



Family celebrates Riel Bowl XIII

For the 13th straight year the family gathered at the Alpine home of the Bob Riel family for another celebration of the New Year. We were fortunate to have almost everyone together, but missed the presence of Tim Riel, who had to work in San Francisco on New Years Day. The various members started drifting in around 11:00 a.m., and soon most were on hand and enjoying snacks and drinks. The first item was the checking of the cross word puzzle submissions. No one got all the correct answers, and there was a three-way tie between the Benesch, Gillingham and Sorem families. The tie-breaker question was to name as many Toyota models currently on sale. (17) Again we had a tie at 15 correct answers. Commissioner Bob then ruled that the Jeopardy Game contestants would be the following five teams: Margaret/Jessica, Francie/Ed, Carol/Jason, Listy/Bob, Birdy/Curtis. After much confusion the winning team was Francie/Ed, with 3900 points, followed by Listy/Bob, with 3500 points.

The next item on the agenda was a special treat, the playing of the CD of the Francie/Lyle wedding celebration in Hawaii. Bryce recorded the entire proceedings (audio and video) and produced a CD which was played on the big TV screen in the living room. He did a great job, and everyone enjoyed seeing and hearing the entire celebration. By this time the prime rib roasts (2) were done, and we all enjoyed great food and dessert. Afterwards the many gifts were passed out, and then we enjoyed the annual white elephant exchanges, one for adults and one for the kids. There were lots of nice presents, and Grandma and Grandpa thank all for the many nice presents. The annual RFNL dine out certificates were won by the Riel-Mehan and Ed Riel families. All in all, it was one of the very best Riel Bowls, and we thank all, especially Bob and Karla, for a wonderful celebration.



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Some 2003 Christmas celebrations

Christmas was a time for many celebrations, and Grandpa and Grandma started the day by attending the 4:00 p.m. mass at St Colombo, with Francie, Lyle, and Brett. We met Richard, Liz, and JJ at the church. After the service we adjourned to Francie's where we met Lyle's mom. Soon afterwards Margaret, Bud, Michael, and Megan joined us. We all sat around enjoying snacks until dinner was served. The featured entrée was smoked goose, expertly prepared by Lyle, using the outdoor grill shown in one of the following photos. It was delicious, and complimented a full meal, including a second entrée, grilled tuna. We also enjoyed desserts, as shown below. It was a great way to usher in the 2003 Christmas season, and we thank Francie and Lyle very much for inviting us.



Christmas day at Hartmans

Once again, we were invited to spend the day with the Hartman family. We arrived at about one p.m., and enjoyed watching the kids playing with Christmas gifts. The best toys were the radio controlled small autos, and also various



games which were displayed on the TV in the family room. Dinner was served soon thereafter, with prime rib roast the main enter. There was lots of other food, plus delicious desserts, enjoyed by all. We had a great time, and thank Birdy and Bruce for inviting us to share their Christmas day.



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Grandpa celebrates 85th birthday

On December 6th Grandpa reached the ripe old age of 85, and there were several celebrations to honor the day. For one of them Francie and Lyle treated Grandpa and Grandma to dinner at the Zocalo Grill, in Old Town. After



a delicious dinner Francie and Lyle treated the entire group (Grandpa, Grandma, Lyle's mom, Brett, Bryce and his girl friend) to the "Beehive" show at the

Theatre in Old town. It was a very special evening and we thank Francie and Lyle for the entire celebration.

Margaret provided another opportunity to celebrate by visiting us and bring a special gift, the electric mist generator. She not only brought the gift, but also assembled it, drawing on her past experience with two at



lunch.

her home. It works great and we really enjoy its performance. We also enjoyed the home made turkey soup she brought along for



We also were treated to lunch with the Twins and Ed, at Red Lobster. It was another nice celebration.



Finally, Carol and Jeff came by to deliver the best present of all, a new Sony camera, a gift from the entire family. We thank everyone who contributed so we could retire the malfunctioning Fuji we have been using for the past 3 years. We hope you will see an improvement in RFNL picture quality.

LATE NEWS FLASH - On the afternoon of January 2nd Grandpa experienced a mild stroke, and was treated at Sharp Hospital ER. After a series of tests the conclusion was a Transient Ischemic Attack. He was released from the ER, and has experienced no residual effects. He now is on aspirin therapy, and can resume normal activity.