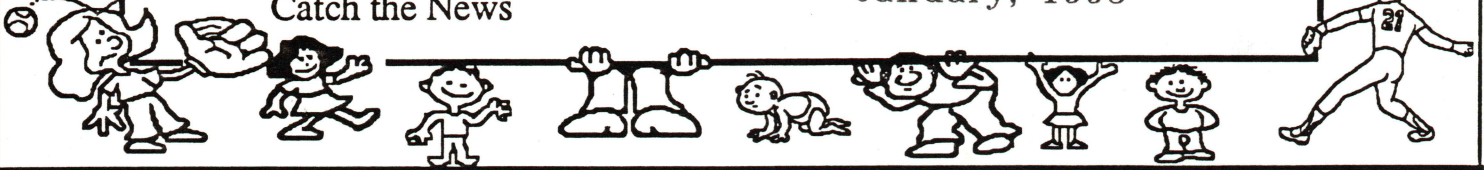




# The Riel Family Newsletter

January, 1995

Catch the News



## RIEL BOWL IV SETS NEW RECORDS

### ED RIEL - BUD MEHAN FAMILIES TAKE CONTEST HONORS

The fourth annual RIEL BOWL was without a doubt the most successful one ever. Every family was represented, and the festivities began with the passing out of the annual crossword puzzle, along with a definition of the rules governing the white elephant gift exchange. This activity occupied the attention of the various families for some time, since some of the clues created by the commissioner were, to put it mildly, obscure. In spite of this problem, one family (Ed Riel) submitted an almost perfect solution, thus winning the block of lottery tickets. The last pick in the white elephant gift exchange was found by Jose, and Carol and Jeff won the "no steal" drawing. The correct solution to the puzzle is printed elsewhere in this issue. The winner of the RFNL typo errors contest was a runaway, with the Mehan family finding far more errors than any of the others. Margaret commented that both Megan and Michael were especially good at spotting even the most subtle errors. Their prize also was a block of lottery tickets. Unfortunately, none of the lottery tickets produced any big winners.

During all of this activity everyone was enjoying the various snacks and drinks set out to tide over some of the more hungry ones, until dinner was served. Prior to eating there was an impromptu football game involving most of the kids. In addition, Bob set up his new volleyball net, and some spirited action took place. Ed Riel was the first to throw a ringer in the horseshoe contest. One could not help but notice, however, that a number of the parents seemed to be more interested in watching football on TV, instead of participating in the outside action. Is it possible that old age is beginning to take its toll? Hardly seems likely, does it.

By early afternoon everyone was ready for the main meal, and the featured entree was Bob's famous roast beef, which was absolutely delicious. In addition there was a roast turkey plus a great variety of salads and other side dishes.

After dessert, the family gift exchange was carried out. There were lots of gifts for everyone, and the entire room was alive with excitement. Once all of the wrapping paper had been disposed of the kids were banished to the upstairs steps, and the climax

of the day, the white elephant exchange, began. Commissioner Bob presided over the activity, and there followed an exciting series of selections and steals. One of the more coveted gifts was the RFNL family dine out gift certificate, which eventually wound up at the Benesch family.

This ended the party, and everyone expressed their thanks the Bob and Karla for the great hospitality they provided. It was a really great start of what we all hope will be the best year ever, 1995!

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Although not mentioned in the above story, one of the more important milestone celebrations was that of Grandma's 70th, which was celebrated one day early, as usual. There was a surprise birthday cake, with seven candles, and the "blowing out" rite was performed with great enthusiasm, as the following photograph illustrates.

### NEW PHOTO PROCEDURE BACKFIRES

Because of the poor quality of Xerox copies of color photographs it was decided to use black and white film for the Riel Bowl celebration. Carol and Jeff kindly loaned us their fully automatic camera, and we took approximately 50 candid and posed shots. The film was left at the Save-On photo department, and three days later nothing had been returned. We then were informed that black and white film requires special processing, and that there would be a 10 day turn around time. Attempts to retrieve the film were unsuccessful, since it had been sent to the L.A. area, and farmed out to various processors. Since we cannot wait that long, we will complete this issue without any pictures, which will be published in the February issue. Needless to say, this will be the last time we leave film at Save-On.

### SPECIAL GIVE AWAY NOTICE

Ed Riel reports that he has a single bunk bed that he will be happy to give to anyone who wants it. It is white, and comes with steps for access to the elevated sleeping area. If you are interested give him a call and he will be happy to provide additional information.

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## MORE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Kristy Gillingham also celebrated a birthday, her 11th. Grandpa and Grandma took her to lunch at the Boll Weevil, where we all enjoyed hamburgers and french fries. Afterwards Grandma and Kristy spent the rest of the day shopping for gifts. There was no time for the usual movie, so Kristy has a rain check. Grandpa Riel also celebrated, his 76th, and he got various visits and phone calls. Francie treated him to a lunch, and Bob Riel showed up as a surprise participant.

## BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

Edith Riel January 2 70

## RUNNY NOSE DEPARTMENT

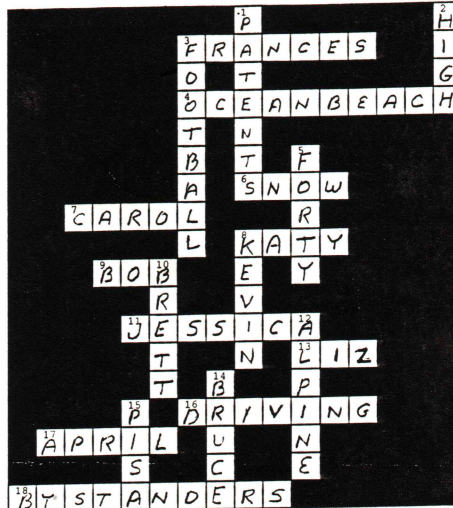
The past two weeks have been hard ones for Grandpa and Grandma, since both have been laid up with the flu. We had to take Grandma to the urgent care facility recently, where the doctor told her she had a sore throat and an ear infection. Grandpa is just now recovering from a severe cold, which has lasted for almost two weeks. Things are looking up, however, and it appears that the worst is almost over. However, some of the symptoms continue, and it appears that whatever we have is very hard to get rid of.

## FRANCIE GOES TO CHICAGO

We learned recently that Francie has been selected by the firm she consults for, ISO, to go to Chicago for a three day training session. She was one of only three selected from the west coast. After she completes the course she will continue to demonstrate at trade shows, and will assume additional responsibilities. As soon as she returns she will be attending a three day show in Long Beach. We congratulate her on this advancement and know that she will continue to be successful.

## JESSICA INTERVIEWS GRANDMA

Recently Jessica Benesch had a school assignment to do a story on someone in the family, and she chose Grandma as her subject. The interview was conducted by telephone, and the resulting story is reproduced in the adjoining column. She certainly did an excellent job, showing a lot of writing talent.



LOOK  
UNDER  
THIS  
SANTA  
CLAU S

Dec. 14, 1994  
Jessica Benesch

- Across
- 3 WAS THE FIRST AND LAST ONE
  - 4 A LARGE POPULATION OF RIEL'S LIVE HERE
  - 6 WHAT HAPPENS IN APRIL
  - 7 WAS INTERVIEWED BY LA TIMES
  - 8 ONLY ONE IN THE GROUP
  - 9 TEAM MEMBER OF DAD'S
  - 11 SANG A SOLO IN YOUR A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN
  - 13 40TH BIRTHDAY WAS OBSERVED ON THANKSGIVING
  - 16 WHAT ONE OF THE GRAND CHILDREN WILL BE DOING THIS YEAR
  - 17 MONTH 1ST RFLN WAS ISSUED
  - 18 THERE IS ONLY EIGHT IN THIS GROUP
- Down
- 1 DAD HAS LOTS OF THESE
  - 2 LISTY'S TYPE OF SCHOOL
  - 3 BEST TYPE OF BOWL
  - 5 NO. OF PEOPLE ON THE COVER OF RFLN VOL. 2 NO. 2
  - 8 WROTE ABOUT BODE'S THEORY
  - 10 AN ALLSTAR FOR THE YANKEES
  - 12 GOD'S COUNTRY
  - 14 CHANGE THE 'B' FOR A 'SP' AND THIS PERSON WOULD BE A TREE
  - 15 MSM SAVED A LANDMARK IN THIS TOWN

## MY GRANDMA "THE MOST FASCINATING PERSON IN MY FAMILY"

My Grandma, Edith Merica Riel, is the most fascinating person in my family. She was born in Athens, Greece in 1925. When she was three she moved to Tehran, which is the capital of Iran. In Tehran she went to a French boarding school. This school starts at first grade and goes through two years of college. While in school she had to learn six different languages! WOW!

When she was seventeen she went to a Christmas party where she met and fell in love with the only American soldier at the party. This handsome soldier was later invited to another party and said he would only go if Edith was going. They both enjoyed the party and continued seeing each other until my grand dad, Frank, had to go back to the United States. Before he left he ask Edith to marry him. Edith liked that idea, but her dad suggested to them that maybe Edith should go to college in the United States to see how things were, before marring. Frank went back to the United States and started college at Purdue University, in Indiana. Edith started seeing a tutor to sharpen up on her English. They continued writing each other for a couple of years.

In 1946 my grandma made the big trip to the United States of America. On the way she had to make a stop in Pompei and be in quarantine because of an out break of measles. She finally reached New York and was looking forward to a tour of the city by a college representative, but instead she ended up at Ellis Island because of a problem with her visa. (My grandma said this whole adventure was a story in its self that she would tell me at another time.) That weekend at Ellis Island was the worst experience of her life! She was ready to go back home, but with the help of another couple also having problems, she made it through the whole ordeal. By the time Monday came she didn't want to see any more of New York so she went straight to Dubuque University in Iowa.

Edith and Frank spent one semester visiting each other every weekend. This was costing them a fortune (and probably wasn't doing much for their grades, either!) They decided that they had tried this long enough and that it was time to get married.

On December 28, 1946 Frank and Edith were married. They had their first child nine months and one day later. And over the next eleven years had seven more children! There are five girls and three boys in my mom's family.

My grandparents have twenty-two wonderful grandchildren all living in San Diego.

My grandma is very special because she can share her love with so many different people, and still make you feel like you are her only grandchild. My Grandma is very healthy, loving, funny, and active. I love her very much!

*Dear Robert and Karla  
and your lovely children  
Katy and Brian I thank  
you from the bottom of my  
heart and Bless you for  
your hospitality your  
Prime rib is the best ever.  
Thank you, Thank you Thank you  
to my sweet children and  
Grand children,  
I love you all so much.  
Dad joins me to thank you  
for your generosity, for you  
love, it is everything to me  
You are my pride and the  
reason I am happy to be alive  
XXXXXXX, love, hugs, Blessing  
Your mother and grandmothers  
Edith*

Dec. 14, 1994  
Jessica Benesch

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I love you all so much.  
Dad joins me to thank you  
for your generosity, for your  
love, it is everything to me.

You are my pride and the  
reason I am happy to be alive

XXXXXXXXXX, Love, hugs, Blessings

Yours mother and grandmothers  
Leath