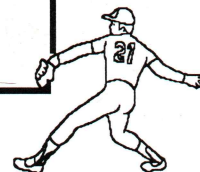




# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

July, 1993



## IT'S VACATION TIME FOR THE FAMILY

### BIG TRAVEL PLANS FOR ALL USA TRIPS

The June-July period saw no less than four of the families taking off on major tours of the country. First to go was the Mehan bunch who took off recently to visit the Florida area. Margaret took off a week early, to attend a business conference in Orlando, (see report below) and after the conference she was joined by Bud, Michael and Megan, for the fun part of the trip. We received the following first hand account of the "Riel/Mehan Disney World Trip"

Kids and Bud arrive at 6:00 on July 1st.

7-12 Magic Kingdom with fireworks - same as our Disneyland but with more covered rides because of frequent showers (but none while we were there)

July 2 - River Country, an old time Mark Twain type water park. "Swimming hole", rope pulls and sliding off of cliffs into swimming pools and water lagoons.

July 3 - Epcot Center - "Future World", lots of exhibits around themes like: energy, transportation, communication, the land, the seas, the earth and imagination. There was a laser light fireworks show at night.

July 4 MGM Studios - Demonstrations on how tv and movies are created - both "live" action and animation. Vary imaginative displays! Epcot Center at night for a spectacular fireworks and laser show for the 4th of July. Mother nature sent a few lightning bolts too.

July 5 - Epcot Center - "The World Showcase" We only had time to see Canada, Norway, China and Italy. We were about to see the U.S. but a real storm with lots of lightning and thunder and buckets of rain cleared the park just as we had to leave. Even with the Micky Mouse ponchos Francie lent us - we still got wet!! - but it was an adventure.

The Hartman clan also took off recently for a camper tour of California and Nevada. We understand that they will drive up to Sacramento, and on toward Tahoe, to visit Michelle, who is visiting her father and step-mother. From there they will go on to Tahoe for some fun, then on the Virginia City, then south to Josemita valley. From there it will be home to San Diego.

The Gillingham bunch also are taking off by car for a tour of Arizona and Colorado. After a visit at Flagstaff they will go to Colorado and stay in Bob's parents new condo.

The Castro family recently took off by air for a visit to Baltimore, where they stayed with friends. Their plan was to visit Washington to see the sights in the nations capital. Francie said that they will be visiting Frederick, MD, to take in a little league game with one of the children of the folks they are visiting. They will see if they can see the house we lived in when we were there, at 600 Military road, Francie's birthplace. We have a post card from them, but we look forward to a detailed account of the trip, and also similar reports from the other travelers.

### MARGARET GIVES TWO TALKS AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

As noted above, Margaret left San Diego ahead of the vacation party, for a business trip. She attended the National Education Computer Conference in Orlando. The theme was "The Magic of Technology". She reports as follows "Each Keynote speech was preceded by a magic show. Lots of new technology was demonstrated, virtual museums, virtual reality, multimedia. In the home of Disneyworld there were lines to get into talks. For both of my presentations (and many others) the rooms were too small. Instead of letting people crowd in or stand outside and listen they had a person at each talk who closed the door, formed a line and let one person in for any person who left. So we talked to full audiences."

Based on this account it appears that Margaret is working actively in an area is intense interest to the education world. She is rapidly becoming an international authority on the use of advanced computer technology in the education world.

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

There was one birthday kid celebration, David Gillingham. He had a special treat in that after the usual zoo, museum and toy store routine he and Grandma went to the golf course to play on the little course while Bob Riel and Grandpa were enjoying their regular Wednesday game. Grandma and David joined them on the last hole, and we all enjoyed a dinner at Jimmy's restaurant. After dinner Uncle Bob took David back to his home, on the way to his Alpine retreat.

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## JULY BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

Bryce Sorem	July 8	7
David Gillingham	July 20	8
Frances Castro	July 21	41
Timothy Riel	July 26	11

It hardly seems like a year, already, since the great "Francie Forty" party we all enjoyed so much. Many happy returns for all!

## SPORTS NEWS

The most important sports happening obviously was the recent participation of Grandpa and Uncle Bob in the Father and Son Tournament at Stardust C.C. This was a "fun" type affair, and no scores were recorded. We had a great time, and after the round was over we were joined by Grandma, Karla, Katy and Brian for lunch. We are already looking forward to next year.



## RUNNY NOSE DEPARTMENT

We are most happy to report that there has been some improvement in Bruce's condition. Although by no means cured, his condition has improved somewhat, and he now is working, at least on a part time basis. Also, as noted above, he has felt well enough to take the family on the vacation trip outlined above. However, another problem has been identified. It has been determined that he has a condition known as Whipple's disease. It is defined in our medical book as follows.

"A rare disorder that may affect many organs. Also called intestinal lipodystrophy, Whipple's disease causes a variety of symptoms and findings. The most common are malabsorption (impaired absorption of nutrients by the small intestine), diarrhea, pain in the abdomen, progressive weight loss, joint pains, swollen lymph nodes, abnormal skin pigmentation, anemia and fever. The condition most commonly occurs in middle aged men.

The precise cause of Whipple's disease remains unknown but it is probably due to an unidentified bacterial infection. Diagnosis is by jejunal biopsy (removal of a small sample of tissue from the jejunum for microscopic analysis). Affected tissues are found to contain microphages (a type of cell) containing rod shaped bacteria.

Treatment is with antibiotic drugs for at least one year. Attempts to correct nutritional deficiencies that have arisen from malabsorption are made with dietary supplements."

We certainly hope and pray that Bruce's condition will continue to improve.

## UNCLE BOB THE FARMER

During our weekly golf games, Grandma and Grandpa have been getting weekly reports on progress of the garden Uncle Bob has started at their home in Alpine. The corn is on schedule, "knee high by the 4th of July" according to an old midwestern saying, and will be "as high as an elephants eye" before long. In addition, there are many other items, including beans, peas, cucumbers etc., all growing up and soon ready to harvest. We can hardly wait for a sample.

Speaking of the Alpine estate, Bob also has been keeping us informed on the lawsuit he and several neighbors have entered against the insurance carrier for the builder of the homes in their subdivision. Numerous problems have surfaced, the most serious one being the cracking of the exterior stucco. This problem probably is due to a mixing error in the material applied. The corrective action requires complete removal and replacement with a new coating. Also, there are some flooring problems involving plywood delamination. This will require removal of the carpets, installation of new floors, and carpet replacement. The insurance company has admitted to the existence of

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problems, and a cash settlement is being discussed. If a satisfactory settlement is not agreed to, court action will be necessary to resolve the issue. When the settlement is made and the work is being done they will have to move out for a couple of months. A rental unit will be included in the settlement, of course. Some other news is that Bob and Karla are planning on putting in a SWIMMING POOL, which we are sure will be of special interest to all of the kids.

## **JULY 4TH PARTY**

Grandma and Grandpa were invited to the Hartman home for an impromptu 4th celebration and cook out. Other guests were the Gillingshams plus friends and neighbors. In addition to snacks and refreshments, we were treated to delicious broiled steaks, expertly barbecued by chef Bruce. They were delicious, and everyone had a great time.

## **CORRECTION**

In last month's issue we erroneously credited the Easter poem "To the Riel Clan" to aunt Francie. The real author of this classic actually was aunt Birdy, who modestly (or for other reasons) did not sign her name on the original manuscript. We regret this error, and again ask that everyone who writes anything with a potential for publication in RFNL please sign your name, so that we can express proper credit (or blame) to the responsible person.

## **AUNT BIRDY COMPLIMENTED FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE**

Recently Grandpa and Grandma were playing golf at Stardust, and were joined by another couple, who were strangers to us. After playing several holes some idle conversation led to the revelation that they knew Birdy Hartman as a teacher at Francis Parker. Not only did they know her, but also highly praised her for teaching excellence. They said that she sets the standard of excellence they use to judge all other teachers. We think that such a compliment means as much as, and perhaps more than a formal award. Their names are Bruce and Sue Sheppard, and they also know and admire very much Bob Gillingham and the work he is doing at Francis Parker. Speaking of Parker school parents, Grandma and Grandpa recently attended the open house party at our new neighbors, Coleman and Ellen Mosley, who built the new house next door to ours. They also are Parker parents, and know and admire Bob and Birdy.

## **DOUBLE TROUBLE FOR CAROL**

Recently we heard all about the trials and tribulations of Carol Benesch. First of all, she had a tooth problem which was reported to require a root canal, then it was decided that due to a crack in the tooth it could not be saved. So the tooth was removed, and replaced with a bridge. The good part is that the insurance covered almost all of the expenses, which helps a lot. That's not all, however, because

all of a sudden a whole slew of car problems appeared. Jeff's car had a tire blowout, and the rim of the wheel was damaged. They still have the Taurus, and when it was pressed into service the brakes quit, and had to be repaired. The new Mercury Villager suffered some paint damage when sun tan lotion was accidentally spilled on a section of the exterior. Also, there was a problem with one of the windows. In addition, the car was hit by a runaway hub cap, and slightly dented. It sounds like the Benesch's have had their full measure of car troubles, at least for now.

## **CAROL STUDYING FOR MASTERS DEGREE**

Carol reports that in spite of all of the above troubles she is not deterred from taking up a study course leading to a masters degree in education. Having the degree will open up some doors to advancement in her profession, and the investment will pay off in the future. In addition, Carol reports that she has been contacted by the Education Center, and asked to prepare study guides for teachers, for a Social Studies program. She will be assembling case histories on various family problems and organizing them into a teachers guide. This is a real job with an hourly pay schedule, and 100 hours already have been allocated and paid for.

## **BENESCH CHILDREN SING IN CHORUS AT RECORDING SESSION**

Carol also reports that Jason, Jessica and Dustin were paid to sing in a chorus recording sponsored by the Up With People organization. The Song will be played at a meeting to be held in Denver.

## **SOME MORE GRADUATION NEWS**

We learned recently that Michael Mehan graduated from 6th grade with honors. He had a perfect 4.0 grade average, and ranks in the top 15% of all students. He received the Presidential citation for both academic and physical fitness. He also had a perfect attendance record. He will be entering Oak Crest J.H. in the fall, and has expressed an interest in either math or science.

## **JOKE OF THE MONTH**

It has been some time since we have passed on any humor, so it's time for a political joke.

"George Bush, Bill Clinton and Ross Perot were playing golf one day, when suddenly some black clouds came rolling in. There were flashes of lightning and the rumble of thunder. Suddenly there was a crack of lightning, all three were struck and killed. Soon thereafter they were seen knocking on the gate to heaven. Saint Peter opened the gate, and after looking them over commented "you all look familiar, are you important people?" They indicated that they were, and Saint Peter then replied "the Lord himself will want to personally welcome you to the kingdom of heaven." They soon were ushered into the

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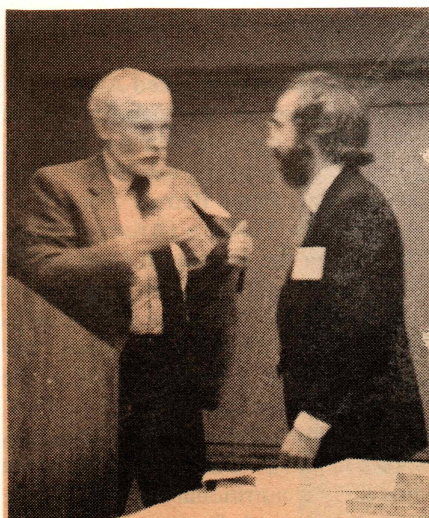


July, 1993

place where the Lord was seated on his celestial throne, surrounded by angels and saints. After looking them over he turned to George Bush and asked "and who are you, sir?" Mr. Bush replied " I am a veteran of World War II, and afterwards I went into politics. I was the Director of the CIA, and subsequently was elected and served in the office of Vice-President of the United States. Then I was elected to the office of President, and served one term." "Indeed," the Lord replied, "you certainly are a distinguished and important person. Please, come up and sit here at my right side." He then addressed Clinton, asking who he was. Clinton replied "my name is Bill Clinton, and I was an honor student and won a Rhodes scholarship. After graduation I too entered politics, and was elected to the office of Governor of the great state of Arkansas. I then ran for and was elected to the position of President of the United States." "Yes indeed," the Lord replied, "you also are an important and distinguished person. Please, come and sit here at my left side". The Lord then turned to Perot and said "and who, sir, are you? Perot replied "my name is Ross Perot, and you are sitting in my seat"

## SOME MEGAN FAMILY NEWS

On the right you see a picture of another budding entertainer, Michael, playing the role of the Cowardly Lion in the school play, The Wizard of Oz. Check out that cowardly expression. Megan also made news with a 1st place ribbon in the hobby exhibit at the fair, for her collection of miniature horses. Megan also earned a Presidential National Fitness award. To qualify, one must be in the top 15% of the nation, in all events. Margaret reports that Megan comes by her talent naturally, as her paternal grandmother was a champion mile racer, holding the New York State title for women. We are not sure about the picture of Bud, but will get more details for the next issue.



*David Fetterman, Past-President, passes the responsibilities of CAE Presidency to Hugh Mehan*



Conference National Education Computers Conference

↳ theme The magic of technology

- each keynote speech was preceded by a magic show. Lots of new technology was demonstrated.

Virtual museums, virtual reality, multi-media.

In the home of disney world - there were LINES to get into talks. For both of my presentations (and many others) the rooms were too small. Instead of letting people crowd in or stand outside and listen - they had a person at each talk who closed the door, formed a line and let one person in for any person who left. So we talked to full audiences!

Riel/Mehan Disney World Trip

①

Kids + Bud arrive at

6:00 on July 1

7-12 ~~Disney~~ Magic Kingdom with  
fire works — same as our  
Disneyland but with more  
"covered" rides because of  
frequent showers (but none while  
we were there)

July 2: River Country an old time

Mark Twain style water park.

"swimming hole." rope pulls and  
sliding off of cliffs into swimming  
pools and water lagoons

July 3: Epcot Center: "Future World"

lots of exhibits around themes

like:

- energy
- transportation
- communication

The land

The seas

The earth

imagination

laser

laser light fire work show at night  
(over)

July 4: MGM Studios ②

demonstrations of how t.v. +  
movies are created - both  
"live" action and animation.  
Very imaginative displays!

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Epcot Center at night for a  
spectacular fireworks + laser  
show for 4th of July. Mother  
Nature sent a few lightning  
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time to see Canada, Norway  
China + Italy. We  
were about to see the U.S.  
~~but~~ but a real storm with  
lots of lightning + thunder + buckets  
of rains cleared the park just as we  
had to leave. Even with the <sup>Micky Mouse</sup> ponchos  
francie lent us - we got wet!! - but it was an  
adventure!

6/11/93  
Margaret

Michael's soccer team, The  
Lighting, won the San  
Marcos Indoor Soccer League  
league, with an undefeated  
~~9-0-2~~ record. They had 9  
wins, 2 ties.

Megan has been awarded the  
Presidential National Fitness  
award. This award ~~requ~~  
To achieve this award a child  
must place in the top 15%  
of the nation in all of the  
events.

grandmother  
NY State  
mile record





Megan 1<sup>st</sup> place in her  
class

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Course 7  
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