

11/4/01

2-101a

Dear Family,

OK, OK!!! I give up! I cannot possibly keep up with all the weddings, babies etal in our mushrooming family. Perhaps it would be a help if everyone would list weddings (names and dates) and births, to simplify adding same to our family tree. Thanks, all.

Ed and I have a method for keeping our lives in some semblance of order, by categorizing them into us, family, farm, travel.

Us - we're managing to keep well with some props from an array of doctors, dentists, and some good, clean living. Ha.

Family - We see Steven's gang most often, both here and in FP, Ray as often as his schedule allows, Ken whenever he gets to NY (as he is at present, between sea voyages- his latest the run between Africa and Singapore and the Indian Ocean), Lorraine several times a year when we get down to Charlotte (as we will over this Christmas) and her rare trip up north, as this past summer)

Accomplishments at the farm this year range from initiating a 10 tree apple orchard, and prepping the back pond to stock with fish next spring. All the work, of course, with the able assistance of

our children, and anyone else we can inveigle into the job. Our travel this summer was limited to "visiting" trips, but we just returned from a Rhone River cruise in France which was delightful. River cruising is extremely popular in Europe, and a practical way of seeing things with your hotel following you. We had done the same on the Columbia River in Oregon this past spring, and it, too was memorable.

Your accounts of the aftermath of 9/11 WTC sent shivers up and down our spines as we relive watching the entire scene on TV as it occurred. The future certainly looks dim and our hearts go out to all of you starting families today. You must have courage and great faith. I'm hoping this letter will return very quickly with lots of good news. Also, hoping to see you all this summer at May Fam. Picnic II.

Love,
Uncle Ed + Aunt Claire

11/14/01

Greetings and congratulations on all the new additions to the clan. Great photos, Madeline! Thank God that we were spared on Sept. 11. I was thinking of you on that day, Alan.

George and I have joined the world of empty-nesters (at least during the college term). Ian has moved to Baltimore where he has started graduate school for social work. He transferred to the Baltimore office of his firm, so he works f/t all week and attends classes on Saturdays. He hangs out with old friends from his college days at Towson. Kate continues at UC-Davis in the plant biology grad program. She's nicely situated in a house within an easy bike to campus. Matt is in his sophomore year at Drew (NJ) and just finished a "fun" season of team rugby.

George, Kate and I had a wonderful reunion/vacation this summer. George drove cross-country both ways - alone! (He's always wanted to do that, and I could not get enough vacation time to ride shotgun.) He can tell you all the cheap places along US 80 (which goes right through Davis) if you care to know. I flew to Davis (Sacramento) and then Kate and I trained back to Salt Lake City to meet George. We then drove down to Bryce and Zion canyons in Utah, and then west back to CA where we visited Sequoia and King's Canyon Parks. What a trip! Breathtaking scenery. We highly recommend these spots to one and all. Too bad you can't skip the desert, etc. in between, but even they give a sense of our country's greatness. (By the way, we drove right through and past Vegas.) Davis is quite an impressive city - a real college town that is - yes - California mellow.

George has settled into Garden City High School this second year and will help coach the boys' track teams. I'm still answering reference questions, but I also select most of the adult fiction and non-fiction for purchase by the library. That's the fun part of my job - buying a lot of good stuff, and handing the bill over to the fair taxpayers of WH!

As the holidays approach, we wish everyone peace and hope as we celebrate our families and our blessings. Be safe. Be well. God bless!

B, G, I, K + M

Dear Family,

Dec. 11, 2001

In spite of all that has been going on these last three months, this is the perfect time of year to take a look around and see all the blessings that we have. Just being a part of this round robin is proof of our blessing of family. May we never take each other for granted.

Karen's wedding was beautiful, especially since we had all the Muekeley's here from various parts of Florida. Kathy Krause did the singing at the Mass which was beautiful and made it more special for us. Karen and Mike have wasted no time - they are expecting our third grandchild in July.

We look forward this next year to being with the Muekeley's again in March for Taleen's wedding and November for Jannae's wedding. Hopefully we will get to see them in July also if they can make it to their NC cabin while we are visiting Karen's new arrival.

May everyone be blessed with happy memories this holy season. You are all in our thoughts, our prayers and in our hearts.

With love for the New Year.....

Love, Roxie, Bezie + family

Dear Family,

December 29, 2001

I'm proud to be the last entry of the RR of 2001! It gives me the opportunity to be the first to wish everyone a blessed 2002. *It has* to be better than 2001 right? We can certainly pray that it will be.

Keeping track of our ever expanding family is like trying to keep up with a soap opera between all the weddings, babies, busy jet-set lives and of course the drama (this applies to you folks living in NY between the terrorist attacks, school threats...etc.)!

I'm sorry for keeping this RR for a bit longer than I'd like to, but to say that life is hectic is an understatement, especially around the holidays! Arianna is now in preschool three days a week and loves it! I think I love it more than she does. She is three going on thirty! (Actually, she'll be 4 on 3/6.) Her favorite Christmas present was the movie "Shrek" and she must have watched it 10 times in the last week! Kaylin, now 15 months is a budding trouble-maker! She started walking at 10 1/2 months, but still refuses to say a single word (although she understands with no problem). Go figure! Thank God, they are both happy and healthy besides the normal antics which drive us nuts!

I'm still part-time at Carolinas Real Data working with the apartment reports. Things are going well there, in part with huge thanks to John's parents who watch the kids two days a week faithfully for us. John's job is a different story...although he still has a job, which we are very thankful for these days, he is very unhappy with the direction that Panalpina is taking. He just celebrated his five year anniversary with the company and in response to his hard work over the years he was told that in 2002 all of his management perks will be taken away including gas money and his car allowance! Isn't that nice? Of course, his job duties remain the same. Needless to say, John is getting very restless and a change might be on the horizon...whether or not it's in Charlotte is another question. We'll leave that in God's hands.

That about raps it up for the Klein clan. We are already planning our trip to NY for the August 3 May family bash. We wouldn't miss it for the world and are quite confident it will be an 80-degree sunny day!

Love,

Lorraine, John, Arianna & Kaylin

Hello from Milwaukee!

Jan. 7, 2002

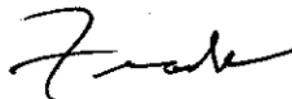
Things certainly have changed in the world since my last contribution back in April. On my Christmas visit to NY, I spent a couple of hours walking on the perimeter of Ground Zero. And now to read Alan's account of his experiences that awful day---well, it makes me ever more thankful that our family wasn't directly harmed.

Now it's time to settle in for the usual dark and dreary January and February here, although this winter has been almost completely free of snow and bitter cold.

As usual, we look forward to the return of the baseball season--- and this year Milwaukee will be the site of the All-Star Game in early July, so that will mean some special times as far as my newspaper work is concerned.

Other than that, nothing much to report from the nation's heartland.

God bless everyone!



January 13, 2002

Dear Family,

To borrow from an old TV show title . . . "That was the year that was . . . 2001." Wow, what a year!

Aside from my always engaging work life, I am still active with the Knights of Columbus and at St. Michael's Church (Our "Phase II" expansion, to add a new 1000-seat worship space, thus doubling our current seating, will be done next summer!). I played softball again this year for both the K of C and St. Mike's (coed) teams. We didn't do great, but we survived!

Danie gave up her housecleaning job this year (after she paid off her new computerized sewing machine) to spend more time quilting. She has joined several quilting-related "guilds" and "clubs" that keep her busy. She underwent surgery in November to correct Dupuytren's Contracture (a shrinkage and hardening of the tissue under the skin of the palm that prevents the fingers from fully extending) on her left hand. The operation was successful and therapy is returning full extension of the affected fingers. She'll be quilting again in no time!

Chris is still living at home, at present. He continues his *relentless* search, looking for a Graphic Designer job, but in the meantime, he's still making sandwiches at Panera Bread. He pursued a number of leads offered by friends, acquaintances, and job shops, but in every case so far, the result is the same . . . no job. He has one active pursuit at this time. A parishioner at St. Mike's is the CFO of a publishing company that produces magazines for special interest groups too small to produce their own. They are moving their production facilities from CT to Richmond and expect that much of their staff will not make the move. So, they'll be looking for additional people. We should hear something shortly. Today, he came home and announced that he was asked by two of his friends to move into an apartment with them. He's thinking about it.

Claudine is in her last year (*Just made the last payment!!*) at Radford University, working towards her degree in Theatre. Being an actress remains her goal, but she picked up practical skills working in the Costume Shop all four years. She visited England this summer with a group from the Theatre Dept. and took in many of the sights related to the performance arts. In the short time she was home, she played with dad on the St. Mike's Softball team. Now back at school, for the first time, she's staying at an apartment (and giving up \$1250 in scholarship money that can only be applied to on-campus housing). Unfortunately, she didn't land any parts in any of the plays that were put on during the Fall session. However, this spring, she will be part of a school troupe that will "tour" neighboring communities, performing a series of short vignettes. After graduation in May?? Who knows!? (Unemployment is a good bet!)

Muffin, our Shih Tsu is still hanging on at the ripe old age of 15. Now completely blind (no thanks to a vicious attack from a neighbor's dog last year), she doesn't get around much any more. She appears to be suffering from senility/dementia and has been keeping us up at night with her moaning, barking and hyper-activity. Her vet gave us a prescription for a new drug that is supposed to reverse many of the symptoms of the disease. Although the drug is supposed to take two to four weeks to produce results, just three days into the treatment, she has calmed down dramatically. Now, do I really want to spend \$88 per month for the drug to keep her under control?

The photo above is the latest I have showing the four of us. The fifth person in the picture is a local artist by the name of Susan Greenbaum who, we believe, is "up & coming" in the musical world. We try to attend as many of her "gigs" as we can. I think that part of the reason we've become close to her is that we are trying to get a



picture of Claudine's future; to understand the trials and tribulations of a performing artist. The other reason we've become close to Susan is that she's darn good! And a great person - all 4'-10" of her! (She's standing on the stage and we're on the floor in the picture above). If you feel so moved, heck her out at (oddly enough) www.susangreenbaum.com.

We celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary this year . . . Does anyone remember what day it was? Yes, our anniversary fell on September 11th. Strangely, the weather in NY on 9/11/01 was very similar to the way it was on 9/11/76 . . . an unusually crystal-clear blue sky. Something told me not to make any big plans for a celebration, but I expected that distractions would come from work-related activity (refueling outage season). So, our "celebration" was limited to a quiet dinner (and I do mean quiet!) at a nearby restaurant, after which we came back home to continue to stare at the TV in disbelief.

We went north for our vacation this year . . . to New Hampshire to attend a wedding and then on to Ogonquit, Maine

for a relaxing stay at the beach and to get our fill of lobster (OK . . . you can't really get your fill of lobster!). We swung back through NH (to Mt. Washington and, of course, to shop at the "largest quilt store in America" in Central Harbor) and visited friends and family in Connecticut, before heading back to the Old Dominion.

In business-related news, Dominion's acquisition of Millstone Nuclear Station in CT is complete. We are only now just starting to assimilate their operation into ours as we prepare to put in a bid on the Seabrook Nuclear plant in NH. We are suffering the results of an ill-conceived and poorly implemented reorganization in Engineering that has, as a co-worker stated, "taken one mildly dysfunctional organization and transformed it into two completely dysfunctional organizations." Because the responsibilities of the revised organizations were not clearly defined, we are having a open season for dumping work on one another. Makes going to work a joy! I guess that this too will pass.

We've got August 3rd highlighted on our calendar for the May Reunion 2002 . . . how about you?

Keep this letter moving!

Eric

1/31/02

Dear Family,

It's wonderful to read all your news. I'm so happy to hear good news from all of you - when I read about your young families it reminds me of my youth - yes I was young once - a long time ago. And I remember Auntie "Nana" with thanks for starting me off with the letter. I hope that this year I will be able to attend the May family jamboree and that these old bones won't be rained on so I can attend. So far I am able to keep up at the library - only 6 hours a week but they

(over)

pay me, which really makes me feel useful, and 106
many St. Thomas people come up to me and remember my
name - I remember faces but wait for them to blue me
in for the name. At this point I guess you could say
I was "growing old gracefully" - after all my theme song
now is "76 Trombones"
(old timer)
much love to one and all - Aunt Helen
P.S. - Madeline and Calpt - congratulations! great pictures
of the future marrieds!

Dear Family,

Feb. 7, 2002

It's been a very mild winter thus far in New York and we've managed to avoid colds and flu thus far. Nicole (now 8) is in the Church choir and enjoys it very much. She's in 3rd grade and is a real social butterfly. Megan (now 6 and in 1st grade) started out the year frustrated that she had difficulty reading, but she's now progressed so well that she aces all of her tests. They both enjoy school and have plenty of friends there. We have 2 new additions to the family, Fluffy and Princess, kittens for the girls that we got at North Shore Animal League in August.

Gina is still working 30 hours a week as an Office Manager at a courier service close to home, but has recently been looking for a full time position. She'd like to get something close to home with early hours, and has had some promising interviews over the last 2 weeks. Just last month I completed my 16th year at the Times. After a series of buyouts last summer and the combination of 2 departments I now have the headache of 17 people reporting to a co-manager and me. Dealing with personnel issues is definitely the toughest part of the job!

That's about it from Queens. I certainly hope many of you will be able to attend the Family party in August!

Love,

STEVE

2/18/02

Dear Family,

We have been so glad to hear that you are all safe, and we send our congratulations to everyone on all your family events, large and small. We were fortunate in not having lost anyone we knew personally on Sept. 11th. Bill happened to be in Florida that day, but he made it back safely several days later via a rental car. The next time his company let him travel—Veterans Day—he arrived at JFK only 20 minutes after the American Airlines plane had crashed nearby. They had let him check in for his flight already, so he wound up spending 10 hours in the terminal till the situation was deemed safe enough to fly. In both instances I always knew he was alive and safe, so we're just so thankful he's only been inconvenienced, and was not a part of either tragedy.

I had had two years left on my layoff status with Northwest Airlines and was planning to go back after this summer, but my office closed on Sept. 18th. (We had known it was closing before Sept. 11th.) Since working at the airports isn't feasible, I'll have to find something new or possibly go back to teaching languages. Right now I'm very busy with UNPAID work! Besides teaching CCD, hall monitoring and various chores with the regular PTA's, I've become most busy with the school district's SEPTA (Special Education PTA), for which I'm corresponding secretary. From that work, the district has now asked me to sit as parent member on the committees that annually review every child in the district who has any kind of special needs or is considered gifted. This involves sometimes 2 or 3 days/week, 930AM to 230PM. I'm learning a lot about the NY State Law re special education, and this will help us with all the decisions we have to make about Michelle's future. But poor Bill just wishes I were paid for some of this work, especially as he struggles to pay for the kids' teeth! Yes, we should just have direct deposit into the orthodontists' bank accounts! Kristen (12) already has a full set of braces, Michelle (10) is in Phase I of treatment, and the regular dentist says Danny (7) will need them, too.

Our only family "milestones" for the year were that Bill joined me in the "Golden Age Club" in December, and we'll have our last First Communion (Danny's) in May. Our best wishes to all of you for a SAFE, happy and healthy 2002.

Love, Bernadette & family

Dear All ~

Thanks be to God all is well! We had a rough time in New Bedford (just S. of Boston) from Sept. 11th on. Our Sr. Celeste's brother & brother-in-law are fire fighters who were on the scene at "ground zero." Thank God they are well but what stories!! For sure, the hand of God was there. We knew of many people who did not make it including one of the priests who was on the first flight that hit the Tower. Much sadness!

One month later, however, we find ourselves moving out here to Tunkhannock, one hour N. from the Pocono Mts. Our single convent is beautiful and in the spring we will build our chapel. The Lord made it clear to Jesus & I that we are now... "home."

we are surrounded by the "Endless Mts." God is so good!! God loves to be generous with us especially when we TRUST Him!

Let us all pray for the Church during these "dark days" (as RSP II said), especially for the Church in Boston & Scranton. Yet these are the days that great Saints are Born! Know that you are in our prayers every day you & your entire families asking Our dear Blessed Lord to keep you from all harm. Please say little prayer for us as well ~ Lovingly, Bernadette & Theresa

P.S. Many blessings on all the weddings! You all have such beautiful children.

It's really nice to see pictures (hint..) love _____

2-108

P.P.S. - Had a big black bear in our yard - we're not in the city any more.

MARCH 11, 2002

Greetings from Williamsburg, VA

6 months after WTC 9/11/01-- Around 9 a.m. Alan called to let us know he is safe and is leaving the building. While he is on his way, we: Deanne, me, Monica, Eric and Danie knew he left the building but what problems will he face!!! We had no idea if he would be able to get a train because it was announced trains were stopped. Where was he? Is he okay? How will he get home? Telephones were jammed! We could not get through to NY and Alan could not get us. But finally late afternoon, Alan reached Danie at home and she in turn called us to let us know Alan is safe at home. What a relief! Thank God Alan was home! And please dear God, we don't want to go through a day like that again.

~~Back to the present~~ and us. Monica and I keep seeing doctors. In 2002 so far I've had an ankle infection, I always have back and leg pains (maybe I'll be getting some kind of injection!?) - a visit to the ER and having a catscan showed I had a blockage from the liver around the biliary canal and had to have an endoscope to clean it all out and then last week I had an abscessed tooth and root canal work. That's for me, so far..... Monica continues to fall, but not as much. She still has therapy 2x a week - now the therapist comes to the house because of shoulder pains and muscle spasms. After a few weeks when she's stabilized, she'll go back to the center for therapy. She had another setback for about a week - she had cellulitis, her legs were so swollen and red. After antibiotics and legs up, her legs are back to normal (normal for her, that is). Then maybe there's a new set of braces and new compression hose in the future for her..... That's our medical story --- never a dull moment with us! there is always something!!!

What interesting reading, this RR! Monica and I were so engrossed reading all the happenings of the May families. Madeline and Ralph, what a nice picture spread of your great looking family in your local newspaper. That's terrific!

It is always so interesting to read of all the stories of the families: new babies, children moving from one school to another, sports, family moves, new jobs and with Srs. Theresa and Joan, a new home and new challenges. Good luck to all and God bless you all. Keep the RR going - faster - I don't want to wait another 9 months for the next issue. Keep happy - keep healthy - keep smiling - keep in touch.

Love to all,

Deanne and Monica

4/17/02

Dear All:

Unfortunately, I have some bad news to report. Mom recently fell and broke her hip. She was leaving the church rectory on a Monday morning, after helping count the collection receipts, when she apparently slipped and went down. Her neighbor was able to get her home and she thought she was fine. Later on, however, when Barbara went to visit, she reported a lot of pain, so off to the hospital they went. The doctors inserted two "small" pins in her hip and now she is in rehab for a few weeks. I am afraid we'll have to get her some help when she finally does return home. Mom is doing fine, and doesn't quite understand what all the fuss is about. But at least she seems to be in good hands.

I'd like to echo everyone's sentiments regarding September 11th. We were fortunate in that we really didn't know anyone who perished. My perspective was a bit different from others. While the entire city was fleeing, I was galloping toward Manhattan. I had to park my car in Queens and run over the 59th Street Bridge, where I witnessed the second tower collapse. Would you believe that while thousands were fleeing with tears in their eyes, there were still a few people out rollerblading and jogging, as if it were just a normal Tuesday morning! In any event, by getting to work at Fox 5 so soon, I probably saved my job. At least I felt like I was doing something.

The kids are all fine. Joseph (10), Terence (7) and Kira (6) are all attending St. Thomas School, my alma mater, and they are in very good hands. As I am sure you can all understand, springtime is the busy time. Last weekend, we had 5 different games to attend, so by the end of the weekend, I needed another weekend!

Mary Jo is once again teaching grammar school French in the Syosset District and enjoying it quite a lot.

And right now, we're trying to figure out our summer vacation plans... The May Family Reunion sounds great. I hope to be there—unless we get another 7-inch rainstorm!

Love,

Joe Clines

4/25/02

Dear Family -

My 3 year job search ended right after I last saw this letter. I've now been with QVC for six months (Jewelry distribution shift manager) and yes, I get a nice discount. I work 3rd shift, 4 nights/week. It's right near their West Chester, PA headquarters, so maybe I'll move a little closer if it looks like a career. I'm happy so far!

But my change is miniscule compared to what my sister Lorraine and her family are going through. I'll let her eventually explain, but she and John have both changed jobs, sold their house and moved to an apartment in Raleigh while they wait for their new home to be built. They hope to move in before August. All 4 of my beautiful nieces are doing well.

I just returned from 3+ days at the farm - planting a forest of Maple and Oak with Steven and my parents. We discussed the Aug. 3 party and how nice we expect the weather to be. Of course, for details, photos, directions and to say hi, visit <http://lackawack.tripod.com>. Please pass that address to your kids/grandkids, who are certainly invited.

Love,
Ray Christensen

Dear Family - April 30 2002

We hope Aunt Helen is feeling better & her therapy is going well. We're all doing well here, it's a busy time for us. James is graduating from UCF Friday & looking for work in Orlando in Graphic art. Helen's wedding March 23rd was so beautiful, the weather was gorgeous & best of all, we got to be with the Kiefer family & I got to see my sweet sister Rosmie! Now we can plan for James's wedding in November. The re-union sounds like it will be so nice - but with 2 weddings in one year I'll probably be in jail for robbing a bank by then - HA! Love, Madeline & Ralph & family. ♡♡♡♡

2-110

May 16, 2002

Dear Family,

We have better news to report this month regarding Mom. As Joe reported, she had to have pins inserted into her hip after a fracture and then spent some time recuperating in a rehab place. She has been back home for about a week, and has made a very good recovery physically from the fracture. She walks around without much trouble, but has to be careful to steady herself on her feet before she gets moving. Before she was discharged from the rehab place, we (by which I mean mostly Barbara) arranged for her to have a companion living with her in West Hempstead to make sure she is getting around okay and to help with the housework. I saw Mom at the party for Danny's First Communion on May 4th (Bunny's youngest) and she was getting around quite well then. I have not met the companion, so I will let Barbara give you details about her. So far, she is working out well, and it is a great relief to know that Mom is not alone in the house.

As for things here in PA, we are winding down the school year and getting terrifically busy with end-of-the-year events. This has been a rough year for me because each kid is on a different schedule. Brian (13) is in 7th grade and leaves early for middle school, Emily (10) is in 4th grade at the elementary school, which starts an hour later, and Colin (6) is in afternoon kindergarten. (Yes, we are one of the few places that still has half-day kindergarten). It takes me all morning just to get everyone out to school!

After school, we are generally heading out to a ballfield. Brian is playing baseball at school and for the local "Connie Mack" level organization, so he has moved up to the adult fields. Emily continues with softball; she is also on two teams, a recreational level during the week and a travel team on the weekends. Colin is playing his first year of teeball.

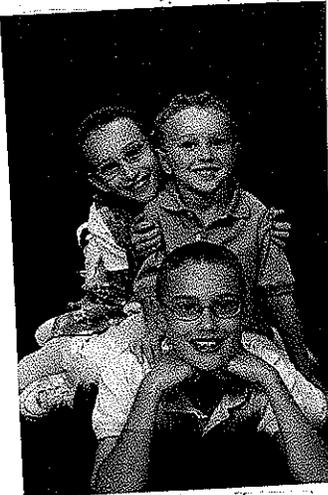
Joe's worklife at Merck has changed a bit lately. He has been doing more paperwork and has fewer people to supervise, which is good because it means fewer personnel problems to deal with. Unfortunately, Merck isn't doing well these days, so the overall atmosphere is unpleasant. He unwinds from work by helping out with the various teams; officially, he's the assistant for Emily's rec team.

We have had unusual weather this spring, like much of the East Coast. A week of 90 degrees in April, and since then cool and rainy. Hope things are nicer where you are!

[2-110]

Love to all,

Eileen and Family



Last ↑
September

2-11-02
May 25, 2002

Seven months is a pretty good time for getting the Round Robin through all the parts of the family. That's under 2 weeks per stop; let's try to beat that record!!!

While life is somewhat more "normal" than my last writing shortly after 9-11, I do feel that "normal" no longer means the same as it did just 8 months ago. Our activity has largely returned to former levels, but there is a different atmosphere in which we live, work and play. Somewhere between waiting for something else to happen and hoping that it doesn't. As I shuttle between the Bank's midtown and downtown offices, I am frustrated by having to get passes and prove that I belong in the building. On our latest trip to the house in the Poconos, I felt it necessary to plan alternate routes and offbeat hours just in case the George Washington Bridge was closed part of the Memorial Day weekend.

On the other hand, life is good. The kids are doing very well. Bill recently broke his arm. I keep telling him that he needs to embellish his story, but he keeps admitting that he just plain fell on the stairs at his school and broke the bone just above the wrist. It is luckily a clean break. No hard cast was needed; just a brace and a sling. Within the month, he might be free of the brace. In the meantime, he is having a difficult time adjusting to needing help with everything and just not being able to do whatever he pleases. He finishes his first year at Museum Middle School and moves on to 7th grade next year. Gillian will take his place in the 6th grade class, as she just received notice that she was accepted into the same gifted student program. Even though they will not be near each other much during the day, it should be interesting to have them both in the same school again. This now leaves Shannon entering 1st grade alone at Montessori School 31. She's definitely independent enough to ride the bus and rule the school on her own. They each have different, strong personalities!

We are all excited about the house in the Poconos. We just completed getting it into shape for use by ourselves (the week after the reunion), as well as a series of renters that will occupy the place for about 2 months. We have our memberships to the club that will allow us to swim, play tennis, golf and partake of the many other opportunities available out there. It will be nice to have a place to get away to during the fall and spring, and the summer / winter rentals will help pay for it all! And anytime it is not rented, we can sneak out and play!

Deanne is finished at Mercy College for the summer. She will have plenty to do, especially when the kids finish school. It is amazing how much we squeeze into the months between Sept and June! Work, meetings, appointments, whatever... We need the depressurization that summer provides. Of course, we've scheduled quite a bit into the summer as well, but moderated the number of activities from the past.

For me, summer doesn't bring relief from work. I have 2 weeks in August, and can extend a few weekends, but that's it. I do get a break from my new role as scoutmaster for Bill's troop. I will take over officially on June 5, but have been busy getting the necessary training and planning activities for the boys. We have a good troop, and are growing much more than I had anticipated. Six boys from a neighboring Church's group decided to join us rather than their parish's troop. So, I will have nearly 30 boys. Just keeping them busy will be a chore. But it should also be fun! It is a release from the pressures of work, and gives me a feeling that I am contributing to the development of young men in an important way. I still wonder at times if I had a mental lapse when I accepted the post. The former scoutmaster did it for about 12 years and survived.

Our activity at Sacred Heart will also slow for the summer. Deanne has no committee meetings, and we suspend the Children's Liturgy. So, we can go to Mass and actually sit together and enjoy. We're waiting to hear if we will lose another priest from the staff. We're at three now, and the ranks of the Capuchins are getting thinner. The Caps just elected a new Provincial - a classmate of mine. It will be interesting to see in what direction the Province goes now.

If you have time that you would like to spend in the Poconos (other than when it is rented), give us a call. *Hopefully, we will see all of you at the reunion.*

Alan, Deanne, Billy, Gillian & Shannon

6-9-02

Dear Family,

News from Middletown! She here are always on the go with kids, grandkids, Aunt Betty, etc. My Mom has finally decided to sell her home and give up living alone. The end of this month she will move in with Tim and Joe and we are all relieved that she will be taken care of. Unable to move around well, and still on constant O2 we convinced her that she NEEDS to take this step.

As for as the Field family, this month we plan a trip to see Jason + his family in Florida, as soon as school is out. Marc graduates with Honors on the 25th and will

attend Stevens Institute of Tech in the fall. Pokers will be ²⁻₁₁₂
in 7th Grade in Sept. and we will be married 30 yrs.
on the 17th. Alex ~~retired~~ retired from the Postal Police
in Feb and now is working as a Security Guard at
the local High School. I hired a person to take most
of my hours at the pedestrian I work for and now is my
turn to relax a bit. Loved seeing all the pictures and
hopefully will try and send one too! Hope to see you all
in August -

Love to you all
Alex, Maria + Family