

Dear All,

9/3/10

I'll try to keep up with the momentum of this round of the Round Robin. I received it at an optimum time --- it is so hot & humid today that I will be spending much of the day indoors to beat the almost 90° heat (this after a week when the morning temp was in the low 40s for several days). The family party was enjoyed by all & am only regret in in the absence of so many ---- Do you think there might some day be a real MAY FAMILY REUNION that would include everyone ??? My summer has revolved around the garden (bless you, Kea, for inflicting such a huge garden on me, & then returning to sea duty till late Oct.) Now I'm deluged with the produce - freezing, roasting - even dehydrating the veggies. At present, I'm drowning in tomatoes that all seem to ripen at once. I hope to do some travelling in the fall, with help from my cane and "pain pills". The shocking news of Charlie's sudden death has us all saddened (for us, because we will miss him) & but joyful for God's calling him ^{to} eternal happiness and reunion with his parents and other family members.

God bless us all -

Love,
Aunt Cecie

Dear Family,

Sep. 14, 2010

"Whew!" That's what I'm saying when the school bus pulls away every morning at around 7:20 AM. This year marks a huge change in our household with Arianna starting 7th grade (considered H.S. here, as the Tri-Valley campus accommodates Pre-k all the way through H.S. anyway, so why bother paying another administration for "middle" school) and the boys started full-day Kindergarten, complete with three different teachers! Kaylin rounds out the bunch in 5th grade.

How does Mom feel about all these changes? Nothing that all of you folks don't already know! The good news is that although the boys all have minor colds already, we're all surviving, and even my sweet little Matthew (the sensitive one) was proud of himself because yesterday he made it through the whole day without crying once for Mommy—even in Gym class!

Arianna will continue competitive gymnastics this year and Kaylin will keep up with her various animal, art and library programs. As far as the boys are concerned, I think just getting into the routine of "real" school is plenty enough for them right now!

Another change for me is in CCD. I've been teaching 3rd and 4th grade for several years, but this year I've been invited to teach 8th grade Confirmation preparation. Always up for a challenge and actually hoping to "make a difference," I'm praying that I made the right decision. Hey, if nothing else, I'm sure I'll learn a thing or two myself!

Thankfully, John is still at Kohl's and all is doing fine there—the "day" shift offers its benefits as well as its deficits. The 5AM to 5PM work day is grueling, with all the "bosses" breathing down his back, but on the other hand, it's a four day workweek, Wed. through Sat.

That's the news from the Klein clan for now. I send this along with a plentitude of prayers for all in our family, especially Uncle Charlie's gang. We have one more flower in heaven who we can call on for help! *Love, Roman, John, Arianna, Kaylin, Matt, Mark & Luke*

Greetings! Luckily the RR arrived before I left for a two week vacation out west. We'll start in CA and drive our way back (via 94) to Milwaukee and then home. Are we nuts? I'll let you know. The reason we can travel now (in autumn) is that **George retired**. The teacher NYS buyout was just attractive enough to make it happen. He'll coach track in the winter and spring. I am not retiring any time soon!

Matt and Carolyn have bought a house in Maplewood, NJ. Looks like **Kate** will keep a job as funding trickles in to the science foundation. **Ian** is back working in customs brokerage; not thrilled, but employed FT with benefits.

We were lucky to have all 6 of us together last weekend to celebrate George's mother's 90th birthday. And all but Kate made it to Lackawack Hill this year. Missed those who could not attend!

We join in prayers for Charles and all the May family concerns. Rest in peace, Chas. But we're grateful for all the good news in the RR, too. Happy autumn!

Keeping it brief to save paper. Also - Sorry to all - I don't do Facebook. Email is my speed. Blessings - Barbara

Dear Family

Oct. 17, 2010

GUILTY -- So sorry but I am guilty of holding on to the letter for 3 weeks!!! When Madeline wrote in July, she was just leaving to come here to NC. When I received the letter, Augie & I were just leaving for FL!! We came home from FL, worked a few days and then headed to SC to "surprise" our granddaughter Ciera for her 5th birthday. Then it was back to work for a few days and now we are preparing to go to the VA hospital in Asheville. On Wed. Augie will undergo surgery for prostate cancer so the May family prayers are in need again.

Our children and their children are all doing well. Our oldest grandchild, Ashley will be turning 13 (yikes) next week and the youngest, Ty will be 1 in Dec. Time is flying by faster and faster.

Hope everyone enjoys the upcoming holidays and the cool fall air. As I write, our trees here in NC are starting to look really pretty.

Love & prayers to all,

Love Ronnie & Augie

Oct. 23

Hi, Folks!

Highlight of my summer was the reunion at the farm -- my first time up there in 40+ years!

So great -- I could live in that pond! Any of you who hasn't been there -- do it!

Now it's time to hunker down for a Milwaukee winter -- with Christmas on Long Island, of course!

Frank

November 6, 2010

Dear Family,

The letter caught me flat-footed. I usually have my part mostly written when the Robin arrives and simply put some finishing touches on it . . . but not this time! And then, it arrived just as the refueling outage at Surry Power Station really started to roll along (ALWAYS issues for my Engineers to help resolve). So, . . . let's see what we can do . . .

First off, both Chris & Kristy and Laughton & Claudine celebrated their first anniversaries this year and all is well with them. We learned that Kristy has been laid off again from her job at a Graphic Design company. It's been a rocky road for her: two years ago, she was a full-time employee, then she was laid off, then she returned as a part-time contractor, then rehired full-time, and now laid off again. Trials of a small business. Chris & Kristy have declared that they're 'OK' with the situation, as his job remains stable.

Danie's 'two-day-a-week' job at the quilt shop has been more of an exception than a rule, as has the 'no-weekends' benefit. The shop owners have been spending most of their energy on their side business of publishing quilt patterns in partnership with a particular fabric mill. They have left most of the day-to-day management of the store to the more senior staff, but the staff has to cover the time when the owners are away . . . hence the additional hours. So far, this hasn't caused any problems. Recently, the owners told the staff that they are looking to sell the place, or partner with someone else who would completely take over management of the store.

The parade of workers leaving the Dominion Resources offices under the Voluntary Separation Program continues, as the extensions granted to key personnel are expiring. I have one more engineer who will leave under the program, but who was extended to April 2011. I have not yet filled the three positions left from those who previously took the package. As

expected, the attempt to fill the positions from within has failed, and so far, I can't find any qualified applicants (*anyone out there do pipe stress, pipe support, fracture mechanics or seismic qualification . . . anybody? I did receive a resume from a bus driver, who thought he would be a perfect fit for the job.*) Let's just say that challenges continue . . .

In an effort to get rid of some clutter in the house, I've been going through the many of my father's photo slide trays that were passed on to me by mom. I'm taking the slides from the trays, discarding the trays, scanning the pictures into the computer and compacting & packaging the slides. Here are three of the group pictures that I picked out of the collection:



To see these and many more (although just a sample) of dad's old pictures (and lots of mine, too) go to:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/Eric4816/>

In spite of my 'advancing' age, I have continued to participate in Softball with St. Michael's 'Defenders' Co-ed Church League team. I still show up and get on base more reliably than a large percentage of the team (I think Catholics are, in general, 'softball challenged'). Danie & I still form half of the 'Wastin' Away' K of C mixed bowling league team. Chris & Claudine are both on the sub list, but Chris' availability is limited. Claudine frequently gets the call to sub, not only on our team, but others as well. You can always tell which lanes she's on, as there are always smiles there . . . regardless of how she, or anyone else bowls, as she is always fun to be around.

In June/July, we took a two-week vacation out west (coincided with the family reunion). The trip began and ended in Las Vegas, but most of the time was spent 'on the road.' First, we went east to Hoover Dam and Williams, AZ (via Route 66), where we took the train to the Grand Canyon (south rim). We then we went west to CA to see Sequoia and Yosemite NPs. Otherwise, we have taken two long weekend getaways to a bed & breakfast in VA's Northern Neck and a cottage Nags Head in NC.

Enough of my miscellaneous ramblings. Need to get this letter into the mailbox.

BTW, as a reminder, the archives of this round robin letter can be viewed at a site that Ray maintains:

<http://www.stillconnected.com/may/roundrobin.html>

The archive is currently only updated to October 2007, but I'll be sending the last few rounds to Ray shortly for inclusion.

Eric & Danie

Dear Family,

Nov. 15, 2010

Wow, only 6 months since I last wrote! Seems like not much has happened, but then I reflect back and there's plenty of changes. Nicole passed her road test, started senior year of High School, got a job at Children's Place and we went on the "College tour" to FIT and School of Visual Arts. She's looking to pursue Art Therapy for children. I bought a new car so I gave her my Malibu and now I'm driving a shiny new Camaro.

Megan is now a sophomore and has really been doing well with her studies. I guess I had some concerns for my "wild child" in her younger years, but she has matured into a very responsible young lady. Megan will continue with track but it's up in the air with Nicole now that she's working and also taking a Sunday art class at Adelphi university, although she thinks she'll be able to squeeze it in.

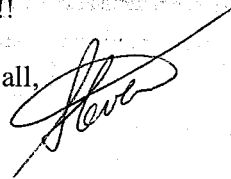
Mom is in Africa a week now, on a 2 1/2 week journey through Morocco and Tunisia, staying one night in a tent in the Sahara desert. Did I say vacation?? She gets back Thanksgiving Day and I'll pick her up and bring her back to my girlfriends house where I'll be spending the day with my kids....and her Mom and kids.

Still hanging on at The Times, but as the publisher recently said, we won't be putting out a hard copy forever, soon it'll be electronic copy only. Yes, the world is changing.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.....and a MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!

Rest in peace Chas, I remember you as a funny, happy guy!!!

Love to all,



11/20/10

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

There is not too much new here in Bethpage, so I'll just keep the RR "hopping along" at its current quick pace. We are all in our same jobs - thank God! - or school situations. No milestones for us, although we helped celebrate Bill's parents' 60th wedding anniversary a few weeks ago. (Now that certainly is a milestone! I wonder why I couldn't find any "60th anniversary" decorations to buy for the party!) Next year should bring us more changes, as Kristen will be graduating from Marist & going wherever she might find a teaching job (if she's lucky enough to find one!), & Danny will be making his final decisions going into college. Not to mention that Bill & I will be hitting another "milestone" birthday (& Barbara, Monica, & Theresa, too!) (Actually, let's not mention it - are we really approaching another decade??)

As 2010 closes, we are sorry for the passing of Charles, as well as my father's half-brother Jim Cline and an uncle & first cousin of Bill's. But we're also thankful for our many blessings & hopeful for a happy & healthy 2011. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas & Happy New Year!

We pray that all went well with Augie's Love, Bernadette, Bill & kids

Dear All ~
2-255
"Thank you" for all the love + prayers for Charles + the family.
It has been difficult, but graced-filled. So happy to see that all of you are
doing well. Let us continue to praise + thank Our good God for all His love
and care from year to year. This life is passing quickly, we will take nothing
with us but our good deeds + sufferings, offered for the salvation of the World.
Know we pray for you daily.
God Bless one + all!
Love, J. Janice

Greetings from Gloucester and Williamsburg,

December 14, 2010

Well Monica has had 2 big things happen that effects her at WRCRC: A new replacement for the job of social worker has come. The other one changed jobs right there in WRCRC. She was always "busy" and just didn't make appointments for Monica with the dentist and even her wheel chair. Well, Monica is still waiting to have work done on her teeth but she did have a repairman come and look at her power chair. This appointment was made by the new social worker (Monica thinks she'll be good for that job). She called and a repairman came and found her charger was bad on her power chair - gave Monica a 'loaner'. He also says the batteries are low and they'll probably have to be replaced. I'm not sure what is to happen - we'll have to wait and see. Otherwise Monica is driving around the halls, visiting some of her 'friends' there and enjoys her TV, DVD, puzzle books, newspapers, etc. when in her room.

Me, I'm going to church and stores via the Chambrel bus and to doctor's appointments with the Chambrel car so I don't really need a car of my own. Whenever I'm in the car with Eric (I always sit in the front seat - I can't physically get into the back seat) When it's darkish out and I can't see where we have to make a turn, I say to Eric: "I'm glad I'm not driving anymore!" - and I really mean it!.....I still do therapy: go on the NuStep and do stretching and weightlifting exercises and I go once a week to play a game of pool (billiards) with the therapist - this is for my balance. I *love* that therapy. I did lose 45 lbs. and would like to lose a little more to keep my body going the best it can. Eric put on an attachment on my walker to make the arm rests higher so that I will not bend over as much as I usually do. The therapist says I look better and I am walking pretty well with it. It will take time to really get used to it. It is a challenge - my body (my back and arms) are not used to standing tall and seeing things at a normal range.

I do like to read all the things happening to everyone. Yes, Bunny, you and Monica, Barbara and Theresa will turn '60' in 2011. Monica also has 4 friends in NY who will also turn 60....Yes, Barbara, I, too, do not use Facebook - I don't know enough about it - Email is good enough for me, too. Augie, I hope your surgery was successful and you are on the road to recovery.....Of course, I was shocked to hear of Chaz' death.

Monica and I keep you in our prayers - keep us in yours. I hope you all had a merry and blessed Christmas and have a very happy and healthy New Year.

Love to all, Rosemary and Monica

1/12/11

2-256

Dear Family..

As I write, we're digging out of our second large snowstorm in three weeks. I find that I can tolerate snow around Christmastime, but it gets annoying soon after.

We were fortunate that the weather cooperated for our family party. Aunt Claire, Ray, Ken and Lorraine were able to join us. And we wished Aunt Claire a Happy 80th!

2010 was a momentous year for us. Frank filled you all in during the summer about our various graduations and such. Since then, Joseph has finished his first semester at Fordham University. (As he points out, he's lasted longer in the dorms than I did.) Kira has finished her first trimester at Kellenberg High School. Terence is a sophomore at Chaminade—and as of this writing, is ranked number 7 in his class.

Mary Jo and I had a wonderful time in Paris. We walked through just about every neighborhood and ate some fantastic meals. We also took more than 500 pictures. We sure couldn't have done that with our old film camera. If you ~~could~~ got a spare couple of hours, you can come over and we'll go through all of them.

So, it has been a very good year for the Malverne Clineses—and we're looking forward to 2011.

Love to all,

1/25/11

Dear Family,

While most of you keep track of your kids + grandkids, I now have over 900 bottles in my beer bottle collection. In other news, I've donated blood twice since last round of this newsletter -- I'm told that it can actually be helpful in fighting heart disease. Got to see many exciting Jets games on TV, until their painful playoff loss a couple days ago. The day before that, I got to plow snow off the Form driveway. Mom is nice and warm with plenty of firewood and 2 wood stoves to feed.

As President of my running club, I'm quite involved with our group runs, social activities and weekly bulletin. I was also successful as race director of Nun Run 5K - a fundraiser for the local Little Sisters of the Poor senior residence which had 228 runners/walkers.

Recent web design projects included a dental office, contractors, personal trainer, antiques mall, book, tree service + even a client in England. Still had time to run some 5Ks, a marathon + Rock'n'Roll Half Marathon in Virginia Beach. Have a warm winter + pleasant spring!

Ray

My Dear Family 2-24-11

2-25

The photo (pg (2-253) from Eric brought tears to my eyes. My sister Alice Pracker Tommy & Charlie boy (the only way I knew him) (who shared my April 5th birthday) only young I got my magnifying glass out & remember Auntie Anna & her words of wisdom to me so many times but especially one day she called the house in Brooklyn when I really needed her help. The wonderful times I spent with Aunt Betty as a youngster & how generous Aunt Rosemary always treated me on special occasions. Aunt Helen's love of reading & sunny disposition & of course Aunt Claire & her graciousness in hosting the family reunions. It was a bitter-sweet treat to see them again & I thank you for touching my heart. I've held onto the RR because Ileen just gave birth to her 2nd daughter Taylor Marie today - 2-24-11 - & so the Family Tree blooms once again. Love Madeline & Ralph
P.S. Thank you Ray for your note!

Dear Family,

24 March 2011

I've kept the family letter too long, my excuse being I've had a string of household problems since it arrived. These include furnace issues and a flood in our basement during the recent monsoons that hit the east coast. Over the winter, we did a lot of shoveling, like others in the northeast. So the aggravations of homeownership have hit me hard this year. But at this point, everything has dried out and there's only a little bit of sleet outside, so better times are at hand.

The kids who use our house as home base are doing pretty well. Brian is having a "rebuilding year" in college. He was not happy in his major and did change it in the end. He will have to spend extra time getting his degree, but he understands himself better and that will help going forward with school and career decisions. Emily has settled into her freshman year at Boston College, after going through all the usual ups and downs for someone starting college and leaving home. Her school is six hours away so it's been a big change for her. Academically, she's doing fine, and has found activities she enjoys after some trial and error. She is set with roommates for next fall, and is excited about living with them in a suite next year and moving closer to clinical experiences in her nursing major.

Colin seems pretty happy in 9th grade. He's still in the middle school building of our district, but is really a high school freshman so his coursework is a bit harder. He's handling the schoolwork well and is doing a mix of activities, but doesn't have one thing that he is passionate about. He has participated in the county science fair for a third year in a row, and continues with cello, tech club, etc. He's decided on a very ambitious course load for next year, which I'm a little concerned about. We'll see how it goes.

Things at work have not settled down at all for Joe. There was a major reorganization at Merck this past year, but times continue to be very tough for pharmaceutical companies, so more layoffs loom on the horizon. Just never seems to be an end to it. But, there are crocuses outside so spring is coming, for sure!

Love to all,

Eileen

April Fools Day, 2011

The timing of this letter is once perfect. I just returned from Virginia where I was able to visit with Mom, Monica, Eric, Danie, and both of their children and spouses. The immediate reason for the trip was to celebrate Monica's 60th birthday (*I won't mention anyone else in the wider family also celebrating their 60th*). I took the time during Gillian's spring break so she could be present as well. We flew down and rented a car so we could visit everyone and do some limited sight-seeing. Since it had been (and still is) far from Spring in NY (*snowing on April Fools Day*), it was nice to be treated to 60-70 degree weather for a few days.

Mom looked great, having lost about 50 lbs over many months. While still hunched over a bit, she was somewhat easily able to get in and out of the car. She is getting around rather nicely with her ever-present walker. She is an inspiration with her dedication to daily exercises and resolve with her diet. I wish I would learn!

Monica is maintaining her place as queen of Walter Reed. She darts around the halls in her wheelchair, shouting out to other residents and staff as she passes by. We had a nice Chinese lunch with a cake to celebrate the event. Just yesterday, she called all excited with the news that she is being offered a private room. I usually don't like it when things sound too good to be true, but if it works out, it will enable her to control her own environment (*open window and door*) as well as have her entertainment (*TV, music*) without needing headphones. Mom will have to let you know the result in her next entry.

Eric and family are all well. It was especially good to see his whole family and hear firsthand what they are up to. I'd post pictures, but it seems I left my camera in the rental car in our dash for our return flight. Maybe I'll get it back someday??? I'll leave it to Eric to fill you in more on his family. Suffice it to say that the unfolding stories from Japan's nuclear events were in our conversations, with Eric providing expert commentary on the news. Here at home, we are grateful that all is well.

Shannon is blazing her own trail at SHHS, breaking out from the legacies she inherited from Gillian & William. She's got a good circle of friends and is plugged into activities. She's doing well overall and enjoying her time there. She'll own the place by senior year. She will also try her hand at being a CIT at the Yonkers Parks Dept summer camp. She's a little lonely being the only child at home during the week, but she makes the best of it.

Gillian continues to thrive at CMSV. She also has a good circle of friends, and a great roommate. She just registered for her junior year: we can't believe she is nearly half done. She's doing great in Math, but also seems to like the Education course she's had so far. Perhaps she will go on to be a secondary Math teacher: God knows the Country needs good teachers in Math! She is frequently home on weekends, as are most "Mounties". She will be a full counselor again at the summer camp with Shannon.

William is busy as ever at Iona. While missing out on elections to student council, he will remain a class rep and campus minister. He seems to be involved in everything, and has even played his wind controller at coffee-houses, which were streamed on the net so we could watch/listen. He's still working for IBM at least through next year, and we are hopeful that they will hire him full time after graduation. He is contemplating going on for his Masters right away: I only hope IBM will pay for it! He also has an opportunity to go to Hawaii in two months to assist a professor in delivering a paper. He provided technical support for her research, and she said he would be able to go along to assist. We're just trying to figure out who pays for what. It would be a great opportunity, great for his resume. Not to mention nice to be a young single guy in Paradise for a week! (*Did I just say that???*)

Deanne continues with all manner of things at Sacred Heart. First Reconciliation and Confirmation have been celebrated, and two First Eucharist celebrations remain. There are two because, even though Archdiocesan policy is to have Reconciliation in grade 2 and Eucharist in grade 3, several neighboring parishes celebrate both sacraments in grade 2. With schools (and maybe parishes?) closing, we need to be able to seamlessly bring students from their programs into ours. So, we are bending to their practice.

Alan still slogs though work at Deutsche Bank. The staff in Mumbai is functioning slightly better than in the past, but the local support teams are really not functioning well. There is an operational plan out there, but it simply is not a reality yet, which makes my work miserable. But with all the good things going on at home and involvements in Sacred Heart, life is good. My health remains mostly good, I just have to diet and exercise more!

Have a joyful remainder to Lent, and a blessed Easter!

Alan, Deanne
Well, Gillian & Shannon

Dear Family -

April 11th, 2011

We are finally ~~2011~~ spring and after a long snowy winter, it is so nice to see the colors of life once again - Tomorrow I reach 62 and although it hurts I will file for good old Social Security ~~hurray!~~ - (Thank you one & all for your contribution HA HA. -) At this moment in time moving our of Kreska may be coming very soon, as a condo in a 55+ is in the works. No more mowing or shoveling!! Our residence will be near the kids + work and hopefully will close this month. The Fields are doing well and our last, Robert, will begin senior year @ Stevens in Sept - all 6 out of College when! That's why we still work!!! Looking forward to seeing Jason + Steph + their families for a reunion this July - that's it for now! God bless you all -
Love
Marianne All -