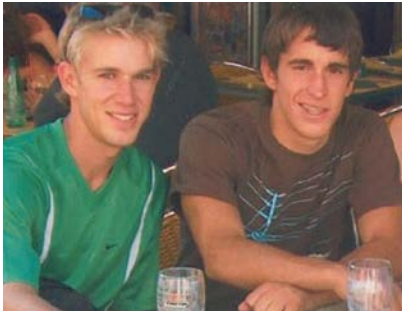




Riel Bowl XIV - 2005

Family enjoys food, fun, games, entertainment, gift exchanges

Once again, for the 14th consecutive year, the family gathered at the home of Robert and Karla for a second Christmas/ New Year celebration. We were fortunate that the weather cooperated by providing a cool but bright and sunny day. The crowd began drifting in shortly after eleven, and by noon most were there to enjoy the first item on the agenda, the showing of the travel in Europe trip recorded by Brett and Bryce. They put together a very professional presentation of their adventures during their trip with Alan (Big Al) through Spain, France, and Italy, and we all enjoyed reliving that experience with them.



After the big screen TV showing of the Sorem trip we all headed for the kitchen for lunch. As usual, the main entrée was Robert's famous prime rib roast, which drew raves from everyone. In addition, there was Grandpa's popular salad, mashed potatoes, candied yams, cooked vegetables, plus various other snacks.

The next item on the agenda was the induction of Lyle as a permanent member of the famous Innocent Bystanders Group. Bud was in charge of this important rite, and he introduced the subject by showing a series of recorded skits performed in 1996, at Grandpa and Grandma's 50th anniversary celebration. Each skit was a spoof of a Riel child, projected ten years into the future. Although all of the adults and also the older grandchildren were present at the 1996 celebration, they and all of the others really enjoyed seeing this record of the past. There was much laughter and applause from all. Following the skits the Innocent Bystanders chorus sang an original song celebrating the induction of Lyle into the IBs, and Bud recited the official proclamation accepting Lyle into the famous group.



Everyone then assembled in the living room for the annual Christmas present exchange. There was much excitement and laughter as everyone enjoyed opening gifts at this second Christmas celebration.

Following the gift exchange the ever popular Jeopardy Game was played. Grandpa introduced the proceedings by announcing the contestants. Last year they were Margaret, Francie, Carol, Listy, and Birdy. This year the announced contestants were Bud, Lyle, Jeff, Bob, and Bruce. Each contestant selected and donned a special T-shirt imprinted with the Riel Bowl XIV logo, plus "Jeopardy Game" and the Team number, which determined the selection order during the game. Carol and Jeff provided the T-shirts, and we certainly thank them very much. Each contestant was allowed to select an assistant from among the grandchild, thus making up each team. Team 1 was Bruce and Curtis, Team 2 was Bob and Annie, Team 3 was Jeff and Jessica, Team 4 was Lyle and Michael, Team 5 was Bud and Katy. In a new format, each team was allowed to pick one item to answer, starting with Team 1. The game continued, each team getting one choice per turn. Also new was the nature of the items on the Jeopardy board. Instead of statements requiring an answer in the form of a question, pictures



The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

January, 2005

were substituted. There were two main categories, Kids



(A,B,C,,and D) and Family celebrations (A and B). Most of the pictures were taken many years ago, showing children as infants or small children. The final scores were as follows: Team 1 – 819, Team 2 – 879, Team 3 – 1195, Team 4 – 10, Team 5 – 825. Thus, the team of Jeff and Jessica came off as the big winner, with a \$100.00 prize.

After the

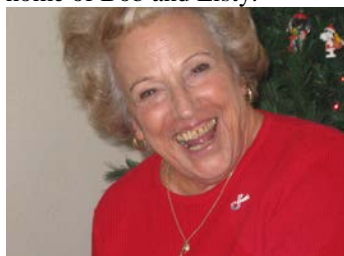
Jeopardy game we held the White Elephant gift exchange. As usual, lots of surprise packages were opened, and there was much stealing back and forth. The winners of the RFNL dine out certificates were Robert/Karla and Francie/Lyle.

The final item on the agenda was the celebration of



Grandma's 80th birthday. Her surprise gift came in a huge box, which she proceeded to open bit by bit. As the contents emerged they turned out to be colorful inflated

balloons, with various birthday greetings imprinted. As they were released they floated up to reveal an attached large card with an invitation to a next day party to be held at the home of Bob and Listy.



Grandma's 80th birthday party!!

January 2nd is the official date when Grandma turned 80 years old, and was the occasion for another party, the last for the holiday season. We met at the Gillingham home, and enjoyed a selection of Chinese food plus drinks and dessert. Afterwards, we gathered in the living room to celebrate, take pictures, and open birthday gifts, as shown by the following photos.



The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

January, 2005

Grandma was thrilled about all of the gifts, but the most treasured one was the set of two scrap books containing all sorts of photographs, old letters, and most important of all, messages from children and grandchildren. The next day Grandma spent happy hours going over every page and reading every loving message. She thanks all who put so much love and happy memories into the albums.

Another birthday – Grandpa celebrated 86th

In addition to the celebration reported on in the December RFNL (Old Town Theatre) Richard and Liz treated Grandpa



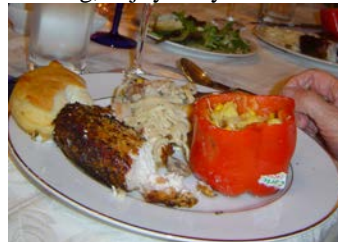
and Grandma to dinner at the Red Lobster restaurant. We enjoyed the evening, and especially the chance to hear about the recent trip they made to Charleston, So. Carolina for Richard's Citadel class reunion.

Richard drove across country, taking his sound equipment so he could provide music at class functions. As part of the celebration he rented a Confederate Army officers uniform, for the reunion party. He has provided us with a detailed report of his trip and the reunion activities. We do not have time to include it in this issue, but will publish an abstract in a forthcoming issue of RFNL.



Some more Christmas celebrations

Actually, the Christmas season officially opened on the eve, when we met at Francie's and attended the 4:00 p.m. church service at St. Columba. Afterwards we enjoyed an evening celebration, including another great meal cooked by Francie and Lyle (see picture). There were two desserts, the traditional custard with flame melted sugar topping and the raspberry cake made especially for Grandpa. It was a great evening, enjoyed by all.



On Christmas day we were invited to the home of Listy and Bob, where we enjoyed another great meal and celebration.



The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

January, 2005



St Vincent's choir presents Christmas concert



A few days before Christmas our church choir put on a very impressive performance, led by Dag Munck, the Musical Director. After the performance refreshments were served in the church hall, and we had a chance to meet some of our friends and take some pictures. Some of the Riel children will remember Sister Ursula, the school principal. She especially remembers our twins and Robert, and asked about



them. She remembers when the parking lot gate fell on Birdy, many years ago. We also had a chance to say goodbye to our parish priest, Father Nick, who has been sent to St Gregory the Great's Parish in Scripps Ranch. He is

an avid golfer, and has joined us on several occasions. We will miss him very much.

Hello

everyone

Well the time has come for me to change my email address. I have finished at UCI so I cannot use that email anymore. But never fear, you can still write to me at my new address: jessicaauburn@gmail.com.

In case any of you didn't know I am currently in Washington DC working an intern for CA senator Dianne Feinstein. I've only worked two days so I don't really know the extent of everything I will be doing, but here are some of my responsibilities: I work with the legislative assistant for Energy and Transportation doing research for bills and whatnot (that's the exciting part), I also do morning press clippings, answer phones, stuff envelopes, sort constituent mail, and eventually I will be giving tours of the capitol. So if any of you happen to be in town, drop in and I'll show you around capitol hill. The weather so far has been relatively nice (40's and 50's). I'm told this is extremely rare for January. It is expected to snow some time next week though. Well I guess that's it from over here. I hope everyone is enjoying their new year.

Keep in touch!

Love, Jessica Benesch

(619)218-1071

jessicaauburn@gmail.com

1006 Highland Dr.

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Curtis Hartman volunteers for Army service

Recently, Curtis announced that he has decided in entering the military service, and left home in early January. His first assignment will be for basic training, at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. When he finishes that assignment he will move to the Arizona area, where he will begin training as a counterintelligence specialist. This field is of great interest to him, and he is looking forward to about a year of special training. We all are very proud of him and his willingness to serve our country. We wish him the very best for the future.

