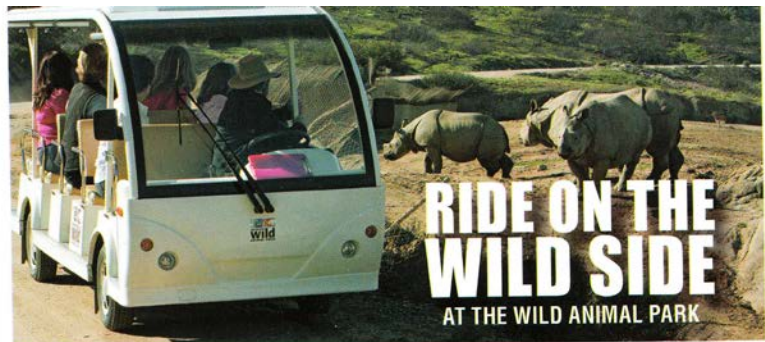


Some Fathers Day family celebrations

There were a number of Fathers Day celebrations in June. Since Francie was scheduled to be out of town on that week-end, she arranged for a special early treat. On a week day morning, at about 10:00 am she picked us up for a secret destination, which soon became apparent. Actually, we got a pretty clear hint when she suggested we bring our SD Zoo membership cards. After checking in we walked around until about 11:30, then checked out the food at the refreshment stand. We enjoyed a quite lunch at a nice table (see picture) and then took off for the special tour she had arranged. This tour is described in the photo shown at right.

As you can see, the tour vehicle is a sort of stretched golf cart and holds nine passengers plus the tour guide. It takes about two hours, and our guide was very capable and informative in showing us the park along with some "back stage" of the animal's quarters. It was a special treat, and we thank Francie for inviting us. We have lots of pictures to show you, as follows.



Venture deeper into the Wild Animal Park experience! A knowledgeable tour guide takes up to 10 guests in an electric cart to meet an animal up close and visit the off-exhibit areas of Lion Camp and the cheetahs' exhibit. You'll also enjoy exploring the Journey into Africa path.

Tour runs 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Offered once daily.

For reservations, call (619) 718-3000 or
(800) 407-9534.

Reservations recommended; same day on-site purchases subject to availability.



see page two for more pictures

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But that's not all of the Dads celebrations. On the Saturday before the Day, we were invited for a dinner party at the Hartmans. Unfortunately, Grandpa forgot his camera, so he made arrangements with Birdy to take some pictures. Everything was fine until Grandpa asked for a few. Birdy searched her picture file but turned up nothing. Finally, she remembered that she had included them with some school pictures, which she had already erased. So, we will be unable to print any pictures of Fathers Day, 2008 at Hartmans. However, we can tell you that we enjoyed delicious grilled steaks cooked by Chef Bruce, and they were great. Also, we enjoyed potatoes, veggies salad, etc. along with a chance to exchange happy Fathers Day wishes with everyone. Of course, we also enjoyed telephone greeting with others who could not be present. We thank Bruce and Birdy for a great celebration.

Margaret and Bud tour Ireland

Bud takes Margaret to The Old Country Bud was invited to Dublin, Ireland in July to give the keynote address at a conference on schooling as a way out of poverty. The conference was attended by the Minister of Education, local and regional educators, and political activists. After the conference, they explored Dublin, (London)derry, and Belfast with a long time friend, Jim Skelly.

Highlights of the Dublin visit included tours of the Viking Museum, Christ Church Cathedral, St Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity College of the University of Dublin, and the jail that housed the leaders of the 1916 "rising" against authoritarian British rule. Trinity College is famous for housing the Book of Kells, one of the oldest illuminated religious texts and the Long Room—a building as long as a football field and holding early Christian and Medieval texts.

Jim showed Bud and Margaret the splendor of "the emerald isle" at its most northern point as well as the vestiges of "the troubles" in (London)derry and Belfast. [The Catholics call the city Derry—to distinguish it from the British label—Londonderry]. Although the wars between Protestants and Catholics are officially over, vestiges can be seen just below the surface in Northern Ireland. Streets in working class neighborhoods are divided by 12 foot concrete and steel fences—to separate Catholic and Protestant. Twenty foot high posters adorn buildings-shouting support for one side or the other. All concerned see hope in the younger generation who attend school together and begin to intermarry.

A refreshing note: The Irish are enthralled by Barack Obama's candidacy—seeing hope for a less bellicose and more engaged presidency; and, they have discovered his Irish roots. His name there is: O'Bama



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Hartman's annual 4th of July party

For many years Bruce and Birdy have hosted a 4h of July party for some of their friends, and Grandpa and Gandma have been on the invitation list. This year continued that tradition. The party got under way about noon, and shortly thereafter Bruce fired up the outdoor grill and did his magic with hamburgers and sausages. In addition to hamburger extras (tomatoes, cheeses, lettuce condiments, etc.) there was plenty of salad and, of course, desserts (ice cream and pie). Afterwards, everyone sat around and talked. It was a great way to celebrate our Nation's birthday, and we thank Bruce and Birdy for this special treat.



From: Mike Mehan <mmehan@gmail.com>

Date: May 15, 2008 3:53:08 PM PDT

To: Mom <margaret.riel@sri.com>, Dad <bmehan@ucsd.edu>, Megan Riel-Mehan <meganrm@gmail.com>

Subject: Dr. Riel Wins an Award?

Hey Mom, Explain to me why I have to hear about you winning the Gold Level Award from "the world's premier distance learning association" in the family newsletter? What kind of a dysfunctional family are we where I hear about your accolades second hand from Grandpa? Congratulations!!! Keep up the great work.

Love, me

Dad,

Nice to see that your grandson reads the newsletter to the end as it comes out. Margaret

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Sorems do Disneyworld

In a much needed vacation the Sorem/Hall family took off recently to enjoy a week at their favorite fun place, Disneyworld. Francie provided us with a report on their activities, as follows.

Oh those great trips to Disneyland when we were kids. Packing up the old Dodge station wagon with a couple of mattresses across the flattened seats, and we were ready to roll on the family vacation. The two hour drive, which seemed like six with all the poking and shoving going on in the back, always culminated with that first spotting of the space needle and later on, the Matterhorn. We were finally there, the amusement of all amusement parks.

The flying saucers that glided across a cushion of air, the rocket to the moon, the G.E. house of the future with lights that came on automatically, the death defying jungle ride with crocodiles and guns going off at every turn, (ok it did seem much scarier at the time).

Oh how we loved that place. tearing up Tom Sawyers Island, catching catfish off the dock with real worms at the end of a fishin' pole, yuck! I hated that part. Who wanted to carry a smelly old fish around all day anyway?

Well, the Sorem/Hall family packed up the station wagon, Ok, I lied, (it was a Delta jet to Disneyworld in Florida. Brett, Bryce, little Lyle (who is now big Lyle), Laura and Emily accompanied us on this journey to wonderland. And guess what? They now have the updated version of the rocket ship to the moon. Instead of going into a lame room of seats in a circle that sort of moved as we "took off" into weightlessness in space,



for those of you not old enough to experience pre modern time rides, the seat seemed to fill with air and the movie on the floor was supposed to be us taking off into space - hardly believable.

Today's rocket ship is a cockpit of four people assigned different jobs and buttons to push as you blast off into space. The spinning of the cockpit makes you feel as if you are pulling G's and you can feel the skin on your face pull back upon "takeoff" - definitely an improvement over the old ride, but there were a couple of queasy stomachs afterwards.

We were there for a week and as you can see from the pictures had a great family vacation. We stayed in a time share and Brett and Bryce took turns cooking some great dinners. I wish all of you could have been there, it was a blast!!

FRANCIE SOREM

Hi, Dad

I just got this news from Curtis. I thought you would like it! As soon as I get the pictures, I will send you some. See you on the 4th Love, Birdy

Hey Mom,

I just got back from the field today. Wanted to send you a quick e-mail to let you know how everything is going. I got promoted while I was out in the field, so I am now Sergeant Hartman. Exciting stuff. I have been posting pictures on Facebook. I have about 50 or so from the exercise that I will post when I get back to my apartment tomorrow. I'll talk to you soon. I miss you guys. -Curtis



It's great to hear from you, Curtis, and to learn of your promotion. We know that it is well deserved and that you will keep up the good work, in spite of the added responsibilities you will have.