

Family celebrates Easter 2010

Once again the family gathered together for another Easter. Like the past five years the site was the home of Francie and Lyle. But prior to that time, we met at Pioneer Park in Mission Hills and then at Lake Murray Park, and things were a bit different.



Jeff and Carol kindly drove there early on Easter morning to reserve a group of cement tables for our exclusive use. Each family brought something to eat. We had lots of chips and dips, veggies, several kinds of cold cuts, cheeses, salads, and several kinds of breads for sandwiches, plus "bring your own soft drinks." There was plenty of condiments plus desserts (no ice cream). Sports activities were popular, including baseball, soccer, bike riding around the lake, and kite flying. As the years go by, however, aching knees, creaky

backs, and arthritic joints have begun to take command, and many of the prior activities have been replaced by more sedate ones. Volleyball has been replaced by bocce ball, soccer by the pool table, and touch football by photography. Francie's flowers and vegetable garden are much admired and photographed by the camera lovers. The big improvement at the current site, however, is the food. In the spirit of the new growth in



spring, Francie suggested family members to make something they have never made before. And she assigned some judges to determine the most successful. Some of the most tasty selections were the grilled lamb chops by Jason, pizzas by Bruce, spinach leaf stuffed mushrooms by Francie, potato salad by Bob R., a strawberry cottage cheese dish and Easter dip by Carol, tofu enchiladas by Jeff, to name a few of the dishes – a long way from the ham and cheese sandwiches at Lake Murray. And, of course, there was

plenty of conversation and exchange of family news. Craig is due back from a business trip to South Africa, see the report on page two. The hit of the party was little Corbin, and his big brother Mathew, who both looked on with much amusement at all the attention Corbin was getting. Another special activity was the celebration of the family birthdays in April: Dustin on the 3rd, Brian (not present) on the 5th, Robert on the 9th, Kevin on the 11th and Jan on the 21st. Lots of pictures were taken, and all had a most enjoyable day. As usual, we express much thanks to Francie for her hospitality, and to all who contributed to the fun.



Bob Gillingham in bike accident

Bob's report on a recent biking experience -

Most mornings, my bicycle commute is a fairly solitary, fairly routine process changing only with the seasons. The temperature and daylight dictate the amount of clothing I wear and the number of flashing lights I place on my bike.

So, while riding to work two weeks ago, I was in "the zone," fully bundled and lighted and thinking only of what I was going to accomplish at work that day. I had just passed Stadium Way in Mission Valley and was beginning to accelerate away from the intersection by standing up on my pedals when my left pedal broke. I had been pushing hard enough that the torque twisted me around 180 degrees, and I ended up on the ground underneath my bicycle.

The bicycle didn't have a scratch on it, but I had a few, landing primarily on my left elbow, hip and leg. But my clearest recollection of the accident was my head hitting the pavement. I distinctly recall the perfect alignment of the bulk of my helmet with the back of my head, and the superb cushioning it afforded me, all of it seemingly in slow motion.

As I stood up to collect myself, another bicyclist pulled up to ask if I was okay. I indicated that I was, but I wondered aloud, even as I looked around, what had happened to my bike pedal. In a voice I'll never forget, the bicyclist said, "Dude, it's on your foot."

Sadly, I couldn't convince Listy that my bike had suffered frame fatigue, a ploy that has worked at least once before in securing a new bicycle, but she didn't complain at all when I said I needed to buy a new helmet!

Pedal on!

Thanks, Bob, for this report on what might have been a serious accident. It reiterates the policy that a helmet is absolutely mandatory for a biker!

Craig back from South Africa

We learned recently that Craig was sent by his company to South Africa to provide much needed maintenance on a diesel engine which powers a government research vessel. We understand he had a great time.

Dear World,

It's a blast to be sent to South Africa for free with \$1500 in per diem for work and be able to tour Cape Town for almost 3 full days while getting paid for 14 hours of each day. Work was grueling on the research vessel from 6 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. every day but the rest makes it worth

it. I'll be back in SD on Wednesday and will be hanging out with some much neglected friends and family this weekend.

Craig Hartman

Margaret's birthday song

On very special occasions the RFNL a cappella chorus presents a song especially authored by one of the family members. This is sung to the tune of the Beatles song "When I'm 64."

We Will Still Love You!

When she gets older, losing her mind...
Many years from now.
Will she still be moving using her own knees?
A diaper, a cane, or glasses to see?
Getting to work, in her new Prius.
Hoping she's keeping up with her peers.
Will we still bug her? Will we still hug her?
When she's 60 years?

Send her an email, whine on the phone.
Tell her what you need.
Indicate precisely what you mean to say.
She will answer, in less than a day.
Networks and computing, traveling the town.
Picking up souvenirs.
Will we still bug her? Will we still hug her?
When she's 60 years?

She raised her two kids, with Bud and some cats.
Taking them here and there.
Managing to work, using government pay
Or outside fi-nancers, she would do what they say.
We're sure proud of her, all that she's done.
This is what we cheer!
Will we still hug her? Yes! we will love her!
When she's 60 years!



RFNL dine out dinners Riel Bowl XIX



At the last Riel Bowl celebration one of the white elephant "dine out" dinner gifts was won by Kevin. That was the first year that both parents and kids participated in the white

elephant gift exchange, and both winners were family second generation members. The other winner, besides Kevin, was Katy.

We have not yet found a date when Brian will be in town so he can join us. However, Kevin elected to go ahead without his brothers so we set up a firm date. Kevin likes Italian



food and has a favorite restaurant in Hillcrest, called Pizzeria Arrivederci at 3789 4th Ave. Kevin's girlfriend Nicole (see the February RFNL for more about her) joined in the celebration.



Kevin's choice was an excellent one. It was small, unpretentious, very Italian, and served excellent

food with an European flair. It was an enjoyable evening and we highly recommend the restaurant to all.



Family favorite restaurant closes

Last Saturday Grandpa, Grandma, Ed, and Margaret decided to go to the Sizzlers salad bar on Midway, and agreed to meet Bud there. When we got there, to our consternation we found a sign on the locked door saying that the restaurant had been evicted.



Apparently the slow down in business had caught up with them. Grandpa recalls a similar fate years ago when a similar restaurant at the same location (different

building), the Midway Chuck Wagon also folded. Some of our children may recall a hypnosis show by a Michael Dean that flourished there for years. Maybe it's not a good site for a restaurant, but we will miss dining there.

Grandpa buys new computer

For some time now several of the children, especially Margaret, Robert, Carol, and Francie, have been telling Grandpa that he needs a new computer: "it's too slow", "everybody has two or three computers", "you should get a new one every three years" etc., etc., etc. After experiencing some internet problems he decided to take their advice. Carol, Francie, and Jason kindly volunteered to help decide on what to buy, and Jason and Carol agreed to make the installation. Grandpa explained that he wanted to keep the old instrument functional but set up the new components so as to allow for switching back and forth, one to the other. Thus we could share one monitor and one keyboard. The purchase was made at Fry's and quickly set up as planned. There were a few minor glitches but now everything is working OK. We thank those who helped us, especially Carol and Jason, for their skillful assistance. We plan on keeping photographs and drawings on the old set-up and use the new one for new word and excel documents.

The Riel Family Tree Now that the RFNL is being more widely distributed than in the past a number of readers have pointed out that they have trouble keeping track of everyone and where they fit in. In order to help clarify relationships we have drawn up a family tree tracing each person back to the Frank Riel/Edith Merica wedding in 1946. Each box contains the first and last name, the birth year (red) and the marriage year, (blue) where appropriate. In general, the older persons are at the bottom, the younger at the top. The complete three generations listing is shown on page 4.

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News  APRIL, 2010

