



 **More Travel News**

We still have lost of news left over from the summer trips made by the various family. We continue with the rest of Ed's account of how he and Tim wandered around in Yosemite Park.

Next morning was Half Dome. A little over 2 miles from our camp and a climb of 1500 feet put us at the bottom of the small eastern dome. The small dome is about ¼ mile of rock switchbacks going up another 500 feet. It is only then that the real climb becomes visible. Going up the smooth curved vertical dome (maybe 500 feet) are two parallel steel cables held a couple feet apart and 3 feet from the rock by pairs of metal stakes with eyelets on top. The pairs were spaced up the rock approximately every 12 feet, and most of them had a wooden 2x4 across the base as resting points. You pull yourself straight up, with the cables, from pare to pare until you get winded, at which point you can rest with heels of your feet on the edge of the 2x4 and your back to the dome. Even though you are almost standing straight up there is a resting feeling that you are laying against the dome as you contemplate the view (a few hundred feet straight down to a curved saddle of rock which roles down to the right 1,000 feet to the forest, and to the left 4,000 feet to the Yosemite Valley floor). You wonder if your hart is racing simply to catch your breath or maybe out of fear. Thankfully your hart rate returns to normal and you turn and climb, and in 15 to 20 minutes you are on top, enjoying the view, and only somewhat concerned about going down. With that "E" ticket experience under our belts, we returned to camp, packed, and hiked up the Merced River to a great campsite a couple miles short of the Merced Lake.

The next morning we packed past the Lake up through a wide-open undisturbed serene valley. Though it was 2 miles to the east, at exactly D the spot where our trail began to take us west, I wanted to climb to the ridge dividing the Inyo National forest which drained East to the Owens valley from the Merced basin which drained north and to the west to Yosemite. Tim opted for a little rest and relaxation, so we pitched the tent to give him refuge from the bugs, and I toke off for ridge. It was a scenic hike, but was, even without any backpack, challenging because of the thin air (10,000 feet) and the amount of snow areas remaining. The closer I got to the ridge the more I couldn't follow the trail which was covered with football field size patches of icy snow. I was forced to climb over large boulders that teetered and sometimes slid a little when you stepped on them. I finally reached a point just above the ridge trail whose 3-foot high steel trail sign barely peeked out past the snow. I enjoyed the view both to the East and then to the west where I saw the trek and the ridge we were to climb to get back to the Illilouette Area. I saw the snow and remembered the elevation of this pass was lower then the pass that was still to come. I wondered how that would go.

It was an easy and enjoyable walk back down to Tim's camp. I was satisfied that I had ventured to all the points that we had planed. When I got to camp I suggested that if we hiked up higher and closer to the last ridge we could get over it early in the morning before the sun got to hot. It was also discussed that being close to the ridge would put us about 14 miles from the car and that we might be able to hike that distance in a day. (Not that we were getting tired of sleeping in a tent or anything like that.) So we hiked to a camp about 2 to 3 miles short of the ridge. The higher we hiked the more often we would either lose the trail under snow or have the trail interrupted by a river of glacier melt water. We camped that night on a large flat rock, close to 10,000 feet of elevation. To the north and east (from where we had come) we looked down at two branches of the Merced River system. To our back and to the west were ridges of snow and rocks easily 1,000 feet high. We tried to discern from our topo which ridge we would go over but couldn't. We figured though we would find the trail in the morning and be over the top in a couple of hours. It was cold, but we were quite warm and comfortable in our tent. Tim seemed to sleep well, but I didn't. I hate when I am so worried about tomorrow that I can't sleep. I am a seasoned, happy camper of life, and I have learned that when something worries me enough to keep me up, it was usually worth warring about. But, right now, as I am writing this account, can't stay up, so please, let me finish this story in the next issue.

In the August RFNL we printed the report of the Hartman trip written by Michelle. We also heard from the other traveler, Scott, who sent us the following.

Dear Grandpa and Family,

As Michelle has already informed you, our first week in Italy was spent in a small farming town nestled cozily between the slopes of a rich, green valley virtually on the border to Austria. From there, we traveled all throughout northern Italy, spending a day in many of the major cities such as Venice, Verona, Milan, and others. After that exciting, although exhausting, week we re-packed all of our gear, and boarded the train to the second portion of our Italian adventure: Rome.

Our train pulled into the station late at night, and clutching our belongings tight for fear of the pickpockets refuted to be concentrated in this city, we stepped off onto the platform. There we were met by neon signs and larger-than-life posters, which, at that exact moment were mostly off considering the

time of our arrival, but were still impressive nonetheless. This was not just a train station it seemed, but a huge underground mall, complete with all varieties of clothing stores, toy stores, book stores, restaurants, and any other place you could imagine to spend your money.

We stalked through the shops in the drunken stupor of those weary with travel and emerged onto the Street ready to get to our hotel and our respective beds as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, each of us proved incompetent at figuring out the foreign bus system within the ten minutes of patience we had left, so we promptly gave up and hailed a cab. It was a bit pricey, but it carried us the mile-and-a-half that we needed to go, and delivered us, finally, to our hotel where we found deliciously air-conditioned rooms with beds that may as well have been made of mahogany. Hard beds or not, we all eventually got to sleep and, in the morning, woke up ready to meet the famous city head-on.

Rome is spectacular! History permeates the air while the sun beams happily down upon the cities broad shoulders. Casually we cruised between buildings that have been lived in for over two millennia. The original grid-pattern upon which all ancient Roman cities were built is abundantly apparent at each

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intersection of streets, where you can look in any direction and see for a mile. Ruins are about as common as restaurants, and receive no more scrutiny by the locals.

We visited dozens of churches, ruins, sculptures, and museums, but it would



have taken weeks more to actually see it all. Probably the most impressive thing in Rome was the Coliseum; its clever systems of elevators and trap doors, along with the smart construction of the place as a whole stood testament to the incredible ability of ancient Roman architects. My personal favorite thing to see was

the hundreds of sculptures that we were able to enjoy in the dozen or so museums we visited and in many of the churches, most notably St. Peter's basilica. Such detail seemed almost absurd, as though the statues were actual people frozen in place.

On the last day of our trip, we visited Florence. I think we all nearly suffered heart attacks when we saw the Duomo there. It was the most opulent spectacle I have ever seen. The entire edifice,



which was absolutely mammoth, was covered in marble of all colors, statues of all sizes, and patterns complex beyond imagining. The inside was slightly less of a spectacle, though the floors were impressive and the famous dome was definitely a sight.

We returned home the next day, a cramped and uncomfortable nearly 15 hour journey, and were pleased to get to sleep on our soft beds at last, but none of us will forget our amazing tour throughout Italy.

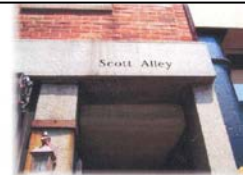


Listy and Birdy in Boston

In the last issue of RFNL we printed an account of the things Listy and Birdy saw and did while visiting this historic city. Instead of a series of photos, Birdy put together a montage depicting some of their activities, which we have reproduced in the next column. We appreciate her giving us the finished product, a series of photos showing the high points of the trip, with captions explaining each picture.



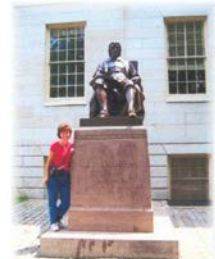
Diane, Birdy, Listy and Susan standing on the North Bridge in Concord.



Scott Alley? A place where trash was dumped. Poor Scott.



Diane and Birdy had lunch at Cheers in Boston!



Birdy with John Harvard the ice cream lover!



Listy is ready for a lobster feast!



Susan, Listy and Diane ready to take the cliffwalks in Newport, Rhode Island.



The twins in Salem,

Francie visits Caribbean area

Francie called a few days ago to reassure us that even though she was in Jamaica she was not responsible for hurricane Frances. Actually, the weather was ok where she was, and she expects to be home on the 7th.

Freeway accidents

Both Bryce and Jessica were involved recently in freeway pileup accidents. Neither one was injured, but it was scary. Bryce was in Arizona, and was on of seven cars involved in the accident. Jessica's experience was even scarier. She was returning to UC Irvine when she observed a serious accident just ahead. She pulled over, thinking someone might be seriously injured and needing help. As she was about to get out of her car it was hit by another vehicle which failed to slow down. Fortunately, she was not hurt, and her car was drivable. The police arrived soon after. The lesson learned is that you should keep going, but call 911 for help.

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Michael's first technical publication — Bud sent us a copy of the technical paper reporting on the work Michael had participated in while finishing his degree at UCLA. We have room for only the abstract, but we are sure Michael will be pleased to discuss the full results with any interested readers. The article was published in **HUMAN GENOMICS**, Vol 1, No. 5, i-10 July 2004

A genome-wide survey of segmental duplications that mediate common human genetic variation of chromosomal architecture

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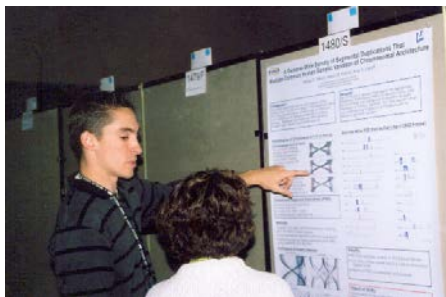
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Abstract

Recent studies have identified a small number of genomic rearrangements that occur frequently in the general population. Bioinformatics tools are now available for systematic genome-wide surveys of higher-order structures predisposing to such common variations in genomic architecture. Segmental duplications (SDs) constitute up to 5 per cent of the genome and play an important role in generating additional rearrangements and in disease aetiology. We conducted a genome-wide database search for a form of SD, palindromic segmental duplications (PSDs), which consist of paired, inverted duplications, and which predispose to inversions, duplications and deletions. The survey was complemented with a search for SDs in tandem orientation (TSDs) that can mediate duplications and deletions but not inversions. We found more than 230 distinct loci with higher-order genomic structure that can mediate genomic variation, of which about 180 contain a PSD. A number of these sites were previously identified as harbouring common inversions or as being associated with specific genomic diseases characterised by duplication, deletions or inversions. Most of the regions, however, were previously unidentified; their characterisation should identify further common rearrangements and may indicate localisations for additional genomic disorders. The widespread distribution of complex chromosomal architecture suggests a potentially high degree of plasticity of the human genome and could uncover another level of genetic variation within human populations.

We certainly congratulate Michael on this important step in his career, and look forward to future accomplishments.



presented some of his earlier work in the format of a table top exhibit.

The adjoining photo was taken last year, when Michael attended an American Society of Human Genetics meeting and

In celebration of Michael's graduation Margaret and Bud



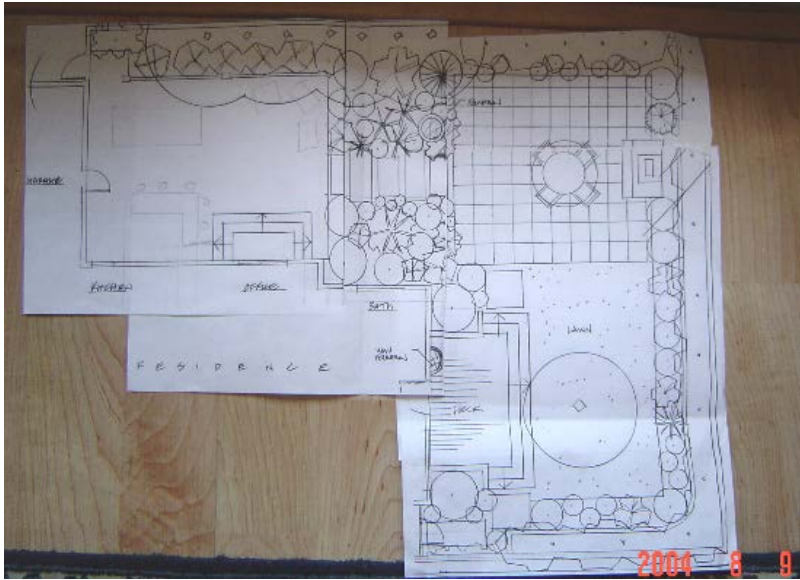
graduated for his PhD degree.

hosted a party to celebrate Michael's entry into the USC Graduate School. Many friends and family were there to wish Michael success in his

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Remodeling projects

There are two major remodeling projects in work in the family. First, Francie and Lyle are hard at work in a major project to redo the back yard area of their home. The drawing at left gives you some idea of the scope, but in addition to what is shown in the drawing some extensive interior work also is included in the program. The latter includes a new bathroom, plus some other changes. We look forward to seeing the finished product by the end of the year.

The other big project is the remodeling of the newly purchased Hartman home. The drawing at the left gives you some idea of the scope of the project. Interior walls are being torn down, and new rooms are being added to the exterior. When complete the house will be entirely different from the way it was laid out when purchased. In the June RFNL we published some “before” pictures, and we will take new ones when the job is finished.

These are trying times for Francie and Birdy, but we know that the new configurations will be well worth all the trouble they have caused.

There is one more project in the final planning stages. As we reported in the April RFNL, Listy and Bob purchased a building lot in Julian, and they soon will start work on a vacation home. We hope to see some plans soon, so we can include them in a near future RFNL.

Bad news/good news-Grandma’s back problem.

Recently Grandma got an MRI to check out her back pain problem. The bad news is that she has a pinched nerve, but the good news is that the source of the back and leg pains she has been having for many months is now identified. There are two treatment options, a cortisone shot and back surgery. The shot treatment is a less than 50% effective, and is temporary. Surgery is more radical, but is a more effective and permanent option. She has decided on surgery, but will review that decision after meeting with the surgeon on September 29th. We will keep you informed as time passes.

