

To all

6/12/92

P 70

How about soothing pink to start off the next round?

The Dreher's are keeping busy with all the usual, altho' sports, concerts, etc. are winding down rapidly now to the summer lull. We didn't do any "official" coaching, but we've watched plenty of baseball and soccer games. George had the pleasure of seeing Kate win the 5th place medal at the New York State Championship Track Meet in the 1500 meter run. We're all happy that Kate can take a break now from competition until cross-country in the fall. She'll be working at the library this summer (civil service nepotism??) helping out with the summer reading club.

Ian is graduating on the 28th from HS. He will be going to SUNY Albany. He's diligently juggling three p/t jobs to earn his spending money for college. Of course, he'd rather be boogey-boarding or concert-hopping. George will teach a summer course at NCC, and I'll have my usual library hours (but at least I'll be in the a/c!).

We're counting our blessings, and still awaiting the arrival of the first "CLINES" cousin. Hope your summers are fun-filled, care-free and relaxing. Thanks for all the news and congrats to all for all impressive accomplishments, family additions, etc. Special thanks to Jannae for a special report!

Love to all,

Barbara, George,  
Ian, Kate + Matt

6/20/92

Greetings again from Virginia!

It's so good to read all the good news from all of you. Since we last wrote - last December - I've been busy with choir. I'm librarian, so I'm busy making sure each member of the choir has the music needed, then collecting it, filing it away, etc. We stopped singing at the 10:30 Mass on Pentecost Sunday for the Summer. We'll resume again in September. This Summer a few women have volunteered to help me catalog the music (because I don't think the choir director knows what music we have) and numbering the music. Each member will be assigned a number and will have all the music with his or her number on it. That way I'll know who has their music - or who didn't hand it in, etc. It should work out better that way. Again as usual, Easter Mass was held in William and Mary Hall at the college and over 5,000 attended the 11 a.m. Mass - and over 9,000 attended at the 4 Masses there.

Monica had knee surgery (arthroscopy) on her birthday, March 30th. The doctor cleaned out a lot of arthritic growth in and around the knee. She can walk better, but sometimes gets a twinge and down she falls. Lately the twinges come from the right knee, but she's not rushing into surgery for that knee, unless it's absolutely necessary. She continues with therapy. Since Easter was after her surgery, Monica attended Mass at W&M Hall via a wheelchair.....Her cataracts are still growing more dense, but still not bad enough for surgery. She can still see 20/40 & 20/50. We visited the Alan Mays back in May and it was so good to see them all. Billy got bigger, naturally, and Gillian is so cute crawling around and pulling herself to a standing position - and if she drops something, she kneels on one knee, picks it up and stands up again. Smart gal! She's learning fast, but, of course, she has Billy to teach her.... he's still a good big brother.....Eric and Danie just returned from their vacation to Aruba, their '2nd honeymoon'. We had Chris and Claudine the first part of the week and the other grandparents had them the rest of the week.

Keep healthy, keep happy and keep this Round Robin going fast!

I've got a summer cold and cough - and it's not officially Summer yet.

Love to all

Barbara and Monica

70A

6/30/92

Dear Family,

Just letting you know that California still hasn't fallen into the Pacific yet — even with the most recent earthquakes in L.A. I've been at my current residence a year now and reading this letter makes me happy that it is very low maintenance. I've also had great luck with having a roommate, even though I'm on my record. Each one paid the rent, but was (is) never around! Nothing new at work, just busier than ever. If you ever notice a "Matlack" tank trailer on the highway, you can think of me yelling at the driver. I just returned from a relaxing weekend at Lake Tahoe with some friends. Now that summer is here, I can officially start looking forward to Steve's wedding and a good party back home!

Have a fabulous summer!

Love,  
Ray

Dear All,

I am writing this quickly so I can mail it today - right before I leave on at 9 day Tauck tour to Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone, Setons Natl. Park + Salt Lake City. The plane leaves at 7:20 am - wish me luck on getting up in the morning. Don't know if anyone realizes it, but Auntie Anna would have been 80 yrs. old today. Guess she's having a bang-up party some place where it's not quite as hot as here. I do miss her (and those special parties we threw for her - 50th, 60th, 65th and even a small celebration at the blecker house for her 75th - when she got shingles and scared me half to death when I saw her). I'm still working at the Rel. Ed. Center and enjoying being a grandma. But I can't believe my oldest grand is going away to college!

It's great having several weeks off and no choir rehearsals on Monday nights. The best news of all - the newest grandchild, and first one with the family name of Clive, has arrived. I'll let the proud parents fill you in on details, but his name is Joseph Michael Clive, Jr. - now the count is 4 girls, 4 boys! December is going to be quite a month with 3 grandchild birthdays, 2 son-in-law back to back birthdays and Christmas, too. My family doesn't plan things too well, do they?

Time to hit the mailbox - keep the letter going & it's great to hear all the news. Glad Charlie and Betty are doing okay.  
Love to all - Aunt Helen

7/23/92

Dear Everyone,

This letter arrived just as we were preparing to leave for Baltimore - we spent a few days there with Joe's family after I attended my sister-in-law's bridal shower. It still amazes me how difficult it is to travel with little kids - I just can't get used to it even though it seems like we're going somewhere every other week! Now that Brian is finally in underwear a new dimension has been added to the trips - stopping to use the toilet. I can hardly wait for him to ask as we're inching along on the Verazano! ... Well, these usual troubles aside, we're doing

pretty well. Emily is 7 months old now. She has very wide <sup>(large)</sup> eyes and  
sucks the index finger of her left hand constantly. I get a lot of  
Comments about her when we're out shopping - people think she  
looks like a baby doll. I think it's the eyes-wide-open expression  
that they notice... Brian is growing like a weed, but for the  
past couple of months, he's had a real problem with Emily.  
Ever since she's been crawling, he's wanted to send her away.  
He's always had trouble sharing his toys, and now she's able to  
get into his things. It's hard on all of us because I spend  
all of my time trying to keep her away from him. I hope he  
grows out of this stage soon! The silver lining to this cloud  
is that he spends a lot of time with Joe doing "big-boy" things  
that get him ~~at~~ away from the baby. He is getting to be quite  
good at baseball (batting, anyway) and trike-riding.

Love to all  
Eileen

71A

Dearest All ~

First of all, thank you so much for  
your note Eileen. It's nice to hear from you!

This summer is no different than any other summer -  
Busy! I just returned from a week with our friends from  
their hometowns - a few work-weeks scheduled for the next 2  
months. Much time is also spent at the airport where we  
sisters are picking up many girls from different states to see  
our way of life. In Sept. we have 2 young women who will  
be postulates, one from Alabama, the other from Honduras.  
Next month, 2 visitors from Quebec! If anything, at least I  
get to hear news from around the globe! Formation is a very  
difficult job and I need your prayers & you all have mine!  
Have a wonderful summer and God Bless,  
Love, Dominic

We want to congratulate the whole family, as the found Robin found its way back to us just six months since it last passed by here! At this rate, everyone will get it 2x again!

Luckily, we didn't have any major plans for vacation this summer, as I am writing this on a typical 60° rainy day. We've had the most severe electrical storms I can remember this summer!

Our family is growing up too fast! At 9 months, Gillian has decided that she can't keep up with Billy (her idol) fast enough by crawling, so she's up and walking the length of any room in the house. She also decided suddenly (about 2 months ago) to start following Billy up the stairs (successfully, thank God!). She had done it once or twice before we realized what she had done. Each of us thought the other carried her up. Then we found her one day halfway up the stairs squealing with delight. Life hasn't been the same since. Gates, locks, etc... Still no teeth in that beautiful smile, though.

Billy continues ~~to~~ to thrive, finally breaking the language barrier at 2 1/2. Now he can get out complete sentences, eliminating some of the guessing. He also decided last month that he wanted to go "potty" by himself - and not the small ones we bought for him, but Mommy + Daddy's! His career as an interior decorator is taking off, too. All the newly painted walls on the first floor now have very distinctive black marks from Billy's creative hand!

Deane continues her multifaceted work from home - never an idle moment there. Alan's company just moved to Downtown Brooklyn (Back to Family roots!), which means he is away from the family more and more. Nine responsibilities, longer commute, along with Graduate School all add up to a difficult present which will - theoretically - lead to a better future!

We're looking forward to seeing Eric + Family next week, and then Mom + Minnie will follow up (we hope) for Steve's wedding in a Month! Hope to see you all there!

Cory,  
Alan Deane Blg + "G"

8/22/92

Dear Family,

Today is the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Aunt Anna's death - I'm glad I can commemorate her by contributing to "Her" Robin & sending him on his way!

We also celebrated an anniversary of sorts 3 days ago - it has been an entire year that our house has been in chaos due to the extensive renovations. Bill has been working at it constantly all this time; we're very happy with what is finished so far, but we're far behind projections & still have a long way to go! (Of course, the money we budgeted was spent quickly enough.)

Unfortunately, I wish that our house construction was the worst of our problems. Many of you already know that our little Michelle has some major developmental difficulties. We didn't realize it immediately, but <sup>when</sup> at 6 weeks old ~~when~~ she still couldn't seem to see anything & wasn't holding her head up well, we started seeing specialists & having her undergo many tests. There have been many theories (& many scares!!) about what could be wrong, but at this point all the specialists are finally agreeing that she does see something - she simply cannot control her vision system yet. Similarly, she cannot control her gross motor function, so that while babies her age are starting to sit up, crawl & stand a little, she still doesn't have good head control & only turned over for the 1<sup>st</sup> time at 6 1/2 months. (Her fine motor coordination - grasping things & bringing them to her mouth - is right on schedule, interestingly enough.) All this, coupled with some minor seizure activity which she'll hopefully outgrow (for which she's on medication), adds up to an immature neurological system & developmental delay in certain areas. We have her in an excellent program ("early-intervention") wherein therapists & special ed teachers come to the home 4x/week to work with her. (The program is state-funded - yes, sometimes our tax dollars really are used wisely!) No one knows why this happened, but thankfully her prognosis for eventually "catching up" is very good. Already she's starting to focus her eyes more & more, & her rolling over shows she's at least progressing in the right direction. We can sure ~~use~~ use many prayers to keep her going - & many, many thanks to all of you who have already been praying for her. It certainly is helping!

Kristen is doing very well; she turns 3 next week & will start nursery school two mornings a week in Sept. Bill is fighting not only his "house-work" but also a mild case of shingles (at age 40!!) In the middle of our most difficult time with Michelle, Bill's sister passed away on St. Patrick's Day. She had been in the hospital for 359 days without ever making it home, having suffered terribly through many complications to an initial pneumonia. What a tragedy!

Last month I got my pink slip in the mail & joined the ranks of the "laid-off." This wasn't an immediate concern & as I was on leave till Nov, anyway, but I wanted to hold onto my part-time job as security in case Bill falls among the many layoffs at Grumman. So this hasn't been the easiest year for us so far, but we really feel blessed with Michelle, as she's such a sweet, happy & smiling baby. Thank you all for your support & hope to see many of you soon.

Much love - Bernadette, Bill, Kristen & Michelle

9/2/92

pg 73

Dear Family,

This letter is really getting around fast! Sorry I put a delay on the circulation. It came while we all were vacationing in Detroit and did not find the time until now to sit and write. We went to Michigan to visit all the cousins, aunts + uncles of Alap's. These were people some of whom I have never met and have been sending Christmas cards to for 20 yrs. We had a very good time in spite of a virus that travelled with us.

It has been quite a summer for us. We had a 18 yr old girl from Switzerland (friends of Choy's) stay with us for a month and we sent Stephanie over there at her house. We made 4 trips to JFK airport in one month - toured Philadelphia - Wash D.C. - N.Y.C. Jersey shore etc. They doing that with 4 other kids in the car!

Anyway. Everything now is back to normal - school starts tomorrow Yeh! Looking forward to coming home from work to a quiet house. The summer sure flew by!

See you all at Steven's Wedding -

Love  
The Fields Family

Dear Everyone -

9-10-92

PMH

Stunning news from everyone.  
Thank you all for all your words  
of LOVE.

Ralph works w/a fellow who spent  
Labor Day Weekend in Miami - he sent  
home a tape of the destruction 35 mi.  
away from Homestead. It was 45 min.  
of house after house, grove after  
grove of destroyed everything. I don't  
think it will be restored in my  
lifetime! Totally surreal. We never  
got more than a little rain. Thank  
the Lord...

Our summer afforded our family  
the best vacation we had ever had.  
We got to spend some time with Ronnie +

family. There is such a peace in  
her home, you can feel it it was  
so wonderful to see the kids' everyone  
got along GREAT! I got to see my  
godchild Kathy Krause - she has a  
tape of hymns that are so beautiful  
you'd think an angel was singing.  
I reflect on our visit + smile :)

Brant is off to Gainesville + we miss  
him so much. Tolen is driving to +  
from school at 7<sup>15</sup> so I get to sleep in  
till 6 am now. Johnny loves her  
teachers so all is ok here, except the  
HEAT is awful, but to be expected thru  
Sept. Note to Uncle Charlie: Your handwriting is  
very similar to the last letter I kept from  
Uncle Bill - I was comparing it + it's amazing  
how similar they both are to my dad's too.  
(It's hereditary - H.A! Did you all have the same  
teacher?) - Loved every word - Adeline

Jamie

Brant

Ralph



(P. 75)

Sept. 15, 1992

Dear All,  
Delighted to receive THE LETTER and all its news so promptly. Let's keep it going at a brisk pace so the news is always current. We're preparing for Steve and Gina's wedding on 9/27, and some out-of-town company (including Raymond). Look forward to seeing some of you...wish more could attend. They say families only get together at weddings and funerals. I prefer the former. This summer was cold, wet and incredibly short. We enjoyed a week long Elderhostel experience at Colgate U, with crash courses in bioethics, philosophy and architecture - very heady stuff. But most of the summer was spent working around the farm, entertaining, and a few forays to Fl.Pk. (Gina's shower was Aug. 1). There's a new computer at my job, which I'm forced to learn (reluctantly). We've scheduled a trip to Hawaii in Oct.-Nov. - the same Tauck tour Aunts Helen and Anna enjoyed. Only now it appears some of the islands have been knocked out of commission by Iniki. Perhaps we'll have to "go native" and be accomodated in grass huts.

*Love to all,  
Aunt Claire*

Hi everyone,

After spending a very hot summer sailing around the Caribbean on the S.S. Sealand Expedition I'm cooling off and relaxing up with Mom & Dad. I've spent the past year travelling around extensively both at work and on vacation, and it seems I will continue this way for a while. I sure hope everyone had a more pleasant summer than me!

*Love, Ken*

Dear All,

10/5/92

Congratulations to Steve and Gina! It was a lovely wedding, even if the weather left something to be desired. I'm glad I was able to see Theresa and Joanie. I'm sorry that Aunt Rosemary and Monica were not able to be there. We are all praying for Monica's full recovery.

The wedding marked the debut for Joseph Michael Clinés, Jr. His first appearance at a May family function. (I hope he didn't make too much noise.) He is now 3 months old and growing like crazy. He's already up to 16lbs., 12 oz. In fact, he grew so fast prior to his second month's checkup, he was put on a "diet." We had to add water to his formula to hold down the calorie intake.

Thankfully, he is healthy and happy. He sleeps through the night (most nights, anyway) and he smiles constantly.

You won't find two prouder parents than we are. Parenthood has certainly been demanding, but the rewards far outweigh the demands. I should add that Joseph is already the most photographed baby in America. He'll have enough baby pictures for 15 scrapbooks.

Work is going well. I am on a rotation where I occasionally produce the weekend news programs. And Mom is always after me to make sure they "roll the credits" so she can see my name.

Mary Jo is teaching a course at Molloy College. Next semester, it will be two courses, and she is very happy about that.

Hope to see you all soon, so I can show off our baby.

*Joe Clinés*

10/28/92

75A

Dear Family,

Some how I was skipped over the last time around so it has been a year since I last heard from all of you. I've missed you!

Last month I paid a surprise visit to Madeline & her family. I drove down with Andy and though she knew he would be coming, no one there had any idea I would be showing up on their doorstep. The look on their faces when I knocked on their door was great. Augie held down the fort at home. Since becoming one of the unemployment statistics in June, he has been playing Mr. Mom.

It wasn't until I returned home from a trip upstate that I learned of Uncle Charlie's death. He was my Godfather and a very special part of my life. I could say that I will miss him but the truth is I will always feel surrounded by his spirit and his love.

Please don't forget me next time around.

Love to everyone Ronnie & family

P.S. It was great talking with you Ric.

November 6, 1992

Dear Family,

Wow, can you believe that Halloween is over ALREADY? Its dark at 5:00 pm and the trees are beginning to lose their leaves at an alarming rate (nice color this year, though!). Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner and soon, 1992 will be nothing but a memory. Good Grief!



Danie and I did manage to make the trip to Aruba in June and we had a wonderful time with Danie's brother and sister-in-law. We also travelled to NY and Connecticut in August to visit the couple we met on our honeymoon and the Eddie Ebert family.

Danie's father continues to do well, regaining more strength as time goes by and suffering no complications from the cancer surgery. Danie's brother, Richard, and his wife Debbie had their first child, Matthew Joseph LeBris on October 7. Danie and her parents are in NY to partake in his Baptism this weekend (The kids and I stayed home, thanks).

Mom and Monica made it home from Alan & Deanne's place in NY about a week later than they intended, following Monica's week long stay in the hospital for colon problems. I'll let Mom fill you in on all the details, but Monica seems to be getting better now.

Our new parish is growing rapidly. Over 380 families have joined Saint Michael's since the first mass on May 30. Although we did not expect to be building a church for several years, masses in the auditorium at Short Pump Middle School have become standing-room-only. Additionally, we are now running out of places to hold classes, committee meetings, etc. As a result, I suspect we'll be building soon! It's great to be part of an energetic Christian community!

Gotta go! We'll "talk" to you again soon!

Eric, Danie, Chris & Claudine

nov. 25

Hello from Milwaukee,

Sorry for the delay, but the letter arrived while I was on a visit back east. It turned out to be an eventful trip; while I was on Long Island, the honchos at the Milwaukee Journal asked me to return to my previous job as national editor after four years as a sportswriter. As things worked out, I just ~~happened~~ happened to sit out the Bush administration.

There's a joke there, but since we may not all agree on the punch line, I'll leave it at that.

I know we all have warm personal memories of Uncle Charlie. Mine involve his quiet kindness on the day of my father's funeral (18 years ago already!). We did some errands together that day, and without doing anything but being himself, he brought me real consolation. What a gentle, loving man. I know he is taking care of us all, along with the other Mays-- and under the direction of Nana, of course!

Love to all,

Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>

Dear all,

Thanks Frankie, for your kind words about Dad. His death leaves a tremendous absence in our lives and I know, for myself, it will take a long time for this wound to heal. Perhaps the best tribute which any one of us can pay to him was that he was a man of prayer - particularly devoted to the Rosary - and our Lady took his gentle soul on that great feast of hers - Our Lady of the Rosary. What a consolation that brings! Please keep "Uncle Charlie" in your prayers and be assured that he will be a powerful intercessor for us as well.

Nothing new to report - all is well. Merry Christmas and a blessed new year to all.

Love,  
Theresa

~~12/13/92~~  
12/13/92

Seasons Greetings to you all!

Nice to hear all the news from the family. Christmas is just around the corner so Gina and I are planning to have Mom and Dad over for dinner as well as Grandma, Lorraine and Gina's sister. It was great to see those of you who could attend the wedding. We had a great time in Cancun, Mexico and have been settling into married life. We're both still working (thank God) and everything is fine.

Ken is back out at sea again but should be home in about a month. He plans on taking 2 months off before taking another job. Lorraine has quit teaching and is now working for a small firm in midtown Manhattan. Nothing much more now, hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday and hope to see you all soon.

Love,

Steve and Gina Christensen