

3/25/03

2-122a

Dear family,

The family letter arrived while we were on an Elderhostel tour of Spain and Portugal, and we just returned 2 days ago. Our educational vacation was just wonderful - we stayed in paradises and pousadas, old historical convents, monasteries, palaces etc. that have been made into luxurious hotels. The trip was all Roman ruins, castles, cathedrals, museums, beautiful scenery and vineyards (wine with lunch and dinner). The war began 2 days before we left Spain and there were noisy peace demonstrations right outside our hotel both nights. The one English language TV station was taken off the air for who knows what reason. Otherwise, all went well and we returned safely and happily. We had been in Switzerland, France, Germany, Netherlands and Belgium last fall, but I don't imagine that trip is drawing too many American tourists these days.

Back at home to get on with the spring work here at the farm. Our sons have plenty of it lined up for us. I'm weary already. Ken is home for a short time between trips to Africa and Asia to help us get started. No BIG FAMILY PARTY SCHEDULED for this year, but we are sprucing up the place for welcomed summer visitors (Joe, you owe us one) So come on up, one and all.

Love to all our wonderful family members,

Alvin & Ed

Hi, all -

Hope you are all well. Was glad to hear such interesting news of weddings and grandkids and such. Particularly intrigued to read that Steph is heading on the road to an MLS. Two librarians in the family! I'd like to hear more details.

Well, I've made two trips to CA since I last wrote. The trip I took in June '02 was memorable. I can't recommend Sequoia National Park too highly! Then last month, Matt and I flew out to rendezvous with Kate. (Matt was on his "spring" break from Drew.) We saw San Francisco, Berkeley, the coastal redwoods, Lake Tahoe and Davis. We were able to dodge snow and rain; we drove around Tahoe the day before a blizzard. Kate successfully passed her oral exams in February, so she can stay at UC Davis now and complete her doctorate if she wishes. Matt is finishing his junior year. He has still avoided serious injury playing rugby and hopes to be working in a bank for the summer.

Ian continues studying social work in grad school down in Baltimore. He takes classes, interns, and works part-time for his old company to support his bachelor lifestyle. We don't get to see enough of him.

Oh, I "lied" a bit in my last report. George never had knee surgery. Didn't have what he thought he did (according to the MRI), so he's back to playing soccer and nursing minor pains. And Matt did NOT go to Belgium for the fall semester. He decided he just didn't want to be over there for four months, so he stayed Jerseyside.

My mom has just observed the anniversary of her fall and broken hip. Time flies! Her helper, Leta, has been with her 11 months, and she has been a wonderful find. Mom has her aches and pains, emphysema and a few other ailments, but who doesn't these days? Bottom line is that she is home and queen of her domain.

George and I keep doing our things. We're busy, but at least we like what we do. Can't wait for spring to REALLY arrive. We'll be finished painting and carpeting the living room soon, so we can shift our focus to out-of-doors activities (but NOT snow shoveling).

Easter blessings on our families, and peace to all in this complicated world -

Barbara + her posse

Dear Family 4-24-03

All has been well in our family. A lot is going on and it is all good things. Last year's serious relationships have led to engagements. Patti + Seth will be married 8/31 and Paul + Lee Ann are planning on April '04. Our latest grand-daughter - Amber "Veronica" arrived on Nov 23 + we spend time together every Tuesday along with her sister Samantha. The oldest, Ashley, is already in kindergarten. Next month we will drive to NC to see Karen, Mike and baby Michael. Madeline + Ralph will drive up to NC also so we will spend Memorial Day weekend together.

Our love to all our family, east, west, north or south - wherever you are.

Love, Ronnie + Auzie

2-124

Dear Family,

May 2, 2003

After a tumultuous 2002, this year has *thus far* been much more calm (is there such a thing with a 2 ½ and 5 year old?) for the Klein household. Last year was one that we wouldn't care to repeat any time soon! In February 2002 we sold our house in Charlotte and moved into an apartment in Raleigh while we were waiting for our new house to be built. Simultaneously, John's parents also decided to move up to Raleigh since his father retired and they no longer had any ties to Charlotte. It was bad enough that between February and July we started two new jobs (John at USF and me at UPS) and went through three major moves between our two and John's parents, but then things got even more *fun!* It was right after we moved into our new house in Wake Forest (a suburb of Raleigh) that we saw many of you at the family party. Well, the day we came back from vacation, John got the bad news that he was laid off from the job that moved us here in the first place! The company was going through a huge reorganization and the local franchise owner finally realized what a bad financial position he was in, so he had to let most of his staff go.

Fortunately, John landed a supervisory job at Emery Worldwide (now undergoing a name change to Loman to match that of the parent company). He started in November, ending a very stressful 3 months, and resulting in a huge sigh of relief just in time for the holidays!

At this point, John works days at Emery and I continue to work evenings, Monday through Friday, at UPS. I also just completed my last week for this year of teaching 3rd grade Faith Formation (CCD). It's a difficult lifestyle since we don't see each other much, but with the children it's the way it has to be for now. Speaking of the children, Arianna is starting full-day Kindergarten on July 7! I can't believe how fast they grow up! We were very blessed that Arianna was accepted (through a lottery) into a "magnet" school that specializes in a hands-on approach to learning and has a year-round school program. This is a very new idea to us but one which I think will work out great as I know many other families also involved in the year-round program who love it. Kaylin is starting to talk up a storm even though half the time we have no idea what she's saying! (She is so different from Arianna who spoke so clearly at this age!) She idolizes Arianna and follows her around like her shadow! Most of the time they play together very nicely and now that the weather is so warm they want to go outside constantly to play with the 20-something children that live on our cul-de-sac!

It's so wonderful to hear all the good news of our family! Keep this rolling so that events are as current as possible!

Love,

Amie, John, Arianna & Kaylin

Greetings from Milwaukee!

5/9/03

A typical spring here -- which is to say, it appears for a couple of days, then disappears in a string of 40-degree days. Good thing we have a movable roof on our baseball stadium, even if the Brewers are one of the worst teams in baseball.

The usual thing for me -- mostly desk work in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel sports department, covering a few baseball games, and planning some trips back home. I'll be in NY on May 17, just in time for a party at Joe's house for Terry's first communion. I'll be back in July for some beach time, and then in October for some kids' soccer.

Love to all,

Frank

Dear Family,

Wow, the letter sure is taking a leisurely path through the Family! Waddya say, folks? Lets pick it up!

The sad news from us for this round is that we lost the furry member of our family. Muffin, our Shih Tsu, who was seventeen on November 5th, was put down on November 7th. She suffered from blindness (thanks in part to an attack by another dog two years ago), dementia and arthritis, but was otherwise in good condition. The expensive medication we were giving her for the dementia was losing its effectiveness, leading to prolonged, nightly fits of groaning, barking and literally bouncing off walls. The situation became unbearable, and the necessary decision was made.

Danie misses her role as Muffin's care giver and is struggling with the need to continue this role and the realization that another dog would not be another Muffin. (I'm hoping that the need will subside and that we won't have to get another pet.) However, recently, the care giver role was exercised by her parents as her father went through surgery for Dupuytren's Contracture. This is the same surgery Danie had two years ago. In her father's case, extension of the pinky on his left hand was limited to about 90 degrees from the palm. His ring finger was only slightly better. The surgery was successful, but the extension of his ring finger may still be limited because of arthritis.

Danie helped her parents by taking him to his doctor visits and therapy until he was cleared to drive himself. Why Danie had to make the 140 mile round trip five times in two weeks, when the next-door neighbors volunteered to take him (as Danie learned later) is beyond me. Danie's mother definitely knows how to push her buttons!

Danie continues to focus on her quilting and has now joined several guilds and sewing circles (I think it's really a front for sessions of drinking and carousing). We took a short vacation in March to attend a quilt show in Pigeon Forge, TN. We spent several days in Gatlinburg and visiting the Smokey Mountains National Forest in addition to attending the show.

Chris resigned his job at Panera Bread several months ago to stay at home and work on the freelance graphic design jobs that he managed to round up, oddly, through contacts he made while working at Panera. One of his clients was Friends Association for Children, the organization that Stephanie Cunningham works(ed?) for. He prepared an annual report for the organization, which they were reportedly very pleased with. His freelance work has managed to bring in a little less money as he has been making at Panera, but he was working in his chosen profession, making contacts and building a portfolio. When bills got to be too high, he sought employment through a Temp agency and was put to work at Bank of America where he assembles loan application packages for the loan officers to process.

In February, the two roommates in his apartment decided to move on with their lives; one is getting married, the other wants to move closer to where he works. That would have left Chris without roommates and without any chance of making the rent, so, once again the doors to the May Boarding House were opened and he moved back home in March.

He is now close to receiving an offer to work at an advertising firm here in Richmond. He responded to an add that the firm had placed and was called in for several interviews. It seems like they were really looking for a gofer, but once Chris showed them what he could do, they want him. But now they must reconsider what his responsibilities (and pay?) would be. The wait is killing ME!

Claudine is back at home with us after graduation from Radford and was working at Lerner as a sales clerk. After we finally convinced her that she was far too good (and too well educated, at my expense) to be working as a sales clerk, she put in her two week notice and was beginning to look for other employment. Three days after putting in her notice, she was contacted by the Costume Shop Director at the New Harmony Theatre in Evansville, IN (where she had worked three years ago during the summer). The Director was in need of a first hand at the shop and she took a chance calling Claudine to see if she was available. Well, of course she was! She'll be heading out to Indiana on May 17th and returning around August 26th. After that . . . ?????? One week before she took off for Indiana, she received a phone call from the Red Barn Playhouse, where she was supposed to work last year. Seems like they've resolved the legal issues with the treater and are planning a full summer schedule and they need help. Too late! Too bad!!

I'm doing the same stuff as usual . . . work, of course (more later), involvement in the K of C, including the Fourth Degree, some involvement with St. Mikes Church and a perennial member of the homeowners association board. Danie & I joined the K of C mixed bowling league this year to occupy out Thursday nights. (Unfortunately, bowling starts at 9:00 pm, which is, of course, after my bedtime.). In our team's first season, we struggled to maintain a firm grasp on last place, but as the season progressed, we were resigned to the fact that we would finish eleventh out of twelve positions. However, in the end, we really messed up and took tenth spot on the last night of the year. We got Claudine to sign up as a sub and during the latter part of the season, she became a favorite because of her good, fun-loving nature. She was particularly favored by teams on which a mothers and their adult sons played. (Some attempt at match-making??)

We got a late start, but it looks like I'll be playing softball again this year with the St. Mike's Defenders Coed Church League team, if the back holds out.

The new worship space at St. Michael's Church is now open, following dedication of the facilities in September. The new space is an in-the-round type, with the altar right in the middle. A curious choice of the building committee was the use of stadium seating around a sunken altar rather than flat seating with a raised altar. The stadium seating results in a clear view of everything that is going on on the opposite side of the church and, unfortunately, there is far too much "stuff" going on during Mass these days (It's unbelievable what parents are letting their kids get away with these days! But then, some of their behaviors aren't much better!)

Regarding the allegations of sexual impropriety that were made against our pastor last year, all the clamor has gone away. The only open issue last year was a complaint made to a county Commonwealth's Attorney. While there were no public statements about the case, it appears that the Commonwealth's Attorney came to the expected conclusion . . . that the accusation was unsubstantiated.

We unwittingly were apparently very close to the Washington area sniper that had been so much in the news in September and October.

The shooting that took place at the Ponderosa Restaurant on Rte 54 in Ashland was very close to Chris' apartment. As it happened, we were in Ashland that night attending yet another performance by our favorite singer/songwriter, Susan Greenbaum (*whose third CD, "Hey, Hey, Hey!" was released in September and is now available at www.susangreenbaum.com . . . uh, sorry! We just love this young lady!!*). Anyway, we passed the Ponderosa at about 6:15 or about 1½ hours before the shooting. The coffee shop where Susan performs is located right on Rte 54 about a quarter mile from Rte 1 (where Chris' Apartment was) which is in turn ½ mile from the Ponderosa. We found out about the shooting during a break in the performance just before Chris & Claudine arrived at the coffee shop to check in with us. They had intended to catch a movie at a nearby theatre, but the area was closed down following the shooting. After we were all satisfied that we knew one-another's plans, the kids took off for Chris' apartment. After seeing a picture of one of the alleged shooters, John Mohammad, after his capture, Danie swears that he came into the coffee shop during the break, got a cup of coffee and left (Quite possible, since we now know he hung around the area for some time after the shooting.)

At work, things have been really hopping. North Anna Unit 2 shut down last October for a routine refueling outage that was expected to take 33 days. During that outage, we conducted inspections of the reactor vessel head to determine the extent of potential cracking of tubes that penetrate the head. Cracking of the tubes had been experienced in French nuclear plants beginning ten years ago. While the French have been proactively replacing their reactor heads with an improved design, American plant owners have been very fragmented in their response to the issue. When one plant, Davis Besse in OH shut down and found a football sized cavity that had been eroded / corroded away because of a leak caused by a tube crack, the situation became very serious. The inspection of the North Anna Unit 2 head revealed "crack-like" indications on most of the penetration tubes (but certainly no significant leaks or "wastage" of the head itself). Faced with a very costly repair of the head, we began to search for options and found out, literally by accident, that the French company Framatome had three reactor heads very similar to ours in their warehouse (Intended for use at three Spanish plants that could not afford them). Thus and therefore started an immense project to adapt those heads for our plants and devise a way of getting the old heads out and new ones in. In the next three months, the first reactor head was adapted to make up for the small differences in design, the overall design of the head was checked against our requirements, a large hole was cut into the four-foot-thick concrete containment building, the first head was flown from France to Richmond and trucked to the site, where it arrived just as the old head was being taken out, the new head was installed, the hole in the concrete was repaired and the unit was returned to power. It was a miracle! Since then, we have similarly replaced the head on North Anna Unit 1 during a 55 day outage and are in the middle of doing the same at Surry Unit 1. Surry Unit 2 will have its head replaced with one specifically manufactured for it in the Fall. What a year this will be for our nuclear program! But when it's done, we'll be the first American nuclear utility to put the reactor head issue behind us.

That's it! I hope I'm not being too verbose (I used up 1½ pages!)

6/5/03

2-126a

Dear Family,

I suppose I'd better apologize - you
I received it a while ago and forgot
about it - mea culpa - the tragedy of getting
old and forgetful! The letter, I mean - and
I had to read it again - and it does
take me a while to decide what to write, and
then to get paper and a pen and do it!

Everything here is pretty stable so far as my
health is. Great hanging on healthwise!

It's funny that I now have a caregiver
and not so funny to realize that time is
really not on my side. Hope everyone has a
"wonderful life from now on - no troubles
or difficulty. Thank you all for remembering
me. Love you all - Aunt Helen.

I apologize. I thought Frank helped my Mom
get this out, and he thought I did!

Anyway. Mom is OK. Just turned 78 and get
out on the porch as "Queen of Lindberg St." whenever
the rain decides to stop. Been a year since she
broke her hip! — Barbara

2-127

June 10, 2003

Dear Family,

Thank God for the sunshine, it's hit 80 today and is the first decent couple days all year! For those that may not have heard, Gina and I separated in October. She was very unhappy/depressed the last 2 years, so even though I wanted to keep things going, now that we're apart I see it's for the best. I kept the house and we agreed on joint physical custody. It was amicable and the kids are great with it, so that's what really matters.

Things at the NY Times have been crazy lately with the Executive Editor and Managing Editor resigning amid the Jayson Blair scandal, but they are going OK from my perspective here at work.

The kids are great and can't wait for summer vacation. I've got 2 weeks off in July and will have them with me up at Mom & Dads when Lorraine and family visit. Been busy there this spring planting trees (300 in all) and other assorted activities. Put the finishing touches on a new bathroom and will complete renovation on the front pond.

Megan made her First Reconciliation as well as First Holy Communion in May, and it was a beautiful ceremony and nice party afterwards at Milleridge Inn.

Love to all, and see you all in 2004!!!

Le, Nicole + Megan

June 21, 2003

Greetings from soggy Bethpage:

I'm rushing to get this out quickly, as we're preparing to leave for a 5-day trip on the 25th. Bill could only get off at the beginning of the summer, & we planned a rather ambitious itinerary that requires going all the way through to Buffalo in one day! Most of us are up for the challenge, but poor Kristen just went up to Quebec City with her French class at the end of March, and then down to Baltimore & Williamsburg with the Honor Society in May, so she's a little less enthusiastic. (I would have loved to go to Virginia with her & visit all you Mays down there; unfortunately Bill can't stand too much heat, so he always wants to go north in the summer.) We'll see Niagara Falls & Cooperstown - the kids for the first time - & visit some of my old friends. Both of our girls are graduating on the 24th - Kristen is going from middle school to high school, & Michelle from elementary school to Middle School. It was finally decided that Michelle should move up this year because there will be a self-contained class, while they doubt there would be one for next year. Sadly the girl who is her best friend - finally she had a real "best friend"! - cannot

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2-128

be there with her because of a real tragedy. In February Yaneth was found to have a brain tumor. It was thankfully benign, but after three operations & much rehabilitation she is still almost completely blind. So she will have to go to a school for the visually-impaired, & Michelle will once more be on her own without a close friend at school. This tragedy greatly affected our family, as Michelle & I were very involved, visiting Yaneth & helping the family (a poor Hispanic family with no insurance, living in a little apartment - the mother doesn't even speak English!) So prayers will be greatly appreciated. There's no way of knowing if Yaneth will ever regain more of her eyesight.

Danny is doing fine & added chorus & violin to his sports & cub scouts, so he's always busy! I'm still doing one day of paid babysitting a week & four days of volunteering, so Bill would love for me to turn that proportion around! So I'm looking for something part-time that coincides with the kids' school. Our best wishes to all for sunny days, good health & happy times! Love, Bernadette, Bill & kids

June, 03

Dear All ~ My Turn! We got the RR last night so I'll obey & get this in the mail today!

Turkhomeck is great these days but we've spent some good long weeks traveling to different places doing Parish Missions. It has been a wonderful experience. Our younger sisters have their time filled with youth retreats. Theresa & I just got back from R.I. with Dad doing a Married Couples Retreat. Very beautiful!

Now that the heat is in for the summer (was 100° today) we'll be spending our prayerful time here in Turkhomeck. Know that the family remains in our prayers in a special way!

Glad to hear that things are well in the family. Always know that you can drop us a line with prayer requests where daily prayers & Masses are said for the intentions.

God Bless you all
lovingly, Jimmie

Greetings from Williamsburg, VA

7/11/03

I got the RR last October - 9 months... it could go much faster!!!

Monica and I still have our health problems. I'm biding my time re. having a hip replacement - since a spine operation is out of the question as I wrote last time. I am secretary/treasurer for the Summer Bowling League which ends Aug. 5. - I will then make an appointment to see the orthopedic doctor.

Monica's right leg was red and swollen and a podiatrist suggested she go for lymphedema treatments. She had the treatments for the time allowed by Medicare - but her leg swelled up again. It was thought that she had cellulitis again (she had it several years ago). She was hospitalized for 5 days, with complete bed rest, during which time her legs slimmed down and tests showed no evidence that it was cellulitis: she did not have a fever nor did her white blood cell count rise so the doctor decided the swelling is from premarin, the medication she has been taking since she had a hysterectomy and a side effect from premarin is swelling of the legs. So she is being weaned off that. So far, so good. Her legs are still normal - no more lymphedema treatments - she is wearing compression hose (knee high).

Never are we trouble-free..... She was going into the kitchen in her wheelchair and the small front wheel collapsed. The company from whom we got the wheelchair said it is beyond repair. They gave us a loaner - and we are to pay rental of the chair until she gets a new wheelchair in a month or so. She is getting a new wheelchair because therapists noted that Monica needs a deeper seat and to get one, it has to be custom-made. (The old wheelchair has a seat depth of 16" and the custom-made one will be 20" - she has long upper leg bones. And she had a choice of a color for the new chair - she chose: razzleberry (a dark red (maroon) or purple color).

Eric wrote about his new church. We, too, have a new church - seats 1500. It is the largest church in the state of Virginia. We have a large number of parishioners... over 2500 families, and growing... and we get a large number of tourists... so we need a large church. It took a long time - since 1996 we've had committees working on it. Finally, on May 31st, 2003 the church was dedicated by our bishop. Now all Masses are in the new church - no more Masses in the old church or the parish center... and we now have 'One Table'. We used to have 2 Masses on Saturday evening, and 5 Masses on Sunday with another at 5 p.m. for the William and Mary College students, at which time many regular parishioners attended. Now we have a 5:30 Mass Saturday and a 7:15, 9 and 11 a.m. and a 5 p.m. Mass Sunday when college was in session. At the new site we do not have enough parking spaces. We have 335 parking spaces and need more. The land, 43 acres, was donated by a family who have been long time parishioners. We have extra land for making another parking lot (when it is said we have \$175,000 available to pave another parking area). We can expand the church in time, if it is necessary, or erect another building (?) for offices and somewhere on the land a Rectory. They are in the midst of selling the rectory across the street from the old church. I did not mention the new church is about 4 miles from the old church. Right now the priests have to drive to 'work' and all but 4 of the offices are still in the parish center. So far, things are going well with me... i.e. finding a parking space close to the church. Of course, they have handicapped spaces - in fact, they say they have more than the required number of handicapped spaces. Handicapped spaces are doubled on the weekends and they say they will make additional handicapped spaces if it is deemed necessary. ... and I believe that time won't be far off - we have a lot of older and handicapped people. I park as close to the church as I can get and walking more than I did to get into the old church or parish center. I use my walker going to the new church. Walking from my car to the door of the handicapped entrance is longer than the old church - much longer. When you get to the door of the church you walk into the Commons Area, which is 170 feet wide - walk halfway through that (85') and then a walk through the connecting area (where the baptismal font is - boy what a size that is! - huge!) and only then do you walk into the worship area. They do have some pews made shorter in the group of 8 sections to accommodate the wheelchairs, walkers and those who do not kneel. Another thing Eric wrote that the altar in his new church is down... our new church has an altar set up higher - about 4 steps up from the floor. I will have more about the new church next time around. I hope it is not boring to you.

I'm happy to announce that Chris did get the job that Eric wrote about - it took the company a while to decide to hire Chris as a regular graphic arts designer not a gofer as the ad was about. At last he has a job in the field he wants and likes.

I'm glad to read all good things are happening with the May Family. Sorry to hear about you, Steve, separated from Gina. It is so good to read of all the things happening: marriages, babies, schooling, jobs, etc. - everybody doing pretty well. Keep the RR going around as fast as you can.

Love to all of you.

(aunt) Rosemary and Monica

Rosemary and Monica

8/18/03

Dear All:

It's been an interesting summer here at the Malverne Clines household. Right before the Memorial Day holiday weekend, I was canned from my job at Fox-5. After 15 years of part-time and full-time employment, I was kicked out the door. It all happened very suddenly and for reasons too complicated to go into in this forum.

So, for the first time in a very long time, I launched myself into an all-out job search, which has resulted in a few interesting near-misses, and a couple of strong possibilities. In the meantime, I have been freelancing at Channel 4 and at the CBS Evening News (the Dan Rather show). This has enabled us to stretch out my Fox settlement and make some terrific contacts. We've also switched to Mary Jo's insurance, which is cheaper and better than my old coverage. So, take that, Fox!

While it would not be Christian to wish a pox on the houses of those who fired me, I strongly encourage the May family to avoid watching Fox 5 in New York. (For good measure, please refrain from watching the local Fox station in whatever market you happen to reside.)

On the home front, it has actually been one of the best summers for me since my high school days. I've had more days off than I can remember, and once the sun came out in late June, the family and I have been able to hit the beach quite a bit. We've all gotten to know each other again, after years and years of my working every night.

Joseph (11) has been playing baseball almost non-stop, on two different teams. It's interesting to watch him grow up on the field, as he plays more and more games. He's always been a talented player, and now he has the maturity to match.

Terence (8) celebrated his first communion in May, and has been playing both baseball and soccer, and may join the swim team this winter.

Kira (7) celebrates her first communion next May. She will play soccer this fall, and just recently lost not one, but both of her front baby teeth-- perhaps a bit prematurely, during some rough play with Terence. She will certainly be seeking her two front teeth for Christmas this year.

Mary Jo continues to teach language in the Syosset elementary schools. She enjoys the job-- particularly since there's no homework or tests to mark.

So, I hope to hear some good news about my job situation soon. But we're all fine-- and getting fired could still turn out to be the best thing that's ever happened to me.

Joe Clines & Family

Dear Family,

8/25/03

OK. So I'll boycott the local Fox affiliate! Good luck, Joe. QVC is still treating me alright and I remain on the overnight shift. I just returned from 5 remarkable days in Alaska, where I ran "Humpy's Marathon" in Anchorage. Again, it was a fundraiser for Arthritis Foundation, so if you can help, please visit my website for donation details. There are also plenty of photos. I squeezed in a fjords cruise and some "flightseeing" around the summit of Mt. McKinley. Awesome!

On Nov. 2, I'm scheduled to run the NYC Marathon. At home, a little turbulence in the roommate dept. Seeking my 3rd new one of the year. But it's still simpler than marriage, divorce, or having kids.

* MARATHON MAN SITE: www.AttractWeb.com/run

Take care,
Ray

Dear Family - It's August 29th as I receive this RR Letter, Ralph & I are ready to leave for Patti Kiefer's Wedding. Can't wait to see my sister & family & meet my great-niece Amber. It's so exciting! He said wed bring Chubbles in case of another blackout! Actually, Ralph & I met because of the 1965 blackout. His sister asked me if I wanted to walk over the Brooklyn Bridge to her house nearby. It was 5:30 pm & I don't know what else I would of done since I couldn't walk to my house. After that I met Ralph (& lucky for him) we fell in love.

It's been a happening year for us as I had back surgery ^{HAI} in March for a disk problem. I'm doing great now & I went back to work 3 weeks later. Jannae finally got a full-time job in Graphic Art a year after she graduated UCF & is working for the Yellow Pages. Looks like great Grandpa May's artistic talent is far-reaching after uncle Charlie & Chris, Patti Kiefer & Jannae, plus who knows who else will chase this field. Although I'm sorry to hear the bad news, it's always heart-warming to hear about my aunts & cousins. I love you all,
Cadelina
& Ralph.

8 September 2003

Dear Family,

I'm not sure what I want to say in this letter, because with the school year just starting, we're making the transition from summer to fall activities, and the kids are settling into new classes with a new mix of classmates and new teachers. Thus far (4 days of school) everyone seems pretty happy with the social scene. We'll see if they stay happy when the academics kick in.

Brian is starting 9th (and last) grade at his Big Public Middle School. He is coming off a great summer. He took two trips this summer that gave him a lot of experiences he had never had before. He went on a trip to Quebec in June with other Penndale Middle School students, which was his first trip out of the country and his first trip away from his family. Then in August he flew on his own for the first time for a solo trip to Milwaukee to see Uncle Frank (a Clines family tradition for nephews and nieces over 14).

I think Brian expects a great year at school. In addition to being in the top grade, he is with the same team of teachers he had last year so he knows what's going to be expected of him. Unfortunately, what's going to be expected of him is a lot of work. He probably hasn't remembered that yet. He's in a special interdisciplinary program for honors-type kids and he has an English, Social Studies, and Science teacher who act as a team and give them projects where they have to integrate all the subjects. Like he would have to research Astronomy in Elizabethan England and write a paper, do a poster, make a model and all the teachers would grade it. It sounds kind of wacky, but the kids do learn to accomplish a lot. The main problem will be managing his time wisely.

Emily had a pretty busy summer. She took Gymnastics with one best friend, Summer Strings with another best friend, and Soccer with the other other best friend. Despite all of that, she found a lot to complain about. As is typical for her, the complaints weren't consistent. Gymnastics is too hard/Why can't I join the Gymnastics team? That kind of thing. I think her problem really is that she's trying to make the transition from childhood to adolescence (she's 11 3/4) and doesn't know her own mind right now. Thankfully, she likes her teacher and the mix of kids in her class this year. She is also at the top grade in her school (6th). Most public elementary schools stop at 5th, but I am happy she is not at the middle school this year, because ours is really big. I hope it will work out as well for her as it has for Brian.

Colin is off to a good start at school, as usual. I think he likes being with all of his schoolfriends again. He didn't get as much playing time with neighbors as I would have liked this summer; we all seemed to have different schedules. He is in 2nd grade this year, and has the same teacher that Brian had. He has had the same teachers as Brian for Pre-K, K, 1st and now 2nd. It's interesting to be dealing with the same teacher 7 years down the road. He's always happy about school, and I think this year that he has a little more focus and will do better at things that don't come as easily for him, like writing.

The weather this week is great for a change (no rain! high about 80). I hope that everyone is enjoying the end of Summer and the beginning of Fall. I'll be watching the change in the seasons from various soccer fields.

Love to All,

Eileen

Greetings One and All!

9/16/03

We received this just after the anniversary of 9/11/01. It was an oddly "normal" day, even here in the neighborhood of Ground Zero. Unfortunately, what constitutes "normal" has changed dramatically. There is the constant fully armed military and police presence in the area, along with multiple roadblocks on every street leading to the area of the Stock Exchange. Walking from the subway to my building at 60 Wall is an obstacle course!

The WTC site itself was amazing on 9/11 due to the remarkable quiet in the crowds there. Everyone seemed to be reading the history posters, the details of what happened 9/11/01 and the memorials, with very little talking. It was quite a scene.

As you can see above I am back on Wall St with Deutsche Bank. We bought this building in Aug 01 from JP Morgan/Chase to be our new headquarters, replacing our smaller building in Midtown. When the building at 130 Liberty St (across from the WTC) was damaged beyond repair by the collapse of WTC2, we were rerouted to Piscataway NJ, then Midtown, now here. Originally, the thought was to never again have all our people in one place (keep midtown & downtown sites), but now we're all here. While the Bank totes its support for rebuilding downtown, we realize that all the tax breaks had more to do with the decision, and the employees pay for it. I've switched positions several times in the past year with restructuring. So far, I've avoided the "rightsizing" cost-controlling efforts of the Bank. It is taxing working in such an uncertain environment.

I've started my second year as scoutmaster for Bill's troop. It's a challenge to create an atmosphere where the boys can run the weekly program rather than running it myself, as I did last year. Live and learn. We've added 4 more boys from 2 Cub packs, and have several more in the pike, so we are ensured a good size troop for a few years. And it looks like I'll have a few more Dads to assist as well, which makes it all easier.

Deanne continues p/t work at Mercy, tutoring learning disabled students and selling Fuller Brush, plus odd jobs on the side. She'll be starting a Brownie troop for Shannon and friends in her spare time. Scouting is a big part of our family time budget! She's also President of the Parish Council, Religious Ed teacher (she is Bill's 8th grade teacher!) and (with me) coordinates the Children's Liturgy at Sacred Heart.

Bill is in 8th grade and continues to thrive in the advanced program at Museum Middle School. We have to go through the High School shopping ordeal soon. Probably he will be at one of the diocesan High Schools in Westchester, but we don't know which one. Wherever he is, he will thrive! He gets to know all the teachers and staff and everything that is going on. He's amazing. He's also passing 5' 9" tall at 13 ½ years. He'll soon make first class in the Scout troop, and will celebrate Confirmation this year. There's no stopping him from achieving what he sets his mind to. He'll be turning a lot of girls' heads if he's not already!

Gillian is in 7th grade at Museum. She struggles a lot more with doing schoolwork, but is a natural whiz. Like Mom, she excels at Math (she's a whiz at the 24 Game - see <http://www.math24.com>), and has my sense of humor (sorry!). She enjoys her scouting and Irish dancing. She's also a tall beauty. I've already told her she can't date until she's married.

Shannon is in 1st grade at Montessori (where Bill & Gill went). She has no problem being without her brother & sister, as she (like Bill) knows everyone at the school (and vice-versa). She struggles with schoolwork, and we have to polish her reading skills. She seems to have the Math gene, though. It would be nice to have a trio of Math whizzes! Shannon will start with scouting with several friends as soon as Mom gets the Brownies up and running. She's returned to Irish dancing this year, and since several friends are there, she may persevere.

My God continue to bless our Family!

home
Alan, Deanie, Billy
Gillian + Shannon 9-25-03

Dear Family -

This letter seems to be traveling faster this time around. At the time of this writing we had just survived Hurricane Isabel. Lucky for us we remained with power - only a few downed trees in the Area. Everyone here is back at school and adjusting to the Fall and all its discipline. The Cunningham Family moved in with us this summer while they search for a home in N. Jersey. I really enjoy Cedar although being 2 I can have it draw backs (if you know what I mean!) As usual busy with soccer that runs until Nov. SAME ole SAME ole. Sorry to hear about Steven + Gina. Just spent a weekend with Jason + Tricia in Florida. Last time I saw my grand-daughter was last Oct. Realized I could never live in SW Florida - Too Hot + Humid - (Sorry MA live). My mother is doing remarkably well @ Tina's. She really needed to live with someone to care for her - Nothing else to report - all is well in Middletown -

Love you all
Marian, Alex + all
H