

LOUIS RIEDMANN FAMILY

Louis Michael Riedmann Sr.

BIO., B.S. (Before Sharon)

Born in Omaha at St. Catherine Hospital at 1 A.M... Jan. 22, 1935. Mom was 37 & Dad was 39. My Birth Certificate says I was born alive. It didn't say I had 3 brothers and 4 sisters that would tease me, make me laugh till I wet my pants, drop me on my head and make me cry, give me all of their hand me down clothes and toys, and remind me I was all of their "little brother". They still do.

I had to do all of the chores and things they had to do when they were young, like selling magazines, rake leaves, shell popcorn, pluck chickens, stoke the coal furnace, wash windows, and clean the chicken coup. I once dropped my bubble gum in the chicken shed and spent an hour trying to find it. EICK!!

I went to St. Pat's Grade School and South High School like everyone and worked at dad's pop plant. I do remember I was running the pop machine when we made the first batch of SQUIRT pop, I sometimes had to ride with Lory or Al delivering pop in the country (Fremont and Valley were out in the country then). They both had many good-looking girl friends on their pop route. I enjoyed that! Al would let me drive the pop truck home (I was only 14) while he slept cause he was out late. George always worked in the plant because he was sucking up to Dad. He was dad's favorite. Boo Hoo!!

My sisters Madge, Irene, Frannie and Ruth spoiled me rotten. I wish Sharon would take lessons from them now.

I went to St Martins Jesuit College in Olympia, Wash. for a semester and lived with Tony and Madge. I earned my room and board working at Tony's jewelry store. He taught me how to fix clocks, electric razors and watch bands, polish stuff, wrap gifts, help customers and work late. He helped me get off with probation when Dick Adams and I were caught drinking Oly Beer with a couple girls from the Naval Base. I was homesick and came home to attend Omaha University.

I married Janet Watkins, my high school sweetheart, in 1953 and had a choice to work for my dad at the pop plant or work for Janet's dad, Charlie Watkins, at the block plant. I have been at Watkins since Oct 21, 1954, 48 years. When I quit this job, I am going to find a steadier job.

I took night classes at UNO in Business Administration, Economics, Accounting, and Business Management, and typing. The typing never did stick. I also took courses in Chicago and Washington D. C. with the American Management Assoc. At Watkins, I started as bookkeeper, advanced to dispatcher and yard inventory control. Wow, we had 4 trucks and 20 different kinds of block and made 800 of them a day. Now we have 22 trucks, 3 dispatchers, 1000 different blocks and produce 30,000 blocks a day,

I advanced to Gen. Manager, and was over plant production, yard, office, fleet maintenance, and did some sales. I designed and built a new computer-automated plant in 1980. I am now Chairman of the Board and love it.

I divorced Janet in 1964 and was awarded custody of our five kids. Chip was 10, Beth 9, Gayle 7, Joyce 5 and Lisa 3. Thanks to Renie, and others that helped with raising the kids. That is another story.

I was single from 1964 to 1976 and had a little black book with girl's names. Then I met Sharon May Whitson in Acapulco, Mexico on an Omaha Snow Ski Club Tour in 1972. She was from Sioux Falls and was with a guy and I was with a gal. I could not keep my eyes off Sharon. The tour was during Thanksgiving. I finally got her phone number from the guy and called her for a date in March. We went to the Old Market and had a great time. She was 25 and I was 37, "with 5 kids". We were married twenty six years ago in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on Aug. 21, 1976.

She is the one that taught the daughters all the girl stuff and that is why they are so beautiful, successful, and smart and know how to spend money like her. We got them all through high school and college and have had many good times along the way. As a matter of fact, WE STILL DO, CHIP INCLUDED.

Sharon and I have been to about every state and Cayman Islands, and owned a condominium in Naples, Florida with a boat. We still own a house and a boat there. We lived in Harvey Oaks and moved to Fontenelle Hills in Bellevue. We built our lake home in 1998 and love it here. We like the lake, the home, the garden (she plants, I water). We do many social things and have friends in the Shrine, customers, book clubs (I call it Sharon's "VINO CLUB"), lake friends, fellow workers, and family.

I am active in many professional associations, including past president of Nebraska Concrete Masonry Assoc. and chaired many committees in our National Concrete Masonry Assoc. I am on the boards of the NCMA, Sarpy County Economic Development, Omaha Public School Const. Internship, and Metro. Omaha Home Builders, Boy Scouts, Univ. of Nebr. Center for Infrastructure Research and Chairman of our S.I.D. I am President of Omaha Builders Exchange and the Nebr. Masonry Institute. I am active in Rotary, Omaha, Sarpy and Bellevue Chambers of Commerce and the University of Nebraska Touchdown club.

My hobbies are building a 1948 Chris-Craft boat, Mr. Fix It, boating, beer, wine, scotch, 4 wheeling, swimming, fishing and fixing. I love going to Canada, as I am the chef. I love cooking.

Sharon Riedmann

I was born in St Paul, Minnesota on Dec 8, 1947. I only lived there for 2 years. Of course, I do not remember. My family then moved to Sioux Falls, SD. My parents, Allan Davis Whitson and Phyllis Marion Moore Whitson raised me. I have two sisters who I am very close to and love dearly. I graduated from high school in 1966, not knowing what I wanted to do. I thought I might try Beauty School (that is what they called it back then) as I loved working with hair. After I graduated, I went to work with Stewart's at a salon called the Stylist, I worked there until 1970. I was asked if I would like to manage a salon in Bellevue, NE. Why not, I was single. Therefore, I moved to big Omaha and lived in Bellevue. Mom and Dad were worried about me moving to Omaha as the riots

were going on at the time. We never had that experience of any black people in SF at that time. Moreover, from such a small town, they were going crazy. Nevertheless, I knew I could handle it. So, I moved to Bellevue to manage the salon.

I met my wonderful Lou in Acapulco. He has told you the story. How did I ever think I would ever marry a man with five children? After being single for so long, we decided the time was right. Three were off to college and with two at home. We made a few adjustments. We had a ball. I taught the girls how to shop and spend money as Lou has said. (We really are not that bad. We just love clothes.) How lucky I was to meet a man like Lou. As never being able to have children, Lou shared his with me. I love all so much as if they were my own.

I worked for Stewarts until 1975 and then decided why am I working this hard for them? I could do it on my own. I then opened my first salon the Hair Hut. Then a couple of years later I opened another one. SR&Co. I worked and owned the salons until 1989. I love cutting hair. However, I decided I need a change. I sold the salons, and took some well-deserved time off. I did not work for a year. In that year, I took up golf and loved it. Then I got bored and thought I needed to go back to work. Of course, I love jewelry I thought why not go to work at Borsheims. That was 12 years ago. Since then I have completed my GIA courses of Diamonds 101 & 102 (as I call it) and passed the test. Then I took diamond grading and passed the test. Now I am done with all the courses I want to take and just want to sell. I do a good job, I think. I am one of the top sellers of the store. I do work too many hours. I get home too late however; Lou always has dinner waiting for me. (HA HA) He is so good to me and spoils me. I love him for that.

In my spare time, I love spending time with our grandchildren, but they are all so busy, we do not see them enough. Only five live here in Omaha. Chip, the oldest child, has the youngest two grandchildren. Lisa the youngest has the oldest two grandchildren. Three grandchildren live in Oak Park, IL. They come and spend a week with us every summer. Two live in Birmingham, AL., they also come for a week over July 4. This has become our favorite holiday. We have so much fun at the lake. There are no pressures over this holiday. We have lots of food and drinks and of fireworks. I always have to take one of the grandkids with me to buy the fireworks. We do have to go across state lines. Scary, but we love it.

I love to golf, garden, read, investments (I belong to an investment club) and decorating. We have two wonderful dogs. One we bought, Sasha a Shih Tzu, and Lucy who we rescued from the humane society. She is a wonderful dog. They get along great. When I retire, I will volunteer at the humane society, as I love animals. If Lou would let me, I would have more. I like to serve at the homeless shelter as much as I can. That is hard for me, but I do it anyway to help those less fortunate than us.

I love to travel and I am trying to talk Lou into it as well. We just had our 25th anniversary last year and went to Maui. Who knows what's next?

Chip & Pat Riedmann Family

Louis M. "Chip" Riedmann, Jr. is the son of Lou Riedmann and Janet Watkins McCoy. He was born May 3rd, 1954 at St Catherine's Hospital in Omaha. He attended St Margaret Mary grade school, Creighton Prep High School and received his BS in Construction Engineering from Iowa State University.

Patricia Marie Melby is the daughter of Gordon & Joanne Melby of Blair, Wisconsin. She was born June 2nd, 1962 in La Crosse, Wisconsin. She attended Blair grade school and high school, and received her BA in Business Administration from University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire.

Chip and Pat met in 1987 while playing volleyball. They began dating Memorial weekend 1988. After a long, patient courtship they married Nov. 16th, 1991. Four years later, their first child, Christopher Louis Riedmann was born on July 7th, 1995. Three years later Courtney Marie Riedmann was born on July 20th, 1998. They both were born at Clarkson Hospital in Omaha, Ne. They all currently reside in west Omaha.

Chip works for NEBCO Inc., a mid-sized holding company consisting primarily of construction supply companies, in the IT department. His office is in Lincoln, requiring his commuting there three or four times a week. The other days he works at his former office, Watkins Concrete Block Co. in Omaha. He enjoys making his own beer, follows Nebraska football and US soccer, and keeping up with maintaining the house. He is currently coaching Christopher's soccer team and keeping an eye on Courtney.

Pat works for Sogeti, the locally-oriented affiliate of Cap Gemini, as a consultant. She recently joined Sogeti after working at US West/Qwest for 17 years. Her current assignment is as a Project Manager at Blue Cross Blue Shield. In her spare time Pat has continued her education earning 2 Masters Degrees and an e-commerce certificate, all from Creighton University. She also enjoys playing with the computer, planting flowers, making great jelly and, when time allows, quilting,

Christopher has just completed kindergarten at Rohwer Elementary and is looking forward to first grade. He enjoys anything Pokémon, playing with on his Game Boy and Hot Wheels and he is starting to get into soccer. Courtney is full of energy as any three-year-old would be. Always inquisitive and looking for trouble, she enjoys playing with her Barbies.

Together Chip and Pat enjoy wine tasting, going to movies and enjoying great food with their "Dump of the Month Club" friends. Someday they hope to build a cabin in Wisconsin on her family's farm.

Beth Riedmann Gallo

Beth Riedmann Gallo now resides in Washington, D.C. as a Theater Manager at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. I have been living and working here now for 2 years and love every minute of it. The Kennedy Center is not only a monument to a past president, but it is the Nation's Performing Arts Institute. I manage the Theater Lab,

which houses the 15-year hit "SHEAR MADNESS" and also presents Youth and Family Programming for local schools, performing 12 times a week to school groups and the paying public. I also manage the live performances in the AFT Theater. The AFT Theater used to be a house for classic film showings, but now houses Live Performances including Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, ACTCo, and several education programs, as well as several International Programming Special Events. I am the only Theater Manager that has managed performances in all six Kennedy Center theaters, and the only Manager out of six that manages 2 theaters.

Prior to moving to DC, I was a Broadway, Off-Broadway, and National Tour Company Manager (for the last 15 years). I have lived and worked in New York City and on the road for the last 20 years. My 20 years in NYC and on the road have been very gratifying, tumultuous, and, as you can imagine, living/working day by day, bare-bones survival. My credits include managing *WOMAN OF THE YEAR*, *SUGAR BABIES*, *LES MISERABLES*, *PHANTOM OF THE OPERA*, *GREASE*, *CATS*, *JACKIE MASON*, *SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS*, *AN INSPECTOR CALLS*, *APPLAUSE*, and *THE WIZARD OF OZ*.

I've also served in a technical capacity on *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST*, *THE WIZARD OF OZ*, and served for the THEATRE DEVELOPMENT FUND of NY.

I also have several hobbies, which is hard to work into my long working hours. I am a skydiver, scuba diver, golfer, and steadfast power walker, aerobisizer, and kick boxer. I received my B.A. in Theatre Arts from the great University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 1977. From there, I moved to Kansas City to work at UMKC and then moved on to Production Manager of two very well-known and successful Dinner Theatres, Tiffany's Attic and Waldo Astoria. From there, I moved to NYC and the rest is history!

Gayle Riedmann-Kazer Family

Oak Park, Illinois

Gayle Riedmann and Ralph Kazer live in Oak Park, Illinois. They have 3 children, a little dog and a big old house that requires as much attention as the kids and dog.

Gayle is a very young 45 years old (never as old as her parents seemed when those family reunions took place when she was a kid). She is a Certified Nurse-Midwife (aka Baby Catcher) and owns her own private practice, West Suburban Midwife Associates, in Oak Park. She is attending about 12 births a month with her midwife partners, specializing in Water Birth and natural births in the Alternative Birthing Center at the hospital. She is a full-time midwife, mother, wife, activities planner, shopper, schlepper, and "juggler".

Ralph Kazer is Gayle's husband of 15 years. Age does not matter, as time is a relative thing in his favorite world of physics. Ralph is a Reproductive Endocrinologist (aka Baby Maker), and head of the Section of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at Northwestern University. He is responsible for "helping" in many joyous pregnancies of

patients, family, neighbors and friends. He is physics junkie, and hopes someday to leave all of the anxious Baby-Seekers behind to become a high-school physics teacher.

Auben Kazer is 14 and entering High School in the fall. She loves photography and can be found with her camera slung around her neck at school for taking candid shots. She is happiest either hanging with her friends, baking a batch of chocolate chip cookies, or instant-messaging for long hours while playing music/doing homework/talking on the phone/doing her nails. She is the fastest on the computer and has excellent multi-tasking skills

Lena Kazer is 12, and starts 7th grade this fall. She loves all sports and participates in soccer, basketball, ice-skating, volleyball, swimming and diving, etc., etc., etc. Lena is a talented artist, and has had her artwork "One in 10,000" on exhibit at the United Nations, the Chicago Cultural Center, and coming up in Ames, Iowa.

Max Kazer is 10, and in 5th grade. He has been participating in Martial Arts since age 5, and is a Black Belt Assistant Instructor. He also plays soccer and swims and dives. He is a hobbyist by nature, and loves to build models with dad, paint his War Hammer pieces, add to his Pokémon collection, or sort his money.

The Riedmann-Kazers have miniature Australian Shepherd name Cody, who can be found romping with Grandpa Lou and Grandma Sharon's Sasha and Lucy while the Kazer's are visiting at the lake.

Joyce Riedmann Vasha Family

4th child of Lou Riedmann

Augie and I will be celebrating our 17 year anniversary in August. We have 2 sons, Aron Ried, age 9, and Alec Michael, age 7. We moved from Decatur, Alabama to Birmingham two years ago. This move got us a little closer to the Florida panhandle where we spent a lot of time at the beach.

We enjoy being with family and friends, hanging out by the pool, at the ocean, boating, reading. I do a lot of gardening and Augie enjoys golf and filling his new wine cellar.

Augie is Senior Vice President of Sales at Yellow Book USA, telephone directory publishers, based out of New York. I am a stay-at-home mom. I spend a lot of time helping out at the kids' school.

Aron and Alec are my little architects. They love to build, construct, invent, draw, tinker, take apart and put together anything they can get their hands on.

Augie and I love our 4th of July's in Omaha. We look forward to catching up with family and friends, the free-flowing beer-on-tap, corn on the cob, and stocking up on Midwest steaks.

The 4th of July is Aron and Alec's favorite holiday. They look forward to following Grandpa Lou around to see what he is going to work on or fix next, and looking at gems

and crystals with Grandma Sharon. Oh yeah, and the fireworks. Mostly because July 5th they spend hours building something with the used fireworks boxes and tubes.

Happy 4th and God Bless America!!!

Lisa Riedmann Lackovic Family

The Lackovics are looking forward to seeing everyone at the reunion! We can't believe 10 years have gone by already!

Bob and Lisa have been married 19 years this summer. Both enjoy golf, cruising in the convertible and attending the kids sporting events. They love their getaways to Las Vegas and other tropical destinations. Bob is an owner of Carpenter Paper; a distributor of fine paper and Lisa works at Watkins Concrete Block as Marketing Director (her 19th year!)

Amy Lackovic is 16 and a junior at Skutt Catholic High School. She has played volleyball for Skutt and plays softball in the summers for Millard Athletic Association. She is currently job hunting to help pay for the gas in her new car as she socializes about town.

Bobby Lackovic is 14 and will be a freshman at Skutt this fall. He is planning to go out for football, basketball and baseball. He is busy this summer as a catcher for the Omaha Gladiators as they zip through 80 games. Bobby is looking forward to spending "quality time" with his sister as they carpool to school every day.

Roxy Lackovic will be 2 this October. She loves to go on walks and take rides in the convertible. She also enjoys visiting Sasha and Lucy at the lake and taking a swim. Roxy is our lovable Golden Retriever.

Thanks, Dad, for making this an awesome time with our relatives. You have helped make lifelong memories for hundreds of Riedmanns. You epitomize all the qualities of a Riedmann: Generous, dedicated, organized, fun and successful. You are the best and we love you.