



Mehan Family visits Michael and Morag Merica in Manchester, England

As mentioned in the last issue of RFNL, Margaret and Megan traveled the San Juan, P.R., thence to Boston, to attend conferences. They were joined later on by Bud and Michael, and the whole family took off for London. From there they drove to Manchester, to visit Margaret's Uncle Michael. This was the first family visit, although Margaret had visited Michael and Morag some years ago. In case you are confused, Michael Merica is Grandma's older brother, the 4th family child, and the only other living family member. In addition to Uncle Michael and Aunt Morag, they had a chance to meet for the first time Cousin Theodore and his wife, Kate. We understand that they are planning a visit to California next year, and we look forward to introducing them to the rest of our family. We have some pictures of the Mericas in Manchester, as follows.

In the 1st picture Michael shows Megan a photo album. The



second includes Theodore and Kate. See the next page for more.

Birdy and Bruce visit Zurich, Switzerland and take in Milan, Bern

The long awaited trip to Switzerland by Bruce and Birdy finally came off, and they report that they had a wonderful time. They flew from San Diego to London, thence on to Zurich. They had a small hotel check in problem because they forgot to take the reservation verification number, and there was quite a discussion in English and German before everything was straightened out and they got their room. From there on it was smooth sailing, and they enjoyed a cruise on Lake Zurich, the local sights, and side trips to Bern and Milan. In Milan they toured the museum, the chapel where "The Last Supper" painting recently has been restored and is on exhibit, and the famous Duomo Cathedral, in the heart of Milan. They also enjoyed Bern, with its' many historical sights and most of all the miles long shopping center. They brought back lots of pictures, and here are some samples.



In the upper picture Bruce and Birdy are taking a break from a busy travel schedule. In the lower picture Birdy is checking out a dollhouse in a local shop. Unfortunately it wouldn't fit in her suitcase. We have more pictures on page 2.

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More pictures from Manchester



Uncle Michael and Aunt Morag pose for Margaret's camera.



This picture shows the four Ms, Michael, Megan, Michael, and Morag, during the family visit.

Birthday celebrations

At last, there was lots of activity on the birthday celebration front! We enjoyed celebrations with Michelle, Curtis, Jessica, Kevin, Megan, Michael, Tim, and Jason.

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More pictures from Switzerland



It's a long way from sunny San Diego to the Swiss Alps, but here you can see our travelers climbing the snow



covered Swiss Mountains. We understand, however, that they got there mostly by train. In addition to these pictures, Birdy and Bruce were busy taking lots of pictures of just about every place they visited. If you would like a more detailed report, they will be glad to show you the rest of the photographs of their great trip.

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Birthdays (cont.)

Michelle celebrated her 17th with lunch at The Screen Bistro, located in the Fashion Valley Center, opposite the AMC theatre. Afterwards we took in the movie "Tarzan", which we all enjoyed very much. Then we went home for some dessert, as shown in the following picture.



The next birthday kid was Curtis, (15th) and we enjoyed lunch at one of his favorites, Mandarin Plaza. We then set out to see a movie, and had selected "The Runaway Bride". The Fashion Valley AMC was sold out, so we opted for the Pacific Theatre on Claremont Mesa Drive. We got in there, and found the movie to be well worth the trouble. The following picture shows us enjoying lunch.



Jessica (16th) was next, and she also enjoyed lunch at Mandarin Plaza. She said that she would like to see "Runaway Bride" and since it was so good, we agreed to a second time showing. We really enjoyed it again, and recommend it to others in the family.

Kevin celebrated his 20th with lunch at the Black Angus restaurant on Friars Road. From there we went to the Admiral Baker golf course for a round of golf, which we all enjoyed.

Megan was next on the list, and we had lunch at the Red

Robin restaurant, in Wiegand Plaza shopping center. Afterwards we took in the movie "The Iron Giant", which was fairly good.



Michael celebrated his 18th with lunch at Mandarin Plaza, followed by a movie, "Wild Wild West". This movie was pretty bad, and we do not recommend it to the family.

Tim celebrated his 17th by doing something different. He asked us to use the usual gift money and lunch money to treat him to a live show. He selected "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", which was playing an engagement at the Civic Theatre. The stars were Patrick Cassidy, as Joseph, and Deborah Gibson, as the Narrator. It was a great performance, enjoyed by all. After the show we

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enjoyed some dessert at Marie Callender's restaurant. We rode the trolley downtown and back to Washington street, which worked out very well, except that we got on the wrong line and, found ourselves on the way to La Mesa. Fortunately, we backtracked on the next returning trolley, and finally got back home. It was a fun day.



Jason celebrated his 18th, and he too wanted something different. Since he turned 18 on August 30th, and could legally gamble, we took him to Del Mar, for a day at the races. After lunch at Mandarin plaza we headed for Del Mar. After a lecture from Grandma on the evils of gambling, they spent the afternoon trying to figure out which horses would finish in what order. Unfortunately, no one had any luck, but we went home after an enjoyable afternoon. Jason just made it to work, at 7:00 p.m., and Grandpa and Grandma got to the Padres game just in time for the first pitch.

This concluded what undoubtedly was one of our busiest series of birthday celebrations ever. However, we enjoyed every minute we spend with these and all of our wonderful grandchildren. **A GREAT BIG HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO Michelle, Curtis, Jessica, Kevin, Megan, Michael, Tim, and Jason!!!**



Birthday calendar for September

Frank (JJ) Riel	September 1	9
Karla Riel	September 20	39
Richard Riel	September 29	52

School news 1999-2000 term

It's time once again for the list of schools and grades for all of the kids.

Kevin Riel	Junior	SDSU
Michael Riel-Mehan	Freshman	UCLA
Jason Benesch	Freshman	UCSB
Chris Riel	Senior	Point Loma H.S.
Nathan Riel	Senior	Point Lome H.S.
Michelle Hartman	Senior	Monte Vista H.S.
Timothy Riel	Junior	Point Loma H.S.
Brett Sorem	Junior	Scripps Ranch H.S.
Jessica Benesch	Junior	Patrick Henry H.S.
Craig Hartman	Junior	Monte Vista H.S.
Kristy Gillingham	Sophomore	Francis Parker H.S.
Megan Riel-Mehan	Sophomore	La Costa Canyon H.S.
Curtis Hartman	Sophomore	Francis Parker H.S.
Dustin Benesch	Freshman	Patrick Henry H.S.
David Gillingham	8 th	Francis Parker M.S.
Scott Hartman	8 th	Francis Parker M.S.
Bryce Sorem	8 th	St. Columba
Katy Riel	8 th	Joan McQueen M.S.
Annie Gillingham	7 th	Francis Parker M.S.
Brian Riel	5 th	Alpine Elem.
Frank "JJ" Riel	4 th	St. Columba

Listy falls down Cowles Mountain!!

During a recent run up and down the mountain Listy hurt her right forearm and left leg. She got to the top OK, but coming down she tripped on a rock and landed more or less face down. She is OK now.

