



RFNL INTERVIEW OF ROBERT RIEL, NEW DYNALECTRIC VP

Last January we reported on the promotion of Robert, and promised an interview. The first interview was ruined by a recorder malfunction, but we were successful on the second try, so here it is.

Interview date - March 24, 2001

RFNL - *When and under what circumstances were you notified of this promotion?*



It was at the Christmas party and they had a special announcement - a couple of hundred were at the party and it was announced by the president.

RFNL - *Can you give us a summary of the Dynalectric organization, business scope, and business objectives? Also, what is the relationship between Dynalectric and DIT?*

Dynalectric is a nation-wide business owned by the Emcor Corp., with about \$3 billion in sales this year. They do electrical and mechanical contracting. We have offices all across the USA and up and down the coast here. DIT stands for Dynalectric Information Technologies. That involves fire alarms, security, telephone, building automation - all that sort of thing. We are a separate entity of Dynalectric and a lot of times we are a sub, and sometimes we work for other electrical contractor as well.

RFNL - *What roles will you play as a new company vice-president?*

Basically, my title of vice president is in recognition of my role as the leader of the Technology Division. It gives me more authority to do things such as sign contracts up to a million dollars, different things like that, and hire people. Basically, I have my own company within a company, if you will.

RFNL - *Will your new duties involve more business travel than you have done in the past?*

Probably about the same. This year I have several meetings to attend, some in Vancouver, some in Las Vegas, one in Washington, D.C., and various little ones that are one or two nighters.

RFNL - *How many employees will be working under your direct supervision?*

Well, when I started DIT it was myself and one person. Now I am up to about 30 - 35 people and within a few more weeks we are going to be hiring a lot more people, and I will have about 50 working for me.

RFNL - *How do you view the future of the electrical contracting business in the San Diego area and countrywide?*

Electrical itself will stay fairly modest in growth, somewhere between 5 and 8%. But the area I work in, Information Technology, that growth market seems to be somewhere in the 20 - 30 % range. As a technology area it seems to have more work. Many buildings now have wiring in them, for electrical, that was done 50 years ago and still works. But when you talk about technology, it has a life cycle of only about 5 - 8 years, so there is a lot more work doing it that way.

RFNL - *Does Dynalectric have international activities and/or ambitions? If so, how do you view the potential in various areas of the world?*

Well, actually we are worldwide. We are in Canada, London, we've got work in Kuwait, we have a full agreement with the South African Government to do facilities maintenance, we've got work going on in Puerto Rico, and in Hawaii. I may travel from place to place, although not too much (DIT) work is going on right now, as far as international is concerned. However, I have done some work in Mexico.

RFNL - *Do you have any advice or suggestions for young people with respect to career options?*

With all due respect to Margaret, Francie, Carol, Listy, and Birdy, my loving sisters, college is good for some people, but there are lots of other opportunities. What it amounts to is if you don't do what you like or love don't bother doing it because you'll never do it well. So I would say that you find out what you really like to do and do it. That's hard to do but it can be done. Obviously, I didn't go to college like the rest of my brothers and sisters, but I think that I turned out OK.

Thanks, Robert, and best wishes for your future. We know you will do a great job for DIT !

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

April, 2001

Family enjoys housecooling party at Lyndon Road

The long awaited party to kick off the listing of the 1875 home on Lyndon Road took place on March 24th. All of the Riel children were present (including spouses and some of the grandchildren) except Francie, who was on a business trip to Seattle. Loads of stuff to be given away were laid out in the pool room, upstairs bedroom, and downstairs in the dining room and outside patio. Everyone sorted over the many items to be discarded, and many of the better things were taken away to their new homes. In the early afternoon Carol and Dad picked up the food, Greek salad and a variety of pizzas, all from Oscar's. There was plenty of food, and some leftovers for some to take home. It was a fun party, and we thank all that joined in, especially Carol and Jeff, who helped with the arrangements.



The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

April, 2001

Some news from Sumter

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

Dear Edith and Frank *March 28, 2001*

We are enjoying our usual S.C. spring weather - freezing one morning (it was 26 degrees today) and 70 degrees the next!

The tenth anniversary of the Riel Newsletter (can it really be 10 years?) Was one of your best efforts. I truly enjoy all of the copies, as do Susan, Debbie, and Marie. I talked with Marie last week. She is doing better, getting out more, and spoiling her twin granddaughters.

After two years of hard work, Susan's book, co-authored with a friend, has been published. She enclosed a news clipping from the Rock Hill paper.

Stacy and Andy will graduate from the Seminary in May. Andy will pastor a Presbyterian Church someplace, or go back into service as a chaplain.

Everyone is doing fine, busy as one can be, and enjoying life. Give my regards to all of the family. (I receive such lovely letters from Annie) *With love, Eloise*

The newspaper article describes the background for Susan's book. Working as a librarian at Winthrop University, Susan (left, in picture) and her associate, Lois Walker came



across a government document which summarized the 1822 Denmark Vesey slave insurrection trials that were supposed to calm the fears of pre-Civil War South Carolina. The report highlighted the role of one of the co-conspirators, Gullah Jack Pritchard, and the book "A Documentated History of Gullah Jack Pritchard and the Denmark Vesey Insurrection of 1822" tells his story. According to the report Gullah played a key role in the insurrection plot. Vesey's insurrection destroyed the prevailing myth that slaves were content and prompted a backlash by white Charlestonians that laid the groundwork for the state's rights movement. This movement ultimately culminated in the Civil War. The plotters planned to break into a government storage place, seize weapons and kill all the whites in Charleston. The plot failed, however, when

one of the recruits to the cause reported the plot to his master. In May of 1822 the authorities arrested 117 slaves and 11 free black men. By the time the episode was over, 41 were hanged, including Vesey. Gullah Jack was still at large, but was caught, tried, and hung in July, 1822. The rest were banished from South Carolina. Charleston authorities then petitioned the state Legislature for a larger military force. Soon afterward, an arsenal was established at The Citadel, which was converted to a military school in 1842. The Legislator also passed the Negro Seaman's Act, which forbade any black seaman, slave or free, from coming ashore in Charleston. This act was greeted with outrage by European nations, who argued that the act violated international law. The people in Charleston said "We don't care what the federal government says, we are making our own laws." This was when the whole issue of state's rights started.

Congratulations, Susan, for sharing with us this interesting item of history, and a job well done.

Some news from Dubuque

We received the following letter from Sr. Mary Paschal, which we reproduce as follows.

M.P.
April 3, 2001

Dear Frank and Edith,

On April 1st I had the jolt of a lifetime when I suddenly realized I did not congratulate you on your Fabulous March issue of your RFDL which celebrated the 10th Anniversary of that fascinating little publication. That issue is tremendous!

But most of all I want to congratulate you on your amazing family, the extraordinary things they have accomplished — each and every member, and the love and concern you have for each other. God Bless You All!

And thank you for sharing with me.

*Lovingly in Jesus
Sister M. Paschal*

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

April, 2001

Some sports and some travel news

We have the following report from Listy, covering some travel and some sports news.

Dad,
Here's Annie's account:

I spent 5 days in Ensenada, Mexico living with a family in an exchange program from my Spanish classes at Francis Parker. Students travel with their teacher to Mexico and attend classes at a Spanish school. We were totally immersed in Mexican culture so that we can have a better appreciation for what we're studying in our classes. Highlights from my trip include: -bowling with my classmates-going to La Buffadora (A Blow hole)-shopping (I would have made Grandma proud with my bargaining skills)-cooking lessons to make authentic Mexican Food (see recipe for Salsa)-taking cold showers (BRRRRRR!)

I got to sleep in a guesthouse on top of a garage with 3 other friends. It was a great experience and I had a wonderful time. Here's a recipe for making great homemade Salsa:

*3 Tomatoes (cut into pieces)
1/4 cup of cilantro
4 small gree jabaleros
dash of salt
1/4 cup of water
1/4 cup of diced onions*

*Combine all ingredients into a blender and mix on "Chop."
Add chips and you'll have a real Mexican treat!*

ON the sports news you can use...

David is playing on the Freshman/Sophomore Volleyball team for Francis Parker. Last weekend, they played in a junior varsity tournament and won 2nd place. Individually, David was nominated as one of four "Most Valuable Players" for the entire tournament. He plays as a setter and sets up many of the plays for the team.

*- Other sports that I know about:
- Scott is running Varsity Track at Parker
-Kristy is playing Varsity Softball at Parker
-Annie is playing Basketball at Parker MS.
-Brett is playing Varsity Golf at Scripps
-Bryce is playing on the Freshman Baseball team at Scripps
-Katy is swimming (I think?) at Steele Canyon
-Megan might be running varsity track for La Costa*

Canyon?

*-Jessica is doing varsity cheer at Patrick Henry
Have a great weekend... and we'll send Annie's pictures when we get them...we're off to Santa Barbara to check out colleges for Kristy. Love, Listy*

Birthday calendar

Because of the anniversary issue last month there was no birthday calendar, so we will combine March and April now.

Margaret Riel	March 6	51
Jessica Benesch	March 17	18
Craig Hartman	March 19	18
Jeff Benesch	March 23	49
Dustin Benesch	April 3	16
Brian Riel	April 5	12
Robert Riel	April 9	44
Kevin Riel	April 11	22
Jan Riel	April 21	53

Birthday celebrations

Craig Hartman celebrated his 18th with lunch at Mandarin Plaza. Since we were unable to find a movie that any of us



wanted to see, we decided to take in the Old Automobile Museum in Balboa Park. Unfortunately, a lot of other people decided to visit the park, and after cruising around for about a half hour we gave up on ever finding a parking place. So, we went downtown to see the

Railroad Museum, which was closed, and seems to have no exhibits on display. We did visit the Modern Arts Museum, which didn't amount to very much. Anyway, happy birthday, Craig!

Bryce retires as Alter Boy at St Columba

Francie reports that Bryce has retired after serving mass for five consecutive years. We congratulate him on this achievement, and wish him well.

Late news flash - Lyle in hospital - Francie called to inform us that Lyle experienced severe stomach pains shortly after enjoying an evening dinner party with Ed, Jan and some friends. The problem is gallstones, and surgery is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Monday, the 12th. If all goes well they will use a procedure which requires only three small incisions. We certainly hope all goes well. Check with Francie.