

NEXT ROUND!

1/14/98

2-47

Greetings and Happy New Year to all —

Despite flu shots and our relative isolation up here, the 'bug' hit me with full force last week. I'm hopefully on the mend in time for next week's trip to Tucson & Copper Canyon, Mexico, where all we'll have to worry about is Montezuma's Revenge. Actually, we did pretty well healthwise in China, while many of our travel companions succumbed to various infections of one sort or another — pollution is rampant over there! Our 24 days in China were quite an experience. Their jump from 3rd World Communist country to 21st century is astonishing. And we'd love to return in 10 years when the Yangtze River Dam & 12 hydroelectric power stations are completed. If anyone would like a copy of any journal I'd be happy to send one to you.

1997 marked the first Christmas that Kenneth spent with the family in years. But now he's off again, to his house in Wyoming (skiing) or possibly catching another ship to the Orient. It wasn't easy getting together with Steve's & Ray's conflicting work schedules, but we managed. The only one missing was Lorraine, but we had driven down to NC to see her in early Dec. Now we'll be "on call" to spend some time with her and her new baby in April. (#46 in the current generation.)

I tried typing this on my old trusty Olivetti, but even that has given out (a minor problem that doesn't pay to have fixed, as the anyone would even know how to fix a real typewriter anymore.) So that will go into storage along with my extra black rotary phones — already commanding \$40 each to collectors — and other vintage items, to be put aside as antiques. Looks like we're being propelled into the computer age like it or not. If anyone is serious about a gathering of the clan in 1998, let me know. Our new pond is great for swimming & boating (ice skating, too) & all are welcome.

Love,
Aunt Claire

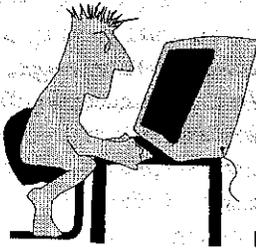
1 4 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1

11/25/98

Greetings to all. Hope that this winter is treating you gently. We've had mostly rain and dreariness - only a trace of snow on Long Island. We're all ok. Ian has returned to Maryland for his last semester at Towson U. He's very happy about that! His Uncle Joe helped arrange an internship in the sports dept. at Fox5 news, and Ian enjoyed working the tapes, answering the phones (talking with sports agents, players, etc.), and even attending a Mets press conference, complete with lunch. He'll be looking for a job in sports management or TV (yes, he liked it) - or he can work at his old export/import company until he gets what he wants. Wish him luck! Kate returns to Williams next week for her spring semester of junior year. She did spend the fall semester in Galway, Ireland at the University there. She went through a program at Beaver College (Pa.). Overall, it was a good experience, but since she did not go with any other Williams friends, it was a bit lonely. She survived the weather and saw much of the country. She took a quick trip to Oxford, England, too, to see some college friends. Perhaps the biggest news is that she got George and me (confirmed terra firma lovers) to fly over there with Matt to visit her and see the country at Thanksgiving time. George and I consider our flights great accomplishments. (Are any of you less than thrilled with flying, too?) Anyway we survived our thankfully uneventful flights and spent 8 days dealing with Ireland's narrow, windy roads, sheep, rain/fog, etc. We had a grand adventure actually. It started a little inauspiciously since we couldn't land at Shannon as planned because of fog. We flew on across the country to Dublin. After landing there, George and I were not interested in making a quick reflight back to Shannon! Luckily Avis honored our reservation in Dublin, and we started our explorations there. The Irish are smart ... on many street corners they have painted this endearing message on the pavement: "Look to the right." Believe me, it saves every American from being creamed by those double decker busses coming along the left side of the street! After a quick look at Dublin, we headed west in our lovely Toyota Carina (Camry) and finally succumbed to jet lag. We picked up our luggage back in Shannon the next morning, and finally found Kate in Galway. (A real feat since the Irish do NOT believe in putting street names anywhere (if at all) where they can be seen.) We spent a few more days travelling in the rugged, beautiful west, took a wild ferry ride out to the Aran Islands, and then explored County Clare and the Killarney lake region. It went too fast, of course! Matt was a great travel companion and our official photographer. We miss the Irish lilt, the pubs, the scenery, the Guinness (well, George says it tastes better there ... I drank the lighter local fare). We spent Thanksgiving eating "hearty" beef stew in O'Connor's pub in Doolin on the west coast.

Anyway, the holidays were a bit of an anticlimax after all the adventure. We're busy with teaching/library/coaching/studenting/ etc. ... the usual now. Hope everyone had blessed holidays. It's glad to hear of upturns after some rough going. We think of you all and pray for you. Looking forward to hearing more good news the next time around.

God bless -
Barbara et al



Dear Family,

Jan 27, 1998

If Aunt Anna could see us all now with our computers, e-mail, faxes etc.!!!! Our next step on the technology updates will be sending pictures via the computer so we can see with our own eyes how the family is growing. We have all come a long way since this ROBIN was started (12 years ago this month according to my records). We are all spread out in miles and generations but our hearts are all attached to the roots of our family tree.

It is so good to hear this round that everyone seems to be doing better healthwise. We keep everyone, young, old and in-between in our prayers.

Our biggest news on this end of the Island is the arrival of Ashley Lynn on Oct 25th. Andy & Patti are thrilled with their new daughter as are Aunt Patti, Aunt Karen, Uncle Paul & Uncle Michael not to mention the very proud Grandma and Grandpa. Patti & Paul continue with their careers and Karen & Michael are proceeding with college and various jobs.

We will be anxiously awaiting the news from Lorraine & John and our thoughts are with all the Fields family as they prepare for Jason's wedding. Stay happy and healthy.

Lots of Love, Ronnie, Augie + our growing family

Hi everyone!

Feb 6, 1998

We are thrilled to hear that everyone is doing so well! We really do have an incredibly diverse and exceptional family!!! I can't believe that my second cousins are having babies (Congratulations Andy) and getting married (best of luck Jason)... wow, time marches on doesn't it?

Well, not as if you don't already know, but the Klein clan has some pretty wonderful news too! I'm expecting a baby girl in mid-April!!! We are extremely excited and nervous at the same time. I'm really starting to get uncomfortable as I'm in the nine-week countdown until the due-date, but God willing all will go well and we'll soon have another beautiful addition to our ever growing family tree!

I will continue working, but fortunately my job allows me the freedom to work at least mostly from home as long as I have a computer, fax, phone etc. Hopefully, I will be able to fall into a routine that works well for everyone with the help of John & my mother-in-law, as well as the cooperation of my bosses!

John's job is going great too! Keep up the 6000 news!

All our love + prayers
John + Lorraine

P.S. Will be up in NY in late August if anyone is interested in getting together?...

2/28/98

Hello to everyone from Milwaukee!

2-50

El Nino has messed things up in lots of places this winter, but not here. Virtually no snow and only one day when the temperature has gone below zero. One day in January was so balmy that I was even able to wear shorts to work - the standard uniform for the folks in the sports dept. (provided we're not out covering something). The big thing professionally for me was organizing all our stories on the Winter Olympics, and I'm glad I no longer have to spend each day getting a headache trying to figure out what time it is in Japan at any given moment. That is, until it happens all over again in 2000 when the Summer Games are in Australia.

This being an even-numbered year, it figures to be time for another trip to Ireland for me in the spring. But instead, my great and good friend, Betty Mullins, and I will be doing an East Coast trek - as far north as Williamstown, Mass., to see niece Kate and as far south as Washington, D.C., with stops at Gettysburg, Towson, Md. (to see nephew Ian), Philadelphia (Eileen and family) and, of course, Long Island.

That will be in May. But before that, of course, will be the happiest time of year - the return of baseball!

That's about all there is to report from here. Love to all.

Frank

March 4, 1998

Dear Family,

Before I start, here's a thought that might speed the letter up a bit. When you send out the letter to the next person on the list, send a post card (or an e-mail message, if you're so enabled) to the person two names down from yours. That way, the recipient of the post card (or e-mail) will know that the letter is on the way and they can start organizing their thoughts in preparation for its arrival.

OK . . . here's what's happening in Richmond, VA (the center of the universe).

Chris & Claudine participated in another Confirmation retreat weekend in early February. This year, both were peer leaders in different small groups. This is Claudine's first year as peer leader (she was a confirmand last year) and Chris' third year. The weekend is an emotionally charged and mentally exhausting experience for all involved that ends with a "surprise" Mass at the hotel with the parents and sponsors.

Chris is preparing for a week in Panama City Beach FL during spring break. He has completed the transition from a computer science major to a major in graphic design. This is his third year at VA Tech where he continues to be very involved with the Campus Crusade for Christ. He is working on a plan to return to Orlando this summer to continue his work with the CCC. For the internet enabled, why not check out Chris' little site on the world wide web? Just point your browser to <http://chrismay.home.ml.org/> to see what he's been up to.

Claudine received early notification that she has been accepted to all of colleges she applied to. She is torn between going to Virginia Tech, where she could be with her brother for (at least) one year, and Radford University, where she has received a partial scholarship. Decisions, decisions! She is in the midst of auditioning for the lead role in the school's spring production of "The Pajama Game" (She was hoping that the school would pick "How to Succeed in Business..." but a neighboring school picked that play first.)



Danie is finishing her *last* year teaching at the preschool she is currently working at. Each year she has been less content with the school, but this year has been a real bear! The church /school building is being renovated and the preschool staff is being treated like second class citizens. They are not being notified when work will be performed, classes are being moved about haphazardly, teaching materials are being lost or destroyed, and jackhammers are being used *on the classroom wall* while school is in session. It's been miserable. Because of the construction debris in the parking lot, Danie and another teacher have each had two punctured tires on their cars.

When she's home, she quilts her little heart out, spending most of her free time in her "sewing studio" (the room above the garage).

At work, I have been very busy as one of the team of Engineers who are interfacing with inspectors from the NRC during a *seven-week long* inspection of our Surry Power Station. This inspection is one of a series of inspections that the NRC has been conducting among nuclear licensees that focuses on how well the licensee maintains the "design bases" of the plants. We are expecting more than 800 formal questions about the design of the plant during the inspection.

Softball will be starting again in just a few weeks. Once again, I plan to play on the K of C team and the St. Michael's "Defenders" coed team. Claudine is planning on rejoining me this year on the St. Michael's team.

For those who are not aware, Monica has been shuttling between Williamsburg Hospital and the Pines Nursing Home for the past eight weeks after she broke her ankle in a fall at home on January 5. Yes, after years of practice flops, she finally landed with her leg under her body. After being carried off to the emergency room and being fitted with a cast, she was admitted to the hospital because she would be unable to move about herself and Mom certainly is in no shape to help her move. So, after several days in the hospital, she was transferred to The Pines Nursing Home across the street (by ambulance, I might add.) After a week at the nursing home, Monica learned that her bones were separating instead of healing, so it was back to the hospital for surgery on February 2.

The doctors installed a metal plate and a bunch of screws in her ankle and after two more days in the hospital, she was transported back to The Pines. She'll be coming home in about a week.

A reminder, if anyone has a computer that runs Windows 3.1 or Win95 and a modem and does not already have access to E-mail, I can send along software for a free E-mail service called JUNO. Let me know if you're interested!

Eric

Dear Family,

2-51

This has been a really newsworthy letter from all of you - I bet Auntie Anna is well aware of what is going on with us all and cheering all the wonderful things the youngsters are doing. For myself, I must admit I've been hibernating a little this past year - can't seem to get myself really motivated to really doing "things". I've found not having a "must do" every day is debilitating, and of course not driving - or having a car to drive - does not help much. I've gained age is creeping up on me and while I still walk a lot, I'm finding the winds from El Niño are not helping my breathing much when I walk! But I do manage to get to the library 8 hours a week and get paid for exercising by reaching for the highest shelves and bending to the lowest shelves quite a nice routine in keeping limber. I'm still with the church choir (some gals pick me up for rehearsals and the 10:30 Mass every week). Since my very low alto voice doesn't seem to bother them or the organist, I guess I'll stay with them. Ray - congratulations on that great letter you sent. Keep working with that computer - maybe someday you can put all the pages of this shizzle on it and publish a book called "One Family". Wouldn't Auntie Anna be proud up there, you are all to be congratulated on the wonderful families you are raising. Being grandma to 12 grandchildren is very wonderful and a great aunt to so many more is mind boggling! Being the oldest living member of the May family is truly amazing! After all my travelling in past years, this is the first one I have made no plans for yet - thinking of a French tour featuring an overnight train ride - something I've not done yet. I'll let you know when and if I get there. Meantime - my love and prayers for all of you -
Aunt Helen

APRIL 1, 1998

Dearest Family,

Spring has arrived here in NY in a big way. After our FIRST snow of the year a week and a half ago, it has now been 80 degrees the last few days. Nicole and Megan (4½ and 2½) already enjoyed wading in their little pool, and Gina loved getting them out of the house. Gina has gotten back into college, taking 2 classes on my day off as I watch the kids. Nicole will be completing her 2nd year of preschool, and Megan will be starting in the fall. Congratulations to Fernan and John on the birth of Arianna in early March. She came 5 weeks early but is home and doing well. We will be down visiting them in Charlotte next week, and there for the Christening. Everything else here is good, and we're so glad to hear mostly all the news is positive. Prayers and love to all!

Steve, Gina & kids

Apr. 20th '98

U.S. of 1998 is too soon for organizing a union, how about planning ahead for an all-inclusive one in 2,000? (That year our "matriarch" turns 75!)
Happy Easter & Spring to all!

And congratulations to the Klein & Kiefer families on their wonderful new arrivals! I'm sorry I kept the Robin an extra week, but he has become even crazier than usual lately. After months of working only two, or even one, night a week, I have not had an evening off, on through ~~Friday~~ since before March 1st! Needless to say, this wreaks havoc on family life - dinner, homework, baths, etc! Throughout the 16 years I've been with the company, the pendulum for how busy we are is swung back & forth many times, so I'm just trying to wait it out see if more free time becomes available.

Our biggest news is that Michelle has been approved to move from her BOCES center to the Bethpage School District for 1st grade in Sept. This is not "mainstreaming" - it's a self-contained special ed. class. It so is not in the same elementary school Kristen attends. But it represents a big step up on the "special education ladder." We're happy with the placement, but also very nervous, as she has been sheltered all these years and now must face such new experiences as the lunchroom & playground. Wish us all luck! Love, Bernadette, Bill, Kristen, Michelle, Danny

5/1/98

Dear Family,

May is already here! How time flies! I just came back from giving a weekend retreat in N.J. with Fr. Pio. Since this is the year of the Holy Spirit, that was the theme of the conference. It went very well despite ~~that~~ the fact that he was battling with the flu for the entire time! Please keep Mom in your prayers because she has come down with shingles recently and is experiencing much pain. I remember when Aunt Ann had them some years ago. They're no fun, for sure.

Congratulations on all births, weddings, etc... It is good to know that everyone is well. Be assured, as always, of our continued prayers for all.

Have a wonderful summer,
Love,

Theresa + Joan

May 7, 1998

Greetings from Williamsburg, VA

Yes, we're on E-mail, too. It is so much easier than writing a letter and cheaper, too - much cheaper than a long distance phone call. Although it is nice to hear a familiar voice once in awhile.

I'm still active in church work - welcoming new families into the parish. We've been having receptions for newcomers every 4 months - but now we're having them every other month - we have so many families moving into our parish. From March 8th to April 30 we have 60 new families to whom we are sending invitations to the reception we are having for them on May 31. I wish the new church was built already - we need a larger church and more parking spaces.

I'm still having problems with my leg and back... still going to the chiropractor and tried acupuncture, but I don't feel much different.

Monica has been home since March 11 - still wears the fracture boot - the break is not completely healed. She has fallen 4 times at home - she says she gets a twinge in her knee - can't keep her balance - and down she goes. The doctor prescribed a knee brace to stabilize the knee and keep her from falling. This is all on the same leg. The boot goes from foot to just under the knee and the knee brace goes from calf to hip - so the brace goes under the boot. So far it has been nothing but trouble and pain and discomfort... it needs adjustment.

Monica will be starting to go back to volunteering at the Olde Towne Medical Center next week. They meet her at the curb with a wheelchair and bring her back

2-54

out to the car when finished - that's how much they appreciate the work she's doing for them - and she does love the work - on computer.

Alan and family were here right after Christmas. It was so good to see them again. We just got pictures of the children - it's second best to 'in person'. Alan says they will be moving into their new house May 18. --- he can't wait.

Chris will be coming home from school tomorrow (5/8) - another year gone by. He plans to go to Florida for the summer working for the CCC as he did last summer. Claudine will graduate from HS on June 11 and she has chosen Radford College - who are offering her a partial scholarship - her major will be Drama.

Congratulations to Lorraine and John on their new daughter, Arianna Leigh, born 5 weeks early on March 6 and congratulations to Ronnie and Augie on becoming grandparents for the first time last October. ----- and best wishes to the Field's family planning Jason's wedding in September.

It's good to read all the good things happening to the May family. --- Everybody stay happy and healthy.

Love to all

Rosemary and Marci

Dear Family,

September 15, 1998

Yes, we've joined the ranks of p.c. users. The computer is a terrific convenience for doing work at home. In fact, I can actually log in to work from my house and conduct most of my business without having to hop in the car or on a train. Just the same, some tasks are better left to an old-fashioned typewriter. I would have written this letter on one of those typewriters, if only I could have found one.

It's been another wild and crazy summer here in Malverne. Joseph (age 6) had the time of his life, going to swimming lessons and the beach, and baseball games and water parks. Young kids have so many opportunities these days. He's already completed two years of Little League, he's in his second season of soccer and his second season of basketball is fast approaching.

Alas, it all came to an end last week, with the beginning of first grade, a shock if there ever was one. Apparently, the teacher wants them to do work and that interferes with play time. I tried to explain to him that he's growing up and he's a smart kid and blah,blah,blah, but I don't think he bought any of it. Eventually, I just told him he had to go and that's that.

Terence (3) just started his nursery school. 3 half-days per week, and after day one, we consider it a great success. Poor kid doesn't know what awaits him in three years.

That will leave Kira (2) home for a few afternoons per week and she can pretend she's an only child.

A friend of mine once described the difference between having two children and three children as the difference between a "man to man" defense and a "zone." And I have to agree. Put two of my kids together and all is well. Add in a third, and you have mayhem! If any of their friends from across the street come over, and you can imagine the results!

Our family reached several milestones this summer. Barbara and George celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Ian, Kate and Matthew threw a "surprise" party for their parents. I put surprise in quotes because they had to tell George ahead of time. It was the only way they could be sure he'd show up. I had the distinct honor of filling in for my brother when they took a picture of the wedding party. They assured me they won't pull a switcheroo and put Frank's head over mine.

The other milestone? Mom went to the farm a few weeks ago for the first time in about a hundred years! Maybe one of these summers, we can head up there, too.

In short, all is well... The time keeps zooming by and the Clines family keeps zooming along.

Here is our new e-mail address: CLINESJ@prodigy.net

Dear Family,

9/22/98

I agree that it would be super to attempt a big family reunion within the next two years....Of course, I may still be single then, so its no big deal for *me* to re-arrange my schedule. The Christensens were actually all together for a day in August--our first time in 3 years! It was real enjoyable, especially playing with my three nieces all at the same time.

Just last week, I visited Lorraine & John in Charlotte, to spend some quality time with Arianna. En route, I saw a couple old navy buddies (in MD and Wash, DC) for the first time in 12 years!!!! I ran out of time to drop by Eric's place in Richmond.

Looking forward, I'm still on my yearlong career search (looking for a management position in a financial or other service company that doesn't start at "entry-level" pay). Still tutoring ESL twice per week, choir starting again, and continuing to explore the Internet. I used to really travel the world (like my bro Ken continues to do) but now it has become *virtual* travel.

I'll see Ken again at his buddy's (my former roommate's) wedding next week. I've had roommates coming and going over the past several months, but am stable again, with two ladies. With a deal like that, who needs marriage? Hello to all new arrivals, as well as the cousins I've never even met!

Love,

Sept 27, 1998

2-56

Dear Family,

Well, finally hear about Lorraine baby Arianna. Ronnie & I were so anxious to know as the RL left us way before we got the news. CONGRATULATIONS! I found out Jason was married Sept 6th & of course Ronnie's grand baby is as cute as she was 50 years ago! I know first hand cause I got to see Ashley this past summer & celebrate Ronnie's birthday at the same time. I even got to see Kissy Krouse & 2 girls for the 1st time in person, so it was a wonderful time - we just squeaked by w/ Hurricane Georges & are grateful we didn't have to put to use all the sandbags & bottled H₂O. Brand was disappointed in Miami as he was all prepared for a hurricane party, oh well, he had the party anyway. He plans to work till April & do the entire Appalachian Trail starting 4-15. Janise likes UCF in Orlando & is on the rowing team. I miss her so much. Salem is still working for a couple of doctors & just got a little Japanese dog (Shiba Inu) she calls Bailey (plus a cherry lady). Guess that's my grandchildren for now. HA! Ralph's medfly programs were now ongoing but his hours are back so normal so all is well here. Love you all, Madeline ♡

12 October 1998

2-56

Dear Family,

It was good to get the family letter again. This Fall we are occupying ourselves pretty much the same way we did last year. Soccer games are taking up much of our weekends, because the league that Brian and Emily play in schedules 1-2 games for each kid each weekend. Brian is doing pretty well with soccer this year. He has become a lot more aggressive, and found that he liked being a forward. He's even gotten a few goals this year, a first time thing for him because he's mostly played defense before. Of course, Brian being Brian, no one can figure out that he has scored the goal because he's so quiet about it. Emily seems to enjoy playing soccer too although it seems that the 6-year old girls are a lot less serious about their games than the 9-year old boys.

Brian has started 4th grade this year, and Emily has started 1st. Their school has more homework and projects in 4th grade than previous grades, so Brian needs to adjust. He's been spending a lot of his free time lately working on an elaborate robot costume for Halloween. Emily seems to be doing well in first grade, even though only a couple of her buds from Kindergarten are in her class this year. She has just started taking gymnastics class again; she's done that off-and-on for almost two years. It's amazing how limber they can be at this age. Colin is just turning two and a half. He's a good kid but it's frustrating is that he is not on a good sleeping schedule. He can't quite make it through the day without a nap, so he goes to sleep around 3 and we wake him up around 5. Then he's crabby for an hour or so and wide awake at bedtime! The only good thing is that he is asleep when B. and E. come home from school and I can help them with their homework.

Joe's workplace work has become frustrating, too. He has another new boss for research at his site, and it is clear that this guy is going to make big changes in Cardiovascular research, the area in which Joe has been working for his ten years at Merck.

Before I send this letter off, I should report that Mom spent a couple of days in the hospital last week. Joe (C. not L.) took her to be checked out because she was having shortness of breath and chest pain, but tests showed that she had not had a heart attack. She's feeling much better as I write this.

It was good to see everyone's news. Here's wishing everyone a safe and happy Halloween, Thanksgiving, and (since the decorations are in the stores already anyway) Christmas!

Love to all,

Eileen & Family

10/25/98

Hello to one and all!

It is great to read a round of primarily good news! We've all had our bumps and bruises, but the May family continues to flourish!

We are getting somewhat settled into the new house. Although the house is larger than the old, we had not considered the configuration and the additional plans we had for items like an "office" on the third floor, with 3 computers, a fax and a "5 in one" machine. As a result, we are lacking storage. So, the basement is basically a dump, and various other spots are loaded with miscellaneous boxes. But, the new house is definitely an improvement, both in the living quarters and the backyard area. Billy & Gillian can practice soccer {though G quit her team}. Shannon gets her exercise running from one slide to another, and then after one of the other two. We get our exercise running after her! And Nannie gets to sit at her window and watch the whole thing. Her apartment has become the TV room on the first floor, so we generally gather there. It also has the only bathroom on the first floor!

Billy and Gillian are doing well in school. We have occasional trouble with G, the *free spirit*, not paying attention and daydreaming, but she pulls through with flying colors when she needs to. We have a children's Liturgy of the Word, and when we sit down to Sunday dinner, we usually ask what the story was about. G remembers, and even adds what the leader had to say about it {as well as her own commentary!} Shannon participates in our nightly meal prayers, smiling as we pray grace {*God is great, God is good! Thank You, God, for this food!*}, and then chiming in with her "AMEN!" She's singing songs and narrating stories: we just don't always know what they are about.

Billy has remained faithful to soccer, B & G each have scouts, their CCD, and will soon start ice skating lessons. It's a handful, but it beats having them lying around the house, which is what they probably would do if we didn't keep them occupied.

Deanne & I would love to just lie around the house sometime. With work {A at Deutsche Bank, D at Mercy College}, sidelines {D with Fuller Brush, tutoring Math, teaching CCD}, and other activities {we lead the children's Liturgy, A leads Scripture Study, D is on the parish council and liturgy group, and we are chairing a big fund raiser for the parish schools next year}; we are quite busy. But we want to be doers and not just sayers, and make some difference in how things are. Plus we want the kids to enjoy their lives. So, we choose to be as busy as we can be!

We should be signing contracts on the sale of Morsemere, finally. That will help alleviate some of the background stress. That leaves us with the apartment {rented} and this house.

Mom is doing relatively well. She's lately battling an infection on her leg, but has that licked. There are those aches and pains, but we didn't like the alternatives we thought we had to face a few years back. We want her to see her grandchildren grow up, even if she only sees them twice a year. Monica is having trouble coming back from her broken ankle. She's been in the hospital, then nursing home for therapy, and is now home. I'll let them fill you in on all that.

Eric & Danie are trying to figure out what to do with two kids away to College {other than pay bills!} Chris is in the home stretch at Va. Tech, and Claudine is starting at Radford.

We would like to endorse the idea of a family "get together", maybe next summer; maybe in 2000. I'm afraid of the prospect of trying to identify who is who, and if we don't get together soon, it'll never happen! I lost track of how many new family members there are that I haven't even met yet or when the last time was I did meet the rest. Should we nominate "the Farm" as the best place, rather than trying to rent out a place big enough {sorry, Aunt Claire!}? It could be like Woodstock 2000! I can't even think of another place that is centrally located: everyone's too far flung! Let's keep the idea alive!

Dear Family,

11-5-98

Wow! What a newsy letter. It's all been so busy in our lives and I must add we are too! Our Jason was married Sept 6 to a sweetheart of a girl. It's all love Tricia and has become a real sister to our girls. It was such a hot day and we can imagine what it will be like to be on the bride's side. (FINANCIALLY SPEAKING!) Stephanie is finishing her last year of College at the Univ. of Portland in Oregon and of all places

Chase to be cross-country. The long distance phone bills 2-58
are awful, so we E-MAIL. Adrienne started Community College
of Brookdale this year. It is associated with Rutgers and
will be easier for her to finish her degree and still stay at
home. Marc started H.S. and has become a state-boarder and
works part-time at Stop-Bite supermarket. Alex is looking
forward toward retirement from the Postal Police and it
cannot come soon enough for me. I still work at the
Pediatric office. It has been 8 1/2 yrs. now. I decide to quit
about every month or so, but keep on truckin'! The family
reunion is such a great idea but who will be in charge of
some things? Keep the idea alive, right? That's it for now
God Bless you all
Love
Marie, Alex + Family

Nov. 1998

Hi, I'm at the farm for a little deer hunting before heading out to look for a ship
again. Although the US Merchant marine continues to shrink I have had pretty good luck the
last few years and have gotten a good reputation on a few ships in the Sea-Land fleet so I
have a bit of an insiders edge on jobs. I've been spending some time at my 3 acre
homestead in Wyoming, skiing, mountain biking, hiking, elk hunting, fishing, and kayaking.
It's a great place for outdoor adventure and close to Jackson Hole, Grand Teton and Yellowstone.
If anyone is thinking of heading out there for a vacation, get in touch with Mom or call me
or my machine at (307) 883-4681.

Love,
Ken