



## Robert and Karla tour America – Karla slightly injured in car accident

Hi Dad,

Well, the 2007 Riel vacation was a success with one minor and one almost major complication (more on that later). On Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup> we set out for our three week vacation (yes three weeks)! We started out by a quick trip through Las Vegas then north through the back roads of Nevada. We saw the Bonneville Salt Flats then were heading north to Utah when the thermostat on the RV went out. We ended up staying in Wells, Nevada for a day and a half waiting on the part, but by noon then next day we were on our way.



We wended our way up the scenic routes over the Saw Tooth Mountains until we got to Glacier National Park. We stayed there for a few days hiking and seeing the sights. Then off across US

highway 2 towards the great lakes. As it turns out the day we lost in Nevada saved us from hitting the strong storms that were running across the northern part of the country. When we stopped in North Dakota for the night we were advised of a severe thunderstorm warning with 3" hail and winds up to 60 MPH! Fortunately, it was to the south of us, and we just had a nice lighting storm.

We spent a few days in the great lakes region visiting: Voyager National Park in Minnesota, the Lake Superior shoreline, Glenshore Mansion, various lakes and rivers in Wisconsin, the headwaters to both the Missouri and Mississippi rivers and yes, we went to the Mall of America.

From there we headed south to the Kansas City Airport to pick up Katy and then on to Karla's dad's house in Drexel Mo. Karla's sister Paula and her family had also flown out for the weekend, so it was a good start to a big family reunion.

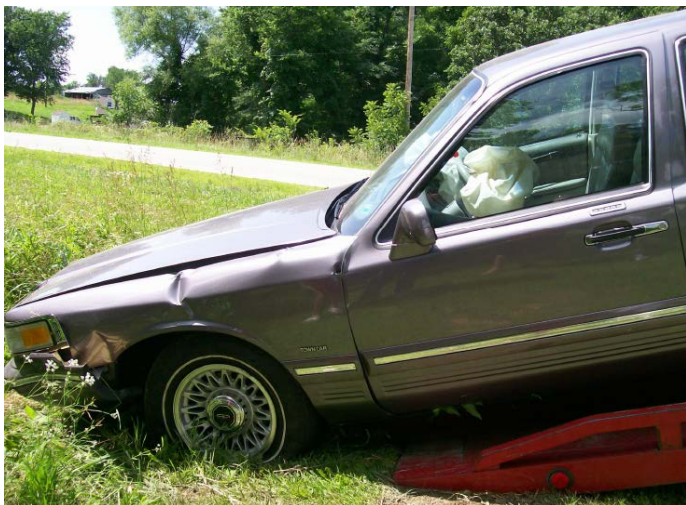
While there, Karla and Katy borrowed her Aunt's car and went to the nearest "big" town to get some baking supplies. On the

way back a motorcycle pulled a U-turn from the side of the road 12' in front of Karla on a two lane highway. Karla had two choices; hit the motorcycle rider or go into a ditch. Well the ditch won, in more ways then one! The car hit a culvert, then



went down into another and landed in a patch of poison ivy. Both air bags deployed burning Karla's arm and Katy's neck. Katy still has some soreness in her neck area but other then that everyone is fine. Unfortunately, the car was totaled, and the motorcycle rider took off after only giving Karla a name and phone number. The state trooper was able to get a picture from the DMV files, and Karla identified the driver. We don't know if he has insurance or not, but

I guess we will find out. Karla's Aunt was very understanding



and glad that no one was hurt, but now she needs a new car.

The next day at the family reunion Karla was the talk of the Klan and earned the nickname "Crash". Everyone wanted to hear how it happened. Latter that night we went to her Cousin Rick's house and shot off fireworks. After sending Katy back to the airport with her sister and making our final apologies to Karla's Aunt for the car, we were off again on the road

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We visited old volcanoes and Pueblo Indian cliff dwellings along with some of the best views the Rocky Mountains have to offer. All in all, we had a great time and are looking forward to next year. Below are some of our pictures.



## Margaret visits Washington D.C., LA and plans more travel

Recently we received the following news from Margaret.

Hi Dad,

As you know, I was recently in Washington, DC to do some consulting, and on the last day I took some time to go to the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. I wanted to see if our family name was posted. I found it on the 25th panel and took a picture so you can see what it looks like. So, your name is in Washington and Mom's is at Ellis Island in New York. The museum was designed in keeping with the feel and colors of the southwest, as

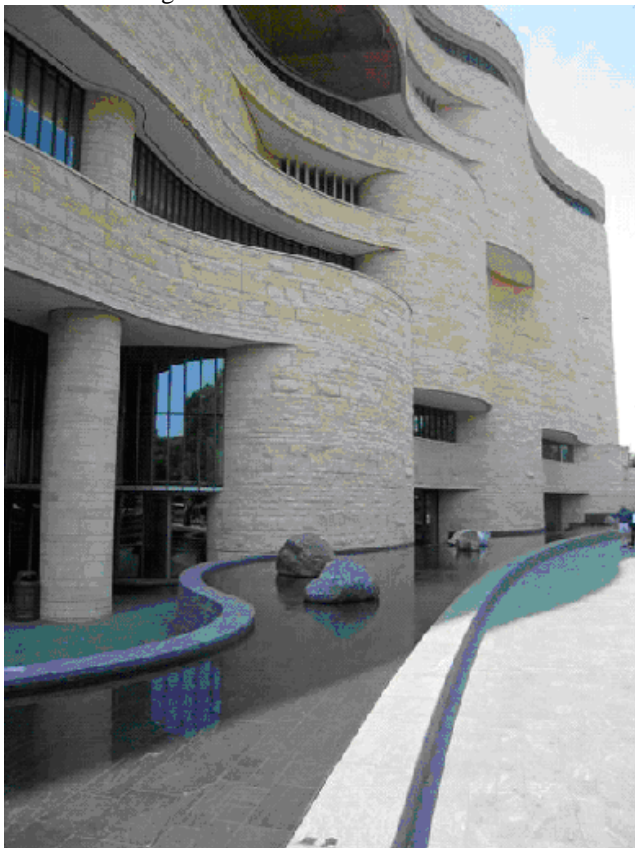
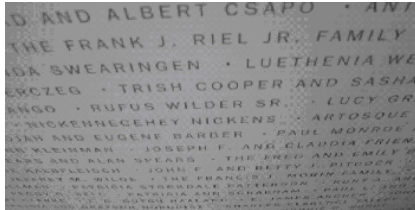
you can see from the outside of the building. The entrance opens to a large seating area where the copper reflecting the sun was part of the design. Many different tribes are celebrated detailing the dress, customs, and life patterns through multimedia. What I liked best was that a collection of native recipes was used to prepare the cafeteria food. This meant that I did not recognize anything that I ate except maybe the flat bread--which was wonderful. I had a corn and mango salad that had the largest kernels of corn I have every seen (almost an inch in size). They did not taste of corn though; instead, they tasted like corn tortillas. I wish I had gone back to talk to the cooks, as it was strange to eat corn that tasted like grain. I could not begin to describe the other salads and mixtures as they had roots and things that I don't have names for, but they were colorful and everything was very tasty. Since they don't feed you on airplanes any more, this hearty lunch made my flight home much nicer. I just spent the week in Los Angeles (not one of the greatest travel spots in the world) watching my class

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graduate (although they still have three weeks of classes to finish). Soon Bud and I will head from Hawaii, and then I will return to take on a new group of students. I used to joke about my 1-week summer break, but this year two sessions overlapped so there is no break at all. Since I can teach anywhere as long as I have my computer, and there is an internet connection, I will be doing some traveling with Bud. We are going to Chicago and then in September to Budapest, so I guess if you can teach anywhere, it is not so bad. Margaret



Thanks, Margaret, for the report. In case anyone wonders about the family Indian heritage, the answer is none. The famous Canadian, Louis Riel had a distant relative who was Indian; Riel left no direct descendents. Based on what we now know, any common ancestor would have been living in France in the 1600s. However, it's nice to know that the Riel name is recorded at the Smithsonian Institute Indian Museum in the Nations Capitol.

**Cartridges for ink jet printers** – If you have an ink jet printer and think that new cartridges are expensive you

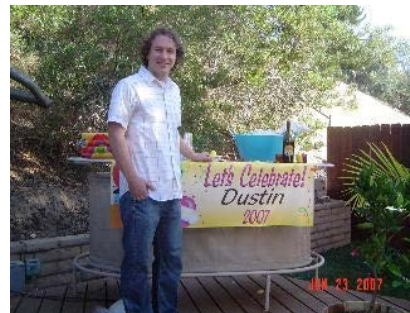
may want to look into refills. We have been buying them from Caboodle, at 3689 Midway Drive (in shopping center next to Vons). Their products are packaged the same as originals, and a Canon cartridge costing \$9.00 at Costco costs \$6.00 at Caboodle. Also, unlike Costco, you can buy whatever color you need, rather than a three color package.



We have had only one bad sample, and it was replaced without question. There is only one outlet in San Diego, but if you can wait a day or two you can order by telephone, and they will mail it directly to your home (no S&H). The telephone number is 619 222 1882. Finally, the office manager, Dino Vucetovic, has promised a 10% discount for RFNL subscribers, if I give him a copy of an RFNL, for his bulletin board. I haven't yet worked out the details but will pass them along when I do. This seems like a good way to save some money and gasoline, and also help the environment, so give it a try.

## Carol and Jeff throw party for Dustin's graduation

Carol and Jeff have just become "empty nesters", and they celebrated a few weeks ago by having a party for their youngest, Dustin. We enjoyed snacks, followed by a great meal, at the newly redesigned back yard area. As you can see from



the following pictures, they have done a great job of rearranging

and improving the entire area. There now are lots of flowers, tables and chairs, and an elevated stand for the grill. A special treat was the flank



steaks expertly grilled by Chef Dustin. In addition to all the lessons he learned at college, and the lacrosse experience, he learned how to prepare this special beef form, which has been popularized at the social scene at UCSB. Needless to say, it was delicious, and greatly enjoyed by all.

(see next page for more pictures)

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## The Riel Family Tree



For the past 30+ years Grandpa has from time to time attempted to trace the family ancestry. Recently his interest in this subject has been rekindled by some discussions with Margaret, Michael, and Megan. They have pointed out the Ancestry.com web site, and the extensive information in its files. With that help, plus prior information obtained from other sources (see below ), a draft family tree has been constructed and is reproduced on page 5 of this RFNL. The following additional sources provided the balance of the input: 1. Several letters from Elsie Riel Quantz, received in the early 1970s 2. Several communications and materials from Aunt Eloise 3. Some material from a distant relative, Dan Southam, received in the late 1990s 4. Some material received from Aldine (Al) Riel, received in the late 1990's 5. The book "RIEL A Life of Revolution: by Maggie Huggins. The attached chart is divided into two sections. The upper half traces the ancestors of Grandpa's father, Frank Riel Sr, and the lower half defines the ancestors of Grandpa' mother, Edna Southam Riel. There is no information on the famous Louis David Riel, the French Canadian who was tried , convicted, and executed for treason. His lineage is well defined in the Siggins book, and Grandpa also has much information on this subject from Al Riel. Louis Riel's two children died young, and there were no grandchildren. If there is any common link between Louis and us it would have to be in France, prior to 1650. The identity of the Riel line back to Grandpa's great, great grandfather (1760-1830) is pretty well established through the repeated name James D. Riel. Elsie's great grandfather was my great, great grandfather. In one of Elsie's letters she tells about hearing her father talk about James D., and she asked if I knew what the D. stands for (it is Daniel). The earlier family line, prior to 1760 comes from Elsie's letters, and she tells some interesting stories about Herve Riel and his descendents who immigrated to Great Briton because of religious persecution. His descendents subsequently came to America, around 1850. It is tempting to speculate that the French (and Canadian) pronunciation of our name (re-al or reel) was changed to "rile" in England in order to make it sound less French and more British. The modern Riels in Canada still use the re-al sound. Although Elsie described the connection between Herve Riel and the first James D. she never mentioned the source of that information. I have the impression that she was repeating things she learned from her father. Herve Riel's actions at the Battle of La Hogue are described in the Robert Browning poem. The lower portion of the chart defines the Southam side if the family, from Grandpa's mother, Edna Southam. The lineage is well defined through the repeated appearance of the maiden name of Thomas Southam's wife, Mary Corbett. Grandfather Southam named his third son Corbett, and I met him on several occasions, especially at family reunions in Berea, Ohio. He was the Chief of Police at Elyria, Ohio, a mid-sized town west of Cleveland. I remember him visiting us in our home in Fremont, Ohio when I was in high school. The earlier Southams, Josiah and James were listed by Ancestry.com, and there is no direct information that they are a part of the our family tree.

There is, of course, a great deal more information that needs to be collected and incorporated into the chart. One objective is to attempt to find out why Mary Corbett's name was preserved for four generations. Another search area will involve an attempt to learn more about Herve Riel, and if he really is a direct ancestor of our family. In addition, we have a number of interesting accounts of incidents occurring in the lifetime of some of our ancestors.



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## Birdy and Bruce entertain friends at 4<sup>th</sup> of July party



celebration is complete without cake, pie, and ice-cream. There were no fireworks, but otherwise everything was perfect!

On this popular national holiday we joined a group of regulars who, for many past years, have gathered at the Hartman home to celebrate our Nation's birth. We were greeted with lots of snacks and drinks, followed by Bruce's famous grilled hamburgers and sausages. In addition, there were plenty of baked beans, salads and all the extras that make a

hamburger a special treat. Grandma spoke for all in declaring that her hamburger was the best she had ever tasted. Of course, no 4<sup>th</sup> of July

## RFNL DINE OUT CERTIFICATE DINNER

At the last Riel Bowl celebration one of the two dine out certificates in the white elephant gift exchange was won by the team of Robert and Karla. The Viejas Casino was selected by (guess who?) and we took off one Saturday, to enjoy the buffet lunch. We arrived in time for a few trials on the machines, and we then hit the buffet



for a great lunch. After sampling just about everything we headed for the Bingo Parlor. We tried hard, but no luck – the wrong numbers kept coming up. After some more searches Grandma found a lucky 2 cent slot machine. Don't be fooled by the 2 cent entry fee. It is easy to bet 50 or more coins for one pull, and it is easy to lose more than one realizes. However, Grandma had a run of good luck, and ended up with a \$50.00 win ticket. The "lucky money" was put away for the next casino visit, and we headed for home. We all had a great time and the only regret was that Katy and Brian were not available.



## Another wedding announced!

Birdy announced at a recent Saturday lunch that Craig and Ana have announced their engagement, and plan to marry



next summer. Birdy and Bruce have an announcement party in the planning stage (when they finish some travel plans), and we look forward to more celebrations.

**It is almost time for the Kristy/Seamus wedding, so be ready for all of the associated activities. Watch for a full report in the August issue of RFNL. We hope to have full coverage of all of the events.**