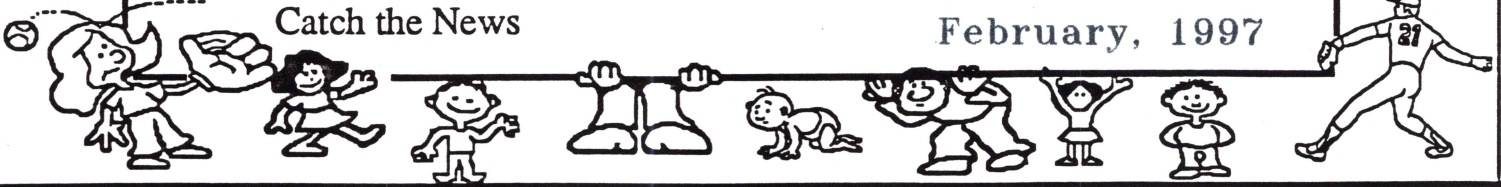




The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

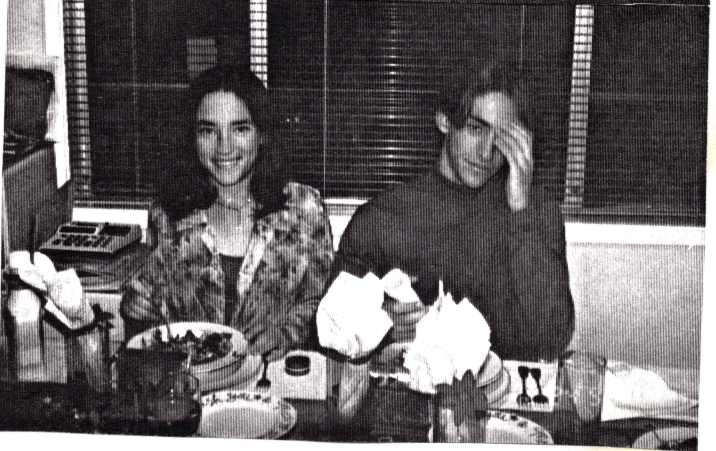
February, 1997



SOME CHRISTMAS SEASON LEFTOVERS

FAMILY CELEBRATIONS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Due to the many activities reported on in the January issue we had to postpone some of the Christmas celebrations we all enjoyed. First of all, there was the usual shopping spree enjoyed by the shopping trio of Grandma, Listy and Birdy. In order to gain enough energy to fight off the other last minute shoppers they were treated to lunch by Grandpa, at Tio Leos. As can be seen in the following picture some good Mexican food left them fully energized and ready to take off for the mall.



On Christmas eve Grandpa and Grandma were invited by Francie to join the Mehan family for a delicious dinner and celebration. The main course was delicious broiled fish, along with salad, potatoes and vegetables. Dessert was served along with candy and after dinner drinks. We then attended mass at St Columba. It was a great party, as can be seen from the pictures that follow, and we thank Francie and Margaret for inviting us.

Incidentally, we were treated to a skate board demonstration at the new back yard ramp facility, by Brett and Bryce. Grandma was too afraid to watch, but Grandpa was duly impressed with both the ramps and the skill shown by both kids. They put on demonstrations of skill and daring that are hard to believe. Both Brett and Bryce have developed considerable skill in this sport, and seem to enjoy showing it off. We were offered a chance to try the facility ourself, but politely declined.

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

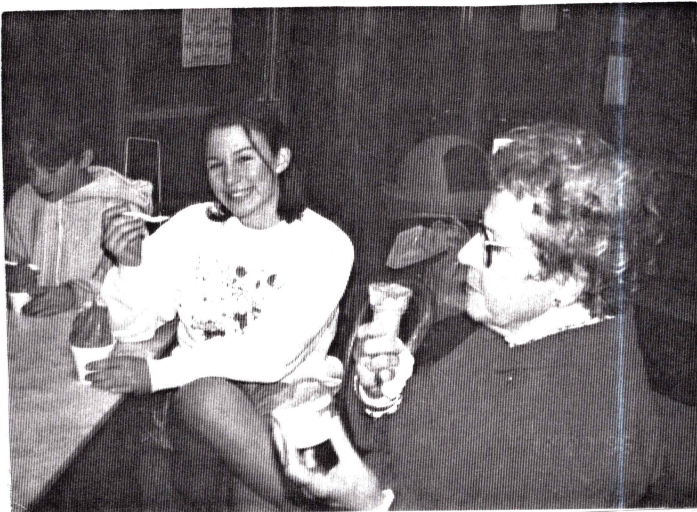
February, 1997

MORE CHRISTMAS NEWS

We spent Christmas day at the Hartman home, where we enjoyed visiting with the Hartman family along with the Gillingham family. Also present were Bruce's friends Mac and LeRoy White, Bruce's mom Nataline and Auntie Sue, (Susanne Hartman). We enjoyed a delicious meal of broiled steak, potatoes, salad and lots of drinks and desserts. Afterwards we sat around the tree and watched the kids play with some of the newly acquired presents. It was a very pleasant day, and we enjoyed seeing family and friends. Thank you, Bruce and Birdy, for having us. We have a few pictures, as shown in the adjoining column.

Finally, just before Christmas we had an opportunity to see Jessica Benesch perform in the Christian Community Theater Fourth Annual Traditions of Christmas, a Musical Spectacular. This show has been put on for several years, and was inspired by a Radio City Music Hall show first put on in New York in 1933. The performance consisted of a series of scenes depicting traditional Christmas activities. Included in the performance were scenes of "Christmas Around the World", "Christmas at the North Pole", "March of the Toy Soldiers", "Norman Rockwell's Christmas", "A Christmas Carol", "the Living Nativity" and many others. Most of the performers were adults, but the kids roles were recruited through the Christian Youth Theater program. Jessica appeared in the "Raggedy Anns" chorus, and did her usual fine job.

It was a truly spectacular show, with beautiful costumes, sets, and a large cast of talented singers and dancers. The show also included live animals, a camel, some donkeys and sheep. It is well worth seeing, if it is repeated next year. The following photo shows Jessica enjoying ice cream with Grandma and the rest of the group after the show.



On page three we have reproduced the front cover of the program, with Jessica's autograph.

Incidentally, we have advance news that Dustin has secured a major role in an upcoming CYT production. Carol will be making early arrangements for family attendance at one of the performances in which he will play that role. Watch for more news on this subject in a future issue of RFNL.



BIRDY, BRUCE, AUNTIE SUE AND LEROY WHITE



LEROY AND MAC WHITE AND GRANDMA HARTMAN



JESSICA, SCOTT AND GRANDMA RIEL

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News



February, 1997

Christian Community Theater presents

musical
musical

Fourth Annual

TRADITIONS

OF



CHRISTMAS

A Musical Spectacular

December 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 at 8:00 p.m.
December 14, 15, 21, 22 at 2:00 p.m.
December 17, 18, 19, 20 at 4:00 p.m.
Theatre East ~ El Cajon
Christmas 1996

JESSICA WINS ESSAY CONTEST

The following describes a recent essay contest won by Jessica. Congratulations, and good luck in the national contest.



8949 Ware Court
San Diego, CA 92121-2275
619 / 695-3110
FAX: 619 / 536-8203

December 17, 1996

Ms. Jessica Benesch
7655 Bromeliad Court
San Diego, CA 92119

Dear Ms. Benesch:

We are pleased to inform you that you have won the *It's US* essay competition for your essay in response to the question "What traditions and dreams do Americans share?". Your essay was chosen by a committee from about 50 entries in that category.

As the winner you will receive a \$250.00 U.S. Savings Bond from Southwestern Cable TV. In addition, your essay will now be entered into the national competition where the winners will receive a \$5000.00 U.S. Savings Bond from Time Warner, Inc. To receive your U.S. Savings Bond, please have your parents complete the enclosed application form and mail it back to me. We will then purchase the Bond and have it mailed directly to your home.

We at Southwestern Cable TV congratulate you on a job well done! Keep up the good work and we will look forward to seeing more from you in future essay contests.

Sincerely,

Jean Westfall
Jean Westfall
Public Affairs Coordinator

Encl.

cc. Carleen Hemric, Pershing Middle School

DREAMS AND TRADITIONS

1. What are some dreams and traditions that Americans share?

My dream for the future is to be raising a family in a nice community, while enjoying many of the same traditions I enjoyed as a child. I would like my children to grow up in a world where gangs, drugs, racial tension and teenage violence are a thing of the past. I hope to have a college degree, a good job and a loving family.

These dreams are probably the same dreams many children my age have, but because I live in America I have the opportunity to make these dreams come true. Living in America entitles me to an education, freedom to choose the religion I wish to have, the occupation I want to do, who and when I want to marry, the right to vote for our government and the freedom to choose where I want to live and go to school.

If I had been born in a different country, I might not get to do all these things that I do and have all that I have. In some countries you are not allowed to have more than one child! You are told to whom and when you will get married. In other countries you may not be allowed to believe in the religion you want. You may not have the right to speak out for what you believe in or write articles in papers or even have newspapers. It is hard too visualize a place where you are taught in schools how and what to think, instead of being able to discuss topics openly. As I grow up and learn more about other countries, I find out just how lucky I am.

America gives me many opportunities to be reminded of the history of our country through the different holidays. Traditionally we celebrate such holidays as the Fourth of July, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Presidents Day, Martin Luther King's Birthday and many more. When we celebrate these different holidays we are reminded of what a great country we live in. We celebrate our country becoming independent. We celebrate our veterans, both living and the ones who died while serving our country. We celebrate the great leaders who have helped our country become what it is today and we celebrate our uniqueness through other holidays. In America we celebrate holidays from all over the world.

Nowhere else in the world are so many different nationalities mixed together with a common goal, making life better for everyone. The thirteen original colonies were the home of our forefathers who gave roots to their ideas of freedom and dignity for each individual. It's those roots that still allow America to offer the opportunity to succeed and the privilege to vote, the freedom to worship where we want and the freedom to say what we want. It's all of these that make America what it is today. I'm proud to be an American! As I reach the different stages in my life, I will always remember what I have and with these freedoms I will work towards making my dreams come true.

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News



February, 1997

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Kristy Gillingham recently celebrated her 13th birthday. Grandma and Grandpa took her to lunch at Bennegins, in Mission Valley. We then took in the movie "Mother", which turned out to be an excellent choice. As a matter of fact it was so enjoyed that several days later Listy, Carol and Birdy, plus various kids, saw it again. There seems to be a slight resemblance between the main character, played by Debbie Reynolds, and a certain person well known to the family. Kristy and Grandma finished off the day with some power shopping at Mission Valley.

BIRTHDAY CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

Michael Riel-Mehan	February 10	16
Brett Sorem	February 10	14

JEFF BENESCH COMMENDED FOR SALES EFFORT

The following letter from the president of Imprinted Products congratulates Jeff for an outstanding sales week. Congratulations, Jeff, and good luck for more.



**IMPRINTED
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CORPORATION™**

9737 AERO DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123

(619) 541-1100 • FAX (619) 576-0942

BRAD SHUMAN
PRESIDENT

December 17, 1996

Jeffrey Benesch
7655 Bromeliad Court
San Diego, CA 92119

Dear Jeff:

Congratulations on a great week! I noticed you did over \$40,000 in sales. I appreciate your hard work.

Looks like 1997 could be a great year for you. If you have anything you want to share with me, please feel free to meet with Marvin and myself anytime.

Best regards,

Brad H. Shuman
President and Founder

BHS:mb

cc: Marvin Mittleman
Becky Brewer



SAD NEWS FROM SUMTER, SO. CAROLINA

It is with great sorrow that we report the recent death of James D. (Uncle Jimmy) Riel, who passed away on the evening of January 29. According to Aunt Eloise he had fallen down and sustained a broken hip. He was hospitalized, and apparently died from the trauma of the accident. He was 83 years old. For anyone desiring to send a card or letter to his wife and/or family, the address is 924 Grimble Court, Sumter, So. Car. 29150.

A WINNER IN THE HARTMAN HOUSE

We have the following news from reporter Birdy: "Craig Hartman took 1st place in the Francis Parker Science Olympiad held on January 17th. His event was called Wheeled Vehicles. The students were to design and build a wheeled vehicle powered by a nonmetallic elastic device (a rubber band). In the competition, not only did the vehicle have to travel as close to 10 meters as possible, but the students also had to be able to predict how long it would take for their vehicle to pass an intermediate position, whose measurement was disclosed just prior to the start! Craig's vehicle went exactly 10 meters, plus or minus nothing, and using his graph, he predicted an intermediate time that was off by only 2 one hundredths of a second (pretty accurate predicting, Craig). It took a lot of testing and measuring, but all of his hard work paid off!

Now Craig has been invited to participate in the County Middle Schools Regional Science Olympiad at San Diego State University on Saturday, February 8th. We hope his pulleys and bungies hold out for this next competition. Go Craig! We are proud of you!"

Birdy also added that anyone who wants to see some science projects in action should come by SDSU. They will be there on the 8th from 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. having a good old time.

A CHILDREN'S HISTORY OF THE WORLD

In case some of you, especially the teachers, missed an Ann Landers column in a past issue of the local paper, we reprint a portion for your enlightenment. According to her introduction all of the following were taken from essays written by various students, and collected through English or history teachers. We will print what we have room for and add the rest when we have room. Here goes -

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Jacob, son of Isaac, stole his brother's birthmark. One of Jacob's sons, Joseph, gave refuse to the Israelites. The inhabitants of Egypt were called mummies. They traveled by Camelot. Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. David was a Hebrew king who fought the Philatelists. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 500 wives and 500 porcupines. The Greeks invented three kinds of columns - Corinthian, Doric and Ionic. The mother of Achilles dipped him in the River Styx until he became intolerable. In the Olympic Games, the Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits and threw the java. The reward for the victor was a coral wreath. Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who died from an overdose of wedlock. Eventually the Ramones conquered the Greeks. Nero was a cruel tyrant who tortured his poor subjects by playing the fiddle to them. In the middle ages King Harlod mustarded his troops before the battle of Hastings. (More to come, in a future issue)

RFNL0714



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Jean Westfall
Public Affairs Coordinator

Encl.

cc. Carleen Hemric, Pershing Middle School

Jessica Benesch
Sept. 17, 1996
Period 6

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Hi Dad-

No photos yet. I will take some at the next event. If you want to come see some science projects in action - come on by. We'll be there from 7:00 AM to 2:30 PM having a good old time!

By the way, Granny Sue asked me to let you know that there are no Z's in Susanna. ☺

Have a fun week!

♡ Birdy