

I'm sorry I dropped the letter writing ball. There has been so much going on in my life that they got misplaced and I forgot I had them. We had our Christmas Party at Mike's but I still had baking and etc. We hosted that party for more than 30 years.

Jean is doing quite well considering. He did have another TIA Thanksgiving week and spent 3 days at the hospital. He is now doing a series of Physical Therapy sessions. He still has a voice problem caused by scar tissue in the back of his throat. His doctor wants to wait some more for it to correct it's self before considering more surgery. The therapy is helping his strength a great deal.

This past week Andy had an operation for a bladder diverticulum. He had been having a lot of trouble urinating. He had lost his job in January last year and his insurance with it. He found a new job in September but no insurance for 90 days. It turned out that his bladder had a weak spot and formed a three inch tube to one side and from there formed another bladder almost as big as the original. The Dr. removed the second pouch and patched up the hole in the original. He suffered a lot with it. I could go on about that but won't.

Frank - I've been on the phone about your latest trip to the hospital. The last I heard - you were on your way home but didn't have surgery. I hope you are as OK as you can be with all your problems. Boy, we sure make a lot of hospital visits - we are all in our 70's, 80's or 90's so I guess we get the lion's share of hospital stays. We have so many ailing family members that I have stopped naming name's in my prayers and just say ailing loved ones.

Jim - Did you pass that kidney stone? You can't take any more days off at the hospital. Carolyn needs you at home.

Marty - You must like driving a lot more than I do. Jean is still not driving and can't until he gets a clearance from his doctor. (That may not happen) I don't feel that it is safe to drive when you can't turn your head more than he is able to. I guess we will have to face that problem in the next few weeks.

John - The letters were mixed up and I passed you up. What did you do with all of your treasures from the basement? There was a first edition of a Marvel comic book on Antiques Roadshow the other night. I've lost the notes I wrote down but it was valued over a thousand dollars. I hate to think of disposing of my treasures. I have several collections going - Old canning jars, marbles, cook Books (between 100 to 200), old oil cans, coins, a few pill boxes, a few old tobacco collectables, small metal cans, and numerous other misc. I don't think I would survive a mass yard sale.

Elaine and Joe (Jackie) - I have talked to both of you recently regarding Frank, Jim and Carolyn so will go on to Sis.

Sis - Joe and Pat returned from Hawaii yesterday. They didn't get to see John and family. He said it would cost about \$500 to fly there and back. They did get to the Pearl Harbor Monument. They were unable to secure Jean a (Police Petty Officer Badge) he had in the Navy. He would sure like to secure one. I've been on the internet several times but no luck. Joe did get a picture of one. They were celebrating their 25th anniversary.

I need to get these ready for the mail and get on to other chores.

God Bless all of our families -

Love, Jan and Jean

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jan & Jean". The ink is dark and the script is fluid, with the names joined together.

DEAR BROTHERS & SISTERS ,

HEAR I GO AGAIN TRYING TO GET THE LETTERS OFF AND WRITING SOMETHING THAT IS INTERESTING TO SOMEBODY, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU GAYS HAVE SO MUCH TO WRITE ABOUT, IT IS THE TIME OF YR. THAT IS THE MOST ACTIVE FORME WITH DR.'S APPT. AND HOSPITAL STAYS (TWICE SO FAR!

JOHN I BET YOU ARE ALL SET FOR THE TIGARS TO START PLAYING - IT LOOKS LIKE THEY MAY BE DOING SOMETHING GOOD THIS YR.

JIM: AS USUAL YOU HAVE A KINDS OF THINGS GOING HOW IS CAROLYN'S KNEE DOING? BETTY HAS GOTTEN A LOT OF THERAPY IN THE LAST MO. HER BACK IS GIVING HER A LOT OF PAIN SHE USES A CANE NOW.

MARTY, I DON'T THINK I WOULD BE VARY GOOD AT YOUR NEW JOB, I'M SURE IT IS INTERESTING FOR YOU GOOD LUCK AND INJOY.

ELAINE, I NEED HEARING AIDS ALSO BUT THE HEARING DR. SAYS THEY WON'T DO ME ANY GOOD - TO MANY YEARS OF NOISEY EQUT.

JOE, TALK ABOUT SNOW, TODAY WE ARE GETTING
7-9" AND FREEZING RAIN TO TOP IT OFF : ABOUT
1 WK. AGO WE GOT 9", SO FAR THESE 2 STORMS
AMOUNT TO ABOUT ALL WE HAVE HAD THIS WINTER.

SIS, LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE YOUR BUSY, ~~THE~~
SELF, WE JUST GOT A CALL FROM JIM SWEET
THATS BETTYS COUSIN ON THE FARM DOWE THE
RD. HE IS COMING DOWN TO PLOW US OUT
HE SURE IS A BIG HELP.

JAN. YOUR CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER SOUNDS
LIKE OURS AN EVERY YEAR THING YOURS IS
MUCH LARGER THAN OURS, I GUESS WE ALL
COULD GO ON ABOUT OUR PROBLEMS WITH
~~AGING~~ AGING & SARA-VICKIE DAUGHTER
CALL BETTY THE OTHER DAY AND DURING THEIR
TALK SHE MENTIONED THAT SHE GOT BACK TO
THE 1700S ON OUR DADS PAST HISTORY, ILL
CLOSING FOR NOW AND GET THESE LETTERS
IN THE MAIL I KNOW JOHN IS LOOKING
FOR THEM.

MAY GODS BLESSINGS RAIN
DOWN ON OUR FAMILYS.

WITH LOVE

BETTY + FRANK

March 10, 2012

Brothers & Sisters,

I received the family letter from Frank a few days ago. The last one was mailed out from Ossineke about seven months ago.

Janice, I did not know that you were into collectables. According to the comic book guide, Superman # 1 in mint condition was listed @ \$ 440.000 in the 2009 edition.

Just last week, we were offered cruises on the Congo River @ \$ 29.95 each, probably no snow there.

Deer season has been lean recently, only one buck in each of the last 3 years.

Only 54 inches of snow so far this year, usual average is 85 inches, some of it is still on the ground here.

Marty, it sounds like you found yourself a fun job as driver to tour the country.

Jan, that story about the Middle Wife sure brought the meaning of suffering down to reality.

Jim, now that you have finally retired or at least slowed down, it is time to enjoy the new chair.

In closing, may GOD bless each & every one. GOD BLESS THE USA !!!.

Brother,
John

April 9, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Well it looks like spring has arrived. We have had a mild winter. Hopefully we can now have a mild summer. Saturday I ran the roto-tiller into the garden. Today I planted lettuce and peas.

I have talked to Elaine, Jan and Joe in the last two days and Marty about a week ago. I haven't heard of any of us being ill at the present time so that is great. Hopefully we can keep it up. Carolyn is still having some pain in her knee and arthritis in other joints. She got a new knee Jan. 5th

We arrived back from Arizona on Thursday 3/24/12. The weather was good there except for one day in which we had sleet. We were there for 4 weeks. While we were there we got to see our oldest grand-daughter, Meghan, receive induction into the National Honor Society. She is a junior at Notre Dame Prep and she is beginning to look at colleges. She is interested in pre-med.

Carolyn and I are planning to drive to St. Louis next week. I have meetings there Wednesday and Thursday and we will go to see Carolyn's relatives on Friday before we return.

Yes, my term as regional vice-president ended last Oct. 1st. I hoped that it was over but they have been after me to stay on as a member of the National Governance Committee. Hopefully it will be only two meetings per year. I have told them that family comes first and I may have to resign at any time.

I just went back to read the letters to see if I had covered all topics and realized that since I had written I have been in the hospital twice with kidney stones. Yes Jan I finally passed it. Carolyn also has been in twice with low sodium. Besides the problems that being a Celiac does to getting food to eat, she is now in need of high sodium food and low potassium food. It is so hard on her to find anything that covers it all.

I will close for now and get these letters on the road. We love you all very much and pray for your good health and long life. God bless you.

Your loving brother
Jim and Carolyn

Hi Dumont Family,

May 4th, 2012

Its time I get these letters to Elaine, and I will deliver them Monday.

Elaine, I know what you mean with the traffic at dinner, as my mother-in law has to be in a wheel chair and it's a traffic jam at dinner like you wouldn't believe. Sonda's mom thinks that Sonda is her mother some days and on other days she thinks Sonda and Shari are sister and she is there mother and she doesn't remember Dana at all. Oh to be old.

Joe, its sounds like you are keeping good track of the weather. You missed your calling as a meteorologist by trade.

Sis, we will see you Monday for Chris's funeral. It tells you that we are getting old, when God takes our kids away from us and leaves us here to do his work. Our deepest sympathies are with all of you.

Janice, you seem so busy now compared to when you were working for a living and getting a paycheck. I hope Jean is back to normal as with all the family.

The insert called the Middle Wife was a real hoot. Thanks

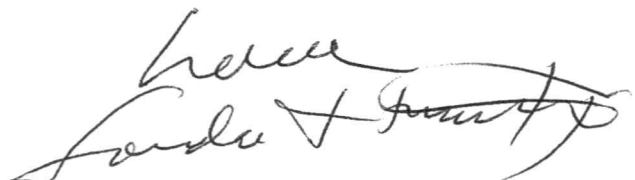
Frank, you keep busy just thinking of things to do. You keep feeding the deer, and they will love you forever. I hope Betty is staying healthy and watching over you.

(P.S. Thanks
Marty)

John, be cautious about trips for a cheap price. You get all packed and head to the airport, and the plane never shows up and they have your money. You said you had 54 inches of snow, and my shovel got so rusty down in Florida, that I am going to have to repaint it. Hope all is well at your house.

Jim, I talked to you last night and again this morning. Carolyn sounded so good and so happy, only to find out that she was setting in the hot tub. I forgot to ask you if she was drinking a hot toddy. I am glad that you got rid of that job at St. Vincent DePaul, and hope you cool it for awhile. You need to slow it down and finally retire. It's easy for me to say. Right.

As for me, I had three wonderful months in Florida, and have been back one month, although, I think I came back a month too early. Sonda flew down three times and then came back early the third time, so she could go to Hawaii with Dana, Matt and the kids. They all had a good time and got back on April 10th. As far as I am concerned, my spot at Treasure Island is better than Hawaii and it does not take 10 hours in the air to get there. Shari and Hunter took a break and came down to Florida for 6 days. Hunter and I had a ball fishing and bonding together. We went to Busch Gardens four times this winter, and a season pass is a good deal. We had the best winter that I can ever remember and I only had to wear a jacket one day, which is a rarity. I am back driving for Garber Chrysler. We have been to Traverse City, and Gaylord in the last two weeks. Still volunteering at Covenant on Wednesday's. Got to go and love to you all.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sonda & Hunter". The signature is written in dark ink and is located at the bottom right of the page.

May 17 2010

Dear Families:

I hope I can put this together as well as you all have. Ups and downs all goes with the territory! For me I can't complain - not much that is! It was nice to hear your thoughts anyway. This is still a great idea - life as it goes. I'm living here going on 13 yrs. and I must say God is with me.

My hearing is really off - I try to read lips but is doesn't help much any more and hate hearing aids. So I'm in the dark during most of the time. TV I have had phones.

Michigan has been blessed weather wise. and I'm glad I'm back here. in mich.

I am trying to write something interesting and its hard - your lives are so full - I dare not get into politics. Its so iffy. Most of the time so boring.

I am quite able to get around with a walker! And a cane. For my age I can't ask for more.

I'm closing with prayers for each and everyone and keep as well as long as God ~~all~~ wishes, don't be turned off by my slim pickins

Love, Elaine

Cadillac, Mi

6-5-12

Dear Family,

I am writing while in recovery from a very serious gall bladder removal operation. After a month in still very weak. I delayed until now because third son Ken, was scheduled with a serious intestinal operation today which had to be delayed until the 14th. in Grand Rapids

The "Widow's Whife" was a big hit with all the ladies. They all got copies.

The weather here is currently spring like but we have good moisture. The wild berries are all in blossom.

I pray for better days to come for all of us.

Joe & Jackie

6-17-2012

My Dear Family,

We are celebrating our 62nd wedding anniversary today. John & Gayle have been home from Hawaii for the past two weeks. Its been so nice to have them here with us for a while.

6-21-12

Our Dear Chris passed on and we are still reeling from that when our beloved Fr. Dunn passed on. We are trying to be happy but some days its really a big job.

Dear Ones - Please give us a bit of time to heal - hope to see you all before the year passes by.

In Jesus Love -

Rag + Mary

Time to get at these letters before somebody starts asking questions.

Things are rather normal at the moment. We've been going through complete physical's with a new doctor. I went to our old doctor for a prescription refill and ended up going into the hospital for a heart catherization. Both my EKG and stress test showed issues. The catherization showed a 30-40 block in one area. They don't do anything until there is a 70% blockage. Of course, I have new medications and get to carry nitro-glycerin around with me. Other than that things are pretty routine. The heat has been a factor lately. The air conditioner can't keep it cool enough when it's in the 90's.

Frank - tell Betty that Jean also uses a cane now. Maybe we will have to start a "Cane Club" How does that sound? I am interested to hear that Sara has been doing our family genealogy. I would sure like to compare our research. Maybe you can send me her address and phone number. Sonda has been doing family research also.

John - let's not talk about snow now - we are having a heat wave that won't quit. I suppose all of you are starting some veggies from the garden. We got ours in late but son Jim is getting lots of cukes. They sure taste better than the store's.

Jim - it's nice that some family members are getting educated at Noter Dame Prep. Joe's kids went there. Speaking of Joe's kids - daughter Aimee made us Great Grand parents for the first time. His name is Kenny Joseph and was born on June 30th. She had a pretty rough delivery and says she's not going through that again.

Marty - What do you mean about volunteering at Covanant? I assume it's a charity or senior home. I believe everyone should do some volunteering as part of their retirment. It gets you out among people and that always does your heart good. My work

has been 2-3 hours every week at the library and singing in a Catholic Choir since 1997. I think about giving them up on occasion but end up staying on for another year.

Elaine, I see you belong to the Cane Club too. I still think it's a miracle that all eight of us are still living. If I'm figuring right - Marty is almost 74 and you are almost 93. Of course we all have our ailments but what a miracle to have all of us still here. God must have more work for us to do.

Joe, I hope you are well on the mend now. Also, son Ken. We sure all spend a lot of time with doctors now. It's been another month now so I hope you are in much better shape.

Sis and Rog - I know what you are going through. We lost Our Chuck in 2006 and I still cry about it. Frank and Betty know too. Loosing a child is worse than losing a parent, I think. Take care of each other and thank God for the many blessings we all receive.

Time to close and get going on tonight's dinner.

Love, Jan and Jean

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

8-2-12

DEAR BROTHERS & SISTERS!

HERE I GO AGAIN MAKING AN ATTEMPT AT ANSWERING YOUR LETTERS, THERE IS NOT A LOT TO SAY EXCEPT THAT BETTY AND I ARE BURNING UP THE ROADS BETWEEN E. TAWAS AND ALPENA FOR TESTS OF ALL KINDS, AS FOR ME IN THE LAST MO. OR SO IVE HAD A PET SCAN, A CT SCAN AN MRI AND THE CANCER DR. CAN'T FIND ANY THING EXCEPT THE ONE GROWTH THAT WE HAVE BEEN WATCHING FOR SOME TIME, HIS ADVICE IS TO LEAVE IT ALONE AND IT MAY BE THERE FOR YEARS - MESS WITH IT AND IT MAY NOT BE VERY LONG

JOHN! I KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THE LETTERS BUT I WAS WAITING FOR THE LATEST ON MY TESTS.

MAYBE I CAN GET BETTY TO WRITE A FEW WORDS ON HER PROBLEMS. WE HAVE TOMATO PLANTS 6' TALL

JIM! YOU AND CAROLYN ARE IN THE SAME BOAT AS WE ARE AT LEAST YOU ARE TRAVELING IM NOT INTO THAT ANYMORE I DONT CARE TO GO ANY WHERE AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON JUST TRIT YOUR TESTS Things ARE bound TO GET BETTER. ~~(S)~~

2

MARTY! BETTY AND DAVE ARE NOT
TREATING ME VERY WELL THEY BOTH THINK
I'M CRAZY BUT MY MRI PROVED THEM WRONG,
WE ARE FEEDING THE DEER EVERY DAY SO
THAT KEEPS THEM HAPPY JUST 2 SPIKES
SO FAR LOT OF DOES AND A FEW FAVNS.

ELAINE! YOUR SLIM PICKENS IS ABOUT
THE SAME AS MINE, BETTY IS GETTING AROUND
WITH A CANE NOW ALSO SHE HAS A PROBLEM
WITH HER BALANCE AND SOME TIMES JUST
FALLS FOR NO REASON NO BROKEN BONES
YET WE ARE HOLDING OUR BREATH.

JOE! YOU MENTIONED THE WEATHER IT
IS NOT GO^{OD}-OVER THIS WAY, WE LOST ALL OF
OUR TOMATOS THE 1ST. TIME AROUND BUT
ARE DOING FINE NOW.

SIS! SHUR YOU HAVE A LOT ON YOUR
PLATE RIGHT NOW ITS NOT FAIR TO ASK
WHY SOME DAY WE WILL ALL KNOW WHY.

JAN! HER IS SARAS ADDRESS + PHONE
NO, I WOULD LIKE A COPY OF ~~THAT~~ THAT PICTURE
OF DAD LET ME KNOW THE COST.

WE LOVE A PRAY FOR ALL OF
YOU BETTY + FRANK

August 20, 2012

Dear Brothers & Sisters;

I received the family letter a couple of weeks ago from brother Frank, it is time to get these out.

Frank, I am happy to hear your cancer problems are improving. Jan I am very sorry to hear about Chris's passing. I have been praying for each and every one of you for some time now, with out fail every morning.

Some time ago I sent out yesterday's laughter, please make copies for family members. By the sound of the latest family letters (we) could all use a little cheering up.

I was able to unload my shelving old toys and over 4000 comic books. soon they will be wandering around the world so others can enjoy.

(2)

We have enjoyed reasonably good health this last summer. Old age has a way of showing us all down.

When we look at the world and the U.S. in general, fire, floods, cyclones, earthquakes we surely must feel so lucky to be living in Mich. for there is another thing we will never have to worry about; getting (sick).

It looks like several of us lost the first planting of tomatoes this year. A early light frost is the most likely suspect.

If you have mole problems put moth balls in the trail and cover, bye bye moles.

I have been recently wondering why we are going back to hand writing family letters? Enjoy the 1940s letters enclosed.

May God Bless you all in the future.

your Loving Brother;
John

Oct. 2, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The last time I wrote spring was just arriving and now fall is fast approaching. On our trip north we saw the beginning of beautiful color. It has not arrived here yet but I look forward to it. Not snow so much but color is beautiful.

I have talked to each of you in the last two weeks so I have been trying to think of what to write in the letter this time. This will probably be short and sweet.

Our travels have pretty much ended for this year. We went to Louisville for the region meeting early in August and on to North Carolina to see Carolyn's brother Hank and his wife Pam. Then at the end of August we flew to Seattle for the national meeting. Now we are busy getting the place ready for winter and starting to prepare for the giving tree at church for Christmas.

Our plans for winter include spending the month of February in Phoenix with our daughter Karen and her family again. We had planned to drive there last year but gave that up when Carolyn had her knee replaced in January. I have always wanted to drive it once so we may do that this year. My plan is to drive it down during the last week in January, then

spend the month of February there and drive back during the first week in March. We will see if that plan works.

It was great seeing most of you and talking to all of you. We all have our aches and pains but we are doing pretty good for our age. I pray that we can keep it up.

I will close for now and get these letters on their way. God bless all of you and I continue to pray for all of you and our country.

Your loving brother
Jim and Carolyn.

Dear Family,

October 26, 2012

Not a lot new around here. Still volunteering at the hospital, and a few trips with the car dealer. Just got back from Galesburg, Ill. which is just inside Illinois from Iowa. I love the long trips, but at age 74, they tend to wear you down.

Elaine, its hard to believe that you have been there 13 years. When you go to lunch, its like a walker parking lot in the cafeteria. Hope you have many more years there. They are good to you.

Joe, you should be back to normal now, if their is such a thing as normal for the age that we are getting. The letters seem to be getting shorter and shorter. Must be because we are running out of things that are new.

Sis, it seems like we get overloaded with grief sometimes, but God must have a plan for us that we just don't understand, but it will all come together when it's time to go to heaven. Keep the faith, baby.

Jan

Covenant is a big hospital in Saginaw, and most people do not know where they are going, so volunteers escort them to their destination. We also escort same day surgery patients out to the front door after they are discharged for pickup by their families.

Frank,

I thought a pet scan was when you are looking around the back yard for your dog. I am glad you straightened me out on that. We have lots of dead deer here in Saginaw County due to that nasty fly that is contaminating the deer herd. One of the drivers that drive with me at the dealership had four dead deer lying around the pond in the back of his property. The hunters this fall will have a harder time finding good deer population because of this problem.

John

I enjoyed your hand written letter, and I still have to type my letters, as I tend to try to write to fast, and it's a disaster in the making. Glad you are starting to unload some of your worldly possessions. Its good to clean house every once in a while. My tomatoes are still holding up as I cover them when the frost comes. About one more week , and they will be done.

Jim

Its seems like you are on the road all the time. Hope Carolyn is getting back to normal after that knee operation. I sure see a lot of them at the hospital. One woman was in about three weeks for an ankle replacement, and I was not aware that they even did such a thing. I am still planning to leave for Treasure Island on January 3rd. I will miss you guys stopping over for your usual visit. I took a 2012 Nissan Altima to Illinois, and it sure is the car to buy if you want comfort on a long trip. I got over 30 miles to the gallon, and was following the traffic flow which now moves along at 80 miles per hour. The police move along at 85 so I guess the traffic wants to stay below them. I guess I better stop rambling and go get some lunch. See y'all. Bye

Love Sonda and Marty

P.S.

Have been doing a lot of research on Burnley history with Janice and Ethel Ross's help. Would like to get current family members. Enclosed is a copy of what I have. Would you please fill out the info and mail to us or enclose with letters then anyone who is interested can make a copy, or I will be happy to send to you when complete. Frank and John van (uncle)

should have all the info. (Marty brought
to you this summer) I'm looking for
children. Birth dates, marriages.
grand children, great grand children.
Thank you in advance for the help.
Linda

11-12-2012

My Dear Family,

Things are going along pretty good here at the Bruce Household. Every one is pretty well and we are enjoying the Fall. we are looking forward to the holidays. The grand sons are all working now and things are looking bright. we will try to visit all of you in near future.

Hi Everyone - Hope to see you in the Spring - God Bless + Happy Holidays.

Bruce



Nov. 4, 1920

Dear Families:

must get this written so next time
Roger comes he can take it to the P.O.
can't get out! It will change the ~~order~~
but it could work.

It's good to hear all your cases and
I'm walking with a walker now. I
had to be God willing I can still walk.
my Dr. of 13 yrs is out, he has brain surgery
now to get another one to take his place no
so easy.

I wonder how you all can read my writing
so I'll be brief!! Not much to write
about.

The time change came last night - always
something to adjust to! Taking a lot of meals
in my room.

Don't see much of Sis + Reg. they are
busy with everything.

I'll keep you in my prayers and hopes
and keep writing as you do. and it will
some how work out.

Love to each and every one

Elaine

Cadillac, MI
Nov. 25 2012

Dear Family

Please excuse my typing, for im very nurvice because its a long time since I have tried to type. Im claiming the BENEFITS OF GROWING OLDER inclosed.

We are now claiming some type of record in this family. We have received ~~four~~ four Great Grand Daughters in the last nine months. Just trying to even up the score.

We are getting snow again for the hunte-rs and the winter sport croud. Son Steve is our lone deer hunter and he eats alot of venison. We have many fawns born in this neighbor h-eod and they vis-it our neighborhood.

Health wise we are acting our age but still walk the neighborhood when the weather will allow it., just unde-r a mile usually. Dental and artheratis related illls are many as is eye sight illls.

Its hard to believe the traveling some of you are still doing. Your day is coming. Enjoy while you can.

My last letter was very bad due to my health recovery I expeet--can't blame it all on aging.

We are limiting our trips whenever possible but not all due to fuel prices.

We did add some material to the Family Tree data for those keeping track of our history.

May our Lord bless us sll as long as we can remember what He wants for state in life. Life doesn't always end with good clear minds.

*Jackie & Lee
Gutierrez*

I just got the letters yesterday. I'm sending them out right away because it's a very busy time with all the Christmas extra's and because I have a project going on. I am writing a booklet to help seniors and baby boomers get their personal data and their financial data down on paper before there is a crisis. It's so much easier to think without being distracted by a death or illness. I'm working with my daughter-in-law Pat. The booklet is my idea and my design. She is getting it on digital disc because I don't have that on my computer. The printer's won't accept paper scrips.

Jean has been back to puttering in the back garage. He's been out and about for the last few months. He sure is getting his clothes full of grease. Anybody know of a product that gets out grease. I've tried Oxi-clean and a product from Home Depot (Zep brand citrus cleaner for tough jobs. Neither does a good enough job. I can't even count on the cold weather to keep him out of the grease because he has heat in the garage. Enough about that.

I finally decided to give up singing in the choir. I was having trouble with my throat. I don't like driving at night and I don't like to leave Jean alone especially when he isn't well.

Frank, I know what you mean about going to so many different doctor's. I think that has become a big part of our social life. I know what you mean about not wanting to travel—Joe and Pat asked us to spend a week in Florida with them in January. We declined as we just don't like to travel any more. Especially when we have to navigate large airports.

John, I can't believe you parted with your comic books plus other treasures. I think of parting with some of

my collections. Someone would have to offer me a really good price. By far, my biggest collection is of cookbooks. They take up at least 15 feet of shelving. I also collect coins, marbles, pill boxes, cigar boxes, small tin boxes, a few Coco-cola trays, old canning jars, old oil cans, and other's I can't remember right now.

Marty, I'm amazed at these overnight driving expeditions you make. How do you catch up on your sleep? Do you sleep in the car if someone else is driving? I thought you did these car delivery trips by yourself. Your hospital work also sounds like a good way to store up some points with the man upstairs. Sonda, I think you have almost all the family data I have. I will look to see if I have more on the boys families.

I enjoyed reading all of your letters. Isn't it a miracle that we are all still here and still keep in contact. Joe and Jackie, I'm pretty jealous of all those new great-grand-Daughters. We had our first great this year and of course, it's a boy. He is such a sweetheart even if he is a boy. Just kidding. You know how much I love boys.

Love to all,

Subject: The Rain

From: karen marion <nitetalz@yahoo.com>

Date: 10/11/2012 1:04 PM

To: Undisclosed -recipient recipient <undisclosed-recipient@aol.com>

Subject: Fwd: The Rain

Thought you would enjoy this

The Rain



It was a busy morning, about 8:30, when an elderly gentleman in his 80's arrived to have stitches removed from his thumb.

*He said he was in a hurry as he had an
appointment at 9:00 am.*

*I took his vital
signs and had him take a seat,
knowing it would be over an hour
before someone
would be able to see him.*

*I saw him looking at his watch and
decided, since I
was not busy with another patient,
I would evaluate his wound.*

*On exam, it was
well healed, so I talked to one of the
doctors, got the needed supplies to
remove his sutures and redress his wound.*

*While taking care of
his wound, I asked him if he
had another doctor's appointment
this morning, as
he was in such a hurry.*

*The gentleman told me no, that he
needed to go to*

*the nursing home to eat breakfast
with his wife. I inquired as to her
health.*



*He told me that she had been there
for a while and that she
was a victim of Alzheimer's Disease.*

*As we
talked, I asked if she would be
upset if he was a bit late.*

*He
replied that she no longer knew
who he was, that she had not
recognized him in
five years now.*



*I was surprised, and asked him,
'And you still go every
morning, even though she
doesn't know who you are?'*

*He smiled as he
patted my hand and said,*

*'She doesn't
know me, but I still know who she is.'*



I had to hold back

*tears as he left, I had goose bumps
on my arm, and thought,*

*'That is
the kind of love I want in my life.'*

*True love is
neither physical, nor romantic.*



*True love is an
acceptance of all that is,
has been, will be, and will not
be.*

*With all the jokes
and fun that are in e-mails,
sometimes there is one that comes
along that has an
important message..*

This one / thought / could share with you.

*The
happiest people don't necessarily
have the best of everything;
they just make
the best of everything they have.*

*/ hope you share this with someone you
care about. / just did..*



*'Life isn't about
how to survive the storm,
But how to dance
in the rain.'*

12-13-12

DEAR BROTHERS + SISTERS THIS
IS GOING TO BE PRETTY SHORT AGAIN
JUST TO LET YOU KNOW THAT BETTY
AND I ARE STILL HANGING ON
WE ARE BOTH DOCTORING HEAVILY
• WHAT ONE DOCTOR DON'T THINK OF
ANOTHER DOES.

I KNOW ALL OF YOU ARE HAVING
THE SAME PROBLEMS SO WHY DWELL

I AM GOING TO GET THESE LETTERS
IN THE MAIL, I'M SURE JOHN HAS A LOT
TO WRITE ABOUT.

AND
HOPEING / PRAYING THAT ALL OF YOU
• WILL HAVE OR HAVE HAD A WONDERFUL
AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS

Gods love

BETTY + FRANK

Dec 26, 2012

Dear Brothers & Sisters;

I have the family letter for a whole week from brother Frank so it is time to respond).

Cousin it; has visited me seven times in the last two months. Some times he leaves cheap tokens other times he takes shelving, toys, valuable comics, car parts even clothes. I have a feeling 2013 is going to test my patience and faith.

On a lighter note; deer season was great down on the farm with one six point one seven and one eight. We have had all of five inches of snow so far this winter.

Healthwise; we have had good health so far this winter. I guess at 78 years old parts will start wearing out, and some times we do have to go in for repairs.

The 100 acres of woods on the southside of the farm has been cut over as of last fall. I also understand the septic tank on the farm is caving in after 65-70 years. We were all youngsters when dad custom built it.

It looks like a family dollar will be built on the highway next year. Many small business up here has failed over the last few years, however this likely will be a keeper.

Yes Joe it sure looks like you are breaking new records. However records are made to be broken. I was just wondering about your type writer versus a (new) pen; Don't laugh.

Jan, Perhaps Jean could start wearing bit coveralls made of soft leather. You might try soaking his clothes in dish soap before washing. Farm stores in your area may have other ideas and cleaners.

3.

The latest family letter was a real diamond in the rough. Big families seem to get all the news & work and attention.

With the exception of 200 comics versus 7000 and 40 pairs of marbles versus 105 and tons of toys I have been cleaned out.

We came here with nothing and will probably leave the same way.

Did you realize the family letters are five writing and three doing it the old way.

We recently broke down and purchased a 05 Lasalle with 33,000 miles. What is wrong with saving \$3,000. These vehicles are worse than scarce and very trouble free.

I will close for now. And may God Bless each and everyone of you.

Love John