



Ed and Jan tour Vancouver on anniversary

The plane ride to Vancouver, Canada, the destination of Jan and me for our 25th wedding anniversary, was a trip in itself. The plane goes east to where we glimpsed the Hoover Dam as we turned north for a flight over the Sierra Mountain Range. Along the skyway over the John Muir Trail I could make out Yosemite Valley and Kings Canyon. Further north we passed several volcanic formed mountains including, I would guess, Mt Shasta, Mt McKinley and most recognizable, the un-forested volcanic folds of Mt St. Helen. As we descended into the airport just south of Vancouver I was amazed at the compactness of the surrounding industries. In Southern California, in an area so close to a city, you would see nothing but parched, spiraling suburbs, here you see farming, logging and mining operations surrounded by open spaces of green forest and water; water everywhere. Unbelievable.

In many ways we lucked out on the computer picked hotel; it was very modern and luxurious, with great service, and 20th floor made it the perfect evening retreat for the fun and frolic to which Anniversaries so aptly lend themselves. (Tim—thanks for calling the hotel and having them deliver the drinks & chocolate covered strawberries) (very cool) (see pictures)

The next morning, under what was to be the only clear skies of the trip, we caught the 7 AM Ferry to Vancouver Island. From the ferry landing, we first drove to the top of Douglas Park for a panoramic view of the island and its surroundings and then on to our destination, Victoria, one of the neatest cities Jan and I have ever visited together. The downscale size of the city along with the architecture of the two most prominent buildings along the port, The Empress Hotel and their Parliament building, gives you this turn of the last century feeling that is a pleasure to be in. We visited an old mansion (Craigdarroch Castle) and the Natural History Museum of BC. Both, in their own way, were excellent in displaying the past skill and history of the area. The museum in particular had a nice exhibit of the art, tools, and culture of the totem-pole natives (they have a name; unfortunately for this article I have never been good at names). Equally interesting were displays of the life and industries of the first non native settlers. These were followed by displays of later history like the 60s and 70s. Yes, that's right sisters and brothers, we are now old enough to be in history museums!

On to the Butchart Gardens. I've got to hand it to the Canadians; who would think that in this day and age of high technology that you could build an amusement park of nothing but flowers and fountains? I found the park, along with and the "High Tea" we enjoyed, to be an overwhelming tranquil experience; a marvel of the combined art of both man & nature. One last observation of this marvel, the place had a Carl Sagan amount of flowers, over acres of land; not one flower is wilted or dead. It must be in the water.

The next morning found us in a light, but foggy drizzle standing in front of the opulent Vancouver Convention Center advertising a spectacular harbor view and a breakfast menu with no prices. Since the view wasn't happening we walked up the street a couple blocks and fell into a great Greek restaurant, "Scoozies" by name. Not only were we served this very unique deep dish of egg & vegetable for breakfast, but the owner added a free apple strudel dessert to boot. Feeling both full and lucky we proceeded, on schedule, to the Grouse Mountain ski lift

for the much advertised, spectacular view of the city from above. Unfortunately, as the lift reached the top of the mountain we had trouble making out even the ski lodge through the fog. Not to worry, besides the enjoyable walk in the park, chronologed by pictures taken more for fun then for anything else (well ok, the bears were cool) , the lodge had a theater, where, through the phenomenon of the modern cinema, we savored the view now covered by clouds.

Back to the city, and the Vancouver Museum of Art. They had a display of modern Native Indian art (not to impressive) intermixed, for some reason, with a large number of very old (16th and 17th century) Middle Eastern art pieces. The meticulous detail of the latter's miniatures paintings were just amazing. On the second floor they had a modern art exhibit of the local artists that did a great job of communicating their local and, in some ways, different view of the same world we all live in today. The top floor featured a Canadian artist name "Carr" who's work Jan and I really liked. We purchased a print of one of our favorites to forever remind us of our trip.

That night we dressed up for our "dinner on the harbor cruse". For this, our travel book purchased back in San Diego let us down. Instead of being a fancy dinner and dance boat for which we dressed, it was a small, little too rusted, reconverted fishing boat. Entertainment was a slightly juiced one man guitar singer interspersed with a young tour guide reading harbor facts and details. Non the less, the tablecloth was starched, the food was good and we got that required local tid bit trivia one expects from trips to the unknown.

The last of our full days in Vancouver started in disappointment as we found that the U of BC Museum of Anthropology was closed on Mondays (again, travel book disinformation). We settled for a pleasant walk in their botanical gardens to which a lasting consequence might just be a very beautiful blue flowering tree/bush in our front yard. (Today that tree is but a handwritten, unpronounceable name on a piece of paper.) Later in the day we shopped at Vancouver's Granville Island, a local artist island and then we did Stanley Park. The park included a very neat Aquarium complex, displaying every water animal from snakes to sharks, (the giant octopus tank getting the largest crowds) with a small white beluga whale and a far more entertaining sea otter exhibit. We ended the day with a horse and buggy ride – yes we were getting tired – around this large and very beautiful park.



In closing I can't help but point out how much, at an age when birthdays no longer do it for me, anniversaries have become my favorite personal day.

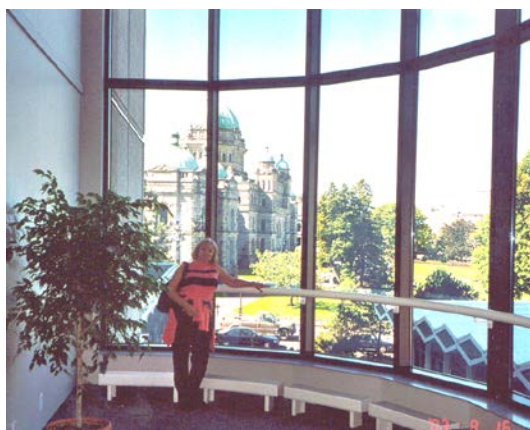
(see next page for more photos)

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

October, 2003

We thank Ed and Jan for this excellent report on what sounds like a very special and enjoyable holiday and anniversary celebration. In addition to the report we have some pictures to show the family, as follows.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, ED & JAN!!

JJ celebrates 13th birthday

A few days ago we enjoyed a birthday lunch and movie with JJ Riel. We enjoyed having dad Richard join in the celebration. We had lunch at the Family Restaurant in Clairmont Drive Square. After a leisurely stroll around the square we took in the movie



“Secondhand Lion”. Once in a while we see an especially good film, and this one was it. The actors, Michael Caine and Robert Duvall, did a great job in this sometimes

funny, sometimes serious film, and we recommend it to everyone. It was an enjoyable day, and we wish JJ a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Some more news from Jessica in Italy

We still have past reports from Jessica, and here are some more.

Buon 25 di Aprile!

Today is Italian Independence day. It is fun. There was a little parade in Siena and all the streets are very crowded. It couldn't be a nicer Friday. We didn't have school because it is a National holiday and the sun is shining, I even think I am a little sun burnt. I finally got my pictures onto a CD you can see my adventures! (Sorry I can only attach 3 at a time) Last weekend my friends Magic, Reuben, Aaron and I went to southern Italy. We took a train into Napoli, stayed there for one night then continued onto the small town of Positano. It was so beautiful! On the way to Positano, we spent half a day in Pompei, also an amazing place. Here are some pictures of my friends and the trip. The first is at the train station where we ran into some other friends and played cards while waiting. Magic is on the right of me, and the other two girls are Brittany and Jo. The next picture is Aaron, Reuben and I on the streets of Pompei. And the third is me in front of one of the first stages ever. Cool huh!

Ciao Everyone!

I hope everyone is doing well. Everything is still going great here. I am picking up the language more and more. I have more pictures of my latest journey to Lake Como last weekend. Tomorrow morning I am heading to the Cinque Terre (the five lands). It is supposed to be very beautiful. It is a series of 5 small fishing villages linked by some great beaches and beautiful hiking trails. I love being in Italy! Every place is different and beautiful in a different way. I also went to Milan last weekend which was equally as beautiful. Oh and I went to

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

October, 2003

Lugano, Switzerland. It is a border city so people tell me I didn't really get the feeling of Switzerland, but it was beautiful all the same. Lake Como is a big lake in northern Italy surrounded by beautiful small fishing villages, including the famous Bellagio. I went to a number of different cities and took a ferry across the lake a few times. I was a really peaceful and beautiful trip.

Thanks, Jessica for this chapter. We have more, so watch for them in future issues of RFNL.

More remodeled 1875

In the September RFNL we printed some pictures of the changes made to our old house on Lyndon Road. We have a few more to show to you now.



Family Room with new fireplace



Dining room/living room, looking south toward canyon



Canyon deck, south of living room

Incidentally, the house recently resold, the deal closing on September 24th. We now know that the exact selling price was \$1,175,000.

Late news flash – Ed breaks ankle!

A few mornings ago Ed was out walking the dog. Suddenly, he lost his footing, fell and broke his left ankle. Fortunately, it is a very small fracture, but he does have a cast. He is supposed to be using crutches, but tells us that he really can walk without them, if Jan isn't looking. He is back at work, and seems to be making a rapid recovery

Some family news items

Francie is back from her recent extended trip, but now is on another short one. She will be home (for a while) on Oct 7th, just in time to vote. **Richard and Ed** are celebrating birthdays, and we will have all the details in the next issue. According to **Margaret**, **Bud** is making excellent progress on his recovery from hip surgery. He is going up stairs, driving his car, and generally seeing almost daily improvement. **Bob G** tells us that the remodeling project at Francis Parker Lower School is making great progress. He has invited us to come and see the new facilities, and we hope to do so soon. **Listy** will be running in a 31 mile marathon in early October, and we hope to get a picture of her at the finish line. **Jason** is on the hunt for a job, and if anyone has any ideas he would appreciate a call. **Grandpa and Grandma** are doing ok, considering our age. We still play golf twice a week and fitness classes three times.

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

October, 2003

Megan wins scholarship award

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars

*To all who read these letters
Greetings*

*The Honorary Board of Regents and the Board of Directors
of The National Society of Collegiate Scholars Confer Honor and Distinction upon*

Megan Merica Riel-Mehan

*for Commitment to the Fields of
Scholarship, Leadership and Service*

Presented this Thirtieth Day of April, Two Thousand Three

With this recognition come all the rights, honors, and privileges therewith pertaining to the Society at

University of California, Berkeley



Steve E. Egan
Executive Director

William J. Smith
Chapter Advisor

James M. Brown
Chapter President

Megan Merica Riel-Mehan
943 San Dieguito Dr.
Encinitas, CA 92024-4543

Dear Megan:

Congratulations on your membership in The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS). I am the National Leadership Council President and I am excited to welcome you to NSCS!

Enclosed are several items of interest for you:

- Your Diploma of Membership – a symbol of your membership in the Society and your academic success. You may note the date on your diploma is April 30th—this is NSCS Founder's Day—since the first Induction Convocation took place on April 30, 1994 at The George Washington University.
- Your NSCS Press Release - Please feel free to distribute copies of the press release announcing your induction into the Society to the various media sources in your community. The back of this release contains helpful guidelines to increase your chances of gaining local coverage.

I encourage you to get involved in the NSCS chapter on your campus. The induction convocation for University of California, Berkeley will be held on campus, early in the fall term. You will be notified of the date, time and location of the ceremony later this summer. I hope that you will be able to attend and participate in chapter meetings, community service events and more.

Take advantage of your membership by checking out the NSCS website at www.nscs.org. The website offers a wide array of information about scholarship, leadership and service opportunities. To access the "Members Only" sections of the website simply use your NSCS logon information listed below. You may update your profile, change your logon information, participate in forum discussions and view other NSCS opportunities by visiting the web site.

Again, congratulations and welcome to NSCS!

Sincerely,

Lindsay Rodman

Lindsay Rodman
National Leadership Council President, 2002-2003

NSCS Website Logon Name: mriel-mehan34342
Password: 382867



We sadly report on the recent passing of Alan's mother, Evelyn Sorem. The above photo was taken several years ago, at a St. Colombo grandparents day celebration. She was a special grandma for Brett and Bryce, and they, and all of us mourn her passing.

EVELYN SOREM
Dec. 6, 1914-Sept. 22, 2003

Evelyn Sorem, 88, of San Diego died Monday. She was born in Chicago and was a housewares buyer for Miller's West.

Survivors include her sons, Richard Sorem of El Cajon and Alan Sorem of San Diego; sister, Sue Fitzgerald of Chicago; brothers, Frank Richard of Chicago and Ben Richard of Scottsdale, Ariz.; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

No services were planned.
Arrangements: Neptune Society.

Francis Parker LS remodeling

As mentioned on page 3, we were invited by Bob to



check out the status of the new facilities. Things indeed are moving along, and we have room for one picture. (more to come in the next issue)