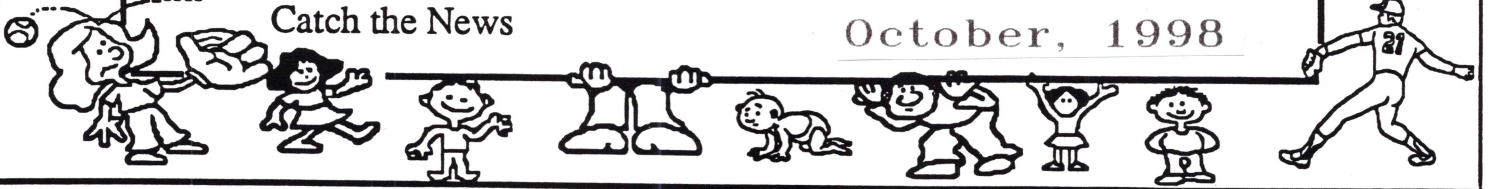




# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

October, 1998



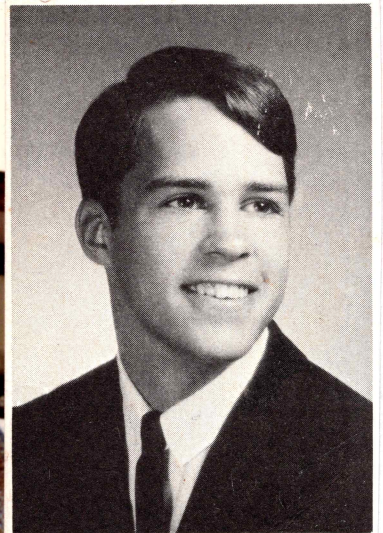
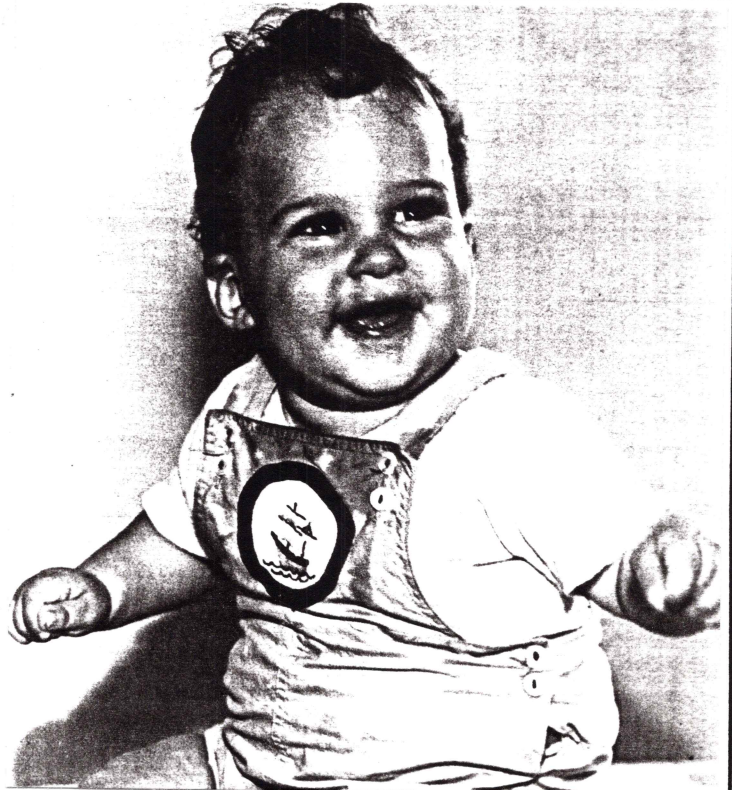
## ED RIEL CELEBRATES 50TH BIRTHDAY

October 3, 1998 was a special day in the life of Ed and family, since on that date he became exactly 50 years old. Ed, Jan, Kevin, Chris, and Tim visited Grandpa and Grandma, and we then took off for Balboa Park. We toured the art museum, spending several hours viewing all the exhibits. Afterwards we enjoyed a late lunch at Oscars, in Mission Valley - pizza, Greek salad, barbecued ribs and chicken, and drinks. Ed was excited about his birthday gift from Jan, a custom made new surf board. We understand that after they dropped us off at home he was heading for the beach. The kids promised that they would take special care to look after him, now that he has reached the advanced age of 50.

We have reproduced some pictures taken during his younger days, and as you can see he has hardly changed at all. We certainly wish him a big HAPPY BIRTHDAY, and many more!!!

### BIRTHDAY CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Edward Riel	October 3	50
Katy Riel	October 6	13
Scott Hartman	October 15	13



*"You've made this beautiful new Junior Achievement Center possible for us and we are so very proud of it."*

ED RIEL



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## MERICA FAMILY NEWS

A few days ago we received some sad news from Michael Merica, in Vista. He reported that one of his cousins, Constantine Sitar, passed away unexpectedly after a severe stroke. He was the son of one of Aunt Isa's sisters, and had been working in Las Vegas for several years. Last spring, when Isa was visiting in California she joined us for a vacation in Las Vegas, and we met Constantine at that time. He kindly toured us around the local sights and was most gracious in entertaining us. We have fond memories of that visit, and extend to his family our deepest sympathy for their loss. He was a kind and generous gentleman, and we really enjoyed the one chance we had to meet him. The following picture shows him with Grandma and Aunt Isa, while they were enjoying the sights in Caesar's Palace mall.



On a happier note, Michael reported that his mother will be visiting in late December. Also, he hopes to entertain his brother in law, Sir Patrick Fairweather, who will be visiting California on business in the near future. Patrick is the husband of Michael's oldest sister, Mary, and lives in London.

## SOME SPORTS NEWS

Michael and Megan both took part in a soccer tournament recently. We were invited to watch, and went to Mission Bay Park. Unfortunately, there were so many teams that we were unable to find anyone. We heard later on from Margaret that both teams did well.

In another more sedate sport, Grandpa and Grandma were joined recently by Margaret, Carol, and Jessica for a day at the races. No one had any big wins, but there was a lot of action and excitement. Grandma and Carol won an exacta (pick 1st and 2nd horses in one race), and the \$2 bet paid of \$7.40! There was a lot of joy until the pay-offs were posted.

## FRANCIE GIVES SEMINAR IN SAN DIEGO

The following announcement defines a seminar Francie gave recently, as a part of her consulting contract with Iso. She reports that it was well attended and productive. We know she did her usual great job.



INNOVATIONS is pleased to invite you to meet

## FRANCIE SOREM

### ISO National Design Artist

Learn the latest and most innovative cutting and wrapping techniques using ISO'S patented NON-THIO WAVE FORMULATION.

We will present to you the volumizing service to enhance the styling possibilities of your haircuts. Take your creativity to the next level by creating the HOT ROLLER look your clients have been asking for.

**JOIN US at the U.T.C. FORUM HALL**

**ON**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1998**

**10:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.**

BOOK NOW AS SPACE IS LIMITED

Julie Butts (619) 506-5125

\$15 Registration Fee (at the Door)

\$10 Registration Fee if prior to  
Sept. 1, 1998





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## TRAVEL NEWS

Francie wins the "Traveler of the Month" award for September. She spent a week end at a trade show in Phoenix recently, and a few days later took off for another show, at Paducah, Kentucky. At the Paducah show she had the opportunity to work the demonstrations with a famous hair stylist from London, who had worked on the late Lady Di. He expressed great admiration for the skill Francie showed when working jointly with him on demonstration models. On her return Francie had some air line problems with TWA, and also was suffering from a cold, but got back to San Diego tired but feeling better. We understand some more travel is in the offing, so watch for it in future issues.

## RUNNY NOSE DEPARTMENT

We reported in the last issue that Grandma was experiencing some arthritis problems in her left knee. Unfortunately, she experienced a relapse and had to make another quick trip to the doctor. Some additional medicine seemed to take care of the problem, and she was back on the golf course in a few days.

## \*\*\*PREVIEWS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS\*\*\*

Margaret and Bud once again have volunteered to host the annual family Thanksgiving Day party, at their home in Encinitas. The schedule is somewhat informal, but you can plan on a morning soccer match (mismatch) between the kids and parents. Please contact Margaret for additional planning.

It is not too early to begin to think about the upcoming Riel Bowl VIII. The Honorable Commissioner, Robert Riel, and the newest member of the Committee, Dr. Frank J. Riel, Jr. soon will begin the preparation of the annual cross word puzzle and Jeopardy Game questions. All items will be based on information found in the 1998 issues of RFNL, and we recommend that each contestant review carefully each issue for clues. Also, some advance planning on the annual White Elephant Gift Exchange is recommended.

## JJ RIEL ACES LATEST REPORT CARD!!

Usually the RFNL policy is to not publish report card marks, since we know that everyone gets good and bad grades sometime in the school career. However, we cannot ignore a recent achievement of JJ, who got all A+'s on his last card. Congratulations, and keep up the good work!!

## SOME FAMILY NEWS ITEMS

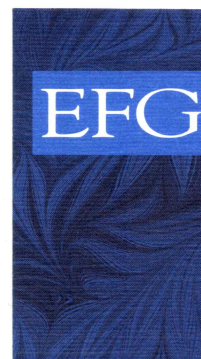
We learned from Francie that Bryce was lucky enough to win a Ken Caminiti bat in a recent drawing. Brett and Bryce must have quite a collection of baseball items.

Grandpa and Grandma recently bought a new TV set, since the old Curtis Mathes one finally gave up. After some intense shopping we selected a 32" Toshiba, which we got for a very good price at Fedco. Robert kindly volunteered to help us with the installation, and we experienced a couple of problems. First of all, it weighs 125 pounds, and getting it down the stairs,

into the family room, and up on the stand was a real problem. The next problem was to get it hooked up, which was no problem for Robert. However, the audio and video cables needed to tie in the VCR were not included, hence only a TV viewing mode could be hooked up. Later on Grandpa was able to get the rest of the wiring and complete the job. The final problem, still being worked on, is that of learning how to use two remotes with lots of buttons to control all of the new features the set provides.

For a month or so the Robert and Karla household was expanded by the addition of three foster children. A neighborhood family break-up presented a care problem for three young girls, one a friend of Katy. After a few weeks, however, things were settled and the Riel home is back to normal.

Richard continues to work in the student loan funding business, and we reproduce one of his business cards as follows. We understand business is good.



**Rich Riel**  
Senior Loan Consultant

EDUCATIONAL FINANCE GROUP

(800) 328-1240 ext. 582

9171 Towne Centre Dr.  
Suite 575  
San Diego, CA 92122-1237  
Fax: (800) 860-3739  
[www.schoolfunds.com](http://www.schoolfunds.com)

## HOW BETSY FRIEND SOUTHAM CAME TO THE USA IN 1834

In the May issue of RFNL we published some information on Grandpa's mother's family, the Southams. Grandpa's mother, Edna Southam Riel, was the daughter of Edwin Southam and Isabel Ester Gould Southam. In the May issue we published a picture of Edna's mother, pointing out that she was born in London in 1848 and married her husband in 1868. We also promised more information in the next issue. However, other items left us with no room, up to now, to add to the family history. We now have space to tell the story of how Edna's grandmother, Betsy Friend Southam, came to America.

The following account is based on information provided by Dan Southam, whose grandfather, Corbett Southam was Grandpa's uncle, and a wedding guest at our marriage in 1946.

England a hundred and seventy-five years ago was a thickly populated land of great estates with wealthy lords in the manors and impoverished share-croppers in the cottages, according to a system which has changed little in principle from feudal times. Crushing taxes were inciting revolution. In the cities, slave-like living conditions which Dickens had not yet begun to expose held a great people in bondage.

It was from this land of no opportunity that many of our English ancestors emigrated to the bountiful land of freedom across the waters. One of these emigrate families, whose ancestors still live in Ohio, experienced perilous hardships which they remembered



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to their dying day in their flight from the old world to the new.

In 1830 John Friend, manager of an estate in Devonshire, decided to bring his family of seven children to America. Having a considerable fortune, and not daring to keep it in a lump sum, Mr. Friend provided each of his daughters with a stout canvas sack to be tied underneath their clothing; in each sack went 100 pounds. Into the lining of the waistcoats of the oldest boys were sewed 500 pounds. Mr. and Mrs. Friend provided themselves with money in case they should be separated, and the balance of the funds were nailed in a cask stored in the hold. Note; It appears that Betsy and Henry Southam already were married prior to their departure from home.

On March 15, 1832 the entire family, along with another family, the Squires, boarded the "Minerva" outbound from Plymouth harbor for a load of timber from New York. The long voyage on the small vessel was uneventful. The girls, Betsy, Blanche, and Maria, were popular with their fellow passengers. Frequently they were asked the cause of the protuberances under their voluminous skirts, and they invariably explained that they were wearing bustles. The sons, John, William, Thomas, and James assisted the undermanned crew.

Three weeks of storm-tossed travel in crowded quarters was hard on all of the travelers, but they bore up better than expected. They were almost at their destination when, on the night of April 7, 1832 disaster struck. Off Long Island just at midnight the "Minerva" ran aground in a severe storm. While negotiating a dangerous shallows of the coast of Sandy Hook, Long Island, the boat hit a sand reef. The pounding waves drove the ship fast onto the bottom, and the tide was running so high that it appeared impossible to rescue the passengers. The immigrants prepared for the worst.

Twelve hours later, when it appeared that the boat would break up in the rough water, the first and second mate volunteered to swim to shore. Twice they were driven back, but a third time they tried, and

after being swallowed up again and again by the huge waves, they finally tumbled ashore, carrying a life line which established a line of communication with the ship. In small boats the officers made their way back to the ship and began the long process of rescue. The women and children were taken to land first; the rowboat carried them to sandbars, across which the passengers walked and the boats were carried. This procedure had to be followed twice before land was reached.

The perils of Sandy Hook being proverbial, an establishment known as the Wreckers' Home was located on shore to provide for refugees. Here, before a long fireplace extending the length of the room, the passengers dried themselves and ate the small salt bisques and wine which the captain had provided them as they left ship. Mrs. Friend, who had been seasick for the entire voyage and was in her bunk when the boat was grounded, could not find her clothes in the confusion and she came ashore in her husbands overcoat.

Two of the Friend boys were separated from the rest of the family, and Betsy

and Blanche were delegated to go up and down the beach looking for them. Failing in their search, the Betsy broke down and cried so loudly that a man driving by in a carriage was attracted to them and offered aid in the search. The lost boys were found two miles away, eating supper in a hotel as if nothing had happened, and it appeared that what might have been a tragedy turned into a happy family reunion. The gentleman in the carriage provided the family with a small house to use while completing their preparations for further travel.

The cask holding the bulk of the family fortune went down with the ship, and after trying without success to find it, Mr. Friend advertised for divers, who finally recovered it from the ocean floor.

At length they hired wagons and rode the twenty miles into New York. That evening they boarded the steamship "Constitution" bound up the Hudson River to Albany, where they ate breakfast the next morning.

On April 18th they left on a line boat on the Erie Canal, reaching Buffalo eight days later. On May 10th they boarded the steamer "Daniel Webster" and reached Cleveland the next day. From there they hired wagons the take them to Strongsville.

In Strongsville they asked for a nights lodging but none was to be had until someone told them of an old, abandoned school house, once used as a cattle shed, half way between Albion and Berea. The twenty-eight tired and homesick travelers bedded down there for the night. Betsy Southam's father, Mr. Friend, asked his daughter Blanche to sing a song for them all. She chose to sing the sad "Fisherman's Poor Little Boy" which brought tears to all eyes. So far away from home were they, and their future all unknown.

The family lived in the old school house until they acquired a permanent home a mile south of Bennet's Corners.

This ends the account of the shipwreck and journey from England to Strongsville, Ohio. Henry and Betsy Southam's son, Edwin, was born in Strongsville on December 10, 1846, and died in 1934. Betsy was born in 1810 and died in 1906, at the age of 96.

The following picture of Edwin Southam and his third wife, Ida Hoadly, was taken in August, 1914, probably at or near Berea, Ohio.

