



Grandma and Grandpa celebrate 60th anniversary!

Family arranges special San Diego Zoo tour, followed by party at Hartman's

December the 28th was a special day for Grandma and Grandpa, in that it marked the 60th year of married life. Yes, on December 28th, 1946 a wedding took place in Fremont, Ohio, and Frank and Edith became man and wife. After the reception the happy couple set out for Toledo, a trip of about 30 miles, to catch a plane for Miami Beach. We were driven by my best man, Jim Smith who left us at the airport just as a snowstorm settled in. The plane was scheduled to leave at about 5:00 p.m. but to our disappointment was delayed due to the storm. Finally, at about midnight we took off. When we got to our hotel at Miami Beach

we were told that our reservation had been cancelled. They had sent us a telegram, which was never delivered. They allowed us to use the bridal suite for the rest of the night, and arranged other accommodations for the rest of the time. The weather was fine in Florida, but we returned to Chicago in freezing and windy weather. Sixty years later we were enjoying life in San Diego. Since the 50th celebration was an elaborate one, we requested that the 60th be a simple family affair.



Since our children had all enjoyed many zoo trips when they were young, they decided to relive those experiences by a San Diego Zoo visit. For this one, however, they arranged a special tour, with a private bus, our own tour guide, and some special behind the scenes visits. Afterwards, we all set out for the Hartman home for food, fun, and drinks. As usual, Birdy and Bruce had a delicious selection of foods, and we all enjoyed the rest of the celebration. As usual, we have lots of pictures.



It was a great anniversary party, and Mom and Dad thank all who made all of the necessary arrangements. The brown bag lunches, the peanut butter (with butter) sandwiches, chips, and fruit were great, and we were able to eat them during the bus tour. The last item at the zoo was a series of pictures taken with Mom and Dad plus each family. A **big thanks** to all!!!

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

January, 2007

Riel Bowl XVI

The 16th annual Riel Bowl celebration took place on schedule, at the home of Karla and Bob. The family began to gather by eleven, and by noon the party was in full swing. The first formal item was the identification of the winner of the cross word puzzle contest. Listy and Birdy tied for first and Margaret came in second. Next was the showing of Birdy's latest CD show, the 60th anniversary party. She did an outstanding job of recording everything from the bus trip to feeding the giraffes and camels to picture taking at the end of the zoo trip and the party at her house.

The next event was lunch, and Bob and Karla had prepared the best prime rib roast ever. Also on the menu were string beans cooked with Feta cheese, baked mashed potatoes, and lots of fresh vegetables.

The next event was the Jeopardy game, and five teams, consisting of all grandchildren, competed. All of the questions involved identifying places visited by various family members, either locally or world wide. We experienced a slight glitch in that the projector bulb burnt out, so it was necessary to use a hand held screen to display the pictures. The winning team was Brett, Chris and Nathan.

The rest of the afternoon was used up with gift exchanges, and the White Elephant exchange. The winners of the RFNL Dine Out certificate were Richard/Liz and Robert/Karla, and we look forward to seeing them soon.

Finally, we celebrated Grandma's 82nd birthday, with a cake and many wishes for many more years. It was a great party, and we all thank Karla and Bob for opening up their home and preparing the food.



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George Spindler Award For Career Achievement

November 2006

Council of Anthropology and Education

The 2006 Spindler recipient: **Dr. Hugh (Bud) Mehan**



The 2006 recipient of the George Spindler Award for career excellence, Bud Mehan has an outstanding record of teaching, research and service. He has published 11 books or edited collections, and more than 80 scholarly articles, book chapters or occasional papers. He has received multiple teaching awards, twenty grants or fellowships, and has served on a dozen educational research

journal review boards. From 1990-1994, he served as Vice-President and then President of the Council on Anthropology and Education. Beyond the traditional markers of excellence, however, what most impressed the Committee was that even as he has earned his standing as an internationally known and respected scholar, he has been firmly grounded in the life and work of local communities and schools. Since 1999 he has served as the director of CREATE, The Center for Research on Educational Equity, Assessment, and Teaching Excellence. Under his direction, CREATE has formed collaborations between the University of California-San Diego and local elementary and secondary schools, conducted impact-oriented research on improving educational opportunities for underserved students, and offered teacher education and professional development. Most impressively, under Mehan's direction, CREATE has opened and shepherds the highly successful Preuss School, a 700 student school that serves students, grades 6-12, who will be the first of their families to attend college. The Spindler award recognizes achievement as a researcher or practitioner. In Bud Mehan's case, he successfully brings together research, practice and program building to 1) add new knowledge to the field of educational anthropology, 2) concretely affect the practices of teachers, 3) add to the intellectual resources available to local communities and schools, and most importantly, 4) positively impact the academic lives of individual students. To wit, we can think of no better recipient for the 2006 award than Bud Mehan.

The award was presented at the annual meeting of the American Anthropology Association, which took place recently in San Jose. The above article was written by Margaret, based on the award presentation address. We certainly congratulate Bud on this important award in further recognition of his many contributions to the field of educational anthropology.

Francie, Lyle, Brett, and Friend enjoy RFNL dine out dinner at Shogun's

Margaret and Frankie were dining out certificate winners at



the Riel Bowl XV white elephant gift exchange. Margaret and Bud joined us in June, and Francie and family were treated in October. We dined once again at the popular Shogun Japanese

restaurant, and enjoyed very much the food and unique service. We always look forward to these special events and the chance to visit with family members.

Some news from Aunt Isa in Athens

Recently we received a nice letter from Grandma's sister-in-law, Isa Merica. You will recall that her youngest son, Michael Merica, and his family live in Vista. Their Christmas card picture is reproduced on page 4.

3/12/06

Dear Frank,
Thank you, so much for your regular newsletter and update on your beautiful family, which is so close to each other. Rather rarely seen these days - God Bless you all.
Your last letter, received a few days ago was filled with nice poems on the occasion of Kristy and Seamus' engagements. My heartfelt congratulations to them. Since we are on poems, I thought of sending you one funny, but also sad one I sent to me by a very dear and old friend. She used to come regularly every year from England to visit me for a month in summer, and we had lovely trips, visiting places, and used to have jolly and pleasant times. She was so full of life, always joking and making fun of old age - then she started losing her memory and sent me this joke most company herself. However;

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lovely. I hear that she had completely lost her mind, and was put in a nursing home. Dudeck, life, sometimes plays it's tricks on some of us. Hope you have a wonderful Christmas with the family. I wonder how you will all fit in any of your houses. Is there anyone to have a big house enough to fit in all of you guys? anyway, have fun and enjoy the holidays. I trust that David is O.K. and nothing serious has been the cause of all his troubles. We are doing well. Young folk growing fast, old folk growing old even. Foster! But we all end up here. anyway, enjoy the poem with love to each and all of you with a special hug to Margaret, Dad, and your adorable children
Isabel

O GOD I MISS MY MIND

Just a line to say I'm living, that I'm not amongst the dead
Though I'm getting more forgetful, and mixed up in my head.

I've used to my arthritis, to my dentures I'm resigned.
I can manage my bi-focals but O God I miss my mind.

Sometimes I can't remember when I'm standing by the stairs
If I should go up for something or just come down from there.

Before the fridge so often my mind is filled with doubt.
Now did I put some food away or come to take it out.

And sometimes when it's night time, with my hair net on my head,
I'm not sure if I'm retiring or getting out of bed.

If it's not my turn to write, dear, I hope you won't get sore.
I may think that I have written, and don't want to be a bore.

So remember I do love you and wished that you lived near:
But now it's time to post this and say "good bye, my dear".

At last I'm by the post box and my face has sure gone red:
Instead of posting this to you, I've opened it instead.

Birdy featured in Parker hand out

Recently, Birdy gave a copy of an information sheet published by the Francis Parker School. It features Birdy plus two other teachers, and includes brief comments by each, along with pictures.

*"Teaching in Senior Kindergarten has never been so much fun!
We used our grant money to buy Smartboards and the impact on our program has been tremendous. Children are learning to read and write in a classroom that utilizes technology with visual teaching techniques rarely seen in an elementary school. It is an exciting time to be a teacher at our level. Thank you!"*
— Birdy Hartman, Kindergarten Teacher

The poem on old age (O, God, I Miss My Mind) Isa mentions is very clever, and we print it in the next column. Here's the Vista Mericas.

