

Family celebrates another Easter at Lake Murray Park

Sunday, April 11th was another occasion for a family get-together and party. As usual, we met around noon at Lake Murray Park, with the Benesch family arriving early to secure our regular table and location. All of the Riel children were present, plus a good turnout of grandchildren. As usual there was a lot of food spread out on the tables. We had cold cuts and various rolls and breads for sandwich making, along with baked beans, salads, veggies, and lots of drinks and desserts. One of the things we couldn't help but notice was the scarcity of athletic activity. A few of the grandchildren were up and about, but the parents seemed to spend most of the time seated and enjoying conversation and relaxation. Can it be that old age is gradually making its mark on the family, and that mostly they are more inclined to sit around than to run around? Whatever the case may be, all were in great spirits, and enjoyed this annual chance to exchange family news. As usual, some pictures tell the story.



And a Happy Easter to all!!!

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

May, 2004

Some news from Morag in England

Dear Frank and Edith,
Somehow I lost my first email to you.
I moved here a few months ago, it made me too sad to live in our house by myself after Michael died. You know we had the house built when we married, and lived there for fifty years. I thought the maintenance would become a problem as I grew older and Theo lived ten miles away which makes twenty miles round trip when he visited me. This would be nothing in the States, but on our crowded roads is no fun. So I put the house on the market and sold it in six weeks! I was lucky to find this flat, just half a mile away from Theo and Kate and perfect in every detail for what I wanted.

An exciting forthcoming event is that they are expecting their first child in July, so I shall be on hand for baby sitting duties. I hope I can still remember about babies,



it is a long time since I had any thing to do with them.

Alderley Edge is on the main railway line to London so it is very convenient if Elizabeth visits me or I visit her.

She lives in London quite close to Gerard and sees them frequently. In fact she told me only yesterday that she had lunch on Saturday with Gerard and Pierre (his second son) And Gerard had cooked the lunch as Katrin was away visiting her mother.

Do please continue sending me the RFNL I do so enjoy getting all the news of your large family although some times I have a problem working out who belongs to whom in the younger generation.

I send you both my fondest love. My new address is:

4 Westholme Court
Horseshoe Lane
Alderley Edge
Cheshire
SK9 7QS
Telephone 01625 583200
Love Morag

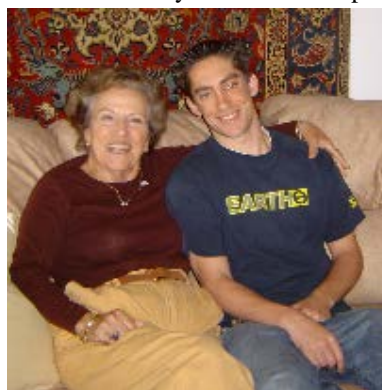
Thanks, Morag, for the latest news from your home. We will, indeed, continue the RFNL, and hope you will send us more news, especially when the little one arrives.

For those of you are not too familiar with family relationships, Morag is the wife of the late Michael Merica, Grandma's older brother. Michael died in 2001.

They have two children, Theodore and Elizabeth. The Gerard referred to in Morag's letter is the son of Grandma's sister, who passed away in Paris, shortly after WW II.

An e-mail from Michael Mehan

Dear Grandpa,
Here is a brief history about what I've been doing recently:
Well I finally did it. After 4 and half years I finally convinced UCLA that I have completed enough units to warrant a diploma. I graduated with honors with a degree in Cybernetics and a Bioinformatics Concentration. It's amazing how quickly 5 years can go by. I feel like just a little while ago I was thinking how much I was going to enjoy college and now it's all over. We almost over I guess. I applied to 4 graduate schools in Southern California: UCLA, USC, UCI, and UCSD. UCSD was my top choice and would have been a dream come true but it's a tough program to get into and unfortunately I didn't get in. Instead I decided to accept USC's invitation (I'm so sorry Jeff) to attend their PhD program in Molecular and Computational Biology this fall. It is a joint program that combines biology and computer science together and allows graduate students to focus on one or the other. I'll probably be focusing more on the computer science side. USC was also generous enough to offer me a Joint Initiative Fellowship as well, which means my tuition will be paid for five years and I'll



receive a yearly stipend. While I am waiting for my apartment lease to expire I am working a full time job doing research on the UCLA campus. While I was an undergraduate one of my jobs was working 10 hours a week with a professor in the Human Genetics

Department and now that I'm graduated he offered me a full time position as Staff Researcher until I start graduate school. I now work 5 days a week from 9-6 which is quite a change from my schedule as a student but at least when I get home I don't have to worry about doing any homework.

That's all for now. Hope everyone is well and I'll see you on the fourth.

--Michael

(continued on page 3)

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

May, 2004

Thanks for a great day today. It was great to see you guys and your condo for the first time. I will put together the list of steps I mentioned for copying the pictures from your camera in the next couple days when I get access to a PC. All the computers here are Macs. Thanks again and Go Padres!!

Love,
Michael
PS Tell grandma thank you for me too.

We had lunch at the Embers restaurant on West Point Loma Drive, and afterwards came home to show our condo to Michael, since it was his first time visit. Also, Grandpa took advantage of his computer skills by helping store the files on CDs, as back-ups in case the computer crashes. In addition, as noted above, he is providing some instructions on downloading and storing pictures from the digital camera. All of this help is much appreciated, and will make it easier to put out the monthly newsletters. We congratulate Michael on his graduation from UCLA and wish him all the best in graduate school.

Dustin stars in lacrosse game

A while back we received an e-mail from Carol plus a picture of Dustin in action. The picture got lost in the computer, but we finally found it, so here is Carol's write up plus the action photo.

Dad,
Here is a picture of Dusty in the first lacrosse game at UCSB. He didn't start, but was the first rookie put in and got in 7 min. into the game. They beat UC Berkeley 12-3. We drove up to watch the game and were happy with how much playing time he got. We just wished we could see more of his games. They play BYU this Friday at UCSB but we won't be able to see that game, but the following weekend they play two games in San Francisco so Jeff and I decided to take a little trip there for Valentine's Day. We will let you know how that goes.

Love you and hope you are healthy and happy
Carol

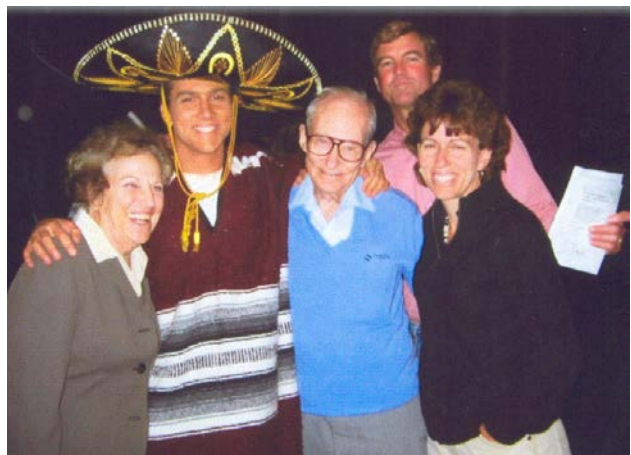


Dusty is the one in the white shirt.

It's All in The Timing Starring Scott Hartman Francis Parker School April 23, 2004

"All In the Timing" includes six short plays ("Sure Thing"; "Words, Words, Words"; "The Philadelphia"; "Universal Language"; "Philip Glass Buys A Loaf Of Bread", and "Variations on the Death Of Trotsky") by David Ives that humorously explore a variety of complex situations experienced through an assortment of unusual characters. From lonely bachelors to philosophizing chimpanzees, these eccentric personalities will usher the audience through a lively fiesta of insurmountable wit and hilarity. What's funnier than human neurosis? Chimps with writer's block!

Scott Hartman (Bill, Ramon) is a senior currently enjoying his 16th year at Francis Parker School. Scott has been interested in theatre for many years, though this is the first production he has actually participated in since he left the Lower School and its after-school program, "Showstoppers." With his limited acting experience, Scott is hoping that his natural flair and zest for life will show through on the stage at least half as much as it does off.



Great job, Scott! Congratulations!!

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

May, 2004

Some birthday celebrations

We had a chance to get together with Curtis and his girl friend to celebrate his 20th birthday. They joined us for lunch at the Mandarin Plaza on Sports Arena Drive. Because of a prior engagement they were not able to join us at a movie, but we did enjoy talking to them about their plans and future activities.



We also had a chance to enjoy a celebration with Kevin, his 25th. We had lunch at the Happy Chef Greek restaurant, and then headed over to Admiral Baker golf course. Since Monday, May 3rd was one of the hottest days of the year Grandpa and Grandma decided to ride in an electric cart. This turned out to be a smart move, since it was really hot along about 2:00 p.m. After the game (no scores available) we enjoyed cold drinks at the bar, and Kevin outlined his plans for the immediate future. In a few weeks he and some friends will be driving across the country to the Philadelphia area. There will be some sightseeing, but also Kevin will be exploring graduate school opportunities on the east coast. He will return in time for a camping trip organized by Ed and Jan.



The whole family will be visiting Yosemite Park for some hiking and camping fun. When they return Kevin, Nathan, and Christopher will be taking off for another cross country jaunt. It certainly looks like a busy and exciting summertime for the Ed Riel family.



So, congratulations to Curtis and Kevin, and best wishes for the future.

An early Mothers Day celebration

Francie called a little while ago to invite Grandma to celebrate Mothers Day early, since she will be on travel on the 9th of May. She and Brett came over on the 2nd of May, and we enjoyed lunch at our favorite Chinese buffet. We were a little concerned to learn that Brett had undergone eye surgery a few days ago. There was a small growth in one corner of his eye, which was successfully removed, and no lasting problems are expected. As you can see from the pictures, we had an enjoyable time, and thank Francie and Brett for making it happen.



Francie called a little while ago to invite Grandma to celebrate Mothers Day early, since she will be on travel on the 9th of May. She and Brett came over on the 2nd of May, and we enjoyed lunch at our favorite Chinese buffet. We were a little concerned to learn that Brett had undergone eye surgery a few days ago. There was a small growth in one corner of his eye, which was successfully removed, and no lasting problems are expected. As you can see from the pictures, we had an enjoyable time, and thank Francie and Brett for making it happen.

New Hartman home

Here is the first photo of the new Hartman home. The move in has been put off a few times, but now is scheduled for the May 8-9 weekend. However, anything may happen, and we will know for sure only when it happens. Watch for more in the next RFNL.

