



Family celebrates another Easter at Lake Murray Park

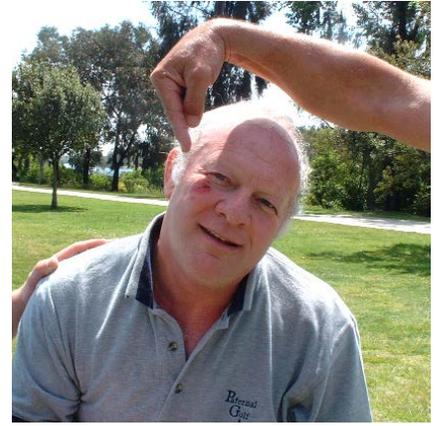
Once again the family gathered to celebrate another Easter Sunday, and once again the site was our favorite place, Lake Murray Park. Carol and Jeff assumed responsibility to secure the site, our regular picnic tables, by covering them with plastic covers with "reserved Benesch Party". That did the trick, and when Grandpa and Grandma arrived (the first!!) we found everything in good order. Soon the rest of the family began to trickle in, and by 1:00 p.m. we were ready to stop snacking and start eating. We had lots of great food plus desserts. Meanwhile, the more active ones played some touch football. No one kept score, and the most excitement occurred when Jeff suffered a bruise under the right eye. The details on how it happened are not clear, but he was able to resume play shortly, so it turned out OK. Everyone enjoyed the day, as can be seen in the following pictures.



The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

May, 2003



Some news from Eloise in South Carolina

...I should drop you a note!

Dear Edith,
Neck problems are no fun and I am glad that you are feeling better. Andy and I were just to see Andy called and ask if I could meet him, Stacy, Maribeth and Dane. Is there anything

More exciting than watching a 3-year old running toward you with out stretched arms? Of course I believe she was pushing to me - and not the present she knew I had for her. Debbie is in Washington with 50 six graders. She loves teaching and her students.

Alex has won another award for his art work. He's really pretty good.

The Army Field Band gave a concert in Hunter Tuesday night. They are terrific. If they ever perform in San Diego you and Frank should go. John Clinton

Who conducted the band, and the chorus, is our grand nephew, as I got to see a lot of family members.

Take care of yourself!

Spring has Sprung!
Lover
Eloise

Kevin graduates from SDSU

The big day is May 17, and we will have a full report in the next RFNL

The President and Faculty
of
San Diego State University
announce that
Kevin Louis Riel
will be conferred the degree of
Bachelor of Arts
in
Political Science
and
English
Saturday morning, May seventeenth
Two Thousand Three
eight o'clock
at the Cox Arena

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Michelle has new job - Recently we received a report from Michelle on her new job. Her work is quite interesting, and she described it as follows.

Hi grandpa,

I don't know what happened to the beginning of this e-mail, but you probably will get two e-mails from me. How are you? I hope everything is going well and that you and grandma are both healthy.

I have just started a new job and i wanted to tell you about it. i am now working for a company called San Diego medical research associates. it is a medical research company. i work for a group of six gastrointestinal specialists. most of the study drugs that we test are in the phase III stage. there are four stages (I, II, III, and IV) that a drug must undergo to get approved by the FDA and this process can take years.

When a company (i.e. Merck or Pfizer) wants a drug tested, they call us and we are responsible for following their protocol to the letter. We recruit people to be in the study and put them on the investigational drug. These are double-blind experiments meaning that neither the patient or us know if they are getting placebo or real treatment.

most of the drugs that we test are drugs for people with GI problems. However, we also do studies for the common cold and hepatitis etc. Starting soon, I will be overseeing a study for people with chronic hepatitis B (HBV). I will see patients and draw blood and be in charge of the correspondence between the company I work for and the company doing the study. For this study we will be comparing two different HBV drugs and it will not be a double-blind experiment.

At this company I will also be creating a database for all of the patients that we have ever seen or that have contacted us to be in a study. It will be a big job and something that I have no experience doing, so that should be interesting.

I also started working on an honors thesis this semester. I am working, once again, in a neuroendocrinology lab. Basically, the brain automatically knows when it needs to increase or decrease body temperature. This is only one aspect of the circadian rhythm in mammals. People born with fetal alcohol syndrome have hormonal problems that render their bodies unable to regulate their body temperature and other things controlled by the circadian rhythm. the hormone that these people lack is testosterone. I am doing hormone replacement studies to see if administration of testosterone can make these abnormal rhythms become normal. If this works, it can possibly be used on humans as a way to treat this disease.

Unfortunately, this means more animal work. I really believe that a lot of good can come from this however, so its ok. This is a really difficult thing to study because so much about the brain and how it works is unknown. Hopefully by the end of the upcoming fall semester, I will have this thesis done and ready to defend it in the spring. Science is a fascinating and exciting field to be in right now.

Not much else is new. It is my first day of spring break so I have already hit the beach this morning to surf and I am sure that I will do the same every morning till school starts back up again. I'll talk to you later grandpa!

More news from Jessica in Italy

We received another e-mail from Jessica, and reproduce it as follows.

Ciao mia famiglia ed i miei amici,

Here is a funny little story that happened to me yesterday: When I came home from a day in the main city (or nel centro), I entered my apartment and it was spotless. I mean it is always really clean but today even the walls looked like they had been repainted. My host parent, Teresa, started explaining something to me very fast. I couldn't tell exactly what she was saying but I understood that someone was coming over, (that explained the extra cleaning), and she said something about in my room, and she kept saying he/she/it must come to the house. She could tell I was very confused, so she took me to the kitchen and showed me a crucifix on the wall and said Jesus a couple of times. So now I was really confused, but I heard people in the hall, so I said that everything was fine and anyone could come into my room. I went and stayed in my room out of the way. I heard people in the house for a bit, and then they left and without coming in my room. I went out again and she started explaining again, this time a little slower. And I figured out by the cross motion she was making with her hands and hearing the word "benedetto" (which I recognized) that it was a priest or other religious figure that came into our apartment and "blessed" (benedetto) it. It was interated cause I heard him going into every apartment in our complex and doing the same, so I don't know if it was a mandatory thing or a neighborhood thing or what. But it was pretty funny. Maybe Grandma, you know why (the Catholic Grandma :-P). Or perhaps one of my relatives who attended Catholic school can enlighten me to these practices. As for everything else: school is going well, and I went to see a play last night with a bunch of my friends from here, luckily I saw the flyer, because this was the last play of the year in Siena. It was interesting but unfortunately I could not understand much. It was about Don Quisicotte, So I thought I would understand because I know the story well, but this version was performed by only two actors and there were no scene changes, just the two men speaking the whole time, so it was very hard to understand. Oh well, I was glad I got to see it, and the Theater here is small and absolutely gorgeous. We sat in little boxes on the sides, which were actually the worse seats in the house, but we could still see fine. OK that's all for now! Buona Giounata! (Have a good day!)

Love,
Jessy

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JJ Gets an A in Science Fair project

You may recall that at the Thanksgiving Day celebration at the home of Margaret and Bud JJ enlisted the help of the family for his project. As you may recall, his topic was a study of short-term memory, and how it is influenced by age. He had several tests he gave to each family member, and tabulated the results. His overall conclusion was that younger people have better short memories than older people. This seems like a reasonable conclusion, and at least Grandma and Grandpa readily agree. Congratulations, JJ, on a well done project.



Richard also informed me that he has a three nights per week DJ job at the Camels Breath night club. Each Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday he provides the music for Karaoke night. He explained that patrons are invited to sing along (individually) with the music. Some are pretty good, he reported, and some are awful.

Birthday celebration

Brian Riel celebrated his 14th birthday recently. We started out with lunch at the California Pizza restaurant in Fashion Valley, and followed up with the movie "Bulletproof Monk". Brian had just returned from a visit with his friend Peter, who lives in Arizona. Peter's father is seriously ill, and is not expected to recover. However, he was all right during Brian's visit, and all had a good time.



Brian and Katy both are excited over travel plans for this summer. They will be traveling to the Seattle area, and among other things will take a cruise through the Southeastern Alaska Inside Passage. We will have the whole story when they get back.

Luncheons at the condo

Twice in the past month or so we were pleased to enjoy company for lunch at our new home. Both occurred on short notice, and in both cases Grandpa coincidentally had prepared his famous stuffed bell peppers. Jeff and Carol



were the guests on one occasion, and Listy, Birdy, and Annie on the other.

Francie and Lyle treat friends at Oscar's

Francie and Lyle graciously invited us to join them for dinner at Oscar's. We were promised extra good service from Bryce, who now is working there. We were joined by Ed and Jan, along with some friends of Francie. We were



seated outside on a cool night, so Bryce got a portable heater to ward off the chill. Thus we had extra special service and a great meal As well.

THANKS,
FRANCIE and
LYLE!