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**Are The
Mulhollands
Expecting
a
Christmas
Gift?**

News From Annie And Kevin

By Annie Mulholland

Time to update the family tree- the Mulhollands are expecting another baby! Baby #2 is expected on December 26, 2021, just two days after Evie's due date. Evie is thrilled, aka totally unaware, about how much her universe is about to change (we are pretty much in the same boat). Christmas is going to be an exciting time of year (again) for us!

We also recently took Evie on her first flight to visit Kevin's family in Florida. We spent a week in Siesta Key, which is a beach town on the Gulf Coast. This beach had the most amazing sand I have ever seen; it was so fine it was almost like powder! Unfortunately, we were also there during the Red Tide, so the water was a little less appealing than normal.

However, just hanging out on the beach is my idea of a good time so we had a blast anyway. Evie finally got a little more comfortable playing in the sand (before she would try to use her towel to clean the sand). The town of Siesta Key is also super fun with little beachy restaurants and bars, so we spent the warm evenings hopping around.

After a week in Siesta Key, we made the drive back to central Florida to spend time with Kevin's family at





their home. They live in "The Villages," an enormous retirement community (3 counties large!). While there, we took golf cart rides, or as Evie called them, "zoom zoom," went to the pool, went to the park, and checked out some walking trails. We also spent a day at a mineral springs park and swam in the fresh water. In the evenings, the Villages has town squares with live bands nightly, so we were able to enjoy some date nights out followed by dancing in the square!

We had a great trip, and it was so wonderful for Evie to be able to spend so much time with Kevin's family!





Family Vacation 2021

By Listy Gillingham

Planning a family vacation during a pandemic can be crazy especially when you have no idea what will be open and safe. Also planning around an 18-month old who needs supplies (toys, travel cribs, and plenty of diapers) kept us closer to home. We decided on Huntington Beach because the house looked fantastic and provided extra features that would make the location feel like a new vacation spot all on its own. The 4 bedroom house with a loft had the 12 beds we needed plus a game room which occupied the Keith boys for many hours with a pool table, foosball, and gaming Xbox tools which was used occasionally when the adults were ready for some down time from kids. The pool and kayaks made the canal setting special too.



Our first day was spent enjoying our new surroundings. We dined on the canal with David and Bethany preparing the dinner (everyone gets a turn during our family trips). It's always fun to have all of our kids and grands together in one setting and this trip was no different.

The second day was declared to be saved for Holiday Hoopla antics since we could not do them during Christmas due to the Covid scares and concerns we all shared. Since this is the 5th year Holiday Hoopla Anniversary,

we started a new cycle of planners and we decided that it should go from oldest to youngest which put Bob and Listy in charge of the planning. We selected Gillingham's Island as the theme, given we were sitting on a dock with two sides adjacent to the water. We had 6 games planned and broke them down to 3 games while Evie napped in the afternoon and 3 games during her bedtime. The task card showed off the games and gave a hint towards what we were going to be doing. The first game was team selection and getting into the mood by doling out fancy team hats (sailer and island hats for each team with fancy leis). Everyone quickly got in the spirit and team pictures were taken.



We warned the kids about the Gilligan's Island theme and assigned them homework to watch at least one episode so they could be adequately "schooled" for the activities. To test their 60's pop culture knowledge, we started with playing the theme song of Gilligan's Island but stopped and started it, to see if they could come up with the next word that followed when we stopped the song. It was fun to see them struggle and show some success with the lyrics. After that, we busted out a fun Gilligan's Island trivia contest to see who was best at guessing the answers to each question.



The next contest was the Baseball Hula competition where each team had to bat a plastic ball through a Hula Hoop held by a teammate in the pool and be caught by the third teammate (also in the pool). Each team was given a minute as we counted the number of catches made to determine the ultimate winner. If a team didn't want to go in the pool, they could always substitute a Grand kid (Liam, Braeden and Riley were all very willing to tap in), which made it super fun. We



also did a relay with life preservers and a small blow up boat for the kayak races (because I was afraid we might get over zealous and break the real kayaks to win a race).

The evening meal was cooked expertly by Annie and Kevin and then we continued with Island Golf (a floating golf hole where teams had limited luck in hitting the island or landing it in the hole).

Mission Rescue was a game that included giving each team a zip lock bag with a few items for them to design a boat that would hold as many pennies as possible (the pennies were considered survivors from an island). David created the design for the sailor team that ended up holding 360 pennies. It was fun to run the tests and see which boat would end up winning.

The “So You Think You Can Dance” competition included wearing hula skirts for everyone while designing their favorite Island dance. Bob selected the Gilligan’s Island theme song and in less than five minutes wrote a song about all the interesting events that had occurred that night. Needless to say, each team came up quickly with a fun dance and song that made the night fun and silly. When it came to figuring out which team won this year, we realized we ended up in an exact tie with each team winning three games. Listy and Bob decided that the Grand kids should be the winners this year as they tapped in and played on both teams helping them find success for each task in different ways.

Tuesday started off with a walk along the beach to check out the surroundings beyond the house. It also included another fun day around the pool and time to use the kayaks that were provided with the house. We celebrated Seamus’ 40th birthday with a few decorations and David’s Birthday which also happens in July. Kristy and Seamus had dinner duty and came through with flying colors. We roasted marshmallows and enjoyed another fun evening. Bob wrote a song that we all joined in to serenade Seamus with to mark the first of many 40th celebrations Kristy had planned for the next month.



Seamus Birthday Song
(Sung to "For the Longest Time")

-Oh, oh, oh
For the longest time
Oh, oh, oh
For the longest
-If you said that Seamus was quite old
You would surely see what we behold
He has a big heart
Though he's now just an old fart
He's been here living for the longest time.
•Once he knew his youthful years were gone
He cried all day a very mournful song
But though he's sporty,
The dude's now age-old forty,
He's been decaying for the longest time.
•Oh, oh, oh
For the longest time
Oh, oh, oh.....For the longest
•We're that voice you're hearing in your head
Sleeping in or F45 instead
You better get up
You're not a little young pup
Just keep a-moving and then you'll be fine.
* His old age will last so very long
He's into middle age
Please tell us that we're wrong
*The youthful kid we met some years ago
Is now a creaking mess
And we all see that's so.
•Who knows how much further he'll go on
Sagging and shrinking are clues that we'll go on
We'll take our chances
And as the years advances
We hope he makes it for the longest time.
*We had second thoughts at the start
We said to ourselves
Will he break Kristy's heart?
*Now we know the good man that you are
You're wonderful so far
And it's more than we hoped for
•We don't care what consequence it brings
From forty years a long happy life will spring
From all your family
We think you ought to know that
We wish you happy birthdays for the longest time





The next day, we decided to venture off the dock by going to the beach and giving the grandkids a chance to dig in the sand and go into the water with waves. Liam and Braeden proved to be great body and boogie board surfers and Riley loved building castles in the sand with his Grandma. We started the day with shopping

in downtown Huntington Beach and had lunch at an Irish Pub. After that, we met Bob (who opted out of shopping) at the beach. The Keiths ended the day with an ice cream treat for the boys which made them very happy.

Our last day, was spent basking in the sun and enjoying the house one last night. We loved the pool, which was heated perfectly, and everyone had a chance at playing beach ball volleyball in the water with the boys. Curtis and Cora (who live nearby) joined us and added to our relaxing day. Cora wanted to try the slide that sat on the dock, and everyone had fun joining in on the fun. The kayaks were also taken out one more time to get the full use of the canal.

The best part of the trip is always being together and bonding as a family. We both appreciate our kids giving up some of their precious vacation time to be with us.







By Listy Gillingham

This Old House has shifted to This Old Car!

We all know that 1949 was a great year for new inventions that might carry over into the next century such as:

- Jolly Ranchers
- Junior Mints
- Joy (dishwashing liquid)
- Kraft singles
- Silly Puddy
- Smarties (candy)
- Whoppers



But lucky for the Gillinghams, an F1 Ford truck was hatched in 1948 and we are now the proud owners of a not-so-new 1949 F1 truck! Bob has been toying with a car project for a long time and frequently is watching shows like Barn Find Hunter or other antique car web-sites.

Bob had shifted from earlier ideas of rebuilding a Porsche, to deciding to find an old truck like this one. As luck would have it, about 20 years ago, we met some friends who had a truck given to them from their father who owned a pig farm in Kansas. They took ownership of it with plans to eventually rebuild it. When Bob saw it, he was intrigued and always told our friend that if he ever wanted to sell it, Bob was very interested. Over the years, Bob would always inquire about the status of the truck wondering if perhaps they were tired of it taking up precious garage space.

Finally, with one kid off to college and another coming up soon, the timing was right to pass the project to someone who would embrace it and our friends offered the truck to Bob for a fair purchase price (Thank you Cory and Rueben).

The rebuilding project has begun and anytime Bob has time off from golfing or vacationing with Listy, he can be found in the garage tearing apart the truck, determined to bring it back to life in full glory. So far, he's removed:

- 2 gas tanks
- The truck bed
- Both fenders
- The dashboard
- The liner
- The carpeting
- The wheel wells
- Shocks
- And other parts that I can't identify

He wants the bed to go back to the original wood planks so he unwelded the truck bed that was altered, at some point, with a metal bed on top.

This renewal project will be one that would have made Bruce Hartman super happy. We can both see him bending over the hood with Bob giving him lots of great ideas. Can't wait for the rebuild part, because to me, it looks like he's making a mess with parts all over the garage. Go Bob!



Hartman Family Fun in Tahoe



By Birdy Hartman Hall

Vacations are always fun but getting to go on one with some family members is even more special. Unfortunately, Lyle had to work, but being a retired person makes it much easier to say, "YES!" when I am invited on a trip with some of my kids.

A year ago, Curtis and Lauren made plans to go to Tahoe with Craig and Ana's family at an Airbnb. So, we loaded up the trucks with kids, dogs, and Grammy! It was such a great adventure! We cooked, played games, rode bikes, and hiked! Man, are my grandkids GREAT hikers. We did some five-mile hikes that felt more like stair steps than a stroll through the woods. But cute Josie and Cora just held hands and kept on going!



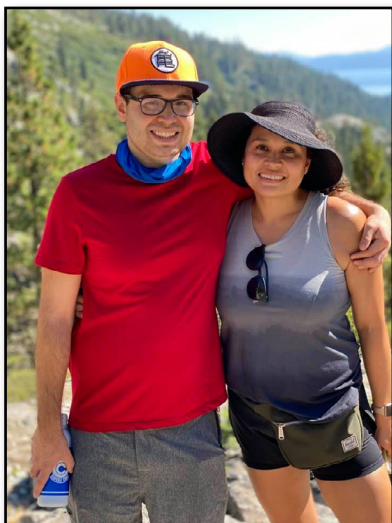
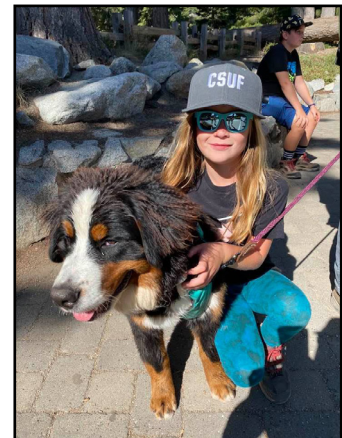
We saw many different lakes while in Tahoe on our hikes. There is something satisfying about finding a majestic lake at the end of your hike. And those beautiful dogs of Curtis and Lauren loved splashing in the water!

For those of you that don't know, they bought these Bernese Mountain Dogs. They are just puppies right now, but they grow to the size of Saint Bernard...huge! They are strong and were used to pull carts in the Switzerland alps.

These dogs were certainly the hit of all of our hikes. People would want to stop and engage us in conversation about Autumn and Clifford. One guy even pulled over in the street just to ask Curtis questions about them. The dogs seemed to enjoy Tahoe just as much as the people did.

The only downside to our trip was when one of the dogs stepped on a bee...ouch! That certainly put a damper on our morning hike. Lauren and Curtis had to rush him to a nearby pet hospital because of their fears of an allergic reaction. Scary stuff for anyone to have to go through for sure. And the worst part was that the pet hospitals in Tahoe were swamped with animals needing help. It took them over an hour just to find a doctor that would treat their poor dog. Luckily, after some Benadryl and a shot, the pup was back in happy pup spirit.

The rest of our trip was smooth sailing and a lot of fun. Thanks gang, for letting me jump in and join your fun trip. I love being a "yes" Grammy!





Welcome Home Lanes!

On Saturday, July 30, the Gillinghams hosted a pool party to celebrate the Lanes return to San Diego (at least Michelle, as David and the Boys are new citizens of our fair city). It was held at around Noon with everyone bringing their own food and drink while Bob and Listy supplied a fun afternoon of playing in the pool and even some Pickleball for the older "Kids". We are all very happy to have more of the family back in town with the rest of us!







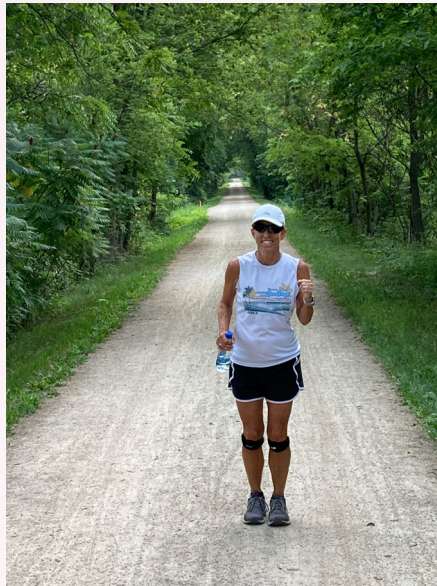
Minnesota Here We Come!

By Listy Gillingham



We have always wanted to visit Bob's sister, Amy, but we could never find the time because of our limited vacation days as principals, but now that we're retired, the trip was easy to fit in.

Ally, Amy's second oldest, just graduated from high school and thus Rich and Amy were hosting a huge celebration at their new house which we were also dying to see after hearing many stories about their new addition. We lucked out on the weather because most of our days were in the 80's and the humidity wasn't too outrageous.



Amy and Rich have a house that sits on Lake Minnetonka which allows them to have their own dock for boats and other water toys to be used in the summer. In the winter, it becomes a frozen lake filled with fishing huts because it is thick enough for trucks to drive on, which truly amazed me.



We loved Minnesota in the summer (noticed how I fit in the season given all the crazy news reports we've read about Minnesota in the winter months). We started each day with either a walk/run or bike to the town of Excelsior which was an easy 4-mile trek for a leisure breakfast and a nice trek back to their place. We loved the trail that we found that was about 2 miles from Amy's house as it was lush and green which is quite the contrast to trails in San Diego.

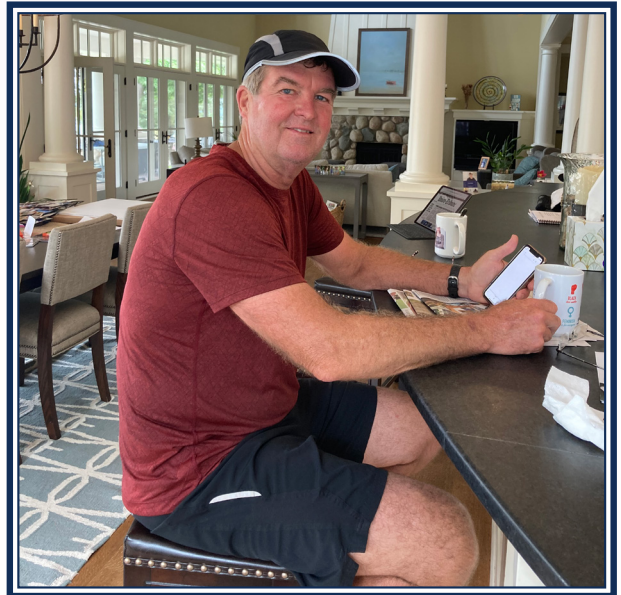




We also loved being treated by the owner of Revival Restaurants to a fried chicken dinner (thank you Rich and Amy) complete with grits (Dad would have been proud) and other sides that made the dinner authentically fantastic!

We spent the entire trip in the town of Shorewood, where Amy and Rich live. It's a truly quaint suburb that is part of the Lake Minnetonka school district which is known for being innovative and private school like. Amy did the research before deciding where in Minnesota they wanted to live and selected this area because of the Spanish Immersion program (Annie would be proud). This is their second home in the neighborhood as their first one was nearby but did not have direct lake access. They traded up and loved moving into this nearly 10,000 square foot home that was remodeled to fit their individual needs. They added a

full indoor green house as growing veggies and herbs in the winter turns out to be a challenge in the snow.



Rich has a four-car sized woodshop below the additional three-car garage they built to give them more parking spaces for their growing fleet of cars (they have now 3 teen drivers). Their house also included a subterranean wine cellar and a separate apartment for visitors and friends like us who might want to visit. The house sits above their private dock which makes the trek to the lake a bit of a challenge with 4 flights of stairs. However, the Gammills decided to put in a trolley (it's like a platform type of open elevator) to help make the dock accessible to anyone and make it easier to trek down needed supplies for a boat trip (like a case of beer). They are also quite the farmers as they had a huge outdoor garden where Amy grows veggies that she often donates to the local food supply network because the garden produce is more than they can likely eat. She has a chicken coop, so fresh eggs are literally hatching each day. They make their own honey and syrup as Amy keeps several beehives (she has a bee keeping outfit) and Rich knows how to get sap out of his maple trees for some home grown Minnesota Syrup.

We had a day on the lake where we got to go kayaking and sit on the dock and read our books. We also got a ride on their fancy 12-person speed boat where they took us for a tour of some of the crazy homes that are nestled along the lake that were quite impressive too. One had their own replica of the statue of liberty (not quite as tall but certainly an eye-catcher).

The highlight of the week was to be around for our niece's graduation party (Ally is off to the University of Chicago next year)



and to have the opportunity to meet Amy's and Rich's friends and neighbors. Because of the distance, we haven't been able to do much in terms of family support, so it was nice to be there to help set-up and clean-up the event. We also loved going out on walks with Amy and Rich at the end of each day as well. All in all, a great family vacation for us and hopefully something we can repeat again!

FAMILY SHORTS



While today marks 2 months till baby Aro is born, which is very much on the forefront of our minds, today is also Carinda's 33rd Birthday. While I know she would much rather be out kayaking on Ladybird Lake, Hiking on some local trails and creeks, and topping that off with some great cocktails, relaxing at home, staying hydrated and talking about our family's future is just as exciting. She is killing this whole pregnancy stage (probably not the best word to use:) but she's rocking it) She is already the best friend and wife a guy could ask for, and soon she'll be the best mom. 2 more months... LETS GO!!!



Celebrating my 20 year CA anniversary this month! In July 2001, I moved to San Diego full of excitement and ready for a new adventure. I guess you can say it's official: I'm a California girl. Married an amazing California Dude, raising beach babies, and have met so many beautiful beings along the way.

Jessica, Carol, and the Rios kids are on their way back to New Jersey (via Disney World) and Jessica is behind the wheel of their RV! Look out Southwest here she comes! Jeff and Miguel will meet up with them in Orlando but until then Jessica rules the road!

As they have traveled across the USA this Summer, Jessica has done dozens of paintings of her travels. You should check them out on Facebook as they are really good!