

☺☺☺ **Some news from Aunt Eloise** ☺☺☺

Travel news 🏠 🏡 d 🏢

Dear Edith and Frank,

The latest Newsletter has been received and distributed. We were pleased to see the coverage you gave Debbie. Now we have some more exciting news. Debbie and Dave are going to be grandparents, which means that I will be a great grandparent! Stacy and Andy are expecting in December! Everyone is very happy. Stacy is feeling great and shouldn't have any trouble. They have planned how to handle the baby and still attend classes. Instead of attending the classes together as they did this past year, they will have different classes. The one not attending class will take care of the baby. Should work out.

The enclosed is a copy of the birth announcement of Marie Fowles' Granddaughters with a picture that is quite dark but maybe you can get an idea of how cute they are.

Debbie also has another award! The Leukemia Society awarded her the "Volunteer of the Decade". She does an extraordinary lot of work all year for the Leukemia Society, and enjoys every minute of it. The year they finished High School her best friend died of leukemia. Bette is the reason she started working with the leukemia program.

The trip to Seattle was great. The scenery is spectacular. We did the usual tourist things - the National parks, the botanical gardens, the Space Needle, etc., etc.

Stacy and Andy are home for the 4th, and we are celebrating!

Where does the time go? I stay busy and never seem to accomplish anything.

Love to all,
Eloise

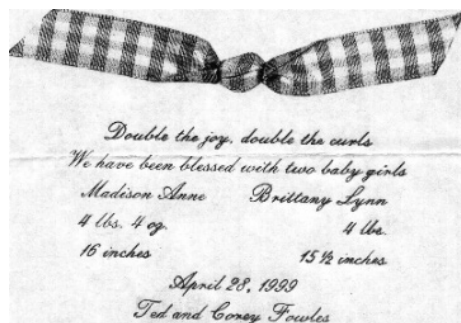
Summertime is here, and there is lots of news on the vacation front. Francie, Lyle and kids recently returned from a week long vacation in San Francisco. Francie had a one-day working session, but the rest was for fun. They took in a baseball game (the A's and the Angels), visited Alcatraz, Marine World, Napa Valley, and Six Flags Park. It certainly sounded like a pretty busy week.

Carol and Jeff celebrated their 20th anniversary recently by taking a trip to Catalina Island. They drove to Newport Beach on a Monday, spent the night, and the following morning got on the boat to the island. They were there for three days, and reported that they had a great time. They did some hiking, some bike riding, went on some tours. Also, they enjoyed some great meals. Jeff gave Carol a diamond necklace, which we saw after they came home. It is a real beauty. We wish them a great big **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!** (See page 2 for some pictures)

As reported in the July issue of RFNL, Margaret and Megan took off on July 11th for San Juan, Puerto Rico, where Margaret will attend a conference. From there they went to Boston for another conference, at Cambridge University, (18-20th) where Margaret will present a paper. On the 21st Bud and Michael left San Diego, to meet Margaret and Megan in Boston. From there they leave on the following day for London. From London they go the Manchester to visit Michael and Morag Merica. Michael is Grandma's only living brother, and has lived in England for most of his adult life.

Back in the USA the Gillingham family is enjoying sun and surf in Hawaii. By the time this issue is released Birdy and Bruce will be on their way to Zurich for a two-week vacation. They have rail passes, and plan on seeing the Switzerland area through day trips by rail.

We know all will have a great time, and we hope to have lots of pictures for the next issue.



Congratulations to Debbie and Dave, soon to be grandparents, and to Andy and Stacy on their soon to be firstborn. We look forward to news and pictures when the little one arrives. We also send our congratulations to Cousin Marie on the arrival of twin granddaughters Madison and Brittany pictured above. Speaking from experience, we know they will enjoy their twin girls, just as we do our own, and all of our children. Finally, we express to Debbie our congratulations on her "Volunteer of the Decade" award. We know it was well deserved, and it is great to have her so honored!

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

August 1999

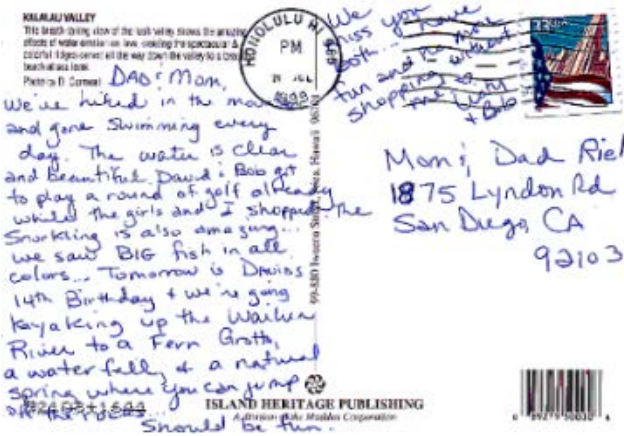
Y Birthday celebrations Y

There still were no celebrations last month, due to busy kids, either working or enjoying the summer vacations. However, we have firm dates for Michelle (July 25th) and Bryce (August 2nd). We apologize to Jessica for accidentally leaving her off the last list of kids due but not yet scheduled. We need to hear from Megan, Brett, Kevin and Curtis **SOON!**

Birthday calendar for August

Carol Benesch	August 2	45
Nathan Riel	August 13	18
Chris Riel	August 13	18
Annie Gillingham	August 13	12
Jason Benesch	August 30	18

We received the following post card from the Gillingham family. It looks like they are having a great time!



We understand the Gillinghams are back in town, and we are looking forward to a first hand account and some pictures.

As we mentioned on page 1, here are some pictures of



Jeff and Carol on their 20th celebration. The happy couple are shown here on their way to Catalina. Carol already has her new necklace, as you can see.



Fly fishing is fairly common, but fish flying is pretty rare, especially when one flies into a tour boat. However, it happened, as you can see from the picture.

Francie has some big travel plans for the next month or so. They include New York (twice) Cancun, and Chicago. More later!

Names in the news

In the July RFNL we printed a portion of an interview Margaret had with a reporter from the magazine T.H.E. Journal. We have space to complete that interview, as follows.

T.H.E. : *Is there any evidence that technology has had a positive impact on education?*

Riel: *Given my premise that technology is shared minds made visible, then it is the collaboration that is changing and will continue to change education. Education is a human activity. It is about the way we interact with the shared products of our minds. Since so-called "high technology" can be substituted with any single form of*

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

August, 1999

Technology lets look at that question in a different form.

Does recent digital technology offer more educational value than other technologies that we are currently

What research evidence shows conclusively is that students can learn to use technology, often engaging in more meaningful educational experiences, and still perform as well, or better on standardized tests than they have in the past. The lower the initial scores, the more effective technology is in raising test scores. Rarely does the introduction of information and communication technology into the classroom have the effect of decreasing test scores.

The other, and more important issue is that testing new educational outcomes with old measures will not help us understand what students are or can learn with technology. The old measures should serve as benchmarks. Superior performances on these tests will not necessarily measure the learning that we are trying to effect.

☺☺☺ **Jessica's cheerleading team has role in movie being shot in San Diego** ☺☺☺

The following article appeared in the Diane Bell column published in the July 27th issue of the San Diego Union-Tribune.

The whole county's a stage

A town of sorts sprang up virtually overnight in Encinitas. And no building permits were needed. A film crew camped out last week on Lake Drive as Stu Segall Productions shot scenes for a movie called "Cheer Fever." Lest you think the flick has to do with some contagious disease caused by laundry detergent, it's a feature film about a cheerleading competition. The S.D. Film commission reports that it is being shot all over town, including Kearny High School and SDSU. Oceanside has something to yell about because the fictional cheerleading finals will take place there....

Jessica's cheerleading team is included in some of the scenes, and Jessica now is a paid movie actress, of sorts. Of course, no one knows if the film will make it to a release, or if the part Jessica appears in will survive the editing process. We certainly hope the film makes it to the local theatres, and we look forward to seeing Jessica on the silver screen!

Some left over graduation photos – Michael and Jason



As mentioned in the last issue, we have a few more graduation photos to publish, as follows. The one at the left is his official picture, taken at the ceremony.

The pictures shown below were taken at the Mehan home, during their after graduation open house. The first one shows Jessica, Carol, Jason, and Jeff enjoying Michael's party. The next picture shows Michael cutting the cake



while some guests look on.



4TH of July celebration

Grandpa and Grandma were invited to join in the Hartman Family annual neighborhood 4th of July celebration, and we were treated to some great snacks and expertly broiled hamburgers, hot dogs, and sausages. We have a few pictures, as shown on the next page.

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

August, 1999

Essay by Michelle Hartman

As we mentioned several issues ago, we promised to print the essay Michelle wrote to qualify for an interview on the Washington, D.C. trip. Here it is.

"What I expect to do with what I have learned in the Leadership Conference at Valley Forge"

"A Winner works harder than a Loser and has more time; A Loser is always too busy to do what is necessary; A Winner makes commitments; A Loser makes Promises." These are words that I live by. Every day I am surrounded by people who are better than I am in one way or another, whether it be in sports or academics. When I think about how much harder I work than they do I am no longer dissatisfied with myself. I remember that it is not how well you do something...it's how hard you try.

As far as opportunities are concerned, I go for anything and everything that I can. When all that is going to be offered to me is on the table, I don't sit there and stare at it. I go out and look for more. I am not content with what is expected of me. I want to go above and beyond anyone's expectations as an athlete, a student, and a human being. People who place limits on themselves and on others are not only taking the easy way out, but are hurting themselves and the people around them by not accomplishing everything that they could. Opportunities are found, not given.

As a junior in high school, I am being given an incredible opportunity. I am being given the chance to go to a Youth Leadership conference in Valley Forge. Many people would say that it's only a conference, but to me, it's a world of opportunity. I would have the chance to see Valley Forge where, during the American Revolution, George Washington was challenged by the British but refused to give up. I would also have the opportunity to see the capital of our nation... a site that I have never seen before. To stand in front of the White House and be able to say, "I am an American," is a dream to some people. This may be because they have not been able to visit Washington D.C., or it may be because they have not felt very patriotic. Either way, if I had the opportunity to do that, I'd take it in a heartbeat. That is why I can't let this trip go without asking to be considered.

From what I understand, on this trip, one of the many things I will be able to do is listen to the views of many politicians. To be able to listen to their political views would be fascinating. All of my life, I have heard the views of my parents and teachers. However, if that is all I will ever hear, how will I ever be able to make political decisions on my own? I need to see for myself world has to offer. Even if I don't agree with their views, at least I will have some understanding their beliefs. To be blind to what your neighbor believes is to be ignorant to the world around you.

Going on this trip would have great meaning for me, not only as a student, but as an American as well. This is a learning experience from which I would not only gain a large amount of knowledge but also mature in a way that I would get a greater understanding of the political world. A world of which, at the moment, I am completely oblivious. This is a once in a lifetime chance for me, and I won't let it slip away.

*This is the essay
that I wrote to
get an interview
for my trip. (!)*

GREAT JOB, MICHELLE!!!

Liz Riel's mom shows improvement

We have some good news to report on Liz's mom, Mrs. Drewek. In the last issue we reported that she was hospitalized and in very serious condition. Although still in the hospital, she has rallied to the point of being able to get up and walk. However, her condition

still is serious, and it appears that she will have to remain in some sort of care facility for the immediate future. We will keep you informed on her progress.

4th celebration pictures



Here you can see Bruce expertly using for the first time the new grill. (The old one blew up!)



Grandpa and Grandma enjoying the party!



♥♥ Calories Calories Calories ♥♥