

**Letters Mother Copied  
from Round Robin Letters  
dated October 1947 thru October 1948**

Typed by Marge Wickert, July 10, 1979.

Digitized and forward added by David Mohs, March 16, 2014.

## Forward

Al and Theresa lived on a farm south of Saint Cloud, Minnesota. The enclosed letters represent an organized series of communications amongst their grown children.

In context, World War II ended just two years prior. Europe was in the process of rebuilding. The Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union was starting.

- Parents: Alphonse Braun (1886) & Theresa Landwehr (1889)  
- Al was a farmer, owner of Braun Dairy, but his heart was in carpentry.
- Children:
- Don (1913)
    - married Maria Nolan (1913) at Holy Angels in Saint Cloud, MN (1938)
    - Don was a Royal Canadian Air Force veteran, chief pilot for Wardair Canada.
  - Marge (1915)
    - married Joseph Scherman (1914) at Holy Angels in Saint Cloud, MN (1942)
    - married Len Wickert (1913) in Corpus Christi in Saint Paul, MN (1946)
    - Marge was a nurse. Joseph died in World War II.
    - Len was a goods buyer (Saint Paul), vice-present of a store (Bismarck).
  - Bob (1918)
    - married Margaret McMahon (1919) at \_\_\_\_\_ (1948)
    - Bob was an airline navigator (Spokane, WA; Dallas, TX).
  - Jim (1920)
    - married Helen Sheehan (1922) at Saint Augustine's in Dysart, PA (1947)
    - Jim was a flight engineer (PA), lumber regional salesperson (Saint Cloud, MN).
    - Jim was a founder of Wapicada Golf Course near Saint Cloud, MN.
  - Lou (1923)
    - married Jack Stanley (1918) at \_\_\_\_\_ (1964)
    - married Abrey "Ike" Eichhorn (1917) at \_\_\_\_\_ (1970)
  - Mary (1926)
    - married David Kuhn (1921) at Holy Spirit in Saint Cloud, MN (1954)
    - Mary as a trick rider of horses, traveling many states prior her marriage.
    - David was a farmer, farm implement mechanic, and volunteer firefighter.
  - Fran (1928)
    - married Eric Mildebrath (1930) in Anchorage, AK (1959)
    - Fran was a waitress (Idaho, etc), stewardess for Pacific-Northwest Airlines.
    - Eric was a radio engineer for the military and ITT, roadhouse owner, balloonist.
  - Helen (1929)
    - married Verne Reller (1924) at Holy Spirit in Saint Cloud, MN (1954)
    - Verne was a pilot instructor (Saint Cloud), governor's chief pilot (Madison, WI).

Other names mentioned within are grandchildren, relatives, and family friends.

## **October 21, 1947**

Since we are now distributed to all parts of the U.S. correspondence is getting quite complicated. To simplify matters we will start a chain-letter so we all hear from each other. Your letter need not be long just let us know how you are, where you are and what your doing. Try to get it off within \_\_\_\_\_ so the news doesn't get old. After the first round remove your old note and inclose a new letter and send it with the others to the person following you on the list. Mary, Marge and Len, Bob St. Paul, Helen and James Penn, Fran Idaho, Lou Montana, Don and Marie Yellowknife, Mom and Dad St. Cloud, Helen St. Cloud Hospital. Leave this note in. **Mary**

## **October 31, 1947 Saint Paul, Minnesota**

Dear Helen and Jim and all concerned,

As you can see by the inclosed letter Bob is supposed to be sending you this, but he said "leave me out this time". Just because he didn't write I'm going to tell on him. He is super occupied by a certain Margaret and he reminds me quite a bit of my dear brother, James a few months ago. Do you suppose it is the same ailment? I hope so because Margaret is swell. If Bob doesn't keep everyone informed on the progress of things, I will. We Wickerts are all fine. Mary Jo has been running an elevated temp for a couple days but it doesn't look too serious. We intend going to St. Cloud this weekend and see Don and Marie. The last time they were home Tim had me slightly involved. Tim is fine and getting a mind of his own and I don't mean perhaps. He stands in his teeter babe and feels real smart about it. He and Mary Jo certainly can have a good time together. Len is fine. So far no more New York trips, I'm hoping they include wives one of these trips. I can dream can't I. Our summer weather has been continuing much to our surprise. It certainly ought to please Dad with his house building. How about it, Dad? Tim is fussing so toodle doo. Love **Len and Marge**.

Hugs to all from the kiddies.

## **November 11, 1947 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

Dear Fran, and all who follow you (I don't mean all the good looking young men) Jim and I are a little late with our addition to the Braun chain letter. We were both away for awhile. Jim in California and I up home to the farm so Mary's and Marge's letters were waiting for us when we came back. We are both fine and enjoying this wonderful fall weather. We saw a football game on Sunday which was quite good but we darn near froze. Speaking of football, Jim was practically delirious when Minn. pulled out from behind on Saturday to beat Purdue. We are planning to go up home a few days this weekend so that Jim can do some hunting. He has been so anxious to go out but so far hasn't had time off. Jim had today off too Armistice Day so after sleeping late, we've been just loafing all day. You just ought to see him. I think he is getting positively fat! but he's so nice. Will say good-bye for now. Love to all. **Helen and Jim**

## **November 15, 1947 Pay day Sun Valley, Idaho**

Dear Lou and all you guys,

I think this is a super idea, don't you? Even if the news is stale, it's still fun. Sun Valley has the Christmas spirit already. Colored lights were put on some of the large out door trees today. It looks very beautiful cause there is just enough snow. Seeing Bob is busy with Margaret we will forgive him this time, hu? My girl friend and I are going to see, "Down to Earth' tonite cause our men are driving busses. Should be a good musical. Wickerts how is the home hunting progressing? I'll keep on praying so you will find something real soon. Well I'm happy and safe in Sun Valley. So good bye now. Love to all. **Fran**

**November 18, 1947      Tuesday 8:30 pm Bozeman, Montana**

Dear Marie and Don, all my other sisters and brothers, mom and dad,

Yes, this idea will really save a bit of time, stamps and stationary. It was getting so I'd even write a letter every nite and couldn't keep up. Of course, I write quite often and the letter goes to Helena but that doesn't keep or help keep my other letter writing up. Over Thanksgiving I'll be spending my time up in Helena so I'll have a most wonderful Thanksgiving. If some of the members of the family haven't heard the news, I finally have a guy. Name is Jack - so when I talk about Helena or Jack it's all the same cause he lives in Helena so I visit Helena whenever invited or when it's possible. Ceil said to say hello to everybody. She's the same old Ceil and as busy as ever. They are leaving on the 27th for California to get Peg. Peg is coming home til after the Holidays and then she's going to get a different job. The Hahn's are all just fine including Michelle who I'm watching tonight. Ceil went to the movies and Pat works from 6 to 9 practically every nite so Ceil takes care of the baby all the time. This Montana weather is wonderful. It really is a swell climate and the snow here is always so pretty and white. Guess I better get this letter on it's way. Say Bob you better put in a note or we might all jump on you when we get home. Of course, this love business does keep one busy, so they tell me -- not being experienced I couldn't say for sure. "Til next time bye and luck and love to a family I'm mighty proud to be a part of. Sis and daughter **Lou**

**December 4, 1947      Snare River, Northwest Territory**

Dear Mother, Dad and family,

Well I see after all is said and done about my letter writing or rather lack of it, that I'm the first male member of the family to actually get something down on paper. Marie and I arrived back in camp Dec. 1st and we are still trying to find room for all our stuff in our little room. The first morning we were back the temperature skidded down to 35 degrees below zero but that only lasted one day and the average temp. has been around zero. Nevertheless we are decked out in our full winter gear and I hope by next time this letter comes around we may be able to send along a couple of real winter pictures. The camp has dwindled from about 100 men to around 40 so Marie and I both have less to do than this summer and we will undoubtedly have a very nice winter as far as work goes. I know Marie is going to protest that statement about having less to do because they are always busy the first week of every month. As was the case last year, we land the plane about three miles from camp but this year we don't have to walk as they take us back and forth by truck. Incidentally for the information of those unacquainted with the part of the world that is the only 3 miles of road within a hundred miles. Well I don't want to tell you everything in this first letter otherwise there'd be no point in writing next time,

this letter came so I'll close for now. Love to all **Marie and Don**

**December 11, 1947      Saint Cloud, Minnesota**

Dear Children,

The family letter arrived and I think it's grand Mary got it started and everyone else has kept it going. Thanks. But the next round we wish to see the names Len, Marie, Bob, James signed too. Our cold weather has slowed up the house building right now. Dad is in the basement making window frames, he has quite the shop down there, for me there is an advantage in having him work down there, when the meals are ready I don't have to wait for him. Today I baked Christmas cookies, which I'll send off to you children not coming home this year, so we'll at least be eating the same kind of cookies. Lots of love to all you. Lovingly **Mother**.

Dear Gang, I would like to convey in this globe circling letter a reminder about the plans we made when I started building these homes, at that time some of you, at least, were going to make St. Cloud your future home and would be glad to occupy those houses. A few years ago Ma and I were sure out of eight at least two or three would settle down here at St. Cloud but now we're wondering whether we will have to settle for one, anyhow for an inducement we decided to sell the small house for two thousand dollars just one third what it would sell for today to the first one to settle down here, now what do you say, when are you or you moving in? Love **Dad**

**December 14, 1947      Saint Cloud Hospital**

Dear Mary, etc. Next Friday nite is the big nite. We probees get our caps and capes. Only two of our class had to drop out, because of low marks and so 42 of us will receive cars. "Oh, happy day" I still find floor duty new and interesting. The other day who should I meet but Glen Senger in a hospital bed. He's going home tomorrow so today he felt good and I heard him laugh way down the hall. I have my mid winter vacation between Dec. 27th and Jan. 5th and I hope a few hours off for Christmas. I went to a few basketball games but the team just isn't what it was last year. I still have lessons to do so -- as was little sis **Helen**.

P.S. If someone of the family doesn't come home pretty soon Dad and Morn will spoil me. Besides that - that house is waiting. (Plug for Dad)

**December 19, 1947**

Dear Peoples,

That letter idea really turned out better than I figured it would - everyone did a swell job too. Thanks. I was tempted to censor Dad's note about the house. I'm afraid someone else will beat me to the draw since I don't have enough money to make a down payment on a door knob. You better watch out Dad or you'll have all of us sitting on your doorstep. My mail or Ward job still seems too good to be true. Our Christmas rush is over already and the seasonal workers are quitting so we'll be back on our short hours. I was offered \$75.00 for Dusty today so she's as good as sold unless the guy changes his mind.

My other horse "Ginger" will have to do until I buy my "dream horse." I really have big plans for next summer with a new saddle and horse, wonder where I'll get the money! Well I'd best get off to bed cause it's my turn to crawl out at 4:30 and feed the horses. Love to all, **Mary**

### **January 3, 1948 Saint Paul, Minnesota**

Dear Jim Helen and Everybody,

You'd think I flipped my wig or something. What I'm referring to is the time at present is 2:45 am and here I sit eating cheese and crackers and writing this. I received the good word from several sources for not adding my two cents worth in the last letter, I should do it now while there is nothing else on the fire. What I'm about to say now probably isn't news to most of you who are reading this, but just in case somebody didn't hear about it -- I'm engaged. Now ain't that nice - I think so - nothing definite on the wedding date as yet, but I don't think it will be too far from the beginning of May. Did I hear somebody say to who -- why the best little girl there is, that's who. Here's hoping you'll all plan on being here for the wedding. The way I understand the goings on of this letter Marge is supposed to write to me and in turn I write to you two, Jim and Helen. As yet I haven't read my letter from her but I would imagine she's enclosed much of the local gossip from around these parts so outside of saying hello to everybody and wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year I guess I may as well close. Anyway it's too early in the AM to be thinking clearly. So until next time. As ever **Bob**.

P.S. Will try to enclose a picture of Margaret the next time around.

### **January 3, 1948 Saint Paul, Minnesota**

Dear All,

I am a stinker for holding up this letter for such a long time but we were trying to take advantage of Dad's offer and get ourselves moved to St. Cloud. No, I'm just kidding but I'd surely like to be getting into one of his houses. I wonder who is going to get the house? We had a mighty fine Christmas but missed the absent Brauns terribly. Say how about all of us getting together for our next summer weddings? Wouldn't that be a riot! Or haven't you heard our Lou came home with a diamond. I'm sure she will be enlightening you on the subject. Between Lou and Bob I don't know which one has fallen the hardest. They both have that discombooberated manner about them. I think it's wonderful and I love seeing people so much in love that they're confused just like those two. How about it Helen and Jim, isn't it wonderful - and Marie and Don member your high school days when the third party really created a crowd. Len and kiddies are fine. Tim is getting as restless a disposition as Mary Jo but he is as good as ever. Love to all of you **Marge**.

### **January 14, 1948 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

Dear Fran and all the Brauns,

This time we will be a little more prompt with our addition to the family letter. Isn't it a wonderful ideal Congratulations Bob and lots and lots of best wishes and happiness to you , Lou. How about a few

details - such as the big dates? Yes, Marge, we agree with you that this love stuff is just wonderful. How about you, Fran? - will you be the next Braun with some exciting news? May be you need a pep talk from someone in love. About us, well we have some news this time. Perhaps you have already heard. There will be a little Braun arriving here in July. We just got all the details on it on Monday and are quite excited about it. But am afraid you'll have to count us out of those May weddings. However, we have already begun plans for coming to Minnesota for next Christmas with Barbara or Michael or both. Wow, wouldn't that be something. I better let my husband have this so he can add a bit. Love to all **Helen**

Dear Everybody, Helen had to twist my arm to get me to add to this but after reading her side I don't think there's much left for me to say. "Oh well" and old married man isn't supposed to have much to say anyhow. However I still run things around this house, the wash machine, the vacuum cleaner, the lawn mower etc. That sure is a tempting offer on that house, dad, think of all the things I could get to run around there. No more news from the East so till next time. **Jim**

### **January 19, 1979 Sun Valley, Idaho**

Dear Lou and everyone else,

It's a long time going around but it's wonderful receiving the family letter. So glad everyone got in on it this time too. Congratulations Bob and Margaret and Helen and Jim. I guess I've said that to you before, Lou. It's all wonderful and exciting. Helen, I don't think I'll be next in line unless something happens in L.A. next spring. He is a very interesting and nice boy. So one can never tell. Sun Valley winter is mild and so nice. I can go swimming every day in one of our outdoor pools. It's nice to be able to keep up a tan all winter long. Who is going to be the smart and lucky one of us to get a home for 2 thousand? Maybe I should pick up the nearest man that will have me. Lets all get together next Christmas seeing Helen and Jim can't make it in May. Enclosed is a picture of Sun Valley so you can get an idea of where I am. Now write real soon all of you • Love and best wishes **Fran**.

### **January 22, 1948 Bozeman, Montana**

Dear Marie Don and all,

Goodness all the happy and gay news in the last letters. Bozeman and all it's residence are just fine. My job is still O.K. but my mind is up in Helena most of the time. As for wedding plans they are still indefinite. We still would like to plan on May or June if it works out O.K. Time will tell. That offer of a home in St. Cloud sounds wonderful for many reasons and you all know how unhappy one is when one can't take advantage of such a wonderful offer. Hows the 8 mm movie camera? Does it take a K369 film? We'll all have to see the D.C. Brauns movies of the wilds when we all get home. Maybe by the next round I can get a good snap of Jack so you can all see what he looks like. Until later. Lots of luck to all of you all over the U.S. and beyond. Love Sis, daughter and aunt. **Lou**

### **January 28, 1949 Snare River, Northwest Territory**

Dear Family,

Well here it is Don's and my turn to contribute to round robin. We do enjoy the various letters although considerable news is as someone else has said, "not news any more." Both of us hope that we will strike it lucky and make it home at least one important event in our families this summer. You know I have a sister Vera, Lou's age, who is also engaged. Someone ought to succumb to the lovely spring weather and march down the aisle in May, we figure. We did have a half-baked plan on trying to see Jim and Helen in much the same way we visited Julius and his wife in St. Louis last spring, now I'm sure that we won't be able to do all that. So I guess we shall be economical and do as we did going to St. Louis - wait and see both a new sister-in-law and new nephew or niece. Or maybe Jim and Helen will be home next time after next spring visit who knows. Anyway it's nice to hear of all these happy affairs. When we had a letter from home (Dan's mother is the most faithful correspondent) saying that Dad had put a note in the family letter about that house both of us sort of said "Well that's a fine thing, here we are on the end of the mailing list, fat chance we'll have at that house - Oh well" So it's really a surprise to see that none of you have gone ahead and put a down payment on it. Would anyone be interested in making a bet on who will be the lucky person? Gambling in various phases is a characteristic of the D.C. Braun family. Yes, Lou 369 film does fit our 8mm camera. It is getting more scarce. In fact, we haven't seen any since we bought ours except that two rolls we got at Christmas. I am writing on both sides to try and keep the weight down. Don wants to enclose a clipping about our work which is quite interesting if a bit overwritten. There were some very good films taken by the National Film board this summer. I've been trying to get a copy of a magazine called "Construction World" in which there are about 4 good one plus a more accurate write up. If I do I'll enclose it. We think your in a lovely spot, Fran, from the post card you sent. We'd also enjoy seeing a snapshot of Jack, Lou. Or a good description will do. Is he dark or light, tall or medium build, etc. Does he enjoy photography etc. which you do? It's almost time to start my office routine, it's 15 to 9. I came into the office just after breakfast about 8 o'clock to see that all the mail got into the sack and to make out some travel permits for a fellow going out this morning. Don is always in a rush to get going in the morning and gets quite impatient with any obstacles. Sometimes he embarrasses me by getting so much so - anyway I guess you all know him in that kind of mood.

I really think Marie has said just about all there is to say about this part of the country for this time so I'll just say hello to all the gang. This letter has been delayed two days due to my tardiness in adding a short note and I'll definitely do better next time. Love to all **Don and Marie**.

**February 10, 1948      Saint Cloud, Minnesota**

Dear Children,

Yes, we feel guilty for holding this letter longer than we should but good children always forgive their parents. Thanks! I wonder, Mary, will you still have Dusty by this round of the letter? Hello Len, Marge and children, I'm glad you didn't know how cold it was before you left home Saturday or you might not have come home and it's grand to have at least a few of you come home once in awhile. We are glad Helen is here at the hospital so we hear from her every few days. Len be sure to get your 2 cents worth in this time and Marge I suppose you will have to hand Bob a pen and paper when he comes to see you so he doesn't skip this round. Hello Jim and Helen. It's nice you both added to the letter and it's sad James that you do all the hard work including running the lawnmower just so you don't have to call the neighbors in to help you. Helen maybe he could help you run the new sewing machine too, teach him how to hem (guess what). Well, Fran, you definitely chose the right spot for this winter, you are keeping yourself comfortable without staying indoors. It makes us shiver only

thinking of outdoor swimming, thanks for enclosing the card of Sun Valley. Lou, by the next round can we plan on your wedding, of course, Bob's the older one so I suppose you have to give him a chance first. Hello Don and Marie. It was nice of you to enclose the clipping and such a long letter. When you come home in spring you surely should be here for some weddings having them on both sides of your family. As you can all see Helen wrote her note the 8th of Feb so she didn't hold this up. Dad said to tell you at present he has nothing better to offer and he'll write in the next round. Lots of love to all our good children. as ever your loving **Dad & Mother**.

## **February 8, 1948**

Dear Mary etc.

This or rather these letters will be a little mixed up because the Wickerts are up to celebrate Mary Jo's 5th birthday. I'm home for a few hours to get a good meal and to see the Wickerts. Mariette was here this am and Marge and she decided I had already acquired to professional look about me, and all the time I thought I was just tired. I work from 3 to 4 hours each week day and go to class from 4 - 5 hours each week day. On Saturday and Sunday I work 6 to 7 hours. I still find work very interesting and school quite boring. I'll have to get back so this is enough. Hi to everyone and "life is swell when you keep well" (nurses' plug). As ever Little sister **Helen**

P.S. Mary, are there any men on that horse track or just horses!

## **February 12, 1948**

Dear Family,

I really have very little to say for myself. Still rise at 4:30 start work at 6:00, spend the later part of the afternoon with the horses and am well done by 9:00.

May not sound very good but it's really a wonderful way to live. My job still interests me. We've learned to handle a couple new jobs in our department. I guess they think we'll stick with them for awhile. Won't they be surprised. My friend, Aileen, is getting married in summer and I'm going West (again) in fall. We'll stay on tho until late next fall for sure. The horses are all fine but the weather could be dinker for "Horsey people." I bought myself a new rigging saddle and bridle. It should last me a life time s0 I didn't mind putting my money in it. Still have the 2 horses but still plan on some horse dealing. As I said before I have no news to interest the family and I'm not looking either!

Love to all, **Mary**

## **February 14, 1948      Saint Paul, Minnesota**

Dear all of you. Happy Valentine day to you all. I received a valentine from Wards this year. They send my hubby on a buying trip to New York. Nice of them wasn't it! He left early this morning and will be gone all week and maybe longer. I miss him like everything already. Did you all know the Wickerts almost moved to St. Cloud and took advantage of Dad's offer? Gambles new store wanted Len very

much but you should have heard the stinkie wages they offered him. He couldn't live on it alone, much less his family of three. I would really like to live in St. Cloud but it looks as if it won't be for the present. We sort of disappointed Margaret and Bob too because they were hoping to get our apartment. Tim finally got two more teeth. He has been trying to cut them since Christmas. He walks all around the furniture and he is beginning to try to crawl up on everything. Oh my such a toughie! Mary Jo drags him all over and is anything but gentle with him at times, but he seems to enjoy it in spite of the bumps. I'm going to try to do some summer sewing while Len is gone. Doesn't that sound funny for me? But honestly I have gotten a few pieces together all except the button holes, mom always has to come to my rescue for them. Bob is stopping in, in the morning so I'm hoping we will get this off pronto this time. It looks as if Len is never going to get his handwriting in on this. Mary Jo and Tim send special hugs and kisses to all their aunts and uncles. And of course grandma and grand parents and Brownie. You know I think Brownie ought to stick a note in here sometime.

All our love **Marge and Len**

**February 17, 1948**      **Twin Cities, Minnesota**

Dear Jim, Helen and Everybody,

Just came back from house hunting - what a futile job. If the place is fit to live in, they want money for it. Guess I'll build my own out of banana boxes that is. Congrats on the about to be in July addition you two. Hope he's real cute and not like his Dad. Had a heat wave here in Minnesota today, the temperature 80 up to 100 almost. Tore this thing in two once and it looks like I'll have to do it again. Hate to slip in a half filled sheet - runs up the postage and Marge says it's my turn to mail it. Can't think of anything to write so I'll just say hello to everybody and close. As ever **Bob**.

**February 29, 1948**      **Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

Dear Fran and all,

We've already held the letter up since Monday so better get at it tonite. It was swell hearing from everybody again. Your picture of Sun Valley was very beautiful. Imagine swimming in the winter with snow so near to you. We had gobs of company from up home today but now that everyone is gone, it's so quiet around here and we're sitting home listening to the radio. I don't know whether we will be able to get together with everybody for Christmas as you mentioned, but Jim's enlistment is up in December so I'm sure any of you living in Minnesota by then will see lots of us. You've probably heard the grand news that Jim has decided to come home and settle down in Minnesota. I'm all in favor of it because I sure liked it when I was there. Will hand the pen over to J.C. for awhile tho I'm not sure he'll have much to say. He looks half asleep now. Thank for the congrats about our little Braun. He's been behaving nicely and I'm getting fat!

That's not the word, she can't even zip the zipper on her slacks - real cute though. Say Bob, you owe us 1 cent. We had to pay a penny to get this news bureau out of the P.O. I got a trip coming up about the 15th of March so next time you hear from me it'll probably be from the west coast. No more room on the paper so this division of the family will close. Love **Helen and Jim**

**March 4, 1948 Sun Valley, Idaho**

Dear Sis and everybody,

It's cold in Sun Valley today, the sun is shining though so it will probably warm up. More kids are leaving here every day. One of my roommates left Tuesday so now it's one down and two to go. With only three of us left it makes it so much easier for us to use the sink at the same time every morning. Besides that the bunk above me was put up so now I can turn in bed instead of just sliding in and staying flat on my back. I heard from my beau and he's actually offered to meet me at the depot on my arrival to L.A. such an offer and I have to wait until May to take him up on it. I read the article you sent along about Marie and Don and looked for your names. They must have made a misprint, it all sounds so pioneerish and interesting. It's wonderful that you are moving to St. Cloud, Jim and Helen. The way you used to talk about our dear hometown on your vacations too, Jim. We shouldn't let you come back. We will though. Bob I surely hope you two can find a place to live real soon. Maybe you'll just have to take a long honeymoon until the housing shortage eases up. Sunday I rode the ski lifts to the top of Baldy Mt. elevation 9000 ft. A very breath taking sight. Such fun too going through space on a chair, too bad some of you ski-minded people aren't here instead of me. I'll probably be gone from here by May 1st so I hope I hear from you all again before my departure. If it happens that you are delayed Jim and Helen you can send the letter to Jack and Helen in L.A. cause I'll be there until the 15th. Love to all of you **Fran**

P.S. Address: F.B. Inn Dining Room S.V. Idaho

**March 8, 1948 Bozeman, Montana**

Dear Marie, Don and all,

About the 8 mm film I'll see if I can get some if at all possible. I'll mail it as soon as I'm able to get one o.k. Gee, I'm sure glad for Vera, the next time you write to your folks say hello to Vera for me and wish her lots of luck and happiness. Guess you all know that as of March 27th I'll be a resident of Helena, Montana. Yes, I'm leaving Bozeman. Jack, your future brother and son-in-law, has found an apartment for us. It's sure nice to have a place to live and I can get it all cleaned-up before I'm Mrs. Jack L. Stanley. My job is finished here and I start my new job at Helena March 29th. Sure glad I have a job too. Now all I have to do is get the date set and the final plans made. For Don and Marie a description of Jack, I think I've told everyone else, haven't I? 6 ft. tall, dark hair, brown eyes, slim built, dark, rather coarse complexion and wonderful. That article about the north country was really interesting. Say Bob I'm glad it's warmer back there. I don't like to see people cold, it's so uncomfortable isn't it? Say about Brownie putting in a note, I think is a wonderful idea, how about it Brownie?

By the time this reaches me again Easter will be past so here's wishing all of you a "Happy Easter." Bye now and lots of luck to each and everyone of you. Hello nephew and niece and? Bye now. As always.

P.S. Jack's picture was enclosed. **Lou**

Jack Stanley. Comments are welcome? Thanks.

## **March 17, 1948 Snare River, Northwest Territory**

Dear Family,

We intended to add our bit to the family newspaper as soon as we finished reading it but between a lot of work and gad colds we're a couple days late. Last week we were very fortunate in having Father Gatly visit camp for three days and we went to Mass and Communion each morning. Father Gatly is the kind of person who just fits this country and he is known by everyone in the north country. He does slight of hand and card tricks and he entertained the whole camp for an hour and half one evening. He sent both Marie and I a pair of Mukluks (winter footwear) when he got back to Yellowknife. The weather has been cold but clear and bright lately and Marie goes out for long walks with the dogs every chance she gets. Some times she comes out to meet us (3 mi.) on our last trip and rides back in with the truck. We've been doing a lot of flying lately getting all the food and repair parts and men in for over the break-up. Every day we have to check on the "Cat" trains too and one of them is over 150 miles from here now, on the south shore of Slave Lake so that takes a couple hours every time we go to see how they are doing.

We're sure looking forward to break-up and seeing as many of you as possible again. I guess I'll quit now and leave Marie to add a bit. Not that it wouldn't be nice here the next few months. Our sunsets are becoming magnificent even at 10 to 12 below it's lovely outside. Are you still working Helen? (not St. C. Helen) Fran, are you coming home for Bob and Margaret's wedding. Lou thank you for the description and snap of Jack. It sounds as though you might beat Bob. Happy Easter to all. Lovingly  
**Don and Marie**

## **March 27, 1948 Saint Cloud, Minnesota**

Dear Children,

Guess we better get our addition of the family letter written so we can hand it to Marge Sunday. This last round was newsy and has good laughs in it too, everybody sounds happy. We had a few days of beautiful spring weather but a snow storm came along and blew it all away so we'll have a little snow for Easter. It is nice and sunny today so we should see plenty Easter bonnets tomorrow. If this letter keeps going like it did the last time it should get to Fran and Don and Marie before they leave to come home for the weddings.

Dad is still very busy at the house. Don't know how he'll manage when the spring field work starts. Gues he'll get some help. The house is being plastered this coming week. The relative reunion will be held July 4th that should really be a celebration. No news and nothing more I can think off to write so with lots of love to all of you. From your loving **Dad and Mother**.

## **March 29, 1948**

Dear Family,

There is still no news here unless you want to hear a long story about a short horse -and I know you

don't. We're trying to hurry the letter along so it arrives before a few members leave their present addresses. Otherwise I'd wait until I've something to write, but that may be years from now. Love to all  
**Mary**

**April 4, 1948      Saint Paul, Minnesota**

Dear Mother and Dad, Sisters and Brothers,

I like that brother part, you see I never had any brother until I married Marge. She, has made my life complete. No question about it. We are feeling the housing shortage along with a great many others. We did solve it this winter by making a nursery out of the one and only bedroom in the apartment. This afternoon we were out looking at three bedroom bungalow. Saw a beauty for \$18,900. The fellow told us the original cost of the house ten years ago was \$13,000. Ward week starts soon. It will run for two weeks. If any of you need spring and summer goods at a price wee Wickert at Wards in Midway where prices are always right. Hope to hear from you all soon. **Len**

**April 4, 1948      Saint Paul, Minnesota**

Dear Immediate family,

Minnesota is having it's usual run of chilly, rainy weather and oh my, what dreary skies. Spring will probably be just around the corner for the next two months. Mary Jo has the chicken pox and my how she has blossomed out, you can plainly see how interesting children can make ones life. Now we can just sit back and wait, for Tim to get his share of them too. Life is so wonderful. Tra la! Lou, I don't want to be spreading your news but Helen would have to wait so long so here it is -- It looks as if Lou has settled her wedding date for May 1st. My goodness when these Brauns get going they give us a terrific schedule to keep up with. How I'd love to be in Helena about May 1st. Anyone care to take care of our kiddies for a few days, maybe I could make it. I fumigated this letter so don't worry about getting the chicken pox. All our love **Marge**

**April 8, 1948      at the office, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

Dear Fran and all,

I was pleased to hear from all you folks this week, am going to rush this right along for a change. Most of you probably know by now that Jim left on Good Friday for a six week trip West. It sure is lonesome around here now. One of Jim's buddies has moved his wife and baby in with me so I have company while Jim is away. They're swell kids and we have a good time together. Nancy is the cutest little baby. My sister Verna has a big boy now born on Easter Sunday. So between Nancy and Patrick (Pat for short) I shall have plenty of practice by the time Barbara Michael arrives.

I've been feeling amazingly well and since Jim has gone I've decided to work until the end of this month. I had originally intended to quit sooner but would probably get tired of staying home while Jim's away. Bob must have been awfully insulted at Jim telling him about owing him a penny postage - now there was no letter from Bob to us. Aw c'mon Bob lets make up! Of course, I realize that Bob is

probably in quite a daze these days but how about Lou. There was a grand letter from her. Say, Lou, your Jack reminds me some what of Gregory Peck especially the cute grin. I'm so happy about your plans for marriage and May 1st sounds like a wonderful date. I wish we could all be there. Fran I sure hope I've read your address correctly. And Fran, I think Jim has really changed his mind now about St. Cloud. He thinks it's quite a wonderful place. Good luck to everyone Love **Helen**

P.S. We too had a lot of snow for Waster Sure was cold.

**April 20, 1948      Sun Valley Lodge, Sun Valley, Idaho**

Dear Lou and everybody,

I just arrived back here this morning at 6 am. I've been real busy since then, unpacking, doing my laundry and getting myself clean once again. Los Angeles was wonderful and so were the people I went to visit. The ocean is as beautiful as I had always imagined it would be. I guess I'll have to go back again real soon and really spend a long time there so I can see more of California. As far as Joe (Jose) and I are concerned we're still tops with one another. Maybe we'll get married in a few years. Your guess is as good as ours. Most of the snow has left Sun Valley by now. They're still skiing "Baldy" and they've started sun bathing on the surrounding lawns. I'd better hurry and get in a few things during the 'short while I'll be here yet. Love and best of everything to all of you. **Fran**

**April 25, 1948      Helena, Montana**

Dear Don Marie and All,

Received the check for the film, I'll see if I can get you another one. Yes this is your excited sister, daughter, and aunt and by the time most of you get this I'll be Mrs. Jack Stanley. Yes, next Sat. at 9:00 am May 1st is the happy day. Mom, Marge and Fran all get here Wednesday and Dad Friday. I'm sure busy but more excited than anything. Almost have the apartment looking kinda home like. Jack was going to write a note last night but he didn't and he left this AM on a run so guess you'll have to wait until the next time to meet the handwriting of the brother, son, and uncle I've picked out for all of you. Next letter I'll probably send a wedding snap along with this. o.k. Made or rather fixed a pork roast last night. What one can learn in a little while. It turned out o.k. but it didn't have that experienced taste to it. Any favorite recipes will be welcome to a new cook. Guess I'll say bye and lots of luck and happiness to all of you. Love **Lou**

P.S. Jack said to say "hello" to all.

**May 3, 1948      Snare River, Canada**

Dear Mother, Dad and the rest of the Gang,

Received the family news a day or two ago and we've read everything including the advertising and editorials. We didn't get the date of Lou's wedding until a few days before the big event so we were probably late with our best wishes etc. The weather here has been real nice and warm. The snow is

almost all gone and the ice is getting bad so-o-o in a couple days we'll be pulling out for points south. We'll have to spend a few days in Edmonton to get work started on the Norseman and then we're leaving for home. It seems once a person is as close to going as we are now that is about the only thing you can think about and that's the position I find myself in now. I hope that no one at home (guess who) has any work lined up for Marie and because we feel like doing a lot of loafing. Maybe we're going to the wrong place for that. I guess we'll take a chance on that though. By the way, we noticed Helen didn't write this time, I guess nurses training must still be pretty strenuous. Love to all **Marie and Don**.

**July 13, 1948      Saint Cloud, Minnesota**

Dearest Children,

Now that the family weddings are over and everyone back to their destination including James from overseas we better get the family round letter on its way again. It's grand to have three more added to our family since the last round, we are so happy to have them and hope Margaret and Jack will add to our letter. Of course, all we can expect of little Barbara is to keep her Mommie and Daddy busy for the time being. We are so proud to have another grandchild. This is Helen's day off so I'll hand her this letter before she leaves so she can add her bit. Our corn crop looks just fine since we've had rain. Dad just finished cultivating it for the last time, it's beginning to tassel and already makes one feel like fall is creeping up. This summer seems so short. I guess it's due to Dad and I not being alone til now. Pat and Gil are moving into their apartment today. They spent the last few days out at the lake. After spending the last five years with the Crozier fathers at Onamia, Minn. Jack Landwehr is leaving next month for their seminary in Nebraska where he'll study for the next two years. We were out to see Sr. Madeline last evening, she's always interested to know all about you children and sends greetings to all of you. Here comes Helen so I'll hand this over to her. Lots of love from your loving. **Dad and Mother**

Here I is, my day off. Brownie and I just got back from playing golf. We both hit a 59. This morning Dad and I hung the garage door on the new house. It's the first one dad ever tried to hang and it looked so easy. Looks are deceiving, believe me! Oh brother! At first it came down too fast so we tightened the springs and then we couldn't keep it down, darn thing. Among other things we got the lock on side ways. I guess my mechanical mind is a bit rusty. I got a big demotion last week at work. I was put in the basement in the diet kitchen. Anyone wanting any information on diets just contact me, I can always look it up in a book. The space below is reserved for Dad so if it remains empty you will know Dad is still a busy man. Your little sister but getting bigger **Helen T**.

Dear All,

If the weather continues to be as favorable the next four weeks as it has been in the past four, we should be assured that corn crop I have been trying to grow the last three years. Oh yes, I am still very much interested in houses, but the next two or three at least are going to be the average man's house, small but cozy and comfortable, so if you have any ideas send them along. Cheerio Everybody Love **Dad**

**July 16, 1948**

Dearest All,

Just finished reading the family newspaper. It had a time making the rounds this time but with all the weddings over maybe it will speed up a little. I'm glad I have an address for Bob this time. He always had so many more interesting things to do than letter writing. How about it Bob? Len has taken himself off to a ball game tonite with his friend, Jack. Do you all think it's advisable to let him get away with that occasionally? I can hear all the male answers with a definite "Yes." By Jan. 1949 the St. Cloud census should really hit a new high with all the Brauns returning. I think it's wonderful only I wish the Wickerts could say the same about moving up there. This may be an early question but you know how time flies - do you all want to continue choosing names for Christmas and should we make the price \$10.00 or \$15.00? Member all you new couples that you go in as a couple so the money would be for two people. This is where the single ones get more presents, but I'm not sorry cause I sorta' -like my husband. Mary Jo and Tim send hugs to all their aunties and uncles and a special little hug to their new cousin, Barbara Ann

Love **Len and Marge**

Dear Family ,

Well here it is my turn to write again and I still do not have anything to say for myself. I'm moving home in 3 weeks then --- well your guess is as good as mine. I've just given up planning that far ahead. I'll never regret spending 10 months down here, cause I really learned a lot. I've sure met a bunch of swell "horse" people and acquired knowledge in the horse line also. We are putting on one more show before I leave. It'll be Aug. 7th at Princeton. Oh I suppose you've all heard the world "famous" Horse Capades by now, well we think we're pretty good anyway. I guess I've said my piece tho it doesn't amount to much. By now Love **Mary** P.S. Barbara Ann, you'd better like horses.

**August 5, 1948**

Hello Everybody,

Just have to get this done tonite cause tomorrow we'll be going to St.Cloud and I know Mother will ask if I send it on. How about it Mom? You'd think I weren't always real prompt the way people distrust me as far as this letter is concerned. It's just that I'm a little slow. At present Margaret and I are sweating out the Minneapolis vs Louisville ball game. Personally I think they're about the driest thing on the radio but, this particular game has a speed boat connected with it that I've a chance to win so that's why the interest. Don't care who wins just so the score ends in a 4 for Louisville and 9 for Minneapolis.

And now we the R.O. Brauns pause to welcome the new twig to the family tree and may there be many more of them. Congrats you two, you're doing real well. My dear wife just informed me that she has one good slightly used husband for sale or rent. We'll consider trade in on old horse or dog. What am I saying: that's me. And all I did was fold her up in our hide away bed. No free boat ride, the game just ended with me holding the wrong numbers, 11 o'clock and time to retire so until next time. Bye for now. Love to all

**Margaret and Bob**

**September 6, 1948      Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

Dear Fran and Everyone,

We've held the family letter up for a few days so that we could enclose a picture of our Barbie. It, isn't a good one but we'll have lots more in the near future -- pictures I mean. It sure took a long time for the letter to make the rounds this time but with all the new addresses for so many Brauns it wasn't much wonder it was so slow. We were quite surprised about Bob and Margaret going to Washington. How come you two and Lou and Jack have to go further away now that we will be coming out to Minn.? Jim is sitting on the couch playing with Barbie. She is sure growing and is such a good little gal and of course we think she is getting cuter all the time. Here is Jim now to add a few lines.

Sure wish all of you could see this wonderful child of ours. I've been trying to make her talk and laugh a little but the only response was an occasional "goo" with bubbles. I have to leave for Rome, N.Y. again this afternoon. These weekends sure go by in a hurry. Oh well, just ninety-four more days of this army life and then it's back to Minnesota. With prices the way they are today, I believe \$15.00 would be the right price for Christmas this year. Don't know how we're going to get together for the name drawing but we'll leave our dear Marge to figure that out. You lucky girl you. More from my sweet wife.

My wonderful hubby gave me a swell camera for our anniversary today so we will try it out on Barbie and send everyone some pictures of Barbie real soon. That's about all from the JCB's so we'll rush this along. With lots love to all. **Jim, Helen and Barbie.**

**September 13, 1948      Saint Cloud, Minnesota**

Dearest Lou and Jack,

"Speaking of antiques" this last round of the Brauns' family letter should really cash in on some good money. Better late than never. I received this just a day before I left dear Yellowstone. Really miss the place too although it is nice being home again, I've been sweating it out anxiously waiting for Eddie to show up. He's my new beau via Yellowstone. Really nice guy. He left from Y.P. on his bike Friday morning, expects to get here sometime today. Although Mom hasn't been home for a month the house still looks very liveable. Good thing Mary is here. That's all I can say. Oh history today, I drove the car home from town today alone for the very first time. Now all I need is a watch and I'll be up with the rest of the Brauns. See you all in Arizona.

P.S. Barb's picture is real cute.

Love **Fran**

**September 19, 1948      Spokane, Washington**

Dear Marie, Don and all,

With all this moving and family events our letter sure took it's time, guess it wasn't excited over any of

the past events. On the group of horses and riders on the snap, picked you out right away Mary. The snap of Barbie is awfully cute. Sure anxious to meet both Barbie and her Mommie. As for Jack and I we're here (Spokane) since Aug 31<sup>st</sup>. It's a big town but so far we like it o.k. Our apartment is one large room with private bath. By now it looks like a cozy little home. It's in a nice district of town and not too far from town. The wonderful part is that my hubby is home more regularly. I start a new job in the morning so my vacation is over. Sure was a lady of leisure since our arrival here. Jack is working at the present time. His hours are from 9 pm to 5:30 pm. As for the Christmas, I'm waiting for a name now already \$15.00 is o.k. with the Stanleys and if a list of needs is desired, please refer to 176 So. Chestnut. Mom by the time you get this letter we sure hope your home and feeling good. Until next round. Bye. Lots of luck and love to the increasing Brauns and Wickerts too. No other brother-in-laws yet'

Love **Jack and Lou**.

## **October 7, 1948   Edmonton, Canada**

Dear Mother, Dad and Gang,

Well it sure took our family news a long time to get around this time inasmuch as we are on the move we are not speeding it up any. We were sure glad to hear that you were home again Mother and I hope your recovery will be speedy now. The only thing that is keeping us in Canada now is the papers concerning our money exchange and we are still waiting for some of our stuff that we shipped by water. We hope to leave here in the week of October 11th. A few days after we arrived in Edmonton we bought a 1947 Monarch (fancy Ford) and it sure is a big help in getting around town with all the business we have to take care of. We're not sure yet if we can bring it into the States permanently but we hope to at least get on a visitors permit. **Don**, now Marie

We're sort of wondering about what we'll do after we have finely reached St. Cloud. If things seem favorable still we certainly would like to take that long talked about western tour - lots of ifs and buts enter into this. Marge and Len, you are very commendable for keeping in touch with us in spite of our infrequent letters. We appreciate hearing from you at home. We went to the airport in an attempt to contact Jim after Dad's letter saying he would be through there. This business of moving especially through customs is downright hard work. I wonder if we'll ever have anything permanently. Oh well, we'll be seeing you soon. Lovingly **Don and Marie** P.S. Enclosing a clipping that our job is done.