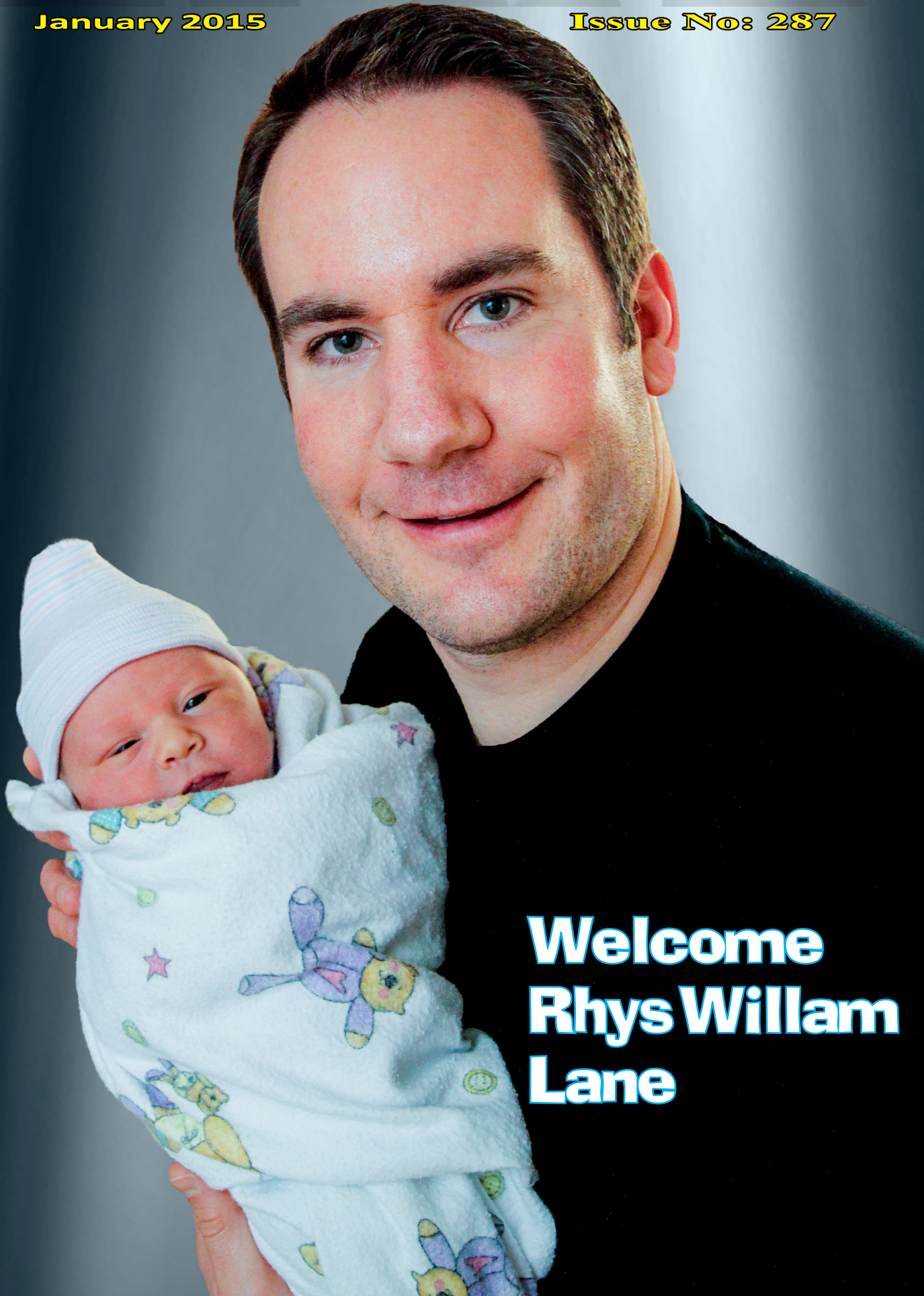




January 2015

Issue No: 287



**Welcome
Rhys Willam
Lane**



Meet My Brother Rhys



Introducing Rhys William Lane (pronounced "Reese") born December 17th at 1:08 pm at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Bethesda MD - 7lbs 7 oz., 21.4 inches, Mama & baby are well... And so the text and posting on Facebook went out along with a very good looking picture of the newest member of the Riel clan.



Michele and David sent in the following update on their happy event:

Hi Uncle Robert,

We figured we would give you some more information about Rhys for the newsletter.

We picked his name because a couple times during my pregnancy when they tried to get his heartbeat by Doppler, they couldn't find it. So they had to do an ultrasound instead. Dave liked the name William. But I felt like this baby needed a more spirited name. Rhys is a Welsh name meaning ardor (enthusiasm, passion) & "inspired by God". So when we gave him the first name Rhys, we decided to give him the name that David likes best as a middle name. Thus the name Rhys William.




So far he is a very good baby. He looks a lot like Owen did when he was born. He's good spirited and sleeps well most nights. However he is not as laid back as Owen was at this stage. I'm sure that winter isn't helping because seriously, who would want to change clothes & diapers in a cold room!!

His brother Owen loves to smother him with hugs and kisses so that keeps things interesting. Owen can't quite control his own strength, so we are constantly reminding him to be gentle with the baby. However, he wakes up asking about baby wanting to know where baby is etc. It's pretty cute. Hopefully the boys will be lifelong friends.

Love Ya All!
Michelle and
David





The holidays are a time where we make a special effort to be with our family and friends. However one of the challenges that falls upon a large family like ours is the difficulty in getting them all together at one time. In fact, these days with the third and fourth generation of Riels spread out across, not just the Nation, but the world (Scott Hartman) it's all but impossible.

But with Riel Bowl we have an unofficial family reunion every year. A known gathering that our family can count on and yes, even plan for. It's also a time where we can honor Grandma Edith as her birthday is celebrated at the same time. I believe Grandpa Frank joins us each year for Riel Bowl and I know his blue eyes are sparkling and he is wearing that crooked smile on his face. I can't think of a better way to celebrate his memory than attending Riel Bowl...

RB

XXIV



The 24th Riel Bowl and Edith Riel's 90th Birthday Celebration!

Friends and family gathered at the Gillingham Estate to honor mom and celebrate Riel Christmas together in style. The focus this year was all about mom and everyone joined in to make it a special celebration.

Around noon on January the 1st everyone started to show up bringing a favorite dish to share and some beverages to toast the event in style! After the usual catching up and first of many rounds of pictures it was time to eat. Commissioner Listy following Grandpa Frank's tradition, had an agenda all set and she followed it religiously.

Lunch consisted of the traditional prime rib roast, chicken, meatballs, corn on the cob (well corn on the stick if you dipped them in the seasonings), potatoes, veggies and an assortment of salads including Carol's famous orange salad.

Around 1:30 the Christmas celebration began with the Great Grand Kids opening gifts from the different family members. With 15 kids getting gifts from all the sets of uncle and aunts there was plenty of presents to be opened. Yes there really are 15 (now 16, soon to be 17) great Grandkids, they are, in no particular order:



- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Matthew Hartman | Corbin Hartman | Josie Hartman |
| Liam Keith | Braeden Keith | Benny Rios |
| Sofie Rios | Matty Rios | Holden Benesch |
| Noah Benesch | Blake Riel | Emily Mehan |
| Cora Hartman | Owen Lane | Rhys Lane |

After the grandkids got done we had the traditional White Elephant gift exchange, Grandma Edith Style. The rules were you have to find something that makes you think of Mom. The best ones were easy to identify because everyone was able to make the connection as soon as they saw it. There were many creative gifts including wine glasses (obvious tie in), Beatles on the Ed Sullivan show (one of her favorite



shows to watch) and of course there was some “Very Beautiful” jewelry given out.

Next it was time for the showing of Birdy and Listy’s “Mom video”. Weeks before, they had asked everyone to submit the following items from each family for the video:

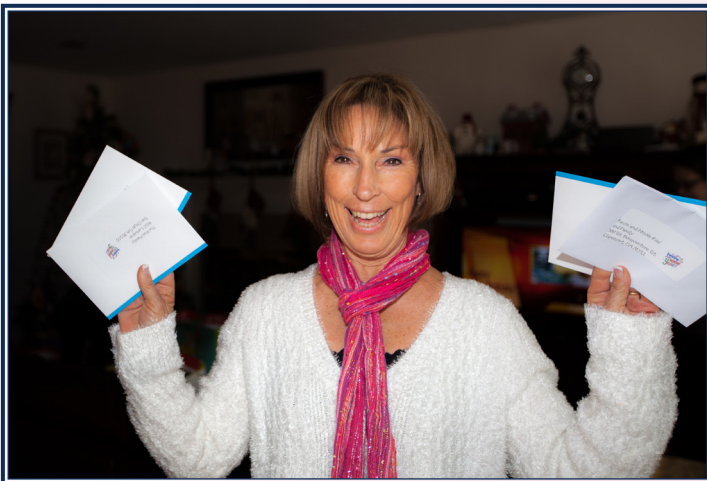
- 1) Your best imitation of a classic mom line.
- 2) 8 of your favorite photos of you and mom together.
- 3). A Happy Birthday message for mom, any way you want to do it, but please try to keep it under 2 min.



The movie was a big hit. It contained many pictures from Grandma’s whole life and also had several video clips from her children all the way down to wishes from her great grand kids. The Edith imitations were all very good but I think Bob and Listy Gillingham’s were among the best. Bob, wearing a wig and Listy with her “Edith glasses” pulled off many of Grandma’s most famous lines. Interestingly enough, no one included the famous “Cheese Foxy... Cheese!”



Next came the Birthday Cake along with gifts and what has become a tradition for these types of major birthdays... The Riel singers with an original song written just for the occasion (see side bar for lyrics and tune).



Grandma’s big gift from the family was a money tree with over \$500.00 on it. The money was to be used on what can only be described

as the worst kept birthday surprise gift ever (even for this family), a trip to Las Vegas which would take place starting the next day!

That's it! A true 90th celebration that even Grandma Edith will never forget! She feels the love and knows that she is the glue that keeps us all together. Even though we may not have everyone there we felt their presence via the video!

Everyone had a merry "other" Christmas and we thank Listy and Bob for once again hosting this family event. It is a lot of work to pull these types of celebrations together and it was nice to see everyone in the family participate. Oh yes

Listy had one more rule: Kristy...please do not go into labor on this day... and like a good daughter she obliged her mother until... more on that later.



Sung to the tune of Hello Dolly:

**Hello Edith
It's your family Edith
It's so nice to have you here at 90 years**

**You're looking swell Edith
We can tell Edith
You're survivin', you're still thrivin'
On just almonds and beer ...**

**So don't slow down Edith
We'll be around Edith
It's so hard to keep up with your frantic pace**

**You're looking swell Edith
We can tell Edith
You're still walkin', you're still talkin'
You're the star of this place!**

**We feel this room swayin'
While you're still prayin'
As we sing your favorite songs from way back when**

**So thinkin' of Dad lately
We all miss him too, greatly**

**But Mom, we'll keep you busy,
Yaya, you make us dizzy
Great grama in a tizzy, every day.**



Riel Family Takes over Vegas for Grandma's 90th Birthday Celebration



If Riel Bowl wasn't enough action for the family the following weekend in Las Vegas certainly would provide all the excitement anyone could handle. No, there's no time to relax because the very next day after Riel Bowl (Friday) many of the family members set their course on Las Vegas. Bruce and Birdy were the first to take off at 6:00 am, with Robert and Karla following in the motorhome about 20 minutes later. Other drivers that day were Bob and Listy, Ed, Jan, Tim, and Chris, Brett, Frank, Richard and Liz all driving and arriving between noon on Friday and early Saturday, morning.

Some chose to take to the air like Carol and Jeff, Margaret and Bud, Francie and Lyle, all who escorted Grandma Edith to Las Vegas. When they got there a stretch limousine greeted them and drove everyone to their respective hotels. By about 1:00pm most of the family had arrived and of course it was time for lunch! We all met at a place called JJ's in the Paris hotel. They had a great special, a sandwich of your choice, chips and a drink all for about \$10. But their service left a bit to be desired and poor Bud might still be waiting for his food if he didn't point out that they had missed him.

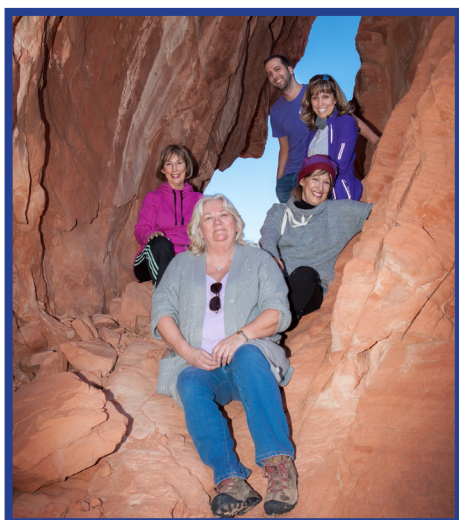
Next the groups divided up into those that wanted to play bingo (Margaret, Francie Carol and Grandma), those that wanted to watch the UCLA football game (Lyle, Bud and Jeff) and the rest (Birdy, Bruce, Karla and Robert) who decided to go shopping to find a jacket for Bruce as the weather there was very cold (20's at night 50's during the day). Each had a mission and each met with some success.

First off the "Bingo Gang" went to the Golden Palace to visit the largest bingo hall in Las Vegas. It was a short walk (1.5 miles) and they all had no problem finding their way. Once there, they went to the 5:00 session had dinner at the buffet, then went for another round of bingo at the 9:00 pm session. Grandma, Carol and Margaret all won some money so the first night of bingo was truly a success.



The “Shoppers” after limited success at a Walmart super store found a specialty shop that had just what Bruce was looking for, a nice button up jacket to keep him warm. Robert spotted a blue velvet jacket with a red, orange and yellow dress shirt that was just Bruce’s size. There were even red and white patent leather shoes that went with it, but somehow Bruce was not impressed. With their mission accomplished they called Listy and Bob Gillingham who had just arrived and arranged to have dinner.

While eating at a place called la Burger the group was joined by Ed, Jan and Tim who just made it in as well. We all enjoyed some good burgers and even better onion rings while watching the remainder of the UCLA game. With UCLA winning a close game those that chose to stay in and watch the game also met with success.



The next day there were again three groups; those that stayed with Grandma and slept in, those that slept in and played golf and finally, those that decided to get up early to meet at Robert and Karla’s RV (7:00 am) for breakfast burritos before heading to the Valley of Fire state park.

It was a bit chilly in the morning with temps in the mid 30’s and low 40’ for most of the morning. But this didn’t stop Tim, Carol, Francie (yes Francie went hiking), Listy, Robert and Karla from driving about an hour to get to the state park. It was a beautiful park and we all decided to hike the rainbow vista trail which was about 1.5 miles long. The park map showed a beautiful rock arch and we were all looking forward to seeing it. However without

the perspective of size we soon learned that the arch was no bigger than about 6’ across and 3’ high. Yet we made the best of it and really enjoyed all the different rock formations and little carved out niches.



After the first hike a few decided to go back and gamble a bit with Grandma, but Francie, Karla and Robert took on another trail (White Dome) that took us to an old movie set, through a slot canyon and then back along some very colorful rock formations. The valley of fire is a great place to visit (in the cooler months) and we would highly recommend adding it to your bucket list of places to see.



The gamblers had breakfast and enjoyed a day of slot machines and other attractions. We understand that Birdy did win \$200 on a slot machine and managed to even keep some of it after playing a bit longer.

The golfers had a good time but we never heard who the big winner was. It could be that the scores weren’t that great so



the less said the better. But while they were out swinging clubs at little defenseless balls, Karla, Robert and Francie had a wonderful lunch in the Paris hotel while doing some people watching as well.

Next up, the group dinner at, where else, the Golden Palace buffet. So at 7:00 pm we all met there only to find out that the hotel had arranged for a private area for all of us to eat (is it possible they know how the Riel family dinners can get, shall we say, a bit loud?). Unfortunately, when we sat down Grandma Edith noticed she had lost her sweater. Here comes Richard to the rescue and he searched the entire hotel until he found it. Although it did take some time to find it he was welcomed with cheers as he returned the sweater to Grandma.



What's next you ask? Why Bingo of course! So we all went and got our cards (electronic and/or paper) for the 9:00pm games. On the very first game Karla won and she managed to Bingo on the cash ball as well. Even though this was a double payout game, we didn't expect much because there was another bingo winner that would split the pot. But when they brought the money and started counting out \$100 bills we all got very excited (especially Robert who quickly pocketed the winnings). In total, Karla won \$1,085.00, not bad for the first game. But the winning was not over as Robert got two more bingos during the session and won another \$200! Grandpa Frank must have been influencing the balls as they came out of the machine.

With another successful day in Las Vegas complete, we all headed back to our rooms as many of the group would be driving out at 0-Dark thirty in the morning. While the jetsetters along with Ed and Jan stayed until Monday. It truly was a great weekend. One that Grandma Edith will remember for a long time. We thank the Riel

sisters for putting this together. This was the first time since Grandpa Frank's passing, that all us siblings were together. Hopefully there will be many more to come.





Welcome to the world, Riley Hendee Keith!

The "smallest" of the Keith boys at 7lbs, 8oz, Riley already has a lot to live up to! Our little family of five is finally complete! - This was the posting on Facebook from Kristy and Seamus announcing the birth of their third son Riley. He was born early in the morning on January the 4th in fact, Kristy reported being in labor while we were all playing bingo the night before.

We will provide a lot more information in next month's edition of the Riel Family Newsletter, where Riley will be the cover story. Also a third new member of our family is due soon as well. Dustin and Lauren are expecting the arrival sometime around Valentine's Day.

FAMILY SHORTS



Scott and Karen left took a trip to Ireland over the Christmas holidays and by all accounts had a great time. I'm sure that he will be sending in a news article (hint, hint) for next month's issue. Until then you can keep up with their exploits on Facebook.



Leaving no stone unturned during the holidays the RFNL managed to get a shot of some of Santa's elves taking five before returning to the hard work of making toys for all the children in the world.

Merry Christmas from the Riels

Below are some pictures from some of the family members Christmas celebrations. Even though we were not all together on Christmas day, we all got to enjoy some of the action via pictures posted and sent throughout the day. The Riel family enjoyed an exceptionally good 2014 and here's to wishing everyone a better 2015!

