

#2/12

Happy New Year to all —

Jan. 17, 1996

So glad the 2nd Edition of our R.R. has met with such enthusiasm, good humor, and for the most part, good news. We are truly a blessed family.

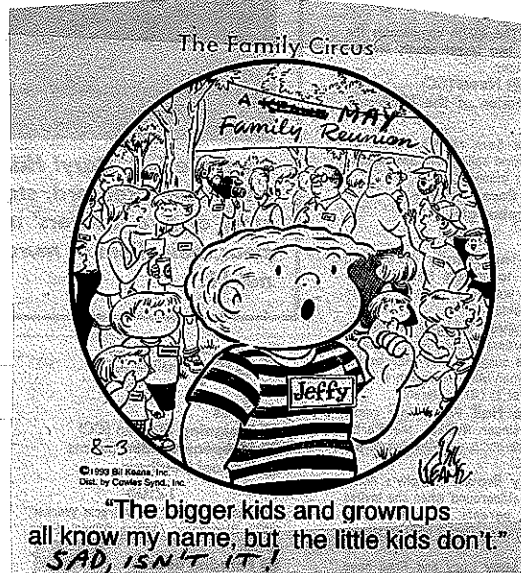
You will all have to bear up with my handwriting. I have thus far resisted the computer ^{age} ~~age~~, & hope to have on my tombstone (that little rock near the back Hermitage) this epitaph — "She passed from this life never having to go "on line."

Life goes on at the farm between snowstorms — #9, thus far this season — rather quietly. Our pond and bridge projects of 1995 are snowcovered and will only emerge in spring. Meanwhile, we have travelled to NC & DE ^{FL} over the holidays, & will visit Ecuador, Peru & the Galapagos in Feb.

We look forward to some upcoming family gatherings (Tina's wedding) and still haven't given up hope that some of you may find your way up here ~~one~~ of these days.

Love from Uncle Ed &

Aunt Claire



1/23/96

2-13

Greetings! As promised, I'm word processing this. Will also use a different color paper to initiate the next round (one stop after Aunt Claire). Glad to hear all the news. Hope all the job loss worries mentioned have disappeared. There is something to be said for civil service! (However, George's union is without a contract, and doesn't expect good-faith negotiations for some time to come, and I am on the negotiating team which will try to produce a 3-year contract for our union members with the library board.) At least we're not federal workers!

We're all doing fine. Kate (and we) have adjusted to her being away, but not without the painful initial months. She has come to love Williams (despite the fact that it is so isolated and has the Purple Cow for a mascot). She is certainly challenged by the coursework, but doing well. She runs for them, but it's just one of many activities she does, including swing dancing lessons and hammering for Habitat for Humanity. Ian had a successful semester at Towson, but has decided to take the next semester off and solidify his final college plans. He'll try to make as much money as possible in the interim! Matt is a teenage eighth grader (my baby!). He's still playing center midfield and his soccer team will advance to Division 2 (out of 8) in LI Junior Soccer League - and hopefully his broken left wrist which he acquired during a creative sled run will be fully healed!

The Clines family Christmas party was lively... my three "biggies" and seven kiddies 7 and under. It's interesting - Ian will be 21 years older than Eileen's April arrival! We all count our blessings (a warm house during the blizzard!) and hope all of you are well, too.

By the way ... anyone have an email address? (Sorry, Aunt Claire.) It's great with a college student away. Ours right now is XEPL12A@Prodigy.Com. We're looking for a cheaper provider, so it will probably change. Maybe we should add to the 1st page list?

Love to all -
Barbara

2/6/96

Dear Family,

All is well here at the Keefe household. All the talk around here is Andy's upcoming wedding which will be here before we know it. The date is set for Sept 20.

It was great to see some of you at Aunt Claire + Uncle Ed's surprise anniversary party - I wish there were more occasions to get us together. In the meantime, our thoughts, prayers and love are with you all.

Love to everyone

Roxie, Angie + Family

2-14

Greetings from Charlotte!

Feb 13, 1996

As with everyone else it seems, my company, Knight-Ridder Publishing (The Charlotte Observer) is undergoing "re-engineering." Although I'm "one of the lucky ones" and still have a job, it has become pure hell. They have stripped the staff so bare (without actually firing people, but by not replacing them when they go) that I am now working for over 60 people! Oh, and you didn't actually think that my salary changed, did you? Needless to say, I'm on the lookout, but times are tough everywhere. John's job (Shipping Manager/Assistant Warehouse Manager) isn't much better and he's looking for something more lucrative and promotable too.

After being home owners now for 9 months, we can honestly say that it's a lot of work, but we're really enjoying it! Of course we had to get a dog, so now we are the proud *parents* of both Misty (medium size white mutt), and cat Pasha (typical Tabby) whom I've had since my single days in NY. The animals are a true preparation for real parenthood (not yet *thank God*) and the vet bills are preparing us for the financial drain as well! However, it is all worth it and we are a very happy little family!

Everything else is going great. We are looking forward to the early southern Spring (the only season we have yet to experience in our new home). I will admit there is nothing prettier than April in the south - can't wait to get out there and plant some flowers!

The open invitation still stands. Y'all come down to see us some time ya' hear! (I'm trying to lose my harsh NY accent, but unfortunately it isn't going too well!) Love to all.

P.S. I can't stress how wonderful it is to hear from everyone like this!!! Lorraine & John

Hello from Milwaukee!

2/23/96

You folks in the East have had lots more snow than we have this winter, but you can't beat the temperature of minus-26 (wind chill of minus-infinity) that we had a few weeks ago. It tied the record for all-time lowest temperature in Milwaukee, and I was here for the other minus-26 night in 1982! Ah, those sweet Midwest Memories!

The next big thing on my agenda is a trip to Ireland in April. It'll be the second Irish-fest for me and my great and good friend, Betty Mullins, whose mission is to find every village where one of her relatives once lived (and there are plenty). Geneology note: The name "Clines" is Irish, being a variation of "Cloines" or "Clynes," and I have read somewhere that the word, in Gaelic, means "deceptive." This, of course, must have been a misprint and the name must really mean "receptive" (to all good things).

We'll be flying out of and back into New York, so there'll be time to see all the little kids that run aging Uncle Frank ragged - and to meet the newest one soon to arrive in Eileen's house. Ireland is terrific, but the greatest destination is always New York, and Home.

Love to all,

Frank

Hello all from Richmond!

I see the Round Robin is slowing down again! Lets pick up the pace gang!!

Lots happening in our neck of the woods.

The blizzard of '96 is only a memory now, but the eight to twelve inches of snow we received crippled the Central Virginia area. Schools were closed in the area for 1 1/2 weeks (!), primarily because of the inability to adequately clear subdivision streets to allow the safe passage of buses.

Chris survived his first semester at Virginia Tech with good grades in all subjects but pre-calculus, in which he received a "D". Since he needs a "C" or better to go on to calculus, he will "Freshman Rule" the class (it won't appear on his transcript) and take it over this semester. He's back at school now for round two. He is very active in the Newman Community and might actually join the K of C soon. (Anyone catch the Hokies whipping Texas in the Sugar Bowl?)

With Chris away, we can focus all our quality time on Claudine ^(oooooooooip - Claudine). She's doing well in her sophomore year and spending most of her free time with the Drama Club. She is also on our church choir. With softball season around the corner, she is trying out for the school JV team again and has signed up for the local girls league. But she won't play with Dad again on the St. Michael's team (I guess I embarrass her). This semester, she is taking drivers ed in school. She and I have taken the '80 VW out to the Virginia Power parking lot on weekends so that she could get the feel for operating a manual transmission. (How many people learn to drive on a car that's as old as they are?)

Danie is continuing to teach at the preschool. When our church facilities are finally completed, she will be working on a committee to explore the possibility of opening a preschool at St. Michael's. If it happens, and she gets a position there, she will reduce her commute from about 10 miles to 1.5 miles. In her free time, Danie has been produced a number of beautiful quilts, both blankets and wall hangings.

Speaking of the church facilities, we are hoping (praying) to dedicate our new church within a month, if it stays warm enough, long enough to lay the asphalt for the parking lot. It will really be great for our parish family to "settle down" and have a home to call our own.

The peace and quiet in our neighborhood has been shattered recently by the sounds of construction equipment on the land behind the property adjacent to ours. Last year, we successfully fought off an attempt to rezone the property to allow the construction of apartments. But now the property is being used in a manner consistent with its zoning status (so we can't stop it), and a huge single story credit card processing facility is being built. One completed, the building should be well screened from our view. However, until then, we'll have to put up with the acoustic and visual assault.

The re-engineering of Virginia Power is continuing at a frantic pace, with competition in the electric utility business becoming more evident with each passing day. I have been named to one of the many re-engineering task teams that will shape the future of the Nuclear Business Unit. This task team will look into how we maintain "configuration control" of the stations. The assignment will probably be a full-time job for six months. Of course, I'm not being relieved of my current responsibilities, so I'll be doing two jobs! Such is the future of the Utility industry!

As Barbara suggested, I have added some E-mail addresses to the list. I included only mine and Chris', but Danie's is mpns64B@prodigy.com and Claudine's is mpns64D@prodigy.com. If you have access to E-mail, drop us a line! If you have access to the World Wide Web, check out Chris' "Home Page". His page resides on the VT computer science department computer. The address is "csugrad.cs.vt.edu/~cmay"

Eric

3/8/96

My dear Family,

This will be a very short note — in the interest of keeping the family letter moving I'll just tell you that at 3:30 AM on March 9th, tomorrow, I will be picked up (I hope!) for a ride to La Guardia where I will board a plane for Acapulco to board a ship for a cruise through the Panama Canal and 4 Caribbean islands. The cruise will take 11 nights and so instead of holding up this letter for 2 weeks, I've asked Barbara to get a large envelope and mail this letter. I'll tell you all about the cruise next go-round.

Hope everyone has weathered this winter pretty well and has stayed healthy. I've just finished shovelling the latest 4" so I can carry my bags out of the house — and Matthew just came over and finished digging out the driveway — and his mom told me the library was broken into last night and some computers were stolen. Glad it will be a lot of grief I won't have to listen to everyone talking about it every time I go in to work — at least for 2 weeks. Then Holy Week I'll be down with Eileen & go just in case their baby decides to come early. Have to go — Love to all — Aunt Helen

3/19/96

PG 2-16

HI FROM FLORAL PARK, NY,

SOUNDS LIKE EVERYONE IS A LITTLE TIRED OF WINTER... NONE MORE THAN THE CHRISTENSEN FAMILY. GINA AND I WELCOMED MEGAN THERESE INTO THE WORLD OCTOBER 12 AND SHE HAS TURNED INTO A GORGEOUS BLUE EYED BUTTERBALL. THE WINTER HAS BEEN TOUGH ON GINA, STUCK IN THE HOUSE WITH MEGAN (NOW 5 MOS.) AND A TRULY RAMBUNCTIOUS NICOLE (NOW 2 1/2 YRS AND DOING WONDERFULLY). NICOLE WILL BE STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPT. (ALREADY!!), JUST 2 DAYS A WEEK, 2 HOURS A DAY. GINA HAS TAKEN ON A PART TIME JOB AT A LOCAL DEPT. STORE ON MY DAYS OFF AS AN EXCUSE TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE A BIT AND GET AWAY FROM THE BABY TALK. MY JOB AT THE TIMES IS STILL SEMI-SECURE ALTHOUGH MORE STRESSFUL EVERY DAY. ALL ELSE IS WELL, LOOKING FORWARD TO SOME WARM WEATHER!!

Love, Steve and family.

3/30/96

(Happy Birthday, Monica!)

Happy Spring & Happy Easter to all!

This "fly-by" of the Round Robin finds the Zirbels all doing well, thank God. After having just about lived at the pediatrician's office during the winter of '94-'95, this winter we had only one visit! I don't know if it was because of all the cold & snow or if we simply used up every possible germ last year.

Our biggest news is the wonderful progress that Michelle is making. Once she saw Danny starting to walk by himself, she left her walker behind for good & was determined not to let him get ahead of her. As a result, she now walks by herself with only the plastic orthotics (braces) on her legs for support. It's so wonderful to see her standing up at the Fisher & Koch kitchen "cooking dinner" or taking her dolly for a walk in the stroller. She still falls often & is much more awkward & unsteady than Danny, but she gets better & better. She has ~~been~~ been making much progress in her speech, also, & in other areas. We are very grateful to you all for your prayers for Michelle - they are certainly having blessed results. Because her birthday misses the Dec. 1st cutoff, Michelle will definitely have one more full year at the BACES pre-school. We don't yet know what will be best for her after that - & a lot depends on whether there is any money left for special education after Gov. Pataki finishes all his cuts.

Kristen is doing OK in 1st grade & had her first Girl Scout cookie sale. Danny-boy, at 18 months, is extremely active. We recently spent a weekend at Eileen's in PA, & I saw her watching him & silently praying her soon-to-be third child won't be quite so mischievous. Our love to all! Bernadette, Bill & kids

p. 2-17

EASTER MONDAY

Dear all - Happy Easter!! All quiet up here in New Bedford. The first finished all the lovely Liturgical posters for Holy Week and Easter with the girls. It was so very beautiful. Now with the beautiful weather coming (we just had snow yesterday!!) we pictures will be out more. This month we'll have a retreat with our statue of Our Lady of Fatima and a week-long mission in a local parish. Then up to Hermitage for a few days of solitude. Will remember you all in our prayers. Please keep us in yours.

Love & blessings to all —
Joanna & Thomas

April 17, 1996

Greetings from Williamsburg!

Easter has come and gone - can't believe it's the middle of April! I partook in almost all the rehearsals for the choir to sing at the Holy Week services in church and Easter Sunday Mass at W&M Hall, but never did attend anything...watched Easter Mass on TV. My arthritic back and hip was acting up and I was hobbling around - getting better now.

Our variety show, "A Touch of Broadway" was a success! in spite of the weather. We sold 600 tickets and about 450 people attended the show braving driving and walking in snow and ice to get to the parish center. We were to put on a Friday evening performance and a Saturday matinee. Snow started Friday a.m. and continued intermittently on Saturday till evening. We cancelled the Friday evening performance - but put 2 shows on on Saturday at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. - only 1 performer didn't show. Everyone enjoyed the show very much - hope we put on another one next year. We will - it is inked in the book of parish center activities for Feb. 28 and March 1, 1997. We could not postpone the performances because 1) the parish center is so booked up and 2) we rented a 16'x16'x30" h. stage and 2 baby grand pianos (we had 4 people, 8 hands, playing "Stars and Stripes Forever" - they got a standing ovation) and they were to be picked up at 4 p.m. Saturday - but because of the snow, they were picked up Monday a.m.

The continuing saga of my car: I have a 'new' car. Eric replaced a few parts (nothing expensive) and added a bottle of fuel injector cleaner before filling up the gas tank - and I am to add a bottle after every several fill-ups - and VOILA! - a 'new' car. I drive the car in POWER around town and sometimes switch to ECONOMY on the highways. The car acts great. The odometer is now at 121,751 - it will be 12 years old in July.

Awaiting news of new arrivals at the Lynches and Joe Clines houses.....it's great to hear of all the colleges the 'cousins' are attending.....the start of many more 'cousins' wedding, I'm sure, after Andy's wedding in September....hope all keep thie jobs.....only good things to happen to the May families.

Love to all,

Joanna
Rosemary and Monica

2-18

5/27/96

DEAR ALL:

LOTS TO CATCH UP WITH. IN A NUTSHELL, Eileen has had another BABY BOY - Colin, and he weighed A TON AT BIRTH 9 LBS, 10 oz. SO, IF YOU'RE KEEPING TRACK, THAT MEANS THERE ARE 11 CLINES GRANDCHILDREN SO FAR. 7 BOYS & 4 GIRLS.

BUT --- ANOTHER BABY IS ON THE WAY! MARY JO IS EXPECTING AGAIN - IN EARLY AUGUST. FOR THOSE FAMILIAR WITH OUR HISTORY, THIS BABY IS QUITE A SURPRISE, AND AN EXTREMELY WELCOME BLESSING. EVERYONE IS ROOTING FOR A GIRL, BUT WE SHALL SEE...

JOSEPH & TERENCE ARE GROWING BIGGER & BIGGER EVERY DAY, JOSEPH ESPECIALLY. TERENCE JUST CELEBRATED HIS FIRST BIRTHDAY AND IS STILL SMILING. JOSEPH IS READY FOR NO. 4, AND IS FINISHING UP HIS FIRST YEAR IN PLAY SCHOOL (LUTHERAN -- BUT DON'T TELL ANYONE.)

IF YOU'RE EVER IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD (OR ON THE SOUTHERN STATE PARKWAY) STOP BY! WE'D LOVE THE COMPANY - AND WE CAN ALWAYS USE A BABYSITTER.

Love
Joe Clines

Labrador

2-19

Dear May Family,

6/10/96

Things are fine here in Delaware, especially with the summer weather lately. I moved into my house two months ago and for most of that time spent all my free time painting the entire interior. It's looking pretty good now, so call me if you're planning a trip on the I-95 corridor. I have a guest room even though I'm hoping to get a 2nd roommate shortly. My #1 roommate is a divorced lady who even contributed some needed furniture. I was toying with the idea of laying down a new roof myself, but am now leaning toward professional help (interpret that however you like!). Steve/Gina and my parents have been down to "visit" (inspect). On Memorial Day weekend, I dropped down to visit Lorraine + John in Charlotte, while my parents were also there. It was pleasant although most of them were sick with an untimely virus the whole time. Work is still work, nothing exciting. Take care and

Love to all,

Ray

Dear Round Robin Relatives,

We just got home from a rainy (but always beautiful + "air conditioned") week in N.C. I found "the letter" waiting for me with all the great news. We're all doing good here + looking forward to Andy's wedding in Sept. Love to all, Ralph, Madeline, Brad, Helen + James

21 June 1996

Dear Family,

Happy 1st day of summer! Our new baby is 9 weeks old now and seems to get bigger every time I pick him up. It was just a few weeks ago that everyone was saying, "what a cute little baby"

And now it's become "what are you feeding him?!"

Well, he was ~~was~~ never that little to begin with.

The labor/delivery was relatively uneventful, compared to last time, but we drove everyone crazy worrying about it. Especially the two grandmas, because we had each of them up here for a week or so to wait things out with us. But we did make it to the hospital ~~on~~ ⁱⁿ time this time. Mom was also relieved that we didn't have to make the dash to the hospital while she was visiting us! We're trying to adjust to life as a family of 5 now, but so far things are going better than expected. I keep waiting for the first crisis to appear. I think that summer will be a challenge for all of us with Brian + Emily out of school/preschool. I hope that all of you have a relaxing summer!

Love to all,
Eileen + Joe
Brian Emily + Colin

HAPPY SUMMER!

First... Congratulations to Eileen and Joe and Good Wishes for Joe and MaryJo. Auntie Anna would be thrilled with the new "crop" of babies in this generation. And now...

It has been a very busy 6 months since our last round. Our first announcement is that by the time we get this back for the next round, we will be able to tell you if Billy and Gillian have a brother or a sister. We're expecting #3 just before Christmas, which is already making some interesting holiday plans. When Deanne first went for her checkup, the due date was given as Dec. 24, but that has been moved up a few days, so we're hoping she'll be even a little earlier so that Santa can have fun this year with all of the Mays.

As of the last writing, Alan was with Chase and uncertain about his position due to the merger with Chemical. He found the "answer" to that with a job offer from Yamaichi International in the World Trade Center. His commuting time was then lengthened by 8 minutes each day just because of the elevator ride to the 98th floor. Deanne has a fear of heights and cringes every time she thinks of it. Yamaichi did not turn out to be as secure as we were looking for and last week Alan started another new job with Deutsche Bank. They are located in Midtown so now the commute has dropped by at least 25 minutes each way with no subway and he's only on the second floor. (Whew!)

Deanne ended up teaching well into March at St. Anthony's before the other teacher came back from her maternity leave. It was tough to say good-bye to the kids at that point, but we keep in touch with a couple of the families that were so supportive all year. Deanne finished H&R Block's season with a bang on April 15th and has been wrestling with "baby-malodies" ever since.

The kids finished school this week, after extending the school year due to the wonderful snowfalls we all experienced this winter. Billy did extremely well and is far ahead of the rest in both reading and math. (We hope his entire educational career continues that way so we can say thank you for scholarships!) Gillian had difficulty adjusting to the rules of a classroom but has decided that school is one of her favorite places now. (Just in time for summer vacation.) They will both be returning to School 31 in the fall with Billy in a 1-2 combination and Gillian in a PreK-K combo.

Alan, Deanne, Billy, Gillian?

That's it for Yonkers... Hope to see some of you soon.

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July 12, 1996

Hello from New Jersey!

Everyone here in Middletown seems to enjoying the long days of summer. WOW! With all the news of all these babies born and the arrivals to come Alex and I wonder if any of our cousins will have a larger family than us. This Round Robin came during our recent visit to Ft. Myers, Fla. to visit our Jason in his new condo he is now renting for a year. His job with Federal Express is doing well and he is very happy with his new home. Stephanie just returned from a sabbatical from classes for one semester to stay with friends at the Univ. of Arizona and then she toured Calif, Oregon, and spent a month in Yakima, Washinton near Seattle. Now at home, she has resumed classes at Rutgers. Krista, now a Soph at Brookdale Community College has a job at the Registrar's office, so that she works and attends classes at the same place. Adrienne begins her Junior year at our H.S. in Sept, and teaches CCD during the school year. Marc will start 7th grade in Middle School and will try Roller Hockey in the fall. Robert begins 1st Grade and this household will be quiet.

I still work at the Pediatric office and have been working more hours, and Alex is still working the same hours at the Post Office. Nothing much has changed here. Mom is doing ok, and the rest of the family is fine.

Love to you all.

Maria, Alex, and family