

January 24, 2009

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is with sadness that I have talked to all of you (except Sis and Frank) in the last few days. Mac's passing has shocked all of us but we pray for him and all of Janice's family. We know that Christ is carrying some of us at this difficult time. We love you.

Because we have talked I will not spend a lot of time on family news but I will tell you where I am at and what we are doing. I am in St Louis for a board of directors meeting. Yesterday <sup>afternoon</sup> we met until about 7 PM, broke for dinner and then continued until 10 PM. It is 5 AM now and we will begin again at 8 AM. My flight home leaves at 6 PM so I should get home tonight about 8 to 9 PM.

Tomorrow morning we will go to 8 AM mass, finish packing and pull out for Florida about 11 AM. We plan to see Marty Tuesday or Wednesday and then arrive at our camp ground in La Belle on Thursday. They say that Florida is having a cold spell but everything is relative.

I am looking forward to a month of relaxation and warmth. I love and pray for all of you. I will pass these letters to Marty on the way. God bless all of you.

Your loving brother

Jim and Carolyn

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109 P.S. We arrived in Florida today. I will give these to Marty now.

Hi Family,

Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Jim dropped the family letters off two weeks ago on his way to southern Florida, so since I have some time today, I will get them done and on the way.

Elaine, congrats on being there for 9 years. Sanctuary at Maple Vista has sure been good for our family. I hope you are staying away from the cold.

Joe, you mentioned having a balance problem. A friend of mine had a balance problem and they found crystals in his ear canal and they were trying to dissolve them. I am not sure how successful they were. I hope you and Jackie have gotten your health problems solved by now.

Sis, hope the family is staying away from any health problems this winter. As busy as you are, it may not catch up with you. Keep up the good work.

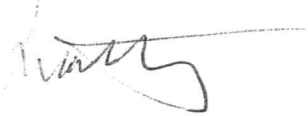
Janice, you have had more than your share of misfortune this past couple of years. I hope that God has some good things in store for you and Jean in the near future. The article on the Limerick School was very interesting. I missed out on that era of the family life, but I guess it was not all bad.

Frank, I am glad that the deer are still coming in for snacks. Dane and Matt have about 21 deer coming into the field behind their home to graze. The deer feel protected there and do not seem to be afraid. I wish you guys would have come down to Florida. I know it would be good for you health.

John, I am sorry that you had to shovel all that snow. I take the shovel out every morning and shovel a little sunshine and it is so easy. The fishing is slow right now but it should pick up.

Jim, we had an enjoyable evening when you stopped by, and I know you guys are enjoying the wonderful sunshine. We may see you again before you head back for Michigan.

Sonda is back in Michigan checking on her mom, but is coming back down on the 17<sup>th</sup>. So we can take a cruise out of Tampa for Cozumel on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Then she flies back to Michigan on the 3rd of March. I plan to head back to Michigan on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Dana and Matt and kids flew to Orlando this morning to spend 5 days at Disney World and then two days at Naples before going back home. Guess I will stop jabbering and hang this up so it can go in the mail. Love to all. Sonda and Marty



2-18-09

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

Time to get this package in the mail. It hasn't been too bad weatherwise, not compared to some areas in the U.S.

The nicest thing to happen to me is: Joyce Miller had her 90<sup>th</sup> the passin' Sun. Her family gave a nice party and I and Sis, Ray and Michelle were invited. I'm so glad I could go, to see people, Cousins I had not seen in 20 yrs! I was pretty speechless the whole time!

These letters came from Marty in Fla. Jim delivered them on their way down. I hope the weather is Good for them.

Things are in a constant change here all the time, I mean the powers at the wheel - mostly good. Food has improved a whole lot. I do a fair share of eating in my apt. a little eating OUT! and some at Sis's.

I'm in good health some what, but I can't speak about my aches & pains, no news in that

I pray and hope for all of you and yours, also for the economy ~~may~~ get its "act together" soon

Love & Prayers  
Elaine

Cadillac, Mi.  
Feb. 28, '09

Dear Family:

We have a below 0 degree morning again, and we have well over 100" of snow according to the county road commission. Cadillac city reported about 95" at new years.

Last sunday morning, son Ron called us with the message "I have just totaled my pickup and maybe myself as well". He was on his cell phone and had hit a snow-plow on I-131, about 6<sup>AM</sup>15, just N of Cadillac. The plow was creating a white-out and Ron may have blacked-out because he had no clue that the plow was there. An off duty state trooper was following and observed the accident, He said that Ron had passed him going about 70, Ron didn't remember passing him. The plow was going 30. The air bags failed to inflate. Ron spent 5 hours in ER, had no broken bones or concussion, so was sent home. Plenty of aches and pains and may go back to work in another week, if he still has a job. You tell us why?

I am having a time to set this new ribbon -please forgive.

We know from the letters that you all your own versions of a difficult winter.

My last check-up revealed that I had suffered ~~several~~ several small strokes just before my heart trouble last April, this apparently causes my unsteadyness. I have another couple of check-ups in March to evaluate my recovery. Jackie seems to be OK???

Please God let spring be reasonably normal, if that is possible with some prayers from you-all. At least the typewriter seems to be cooperating.

Ken & Joe was recently on a trip to Cancun, MEX. with a company of <sup>54+</sup>22, and <sup>22</sup>most of them got sick -- probably with food-poisoning at a joint dinner.

The message seems to be; Stay near home and keep your job.

God bless you all. Joe & Jacquelyn

3-26-09

My Dear Brothers & Sisters

I've had the letters for a couple of weeks. I've curl up with them four times and enjoyed them. I'll get them ready as Jan is coming soon for her Perm. I won't have to mail them.

How wonderful that Spring is here at last. Also we sold two Horses to Georgia and they have finally been delivered.

I surprised Rog with an 80th Birthday party at the Silver Grill. There was 24 <sup>many of</sup> all our Children and Grand Children except for Elaine and Rogers Bro Bob. Then I surprised him again on the actual day. The 80th is a special Birthday. He was very Happy. We had a turkey dinner.

Jan I really enjoyed your Limerick School memories. I remember all my little brothers coming to find me on

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Their first day of School. I just comforted them and took them back to their room. I assured them I was close by. This was Oscoda School. Grace Gill was Rogers aunt and we remember all of the others.

We are trying to take a trip up North this spring. It is very hard to get away.

Johns and Family are coming for 2 wks or so in June + early July. He plans to buy a place here for retirement.

We just visited with Jonice + Jim at Elaine's. It was a nice time.

Joe + Jackie it would be nice if we could get over to see you. Hope you are improving. You are all in our prayers.

Marty + Sanda its great to see you on the occasions, when you come to see Elaine and all of us.

Our health is holding up pretty well Praise God. We cant complain.

My business is slowing down, but then so am I. I'll keep going as long as my Lady's show up.

Love you all  
Sis. Roy  
+ all

4-30-09

I see by the date of my last letter (11-29-08) that it has been 5 months making the rounds. I guess the letters are slowing down just like we are. Well - the holidays are gone for another year and Easter has come and gone. We have had 5 funerals in 3 months time. First was our grandson Mac, a few days later, Gale's father died. Then Jean's sister Helen's husband died. The 4<sup>th</sup> one was a neighbor lady. The 5<sup>th</sup> one was Mary Ellen who was the widow of Jean's brother Jacques. She had just buried her 3<sup>rd</sup> husband when she learned that she had cancer. She lasted 6 months. In addition to being a sister-in-law - she was a dear friend. I hope I don't have to attend another funeral for the rest of this year.

It's sad - but our generation are the main guests of honor for that.

With the economy being what it is - and getting worse by the day - some of our boys are struggling to keep ahead of the game. Ron is afraid he will lose his house. Tom, Jim and Andy work for companies and so far are still working. Mike, Joe, Rob and Ron are self employed. Things have been slow all winter for Rob and Ron - Mike sells tools and that's slowed down. Joe is just getting his season started. which is cement leveling. He has been making a good living from it for the past 5 years. Who knows what will happen this year. I guess the best way is for us to pray for their success.

Frank, I see by your letter that some of your boys are struggling too. I wonder if we will get up north this year. It's the driving that keeps us home.

John - how are you doing on your liquidation efforts? I keep telling myself that I got to get going on clearing out the stuff that we've been collecting for the last 20-30 years. There is always several jobs that have to be done first. You know - like sleeping in, resting every hour, reading our e-mail and the day is gone. I have to say - I don't go to bed early.

Jim - I just saw you and Carolyn a couple of days ago so I will

OVER



skip on to Marty. Marty - how did you like your cruise? We are invited down to Florida next January. Pat's parents let all their kids (3) use one of their condos for several weeks and they can invite who they want as guests. Pat plopped a calendar in front of us and insisted we pick a week or two. Maybe we will go for 7-10 days. It will only cost us air fare and whatever else we decide to do. Pat's parents are very generous people and very easy to be around.

Elaine - Your letter reminded me of something. I brought an Italian cookbook home from the library. I thought Jean would enjoy the spaghetti recipe's and stories. In the back of the book were two pictures of a Rossi family in Italy. I have tried several times to find some of my friend (Irene Rossi)s genealogy from Hazel Park but didn't have enough information. Anyway, I tried again last week - I didn't find her's but I did run across some of Rocco Rossi's family. I got back 5 generations for him. I sent several pages to them. Theresa said Rocky was so pleased to get them. According to Theresa - Rock's brother Louis has genealogy in Texas but that they didn't. I guess they don't believe in sharing. According to a poem I have - there are only three things necessary to be happy - Friends, family, and health. I think they left out faith.

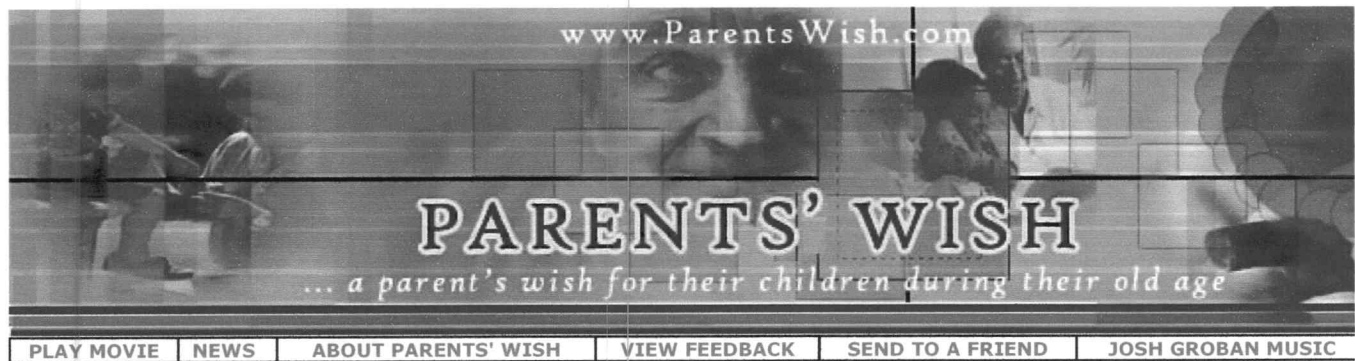
Joe - Ron sure was lucky to come out of that accident with just aches and pains. Did he keep his job? Boy - we can never let up worrying about our kids no matter how old they get. And how are you and Jackie with the coming of spring. We've had a few nice days but I have to hold Jean back. Don't even think about planting anything until the end of May.

Sis - we had a good visit when I got my perm so I am going to close this off before it clicks over to page 3.

Love and prayers to you all -

Jan and Jean





## PARENTS' WISH

<http://parentswish.com>

**To our dear child:**

**On the day when you see us old, weak and weary,  
Have patience and try to understand us.**

**If we get dirty when eating,  
If we can not dress on our own,**

**Please bear with us and remember the times  
We spent feeding you and dressing you up.**

**If, when we speak to you,  
We repeat the same things over and over again,  
Do not interrupt us. Listen to us.**

**When you were small,  
We had to read to you the same story  
A thousand and one times until you went to sleep.**

**When we do not want to have a shower,  
Neither shame nor scold us.**

**Remember when we had to chase you  
With your thousand excuses to get you to the shower?**

**When you see our ignorance of new technologies,  
Help us navigate our way through those world wide webs.**

**We taught you how to do so many things,  
To eat the right foods, to dress appropriately,  
To fight for your rights.**

**When at some moment we lose the memory**

**Or the thread of our conversation,**

**Let us have the necessary time to remember.  
And if we can not, do not become nervous,**

**As the most important thing is not our conversation,  
But surely to be with you and to have you listening to us.**

**If ever we do not feel like eating, do not force us.  
We know well when we need to and when not to eat.**

**When our tired legs give way  
And do not allow us to walk without a cane,**

**Lend us your hand. The same way we did  
When you tried your first faltering steps.**

**And when someday we say to you,  
That we do not want to live any more, that we want to die,  
Do not get angry. Some day you will understand.**

**Try to understand that our age is not just lived but survived.**

**Some day you will realize that, despite our mistakes,  
We always wanted the best for you  
And we tried to prepare the way for you.**

**You must not feel sad, angry nor ashamed  
For having us near you.**

**Instead, try to understand us and help us  
Like we did when you were young.**

**Help us to walk.  
Help us to live the rest of our life with love and dignity.**

**We will pay you with a smile and by the immense love  
We have always had for you in our hearts.**

**We love you, child.**

**Mom and Dad**

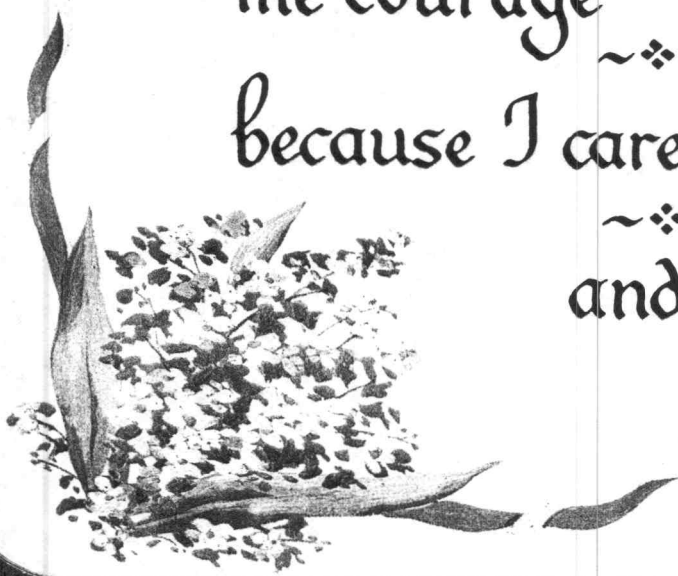
*Updated on July 12, 2006*

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My life has been touched  
because we have walked  
a special walk together  
because you matter to me  
because we are friends  
because you have given  
me courage  
because I care  
and I love you.



June 08, 2009

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

I received the latest family letters from brother Frank a couple of weeks ago. It is time now to carry on this wonderful tradition.

I recently had the farm surveyed and got the surprise of my life. It seems the south fence line was two feet too far north. The north fence line was twenty feet too far north as well. It looks like the lane was borrowed since the early nineteen hundreds.

I have recently went thru a liver and spleen scan. Both areas came up with minor problems expected from over weight and old age. The rest of the family is doing good in regards to health.

Our oldest grandson Erik graduated with honors from high school last Monday. It seems like just yesterday that he was a little boy.

Sis, I do well remember my first day of school in Oscoda. Yes, in fact, I still have visions of your class room door and the tears shed that day.

Joe, I am so sorry to hear of your son's car accident. He is very lucky something worse did not happen. Vehicles can be repaired, human life can not.

Janice, it looks like you have had far more than your share of hard times lately. It is really sad when one of our little ones dies, having their life ahead of them yet.

The journey has been long and hard for all of us. Upstairs will clean up the nut jobs running this state and country. Abortion, fraud, theft, waste and outright stupidly will surely be dealt with.

Will close for now and may God bless each of us and the USA.

Your loving brother  
John.

July 15, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters

We are home between trips so I better get these letters on their way. I have talked to all of you within the last two weeks so this will be short. I know that many of you are ailing but Elaine and Frank sounded pretty good on the phone. I hope and pray for your good health.

Carolyn and I just returned Monday from a trip to Traverse City, Suttons Bay and Northport. We attended a wedding of Carolyn's nephew Rod. We enjoyed stopping to see Joe and Jackie on our way home.

Today we are preparing for my meeting in Cincinnati. We will leave tomorrow morning and return on Sunday. I will be happy when this meeting is over.

We are looking forward to seeing most of you August 8<sup>th</sup> for our family reunion. I pray for good weather and will try to make it enjoyable for all. I hope to see you then.

My last meeting for the year will be the national meeting in St. Louis the first week in September.

As I said I will keep this short and get these letters on their way. I pray for you daily and ask God to protect and guide you. God bless you

Your loving brother

Jim and Carolyn

P.S. I am enclosing some pictures you may want from Marly's book. I believe mom should be in the group picture but have no clue which one she is.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Summer is almost over and yes, last winter was great in Florida. There were very few days that we could not go down to the dock and fish. I hope it is also good this coming winter.

Elaine, it is good that your food is improving. I still think that is a wonderful place to be especially since Sis is so close.

Joe and Jackie, it looks like you took the prize for the most snow last winter. How did it effect the rivers and crops this spring and summer? You two need to extend your winter stay in Florida for about three months. Its great.

Sis and Roger, we just visited at the Oscoda High class reunion. It sure was nice to see so many older class mates. All is well with you guys and its good to hear about the sale of horses to Saudie Arabia. I was sorry to miss John and family but maybe next time.

Jan and Jean, when you find out where there condo is, let me know and if I am close, I will pick you up at the airport and take you to your condo. Our cruise was great, but the food is so good that you can't stay away from it. We did the 6 p.m. dinner and then took in two shows after that. It was just 20 minutes to the ship and then four days on the ocean. Cosamel was really beat up in that storm two years ago but they are rebuilding fast. The greenery is still whipped and will take some time.

Frank and Betty, it has not been but about four weeks since we were up there. You both looked great and the boys also. God is sure watching over you both.

John and Pat, you mentioned how bad it is with our leaders and maybe God can straighten them out. I think it will get much worse

Before God steps in and changes things back to the good days of yester year. I hope the change in lot lines at the farm do not cause any problems.

Jim and Carolyn, It has not been that long since we have seen you. And we will see you in a couple of days at the family reunion. The roofers are up on the roof tearing down that chimney that you rebuilt and putting a new roof and skylight in. I have both Alcona books and I will bring them with me Saturday to restart the circulation. They are sure interesting. Today, I hit 71 and am looking forward to many more. I sure don't feel it. See you all.

Love

Sonda and Marty



Cadillac, MI  
9-18-09

Dear Family.

Now for a try at answering the letters. I have about 2 weeks yet for my healing from the eye surgery, Oct. 1st, healing is coming along fine. they charge about \$1,000 for each eye before discounts. Ins. covers it for us. I can see to drive without glasses but 4-5 feet distance requires reading glasses.

Someone asked <sup>b</sup>about son Ron: He kept the job with Pepsy after some rest; he will go on full-time on the 21st, with benefits. The pickup was very much totaled. He still suffers pains but is very lucky that you-all were praying for his recovery. Son Mike is moving to Virginia and a new job at this writing.

Our winter snowfall was very high, and the April-August precipitation averaged 4" per month. 25% above the 100 Yr. average. In Sept. so far we have had none, while the 100 yr average is 3.6", the wettest month of the yr. Crops doing well thru Aug.

The employment is very risky now in this area. The Four Winn Boat Co. is about to come out of bankruptcy with a reported 5 Co's wishing to buy it. Several of the family have worked there in past years and several will be rehired when it gets into production.

Poor blueberry crop. All crops 10 days to two weeks late. Excellent apple crop. Wild blackberry crop OK for us but very spotty. Wild raspberry crop very weak, but enough for us on our lot.

I have visited or phone visited with half of the family very recently. Family health is generally OK for the condition we are in. May ~~our~~ our Holy Family be in our minds always.

Joe & Jackie

Oct 15, 2009

My Dear Bro + Sisters.

It looks like I've been sitting on the letters for about three weeks. I read them once and then got distracted by my busy life and didn't think about them until Jan and Elaine asked where are the letters. John + Gayle bought the house across the road and were here for several days working on the house getting ready to rent until they can retire here. Anyway I'm back on track and will get them off today.

Elaine, Jan + I had a fun time over lunch and Jan got her Perm.

Joe and Jackie, hope we will be able to see you sometime soon. I said we sold 2 horses to Arabia, but it was actually 4, we just have 3 left to sell next year hopefully.

Frank and Betty we are glad you got your  
stay at Saginaw over and that you are  
coming along. Hope to get up there again  
soon. We did get up there three times  
this summer

John + Pat its nice that you come down  
for our prayer time at Frank + Betty.  
It sure helps with our travel time  
when we must go up and back in one day.  
Jim + Caroline the reunion was just great  
Sorry we all couldn't be there, but it  
was wonderful for the ones who got there.  
Especially to see Ethel Rose and her grand  
daughter. Thanks for the books.

Marty what a great Class reunion we  
had. Sorry Sanda wasn't with you, but  
I can understand it wouldn't be very  
~~interesting~~ interesting ~~and~~ not know any one.

Well Family we love you all very  
much. Sure enjoy the letters.

God Bless you Everyone  
Sis + Rog

11-9-09

Dear Ones-

I've gone through the pile of letters 3 times and can't find a letter from Frank or Elaine. What gives, you two. Are you too ill to write. I know Frank has been having chemo treatments - if that's the reason - maybe we will hear from you with this batch. If you can't - maybe Betty will write a note about what is going on. There was several humorous articles with the letters but don't know who sent them. I kind of assumed it was Frank but maybe not??????????

John - don't tell any of your neighbors about the fence line errors. I don't know what this means to you except that maybe you don't have access to your woods.

Jean and I went down to Jim's and picked 1 to 2 bushels of apples. While we were there, he demonstrated how to make cider and sent us home with a gallon. I made about 20 pints of applesauce, baked apples and a large sheet apple pie. We gave some away and there are still some left. They made very good everything. He calls these apples "Dumont apples". That's because he can't remember what kind of trees he bought several years ago.

Marty, the condo we will be staying at is at Bonito Beach. That is about 25 miles south of Fort Myers. We are flying into Fort Myers. I believe we are arriving on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> and will be there for 10 days. Jean is sleeping and my ticket info is in the bedroom. We will have plenty of time to verify all that.

Elaine, I just saw you on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. when I got my last perm. I did enjoy having lunch with you and Sis. And I won't forget about your Christmas pecan rolls. I don't think I will be going up there so will have to mail them. Several of our family groups are feeling the economic pinch these days so we have decided to curtail the Christmas spending - at least for this year. No name drawing - no gifts for Mom and Dad - No gifts from

Mom and Dad. We will still get together for Christmas Eve and have a nice potluck dinner. I will still fix Christmas Bags (instead of socks) for everyone. We will just enjoy the real meaning of Christmas. We always sing Happy Birthday to Jesus. I think the grandchildren will be disappointed but it will save them money too.

Joe, I hope you are enjoying your new eyes. You have been wearing glasses for about 75 years. We missed you and Jackie at the reunion. We didn't even try to go up north because of the driving.

One reason we didn't go was because Jean was having some health problems. In late spring - he thought he was having a mini-stroke (TIA). With trying to get to the bottom of that - the doctor discovered some cysts on his pancreas. He had a Cat Scan, 2 or 3 MRI's and 3 epidural shots to his neck. They also discovered that he had fractured his neck at one time. After the last MRI - his doctor said that it wasn't testing as cancer but to check again in 6 months.

He went on the Michigan Honor Flight to Washington to see The World War II monument on Saturday. All expenses paid by the Honor Flight Group. We had to get up before 4:00 so they could get to the airport by 6:00. Before he left, he went outside to untangle the dog lines for me and ended up falling down. He didn't tell me when he came back in (he didn't want to miss his trip). He came home late Saturday evening in much pain. We weren't able to get into the doctor's office until today. He had to get an ex-ray but we don't know the results yet. We think he broke or fractured a rib. He sure has been in a lot of pain. They took good care of him on the trip with pain pills and a large Ave bandage. There were a couple of medics on the plane.

I need to close for now so this doesn't go to 3 pages.

Love to all,

*Jan & Jean*  
Jan & Jean

P.S. We got the X-Ray results this afternoon - He has 2 Broken ribs. No treatment except big pain meds.

DEAR BROTHERS & SISTERS

Here I go AGAIN TRYING TO WRITE  
SOMETHING OF INTEREST WHEN THERE  
ISN'T MUCH TO SAY, I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT COULD HAVE ~~TO~~ HAPPENED TO MY  
LAST LETTER, IT WAS IN THE PACK  
WHEN IT ~~LEFT~~ <sup>WENT</sup> HERE.

JOHN I'M SURE YOU ARE ON PINS AND  
NEEDLES NOT BEING ABLE TO HUNT THIS  
YEARS BUT THERE ~~S~~ WILL BE MORE COMINGS  
HERE PAT IN UP AND AROUND NOW.

JIM WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WHEN  
THERE ARE NO MORE MEETINGS TO GO TO?  
I GOT A REAL ~~KICK~~ OUT OF THESE  
PICTURES THE GROUP IS GREAT SEE  
HOW HAPPY THEY ALL LOOK.

MARTY I SUPPOSE YOU ARE GETTING  
READY FOR FLA. OR MAYBE YOU ARE  
ALREADY THERE - HOPE IT DON'T GET  
TO ~~COLD~~ COLD DOWN THERE FOR YOU.

ELAINE YOUR LETTER WAS MISSING  
LIKE MINE BUT HOPE YOU ARE GETTING  
ALONG JUST FINE.

Joe You MUST be TALKING ABOUT Eye  
SURGERY FOR CATARACTS? Betty + I  
HAVE HAD BOTH EYES ALSO, IT SEEMS  
LIKE WE GET OVER ONE SURGERY AND WE  
WAIT FOR THE NEXT.

Sis WE ARE HAPPY TO SEE YOU AND  
ROG. AS OFTEN AS WE DO.

JAN I AM JUST RUNNING OUT OF THINGS  
TO SAY, AS FAR AS MY CYBER KNIFE  
WENT I CAN'T SAY THERE HAS BEEN AN  
AWFUL LOT OF CHANGE, MY FAMILY DR.  
SAYS THE CATSCAN SHOWS IT BIGGER  
THAN BEFORE - THE CANCER DR. SAYS  
IT'S SMALLER - IT'S GOING TO BE A  
MONITORING THING EVERY 3 MOS. OR  
SO. HOWEVER THE BREATHING TESTS SHOW  
THE COPD IS WORSE, BETTY AND I  
SEND OUR PRAYERS TO ALL OF YOU

Frank & Betty



December 02, 2009

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

I received the family letter from Frank last week. It is time now to continue our life experiences.

The deer season down on the farm was the worse in the last twenty years, one spike horn & a four point . Only three were taken in the area, we were lucky as compared to others.

Earlier this year, over twenty family members received a book concerning the middle third of my life experiences. Nary a whimper was heard from any one of my family members, friends or neighbors. A lot of time and cost was wasted on this idea. It looks like the first and third parts of my life will be only memories.

This year, I have had five spiritual experiences. The last twenty five years, there must be at least one hundred on record. No one walking on this earth today has been riding this roller coaster as long as I have, trust me on this one.

For several months now, I have been battling severe back pain. Last week I had both hips adjusted and a magnet therapy. Some of these pains go back forty years and will take time to heal with God's healing touch & your prayers.

So far this year the weather has been nice. From all reports this winter is expected to be mild. Last winter, Alpena area received 127 inches of snow, the third highest on record.

Janice, thanks for the school picture. Along with 220 others, it is expected to be on TV in the future.

Hopefully, all of you will tell their own life stories, we will all understand. I will close for now. God bless each and every one of you. God PLEASE bless the USA!!

Your loving brother

John

Dec. 25, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Merry Christmas to all of you and I pray that you will all have a Happy and blessed New Year. I received the letters a couple of weeks ago and we were so busy preparing to assist 50 families and six organizations have a Merry Christmas that I sat them aside until today. We had all gifts (750) delivered by Wednesday and had our boys and their families here Wednesday evening to eat and exchange gifts. We visited Carolyn's sister-in-law in the nursing home yesterday and went to mass last night. Today has been our first day to relax.

Marty and Frank, I have just talked to you so I will not elaborate further. Elaine, I tried calling you earlier today but you are out and about. I will try later to reach you.

Joe, I agree with Marty that you and Jackie should stay longer in Florida during these winter months. Do you and John like these record snow falls? I like to clear my drive way a couple of times and then escape to Florida for a month. We will leave here Jan 24<sup>th</sup> and arrive in Fabelle on Jan 28<sup>th</sup>. We will start back north Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>.

Sis, it was nice seeing you on your birthday. Thanks for you and Roger meeting us at Elaine's. Are you planning to sell the last of the horses by next year?

Jan, it hasn't been that long since we talked. I hope Dean is feeling better now. I am sure he

would have enjoyed his trip to D.C. more if he had not been in so much pain.

John, you suggest that we write down our life experiences and you are probably right. I have had people suggest that I write down some of my experiences helping the poor but now I am so busy helping them that I am too tired to write them.

Marty, you should get these letters before you leave for Florida Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Take them to Florida and enjoy yourself in the sun as you answer them.

I will fly to St. Louis in four weeks (Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>) for a board meeting. I will return Saturday night (Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>). Sunday morning we will go to mass and then pull out for Florida.

Carolyn had cataract surgery on her good eye Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. It all went well and when they tested her vision the next day it was 20/20. She uses reading glasses for up close but otherwise does not need glasses.

I will close this for now. God bless all of you. I love you.

Your loving brother  
Jim and Carolyn.