



October 2017

Issue No: 321



San Diego's Newest
and Brightest Stars!

"There are two paths in life. The right way, and the right way at the time."

THE ROAD BETWEEN



a Brett Sorem film



Oct. 6th. 4 PM Arclight UTC

(playing with Hard Surfaces)

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NOCTURNAL FEATURES

By Brett Sorem

First off, I want to thank my parents and family for your continual support over all these years. Even though October 6th was not a huge milestone in my life, it represents a big step toward one. Out of all of the festivals that are within arm's reach (that doesn't include Sundance, Tribeca, SXSW, and a few others, fun fact it is statistically harder to get into Sundance than Harvard ;) the San Diego International Film Festival has been my top target to be accepted into since I began making films seriously. (the first and second Steve movie don't exactly count...but the third one will be glorious!)

Neither of my first two films I directed, Pablo on Wheels & #twitterkills, nor the plethora of others that I edited along the years, have premiered at the festival. Even though success in this industry is 95% of who you know, it's great to feel like my craft is improving. The SDIFF is a tier above almost all of the festivals my films have been a part of. Cinequest in San Jose was another huge one for #twitterkills as was the Palm Springs international Film Festival. Even though I played an integral part of #twitterkills directing and editing the film, it wasn't created by me. We had a hilarious comedy writer and actress, a very experienced producer, and we had Sarah Paulson in the film, that is going to elevate the playing field. To have The Road Between accepted into a festival as good as SDIFF running the creative on my own, it marks a big step forward.

As we all know, this business is not easy. Most of the people I know who graduated from film school are not making a living with their craft, let alone practicing it as often as I am sure they would like to with their own projects. I would venture a guess that almost everyone goes through the "shit or get off the pot" dilemma at one point or another. This achievement represents progress, and that marks what is the most important.

And what makes it all worthwhile is that many of my family and friends were able to be there for it. I am pretty sure we had upwards of 30 people representing the Riel/Sorem/Benson family & friend's clan. When the lights went down and some ads began to play, I had a mini freak out moment because I thought we might have went into the wrong theater. That just goes to show you I am not used to companies wanting to buy advertising space in front of my films :)



The screening came and went. It looked great up on a legit movie screen. The feature after, albeit having a few issues, I thought was extremely well done. We are used to holding every film we see in theaters up to the standards of every other movie ever made, but I can vouch for Josh, the director of the feature film, that just completing a feature film that is simply watchable is a feat in itself.

Afterwards we took some photos in front of the step and repeat. Mark Cartier was there, the CEO of North of Two films who acquired my short film and will be doing the same with my feature that is almost done, Fault Trace. Chopper the Biker Dog got in some great moments and we were off.

My mom, Lyle, Big Al and family headed to stake out a table at Red Robin while I schmoozed it up with a few peeps at Eureka before joining them. The Edwards family, never fails to represent, support, and elevate the level of excitement with their personalities, and a bottle of Jameson in hand. Perfect for the occasion to cheers and celebrate!



With too many people to list of friends and family who came, I want to thank all of you for the support, as well as the others who couldn't make it. I also would like to take this opportunity to thank Carinda for all of her love and support as well. We all know the Riel family can be an intimidating bunch. We have size, an adequate level of smarts, and possibly a few other redeeming attributes. But mostly, there's just a lot of us. As all of the second-generation innocent bystanders can relate, I am so very lucky to have Carinda who can not only jump into any situation, but act like she belongs here already :) Love you.

So, for all of you that missed out, worry not! I feel confident that this won't be the last time we'll see one of my films up on the big screen at the SDIFF. Hears hopefully to next year.!



Edith Riel, Suffers Broken Ribs and Vertebrae



On Sunday, September 24th, Edith Riel slipped on some water on the bathroom floor and fell on her back. Fortunately, she was able to get up and call Carol who took her to Sharp Hospital for a series of tests including CAT scans and x-rays. These tests showed a left T9, T10, and T11, nondisplaced acute transverse process fractures, and nondisplaced fractures of the posterior left 9th, 10th, and 11th ribs. While it could have been worse, fractured ribs are one of the most painful breaks with very little that can be done to ease the pain and the healing time is very slow.

Edith is a strong woman and when she was not drugged and she was insistent that she should be able to return home. The pain killers while doing a good job of taking

away the pain can also cause a lot of confusion and disorientation. Carol has been incredible in organizing the rest of the kids to make sure that Mom had someone with her almost all the time. Fortunately, Carol and Margaret, who are retired, could stay overnight with her while everyone else filled in the hours around the clock.

By Wednesday she was ready to be moved to the Remington Club for some skilled nursing care while she recovered her strength. The estimate was that she would be there 2-3 weeks. Birdy did a wonderful job of transforming a simple hospital room by adding pictures of Frank, her 8 children and families and then some. It was great as it gave her security when she woke up at night scared and comfort during the day. It also allowed Edith the chance to tell stories to the nurses who seemed to enjoy the pictures as much as Edith.



After a week of walking with a walker, or being pushed in a wheelchair, she could walk on her own again. In fact, when she asked how long until she could play golf again, the physical therapist found a putter and let mom practice her golf swing. She also putted about 6 shots from about 15 feet and made every one of them. Later she attended an exercise class and was the star patient. Despite all the fractures, she did each of the stretches that were modeled to help her heal. When doing her physical therapy, she was asked to walk through a series of cones so the therapist could watch how she moved without



the walker. After a few rounds, the therapist said that was good. Mom was enjoying the freedom of movement and refused to stop, saying that she was going to tire out the therapist! The therapist laughed and later told other therapists she never had a patient that made it her goal to tire HER out. Edith certainly is one of a kind!

She was doing well enough that the doctor gave her passes for outings on both Saturday and Sunday. Sep 30, we left the Remington Club and had a regular Saturday lunch in a nearby restaurant where we also celebrated Richard's 70th birthday. The next day, Carol took her to St. Vincent's Church for mass and then for a visit to Merrill Gardens. She was thrilled to see her good friend Charlie and got to thank him for the beautiful flower arrangement he had sent to her room. The Remington Club was nice and the staff was very kind and attentive to mom's needs, but she really missed Merrill Gardens, and just wanted to go home.

The days were good because she was kept busy, but as the day turned to night, she became more and more anxious. The nights were long, scary and painful. It took her forever to fall asleep, some nights she was up until the wee hours of the morning. I'm not sure how she was able to function the next day, but she always did. We are all looking forward to her ribs healing and the pain fading.

But there is some good news! Edith is now back at Merrill Gardens and starting to return to her normal self. She is still on some very strong pain medications but we hope to have her off them very soon. She seems to be enjoying herself and as long as the pain is managed she can do just about everything she used to do. Hopefully, in a few more weeks she can be taken of all pain therapy and return to the everyday routines that she so enjoyed before.



36 Hours in Seattle!

This past weekend, I went to Seattle for a friends wedding. The bride was one of my roommates from San Francisco when I was a volunteer and lived in a 4 bedroom house with 7 people! Crazy, I know. Anyway, it was a great reunion and lovely wedding but SEATTLE is just amazing. So, if you are planning a weekend getaway anytime soon, I would highly recommend this trendy city!

In honor of one of my favorite New York Times sections, 36 hours, I decided it would be fun to share my 36 hour suggestions!



Friday:

Head to the Fremont district and check out Fremont Brewing Company. This hip brewery features wooden bench seating under twinkle lights outside and stadium seating inside (actual bleachers I kid you not!). Located across the street from the water, it is a great place to spend a casual afternoon/ evening. Their beer is delicious- try their Lush IPA! If you can't make it to Seattle but want to give it a try, Bottlecraft now carries their beer as well!

Saturday:

Continue exploring the sights of the Fremont district. Walk your way to the Fremont troll, located under the Aurora Bridge. Grab a coffee at Milstead

ASK ANNIE

RFNL Travel Editor



and Co., what Google names a rustic-chic coffee shop, on the way. Take your pics with this larger than life troll and maybe spend a few minutes to reenact the scene where it is featured in the movie 10 Things I Hate About You!



After checking out the troll, make your way back to the water and follow it until the Gas Works Park. Here you can reminisce about the romantic scene from the movie 10 Things and take some great pictures with the Seattle skyline in the background! True hipsters would bring a picnic to sit and watch the various water sports take place on Lake Union, including take-offs and landings of sea planes!



Hop in an Uber and make your way to the famous Pike's Place Market for some mid-day snacks and drinks. Make sure you check out the fish throwing men (and grab some samples of the smoked salmon when you can!). If you have the time, (which I didn't), stand in line at Piroshky Piroshky, a Russian bakery with what looked like fresh pastries stuffed with all kinds of delicious things. It is next door to the original Starbucks so you can say you were there but get some good food!

Other hits in the area included bread bowl chowder at Pike Place Chowder and grabbing a beer and oysters at The Pike Brewing Co. Late night suggestions include the

Octopus Bar, a cool tavern with a seafaring theme and fun cocktails. Also has a photo booth for some real late night fun!



Sunday:

Make your way to Ballard, the cutest trendy neighborhood. First, head to the Locks bridges. Watch the boats come in and the water fill up or empty as they pass through. Then, cross the dam to see the fish ladder and watch the salmon swim upstream! If your lucky, you can even check out the hoping fish caught in the closed locks for a real show! If you go under the fish ladder, you can see the salmon underwater through glass windows! Finally, head into Old Ballard to catch their Sunday farmers market. Try some local bites and pop in some cute trinket shops- a favorite, Lucca Great Finds. Buy lots of things for Annie!



And that's it! Head to the airport and reminisce on your great 36 hour adventure!

Francie's Updates

Hey Everyone, September/30/2017

Drum Roll Please, after waiting to hear if the allogeneic transplant could be considered a success, let's recall what we have been waiting for.

- July 2017 Stem cells were harvested from my son Brett, with Bryce willingly waiting to offer his as well. They were stored at Scripps Green Hospital for future use in my cancer treatment. Given the fact that they both were only a half genetic match and not even a blood typing match, the chances for engrafting his DNA was about 30 to 35%. Not great chances, but the best ones I had to fight off this disease until a cure can be found.

- On August 2nd, 2017, on my new Birthday I now share with Carol and Carinda, I was transplanted with Brett's stem cells taken from his blood and transfused into mine. With all of us praying and thinking positive thoughts we went into this with a belief that there are still good things in life yet for me to do. I used all the positive drive I owned and borrowed the rest from all of you and carried on.

- This was a tough transplant for me, more painful than the last one. Fighting Graft versus Host disease is a constant struggle between pain and confrontation. I had an army coming into my body to save me from my own. Even though very strong and functional, my body was no longer able to keep the myeloma cells from growing at a tremendously rapid rate.

- I worked very hard to keep my strength and weight up, hit the treadmill when I was able, got tremendous and amazing love and support from my family and friends, and spent 3 weeks more till the day I could escape and go home.

- After numerous lumbar shots into my back trying to determine if all the spinal cancer was gone, and after enduring the transplant recovery I

was allowed to go home to my new place in Del Sur. It is spacious, beautiful, fully designed and put together by Lyle and me.

- I was started on the way to a new life.

- Early September, I received the results of my spinal cord test to see that my Cancer cells were still at a very low rate of .16. Since I was at one time around 200, that was very good news indeed. There were still a few random cells in the spinal cord that were undetermined, but we will have to wait a while longer to find out what they are. In the meantime, I have been taking 500 mg. of prednisone a day to help with the pain and nerve damage from all of the spinal injections.

Think of the Prednisone as the referee between my DNA and Brett's, trying to keep us from killing each other. But the news I have been waiting to hear came today...

Even though I knew that my numbers were getting better and that my stem cells were engrafting at a fairly rapid pace, I still was not certain that they were the younger studlier ones I wanted from Brett. I was able to travel to Las Vegas to go to Lyle's AFSA Convention and had a wonderful time this last weekend. Thanks to everyone who made this great trip possible, seeing all of you and the kindnesses you showed me was beyond belief! After having my blood drawn this morning, to continuing good counts, I am out of the red in most areas.

Today I got the news I was waiting for, my engrafted stem cells that are growing in my body are 97.5% Brett's DNA. I have not been able to ask all the proper questions yet, but I do realize this is what we were shooting for and my chances for a better and longer life have just increased. I still have several hurdles ahead, but God's plan for me does not seem to be over yet.

I am on a journey of good and bad times, kind of like the Twilight Zone, but I have alongside of me the best and the strongest. I will keep on fighting, in honor of all of you!

Now how about some fun stuff... The Pictures are in from Bryce and Bridget's wedding, such a great memory of such a wonderful time. You can click on this link to see the pictures of the beautiful Hudson River Valley at the Red Maple Vineyard.

<https://christinazen.instaproofs.com/gallery/#events/1448158/3426743/403264092>

Definitely a highlight in my life, much love to our new "Ohana" The McCarthy's.

And coming this weekend, Brett's short film, *The Road Between*, will be screened at the San Diego International Film Festival before the film *Hard Surfaces*.



It is going to be shown on Friday, October 6th from 4:00pm till 5:52pm and will be held at the Arclight cinema, La Jolla, San Diego, Ca. I am very proud of both of my boys and the hard work they put into their lives. Come join Brett and Carinda and the rest of the cast, it will definitely be a good time

Time for me to turn in, thanks again for everything you do for me, even those of you who don't even know me, but have gotten caught up in my human struggle. My Dr's, Nurses, transplant team, and everyone else who answers the red buzzer at Scripps Green (that's you too Ross), I can't thank you enough.

Hey Everyone,

October 5, 2017

Hope you are all doing well and that this letter finds you doing something fun!!!!

Let's get right down to it, as you know I have been struggling with this cancer that has spread to my spine. The tests came back looking good, except for a few party crashers that were not definitive. Well, the 3-week long test yielded the results and I do still indeed have cancer in my spine.

OK, I know, another setback, it looks like the lumbar shots of chemo have been keeping my cancer at bay, but not eliminating it. So, it's time to move onto another option, which Scripps just so happens to be on the cutting edge of, lucky me!!!!



Proton Therapy at Scripps

Click [here](#) then click on the Scripps proton therapy link

I have already been contacted by schedulers, insurance people and all the other stuff that goes along with this. Two paragraphs below is the address to get to the source of a video, but just searching Scripps proton therapy will get you there too. It is some pretty interesting stuff:

So it's not the news I wanted, but it still hasn't changed my outlook, we are just being led down a different path on a different journey. I really do not know any more than that. We are speculating that the amount of spinal cancer is about the same as it has been since it was discovered.

I will have a consultation with Dr. Rossi on Tuesday and then we will set up the process, there is lots to do so we might as well get started. Precise Radiation Therapy in San Diego Scripps Proton Therapy Center offers precise radiation therapy for cancerous tumors and certain non-cancerous conditions. The center has five treatment rooms with pencil-beam scanning technology, advanced imaging services and a team of highly qualified cancer care experts.

I have included a link to Dr. Rossi's youtube video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hx0IxbnE8Q4>



Carl Rossi, M.D.

San Diego County is fertile ground for both high-quality health care and scientific innovation. So, it was fitting when the region became home to one of the most technologically advanced cancer treat-

ment centers in the nation last year with the opening of the Scripps Proton Therapy Center.

Proton therapy is an extremely precise form of external beam radiation treatment that effectively kills tumors while sparing more of a patient's healthy tissue than conventional X-ray radiation. This accuracy is important because less radiation to healthy tissue lowers the probability of patients experiencing side effects and treatment-related cancers.

Breast cancer is top-of-mind in October during national Breast Cancer Awareness Month—and proton therapy effectively treats this condition, along with many other forms of cancer.

Approximately two-thirds of all cancer patients will receive some form of radiation therapy during their illness, according to the American Society for Radiation Oncology.

How does proton therapy work?

Proton therapy is delivered by generating a beam that penetrates the body from the outside. Because the beam is composed of protons—positively charged subatomic particles—the radiation dose can be controlled to conform to the shape and depth of the tumor site. Protons stop where the tumor stops. By comparison, X-ray radiation therapy beams, which are most commonly used today, penetrate well beyond the tumor because they have no electrical charge.

What types of patients are candidates?

Proton therapy is best suited for solid tumors that have not spread to distant areas of the body, are located near sensitive normal tissue and require high doses of radiation. Proton therapy is also recognized as the preferred form of radiation therapy for many pediatric cancers, since children's bodies are still growing and are extremely sensitive to the harmful effects of radiation. A recent national survey led by Scripps showed that the number of pediatric patients treated with proton therapy annually has increased by 36% since 2010.

The center has received patients both from within the Scripps Health system and through its affiliate providers, Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego and UC San Diego Health System. Treatment at Scripps Proton Therapy Center is available to any health system in San Diego and beyond. More than one-third of Scripps' proton patients to date have come from outside San Diego, including nine different states and as far away as Monaco and China.

What are proton treatments like?

During therapy, patients feel no physical sensation from the proton beam, hear very little noise and experience minimal discomfort while on the treatment table. The delivery of the proton beam to the patient typically lasts approximately one minute per treatment field. Time spent in the treatment room is usually about 15 to 20 minutes, most of which is for precise patient positioning and equipment adjustments.

Afterward, patients are free to go about their daily activities, although pediatric patients may receive treatments under anesthesia. Proton treatments are delivered on an outpatient basis and most patients receive daily weekday treatments for four to eight consecutive weeks.

Who has benefited so far?

Scripps has branched out quickly to treat a wide variety of cancer types. Tumor sites treated since the center's opening include lung, brain, spinal column, base of the skull, head and neck (e.g., oropharynx, salivary gland), central nervous systems, pancreas, rectum, esophagus, breast (male and female), testis, prostate, inter-abdominal lymphoid tissue, thymus gland, bone and others.

The center has also delivered a number of re-treatments in areas where patients had prior radiation (an application where protons are especially appealing, because less healthy tissue is exposed to additional radiation). Doctors have also treated a number of non-cancerous tumors.

So that's it for now. I was very disappointed at first, scared too of course, but I really am in the same place I was 2 weeks ago and I am feeling pretty good. There have been some pretty intense pain episodes that are not pleasant by any stretch of the imagination, but hopefully this treatment will take down this insidious cancer that seems to have found a home it likes.

It will definitely limit my time to go places and do things since I do not know yet how long the treatments will be, so making any plans for the immediate future is something I am going to try to avoid. But then living in the future, as you know, has not been my philosophy. I am going to continue to enjoy each day and each person I am with so that my life is a rich one.

I appreciate everyone calling and asking how I am doing, and I am doing pretty good. I will keep on keeping on and hopefully my new hashtag will be #kancerkiller.

Love you all - me



Riel Fantasy Football Bowl - Week 5 Update











By Dustin Benesch

Hi Family,

This football season has been a mixed bag for us football fans. We all had to deal with the loss of our former San Diego Chargers due to the greed of the Spanos family. We've watched as the league's owners and coaches chose to pass over an experienced Colin Kaepernick for the likes of Mike Glennon and an out-of-shape Jay Cutler. This last week has seen the political theater of protesting the protests of the President who tweeted that he didn't like the player's protests. Although the Chargers have been the laughing stock of the league going 1-5 and not being able to find 20k fans in LA to fill the Stubhub Center, this football season has been anything but normal.

It is with this backdrop that we started the 6th Annual Riel Fantasy Football Bowl with changes of our own. We are down 2 cousins, Kevin & Nathan, who have chosen to not support a league that doesn't seem to support its own fans. In Kevin's own words "The NFL is dead to me. I'm bequeathing my spot in the league to grandma." I commend you both for your stance, although your presence in the fantasy league is missed.

Week 5 Leaderboard

Rank	Team	W-L-T	Pts For	Pts Agnst	Streak
1	 Charger Bob	5-0-0	646.20	389.52	W-5
2	 AZ Devils	3-2-0	539.98	488.38	L-1
3	 Mr. Rodgers Neighbor	3-2-0	506.32	497.02	W-1
4	 MLS All Stars	3-2-0	489.30	571.46	W-1
5	 1 2 3 Times a Lacy	3-2-0	486.28	481.12	L-2
6	 Big Daddy	3-2-0	466.02	403.42	W-2
7	 ToBolt or NotToBolt	2-3-0	535.78	608.76	L-1
8	 Shadynasty	1-4-0	574.26	619.12	L-1
9	 Soccer Anyone???	1-4-0	494.78	586.18	L-2
10	 Go Bruins!	1-4-0	441.12	535.06	W-1

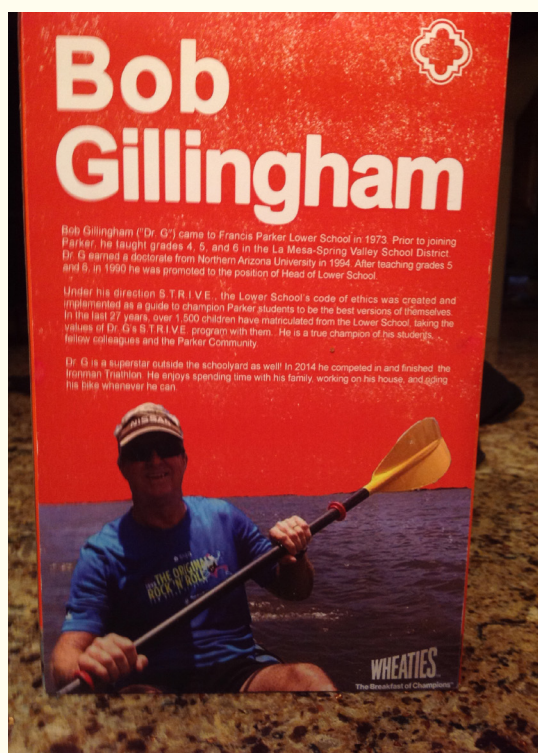
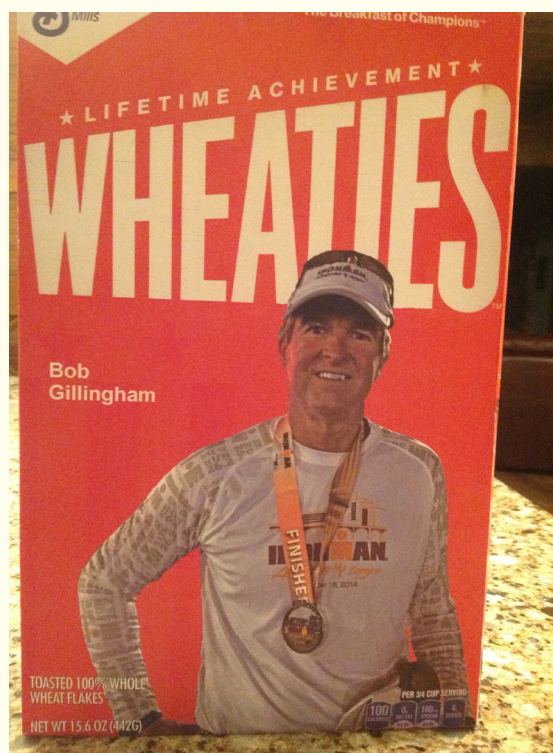
After 5 weeks of fantasy competition, we have seen our own changes in the leaderboard of the Bowl with Uncle Robert and Big Al taking the two top spots. According to my (limited) memory, this marks the first time ever cousins have been upended by their older counterparts. Uncle Robert has been unbeatable, literally, going 5-0 and scoring the most points in the league. His team is bolstered by 2 of the top 5 running backs in the league - Leonard Fournette & Melvin Gordon. I think we need to enact a penalty for teams with Chargers players, but I'll take it up with the commissioner.

Bringing up the rear we have my Dad, Jeff, who is manning his own team for the first time and still trying to find a starting roster. He has made a league high 44 player moves, almost more than the rest of the league combined. He might get out of the basement this week as he plays the second lowest scoring team in the league, myself (Big Daddy).

With Bye weeks and injuries aplenty, we are sure to see changes to the leaderboard moving forward. We'll see if anyone can knock off Uncle Robert, or if someone can break out of the crowded field of teams at 3-2.

Bob Gillingham Immortalized by Wheaties!

Yes, General Mills finally decided that it was Bob Gillingham's time to be on the front of their famous cereal box. So, in a limited edition (very limited as there is only one box) Bob has finally made it to the same place as other greats before him.





BRYCE'S New JOB

Hello everyone,

Just wanted to give an update on the “Bryce Jobwatch 2017.” It’s currently 7:30am and I’m heading into work for brunch...amazing. It has been a crazy week of completely changing not 1 but 2 menus for my new restaurant, 33 Greenwich. Formally an underwhelming Cajon restaurant, 33 Greenwich has now got the Bryce treatment and has an exciting new dinner menu that debuted last Tuesday. Also, for this weekend I put out a new Brunch menu that includes a California Burrito!!!

To bring it back a little bit, only 3 weeks ago I was working with Harold Moore (well known chef in NYC) at his restaurant Harold’s Meat + 3. When he provided me this opportunity to follow him to 33 Greenwich to be the Chef de Cuisine. Our job has been to fix the existing problems and turn the whole culture around, and as you guessed, it is not an easy task. Lots of restless nights and long work days. However, with all that work comes some accomplishments as we are now a week into a new menu and new kitchen operation system.

Lots more exciting changes and press releases will come in the future, so I will make sure to keep everyone updated. I would also like to thank my amazing wife Bridget!!! She has been putting up with not being able to see me very often over the last few weeks and constantly provides me with support so I can reach my goals.

Bryce-





The Birth of a Home on Wheels

Many of you have asked “why did you get a new motorhome?” Well to be honest our old one had served us well but we always knew that someday we would move up to a diesel motorhome because of the reliability and durability it would provide.

I always remembered the advice that Uncle Bruce gave me about gas RV’s “their great until about 70,000 miles and then the transmission goes and the engine starts to need major work” so with 64,000 miles on our old one, we decided to make the switch. We looked for about four months and did a lot of research on the internet. What we found was the Tiffin brand name kept coming up as one of the highest quality and bestselling, Class A, diesel, motorhomes on the market. Their customers gave them rave reviews about the quality and service provided by this family owned business.

We looked at a few floor plans and finally decided on a Phaeton 36GH which had all the things we were looking for and some we were excited to get. The next step was to find a place to buy one which is a lot harder than one might think. Just look at reviews of RV dealers on the internet and you will find a constant theme about how they were great for the sale but the service after the sale is exceptionally poor. What I have found out is that there is a serious shortage of maintenance and repair facilities for RV’s and the average waiting time to get an

appointment can be as long as 2-3 months. Also, it can sit in the shop for a month or better.

Since we had owned RV’s for over 16 years we went to our mechanic and asked him what brand to get, he also recommended a Tiffin. Not because he was an authorized Tiffin repair center (although I was glad to find that out) but because all of the other manufactures will only authorize a sales center as a service center, thus producing a shortage of places one can use. Now I was convinced we made the right choice and all we had to do was order one (Tiffin does not sell direct).



Believe it or not it is cheaper to order a Tiffin than buy one off a lot. This is because Tiffin only makes RV’s that are sold so if you are a dealer you have to

pay for the RV once it hits the lot. This of course means you have to pay the interest on the money used to buy the “stock for your dealership” which cost even more money. Therefore, they are much happier taking a deposit and ordering one for you.



Buying an RV is a game of research and knowing what others have paid. The best way, believe it or not, is Facebook. I found an Tiffin owner’s group and asked what the going price was. I found out that you should be able to buy one for about 75% of the retail price. Knowing this I pitted the two largest dealers in Southern California against each other until I got what I considered a fair price.



We placed our order and were told that it would take about 12 weeks to get it as that was the factories production time, including delivery. Later I found out that the factory makes about 12 RV’s a day so doing the math that meant they had about 600 RV’s before me. Keep in mind that their least

expensive model is about \$150,000 all the way up to \$750,000 luxury bus. I would estimate about \$250,000 as the average selling price, resulting in an average backlog of about \$15M every 10 weeks. Not bad for a family business.

Well I just had to go see how our RV was built and to inspect it before it was shipped (actually, an employee drives it here). So off to Red Bay, Alabama (via Memphis, Tennessee then a rental car) I went while Karla stayed home to work and help pay for the RV.

Upon arriving in the small town of Red Bay (population 2,500 – 1,800 of whom work for Tiffin) I drove straight to the front gate and told them I wanted to see my new RV. Everyone there is really nice and within minutes I was directed to a very nice lady who told me where my unit was. Fortunately, it was just back from the paint shop and going through final detail, this of course being the best time to inspect it.



I was given a badge and directed to the area where I not only could find my unit but also find the quality control workers going over it for the final time. I won’t bore you with all the details except to say there was never a time where I didn’t feel completely welcome. Even when I pointed out the smallest of imperfections their response was always... no problem we will fix it.

The next day there I took a tour of the plant which was fascinating on a couple of fronts. First, just

watching them put a RV together was amazing (more on that latter) but also how a plant like this could never exist in California. Let's face it, there are so many rules and regulations in California that govern how the workplace is managed that just about nothing I saw would meet what little I know about manufacturing in our state. But here's the thing, it works in Alabama and there were generations of families all working together and from what I could tell very happy about it.



OK so how does a RV get built here? First off, they make just about every major part right on site (with the exception of the appliances, chaise and engine). All the cabinetry, countertops, plumbing, electrical, fiberglass skin, walls, flooring, doors etc. are made on site and then assembled into the final product. Our tour group was walked through the wood working shop and saw all the cabinetry and wood work being made. Everyone's goal with whatever they are tasked to do it make sure you produce enough for 12 units every day.

It takes about 3 – 4 days to assemble an RV and then another 4-5 days to paint it, with a little time for finish work the total time from start to finish is about 10 working days. It was fascinating to see them tile the floor as one large area then cut out the exact shape they would need for the unit they were working on. Then a big suction cup machine comes over and picks it up and places it on the chaise. Next the wall are assembled and the slides placed into the walls. Plumbing and

electrical are a constant item that is worked on as the RV moves down the line.

Next the entire roof structure including vents and AC units is placed on top of the RV. Then the end caps (front and back) are placed. By the time it gets to the end of the line the RV is ready to be painted. As you can see from the pictures it is a process that must have been refined many times to get it down to where they are today.

I left that afternoon knowing that my RV was in great shape and soon I would see it in California, where my dealer only needed to make a few "aftermarket" enhancements and we would be driving it away. But that is a story for next time...



Jan Breaks Her Shoulder

Construction sites are dangerous, especially when it's in your own home. In

the mist of the Ocean Beach Riel remodeling, Jan; got up out of bed, in the dark, with newly rearranged furniture, with a power strip cord in front of bedside furniture, awaiting the full group of modern day recharging plug ins, tripped on said power strip cord, twisting her left leg, resulting in a contusion, and hitting, on her way down, her left shoulder on the hard wood bed end, finally landing, not very gently, on our new hard wood floor with a broken shoulder, spending an all-nighter at the emergency room, with me, reminiscing past such nights, when it was our children whom were the fallen.

Fortunately, the breaks were just cracks and will not require surgery. It will heal in a number of weeks, or months, with the help of physical therapy and pain medication. We are aware that tradition, in this, the runny nose department, requires a picture of the wounded and distressed, but Jan and I would prefer waiting for a happy and healthy picture inside a finally finished home, which we will surely furnish, down the line, should we survive.

Uncle Ed

Back to School Fun

I always look forward to going back to school. I love starting a fresh year, with eager children ready to learn. But this year has an added pleasure for me. Kristy's two sons, Liam and Braeden attend Parker. That means every day I am greeted with special hugs from these sweet boys. And I know Bob feels the same way. It brings back the joy of having had our own kids on campus and being able to spot them here and there. Every lunch I stop by Braeden's table for my super hug and it was a such fun to get to eat lunch at our monthly BBQs with Liam. And I get such pleasure telling people that I truly am their GREAT aunt!



The Riel girls went out shopping for Francie's trip to Las Vegas. Rumor has it that Lyle told her to buy whatever her heart desires. We all want a Lyle in our lives!!! High five to Lyle for treating our sister so well.

