

ROUND ROBIN #65

May 20, 2014

IT'S TIME TO GET THE LETTERS BACK ON THE ROAD. I GOT THEM ABOUT A MONTH AGO AND JUST REALIZED I HADN'T SENT THEM ON. YOU SEE, SIS, I TOO AM HAVING SOME MEMORY LOSS. IN FACT, I WENT TO THE DOCTOR A WEEK AGO BECAUSE OF THAT. AT TIMES, I COULDN'T REMEMBER WHERE THINGS WERE IN THE CABINETS.

HE GAVE BE A BATTERY OF TESTS - I PASSED THEM WITH FLYING COLORS. JUST TO BE SURE NOTHING ELSE WAS GOING WRONG - HE SENT ME FOR A BRAIN CT SCAN. I DID THAT THIS WEEK ON MONDAY. I WON'T FIND OUT THE RESULTS FOR A FEW DAYS. GETTING OLD IS FOR THE PITS. THAT IS ONE OF ELAINE'S SAYINGS FROM MANY YEARS AGO.

BETTY - DID YOU GET TO THE EYE DOCTOR? DID THEY FIGURE A WAY TO HELP YOUR VISION. THERE ARE SO MANY NEW THINGS THAT MAY HELP. IT WILL BE A REAL BUMMER IF YOU LOSE YOUR SIGHT. I'M SURE THE BOYS WILL LOOK AFTER YOU IF THAT HAPPENS - LET'S PRAY THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.

I JUST REALIZED THAT IT TOOK ABOUT 8 MONTHS FOR THE LETTERS TO MAKE THE ROUNDS. ARE WE GETTING TIRED OF THEM OR JUST LAZY (ME INCLUDED) ????????

JOHN - I HAVEN'T SEEN SANTA FOR A LONG TIME - IF HE FEELS AS TIRED AND ACHEY AS WE DO. HOW DID YOUR LIVER TEST TURN OUT?

JIM AND CAROLYN - I COULDN'T BEGIN TO LIST ALL YOUR MEDICAL STORIES. I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF A MUGA TEST BEFORE. IT'S GOOD THEY HAVE IT TO FIND OUT YOUR PROBLEM. I ASSUME CAROLINE'S NEW KNEES ARE WORKING OK. I KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN TO PHOENIX SO THINGS MUST BE GOING BETTER FOR YOU BOTH.

SONDA - SO SORRY YOU HAD THE SHINGLES. I KNOW HOW PAINFUL THAT IS. I SUPPOSE THAT DOESN'T COMPARE WITH SOME OF THE OTHER MEDICAL STORIES OUR LETTERS ARE PEPPERED WITH. I GUESS THAT'S BETTER THAN BEING GONE FROM THIS WORLD. I WONDER IF OUR DECEASED FAMILIES KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN HERE. THAT'S ASSUMING THAT

HEAVEN IS UP AND HELL IS DOWN. MARTY, I'M TALKING TO YOU TOO.

ELAINE - WE DO TALK ONCE IN A WHILE BY PHONE BUT NOT LATELY. I'VE BEEN WANTING TO GO UP THERE TO VISIT YOU AND SIS BUT I'M AFRAID TO DRIVE THAT FAR SO THAT MEANS I TRY TO GET ONE OF THE BOYS TO TAKE ME OR JIM. EVERYONE IS SO BUSY TRYING TO KEEP AHEAD THAT I HATE TO ASK THEM.

JOE - DO YOU OWN A COMPUTER? IF YOU FIND WRITING HARD - THE HUNT AND PECK METHOD OF TYPING WORKS FOR SOME. THE SNOW SEEMS TO BE GONE BUT THE RAIN HAS REPLACED IT. I'M NOT SURE IF ALL THAT MOISTURE WILL BE GOOD FOR FARMERS OR NOT. IT'S GOOD TO BE ABLE TO OBSERVE WILDLIFE FROM YOUR WINDOWS.

WELL, MY DOGS THINK IT'S SUPPER TIME SO I WILL CLOSE THIS AND GO FEED THEM.

LOVE TO ALL.

Jan
JAN

6-3-14

DEAR BROTHERS & SISTERS,

I have been sitting on
these long enough!

I don't know what to
write as I have been
doing nothing!

I went down to
Kwinn & Mary's for 2 weeks.
Let David have a rest from
me!

I don't go to church
any more. I don't walk to
good. I don't go to the
grocery store any more!

Well, that is about
the news up here, so I'm
sign off & get these going.

Love & God Bless
all of you.

BETTY

June 17, 2014

Dear Brothers & Sisters.

Last week I received the family letter from Betty so it is my turn.

In the last letter I mentioned I had liver problems. As it turned out two small intestines got stuck together. If you want (real) misery try no stools for four days. Follow that with seven days in the hospital. You all know that is a new type of diet.

Joe, I was wondering what you did with your typewriter?

Jan; it looks like your letter is well thought out - perhaps a Bt. The rest of us has some inprossing to do.

I often wondered what life would have been like if the Dumont family would have been born rich! There is no harm in dreaming in our old age.

The last six months has been a real nightmare. Pat went in for a knee replacement followed by a blood clot. I followed for seven days of misery. Thank God we do have insurance as costly as it is and still have a roof over our heads - better than a bridge.

Nothing exciting is happening up here. Unless watching the tomatoes grow and the tigers get beat nightly.

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

Love you all,

John

Remedies to a care free life

(Heartburn Problems)

Take two Beans before breakfast.

Take one bean before dinner.

(can't go to sleep at night)

Take one fish oil tablet before breakfast. Take one fish oil tablet before dinner. (at bedtime) - take one fish oil tablet 20-30 minutes before going to bed.

(Yard Mole Problems)

shove wide chisel into mole trail until it hits bottom, twist chisel. Drop in one mothball, cover with dirt. Try again every 15' until area is covered. No more mole problems. Flatten trail the next day.

By John Dumont

30 years of spiritual Experiences,

It all started on halloween night some 30 years ago. The three kids were out trick or treating a four year old boy rang the door bell. I dropped a candy into his bag. Out of the corner of my eye I could see the devil standing there with a axe. I offered the figure a candy bar. He then ordered me to put the candy in the bag. at that point I figured bravery and a 10¢ candy bar did not have value equally.

From that night forward spiritual happenings started at the rate of 5-10 per year for the following 30 years. so far this year I have had seven experiences.

the last three years has been really wild. I have seen three spiritual humans around the house. I talked to a spirit in the hospital. Near Harrisville I hugged a human angel. The above will live with me for the rest of my life.

Usually it is things appearing such as a oil stream on the farm. Lights 20'-100' off the ground; lights flying out of their fixtures; paint changing colors; comic books coming and going and toys doing the same. The above is only a few memories out of at least 200 experienced and more expected.

Perhaps in the eyes of God you guys have a very special Brother!

Brother John

July 13, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing this time from Hendersonville, N.C. Carolyn and I are visiting her brother and his wife Pamela. Carolyn's brother Hank has been quite ill for some time so we have planned this trip for some time. They had their retirement home built on a mountain top overlooking the village. When they built they had a good view of the village but the trees have grown up blocking the view.

We drove here last Wednesday and Thursday. We will start back tomorrow and get home on Tuesday.

Next Saturday Janice, Marty and I will go to Oscoda for the School reunion. Our plan is to drive up and back in one day.

I have seen Elaine and Sis last week and have talked to Jan and Marty so I am up to date with all of you except Joe, Betty and John. We had hoped to see Betty when we went to Oscoda but I understand she will be visiting Laura. That too is important and I hope she has a good visit.

My pace-maker defibrillator is doing fine and I am building up my strength. I get short of breath at times but I guess that is expected. Carolyn is doing much better now also.

Carolyn and I are planning on driving to Atlanta, GA. in September for the national meeting of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. We would like to take the trailer out before then. I will close for now and I pray for you all daily. God bless you

Your loving brother
Jim and Carolyn.

August 12, 2014

Dear families,

I have had these letters for just about a month, so better get them off to Elaine so she can enjoy.

Elaine, it does not seem possible that you are 94. God has been so good to you. I hope he treats the rest of us the same. I noticed the last time that I was there, that the maintenance is not up to how it used to be. I bet it is the management that is lacking.

Joe, I watched that bad winter that you expressed on TV and I felt sorry for you. You should live in Florida and enjoy the warm tropical weather during the first four months of the year.

Sis, I hope all is going good with you. You are so lucky to have so much support there to back you up, and lets hope your health holds up, with God's help.

Janice, we had a chance to break bread at the class reunion, and I really enjoyed seeing everyone. Next year, you will enjoy it even more as you met so many people that you did not ever know, and it will be like old times. We have Joe and Pat's party on the calendar and will be there with flying colors. It will be good to meet the kids. I did not understand the phrase, heaven is up and hell is down, and Marty, I am talking to you too. Were you thinking that I thought it was the other way around????????

John, I talked to you about a week ago, and all was good with you. I understand that you would be happy to be rich, but I don't think I would like to be super rich, as rich does not buy happiness. We should be happy that God is watching over us and keeping us breathing. Right.

Jim, it seems like I see you a lot, and we enjoyed the reunion. I hope your knee is on the mend or you have a new one. It's not nice to have a knee lock up like that. Its good that Carolyn is on the mend. And we will see you a Pat and Joe' party.

As for me, since I got home in April, I have been back at the hospital, volunteering and driving at Garber's. In the last two week, I have been to Engadine, Traverse City, Mt.Pleasant, Flat Rock, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and lastly to Toledo. I love to drive and its good that they pay me for it also. It pays for my Florida winter stay. Sonda is still taking pain meds for her Shingles, and it has been 8 months. Some get it worse, and she was one of them.. Shari, Hunter, Sonda and I are going to a Midland Loons game tonight as I won four tickets including seating in the guest suite up above the crowd. It should be a fun night. We are losing some of your evergreens, mostly in the shrubs, and I am thinking down the road, they will all get it. I am not sure if it is freeze burn from the winter, or something eating away at them. I guess I will shut this down and hope you all keep safe. Love you all.

Sonda and Marty

9-10-2014

Dear Families:

Have had the letters too long! Nothing to write!

It's good to read them again. What a a freaky summer it has been. We haven't had too bad so far but strange? That is to say if one can read my writing!!

Don't give up yet is all I can say! This place is falling apart and it doesn't seem like anyone cares. I haven't had a screen door all summer, soon we know falling again.

Don't see much of Sis and Micelle. Jan brings them once in a or twice a month. They don't get out much.

Had a surprise visit - main visit from Martin. I'll be glad for any!!

I have my DAYS, some times it's hard to move.

Well now for this time God bless anyone and keep the letters coming.

Love & Prayers
Janie

Cadillac, MI
Sept, 15, '14

Dear Family

Letter typing again We are getting quite a distance between letters of late.

I hardly know where to start but we are not fond of Florida as a place to retire since we had a winter to work there and to travel about. Sarasota would be our choice to spend a winter but that time is gone for us. Every place has its good and less than desirable periods of the year. Live a year in each part of the country before you choose to live there.

Old age is showing its self on all of the family except Marty it appears but he is the youngest so he will get there eventually. May God help us all to get to a desirable age that we can tolerate where we can afford to live our old age.

We expect to get some frosty morning within the next 2 weeks, but we are in the sweater or jacket time for sure.

The cherry-tomatoes are very confused with new blossoms as are the flowers and wild berries. We did grow some blueberries that were excellent.

Our fawn deer are wandering back to the neighborhood this last few days, and we are seeing signs of birds migrating.

Our youngest daughter (Kathy of Lansing) had ⁶Week hospital stay with a gall bladder removal. She was to get back to her teaching job today.

Jack~~ie~~ and ~~V~~ I are keeping the Doctor going with old age problems - the same as most you all. I had a wake up call from Memphis, for the second time that I can remember. A wake-up call from a sound sleep --like I expect you all have had during some critical time or dangerous time.

May the Holy Family be with you all so that you will be able to protect your family.

Happy fall season you all as you travel. How is your memory book coming?

May our Lord be with each of you

Love,
Joe & Jackie

Oct 21, 2014

Dear Brothers & Sisters

Dan is going to write this for me as I am pretty tired now. My Dad has been gone 1 1/2 years now & Chris 2 1/2 yrs. But we're keeping going on. I'm resigned from my job at the school so I could help Mom & Michelle with the house laundry, doing their hair & such, in the mornings. Roger & his son Ruben still live here & take care of afternoons. Different ones take turns making sure they get lunch & meds. Michelle no longer works she retired in June. She seems happier to stay at home. Today is Tuesday we usually go out to breakfast instead of lunch & have lunch at home. Also its Mom's day to get her hair done. All I can say is its a good thing she taught me how to do perms, colors & wash & set 10^{ough}/_{ood}. See at Mom on the final thoughts.

Love you all. Come see us some time. I'm under the drin right now.

In ~~love~~ love,
Dad

Round Robin # 66

11-24-14

Dear Ones -

If I've calculated right - the letters made it back to me in 6 months this time. It's great to be retired - but it takes twice as much time to get things done - if they get done.

Jen, Carolyn and I have been busy with Elaine's problems. She has called for an ambulance twice lately. The first time she was having dizzy spells. They did many tests and sent her home. The 2nd time she had pains in her side. This time they ended up getting an ear doctor near the hospital to see her. Jen & Carolyn checked her out of the hospital and went right across the road to the ear doctor. He's a young guy with high tech equipment. He managed to get gross black ear wax out and she can hear out of that ear now. We think her ear problem made her dizzy. She is home again and doing better.

I'm not going to chat much about what's going on here because I need to give you a heads up for next

2.

summer. We are planning a DUMONT family reunion for August next year. Joe and Pat Marion will be hosting it at their mini farm northeast of here. Most travel would be expressway and rural. This will be the last time^{to} see each other. What I need from all of you is lists of descendants of Mom and Dad. We need to start now because the address gathering takes a lot of time. Please do your best so we don't miss anyone. Any and all that are descendants of both Mom & Dad.

Joe - I have never had a wake up call from Mom. Is that good or bad? I expect you should consider it special. (By the way) What did she say??

We don't see many deer where we are. But my hairdresser lives near a river - when I opened the door to leave recently - there was 2 does about 20 feet away. I said a soft Hello and they just looked and slowly walked away. I hadn't been that close to a live deer for many years.

My memory book is very slow - I didn't get much response on it. After

3.

The holidays, I'll have a go at it.

The wind is high here today. Garbage cans rolling around. I haven't had the weather on so don't know how long it will last.

Later Rob stopped in to eat his lunch. He's working a couple of miles away this week. I don't get out much. Saturday for mass and Tuesday for library. I don't like to drive more than 2-3 miles and back. Jean likes to drive but none of us will ride with him driving. What his fellow travelers don't know.

Betty - all we can do is to keep plugging. ^{thinking about} the alternative seems to give me renewed energy.

Jim mentioned going to Oscoda for a class reunion. We did see a few old classmates. The best part for me was spending some time with Jim & Marty.

I must call his today. It is her 84 or 85th birthday. Elaine turns 95 tomorrow. I will try to call her too.

Chores are awaiting me so I'll close for now. Please pray for each other.

Love,

Jan

The party they are referring to was the Marion family reunion at Joe & Gato.

(How To Make Beef Taste Like Venison)

Controversy has long raged about the quality of venison as gourmet foods. Some people say that venison is tough, with a strong "wild" taste. Others insist that venison is tender and that its flavor is delicate. The UW Foods Research Department recently conducted a taste test to determine the truth.

First, a high-choice holstein steer was led into a swamp a mile and a half from the nearest road, then shot several times. After "some" of the entails were removed, the carcass was dragged over rocks and logs, through mud and dust, thrown into a pickup box and transported through rain and snow 100 miles before being hung out in the sun for 10 days.

After that, it was lugged to the garage, where it was skinned and rolled around on the floor for a while. Strict sanitary precautions were observed throughout the test, within the limitations of the butchering environment. For instance, dogs and cats were allowed to sniff the steer carcass, but were chased out of the garage if they attempted to lick the carcass, bite chunks out of it, or sit on the workbench.

Next, the steer was dragged into the house and down the basement steps. Half a dozen inexperienced but enthusiastic people worked on it with meat saws, cleavers and dull knives. The result was 375 pounds of soup bones, four bushels of meat scraps and a couple of steaks that were an eight of an inch thick on one edge and an inch and a half on the other.

The steaks were fried in a skillet full of rancid bacon grease, along with three pounds of onions. After two hours of frying, the contents of the skillet were served to three blindfolded taste panel volunteers.

Every one of the members of the panel though it was venison. One of the volunteers even said it tasted like the venison he had eaten at hunting camp for the past 27 years. The results of this trial showed conclusively that there is no difference between the taste of beef and venison.

The Twelve Bottles of Before Rationing

I had twelve bottles of Christmas Whiskey in the basement and my wife told me to empty the contents of each bottle down the sink or else. So, I proceeded with the unpleasant task. I withdrew the cork from the first bottle and poured the contents down the sink with the exception of one glass which I drank.

I withdrew the cork from the second bottle and did likewise with the exception of one glass. I withdrew the cork from the third bottle and poured the contents down the sink with the exception of one glass which I drank.

I pulled the bottle from the next and drank one sink of it and threw the rest down the glass. I pulled the sink out of the glass and bottled the drink and drank the pour. When I had everything emptied. I steadied the house with one hand, counted the bottles, corks and glasses and sinks.

With the others witch were twenty nine and as the houses came by I counted that again. I finally had all the houses and one bottle which I drank. I am not under the alcofluence of incohol, but tinkle peep I am I'm not half so thunk as you might think. I feel so feelish and don't know who is me. The drunker I stand the weaker I get.

Even so I have got the wifest little nice in the world.

Dec 23, 2014

JOHN

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

I received the family letter from Betty a few days ago. It seems like every family has experienced more than their share of hardships in their old age.

As far as the farm history is concerned, two things really stand out.

There is two oil streams entering the farm. One from the west 100' wide and one from the northwest 25' wide, both at 4,100'. The machine shed was burnt down by two love birds that was overcharged.

Alpena will have a new Meijer store on 32 come April. A four story 80 room Holiday Inn is going up downtown. On 23 north a four story Merrit hotel will be built in the Spring. Also a new brewery is planned.

We have raised tomatoes since the 1960s. 20 plants would produce 250-400 tomatoes as a general rule. This year was a real surprise. How about 658 from 18 plants. I started using 6-24-24 a couple of years ago. It seems to take a couple years to get a super crop.

We did get a real break in 2014 however. We now have a Family Dollar and a doctors office within 2 blocks of the house.

Down ^{on} the farm three bucks were taken in deer season, 4-5-6 points. Very few does were seen meaning some tough years of deer hunting down there for the future years.

As for our health Pat is still walking with a cane and bending over all the time. This has me worried.

A knee replacement and a blood clot only added to my concerns. Also Obama is raising hell with our budget. Each one of us likely has been snake bitten by this bug.

Santa showed up here Thanksgiving weekend. He told us he ran into deep snow on the way down. He also mentioned the Natives were really restless.

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

Your Loving Brother
John