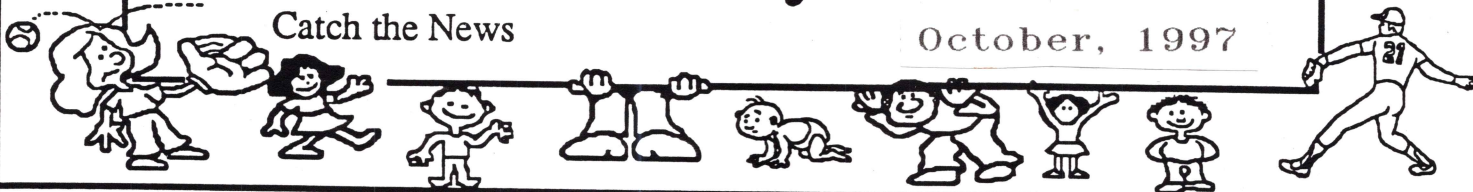




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GOOD NEWS DEPARTMENT - KEVIN'S TRUCK RECOVERED !!

In the last issue of RFNL we reported that once again Kevin's truck had been stolen, this time from the alley in the rear of the Riel home in Ocean Beach. It was recovered recently, and there is a little story on the circumstances. Prior to the theft there was a flat tire problem, and that tire was replaced by the spare. Apparently the thief experienced another flat, and finding no spare left the truck parked at a private parking area at a condo in La Jolla. When reported to the police they tried to contact Kevin, but no one was at home. Consequently, the truck was towed to an impound yard. When Kevin finally was contacted the fee to bail out his truck was nearly \$150.00, which he had to pay to get it back. Since the tire was flat getting the truck home was a "gas station to gas station" problem, and the tire was ruined. Maybe the flat tire was a blessing in disguise in that it caused the thief to abandon the vehicle. In any case the truck is back home and Kevin now has a club antitheft device. Hopefully there will not be a third time.



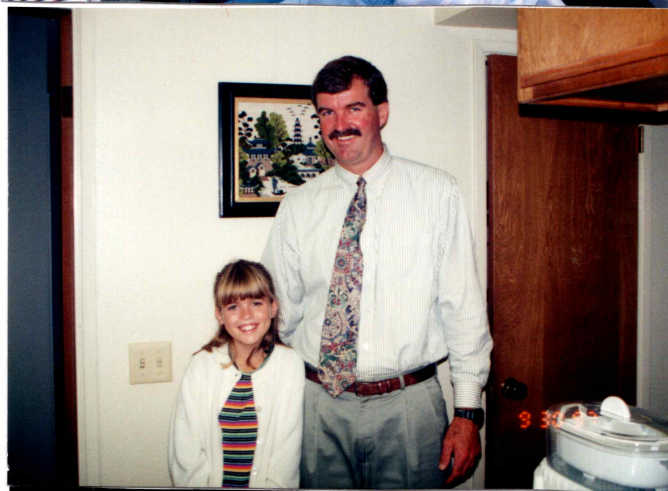
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

It was another busy month for Grandma in that there were four birthday celebrations. First of all Brian Riel celebrated his 8th birthday, which actually was on April 5th, hence was rather late. Recently Grandpa decided that the birthday celebration schedule needed to be better organized. Therefore he made up in the computer a complete list of birthdays for 1997, 98, 99 and 00, with boxes to check off each celebration as it occurs. He then checked the back issues of RFNL to bring the schedule up to date, and in doing so discovered that Brian had been inadvertently skipped. That problem was taken care of recently, with a lunch at Sizzlers, followed by a visit to Sea world. We took in just about everything there is to see. Brian liked the Wild Arctic helicopter ride so much that we went back for a second ride.

Annie Gillingham celebrated her 10th birthday recently, and we enjoyed lunch at Trophies, Grossmont Center restaurant. The movie was a rare double feature, Leave it to Beaver and Air Bud. We enjoyed both films, especially Air Bud, but it made for a long day.

Jason Benesch celebrated his 16th with lunch at the Chinese restaurant on Clairmont Mesa boulevard, Panda Country. Afterwards we saw the movie In and Out, which we did not like very much, in spite of the reviews. Finally, Katy Riel celebrated her 12th by spending the late morning and afternoon at Sea World. We first took in the early Shamu show, followed by a hearty lunch at The Ranch House Grill. We then visited the Wild Arctic exhibit. The rest of the day was spent looking at other exhibits.

We have photographs of the first three kids, as shown on page 1, but Katy's picture is still in the camera, and will be shown next month. We wish HAPPY BIRTHDAY'S to Brian, Annie, Jason and Katy!!



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BIRTHDAY CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Edward Riel	October 3	49
Katy Riel	October 6	12
Scott Hartman	October 15	12

FAMILY MEMBER LAUNCHES NEW CAREER

Recently we received from a secret source a candid photograph taken by the official RFNL paparazzi reporter. As you can see, (see photo at right) one of the family members is demonstrating his newly acquired skills as a cosmetologist. You all recognize the famous marathon runner, Listy, as the one getting the beauty treatment. Who is the person providing the service? See the next issue of RFNL for the rest of the picture.

THE OFFICIAL END OF SUMMER

Although the summer season traditionally ends on Labor Day, for some of the family it really ended with the last day of the racing season. The photograph shown below reveals an expert group of handicappers trying to figure out which horse will win the next race. As you can see they all have that happy look generally associated with a big winner. However, no one is making any claims of success, and rumor has it that no one really brought in any big long shots. Maybe next year!

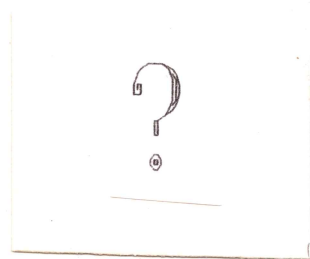
TRAVEL NEWS

Recently we learned that Robert just returned from a trip to San Francisco, where he attended a two day work shop on the latest computer technology associated with the building industry. We understand that it was very successful.

Francie reports that she is scheduled for a hard working one week long Iso training course, next January. It is scheduled in Jamaica, and we hope that she will be able to put up with this tough assignment. Grandpa and Grandma are taking off soon for a short week in Las Vegas, where Grandma hopes to locate the slot machine where Birdy had some winning combinations recently.



FIVE EXPERTS WHO THINK THEY CAN PICK A WINNER



*See
Nov for
photo*

LISTY GETS BEAUTY TREATMENT FROM MYSTERY BEAUTICIAN

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SOME NAMES IN THE NEWS

The other day Francie showed up at our house with a new look (not just a hairdo), a new pair of glasses. We thought they were very attractive, so we took the photo shown at right.

We are a little late in printing the photo shown at lower right. As you can see, it shows David Gillingham and Scott Hartman all dressed up for the 5th grade promotion ceremony, last spring. Both were speakers at the ceremony, and we offer a somewhat late congratulations for their appearance and participation in the ceremony.

We have Jessica Benesch to thank for the following poem, which she gave to us recently. This is one of many she has composed, and we think that it shows a lot of imagination and talent. We hope she will continue to exercise this capability, and look forward to more of the same in the future.



A Light in the Window

A light in the morning 'wakens me at six.
I wonder how it's my window she picks.
A star so bright, so brilliant, so high.
The sun is up and so am I.

In the morning she's cool, with fog and mist.
Each house and plant and rose she's kissed.
Her warmth then heats the frail earth.
That starts each day a new rebirth.

At noon she's hot and right over head.
To pools and parks, the children are led.
And with the laughter of each smiling child,
She feels more like her job's worthwhile.

And then, before she leaves each day.
People stop as if to say,
"Good-Bye dear sun, we'll miss you so.
Your warmth's what makes our flowers grow."

At night I miss the sun so much,
Its heat, its light, its warmth, its touch.
The moon's only here to comfort and say,
"The sun'll be back, bearing a brand new day."

A light in the morning 'wakens me at six.
I wonder how it's my window she picks.
A star so bright, so brilliant, so high.
The sun is up and so am I.



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MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



Some of our children will recognize the above photograph of Edith's father, your grandfather and the kids great grandfather. This picture is an enlargement which Margaret had made for us from an old post card sent from Italy to Iran. The photo was taken in Venice, in 1933, when Grandma was only eight years old. The message on the post card is brief, saying only (in French) "Souvenir of Venice, 7/8/33 Papa". It is addressed to Mrs. Lala Merica, Romulus' first wife, in Tabriz, Persia. Edith recalls that the picture was taken during one of her father's business trips to Europe. His name was Theodore Merica, and he already had made, lost and regained a wealthy position in the Middle East. Prior to Edith's birth he and his family had lived in Turkey, where he bought and sold cotton bales. However, during one of the periods of friction between the Turks and the Greeks

all of his assets were confiscated by the Turkish government, and he and his family were expelled from the country. Fortunately he was astute enough to anticipate trouble, and had invested in jewelry as a precaution. When the trouble came to a head he hid the jewelry in an oil drum and managed to get it loaded onto the ship taking his family back to Greece. They arrived in Greece with no other assets, and the family was supported by the sell off of the jewelry items. Mr. Merica then traveled to Tabriz, Persia (now Iran) and engaged a lawyer to recover monies owed to him by a Persian business man. This settlement enabled him to bring his family to Tabriz and also to start up a new business as an exporter and importer. This business prospered, but when World War II came the Russians invaded northern Iran, and occupied Tabriz. This situation made it impossible to conduct the business, so Mr. Merica moved his business and family to the capital city, Tehran. After the business was well established it was turned over to his sons, Romulus and Byron. They continued to operate the business, although Mr. Merica was active until his death in 1968. Later on Romulus retired and moved to Athens. Byron continued to operate the business until the time when the U.S. Embassy in Tehran was seized by the Iranians. Byron and his wife, Ophelia, were confined to their own house, and feared for their very lives. They eventually were allowed to leave Iran, but most of their property and assets were seized by the revolutionaries. Upon release they separated, and Ophelia now lives in Nice, France. Byron went to Paris, and lived out the rest of his life in a one room apartment. He passed away several years ago.