

5/18/08

Dear All,

Just a brief note to keep this volume moving along. Well, I hope to see as many as possible at the May family party on 6/28 - especially the younger generation. I travelled to Malta + Sicily in March - a great trip tho I was plagued with hip/leg pain throughout. I've since been treated with hip injections, + medication for 'restless leg syndrome' of all things. The passing years are un-remitting! Busy as ever here on the farm, and so glad to say goodbye to a restless winter - snow/ice etc. and look forward to a pleasant summer. Love to all, and god bless!

Aunt Claire

(The following page had to be re-typed since I accidentally printed over it.)

6/2/08

2/218

Greetings from West Hempstead! Glad to get the family news once again, and looking forward to reuniting with many of you on the 28<sup>th</sup>. We hope this letter finds all of you in good health and good spirits. We all have our blessings and our challenges! Things are winding down towards the summer "lull" (although I'll be working f/t while George recuperates from his year of teaching and coaching. He'll be busy maintaining his garden, helping his 87 year old Mom with chores and such, and tackling a bunch of projects. In August we plan to head to CA to visit Kate (30!) at her new locale Palo Alto- 25 miles south of San Francisco. She now works for the Carnegie Foundation as a curator of research information. I made a quick trip out in May to scope out the Silicon Valley Lifestyle in the 100 degree heat. Ian (34) is in the process of changing careers, social work has burned him out. No definitive plans yet. Matt (25) has just made us future in laws by proposing to his longtime girlfriend, Carolyn Zimatore. No plans yet beyond a 2009 wedding (spring or fall). We are happy and excited. We've known Carolyn and her family for many years and have been waiting for this official turn of events.

I thank all of you who joined us in honoring my Mom in January. Our grief was outweighed by our relief and real joy that Mom was freed to go home to God and all her loved ones. She had become so limited in her final months her death was a rebirth to her true self! May all our loved ones rest in the Lord and keep gentle watch over us.

Wishing all a sunny Reunion Day, a mild summer, good health and God's peace!

*Barbara and George*

6/19/08

Hi to all the Family.

The Carolinian Kiefers are well and feeling at home here in the south since we are so close to each other. We were ALL together here on New Year's weekend (quite a feat since our immediate family now numbers 20!!!)

Once again our family is in need of a prayer. Since the letter won't be getting to Madeline for a while yet, I will ask for her. Her newest grandson Camden, born 2/28/08, was diagnosed last month with a very rare disease *Juvenile Xanthogranuloma (JXG)*. His version has affected his eyes so far. They found multiple lesions in his eyes and also a mass in one eye. Two weeks ago Jannae and Stephen took him to a specialist in Miami and a needle biopsy was done on the mass. Thankfully the results on that were negative. They are treating the lesions with surgical injections of steroids in the eyes. Their next appointment in Miami is on July 11.

We had the great pleasure of hosting Jannae, Stephen and Camden for two weekends the beginning of May and got to know that sweet little boy. One thing everyone agrees on whatever his future may be, God chose the best parents for him in Jannae and Stephen

Please keep them and Madeline and Ralph in your prayers. We know the power of prayer and we have enough "angels" up there rooting for us too. Have a safe, happy and healthy summer.

*Ronnie and Angie*

2/2/19

June 26, 2008

Hi All! Ronnie got this RR to me just in time so we could put our "2 cents" in before we head up to New York tonight. I want to begin by saluting the power of prayer. My boys are a testimonial to that! With all of our hectic lives, we must always find time (even if it's just the few moments before we fall asleep or while driving to work...) to pray. And, we have so much to be thankful for, but also so many needs to pray for. My heart goes out to Janna and Stephen for the healing of Camden, and to Aunt Rosemary and Monica and to ALL that NEED the intercession of the May clan up in heaven to cheer us on! We will toast them all on June 28!

All is well here in the Klein homestead. We just completed a home renovation whereby we've converted our upstairs loft into a 4<sup>th</sup> bedroom for the boys. John did all the work himself (with my assistance) and I must say, it came out quite nice. Now the boys have a bigger room and the girls have their own bedrooms, of which Arianna got our old queen size mattress so her room can double as a guestroom. (Anyone coming?) Another plus is that we were able to get all the toys out of our family room. We feel like after living here for six years, we have a NEW house!

Arianna (10) will start 5<sup>th</sup> grade on July 7<sup>th</sup>. This will be her last year before Middle School. Yikes!!! She was invited to join the Girls Competitive Gymnastics team at North Raleigh Gymnastics. She's starting as a "Rookie" and works out 7 hours per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Thank goodness I still work there (although off for the summer) because the cost is prohibitive and the employment discount really helps.

Kaylin (7) is starting 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and looking forward to another terrific year at Sanford Creek. She took off from gymnastics for the summer and it's questionable whether she'll return in the fall (unless I'm her teacher again). Kaylin is far more interested in animals (especially reptiles and big cats), drawing and writing stories than she is in sports.

Matthew, Mark and Luke (3 in February) continue to amaze us. They are such a handful, but such a blessing at the same time. Matthew and Mark weigh in at 35 and 34 pounds, while Luke remains the peanut at a red hot 28 pounds—but don't tell him that! Come September they will have a busy social life as they will start preschool at St. Catherine's (Arianna and Kaylin's alma mater) and Faith Formation on Sundays, also at our church. How can we afford preschool for all three of them on John's salary as a Supervisor for UPS you might ask? Well, let me be the first to say that with the help of the guy upstairs (you hear that Camden?) anything is possible! I won't go into details but the short of it is that we're getting 3 for the price of 1—praise God!

On a sad note, our dog Misty of over 12 years, passed away 2 weeks before Christmas. Insanity set in soon after the new year when we adopted a Heinz-57, albeit beautiful, puppy we named Angel. She's not an angel, but with puppy boot camp we're working on it!

All's the same with John and me. He's coming on 6 years at UPS and I continue with the "happy homemaker" lifestyle plus dabbling in a little gymnastic coaching and CCD at church.

I don't know how many of you we will see on Saturday but I'm sure the rest of you will all be there in spirit!

Janna, John, Arianna, Kaylin, Matthew, Mark, Luke  
& Angel<sup>0808</sup>

July 5, '08

Greetings from Milwaukee!

Sorry I couldn't join everyone at the reunion. On June 28 I was in Washington, D.C., wrapping up a teaching gig at an American University journalism workshop for high school students. I've never had the experience of parenting teenagers, but I can certainly say that I admire all of you who have. A lot of it has to do with my being an old geezer and curmudgeon, but trying to keep teens focused on anything proved quite a task.

As Eileen mentioned in her last message, one of my highlights for the first half of 2008 was a medical "adventure." I was found, somewhat by sheer luck, to have a benign tumor on my pituitary gland— not so conveniently located just behind the nose and eyes. The risk was that the tumor ultimately could wreck my eyesight. The surgery on March 24 went quite well, with no major side effects, and now I just have to be monitored periodically (MRIs and blood tests for hormone levels).

But the No. 1 highlight was in February— 10 days in Ireland with a buddy. We really caught some luck with the weather - not a drop of rain fell on us until the final day, something that NEVER happens over there, no matter what the month. So we saw lots of the glorious scenery in glorious sunshine!

Now that we're into the second half of the year, things have settled down into a nice summer routine— morning swim at the outdoor pool where I live; some volunteer work and free-lance writing; lots of afternoons and evenings at the ballpark watching the (perhaps) playoff-bound Brewers. Meanwhile, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel is about to downsize for the second time in less than a year, so I only beat the job guillotine by about a year by retiring when I did, in April 2007.

Hope this finds everyone well and happy!



July 11, 2008

Dear Family,

We very much enjoyed our visit to 'the Farm' for the family reunion two weeks ago. The timing of the reunion worked perfectly for us (just as it was impossible for others), as we attended a wedding (my mother's cousin's (Ed Ebert) son (Ryan)) in CT on Friday, the day before the reunion. After the reunion, we headed north to Albany, Burlington, VT, Waterbury (Ben & Jerry's home - yum!) and then on to Ogunquit, ME, where we spent several days with Ed & Janet Ebert on the beach before heading back home after the Fourth of July weekend.



Our big news for this round is that **Claudine became engaged to Laughton Nuckols on February 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Not to rush into anything, they are planning to be married in October of 2009. Claudine wants a Fall wedding, and since she is involved in two weddings this year (the Maid of Honor for one), it would be a serious push to have a wedding *this* Fall. So we'll wait for *next* Fall.

Meanwhile, Chris and his lady friend, Kristi Ogg, are doing well. No announcements or

firm plans just yet, but when she's ready, she'll smack him upside the head to wake him up and he might just pop the question.

Not as a means of expressing empathy with his Grandmother, Chris recently suffered a mild case of shingles on his belly and side.

The story on Danie is pretty much the same . . . She continues to participate in multiple Quilt Guilds and has attended several Quilter's 'conventions' and classes near and far and she & her friends make occasional regional 'quilt shop hopping' trips. Danie has just started an eight week digital photography class and is busy working on homework assignments for that.

I continue to receive good reports from the doctor, as I have taken control of my eating and exercise habits. My A1C (3-month blood glucose measure) was only slightly above normal (non-diabetic), good cholesterol is up and bad cholesterol & triglycerides are down and blood pressure is normal. Keeping this up, of course, is a real pain, as I still *want* to eat half a double-cheese pepperoni pizza at a single sitting. Good news is that if I *do* cheat and eat too much of the wrong stuff, it makes me feel uncomfortable, so I have more incentive to stop.



This year's bowling season ended with the all-May 'Wastin' Away' team finishing *way* above the last place team. That's all I'm gonna say. Next season, Chris plans to return to the substitute list and our normal non-May team member will hopefully have fully recovered from surgery on both knees (no . . . it was not the result of a run-in with Tonya Harding).

Immediately following bowling, the softball season got under way. I am once again playing on the St. Michael's 'Defenders' team on the County Church co-ed league. The team this year has a much younger squad (except for me, of course), but results were not much better than the past. With only the playoffs left, we're the seventh out of eight teams (hmmm . . . why is it the Baptists always occupy the top 3 slots, while the Catholics take the bottom 3?). But once again, the season appears to be coming to an end without a debilitating injury, so I'll call it a success!

Monica has settled in to Walter Reed Convalescent Center in Gloucester. As mom noted in her entry, Monica scoots around the place in her power wheelchair and keeps up with all of the staff. We bought her a 32" flat panel HDTV and a DVD player, so now her room is a popular spot among the staff, especially the NASCAR fans during the race broadcasts.

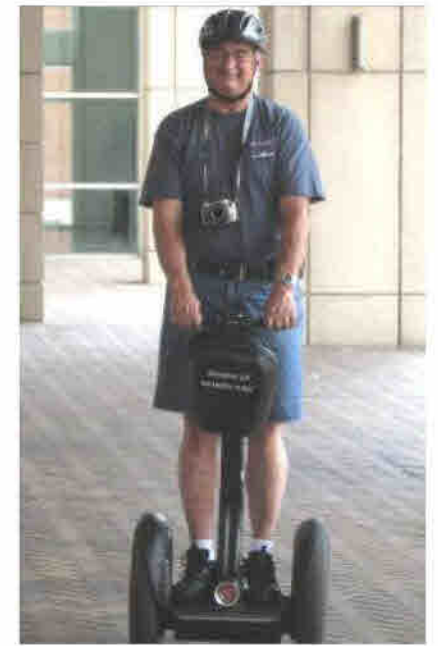
Mom's shingles attack is over, yet she still feels some lingering pain from the episode. Otherwise, she is doing fine and has resumed occasional drives to see Monica.

Following the adage of 'better *way too* late, than never,' Dominion is finally hiring Engineers. I have had two Engineers retire so far this year and a third has delayed his departure until the first of next year. I just brought in two fresh



Engineering graduates, who are currently in training (three solid months!) and will bring in another with a few years of loosely related experience in August. Overall, I understand that we've brought in about 60 Engineers to Nuclear in the last nine months. The fresh blood brings lots of enthusiasm, but unfortunately, requires lots of monitoring and direction. Ugh!

Just before I was about to send this letter, we had the opportunity to participate in a 2½ hour tour of downtown Richmond on Segways, run by Segway of Richmond. This was one wildly cool activity! It took us about one minute to go from a jerky, fidgety attempt to fight with the device to keep our balance, to zooming around the place at up to 15 mph, seemingly by just willing it. If you ever get the chance, you have to try one of these things! While one of these would be perfect for my 2 mile commute to work, I don't imagine I could ever justify the \$5800 price tag.



Eric & Danie

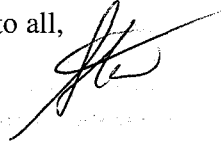
Dear Family,

July 25, 2008

Always pressed for time, I'm gonna throw out a new format....

- Had my own health scare with some blockages in arteries around the heart, including a 95% in the Coronary artery. Had an Angioplasty and 2 stents in early March and I'm feeling great and was back to normal activities in a week
- Work has been hectic.....with some new application rollouts and increased System Security work, all while the Times is slipping in Ad revenue, etc.
- Nicole will be turning 15 and Megan 13 in the fall. Both had pretty good school years and are thoroughly enjoying their summer. We're going to Hawaii for a week in mid-August.
- Farm activities continue. Our focus has been the barn renovation, timber stand improvement, and new projects include milling lumber for a timber framed structure about the size of a 2-car garage. We'll also get started with making flooring since Ken purchased an industrial planer with router attachments.

Love to all,



Dear Family,

8/6/08

As I was getting my thoughts together before sitting down to write here, I knew I wanted to thank everyone for their kind thoughts about my mother. It's hard to believe it has been 6 months already! I don't think it has been mentioned here yet, but she passed away almost exactly 50 years after the death of her mother, Rose Hahn May (1/17/58 - 1/16/2008)! I also knew I wanted to thank all the Christensen's for yet another wonderful family reunion in June. Those of us who were able to attend had a wonderful day re-acquainting & reminiscing!

My other plan was to check the website for little Camden in the hope of finding some good news to report here. Instead I learned that he had already gone to heaven, yesterday. Although I only met Camden's parents, Jannae & Stephen, once - at yet another Christensen Farm reunion before they were married - I remember them well. (Especially Stephen's joke: pretending to be whichever family member he was asked about!) I hope they are comforted knowing that Camden received from them, as well as Madeline & Ralph & all of his family & friends, more love & caring in his short life than many people receive in decades of living! We can see, from his pictures that Camden is an adorable, bright little boy who will always be a special member of our May family. Our thoughts & prayers are with all of Camden's family & friends. Love to all -

Bernadette, Bill &amp; family

↑

8/28/08 2-223

Dear All,

First of all, my sincere sympathy to Madeline + Ralph on the death of your little grandson. No words can convey my feelings on the matter, but please know that Joan + I as well as our community of sisters have all of you in our hearts and prayers.

After the completion of our addition, we received four novices. So it is filling up rather quickly. More and more young women are beginning to answer the call of Christ to "come follow me". It is a life of peace that none other can match. I encourage you all to speak to your children or grandchildren about the need to "listen" to Jesus. Perhaps there will be more vocations from the May clan!

Joan + I are well and keep you all in our prayers -  
God Bless, Theresa

Greetings from Williamsburg and Gloucester, VA

Sept. 11, 2008

This starts on a sad note – I just heard last week of the death of little Camden, son of Jannae and Stephen Kibler. I took a look at the picture of Camden on the website of Jannae's baby, "Camden's Journey" – what a sweet, adorable little boy. My heart goes out to Jannae and Stephen and all the Muekeley and Kibler families. Of course, there are always a lot of good things happening and that is so nice to read. but the death of little Camden makes you to just sit back and think and pray and wonder.

On to the Round Robin: Monica is on an even keel – she is doing pretty well. She has trouble with her sinuses - and just had to have a hernia surgery – she had a bulge on the right side around waist high. Monica is always filling me in with some bits of what's going on in the world, people's names, what happened and when. She knows a lot of things.- she amazes me with all that she remembers - she has some memory. Eric got her a DVD player and Zune. She can view photos, movies, listen to music, etc. and she just loves it. If you have any pictures, you can send them to her. She'd love to see them. Today I brought the RR to her and she read it and was happy I brought it so she could read what is going on with all of you. (I kept the RR a little longer so I could do this.) She is a little upset about the problem with her power chair. The repairman came and looked at it – and a letter was sent to Medicare to see if they will pay for the repair cost. The entire cost of the chair was paid by Medicare in 2005. So in the meantime, until they take the power chair to fix it, she is using the power chair a few days and then switches over to the manual one, which she doesn't like because she has to use her arms to make it go and her arms and shoulders are aching already. She loves her power chair – and when in it, she roams around the place seeing everybody, talking with people and just having a good time.

Me – I'm doing what I can – still driving around in my '84 Toyota Camry which just had to have some work done – but I got it back again and I'm driving again. I had about a 2" lift put on my left shoe: the scoliosis makes me lean toward the right and my left leg is shorter than my right one. I try to go to stretchercize and go on the Nu-Step to peddle my legs and arms to keep me going better. Oh yes, the shingles are still bothering me – a little tingle on the left side by my chin and cheek around the ear.

Eric and family are doing well. Eric and Danie are celebrating 32 years of married bliss today. Claudine is planning her wedding for October 2009 – (and we're still waiting for Chris and Kristi to sneak in and marry before Claudine). Alan and family are doing well also. The children are back to school: Bill is at Iona College, Gillian is a senior at Sacred Heart High School and Shannon is in a new school, Mark Twain, to finish out her 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades and then she heads for Sacred Heart High School.

It was good to read about all the things happening - all the children back to school and doing just great - some not so good news but everything else seems to be going pretty well with the May family. I hope it stays that way.

Keep all the prayers coming for us – we're praying for you!

*Love to all -  
Raymond and Monica*



2-225

November 13, 2008

Dear All,

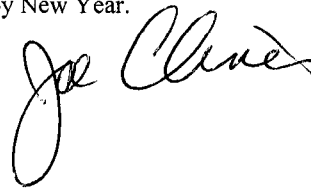
Sorry for the delay, but I was up to my ears in election coverage, and have only recently been able to come up for air.

I'm writing this on my parents' 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. So, if you can, please remember Frank and Helen and keep them in your prayers.

As I mentioned, these past few months have been quite hectic, with a lot of weekend driving—Joseph to baseball, Terence to soccer and Kira to art class. Joseph is now a junior in high school, and we're beginning to think about colleges, a very sobering thought. Terence is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and looking at high schools, which Kira will do next year. Mary Jo continues to teach in Syosset, keeping busy while moving from school to school.

I just recently attended my 30<sup>th</sup> High School reunion, which is a bit troubling to me, as I have no idea where all those years have gone. Work at CBS is going well, of late, though everyone in my business is worried about the economy—and relentless job cuts. My field is contracting in a hurry, and I wonder where we will get our content once all the newspapers go under.

Nonetheless, we all look forward to a healthy and happy New Year.  
God bless you all.



Hi Everybody,

Life is mysterious and exciting. A friend of mine recently ran her first marathon as part of Leukemia Society's TNT fundraising program, so baby Camden and his family were constantly in my prayers as I ran. Then one of my other runner friends tragically lost her baby just before the due date. We have to just keep moving forward.

I've run 2 marathons since my last entry — in NJ (where I placed #2 of 138 in my age group, and in RI just a few weeks ago. Shorter races in Utica, NY Philly, Annapolis, & of course Delaware kept my summer busy. A few weeks ago I came as close as ever to playing "daddy," helping watch Lorraine's 5 kids for a few days while she was off vacationing with mom over in Europe!!! There might not be anyone less qualified for such babysitting in the entire May family, but there were still 5 kids when I was done. Web Design has kept me happily busy and I continue to sell anything and everything online. If you haven't booked hotels or flights or rentals on my site, so far it!  
www.TravelUSAandWorld.com  
Ray

