



## More Christmas celebrations

### Mehan family spends holiday in New York

Bud, Margaret, and family spent the Christmas holiday season



in New York City and then in Saratoga, where Bud's sister Doris and her husband Custer live. Before the family visit they spent some time in New York City. They went ice skating at the

Rockerfeller Center, and took in one of the more popular musicals, "Smokey Joe's Café". Then they set out for Saratoga for the Christmas visit. We understand they had a great vacation, and still made it back in time for the rest of the family celebrations, as described in the last issue of RFNL.

### xxxxx Travel news uuuuuu

Francie, Kevin, and Listy were the other travelers in January. Francie spent five days in New York City, participating in a photo shoot of promotional material for *iso*. In spite of the bitter cold weather she took time to visit the Statute of Liberty and Ellis Island. She then spent five days in Connecticut, conducting a series of training sessions. In spite of the weather she will be returning in February, for additional training sessions.

As you may recall, the Ed Riel family took off from Riel Bowl a little early, in order to get Kevin to the airport for his departure to the University of Sussex. We recently received an e-mail report on his activities, which we share as follows.

*Dear Grandma, Grandpa and everyone else,  
My deepest apologies for not getting back to you until now, but to say I have been extremely busy with school, travel, and getting settled would be a gross understatement. In fact, I wanted to write you a longer e-mail giving you the play by play of my trip thus far since so much has happened so you could put it in the newsletter but I just found out today in my classes I have a week to read James Joyce's "Ulysses", Djuna Barnes "Nightwood", and two books by Marx, as well as several small*

*am reading), which comes to a grand total of about 1000-1500 pages of really hard reading. So as you can see I will have to practically lock myself in my room for the next week if I hope to get at least most of it done.*

*I hope that all is well back in San Diego, I'm sure that at least the weather is better, and probably the gas and food prices, too. I'm having a great time so far. I have already been to London, Stonehenge, the Isle of Portland, Hastings where I visited the castle where the famous "Battle of Hastings" took place, as well as some pirate smuggling caves that were supposedly really haunted, but all we ended up seeing were a bunch of rocks and wax statues (it had nothing on the Whaley House). I also went last weekend to Dover where we visited the Dover Castle, and an underground military complex from WW II that was used as a hospital and officer quarters, and served as the military brains and port behind the famous evacuation at Dunkirk. But Dover is actually most famous for its beautiful white cliffs (there is even a cool song about them) and we spent an entire day hiking up and down them until we eventually got lost and it started getting dark; luckily, we somehow stumbled back onto the right trail and found our way back in time to make the last train back to Brighton. And just to give you a summary of what Brighton is like; it's basically a big shopping mall, but with English architecture. Just about every building is a shop of some sort, I'm not sure where everybody lives, but there are lots of people. The student apartments that I'm living in are pretty cool, I luckily got my own room and I am less than a block from the ocean and I can see the beach from my window.*

*Unfortunately to my dismay I haven't seen the surf go beyond the six inch mark yet, but I have been reassured by the locals that it breaks, I just have to wait for a storm. And so also to assure that I'm not left out of the water for too long, I joined the surf club at school (I know I couldn't believe they had one either), and we are going on two surf trips to the town of Newquay which supposedly has some pretty decent waves (I'm just hoping I can find a wet suit warm enough). Also I have just been informed that our school is in the process of setting up a surf contest against all the other university surf clubs so maybe I can bring a trophy back to San Diego and win one for my country!*

*Well, I'm going to leave you with that very patriotic thought and go home to have an avocado and cheese sandwich (the staple food my trip since I have yet to master the complexities of cooking).*

*Send everyone my best and tell them to enjoy a burrito for me because I miss Mexican food most of all... well second to family, of course.*

Love

Kevin

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Listy also was on the go, this time only inside California. She made two BER swings, one brief one and another lasting a working week. One trip was in the San Jose area, and another in the Los Angeles area. In some cases she had audiences of over 100 teachers. She commented that it is harder to establish rapport with such large groups, and she prefers the small groups of a dozen or so teachers. She has another trip scheduled in March, this one to the Michigan area. After that she is undecided on whether or not to continue with the BER program.

We have some advance news that Jan and her mother will be visiting Kevin (and also Scotland) sometime in March. We will have more details in future issues.

## Family pediatrician dies

It is with much sadness that we report the passing of Dr. Victor Lindblade. All of our children knew him as a kind, gentle and highly capable doctor, who took care of their illnesses and health when they were small. The opposite obituary appeared in the local paper. He was a special person, and we all mourn his passing.

## Special investigation report

### Identity of suspected shopaholic revealed

In the last issue of RFNL we revealed the result of an investigation into possible inappropriate action on the part of a respected member of the Innocent Bystanders Organization. Our investigation has determined beyond all reasonable doubt that the suspect is none other than Bruce Harris Hartman, a long-time and much loved and respected Innocent Bystander. We have in our possession an unsigned document that we believe to be authentic, even though the author has not identified him/her self. The contents of the document are reproduced, as follows.

### *Innocent*

*Before this public lynching takes place I would like to clear my name and regain my standing in the Innocent Bystanders (dis)Organization.*

*It is true that on the day after Thanksgiving, the single biggest shopping day of the year, I was spotted at Sears at approximately 7:00 a.m. in the company of two "well known shopaholics". I was there for two reasons, the first of which was very honorable. I was driving Birdy so she could meet up with Listy. (The two who need the 12 step*

**LINDBLADE, VICTOR Y. MD.**  
Dr. Victor Yngve Lindblade, was born in Canada 84 years ago. He died January 4, 2000 at San Diego Hospice of complications of Parkinson's disease. He graduated from the University of Illinois Medical School and served in the Navy in South Pacific during WWII. He came to San Diego in 1949 after finishing his Pediatric's training at the University of Michigan. He worked with Dr. William Murrill. He was a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the California Medical Society. He also belonged to San Diego County Medical Society.  
He always found time to do extra work especially at hospitals. He took his regular turn for pro bono pediatric staff's work at Children's Wards at Mercy and County now UCSD Medical Center. He also served on the Board of Directors at both Sharp and Vista Hill Hospitals. He will be remembered as a kind, modest and gentle man. He gave patients of two generations cheerful, kind advice and help any time of the day or night.  
He leaves Thelma his wife of 54 years and two daughters, Vicki Lindblade of San Diego and Betsy Watson of Grand Rapids, MI, a sister Ethel Janitschke of Denver, CO. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Parkinson's Society of San Diego or San Diego Hospice.  
**Merkley-Mitchell Mortuary**  
3655 5th. Ave. 619-295-2177

*program). I also had a defective pair of shoes that I wanted to exchange and thought that since this was the only day that Sears opened at 7:00 a.m. I would be able to miss the crowds at that early hour. All of this was innocent enough, right? My downfall was that I was led into the store through an entrance that took us through the Sears tool department. Clearly this was not my doing! In a moment of weakness I did find myself grabbing a new electric drill, a set of*

*screwdrivers, and a wrench set. I did not shop for these items because I was able to grab them on the way to the shoe department, without even breaking stride (they were all on a sale table). I completed my shoe exchange at which time I also paid for the tools and hastily dashed out of the store. I was back home sipping coffee before 8:0 a.m. Now I ask you, how could this possible be considered "inappropriate behavior"? I implore the senior member of the Innocent Bystanders (other big guy with a beard) to weigh all these facts carefully before rendering your judicial opinion. Note that I highlighted the word "shop". I believe I can beat this rap on the technicality that I didn't "shop" but I will only use that defense if needed. Furthermore, "let he who is without sin be the first to cast his stone." (The term sin is used rather loosely here. I figured a little something out of the Bible would certainly look good in this court of public opinion.) I humbly await your decision.*

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## Some news from South Carolina

Recently we received a nice letter from Aunt Eloise, which we reproduce as follows.

Dear Edith and Frank

22 January, 2000



*I cannot believe that I have waited this long to tell you of the happy occasion of Marian Elizabeth's birth. At her one month old check up, she had gained 2 pounds, and grown two inches in length! They must be doing something right. She will be called Maribeth, and she is a little doll! She has the most expressive eyes! Of course, I'm not at all prejudiced.*

*Debbie, Dave, and I left the day after Christmas for a short visit, but long enough to get acquainted with the baby. There was four inches of snow on the ground when we got to Louisville, and it snowed another inch while we were there. It was beautiful.*

*Stacy and Andy are fine also. Stacy is taking six months off from school to get Maribeth off to a good start, and Andy has a month's break in his studies. They have worked out a plan whereby one can attend classes, while the other baby sits. The school has worked very closely with them to arrange their schedule so that one can be with Maribeth at all times. Andy preaches each week at a small church, and the congregation has been so good to him and Stacy. He loves his work, and we are very proud of him.*

*I talked with Marie Fowles a short while ago. She is feeling much better, and was getting around some, weather permitting. She does a lot of reading, and adores getting the Riel Newsletter. She was saying how much she would enjoy meeting with all of your family. And I concurred that it would be a happy occasion, remembering the great time Scott and I had with you and the family.*

*Enclosed is a picture of Maribeth and her birth announcement.*

*Thanks again for sending the Newsletter. Marie, Susan, and Debbie also look forward to reading them.*

Love

Eloise

Thanks, Eloise, for all the news, and relay our best wishes to Stacy and Andy.

## School science project

We got a call recently from Bryce, who wanted some help on a Science Fair project he was working on. The subject he had selected was to measure the friction of different brands of skateboard bearings. After some discussion, we decided to try an inclined ramp as a measurement procedure. We went to Home Depot and found a shelf section that was smooth, and stiff. By measuring the angle just low enough for the skateboard to roll down we were able to arrive at a value of the friction force, in grams. We were able to measure some small differences between different bearings. We do not yet have any information on the final outcome of the project.



## A note from cousin Gerard

Recently we received a note from Gerard LeGrain, Grandma's nephew, who lives in London.

Dear Frank and Edith

4.1.00

*This card is meant to thank you for your kind wishes and in tern wish you a happy New Year.*

*We are very sorry indeed that the various members of the Riel tribe visiting London were unable to contact us. My wild handwriting must bear some responsibility. So here are our details in as clear a script as I can produce. (address) 88 Lansdowne Rd London W11 2LS - phone 44 (0) 171-727 5661. For those who are e-mail practitioners I add ([legrain@dircon.co.uk](mailto:legrain@dircon.co.uk)) Now, I hope Frances and Kevin can get hold of us.*

*I hope you are all well - we are alright, and our children give us a good mix of satisfaction and reflexivity. No news from Rich - how is he?*

Love to you both

Gerard

We hope that any visitors to London will get in touch with Gerard, and bring him up to date on the California branch of the family.

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## A Christmas greeting from a long time friend

When Grandma first came to the USA back in 1946 she attended the University of Dubuque. While there she befriended one of the nuns at the local Catholic Church, initially by offering her a seat on a crowded bus. Since that time we has kept in touch, and many years ago Sr. Mary and her friend Sr. Barbara visited us in San Diego. We exchange Christmas Cards every year, as does Margaret, and we hear from Sr. Mary every year. This past Christmas she sent Margaret an interesting letter, which we reproduce as follows.

*Mt. Loretto  
2360 Carter Road  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001  
Christmas, 1999*

*Dear Margaret, Bud, Michael, and Megan*

*We don't hear about Santa's reindeer anymore! I searched and searched for a picture of one to put on this diagra but, can you believe it...I did not find one single reindeer picture in all my Christmas files. But I do have a deer story.*

*On Tuesday, October 26, 1999 at 5:20 p.m. as I was about to turn a corridor to enter the dining room for supper, Sister Alice Marie, who was ahead of me shouted, "A deer! It ran that way," as she pointed to her right.*

*A large deer had seen a sister in the courtyard and became frightened. It dashed into a window too small for it, broke the glass, backed out, and jumped through a larger window, breaking two panes of glass and the storm window and shattering the Venetian blinds into smithereens, jumped across the table in the meeting room, down the corridor, met Sr. Alice Marie head-on, (remember I am behind her!), turned, raced down another corridor, jumped through a big window at the entrance to Mt. Loretto, shattered that glass, the wooden frame and the Venetian blinds, left a rather small spot of blood and darted to its safety. No one has seen the deer since.*

*How grateful we are that we were saved from vast devastation or severe injury, Had the deer knocked Sr. Alice Marie down I would also have been a victim.*

*The next day a local comediuun put up a sigh at the turn in the corridor which read "Deer Crossing."*

*May tou have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year for the Big 2000.*

*Love in Jesus*

*Sr. M. Paschal*

Sr. Mary also added a personal; note, as follows.

*What a joy it is each year to get an up-to-date picture and equally up to date letter from you folks! Put in a picture of Mom and Dad (Ediyh and Frank) sometime soon, please. I get a greeting from them, too, -always do. I'm so grateful for this. I love them deeply, even though I seldom saw them face-to-face. They were so good to Sr. Barbara and me back years ago when we visited in California. You recall that time, Margaret, I am sure.*

*Congratulations on all the successes you folks have had in 1999 --- May 2000 be great also.*

*God bless you*

*Sr. M. Paschal*

## Birthday calendar for February

Michael Riel-Mehan	February 10	19
Brett Sorem	February 10	17

## Runny nose department

We have some good and bad news on the health front. First the good news - Brett Sorem got rid of the cast on his leg, and now is cleared to go out on the skateboard again. Please be careful this time.

On the not so good news we were very sorry to learn that Evalyn Sorem fell recently and broke her wrist and cracked her pelvis. She is hospitalized, and has to stay there until she can walk again. The sentence may be any time from weeks to a month. We certainly hope she will make it as soon as possible. Also, Carol called to report that Jeff's dad Bernie was having open heart surgery on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the successful procedure he got a new valve and two new arteries, one from his arm and the other from his leg. He is doing very well and will be home by the 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Some theatrical news

Tim Riel has landed his first professional acting job. He has a part in a dinner theater type play, which will be put on at downtown restaurants. He said that it will run as long as people but tickets. We had a call from Cindy Gonzalez, who said that the locale for some of the movie shots for the pilot film "Cheer Fever" were made at her home. You will recall that Jessica's cheering squad had a part in this film. Carol reports that Dustin won the lead role, that of Bill Bo Boggins in the CYT play "The Hobbit. It will play on the first two weekends in March, and Carol already has put in for tickets. Get in touch with Carol, so we can schedule a family turnout to cheer for Dustin!