

R F N L

Catch The News

January 2016

Issue No: 299



RIEL BOWL XXV Held at Listy and Bob's New Home



This year the Riel family celebrated the 25th Riel Bowl on January 2, 2016 at Listy and Bob's new home in La Mesa. Well to be more accurate, a new home for Listy but Bob grew up in this house so for him, it was more like coming back to a very familiar place. As reported in the November issue of RFNL they moved in last Summer and have been working feverishly to remodel the entire home. Well they unveiled their progress during the Riel Bowl and what a wonderful job they've done so far.

The kitchen has been completely redone with all new cabinets, countertops, tile flooring and appliances. Bob has also placed new wood flooring in the entry way, living room, hall way and dining room. They also have replaced a majority of the windows with new, energy efficient, double pained, vinyl, windows. And finally, they have removed old wall paper and painted most of the home to give it that new fresh look.

As guests arrived for the Riel Bowl festivities, tours were given of the home to show off the progress made during the last few months. Their home is the perfect place to host this family event because it has so much space. There was plenty of parking for everyone and easy access through the tennis court to the house. By the way, thanks to a friend of the Benesch's, there was a jumping house installed by the tennis court for the smaller kids to play in.

Even with about 40 family members and guests attending,

the house felt very comfortable and could have easily handled twice that amount, which it may have to do someday. The kitchen had plenty of counter space and handled all the food with ease. Listy had warming trays set up so that all the food stayed nice and warm until served.

Speaking of food there was plenty of it and the Riels, not known for being shy when it comes to eating made short work of the 20# prime rib roast, ham sandwiches, home-made chili, pasta, potatoes and salads.

After lunch, the group gathered in the family room while Francie and Carol demonstrated their gift to the family which is the hosting of a "this is your life" website. By using this website our family will be able to share and keep pictures and videos of all our families in one spot (please see Francie's article in this issue for more information).



The Riel/Mehans family gift also includes taking the Riel/Mehans family gift presentation came next which also includes taking on an internet family connections task. Margaret announced that Megan is taking the lead in creating a new webspace for the family and thinking about how to make it more interactive. The new Beta Version development site can be found at: riels.weebly.com but once it is further developed, it will be moved to riels.org and this will also consolidate the other websites that Margaret has been maintaining.

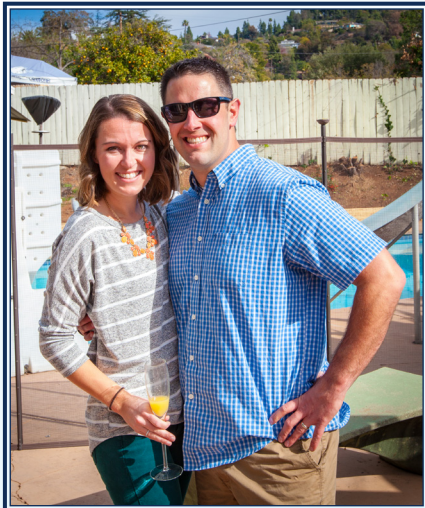


Riel.org (and its link to ThisLife) is a great space as it houses all of the archives but it needs a new modern design and Megan has agreed to give it a new look and make access to the newsletters and other family content faster. You will find an ever expanding family tree, contact information and other new features.



After these two presentations the rest of the family gifts were passed out including the famous Riel Calendars produced by Birdy and Listy each year. Even the 4th generation of kids got into the act by opening their gifts from the family.

Soon it was time for the white elephant exchange which continues to grow with the addition of the 3rd generation Riels. As usual there was lots of stealing and plotting going on to somehow get the best gifts, but everyone wanted to end up with the gift Grandma Edith provided which was a week stay at her time share in Palm Desert. That prize was stolen twice before Annie Gillingham wound up with it. She is already planning for her vacation which runs from June 3rd until June 10th this summer.

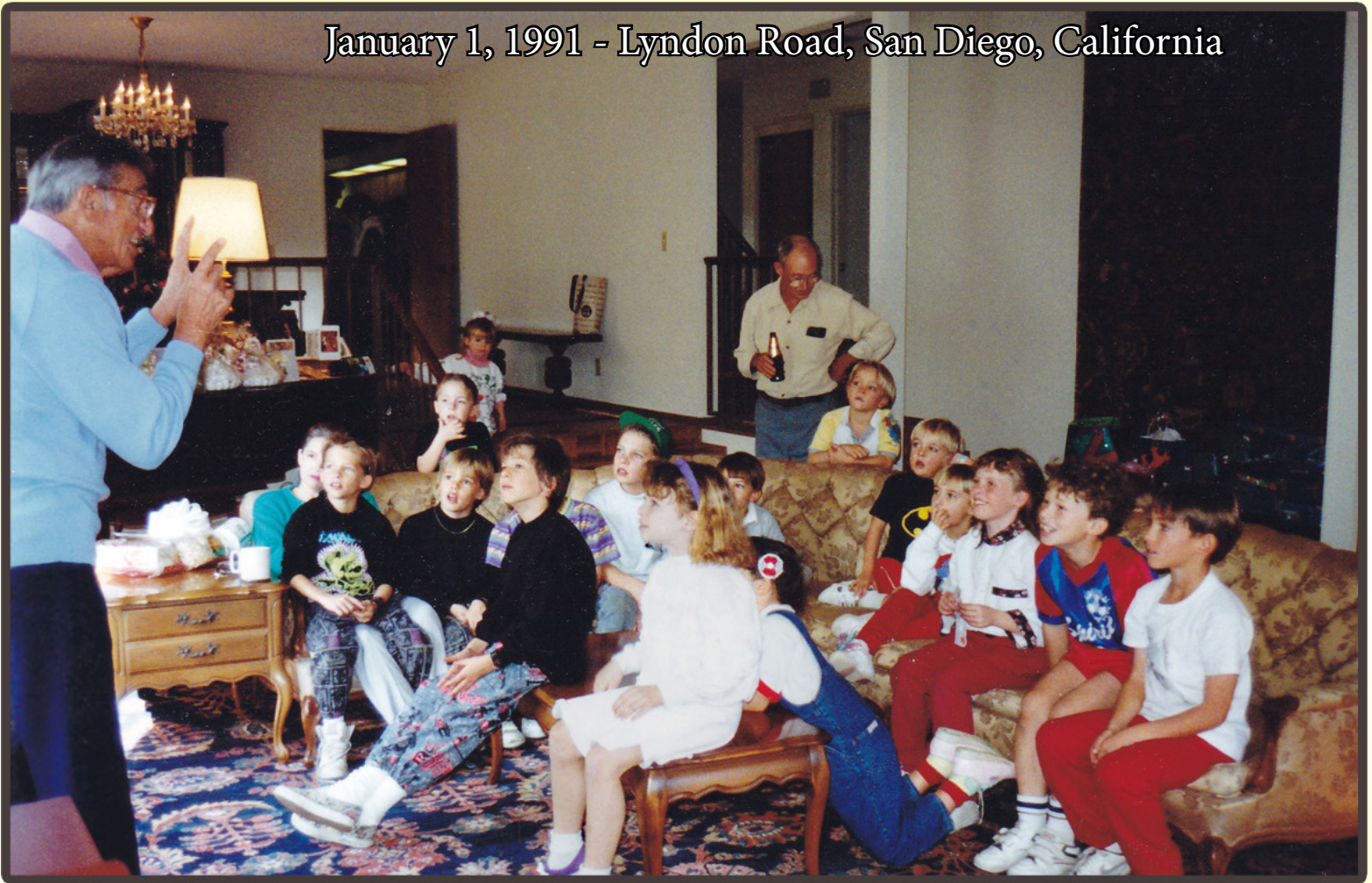


At the end of the party Robert showed his pictures from David and Megan's wedding which allowed those who could not attend a chance to see what they missed. There was even some video that demonstrated just how well we Riels can dance!

All in all, it was a great day and as always, is the perfect way to end the holiday season. We all thank Listy and Bob for opening their home up for us to celebrate yet another Riel Bowl. Since this is the 25th year of the party we thought it would be nice to include some highlights of past celebrations, so on the following pages you will find picture and tidbits from past parties.



January 1, 1991 - Lyndon Road, San Diego, California



The first official Riel Bowl took place at our home in alpine on January 1st of 1992. However, the first January 1st gathering of our family took place a year earlier (1991), at Grandpa and Grandma's home on Lyndon Road. This was the precursor to all the Riel Bowls and set the standards for the parties we now enjoy.

As you can see from the pictures it was a very crowded event. With all the grandkids in attendance (JJ was just a few months old), along with their parents and even Grandma and Grandpa's dear friends, Harry and Libby Post, it was a full house.

As usual there was the before-lunch football game in the street, then a wonderful meal with all the kids contributing side dishes and desserts. But, as usual with Riel Christmases, it was all about the presents, and this party was no exception.

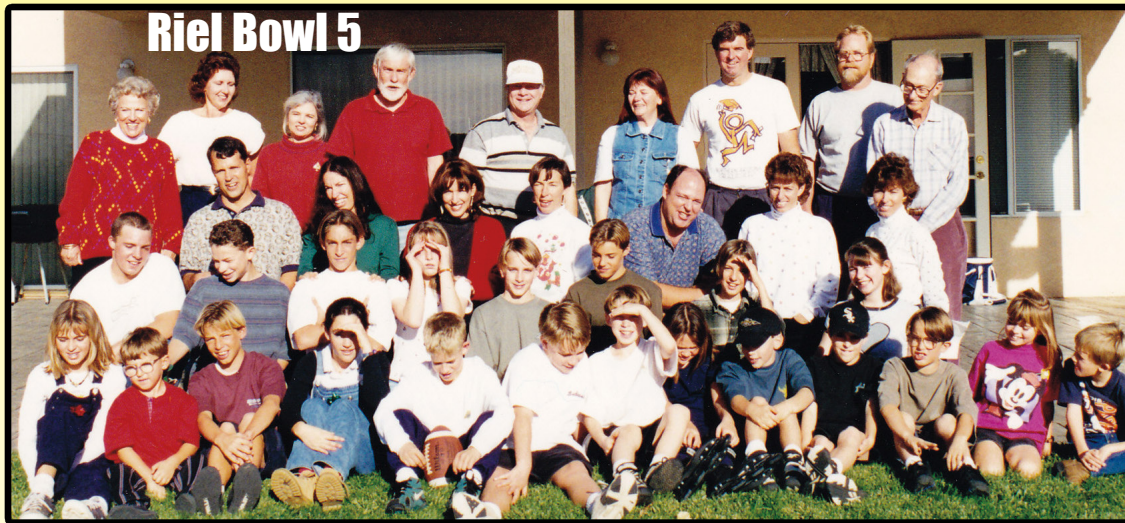


Back then, Grandma and Grandpa had purchased gifts for each of their kids, including their spouses, and all the grandkids (over 35 gifts in all, a shopping spree that still has 'em talking at the headquarters of what was once called Pic-N-Save).

So went the first of what has become twenty-five more Riel Bowls. Even though the venues have changed and a few extra activities had been added, the Riel Bowls of today were very much based upon the first one held, some twenty-five years ago



The very first Riel Bowl, each family had tee shirts of a different color to distinguish which family they belonged to. Even back then it was hard to keep track of everyone!



How many events?

Riel Bowl has had many event over its 25 years but can you remember all of them? Below is a list of all the different games we played:

Football, Soccer, Golf (closest to the pin), The Riel crossword puzzles, Treasure hunting, Riel Jeopardy, 10K running race and the Riel Family Challenge.



How many locations?

Riel Bowl has been held at 4 locations not counting its precursor which is shown above. Bob and Karl's home in Alpine (20 years), Carol and Jeff's Home in San Carlos (1 year), Listy and Bob's home in San Carlos (3 years) and Bob and Listy's home in La Mesa (this year).

The Riel Crossword Puzzle – Grandpa Frank really enjoyed this part of the planning for the party. He would spend hours going through the newsletter creating clues. By mid-December he expected me to have the puzzle ready for publication in the RFNL so that everyone would have it in time for Riel Bowl. This was important because the one who got the most correct answers got to pick last in the White Elephant gift exchange. This spot almost certainly guaranteed you of winning the highly coveted “Family Dinner with Grandma and Grandpa”. BTW, did you recognize the handwriting of Grandpa Frank?



Riel Bowl XIII
Frank Riel

Dec 10, 2003

Across

1. Late Fine Helper
2. Listy has this many
7. Handy Handle Mounter
9. Ed's Dog Type
12. Don't Go
13. Michael's Team
14. Jet Landing Place
15. She's in Medical Research
17. City on Amalfi Coast
18. ... drug store with grandma for a 5 cent ice cream cone
19. Town Walker
21. It was Left Out
22. WOW! it's upside-down
25. An Italian Place
26. Mom got a new one
27. Birdy says 'at _ _ am done watching survivor'
30. For Edith (Abbreviated)
31. Softball Whiz
33. Maribeth's Favorite Doll

37. A Favorite Restaurant
38. Hungry Place
39. Genie Fixer
40. Grandma Got Rid of it
41. A money container in Korea
42. It was Rainbow Colored
45. Editor
47. Birthday Present Show
50. Birdy Lost It
51. An RFNL Recommendation
52. Picture Hangers
53. New Job Place
54. Birthday gift to Robert at age 3

Down

2. Last Birthday
3. 1877 exchange
4. Listy does this on Sunday Mornings
5. Phone Book Cleric
6. He has a problem
8. Michael's Major
9. Tim Sent Them

10. Buona Giouneta
11. Riel Girls have this about shopping
15. Ice Cream Sunday
16. Isa's Granddaughter
19. Fridays food
20. Champaign Toast Place
23. They Celebrated 50th
24. Jeopardy Winners
27. Birthday Celebration Restaurant
28. She Jumped
29. Fitness Lunch Place
32. She Was Pretty Sick
34. He had A Severe Form
35. Champ Swimmer
36. Family Holy Grail
43. Gift from God
44. He Had two Majors
46. Grandma's College Roomie
48. Egg Collector
49. Italian Mom



RIEL BOWL XX

OK so the year was ... wait that might be too easy let's see if you can do the math yourself. Then can you also identify the fourth generation kids in this photo? I remember having to take about 30 shots of these little squirmy rug rats just to get one where they all were at least looking toward the camera.



I'm not really sure if it was a set up (our family can be pretty sneaky) but during the first white elephant exchange I was lucky enough to come away with grandpa Frank's gift which was a solid ivory, hand carved, white elephant as seen in the accompanying photo. This is very special to me as I know how much it meant to Dad.

Someday I will pass it on to the next generation, maybe even in the same way I got it from Dad. So you never know what you'll miss if you're not in the white elephant exchange every year!



Bruce Gets His Mobility Back!



Well...I finally was able to take delivery of my new van. I can't begin to tell you how it feels to gain back a tiny bit of independence! It is nearly impossible to convey how difficult it is at times to see small parts of your freedom and independence slowly being stripped away without the opportunity to regain them. This disease is slow, cruel and relentless. It

just takes and takes with no redeeming qualities. So to turn the tables and gain something (anything) feels like a real win!

As simple as it sounds, just stopping at a store on my way home from work had become all but impossible. A lot of planning had to go into that sort of thing. I needed to remember to load a chair or scooter in the morning so I would have it for use on my way home. Otherwise I needed to take my scooter from work then be faced with the challenge of where it would fit in the garage when I got home...then remember to load it in the morning to get it back to work...all of which is a major pain in the butt!

This new van offers me the ability to always have a wheelchair with me, plugged in and charged up and ready to go. Without any preplanning or forethought, I can spontaneously stop at a doctor office, pharmacy, Home Depot, Target, grocery store or whatever...that feeling of freedom is a big deal!

It is so easy to load and unload with the level of automation I had designed into this package. I ride the lift into or out of the van so the only walking is in the interior from the rear of the van to the front of the van...literally 5 steps. Then I plop down into the driver's seat and away I go! When I get where I am going, I walk the 5 steps to the rear of the van, plop down into the waiting wheelchair, push a couple buttons on my remote control and I am down on street level ready to zip away into the place of business I had my sights set on... Almost as quickly as many of you can do completely ambulatory! Very Cool!!!!

Every once in a while I do a stupid...most commonly I forget to set the parking brake which disables the chairlift due to ultra safe protective safety switches. Whenever I do that sort of thing I get mad at myself...It causes me to have to go to the front of the van, set the brake and then go to the back to try again. These are all simple things that I just need to get used to doing every time!

The van itself is a pleasure to drive. Mercedes builds a lot of creature comforts into the Sprinter Van. The up fitter I used also added a few comforts that make the overall experience a true pleasure. I



added heated princess seat for Birdy as well as 4 comfortable leather captain chairs for rear passengers and grand-kids. They are spaced comfortably apart making a center isle for me to navigate as I move between the front and rear of the van.

As the disease progresses and I lose the ability to walk between the front and rear I have designed in the ability to remove 2 of the 4 captain chairs and add in a wheelchair lock. This small alteration would allow me to drive a wheelchair straight into the driver's seat position and drive from the wheelchair. Though I hope this never needs to happen it is certainly doable. Hell, by then Google may have refined the driverless car and perhaps I won't need to worry about it!!!

I pinched a sciatic nerve and ended up in the ER last Friday. (They thought I broke my hip) Also tried and failed a new medicine that we were trying for 4 weeks in the hopes of lowering the steroids I take...it was a complete failure! It made my heart failure exponentially worse so I had to stop it. It was a drug called CellCept and is an immune modifier drug used in transplant patients to keep them from rejecting transplanted organs. In my case it caused the worst heart failure as well as intense GI distress and bleeding. We will regroup and try something else soon...right now I am still trying to get back to my old normal...this new normal sucks!!!! The pain has been difficult to manage and I have been double and triple the steroids and pain meds to get passed all of this. Hopefully there is no story here and you won't hear any more about it!

At least I have my van and can even take myself to the damned ER as I did on Friday! Independence is a wonderful thing!

So... from your prospective this van likely doesn't seem like much of a big deal, but for me, I am thumbing my nose at this GD disease (for once) and feeling like a real win for me this time!!!!

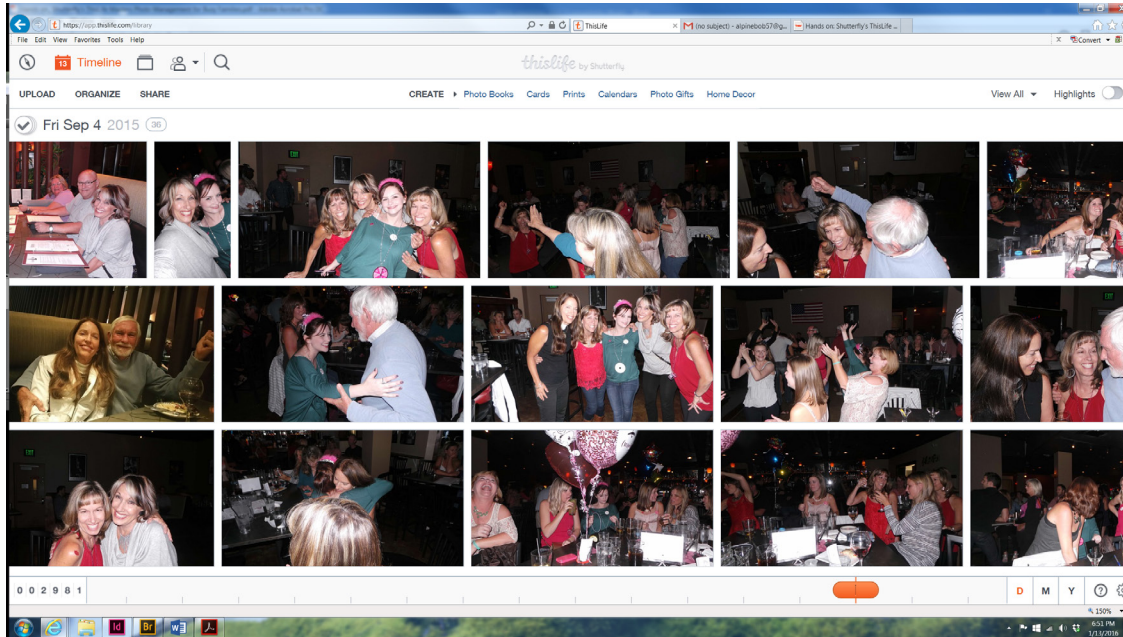


thislife

Francie and Carol's Gift to the Family

There's a new job title that you may or may not have heard of: it's called memory manager.

While there's no discrimination intended, generally the person occupying this executive position is female, young-ish and very likely a mother. Memory managers are the volunteer army in charge of their family's growing photo and video "memories" and they take this role seriously. Can you guess who that may be in our Family?



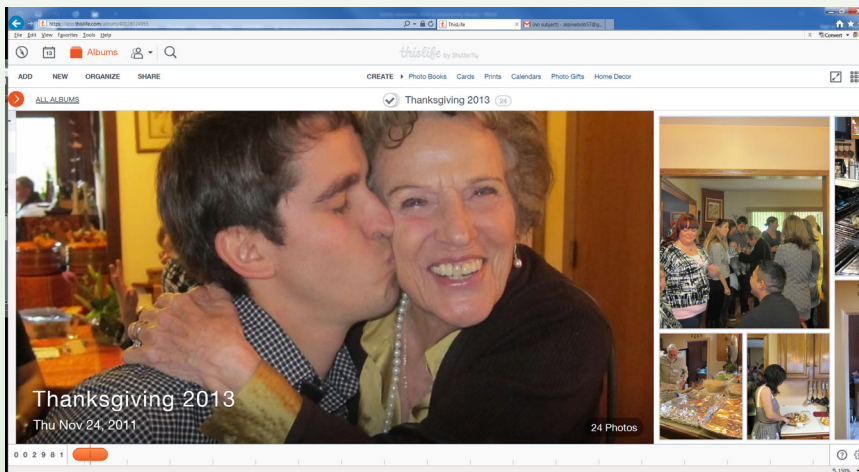
Enter ThisLife from Shutterfly, the popular online photo company, which was among the first in the digital age to use its Website for uploading and storing photos, printing, creating photo CDs and generating personalized photo based consumer products and gifts.

Shutterfly, which acquired ThisLife last year, has integrated its technology into the overall platform and has been running the program

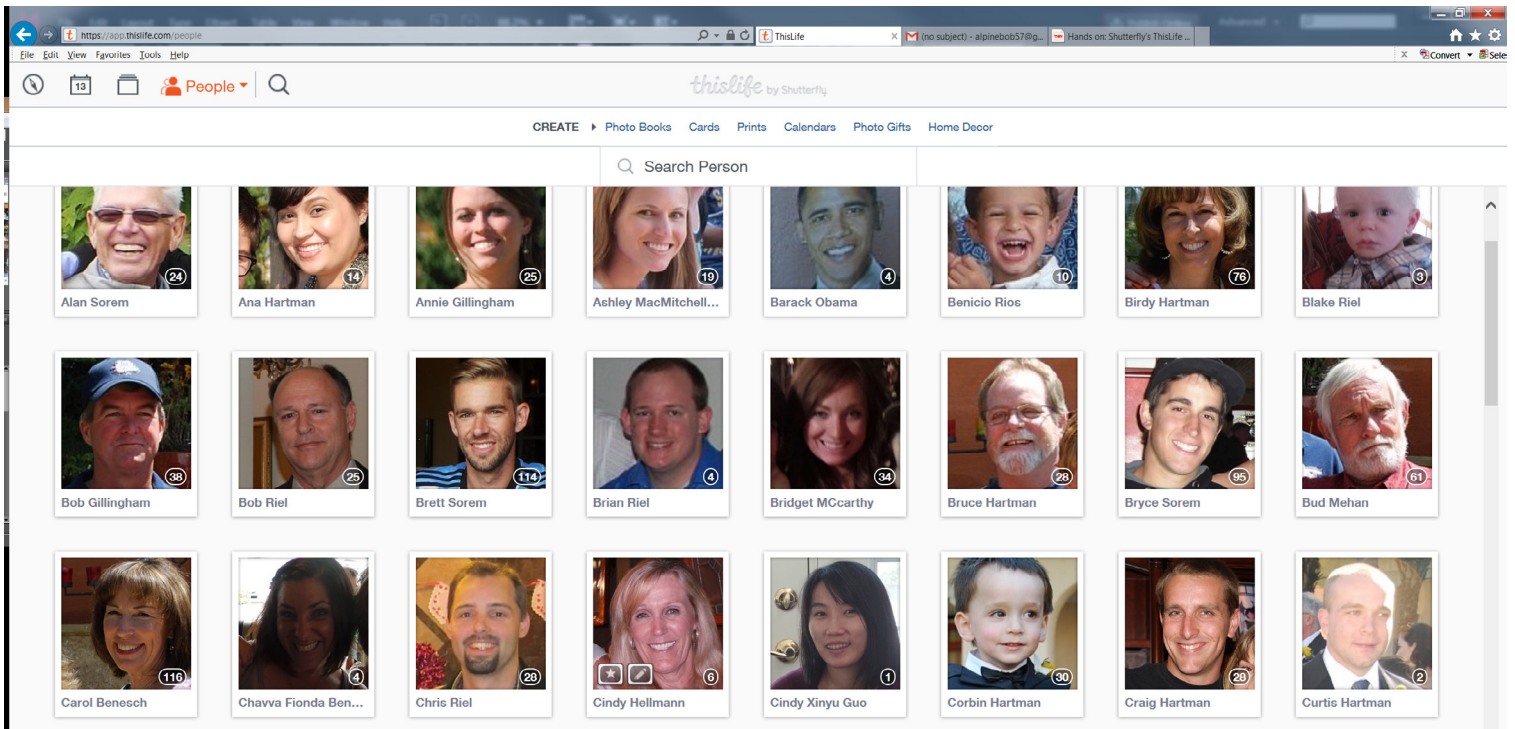
as a beta since last fall. It has now quietly emerged from beta as Shutterfly consolidates its services into a coherent cross-media system spanning desktop, mobile and cloud. Companion apps for the iPhone, iPad, Android devices and Amazon Kindle close the circle of complete, but private, photo access.

ThisLife lets you pull in all your photos from disparate sources — social networks like Facebook and Instagram, photos shot on your iOS or Android mobile devices or stored in online services like Flickr or Picasa, as well as those residing on your Mac or PC — into one place. It even allows for contributions from trusted friends and joint access for family members to manage a single account.

With everything stored in the cloud, you can instantly access your entire photo and video archive — the collective historical chronicle of your family.



The services ThisLife offers inevitably overlap with many others out there at various points of entry: For example, if you use iPhoto, you can gather your images together, synchronize them in the cloud and create photo books and cards. But it only works within the Apple ecosystem. Flickr and Google+ offer online photo upload, syncing and editing and even create photo books, but do not aggregate from other social networks. Online services like Trunx and PictureLife can store and organize. Unlike those services, Shutterfly sees ThisLife as an end-to-end resource offering those



Tag all the faces in your album, as you would in iPhoto.

features plus a full slate of advanced functions such as facial recognition, removal of duplicates, preserving custom tags and favorites, recording audio for your shots, creating digital stories and slideshows and creating a huge variety of crafts and gifts.

Like most of Shutterfly's services, it's easy to get started, and everything I did to integrate my numerous photo accounts went smoothly. As you move through consolidating your images, the service taps into each online venue, so it's a good idea to have your user names and passwords on hand before you start.

An uploader is available for photos that are stored on your hard drive. You don't have to upload everything at once, so I just started with some of the online services. Anything you import from another server is very quick; uploads from the desktop take longer.

The interface contains six main tabs: Library, People, Places, Stories and Find. Using the mouse wheel or the scroll bar, you can quickly see photos organized by date — by day, month or year. A Filter pull-down menu lets you search photos and videos by rating (in hearts, of course).

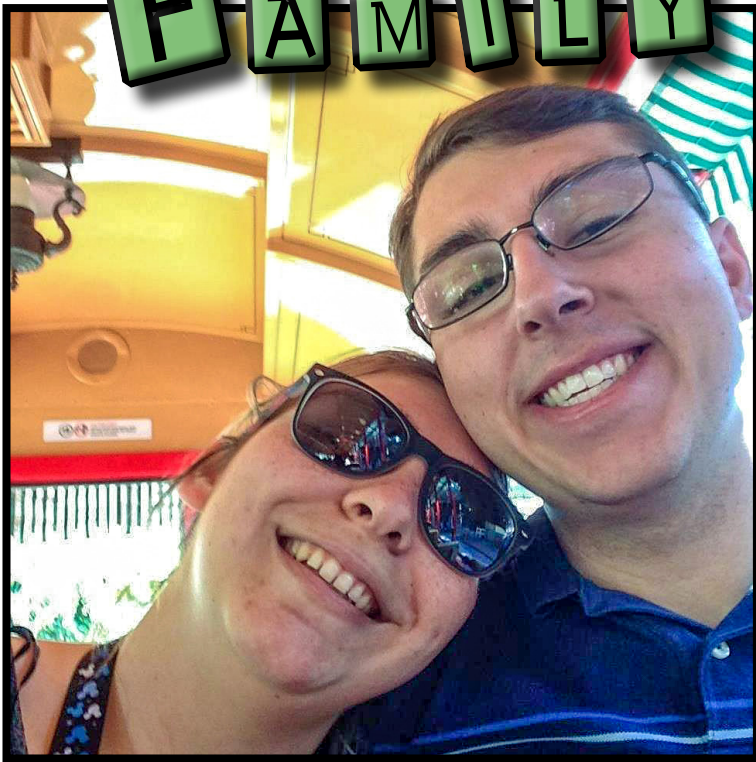
People lets you access all the individuals you tagged. Places gives you a large map that pins the locations of your pictures while Tags pulls together images with similar tags. Clicking on any image opens a menu of tools that let you add sound, crop, or place the image into a story or slideshow.

Regardless of how many images you have uploaded, you can always search and filter to find the photos and videos you're looking for. Importing continues in the background as you poke around the interface and scroll through the timeline.

To gain access please get the username and password from Francie and then just visit: <https://app.thislife.com/home>. There are already thousands of pictures to explore going back all the way to December of 1946. Please enjoy and contribute!

FAMILY

SHORTS



Frank Riel got engaged to Samantha Davis a few weeks ago and shared the news with the family by stopping by Francie's shop to let her know of the new development. Frank wisely knew that by telling aunt Francie he just saved himself a bunch of time because she would get the news out to the family faster than the AP wire service.

They have not set a date yet but we understand it will be sometime in 2018. So the Riel family weddings are really starting to stack up with weddings in each year for the next 3 years. We look forward to Frank and Samantha's wedding and wish them the best in their life together!



Our new home!!

Michelle and David moved into a home of their own in the last few days of 2015 and have spent the first few weekends of the new year working on several enhancements to the home. Within the first week they started to put down a new wooden floor all by themselves. From the look of it David is doing a really good job.

Michelle will be sending in an article in the next month or two once she recovers from all the hard work it takes to pack, move and unpack, then re-decorate and start a few DIY jobs all while taking care of two little ones. Congratulations to the Lane Family!

