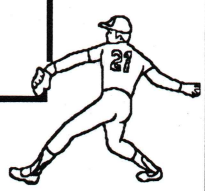




The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

August, 1993



VACATION REPORT GILLINGHAM, HARTMAN, CASTRO

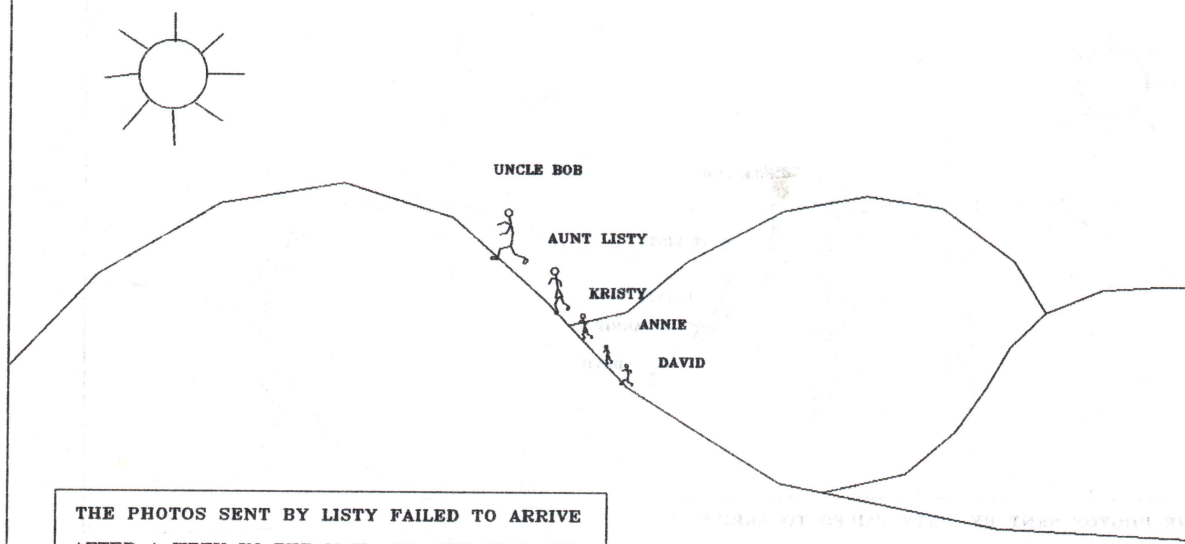
GILLINGHAMS IN COLORADO - We have a full report of the Gillingham odyssey to Colorado last month. The first night was spent in Las Vegas, and reporter Listy revealed big time gambling in the casino. They gambled \$2.00 and win \$2.00, and that was it. The next morning they hit the road, and ended up in Glenwood Springs, on the Colorado river. The kids did some rock collecting, and also enjoyed a swim in the huge hot springs swimming pool. From there the next stop was Dillon Lake, where there was bike riding around the lake. Next was Beaver Creek, (near Vail) where they enjoyed a horse drawn carriage ride, and an expensive meal at a fancy restaurant. They also helped Bob's parents move into their new home. Before leaving they rode the chair lift to the top of the mountain. The ski season was long gone, and there was only a few small patches of dirty snow. However, they hope to come back in the winter, to try out the slopes. The whole trip was a great adventure. (see **VACATIONS**, pg.2)

SUMMER'S OVER LABOR DAY PARTY ANNOUNCED

BIG FAMILY CELEBRATION AT HARTMAN ESTATE SET FOR SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2:00 P.M.

The Hartman family have graciously volunteered to host a "Summer is Over, It's Back to School Time" party at their estate on Mount Helix. There will be lots of swimming for the kids, and probably some other fun and games. All the family members are invited, and Bruce and Birdy would appreciate it if you would call and let them know if you are coming. In case you have forgotten the number is 660-6143. This will be the last big celebration for this year, and we hope you all will turn out and enjoy this last fling before the beginning of the next school year. In addition to the regular fun there will be a surprise magic show put on by "Sleeveless the Magnificent", who will entertain everyone with his astounding magic tricks. You will not want to miss this special performance. See you there!!!

IMAGINARY PHOTOGRAPH OF GILLINGHAMS HIKING UP MOUNTAINS NEAR VAIL



THE PHOTOS SENT BY LISTY FAILED TO ARRIVE AFTER A WEEK IN THE MAIL, SO THE REAL ONE WILL HAVE TO APPEAR IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE

LISTO1

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CASTROS IN BALTIMORE - The Castro gang went on a baseball oriented trip to Baltimore, just in time for the All Star Game. They did not attend that game, but did take in a Baltimore game just before the big game. There was a lot of baseball shows going on, with hitting booths, card shows and the like, all enjoyed by Brett and Bryce. They also traveled to our old home town to see the Frederick Keys professional baseball team play a game. It turns out that the son of the friends they stayed with is a professional catcher on the Keys team, so they had a special chance to talk to an insider in pro ball. Washington, D.C. also was on the agenda, and they took in some of the sights at our nations capital. They also enjoyed a cruise in the sailboat owned by their friends, and the picture shows the whole gang cruising down the Chesapeake Bay. We understand that Brett and Bryce turned out to be an excellent helmsmen. As usual Francie brought back lots of pictures of the entire trip.

HARTMANS AT LAKE TAHOE AND ELSEWHERE - With Bruce in the drivers seat, the Hartman gang took off in their camper on July 11th, and drove directly to Pollock Pines, there to visit with Bruce's brothers family. They spent two days enjoying the area, which is on Route 50, the main road from Sacramento to Lake Tahoe. Pollock Pines is about 15 miles east of Placerville, and is in the mountains. Birdy reported that Craig caught a water snake in the river. Due to lack of suitable accommodations in the camper, he returned the snake to the river. On Wednesday they took off for the over the mountains drive to LakeTahoe. They spent four days in the area, and Birdy reported that she won a (see **VACATIONS**, page 3)



CURTIS, CRAIG AND SCOTT HOLDING UP A GIANT SEQUOIA TREE AT CALAVERAS BIG TREES PARK



FRANCIE, JOSE, BRETT AND BRYCE CRUISING DOWN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY, WITH CAPTAIN BRYCE AT THE HELM

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\$400 jackpot on a dollar machine. This win financed the rental of a boat for a cruise around the lake. They also took in a side tour to Virginia City, where they rode on the train and panned for gold. On the 17th they visited Calaveras Big Trees State Park, which is about 50 miles east of Stockton, near Arnold. As you can see from the accompanying photo, the trees there are as big as any in California, and a real sight to see. After camping out for two days, the next stop was Yosemite National Park. Two days were spent enjoying the Lower Pines area in the valley. The only problem occurred here, with the camper. Birdy reported that car trouble in Yosemite can be a problem due to lack of repair facilities. However, Bruce's skill prevailed, and on Friday the group took off for good old San Diego. It was a great trip, and one everyone will remember for a long time. Birdy has lots of pictures for anyone who is interested.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

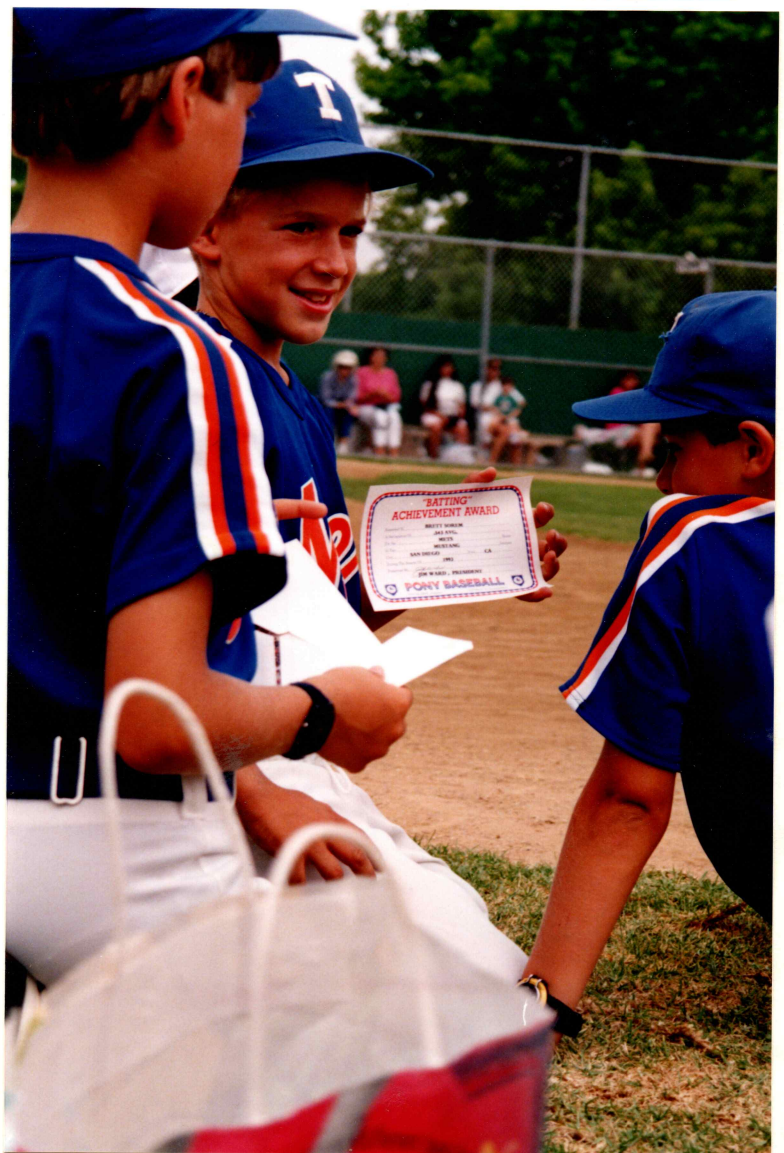
There were several birthday kids who celebrated recently with Grandma. On July 17th Tim had an unexpected twist to his celebration. It happened that Grandpa's car was in for service, and since Grandma had a short dental appointment, Grandpa picked up Tim, and we all went to the dentist. After a short check up we took off to go miniature golfing. However, Grandma's car died in the middle on El Cajon Boulevard. Two kind young men pushed us around the corner into a gas station, and after some checking noted that the battery cable was loose and corroded. Correcting this problem failed, since the starter still would not respond. We then called the AAA, and while waiting for the tow truck Grandpa noticed that the belt to the alternator was missing. This identified the problem, and we were towed to a nearby repair shop, where new belts were ordered and eventually delivered. The garage owner kindly gave us a ride to the other garage where Grandpa's car was ready, so we could finally start the fun part. Tim was very patient through all of this trouble, and we finally enjoyed a round of miniature golf. Afterwards Grandma and Tim took in a movie and the toy store. To make up for all of the delays we also took Tim on the following Wednesday to Stardust for a round with Uncle Bob, Grandpa and Grandma, followed by dinner. Cris and Nathan were luckier in that nothing unexpected happened during their celebration. There was a round of golf at Stardust, followed by lunch at La Pinata, in Old Town. Grandma then took the twins to a movie (Robin Hood) and to the toy store. Bryce also celebrated his birthday with the usual fun and games. All in all, it was a busy month for Grandma.

BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

Carol Benesch	August 2	39
Nathan Riel	August 13	12
Christopher Riel	August 12	12
Annie Gillingham	August 13	6
Jason Benesch	August 30	12

SPORTS NEWS

The baseball season is winding down, but Brett Sorem is very much in the news with his expert playing for the Tecolote team in the Mustang division of the Pony league. We quote the following from "Extra Innings", the unofficial chronicle of Tecolote youth baseball. "Tec tops La Mirada, 9-1 - All-star defense, timely hits and strong pitching highlighted Tecolote's efforts as they beat La Mirada, 9-1, in the fourth game of yesterday's Mustang regional tournament. In the top of the second, Brett Sorem made a diving catch of a well hit ball off the bat of La Mirada's Brett Erickson in right and robbed him not only of a hit, but certain extra bases for the second out of the inning." Brett also was credited with one of the runs batted in by his team. Brett also was given a certificate in recognition of his being the batting leader of his team.



BRET SOREM SHOWS OFF BATTING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD CERTIFICATE FOR LEADING HIS TEAM IN HITTING

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The Story OF PENGUIN

Written and Illustrated
by Megan Riel-Mehan

In the beginning of time, when all was new, everything was snow and all the animals were white.

The Maker of the World made Fox, a wise, friendly Fox, who helped lazy old Penguin. Penguin would always yell at Fox to get him food. Fox went as fast as he could to get Penguin's food. Once Penguin got his food, he never shared it, he just told Fox to get him more food.

Penguin always complained to Fox about how cold it was. One day, Fox was so tired of hearing Penguin's complaining that he said, "Penguin, on the other side of the world there's Sun. He is warm and hot. If you sit under him he'll keep you warm."

"Well Fox, since you know so much of this Sun as you call him, why don't you go and steal a piece of him?" asked Penguin.

"O.K.," said Fox and he went off to get some of Sun. But Fox knew that it wasn't right to steal.

Fox walked a long way. When he got to Sun he said, "Sun, oh Sun, we, on the other side of the world are very cold. Would you be kind enough to let us have a piece of you?"

"Fox, I would love to, but the people here are so happy that I would hate to disappoint them," spoke Sun.

"All right, I understand." So Fox started on his long journey home.

When Penguin heard what Fox had done, he was furious. But Fox stayed calm and said, "If you want Sun so much, why don't you get him. O.K." Penguin walked to where Sun was. When it was night and Sun

was asleep, Penguin stole a piece of Sun and fled with it. Halfway there, the piece of Sun started to burn Penguin. The burn was so bad that it pulled his skin together and shrank his wings so he couldn't fly. It burned his back black.

Meanwhile, Fox was daydreaming about how nice he would look if he had an orange coat.

When Penguin got home, Fox noticed Penguin had a piece of Sun. Penguin wouldn't share it!

That night, Fox took the piece of Sun and carried it back. Fox burned his paws.

When the Maker of the World saw how greedy Penguin was, he cried and cried. The Maker cried so hard that he made an ocean between Fox's house and Penguin's. The land split in two. Fox's piece floated to the other side of the world, under the sun, and he got a nice orange tan. Penguin's piece floated to the bottom of the world, where it was ice. That is now the South Pole.

About the Author

Megan Riel-Mehan is 9 years old and lives in Encinitas, California. She got the idea of carrying the sun and getting burnt from an old Indian story teller. She has one older brother. Megan loves animals, especially horses and cats. She enjoys going horseback riding. In soccer she plays AA and does gymnastics, hoping someday to be in the Olympics.