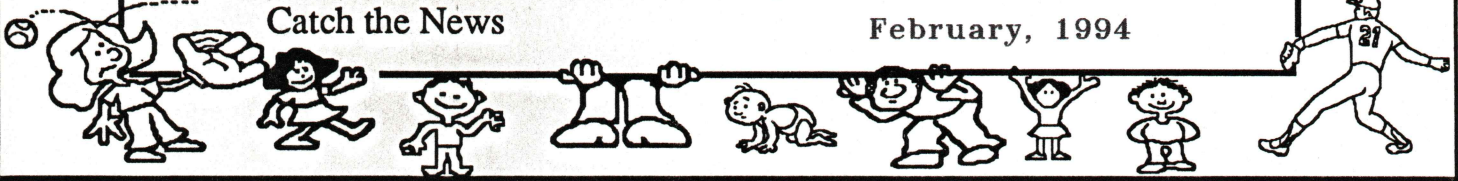




# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

February, 1994



## AUNT BIRDY ADDRESSES TEACHERS CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO



In the last issue we reported that Birdy Hartman would be traveling to the meeting of Kindergarten Teachers sponsored by the AEA. The meeting lasted from Friday through the week end, with Birdy's presentation scheduled for Saturday. Bob G. and Listy took a plane to San Francisco on Saturday morning, (using the 1875 Lyndon Road airport shuttle service) in order to be present for the talk. The subject of the presentation was the holding of a school open house. A very lengthy series of hand outs were available, (courtesy of Francis Parker School) and they outlined many ideas on projects children could do as exhibits for the visiting parents to see. According to Bob and Listy the presentation was well done, and well received by a large audience. We all are very proud of this achievement, and congratulate Birdy for the good job she did.

### FAX FACTS

Recently it was suggested by Richard, and

seconded by others, that we print information on each families computer equipment, related capabilities, and activities. As a starter we have asked each family to give us a list of the equipment they have, so that we all know what is available within the family. Thus far, we have been provided with the following:

Rich and Liz Fax line 483-6950 486 PC 2400 modem VGA HP2 laser printer 180 meg hard drive

Margaret and Bud Fax line 943-1314 MacIntosh, Centros 660 Power book CD player laser printer Apple GS 1440 modem

Bd and Jan 486 PC 2400 modem VGA HP inkjet color printer 220 meg hard drive CD player and sound card

Birdy and Bruce IBM (clone) 386 SX 4mb Ram 200 meg hard drive SVGA monitor

IBM (clone) 386SX 1 mb Ram 50

meg hard drive SVGA monitor

IBM (clone) 286 1 mb Ram 50

meg hard drive SVGA monitor

Listy and Bob Apple II C

Mac Plus with external drive

Mac Classic

Mac Power book

E Mail at both work locations

Mac Centris 600 (at Listy's work)

We are waiting to hear from Robert, Francie, and Carol for information on their equipment. It has been suggested that it would be nice if each family could acquire FAX equipment, so that there could be a rapid and easy exchange of information. This would be especially handy for newsletter items, so we could have the very latest news in time for each issue.

### RUNNY NOSE DEPARTMENT

Tis the season to be sneezey, and the sick ones

are beginning to show up at Grandma's for a little TLC. On Monday, January 24th Kristy spent the day resting and watching TV. There was a hamburger lunch break at Burger King. Apparently the cure was not complete, since a relapse required another day of treatment on February 4th. This time we dined in style at the Black Angus, and think that the cure now is complete.

We have the following communication from Bruce, which updates his condition.

"Dear Dad Riel,

Recent events in the ongoing saga of my health (or lack thereof) have made it time to update the family. During the past month I have been experiencing vision problems in my left eye. I have found that whenever I bend over or squat down I loose vision in one eye. The field of vision closes in as if I were looking through a long tunnel.

Friday, January 28th, I went in to see my Neuro-Ophthalmologist and after two hours of testing received the bad news. The Graves disease, which is responsible for pushing my eyes out, has advanced to the point that it is pinching my optic nerve. If left alone I will lose my eyesight in short order. Since that isn't an option I want to consider, the course of action to take starts out conservatively. Starting immediately my dosage of prednisone was brought from 20 mg per day to 100 mg per day. If in two weeks, (and if my stomach can take it) the nerve compression has not reversed itself we go on to stage two which is that I will have to go into the hospital and receive prednisone via IV in massive doses. The doctor does not feel sure if it will work but wants to try because the next options are not so good. I will be forced into making a decision between radiation therapy or surgery. The radiation only has about a 50/50 chance of working and can lead to cancer in the eye years down the road. The decompression surgery involves cutting out part



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of the skull behind the eye opening the orbit into a sinus cavity. None of this sounds like much fun but it beats the heck out of going blind. Tomorrow morning I'm going in for another CT scan and will see my doctor on Wednesday. I'll update you as soon as I find out more. "We are anxiously awaiting news, and hope and pray that the initial treatment will be successful."

## POETRY CORNER

We received two poems recently submitted by Megan, and they are printed as follows.

### THE IMAGE OF LOVE

Love is never ending  
It stays with you all your life  
Love can be helpful  
Misuse it and love will turn against you  
Love is the passion you have each other  
But don't let looks take you in  
Fill your heart with the love for some  
Not the hate for others.

### THE FEELING OF SADNESS

It hovers over you like a dark cloud  
Clinging to you like it will never let go.  
It swells up inside you,  
Getting bigger and bigger  
With each step you take.

## SPORTS NEWS

We have the following sports news report from Kevin Riel. "Basketball season has started for me, and I thought I would keep you up to date on what is happening in case you need something for the newsletter. I have tried out for the Point Loma High Freshman basketball team and I am starting all of our games and am the leading scorer. I have been chosen by coaches in my area to play in our YMCA traveling team and in our first game we beat Mission Valley 56-16. I had 15 points. Our team is named the Peninsula Hornets. Nathan and Chris are both playing on basketball teams at the Point Loma basketball league. Well, just thought I'd write you in case you need something to put in the newsletter and to keep you up with what's new." Margaret reported that Micheal's AAA Lightning soccer team will be playing in the State Cup. We wish them good luck, and hope they come away with some good wins. We have a new sports accomplishment to report. Recently Jessica attended a Girl Scout session at the Rawhide

Ranch, where horse back riding is the main theme. Jessica placed second in the horse vaulting event. In case you are not sure what that means, it means jumping on (not over) a horse. Jason also made news by getting an award for completing a 17 mile run, as a part of the PB class activity.

## VACATION NEWS

Although this is not exactly the vacation season we learned recently that Francie and family are off to Disney World in February. The airport shuttle service will get them going, and pick them up on the return. We will be looking forward to some exciting news and pictures.

## BUSINESS TRAVELS

We also learned that Francie just returned from a very successful three day exhibition at a trade show in Long Beach. She once again was on hand at the booth set up by the company she represents, ISO (Innovative Styling Options, a subsidiary of the Helene Curtis Company). In one day they made \$2500 giving demonstration permanents, at \$5.00 each. The company plans expanding the next years exhibit from two to five spaces in the exhibit hall. Francie was one of a team of four who presided over the booth, and there also were local sales representatives who helped out.

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Last month Megan celebrated her birthday, but due to scheduling problems Grandma has not yet provided her usual celebration. She has not forgotten, however, and arrangements are in the works.

## BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

Michael Mehan	February 10	13
Brett Sorem	February 10	11
Jose Castro	February 25	45

## SCIENCE FAIR TIME

Once again Grandpa Riel has been approached by Margaret to help Michael and Megan with projects. The big challenge is the design of a rubber band powered paddle boat. The concept

developed for last years competition was very successful, but a rules change has outlawed the long double bladed paddle wheel. New ideas consistent with the new rules are being discussed, and there will be a new entry in the March competition. The Benesch family also is involved in the competition, and Jason, who is too old to be a participant is helping the younger students with their entries. However, Jessica is on the team, and is busy "fine tuning" the catapult we made last year.

## SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

We learned recently that Megan was voted by her class as the outstanding student for the month of January. Also, Michael was selected by the teachers as one of the three out of about 1000 students as a student of the week. Michael also has become eligible to be a part of the Johns Hopkins Talent Search and will be taking the SAT test in March. We certainly wish him the best of luck in this activity. Aunt Carol reports that Jason is on the honor roll for getting all A's. Also, he is on the school chess team.

## JESSICA AND DUSTIN HAVE ROLES IN "ALADDIN"

The Christian Youth Theatre of San Diego/East County are presenting the musical "Aladdin" and both Jessica and Dustin have parts in the chorus. The evening performances are at 7:00 p.m. on February 17, 18, 25, & 26. The afternoon shows are at 2:00 p.m. on February 19, 20, 26, & 27. All performances are at the Lewis Junior High School Auditorium, 5170 Greenbrier Avenue.

## JOKE OF THE MONTH

The Aladdin show reminds us of a joke. Three men were stranded on a lonely island for many months. One day they were sitting on the beach when a bottle washed up and a Genie materialized. He agreed to grant each of the castaways one wish. The first one said "I would like to be in Paris enjoying a lavish meal at a fancy restaurant." His wish was granted, and away he went. The second one said "I would like to be back home with my family in Iowa", and his wish was granted. The third one thought for a minute or so and then said "gee, it's kind of lonely around here without my two friends, could you just bring them back here?"

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