

2/59

11/13/98

Dear family,

I was overjoyed to receive the family letter on 11/10, certain that once again it had been relegated to the "missing in action" category. Please folks, don't hold it up for more than a week or so -- family news is always anticipated; stale news is not as much fun. By the by, I'm missing pages 2/41-42 for the archives. Does anyone have a copy?

Since my last entry was way back in Jan., here's a brief synopsis of the Christensens of Lackawack 1998: Some good traveling...bus tours of Copper Canyon, Mexico in Jan-Feb. and just recently the Northwest US parks and Canadian Rockies. Of course, we spent some time with the Kleins around the time of Arianna's birth and baptism, and in between squeezed in an Elderhostel to SW Pennsylvania (Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater included). Projects at the farm were fewer but no less labor intensive - and a big thanks to (especially) Steve and Ken for their assistance. Some nice visits from the Kleins (all too brief) and Bunny et al. and GUESS WHAT!!! Aunt Helen, who actually enjoyed her first tractor ride!!! This should definitely inspire everyone to come to a MAY FAMILY PARTY in '99. (at this stage of life one musn't plan too far into the future.)

Some bad stuff --a recurrence of my back/leg pain that had me pretty miserable for 3 summer months and which disappeared as mysteriously as it arrived. Nevertheless, I'm STILL on the doctor/test merry go round to find out WHY and WHAT do I do next time around. Speaking of frustrations!!!!!! Between Uncle Ed and myself, we're keeping medicare afloat, thank you all.

Happy holidays everyone. Love you all....

Aunt Claire

Greetings, all!

This may be a little tricky getting this started in the right place so I don't type over Aunt Claire's note. ~~Thanks to everyone for sharing their news. Life is swift and complicated as 2000 approaches! No less so here. We are all busy with school, jobs - and then all those little~~ incidentals crop up, too. George is coaching Matt's travel soccer team, so we do much more than just watch some pretty good games. And I get to write the game reports for the local papers. (Well, at least I read them!) Ian is back living at home full time. He graduated from Towson (of MD) last June. He's back at an import-export firm, but has no intentions of making that place his career. Money is a grand incentive to work, though! He's thinking of graduate school down the road a bit. Kate is a senior at Williams - an unbelievably quick four years. Unfortunately, she has gotten no divine (or human) messages about what she will be doing post college. She'll apply to some grad schools, but will probably take some time off from academia to live a "normal" life. This summer she went to Mexico for six weeks to intern at an agricultural research compound, and did some lab work at Williams before and after this jaunt. One of these days I hope she slows down - just for a change of pace. Matt is a HS junior, so college craziness will start with him fairly soon. He does not want to think about it too much. He is thrilled to be the tallest Dreher now. He has passed Ian, and may still be growing at 5'11".

I have been a bit crazed at work since we are so chronically understaffed. We've had

people out for long vacations, illnesses, honeymoons and the like. Some of my fellow workers keep telling me to try to become the next director (when our present one retires) - and the hours would be significantly reduced! - but I don't want the different management problems. Now I deal mostly with reference questions and the library's online catalog/circ system and books. Who needs labor grievances, building extensions etc.? I can't even give much time to my latest volunteer effort - organizing a parish library.

1998 could have been better for my Mom. As reported, she was in the hospital for 4 days investigating chest pains. They never found anything. Now her doctor has left her HMO, so she's dealing with that change and we're trying to help, but don't know a blessed thing about Medicare ... we're learning! Then, on October 19, she was MUGGED in broad daylight (9:15 am) on a quiet sidestreet in WH. Some punk came up behind her, cracked her in the head, and then ran off with her purse. Thank God, she was not seriously hurt. But what a stress! And of course, she lost her checkbook, keys, wallet, credit cards, etc. We're still dealing with fallout from that. She is out walking the streets again, but more warily and on main roads.

Hey, I saw Jason's wedding in Sept. because I drove my Mom there. Beaming couple and proud parents! Congrats and God bless to them and all. Was great to see Aunt Betty and Charles and Kathy and Patti and all the BIG kids.

As Joe reported, George and I celebrated our 25th anniversary in July. The kids arranged a surprise brunch for family and friends, and I, at least was totally surprised. It was a wonderful way to celebrate a phenomenally quick 25 years.

Well time to close. We send our love and prayers to all. Hope Monica has recovered and the littlest ones are thriving. Happy holidays - *Barbara, George, Jan, Kate, Matt*

Dear One and All,

12/10/98

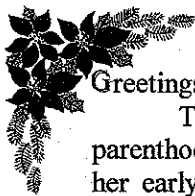
It has been almost a year since my last "visit" with all of you. I've missed you!!! It is always so good to hear from everyone, especially when most of the news is uplifting. Aunt Rosemary and Monica, you have both had your share of medical problems and I keep you in my prayers always. And the latest news about Aunt Frieda's mugging is really disturbing. I'm sure it is something that takes a while to get over.

The highlight of the last year for us was a visit from Madeline and Ralph over the summer. After 29 years I still miss them so very much. Our girls, Patti & Karen went down to FL last month and were able to spend Thanksgiving with Madeline, Ralph and all their southern cousins. They had a wonderful time.

As we approach this very hectic time of year I wish you all peace, love and happiness for the new year. Merry Christmas to all.

Love,

*Ronnie, Angie
+ Family*



2-60

Greetings from Charlotte!

Dec. 16, 1998

This year has been very eventful for the Klein family. John and I entered the wonderful world of parenthood on March 6 when we welcomed Arianna Leigh into our hearts. As most of you already know, her early arrival took us by surprise, as she was not due until mid-April. Thankfully, all was, and continues to be well! She is now a happy and healthy 9 1/2-month old, entering the age where she's learning how to get into some real trouble. (And then of course, turn around and look at you with a 2-teeth grin!) I'm sure its no surprise to any of you that upon hearing that the baby was coming, Mom immediately flew down and was at our side in the hospital the very next day. She helped us out immensely! Arianna might have only been five pounds, but she had a really good set of lungs—I wonder who she got that from?

John continues to work with Panalpina (a freight-forwarding company) where he is on the team that handles the IBM account to Europe. He's basically pleased with the company, but all the OT required he could definitely do without. I'm still doing apartment reports for a local commercial real estate research company, but am extremely fortunate in that I'm able to work from home. Since it's still a full-time job (and then some) Johns mom is nice enough to watch Arianna twice a week so I can go into the office etc. It is extremely tough trying to juggle family and career and I pray every day that I'm getting a passing grade!

We had a great visit up at "the farm" in August both as a long awaited Christensen family reunion and a lovely but far to short visit with Aunt Helen, Bunny, Bill and the kids. It's unbelievable how fast the children grow. Isn't it sad that we probably wouldn't even recognize most of our cousins? We're up for a May family reunion--just tell us when. Love and prayers for all. XXXOOO

Happy Holidays + a great 1999 trail! Avarna, John & Arianna

PS-As always, if any of you ever find yourselves passing through Charlotte, stop in y'all!

1/5/99

Greetings from Milwaukee!

At this writing it's three days since our "Welcome to 1999" Blizzard-- a foot and a half of snow with winds up to 50 mph. It all made for an interesting walk to work for me-- I'm only about seven blocks away from the newspaper, but somehow it seemed longer that day. Now the temperature is zero or below, so the snow isn't going anywhere soon.

Nothing much to report otherwise-- still working in the sports department, doing mostly editing with a little writing thrown in. Spent Christmas on Long Island, as usual, and picked up a beauty of a cold from one of the many little nieces and nephews. Looking forward to vacation time back home in the spring (Kate's graduation from Williams included); the summer (kids and swimming pools!); and the fall (soccer games galore!).

But first, there's the challenge of getting through a Milwaukee winter. It's always a ton of fun!

Love to hear from everyone! God bless you all.

Frank

Dear Family,

Happy New Year!!

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



On August 25, we packed up most of Chris & Claudine's earthly possessions, stuffed them into (and on top of) a borrowed Chevy Suburban and took them off to start a new school year. Chris is in his Senior *year-and-a-half* at Virginia Tech, studying Graphic Design. Claudine began her studies at Radford University as a Theatre major. (*My kids have gone artsy on me . . . where have I gone wrong? . . . It's that French influence!*) The distance

between Radford and Tech can be covered in only twenty minutes, so the "kids" have been seeing a lot of each other (*when they can bum a ride!*).



Claudine has already auditioned, although unsuccessfully, for about six different plays. While she's waiting for her "big break" she spends most of her free time in the costume shop or on props. Chris has actually gotten a job this year in an on-campus coffee shop, to help put a few bucks aside for life after graduation.

This has been a particularly traumatic year for us. Our little boy turned twenty-one and our baby celebrated her eighteenth birthday! And with the both of them off to college, we've now become empty-nesters!! (*Yikes!!!*) At least we still have Muffin at home.

The '98 Softball season went pretty well. Both the K of C team and the St. Michael's "Defenders" coed team I play on in the Spring and Summer

finished the year in second place, in their respective leagues. Claudine played with me again this year on the St. Michael's team. She finished the season with a bang, or, to be more precise, by being banged up! During the last game of the season, while playing third base, she was hit by a fast one-hopper that hit her right on the kneecap. I carried her off the field (*she's still my little girl!*) and her knee was packed in ice as we finished the game. We stopped at the "Doc-In-A-Box" on the way home to have it checked out. Three x-rays and \$176 later, she was pronounced fit but sore. *Isn't modern medicine wonderful!* I finished the year by playing fall ball with another St. Mike's team . . . that was not a pretty sight!

Danie is no longer teaching at the pre-school, having been turned off by the host church's treatment of the school. She has joined with another ex-teacher and have started cleaning houses. Although they planned on just doing this as a once-in-a-while activity to pick up some money for craft supplies, it has turned into a five-day-a-week "career".

My job continues to be a challenge. We have had two NRC inspection this year aimed at Engineering; one at each station. We survived the inspections (survival being defined as "the plants didn't need to be shut down"), however, the Engineering organization took some major hits concerning the state of our design documents. The "in" box is overflowing with work for my group and we can't meet target dates for the work we have. Our management has made an attempt to get more people, but so far, requests have fallen upon deaf ears. When you consider that 15% of our organization will be eligible for early retirement in just five years, and you just don't pick up engineers familiar with nuclear power at the local employment agency, we're going to be facing a real crisis very soon. Yet, in spite of impending crises, we just completed another record outage at our North Anna plant. Refueling was completed in just 25 days. (*When I joined Virginia Power, refuelings were routinely 60-70 days*).

Speaking of power, Christmas turned out to be quite a challenge for over 10,000 customers in central and eastern Virginia. The storm that dropped lots of snow on most of you on Dec. 22, coated trees here with up to an inch of ice. Needless to say, many trees could not support the weight and falling branches wreaked havoc with power lines. Mom was without power for a full day and Danie's parents were out for three days. Fortunately, we had planned to have Christmas dinner at our house, so the "show" went on. Unfortunately, because of the large number of fallen trees on I-64, it took the in-laws and the out-laws three hours to make the trip to Richmond (usually a one-hour ride).

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

Eric

2/19/99

pg. 2-63

Belated Happy New Year to all - I can't believe how fast the days go by. I'm so glad to read all the news. I never dreamed I'd be making news! My mugging got a mention in a little local paper. Thank goodness no name was used. The bang on the head really did slow me down quite a bit - the police found a bottle (no idea what kind) they believe was used to give me such a bump. I'm glad I was close to a house of a friend where I sought some help. Luckily her husband, a policeman, was home and he started the search for the "perp". They didn't find anyone - guess he was spending my money, what I am really annoyed about is not the money, but all the "new" identification I need - medicare and social security, believe or not my old driver's license, and stuff like that - not to mention issuing new checks because I had just mailed about 8 of them, the checkbook was in the purse and I had to stop payment on them, and now I'm also getting dunned by the folks who cashed, or tried to cash, the originals but I'd already closed the checking account. It's just been a big mess. But I'm grateful I wasn't hurt that badly. I'm still working 8 hours a week at the library which gets me "out and doing". It's fun when some of the old Religious Ed parents come in and keep staring at me trying to remember who I am. Coming on top of the death of Marilyn Meeker, whom I worked with for almost 20 years at R.E. I guess they haven't really a clue. Marilyn had cancer and no one ever clued me in - she was one of a kind. Keep up the good work with this letter - it is really great to keep up with all of you.

Much Love to All.
Aunt Helen

2-64

FEB. 21

Dearest Family,

Aside from some bangs, brass and bops over the head it sounds like everyone is doing pretty good! Here in Floral Park the Christensons are well. Nicole is 5 and in Kindergarten full time, and loves it! Megan is 3 and in Nursery school 2 afternoons a week. She is equally enthused. Gina and I are good and planning a much needed one week cruise to Bermuda in May. I'm still working at the Times (13 years) and things there are more ~~any~~ hectic than ever!

OK, here's the deal --

FAMILY PARTY -- JULY 15 + 16, 2000

AUNT CLAIRE'S FARM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS. EVERYONE MUST ATTEND! YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN 1 1/2 YEARS NOTICE. NO EXCUSES ACCEPTED!!

FURTHER DETAILS WILL FOLLOW IN COMING LETTERS.

Hope to see you all soon!

Love to all,

Steve, Gina, Nicole + Megan

3/7/99

2-65

Dear Family,

The Round Robin arrived on the first day Michelle has been back to school in six weeks! We've had a rather rough winter in that Michelle (age 7) needed to have major surgery on both of her feet, to correct deformities that were getting worse & worse. Needless to say, Bill & I were very nervous about having our little "peanut" under anesthesia for four hours, but, thank God, she tolerated it well, & also has not had as much pain as we had feared. The surgery was Jan. 19th & only required one night in the hospital. But then she had 3 weeks in heavy plaster casts from toes to mid-thighs, before they were replaced with below-the-knees walking casts. After 4 weeks of home tutoring, she's now back to school, although I have to drive her back & forth, bringing her rented wheelchair. How successful the surgery was won't be known for a while; these casts are supposed to be removed March 18th, & then we'll see how it goes. Unfortunately, we're already facing our next worry - her ophthalmologist says the time is now right to operate on her eye muscles, to get her eyes to move together better & then (hopefully) work together better. That could come as early as June.

After some initial adaptation problems - more on the part of the other children than of Michelle herself - she is fitting in pretty well at the public school. Her classroom is a self-contained special ed group, but they do regular 1st grade work, at a slower pace & adapted to the different children's special needs. Michelle is definitely the most "needy" overall, but the district has been very accommodating. Kristen is also in the Bethpage public schools, but in our local neighborhood one, which does not handle special ed. She's in the 4th grade, & so far stands out as the only Clines grandchild who is not involved in any organized sports - her interests tend more to art projects, chorus, & jts. Danny, on the other hand, wants to play EVERY sport, but at 4 ~~he~~ he has only been able to participate in soccer & gymnastics so far (both of which he loves). Bill & I anticipate going to sports competitions for the next 14 years, & wonder whether we'll be standing with the 25-year old parent spectators or the grandparents!

Our other BIG family change is that - for the 1st time - I am not working outside the house. I took advantage of a very unique offer that grew out of the Northwest Airlines pilots' strike last September, & I remained on layoff status even after the strike ended. I have up to 5 years to put in my papers to return, & if a position is open I must be brought back at the same salary level & original seniority date. This opportunity was a godsend, as I was close to having to quit outright, but now I have the opportunity to return when Danny is in school more. Our love to all - we're already looking forward to the reunion in 2,000!! Bernadette, Bill & kids

Dear family ~

March 16th '99

I do hope all is well with everyone! We are fine and slowly growing! Two more hermitages were built for us in Twinton, R.I. Now we don't have to travel the 5 hours to New York in bad weather; they are really beautiful and one log cabin (donated of course!) Our retreats & missions have been keeping us all very busy.

Let us continue to pray for one another ~
Heaven knows how much we need prayers too!

God Bless
Joan & Theresa

March 24, 1999

Greetings from Virginia!

Yes, I have a computer and on e-mail, but I don't know how to put half of my letter on the bottom of this page and the rest on a new page - so I'm typing this. Yuck!

It's great to hear from all of you and what's happening in your lives. I only wish the Round Robin would come faster - by the time you read about someone - it's a long time past. It took 11 months for me to get this Round Robin. That's a bit long! So, let's try a little harder, ladies and gentlemen!

Since writing you last, Monica has been in the hospital again - her leg swelled so much and it was beet red from her ankle to just below her knee on the left leg where she had the broken ankle. It was cellulitis. She was hospitalized and had to have antibiotics by IV every four hours. She was in the nursing home again for about a month. And...not to be outdone by Monica, I developed an infection on my left ankle. It was painful and I had to stop all exercises - and this really set me back. I had to go to a vascular doctor. I was wearing an Unna's boot and when the infection was gone, I had to get compression hose. That is no problem for me - I was wearing compression hose before I got sick 2 1/2 years ago - and now I'll keep on wearing them for the rest of my life. The doctor did a test on me and it showed the valves in my veins are not working. I have venous insufficiency. The trouble with the hose is that my legs are still a bit swollen and they had to be custom made and cost \$150. of which Medicare pays nothing...and they have to be replaced about every 6 months.

I am continuing to volunteer at church - have not gone back to choir or being a Eucharistic Minister yet. We are starting another Variety Show to be staged in June and I am secretary/director's right hand gal - I do not perform. The variety show is fun! And come the end of May, I'll be secretary/treasurer of the Summer Bowling League again...still not bowling. But, we like the work and it's good to be with our friends.

Monica has not gone back to volunteering yet. She's had problems - always something hurting her or she just doesn't feel right...sinus, stomach, ankle, back, etc.

Alan and family are in their new house 8 months already. I hope to see it sometime - we are planning for maybe me flying to NY for Alan and Deanne's 10th anniversary, the dinner-dance they are chairing and Billy's First Communion. We'll let you know how that turns out.

We saw Chris and Claudine in Richmond, home for their Spring break. Can you imagine that Claudine will have finished 1 year of college come May! She had a role in a play and is now doing the wardrobe for "MacBeth" to be staged in April. She is doing well and likes it. Chris will be finishing 4 years in May - will be going to Florida and working for the CCC as he's done in the past Summers, and then go back for another and his final semester and he'll graduate in December. Time is going much too fast!

All of you --- keep happy and healthy. It's good to hear from you all.

Love to all - Rosemary and Monica.

8/12/99

2-67

DEAR FAMILY!

FORGIVE ME FOR NOT TYPING THIS LETTER, BUT I DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO MY P.C THIS WEEK. THAT'S BECAUSE I AM IN MADISON, WISCONSIN, AT COMPUTER SCHOOL. HOW'S THAT FOR IRONY? THE CLASS IS DESIGNED TO GET ME UP TO SPEED ON THE LATEST AND GREATEST NEWSROOM COMPUTER APPLICATIONS. MOST OF IT WAS GREEK TO ME. FORTUNATELY, I HAVE AN 800 NUMBER TO CALL A REAL COMPUTER GUY IN CASE OUR SYSTEM EVER GOES DOWN. WELL, IT'S A NICE TOWN, ANYWAY.

OUR FAMILY'S PACE HASN'T SLOWED DOWN AT ALL. JOSEPH (7) WENT TO BASEBALL CAMP, SUMMER PROGRAM, THE BEAR, CAPE COD, AND NEXT WEEK, MILWAUKEE SOME SUMMER!

TERENCE (4) AND KIRA (3) ARE GETTING READY FOR PRE SCHOOL IN A FEW WEEKS. ALL 3 OF OUR KIDS ARE NOW ADDICTED TO POKEMON! THE CARDS, THE TV SHOW AND EVERYTHING ELSE.

MARY JO IS ALSO QUITE BUSY. SHE JUST INTERVIEWED FOR A 4/5 TEACHING POSITION IN SOUTH HUNTINGTON. AS I WRITE THIS, IT LOOKS VERY GOOD. LET'S KEEP OUR FINGERS CROSSED.

I DON'T KNOW IF ANY OF YOU WATCHED FOX TV'S COVERAGE OF THE JFK, JR. TRAGEDY. BUT ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE SCENES WAS THE HOME VIDEO TAKEN AT A KENNEDY FAMILY REUNION. IT STRUCK ME THAT IT LOOKED LIKE ANYONE'S FAMILY PARTY. WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO START THE NEW MILLENNIUM WITH A MAY FAMILY REUNION? I WONDER IF HYANNIS PORT IS AVAILABLE NEXT SUMMER. LET'S TALK.

HOPE EVERYONE IS WELL. HOPE TO HEAR FROM EVERYONE SOON.

Love, Joe Clivio

Dear Family -

8/19/99

I'm writing this at 3:30 AM, during my typical 1-10 am shift (watching over all the Matlack drivers on the highways). I've now been with this firm (which fired the president and top VP 2 weeks ago) for 10 years. And my poor excuse for a career search is now in its 2nd year. (over)

But I still have faith that I'll stumble upon something soon - as long as I work a little harder at finding it. This summer drought is going too far. I had been spending 45 minutes each evening watering shrubs & young trees, but Delaware has now made that an illegal activity, so now I have unhappy plants, but more free time!

Still haven't ~~roommates~~, no girlfriend, no pets. I've been spending a lot of time at my PC on a home business that turns out to be more of a hobby, since money flows out faster than it flows in.

We'll get this letter moving again! I hope all the bumps and bruises I just read about herein have been healing! Family reunion at the Farm next summer is the plan.

Love,

Ray

August 21, 1999

Hi - Glad it's been happening w/ my family. In April, Brent started to walk the Appalachian Trail starting in Ga. He made it past Harper's Ferry to PA. before he came home over 1000 miles. It was! He lost 40 lbs but is in shape now. Talen joined him in Front Royal Va. & walked the last 100 miles w/ him. He really enjoyed it & met a lot of wonderful folks. Ralph & I hid some food for him along the trail in NC. back in April & he found it all. His eye mark walked for 1 month in the beginning. Brent hopes to complete the trail in the future, but right now he's gotten what he wanted out of his adventure. He saw a few Bears - one only 20' away from him. Joanne visited an old friend in Colorado & had a great summer. She won a scholarship for crew & won nationals. Summer's gone so fast & I'm back in school since Aug 21st. Hopeth family is happy & well. While in NC in July I got to visit Karen Kiefer & her fiancé. What a nice fellow. I'll let Ronnie tell you how he proposed to her. It was something. Glad to get the PK. I've missed you HA! Love, Cadebie
 Loved Eric's photo! (I found this as Joanne called mail it on her visit.)
 She loves reading news of Sam's. Reunion sounds exciting.

2-69

Dear Family,

3 September, 1999

This letter reached me just before Labor Day weekend, so we are gearing up for the return to school (at least Joe and I are). Our school district likes to end school as early as possible in June (like around the 11th) and doesn't start up again until after Labor Day, which in my opinion makes the summer a couple of weeks too long. The kids also get minimal time off during the school year so that it can end that early. This August really dragged for us because Brian and Emily's soccer league had to cancel practices. Our community has been one of the hardest hit by the drought that has affected the whole Northeast this summer. We went for two months with just one day of rain, and the soccer fields were so dry that our Soccer League was banned from using them for fear of tearing them up. Now the grass has started to grow again, so it looks like they will have games.

We spent the first part of the summer doing baseball and softball. Emily's softball ended in June, but Brian got selected for a "travel" baseball team for post-season play in July. He had every kind of kid-sport experience you could have with baseball this year. He had really spectacular games and really poor games. He was one of the best players on his regular team, and a so-so player on the travel team. He has also become a terrific sports fan this year, especially in baseball. He will be starting 5th grade soon (age 10 1/2) and we'll see if this fascination with sports will do him any good in the real world of Elementary School.

Emily is now 7 1/2 and will be going into 2nd grade. Perhaps because she didn't have any kids to play with on the block this summer, she's made terrific progress in reading ability and is really looking forward to 2nd grade. I hope that the enthusiasm lasts past the first day. In a few hours we get to go to the school and see their teacher assignments posted on the door, so the enthusiasm might not last through this day if she's not in the same class as some of her friends! Colin will also be going to school this year--preschool anyway. He is almost 3 1/2 and is not as shy as B and E, so I think that he will adjust well. He is pretty well toilet trained and has started to give up naps. As an added benefit, he is also started to sleep through the night for the first time! He has really moved out of babyhood, which makes me glad and sorry at the same time.

I hope that everyone has a great Fall with more pleasant weather than the Summer.

Love to all,

Eileen + Family



This picture didn't turn out too well, but my computer skills are extremely limited. It was taken last Easter time.

This RR arrived just as we were sending Billy & Gillian off to their ongoing adventures at Montessori School 31. We are sending the letter out just after Floyd made its appearance in town. We personally were spared the ordeals: we never lost power, and the flooding we had was partially because of stuff we had in the backyard, which caused a cascade of water into the back stairs leading to the basement. That being fixed, we had the usual seepage that has to be expected when this volume of water hits the ground. Other than that, we were spared: never even lost electricity (which is more than I can say for those Virginia Power customers!) We were saddened to see people who live downhill from us whose homes were deluged from the Saw Mill River (which is usually no more than a puddle!). And then there were the pictures of New Jersey where whole neighborhoods were under feet of mud. Dad always told us that, if given the choice between a disaster from fire or water, he'd take fire any day. Eventually, you can put out a fire, but what can you do with water ???

Enough about the misery.

Life with the Yonkers May Family is going full steam ahead. As I mentioned, B & G are back to school. Even G, with her hatred of being told what to do, and doing work in general, is enthusiastic about school this year. (Just wait!). And Shannon is loving life with her excellent sitter. She walks into the sitters' house, greets her friends, and does her daily routine of play, TV, eating, etc. We're losing this sitter as she is returning to school herself to become an ultrasound technician. But, we are blessed to have another good sitter: a friend who watches another group of kids. We've already introduced Shannon to her, and Shannon didn't hesitate. "Have toys, will travel!" She's content as ever. She also decided to train herself on the potty, wanting to use the big one rather than her own.

The schedules are filling up. There's music lessons, (Bill second year clarinet, Gillian first year flute), swimming for both, dance for G, scouts for both, Religious Ed, playdates, whatever. I cringe when either of them tells me that they are bored!

Deanne has settled into the administration side of Mercy College. She works in the same LD tutoring department she tutored in last year, but she does scheduling and other tasks, along with limited tutoring. She still does Fuller Brush, teaches a Co-op preparation course, and a few other side jobs from home. She's on the Parish council, Liturgy committee and Executive committee. I'm still running Scripture studies for Sacred Heart, and whatever else I get suckered into. Work is unpredictable: Deutsche Bank just bought Bankers Trust, and we're having a tough time devouring it all. It is my observation that managers were marginally good at running their former departments, but now with those departments artificially growing with the acquisition, the managers are over their collective heads. Morale has sunk at Deutsche, and the Bankers crew are understandably not happy at all. What a waste! So many people lost their jobs for a deal that still doesn't make sense to most of us. And a lot more are quitting after the merger seeing that the prospects for the new Bank are not that much improved.

Healthwise, we've all been okay. Deanne has had a visit to the hospital again for some intestinal malady no one has been able to diagnose (stones?). I've had my thyroid looked at and currently am getting my liver evaluated. The former looks like it is nothing: the jury is still out on the latter. Thank God, the kids only have the usual problems that pass as quickly as they come.

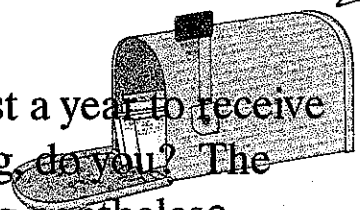
We're looking forward to July 15 & 16, 2000. Presuming the computers are fixed and there is electricity, phone service, etc, we'll be there! **Just don't forget the name badges!**

Happy Y2k One and All !!!

OF COURSE, I PRINTED
THIS UPSIDE DOWN
ON PURPOSE!!

Love,
Deanne,
Billy & Gillian
Shannon

2-71
9/27/99



Dear Family,

Happy to get the letter eventhough it takes almost a year to receive it. I really don't think that it should take that long. do you? The news seems a bit old but it is good to keep it going nontheless.

The news here in N.J. is that Stephanie who recently graduated from Portland State Univ. got engaged to a gentlman from Washington State.

The wedding is scheduled to be in April 2000. The other big event for the next year will be the birth of our first grandchild. This event is happening around May 24th and I can't tell you how excited we all are here. Jason and Tricia still are residing on Long Island and will be seriously looking for a home of their own now. Is time marching on or what? It is getting a little scary when we kids are becoming grandparents, right? We are kept busy all the time with work, CCD, soccer (Robert is on 2 teams-- Rec and travel) Marc in his 2nd year at Middletown North refs soccer on the weekends and has become an EMT explorer volunteer.

I tell you with 6 kids life is never boring or relaxing. With all the news of pre-school days and pampers I can honestly tell you all----I know what your going through. Looking forward to seeing you all in July at the millenium Family party.

Mom is doing Ok but getting slower and slower. She needs the O2 mostly all the time, and doesn't get out to see others too often.

Nothing else new here. Love you all----- Maria , Alex and all.

E-MAIL — RIAF7@juno.com