



Jessica in Washington, DC

We have two notes from Jessica on her temporary move to the nation's capital, and they tell us how she is doing.

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 as 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

(619)218-1071 jessicaauburn@gmail.com

P.S. Grandpa Riel, I would love to receive the newsletter while I'm here. This is the address I can be reached at:
 1006 Highland Dr.
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

We will, of course, be sending Jessica RFNL issues as they come out. We received another more detailed report a little while ago, as follows.

Grandpa,

Hi Grandpa. I hope everything is going well in warm San Diego. I am writing to give you an update on life in the Capital city. Working for Senator Feinstein is a wonderful experience. I have to stay extremely involved in everything that is happening in the news and I really like that. It's great to be in an environment that cares more about what the president is doing than what Brad and Jennifer are up to. I am working with

the Senator's legislative assistant for energy and transportation, and I have been doing a lot of research on climate change, so I am definitely learning a lot about many areas of congressional politics. I have been to a few nominational hearings and countless meeting with lobbyists. I have seen a lot of Senators because I get to go to places where the public isn't allowed, so that is a lot of fun. I formally met the Senator last Friday at a lunch she threw for the interns. She is a very nice lady, and at the same time she makes it impossible to forget that she is one of the most powerful people in all of California. When I am not working on energy legislation and research, I am working with the press department, mainly answering phones and cutting press clips. I also give tours of the Capitol building almost every day. Those are generally fun, unless the group of



constituents is particularly cranky or crazy (which is not that uncommon, unfortunately). Interning for a Senator is definitely a valuable experience that I will use in whatever I decide to do later.

In other news, the weather people forecasted only 1-3 inches of snow today, but we already have had about 3 inches and there are no signs of it letting up any time soon. I actually prefer the snow to the cold because when it is not snowing it tends to drop to below 20 degrees which is excruciatingly cold and really hard to walk to work in. When it snows, it stays in the low 30's, which is bearable, and it is extremely beautiful. Well, I guess that is all the news I have for now. I'll write again if anything big happens over here. If anyone wants to come to the capitol for a tour just let me know!

All my love and best wishes
 Jessica

Thanks, Jessica, for all the news! It is obvious that you are enjoying a unique opportunity to see our government in action right at the center of everything. We look forward to some more of the same as time goes by, and a chance to welcome you home soon. In the meantime, we will keep the RFNLS coming.

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

February, 2005

Curtis in Ft. Leonard Wood, MO

As we reported in the January RFNL, Curtis has joined the army, and is now Pvt. Curtis Hartman. For the first couple of weeks there was no news from him, since the military is very strict about family contacts. Fortunately (?) he lost his bill fold, and thus gained permission to call home to get his credit cards cancelled. Shortly thereafter, Birdy sent out an e-mail with some brief news plus a mailing address.

Howdy all,

I have an address for Curtis

Pvt. Curtis Hartman
D CO 3-10 1st PLT
495 Iowa Ave, Unit #45
FLW, MO 65473

You must write MAD DAWGS or 1ST PLT on the back of the envelope. They are every strict about what he can have. No cookies, treats, magazine, books, or snacks, just nice letters for love from home. I hope you will find it in your heart to send him letters. I don't think we should expect much in return...but I can tell from what I do hear...he would greatly appreciate support.

Thanks all, Birdy

In talking to Bruce and Birdy we learned that Curtis is finding entry into the army a tough experience, and one that makes him remember how nice a life he left behind in sunny San Diego. If you have a chance drop him a line, although, as Birdy mentioned, he may or may not have time to respond. We will, of course, keep you informed through future RFNLS on any news we receive. In the meantime, good luck, Curtis, your entire family is proud of you, and we know you will make it in your new career!!

Michelle to Worcester, Mass. In February

Recently Birdy forwarded to us the following news from Michelle.

Hi Dad,
I thought you might like to see the latest news on Michelle's hunt for grad school. It may not all be worthy of the newsletter, but she is very excited and we are all so happy for her. We wish her luck,
Birdy
Hi everyone... good news...I got my first interview for grad school and I couldn't have gotten there without y'all. I am interviewing at University of Massachusetts @Worcester in February. This is exciting stuff... especially after the two "no thank-you's" that I got last week. Thanks again everyone... I'll keep you posted.
Michelle

Hi Mom. Yea. I'm very excited about the interview. I'll be leaving on Thursday February 24th and returning on Saturday February 26th. I'll be met at the airport in Providence Rhode Island by current students in the program and we will be taken by limo to the Beechwood hotel in Worcester Massachusetts (45 minutes east of Boston by car) where we will be staying. Everything as far as food and transportation is taken care of while I am there. They pay to fly me out. I have contacted a travel agent that they told me to call to set up flights. While I'm there, I'll be sharing a room with someone else who has interviews. That will be good because it will give me someone to touch base with every now and then and also to have someone to talk to (hopefully she will speak English). My itinerary is as follows:

(A long schedule of receptions, meals, faculty meetings, tours, and formal dinners.)

I am a little surprised about the DJ party. To be honest with you, it's a school only for biomedical sciences graduate school (including all the different facets of biology and biochemistry, public health, nursing, MD, veterinarians and other science related things). It will be interesting to see what a room full of dancing nerds looks like. Anyhow, I thought it was funny when you asked me how many kids were applying for the PhD program. I laughed because yes, I am your kid, but everyone else sees me as an adult because who else applies for doctoral programs? Well, you can call me a kid for as long as you want to, or at least until I am married. I am not exactly sure how many they interview for grad school, but I have been told that they extend offers to 85% of the people that they interview. (most schools accept 7-15 PhD students per year- depending on the size of the department and how many people they have leaving) I'm sorry this e-mail is so long, but I figured you need at least one kid who will give you all the juicy details. Love, Michelle



The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

February, 2005

Update on Grandma's health

As we have mentioned in recent issues of RFNL, Grandma has been suffering from a lower back problem. The three shots she got some time ago did help, but as the doctors all warned, that procedure was only a temporary solution. Recently the surgeon's office called to set up the operation schedule. She sees the surgeon on February 18th for an orientation session. On February 25 she has a pre-operation physical with her primary care doctor, and the operation is set for March 8th, assuming no problems arise from the check up appointments.

She did experience one unexpected problem in early February. She woke up about 2 a.m. one morning with very severe neck pains, which persisted into the morning. We took her to the urgent care facility, and after an examination, including an X-ray, she was given some medication to reduce the pain level. The attending physician commented that the X-ray showed some problem areas in the upper spine. This is not a new condition, since she has had similar problems in the past. Fortunately, the medication relieved most of the pain, and she currently is ok, except for the lower back problem, which persists. We will keep you informed on the result of the operation.

Grandma's new Tivo

If you looked carefully at the January RFNL story on Grandma's 80th birthday party you may have noticed that one of her gifts was a new Tivo attachment for her TV. This was a gift from all our children, and greatly expands the manner in which TV shows can be viewed. Robert kindly volunteered to make the hook-up, which everyone said was very simple. However, such was not really the case. First of all, the Tivo requires a phone jack, which we do not have at the TV location. Robert suggested an electronic device consisting of two plug in boxes which use the 110 volt



electric outlets to carry the signal from a nearby telephone source to the TV. Unfortunately, the first one we got from Radio Shack proved to be faulty, and had to be replaced. Once that problem was solved

the hook up was successful, and everything worked fine. As you can see from the picture, installation required a major, rearrangement of the various devices making up the TV set-up. A few days later Listy and Birdy came over to give Grandma a crash course on the operation of the new device. A few days later the TV began to deliver a message that our

Tivo service had been suspended, although the TV continued to function in the prior mode. Bruce and Birdy



came over to solve the problem, and it was discovered that the phone connection did not seem to be compatible with the Tivo system. A direct wire connection solved the problem, and now things are fully operational. We

certainly thank Robert, Listy, Birdy, and Bruce for all the help they provided in getting the system fully operational. Grandma now is enjoying the new features the Tivo system provides, and she thanks all who made this special 80th birthday such a great celebration.

Ed gets new wheels

Recently, Ed Riel Construction Co. acquired a brand new Toyota pick up truck. We had a chance to try it out, and it is a nice vehicle. Most of Ed's projects are a half hour or more away, and the new truck will make the commutes a little easier every day.



News from Dubuque

As some of you know, we send an RFNL to Sr. Mary Pashcal, a friend of Grandma's from her days in college before she was married. We get many nice responses from Sr. Mary, who is now retired. We really enjoy hearing from her every month about how much she enjoys reading

Jan. 21 '05
Dear Edits and Fran,
Every issue of you
RFNL seems more
interesting and absorbing
Now I wish I were a happy
Bylander. On Mount Bylander
I am so glad you two
were not injured more seriously
when you tripped on the cement
street! God blessed you.
your pictures are great!
Thank you for labeling some
of them, Frank. I love it!
You are a great bunch!
Love to all
A.M. Pashcal

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News


February, 2005

about all our family. We appreciate her prayers and good wishes, and know they have helped all our family grow up and become the wonderful people they are. We have been remarkably free of any serious problems, and her prayers certainly have contributed to that good fortune. In recognition of that role, and in response to the wish expressed in her latest letter, we hereby confer on her the title of Honorary Innocent Bystander.



Former family friend passes away

PURDY, ARTHUR H.



Arthur H. Purdy would have been 92 years of age on his next birthday, February 21, 2005. He passed away quietly of heart failure on Monday, January 3, 2005. Arthur was born in Bristow, Oklahoma in 1913 and moved to San Diego in 1940. Arthur completed his college education at San Diego State in 1964. He retired in 1982 and began working part time preparing income tax returns and eventually opened his own tax practice. He became an enrolled agent and active in the Inland Society of Tax Consultants of San Diego (ISTC) and became president of the society. He helped the society organize and conduct their own tax seminars on continuing education for tax consultants. He is survived by his wife Rosemary; brother Donald E. Purdy; sister Nona P. Cadman all of San Diego, four nieces and four nephews. A Memorial service will be held at La Vida Real Retirement Facility, 11588 Via Rancho San Diego, El Cajon, Thursday, January 13, at 1 p.m. Please sign the guest book at obituaries.uniontrib.com

Back in the old Narmco days, when Grandpa and Grandma still lived in the original Mission Hill home, two of our best friends were Art and Mary Ellen Purdy. At one time they lived next door to Mary Burke, just off of Fort Stockton. Art worked for the Narmco Manufacturing Division, in La Mesa, and Mary Ellen worked for Grandpa, at the Narmco R&D Division, on Moore Street. She was a heavy smoker, and died many years ago. Some of our children may remember her brief stay at our house in an attempt to quit tobacco, an effort that failed. After her death we lost track of Art, and were saddened to see his death notice in the newspaper.

Travel news – Francie and Lyle in Jamaica

After the recent holiday season, Francie and Lyle took off for a much needed vacation, and we have her account in the following communication.

Hey everyone!

Once again I felt the need to return to Jamaica! They tell me that I have visited so many times I am now considered a Jamerican. I live in the U.S but my heart is in Jamaica. While I was there I was able to meet up with my friend Daniel Galvin, his wife Mavis, and his brother Josh and wife Rita. Daniel owns the largest salon in London at somewhere around 30,000 square feet. He is responsible for hooking me up with my Jamaican connection. He recommended me to the owner of the



David Mavis Rita Josh

resort and now I get to visit them several times each year. It is a lot of vacation time, but somebody has to do it. I make the supreme sacrifice to hang out by the pool several times a year. Lyle came with me this time and felt compelled to play golf and dive in the ocean as well. Now it's back to work... what a bummer!



Francie