



7-23-02

Dear Mom + Dad -

Here we are in Paris - Lyle asked me to marry him at the top of the Eiffel Tower - so I will finally become an honest woman again - We are having a wonderful time xoxo Francie

## Lots of travel/vacation news

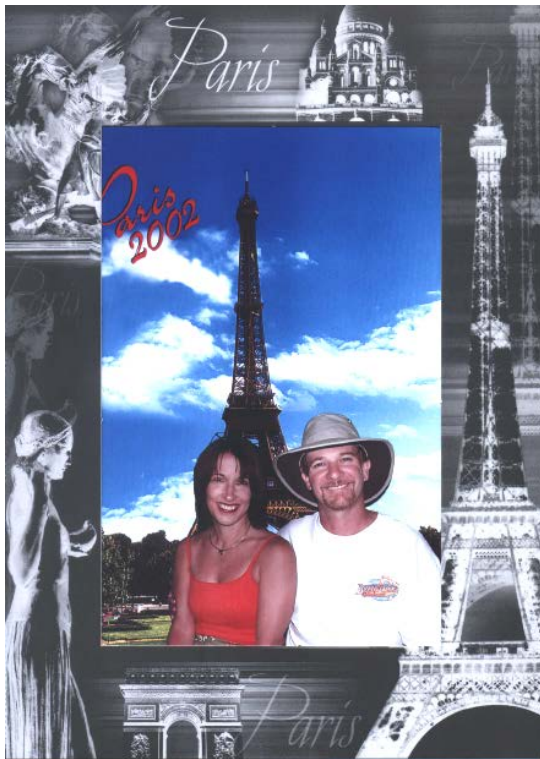
Summertime is for vacations, and the family went all out to celebrate. We had visits from as nearby as San Elajo State Beach Park (Ed Riel family) to as far off as Austria (Hartmans) and Paris and London (Francie and Lyle). Between those extremes we had the Gillingshams in Florida and the Bob Riel family touring the Midwest. We have literally hundreds of pictures to choose from, and also narrative reports of sights seen and things done. We will start off with the following report from our OB reported, Ed Riel.

## Ed Riel family at the beach

*This is your Ocean Beach reporter, Uncle Ed, filing the O B family summer vacation news. We traveled all of 10 miles up the coast to the resort campgrounds of San Elajo State Beach Park for the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>. We shared a site with Jan's brother Wayne and his wife Carol who has been getting summer sites there for the last 20 years. What makes the camping so remarkable is that to the West is the immense openness, fun and beauty of the ocean and to the East across the road is some of the best grocery stores and eateries on the west coast. Jan, who is not much on playing in the ocean, gets a lot of reading done between enjoying the evening dinners and campfire. While we missed having Tim, who is keeping his job in San Francisco (Hi Tim!!) we were delighted to have visits from Margaret, Francie and Lyle. And of course Michelle joined us, who loves the surf as much as we love having her with us for the week.*

*The surf was best at the beginning of the week when there were 2 low tides, one early in the morning and another at sunset. At the low tides, a moderate size swell would catch the outside reef and break with a slow but chest high wave that was a lot of fun. As the week progressed the swell got smaller and the one remaining low tide moved to the late morning. None the less, I remember late in the week, coming in from surfing with Wayne, the boys and Michelle after a long, late morning, sun shining, session feeling just as exhausted and as happy as a human can feel. Good Vacation!*

Thanks, Ed, for this great report We have a picture of the happy campers at the camp-site, see the next page.



## Francie announces engagement

We received the above letter in late July, and are more than happy to share this news with the family. We understand that the wedding will take place next summer in Hawaii. Francie and Lyle toured France and England, and took lots of pictures, which we will publish in the September RFNL.

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## My impressions of my trip to Austria.

By Curtis Hartman

The reason I wished to visit Austria is that it is reputed to be one of the most beautiful countries in Europe, and what is more important, it is the focus of a great deal of European history. Being the center of the Holy Roman Empire has given the region a heritage that dates back hundreds of years. This can be seen in the castles and fortresses that dominate the landscape throughout the area. There is also a strong history of devout Catholicism in Austria so I was expecting to see many cathedrals in my visit. I was in no way disappointed. We were staying in a place called Schloss Grubhof. This was a castle that was a home of the King of Bavaria built in 1325. This is not the type of castle that most Americans think of. There was no moat or even an outer wall. Those types of castles were more typical of areas that were in threat of being invaded. This was more like a large manor house. It was beautiful. The first town we visited was Salzburg. This city has a long history of being ruled by a series of Archbishop Princes. This is reflected in the center of the Old Town being dominated by an impressive cathedral. Also, there were many expensive buildings and fountains that were built by the Archbishop Princes. The highly decorative nature of the area is due to the wealth of the church at the time. Because Salzburg was the birthplace of Mozart, there is a large plaza dedicated to him as well as a large musical university.

The next city on our list was Munich. Before entering the city proper we made a side trip to the nearby Dachau, home of the concentration camp. Although somewhat depressing, it was fascinating to see what the SS had accomplished. From the camp we headed into the city where we saw many more churches, did some shopping, and saw many of the fountains and some museums. It was interesting to see how similar the southern German and Austrian cultures were.

The next city that we saw was Vienna, the capital of Austria, and the main city in Europe for hundreds of years. There we saw many museums and churches, as well as one

church that had been turned into a museum. Vienna was stunning! From the massive public gardens, to the ornate civil service buildings, to the massive and ornate churches, it was a beautiful city. We visited a massive museum while there that housed exhibits on Greek sculpture, medieval weaponry, and a collection of antique instruments. It was amazing to see so much history in one city. I loved it.

The last city that we visited was Linz. This was a relatively small city but it housed many churches and a large castle that had some beautiful gardens. It was really neat to be sitting in the castle grounds overlooking the whole town and hear all the church bells going off on the hour. It was a show that lasted for about 10 minutes because not all the churches were on the same time.

Visiting the seat of the Hapsburg empire was one of the greatest experiences of my life because I was able to see firsthand the kind of thing I have been studying in my classes over the years. It was an opportunity that I think everyone should take if they get it.



## Late news flash - 1875 sold!

Yes, at last we have a buyer for the home on Lyndon Road! The escrow will close on October 6<sup>th</sup>. At this time we have no place to go, and are looking for a condo or apartment. We are starting to get ready to move somewhere, and need **HELP !!**

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## More Austria pictures



We thank Curtis for his great report on the trip through Austria.

## Gillinghams tour Florida beaches

Dad- We had a great time in Florida! We decided to try a new beach/resort this time, so we went a little further north and stayed in Palm Beach. And just to illustrate how utterly crazy we are, we decided that three teenagers weren't enough fun and let each kid invite a friend.



It worked out great because everyone got along and there was plenty of stuff to do. The resort was very kid friendly...several pools, ping pong, sand volleyball court, pool table, air hockey, and of course the beach. The water was clear and beautiful at 79 degrees...perfect Listy-friendly temperature. The weather was humid but not too bad, hovering in the high 80's and low 90's. But with the ocean breeze it worked out great. Bob and I planted ourselves on the beach and read several books while our kids moved back and forth between us and the resort. We did do one road trip to Key West. The beaches in Key West were not as nice as those up north, so that didn't impress us that much, but we heard the diving was nice if you rent a boat. Not having time to do that we decided to save that adventure for another trip. We really had a relaxing trip, and enjoyed sharing it with our kids and their friends. (Scott Hartman joined us as David's friend, which made it very nice for us) Our kids seem to enjoy our Florida trip as much as they enjoyed Hawaii, so if you're looking for a change of venue that has a similar appeal, check out Florida. Love, Listy, Bob, Kristy, Shawn, David, Scott, Annie, and Hillery

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## More pics from Florida



Thanks, Listy for another great report !

## Some more HS graduates survey reports

Last month we printed several quotes from various sources. Recently we received a comprehensive reply from Jason, which we print (advice section) as follows. Pay attention, teen-agers, there is good advice here!

**Advice:** I don't know if I should be giving advice, or on the other hand, maybe I should be giving advice so others can learn from my mistakes. Number one, and don't get me wrong I hate to say it , but listen to your parents. They are old for a reason. They have been there and done that and know what is going to happen before it happens. Number two, learn how to structure, plan, orchestrate, manage, and organize your day and more importantly, the little aspects of your life: if the little aspects fall into place, so will the larger ones. Responsibility is the most overly stated word, which tends to make it lose meaning. What exactly is responsibility? Well, when you turn 18 and go off to college all of a sudden responsibility is dumped on you like a ton of bricks. You have to take care of your expenses: telephone bills, cable bills, internet bills, electricity bills, gas, car repairs, groceries, rent, movies, and food. Along with that comes the responsibility of keeping a good check book: credit cards, check cards, checks that take a while to go through so you think you have more money than you actually do, Costco cards, Albertsons cards, Blockbuster cards. Then you probably will have a job which demands 20 hours a week and on top of that, try studying for school. What I've learned is that by managing your time and giving yourself blocks of time to do things, is the only way to get everything done. Plan when you are going to study and set aside a couple of hours of the day for studying. Cramming is not possible in college even though some, including me, have tried it. Number 3, keep your options open. Don't go into college with one goal on your mind, but instead try out every possibility because you'll never know what you may like. And last but not least, get involved. This is the one I have just recently learned and let me tell you it is fun. I have started to participate in the Associated Student Government at UCSB and I have met new people and have participated in events that I never knew existed. The benefit of the experience greatly outweighs the cost of the time and effort and I have learned more from the personal relationships formed than I ever will in a classroom I only wish that I had started earlier. Best Wishes Jason

## Jeff's sister Liz celebrates her 50<sup>th</sup> in party at Benesch home

We enjoyed celebrating with friends and family this milestone, and expressing our best wishes for the future!



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## On The Road With The Bob & Karla Riel Family

Here's a vacation idea... pack up Brian, Katy, both dogs, Brian's friend Petey, Mom and Dad in a 27' RV and travel 6,000 miles in three weeks. Sounds like a lot of fun, doesn't it? Well it was.

Unfortunately, I could not join the fun until the second week so Karla's nephew, Thomas took my place for the first week. So on the first day after school was over Karla packed up the kids and dogs in our rented RV and headed east to a place called Pinetop, Arizona, to pick up Brian's friend, Pete and visit her friend Susie (Pete's mom).

It was a 10-hour drive and after getting lost twice they arrived. Karla called me and informed me not to worry but there was a small fire close by, just north and west of them, outside a town called Show Low. You may recall that this fire eventually combined with another fire to create the largest forest fire in the history of Arizona. After visiting for a day the group plus Pete set off for Kansas City, MO to visit Karla's sister. A few days later we learned that Pete's family had to be evacuated to a Red Cross shelter as the fire was within a few miles of their house. Fortunately, it never got much closer and after a week of being homeless they were allowed to return.



After a two-day drive, during which they encountered the one and only remaining Stuckey's, (sorry mom no more pecan rolls) and experiencing the 64oz steak at the "Big Texan Steak Ranch", they arrived at Vickie's house

(Karla's sister). They spent the next day visiting, while the kid's cousins, David and Holly, educated the group on the intricacies of miniature golf, go-cart racing and catching fire flies (see it was an educational vacation too).

The next day (Sunday) was a quick 1-1/2 hour trip down to Drexel, to attend Karla's family reunion. There she and the kids were able to visit with her Dad who drove in from Tennessee (seen in the picture below) and many of her aunts, uncles, and cousins. (see below)

Since fireworks are legal in Missouri and one of Karla's uncles owns a fireworks shop, the kids were treated to an array of goodies to help them challenge the fireflies for nighttime aerial supremacy. As one might expect, they had



great time setting off bottle rockets and things that go BOOM in the night.

After a good nights sleep it was up and on the road again. This time, off to *Silver Dollar City*, (which is just South of Branson, Missouri) with her Father, and a few other uncles and aunts in tow. Over the next day and a half they enjoyed the company of Karla's dad while exploring the pioneer town of *Silver Dollar City*. The Kids learned how the inhabitants of the Ozarks lived back in the 1800's and quickly came to the realization that no electricity, also meant no TV. What a horrific period of time for a child to grow up in.

After a week of being alone it was time for me to join the quest. After all I had already missed all the fun of the family reunion (whew). As I boarded a flight Karla and the kids took off for St. Louis. There they put cousin Thomas on a plane for home and waited for my arrival. After a two-hour delay my flight finally arrived and we were on our way to visit gateway arch.



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As you can see we made it to the top and were given a bird's eye view of Bush stadium just as the Cardinals were warming up for a game.

After all that excitement we headed back on the road east to Canton, Ohio and football hall of fame. Let's face it, the



true highlight of any vacation. Then it was a quick trip to spend the weekend at Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio. Home to three of the top ten ranked roller coasters in the world (including the #1). It also had a water park that was a lot more my speed.

The next day, Sunday, we took off to see the place of Dad's youth, Fremont, Ohio. I was really looking forward to seeing the place where Dad had to walk five miles (up hill!) just to get to school. Little did I realize that I would come across absolute proof that things really do get smaller with age because now the distance had shrunk to less than one mile and as if a miracle had happened it was completely level.



Regardless we did find Dad's old school, which is now an American Legion post and with Dad's help via cell phone, ultimately found his old house. I went up and knocked on the door to ask permission to take some pictures. The lady

who answered the door (phone in hand ready to call 911) asked me my name. As soon as she heard Riel she relaxed and told us she had bought the house from my grandfather some 45 years ago. She remembered when Dad visited and invited us to take some pictures some of which you see below.



Dad

planted the tree shown in the picture to the left when he was just a boy, not much younger than Brian. Now it provides a nice backdrop to the house.

Next it was off to Chicago to visit the Science and Industries Museum, which is down by the lake. Unfortunately, while inside, our RV was broken into by the police. It seems that they felt the dogs would get overheated because we did not crack the windows. We returned to our RV just as they took our dogs into custody. When I pointed out that all the roof vents were open and a bowl of water was inside, they told me I needed to speak to their sergeant. Bottom line here is don't argue with guys who wear guns. I was cited for cruelty to animals and after threatening to keep the dogs for ten days they released them to us after we followed them to the shelter and paid \$85 in fees.

This ends the bulk of the report by Robert. We understand there is a little more to come, but we will have to continue it in the next issue. We certainly thank Robert and Katie for this great story of their visit to the mid-west. We look forward to the final chapter telling how they got home.