



October 2018

Issue No: 333



**Brett and Carinda
Get Engaged!**



IT'S NO SECRET ANYMORE

By Brett and Carinda

For the dozens of you avid RFNL readers, Carinda and I are engaged, but you already knew that. The news travels faster via the RSGT (Riel Sisters Gossip Text chain) so you probably caught wind just after getting to work on Friday of August 31. So, this article is not exactly hot off the press. You probably have seen the pictures on Facebook, IG, or even caught the teaser story in last month's article.

bouquet! Thanks to Lyle and Birdy for pushing me up to the front so I had a chance. ;) Technically, Bob quickly caught it and handed it to me, but still my arms were up and ready for the catch. Now, I'm bringing this fun memory up because something BIG happened a week later. Is it really true that the woman who catches the bouquet is getting married?! Well, I think that myth could actually be a real thing! ;)

Like all great stories, there is and A and B story line. "The Proposal" itself and the engagement weekend takes the lead, which I touted Carinda as the journalist to tackle that plot, while I will follow up with the B story line, "The cover up." Let's begin

The A Story - Carinda's

Hey everyone! This is my first real post in the newsletter, which is pretty exciting! Before Brett and I left for New York I saw a lot of you at Lyle and Cindy's wedding. By the way Lyle and Cindy, that was a really fun wedding! And something strange happened that night...I caught the





day falling into the Grand Canyon. That's not really part of the bucket list dream, you know? However, it got lighter out and the walkway over there didn't look so bad.

We make our way up the rock and the sunrise overlooking the canyon was breathtaking. We pop open our beers, and Brett asked me to cheers to something about our future. So, I come up with some romantic speech. When it came time for Brett to speak, he talked about our future too...and that's when he got down on one knee and asked me to MARRY HIM!! Of course, I said YES! I WAS IN COMPLETE SHOCK! Brett and I always travel, take pictures, drink, etc. Brett recorded the proposal that he set up from the other side of the cliff, which is how we got that wide photo. Sneaky man.

We all have a bucket list of places and things we want to do. One experience on my list was to see the Grand Canyon at sunrise. In fact, Brett was there shooting his film at sunrise and said it's pretty amazing. So, we decided to make a plan to go before we left for New York.

On August 31, we woke up early at our hotel in Williams Arizona, to make sure we could get a great spot before the sunrise. When we got there, it was freezing! I was wearing sandals and a dress, but that's only because I knew we would take pictures and I didn't want to wear sweat pants and a sweatshirt. However, I toughed it out, and we start walking down to an area that Brett said was really private. We hiked down a little and set up camp at this little flat area.

Brett and I got a six-pack of Stone Tangerine Express IPA, which is a solid choice of beer by the way. Brett sets up his camera and he looks over to this rock. The rock looked like it was on a pedestal. He wanted us to go over there and take pictures. At first, I didn't want to go over there. It was still pretty dark, I was wearing sandals, and I just didn't want to die that



After a while of pure happiness, we make our way back to the car. Brett told me that we were just going to drive around the whole canyon and take pictures. He even asked me to not tell anyone until the next day, so we could just enjoy the moment of our engagement. I was down for that, and he said it would take 3.5 hours to get to the other side. Now, I'm not great at directions or geography so I just sat back and enjoyed being engaged and looking at the beautiful sceneries.



It wasn't until the 3.5 hour mark when I realized that we were NOT going to the other side of the Grand Canyon at all, and that we're actually going to VEGAS! Brett set up a weekend for us to celebrate our engagement. I couldn't believe he set that up for us. We check in to our hotel, did a little shopping, and got read for dinner at a restaurant he picked out, called Carbone, to celebrate. We go to the restaurant and as we head to the back...both of our immediate family members were there! It was one surprise after another. I was so overwhelmed with shock that I could barely eat. ;) We spent the rest of the weekend with family, some quality time with Brett, and it was over quicker than I wanted it to be.



I'd like to quickly share with you all a few gifts I received that weekend. Birdy and Lyle found a canary diamond bracelet that Francie wanted me to wear on my wedding day. We all thought it was gone and I was really bummed because it was a gift from her on my special day. I'm so glad I have it now! I also got a gift from Big Al and Uncle Richard, which was my very first Sorem NYCFC jersey! The back of the jersey said Sorem on it. All the Sorem's have a jersey so I felt officially in the club! Yeah!



On a more serious note...we really missed Francie that weekend. I know she was looking down on Brett and I at the Grand Canyon cheering us on and how proud she would be of us. I'm forever grateful for Francie giving me the best gift of my life...Brett.

I'm very blessed to have him and we are just so excited for the next chapter of our lives together. I also want to thank everyone for supporting Brett and I through all of the moments we've had. Stay tuned for some wedding updates soon! J XO Carinda Benson (soon to be a SOREM)



The B Story - Brett's

I can FINALLY breathe

The moment we showed up to that restaurant in Vegas was the climax of months of utter hell. We checked into the restaurant, beads of sweat are forming almost as quickly as I can wipe them away without Carinda noticing. The last hurdle is in my sight. The waitress, is she going to blow months of coordinating? We'll see...

Me: "Hi I am just checking in for the SOREM party of 2" (This is her moment!!!)

HOSTESS: "Great, just give me a moment, shouldn't be more than 5 minutes"

Fantastic, she didn't mention anything about the fourteen people in the back room waiting for us!

One of my biggest fears planning this was the hostess blowing my one last surprise, the icing on the doughnut that took months to bake. My friend Geoffrey who had the restaurant hookup assured me that he would make sure the hostess knew the plan. I spent countless hours wondering what kind of person I would be dealt that night in a Las Vegas Italian Restaurant. Possibly a young teenager who might



reply. "Oh, are you here for the Sorem party in the back room?" Or possibly an older gentleman, "Congratulations on the engagement, your party awaits."

Needless to say, our hostess didn't blow my cover. Five minutes later, she escorted us to a back-room door, which was open, filled with the most influential people of our lives, our family. Carinda almost died, she had no idea, I could finally breathe.

Yes, I was super happy to be engaged and all of that, I mean, with the hand I was dealt, I think I did pretty well. But that's not what I mean. I could finally breathe because it was over!

I had been planning this whole thing for months, even before our Europe trip. There obviously was a lot of coordinating with family, getting the ring, conversations over text and email, meetings, phone calls, hotel reservations, you name it. I had to essentially plan a cover up story for everything that was going on, from pushing our move across country dates back to line up with the plan, to having loaded excuses for who I was texting, to deleting search history on my phone and computer in case shit happens. I know they say that wedding planning can be tough on a relationship but try to plan a big event without someone finding out.



That is F*cking stressful. Bring on the wedding planning, I can do that in my sleep.

This day and age, getting away with something is becoming harder and harder. Our parents think they were rebels because they were able to sneak out of their parent's house, smoke a little weed, and come home unnoticed. Try doing any of that stuff now with text messages, Facebook, google search history, photo geotagging, I couldn't escape myself if I tried.

Doing this was extremely hard. I am not saying it was strenuous work, or difficult. It didn't take a specific set of skills. It's not like I was building a Tardis phone booth to propose in. Bryce's romantic gesture went to great lengths that displayed countless hours of sweat and beers. In hindsight spending time with a future brother in law, chopping wood while drinking a beer and making shit was probably the way to go. He put his manliness on display and had fun doing

it. While planning my proposal was exciting, it was definitely not like drinking a beer. What I didn't realize is that I could never let my guard down once the ball got rolling.

Every time my text notifications went off and Carinda happened to be scrolling through my phone to look at a picture we just took, I had to think of a reason why I needed my phone quickly in hopes of coving up the unthinkable. Long story short, once I told Big Al, Lyle, Birdy, and Carinda's parents the plan, I couldn't breathe till that night 2 months from then. I quickly learned what it must feel like to be an undercover agent.

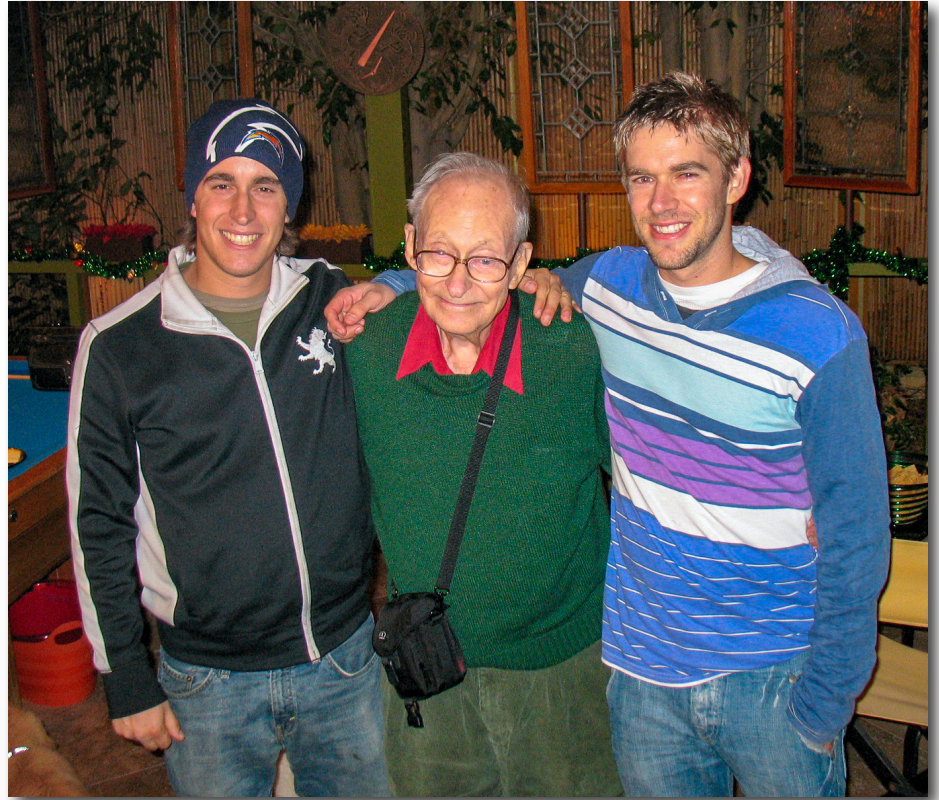
The guys out there who planned big surprises understand the feeling, but for you ladies out there, let me take this opportunity to shed a tiny little bit of light on the subject. Imagine, your guy is texting, maybe a few sentences longer than normal, and you start to get curious. THAT is the tipping point, the gig is already up! You are gonna figure it out, whatever IT is, one way or the other. Whether you're probing us with seemingly innocuous questions, or doing a little digging on your own, you ladies are gonna find the truth. You're like Basset Hounds when you get a hunch. Hiding something from you is the last thing we want to do because the inevitability of it being figured out is inescapable.



I spent more time covering my tracks these last two months than most people do when they kill their cheating spouse and dump them in the Hudson. I still cannot believe it worked out. The odds of her seeing a Vegas confirmation email, or a random text message or some notification you don't know about pop up. I mean Big Al almost did it, but we all knew that would happen. It was like either she would see a random text on my phone, or Big Al would text her something like, can't wait to see you in Vegas!!

So, I'd like to ask a favor, from all of us guys who like to surprise our significant others from time to time. If your "secret scent" triggers, just for fun, try to ignore it. At least for a period of time. Give us just a sliver of breathing room. To this day I still don't believe that Carinda had no idea, even though she swears by it. The possibility of it just seems unlikely. I think that at some point she had a hunch, but she chose to ignore it, because she recognizes sometimes we both need a little space to grow closer together. And that's why she's the one for me!

Like Carinda said above, wedding details are coming, don't worry, it's not tomorrow. - Brett and Carinda



The Gillinghams Beach Vacations!

By Listy Gillingham

As most of you know, we spent most of our summer vacation planning a wedding for Annie and Kevin. However, we were able to sneak away for two trips. One was to Cabo San Lucas and the other was Laguna Beach (are you seeing a rest and relaxation/beachy flavor with our trips?).

Cabo was a place that I had always wanted to visit and I needed an excuse to make Bob want to cross the border for this trip. So last year, during an auction, Kym and I decided to put in a bid for condo and we won (Bob would not call this winning as we did have to pay to win it) but we didn't care because it meant a vacation plan for the following year.

We waited for probably the worst time to go, in the summer when it is quite warm, but it didn't matter to us, because the crowds were down and we felt like we had the run of the place. We stayed in Los Barillas (the barrels) and we couldn't have been more satisfied with our five day stay. The pools sat right on the beach, the lounge chairs placed you high on a deck, just a few feet from the Sea of Cortez. We had swim up cocktail bars with stools and lounges set in tile in the pool. We planted ourselves under the umbrellas and read many books while we relaxed with Kym and Doug (our friends).

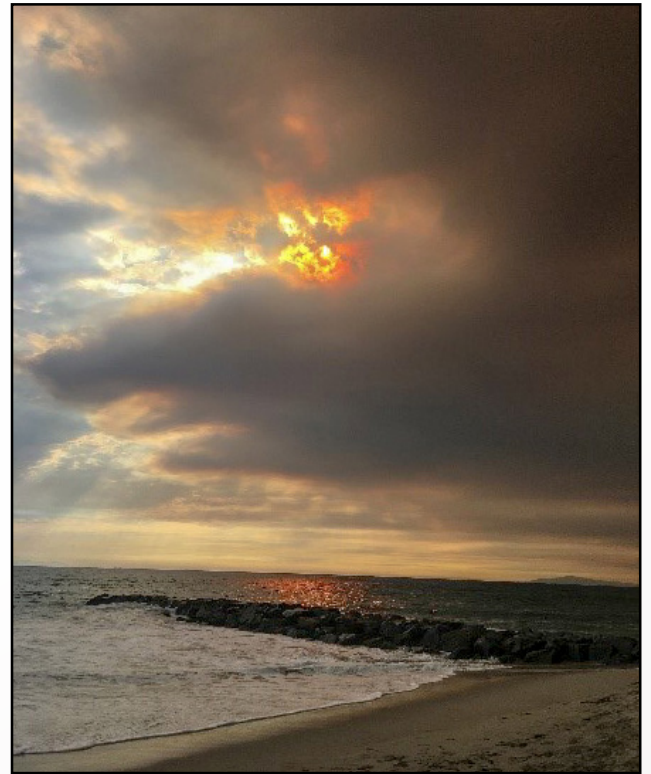
We had some fabulous dinners from restaurants both in the condo area and around the town. there was lots of great seafood to be found everywhere. During our last day, we were lucky to have a driver who took us to the downtown area in Cabo to do some shopping and we got to watch the World Cup in a cool bar as well.

I loved the quick flight to "go international" and how easy it was to get from one country to the other by flying out of SD. Bob also gave his stamp of approval which made the "winning purchase" worthwhile for all of us.



The next trip occurred after the wedding! We drove up the coast on August 7th -11th to spend some time with friends, Holly & Rex Panton and Kym & Doug Farkas. Bob rented a small house on the coast of Newport Beach and we got to enjoy a beach vacation with friends to end the summer vacation.

The order of the day was pretty much the same. We started with a fun bike ride to the tip of Newport beach to watch body swimmers tackle the large waves at the Wedge. After our bike ride, we found our way on to the beach and stayed there for several hours, content to read books, swim, watch the life guards save tourist who got caught in the riptides, and enjoy freedom from work. At night we enjoyed a few adult beverages on our porch and then wandered down to the boardwalk for dinner. The Holy Fire made for some beautiful sunsets although it was sad to see the smoke rising in the distance.



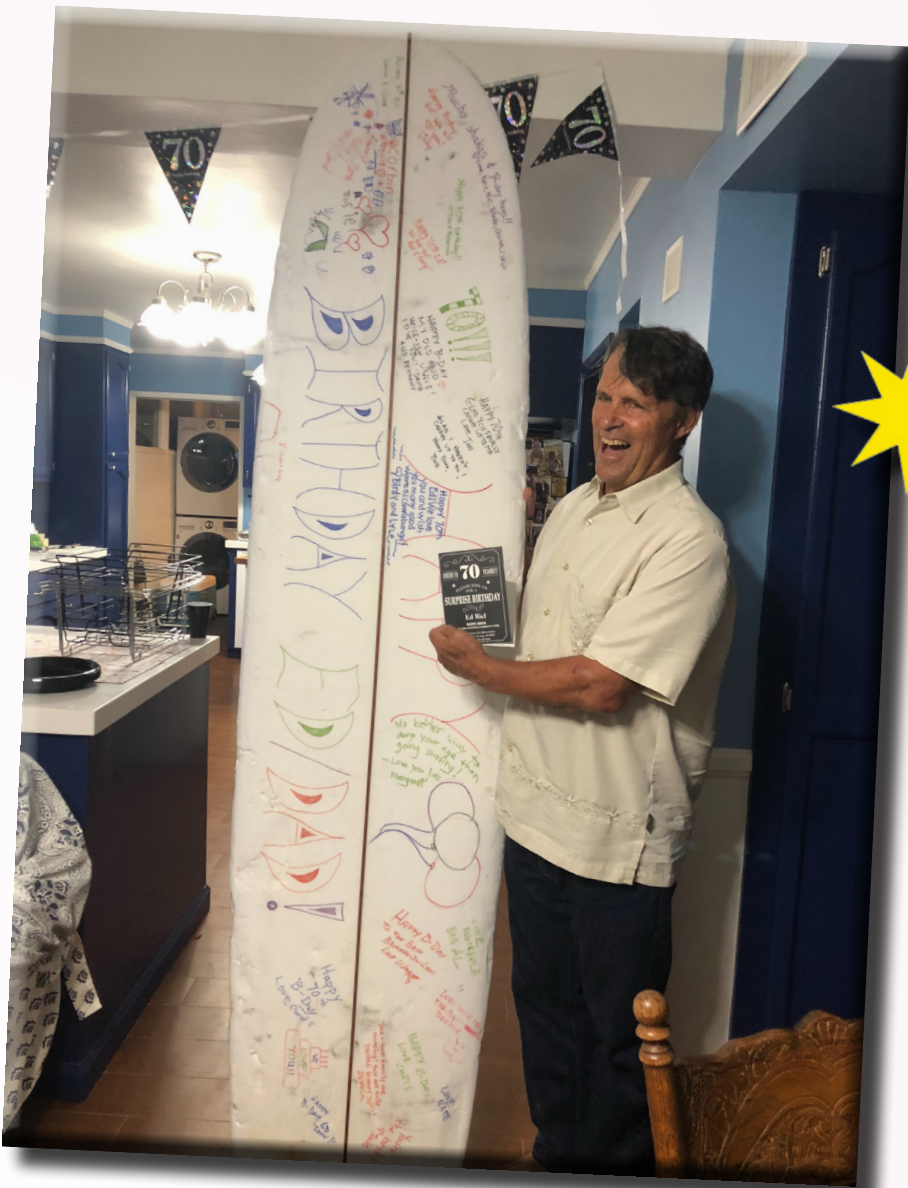
Annie and Kevin created a wine pub crawl for us, so we donned crazy crowns and played games at four different spots. One of the challenges was to see if you could get someone to buy you a shot. We accomplished that easily with our charm as a friendly pub-goer liked our enthusiasm and invited us to the best “dive bar” in Newport Beach for a Blue Bomb Pop shot stating he’d buy us a round.



He stayed with us, as we went searching for our third pub (Cassidy’s), where we decided that this selection turned out to be a good option. Because, lucky for us when we got there we found a friend from the first bar and he happily bought us another round. It was definitely worth it!

It was a wild and crazy, fun time and we were very happy to share it with our friends. It definitely suited our needs to slow down and enjoy our extended beautiful city by getting away without having to jump in a plane and travel very far. We definitely recommend making a trip like this for anyone who loves the beach and wants an easy vacation!





70th ED Turns 70!

I was surprised! I am afraid that I did not look very surprised but that is just because I am old.

Though a sneaky diversion, I just thought it was very delightful that my sisters would call me up and invite me to a happy birthday happy-hour. As nice as it was in itself that would have been all that was needed to mark the occasion that I dragged myself up to the age of 70. Since my family was to gather with me on Catalina Island the coming weekend, I was thinking that to make anything special on the day itself as a bit over budget, then, there you all were. And a new surfboard and all the tacos I could eat. It does not get any better. My love to all, Ed

Editor's Note:

Unfortunately, Karla and I were out of town when Ed's party took place, so I can't report on all the goings on. But I could guess that it was a very fun event and I am happy to see Ed was surprised. Many of you may remember his 60th Birthday party which was also a surprise. But in case you don't I have dove into the archives of the RFNL and found an article reporting the classic event. The article can be found on the following pages.

Also, while looking for this article I found one from October 1999 where Listy was interviewed by Grandpa Frank after she learned she had just been selected as Vice Principle at Scripps Ranch High School. It made fore some interesting reading and I hope you enjoy it as well.

Ed Riel celebrates 60th birthday with surprise party at Francie and Lyle's home

Ed is the second Riel child to turn the big six-o year, and it was quite a celebration. Some time ago Francie asked me if I could think of any way to really surprise him, and I said "no, unless you don't do anything". Of course, we would not do that. Grandpa then came up with a great idea. The party was scheduled for Saturday, September the 27th, which happened to be the night for our last ticketed Padres game. Since Ed had accompanied Grandpa to a prior game (Grandma was not feeling well) it was no surprise to him to be asked to fill in again. In order to get Ed to understand why we were stopping off at Francie's, he was told that we were returning some pictures taken by Francie at a recent visit to Disneyworld. Grandpa actually had the pictures in an envelope, along with two (out of date) Padres tickets stuck in his pocket. We also had in the car our baseball game handbag with the seat cushions and my heavy sweater. In order to signal Francie that we were on our way Grandpa pretended that he had forgotten his Padre cap so he could go back in the house to make the phone call that alerted the attendees. As we drove along Greyling Street Ed spotted a crowd and said "look, someone's having a party. Suddenly he spotted familiar faces and the big "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" sign on the garage door. It was a lot of fun, and everyone enjoyed drinks, snacks, delicious grilled hamburgers, desserts, and drinks. After the dinner we were treated to a program arranged by Francie. First the RFNL choir gave an impressive rendition of a song, words by Listy and tune from some song that I did not recognize. Next, Francie read a poem she had written. Both are recorded on page 2. Finally, Grandpa told a few "old age" jokes, and then recalled some past incidents involving Ed in some way or other. It was a great party, and as usual we have some pictures to share with our readers.



The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

October, 2008

Francie roasts Ed with another Epic composition defining the many incidents in Ed's life experience, from Lyndon Road to Ocean Beach

So gather around, let me tell you a story.
Bout my brother Ed and 60 years of glory.
He was born in October, so many years ago.
I czn't tell you much about it,cuz I'm so much
younger you know.
But from the days early on, I remember him as
one
Of the "boys"Margaret and I had to contend with
for fun.
Competition was rampart, the canyon was our turf,
Way before the days Ed learned to surf.
Each day we would go there to search out an
adventure,
With nary a parent, protector, or mentor.
But Ed wasn't so bad, so hard, or so mean,
I remember him well as he grew tall and lean.
He may have been the enemy as one of "the boys"
But mostly kind and generous, with his things and
his toys.
As we grew older Ed, I always remember,
You were pretty fair to us of the subservient
gender.
And when there was trouble, as around me, there
often was
I remember you stood by me, and picked up my
cause.
It was a part of your character that developed each
day.
And that carried over, to the man you've become
today.
So on to San Diego High, where you picked up
some knowledge,
Before Mom and Dad shipped you off to college.
There I understand that you made the front page,
Of the newspaper one day for a protest you staged.
But life carries on and the time passes fast.
On to your adulthood you were moving at last.
And then your first love of serious devotion,
Ed fell hard for the call of the ocean.
Surfing each day became quite the passion,
A ritual that today is still quite the fashion.
So he bought a little home at the beach, so each
day,
Down to the water he could return to play.
And then came the best choice you made in your
life,
30 years ago last week, you made Jan your wife.
She was a great pick and fun to no end,
As loyal as you and to me, a great friend.
Living your life in your cottage to cozy,
Peaceful and quiet, life was so rosy.
Then the first grandson arrives with a flourish,
And Kevin was there to tend to and nourish.
It definitely was now the time to build the house
of their dreams,
Before more kids arrived, and put pressure on the
seams.
So Ed built his castle and soon they moved in
To their home at the beach, their new life to begin.
Having a son was great fun, but oh no there were
more,

Within two years there were twins behind those
doors.

Chris and Nathan, wow what a crowd,
And at certain times it could get awfully loud.
And then a year later, the forth boy would arrive.
Tim made the dependant for Ed grow to five.
With your hands full of family and challenges
galore,
You continued your life each day by the shore.
And as the boys grew they too found the beach,
And surfing brought friendship, competition, and
peace.
And as the years pass, and the kids have grown
too,

I can't help but see, in them, parts of you.
They have become men of value, honor, and pride,
And the joy that they bring you is too hard to hide.
But the lessons you are teaching to them still to
this day

Are the things that you do, not the things that you
say.

The way that you treat us, your family all here,
Show everyone that you are so kind and so dear.
And for your boys to see, the way you and Jan
spend

Each weekend with your parents, is a lesson to no
end.

For I can see in Dad's eyes the joy that he receives
Each Saturday when you join him, till the time
that you leave.

That lesson to all is one we admire,
And comes from the things in your life that have
transpired.

Today you must look around at us here,And know
that we love and respect you so dear.

And thank you for making our lives better by far,
It jus t goes to show you how rich, that you really
are.

So lets raise a glass, toast my brother, my friend,
May your life be long and happy and your loving
ways never end.

Love you, Bro, Francie September 27,



And we thank all who helped make Ed's
60th the great party that it was,
especially Francie and Lyle,who opened
their home and provided the hospitality
for which they are so famous.

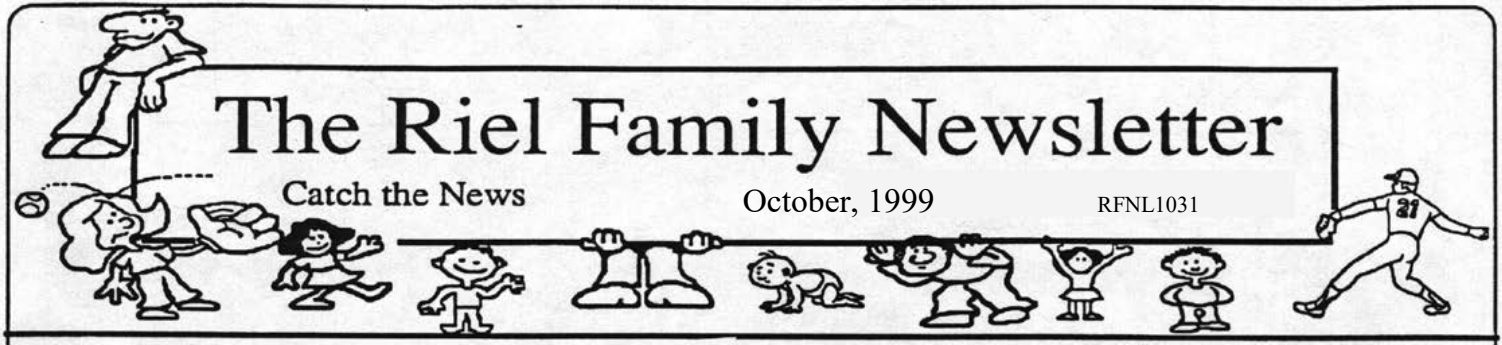
It everybody were sixty
Across the usa
Then everybody'd be surfin
Like Eddie likes to say
They'd be waking up early
At the crack of dawn
Ready to hit those waves now
Hopin their Depends stays on...

We'd see Ed hangin with Frank no
Every Saturday
Eattin lunch and bonding
Whenever he can sneak away
All over San Diego
We're here to say
Ed is turning 60
He's the best oh Yea!

We're all watching him age now
As the gray hairs grow
We're fixing to roast him
Cuz he hit a new plateau
But he's been a good brother
We can't bare to say
Ed is really turning 60
It's finally his birthday !

Sweet smile and Levis
Is what he likes to wear
Won't catch him at Nordstroms
Even if he's a millionaire
All among our family
We're here to say
Ed is turning 60
He's the best, oh yea!

Happy Birthday ED!



Listy wins promotion New job is vice principal at Scripps Ranch High School

Some time ago Listy became aware that there was going to be an opening for the position of vice principal at the school where she used to teach math, Scripps Ranch. Off the record, several of her former associates urged her to submit an application. Thinking that she had no chance to win such a position, she put off applying. At the urging of one of her friends she submitted a last minute application. To her surprise she survived the initial screening, the final screening, and after the field was narrowed down to four, she won the final walk through and interview. Shortly after she got the good news she and Birdy enjoyed lunch with Grandpa and Grandma, and after the meal the RFNL editor interviewed her. She responses are as follows.



RFNL – How many candidates were under consideration for the position?
Gillingham – Nineteen were under consideration in the first screening evaluation. After the initial interview there were seven, and after the walk through there were four.

RFNL – What was the most significant factor in your winning the position?
Gillingham – The fact that I had taught there before.

RFNL – Were you interviewed by more than one person? If so, who, by position?
Gillingham – Yes, there was a panel of eight people. There was a teacher, two principals, (one from the school, one from a neighborhood school, Mira Mesa H.S, and there was a secretary from Scripps Ranch. There was a community member from Scripps Ranch, who I did not know, and there was an instructional leader who I did not know, who is the boss of the principal at .

RFNL – Who made the final decision on your selection?

Gillingham – It was between ?????? and the principal, they did the final walk through interview. After that it went to Alan Bersin, the Superintendent of the San Diego City School System. He gave his stamp of approval to the decision, and passed it along to the School Board, for final OK.

RFNL – What will your duties be?
Gillingham –The duties will be defined by the principal when I get there. I’ll have to figure that one out. I am sure there will be some disciplining, some supervising, and a lot of grant writing.

RFNL - Do you know some of the present staff? If so, do you visualize any problems arising from your past associates?
Gillingham – Yes. No, most of the people I know are very nice, and we get along very well. We worked on lots of projects and that certainly was a benefit to me.

RFNL – Does this move mean you are no longer interested in classroom teaching?
Gillingham – No, it just means I am just trying it to see if I like it. If I like it then it is something I will do for a while, Then when I retire I will go back in and maybe teach part time somewhere. But at this time I want to try it to see if it is for me.

RFNL – Do you plan to stay in the San Diego City School System, as opposed to seeking college level teaching?
Gillingham – Well, this is something I have been debating back and forth, especially since there is an opening at UCSD. Well, frankly, I will see how things go. If it is something that works for me I will stick around. If it doesn’t then I’ll look around for something different.

RFNL – Do you have any ambition to seek a public office, such as the school board?
Gillingham – Well!!!! A definite NO!

RFNL – Do you plan to continue to consult for BER , and will you be putting on the same seminars you have presented in the past ?
Gillingham – Well, I’m going to complete this year because I have a contract, and I am sure the school will let me do it. And then I don’t know what next year will hold. It will depend on the principal’s approval. We will just see how it goes.

Needless to say, we all are proud of Listy for achieving this new level in the education world. There is no doubt in our mind that she will be a smash hit at Scripps Ranch High School. We wish her the very best in this new position, and also for whatever she wants in the future. **CONGRATULATIONS, GO LISTY!**

FAMILY SHORTS

How to tell if you are a Real Teacher

Thanks Listy, for this list of characteristics of real teachers.

- Real teachers grade papers in the car, during commercials, in faculty meetings, in the bathroom, and (at the end of the nine weeks) have been seen grading in church.
- Real teachers cheer when they hear April 1st does not fall on a school day.
- Real teachers drive older cars owned by credit unions.
- Real teachers clutch a pencil while thinking and make note in the margins of books.
- Real teachers never sit down without first

checking the seat of the chair.

- Real teachers are written up in medical journals for size and elasticity of kidneys and bladders.
- Real teachers have been timed gulping down a full lunch in 2 minutes, 18 seconds.
- Master teachers can eat even faster



RIEL SAN DIEGO 2020

If you believe in good government, free of political favors, I'm Rich Riel. If you would like to help, please call 858 277 2569 or email

Richard is Running for Mayor of San Diego in 2020

It is my intention to announce on Monday Nov. 5th my third attempt at becoming Mayor of San Diego. We are now 510 days from the primary.

I believe that elections are the market place of ideas. I am asking all of you and your friends to join me on Nov. 5, Monday at 10AM at the cross on Mt. Soledad for my official announcement that I am running in 2020 San Diego Mayoral Race. I am hoping that you will cruise up to Soledad mountain with a sign that says, "Good ideas never go out of Style."

For more information go to my Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/richriel4mayor/> or call me at 619 964 4473.

RIEL SAN DIEGO 2020