

# Family celebrates Easter season at Lake Murray Park

Once again the family gathered at our regular picnic table (kindly reserved in advance by right of early occupation) by Jeff. The kids worked off their energy as usual, with various games and sports, while the aging parents sat around and talked. As usual, we had an extensive spread of food, from appetizers to salads, and sandwich makings of all kinds. There was cake and pie for dessert, and everyone ate their fill and more. All of the parents were there except for Margaret and Bud, who were on a business trip to New Orleans. They were well represented, however, by Michael and Megan.

However, there was one unhappy event. First of all, Richard was late, due to a flat tire problem. Liz and JJ were coming separately, but never showed up. As we were about to leave Carol got a cell phone call from Liz, who reported that she was involved in a car accident, and her car was totaled. Both she and JJ had fastened their seat belts, and were uninjured. She had stopped behind a SUV at a traffic light when another car from the read failed to stop. The impact drove her car into the SUV and the damage was too great to repair. The driver of the car causing the accident was uninsured, was driving without a license, and the car had poor brakes, causing the accident. We have no further word on any resolution of the occurrence, and await further news from Rich and Liz. We certainly were relieved and happy to know that there were no injuries.

As usual, pictures tell the story of the outing, as follows.



# The Riel Family Newsletter

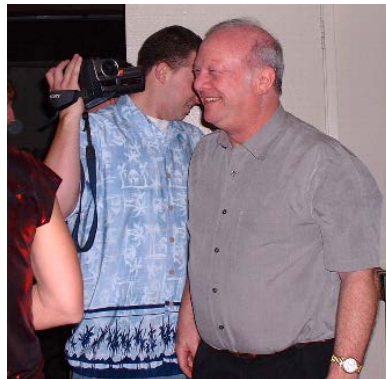
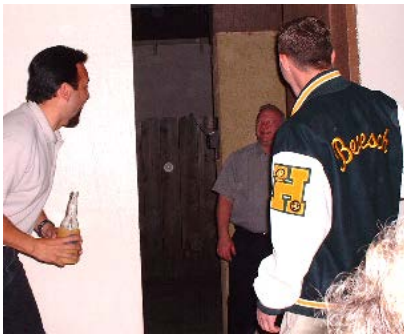
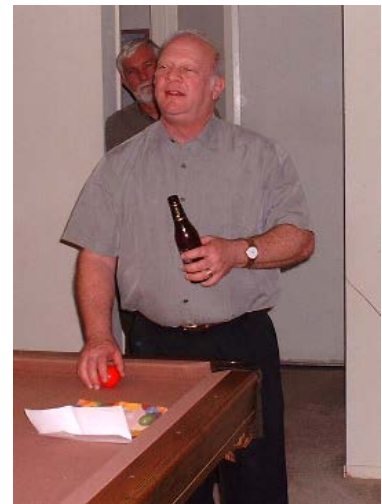
Catch the News

April, 2002

## Jeff celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> with surprise party

Yes, another family member celebrates a half-century of life! On March 22<sup>nd</sup> (one day early) Carol and kids set up Dad for a surprise party. It really was a surprise, too. It was held at the home of a friend, Armando, and Carol devised a sure-fire trick to induce Jeff to come to the house of his friend. He was called to say that his van had broken down and he had to come at once to take care of the problem. When he rang the bell a house full of well-wishing friends greeted him. We knew he was surprised because before he came in to join the party he had to go out to the street to turn off the engine of his car! After a few rounds of drinks and snacks we all enjoyed a catered meal of Mexican food. After the meal Jeff listened while a series of fiends and relatives had some comments on his thus-far life. Jeff offered some

rebuttal, and after that he opened the many presents he received. It was a great party, enjoyed by all, and we all join in to wish him a big HAPPY BIRTHDAY, and many more of the same!! As usual, we have some pictures of the celebration, as follows.



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Catch the News

April, 2002

## Craig injured in work related accident

We received the following e-mail from Birdy, which tells what happened and how it was treated.

*Hi Dad*

*Craig had a not so good birthday this year. While at work, installing a large truck spring, Craig's middle finger on his left hand was smashed by the spring. The cut was so deep that it severed his tendon, which then proceeded to snap back into his wrist. OUCH!! He was taken to see a doctor who scheduled hand surgery right away to reconnect his tendons. The doctor doing the operation boasted to Craig, telling him how lucky he was to have the finest surgeon in California. Not only was he great at reconstruction surgery but he was one of the finest plastic surgeons. He promised Craig that he would barely notice the stitches. I decided that this was all good news. The surgery went well and Craig is back at work, on light duty. He goes to physical therapy three times a week. They glued this hook to his fingernail and they are planning on using a series of pulleys to work out his finger. This seems like a lot of trouble to make him bend his finger...but they are the experts! We are told that Craig will regain full use of his finger.*

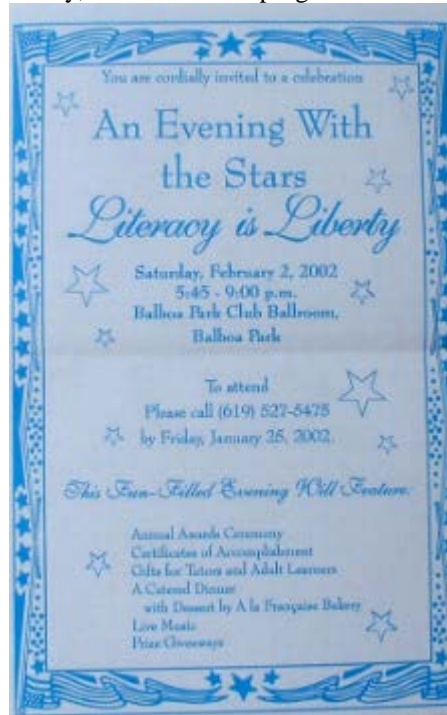
*Love Birdy*



We had an opportunity to talk to Craig at the Easter picnic, and take the picture shown above. Craig told us that he is under orders from his doctor to exercise the injured finger every hour. This is somewhat of a bother, but he said that he was doing the best he could to meet that schedule. We certainly hope that he will experience a rapid and full recovery.

## Grandpa and Grandma attend READ Awards Dinner

February 2, 2002 was the date for the annual READ/San Diego Recognition Dinner and Awards Ceremony, and Grandma and Grandpa were there to join Grampa's learner Ruby, who received a progress award. It was an impressive



ceremony, with many learners and tutors recognized for their accomplishments during the past year. We enjoyed an excellent dinner, some live music entertainment, and speeches by many local friends of the adult literacy program sponsored by the San Diego City Library. As usual we took a few pictures, and here you see Grandpa dressed in a suit and tie, something that doesn't

happen very often.



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## St Patrick's Day dinner with the Hartman's

As you probably already know, everyone is Irish on this special Irish day. We were pleased to be invited to share the day with Bruce, Birdy and kids, and enjoyed a delicious meal of traditional corned beef and cabbage, along with lots of other food, drinks, and dessert. We also had a chance to check out Birdy's newly remodeled kitchen(see RFNL1312 for a picture). In addition to the kitchen, the family room has been refurbished with new sofas and a new TV. The following pictures tell the story.



While she was also accepted at a number of other schools on the East Coast, we are pleased that she will be staying in California close enough to come home for the holidays! And the money we will be saving will be enough to fund our recent home improvement projects as well as her travel back and forth.

Margaret

Thanks, Margaret for this good news, and CONGRATULATIONS, MEGAN - keep up the good work.

## Birthday calendar for April

Dustin Benesch	April 3	17
Brian Riel	April 5	13
Kevin Riel	April 11	23

## Some birthday celebrations

We finally had some birthday celebrations, as Kristy and Annie joined us for a day together. We enjoyed lunch at Seu's restaurant, and then took off for Fashion Valley. After some power shopping we took in the new ET movie, which was enjoyed by all. It was number 15 for Annie and 19 for Kristy. We congratulate them and wish them many, many more happy celebrations, and the best of luck in the future.

## Megan wins scholarship at UC Berkley

HI DAD

Megan was awarded the Regents' and Chancellor's Scholarship "The Regents' and Chancellor's Scholarship is UC Berkeley's most prestigious scholarship, and is awarded annually to 200 incoming undergraduates, including freshmen (for four years) and entering advanced standing students (for two years)."Because she does not have "financial need" as assessed by the university, she will receive an honorarium scholarship of \$1,000 each year. But the importance of the award is more the recognition of being one of the top 200 student accepted into a top ranked university. She will have many other opportunities as a result of this achievement. You can read more about this scholarship and what benefits it gives her at

<http://uga.berkeley.edu/fao/scholarships/RCScholars.htm>

She also found out that she will received a \$1,000 for her high scores on the State for SAT-9.

