

## Carol, Jeff, and family host engagement party for Jessica and Miguel

September 26<sup>th</sup> was the day for the big party at the Benesch's home, to celebrate the already announced engagement of Jessica and Miguel. The party took place in the newly refurbished back yard. In addition to tables and chairs the newly installed Gazebo was a favorite spot for the guests to mingle and enjoy the fine food and drinks being served. Although they were the guests of honor, Jessica and Miguel kept busy throughout the evening. After everyone had eaten their fill the group gathered around with Jessica and Miguel and brother Jason, told some stories and several family members, especially made some comments about Jessica's Much champagne was passed around, and the new couple was toasted by all. One of the guests was a newcomer to of attention. Little Corbin Hartman, age new family and family friends. He much to the delight of his proud forward to seeing him grow up and party ended by wishing Jessica and look forward to the wedding, which is here in San Diego. Watch future issues of RFNL for more news.



and enjoy the fine food and drinks being of honor, Jessica and Miguel kept busy throughout the evening. After everyone around with Jessica and Miguel and brother Jason, told some stories and early life growing up in San Diego. and the new couple was toasted by all. family celebrations, and he attracted lots four months, was introduced to some seemed to enjoy the entire evening, parents, Ana and Craig. We look enjoy many more family functions. The Miguel the best for the future. We all scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup>, next summer,



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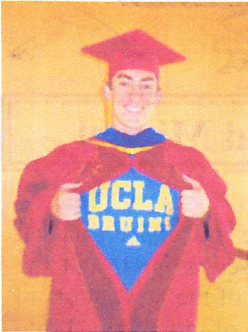
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# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

October, 2009

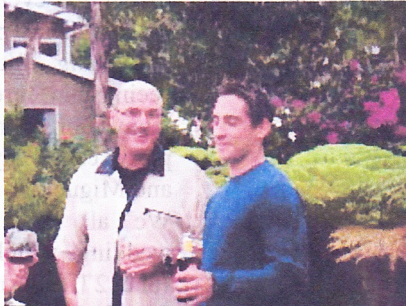


## Doctor Michael Riel Mehan

The Graduation Congratulations party for Michael was held at Bud and Margaret's on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September. As is the case at these large family gatherings there was plenty of food and lots of help from the Riel sisters. While graduating from the University of Southern

California, Michael never gave up his loyalty to UCLA, where he received this B.A.

Michael is now the second Dr. Mehan and hopefully his work will help us better understand how the many complexes of genes in the body socialize to create different patterns some of which are likely to be responsible for cancers. The party brought together people from throughout Michael's life, and of course included Ashley MacMitchell who herself had reason to celebrate as a newly credentialed teacher.



Before cutting the cake, Margaret offered a toast to Michael reflecting back on all of his many graduations starting with preschool and leading to this final one. After 26 years, his school years have finally drawn to an end. Bud took the opportunity to thank all of the people who have helped them provide Michael the rich support system makes it possible for a kid to find a place in the community of adults



Michael begins his working career at SomaLogic, in Boulder, CO, in a pharmacological research firm.

*Our thoughts are with Michael and we know that the same hard work that propelled him through graduation will serve him well in the rough and tumble of the real world.*



## Jan's Mother passed away last Tuesday

By RFNL Writer Ed Riel

Like our own mother, Jan's mother married her dad after the war and came, from England, to California to start a new life. Catherin was 19 when she married. Many of you first meet her at her Los Vegas home where Jan and I had our reception after our marriage. Catherin and her extended family have been and a big part in the raising of our 4 boys. If you have ever noticed an ability of my boys to make light of the world, and to make a party out of any simple conversation; I will always see that confident enjoyment as Catherin's legacy. She is deeply missed by the 6 of us.



## Margaret's Eye Surgery a Success

By Margaret Riel

The pterygium (caused by UV radiation from the sun) are now gone from both eyes! Think of a pterygium like a callus formation on the skin, but the eye is less tolerant of imperfection which is why my eyes have been so red so often.

While this picture looks pretty scary, the doctor is VERY pleased with the results. He says this looks more like two weeks after surgery than one week. In fact he said he wished he knew what he did to have it turn out so well. That is good news even through it still is a bit uncomfortable but nothing like it was when I had it done to the other eye. This time, instead of taking tissue (autograph) from my upper eyelid and stitching it on the eye (which was done last time), a skin graft was made from amniotic membrane (human placenta) which attached to the eyes without stitches. So hopefully in another few weeks my eyes will be back to normal and I will see well. Surfers beware as water sports increase the changes of develop pterygiums. Wear sunglasses!



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## Del Mar races, 2009

Grandma and Grandpa enjoyed two sessions at the annual horseracing season at the Del Mar track. In the first visit we went with Carol and Jeff, two regular racing fans. We enjoyed lunch, as usual, at the nearby Fish Market restaurant, and then headed to the track. We had a great time, and Carol and Grandma had a few exciting wins. However, by the time the last race finished no one ended up ahead of the game. In spite of that, we all had a lot of fun. The second visit was with Margaret and Bud, and we went in grand style, Margaret and Bud had won four tickets to the reserved seating sections just past the finishing pole. This area provides table seating, and lunch is served from an extensive menu. The only drawback is that gentlemen have to wear coats and neckties. The meal and service was great, but our luck was not much better than the first visit. However, it was an exciting day, and well worth the visit.



## A day at Balboa Park

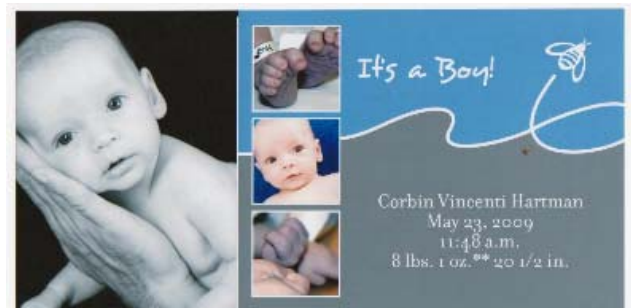
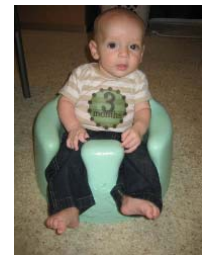
Last August 15th was an especially nice day, so the Saturday Lunch Group, (Ed, Twins, Grandma, and Grandpa took off to see the Divinci exhibit at the Air and Space Museum. You probably are aware that the famous scientist was also a famous as a mathematician, engineer, inventor, anatomist, painter, sculptor, architect, botanist, musician, and writer. Even though he died in 1519, his works still live on and are visited by thousands of people every day. One of his engineering accomplishments was a series of notebooks in which he sketched many designs of new concepts for mechanical devices. Most of this exhibit consists of crafted wooden (mostly) replicas illustrating copies of his designs. Some are fairly simple small exhibits but some are quite large and complex. Some are simple stationary models, but others can be cranked or otherwise activated, to show how they worked. In addition, another part of the exhibit were reproductions of some of his most famous paintings. He

was an incredibly brilliant person, and this exhibit shows only tiny illustrations of his genius. It is well worth seeing,



## Corbins progress

Birdy has been keeping us informed on the progress of this newest family member. We are happy to report that he is doing great and is the pride and joy of his parents Craig and Ana, and Birdy and Bruce.



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## Michael & Ashley Road Trip to Boulder

(by Michael)

Ashley and I arrived in Boulder safe and sound. I'd like to say that it



was a smooth trip out here, but the truth is we ran into some difficulties along the way. Here's the summary:

While preparing for the move to Boulder I ordered a moving pod. A few days later a large semi truck appeared at my parents' house, consuming the entire

driveway. We loaded the first 6 feet of the bed of the truck with our belongings and the remaining space was used to move commercial items. We tried hooking it up to the Mini and having Ashley drive the load to Boulder, but she didn't get too far.

**Day 1:** We decided to leave on Tuesday, Sept 29th, instead of Monday, since our moving truck would not be accessible until the following Tuesday. We departed from Encinitas around 8:00PM with the intention of driving 14 hours straight to get to Boulder. I had 4 Frappuccinos, 4 Amped energy drinks, and 2 Mountain Dew's packed in the car with me and was feeling confident that we could be in Boulder by 11:00AM the next morning. After about 2 hours on the road, the front passenger side of the Accord dipped and a loud scraping sound was heard from underneath the car. The car fishtailed back and forth until I maneuvered it onto the fast lane shoulder. Upon inspection, I realized that the car had a flat. Two friendly CHP officers and a man from AAA helped tow us to safety. When he put on the spare, the mechanic noticed that the wheel was destroyed: it had a huge dent from impact and a crack running from the inside almost all the way to the outside. We could drive no further that night. Around midnight, we checked into a motel in Barstow about 1 mile from the incident. The worst part was, I drank so much caffeine in anticipation of the drive that I couldn't fall asleep until 4 in the morning.

**Day 2:** I called Honda first thing the next morning and learned that not only was there no Honda dealership in Barstow, but that no other dealerships within 150 miles had the wheel we needed in stock. If we waited for the wheel to be shipped to Barstow we would be forced to spend another night there. Fortunately, Barstow is teeming with auto mechanics and shops. One tire store directed me to a local junkyard where I was able to buy a steel Honda Element wheel for \$25. After a brief panic we were back on the road by 11:00AM, Wednesday. We found a replacement wheel at a Honda dealership in St. George, Utah and had the Element wheel replaced at around 5 that evening. We pressed on to Vail where we spent the night at the Cascade Resort in an amazing room with a mountain view, courtesy of Ashley's dad.

**Day 3:** When we woke up in Vail on Thursday, there was fresh snow on the ground outside our window. We drove the final 2 hours to Boulder with snow falling on us as we made our way across the Continental Divide. It was incredible.



On our first weekend in Boulder we went hiking in the local mountains. You can see that the leaves are changing colors here, but fall is rapidly making way for winter. Our moving truck arrived on this past Tuesday and Jason flew



out here to help us unpack and move in. With Jason, we went exploring Pearl Street and found some great restaurants, bars, and breweries. Thank you Jason for your help!

Boulder is beautiful and our apartment community is great! Our clubhouse has freshly baked

cookies and coffee for residents every morning. We have access to a community pool, gym, bike paths and business center. The master bedroom in our 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom apartment has been converted into a guest room/office with an attached patio, awaiting your visit. You can see that Chico likes the kitchen window but wants to know why Boulder is so cold. A virtual tour with furniture can be seen at [http://www-rcf.usc.edu/~rielmeha/IMG\\_0363.MOV](http://www-rcf.usc.edu/~rielmeha/IMG_0363.MOV).



On October 10<sup>th</sup>, we got a ton of snow, and today it was 26 degrees. The weather forecast is for the 70s next weekend. This back-and-forth from snow to sun will take some getting used to. At least it looks like it will be a good ski season.

## Some birthday celebrations

There were two birthday celebrations in September. On the 1<sup>st</sup> Frank (JJ) Riel turned 19, and Dad Richard was 62 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. The group, including Mom Liz and Grandma and Grandpa dined at Seau's Restaurant, in Mission Valley. This was a special one for Richard, in that he became eligible for Social Security, a first for the Riel children. He has decided to file now, and his first payment is due in November. We enjoyed a fine meal and a good time was enjoyed by everyone.



**Curtis is on his way home** According to Birdy Curtis will be leaving Iraq on October 31<sup>st</sup> and will be in Texas on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. After six weeks of release procedures he will be out of the army and into college. He wants to finish his degree. See Nov. RFNL for more news.