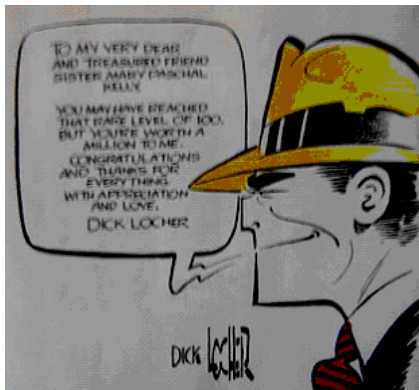


## Sister Mary Paschal Kelly Turns 100! Grandma and Margaret are there to help celebrate

Very few people get to spend more than a century on earth. Sister Paschal Kelly is one of these lucky souls. On November 2, All Souls Day, Edith and Margaret Riel joined with other sisters from the Visitation convent and family members of Sister Paschal to celebrate her 100th birthday. The meal was her choice --breaded catfish-- and twice baked potatoes and a wonderful array of salads and vegetables. And, of course, a wonderful chocolate cake with three number candles that displayed 100 and lots of bright balloons. The table conversation was quite lively as all of the people shared stories from the past. Sister Paschal was the center of many of the stories and it was fun to hear about her active early life which undoubtedly has led to her now active later life. She looked beautiful, not a day over ... well we could say 80 but that doesn't sound so young. So instead we will say that looked with intensity on everything that was going on and seemed to enjoy the intersection of family, friends and the community of sisters with whom she has worked and lived. After the lunch party, we followed sister to her room where we could see the flowers, plants, presents, and cards that marked such a special day. One of the very special cards is the one that comes in the form of a cartoon. *Dick Locher, born in Dubuque was her student in elementary school. He currently creates the Dick Tracy cartoons for the Chicago Tribune. His ability to capture the absurdities of life through political cartooning is likely to be a talent that he crafted through his years in school in Dubuque. And it is great that a widely recognized cartoonist and award winning journalist (including the Pulitzer Prize) took the time to recognize the gifts he received from Sister Paschal* The cartoon caption reads as follows. TO MY DEAR AND TREASURED FRIEND - YOU MAY HAVE REACHED THAT RARE LEVEL OF 100 - BUT YOU ARE WORTH A MILLION TO ME - CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING - WITH AFFECTION AND LOVE - DICK LOCHER (above report written by Margaret )



100 - BUT YOU ARE WORTH A MILLION TO ME - CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING - WITH AFFECTION AND LOVE - DICK LOCHER (above report written by Margaret )



# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

November, 2007



We have the following travel news from Annie

## Barcelona

The Catalunas of Barcelona like to dance in front of the cathedral to keep their unique culture alive- Catalunans think they aren't Spaniards but Catalunans...they don't speak Castellano.

Duuude Im a fan of the metro systems and trains and such in Europe. It's so easy to get places and figure it out! The buses are muuuuch harder so I loved having the metro in Barcelona. This is Melissa, me, Lindsay, and Marie waiting for the metro to go to the Gaudi Park which was awesome! These girls are in the program but not from GU.



Yeah we went to Starbucks...cause there aren't any in Granada and only two in Barcelona! That surprised me SOOO much! I thought it would be a lot bigger here but not so much! I got a caramel frapuccino which was the same and wonderful. It was weird to see everything in a different language but still be essentially the same.



- **Florence**

- This was a cool park in Florence that was called like Jardin de Boboli or something. I

don't even know what it was really but it was AWESOME. Huge park that when you get to the top you can see all of



Florence. Lots of cool, old statues and fountains, reminded me of Rome. But yeah ,it was pretty

See - Gonzaga really does exist in Florence! And sooo does ice cream!!

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The start of the 20000 million stair hike up the duomo of the Vatican – well, of Saint Peters. Actually it was 460 something steps but still... We decided to save 2 euro and hike the first 120 and didn't understand why no one else was climbing that part with us until we got to the second part of the climb... No it wasn't that bad except that you had to be fully clothed since it was the Vatican

and therefore were dying of heat in the tiniest hallways EVER built.

## Roma

Brenda, Mikaela, and I trying to figure out the tiny streets that go nowhere slash everywhere in Italy. Story of my life- reading a map!



I forget what this thing was called but it was right next to the Coliseum. Standing in front of the coliseum was probably the weirdest most surreal feeling of my life. It kinda felt fake. So cool though.



Dinner in Rome - Pasta!!!! The wine was delicious! We got the most expensive one which was like 20 euro - haha but it was AMAZING! I could drink Italian wine for life. No joke. Even their cheap wine is good.



Inside the Coliseum

# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

November, 2007

## News from Curtis

Dad Oct 25 2007  
Curtis sent part of this letter to Kristy....I thought you would enjoy the photos as well. love, Birdy

Korea is much the same. We just got back from a super awesome field exercise. We spent a few days sleeping on cots on a freezing cold beach under a freeway overpass with no tents. I guess that is to prepare us for being homeless veterans someday. I



included some pictures of my team from the exercise, they aren't

great pics of me because my Kevlar was broken and kept sliding down my face, plus we had to wear face paint for camouflage. The first picture of me I am the one in the center front we are "on patrol". The second pic I am in the center front again I am in the prone but I am clearing out my weapon which is jammed. (We were firing blanks which cause the rifle to jam up a lot)



In the last picture I am "dead". I died a lot because I was the point man for my team and I gloriously assaulted all of the ambushes.

We were wearing gear that makes firing the M-16s like laser tag, we had sensors on our gear and the enemy had sensors on them, and so it had a loud siren go off when you got hit. Now I haven't even shared these pics with mom so you can brag to her that I send you pictures and not her! I know that is mean and she will want them, so you can go ahead and show them to her too. So that's about it for Korea. Let me know how everything is with you. Take care! Love, Curtis



Hi mom,

Sorry I have been out of touch, we have been away in the field. I have been busy, they told me I was going to WLC in October, then at the last minute told me I was not going and so I had only one day to prepare to go to the Company Field exercise, which I was originally not going to because of WLC. But the field went well, we had some fun. My office is ok, I like one of my co-workers, the other is an older Korean guy who is kind of a curmudgeon. But we are getting a new boss in the next couple months, which could help alleviate some of the bad feelings in the office and make the mood a little better. Korea is really starting to get cold, and I am fighting the beginnings of a cold that seems to be lingering. I was starting to get over it then we went to the field exercise where we had to lay in the dirt on the shore of a river at 3 in the morning every morning till the sun came up. Most of us just sat there shivering. It was really cold. In the mornings the temperature was about 45 degrees plus wind. So you can imagine it was freezing. I didn't pack nearly enough cold weather gear so I am starting to feel sick again. Oh well. I am back in Kwangju now, doing my laundry and straightening out my apartment. Now it looks like I will go to WLC in November. They say that it is for sure but we will see. If so it will be nice because I will miss the big field exercise for my battalion and be back in time for the Christmas holiday schedule. I would like that. Apart from that everything is more or less normal. Its only 8:30 at night here but I am feeling really tired and I may go to bed soon. I love you guys. I will try to call tomorrow and talk to you guys so I can be a dutiful son. Love you both. Curtis

Thanks, Curtis, for the news and especially the pictures. They are the first we have had from Korea. It looks somewhat like San Diego County.

# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

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## Wildfires ravage San Diego County – Riel Family unscathed

A Santa Ana weather condition (hot, dry winds blowing from the desert to the ocean) developed in the southwest area of California at the end of the third week in October. On Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> several brush fires were ignited and spread rapidly. The major problems were the Witch Fire, (Ramona/Poway area) and the Harris Fire, (near the U.S. Mexico boarder.) No firm causes have been announced, but it appears that trees blown down by the wind downed electric lines. Several smaller fires also started, and at least one appears top be arson. The worst days were Monday and Tuesday, when the Santa Ana winds were strongest. By Wednesday the weather pattern began to change, and the rapid spreading of the flames slowed down. By the end of the week the various flames were mostly contained. However, in the first two days over 1000 homes had been destroyed, along with many avocado groves. More than 500,000 people had to leave their homes and flee to the safety of friends or relatives. Others were directed to shelters set up by the city. The evacuation was handled well, and everyone was fed, clothed, and sheltered.

As far as our own family was concerned, there were no losses or damage sustained. There were many anxious moments, however, with constant exchanges of e-mail messages and telephone calls. There were five areas of special concern: (1) The Spring Valley investment home recently built by Richard and Ed (2) Bud and Margaret's home in Encinitas, (3) Bob and Listy's cabin at Mt. Palomar (4) Bob and Karla's home in Alpine (5) Lyle's business in Poway and (6) the Riel Family

Trust apartment house in Fallbrook. Margaret, Bud, and Megan were the only ones who left Encinitas, under voluntary notice. They spent one night with Carol and Jeff. There were partial evacuations in Poway, Mt Palomar, and Alpine, but no family members were displaced. The entire town of Fallbrook was shut down for several days. All in all, it was a major catastrophe and a tragedy for many families. There were a few deaths, including both residents and fire fighters, and many injuries.

### Some e-mail messages exchanged during the critical days

Listy, How is your house in Palamor? Do you know? Hope it is okay. Carol

We're not sure...the fire is on the southwest side and we're more south/middle ....but there's lots of fuel out there...so who knows...it really depends on the wind. wish us luck. Listy

This is a shot from I-8 and tavern road that I took on my way to work this AM Also, you all should know that Karla's dad is not expected to live much longer and she is leaving this morning for Kansas City to be with him in the hospital. Robert

Sorry to hear that Bob...please give her a hug from all of us. Our thoughts and prayers will be with her. If anything should change in your area...you are welcome to come here. We have two rooms waiting for someone who needs a place to stay. love Birdy

Hi family - So far we are out of the path of danger but the wind has a spirit of its own and it is not clear to anyone where the fire will end. We had a voluntary evacuation and decided to leave before the way to the south was blocked, as the way north is not a great option--no family or friends and only hotels with no occupancy. Friends who went that way spent 4 hours to get to Irvine, where there was another fire. We left last night to Carol and Jeff's. (Thanks Listy for the offer and for all of the family concern for us). We had a little parade...Megan on a scooter, Bud in the mini-Cooper, and me in the Prius with our cat (hairy potter). We are grateful to have the clean air and safety and hospitality of the Benesch home. I am sharing some of the photos Megan took as the sun set; they show the eerie feeling of being in the shadow of fire--including the ash on the patio. In the house the sun casts a dark orange colored light. We hope you are all safe. Lyle, we keep trying to listen to hear about the Ramona fire. Robert, we keep listening for Alpine. We share our best wishes for the safety of the fire fighters, and for those that lose all that they have come to call home. I suspect that we will all know families that need our help. But we should be fine. Margaret, Bud,, and Megan



Robert's picture on I-8 at Alpine



Francie's sunrise picture



Megan's Mehan patio pic



Internet news photo – Rancho Bernardo fire

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We have the following report from Margaret on the visit to Dubuque, Iowa.

## EDITH RIEL RETURNS TO DUBUQUE

In 1946, Edith arrived from Teheran to Dubuque Iowa. The trip was by car, plane, ship, and train. She was met at the train station and taken to the University of Dubuque. Besides being a liberal arts college, it is also a seminary for training Episcopalian priests. Mom, being Catholic, was pleased that one day, on her many trips by bus, to see two Catholic sisters. She happily offered them her seat and they began talking. They graciously invited her to come to mass and then to have breakfast. And thus began a relationship that has survived more than 60 years. In 1960's the Sisters traveled to Los Angeles and Frank and Edith invited them to come and spend the day in San Diego. And so Sister Pascal met all of the kids. Margaret was drafted as the Christmas card writer at about this time and has continued to send Sister Pascal yearly Christmas letters sharing the family news and particularly news of Edith. When the Riel Family Newsletter was created, the news from the Riel family became monthly. Sister Pascal prayers are one of the many forces that have made our family so blessed. And so, her 100th birthday was the perfect time for Edith to make the trip back to Dubuque. Dubuque was her first home in America. She roomed with Lucy Savino who lives just outside of Chicago. At the University of Dubuque, Edith took English, Typing, Home Economics and



Sociology. She says that Sociology was taught by a German Professor and with just emerging skill in English, she was not able to make sense of his heavily accented English. So, she laughs, she did not do very well in that class. But she had many memories of her college years. Since then the campus has changed as they recently received a large grant and there was a large Technology Center that I suspect was not there before. But the brick structures all looked the same, making it difficult to determine what was old and what was new. We did see some dorms in the downtown area that were marked as part of the University as we were leaving, and it is possible that there was more than one campus. In keeping with the past, we stayed at the Richard's House, a wonderfully old Victorian house that is now a Bed and Breakfast. The woodwork around the windows and over the beds was like creating lace with wood. Everywhere you looked was a feast for the eyes. And the morning breakfast was a way to start the day with energy. Breakfast began with fruit (pears in a red wine sauce) followed by pancakes, and then bacon and eggs and each day a different type of homemade coffee cake. And, as is often the case, the Bed and Breakfast had a stock of drinks including wine and dessert to end off the day. That lovely tame fire did, however, steam smoke into the room and with the fires in San Diego a not too distant memories, we put out the fire. (And then we thought of Lyle since we did not see any sign of sprinklers or fire alarms.)

And, of course the main reason we were there was Sister Pascal's birthday party. After the 100 year birthday party, we drove around Dubuque looking for the right places for good shopping. We never did find the big department store that Edith remembered, but we did find a mall and managed to squeeze in enough shopping to take care of presents. In the evening we went off to Indian Joe's to see if maybe we were lucky, but we had to be happy with the real luck--the kind that doesn't come from gambling machines. We went off to a nice restaurant to close out the day. The next day Edith was so fast at getting ready that we were able to add a trip to the Mississippi River Museum where we saw catfish, and Mark Twain took time out of his still day to read to Edith about the life on the Mississippi. We climbed on some early steam boats and were thankful that we were not traveling that way. The trip home was comfortable because of all of the travel luxuries that Francie provided. Edith was warm and comfortable for what was not a very long trip home. And of course, coming home is the best part of travel.

## Andy back from Iraq – to Ft. Bragg

We were a little premature when we reported in the October RFNL that Andy was home, but he finally arrived at his new station in North Carolina. Eloise sent us the following account of her plans to go with Stacy and children to welcome him home.

**Subject:** Andy's arrival back at Fort Bragg  
**Date:** 10/19/07 5:56:11 P.M. Pacific Standard Time  
**From:** [EloiseRiel](#)  
**To:** [Frank the tutor](#)

Andy will arrive at Ft. Bragg on Wednesday!; Unless, of course, the time is changed again. We are so excited and grateful that he, with all his troops, will be back home. They have been promised six months at Bragg before another transfer. But you were in the Army, so you will remember a promise isn't always what it's cracked up to be.

We are all planning to go up Tuesday, carrying up our allotted things from Andy's list. I'm taking cheese bread and Jack Daniels! I also found a watermelon for Rollins. She adores watermelons! And watermelons are kinda out of season now. Maribeths happy with chocolate chip cookies, and Caroline is pleased with anything with Dora the Explorer. I bought a complete set of Dora's Wonder Color, which should keep her busy for awhile. Then not to forget Stacy, I'll bake her favorite Pecan Tarts

Hope all of your family is in good health- and stay that way!  
Eloise

## News from Grampa's cousin, Maria Fowles

The above letter from Eloise included the following about a cousin of Grandpa, the daughter of his uncle, Lt. Col. John Southam, a much decorated hero in WW I.

I received a letter from Georgia, Marie Fowles' daughter. She wrote that Marie is 'up and down', and that her quality of life was so poor. Marie, who always enjoyed life to the fullest, is now almost blind. Marie is just a few years older than I, but her health has not been good for years, while I'm still enjoying working and life in general. Makes one wonder why one should be so lucky.

## Karla's father gravely ill

As noted in the fire report, Karla left town on October 23 to visit her father, Roy Zimmerlee, who was hospitalized and is seriously ill with cancer. He now is at home, but undergoing radiation treatments. The prognosis is guarded, but Karla has returned to San Diego, as of Friday, the 9<sup>th</sup>. We certainly hope and will pray for a remission of the problems he is facing. He presently is living in Drexel, Missouri.