

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News January, 2006 RFNL 179

RIEL BOWL XV - January 1, 2006

On New Years Day the family gathered again at the home of Bob and Karla for another celebration of the arrival of another year. It's hard to believe that it was the 15th straight year for this celebration. People started arriving shortly after 11:00 am, and by noon the activities started. First off, Brett and Bryce showed off their latest creation, an interesting and funny movie about how the stars (Brett and Bryce) went about attracting (or failing to attract) girls. It was enjoyed by all, as you can see in one of the following pictures. Afterwards, lunch was served, and we all enjoyed the best ever prime rib roasts (2), expertly cooked by Bob and Karla. There were lots of other items, all delicious and plentiful. The next item on the agenda was the annual Jeopardy game, and there was a new set of conditions. First, there were pictures, just as we had last year. However, this year's selection was taken from recent RFNL issues. The problem was to correctly identify the site where the picture was taken. As usual, there were some disagreements on what the correct answer was, and the Commissioner had to make several rulings, with assistance from Grandpa, the author. Several controversial pictures are shown later on, with the correct answer revealed (see page 2). The other new aspect was the use of children as the contestants. Since the five Riel ladies had illegally gotten together at the Bob and Listy cottage in Palomar and jointly solved, almost, the crossword puzzle, the commissioner ruled that they were disqualified from participating in the Game. Instead, each was allowed to designate a child as a replacement. Each team captain was allowed to select any cousin as an assistant. The game was hotly contested, and the winning team was the Benesch family, Jason and Dustin. As you can see in one of the following photos, they were thrilled to win the \$100 prize. Next came the handing out of presents, enjoyed by all. The white elephant exchange was next, and there was the usual trading and stealing. The RFNL dine out certificates ended up with Margaret/Bud and Francie/Lyle. The final activity was the celebration of Grandmas 81st birthday. She was thrilled to get some nice presents, and thanks everyone who helped make this a great celebration. Finally, the party ended, and all went home wishing a great new year to everyone. Most of all, we thank Karla and Robert for hosting this great party!!! We hope you enjoy the following pictures.



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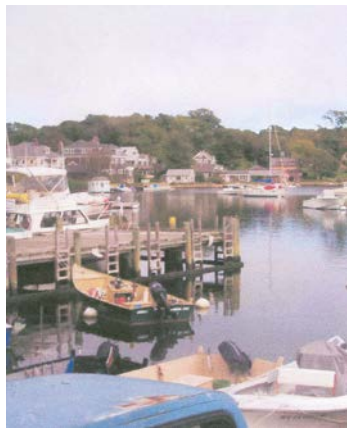
Some Jeopardy game answers

As we mentioned on page 1, there were some answers that were never given, or were questioned for accuracy. As we have frequently stated, the motto of the RFNL defines our position, name, "We not always be right, but we are never wrong" Here are some answers and clarifications.

The attached picture defines the correct answer for the place where the picture was taken. Since the answer appears in the original picture shown in the July, 2005 RFNL, we cropped out the upper sign. Another picture in question was the following one, which



appeared in the December RFNL, page 4. Opposite the picture was the following comment. "...



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,..." The following picture, which appeared in the August, 2004 RFNL, stumped everyone, but the

answer is clearly shown by the following headline.

Listy and Birdy do Boston



The following two pictures appeared together on the front page of the July, 2005 RFNL. The one on the right was the



one used in the game, and it should be obvious from the two pictures that the correct answer for the one on the right is "Central Park". We hope this clears up any confusion regarding how to properly answer these types of questions. The key to how specific the answer must be is how much is shown or told in the particular RFNL.

Christmas in San Diego, 2005

As usual, Christmas time was the occasion for many celebrations, and 2005 was no exception. The first one was on December 16th, when we were invited by Rich and Liz to attend the Citadel alumni Christmas party, held at Miramar Officers Club. For those who are not aware, both Grandpa and Richard are Citadel graduates, and Richard has become



very active in the San Diego chapter. We enjoyed a buffet dinner, and the chance to meet some of the members.



After the food and drinks Richard put on his regular Karaoke show. Several of the members, including Grandpa, joined Richard in song, and a great evening

was had by all. It was lots of fun, and we thank Richard and Liz for a pleasant evening.

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soups, and drinks were everywhere. It was a great party, enjoyed by all. As usual, the pictures tell the story.

On Christmas Eve we joined Francie, Brett, Bryce, Richard, Liz, and JJ at the 4:00 p.m. mass for children, at St. Columba. Afterwards, Francie entertained Grandma and Grandpa for dinner, and we had our first chance to really see and enjoy the new facility, without the big crowds at the open house. They have done a truly fantastic job of creating an indoor/outdoor party place, complete with lots of flowers, tables, a large outdoor fireplace, and plenty of flowers and shrubs.

The next event, on the 18th, was the open house party at



Francie's. As we have reported in the past, Francie and Lyle have been much involved in an extensive home remodeling project, both interior and



outside. The job finally is done, and a big party was planned to celebrate the many new features in their home. We arrived a little late, and were surprised

to see a very large crowd enjoying fantastic spreads of food and drinks. In addition to the usual chips and drinks there was lots of other goodies, including huge platters of shrimp.



In another area there were three kinds of delicious hot



Finally, there was Christmas day with Bruce and Birdie. We arrived around noon, and were happy to see and talk to the Hartman family members. We all enjoyed a delicious meal, roast ham plus lots of other good food and drinks. We were especially pleased to talk to Michelle, back from U. of Mass. for the holidays, and Bruce's mom, Nataline.



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News from Curtis in Korea

Birdy sent us a copy of a December letter from Curtis, which we want to share with RFNL readers, as follows.

Hi Mom, I just got my large package, I haven't opened it yet but I am very excited to do so. How is everything back at the house? Here we are still very busy. We just had a big command inspection last week so things are winding down from that. Command inspection is a big stupid thing where the Battalion Command Sergeant Major comes down from Seoul and inspects where we work and where we live. We also did a Class A uniform inspection. I did ok on both, not a real problem. Work is busy, busy, we are getting ready for winter rush. Winter Rush is when North Korea conducts their annual training exercise along the DMZ and starts messing with their artillery trajectories, which make all of our radars go crazy. Basically the theory is North Korea masses the army along the border every winter and act like they are going to invade, and maybe some year they actually will. So things will be very tense along the DMZ soon. Also coming up is the lunar new year, which is a big deal for Koreans, so we will be going out to meet with a lot of people for that. We are on a day on, day off schedule because of Christmas and the new years. I am working on a threat and vulnerability assessment of the bars in Gumi, a nearby town where US soldiers go to drink often. So that is everything going on here in Korea. Ill talk to you guys later. I miss you all. Tell everyone I said hi.
Curtis



of action and flourishes by our chef. Meanwhile, we looked on while enjoying drinks and some snacks. It was a different type of dining experience, and lots of fun, as you can see from the following pictures.



Thanks, Birdy and Curtis for this latest report from Korea. Don't forget that Curtis will be home in February for a visit, and we all will be looking forward to seeing him.

RFNL Dine out celebrated at Shogun restaurant

The second RFNL dine out certificate at Riel Bowl XIV was won by Francie and Lyle, and just in time was used at the Shogun Japanese restaurant. If you never have dined at a restaurant of this type, it is some experience. A group of diners are seated on three sides of a large flat plate cooking surface. Along with Bret and Bryce we watched as the chef prepared the items ordered from the menu. Rice, mixed vegetables, shrimp, lobster, and steak were cooked with lots

