



## **RFNL CELEBRATES 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Yes, it hardly seems possible that we have issued ten years times twelve months per year = 120 issues of the Riel Family Newsletter. The first issue was pretty short and plain, but as the months and years slipped by we gradually enlarged, revised and (we hope) improved each issue. Five years ago we celebrated the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary by reproducing some of the more significant headlines appearing over that span. This was done mostly by the cut (with scissors) and paste (with glue) method. Now that we have entered the marvelous age of super electronics we can do a much better job, we hope. In any case, here are the more important stories selected from the past sixty issues of RFNL. In order to aid in the overall organization we have organized the items into the following seven major categories: AWARDS/HONORS, PERFORMING ARTS, FAMILY ACHIEVEMENTS, TRAVEL NEWS, MILESTOENS, and SPORTS. (The numbers after the dates refer to the issue and page number as shown in the lower right hand corner of each issue page)

### **Awards/Honors**

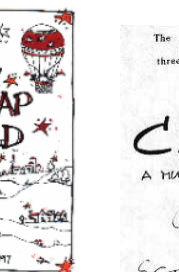
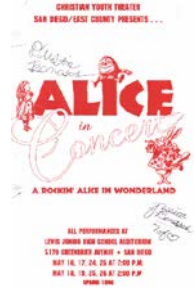
- June, 1996  
0631 **Birdy Hartman wins Teacher of the Year award**  
Birdy was nominated by Francis Parker in the kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade range, and won over 9 finalists!
- March, 1997  
721 **Bob Gillingham honored by Johns Hopkins University**  
Bob was honored as one of the outstanding education al administrators in California. In a letter to all Lower School parents Headmaster W. Lee Pierson praised Bob for the outstanding way he has served the school children.
- July, 1997  
763 **Bud Mehan wins Distinguished Teacher award at UCSD**  
The certificate stated (in part) that Professor Mehan has a major influence on primary and secondary education in the United States in his role as coordinator of UCSD's high regarded teachers education program, and in recruiting students into teaching careers.
- May, 1999  
982 **Michelle Hartman visits Washington, D.C.**  
Michelle's prize winning essay' plus an interview and the successful raising money to cover some of the costs won her a trip to the nations capital. She submitted a great report on the trip, printed in the May RFNL.
- June, 1999  
0991 **Family teachers win awards for teaching excellence - Bud Mehan wins promotion at UCSD - Debbie Nix wins Teacher of the Year Award - Birdy Hartman wins Outstanding Teacher Award**  
On May 7<sup>th</sup> UCSDS announced the appointment of Bud to the position of University CREATE program. CREATE stands for Center for Research in Educational Equity, Assessment and Teaching Excellence. In May we received a letter from Aunt Eloise announcing that daughter Debbie had been selected as winner of the South Carolina Independent School Association Middle School Teacher of the Year Award. Finally, Birdy Hartman was announced as winner of the Dethloff Family Award for Teaching Excellence, a Francis Parker yearly award to the years outstanding Parker teacher.

# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

March, 2001

## HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH Performing Arts HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH



AS you can see from the many programs reproduced above, the family has been very active in the performing arts area, and we enjoyed every performance we took in. We hope to see many more in the future!!!

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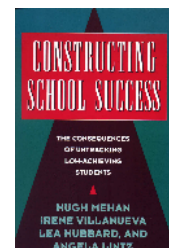
## Family Achievements

There were many nice things that happened in the 1996- 2110 era. Some were too numerous to mention, such as school grade advancements, events we expect from our family. Others were more special and deserving for special mention.

### September, 1996 **Bud Mehan's new book published**

0664

Bud Mehan announced publication of his new book, "Untracking School Success". In his book he defines the educational concept of "tracking" and develops an alternate in which students all are assumed to have the ability to undertake the same broad range of subjects, and the ability to succeed in those subjects. He points out that underprivileged children make up most of the "low track" students, and they often are aligned in that direction, without regard to their real abilities



### October, 1996 **Listy continues to tour the country instructing math teachers on the latest techniques**

0671

In the fall of 1996 Listy planned and carried out another math teaching assignment for BER (Bureau of Education Research). This tour included sessions in Indiana, Ohio, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Birdy joined her during this tour, and they took time out to visit Aunt Eloise and Uncle Jim, In Sumter. One of the comments made by one of the teachers, after hearing Listy, was "Great job, Elizabeth! Every math teacher - no, all educators - need to take lessons from you".

### October, 1996 **San Diego electricians training center dedicated**

0682

Robert Riel played a key role in the refurbishment of the IBEW Local 569 training center, which was rededicated on October 23, 1996. This new facility contains a series of classrooms equipped with a wide variety of teaching aids. In addition, the facility has fully automated electronic building monitoring concepts. It is very impressive, and a great way to train new electrical technicians.

### November, 1996 **Grandpa starts new career as volunteer literacy tutor.**

0683

In October Grandpa completed a 15 hour training course and became an official literacy tutor for the READ/San Diego Public Library Literacy Program.

### November, 1997 **Listy and Margaret embark on new career paths**

0801

In October Listy announced that she was leaving Scripps Ranch High School and classroom teaching. Her new assignment was "Resource Teacher, Internal Teacher Support, UCSD". Her new duties involve visiting classrooms of teaching interns, in order to evaluate their progress and guide them in their studies. Margaret also took on a new responsibility.

### April, 1998 **Carol demonstrates teaching skills for other teachers**

0851

As a consequence of her recent winning of a Masters Degree in education, Carol has been designated as a Mentor Teacher. In this role she helps train other teachers, and we had a chance to watch one of her teaching demonstrations. She does a great job, and we can see why she is successful in that role.

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June, 1998  
871

## Listy wins Outstanding Master of Arts Award from USIU

In June Listy was awarded her Masters Degree from USIU. In addition, she was notified that she had been selected as a recipient of the Outstanding Master of Arts Award. Her selection was based on criteria established by the department of Education and included grade point average, leadership, service, and scholarship.

December, 1998  
0933

## Bud Mehan elected to National Academy of Education

On October of 1998 Bud was notified that he had been elected to the National Academy of Education. Membership in the Academy is limited to 125 persons whose accomplishments in the field of education are deemed outstanding. The Academy convenes annually for papers, symposia, and informal conversation.

December, 1998  
0933

## Michael Riel-Mehan elected to La Costa Canyon H.S. Chapter of National Honor Society

On November of 1998 Michael received notification of his Certificate of Membership in the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools. Membership is based on scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

October, 1999  
1031

## Listy wins new job as vice principal at Scripps Ranch High School

In the summer of 1999 Listy applied for the position, even though there were nineteen qualified candidates. She survived several rounds of screening, and eventually became the winner. Thus she assumes new responsibilities in the education field.

January, 2001  
1183

## Robert Riel promoted to company vice president

In a surprise announcement at a company Christmas party, Bob Riel learned that he was the newest vice president at Dynalectric. His responsibility is the Information Technology division of the company, one which he has been heading up since it's inception.

March, 2001  
1191

## Bud Mehan addresses faculty group at UCSD

As a part of a special series Bud was invited to give a summary of the work he is directing in his new position as Director, CREATE program. He outlined the basis for the program, and some of it accomplishments and goals for the future.



## Travel News



There was lots of news on the travel scene, and many family members left home for business and/or pleasure. Obviously we cannot mention every trip, and some we probably never were aware of. However, this issue would not be complete without noting some of the more exciting trips to far off places.

July, 1996 - Grandpa and Grandma spent a week in their Indian Wells timeshare. In addition to golf and casino fun they enjoyed an informal reunion with former neighbors from our days at Purdue.

July, 1996 - The Benesch family spent an exciting week in Mexico, at Rosarito Beach.

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- January, 1997 In January, while on a speaking tour (for Listy) the twins visited Uncle Jimmy and Aunt Eloise in Sumter, South Carolina. They reported that they enjoyed very much meeting their southern relatives.
- May, 1997 In early April Grandma and Grandpa took off on the long awaited Caribbean Islands cruise. This was the finale of the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration (see milestones section) , and they enjoyed touring and shopping the various small towns visited . In addition, the food and entertainment was great, and they came home happy that they had tried the cruises vacation concept.
- June, 1997 Aunt Eloise and her grandson Scott Nix visited San Diego, and we enjoyed a full week of touring local sights and visiting our local family. They had a chance to meet each of our children, and most of the grandchildren. It was a nice visit, and we all enjoyed having them.
- December, 1987 Margaret and Megan visited the George Lucas estate, near San Francisco. This visit was to meet with a group of educators who are working toward applying new communications technology to the education process.
- January, 1998 Francie took off for an *iso* business trip to Jamaica. Although some work was involved, it was also a lot of nice relaxing in the warm sun, and she reported a great time.
- March, 1998 Grandpa and Grandma enjoyed another vacation in Las Vegas. This trip was special in that Aunt Isa took a plane over to join us. In addition, one of her nephews, Constatine Sitar, was working in Las Vegas, and we had a chance to enjoy his company. We were saddened to learn some time later that he had passed away suddenly.
- August, 1998 Listy and Bob tour Europe, and they find out that a lady cannot wear shorts in the Duomo Cathedral. However, an improvised skirt, using a sweater solved the problem. Otherwise they had a great time.
- September, 1998 Alan treated Bryce and Brett to a baseball tour of the East Coast. In addition to seeing some new (and old) baseball parks they took in some local sights, and had a great time.
- September, 1998 Bud, Margaret, and Megan visited the Vancouver, B.C. area, and it was there that Margaret did her now famous flying trapeze act.
- March, 1999 Listy and Birdy toured the nations capital, and took in many of the sights unique to that city.
- November, 1999 Francie jets to London for a business trip, but finds time to take in some of the local sights.
- June, 2000 Jan, her mother Catherine, brother Wayne, sister-in-law Carol and niece Shannon toured England and Scotland. Also, they joined up with Kevin, (attending college at Essex University, Brighton,, England) and had a chance to visit relatives in Scotland.
- August, 2000 Margaret, Bud, and Megan visited Beijing, China, as a part of a business trip. They also had time to visit Tienanmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Silk Market, the Great Wall, and the Ming Tomb.
- August, 2000 Robert Riel was another business traveler, visiting Guam to participate in a Department of Labor sponsored conference on electrician training. On the way back Karla, Katy, and Brian in Hawaii met him, where they enjoyed a relaxing vacation in the sun and surf.
- January, 2001 Annie was treated by grandparents Dave and Martha to a trip to the New York area. There she visited Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, Rockefeller Center, and Times Square. She also was treated to two Broadway plays and some elegant dining.

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## Milestones



There were many milestone events during the past 5 years. We have space to recall only a few of the more significant ones. Some were happy events, others sad, but they all made an impact on the emotions of the family.

- December 26, 1996 Grandpa and Grandma celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a big party put on by their children.
- January 29, 1997 James D. Riel (Uncle Jimmie) passed away after a short illness. We were thankful that Listy and Birdy had visited Sumter and had a chance to meet him shortly before he died.
- July 21, 1997 Francie celebrates her 45<sup>th</sup> birthday with a Mission Bay beach party.
- April 15, 1998 Jan Riel enjoys surprise 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, put on by her entire family, and enjoyed by all.
- June 13, 1998 Elizabeth (Listy) Gillingham and Roberta (Birdy) Hartman celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. For the party, at the Gillingham home, they displayed T-shirts claiming they were "recycled teenagers".
- October 3, 1998 Edward Riel enjoyed not one but two surprise parties, one involving a tour of the art museum in Balboa Park followed by lunch at Oscar's, and the second a beach party at OB. Surprise, surprise!!
- December 6, 1998 Grandpa Riel celebrates his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with a surprise party at the Lyndon Road home. The big present was a family one, a new computer plus color printer and scanner.
- January, 1999 RFNL goes hi-tech, with all color photos and displays and a whole new look, thanks to the new computer!
- June 30, 1999 Carol and Jeff celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a trip to Catalina Island. The fishing was special.
- August 31, 1999 We were saddened to death of the passing of Elizabeth (Liz) Riel's mom, Josephine Drewek. She was a lovely lady, and we miss seeing her at St. Columba grandparent's day.
- January 2, 2000 Grandma Riel celebrates her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday with a surprise party at home.
- January 4, 2000 The family mourned the passing of our family pediatrician, Dr. Victor Lindblade, who took such good and loving care of our children in their early years.
- March 6, 2000 Margaret Riel celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday with a party at the Mehan home. There were many gifts, much fun, and a special salute composed and sung by the RFNL a cappella choir.
- March 26, 2000 Michael and Moreg Merica (Grandma's brother and sister-in-law, in Manchester, England) celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary
- October 14, 2000 Lyle Hall's dad, Lee (Ed) Hall passed away after a month stay in the hospital. We will miss him at the next Christmas eve party at Francies'.

## Sports news



There were many sports news items, covering baseball, swimming, running, soccer, etc. Many events were never reported and some were mentioned at one time or another. Since we have only limited we will record only some of the more significant events.

- June, 1996 Micnael Riel-Mehan was picked to join an all star team composed of Olympic Development Players from San Diego County. The team traveled to France to play in a tournament.
- November, 1996 Listy competed in 50K Cuyamaca Laguna marathon, and won 4<sup>th</sup> place for women. After the race she said "I know it's crazy, but I just had to do it".
- September, 1998 Carol ran in and completed a 25 mile marathon, and looked great at the finish line.
- March, 1999 Bob Riel. And Listy Gillingham both competed in the 1999 San Diego marathon, and both finished in good shape.
- May, 2000 Listy and Bob travel to Boston so Listy could run in the famous Boston Marathon. Listy finished strongly, and said afterwards that it was a fulfillment of a life-long dream, and one of the great experiences of her lifetime.