



School news 2003-2004term

Each September we publish the status of all the kids in the growing up process, and here it is for the coming year.

Kevin Riel	Graduated,	Working and
	taking some additional course work at Mesa	
Michael Riel-Mehan	Senior	UCLA
Jason Benesch	Graduated, job hunting	
Chris Riel	Sophomore	Grossmont
Nathan Riel	Sophomore	SD City College
Michelle Hartman	Junior	SDSU
Tim Riel	Tim is working in San Francisco	
Brett Sorem	Junior	SFSU
Jessica Benesch	Junior	UCI
Craig Hartman	Working as an EMT, taking course work at Mesa Junior College to get a paramedic's license	
Kristy Gillingham	Sophomore	USD
Megan Mehan	Sophomore	UCB
Curtis Hartman	Sophomore	SDSU
Dustin Benesch	Freshman	UCSB
David Gillingham	Senior	Francis Parker HS
Scott Hartman	Senior	Francis Parker HS
Bryce Sorem	Senior	Scripps Ranch HS
Katy Riel	Senior	Steel Canyon HS
Lyle Hall	Senior	USD HS
Annie Gillingham	Junior	Francis Parker MS
Brian Riel	Freshman	Granite Hills HS
Frank JJ Riel	Eighth Grade	St Columba

Bob Riel Family vacations in Northwest

Robert, Karla, Katy, and Brian took off in the summer for an extended vacation, including motoring, in their new camper, to Vancouver, B.C. followed by a cruise through the inside passage in southeastern Alaska. We have an initial report of the first leg of the trip, as follows.

Hi Dad,

It's Friday and we are currently camped out just south of Seattle. On the way here we had a wonderful time in San Francisco. Of course we had to visit the Holy Grail of the Riel family (I'm speaking of the Ghirardelli chocolate factory) and Karla had to get her sourdough bread at Boudin's. Katy and Brian got to see the famed cable cars as well as Alcatraz Island.

After traveling up Highway 1 we camped out next to a windswept beach. "Wind" being the operative word here as during my morning six mile run (yes Listy I'm still running) on the beach I nearly got blown over.

We drove all the way up the coast highway through Oregon and into Washington where we are today. Tell Ed that they have a new form of surfing up here its called "kite surfing". The so called surfer uses a wake board and a large semicircular kite (about 8' in diameter) and essentially rides the wave both in and out. Its very exciting to watch.

As you have heard Karla tricked me into buying a new RV. Attached are some pictures of us using it. We really have enjoyed it and I am really glad we got it.

Tomorrow we will cross over into Canada and on Sunday we board our cruise ship for Alaska. We will keep you informed on the progress of our trip

Love you all

Bob, Karla, Katy and Brian

PS Kristy Gillingham is watching our house and dogs so she will be an Alpine resident for the next few weeks.



The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

September, 2003

Bud recovering from hip surgery

In the August RFNL we printed Bud's report on the operation. Since then, we have additional news on the status of his recovery. He and Margaret came to Francie's Labor Day party, so we had a chance to find out how the healing process was progressing.



Although Bud arrived with the help of the walker, he discarded its help for most of the evening,

showing competitive agility when the food was served. There is one unexpected problem, however. His left ankle is swollen, hurts, and has limited up and down motion. This makes walking somewhat difficult. His new hip feels fine, but he is in a dilemma over physical therapy. He is supposed to exercise his hip but rest his ankle, which is sort of hard to do. In spite of this problem he is making good progress, and we certainly hope things will get better as time goes on.

Francie and Lyle host Labor Day party

Labor Day was an occasion to celebrate, and Francie and Lyle went all out to prepare a delicious meal – steak, grilled ribs, stuffed peppers, corn on the cob, salad, dessert, drinks, and more! Everything tasted great, and a few family members and friends shared an enjoyable evening.



The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

September, 2003

Michelle celebrates 21st birthday

We were a little late (3 months), but we finally got together with Michelle for a birthday celebration. First, we enjoyed lunch at the California Pizza restaurant in Fashion Valley.



Afterwards, we took in the movie *Pirates of the Caribbean*. We all agreed that it was an ok movie, but not as good as the hype it enjoyed.

Nevertheless, we had an enjoyable afternoon, and wish Michelle a belated HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Baseball at the "Q" with the Benesch Family

During the 2003 baseball season we had two no-shows, one because of cold weather and the other because we were on vacation in Indian Wells. Since September 2nd was one of the unused tickets night, we traded in for four seats right in front of our regular locations. We invited Carol, Jeff, and the two at home kids for a cook-out and game, and they were happy to accept. On game day everything was going as scheduled until we got about half way to the ballpark. Suddenly it began to rain. We were optimistic, however,



and by the time we got into the parking lot it was over, and we were able to fire up the grill. We all enjoyed chips, dips, veggies, drinks and

grilled burgers. Afterwards, the Padres came through with a win, so it turned out to be a perfect evening.



Some more news from Jessica in Italy

Yes, we know that Jessica came home a long time ago, but due to space limitations we have not had room to print all of her accounts of her visit. There are several more, and we have room for the next one right now.

Ciao,

Comé va? I hope everyone is doing well. I was sick for a while but thank goodness, I am better and back to enjoying the sun in Piazza del Campo (the main square in town). Things are going very well for me. Last night I went to a passover Seder in the only Synagogue in Siena. It was very interesting. There were only about 20 locals there and 10 UC students. When the Seder wasn't in Hebrew, it was in Italian, so I didn't understand much. And the Hebrew was very strange because it was spoken with a very heavy Italian accent, naturally, so that was unfamiliar as well. But the food was good, and it was a nice experience. The synagogue was nothing special, just another door among a via of apartments and buildings. I didn't see the actual room where services are held. We ate in a very small side room. This weekend I am going to Positano, on the Amalfi coast. It is supposed to be an incredible city literally hanging off a cliff. I am going with friends, Reuben, his brother Aaron, and our friend Magic. We are taking a train into Naples and staying there one night and then going to Pompeii on our way to Positano. We are staying at the only hostel in Positano for 2 nights. I will send an email after the trip to let you guys know how it went. The weather is beautiful, so I expect to be spending at least a day on the beach, and we might also take a ferry to Capri (A small island off the coast) for a day. I guess that is all the news for now. Buona finessettimana!

a presto, Jessica

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The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

September, 2003

P.S. Hey Jason, Reuben's brother Aaron was friends with you in high school. He said people called him Herzl. Reuben and I were also good friends in high school. I thought that was pretty funny. He was the year ahead of you and he was in the film class with you, anyway, he says hi.

Remodeled 1875 visited



Waterfall under front steps



New kitchen/family room bar



New kitchen

As we have more space in future issues we will continue the tour of the new 1875 home.

Some family news items

Over the past few months we have learned a number of family interest items that we would like to pass on to everyone. First of all, **Kristy Gillingham** recently checked out a new sport, sky-diving! Yes, she and some friends thought that would be fun, so they all paid for a chance to jump out of an airplane and float to the ground. She reported that it was lots of fun, and she wants to try it again soon. **Ed and Jan Riel** are celebrating their 25 anniversary, and are planning a long week-end in Vancouver, B.C. We hope to have an account and some pictures soon. **Birdy Hartman** lost her camera recently, to a thief who broke into her kindergarten classroom just before the summer break. At about the same time **Kristy** also was a victim, having her wallet stole. We understand **Liz Riel** has a new job, but we have no details at this time. **Karla Riel** has been working as an accountant for a small business near her home. We have a recent report on **Bud Mehan**. He is feeling better and getting around better, also. He has retired the walker, and also now is driving his car, so things definitely are looking up. **Birdy Hartman** has a new car, and we hope to get a picture the next time she is here. **Francie** is on the go again, hitting New York, Hollywood, Lake Tahoe, and one other place that I forgot. She will be gone for three weeks, mostly doing photo shoots and trade shows. She e-mailed the following picture showing some of her hair creations.



Grandpa and Grandma establish living trust

Recently we hired a lawyer to set up the various legal documents required for this type of estate settlement. We have designated Margaret, Listy, and Birdy as successor trustees, and we have reviewed with them the details defined in the various documents. We plan on reviewing the details with the rest of the family at a convenient time.