

St. Some Wedding

April 2022

V255



A Great Mothers' Day

A quick week in Wisconsin ends with mom, dad, and I alone again for a super trip on Mother's Day. The last time this three-some traveled together was 2015 in Europe.

Friends and Family Trip

I spent half of my total trip time in the air or airports. But, I believe in quality over quantity. This was a spectacular trip for just a handful of friends and total family.

The Trip Outline

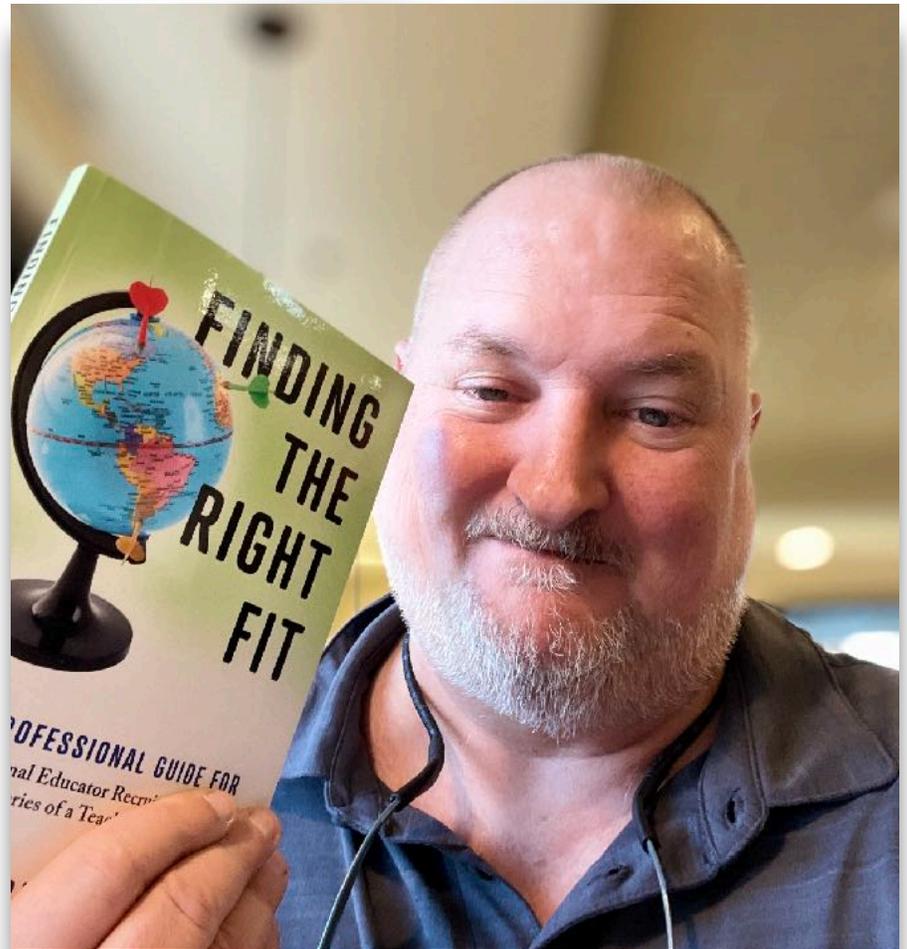
It's All About Family

...and Friends
...and Beer
...and Bacon

This trip was centered around the wedding. It was really, really short because I only had a few days. Still missing three days of school, the trip was April 29-May 10. I started off seeing Kappy and Amanda, Joey and Danica, and having just two beers (record) with Mike. The trip crescendoed to the wedding weekend and ended with a mother's day spend with just mom and dad! What a wonderful, meaningful trip.



AAAH... BEER!



Finally, I get to see my book in Print.

Even though this trip wasn't really about me, I have to throw in a little about my book. It was published on February 13, 2022. Up until April 29th, I still hadn't gotten my hands on a print copy. Finding 25 copies in my parent's basement was such a weird feeling. Hard to explain. Next, it came down to who wants a signed print copy? Do I ask? Do I just give 'em all out? What if someone doesn't get one? I mean family. Do they all want one? Will they feel left out if they don't? Do they even care?

These are such weird questions. So I decided to give a signed copy to each niece, nephew, brother (including spouses) and mom/dad. Of course Kappy, Mackey, and Joey got one. I gave a few out at the brewery party, sent a few via mail, and brought back four or five copies to hand out in person. I guess everyone was happy with a copy. Done. From now on, it's an e-copy.

Our New Family



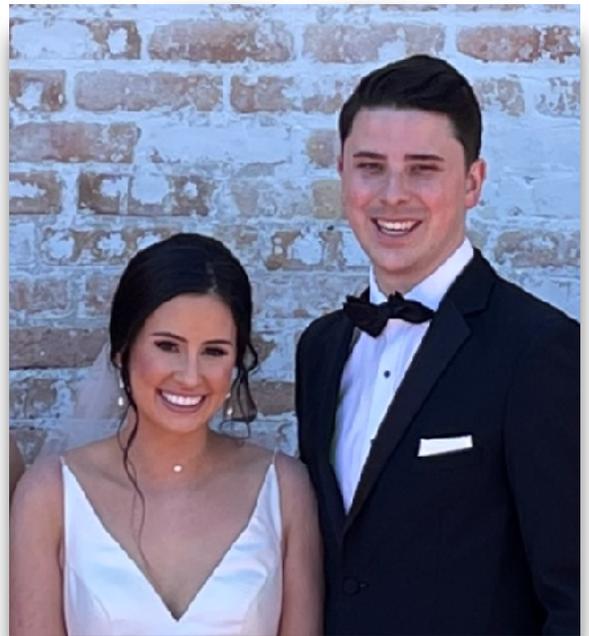
The Riveras

TRYING TO WRITE A NEWSLETTER WITHOUT WEDDING PHOTOS

I don't think a lot of families are as blessed as ours. Truly! This wedding event was amazing. The Riveras and the Lemoines, now joined in matrimony, get along like a pair of matched socks, like Q and U in our alphabet, like Abbot and Costello, or Luke and Yoda, or Han and Chewy. Truly amazing.

When I first met Chris, the father of the bride, it felt like I had met a long lost brother. When the two Grandfathers met, it was a new hit Tequila song. When I met the grandparents, Tilly and Danni, all we did was laugh and drink! Oh, what fun. The Rivera family is the start of a flowering new branch on the Lemoine tree.

It won't be very long before more Riveras are waterskiing behind Jason's boat and sitting on the Kelly Lake balcony!



In a Galaxy close close by...
TJ and Megan met
at Marquette University
And just Tied the Knot.

A Great Grand Mother's Day



**WHAT A BEAUTIFUL
COUPLE!**

I have a very high bar set for me. Mom and dad have been married for fifty-seven years. Just look at them and you can see the joy. Mom is still the most important part of dad's life. Dad is still the most important part of mom's. The joy starts with them.



Visiting Grandma and Grandpa Sanderson's Graves at St. John Military Academy

Cruising Down Memory Lane With Mom and dad



After the mother's Day breakfast held at the Third Space Brewery in downtown Milwaukee, the wedding party broke up and families went their own ways. Mom, Dad, and I had decided to stay an extra night and spend Mother's Day together.

We hopped in their beautiful black Cadillac for a small road trip. Mom wanted to show me where she had grown up in Delafield, visit St. Johns Military academy to see her parents' graves, and then hit Oconomowoc, where dad had grown up.

Mom pointed out about four different little houses she had lived in when her father was alive. He was a teacher at St. Johns Military Academy. I never got to meet him because he passed away when mom was about 15. Then mom, Linda, and grandma moved into the academy for a while before mom went to live with the Nilons.

St. Johns has a very small cemetery, which made it short work to find grandma's and grandpa's graves. It wasn't as easy to find Grandpa's memory brick though. Mom was a bit chilled so we gave up looking for the brick that was part of the parade grounds main building.

Next up was Oconomowoc, where dad grew up. We drove past Silver Lake where dad taught me how to waterski, Grandpa Lemoine taught me to fish, Grandma and I made jam, and my brothers and I spent hours playing Legos the day after Christmas for many years. Mom and dad told me stories about the Pabst family as we drove through the rest of Oconomowoc. But the best part of the entire trip was visiting Mary. **(Continued)**

Mary Mac, one of the kindest souls
you will ever meet. The Lemoines
love you Mary!



Mary Mac

We tried to call Mary Mac. Mary lives alone in a care facility and according to Kelly, her daughter, something was wrong with her phone. So mom and dad decided we would drop in and surprise her, either fix her phone, or buy her a new one.

Thanks to google maps, we found her home in Peewaukee without a hitch. Shaggy, the totally stoned caretaker twenty-something led us to Mary's room. Even though Mary was under quarantine for the next day's cataract surgery, she welcomed us into her little apartment. Wow, it was great to see Mary again. She doesn't get around too easy and she is older now, but she is still the same, wonderful Mary I remember.

Somehow, Mary's iPhone 11 was zoomed to the max. It took me

several minutes to figure out how to get into Mary's phone to do anything because the display only showed a massive wifi signal and the carrier bars. Ugh. But once in, I managed to zoom it out and save Mary a trip to the local phone store.

It was difficult to leave Mary, but mom could tell Mary was tired and didn't need a long visit. We said our goodbyes, promised to be better at keeping in touch, and slipped out of the building without running into the stoner.

Hopefully Mary's surgery went OK the next day! I'll certainly have to reach out to her more. It was rewarding to see mom, dad, and Mary together again. They are such great friends!

After leaving Mary, we found a nice little Mexican restaurant for tacos,

margaritas, and beer. It was a fine ending to a great Mother's Day.

I must be getting old too. We were back at the Pfister Hotel by eight o'clock and all I did was crawl into bed and "dreamt me some tremulous dreams, 'cause I'm God's own Drunk and a fearless man".

I skipped "wakin' up to God's yeller moon" and slept in until 8:30. Dad and I enjoyed my last American breakfast for a while and then brought breakfast up to the room for mom. I watched mom and dad pack suitcases for a while and then did my own final packing.

Around noonish, they went back to Green Bay to retrieve the doggies and I drove to O'Hare for my trip back to the desert.



Best Friends
since before
High School

Mary Mac, one of the kindest souls
you will ever meet. The Lemoines
love you Mary!

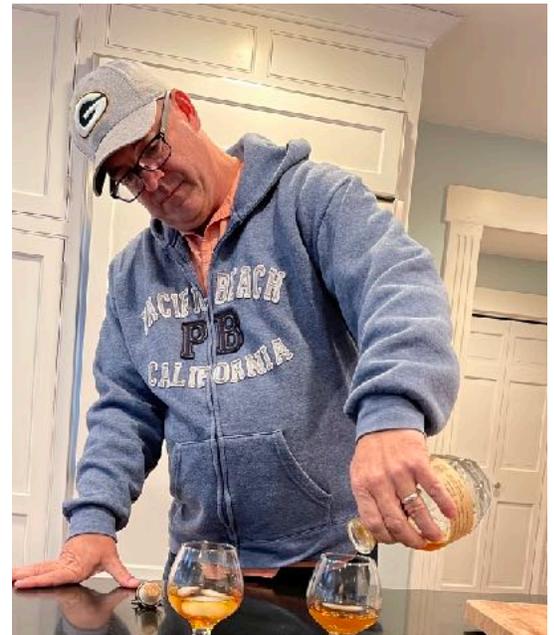


Friends for Life

A TOMAHAWK CRUISE, THE 16 HOUR RIBS, AND JOEY POURS BLANTONS

We didn't get much time together. Really just a few hours, but it was well worth it. Joe, Danica, and I haven't been on a cruise in fifteen years, so we decided to make whatever we do and wherever we go into a cruise. Even the grocery store was a short trip off the cruise ship. I can always count on being happy around Joey and Danica. Happiness isn't about where you are or what you are doing. Happiness depends

on whom you are with. It all boils down to that fact. I even got to spend a few hours with Mike at his house. It was only two beers, but I am always safe when I am driving. The one thing my friends all have in common...when I apologize for not being able to spend more time with them, each one simply said "no need to apologize. I understand it is about family." True friends!



Blantons, Joes favorite...for now. Soon Joe will have a new favorite **Bourbon** from Missouri. In the meantime, Joe shares from his secret stash with an old friend.



A HAPPY KAPPY AND A REALLY HAPPY LEMOINE

Even ten minutes with Kappy is enough to last me for a long time. It was longer than that, but ten minutes is about how long it takes my arm to stop burning after one of his famous head-butts. Kappy, Amanda and I hung out at a local concert for an evening. I took my eyes off of Kappy for just a few moments and Woosh! a pulled pork sandwich appeared before my eyes. It tasted extra special yummy with a PBR to wash it down. Kappy and I earned a couple more hours together on my last morning in Green Bay. I woke up early and headed to his kitchen, where he cooked up a batch of bacon and eggs. Beer isn't just for lunch anymore, so I started off the day with a coffee and a YingLing beer. Just one for taste. I had a wedding to drive to.

The Trip Outline

It's All About Family

...and Twins
...and Twins

I was lucky enough to see each and every niece and nephew this trip. Teddy let me watch his tap dancing practice after we annihilated the hammer drop game at D&B's. Colin treated me to a few mixed drinks, since he moonlights as a bartender in New York. Samantha and I spent a little bit of time at the wedding together. I had a brief sighting of Ella before she disappeared to work on her animations. Mariah was busy with the twins most of the time, helpful auntie! Scott and I had a few drinks together. Kat was busy with the twins more than not. I was lucky to spend an afternoon alone with Lydia.



AAAHH... TWINS!



Finally, I get to meet my Great Niece Twins

I returned to Saudi in July of last year, just missing the August birth of the twins Josie and Tessa. Finally, I got to meet the little darlings. No, I can't tell them apart yet. It will be a while. Maybe Katrina and Scott will follow the Judd idea and dress one of them in a specific color all the time, like Brooks was always dressed in something Blue. It's difficult to accept I am a great uncle, my older brother is a grandpa, my parents are great grandparents, and the youngest child of my younger brother is almost a teenager.

I am one of the luckiest individuals in the world. My nuclear family is super close and mostly healthy across four generations. My closest, oldest friends are still "5minute catchup on lifers". I get to teach and travel the world, making enough money to always come home to family and friends. Nuff said.

After living in the Middle East for so long, it is always a joy to find myself in a Church surrounded by Christians of some sort.

