



## Family celebrates Riel Bowl XII at Bob and Karla's in Alpine

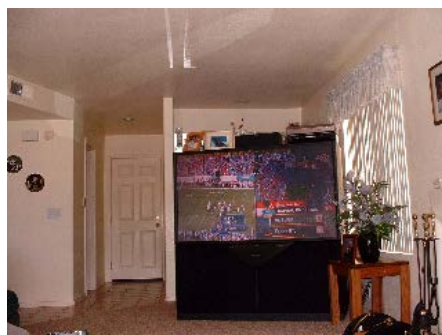
Once again the Family gathered in Alpine for the twelfth year of "second Christmas" celebrations. As usual, members started showing up shortly after 11:00 A.M. The opening goodies were dominated by sugar, with a variety of candies, cakes, etc., mostly chocolate. After some socializing, the crossword puzzle submittals were collected. As usual, there were bitter complaints over the difficult definitions., some claiming that they were unfair or misleading. For example, the answer to the clue "tires" was ""Francie Listy", who tied in last years crossword puzzle contest. Commissioner Bob Riel pointed out that whatever the committee said was right was right, and protests would be ignored. This year no one got all correct answers. Listy and Carol tied, with only two errors. This year we followed a new procedure. Instead of grading each entry the crossword puzzle editor assembled the contestants and read off the correct answers. Each contestant graded his own entry, using the honor system., which worked out well.

The next item was food, and we all enjoyed Bob's famous prime rib roast, along with scalloped potatoes, salads, vegetables, and lots of everything else. After everyone was stuffed we assembled for the annual Jeopardy game. This year the contestants were the kids of the Gillingham, Hartman, Benesch, and Sorem families. The Kristy/Annie Gillingham team came out on top, and was awarded the \$80.00 prize, to be split between the two winners.

Next was the gift exchange activity, and in a more or less chaotic manner gifts were passed out to everyone. Afterwards, we had the white elephant gift exchange, and this year the coveted RFNL dine out certificates were won by the Gillingham and Rich Riel families. RFNL gave out two certificates this year, as a special thanks to all the family help in the recent move to the new condo.

Throughout the day there was lots of football watching, and everyone admired Bob's new high definition large screen TV set-up. It is very impressive and was enjoyed by all at one time or another.

This ended another GREAT celebration, and once again its "HATS OFF" TO Bob, Karla, Katie and Brian for putting on this highlight of the year celebration. We took lots of pictures, and a few of the best ones are reproduced, as follows.



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# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

January, 2003



## Liz celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on New Year's Day

Although almost a month late, Liz celebrated turning 50 (actually on December 3<sup>rd</sup>) and was given a surprise at Riel Bowl XII. Although almost lost in the pile of presents, she, along with Grandma (77<sup>th</sup> on Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>) enjoyed a place in the spotlight. They enjoyed the well wishes of the entire family, and opened a few presents too. We got a few pictures, shown below.



## Katy Riel celebrates 17<sup>th</sup> birthday

On January 5<sup>th</sup> Katy met with us at noon for lunch and a trip to the movies. For lunch we dined at Onami's Japanese sea food buffet. The food was great, and we all ate too much of the many dishes offered at this popular spot in Mission Valley shopping center. Afterwards we took in the movie "Catch Me if You Can". This is really an excellent movie, very funny and well performed. Katy told us that she expects to graduate from HS early, and plans on visiting Italy next spring.



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## Bryce Sorem hospitalized by pneumonia

The picture below was taken at the Riel Bowl XII celebration on New Year's Day. We took the photo to show off the broken left wrist, sustained during a recent wrestling match. Bryce pointed out that even with the break he still won the match. Little did he know, however, that 24 hours later he would be laying on a hospital bed with a needle stuck in his arm connecting him to various IV solutions and medications. We had a phone call from Francie on Thursday morning, and she said that by the time they got home on Wednesday evening he was a very sick boy. The medical diagnosis was a very severe form on pneumonia, the same type that recently killed the famous puppeteer who created the Muppet show on TV. Francie wisely got Bryce into the hospital at once, so the necessary antibiotics could be administered to head off the problem. We visited him on Thursday, and were pleased to get the following e-mail from Francie the following day.



*"sorry I was so down when I sent the e-mail this morning, but I had no sleep for two nights and was up at 4 am to get back to the hospital. Bryce is getting much better, and they let him come home this afternoon. He still*

*has some way to go, and the pain is not very pleasant, but he is definitely on the mend. Thank you all for your concerns, I just feel very lucky that I used the internet to guide me in my decision to take him to the hospital. It is a great source when you are looking for someone to make that choice. I did, and now thanks to the gallons of antibiotics and saline they poured into him, he is recovering. Thanks again to all of you for your support and love. Me*

On January 8<sup>th</sup> we talked to Francie, and she told us that Bryce was back in school, and well on the way to a full recovery.

## Christmas Eve at Francies

Once again we were invited to spend Christmas Eve with Francie, Lyle, and kids. We arrived in time to take in the 5 p.m. mass at St Columba's. Afterwards, we headed home for an evening of Christmas type celebrations. We were joined by Margaret, Bud, Michael, and Megan, along with Lyle's mom, uncle and wife, and a neighbor. Lyle expertly grilled swordfish, and Francie provided the salads and the rest. Dessert was the usual flame caramelized custard, and Grandpa enjoyed his favorite layer cake with raspberries and cherries. It was a great evening, and a fine start for the Christmas celebration.



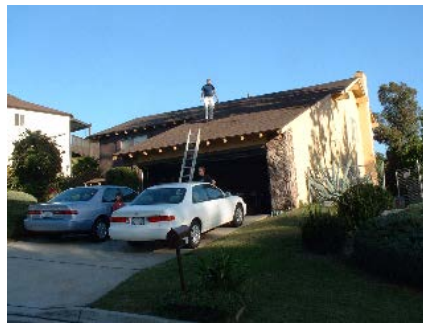
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## Christmas Day celebrated at Hartman's

Once again on Christmas day we were invited to come to the Hartman home and join in on their celebration. There was lots of great food, and afterwards we watched the various kids open more presents. The highlight of the afternoon was watching Curtis and Scott try to fly compressed air powered model fighter jets. The most successful flight ended up on the roof of the across the street neighbor's house. Fortunately, the neighbor kindly got a ladder and retrieved the model plane. It was a nice day, and we enjoyed the chance to visit with the Hartman family and friends.



On the way home we stopped off at the Gillinghams to check out an about to start dinner party. We left our best wishes, and got some good photos, especially Kristy's painting of her home and Listy's new kitchen stove.



**Brian wins trophies in swimming** - We were talking to Karla when she told us about how Brian has been winning many medals and awards in swimming. We asked to see them, and took the following pictures. **Good work, Brian!!**

**Dustin makes U.T. All Academic football team** - In the December 22<sup>nd</sup> issue of the Union Tribune Dustin was honored along with eight of his teammates on the Patrick Henry football team for having grade-point averages of 3.00 or better. Dustin's average was near the top at 3.58. **Congratulations, Dustin!!!**

