

Kristy's wedding shower

Dad, Birdy said you wanted a report from Kristy's family shower. Listy

We all had a great time getting the Gillinghams, Riels, and Keiths all together. Bruce was the chef and served a grand meal with Birdy as his back up. Annie made the desserts and was in charge of the entertainment. She organized a couple of "shower" games which were fun and a great way to break the ice. One game was to guess the number of questions Kristy could answer correctly from a survey given to Seamus earlier. Out of the 25 questions she got 23 right answers. Here are a few samples questions



she shared with us: *What is your favorite color?* Blue *When is your birthday?* July 22nd *What are your mom and dad's names?* Tom and Jamie: *What color are your eyes?* Brown *What is your favorite letter of the alphabet?* K for Kristy! *If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?* Anywhere with Kristy!! But if I had a choice of anywhere, it would be a place where we could be a short driving distance to both families. Like, if there was a town 20 minutes away

from Sonoma and 20 minutes away from San Diego, I would move there in a heartbeat! That would be the perfect place to live! *If you wore lip-gloss, what flavor would it be?* I am not condoning that type of behavior! *When is your wedding date? (no cheating)* What? There's a wedding? But we already eloped?? Cool...let's party! August 4th is open on my calendar! *What is Kristy's favorite food?* Ice Cream! I found this out very quickly!! *When and where did you and Kristy meet?* Initially, walking down the center way at USD during lunch time. We both got eye contact and for some reason both felt the urge to say hi as we recognized each other from across the way! I could not

place where I knew her from though! Then about 10 minutes later we both ended up in the USD Deli sitting alone. After one of my buddies I played rugby with started talking to her, I came over, created small talk with him, then her, and then asked how I knew her. She said she was Jen's roommate (who was a girlfriend of one of the guys I played Rugby with) which all made sense! The rugby team was hosting a "slosh ball tournament" the next day which I invited



her to! She actually showed up after work at CPK and we hit it off from there!! In a "courageous state" I asked her if she wanted to go to Church the next day with me and that leads into your next question!! *Where was your first date with Kristy?* I picked Kristy up in the Vista's to go to Church as I suggested the night before (which she didn't think I was even going to call her after I told her I would from the previous night!!) at USD's Founders Chapel. After church I asked the most promising question which I did not know I was doing at the time... *"So, do you like ICE CREAM!"* Little did I know this was her passion food and I quickly noticed with her expression and response of "YES! I love Ice Cream!!!" We got ice cream in PB at Cold Stone, and then walked around the bay. I learned later that Kristy was freezing but did not show it at all!! (I didn't know about her 60 degree resting body temperature at this point!) We stopped at The Catamaran Resort Piano Bar where I not only convinced the bar tender to let 19 year old Kristy in to hang out, but also to let me play a song on the Piano! The song was "Faithfully" by Journey...little did I know I would be "Forever hers, Faithfully" 3 1/2 years later!! *How did you propose?* Well, this is a story!! So, for a present I told Kristy I would take her to Lake Tahoe in the summertime. At this point (January time frame), this was purely a vacation with no proposal in mind. Kristy and I had talked about getting married before and knew we wanted to, but I was always like "yeah, maybe in a year or two after we both have jobs and all". With Kristy's response to that comment, it was very clear that Kristy did not want to wait that long!! From then on, she bugged me every time she had a couple drinks in her...point blank she would ask *"So when are you going to propose to me?"* I distinctly remember the day that May where I woke up one morning and



thought... Man, maybe she is right, this summer is a perfect time to propose!! Who cares about jobs, money, security...then it hit me...I should propose to Kristy in Tahoe in July!! So I internalized this thought for about 2 months not telling a soul about my plan. Then I revealed it...my first witness' were my parents who came down for a Triathlon I did in June. I told them at Café Coyote in Old Town!! They were really excited...I think a little surprised, but excited.

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Catch the News

June, 2007

So then jumping to the big day (there was a lot that happened in between



that day in June and the proposal such as buying the ring, asking Bob and Listy's permission, nervousness!! But believe it or not, I'm trying to practice brevity here so I'll skip to the big day!! Oh! - The plan was a bar-b-q on the lake, and then propose on a dock overlooking the lake at Sunset. Seemed simple right?!! Well, we got down to the lake and I had it all timed from the night before where Mom, Dad, and I figured out the best time while Kristy went to the restroom...8:15 is was! So we got down there and I started the "Instalight" coals...yeah, on that note the engineer who created these should be fired!! They would not light for the

life of me!! It was a race against time!! At one point I even said "well, it may just be salad for dinner"! I was not saying a word, just nervously sipping my beer every 5 seconds and constantly looking at the coals!! Fortunately after an entire bottle of lighter fluid, I finally got the chicken cooked, well fried is probably the better term!!



Knowing I was already behind schedule, I ate my dinner in about 30 seconds; meanwhile "Casual Kristy" is 1/2 a bite into hers!! So I sat there patiently until she finished!! After dinner, knowing that the R & R (Rose and Ring) were up in the car, I said "I'm going to run to the bathroom". Kristy immediately fires back with "oh, so do I, lets go!" What!???? I thought...she can't do that!! So I quickly came back with "well we have a lot of stuff down here which I don't want stolen so how about you go, I'll watch the stuff, then I'll go" (cuz Tahoe crime rate is the highest in

the nation and our Rubbermaid cooler is pretty valuable!!) Regardless she bought it!! She went, came back, and then I said, "Why don't you take there when I get back!" At this point the dock was empty... "Perfect!!" I thought! "This is going to be AWESOME!" So I ran up to the car,



grabbed the R&R, put the ring in my pocket and tucked the rose into the back of my pants, under my shirt, and came down the hill to the lake. As I came around the corner, so excited and nervous, I see Kristy standing out at the end of the dock, with

a blanket laid neatly down, holding her glass of wine, surrounded by 12 kids doing cannon balls off the dock into the lake!! "NO WAY!!" So I walked out to her and said, as we were getting splashed by the kids, "Well, let's move a little closer in toward the shore". Because I had the



rose tucked into the back of my pants, I grabbed the blanket and proceeded to backpedal on the dock closer to the shore!! God, I must have looked awkward!! So, we finally sat

down, I pulled out the Rose and said "let's play a little game! It's called why I love Kristy?" So, for every petal of the rose I picked off, I told

Kristy a reason why I loved her, then threw it into the lake." I know romantic huh!! And YES, I got through the entire rose!! On the last petal I asked her to stand up, I got down on a knee, and



said "I love you and I want to spend the rest of my life with you!" I threw the last petal into the lake, pulled out the ring and asked "Kristy, will you



Marry Me?" She fired back with "YES, SEAMUS, YES!" I then took the biggest breath I had taken in about 3 months!! The proposal was over, she said yes! *When did you first meet the*

Gillinghams? I first met Bob and Listy after a couple weeks Kristy and I had been dating. We met them for dinner at a Pizza place they liked. I remember being nervous, especially knowing Bob had his PhD and that

they both were principals!! I didn't know whether to call Bob Dr. Gillingham or Mr. Gillingham, or just Bob. I think I ended up just called him Bob. They were awesome!! Very nice, laid back, and easy to get along with...and still are!! I



can't specifically remember when I met David or Annie, but I believe it was at Bob and Listy's house for dinner with a bunch of Kristy's friends the Gillinghams hadn't met before...it was perfect...bring more "new" people into the mix to distract from "the new boyfriend!" Perfectly planned! *What do you think was Kristy's favorite present from you?* Duh... her Engagement Ring! If she says anything else I'm going to cry!! *What is your favorite present from Kristy?* ...everyday is a gift being with Kristy!! Actual most favorite present...Tickets to see Elton John in Vegas!

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News from Curtis in South Korea

We received the following recently from Birdy.

Hi Dad - I thought you would enjoy this letter from Curtis. love Birdy

Sorry I have been out of touch. I got pulled away from my office for the last couple days and I have been working on some very fun and exciting projects. I really can't say any more than that (I know that sounds really cheesy but I swear it's true) but it has been long hours and living in a hotel. I wanted to wish you a happy birthday and let you know that you are in my thoughts. I really miss you guys. It is midnight now and I just got off of work. I have to be up and about in six hours so I am going to keep this one brief. I love you guys very much. I hope that you are doing something fun with Dad for your birthday. I know that these times are the hardest with the family scattered to the four winds as the case is. But we all love you and miss being at home. Lord knows that I miss it. Please drop me a line to let me know what is up. Also I would like to know what the plan is for me coming out for Kristy's wedding. My leave dates are July 23 to August 7. So that will give me plenty of time to visit. Although my guess is that by the end it will pass all too quickly. If I don't get the chance because I am away from a computer, Dad: happy birthday to you too. Hopefully I will be able to send you your own e-mail, but we will see what tomorrow brings. Take care, you guys. I know that school is ending soon so Mom will get her fun packed summer. Love you both and miss you tons. Curtis

News from Andy in Iraq

Eloise recently sent us the following letter from Andy,

Dear Friends,

Well, Happy Memorial Day!! Up until Monday, I believe that I had taken Memorial Day for granted, just like many Americans do every year. However, this year, Memorial Day has a new meaning for me. Two of my fellow paratroopers have gone back to the states ahead of their scheduled time, both due to injuries that will affect them for the rest of their lives. However, I do have to thank God that more of my troops have not been injured. My unit has been hit by dozens of IEDs and had small arms fire hit the patrols numerous times. It has only been by God's own hand that we have not suffered a loss.

I would like to thank all of you for your thoughts and prayers, your letters and emails, your packages and your gifts. Many of you have started sending freezer pops and those simple little sugar filled tubes are going out to the troops like crazy. I can easily give out fifty freezer pops in under an hour.

On a different note, I have had the honor and privilege of being with three people as they either talked to God for the first time or talked with God for the first time in many years. My counseling load has gone up over the past two weeks. Many of my paratroopers are suffering because of past mistakes, either in their own personal life or in their marriages. Two people have found out this week that their spouse is seeking a divorce for multiple reasons.

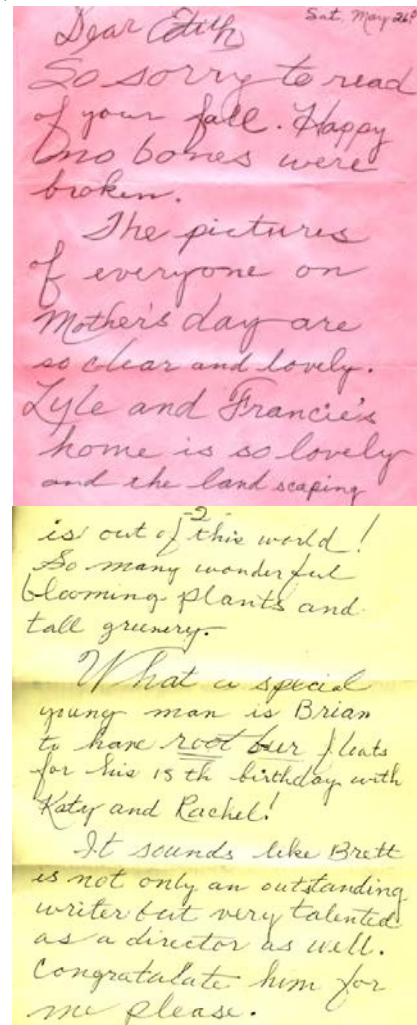
I have several prayer requests today. I would ask that you be with Heidi and with Amy as they deal with issues from their past that they are finally able to deal with. I would ask that you be with Michael as he struggles with the knowledge that his wife is seeking a divorce. I would also ask that you remember all the spouses and families who soldiers are away from them. In some ways, it is easier for the soldiers to be away because we eat when we want, sleep when we want and basically make all our own choices. Our spouses and families back home do not have that freedom. They must continue to change the messy diapers, pay the bills, do the shopping, fix the leaky faucets and so on and so forth.

Again thank you for all that you have done and thank you for continuing to care for my troops.

Peace
CH Andy Nix
andrew.nix@us.army.mil

News from Dubuque, Iowa

Recently we received the following letter from Sr. Mary Pascal. She is over 90 years old, and keeps in touch regularly, as follows



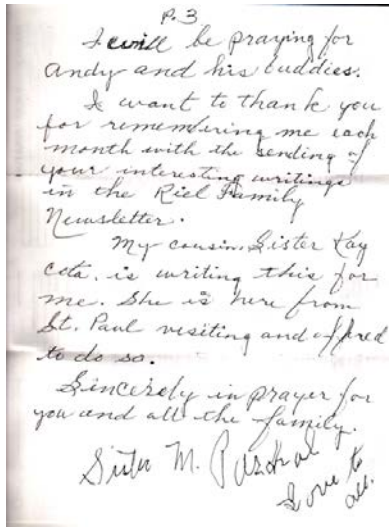
Dear Curtis
So sorry to read
of your fall. Happy
no bones were
broken.
The pictures
of everyone on
Mother's day are
so clear and lovely.
Lyle and Francie's
home is so lovely
and the land scaping
is out of ²this world!
So many wonderful
blooming plants and
tall greenery.
What a special
young man is Brian
to have root beer plants
for his 15th birthday with
Katy and Rachel!
It sounds like Brett
is not only an outstanding
writer but very talented
as a director as well.
Congratulate him for
me please.

(continued on page 4)

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Dustin graduates and finishes lacrosse career from UC Santa Barbara

We have from Jeff a report on Dustin's last Lacrosse games at UCSB, along with the various awards he accumulated. We also include his graduation invitation.

Dustin's collegiate lacrosse career ended recently with a flourish. He garnered several post-season honors and added a 3rd place finish in the National Tournament in Dallas to a very successful season for the UCSB Gauchos. This was the 2nd straight year the Gauchos lost in the semi-finals, this time to a very talented BYU team that easily won the national title the next day. In his 4 years at UCSB, Dustin was part of 2 National Championships and 2 3rd place finishes. This is out of a National Lacrosse Organization of nearly 200 colleges. Dustin was named by the coaches as the Most Valuable Player of the team at the awards BBQ one week ago. He led all mid-fielders in scoring with over 25 goals and 7 assists for his Senior year. 2 weeks earlier, near Walnut Creek, CA., Dustin led the team to the WCLL (Regional) Championship for the 3rd time in 4 years, with Dustin being named the most valuable offensive player of the final game, a 7-5 victory over the Univ. of Arizona. Previously, the Gauchos beat ASU and UC Berkeley in the games leading up to the Championship. Dustin garnered 3rd team All League consideration for his overall play in the WCLL, and recently was named Honorable Mention All America for National Honors. There were only 9 middies named ahead of Dustin on the National Award list. In the preliminary

games at the National Tournament, which Jeff and Carol attended for the 4th straight year, UCSB beat the University of Georgia handily in the first, and then bested Northeastern University of Boston, 8-7 in overtime. In what some have called the best game of the entire 16 team tournament, the Gauchos got out to a big lead, only to see the New Englanders storm back to forge a tie in regulation play. Dusty's team then scored suddenly in the first couple minutes of overtime to grab the win. UCSB drew BYU, the top ranked team in the country, in the Friday night semi-final game. After a see-saw first half, the Gauchos ran out of gas, losing to the deeper BYU squad, 12-8. The game was especially fun for the fans and players because it was played in a new 22,000 seat stadium called Pizza Hut Park just North of Dallas, the home of the professional Texas soccer team, FC Dallas. The turf was immaculate; there was a big screen which showed replays of the better plays, there was radio play-by-play, and a professional announcer. Dustin played a lot in the game, scored a goal in the 3rd quarter, and was featured several times on the big scoreboard. Carol took a couple of pictures of Dusty on the big screen which are included with this article. Jason listened to the broadcast at home on the internet, and said that Dustin was mentioned repeatedly as a real battler, with the announcer mentioning his number, 45, being Rudy's number from the movie of the same name. He said Dusty played like Rudy, always trying, even when out-manned by the fresher Cougars. (The announcers couldn't have known that Dusty started wearing #45 when in high school, because his teammates on the football team called him Rudy.) I am happy to report that Carol and I both flew standby to and from all as with no problems (thank you Jessica), except that in order to get home on Saturday afternoon, we had to fly to LA, rent a car, and drive down to San Diego in heavy traffic. Now that all of our children have finished their organized athlete careers, after 20 years of watching one sport or another, from soccer to cheerleading to lacrosse, I don't know what we'll do with our weekends. There's always flying to exotic places, I suppose.

Jeff

Dixie Martinson, long time secretary at St. Vincent School, dies

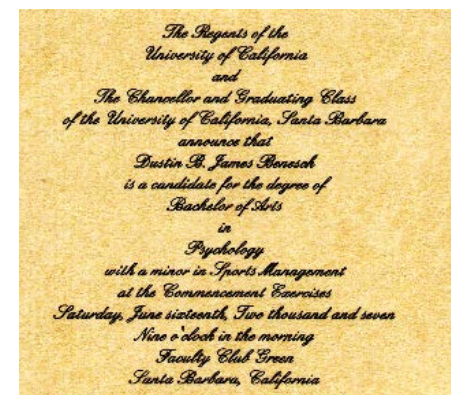
It is with sorrow that we report the passing of one of the most long time and faithful parishioners at St Vincent Parish, Dixie Martinson. She married Glen Martinson in 1940, and they had three children, Jerry, Barry, and Glen. Tragically, her husband died from cancer, only three months before Glen was born. Dixie carried on courageously, raising her family while working as

a secretary. Both Jerry and Barry became priests, and for many years have been stationed in the Far East. Jerry operates a parish in Taiwan. At age 50 Dixie became the first full time school secretary, a job she held for 20 years. She and Grandma were close friends, and enjoyed many bridge



games. Jerry and Barry both visit St. Vincent frequently, and we enjoy stories about their experiences in the Far East.

Congratulations, Dustin, and good luck in the future!!!!



The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

June, 2007

Family well represented in San Diego Rock&Roll Marathon

June 3, 2007 was the 10th anniversary of this now famous sporting event, and it attracted a large crowd of amateur and professional marathon runners. The Riel family was well represented, with three participants, Bob Gillingham, wife Listy, and Carol Benesch. As we have in the past, Grandpa got up early enough to walk down the hill to Friars road to see our runners go by. That location is the half way point, so Bob came by first, with Listy soon after, and then Carol. Birdy came over to join us in the watch, and Jeff arrived by bicycle in time to be with us when Carol went by. The day happened to be a special one, since it was the twins birthday, so Birdy brought along a happy birthday balloon, and Listy wore a happy birthday shirt. We got good pictures of Listy and Carol, but we couldn't get any close-ups of Bob. Listy was one of a small group of participants who have been in all 10 of the events, and they had a special ceremony prior to the race. It was a fun day for all.



We certainly congratulate all three for successfully participating in this grueling contest!

Some Family news items

Grandma and Grandpa were invited by **Margaret** to have lunch in La Jolla with two of her friends. We took the Amtrak Coaster to Solano Beach, where we were met by Margaret. We dined at a nice condo where the mother (Shirley Cooper) of Margaret's friend lives in a very nice beach front condominium. Afterwards we set out for the Viejas Casino, for a little serious slot machine activity. We were dropped off at the Old Town Transit center, where our car was parked. It was a fun day, and we thank Margaret for inviting us. **Francie** and **Lyle** just returned from Jamaica, where they enjoyed a relaxing vacation. You saw the news on **Dustin's** graduation (above). **Carol** and **Jeff** will be hosting a party soon in his honor. **Robert** and **Karla** have left home for a three week motor home tour, heading north to the boarder, then east to the Mid-west to visit Karla's father, and then back to San Diego.

Annie is back in town, enjoying a summer vacation from college. In the fall she will be leaving for Spain, where she will be spending a year at a local university, brushing up on her Spanish, and other things. Invitations are out on the big wedding of **Kristy** and **Seamus** in early August. It won't be long now!

Brian graduates from Granite Hills H.S. – plans future

June the 8th was a big day for Brian; graduation from high school. We were not able to be there, and the family took off the next morning for a three week vacation(see above) so we were not able to get a first hand story. We hope to get a full story later on. However, a couple of months ago we received the following good news note from Brian.

Hey Grandpa,

I would like to inform you that my many hard years at Granite Hills High School have finally paid off. I was accepted to SDSU!! I applied in late November and wasn't expecting a response back until late March, like they said.



However, just a week ago a small letter came in the mail from SDSU and from the admissions office. I got a little scared because you only get a small letter when you get turned down. I opened it and to my surprise I found I was admitted to SDSU for the fall of 2007. I plan on graduating in 2011. I plan on getting my major in Biology so i can become a Biology teacher in high

school, or getting my major in medicine so i can become a Pharmacist. I'm unsure of which to choose from, maybe both over time. We will just have to see what happens these next few years. I'm also thinking about in my junior

year or senior year studying abroad in Australia! I have always wanted to visit Australia, and now I might have the chance to study there! I'm looking forward to the next school year and I can't wait!!

Brian- Congratulations- way to go Brian – We wish you the very best for the future!

*The Senior Class
of
Granite Hills High School
announces its
Commencement Exercises
Friday morning, June eighth
Two Thousand Seven
nine o'clock
Granite Hills Stadium*

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June, 2007

Some more news on Brian's college plans

We learned just now that Brian has revised his plans for college, and will start out at SDSU rather than UCSD. He may switch to UCSD later on. In any case, he is considering both pharmacy and biology as majors, with both industry and teaching as career choices.

Father's Day celebration with daughters

Sunday, June 17th was the day, and Grandpa, along with the five sons-in-law, were treated by the five Riel Ladies to a sumptuous meal expertly cooked by Lyle. The menu was



patterned after a Mongolian Buffet, that is, each diner selected his own combination of meats and vegetables for a Shis Kabob lunch. Entrée selection choices included chicken, fish, and

beef options, along with red and green bell peppers, onions, and tomatoes. Lyle expertly broiled each selection for each of the guests. Of course, prior to the main course we enjoyed lots of drinks and snacks: chips, dips, and assorted veggies. After everyone had enjoyed the food we were treated to a new and very popular pastime, back yard bocce ball. In this somewhat loosely organized version of the game two teams, red and black, compete. Each team has four balls, about the size of a grapefruit, but as hard as bowling balls. A small white ball, called a marker, is tossed out to anywhere within the lawn area. The game is something like shuffle board, in that the object is to toss the balls as close to the marker as possible. Needless to say, there was much controversy regarding which side had a winning position, involving feet, odd pieces of string and hand span as measuring devices.



Grandpa enjoyed most of all the presents and good wishes expressed by all. It was one of the nicest parties we have ever attended, and we thank everyone, especially Francie and Lyle for all the trouble they took to make it special treat for all.

