

# The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch The News

December 2011 RFNL 250



## THE RIEL FAMILY THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION



Kilted  
"VEGAS STYLE"



Michael and Jason  
Join the Bald Headed Club  
And More Family Shorts

Grandpa,  
Back  
At Home!





# Margaret and Bud Host Family Thanksgiving

By Robert Riel

During this year's Thanksgiving Day celebration the Riel family had a lot to be thankful for... Family (4 generations worth), friends, good food, but most important of all, we were thankful that Grandpa Frank had recovered enough from his stroke and was able to attend the festivities.

It was his first real trip out of the rehabilitation center and it started off with me and Karla picking him up at around 10:00 am. Grandpa was very excited as this would be the first time he would return home since his stroke. He even directed me as to the proper route to take him home, recognizing many landmarks along the way.

As we pulled up, Grandma had the garage door open and was waiting for







Frank to come home. As Grandpa got out of the car, he called out Grandma's name, and with tears flowing, told her how much he loved her and how happy he was to be home. They held a long embrace, cried and kissed each other.



Upon entering his home Grandpa went directly to the freezer to see if his memory about his favorite ice cream was correct. Which it was. Next it was time to get changed for the trip to Margaret and Bud's home. However before we left Grandpa

insisted on taking a tour of the house including the downstairs. Each new room brought back memories that he thought were gone and it made him very happy.





Then it was off to the party with Grandpa again giving me directions on how to get there. Once we arrived there was a wonderful welcome party just waiting for Grandpa and Grandma. They were both happily escorted inside to join the party.

With a threat of rain for the day, Bud and Margaret had prepared for a cozy inside affair. Fortunately, not only didn't it rain but the sun came out and it turned into a very nice day. The morning appetizers were all set out



along with many assorted drinks as more and more family member started to arrive. Bud was busy supervising the cooking of the “Bird” and Margaret was making last minute preparations for the day’s meal. They both out did themselves as everything was done to perfection and the rest of the family pitched in with many delicious salads, side dishes and desserts.

After everyone ate their fill, it was time for Michael’s beer identification contest which was very popular with the “Next Generation” members of the family. The contest

involved sampling several different types of beer and correctly identifying them as to the type, and if you were really good, the brand. Several contestants had most of them right but David was declared the winner by correctly identifying every beer type and almost every brand. I am sure Bob and Listy were very happy to see that all the money they spent on David’s collage education didn’t go to waste!



It was a wonderful day made even better by having Grandpa there. We thank Margaret and Bud for hosting us once again this year in what has truly become a RIEL TRADITION.



# Nicole and Kevin make it "Official" in Las Vegas

By Ed Riel

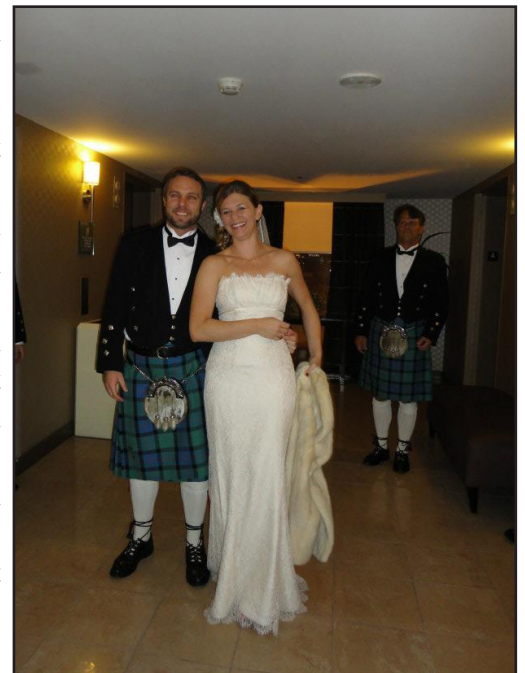


So you are not legally married, and both of your families, sitting in Scotland, missed the opportunity to see you exchange your vows in Germany; so how do you fix that?



I guess a bizarre situation requires a bizarre city like Las Vegas. Why is it, that the city that invented more ways than any other place on earth to get you to enjoy losing money, would also be the easiest place on earth to get married in? That is, in itself, bizarre. But we needed easy; so Las Vegas was in, and the Friday after Thanksgiving became the time.

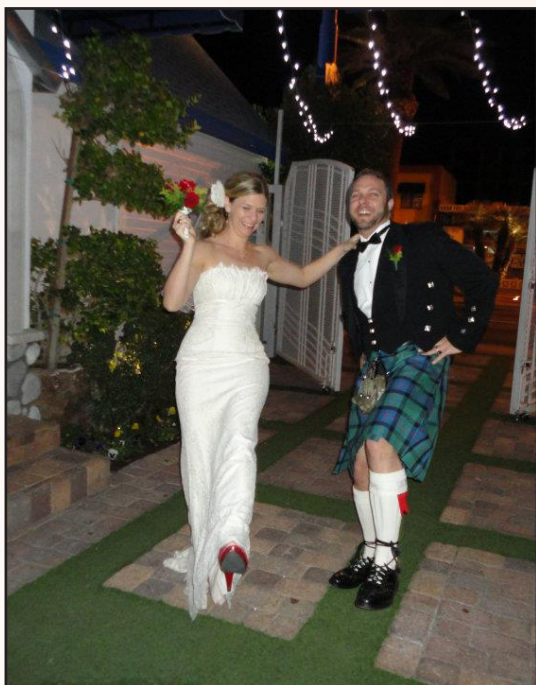
The plan required gathering ourselves at Kevin and Nicole's home on Thanksgiving so we could get an early start on the drive to Vegas the next day. It was nice that Nicole's mother, Karlene could join us (flying in from Chicago). We had not seen her since those crying days in Scotland. Unfortunately, we did miss the family Thanksgiving feast at Margaret & Buds, but were with all of you in the name of food and family. Additionally, I am pleased to report that Kevin and Nicole are quite the cooks, and we had a wonderful meal that day.





Early the next morning, we were off in a two car caravan, joining up with Tim along with Nicole's sister, Heidi and her husband Fred. Later, that same afternoon, we prepped for the 7PM nuptials. While Nicole had the joy of putting her wedding dress on for a second time, all the guys tried to figure out how to fit into their Scottish kilts.

From our hotel, just off the strip, we were ushered to the Graceland Chapel by a limo that only played Elvis rock tunes.



And then, there we were, at the little white chapel, a spitting image of the one Jan & I were married in 33 years ago. The

ceremony straddled the line of religious entertainment and big time serious fun. We laughed and then smiled, from ear to ear, as the heartfelt "I do's" were exchanged.

From the chapel we went to this great restaurant for a memorable dinner. We ordered the "feast"; which was served on platters with small servings of literally every Item on their menu. They served two to three items every ten minutes or so, allowing time to pass the food around to share and enjoy, while at the same time drinking and toasting the "officially" married couple.



Afterwards we saw a few Vegas attractions and then the young folk were off for a night that truly never ended. But you will have to ask them about that. As for Jan and I, we were back in our hotel bed by the end of great Friday night, happy that all was well with our children, as was with us.



# FAMILY SHORTS



Holden is getting around these days, first it was off to show how well he can swim and next he's out modeling his winter collection of new clothes.



Bryce graduated from his Culinary Arts School and it's now official "Chief Bryce" is in the Kitchen!



Brett and Mandy visited London at the end of November. While there they were able to attend a Arsenal's Soccer game at Emirates Stadium.



Liam was baptized on November 20, 2011. To celebrate Listy and Bob had a party at their home hosting the proud parents Seamus and Kristy along with family and friends.

Benny has invented the duel reclining chair. Very comfortable, especially when Dad provides a gentle up and down motion, with a nice breeze to keep his feet cool. There are a few bugs still left to work out such as the anti-snoring mode, but all in all, a pretty good resting spot.



Michelle and David took a short trip to Newport, Rhode Island and then joined Curtis and Lauren at their home in Maryland for Thanksgiving.



Nicole, introducing her and Kevin's newest addition... Skip Swami Riel. Editor's note: I tried the puppy thing when Karla and I got married, it only bought me 18 months, and Kids are never far behind!



Craig, Ana, Matt and Corbin went to Disneyland during the Thanksgiving break. That is certainly one way to keep the after-Thanksgiving shopping to a minimum!





# Grandpa Returns

## Home!

By Robert Riel

The Saturday after Thanksgiving was more than just a great shopping day, it was the day Grandpa was released from the rehabilitation center helping him relearn skills lost due to his stroke. After spending two weeks of having therapy 3 times a day Grandpa was more than ready to come home. In fact, he had the date circled on his calendar as soon as he was told when he could go home.



The long anticipated Saturday morning finally came with Francie and Carol getting Dad ready to make his “Get-A-Way”. Unfortunately, hospitals being what they are, the paperwork took a lot longer. Dad, showing his usual patience, was having a hard time understanding why we just couldn’t leave. Francie left to go to work and I showed up around 10:30 only to find Mom, Dad and Carol just waiting to get the “paperwork”. Finally it showed up and we were off to Grandpa and Grandma’s house to drop off his things and make a quick change of clothes.

While there, Grandpa took the opportunity to check out his checkbook and find out how much money Grandma spent while he was away. He also reacquainted himself with his den and Carol helped him re-learn how to use his remote control for the TV.

Then it was off to the “Gathering”, a restaurant in Hillcrest, which is the usual Saturday lunch spot. There we met up with many family members, including four generations of Riels. It was really good to have Grandma and Grandpa back on their normal routine.



We had a wonderful lunch with everyone getting to spend some time with Grandpa and Grandma. Jason and Michael spent time discussing the latest ways to develop websites, and then played with Jason’s new nephew Benny. The sisters spent plenty of time talking about the previous day’s shopping conquests and what they were planning for later in the day.



Grandpa will require a lot of speech therapy in the months to come as his ability to process information has been limited due to the effects of the stroke. We all have high hopes that it will all come back to him and he can return to the routines he once knew. The good news is that he’s back home and on the following Monday even went out and played some golf (with the help of Grandma and Margaret). We all wish Grandpa a speedy recovery and will keep him in our prayers.

