

**Family enjoys holiday season with lots of parties**

**Grandpa's birthday - Christmas Eve-Christmas Day- 53rd Anniversary dinner-Grandma's 75<sup>th</sup> surprise party-Riel Bowl IX**

**Grandpa's 81<sup>st</sup> Birthday** - On Sunday morning, the 5<sup>th</sup>, Francie came to our house to join us for church. When we got there we were surprised to see Carol, Jessica, Listy and Birdy waiting for us. After the service we met with Bob, Jeff, Ed and Jan, and some of the kids at the Mandarin Plaza, for a buffet lunch. After lunch Francie joined Grandpa



and Grandma for a movie. It was a special day, and we really enjoyed the celebration and the presents.

Later on in the month we were treated by Richard and Liz to dinner at Seau's restaurant, where we had simply great meals. It was a busy night, and we had to wait a while to be seated, but we used part of the waiting period with an informal shopping tour of the mall. Afterwards we relaxed in the lobby until we were seated. It was a great evening, and we thank Richard and Liz for the celebration.



**Christmas Eve** - Once again we were invited to have dinner at Francie's and attend midnight mass (10:00 p.m.) at St. Columba. Lyle's parents also were invited, and we enjoyed talking to them and sharing a delicious dinner. We had broiled swordfish, along with rice cooked with pine nuts, salad, and special desserts. Most of the guests enjoyed custard torched on the sugared surface with a propane torch, as shown in the adjoining picture. Grandpa had his own raspberry tart, which was simply great! Afterwards Richard, Liz, and JJ joined us at the church.

It was a great way to start off Christmas, and we thank Francie



and Lyle for the evening

**Christmas Day**

We celebrated Christmas at the Hartman home, sharing the fun with Bruce's mom, Nataline, his brother Mike plus his wife Keri and their new son, Luke. After a great meal we all enjoyed opening Christmas presents. Everyone had a great time, and we thank Bruce and Birdy for letting us share this special holiday with them. We have some pictures of the various activities, as shown here and on the next page.



# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

January, 2000

## More Christmas pictures at Hartmans



## 53<sup>RD</sup> Anniversary celebration

On the 28<sup>th</sup> Grandpa and Grandma were invited by Bob and Listy to join Birdy and Bruce for a restaurant dinner. We went to The Rainwater restaurant, and it was really great. We all enjoyed drinks followed by such entrees as filet mignon, fish, steak, etc. plus baked potatoes, vegetables and lots of other goodies. The atmosphere was great, as was the service, and it was a great way to celebrate our 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary. We thank Bob and Listy, along with Bruce and Birdy for this lovely evening.



As you can see from the photograph, candlelight dining does not allow very good photography, but the participants probably can be identified.

## Grandma's surprise 75<sup>th</sup> birthday party

Since this year's Riel bowl celebration was scheduled for Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, there were no planned activities on New Years Day. Therefore, that



day was selected as the day to pull off a surprise birthday celebration for Grandma. She was invited by Listy and Birdy to take part in a shopping trip, and they arranged to pick her up at 1:30. Listy and Birdy made up some excuse for not having lunch first. Somewhat to Grandma's surprise Margaret and Carol also joined the

shopping excursion. Shortly after 1:30 Jeff and Jessica showed up at the 1875 home, and preparations began. We set up extra tables, and Jessica expertly decorated everything. Soon Megan and Bud arrived, and Megan helped with the decorations and hand lettered some greeting signs. As planned, Grandpa and Ed picked up



the catered food, Chinese from Mandarin Plaza, at 5:00 p.m., and everything was in place by 5:15. By that time everyone had arrived. Grandpa stationed himself in his upstairs office, and at 5:30 he had a call



from Carol that they had arrived. Everything had been planned perfectly, except that as soon as they came inside Grandma said "I smell coffee, what's going on?" Her suspicions were quickly confirmed when she came down the stairs and was greeted by the whole gang, assembled

in the living room. As you can see, it still was a great big surprise. Then

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The fun began. The first order of business was the food, which was all set out in the kitchen. There was chicken chop suey, steamed and fried rice, broccoli beef, meat balls in

curry potatoes, and of course, Chinese fortune cookies. After everyone had eaten their fill the traditional birthday cake was decorated with 75 candles, they were lighted and brought into the dining room for Grandma to blow out and cut the cake. She did a great job, and although she did not express a wish she got one anyway, Grandpa's gift of a pearl necklace. This ended a great party, and everyone pitched in to clean up the trash and consolidate the leftovers. We will be eating Chinese for at least a week. It was a great birthday celebration and Grandma thanks everyone for making it such a special day.



## And finally - **Riel Bowl IX**

Yes, at last the big day, January 2, 2000 arrived, and the family gathered at the Bob and Karla Riel home in Alpine for the ninth edition of the now famous Riel Bowl. As usual, the first order of business was food, and Robert outdid himself with two big prime rib roasts. In addition, there was ham, potatoes, salads, vegetables and lots of desserts and drinks. Francie served her famous torched custard for dessert, even making a special eggless version for Grandpa. Everything was simple great, and everyone ate until they were stuffed.

The Riel Bowl crossword puzzle entries were graded by Karla, and no one submitted a correct solution. There was a three-way tie, however, as Carol, Listy, and Francie each had two errors. We will not have room for the correct solution in this issue, so it will be provided in the next one.

In order to fill out the Jeopardy game contestants a tiebreaker test was given to the families of Ed, Rich, Margaret, and Birdy. The test was to list all of the grandchildren in their correct age order, from oldest to youngest. NO ONE got the exact right order, but Ed was the winner, with only six errors. The Jeopardy game was next, and the three contestants were Carol, Ed and Listy, plus help from their families. The big winner was Carol, with \$1600. The others had 0 and -700.



Next came the gift exchange, followed by the ever-popular white elephant gift exchange. The Ed Riel family won the RFNL Dine Out Gift Certificate, and will be dining out soon. They had to leave promptly, to

take Kevin to the airport, for his flight to London. We all had a chance to wave good-bye to Kevin and wish him well at the University of Sussex.



This ended one of the most memorable of the Riel Bowl games, and we all owe to Bob and Karla a great big THANKS for once again opening their home and putting on this wonderful family celebration which we all enjoy so much.



## Birthday celebrations



Kristy Gillingham celebrated her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, and we enjoyed lunch at Chili's restaurant. Afterwards we took in the movie Toy Story 2. It was a pleasant afternoon,

and we enjoyed another birthday celebration. We almost pulled off the most delinquent one of all, Brett Sorem.

# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

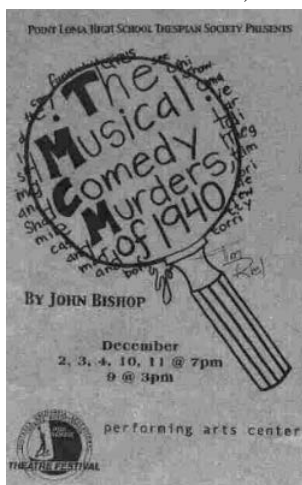
January, 2000

We were all set for lunch and a round of golf at Admiral Baker, on a Monday. However, due to a misunderstanding



on the lunch date time, we missed connections. Therefore, we reset the time for the following Wednesday. However, on Tuesday the skate board monster struck again and Brett broke three toes. He was in a cast and crutches by Wednesday, and the game had to be called off. We are still working

on this problem, and hope that we will celebrate his 16<sup>th</sup> before he becomes 17, in February.



## Tim stars in Point Loma High musical comedy

Once again we were privileged to see another performance by our favorite actor, Tim Riel. In this show Tim played the role of one of a number of guests involved



in a murder mystery. The whole show is somewhat of a spoof of murder type plays, and was very funny and enjoyable. Tim did his usual fine job, and everyone had a great time. We thank Ed and Jan for inviting us.

## Some news from Manchester

In early December we received a Christmas card from Uncle Michael and Aunt Morag, along with a letter, which we reproduce, as follows.

Dear Frank and Edith

12/14/99

I hope you will excuse me for sending some corrections re the photograph in your October Newsletter.

1. It was taken after the war, probably in 1946.
2. From right to left, Edith, at whatever age she was then. (21) The next person is Isa, wife of Romulus - then Theodore. Fourth from the right, Xantheppi, who was the forth child. Michael is the third, and is 4 years older than she. Gerard was born in 1937. He has the same birthday as Michael, and is exactly 25 years younger. Then Evriklia - the baby is Maria, first child of Romulus and Isa. She was born in 1944. She is now Lady Fairweather, wife of a British diplomat.

Francoise Legrain was born in Cairo on Valentine's day in 1950. She lives in Paris.

Best wishes - we absolutely love reading your newsletter  
Morag

Thanks for setting the record straight, we appreciate the information, and enjoyed hearing from you.

## Birthdays for January

Edith Riel	January 2	75
Megan Riel-Mehan	January 15	16

## Special investigation report

### Prominent member of Innocent Bystanders implicated in possible violation of IB code of ethics

has gathered strong evidence that one of the most respected charter members of the Innocent Bystanders organization may have engaged in inappropriate behavior. Specifically, After a careful investigation the RFNL special investigator this person, whose name is being withheld (big guy with a beard) reportedly was seen shortly after dawn on the day after Thanksgiving in a Mission Valley shopping mall. He was in the company of two well known shopaholics, and all three were standing in line, waiting for one of the big stores to open up for this biggest shopping day of the year. Although "power shopping" is not specifically covered in the IB code, members have been warned of the dangers of falling under the evil influence of one or more of the wily Riels. If this incident is ignored, what will happen next? Will Karla Riel sneak off to the golf course as soon as the kids have left for school? Will Bud Mehan be seen cavorting on the flying trapeze? Will Jan Riel be seen with a surfboard under her arm, headed for the OB pier? We believe this insidious virus must be stamped out before there are serious consequences. Therefore, we call on the senior member of the IB to render a judicial opinion as to whether or not "power shopping" is a code violation. If so, is impeachment an option? Also, we call on the accused to step up and identify himself (big guy with a beard) and offer an explanation for his inappropriate behavior.

**The investigation continues - watch for more details next month!**