

GEORGE RIEDMANN FAMILY

George Riedmann

When it comes to childhood memories it seems so much has happened and time passed so fast, only 75 years to write about and it all started in 1926. What does a person remember about his or her youth? One fact was that everyone was poor but we did not know it. We always made things "do." I never remember my parents going to the hardware store for anything because there was always a stick of wood, a bottle or tube of glue, a needle and thread or a piece of wire to make "it work like new", Our neighbors were mostly Italian--Russo, Caruso, Caronio, Buda, and a few Bohemians or Czechoslovakians, as we knew them--Kraupichka, Novak, Dworak, Dynek. We were taught to judge their actions by their Nationalities. The Italians would only go to church (many proclaimed the Catholic religion) on Palm Sunday, Easter, and Christmas. The good Lord understood that there was too much to do the rest of the year. The Bohemians used profane language even though they went to St. Wenceslaus Church and school. My parents were very strict against profane language and it could result in your mouth being washed out with a bar of soap and water. We were all part of a family unit and each expected to contribute with chores of various types and we never thought of complaining. Sometimes one would discover a method of excusing himself e.g. Little Louie seemed to have nature call when it was his turn to do the dishes. Ma would fill in for him and you could count on Little Louie appearing when the last dish was washed. Ma's favorite answer was "Leave him alone. He is the baby." Even at 13?

I never did like school and spent more time praying to get good grades than I did studying. My Mom made a very good angel food cake and would send one to the teaching nuns around report card time so I relied on my Mom's generosity for a passing grade. One nun, Sr. Genevieve, a tough old German teacher, didn't like cake so I got an "X" in penmanship. She took a poll of the 7th grade class and she managed to have me nominated for the student most likely to fail in life. William Usher was most likely to succeed. William got fired from his first job and got divorced after a year of marriage (a true story). We were asked to take a vow not to smoke or drink until we were 21. I do believe I was the only boy out of 16 to keep that vow. When I questioned Rolland Kenny about his promise, his excuse was "It kept him warm in the winter". He died at age 50 from throat cancer.

Someone asked my mother her secret in raising good boys. Her answer was "keep them busy". To sit and read a book was never a priority in my life. We had a central one-room coal and wood furnace at our house and if nothing else had to be done, our time was spent breaking up wooden pop cases. These were 30 inch x 30 inch cases capable of carrying 36-12 oz. bottles of pop or beer (real man size) and beyond the point of repair. The outside edge was lined with band iron to keep the boards secure. If you hit the corners just right with a sharp hatchet, you could cut the band iron and dismantle the case. This wood was then used to start the coal burning. With this used as a starter, Ma could buy a cheaper grade of coal costing less money. I remember \$15.00 a ton. Every basement had a coal bin--a room with an outside window to shovel the coal in. The whole house always suffered from coal dust after a delivery. The driver was always a low class person driving an old truck and usually had a dirty face. They were always friendly and it was fun to watch.

Because we had a large family, the friendly bread man would stop by every other day and leave bread for other families and us. I remember \$.05 a loaf. Uncle Charlie would stop by on Fridays for a half dozen loaves for their weekend needs. This bread man was always so friendly and he loved children. Somehow he originated the phrase "Oh! You crazy" because he was always so happy. Somehow, we got the idea to shove small potatoes in the exhaust pipe of the truck. There was a steep embankment on one side of our driveway where we would hide behind a tree and watch the potatoes explode against the dirt wall. One day the truck was hard to start and that ended our bread truck enjoyment. The driver saw us hiding and hollered "Oh! You crazy boys" and drove away.

Dad had his own form of discipline. Boys seemed never to put tools away. One day his favorite shovel was missing. We explained one of the neighbors must have entered the garage and stole it. The following week Dad found the garden rake lying in the driveway. It was used to level out the ruts caused by car tires in the wet soil. It was a real joy to join Dad on Sunday a.m. after mass to "check out the pop plant so no one broke in." A ride in the front seat of our star car--down 6 street to Pierce St. and under the railroad viaduct. "Honk the horn Dad!" What an echo! What fun! We were usually rewarded with a bottle of pop. We were taught that pop was made to sell, not to get free – a special treat. When Sunday morning came, Dad explained that when you don't put tools away you must be punished. My heart was broken. I could not believe my Dad would be so strict. My mother stood by Dad's side. After two weeks the restrictions were lifted and I later realized Dad was also sharing the punishment. He missed his company.

Dad told me of his experience. One day he climbed out the upstairs window onto the roof of the back porch. His buddies were in a hurry to leave to play, so Dad jumped from the roof but lo and behold he landed on a rake he had used and never put away. The handle flew in the air and hit Dad in the back of his head causing it to bleed. Dad cried aloud. His father came out to see what happened and gave Dad a severe spanking for not putting tools away. Whenever my Dad got a haircut, the scar stood out quite obvious.

Since those days, I've had 5 girls and I never had to use any of those harsh discipline techniques – and I guess they turned out all right.

Betty Jane Farrell Riedmann

My name is Betty Jane Farrell Riedmann. I first met my husband George at South High School in our junior year. I was very bashful at the time and I was accused of looking at my toes when a boy would start a conversation with me, or walk with me from classroom to classroom. Since George and I were the same age and were in the same grade we did have some of the same classes. At the time I would rather have made eight book reports than to make one oral report.

I had a younger sister Mary who was dating a good friend of George's so we did see each other at some events. Mary had a job at the O.P.A., which was a government rationing board operating during World War II. My younger sister Margie and I were on the elevator returning from visiting Mary when George entered the elevator after completing his application to have the sugar allotment increased so they could make more pop. When George got home, he called his friend, Ray, to arrange for a blind double date as we called it

back then. I believed we attended Peony Park dancing under the stars. That is how it all started.

I was first introduced to George's parents at the South Omaha American Legion Hall after a Nov. 11 Veterans Day parade. Mr. Riedmann was curious about the family of the girl their son was interested in so he asked an acquaintance who attended St. Agnes Catholic Church what he knew about the Farrell family. The man's answer was, "I know he hits the rail every Sunday." Mr. Riedmann was not familiar with the statement and thought Ed Farrell was a heavy drinker, He later learned of the strong religious habits the entire family practiced and the rail was the communion rail.

In those days it was unusual to receive communion weekly or daily. Usually confessions were heard on Saturday afternoon and communion followed on Sunday. Many families made the first Friday mass and would receive only the first Friday and Sunday. How things have changed.

We now enjoy 20 grandchildren, 1 grandchild due in October, and 1 great-grandchild. We are fortunate to have them all residing in the Omaha area.

Margie Riedmann Sobczyk

Jim Sobczyk and I met before we were born. My mom and his mom worked together at Prudential Life Insurance, they would get together every so often and while they visited, we would be placed on the bed together. (Which I of course deny and don't remember at all).

After graduation, we attended different high schools and then between our junior and senior years his sister had a party and invited me.

We dated through college and got married after our junior year. (Much too young).

We have been married for 32 years and have 8 children.

Tim	16	High School	Nicole	24	Married
Mary	18	College	Betsy	28	Married
Maggie	20	College	Theresa	30	Married
Billie	22	College	Jamie	31	Married

We have had three weddings in 100 days last year and now we have a new beautiful granddaughter, Deanna.

I have been working at a mailing company in South Omaha for almost year but I am leaving at the end of the year to watch children.

Jim has worked for Cornhusker Beverage, the original Willow Springs, and then Goody Pop, for 36 years and now manages the family business. Jim loves to read almost anything fiction, biography's, history etc., he is like a walking encyclopedia. Just ask Jim if he knows it all!!

Therese (Sobczyk) Acamo

Hi, I am Therese Acamo, oldest grand-daughter of George & Betty Riedmann, oldest daughter of Jim and Margie Sobczyk, wife of almost 8 years of Steve Acamo, and stepmother of Christian Acamo (age 10).

I am currently a student at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in the College of Pharmacy. I will graduate in May of 2005 with a Doctorate in Pharmacy. I am also currently working as an intern at the NHS Outpatient Pharmacy and at the Target Pharmacy on Saddle Creek.

In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family, working in my "little" vegetable garden, and catching up on sleep.

My husband Steve is a Card Production Supervisor at First Data Resources; he has been with FDR for 5 years in November. He is also a part-time student at UNO. He hasn't quite decided on a major but is taking basic elective classes while I am in school and will most likely finish once I have completed my degree.

After a long battle with ulcerative colitis he is on the road to recovery.

Chrissy lives with her mother in Plattsmouth and visits us frequently. She loves to play soccer, do crafts and, read. She will be in the 5 grade this fall.

Nicole (Sobczyk) Bourquin

Hello, I'm Nicole (Sobczyk) Bourquin. I am the fourth child of Margie (Riedmann) and Jim Sobczyk. I was born on December 7, 1977, making me 24 years old.

I graduated from Daniel J. Gross High School in 1996 and from UNO in 2000 with a Bachelors degree of Fine Arts in Music Education. My primary course of study was Tuba! I now work at Cornhusker Beverage Mart as the Bridal Department Manager.

I met the love of my life, Gregory Bourquin in June of 1998 and we were married on May 6, 2001. He is from upstate New York, a small town named Oneida (where they make the silver). Greg is a Certified Nurses Aid and works at University Hospital. He will begin school in the fall at Iowa Western to complete his LPN and then his RN.

We live in a small house in Ralston on State Street and no kids yet, but we do have an adorable little schnoodle (schnauzer/poodle) puppy named Bilbo. He brings us both a lot of joy.

Jayne Riedmann Mollner

I am George and Betty Riedmann's second daughter. I married Joe Mollner on April 27, 1974 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Joe is property manager at Blue Cross Blue Shield and I work part time in customer service at Blue Cross.

Katie, our oldest child was married on June 1, 2002. She married Ron Baumker. It's great to have another son in the family. She is a Special Education teacher at Chandler View Grade School here in Omaha.

Jeff is the next oldest and he graduated from Rockhurst University. in Saint Joseph, Missouri. He is currently working at Creighton University here in Omaha but will leaving soon in August for the Seminary. (I wonder if Robin will miss him?) I guess Grandma Betty's prayers have been heard. She has always wanted a priest in the family.

Michael, the middle child, graduated in May from St. Louis University, with a Masters in Information Science. He is now in the "adult world" working 8 to 5 at AI Software Solutions.

Joey is the youngest boy and is a junior at the University of Nebraska at Kearney but will be doing an exchange program in the fall at Oklahoma State. He is majoring in Secondary Education. I guess he needed to be a little farther away from home.

Anne, the youngest of them all, is a sophomore at Mercy. She is busy with several school activities and other social events. (Or wherever the boys are).

That pretty much tells where things are with me in the year 2002.

Mary Pat Riedmann Green

I am the third daughter of George and Betty Riedmann. I work at Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

My husband Jim is a truck driver for Mainliner. We have 3 children. Tricia is 16, Daniel is 13 and David is 12.

Tricia will be a junior at Mercy High School. Some of her activities include Big Brother/Big Sister, Amnesty International, and Operation Others. She has been taking dance since she was 7. She has just started to do Pointe in ballet, which she enjoys very much.

Daniel will be in 8 grade at St. Thomas More. He will be playing football in the fall and maybe basketball in the winter.

David will be in 7 grade at Saint Thomas More. He is playing baseball this summer and will play basketball this winter.

Since I am down to the wire on sending this to Uncle Al, this is all there is.

Kathleen Riedmann Kemler

I was born 4 out of 5 girls in the George and Betty Riedmann family. I attended Our Lady of Lourdes Grade School, Mercy High School, Wayne State College for undergrad, and UNO for my Masters.

I married Rob Kemler and we have 2 children, Andy, age 7 and Natalie, age 3.

I currently work at First Data Corp in the Compensation Department. Rob manages our rental properties 3 days per week and is a stay-at-home dad the other 2 days of the week.

Some of my early memories are celebrating Christmas at Grandpa Riedmann and Mary' s house and having Uncle Al picking me up by my ears. I remember having seances in our

basement with Sandy Van Moorleghem and bringing back from the dead the likes of George Washington and Lady Godiva.

I also remember playing being married to the Beatles with her and my sisters and somehow, I always managed to end up with Ringo. (I really wanted to marry John or Paul, but I think I was the youngest playing, so I got last pick.)

As we've grown older, I love seeing a lot of the Riedmann clan at the Christmas Eve Mass and appreciate all of Cokie's work in getting that set up.

Francie (Riedmann) and Jim Weis

Francie - I was born on August 23, 1963 as George's last hope for a boy after four other daughters. I attended Our Lady of Lourdes Grade School and Mercy High School (just like my sisters). After high school, I spent two years at UNL before transferring to Kearney State College where I graduated with a B.S. in Telecommunications. After a short stint at the local radio station in Kearney, I headed for Denver to the Denver Paralegal Institute. Upon my return to Omaha, I started as a paralegal for the law firm of Gross & Welch. In 1990, I started law school at Creighton University. I graduated in 1993 and continued my employment at Gross & Welch, this time as an attorney. With the exception of a two year absence to try out another firm, I continue to be employed with GW. After the birth of our first child, I cut back to 30 hours a week and continue with this schedule.

In 1988 Jim and I were married. We had our first child, Lauren on October 4, 1998 (just one month shy of our 10 year anniversary). Emma was born on November 6, 2000 (the day after our 12 year anniversary!) Baby number 3 is due November 4, 2002 (the day before our 14 year anniversary!)

Jim – Jim was born on April 26, 1960. He attended St. Stanislaus Grade School and Gross High School. He studied computers at UNO, and is presently employed at Blue Cross Blue Shield as a senior systems programmer. Through the workings of Joe Mollner, who also works at BCBS, Jim and Francie met in 1987. Due to his tenure at BCBS, Jim plans to retire at age 55 and take up his dream job at a golf course.

Jim loves to golf and enjoys most any other sport. He'll be living most of those sports vicariously% though, through his 3 kids, He says with the birth of the third child, Francie worked herself out of the golf foursome.

Lauren – Lauren was born on October 4, 1998. She loves to swim, talk and play makeup. Most recently, she was a princess (flower girl) in her cousin's, Katie Mollner, wedding. She is the cautious, observant one, who needs to analyze the situation before she starts talking your ear off.

Emma — Emma was born on November 6, 2000 and spends most of her day doing whatever her big sister does. She is the adventurous one and has already had her first trauma resulting in a trip to the ER and surgery on her thumb (to replace a thumbnail that she managed to rip out without her parents knowing).