

# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch The News

August 2011

RFNL 246



**I'm a Boy**  I am breastfed  
 I am bottlefed

Baby RIOS

Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Room No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth 7/9/11 Time 1557

Weight 1890 Gm / 4 lbs 3oz Length 43.5 / 17 1/4

Head 31cm / 12"

Baby's Doctor Swanson

Mother's Doctor \_\_\_\_\_

Abbot  
A Division of 3M



## From Grammy Carol and Grampa Jeff:

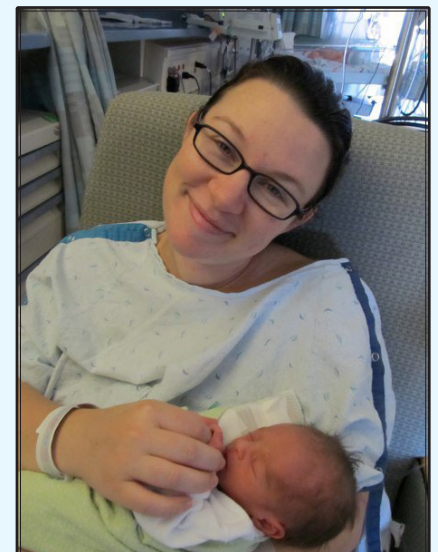


Jessica and Miguel were blessed with a beautiful baby boy, Benicio Oliver Rios, on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:57 pm. Sounds so simple... but the story starts in June when Jessica's doctor said she needed to have a bump (a vascular growth) removed from her arm.

A few days after

having this bump removed, the wound became infected and Jessica ended up in the hospital. She spent 4 long days battling a staph infection with antibiotics that gave her hives and a painkiller that caused her to faint. The stitches had to be removed and the infection drained but she won the battle. At 8 months pregnant, they monitored the baby throughout the entire ordeal and he seemed to do fine.

About a week after being home, she went for her 37 week check up and found out that her blood pressure was high. The doctor ordered a sonogram to see how the baby was doing. The test measured the baby at 4 lbs. which was smaller than normal for a 37 week baby. (Specifically, IUGR means the developing baby weighs less than 90% of other babies at the same gestational age.) Jessica's OB/GYN wanted her to get to 38 weeks because at that point the lungs and all other organs are fully developed. Jessica needed to take her blood pressure throughout the day and as long as it was normal, she could stay





## *My Grandson! By Jeff Benesch*

My grandson is the handsomest of boys  
He makes a wide variety of noise  
He squeaks and he giggles  
He toots when he wiggles  
But he's the best of all possible joys!

In my heart there's now a big place  
That hurts when I think of his face  
I miss him so badly  
For I'm his grand dadly  
And between us there's too big a space.

But soon I will hold him again  
I just can't be certain of when  
These tears are of joy  
And this darling little boy  
I love you and miss you, my Ben!

home. (If it went up above a certain level she needed to go in and be induced.) She was a good patient and stayed indoors without any further complications.



On Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, Jessica and Miguel checked into the hospital ready to have the baby. I was already with her and Jeff, Jason and Chavva jumped on a plane not wanting to miss the birth. Little did we know that inducing a little baby takes more than one day! After two very long nights and days, and many hours of labor pain, Jessica and Miguel decided on an epidural. Jessica felt much better and everything was going well, pain-wise, but the labor wasn't advancing.



The decision was made to take the baby via c-section, and Jessica was whisked into the OR, Miguel in tow. Both sets of grandparents, two uncles and an aunt nervously paced in the waiting room for what seemed like hours! When Miguel finally came out and announced we had a very healthy baby boy, everyone hugged and laughed. It was a memory that will always be etched in our minds.

Little Benny had to stay in the NICU for 8 long days, but is home now growing bigger by the day! He is a beautiful, sweet, little grandchild and Jeff and I enjoyed every minute we had with him and look forward to seeing him again soon! He is such a cutie!! And Jessica and Miguel are adjusting to parenthood with sleepless nights, but with all the tender love and caring, (and feeding, changing and nurturing) that two people can give.



# BIRDY AND NEWEST RIEL

# LISTY VISIT THE FAMILY MEMBER



At the end of July, Listy and I flew to New Jersey to meet Benny, our newest GREAT nephew. It was a pleasure to see Carol, who was already there on a visit of her own, as well as

being able to reconnect with Jessica and Miguel.

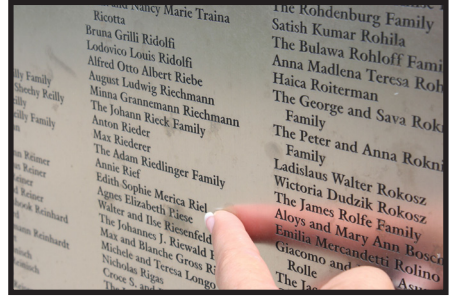
They live in this darling home that they are in the process of remodeling. Currently, Miguel has the entire upstairs "Under Construction" however I can tell it will be such a sweet home once they finish and have some space to let Benny rock and roll in.

Benny is so easy to love! He just nestles into your arms like an extension to your body. You just can't get enough time holding him. Jessica and Miguel report that the nights are not as peaceful but while we were there, he slept like an angel!!!

The highlight of our trip was going to Ellis Island with Carol, Jessica and Benny! We did the usual hunt for Grandma Yaya's name on the wall of immigrants. And sure enough, there she was on panel 695, Edith Sophie

Merica Riel. *Editor's note: Edith's married name is listed because panel 695 was created long after she arrived at Ellis Island. Her maiden name when she arrived from Iran was Sophie Edith Merica.* We all took photos around it and felt a little more connected to the island then most, knowing that our mom once was forced to stay on this island with dreams of someday becoming an American. What a great story! If you don't know it, be sure to ask Grandma Yaya all about it. It has all the intrigue of a great novel.

We want to thank Jessica, Miguel and Benny for inviting us to visit! We also extend a special thank you to Carol for sharing her grandson with us! We feel like we're part of a special grammy club and we can't wait for the rest of our sisters to join us!





# Birdy and Bruce Host Riel 4<sup>th</sup> of July Party



Once again Birdy and Bruce invited the Riel family to their beautiful home to celebrate the 4th of July. The house was decorated with many handmade items and was very festive. Many members of the family showed up along with special friends Holly, Rex Panton, Kym and Doug.

Aunts you could shake a stick at took their turn holding Liam. Of course Matthew and Corbin were there to show Liam how to “handle” the old folks.

The festivities included a “Have it your way” hot dog menu with many choices or you could just build your own at the “Fix-it-yourself bar.” Some of the menu items included: the “Texas” – BBQ sauce, cheddar cheese and onions or my favorite the “Trailer Park which featured crushed potato chips and cheese.

This was also Liam’s first Riel function, and it was well attended by many family members. However,

There was lots of conversation and even more pictures taken as the group waited for the start of the local fireworks show. After all the OHHHH’s and AWWWW’s the party broke up with lots of hugs

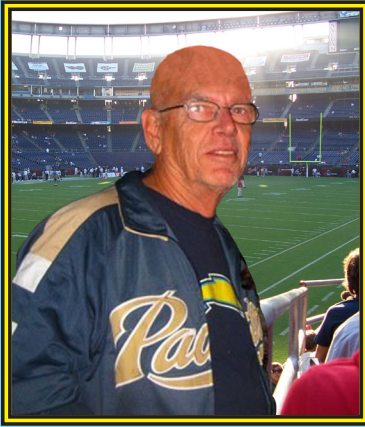


er, the 4th of July party included four generations of Riel’s all in one place! Uncles, Aunts, Grandma, Grandpa, Great Grandma, Great Grandpa and all the Great Uncles and



and kisses and of course don’t forget the “Bless you Children” from Grandma Edith. We thank Birdy and Bruce for another wonderful 4th of July celebration.



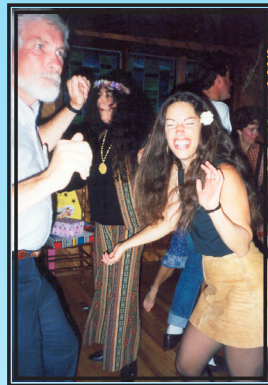


Alan reports that after a few weeks break his travel for work starts again. Starting in El Paso, then, Los Angeles. Then the Bay area, 2 weeks in Alaska, back to LA, one week in Sacramento and another in Reno, back to LA, back to Sacramento, then San Diego, then up to Lodi, back to El Paso, back to LA, one week in Hawaii, then Vegas baby, Back to Texas and that's the rest of his 2011.

We are entering the home stretch in the countdown to two more Riel Weddings. Kevin and Nicole's wedding is next month and Michelle and David's follow early in October. This of course is great news for the Riel women as they have another excuse to go shopping (as if they needed one)!



# FAMILY SHORTS



Grandma Birdy is spending some of her summer days with the grandkids. Recently she took Matt and Corbin to Sea World. However, not even the Grandkids could convince her to sit in the "Splash Zone" at the Shamu show.



Margaret and Bud recently visited Taiwan and showed the locals how to get down "American Style". Interestingly enough if you review the pictures of Bud and Margaret at Bud's 50<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> birthday parties; their "American Style" moves haven't changed in over 20 years!



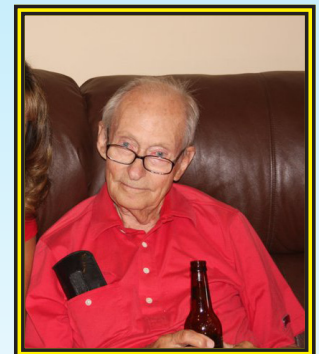
Michelle and David have moved to Rockville, Michelle is also finishing up writing her dissertation which she will soon submit, then do experiments addressing reviews of her paper and finally defend it! Good luck Michelle!



Bryce turned 25 in July, a quarter of a century! It's hard to believe, in seems like only yesterday he was playing little league and driving Francie and Alan nuts. On the other hand I guess some things never change!



David celebrated his 26th Birthday by going out on the town. Well we're not sure the corner bar counts as "doing the town" but the real question is: did he make it to work on time the next day?



Grandpa Frank reports that he won \$300 playing Bingo at Viejas! Not just once but twice! And if that's not enough Grandma Edith took home some winnings from the slot machines as well. Looks like those trips to the east county are starting to pay off.

Tim celebrated his 29th birthday in July and has made his plans for his Europe trip (all booked and paid for.) He'll be in Scotland 9/19-28, London 9/28-10/3, Amsterdam 10/3-10/7, and Paris 10/7-12.

# FRANCIE AND LYLE TOUR ALASKA



## THINGS TO TAKE OFF MY BUCKET LIST

- 1 Fishing.
- 2 Any activity that you have to hike to that has no facilities.
- 3 Any clothes that you have to wear to go fishing.
- 4 Fishing in the rain in 50 degree weather.
- 5 Did I mention fishing?

### Editors note:

As many of you might remember, sometime ago Lyle won a one-week fishing trip for two in Alaska. Well, last month Francie and Lyle combined that trip with an Alaskan cruise and what follows is Francie's report.



Being in Alaska was an adventure for sure; bald eagles flying everywhere, bears hanging out, sea planes, glaciers, whales and beautiful nature that makes you feel so small and isolated. Lyle and I had a great 2 weeks in the American "outback". We cruised, we hiked, we shopped and we just chilled, a great vacation by anyone's standards.

I made Lyle proud by catching fish to put on the table. Though I did not enjoy it completely, I was happy to make my Lylely happy, even if it was just a brief moment in time. And as usual, he made me happy by buying me something beautiful.



We brought back 85 lbs. of fish to share and if you haven't gotten yours yet, you just need to come by and pick it up. Next we are headed out to Lake Tahoe to spend some time with Boone and Cindy. You see, I need a vacation from my vacation!





# Road Trip 2011

By Robert Riel

Once again it was time for our annual road trip vacation, so Karla and I (no Kids, Woo Hoo!) left on Friday the 10th of June for the great North West. After a quick hop through Las Vegas (no, we didn't even gamble) and a stopover in northern Utah we arrived at Yellowstone National Park.

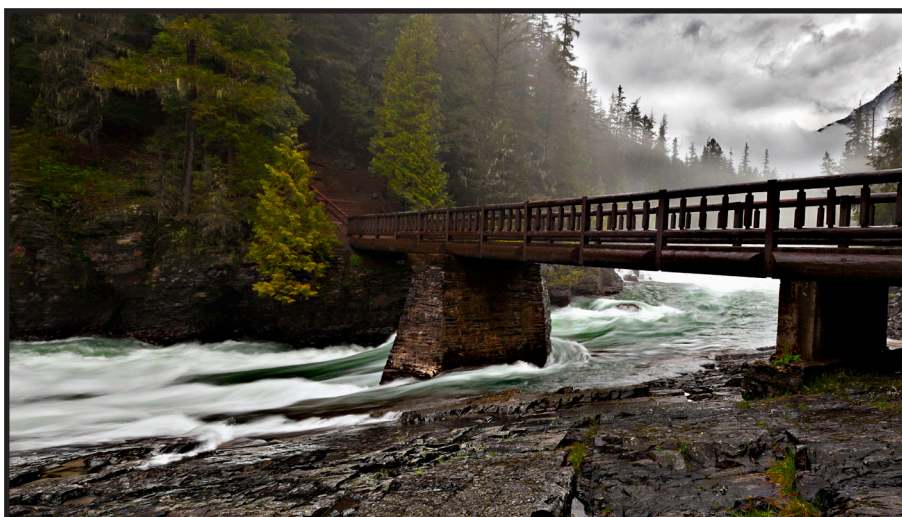
Yellowstone can be deceiving; to the casual observer it has an almost zoo like atmosphere. Many of the animals are so used to seeing humans that they hardly blink as you pass by them. In fact, it's not uncommon for traffic to back up for miles just because the bison decide to walk down the middle of the road. However, once you start hiking into the back areas you understand that this is as real as it gets. The carcasses of bison remind you that every day is a life-or-death struggle for some of the park's inhabitants.

Yellowstone Park is bigger in area than the states Vermont and New Hampshire combined and over 90% of it is rugged backcountry



try that few humans have ever seen. It is a beautiful park, one that has so many different areas and features. It can be warm and spring like on the West side while the East side still has over 10' (yes feet!) of snow and spring feels like it is still months away. This year they had twice the normal amount of snow which resulted in many of the animals (especially bears) still being in the lower areas. We saw many Grizzly bears, some as close as only 50 feet away (don't worry we were in the car with windows rolled up). All in all, Yellowstone has become our second favorite National Park and we encourage all you European travelers to think about seeing the good old USA for a change!

Next on the list was a return to our favorite Park, Glacier National Park located in Montana on the Canadian border. It is actually the first International Park with the Canadian side being called Watertown Lakes National Park. We like this park mostly for its rain forests, alpine meadows, beautiful lakes, and of course the glacier capped mountains. Sad to say, that they are predicting that all of the glaciers will be gone in the next 15 or so





years. However, this year they got record snowfalls and the “going to the sun road” was still closed with over 20’ of snow still blocking it.

We spent about a week exploring this area, including the Canadian side. We went on several hikes but Karla’s favorite thing to do was “Car hike”. This is where we rented a 4X4 and explored old forest and primitive roads that lead to secluded prairies, lakes and rivers. We put over a 1,000 miles on that jeep in just under a week!

Next up, the Bad Lands of South Dakota. We visited both Wind and Jewel Caves National parks. Each Park has an extensive cave system that if set end to end would be hundreds of miles. Of course we took tours in each cave and it was very interesting. The one thing to note about these caves is that they do not have the formations like you would see in popular caverns like Carlsbad Caverns. But they are massive with branches going in



every direction including up and down. The entire cave systems are only 5-10% mapped out so there is still a lot to be found.

Also in the area is Custer State park and we again did some car hiking with another rented 4X4. It is a beautiful area with

lots of wild bison roaming vast prairies, in some cases as far as the eye can see. We traveled back into areas where we were completely alone. I’d like to believe that we were able to experience a little of what the pioneers felt when they first entered the area.



All to soon it was time to move on so off to Colorado to visit Michael and Ashley. We found a campground that didn’t look like it would be too far from their home but as it turned out was almost an hour away, not to mention up about 10,000 ft. in altitude. Michael was very gracious and came to pick us up so we could all have dinner together, including Ashley’s mom Judy. We had a wonderful time and the long drive there and back gave us a chance to chance to talk with Michael about his life in Colorado.



With only four days left in our 3 ½ week vacation, on a whim, we decided to head back through Moab, Utah and visit Canyons and Arches National Parks. What

another beautiful place to visit! We again rented a 4X4 jeep (this car hiking thing is really catching on) but this time we went on jeep trails where you really needed all



4 wheel drive and in low, low gear. All I can say is two days is nowhere near enough time, and we both agreed that a return visit would be in order.

Heading home, we stopped by and visited Greg Guindon, my best friend now for almost 50 years. He and his wife, Ara live in Yucca, Arizona in the same house his parents used to live. Many family members may remember that back when I was about 18 Greg, and I would drive out and help his parents fix the place up. In fact their house was my first electrical wiring job learning from a book we got at Dixie-line Lumber. Yes it’s still there and hasn’t burned down!

We got back home on July 3rd late in the evening and spent the next day cleaning out the RV and putting things away. We had a wonderful time and can hardly wait until next year’s trip.

