

Sept. 12, 2005

Dear all,

It's So wonderful to be kept up with all the achievements of our VERY bright and talented younger generation. We have so much to be grateful for.

Our summer has evaporated in what seems like a flash! I spent several months commuting back and forth to NC to help with our newest babies (oh, how I "hated" having to cuddle the adorable trio) Meanwhile, the projects continued here at Lackawack...planting trees, work on the barn foundation and front pond etc.

WE've had lots of company all summer, notably the Kleins who spent 2 weeks with us, arriving in their new gas guzzling van just as the gas prices rose out of sight. With Steven's girls in attendance, it was great (if hectic) to have all 7 of our grandchildren here at once. The house seems spookily quiet since all have left. In 2 weeks we are heading for a riverboat cruise to the Black Sea with stopover in Transylvania to visit Dracula and celebrate our 50th anniv.

a request...please bring our address page up to date with e-mail addresses. Thanks.

Love,

Aunt Claire + Uncle Ed

Hiho to all , especially the newest members of the MAY posse!

The Drehers are alive and well wherever we are. George and I were nowhere near LI in mid-summer as we undertook a cross-country odyssey. We flew to Seattle (on JetBlue, of course), met Kate and drove up to Vancouver Island. After our return ferry ride, we drove east and up into the Canadian Rockies. Spectacular scenery and a sleety experience on our glacier trek. Well worth a trip! We dropped Kate at Calgary airport for her to return to CA, and George and I proceeded to drive home through MT, WY, SD, MN, WI, IL, IN, OH, PA, and NJ. We spent a week west of the Mississippi and enjoyed the unique character of Big Sky, Country, the prairie, and the Badlands. We really did see beautiful amber waves of grain with purple mountains in the distance! Ironically, the day we arrived in Milwaukee, Frank was flying east on a pre-scheduled visit, so we did not get a chance to hang with him in his hometown. The drive back from WI is pretty ugly and congested, so we don't recommend that. BUT we do recommend driving across the US. It offers a very different perspective!

We're all back to the grind now. George teaches Physics and a new course, Forensic Science this year. Developing this course from scratch is taking huge amounts of his time. It's interesting, but bears little resemblance to the glorified CSI shows. The library is back on regular schedule which means I have one Saturday and one Sunday shift each month. I've got some new staffers underneath me, so I am really learning to delegate now!

Ian, Kate and Matt continue their pursuits in MD, CA and NJ. Kate did get in for a week's visit in late summer, and Matt and Ian drive in when they can. Matt is in his new apartment, but we have not gotten a chance to get over there to check it out. My mom is still at home. She is slipping a bit more, but still smiles and laughs much of the time. She's always been a cooperative and mild-mannered person, and she still is.

Hope the new parents are all getting enough sleep. Hope people on the move are finding good haven. Hope for good health for one and all.

*Love,
Barbara & George*

10-10-05

Love to all from our new home in NC

I received the letter a week ago but it has been put aside because last Thurs evening my doorbell rang and on our front porch was Patti and grandson Aiden on a surprise visit from N.Y. - I've been loving every minute of our visit.

I am writing now to get this in the mail before we leave on Wed to meet our newest grandchild in St. Paul's wife Leelna will be induced on Wed AM and we are anxious for the safe arrival of their little girl. Her name has been picked out for a while - CIERA MAY - so our family name will be carried on somewhat.

We are also anticipating the arrival of our 8th grandchild next March. Andy + Patti are trying one more time for a boy - they have 3 girls.

By the way, we are enjoying life here in NC and being close to Andy + his girls and Karen + her boys. We are only 4 hrs from Paul and Patti and Seth are anticipating moving nearby by March or April. What more could we ask for!

Love and prayers to all of you.
Love, Roxie

Dear Family,

Oct. 18, 2005

There is never a dull moment here in the Klein household. Life is a whirlwind of nonstop action, but overall I wouldn't change it for anything in the world!

Arianna, now in second grade, has a fantastic young teacher and is doing very well in school. Her favorite subject is "socializing." She also has a BIG year coming up in her Faith Formation (CCD) as she is preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation (February) and First Holy Communion (May).

Kaylin started kindergarten this July and has the same wonderful teacher that Arianna had. Although she is one of the youngest in her class having a September birthday (here the cut-off is in October), she too is having no problem holding her own. In their free time, both Arianna and Kaylin love to play with the neighborhood kids in our cul-de-sac.

Onto the boys...I have never done anything so consuming yet so fulfilling ever in my life. In the first few months (as my mom can attest to) it was unbelievably difficult. Mom and I got literally between 2 to 4 hours of sleep a night while John, having to get up for work, got only slightly more. I honestly don't know what I would have done had mom not come down to help. Now, at almost eight months, they are becoming fun as their little personalities emerge. Matthew, the biggest (now around 17 pounds) is a talker! Hmmm, I wonder where he gets that from!?! He loves to babble. And while all three of them are cuddlers, Matthew is the biggest teddy bear. Mark is always looking for attention and is very watchful. Luke (which mom coined the "maverick") really does have his own agenda! He's the shrimp of the three (heightwise at least) but he's the most advanced. Luke has learned how to scream, thankfully so far not yet ear-piercing, but bad enough, especially in church! They are all fantastic eaters and you can definitely tell with the chunky thighs on them!

Unfortunately, since they were preemies with underdeveloped lungs, we've had a few difficulties. Since their bronchial passageways are so small, what is a normal cold in us results in labored breathing for them. Therefore, with colds coming through the house on a regular basis, we don't even bother to put the nebulizer away. We've been to the emergency room already twice with Mark and once with Matthew. Not fun to say the least. This winter they qualify to receive the RSV vaccine which specifically targets their lungs so should be very affective. It is an extremely expensive vaccine (up to \$3,000 per shot) and has to be administered monthly through the flu season. Hopefully, we won't have to make any more visits to the ER!

As far as John and I are concerned, there isn't much new to report. Things at work are getting a little better for John since he has a new branch manager. He works pretty long hours, but feels that his new boss is giving him more responsibility and getting him more involved because he's grooming him for future promotion. We'll see. As for me, I would probably be going crazy home all day, but I'm blessed with some help from a few of the ladies from church who just *love* the babies. It gives me a little adult conversation and allows me the opportunity to take a shower once in a while. I found a lump on my throat which I'm told is a complex nodule (part liquid and part solid) on my thyroid. So far, it's just proven to be a pesky lump that's had me to three doctor visits already. On Friday (Oct. 21) I have to go in for a guided ultrasound at which time they're going to suck some of the *juice* out and test it. We'll see, but I'm assured it's nothing really serious. It's just really annoying to me because it's not like I have all this free time to keep running to doctors. Thank God that my in-laws live next door and are willing and able to keep babysitting for me!

I love to read all the **mostly** wonderful news that this RR brings. I feel so blessed to be a part of such a terrific family!

Love,

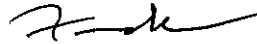
Lorraine, John, Arianna, Kaylin, Matthew, Mark + Luke

Hi from Milwaukee!

Not quite hunkering down for the winter yet--- mild weather had kept me in shorts at work (it's always "casual day" in the Sports Dept.). But the sun will soon disappear for about six months, the standard for Brew City.

Just got back from a bi-coastal vacation--- several days in California with niece Kate; then 10 days on the East Coast with the various other nieces and nephews. Plus a quick visit to DC, where I indulged again in my hobby of photographing the pandas at the National Zoo. The baby won't be on display until December, but I got some nice shots of the mama taking a siesta and looking very worn out. I felt like telling her, "Hey, I have a cousin who REALLY knows about maternal chores."

Anyway, Happy Holidays and God Bless to all!



2-175

11/3/05

November 7, 2005

Dear Family,

Did I read Aunt Claire's message right? She wants us to be sure we've updated our email addresses on the RR address list? I never thought I'd see the day...

Here's what's going on in beautiful Glen Allen, Virginia!

Claudine gave up her job at the bridal fashion shop, as it appeared that the shop was starting to have financial difficulties (gowns were not being delivered to brides on time because bills weren't being paid on time and at least one employee's paycheck was bounced) and it appeared that the end was coming (Claudine caught her manager working on her resume). She is now working as a receptionist at a neurologist's office. This business makes money, but from some of the stories Claudine tells us, it's a wonder how! Well, it's another job, and she needs one to pay for "Roxie".

Chris continues to do well in his job at Estes Express. The company has won several trucking industry awards for advertising materials for which Chris was centrally involved in their production. Effective today, he is now a salaried Senior Designer at the company (keeping up with Janna) and received a nice raise.

Chris is thinking about his future dwelling place as his housemate (the homeowner) has become engaged, and will marry within the next year. The impending couple will not be moving into this house, but will instead find housing elsewhere. There's a possibility that Chris could buy the house from his friend, but nothing is settled yet.

Chris decided to join the K of C Bowling league as a full-time bowler this year. While the only non-May on our team offered to leave to allow Chris to bowl with us, we decided to keep our team together and Chris joined another that he often subbed with last year. We bowled them last week in a battled for third place in the standings. I believe we kept our fourth place position (I don't pay attention... I just bowl!)

Danie continues to work on quilts, go to quilt guild meetings and classes and weekend quilting retreats. I'm thinking that all these "quilting" events are really just excuses to go out drinking! Danie will be teaching a class early next year, and the shop that will be holding the class is asking her to showcase a particular computerized sewing machine during the class. So they're letting her "borrow" a machine until the class. That means that there are now three sewing machines and two sergers in her "studio". Given that she also has enough fabric to cover the Commonwealth of Virginia in there as well, it's almost impossible to move. Ugh!

Our Shih Tsu, Sophie Belle, continues to be attention starved and keeps Danie, or whoever is home, occupied, as she is always ready to play.

After a year's hiatus, I played softball again this year on the St. Mike's coed Church League team. Nothing particularly remarkable about the season, except that I made it through another without serious injury.

Danie and I went on a vacation road trip in June that included stops in Gatlinburg, TN, Nashville, TN, Chattanooga, TN, Atlanta, GA, Savannah, GA and Charleston, SC. On the way home, we stopped in Wake Forest to see Lorraine and John, the girls and the triplets. Aunt Claire was there helping out at the time. For some reason, everyone looked kinda tired. I wonder why??

Just last weekend, the four of us traveled to New Jersey to attend Krista's wedding. It was good to see all of the extended Fields family, as well as Kathy and Patti and their families. Unfortunately, Tina and Charles couldn't make the event, but a good time was had by all.

Dominion took possession of Kewaunee Power Station just outside of Green Bay, WI on July 5, two days after the unit returned to full power. The unit had been shut down for four months to deal with design issues that arose following an NRC inspection in February. Since the restart, the Unit has been running well, just as it has over most of its 30-year life.

In the next few weeks, I will be participating in a reengineering team that will attempt to work out the nuts and bolts of the new fleet Engineering support organization. The department that I work in will become a fleet-wide technical support organization, supporting the two operating units at Millstone (CT), the one at Kewaunee (WI) and, of course, our original four units at North Anna and Surry in VA. I have no idea how we're going to do that, when we can't cover the ever-increasing workload to keep our aging units running well here in VA. Nonetheless, I suspect that we will start to built up some frequent flier miles in the coming year.

Eric

Greetings from WHNY. I'm filling in for my mom. She's experiencing a slow, but steady decline from the Alzheimer's and emphysema. It's getting a bit harder for her to get up and about but her wonderful caregiver, Leta, puts her through her gentle paces. She's still reading the Daily News and watching lots of oldies shows (GUNSMOKE, etc.) on cable. I'm afraid the winter weather will keep her confined to 280 Lindberg - none of the street watching from the porch. I recently found a wonderful photo album of Nana's with lots of vintage 40's shots - especially of the young May family (Uncle Joe) and Uncle Bill with a bunch of buddies; Aunt Marie's profession, etc.. We use them now to keep my mom's memories active (although they are also fading significantly) and we will send them along to Aunt Rosemary and Ronnie and others when their job here is done. I'm wrestling with the Medicare D (drug program) decision, but NYS's elderly drug program makes my decision easier. Good luck to any of you involved with that pleasant challenge. Decisions/paperwork - ain't they grand? This will be the last message from 280. We will eliminate the RR's stop here, but I will show it to my mom when I have it.

My mom sends her love to all. Happy, blessed holidays!

Ann Helen Barbara

November 30, 2005

Dear Family,

I received this letter just before Thanksgiving and then spent a wonderfully relaxing 3 days at home with Nicole, Megan and my girlfriend of almost 1 year, Vivian. Having the whole week off gave me a few days at the farm with Mom and Dad, and the rest of the time with Vivian putting the finishing touches on our kitchen which we gutted and renovated ourselves (with help from Ken before he headed back to the Middle East for work on the Persian Gulf).

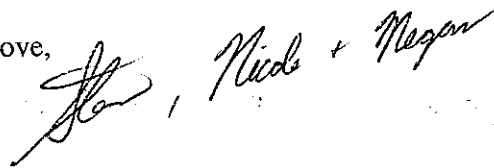
The past 6 months have been busy with multiple farm projects as Aunt Claire mentioned, work at the house in Floral Park, and some nice family visits here and in North Carolina.

Nicole (12) and Megan (10) are great, growing up so fast right before my eyes! Nicole has made high honor roll with her first report card this year, and is signed up for track in the spring. Megan has joined hockey again and is a defensive specialist holding the left point. Her marks in school need to improve and although she has plenty of May smarts she needs to apply herself more.

Work???? Life at the Times has become more difficult by the day, and after 20 years of service it's nowhere near like it used to be. Scandals, sliding stock price, a weak advertising market and increased competition have forced deep staff reductions that may affect my own department within the year. Guess I'll just "wait and see", but have my resume ready if it happens.

Last item.....the FAMILY PARTY Lorraine will be up with her formidable clan in late August, so we've decided on the last Saturday before the Labor Day weekend, August 26. We hope to see many of you there!!!

Love,

Handwritten signature of Ken, Nicole, and Megan.

12/28/05

2-178

Dear Family,

I was already a week late with the RR, so I planned to just tape on our "Christmas card letter" & send it out. → Unfortunately we had yet another crisis. On 12/22, Bill missed the last step on our cellar staircase, & fell in such a way that he broke both lower leg bones in a spiral fracture. I had to call the Fire Dept. to get him up & out to the hospital. On 12/23 he was operated on, & they inserted a permanent metal rod in his leg. It was nice that he got home Christmas Eve, but he's totally immobile, & can't actually "walk" for at least a month, with a lot of physical therapy ahead of him. (We should just get "direct deposit" into Bethpage Physical Therapy, as we all except Danny have needed it.) For now Bill can do some work on his laptop & phone from home, but we don't know yet if he'll need to go out on disability.

I also have to report the bad news that our mom, Aunt Helen, has become so disoriented that she somehow left the house in the middle of the night 12/28, & fell in the street. Her wonderful aide must have been so exhausted that she didn't wake up when Mon first left, but fortunately did wake up shortly thereafter. Barbara wasn't home, but Joe came, & eventually the police found her lying on the sidewalk 1 1/2 blocks away. She was taken to the hospital in an ambulance, but despite being all scraped up from her fall, & having knocked out several of the teeth from her dentures, there don't seem to be any serious injuries. But of course this opens up a whole new level in the care she needs. None of us knew she was capable of this, & tomorrow when we're all together for our long-planned Christmas party, we will have to discuss how to make her situation safer.

Hope your holidays were less eventful than ours. Merry Christmas, & best wishes for a problem-free New Year! Love, Bernadette, Bill & kids

Just a quick note to send with our holiday greetings! The annual rush has become even crazier this year, as I unexpectedly got a "job" just 2 1/2 weeks before Christmas! I had been looking for part-time work as a school aide, but when nothing came through, I had signed up with a service that supplies school districts with tutors for homebound students. For weeks there was no one who needed foreign language tutoring, but then suddenly December 7th, there were more students than I could possibly handle! There's a lot of traveling and paperwork, but it's good enough money, good timing (while my kids are in school), and it's an interesting mix of kids who are either home sick or who were suspended for getting in trouble! It's almost entirely Spanish that's needed, although I also had to brush up on my Italian. Some are long-term assignments and some short-term, so we'll see if it continues to work out in the future. Of course I would rather NOT have had it start up at the very busiest time of the year!!

On the home front, we've had several milestones this year. Kristen reached "Sweet 16" and got her learner's permit, although she got closed out of the fall driver's ed class because of her August birthday. We have begun the agonizing consideration of college plans for her. Danny moved up to the Middle School, where he's doing well and made the school Jazz Band on the saxophone. His travel soccer team also came in 1st place this fall; Bill is the "business manager" of the team, so we live and breathe soccer during the season! Now to Michelle, who is also at the Middle School, in the 8th grade. After taking one step forward, she went two steps backward this year. She was doing much better at the end of the 7th grade because she was on medication for ADD. Over the summer she developed a motor tic disorder, like Tourettes, and had to be taken off the medication. So now she has to deal with the strong motor tics on top of having no help with the ADD. She will be graduating in June, and once again we're faced with the monumental decision of what would be the best placement for her for high school.

My mom's mental condition is deteriorating to where she has many episodes of total confusion (for ex., getting up in the middle of the night and saying she has to get home so her parents won't worry). She also has emphysema, and will probably need to be put on oxygen soon. The same wonderful caretaker is with her most of the time, and my sister Barbara does 99% of the troubleshooting involved, God bless her!

We wish you and yours a happy, peaceful holiday season!

Dear family,

Greetings from PA! This RR is filled with so many joyous things - and some sad. Unfortunately, my mom's condition, like Aunt Helen's, is just getting worse. Tina is moving and won't be able to care for her any longer - so in Feb. we are moving her to a senior residence near Maria. Another chapter now

begins. Please Keep her in your prayers. Joan & I are well and Keeping quite busy. Religious life is truly wonderful! Hope your Christmas was a blessed one.

2-179

Be assured of our continued prayers for you all!

Love, Theresa

A big "HELLO" to all!

01/18/06

2006! Where has all the time gone! I can now say that my house is fixed. I chose the color MAIZE for the vinyl siding (maize for the Mays) with forest green shutters and doors and a grayish roof. I think it looks good and a lot of people have told me they like it, too!

Monica finally got her power chair. It came Oct. 6, 2005 and it has been in repair for most of the time. It needed new batteries (yes, a new chair and it needed new batteries – unbelievable!) Then Monica used it for a while and it started to lose its 'charge' again with the new set of batteries. A serviceman found that the charge plug was not strong enough to give the batteries the charge they need. And a little peg (?) that holds the leg brace in place broke off – it wasn't welded on good enough – they have to make a new leg rest. Yes, a whole new leg rest – sounds crazy, eh? That's what they said. So Monica's chair has been parked in the living room for most of the time the chair has been hers. Of course, this does not help her arms and shoulders because she is now back to pushing the manual wheelchair. Somebody told us her chair, a Pronto M91 Invacare with Sure Step is the "Cadillac" of power chairs! Ho! Ho! Ho! I hope it will be once they get it all working right. She has a sore on her toe (right leg, toe #2) which has been plaguing her for quite awhile – has home care nurses coming in to change the dressing, etc. at least 2x a week – looks like it is on its way to being healed.... I hope so.

I'm still going to a Pain Management doctor, but he still has to find a way for me to be painfree. The newest pain is down my left leg when I want to stand up – sometimes, not all the time (sciatica?). I am now using Fentanyl patches that I change every 3 days. I don't know if it is doing good or not – some days I feel not too bad – but then there are the painful days. My scoliosis has bent my spine a little more and my hips are probably more arthritic.

My sister, Joan Haarmann, who had lymphoma for many years died May 27, 2005.

I always like receiving the Round Robin letter. I like to read about everybody, what is happening in their lives. I enjoy reading about the triplets doing well – gosh, they'll be 1 year old next month!..... all the new babies born or 'on the way'.....the moves Southward.....weddings..... graduations.....the write-up re. Sisters Theresa and Joan, their lives and their work. The only things I did not like reading is re. Helen and Betty and then Bill's fall and possible disability and, Lorraine, hope your thyroid is okay.

Monica and I hope and pray that this New Year will be one in which only good things will happen to all – that all stay healthy, happy and very important: stay in touch.

Love,
Dorothy and Monica

3/5/06

Greetings from Malverne...

Hopefully, spring is right around the corner, though, in truth, this has not been a terribly challenging winter. Even the "record snowfall" didn't feel much like a record. Joseph, Terence and Kira do not share my opinion of the new season. They would be very happy to have winter stay longer. They love the snow, and just recently spent three days on the slopes of the Poconos.

Joseph is finishing up 8th grade, and will attend Kellenberg Memorial High School next fall. You know Kellenberg. That's the one that canceled its prom in response to ever more lavish spending. The cancellation was meant to send a message to the parents. Believe me, I have no problem with spending less money.

Terence and Kira are practicing for their spring concert. Terence has switched from trumpet to trombone. Kira is learning the saxophone.

Mary Jo continues to teach French and Latin to grammar school kids in the Syosset district. Great gig: no tests or homework to mark.

I've also got a little news. Ray Christensen has helped me out with a new project of mine. In my spare time from Channel 4, I am pursuing a side career in voiceovers. Ray has helped me set up a website which features my demos. As you might expect, starting a new business is never easy, but I have high hopes for this one.

That's about it. Hope to speak with you all soon..

Joe Clines

3/11/06

Hi Family!

Joe's website has quite the original name: www.joeclines.com ... Today my father had the staples removed from his head and is preparing for the next stage of treatment. As most of you know, our family gathered in NC to celebrate the Triplets 1st B-day 2/26. My parents were to drive north a few days later but on Ash Wednesday, dad had to be rushed to the hospital. He spent 9 nights at WakeMed including surgery to remove a brain tumor. The 4+ days that I spent visiting were my first real hospital experience. Nurses are my new heroes! So is dad, for his fight to recover and battle the illness.

I've been on my own (home office) for almost 7 months, slowly building my business. It's primarily website design for businesses, organizations and individuals, but I'm also working at increasing income from affiliate advertising and my side business of distributing USANA Health Sciences nutritional supplements. Visit my site at <http://endurance.usana.com> --- top of the line products.

Speaking of endurance, I'm in training to run the Boston Marathon for the 2nd straight year. Training has been going well, but my left achilles tendon is pretty sore lately. My brothers tell me to stop running, but I CAN'T! If you "run" into someone who needs a website, direct them to www.AttractWeb.com Love to all! Stay fit and take your vitamins...
... better yet, take mine!

Rg

Dear Family -

3-21-06 2-181

I just got permission from Ronnie to tell you that ERIN Katherine Kiefer (Andy & Patti) was born @ 1:30 pm & weighs 7 lbs 14 oz. & she has alot of hair! All are doing well. I visited my sister Ronnie for 2 whole weeks in February & on my trip I got to not only see all my nieces & nephews, but the great nieces & nephews too. Then Angie & Ronnie took me to see Lorraine & her two beautiful girls (sweet) but also Matthew Mark & Luke - the next thing was Aunt Claire & Uncle Ed were there too! Well, when I got home I heard about Uncle Ed's brain tumor & knew he'd be just fine - he's in such great shape as is Aunt Claire. Well it was just a thrill for me to hold & feed Matthew. Ronnie grabbed Mark & I think Lorraine took Luke. Anyway, what made me laugh so much is the spilled (shall I say pre-digested) formula was no sooner spilled when the doggie cleaned it up. Lorraine said that's the secret to the long life it's led. HA! Anyway, seeing the babies made me miss Kai, who's so sweet & cute as could be. We're all ok here & hope things get better every day. Love & Prayers, Madeline & Ralph

Dear Family,

27 April, 2006

We are gearing up for the end of the School Year here in PA. Everyone did well on his or her third marking period report cards, but now we are heading into a month with many demands on time and talents (not to mention Mom and Dad's treasure!)

Brian is a Junior in high school and is finishing up with spring track, but has a band concert to prepare for and then practices for the baseball team he will play for this summer. He has already been through some of the big events of a Junior's life (taking the SAT, Junior Prom) but now has to start thinking seriously about colleges. I am not looking forward to this process.

Emily is finishing up 8th grade, but will not be moving on to a new school next year, as her public middle school includes 9th grade. She is currently trying to juggle the demands of being on two softball teams (school and club) as well as practicing for her spring concert and working on two big projects that are due at school within the next few weeks. She has had a rough time this year socially; there have been many feuds and much nastiness within her circle of friends and acquaintances. She has been trying to keep her close friends despite the ever-changing alliances, but girls this age are constantly getting their feelings hurt and hurting others. Emily is a big animal lover, and we recently adopted a cat, so now she has someone to tell her troubles to!

Colin is finishing up 4th grade, and seems pretty happy with school and his activities, but so far hasn't developed a real passion for anything except Harry Potter. He is also preparing for a spring concert, is playing baseball, and attending Math 24 club meetings. 24 is a game where you are given 4 numbers and have to add, subtract, divide and/or multiply to come up with the number 24. Our school district has a Math 24 tournament that Colin is hoping to be selected for.

There has been much restructuring at Merck in the last year and a half (including layoffs), and probably much more to come. Joe transferred to another department this year and is learning new things. In the meantime, like everyone else involved in the pharmaceutical industry, we await future developments.

Love to All,

Eileen

Dear All,

I remember as a kid being in Uncle Charlie's house in Brooklyn. He was teaching us German songs, writing the words on a blackboard. He seemed so old at the time, and we all looked up to him. The same holds true for all our Aunts and Uncles. As I turn 50 in July, I realize that I am probably now older than Uncle Charlie was at that time. Unfortunately, I don't know the next generation of the family much at all; other than the stories I read here. That's unfortunate. Aunt Claire's reunions are a good chance to make up a bit, but it is definitely not the same. It is good to hear that the next generation is all doing relatively well, and that our Aunts and Uncles and we, as Aunts and Uncles, are proud of our expanding family.

Another thought that occurred to me recently is that the survival of May name is left to my son and Eric's son, unless I missed a branch on the Family Tree. There are so many children in the May family, but only two to pass on the name. But the May spirit will continue through us all!

The Yonkers Mays are well. As I wrote our last RR entry in August, we were heading to Virginia. That is the case again. Mom will be 80 over Memorial Day, so we will spend a few days to celebrate. We also celebrate my 50, Monica's 55, and Eric & Danie's 30. Plus Chris has a new condo, and as you will soon read, Billy is now officially an Eagle Scout.

As I wrote last August, I was accepting a new job at Deutsche Well, that was probably a bad decision. Late nights, system problems and the like make this job a real pain. But it pays the bills, and painfully, I am making a difference for the businesses I support. The family often postpones dinner to about 8 so I can eat with them, but that isn't the way I hoped our time would work out. I am exploring options outside the Bank, but there do not seem to be that many for someone at my level and background. I was even thinking about quitting Wall Street altogether to teach or something else, but no one else pays like the Bank does. So, I press forward with the job and keep contacts outside in case an opportunity arises.

My health remains well enough - my cholesterol levels are within limits at least. I will have another nuclear stress test in a few weeks to see how the clogs are progressing / regressing. Hopefully the latter. Then we will decide whether to stay this course, or "whatever".

Deanne is winding down her first year as Religious Education / Sacramental coordinator for Sacred Heart. The last few weeks saw the three sacraments bestowed on the parish children, with the accompanying paperwork, appointments and other hassles. But there is only one RE session left, and that will be the celebration of advancement to the next grade level for all. Then Children's Liturgy ends on Pentecost. And her work at Mercy ends in a week. And a major fundraiser for our SH schools was held last week, so a lot of work ended there as well. Scouting ends soon for her, too. So, summer is coming, at least for her. Bill, Gill and Shannon have to wait a little longer.

Bill has a lot going on. As mentioned, he made Eagle rank in Boy Scouts, and his proud father will give him his medals at a dinner June 17. We've been busy writing numerous dignitaries to send their acknowledgements of the feat: we'll see what we get back. Bill will continue with scouts next year to help out the troop. Dad will largely drop out. Bill is finishing up track and the band (or at least he) will play at graduation. He'll probably end up with High Honors again at Sacred Heart High. Summer plans are up in the air. He applied for a CIT position with the Yonkers summer camp program, but since the City closed one of the sites, there are too many counselors, and he was not hired. He may go to BSA Camp Read as a CIT for a few weeks instead.

Gillian is finishing up her Irish dance lessons, and has her recital on June 4. She loves her Irish dancing. Bowling ended a few weeks ago, and she and Mom are deciding whether to join a summer league. Her first year at Sacred Heart High was much better than her years at Museum. She made honors, and is much happier with the positive atmosphere of the school. Scouting is drawing to a close for her as well. She continues to draw a lot; something her father is amazed at. She's a natural! She will work at the City summer camp again this year.

Shannon is finishing out 4th grade. She has caught up somewhat on her Reading and Math, but she's still not as strong as I'd like. She needs to work more. Scouting is ending for the year. She will attend the City summer camp (if she's not in summer school!) and, I'm sure, have a great time! She always does!

Fr. John Gallagher, Cap. (formerly of St Michael's) will take over at Sacred Heart in August, along with a friar to be ordained in June. So, Sacred Heart will change, which can be a good thing.

Hope you all have a great summer (when it gets here). I believe there is a reunion this summer, but I'm not sure. If so, we'll get there!

with love,
 Alex, Deanne, Billy, Gillian & Shannon

May 17, 2006 2-184
(Happy Anniversary Kefer!)

Dear Family —

Greetings from Middletown N.J. So much news in the R.R. this time around. Uncle Ed — we are praying for you and hope you are doing better. Congrats Madeline + Ralph you made it!!! Enjoy your new grandchild! Everyone here is doing well — Krista + Martin were married last Nov (3 down 3 to 60) Marc graduates from STEVENS INSTITUTE next week with a degree in Physics + Economics — Robert @ 16 now is getting his driver's permit (PRAY FOR ME) Also and I am still working grandparents; with this economy you have too. We did have some excitement recently in the household. Our son Jason was recently on DATeline aired May 10 + May 17 — He was one of 4 arresting officers in Ft Myers on the series to "CATCH A PREDATOR" — if you got a chance to see it. It was quite exciting. He is also on the SWAT TEAM down there and absolutely loves his job. We are looking forward to the Summer Eventbush we always have a packed house with visits from the married ones — Hope to make the trip if the reunion is still on. God bless you all —

Alex, Maria + all