

RFNL Christmas dine out gift with Rich Riel family celebrated

You all may recall that Liz Riel ended up with the prized white elephant gift of a dinner with Grandpa and Grandma. Richard recommended that we try a new restaurant, O nami, a Japanese seafood buffet. In Japanese the name means "big wave", and we certainly were overwhelmed by the amount of simply delicious food that was



O-nami O-Nami Sushi & Seafood Buffet

spread out over three long buffet lines. The

food is somewhat expensive, but the quality and quantity was so great that it was well worth it. There must have been a hundred different choices of all kinds of seafood, salads, all sorts of things of unknown origin, and also lots of desserts. If you like this sort of food we recommend you try it out. It is located in the Mission Valley shopping center, on the south side of Robinsons May store. As you can see in the picture, we all had a most enjoyable time, and we thank Richard for the interesting and novel dining experience.



Bud addresses faculty group at UCSD

On December 13, 2001 Professor Hugh Mehan addressed a select group of UCSD faculty members. His address was a part of the Social Sciences Supper Club lecture series, and he was the third speaker in the series, which ran from October through December. The meeting was held at the UCSD Faculty Club, and



dinner was included prior to the talk. Since the 13th happened to be the evening when the presidential election finally was settled, the program included televised speeches by the two candidates. It was noted that most of the faculty applause was given at the conclusion of the Gore speech. The highlight of the evening, however, was Bud's presentation. First, he outlined some data he had collected on present and future population trends, by ethnic background, and how these trends will influence future enrollment at UCSD. He pointed out that in the past the



University has relied on brochures, prospective student campus tours and interviews to encourage future students. He pointed out that this passive approach has not helped underprivileged youth gain access to the University system. In order to correct this

situation the CREATE Program was conceived, and Bud is the current director. The basic concept of the program is to interact with underprivileged children at the junior and senior high school levels, and help them acquire the skills needed to qualify them for the UC system. Activities include those shown in the above chart. The main objective is to help the underprivileged meet the academic standards established for admission to the UC system. Bud's presentation was outstanding, and inspired much discussion at the end of the formal presentation. Margaret was present, and we enjoyed both the dinner and some lively discussion as was dined, and we thank her and Bud for treating us to this enjoyable evening.

Travel news

Robert and Karla recently enjoyed a weekend in Las Vegas, courtesy of the Dynalectric Co. They went with two other company couples, and we understand that some of them enjoyed a little luck in the casinos. Margaret was another traveler, this time to Orlando, Florida. This trip was a part of her new job as an on line teacher with Pepperdine University. As part of the program all enrolled students met on three occasions, twice in Southern California and once on the East Coast. There are four groups enrolled, and Margaret's two groups include about 40 students in each.

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If you would like to learn more about her program you can check it out on web site moom.pepperdine.edu/~mrirel/639-mrirel.

Recently we had an on line conversation with Michael, who told us that he was enjoying a visit at UCLA by Jessica and her parents. The occasion involved Jessica having a try out for admission to the Drama Department. Carol said that there are many applicants for a very few spots, so the chances aren't very good. We have a more detailed report from Carol on what happened. See page 3 for the details..

Megan Riel-Mehan listed on Union-Tribune on H.S All-Academic Girls Cross-Country team



The local paper recently published the make up of the various high school all-academic sports teams, and Megan was listed in the cross-country team from La Costa Canyon H.S. Her grade point ratio was 4.54 out of a possible 4.00. She explained that the extra .54 was awarded for extra work

she did. We congratulate Megan for this achievement, and look forward to more of the same.

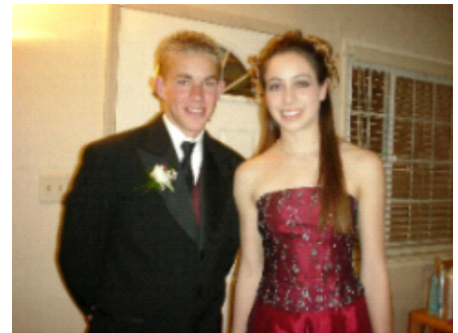
Brett Sorem's picture in national skateboarding magazine ad



Recently Francie brought over the latest edition of Transworld Skateboarding magazine, to show off an ad

which showed pictures of the KIFIVE skateboarding team, including Brett Sorem. Using the very latest electronic technology (our new digital camera) and with much help from Francie we were able to reproduce the ad in excellent detail, as shown in the picture. You can learn more about the skateboard team and Brett by checking out the company web site, www.k-5.com.

In addition to his skateboarding activities Brett was active in the social scene at Scripps Ranch High School. The mid-winter formal dance was held recently, and Brett dressed up in a formal suit and took his date They look pretty elegant, and we thought you ought to check them out, as shown in the picture.



Birthday celebrations

Megan celebrated her 17th recently, and due to the schedule for the movie we wanted to see we rearranged our usual schedule. Instead of lunch and a movie we took in a 1:00 p.m. movie, followed by a late lunch. Since Megan has inherited from her mother the habit of sleeping late, a late lunch fits her schedule. However, she said that she can eat



at anytime, so everything worked out OK. The movie we saw was "13 Days" and we all enjoyed it very much. It is well worth seeing.

Afterwards we lunched at Bennigan's, right in the middle of the first half of the Super Bowl. It was busy and noisy, but we enjoyed the fun. It was another fun day, and we wish Megan a big Happy Birthday!!!

Birthday calendar for February

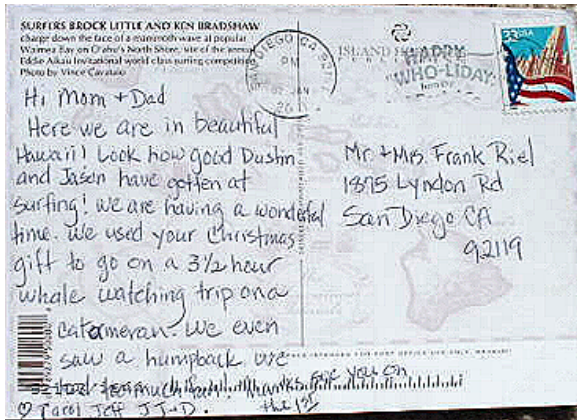
Michael Riel-Mehan	February 10	20
Brett Sorem	February 10	18

The Riel Family

Newsletter

Travel news up-date

As we mentioned in the last issue, the Benesch family returned recently from a Hawaii vacation, and we received the following post card which outlines some of the fun



things they enjoyed.

Jessica and parents visit UCLA

As we mentioned on page two, Jessica, Carol, and Jeff visited UCLA recently, and we have the following e-mail account from Carol.

Hi Dad,

Jessica went up to UCLA with Jeff and I and auditioned to be in their theater department. Twelve hundred people applied, they did auditions in four different cities and they accept 65!! Jessica does not stand much of a chance because many of these kids only did theater and were very good. Jessica has enjoyed so many different activities and although she is very good in many areas, she is not really gifted in one. But the experience was wonderful. She had to get two recommendations (which I will send you in the mail), write an essay on why she wants to go to UCLA, and prepare two monologs and be interviewed. It was a lot of work. She will find out in March weather or not she was accepted.

Carol

Old Riel home up for sale

In case you would like to reacquire the old Riel home at 1877 Lyndon Road, it is still on the market. The asking price is \$1,250,000, but we think that it can be had for less than that, especially if you can pay cash. Perhaps you recognize the following photo of the living room - same

Room, different furniture. Seriously, we understand that there is a potential buyer, and the sale may come off soon.



vvv Richard has new job

Perhaps you never have heard of the San Diego Mavericks Baseball Team. As a matter of fact neither had we until we had dinner with the Rich Riel family. The Mavericks are a semi-professional baseball team, and are aligned with several other local teams. The players are former professionals or amateurs living in the San Diego area. The season runs from June through July, and home team games are played at the USD stadium. Richard will be announcing the games and also is in charge of advertising. This seems like a natural for Richard, since Grandma and Grandpa were watching the Lafayette, Indiana Green Sox back in 1947 on the night of September 28th, when he decided it was time to enter the world. Grandma was able to delay the event until the game was over, but we went directly from the ballpark to the hospital. It was an exciting evening, but we forgot which team won the game.

We wish Richard good luck in this new venture, and look forward to taking in some of the games. They may be more entertaining than some of the Padre games are.

CORRECTION

In the last issue of RFNL we incorrectly identified Dustin Benesch as Bryce Sorem. The one seated in the front row, between Brett and Katy, is Dustin, and Bryce, seated in the front row, 4th from the right is correctly identified. Sorry about this error, kids..

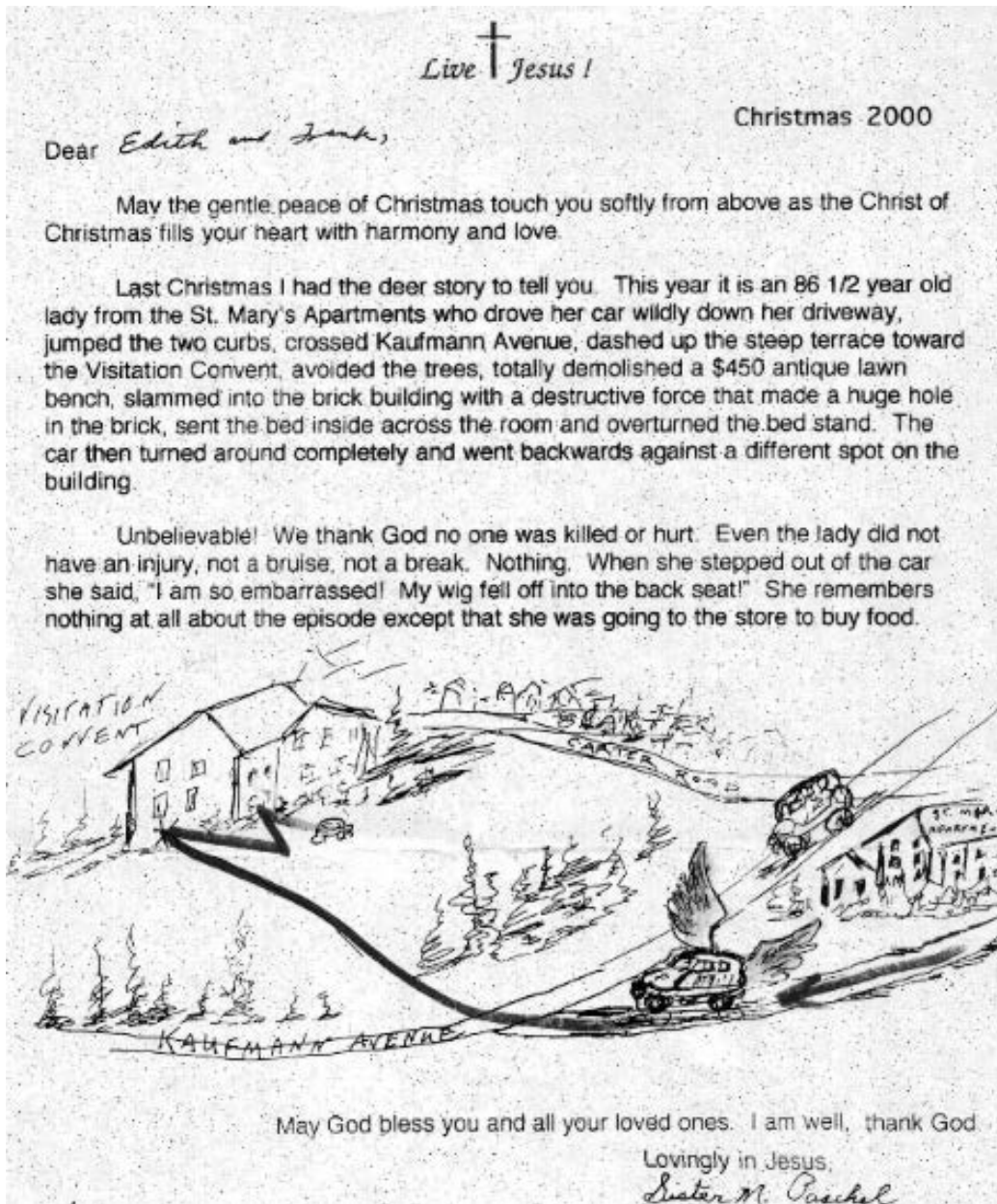
Another wild story from Dubuque, Iowa

During the Christmas season we received another nice communication from Grandma's college days friend, Sister Mary Paschal Kelly. She described a strange accident involving the Convent in Dubuque. (see page 4)

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As you can see from the picture, it must have been an exciting day. Sr Mary added a PS, as follows

The above incident happened on September 12th. The damage is not completely fixed yet, but it soon will be. It is a miracle that no one was killed or injured. I feel certain that the lady's Guardian Angel was watching over her.

Kaufmann Avenue, which is usually busy, had only one car with a single occupant passing the Visitation at that moment. He slowed down because he could tell the lady was not going to turn. She raced on ahead of him across Kaufmann Ave. and up the steep terrace. We thank God for his amazing blessings and care of us all.

Thank you again for the RFNL. I get such a bang out of it. Thank you for identifying the individuals in the pictures. You have an amazing family - yourselves, your children and your grandchildren. There are no "great grands" yet, are there? I



am looking forward to your family group picture which you are announcing, I believe.

You have so much fun, too, I gather. That kidding about Bruce's shopping addiction is amusing even for me after reading his "Innocent" article and the copy of the first material which you copied for me.

*God Bless You All - Love and Prayers
S.M.P.*

That is quit a story, and we look forward to the next event in this chapter of amazing things going on in Dubuque.