



Family celebrates Riel Bowl X on January 1st Family portrait taken in same manner as Riel Bowl I



Back row(standing) Liz Riel, Jan Riel, Bud Mehan, Lyle Hall, Alan Sorem, Jeff Benesch, Karla Riel, Bob Gillingham, Bruce Hartman
Next row (standing) Grandma, Frank Riel, Ed Riel, Margaret Riel, Frances Sorem, Carol Benesch, Robert Riel, Elizabeth Gillingham, Roberta Hartman, Grandpa
Kneeling Kristy Gillinham, Kevin Riel, Jason Benesch, Michael Riel-Mehan, Michelle Hartman, Craig Hartman, Christopher Riel, Tim Riel, Jessica Benesch
Seated Megan Riel-Mehan, Nathan Riel, Curtis Hartman, Brett Sorem, Bryce Sorem, Katy Riel, Scott Hartman, David Gillingham, Bryce Sorem, Annie Gillingham
Brian Riel

January 1, 2001 marked the tenth anniversary of the famous Riel Bowl celebration. On January 1, 1992 we took a picture of the whole gang as they looked at that time. Ten years later they all posed in the same relative positions for this 2001 photo. The only person not in the above picture was Richard, who was working and could not attend. In honor of the occasion Grandpa reproduced the 1992 photo and gave each kid a copy, so they could see how they looked back then.

Welcoming Ceremony - The 10th Riel Bowl started out with coffee and doughnuts for everyone. Also, kids and some parents enjoyed some informal outdoor sports, including some golf, frisbee tossing, football, and general running around. Lyle and Grandpa shared the golf contest by each hitting the wheelbarrow once, from about 50 feet.

Crossword puzzle results - After due consideration Karla announced that there was a tie between Team Margaret and Team Listy. This required the tie breaker test, administered by Grandpa. The test question was to list in proper order the presidents, from Washington to Clinton. Team Listy was the winner, scoring 25 correct answers

Music - Prior to and later on we were entertained by the RFNL Trio, consisting of Jason and Dustin on guitar and David on drums. The kids put on a great show, and we think they show a lot of talent.

Dinner - The main course was the prime rib roast expertly cooked by Robert and Karla. In addition, we all enjoyed mashed potatoes, vegetables, and an assortment of salads, plus another assortment of desserts. The food was just great!

Jeopardy Game - The Commissioner announced that the contestants would be Margaret, Francie and Ed. Family members were allowed to advise each team member, and there was a great deal of confusion. Finally, all of the questions on the board were covered,

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And a Happy New Year to everyone!!!

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and the winner was Francie, with 1300 dollars (not real). Her reward was last pick in the White Elephant Gift Exchange.

Gift exchanges - The first order of business was the drawing for Grandpa's ten speed bike. Three families had expressed interest, and the winner was the Ed Riel family. We understand that Tim was the interested kid, and we will be turning the bike over to him as soon as possible. Next came a pleasant surprise for Grandpa. The family and Grandma gave him a new digital camera plus various accessories. This equipment will be most useful in upgrading the quality of photos in future issues of RFNL. The results already can be seen on page 2 of this issue, which contains a selection of photos taken by Birdy, using the new camera. Bruce and Birdy also helped out by coming to Grandpa's home after the celebration to set up the interface between camera and computer. Everything now is in good order and we have a set of written instructions on how to get the pictures from the camera to the printer. We certainly thank all were involved in this special present, which will be used and appreciated for many years. Afterwards family members and kids exchanged gifts, and Grandma and Grandpa thank everyone for the nice things given to them. After the gifts were all opened and admired the floor was cleared for the annual White Elephant Exchange. It was lots of fun, and everyone had a chance to acquire something, nice or humorous. The winner of the annual RFNL dine out certificate was the Richard Riel family, and we will be looking forward to setting a date for this annual affair.

Bruce Hartman exonerated!!!

After an exhaustive examination of all of the facts by a blue ribbon committee, the Commissioner revealed that the previously defined charges against Mr. Hartman were grossly overstated and unsubstantiated. Therefore, the Commissioner announced that all charges are hereby dropped, and Mr. Hartman is reinstated in the Innocent Bystanders, with all of the rights and privileges associate with membership therein. As a token of our esteem he was presented with a T-shirt with his picture and the inscription "RECOVERED SHOPOHALIC", (see page 2 photo) (Note to outsiders - Of course, this whole exercise was just one big joke, and Bruce was a great sport in not only going along with the fun but also participating in the activity throughout the entire year.)

Thus ended the 10th anniversary of this great family celebration. On behalf of the entire family we want to thank Robert, Karla, Katy, and Brian for opening their home and providing the hospitality.

Robert Riel promoted

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New VP at Dynalectric!!!

Robert got a great Christmas present, announced at the annual company Christmas party. He now is a vice

president, in charge of the Information Technology Division of the company. The promotion came as a complete surprise, but one we all feel sure is well deserved. We held an interview with Robert recently, and he explained his new position and responsibilities. Unfortunately, the recorder died, and we will have to repeat the interview. It will be printed in the February RFNL. In the meantime, a great big CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES !!!!

More holiday celebrations!!

Although Jan 1 was the big day, there were other pleasant experiences during the season.

Christmas Eve - We were invited to join Francie for a church service at St Colomba, followed by dinned at her home. The Christmas Eve service was at 4:00 pm (for kids



and old folks) , and we then went to her home for dinner. We were joined by Lyle's mother, uncle and his wife, and by Carol, Jeff, and family. We enjoyed a delicious dinner of broiled swordfish plus lots of other

goodies. Dessert was especially good. Grandpa was served his favorite, a raspberry cake specially made by Bryce. The rest enjoyed torched custard desserts. Several of the kids tried out their hand with the torch, with varied but good results. It was another pleasant evening at Francie's place, and we thank her and Lyle for having us.



Christmas Day - Once again we were invited to join the Hartman family for a Christmas dinner and celebration. The guests included some of Bruce's family, and neighborhood friends. We all enjoyed lots of delicious food, including ham, mashed potatoes, candied yams, vegetables, salads, and of course, dessert. Afterwards we enjoyed another round of Christmas gifts by both children and adults. We thank Bruce and Birdy for having us again. We have some pictures on page 4.

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Grandma and grandpa 54th anniversary - Francie and Lyle invited us out for dinner and a tour of the Norman Rockwell art exhibit at the art museum in Balboa park. We enjoyed dinner at the Prado, a new restaurant in the park, across from the art museum. We had a delicious meal, served with style and grace. We had planned on visiting the



exhibit afterwards, but time ran out too soon, and we decided to postpone the exhibit tour until Saturday morning, when we would have lots of time. This turned out to be a good decision, since the Rockwell exhibit was quite large and very crowded. Also, it was very impressive, and one gains a new appreciation of the depth and scope of his life works. After the exhibit we enjoyed lunch at the King Fish House, near Fashion Valley. It was a great celebration, and we thank Francie and Lyle for everything.

Travel news

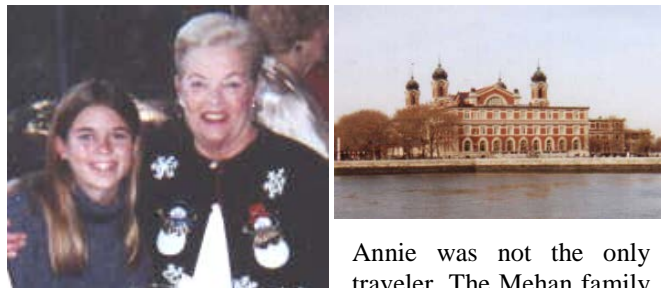
There was a lot of traveling in December, and we have the following account from Listy on Annie's trip to New York.

Annie was the big traveler during the Thanksgiving Holiday as she got to go on a special trip with grandparents Dave and Martha. They took her to New York, the city that never sleeps, and gave her the trip of her dreams. Highlights from the trip include:

- A trip to Ellis Island (where she did try to locate Grandma's brick, to take a picture, but was unsuccessful.
- An elegant Thanksgiving dinner in Central Park at the Tavern on the Green restaurant..
- A trip to the Statue of Liberty
- A stroll along Rockefeller Center
- Two plays on Broadway (*Music Man* and *Kiss Me Kate*)
- A Rocketts Christmas show at Radio City Music Hall
- A movie in Times Square (*102 Dalmatians*)

Annie loved the trip and returned with lots of ideas of moving to the East Coast for college. We hope she will come to her senses once she warms up again in San Diego.

Listy



Annie was not the only traveler. The Mehan family spent a week in Cancun, and reported that it rained almost all of the time. They did get a chance, on one clear day, to visit an old Mayan town, Chichen Itza, and associated ruins. On the other clear day they went snorkeling. The rest of the time they watched it rain.. Margaret has promised some pictures for the next issue. The Benesch family also took a vacation, a week in Hawaii. We hope to get some pictures and a full account for the next issue.

Birthday calendar for January

Grandma	January 2	76
Megan Riel-Mehan	January 15	17

Previews of coming news items

That's all the room we have for this month, so we will be covering the following items in the February issue.

Some birthday celebrations-Bud's CREATE program at UCSD-Michelle's new job-Megan's new award-A letter from Sister Mary-Carols post card from Hawaii- Roberts interview- and whatever else we have forgotten???