & children. - no takers - all afraid of catching disease! McGillis', Catholic saw children, clean when mother well, opposite when sick, called in, ate like woloves, told of father working long hours in woods - noone answered ad - mother and other children sick in bed. Grandmother Mary McGillis & great grandmother Ann McDougal went to home one day, cleaned home, children, sick mother, cooked meals etc. When Duncan returned at night, dinner ready for him, and such a transformation in the home, he was amazed and dumbfounded that Catholics would take the chance of catching the illness & do all of that work on a gratis volunteer basis when his own Presbyterian friends would not. He therefore hired Mary McGillis to keep house & care for the ill. The children were saved, the mothr died, Mary kept working until one day Duncan told her he was out of money, could afford to ay her no more! She was by that time very fond of the children, received much help from her mother so offered to work on for a while for nothing. He suggested marriage. As a result Duncan, Anne McDougal, Mary McGillis, the Catholic Priest, the Presbyterian Minister made an arrangement based on Duncan's promise to his dying wife to raise the existing children Presbyterian, any from the subsequent marriage Catholics. things apparently went very well until their own children started instruction in the Catholic Church.

His friends objected to this - his response was that Mary McGillis McKinnon had kept her promise in raising his own children - no friend would want him to break his - therefore he openly defied his former friends, would not attend any church but did see to it that the children went to their respective churches. My grandparents claimed there was never a religious argument in Duncan's family. Bible readings were regularly read, practiced, and love of all was taught to all of the children. Some of the children were not that lucky and did have some religious arguments, however, all seemed to exemplify the teaching of Duncan and Mary - to love and be kind to all! To never turn a hungry man away from the home - provide him something that in this way they were fulfilling God's Orders, and if kept, God would always provide for them. This he did! All of the offspring, though experiencing the usual trials and tribulations of life seem to have handled their problems in an exemplary manner, and in so doing proved they were truly men and women of God!

Jeannete McKinnon Kelly lived in Winnipeg and possibly Kenora (MKW)

7-10-08

DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS, HERE I GO AGAIN TRYING TO THINK OF SOMETHING TO WRITE ABOUT, NOT AN AWFUL LOT TO REPORT, I'M THANKFUL THAT WE ARE NOT IN IAWA OR CALIFORNIA WE HAVE A LOT TO BE THANKFUL FOR, WE DID HAVE A VERY BAD RAIN WIND AND HAIL STORM A COUPLE OF WKS AGO, I GUESS THE WORST I'VE SEEN SINCE WE MOVED UP HERE.

WE HAD CRYSTAL AND KEVIN FROM FLA. UP FOR 10 DAYS OVER THE 4TH. ALSO RICHARD AND A COUPLE OF HIS FRIENDS ALSO OUR KEVIN - MARY - KEVIN JR, MIKE GOOD TO SEE THEM ALL.

JOHN, TALK TO YOU GUYS OFTEN, THE TOMATO PLANTS ARE DOING QUITE WELL I DON'T THINK A COUPLE OF THEM WILL DO MUCH.

JIM, I HOPE CAROLYN IS GETTING BETTER NOW, ITS TO BAD WE CAN'T GO THROUGH OUR GOLDEN YEARS WITHOUT HAVING TO COPE WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS OF OLDER BEING HOOD

MARTY, YOU HAD INTERESTING WINTER  
IN FLA. I WISH I COULD GO LIKE  
THAT AGAIN, BETTY WOULD RELEY  
ENJOY A TRIP LIKE THAT, WENT TO  
TAWAS ABOUT 3 WKS. AGO TO THE  
DOCTOR, TOOK 2 GAS CANS TO FILL-  
CHEAPER DOWN THERE 2 CANS AND THE  
TRUCK \$100.01 CENT.

Elaine, YOU MENTION THE ICE CREAM  
FESTIVAL UP HERE THEY HAVE A LOT OF  
STRAWBERRY SHORT CAKE FESTIVALS IT SEEMS  
LIKE EVERY WK. SOME BODY IS HAVING ONE.

Joe, HOPE THIS FINDS YOU WELL ON THE  
MEND NOW AND JACKIE TO, DON'T TRY  
AND RUSH IT IN RECOVERY IT TAKES  
TIME AND GET A LOT OF REST, THERE  
ARE TIMES THAT I FEEL LIKE I COULD SLEEP  
ALL DAY.

SIS, WE JUST SAW YOU AND ROY. SO YOU  
KNOW EVERY THING, WE LOOKED FOR THAT  
HOUSE YOU WERE GOING TO LOOK FOR BUT  
WE COULD NOT FIND IT.

JAN, YOU WROTE QUITE A LETTER, IT'S HARD  
TO LET THE LITTLE ONE GO, WILL GET THIS IN  
THE MAIL. LOVE AND PRAYERS TO ALL Betty & Frank



August 18, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have recently received the the family letter from brother Frank, so now duty calls.

Frank the enclosed jokes sure adds interest and enjoyment to each of our lives.

Jan in regards to those cute little puppies. Only one was a culprit? I always thought it took <sup>two</sup> or three to tangle congratulations.

The McGillis picture was interesting. We can all be greatfull we were not born and raised in those horrible times. The worst problems some of (us) seem to be having is planning our next vacation in 010 and watching the the tigers loss.

We have had a large crop of tomatoes this year. The better boys look more like small melons. A great deal of work and cost goes goes into gardens. The joy of making others happy makes it all worth while.

I have had some unwanted health problems recently but probably no more than other old 73s would have to deal with. One thing is for certain either I have a nap during the day or else pay the price.

Our youngest daughter Debra has recently received her masters degree. Seeing what is going on in our colleges these days I often wondered how any one ever graduates much less with a degree.

I really enjoy hearing about your daily living experiences, jokes from brother Frank and family history. Farm pictures of our early years I really miss. I believe it was called the golden years of childhood. Sis and Jan copies of same can be bugeted for 08.

By the time I receive the next family letter deer season will be here. This is my time to enjoy what nature has to offer. Just in case any of you are having problems with ground moles try one or two moth balls dropped into the trail. The next day you will realize they had gone on a long trip never to return.

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

Your Loving Brother,



Sept 21, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Time is slipping by so I better get these letters on the move. The weather has been so nice lately that I have spent more time outdoors. I have the yards in pretty good shape and the garden is coming to an end. It has been a good year for tomatoes, cucumbers and squash.

I had to install a new garage door opener this month and have been cleaning and repairing appliances for giving to the needy. I am ahead of schedule in getting the garages ready for winter.

We had a very dry July and August here but September has made up for that. I measured  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches of rain in my rain ~~gauge~~ gauge in the 3 days when Ike came through.

All are well here at the present time. Carolyn and I will be going to Kentucky this coming week. We will visit our sister-in-law Anne in Owensboro on Tuesday and then go to Louisville for the St. Vincent de Paul national meeting on Wednesday. We plan to leave Louisville Sunday morning and drive to Hendersonville, North Carolina to visit Carolyn's brother Hank. We plan to return home the following Wednesday.

The problems in Cleveland continue to keep me busy. I did go to Cleveland in July and drove our national spiritual advisor bishops

John Quinn from here in Detroit with me. We met with Bishop Lennon, the Bishop of Cleveland, our national vice president from Arizona and the two trouble makers from Cleveland. We suspended the trouble makers and the international president in Paris has removed them. In the presence of the two bishops I told them that they could not speak for or act for the society in any way. They are still disobeying our directives and telling their people that they still hold office in the society. Hopefully time will get this resolved.

I enjoyed the history piece on Grandpa McHillis' family. I am going to make a copy of it before I send it on.

Carolyn made gluten free brownies today and they are delicious. I am enjoying one now. Sometimes she gets discouraged but she is doing pretty good right now. This too we must put in the good Lord's hands.

Well I better stop and get this ready to mail. I pray for good health for all of you and thank God for all the blessing that he has given us.

Your loving brother  
Jim and Carolyn.

Oct. 20 74 . 0 8

Dear Brothers and Sisters—

Its going on 30 days since Jim sent these letters to me so I think it is time that I get them done and on their way. Fall is moving fast and the snow will be blowing and the winter season will be here before we know it.

Sonda went with Dana on a company trip to LasVegas and has been back about a week. We took a color tour yesterday and went thru Clare, Evart, Hershey, Paris, Big Rapids, Cedar Springs, Ravenna, Grand Haven, Holland, then back thru Grand Rapids, Greenville, Ithaca and on home. 365 miles and was I glad to get home. The best color was in Ravenna and near Greenville.

I plan to head for Florida on January 4<sup>th</sup>. And we have a cruise planned for February 19<sup>th</sup> out of the port of Tampa for 4 days to Cozumel and back. I wanted to go for 7 days but Sonda says 4 days is enough for the first time. It should be fun. Sonda's mom has been falling lately so she is in an assisted care facility in Saginaw almost next door to the VA hospital. She is slipping and does not want to admit it till she takes a dive.

Elaine, I know what you mean about people coming and going fast. Helen had two room mates die within a week. It's a constant turnover. Then again, some people seem to last forever even in the place that Helen is in. We have to get down to see you again soon, but it seems like we are so locked in to schedules and can't break away. It seems like the grandchildren are doing something all the time.

Joe, I take it that you are back to normal and Jackie has her ulcers under control by now. When I had my heart attack, they found out that I had stomach ulcers at the same time so they did two repairs all at once. I still have trouble with the ulcers and I have to watch what I eat. Are you heading south this winter? You may find it more relaxing to go later in the winter and enjoy setting down on a dock and watching the fish jump up and down and when you get bored, you go inside and watch the weather channel and see the snow blowing up north and thank your lucky stars that you are down in Florida.

Sis, I talked to you not to long ago, and thanks for the Cookies. I eat them so fast, that Sonda wondered where they went to.

I was sorry to hear that you lost a filly, and why it happens, I wish we knew but God knows why and we have to keep on going. I am sure glad that you and Elaine are so close to each other. You have our prayers for watching over her and giving her support.

Janice, we need some tips on how to not eat too much. Should we forget to go to a meal or is that not permitted. I think I will e-mail you with questions and not bore the rest of the family. When is the next litter of puppies coming? Or did you catch the guy that did it and get out the pinking shears? Do you still have the runt and is your printer back on line?

Frank, a friend of mine is feeding me with Legion magazines, and I am cutting out the joke pages and have attached them. Hope all is well up at your ranch. The deer are kissing the front of cars down here like mad. They are on the move and the body shops are loving it. You said Crystal and Kevin are living in Florida now. What town are they in? I will e-mail you about that. You mentioned the gas cans and I just filled up tonight for \$2.70.9 and I was delighted to pay it. You said that you would like to go to Florida and what is stopping you. About ten percent of the people that I see down there are pulling a bottle around behind them so don't let that stop you. You just have to say, I am going to do it and it happens. How about that?. Is bambi still out back? I miss the deer so much. Down in East Leroy where Dana and Matt live, the deer are out every night behind the house. Usually 10 to 20 at a time. They feel protected as no one shoots at them.

John, it's great to hear that your garden also did well. This was the first year that my lawn did not burn up. We have such good growing weather here this year and the farmers are just ecstatic. Are you still feeding the wild turkeys? I have not been to Ossineke in so long that I can not remember much about it. The last time that I was in Ossineke was when Elaine and I were there. Hope it is doing well.

Jim, I am sure glad that I don't hold an office in any organization, as I don't think my body would handle it well. This retirement is so nice. Who needs all that grief? Is Carolyn getting a handle on the gluten problem? I read an article about a restaurant down your way that was cooking gluten free food for those who needed it. That sure seems like a pain to have to constantly have to watch what you eat.

Guess I better get this done and on its way. Love you all. Bye





Cadillac, MI  
Nov. 1 2008

Dear Family

Letter time finds us as well as can be expected. We both have our own special health maintenance problems as I am sure each of you do. At six months, I have both strength and balance troubles, that the Dr's can't seem to locate a cause for. Jackie seems to have recovered from her ulcer problem but is dealing an eye problem that long standing and getting worse.

The weather here is about normal, but the precipitation is above normal one month and below the next month. We are varying from 2.1" to 12.6" per month, with a seven month total of 31.6". This much is more normal for a full year. June was the cause with 12.64". I have read that each of you had at least one month of high readings. This month is the end of my 166 year record for the Cadillac area for the growing season, as reported to the US Weather Bureau.

Our family are all working but not all full time as appears to be the normal everywhere in this troubling time. My memory reminds me that it was much more troubling in the past world wars, and we haven't seen real hard times yet.

I hope that you all have got your flu-shot, and are gradually getting for the holiday season. <sup>ready</sup>

We haven't done doing any serious traveling this year, and don't expect to unless we shape up health wise. It seems that we are in the Rehab mode.

We wish you and yours good health and the best economy possible with Gods help.

~~Edith~~ & Joe

Jackie



11-11-08

My Dear Sisters and Bros,

Since I'm not going to the Prison this Eve I'll get started on the letters. I've found I'm allergic to penicillin. I broke out all over. I'm getting much better. Jan, I enjoy your letters written or otherwise. I'll be seeing you soon.

John, It's nice to hear Debra has her degree. Our Darleen (one of Bills twins) has her degree and is teaching English at Baker's Business College. She has 3 children also. Her twin Dawn is a professional medical student. She is currently interning at Beaumont.

Jim you will be getting cookies in Jan for your birthday. Sorry I missed you last year. Carolyn I'm so glad you have Brownies you can enjoy. That helps alot. you all travel alot and we enjoy hearing about it.

Frank Thanks for the humor sheet. your company sounds like mine. If Jan's Jonah gets home for Thanksgiving we may have quite a group. Jonah ships out for Afghanistan on Dec 5th. Hope it's over soon.

Marty Thanks for the humor sheet also. Love it.  
we too have our ups and downs with Mike  
at Sun Crest. We couldn't do it without Gods  
help. Sonda hope your Mom improves.  
Elaine + I really enjoyed your visit last week.  
So glad your doing so well Elaine. See  
you tomorrow  
Joe + Jackie you are real Troopers as are  
all our great Family. We must get  
our rests and take care of ourselves  
and keep right on trucking. I'll be so  
happy when this rash is gone. God  
please heal us all in Jesus name.

We love you all  
Dix Bog + Family

Tomarrow is Deer Season! 11-14-08  
Remember all the gun cleaning and preparation  
that went on today when Dad + the boys  
went out early to get their Buck.  
Its nice to get a memory jog once  
in awhile.

Jim, Marty + I all got ear phones  
for Elaine. Jim got there first with his.  
I was able to cancel my order.

I decided I better get these on the way as things are bound to get busier as it gets closer to Christmas. We are still working on the house next door. We have a new tenant but we are still doing repairs and cleaning. We had to replace the bathroom floor and linoleum. Also a new vanity sink. Not to mention trying to get some things done here so as to be ready for our annual Christmas Eve Party.

Jean and Ron got the snow plow on the John Deere this afternoon. We are supposed to get our first measurable snow tomorrow or Monday. They did have about 4" just west of us earlier this week.

Frank - I think the frequent strawberry festivals are excuses to see friends and neighbors. But that's a GOOD thing. Also, the ice cream festival's at Elaine's.

Speaking of ailments - Mike is to have some surgery on some back disc's that have been giving him problems for a long time. Joe needs a hip replacement but he keeps putting it off. He limps when he walks.

John- You say only one of our dogs was the culprit. I hope you mean Smokey. I don't think Punkin had any idea what was happening to her. Both have been fixed so there won't be a repeat. We did get an announcement of Debra's masters degree. God Bless her for sticking to it and through it.

Since I wrote last, our sister-in-law Mary Ellen Marion who buried Jean's brother Jacques in 1988 (cancer). She remarried another wonderful guy a few years later and then buried him in 1998 (cancer). About 2000 she married Dave Pilon. He was a friend of her 1<sup>st</sup> husband. You guessed it, he was diagnosed with colon cancer about April of this year and he was getting along good but went in for a correction of some kind. He was about to come home from the hospital when he got up to take a walk and keeled over from a blood clot. The story gets worse. About a month ago she also learned that she has cancer. At the time of

Dave's funeral - her jaw keep getting numb. She went to the Dr. He gave her some medicine but it didn't do any good. Within a matter of days - she couldn't walk from the pain in her back. her daughter Theresa took her to the hospital. The bad news is cancer on her spine, spots on her lungs and liver and a tumor under her tongue. She has had several radiation treatments and 2 chemo treatments but she was back in the hospital most of this week. She is home at another daughter's as of yesterday. Things are just a matter of time as it is terminal. That family has gone through so much this year.

Jim - There is another article in my archives about some of the McGillis women back in Scotland. I'll try to find it. Everybody is talking about traveling - well not everybody. I think I would like to take the train trip across lower Canada to Vancouver. I also think I would get bored with too much scenery. Maybe, we could just go on another cruise but that probably won't happen either.

Marty - Yes. My printer is back working. I think I fixed it myself by going into maintenance and resetting the factory settings. You can miss dinner on the cruise if you want to but you've paid for it and it's nice to be pampered for a change. Nobody said you had to eat it all. And Andy has the runt but we babysit him 4-5 days a week. Andy works close by and long hours so the little guy couldn't stay from 7:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. He is 7 months old now and today was a trial. Andy put in a doggie door so he can get out to potty but he would still be alone until 4:00 o'clock. Poor baby.

Elaine and Sis - I've talked to both of you lately and will be going there in 2 or 3 weeks for a perm.

Joe - I think you should have been a weather reporter. You seem to be very interested in rainfall and all that goes with it. I suppose it could take several months before you get back to normal healthwise.

I did more canning this year than ever - strawberry jam, black-raspberry jam, applesauce (from Jim's tree), red-raspberry jam

and Jean did a couple of batches of rhubarb. Some were a very few one cup batches.

Well, I blabbered too long and it went to the third page but I can't make it stay at 2 unless I pulled it out and finished it in ink. Phooey.

Love to all -

Jan And Jean

# Limerick School, Alcona County, Michigan

## A Story of Limerick School

Contributed by

**Janice Dumont Marion**

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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.

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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.

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Created on ... April 05, 2003

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## *Sunday*

### IF TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME

A few weeks ago a woman was killed in an auto accident. She was very well liked, so the office shut down for her funeral and it was on the news and so on. On the day the workers came back to work,

They found this poem in their e-mail that the deceased woman had sent on Friday before she left for home.

"If tomorrow starts without me, And I'm not there to see,

If the sun should rise and find your eyes all filled with tears for me;

I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today, While thinking of the many things, I didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me, As much as I love you, And each time that you think of me, know you'll miss me too;

8/21/2006



But when tomorrow starts without me,

Please try to understand, that an angel came and called my name, And took me by the hand

And said my place was ready, In heaven far above, And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.

But as I turned to walk away, A tear fell from my eye, For all my life, I'd always thought, I did want to die.

I had so much to live for, So much left yet to do, it seemed almost impossible, that I was leaving you.

I thought of all the yesterdays,

The good ones and the bad, I thought of all that we shared, And all the fun we had.

If I could relive yesterday, Just even for a while, I'd say good-bye and kiss you and maybe see you smile.

But then I fully realized, That this could never be, For emptiness and memories, would take the place of me.

And when I thought of worldly things, I might miss some tomorrow, I thought of you, and when I did, My heart was filled with sorrow.

But when I walked through heaven's gates,

I felt so much at home. When God looked down and smiled at me, From His great golden throne,

He said, "This is eternity, And all I've promised you." Today your life on earth is past, but here life starts anew.

I promise no tomorrow, But today will always last, and since each day is the same way, There's no longing for the past.

So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart, For every time you think of me, I'm right here, in your heart "

Dec 26, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

I received the latest family letter earlier this week. It sure sounds like each one of you has had more problems than any of you deserve. One bright spot you will never get layed-off from work or lack sleeping in. Yes, you all just received a big raise from Uncle George.

I managed to total my car out the third night of deer season. A forty pound deer can and will do \$2,000 damage in downtown Mikado. This was the second total in three years. This time I am saddled with the full cost. We only shot two bucks on the farm this year, we usually get four.

Here it is only two days into winter and we have had 55 inches so far toward a avg of 85 inches. We all will feel better when Spring comes so we can watch new life renew it self.

It seems a few of you likes to make cookies. You know February 23, 2008 is the big (74) and it is not Santa Claus.

Jan, You must have had real memories of Limerich school. As for myself I headed to sixth grade for sis's protection and crying, that day I will never forget. This would be followed by skipping school in third grade.

I is nice to see a few of you still able to travel. Seeing this recreation on television lately sure brings on sadness. Vehicles in ditches, delayed planes, \$4 gas prices, and sore butts would be lasting memories; Enclosed is the real Michigander.

Sis, I am real sorry to hear about the loss of your horse. We all have pets and love them greatly. These losses are hard to bare as I had a cat that died far to soon.

I am hopefull God loves and protects each and every one of us in the new year as we surely will need it.

Your Loving Brother,

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