



Brian And Drew Get A New Home!





# Brian And Drew Have a New Home!

By Brian Riel

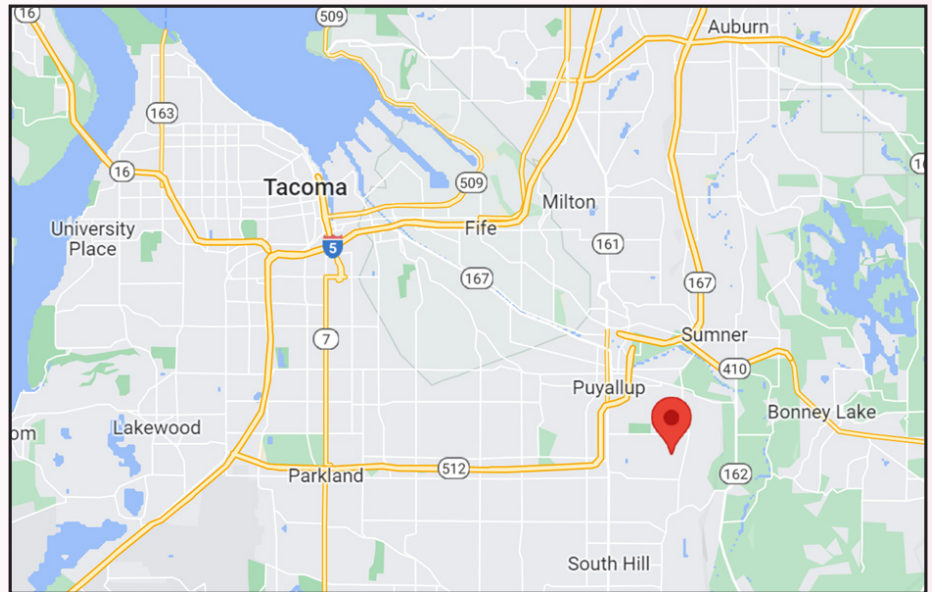
Almost a year ago Drew and I decided to leave the scorching desert of Queen Creek AZ and move to beautiful Seattle WA. We decided to move for varying reasons but ultimately Drew and I did not see a future in AZ. We sold our house, packed up all our stuff, and drove up to Seattle. Over the past year Drew and I have gotten new jobs, made some new friends, reconnected with old friends, and have experienced a lot of fun new things. We have been renting a place for now, but the time has come for the lease to end. That means now we get to pack up our stuff and move again, but this time into our own house!



774 NORTHWEST



That's right! DREW AND I BOUGHT A HOUSE! The housing market up here is very competitive, and we spent a few weeks out and about looking at houses and placing offers. Unfortunately, our first Realtor wasn't good at making deals or communicating so we didn't get some of the first houses we wanted. We were recommended to someone new by a friend, and she got us a great deal on the first house we put an offer in on.



Our new house is in Puyallup WA, which is outside of Tacoma, a lot like how Queen Creek was to Phoenix. It is a 4 bedroom (almost 5 if you count the weird office in the garage), 2 bath home. Freshly renovated so we won't have to do any work on the house. It features a large fenced in yard for Kona to run around in with all kinds of new smells. It is slightly larger than our Queen Creek house too which is nice. The only negatives we have about the house is that the kitchen is a little small and so is the master bathroom, but those are things we can change down the line.







We also got to meet a few of our new neighbors during our final walkthrough. They are super nice, and we are being added to the street's contact sheet so we can stay in the loop! We can tell they are all very close and look out for each other, so it'll be nice to be apart of the neighborhood community.

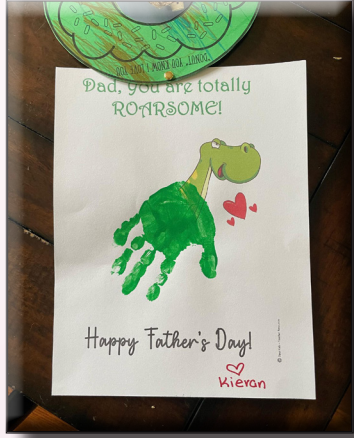
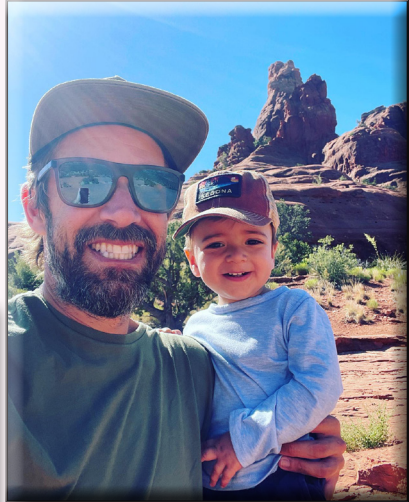


We got the keys to the house on the 5th of July and started moving stuff over that next weekend. We didn't fully unpack after arriving in Seattle because we knew the rental was temporary and we didn't want to unpack just to repack. So, all that stuff was ready to go! We will continue to pack and slowly move boxes over to the new house, then on July 30th we get a UHAUL and load it with all the big stuff and take it over. That is when we will begin living in the new house. Drew and I are excited to have a house again that we can make our own! If anyone ends up heading out this way feel free to hit us up for a visit!





Father's Day, 4th Of July, or Just Summer Fun. Here Are Some Pictures to Enjoy!







# Richard Meets Margaret and Bud at the Fair to Celebrate the 4th of July

By Rich Riel

The 4th of July is a special day for the Riel families to come together and enjoy each other's company. It is a time to reflect on our country's history and to celebrate the freedoms that we enjoy. Living in San Diego since 1953 the Riel family has participated in the politics, education and the physical construction of America.

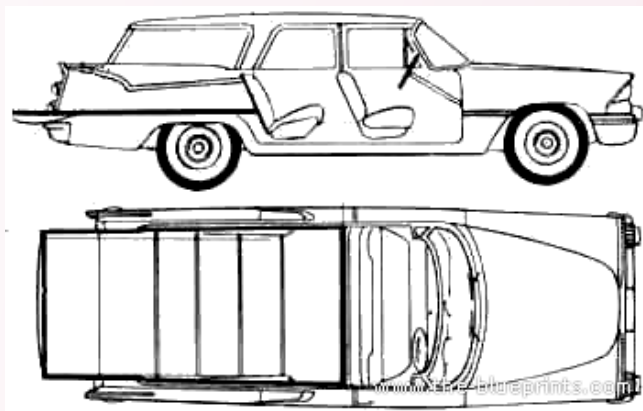
As a boy in Mission Hills, living in the Riel family home, one of the special treats was a 4th of July spent at the Del Mar Fair. What made that special was, unlike today where there are fireworks shows everywhere in San Diego, back then Del Mar was one of only two places in San Diego for public fireworks. Up until 1957 the only public fireworks were held down town and sponsored by San Diego Gas and Electric. In 1957 the fair opened on July 7th and fireworks were only on Saturday and Sunday. The first year that Del Mar started the tradition of celebrating the 4th with fireworks was in 1958. I was eleven years old.

Every year I lived in Mission Hills we would go the Fair. Back in the 60's going to the fair required a lot of planning. Interstate 5 would not be built until 1979. There were no navigational devices other than maps. There were no interstates and the drive took about an hour to get from Mission Hills to Del Mar. The best way to get there was US Highway 101. The only other way was to take US Highway 395.

In 1960 the Riel family had a new Dodge station wagon to transport all of us to our regular Sunday outings. There were no seat belts for children or adults. The 2nd row and rear seats folded down to make an enclosed truck bed. The back seats face toward the rear of the car so the experience of driving in the back was different. Instead of

facing forward, the view out the electronic roll down window was the receding highway. It was the ideal car for the growing Riel family.

Going to the fair in the 60's would have mom and dad in the front seat with the youngest child or children and the rest of us either in the seats or on the truck bed, depending on how much paraphernalia we were packing. It was a major under-



taking to cram 8 children 2 adults and sometimes friends into the station wagon. Usually Ed and I would take the back seats because the younger kids got car sick watching the road from the back. We always wanted dad to roll down the window, but he had the air conditioning on, so the answer was always no.

Once at the Fair Dad would go over the rules of conduct for the family. The rules for going to the fair evolved as we got older. In the late fifties, when there were just four of us children, we stayed together as we experienced the fair. As we got older, Ed and I could go off on our own but we always had to meet back at the Don Diego Clock Tower at specified times to meet up with the family. Soon Margaret and Francie were allowed the



same privilege. We loved the rides, the animals, art work and exhibits. Our family always enjoyed the fair.

When I became a father I continued the tradition of going to the fair. When Frank was growing up Liz and I took him every year. We only missed the fair in his first year because he was nine months old and we both agreed that was too young.

I will never forget the first year he was old enough to go on rides at the fair. It was like magic riding on all the kid rides with my new son. It was a preface for the many perks of being a father. As your son experiences growing up you remember what it was like when you were his age.

One of my favorite memories of Frank was when he was two years old at the Del Mar Fair. He loved all the rides. There is a picture of him and me riding a two seated miniature truck ride together. I can remember the laughter every time I think about the moment. I can remember his first time looking at fireworks.

This year I celebrated the 4th with Bud and Margaret at the Fair.

I arrived at 1PM. Getting in was easy there was no back up of cars to I-5 like in years past. I usually don't pay for parking. I park on the street in the nearby neighborhood. Take out my bike and ride to the fair. This year I paid for parking on the fair grounds. The parking lot was on the other side of Jimmy Durante Blvd. By riding my bike I avoided the long walk or waiting for a tram.

This was the least crowded 4th that I have ever spent at the Fair. No waiting in lines anywhere, even the food lines were easy. I visited all the exhibition halls, gardens, animal pens, covering the entire fair in about seven hours. The only ride I was on was a VR with movable seats for a star wars application. It was OK but the equipment was not as good as the state of the art VR programs and equipment that is available. The exhibit that I like the best was a work of Art by a

young artist. It was a four foot tall doe made entirely from cigarette butts chewing on an empty cigarette pack.

Bud and Margaret got to fair around 7PM. The Fireworks were scheduled for 9PM. We tried to get reserved seating in the grandstand but it was sold out. In my travels around the fair I spotted an area that was secluded but right in back of the grandstand. I got there and secured seating for all of us. While I was waiting a man my age who was by himself asked if could share my bench. Margaret and Bus had still not arrived and there was plenty of room. His name was Neil and he was a delightful person to talk to while waiting for Bud and Margaret. When Bud and Margaret arrived he was kind enough to take our picture.

When the fireworks started we realized that we were directly under the area where the firework exploded. Sitting on a bench looking straight up was a view of fireworks from a radically different perspective. It reminded me of a movie special effect when a ship goes into warp space, only this was three dimensional. We all agreed it was spectacular.

After the fireworks were over, we visited the art exhibits and then at ten, we all left from what had turned out to be a very good day.







**Gillinghams  
Vacation at  
Big Bear Lake**





The Gillingham family decided to take a trip to Big Bear this summer to see what fun could be found in some nearby mountains, close enough for a car trip, but remote enough to feel like you went on a vacation. David and Bethany were planning on joining us, but their dog Wally had a serious kidney infection that made walking on one of his three legs not possible (the vet suspected originally that Wally had lost all feeling in his only hind leg, which really worried them). They opted to stay home to help heal him up and sadly missed our fun adventure. The life of being a parent is never easy, even to a 3-year-old puppy!

So, the Keiths, the Mulhollands, and the Gillinghams made the trek up the mountain to Big Bear Lake and ultimately to a 6-bedroom, 5-bathroom, lake-front getaway, that served us very well throughout the vacation. To say we were Glamping instead of camping was right on the money as anyone over the age of 11 got their own room and the accommodations included a game room for the boys to hang out in and a spacious great room for the girls to settle in and share their toys and books with us.





After getting settled into our spaces, we spent most of our time outside with the Big Bear Lake in our backyard. The house had a dock where the boys could fish, and they made a valiant attempt to catch something with the questionable bait we could find among our groceries. Grandpa tried to help keep their lines from getting caught in the weeds and gave advice as they cast their hooks into the lake.

We also were lucky to have borrowed Carol and Jeff's two kayaks that worked really well right off our own shore (thank you Carol and Jeff). The kayaks could be flipped over and used as paddle boards as well, which added more fun to the adventure. The Keith boys quickly mastered them and were able to go out on the lake by themselves where they quickly learned they could jump into the lake and enjoy the 66-degree temperature of the water (Brrr). Luckily, the house also came with a giant jacuzzi that was kept at a nice temperature to warm them up when they got back and served as a fun swimming pool for the girls.





Thanks to David Gillingham who happened to have a gift certificate to rent a pontoon boat which he donated to our cause to make up for not coming (he is one nice uncle/son). We took a two-hour ride around the lake and enjoyed a nice lunch and a few beverages along the way. Captain Bob and co-captain Liam kept the boat afloat as we floated around the various coves where we admired the beautiful homes that line the lake.

The house also came with a pool table, a bumper pool table, and a shuffleboard table which were used by everyone. But I think my favorite spot was the fire pit which was surrounded by 8 chairs. This is where we all enjoyed each other as we sat in the sun or out under the stars at night, with some gooey marshmallows that we shared.





Listy created a few games for us to play, which added to the fun for two nights. The boys were masters at Camp Charades as we got to watch them act out various camping phrases (like swatting a mosquito or pitching a tent). The best game we played was titled: "All About Someone" where a star player (the person on the card) was challenged to name one thing about themselves that matched the description of the card, while the others tried to guess what that thing might be. It included everyone, which made it fun. For example, Evie's card might have asked us to name her favorite song. We also had challenges to name what makes a GREAT Dad, which was easy to do, with the men in this group! We went from serious to silly prompts quite quickly, which made it special and memorable for everyone there.







Our last day was spent walking around the village which was a few short blocks from our house. We had lunch at an outdoor restaurant and did a little shopping around the area. With sunny weather but mild temperatures (low 70's), we were very lucky to enjoy near perfect weather!

Overall, it was a great trip because we were together! I love waking up and seeing my grandkids playing together in a casual way. Can't wait to see what our next family adventure will be!





# FAMILY SHORTS



Happy 3rd bday to sweet Emery!  
We couldn't love you more! You  
make the world a happy place!



Corbin has just completed his middle school education and is now moving on to High School! Congratulations and enjoy your next four years!



Congratulations to Dr. Bob Gillingham for being honored for his 44 years of service to Francis Parker school! The courtyard housed our daughter's wedding and all three kids' promotions as they grew up at Parker! What a tribute to your legacy Bob!

Aro has decided that his hiking trips to Sedona Arizona are best when his mom comes along. He especially enjoys the higher point of view he is provided. Don't get used to it kid, your parents' will soon have you walking all over that place!