

To all our family and friends we extend our best wishes for a very  
**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**



**Richard, Liz, JJ, Ed, Jan, Kevin, Chris, Nathan, Tim, Margaret, Bud, Michael, Megan, Francie, Lyle, Brett, Bryce, Alan, Carol, Jeff, Jason, Jessica, Dustin, Robert, Karla, Katy, Brian, Listy, Bob, Kristy, David, Annie, Birdy, Bruce, Craig, Curtis, Michelle, Scott, and all of our friends who share with us the various events which make up the lives of our family!!!**

As reported in this issue of RFNL, Grandpa reached his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 6<sup>th</sup>. That means he has a clear recollection (sort of) from about the late 1920s up to the present. In that eighty year span our country has survived a great depression, three major wars, and experienced phenomenal growth in a whole series of industrial, medical, economic, political, business, and entertainment technologies. In 1925 my father bought his first radio, in 1927 his first auto, electric refrigerator, and electric stove. Throughout these years there were many ups and downs, good times, bad times, good years, bad years. By and large, however, we felt fairly secure against internal or outside forces which might threaten our way of life. Of course, when Pearl Harbor happened there were moments of uneasiness. I can recall newspaper headlines suggesting that a Japanese invasion fleet was approaching the California coast.

However, this threat was humorously countered by someone who commented that "They may be able to get ashore, but they'll never get across highway 101." Eventually, uneasiness faded away, and the population united to the task of defeating our external enemies.

Everything changed, however, on September 11, 2001. Of course, there were prior terrorist incidents throughout the world, but none had the impact of the destruction of the World Trade Center. It seemed almost impossible to believe that such a catastrophe could actually take place in America. Initially, the population was of one mind, and fully supported the invasion of Afghanistan and the hunt for the 9/11 master-mind, bin Laden. The subsequent invasion of Iraq, and the ultimate capture of Saddam Hussein was less popular, especially when the occupation failed to achieve the hoped-for peace and stability anticipated. Today, our nation is more divided than ever before. No past president has been reviled by so many people as President Bush. Although there is general agreement that we must fight the enemy, there is wild disagreement on how to go about that task. Should we stay in Iraq until peace reigns, or should we pull out sooner, and if so, under what circumstances? What constitutes victory? How will we know when it is achieved? Are we more secure while our army is in Iraq, or would we be safer if it leaves? These are hard questions, but they must be addressed.

When Margaret and Bud visited us on December 4<sup>th</sup> (see page 2) we discussed some of the above in great detail. Although we disagreed in some areas, we discovered some areas of agreement. First, we agreed that the war is not winnable in its current form, just as the wars on drugs and crime are not winnable. Second, we agreed that the war on terrorism will be won or lost, not with guns and bombs, but in the classrooms of the Moslem schools. If they continue to turn out suicide bombers, the war will go on indefinitely. However, if we can work with the moderate Moslem community to broadly educate their youth, then they and we can achieve a lasting peace. This should be our goal, one that we must not lose sight of. In the meantime, we must deal with the present situation by treating terrorists as criminals who must be brought to justice.

# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

December, 2005

## RIEL BOWL XV

### Sunday, January 1, 2006 – Alpine

Yes, another year has gone by and it's time once again to get ready to celebrate the New Year's Day for the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, at the home of Bob and Karla. With all of that experience you have you all know what to do when the great day arrives. However, we will be doing some new things this year, and in order to keep everything on track the Honorable Commissioner, Robert, and the Managing Director, Grandpa, have outlined an agenda. (copy attached)

Please note the times listed for the various events, and make sure you are on time and participating in whatever is going on.

As soon as you arrive, please turn in your crossword puzzle (attached) solution to Karla, who will grade each entry and announce the winner(s).

Brett and Bryce have been producing movie style short subject CDs, and they kindly have agreed to show one of their recent productions. In addition, Birdy put together a very professional record of the graduation ceremony when Curtis completed his MI training. We hope you will enjoy both presentations.

After lunch the Jeopardy game will be played. The Commissioner will identify the contestants, and distribute the new rules. The rest of the activities will be as listed, and we hope you all will enjoy this final celebration of the year, and the kick-off of 2006!

### Grandpa celebrates 87<sup>th</sup> birthday

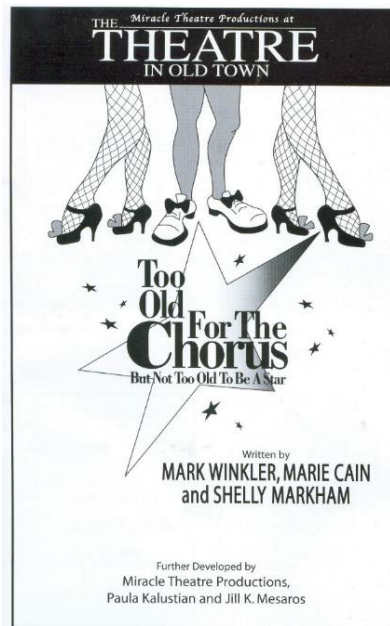
Tuesday, December 6 was the 87<sup>th</sup> year since Grandpa came into this world. The year was 1918, and the place was Cleveland, Ohio. World War I had just ended, but the country was fearful of a severe flu epidemic, which was sweeping the country and world. Fortunately, none of the Riel family members were taken ill, and Frank, Jr. joined his brother James, who was three years older, in a rented home in Cleveland. Frank Sr. was working for the then called National Carbon Company, maker of the Eveready line of dry batteries. National Carbon now is a part a part of Union Carbide Corporation. Soon after Grandpa was born National Carbon opened a new facility in the small town of Fremont, about ninety miles west of Cleveland. The new plant was set up to produce the C battery, a style no longer in use. His father was offered a chance to relocate, and become a foreman in the new production line, and the family left the

big city for a small town in a mostly farming community. There Grandpa started out on a journey that led to college, the army, with service in Iran, where he met Edith, his future wife. After WW II it was marriage, graduate school at Purdue, another tour in the army, and then off to California. After forty years in the Aerospace Industry, it was retirement and a life of leisure in San Diego, so here we are.

There were several celebrations, cards, presents, and phone calls, all much appreciated. On Sunday, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Margaret and Bud came to our home bringing a light dinner (we had already eaten lunch at noon) consisting of turkey soup, sandwiches, salad, and drinks. We got so engrossed in discussions on how to save the world that we forgot to take any pictures. However, we all looked happy and enjoying each others company and we thank Margaret and Bud for a great celebration.

The next celebration was a real treat, provided by Francie,

Lyle, Carol, and Jeff. We enjoyed a great dinner at an Old Town Mexican restaurant, followed by a show at the Old Town Theatre. "Too Old for the Chorus" is a very entertaining musical comedy. It essentially is a spoof on getting old, so it was quite appropriate for the occasion. The five players, three men and two women put on a fine show, enjoyed by all.



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The next celebration took place on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, and was put on by Listy, Birdy, and Ed. We were treated to lunch at Pat & Oscars, and all enjoyed Greek salad, Pizza, and barbequed ribs. Afterwards Listy and Birdy took Mom shopping while Ed and Grandpa did a little home maintenance. It was another nice celebration, and we thank all for the company, phone calls, presents, and good wishes.



## *Another great Thanksgiving Day with the Mehans*

Once again the family gathered at the home of Bud and Margaret for a Thanksgiving party. There was the usual huge turkey, along with something new, broiled salmon cooked on the new outdoor grill. There was lots of food, and everyone enjoyed this annual family get-together.



## **RFNL gift dine out dinner enjoyed with Robert, Karla, and Family**

It was near the end of the year, but we finally got around to enjoying the Riel Bowl 2005 Dine Out gift won by Robert and family. We chose the Red Lobster, and everyone had an enjoyable meal.



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Recently Listy sent us the following picture taken from a City schools newsletter.

## Scenes from Schools

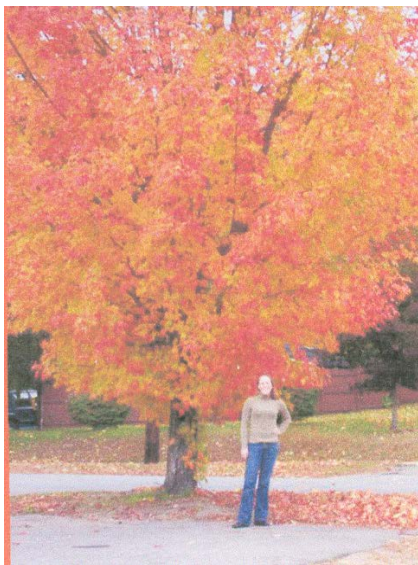
Superintendent Carl Cohn and Board Member Katherine Nakamura visited Serra High School for the fall "Team 8" Serra Cluster Community Meeting. Here, they are joined by the "Team 8" principals. From Left to Right: Susan Levy (Farb), Alan Richmand (Vista Grande), Bethney DeVille (Miller), Dr. Cohn, Katherine Nakamura, Donna Summerville (Serra), L:isty Gillingham (De Portola), Janie Wardlow (Tierrasanta) & Tracy Linyard (Kumeyaay).



Recently we received another communication from Michelle, in Worcester, Mass. It's too long for this RFNL, but we will start, and finish it up later on.

## Fish out of Water

Fall is here everyone...and New England is gorgeous! I have never seen trees bright yellow, red, and purple even! The strangest thing is to look out a window and where green



was - now is a scene of browns, reds, and oranges. It is now late fall, far past the peak of the season. It has been fairly cold. Until last week it has been averaging high 40's. Last week and this week we have been fairly fortunate and have had 50's and low 60F temperatures. However, I have been warned - winter is coming!

My roommate Whitney and I are still in denial that it will actually snow. Two weeks ago there was a little flurry

where it snowed for an hour or two, but it was very wet and did not stick. Since then it's been nothing but sunshine! People warn us about the misery, but so far only truly sad thing is that since the time change, it is dark around 4:30pm. Fortunately, I live in the lab and the library, so I am only affected on weekends and days that I have time for a run.

But it has been so beautiful out that Whitney and I have gotten to ride our bikes more. In Massachusetts, they have

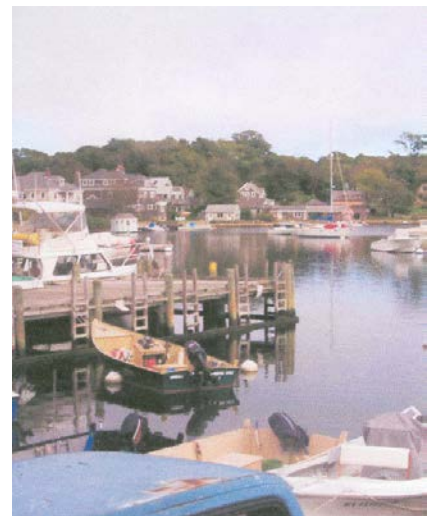


converted old railroad tracks into trails for walking, riding, etc., called rail trails. As you can see, the

railroad tracks are removed, and the road (in some parts) is paved, and there is packed dirt on other parts. These are all over Mass, this one is about 20 minutes away just outside of a neighboring town called Holden. We have yet to try out any other trails, but it may have to wait until spring because the rain is supposed to start up again tomorrow. But it is amazing. The one thing that I have to be thankful for is although I am no longer living in what I consider to be the most beautiful city, I have moved to one of the most unique places on the east coast.

So far I've shown you trees, now to the Cape (as all cool people refer to Cape Cod). I recently was fortunate enough to be forced to go on a research retreat at a famous research institute called Wood's Hole Oceanographic Institute. It is

on the southern-most tip of the Cape. The water that you can see is the body of water known as the Nantucket Sound, and Martha's Vineyard is a short ferry ride across the water. It is amazing! The beach is very different from San Diego. The shore is very small unless, of course,



you own a disgustingly large home on the Cape, with your own dock out to the water, with your own private beach.

To be continued soon.