

# FRANCES RIEDMANN QUISTAD GARVIN FAMILY

## Frances Quistad Garvin

### Mom:

After an adventurous beginning of relocating and re-settling, the new Garvin/Quistad family eventually found roots in Santa Barbara, Ca. Robert and Frances working full-time and saving whenever possible.

They also strove tirelessly to both provide a myriad of opportunities (surfing expeditions, music lessons, Boy Scouts, etc.) and insure a secure future for their young: Daniel and David. Industrious and thrifty as they were, life remained neither simple nor luxurious... but always made good. Regardless of the uncertainties and stresses accompanying everyday life, (not to mention a new one at that,) they always found quality time to get away with the "urchins" for a weekend in the outdoors. Bob would fish, Fran would write letters, and the "kids" would just do, well, "kid" things. Later, their futures began to change as the business world reshaped around them.

Bravely but wisely, they chose to launch an entire new career with only each other and their joint personal resolve as their source of support. The variety store business with Sprouse-Reitz Corporation appeared to have endless opportunities. Their stores flourished, everyone worked hard and their hard-earned profits promised good bonuses, which sometimes fell short of expectations. They worked even harder.

Upon retirement from Sprouse-Reitz they dabbled at fishing, travelling, and visiting RV parks. Their energy, enthusiasm and keen business sense did not remain unnoticed for long. Soon they found themselves representing a time share RV park, then several RV Parks then entire RV park chains.

Their one time hobby rapidly snowballed into yet another budding career. Little did they realize that within a few short years they would find themselves as "Goodwill Ambassadors" to Camping World Corporation, free agents representing hundreds of affiliates to the RV industry, and having a riot of a time along the way. Never ones to sit still for long, it seems appropriate that to this day they still find themselves in their motor home travelling from RV shows to rallies, to conventions... And, yes, still visiting RV parks where it all began in the first place.

## Memories of Fran

### Irene:

Frances Anna Riedmann Quistad Garvin was born in Omaha on May 26, 1923. The third daughter of Alfred Adam and Frances Vacek Riedmann. She went to St. Patrick's Grand School and South High School.

Fran was a girl very full of life and activity, a little mischievous too. That's our Fran. With a family of eight children we always ate in the dining room. Boys on one side of the table and girls on the other. Dad was at the head of the table and Mom was on the other end by the kitchen. It was a neat system. Fran hated carrots. Mom's rule was that you had to take some of everything on the table, even if it was a little amount. Fran always took carrots, she never ate them. When we girls would clear the table, there were Fran's carrots on the floor by brother Al, and so Al was blamed and scolded. Mom eventually figured what happened. Mom had a very sharp eye.

Fran's best friend was Jane Schmitz (Hull). They were inseparable "sisters". Jane was very quiet, loved Fran cause Fran brought so much excitement into her life. Jane was the only girl in her family. Their favorite pastime was roller-skating.

Fran was very conservative and a very hard worker. She worked at F. W Woolworth's with sis Renie. She was in charge of the Candy Counter and eventually the Cosmetic Counter.

She owned a grocery store with Liz Danford on Leavenworth Street. It was called Handy Dandy. At that time the city law only allowed stores to be open 6 days a week. Fran and Liz decided to close Saturdays and stay open on Sunday. That is when they really made money. No store stayed open on Sunday. When she moved into her new home in Benson, everything was paid for, that included the drapes, curtains, furniture – you name it. What an accomplishment!!!

### George Riedmann:

Frances was named after our Mother. To distinguish between them, it seems Franny was the likely nickname. Fanny earned the reputation for being my helpful sister because we were closest in age.

As I remember, when the chips were down, she would have a way of making you see the good side of a difficult problem.

Franny was well liked and enjoyed an abundance of special girlfriends, and many of them are still special friends today. Her interests were really roller-skating on a regular basis at the Crosstown Roller Rink and she was instrumental in getting me involved as well. What fun. Her other interest was boys. She could play hard to get because she was fun to be with and she also was good at match making for her friends.

Franny and Irene were dedicated employees of F. W. Woolworths 5 and 10-cent store in South Omaha in their senior years and after graduation. Frank Kozak was their manager and he recognized their dedication and made them Department Managers quite rapidly.

The stores in South Omaha were open until 9:00 Pm on Friday nights and we always worried about the safe return home at that late hour. City operated trolleys, or streetcars, were the only means of transportation for the young workers.

One of my daughters reminded me to mention Aunt Fannys' hospitality. We both had children the same age so visits were frequent.

## Al Riedmann:

I remember Fran as the sister closest in age to me. We walked to school together and I especially remember her sticking her cold hands down my back if I didn't walk fast enough. She provided her home for my wedding reception.

Fran could talk anyone into anything and make it fun. Some of the boy friends that she had would make dad cringe but with a little "Kittchy Coo" he always gave in.

She taught me to roller skate, ice skate, and advised me on girls. She was always fixing us up with this perfect girl for a blind date. Sometimes I thought that she must have been blind because her description was not always the reality.

Nobody could stretch a dollar further than Fran, and she still does. Her gift to the world is to coin the name "Goody Bag".

My sister Fran has a kind heart and is a great Sister.

She moved out of Omaha in 1955.

## The Dan and Kathy Quistad Family

The Quistads, David and Kathy (then Sylvester) began their wild ride through life together at a football game where they met at age fifteen. Quickly becoming "best friends," they surfed, explored, hunted and fished together even as David followed his parents throughout the state during their careers in the variety store business. The two married in 1968 at the ripe age of eighteen and moved to Santa Monica, Ca. where David attended Mount St. Mary's College School of Music with hopes of becoming a teacher and Kathy worked as a P.E. Instructor in order to pay the bills.

David's first job was to replace a band director who had resigned after being rendered unconscious by a flying tuba mouthpiece. Needless to say, it was an eye opening experience. Summers were spent traversing the Baja peninsula, camping on the beaches, skin diving and living off what the ocean could provide. Several years later, they ventured to Idaho in pursuit of a rural lifestyle and a good place to raise a family.

Twelve years, two children, and countless wilderness experiences later, they cast aside their pioneering spirit along with their cabin on Benewah Lake, the vegetable garden, the wild meat, the quiet independence and fourteen cords of wood to heat the house and moved to the Seattle area where David assumed a position as Director of Performing Arts for an exclusive College Preparatory School. A definite change in lifestyle!

Their love for the sea rekindling rapidly urged them to buy a sailboat that had just returned from a journey around the world and was in need of a new family. Together, the foursome (two big ones and two little ones) sailed the San Juan Islands, Desolation Sound and the northern reaches of Vancouver Island, again pursuing the wilderness and all it had to offer.

After five years of city life: traffic jams, "name brand" clothes, " Super Malls", and endless wine and cheese parties, the Quistad family loaded their belongings back into the ubiquitous U-Haul and found a small town in Northeast Washington where they reside to this day,

heating by wood, making their own wine, pressing apples for cider and preparing every meal from scratch... Miles from town, on a quiet little lake, joined only by the migrating waterfowl, foraging deer, suspicious eagles and ever-hungry coyotes. Their sailboat, "Tir Tairngire," remains on the coast patiently waiting for brief sojourns during the school year and the long journeys north during the summer.

Seth has become a professional Classical Trombonist and has performed throughout Europe and South Africa. He married Muriel from Alsace, France and both now live happily together in Kuala Lumpur where he maintains the position of Principle Trombone in the Malaysian Symphony Orchestra; Muriel is a violinist in the same orchestra.

Paige will be married July 27, 2002 and is just beginning her career as an Elementary/Special Education teacher designing a new program for the Wahluke School District. Reed, her husband to-be, just finished his Master's degree in Education and will be teaching fourth grade in the same district.

Somehow along the way, David, a past Idaho State "Teacher of The Year" finalist and recent Washington State "Teacher of The Year," finalist also managed to earn a Master's degree from Gonzaga University, all made possible by Kathy's endless support and help.

He is currently Director of Music for Colville School District and Kathy is the business and activities manager for the district music program. Most importantly, she selflessly provides the tireless glue and constant source of inspiration for all of us in the Quistad family.

## The Dan and Janet Quistad Family

We are the Quistads of Ventura, in Southern California.

Our life as a family began back in October of 1973. A blue-eyed girl and a surfer dude, at the church she grew up in. She was 19 and he was 21. They enjoyed each other's company and so Dan the surfer guy asked Janet the blue-eyed blonde for a date that December night. Well their hearts went pitter-patter, and six months later He asked Her the big question and she said yes. That November 30, 1974, the two became one and he carried her off to Idaho to start a new life farming.

Well after about a year, we thought it would be fun to have kids. Nine months later in October 1973, Chad Daniel was born. That is when we realized we're responsible for that little life. Two months after Chad was born, we realized Idaho, farming, and the snow was not for us so we headed back to the Southern California coast, beaches, and the rest of our family.

A year after Chad was born, we realized Chad needed a playmate and nine months later Benjamin arrived. Wow! Two boys from the same parents, but two completely different personalities. Janet was now surrounded by all men. Three men and one female.

The boys were surrounded by two sets of loving grandparents, (Great babysitters). Summers were spent at the beach a lot where the boys, especially Ben, took up boogie boarding and surfing like their Dad. During the school year they were involved with soccer, basketball, and baseball. Activities during the week also consisted with church activities and youth

groups. In the high school years, Chad became involved with the marching band for the next four years with his trumpet and Ben pursued playing volleyball at school and tournaments. Both are now young adults out on their own.

Chad, now 25, has graduated from Cal Poly, San Louis Obispo with a bachelors in Industrial Engineering and is working in San Jose, California for a company called Guidant, a quality control engineer in endovascular systems.

Ben now is living In Sacramento, California working construction for a major company and doing quite well and very aggressive at what he does.

Well for the old folks, we are enjoying each other and life. Still trying to figure out how to retire early or what we want to do when we grow up. In the mean time we will keep on doing what we are doing now.