

Family travel news - Members visit far away places

Summertime is the time to hit the road, and various family members went just about everywhere. As usual, Margaret, Bud, and Megan were the leaders, with trips to Cape Town, South Africa and Boston. Margaret also spent a day in Washington, DC. Also, we got a report from Robert on their previously mentioned vacation in Vancouver, BC. Francie and Lyle are in Hawaii, and coincidentally, so are Bruce and Bridy. Finally, Bob and Listy are going to Florida, and Francie may have a business trip to Singapore. This one is not finalized yet, but Francie is hoping it will come off.

Margaret supplied a report on their visit to Cape Town, as follows.

The trip to Cape Town, South Africa was different than I expected. At one level it was a remarkably beautiful tourist location. The beaches were pretty and not overly developed. There were lots of 5-star resort hotels and a very tastefully developed waterfront district. There were lots of shops, restaurant, and a very well designed and interesting aquarium. Since we were there in winter and some days in the rain, we did not spend too much time at the beach. We did go up on Table Mountain, a large flat mountain that is about 15 miles east of the coastline. This plateau provides a view of the tip of Africa on all three sides. We took some pictures, but between the distance, the height, and a slight haze the cameras did not capture what Megan and I were able to see. I went on a tour to the Cape of Good Hope where we were able to walk around with the baboons, as you can see in the picture.

Everyone is very aware and engaged in the issue of race. Off the coast of Cape Town is Robin Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 27 year. We went on a tour of the island led by one of the people who was a political prisoner like Mandela. The conditions were horrible. The prisoners worked long hours in the mines. The blacks were forced to wear short sleeve and short pants whatever the weather while the coloreds (mixed race) had better clothing. The food was distributed according to race as well. The blacks would have less variety and substantially less food. (About 2/3 of what the mixed race inmates received. They were allowed only two visits a year and a few letters a year. They effectively tried to restrict all contact with the outside world.

Although visiting a prison might seem like a grim thing to do, it is now celebrated as the birthplace of freedom with a focus on the inability to imprison the mind. Manuela and others used the prison as a place to raise consciousness of importance of freedom and to get their message to an ever-widening group.

The more the prison tried to restrict information the harder they worked to share it. If someone smuggled in a newspaper, prisoners would memorize stories so that they could be passed on to everyone. They found ways to use the oil and fat from the meals to write messages on paper that could not be seen unless held next to matches. These efforts were so intense and the prisoner's stance was so spirited that even the wardens (wardens or guards) became sympathetic to the cause and had to be regularly replaced. Eventually they got the right to have more freedom and books and the learning that took place helped to end the oppressive system of Aparthe



Cape Point South Africa



The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

August, 2001

Shortly after their return from Africa, Margaret, Bud, and Megan took off for a one week stay in Boston. We have the following report on that trip.

For the third summer, Margaret participated as "Harvard Faculty" in the Learning with New Technologies Institute. Each summer district teams (consisting of a superintendent or an assistant, a few principals, technology educators and teachers) come to Harvard to learn how to incorporate technology into their schools. They invite Margaret to help push their thinking toward the future. She gave a "keynote" presentation on "Technology and the Future of Teaching and Learning," and another workshop on Learning Communities called "Next Door to Everyone in the Global Neighborhood." Throughout the week, she met with the small groups to help them create plans for school change. While Bud came to hear Margaret's talk, Megan, having been with her mother on previous session, opted for time in Harvard Square with her art supplies. She is sketching herself into the image of college life. Bud and Megan (and sometimes Margaret) looked at schools that Megan will apply for next year. They visited Harvard, MIT, Brown, and Tufts. By the end of the week, Megan was ready to give the tours herself. While Bud and Megan returned to San Diego, Margaret went off to DC for another Keynote Panel at a large conference on "Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology". This group was largely university faculty and the goal was to discuss ideas for how e-learning can be used in teacher education. Margaret has one more talk next Tuesday but this time in the San Francisco area. Then there is a few weeks of summer before she goes online to teach at Pepperdine.

As mentioned in the last issue of RFNL, the Bob Riel family recently enjoyed a week in Vancouver, and we have the following report from Katy, along with some other family news.

Hey Grandpa!

Sorry it has taken me so long to write about the trip to Vancouver. It was a blast. While Dad was at his conference Mom, Brian, and I went up to Grouse Mountain to play in the snow. We didn't use the car much because the sky train operators were on strike so riding was free. They have some of the coolest malls up there. Aunt Listy and Aunt Birdy would love it there! We did a lot of hiking and site seeing. One day we took a faire over to Vancouver Island and saw the Crystal Gardens and we walked around a street market. Every night at nine o'clock a cannon across from the hotel was fired. That was Brian's favorite part of the day. We also walked down to Stanley Park and rented some bikes. We went around the park twice and then some, Dad says it was about 15 miles. I had a lot of fun.

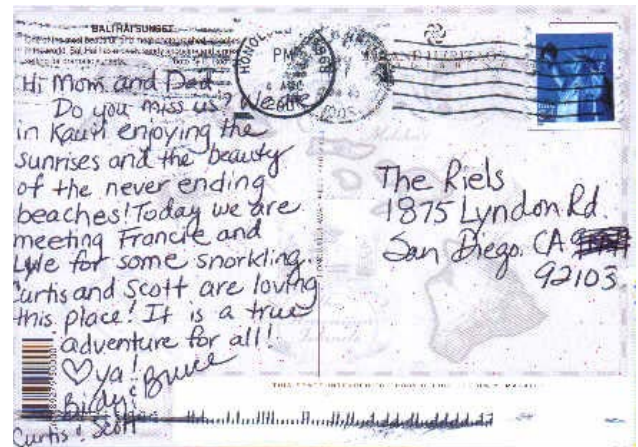
Love to you,
Katy

P.S. -other news in the family-

Last weekend I was in a champion swim meet and placed in all of my events. Brian went to Arizona for 2 weeks and Mom is going into the hospital for a week.

Pictures of our vacation will follow.

While others were going from place on working vacations, the Hartman family (Birdy, Bruce, Curtis, and Scott) was totally vacationing in Hawaii. We have the following post



card with some brief news, as follows.

As mentioned in the post card, Francie and Lyle also are in Hawaii, and are sharing the sun and fun. We hope to have a full report from both families when they get back to San Diego.

Some news from Aunt Eloise

We were [leased to hear from Eloise the latest from South Carolina. Her letter is reproduced on page three, and she also enclosed a clipping from the Orangeburg Times and Democrat newspaper, which mentioned Andy in a report on the Presbyterian Church and Andy as the new assistant pastor.

Along with the building project, the congregation also celebrated hiring Andrew "Andy" James Nix as the first associate pastor in the church's 166-year history. A native of Dalzell, Nix is a graduate of the Citadel and a veteran army officer. He earned his master of divinity from Louisville Presbyterian Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He brings with him his wife of six years, Stacey, and their daughter, Maribeth. He will serve as pastor for youth and family ministries.

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South Carolina

Eloise sent on a lot of other news items, and here is her letter of July 27th.

Dear Edith and Frank

Everyone still enjoys your newsletters. It is an excellent way of keeping up with your family, and we are appreciative.

Andy has accepted the Associate Pastor position at First Presbyterian in Orangeburg. (South Carolina) They have bought a new house and are moving in today. We are delighted to have them so near after six years in Texas and Kentucky.



I'm enclosing an article from the Orangeburg paper.

Scott will complete his Master's in Business

Administration next semester. He lives at Myrtle Beach and is working while going to school.

Debbie is at Camp Kemo this week, where she does the crafts for 120 children, who have leukemia. Debbie has worked with the Leukemia Society for years, and is now on the National Board. Dave stays busy with his construction firm, and loves every minute.

Alex has just published a little story in a Kids Magazine "Imagine That". He is interested in Tae Kaiun Do, and swimming. He's a big collector of transformers - toys that transform from an animal to a super man and the likes. I used to be able to do the transforming when Andy and Scott were small. I have no idea that I could do it now - it's too demanding.

Maribeth, Andy and Stacy's 19months old daughter, has kept us entertained this summer. She's adorable!

Susan and Jason are working on a book - first time they have co-authored a work. They were hoping to complete it soon.

My health is amazingly good. I'm still working full time, and am so thankful that I have the work. I can't see myself sitting at home watching TV, and after 3 hours or reading, my eyes are screaming for a break. Being alone is no fun.

Thanks again for the newsletters. Eloise

Karla has surgery

Robert called a little over a week ago to tell us that Karla was in the hospital, and would undergo surgery to correct a partial intestinal blockage. The operation was a complete success, and the non-functioning section (about 12 inches) was removed. We visited her on Sunday the 4th of August, and she was in good spirits and looking well. Robert reported later in the week that she was home by Tuesday, and feeling much better. We were glad and relieved to get that good news, and wish her a speedy and full recovery.

Art work by Kristy featured at FPS Spring Arts Night



Recently Listy sent us a copy of the program for the annual Spring Arts Night sponsored by the students and faculty of the Francis Parker Middle and Upper School. Listy added the following note further defining the activity.

Dad - Here's a copy of the program for Francie Parker Spring Arts Night. Kristy's art work was featured in the program and was displayed in the Field House. The sketch above is of Bob's school. David and Annie also performed. David played the drums and Annie sang in the choir. We are proud of all three of them and admire their talents!

We wholeheartedly agree, and congratulate Kristy, David and Annie on their participation in the art show!!

Birthday calendar for August

Carol Benesch	August 2	47
Nathan Riel	August 13	20
Christopher Riel	August 13	20
Annie Gillingham	August 13	14
Jason Benesch	August 30	20

Call us as soon as possible, to set up a time and place for a suitable celebration!!

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Birthday celebrations

David Gillingham celebrated his 16th birthday recently. Along with Mom and Dad we enjoyed lunch at the Black Angus restaurant on Friars Road. Afterwards we set out for a round of golf at Admiral Baker. As you can see from the following pictures, the Gillinghams were in fine golfing form. Listy has not really taken up golf yet, but she showed off with a few trial shots, as shown in the following picture.



Carol celebrated her 47th recently, with a semi-surprise party at her home. There were many guests, mostly her teacher friends, who enjoyed lots of snacks plus grilled hamburgers and chicken. There was lots of good food and drinks, and we all shared with Carol this day of celebration.



Robert enjoys his new Honda



The most interesting feature of this car is the map displayed on a screen on the dashboard. It can display any location in the country, along with visual and audio instructions on how to get there from where you are. It is very impressive, and pretty useful for anyone who has to find unfamiliar places. Overall, it's a very nice car.

It's official - 1875 up for sale

At last the time has come to put the home up for sale. After a lot of upgrading, getting rid of excess stuff. We are ready to try the market. We have selected an agent and she is busy looking for buyers. No hot ones so far, but we will wait and see what happens.

