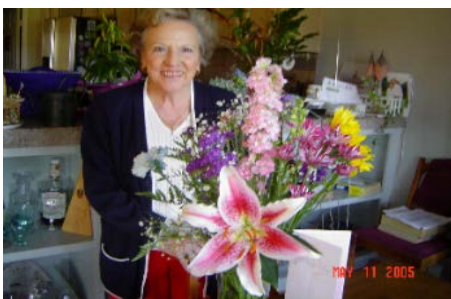
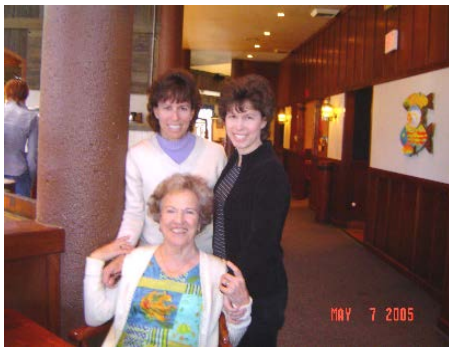


## Mother's Day celebrations, May 2005

Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> was another date to honor all mothers, and as usual the family all celebrated, each in its own way. The first celebration was with Listy and Birdy, on Saturday. They chose one day early because Listy and Bob were driving to Palm Springs to be with Bob's mother on Sunday. We enjoyed lunch at the Red Lobster, and afterwards we toured the newly remodeled Hartman home. As you can see from the pictures (see page 3) the interior work is almost done, and it looks great! There was still some time left over for some power shopping. On Sunday we were picked up by Carol and Jeff for breakfast at the Park House Eatery, on Park Bl. We were joined by Jessica, Francie, Margaret, and Bud, and we all enjoyed the great service and food. Afterwards, we went out to see the latest additions to Francie's new salon. After the party broke up Grandma and Grandpa took in their usual Sunday afternoon movie, which ended a perfect day of celebration. In addition to flowers and phone calls, there was one more celebration. On Wednesday Richard treated Grandma and Grandpa to dinner at Seaus restaurant in Mission Valley. As usual, we enjoyed good food and conversation with Rich, Liz, and JJ. Grandma really enjoyed the various celebrations, and thanks all who made them possible. As usual we have some pictures.



# The Riel Family Newsletter

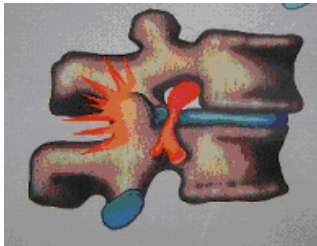
Catch the News

May, 2005

## Grandma gets good report from doctor after latest visit

Grandma had her second check-up visit at the end of March, and her doctor said that she was making exceptional progress. Four weeks after surgery she is far ahead of most patients with similar surgery. His original estimate for playing golf was six months, but he gave her the go ahead to resume play at once. However, he suggested that she use only a seven iron and a putter for her first few rounds. She has played twice since then, and reported only mild stiffness after each round. Her next appointment is on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, and we hope that it will result in more good news.

During the above visit Dr. Manos gave us a more detailed explanation of the surgical procedure he used. It is more readily understood by noting the following photos, taken in the doctor's examination room.

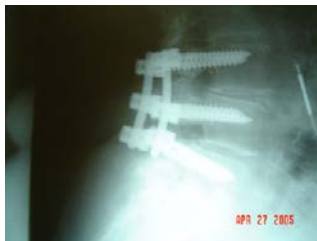


The problem



The solution

The reason Edith was in so much pain prior to surgery was that the lowest vertebra had shifted to the rear and pinched the main nerve which runs down the rear of the spinal column. To correct this problem the surgeon used titanium screws and rods to connect the slipped vertebra to its neighbor, as shown in the second picture, above. In Grandma's case he actually used two rows of three screws each, in order to get the necessary realignment. The following X-rays show how the repair was positioned.



side view



back view

Fortunately, titanium is light, very strong, corrosion resistant, and well tolerated by the body. The repair will, of course, remain in place permanently.



## News from Sr. Mary Kelley in Dubuque, Iowa.

You may recall that in the February RFNL we conferred upon our long time friend, Sr. Mary Kelley, the title of Honorary Innocent bystander. Also, in the April issue we



reported on the handing out of the official Innocent Bystander mug, and the formation of the Riel Troublemakers, handing out mugs so entitled, to each member of the new organization. Francie mailed Sr. Mary her IB mug, and she replied with a thank you letter and recent photo to

Francie, and the following letter to us.

V+J, April 28  
2005  
Dear Edith and Frank,  
Thank you for another  
monthly publication of the RFNL.  
Each one is as worthy of praise as  
the previous issue, and I am  
especially glad to hear you are doing  
well, both. What a family you have!  
They rallied around you in your recovery  
as well as your surgery! You trained  
your girls and boys well. God bless  
you all.  
Love - much of it,  
Sr. M. Paschal

# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

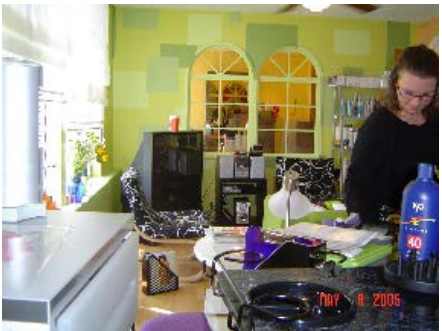
May, 2005

## Bruce and Birdy new home remodeling status – interior almost complete

As we mentioned in the Mother's Day report, after the lunch at the Red Lobster we drove out to the Hartman home to check out the status of the remodeling plan. As you can see from the following photos, the interior is practically complete, and Birdy is happy to be cooking dinner in the kitchen instead of the garage. They have done a great remodeling job, and the only remaining work is in the back yard and front yard.



After the Sunday Mothers Day breakfast we all went out to Francie's new salon to check out progress. As you can see from the pictures, it is looking better every day.



# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

May, 2005

## Jeff celebrates 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday

March 23, 1952 was the important day when Jeff arrived in this world, and Carol and Jeff invited us to join in the celebration of his 53 birthday by joining them for lunch. We ate at one of his favorites, P.F. Chang, in Fashion Valley. We were joined by Jason, and enjoyed great food and a good time. This was a special day for Grandma also, since it was her first restaurant meal since she was released from the hospital. We all wish Jeff a big HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



## Some family news items

Here are a few notes on the comings and goings of the family members – **Ed and Jan** enjoyed a one day hiking vacation at Cuyamaca Park recently. Also, Ed is planning another hiking trip with **Kevin, Chris, Nathan,** and **Tim** in northern California this coming summer. **Carol and Jeff** are in Minnesota to watch **Dustin** play in the National Lacrosse tournament. He is a member of the UCLA team, which won the championship last year. **Francie** reports that she will be having surgery on her thumb, in order to repair an injury that happened many years ago. After the operation she plans on recuperating in Hawaii. **Listy and Bob** have been busy recently looking at factory made homes for

their lot in Julian. They have seen several that they like, and are seriously considering this approach, which is considerably less expensive than a custom built home. In mid June, **Birdy and Michelle** are driving across the country to get Michelle to Worcester, Mass., where she is entering graduate school at the University of Massachusetts. They are driving because Michelle will need her car at school, so Birdy will be coming home by air.

Recently we received the following e-mail from Birdy. Hello to everyone! I just wanted to let you all know that Curtis' graduation from boot camp went off without a hitch and he is now safely sequestered in southern Sierra Vista, Arizona. He's in class now, and he's excited and enjoying himself. So that's good. His new mailing address is as follows:  
Birdy

PFC Curtis Hartman  
6th Platoon  
Echo Company 309th MI Bn.  
Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613

Hey everyone,

Hope you all had a great mother's day and are not too busy with all the end of the year/graduation goings on. I am trying to pick a date for the grand opening of the salon. My schedule is making it very tough!!! I am looking at Saturday, June the 25th, an open house, from about 4-8. Please save the date. it will be right after my hand surgery but I am sure it will work out fine.

Many of you have had fun with the personality test that I have at the salon. Now I have it on my computer for those of you who would like to download it, Thanks Laura, for scanning it for me! I appreciate the time it took!! It is very fun and for those of you who aren't sure, I fit into the yellow category. The part about being overly verbose and analytical should have given that one away! Enjoy, and see you soon at the Final Cut! Francie

## Family give-away, for free

Margaret informed us that since Megan is no longer living at home the vanity item plus mirror that used to be in the upstairs guest bedroom in the Lyndon Road home is surplus. If anyone is interested they should call Margaret, otherwise she will donate it to



a local charity. We only have one photo of it, as shown.

**Late news flash** – We just learned that Curtis has found out that his first military assignment after he finishes special training at Fort Huachuca will be in the Far East, in South Korea. More later!