



***Musical Rooms:
or
Who sleeps where
in the big house?***



By Margaret Riel

Because it was on the market, we recently had an opportunity to visit the old 1877 Lyndon Road home where we all grew up. As we moved through the house, it was fun to hear the different memories. Each of us had "our" room but there were overlapping claims to the same rooms. I thought it might be fun to reflect on the thinking of our parents as they tried to make the house work for what would end up being ten people.

When Mom and Dad Riel bought the 1877 Lyndon property, they had five children, two boys Richard (7) and Eddie (6), and three girls Margaret (4), Francie, (2), and Carol (a baby). The house had three bedrooms upstairs (one level up from the street). There was one large room on the east side with its own bathroom and dressing area, originally called the master bed room and two medium-sized rooms on the west side sharing a smaller bathroom. Connecting one of the smaller bedrooms with the master bedroom was a small room with windows all around. Mom saw this room as a perfect nursery.

There were also two rooms downstairs (one level down from the street) - one large with a fireplace, and one very small bedroom with a small bathroom next to it. Also there was a balcony that overlooked the canyon. From the downstairs, there was an outdoor staircase to the kitchen. When the house was built in 1913, these were likely to have been where the servants lived. There was a very steep driveway where carriages were driven, to a covered porch (later to be closed to add a bedroom as the family grew). It connected to a long narrow workroom which was likely to have been the tack room for the horses. At the end, there was a door that led to the outside and



Posing with longtime neighbor and good friend Bette Farnsworth the family gets ready to tour their old home. As a side note every riel in this photo babysat for Mrs. Farnsworth at one time or another.

before the garage was added, this space was likely a corral for the horses. The long room became Dad's workshop. The middle floor (street level) had a large living room, kitchen, dining room with built in cabinets and what was called the sun room (which later became the TV room.) Also, there were no bathrooms on this floor.

So where did we all sleep? Mom and Dad could have taken the master bedroom and put Margaret and Francie in one room and the Richard and Ed in the other, with Carol in the nursery. But instead, they took one of the smaller rooms, and gave Margaret and Francie the big room (maybe the logic is that soon Carol would be joining them) and Eddie and Richard moved into the other medium-sized room. Mom and Dad never moved from the room they initially chose. But the rest of family slept in many different rooms as the family grew. To track these movements, we will call the large room at the top of the stairs the master bedroom and the bedroom that shared a bathroom with our parents' room, the smaller bedroom. Here is how a growing family played musical rooms at 1877 Lyndon Rd.

1954- Everyone moves in. Margaret and Francie are happy to get the master bedroom, and Ed and Rich took control of the smaller bedroom with bunkbeds. While Mom and Dad shared their bathroom with the boys, the girls had their own bathroom and a large walk-in closet.

1956- A sixth child is on the way so Carol is moved out of the nursery and into the large room with the girls, Margaret and Francie. This could have been when Margaret and Francie get the metal frame bunk beds. Things are ready for the new baby -- would the girls rule, or would the boys tie?

1957- Robert is born and he evens out the numbers, 3 boys and 3 girls. Robert takes the nursery. Carol had already moved into the master bedroom with Margaret and Francie.

1958- One year later, the twins are born. Now the girls really rule. It is too crowded in the small nursery for three babies. (Mom had claimed half of it as a closet which Dad built for her, since it was too difficult to store clothes for two people in the one very small closet in their bedroom.) The older boys, Richard and Eddie, now 10 and 11, are moved downstairs to the small bedroom. The separated the bunk beds and split the room in half. While it is far away, it did have an advantage in being next to



the game room (large room with a fire place) with a full-sized pool table/ping-pong table. Ed remembers in the morning getting up and going upstairs to stand next the register to get warm-- maybe the plan was the servants could use the fireplace for warmth but it was not normally used when we lived there. Richard claimed the closet under the stairs to house his growing comic book collection. Without permission, Ed and Richard used a drill and saw to create bars on the door. This did not make Mom and Dad happy.

Robert was moved out of the nursery to the smaller bedroom upstairs. A double bed was added and the room also served as a guest room. The basement was made into a model railroad house with a large plywood table. Perhaps in response to losing the numbers game, and being banned from the upstairs, the boys put a sign on the garage, "no girls allowed." The girls ignored it.

1960- Twins were outgrowing the nursey but where should they go? Dad started construction on the attic. He put plywood on the ceiling and on the floor space going as far to the sides as a child could comfortably stand without hitting her head on the ceiling. There are two dormer windows and Dad built desks and a toy chest on each side. Margaret got the one on the west side and Francie got the other side. The metals frame bunkbeds were brought upstairs and this became the new space for Margaret and Francie. At first, there was only a steep ladder. After Margaret slipped one time and broke her arm, Dad made steps with a railing but the space was small and the stairs were at a very steep incline. As a side note; the people who bought the house took out Dad's bay window study at the North end of the house and make a conventional staircase up to the attic space and thus eliminated the ladder).



The twins moved into the master room that Margaret and Francie had left. Carol moved into the room with Robert, they had bunk beds and Carol was mad that Robert, the younger kid, got the top bunk. Mom turns the nursery into her space making it into a sewing room as well as a dressing room.

1962- Dad builds a third bed for Carol and she joins Margaret and Francie in the attic space. To make more room downstairs, Dad had the balcony over the canyon closed in making an indoor space out of the balcony. Additionally, he split the balcony in two making the balcony



This is where Ed and Robert shared a room (not this nice) Imagine a bed on each side of the window and the newly enclosed balcony as shown below. Keep in mind that there was a step down to the area with a red painted concrete floor. The new owners raised the floor to match the bedroom during more recent renovations.



next to the smaller room into a space with a desk for both of the boys and the other side an open area to play in.

At the same time, the carriage space was closed into to form a new bedroom for Richard. Robert moves downstairs to share the other room with Eddie. Now all three boys are banished from the upstairs. We called the smaller room (upstairs) the guest room complete with a new double bed. We had some visitors --Dad's mom and dad- our grandparents -- came from South Carolina and stayed for us for a week or so. The twins are now in the large master bedroom. Richard moves into the now closed in carriage room downstairs leaving Ed who now shares the smaller bedroom with Robert.

1965 - Richard goes off to the Citadel. The comic closet in which Richard and Eddie cut jail bars on was repaired and the comics thrown out. Ed moved into the room that Richard left. Robert has his own room. Francie and Margaret also lobbied for rooms of their own. The twins were moved to the attic with Carol, and Dad builds in two more bed platforms. Margaret gets the master room (and loved the space!!!). The bunk beds were separated into two beds and Margaret slept in the east facing window on school nights (getting the sun to help wake her) and the south facing windows on weekends to sleep in. She set up her "stereo" record player in the corner and decorated the walls -- so happy to have her own space. Francie got the smaller room, but a double bed. She must have missed having a roommate because she got a monkey to share her space. It was from this room that she would put one pillow under the sheets and put a wig on the pillow and creep out the window over the small porch and drop to the ground to go out to watch the grunion run (at least that is what she told Margaret). Grunions are small fish that turn the waves florescent green at night during spawning season-- California's answer to the northern lights.

1966- Ed leaves for college to Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. While he returns to CA, he does not return to 1877. Robert gets the whole downstairs and loves it!

1968 - Margaret leaves to UCSD, Carol moves down from the attic to take over the master room, Francie still has the smaller room and the twins rule the attic. Margaret came home from the university for the summer after the first year and had her room again. Maybe Carol went back upstairs with the twins.

1969 Richard returns home from college and moves back into 1877 for a while. He moves back into his old bedroom downstairs. By this time Margaret has given mom a rescue dog, Foxy, a small terrier that Mom spoiled. Foxy and Richard did not hit it off. Richard tried to keep the dog away from his room. Foxy's revenge was to relieve himself on Richard's bed. Also this year, the twins decided that the attic was a bit creepy and so they moved bunkbeds downstairs to the other space that was created from closing in the patio over the canyon.

1970 - When Francie leaves home to go to beauty college Carol gives up the bigger master bedroom to the twins. The twins leave the attic and share the large room. Carol moves into Francie's space - the smaller room.

1971 - When Francie leaves home to go to beauty college. Richard leaves for the second time. Carol gives up the master bedroom to the twins who come back upstairs to share the larger room. Carol moves into Francie's space - the smaller room.

Robert again has the downstairs as his own apartment. Robert begins working at the neighbor's grocery store (K-mar Market) and began making lots of money for a kid that lives at home. He would buy ribeye steaks and Boston cream pie, treats we rarely had, and eat it all himself.

1973 - Carol moved out of the house to go to Long Beach State University. Listy stayed in the larger room and Birdy went to the smaller room. Robert rules the downstairs. He turned



the balcony area next to his bedroom into a photography lab where he would develop his own pictures. Later, he taught himself electronics by buying a do it yourself TV kit with monthly delivery of new parts. This was the beginning of a very successful career with electronics.

1977 - Listy moved out to go to college leaving Birdy in the smaller room. Carol moves back home taking Listy's room (the larger room) to save money while student teaching. Carol felt like a spoiled, only child. She went to dinner with Mom and Dad every Friday night. Also, by this time Mom had become a really good cook and made dinner for herself, Dad and Carol on the other nights. Carol doesn't remember Birdy being around for dinner as she was always with Listy, Bob, and Bruce. Also, Robert spent most

of his evenings working until 7:30 pm and therefore managed his own meals. This is one of Carol's happiest time in the house.

1978 - Carol moves out to an apartment to start teaching and got married a year later.

1979 - Birdy gets married and moves out, leaving Robert, downstairs as the only kid in the house.

1980 - Robert is the last one to leave home moving into a duplex that he and Richard bought together.

1981 - 1983 - That was the game of musical rooms in a big family. In the end, Mom and Dad were left with the big house all alone but it must have felt too big. Dad had done some research and found out the city property next to the house (designated as a street extension) could be granted to each adjacent home owner if the neighborhood didn't oppose the fact that the street would then never be extended. He petitioned the City and eventually was granted half of the undeveloped street property. This was important because now he had enough land to split the property in half and they built a smaller house next door.

Once they moved in, they sold the old house (now with only half the original land) for about \$750,000 not bad, considering they spent about \$25,000 in 1954.

1983- 2019 - The new owners completely remodel the home including significant landscaping and patio additions. It was all done to modernize the kitchen but still maintain the early architecture of the original home. It is now a historical landmark home and is up for sale once again. It can be had for about \$2,850,000 if you would like to live there...



Mom enjoyed the visit and it brought back many memories but most of all she enjoyed just being with her kids (and grand kids as Michelle made a surprise visit at lunch after the tour.)

Brian's 30th Birthday

by Drew Riel

So, Brian turned 30 on April 5th, on his birthday Myself, Pete and Daniel took Brian to the “Happiest Place on Earth” (Disneyland). I would be lying if I said it was boring. With food, rides, pin trading, and company of loved ones it was a very exciting time. But something happened that all of us didn't see coming. We stumbled upon some Disney magic with the premier of the newest Marvel movie, Endgame, being shown at Disneyland. We even caught a quick glimpse of the actors from the movie Robert Downey Jr, Chris Hemsworth, Paul Rudd, Brie Larson, Scarlett Johansson and Jeremy Renner. We were in awe of what we had witnessed. To say Brian's 30th was anything less than magical would be a lie.



On April 6th with the help of some great friends I threw Brian a birthday party in Alpine thanks to (Karla & Bob.) Some would say they would die for a Great Gatsby Soiree. With rich bold colors, champagne, and snacks galore. A murder mystery awaited for all who attended. Who lived, who died and who committed murder in the Great Gatsby Speakeasy was all a mystery. In the end Petey and Brian's characters both ended up dying by the hand of Brian's love interest and right-

hand man (talk about betrayal). The mystery was solved by Nikki who won a \$25 Amazon gift card! The cake was over the top more than I could have ever asked for (thanks Aunt Paula)! We had some Riel cousins come to join the fun JJ and Sam. As well as people from Arizona and all over California. There was even some fire spinning by Brian, Donnarae, and Brandon to give the party some heated entertainment! Happy 30th to Brian!



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Annie Mulholland is Teacher of the Year 2019!



Congratulations to Annie Mulholland who was recently named Teacher of the Year for Winter Gardens Elementary School! As reported by her principal who happens to be a PHHS parent, Annie is a wonderful teacher leader taking on many responsibilities in helping other teachers find the same success she has had over the last 8 years as a Spanish Immersion teacher. Annie has full responsibility to teach her students all the subjects as any elementary teacher would do, but has to do it all in Spanish without ever reverting back to her English roots. Her students as a result, by the time they leave elementary are fully bilingual! Here's her introduction to herself from the website:

"¡Bienvenidos! I am so excited to be your 1st grade teacher this year! I am originally from San Diego, CA and was raised in the La Mesa area. I spent 8 years away from San Diego, however, attending Gonzaga University for my Bachelor's degree, living in San Francisco and teaching in Madrid, Spain for three years. I received my bilingual teaching credential from San Diego State University and am currently pursuing a masters in Dual Language at SDSU as well. In my class, we focus on learning and growing as leaders through the 7 Habits. I am thrilled to be teaching 1st grade at Winter Gardens Elementary again and look forward to an excellent year! Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you have!"

An Ode to Uncle Bob

By Craig Hartman

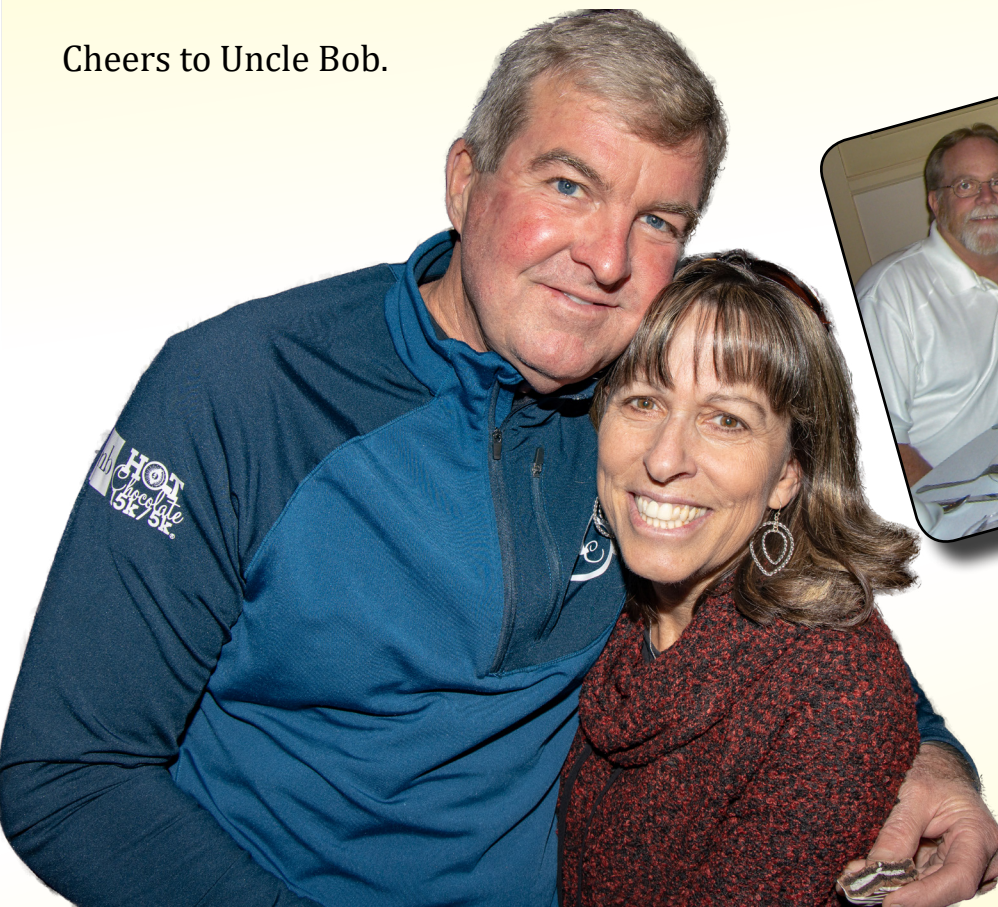
I know there is some confusion with the Riel family about who Uncle Bob because there are two of them. I just want to start this by being clear that, although Uncle Robert is amazing for all he does, this is to celebrate Uncle Bob Gillingham. As all of you know, my Dad died a couple of years ago and although it wasn't exactly out of nowhere, none of us were truly ready for it. I still can't believe how much it hurt and how broken I felt.

That day in the hospital when it came time to start arranging all the crappy necessities after someone dies, a couple of us kids started working on those arrangements, but instantly Bob came up and just took all that away. And while we were all struggling to keep our heads up, there was Bob, going over Mom's financial records to see how things would work out. He was there helping around mom and dad's house, selling dad's van, and being there supporting mom and all of us every chance he could.

At the time I was too selfish to really think about it but looking back I realize what an amazing accomplishment that was. The Hartman and Gillingham families have always been closest thanks to the Twins. As a result, it was inevitable that Bruce and Bob would grow close, especially as their kids moved out and they had more time to hang. I think back at how strong Bob was for us while his brother in law and closest friend just passed and I appreciate it so much. He was standing tall while the rest of us were falling apart and did it with a level of grace and honor that I will always cherish.

Bob is a hell of an educator, auto enthusiast, home renovator extraordinaire, wonderful father and grandparent, crazy Iron Man, and an amazing Uncle. I'm so lucky to have him in my life and deeply appreciate his help while I was hurting so badly.

Cheers to Uncle Bob.

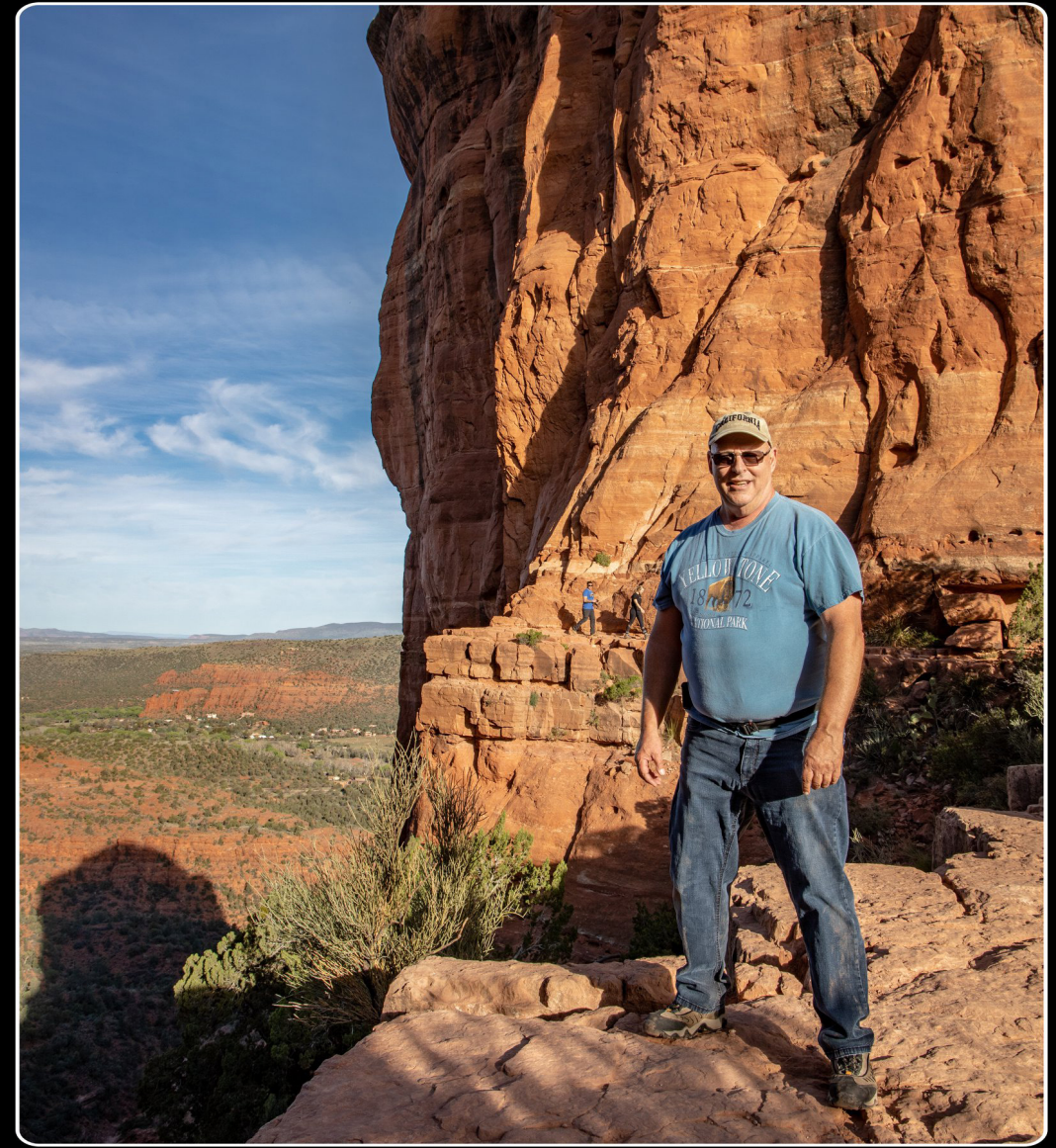


Robert Turns 62, Celebrates by Climbing Cathedral Rock in Sedona, AZ

For my birthday week we decided to spend some time in Sedona, Arizona. So, we packed up our RV and along with our good friends Jim and Lorelee (and their RV) we drove out on Friday the 5th of April. It was a nice drive made even better by the cheap Arizona gas (less than \$3.00 for Diesel and \$2.69 for regular.)

We stayed at a really nice (and inexpensive) RV park called Distant Drums which is located about 20 miles south of Sedona. It was also within a mile of a very nice casino where we enjoyed more than one of their \$8 breakfast buffets.

We spent the week visiting the local attractions along with some shopping for the girls. We hiked a few areas and we even visited one of Jim's old high school friends. However, the early mornings were for me to run or even hike the area before everyone else got up for breakfast. And on my birthday, I decided (upon good advice from a friend at work) to hike the Cathedral Rock trail.



It's not a long hike (less than a mile to the top) but it is a very steep one with areas where you are literally climbing rocks hand over foot. There were a few areas where if you slipped of the rock... well let's just say I most likely would not have had another birthday. But once I got to the top I was rewarded with a spectacular view. There was also a ledge you could go out onto and stand at the edge of a large drop off.

Fortunately for me, there was a nice young couple that offered to take a picture of me. As you can tell by the attached photos it really is a wonderful place to visit. This was our first time in the Sedona area, but I am sure it won't be our last.



Easter

Michael & Ashley 3107708725

RIEL FAMILY EASTER

1575 Clifftop Ave San Marcos, CA 92078

Sunday, April 21 from 10:00 AM
to 2:00 PM



FAMILY SHORTS



This morning I fulfilled a promise to myself I made two years ago when I realized with Weight Watchers (WW) I had taken control of my body. I have kept my cadet blouse unaltered from the day in May when I took it off for what I thought was the final time.

This morning I got up to go to my WW meeting I felt this was the day. In the last month I have been trying to button the blouse without breaking the threads. My friends in WW all knew of my goal and shared my journey. I have never been prouder when my friends erupted into cheers when I walked into the meeting this morning. I know you all will share the joy of accomplishment I feel this morning.



Congratulations to Braeden Keith who earned the game ball last week! He said he thought he earned it for catching, throwing, and hitting the ball! Let's go Padres! Great job Breaden!



Scott Hartman Manager of the Year at The Evan's Hotel

Time for some BIG news. Every year, The Evan's hotels select a manager of the year. There were three people elected and Scott was delighted when his name was announced at a big company's meeting/celebration as the winner! The corporate executives were there and they gave some very nice speeches about the work that Scott has been doing at the Bahia. He has created some new programs and he goes out of his way to support the Bahia Hotel. His hard work paid off and he was presented with a big trophy (and a nice bonus check). Congratulations to Scott Hartman. We are all proud of you!



Bridget Sorem spent her birthday with Bryce... Another April Birthday! How great can this month be?