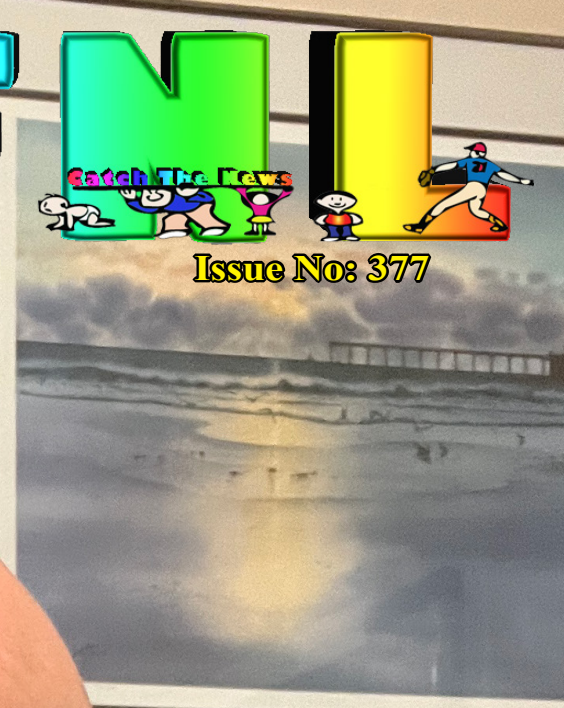




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**Robert Finally Retires !!**

*Published From Wyoming*





# It's My Time...

## Time to Retire

By Robert Riel

While I am technically still employed until June 30, I am on vacation until then so I guess you could say I have started my new phase of life as a retiree. I am the last of my siblings to retire and therefore close the book on this generation of working stiff. It is a strange feeling to no longer have a "job" as I have been working since, I turned 14.

I remember back then I was hanging out on the couch watching some TV and our neighbor (Ron Kiefer) from across the street called and asked if I wanted a job. I said sure and thus began working on Saturdays as a box boy at K-mar Market on goldfinch in mission hills. I was paid \$13 for an 8-hour day (cash as I was too young to officially have a job).





Back then you could get a work permit from your high school once you turned 15 so, once I came of age, I got mine. Now that I was legal I could work up to 32 hours each week. 4 hours each day during school days (except for my day off, Wednesday) and 8 hours on Saturday and Sunday. The really great thing was that the store was union (retail clerks local 1222) so I made time and a half on Saturdays and double-time on Sundays. I think I was making about \$2 an hour back then (1970) which turned into about \$100 a week that I was bringing home. Not bad when you consider that a gallon of gas was still about 25 cents and a bottle of coke costs 10 cents.

Needless to say, I had a little extra spending money and I put it to good use in spurring the Riel family economy. I paid Listy and Birdy to clean my room which after they figured out how much work it really was, refused to do it again. And once I got my truck Carol would wash and wax it for me.

As I got closer to turning 16, I realized that with both Francie and Carol already driving my chances at using the "kids car" would be limited at best. So, with the help of Brother Ed who lent me the money for a down payment on a new Datsun Pickup I bought it 3 weeks before my 16th birthday. Having "wheels" was essential back then and once I got my drivers license, I was set free.

I continued to work a K-mar and got a great education in small business economics learning about making a profit and what it took to run a business. My other boss Lauren Kuntzel taught me a lot about the business. We would have a lot of time to talk because Sundays were not very busy so we would just sit there at the cash register and talk. I think he is responsible for me getting into the electrical field because he would always have me watch the repairmen working on the refrigerators and tell me to learn how to fix it the next time. Which I did. I could change out motors, lights, and anything else that I saw someone fix first.

There came a time where the produce manager quit, and they didn't have anyone else to do the job. I asked

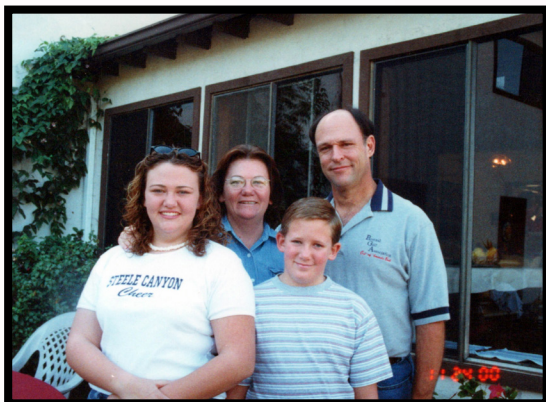
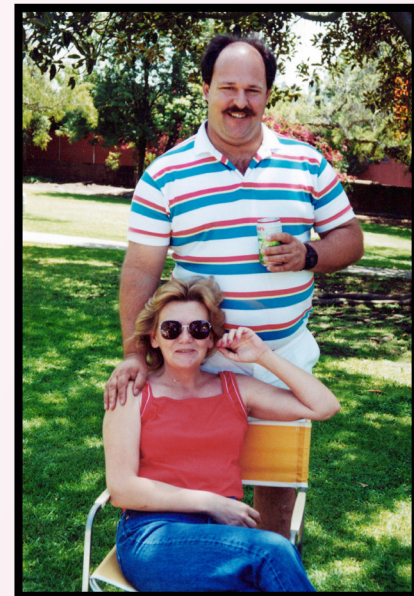




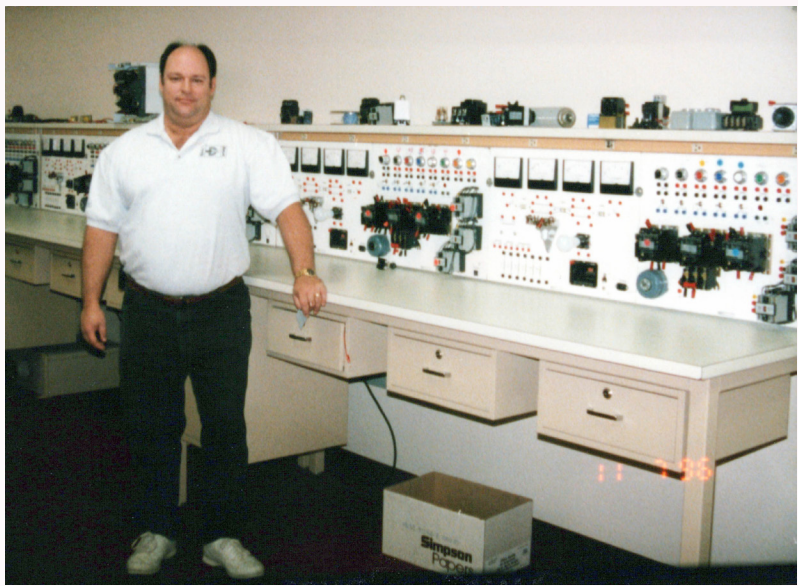
Lauren if he would teach me and offered to work for free on my day off to learn. He reluctantly agreed and thus I began my first apprenticeship. After a few months he let me take over and I got to not only buy the produce from the wholesale houses, but set the prices we sold it for as well. I had a good teacher because I doubled the sales and increased profit by 30%. Lauren later told me that he had bet I wouldn't make it and how I had really surprised him. I think the one thing I really learned from him was how to motivate people to be their very best as he outwardly always encouraged me at all times regardless of what he thought might happen.

I worked at k-mar until I was in my 20s and then under the encouragement of another family friend (Harry Post) I went to work for Fedmart (this was the precursor to Price club and then Costco). I became a produce manager and was on my way to becoming the store manager but then Fedmart was sold to some investors and soon went bankrupt.

All during this time my interest in electrical work continued as I wired my best friend Greg Guindon's parent's house, in Yucca Arizona, by reading a book. Also, during this time I met Karla whose father was an electrician, and he would have me help him on different projects from time to time. Once her dad figured out, I wasn't going anywhere, he figured he better get me in the electrical trade so I could support Karla. He was very instrumental in getting me in and I felt very lucky being one of 20 students that got accepted from a pool of over 700.







The one thing I knew going in was that this would be my last chance, so I was going to give it everything I had. For once in my life, I studied hard and made every effort to get straight A's which I managed to do and eventually graduated as the outstanding apprentice (equivalent to top off the class).



While I worked for a few different employers during my apprenticeship I turned out with Dynalectric company and started to work as a service electrician running my own truck. I really learned a lot during that time and was lucky enough to have good people around me. Eventually, I was asked to be the superintendent of the service department and later the manager.



After several years of running the service department I asked to be placed as a project manager for some of our larger jobs. So, for the next few years I was a project manager for some of our largest jobs. I really enjoyed the work and would have been content doing that type of work for the rest of my career but the powers that be had other ideas for me.





They wanted me to start a low voltage division for Dynalectric and asked me to write up a business proposal for it. Really?? I don't write well at all and now I have to do this??? Somehow, I got it done and in 1999 we started the division with me and one employee. I think our total sales that year were less than \$100K but we also made good money so...



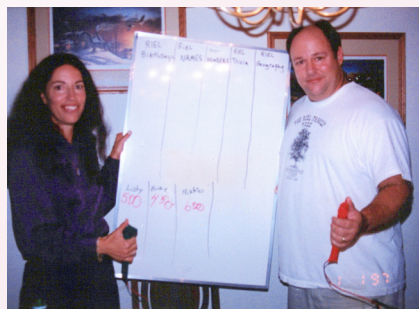
Fast forward 20 years and my little division is a \$35 million operation with over 100 employees in it. It was very satisfying to see how the people under me really grew into the jobs and what a great team we had. But I could feel it was time for me to retire soon so I started the process of stepping down and handing the reigns to the next generation.



Over the last few years, I have gone back to project management but as covid hit I began to question why I was still working. I watched all of my sisters and brothers retire and finally I said I have had enough. Our company was also changing. We had outgrown the building I have been working in for the last 35 years and they were moving to Santee.

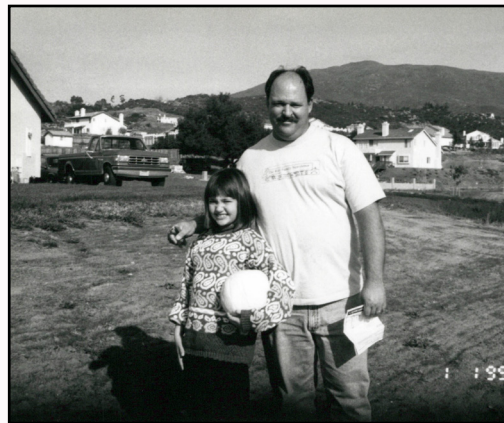


I decided since I started in the old building I would end in the old building and announced my retirement to coincide with our move. I was the last person working in the old building and never went to the new one. It was strange to leave the old building for the last time as I have spent more of my life in that building than any other place, even my home.





People ask me what I am going to do now that I'm retired and my answer is,, What ever I want. I have some plans to do some teaching at our electrical association. I also have some opportunities to do some consulting, but for the most part I plan on taking it one day at a time. Who knows I might even start playing pickleball on a regular basis.





# Legacy Listy, Friends, and Family

By Bob Gillingham



Neither broken bones, a pandemic, nor the inevitable passage of time has prevented Listy Gillingham from showing up every year around the beginning of June to run 26.2 long miles in San Diego, the original Rock 'n' Roll marathon. In 1998, she was accompanied by roughly 22,000 other athletes who could lay claim to the record of finishing ONE race. Twenty-four years later, when Listy crossed the finish line on June 5, the number had dwindled to fewer than 50 who had finished every race (the Legacy Runners).

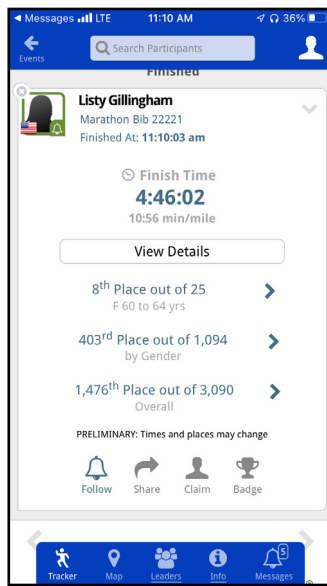


Among the most important understandings Listy's gleaned over the last quarter century or so, is the realization that such an achievement is not accomplished alone. Along those almost 629 marathon miles (like running to Delta, Utah), not to mention the conservative estimate of 37,500 training miles, Listy's been supported and encouraged by a wide array of friends, family, and others. Doug Farkas, for example, her running partner of over 30 years, both challenged and inspired her to run her first marathons and even to pace him through the last 50 miles of his crazy (but successful) 100-mile ultra run through the Colorado wilderness. Temporarily slowed a bit recently as the result of Covid-related symptoms, he nevertheless showed up to support Listy in her latest race. In fact, after friend Joyce attempted to put sunscreen on a too-sweaty Listy, Doug literally gave her the shirt off his back so she could wipe off the mess.



Fighting off a queasy stomach from the beginning of the day, Listy nevertheless made her way to the midpoint of the race where another friend, Sarah, arrived like a guardian angel. From roughly mile 16 to the end of the race, including a very demanding stretch from Friars Road up 163, a grueling climb, Sarah paced and encouraged her. In fact, once Sarah stopped just short of the finish line, know-





ing that Listy had successfully completed the run, she turned around and ran back to accompany yet another runner, Cory, who had had a tough day, but who nevertheless played a crucial role in Listy's training. A constant over the years in Listy's early morning and long weekend runs, Cory, who herself is a running phenom (completing Boston in under 3.5 hours), has become a dear, life member of what has become known as "The Running Club."

Formed over time, allegedly for the purpose of training and prepping for events such as the marathon, the Running Club, which meets at the ungodly hour of 5 a.m., usually at Mission Trails on weekdays, and slightly later, but in many other places on weekends, is a motley crew of very good friends who have supported each other for years including Doug and Kym Farkas, Listy, Sarah Risso, Bob Riel, and Joyce Poblete. I personally know that there are associates who are regarded with disdain for their poor attendance, possessing good intentions but an overriding love of pillows. Punishment for non-attendance is meted out during Running Club runs in what is called "bagging on (name)," where no topic (or person) is off limits, and Doug regularly exhibits an uncanny ability to identify the most embarrassing among them.

Beyond the running group, Listy is blessed to have so many supporters who followed her progress in this most recent marathon throughout the day and by running themselves. Texts were flying among her family and friends, but also internationally (good friends Holly and Rex, then in Greece). Flying also were Kristy and Seamus Keith. The two ran yet another half-marathon setting a personal PR of 1:47 and change... remarkable. Post-race the two were so excited about Listy reaching number 25 next year (and quite possibly influenced by beer and champagne) that they signed up for the full marathon next year. It should also be noted that in some of those same texts there was otherworldly support from Bruce Hartman, our departed family member, who shared his 63rd birthday with the marathon.

So... what's next? The silver anniversary of course! Twenty-five years of this event arrives in 2023, and that's a year away! Time to lace up those shoes, sign up to run or walk, and make next year's Loving Legacy Listy party the biggest one yet!

Congratulations again to my amazing wife, Kristy and Seamus, and the Running Club on these incredible achievements.





# The Twins Celebrate Their 8 Birthday!!

By Carol Benesch

Jeff and I made a surprise visit to New Jersey for the twin's birthday. We normally come for their birthday, but this year they chose to have us come at the end of May for a camping trip together to Assateague Island. We really didn't want to miss their birthdays, so we decided to make a surprise visit. We arrived a few days before their birthday and Jessica picked us up from the airport while the kids were at baseball practice. We went to an ice cream shop near their house where they came for dessert after practice. You can imagine how surprised they were to walk into their local ice cream shop and see us there!!!! It was a lot of fun seeing their smiling faces and being greeted with huge happy hugs. Ice cream and grandparents, what could be better!!



On Saturday, the day before their actual birthday, we got to enjoy a special birthday dinner with Miguel's parents and his brother and sister-in-law, as well as Bryce, Bridget, and Kieran!! It was a good time for all of us!

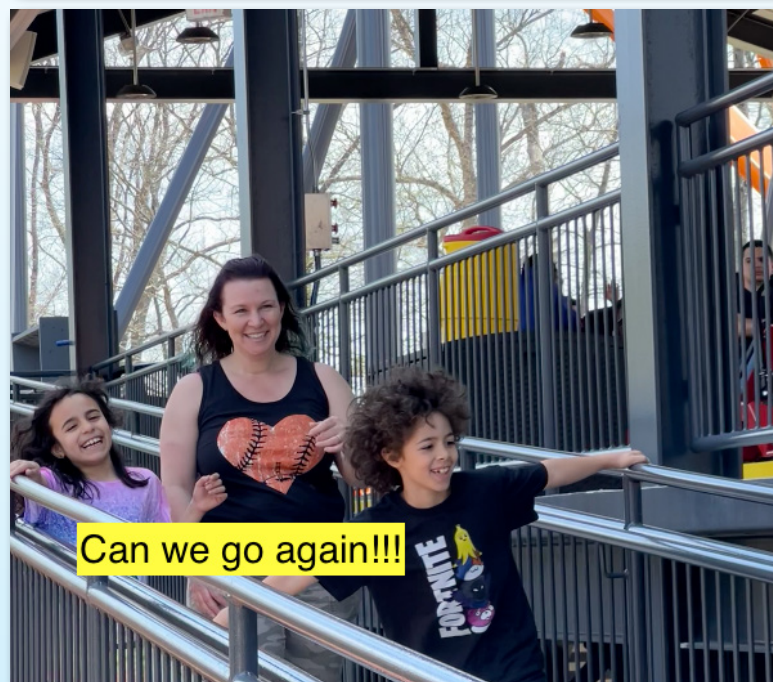
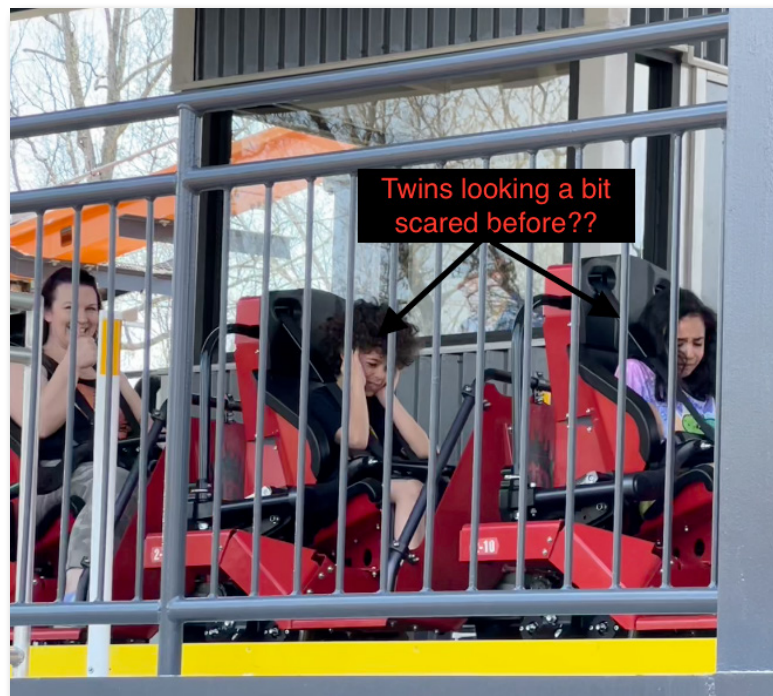


The next day, May 1st, their actual birthday, we left their home early and spent the entire day at Six Flags New Jersey. Six Flags has a safari park that opens an hour before their amusement park, so we decided to check that out first.

To our surprise, it was a really cool Wild Safari drive-thru that takes you through six different continents with 1,200 animals including elephants, rhinos, tigers, lions, and many big birds!! One of the highlights was having a rhino walking down the middle of the road toward the front of our car.



After our little jaunt through the safari, we entered the world of high, fast, upside-down, inside out, ride!!! I like speed and even a little upside down but, I had a hard time keeping up with the twins!!! They are not scared of speed, heights, or twirling around! Their only disappointment was when they were too short for some of the rides, which, unfortunately for us, were only a few.







We ended the day with huge birthday funnel cake sundaes and then headed home. The kids had a holiday on Monday, so they got to stay up a little after we got back. Jessica and Miguel had to work on Monday, so we got to stay with the kids. I got to help Ben make a diorama of a wild red wolf habitat, and then Sofie with one of her new craft projects!! By the end of the day, we had glue all over us, but two great projects were completed! It was time to head to the airport but this time no one was sad because we would be back in 2 ½ weeks!

### Other May Highlights

Jeff and I took a very quick, nice drive to Menifee to welcome The Sorem Family back to Southern California!! We had a tour of their very spacious new house and got to meet cute little Aro for the first time!! It was funny hearing Aro laugh and watching him interact with his family and toys. We enjoyed dinner together and look forward to many more gatherings together!





On May 5th, Jeff's mom, Audrey celebrated her 95th birthday! Right after celebrating the twin's birthdays in New Jersey, we, along with Jason, Chavva, Noah, Maddie, and Cam took a trip up to Thousand Oaks to celebrate great/grand/mom's birthday!! Audrey enjoyed seeing her kids and grandkids and got a kick out of watching her great-grandkids ambush Pete (Jeff's brother) with water toys! He was such a good sport, note to self, don't bring water toys, and expect to stay dry. A great time was had by all!

Also, during our trip to New Jersey, we got to go to Ben and Mateo's Boy Scout Ceremony. Ben went from Cub Scout to Boy Scout and Mateo earned his bobcat badge!! Congrats to both of them!!





# The Great Chincoteague/ Assateague Adventure

The trip was inspired by the Misty of Chincoteague book series that Jessica read when she was little. We enjoyed listening to the audiobook while driving to the islands.

*Written By Sofia Rios, age 8*

Saturday, May 21, 2022. Today is my first full day at Jellystone Chincoteague in Virginia. In the morning when I woke up, Mom said I could go to the playground. But (of course) my brothers (Ben & Mateo) wanted to go with me. So, we got dressed and walked over to the playground. We played tether ball and on the jump pillow. 30 minutes in I was so hot I had to leave. So I gave Ben the map. But that was a mistake. I got SO lost I had to go all the way back to the playground. But then when I got back, they were ready to go back to Harvey the RV. We were so hot. When we got back we asked if we could go to the pool and mom said later. Then she said, we are going to rent bikes. The next thing I know, we're riding bikes out of the campgrounds heading toward the Islands Nature center. 1 hour in and Ben's bike chain snapped in half. We spent 20 minutes stranded while Mom tried to call the place that we rented them from. 15 minutes later a truck pulled up and gave us a different bike. It was a bit too big for Ben but that was ok, he got used to it. We rode all the way to the national park nature center. We looked at everything there, got our passport books stamped, and completed our Jr Ranger program. Then we left. It was a lot easier getting back. It took 4 hours to complete our adventure! It was our longest bike ride!

THAT WAS THE END OF THAT ADVENTURE.

Saturday Evening. After that adventure, we went to the pool, had some fun there, and then went back for dinner. After dinner, we went to the camp activity room for candy bar bingo. We

got to Bingo, we waited a couple of min for more people to come. They gave use dot stampers and paper cards. It took a while to start. It was a little boring at first because everyone was winning except us. Then finally Ben won. He got to pick out a candy bar and he split it with all of us, it was so good. While we were eating our candy Ben won again but gave his card to Mateo. He picked out a candy bar and we all split that candy bar too. After a few more rounds everyone at the table had won a candy bar except Grammy, but she was happy because we ate a lot. But then, I reminded mom that she said we could get ice cream for dessert and she said oooooookkkkk. We got on our bikes and rode into town to get some ice cream. We were going to go to one place but it was too far so we turned around and went to a food truck named BYOC, Build Your Own Cookie!! We were so happy because we were able to pick out our own flavors with a freshly made cookie. I got a peanut butter cookie with peanut butter cup ice cream and whip cream on top!! It was really yummy! It was starting to get dark so my mom, Matty, and I left first because we were finished eating. Grammy and Grampy and Ben left a couple of minutes later. We decided to race them back. We rode really fast and won the race back to Harvey!! Grampy was glad we made it back before the sun completely set!! Our first day in Chincoteague was great except we did not get to see the wild ponies. We were all a little sad about that and went to bed hoping we would see them in the morning.

Grammy wanted to get up early to see the sun rise over the Atlantic ocean. She and mom got up at 4:30. I heard my mom and Grammy doing something. She woke me up but no one else... why me!! They left and I tried to get back to sleep. Then she came back and woke everyone up and said let's go to the beach. I thought we were going to the beach; I wasn't sure why so early. We started running and saw some wild ponies!!! We didn't see them the night before and thought we were not going to see any but we ended up seeing lots. Then we went to see if any of the ponies were on the beach. There were no ponies there,



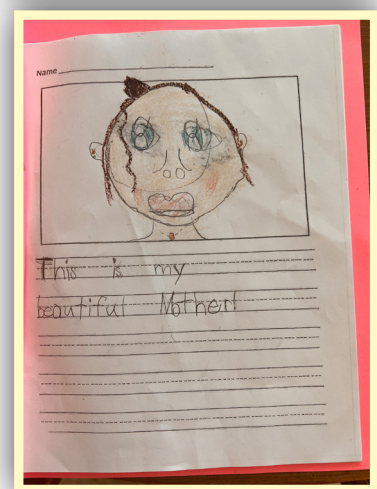
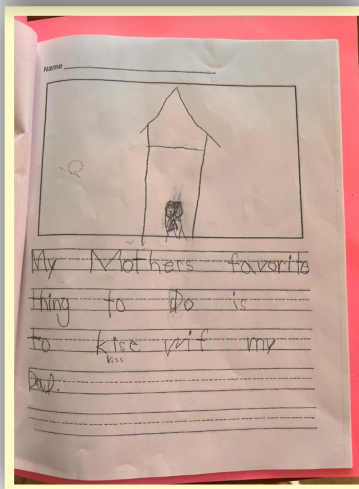
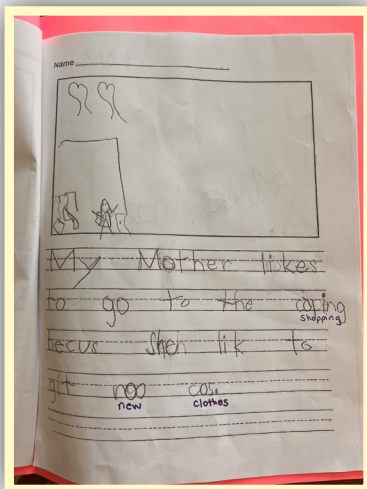
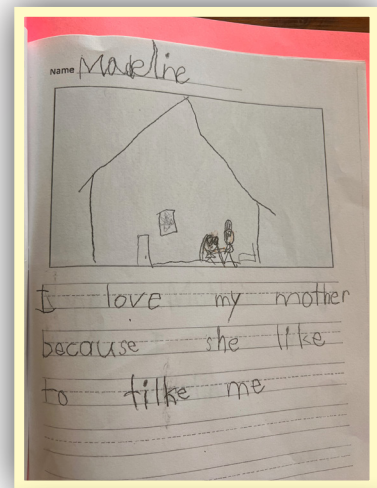
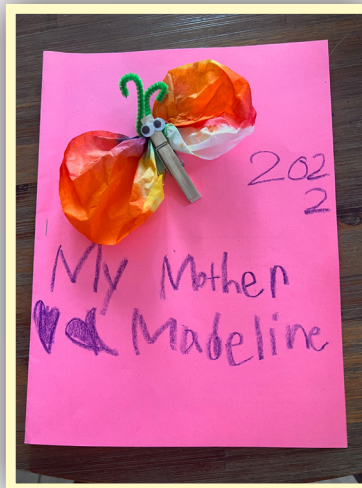
but we saw a bunch of things that had washed up from the night before. It was a very windy night! We saw a whelk egg case, and found a whelk shell, a mermaid case, lots of dead horseshoe crabs, a strange looking fish, a crab AND 1 live horse crab!! It was really sad because it got washed up to the beach and was stranded there. My mom knew you should not touch the tail, so we googled how to pick it up. She lifted it up and turned it around and carried it back to the water. It was so cute and happily went back out to sea!! Saved by my brave mom from the laughing gulls! On our way back to the campsite we saw a bunch of horses raiding someone's trash from their campsite. It was super fun. There were horses everywhere looking for seagrass and people's trash. We knew from the nature center to stay a bus length back because even though they look cute, they bite!!! We were watching some eating on one side and not paying attention to the other side. When all of the sudden all the ponies were around our RV. It was fun

to watch them but at one point while Ben was not paying attention a horse came up behind him and scared him half to death, he yelled and ran away. I laughed so hard, it was funny to us, but not so funny to him. Then Grampa took us to the playground, while mom and Grammy clean up the RV. We had a lot of fun making up games on this big hill of sand. We played king of Assateague Island. Then we saw mom and Grammy drive up in the RV and we knew it was time to leave. We all had a really great time and look forward to coming back again!

Ben and Matty said they loved the trip, but they forgot to tell you about the crab dinner adventure, but we'll save that story for another issue.

Goodbye from the Rios Gang!!!

## Mother's Day Card From Madeline





# Lyle turns 66!



By Bridy Hartman Hall

Lyle was looking forward to his birthday and found a deal too good to pass up. The flights for his birthday weekend were incredibly low and so as a last-minute fling, we booked a trip to Honolulu for the weekend. Yes, you heard that right. We left early Friday and landed on the island by noon. By 2:00 we were sitting at the bar on the beach toasting Lyle's 66th birthday.

Lyle had made some amazing dinner reservations for that evening, at a Japanese Restaurant on the island called Maru Sushi. It is an Omakase style restaurant, which is a form of Japanese dining where guests leave themselves in the hands of a chef and receive a meal which is seasonal, elegant, artistic and uses the finest ingredients available. Wow, it was a dining experience we will not soon forget. You have a chef and his sous-chef preparing your meal right in front of you. There are only 10 guests surrounding the chefs with 3 servers behind you, ready to pounce at a moment's notice. We had endless amounts of food prepared and placed in front of us to try. I have never eaten so much sushi in my life. But it was impossible not to want to try it all. Each fish was served with a unique sauce, which highlighted the texture of the fish in the best way possible.





The next day we set out to hike Diamond Head. The unique profile of Diamond Head sits prominently near the eastern edge of Waikiki's coastline. Hawaii's most recognized landmark is known for its historic hiking trail, stunning coastal views, and military history. Diamond Head State Monument encompasses over 475 acres, including the interior and outer slopes of the crater. It was so enjoyable to view as we hiked up and around the crater.

This broad, saucer-shaped crater was formed about 300,000 years ago during a single, explosive eruption that sent ash and fine particles in the air. As these materials settled, they cemented together into a rock called tuff, creating the crater, which is visible from the trail in the park.

After we got our fill of Diamond Head, we enjoyed the foods from a local farmer's market. There Lyle got to enjoy his Hawaiian favorite snack of Spam musubi. It is a type of sushi that features marinated cooked Spam prepared in many different ways. I have no idea which one he picked but I do know that he was smacking his lips in pure Hawaiian pleasure.

We ended our day sitting by the pool sipping exotic drinks, reading, and napping. A true vacation for a man that sits behind a desk all day. We had to leave early Sunday morning but we both felt rested and rejuvenated by this very short vacay.



# FAMILY SHORTS

## Bud's Birthday Dinner

By Margaret Riel

We invited the MacMitchells and the Riel-Mehans to a special dinner to celebrate Bud turning 81--(born in 1941). At the end of the meal, his son Michael who recently turned 41 (born in 1981) provided the cake and the grand-kiddos helped in blowing out the candles. Blowing out candles on the cake is not a COVID-approved practice, and I guess we should be more careful. I did have an off-the-cake fire hazard singing candle which we also lit. Megan called in from Seattle which is a bit far to travel for a family dinner. However, on Mother's Day she did manage a surprise visit which was fun.

