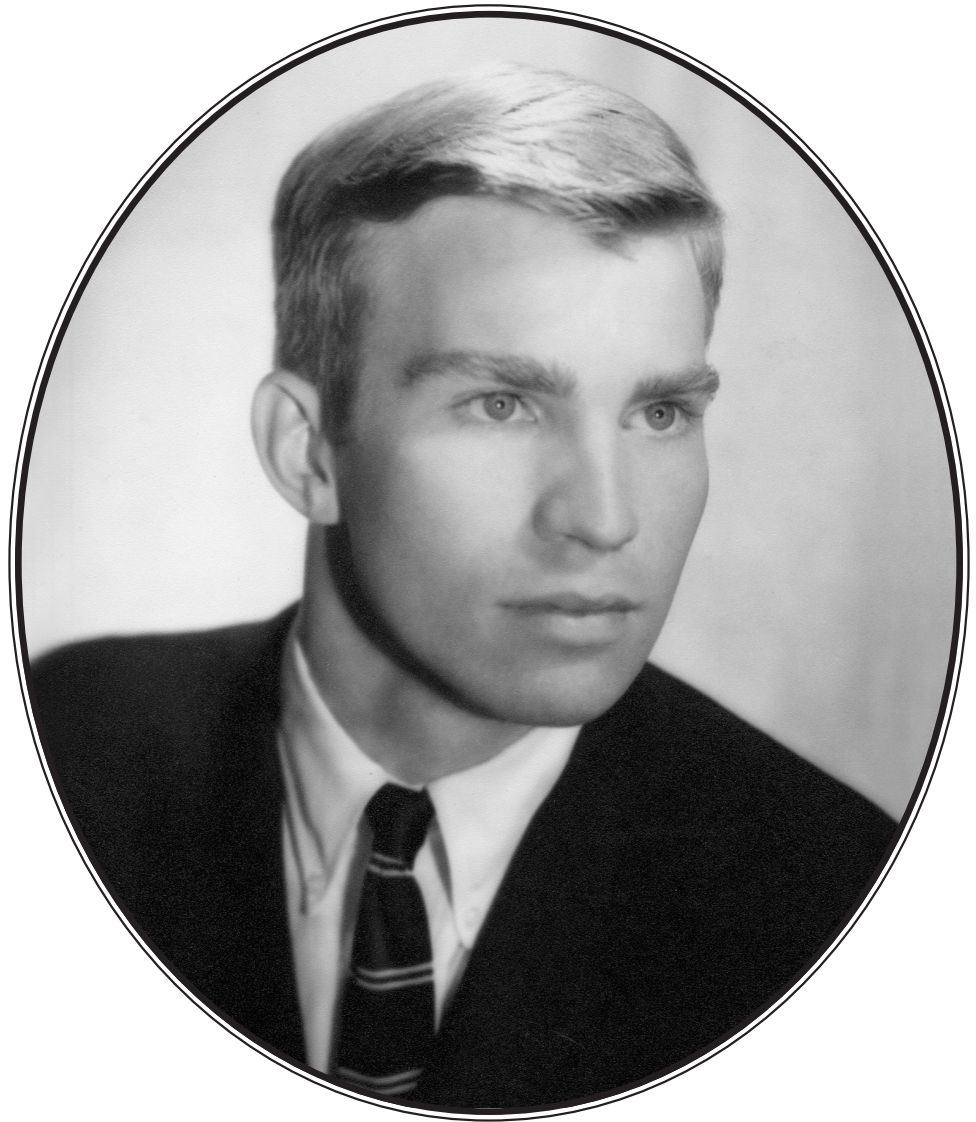


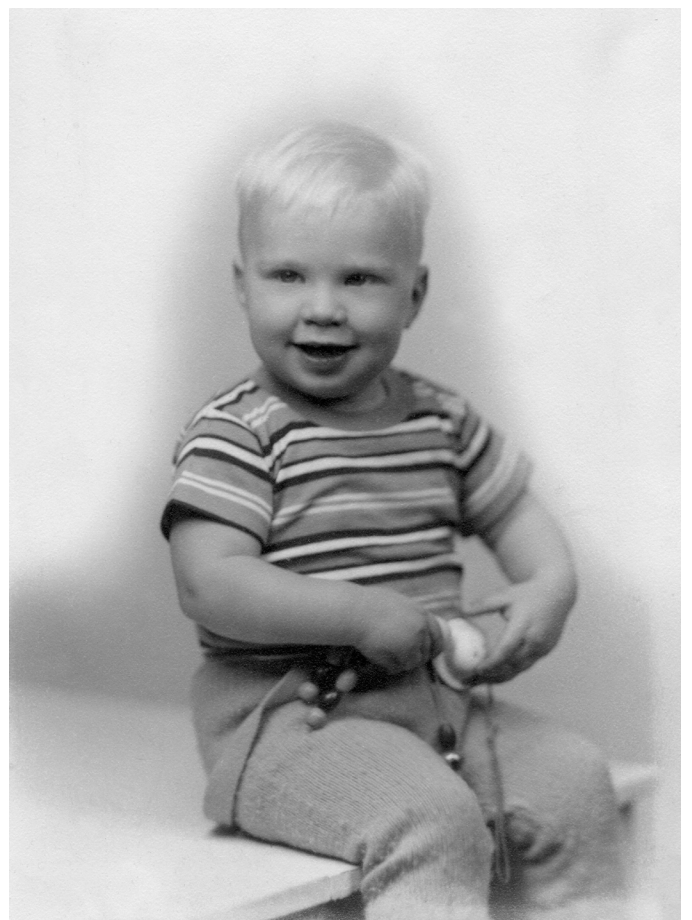
Richard Gibson Patterson



Richard was born in Birmingham June 1, 1942, and rode through Lakeview grammar school and Ramsay high school on the coattails of his siblings. His hobbies included doing magic tricks and building model airplanes. He was even hired to perform his magic routine at a birthday party once where the audience was young enough to be easily fooled.



Explaining things to Theo



An early philosophical bent was revealed by his conclusion that heaven would be like the experience of having a control-line model airplane take off and fly, but without requiring a physical model or even an arm and hand with which to control it. He probably knew better than to share this insight with friends or relatives, and he did not pursue the metaphorical dimensions of having your plane fly into a large tree before it completed one full circle.

As a kid Richard enjoyed playing by himself. Even though he loved playing games with his older siblings and neighborhood friends, he was also perfectly happy running around the house or the yard in pursuit of imaginary bad guys or listening to the radio as he built model airplanes or savored his bottle cap collection. His favorite radio show was The





Ready for school



Mrs. Simpson's Kindergarten

Lone Ranger, and his fondness for the William Tell Overture led him to abandon the piano in favor of trumpet lessons in the fifth grade. He loved to "send off" for things like a Sky King Secret Decoder Ring and continued throughout his life to regard the arrival of the postman as an occasion for intervention from The Beyond.

"Richie" did not really appreciate being regarded as the "baby of the family" for his first 11 years. Because he was too young to join the neighborhood club with Dwight, he signed up with the girls club, which consisted of Charlotte and Caroline Jackson and which met a few times in the Jackson's abandoned chicken house. When he learned of the imminent arrival of

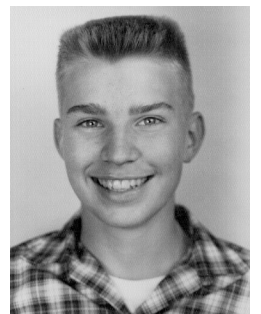
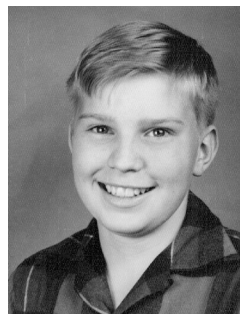
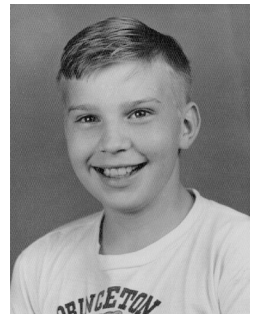
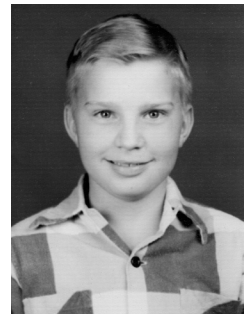
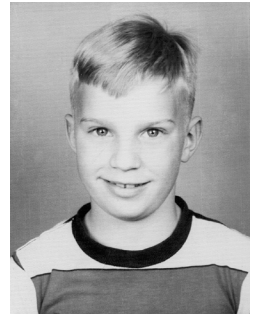
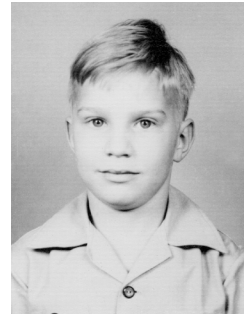
Peter Piper wonders why any kid in his right mind would have a pet goat named Godfrey.



The Driveway
Richie's arch enemy which inflicted a permanent scar on his forehead: One school of thought believes he repeatedly fell as he ran down the driveway because it resulted in extra attention.

a younger sibling, he voiced the desire that it would be a younger brother so that he could pick on him. In retrospect he is unable to cite any instances where his older siblings treated him with anything less than love and affection, but he clearly harbored some resentment about his position in the pecking order. Once when the whole family was packed into the car, he shouted, "Ow, Dwight, stop that!" for no reason other than a desire to get Dwight in trouble. When Betsy arrived, he was delighted not only for the anatomy lessons it afforded but because he discovered how wonderful it is to love and

1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th 7th and 8th grades: There were times when the topics of "eating between meals" and his fondness for stale biscuits were much discussed by some concerned parties. Richard himself was a little chagrined to be told that he could not play on the 5th grade football team because he exceeded the weight limit. Being self-conscious about his "physique" did not make Miss Lum's ballroom dancing school any easier.





Graduating from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts along with Bill Featheringill, Mike Hartsfield, David Chapman, Charles Blair, Mike McCoy and Shannon McCarty

play with a small child. Until that time based on information received from his mother, he had the distinct impression that children were a nuisance.

He played football at Ramsay as the starting offensive guard on a team that won the county championship and came within one point of winning the state championship. He never actually enjoyed playing football, but he did enjoy trying to play lacrosse as a freshman at Yale, rugby at Cambridge and soccer later in life. His happiest memories of his youth are associated with Lake Martin, where the family had a cabin and an outboard boat capable of pulling a water skier.

During his senior year in high school when he was told that his summer should be devoted to gainful employment instead of water

skiing, he announced that he was going to go out west to work in the wheat harvest. He researched the possibilities by corresponding with the state employment offices in Kansas and Oklahoma and miraculously persuaded his parents to let him go. They equipped him with enough money to buy a bus ticket home, and he set out alone in search of adventure. Somehow he managed to connect with a guy named Toots in Enid, Oklahoma, who did construction work during the winter and hit the road with three combines for the harvest each summer. Richard operated one of the combines and traveled with the crew following the harvest in Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Wyoming. At the end of the road he used a large portion of his earnings to purchase a 1951 Chevrolet whose main virtue was that it had dual exhausts. He

With Charlotte at the drugstore where he bought Blackhawk and Plastic Man comics



In his knickers and flight jacket with George and a Kickme he got for Christmas

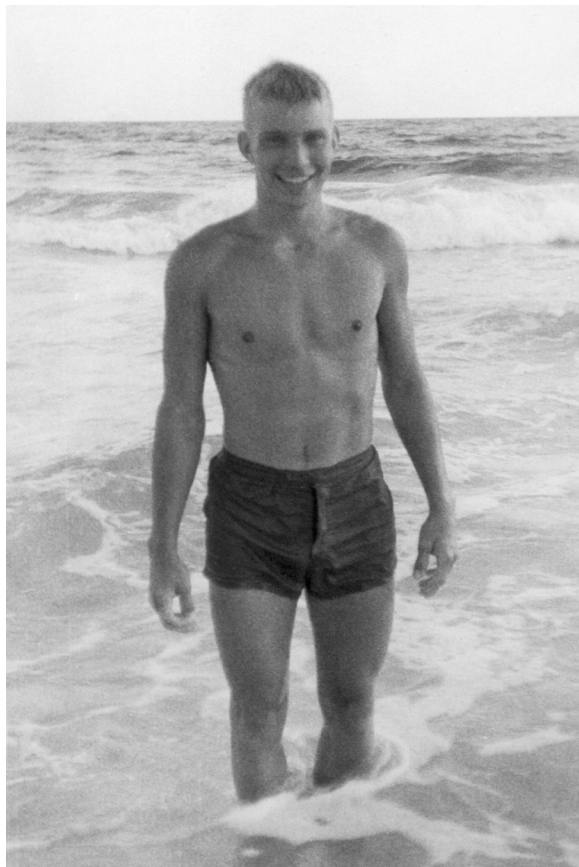


Dwight and Richie instructing their favorite playmate in the fine art of locomotion





Delivering his speech as class president at 8th grade graduation



In Florida one summer after a year or two of football practice took care of any stale biscuit residue



The combine he drove in the wheat harvest of 1960, loaded up and ready to move on



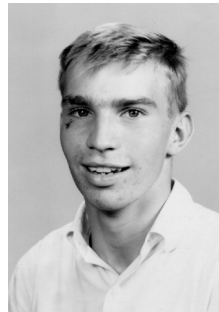
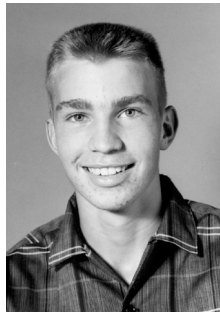
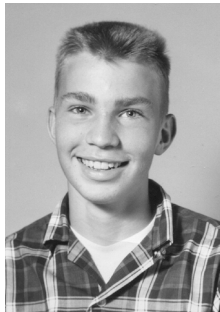
With Laurie Benedict, his only real high school girlfriend, at the Tau leadout the night he was elected president of the fraternity

set out to tour the west and got as far as visiting a friend who was working at Yellowstone before having to sell the car for \$25 to a junk man in Jackson Hole. He purchased a bus ticket to California and showed up one Sunday morning on George's doorstep in Albany. George had to give him some additional money to buy a bus ticket home, and Richard embarked on a 48 hour bus ride from hell going more or less straight through to Birmingham. He arrived flat broke but greatly enriched morally and fully prepared for his freshman year at Yale.

Richard was a National Merit Scholar at Yale, where he majored in philosophy and graduated magna cum laude. Yale was a marvelous adventure for him in every possible way. Although he had intended to study



When he accompanied George to classes at Berkeley sporting his beard grown during the harvest, Richard looked right at home. Back in Birmingham when he stopped by Ramsay to watch the team practicing, Coach Reynolds definitely did not approve; and even Richard did not have the nerve to show up at Yale to begin freshman year with a beard.



High School: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior (Cut under his eye was acquired in football spring training not a fight.)

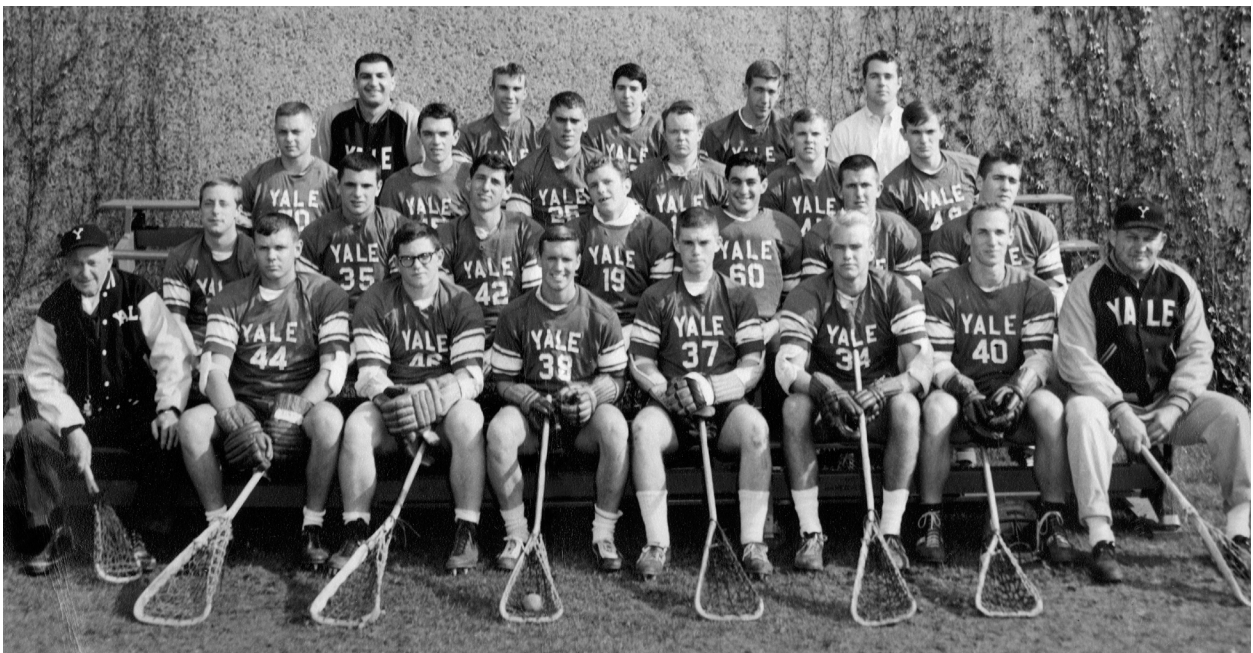
political science in preparation for a career of public service, he quickly gravitated towards courses which seemed more in tune with his desire to make sense out of life after his adolescent religious beliefs evaporated. His ambition to save the world was soon replaced by the ambition to be a genuine intellectual, defined in his mind as someone whose life was at stake every time he opened a book. The philosophy that appealed to him was mainly the philosophy of religion and existentialism. Yale was well suited for nurturing these interests, and Richard devoted much of his senior year to work on an honors essay on Martin Heidegger. As graduation approached he concluded that he would be happiest spending his whole life as a student and figured the only way to finance this venture was with an academic career. He spent the summer after his junior year studying and traveling in France and the summer after graduation as a teaching assistant at Mt. Hermon School in Massachusetts.

One night in November of junior year at Yale after struggling to read a few pages of Proust, Richard decided he deserved a break and went over to the Beta house where a party was winding down. He was on his way to or from the bar when one of his friends introduced him to his date and asked Richard to keep her company for a few minutes while he tended to something he had to do. All Richard could

say was "I don't believe it." Someone had just presented to him the most beautiful girl he had ever seen. She was Judith Baker, and this was the beginning of a six year courtship conducted mostly by air mail. They had several dates during the rest of the school year, but then Richard spent the summer in France. Typically he was so committed to learning French that he wrote letters to Judith in French, even though he knew full well she would have more trouble translating them than he had writing them. When he returned for his senior year, she transferred to Mills College in California. They were able to see each other some during the summer after his graduation, but he headed for England as she returned to Mills. While he was crossing the ocean as a passenger on a freighter Richard realized he had made a huge mistake in the way he had said good-bye to Judith. He

High school senior yearbook photo - Spring 1960





The freshman lacrosse team.

jumped ship in Rotterdam and sent Judith a two word telegram: "Marry me." He returned at Christmas to propose in person, but the negotiations continued for several more years.

Richard went to Christ's College, Cambridge, in 1965 to study English literature with the idea of preparing for an academic career. One of the great adventures of his life took place when he and Angus Macbeth decided to drive across Europe during a spring break to visit John Meigs, a mutual friend who was serving in the Peace Corps in a village in Turkey

Judith Baker, whom Richard courted mostly by air mail: At various times when she was in California, he was in Connecticut or England. When he was in New Jersey, she was in France. When she was in New York, he was in France or Hawaii.



The 1964 delegation of the Elihu Senior Society: Shep Erhardt, John Meigs, Ron Scibilia, Bob Kaiser, Toby Hubbard, Joe Lieberman, Lou Tunick, Angus Macbeth, Dave Sherman, Jethro Lieberman, Jon Greene, Don Firenze, Richard, Phil Warner and Tom Powers





The dean of Christ's College was not impressed when he showed up at Cambridge with three weeks worth of whiskers cultivated on the voyage across the Atlantic on a freighter, but Richard liked the final beard well enough to have it properly photographed before he shaved it off at the end of the academic year.

so remote that they had to hike the last leg of the journey with a guide who periodically blew a whistle to ward off evil spirits. En route Richard's Morgan broke down in the middle of Rumania, but much to his amazement they were able to meet some people in Aiud who helped them get it repaired.

Richard spent an idyllic year at Cambridge reading great literature, attending inspiring lectures, playing rugby and tennis, developing a fondness for meals featuring Brussel sprouts along with two kinds of potatoes, and seeing movies by Godard, Truffaut, Fellini, Antonioni, and Bergman. He spent most of the summer studying German at a Goethe Institute in Germany, but he decided he wanted something more creative than an academic career. He enrolled in the London School of Film Technique, but the draft board in Birmingham did not feel that learning to splice film qualified one for a student deferment; so he ended up in the army after one term. Most of his time in the army was spent in Honolulu with a photographic unit, and he managed to avoid getting anywhere near Vietnam.

He had persuaded the army to train him as a cameraman, but his initial assignment after his training was to a military police station where the only use they could think to make of a motion picture cameraman was surveillance photography of the transvestite community in Honolulu. Richard applied for a transfer to the Signal Corps' elite photographic unit that operated out of Honolulu covering all of Asia. He wrote George saying he might be doing newsreel coverage of the war in Vietnam and asking for suggestions for background reading on the political roots of the war. George responded with the suggestion that Richard read the Red Cross First Aid Manual. Richard had a nightmare that night about stepping on a booby trap in the jungle and withdrew his request for the transfer the next morning. He did manage to get assigned to a photographic unit which stayed put in Honolulu filming parades and visiting dignitaries.

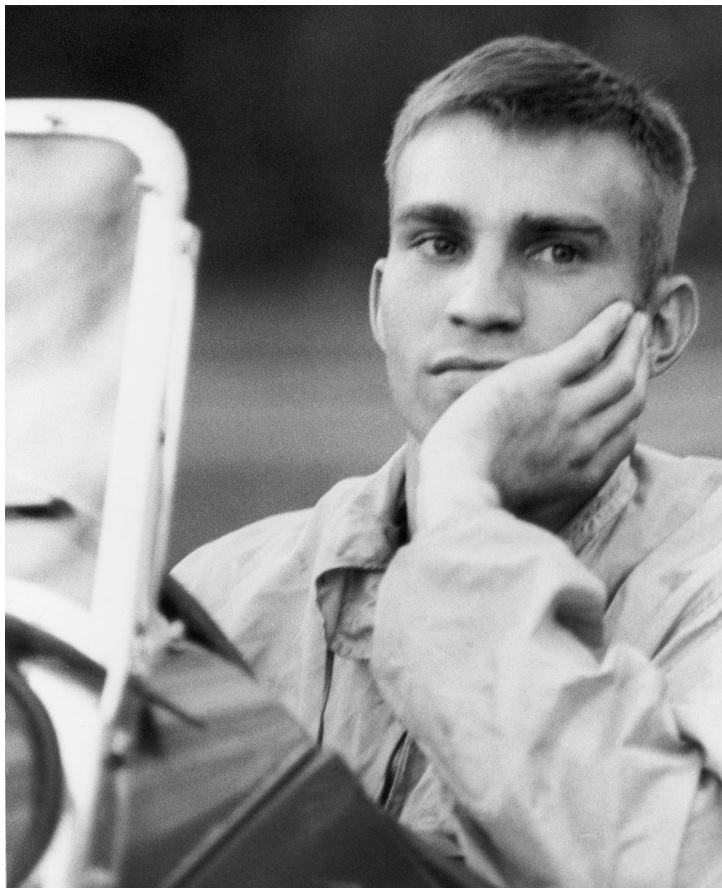
During his two years in Honolulu Richard learned to surf, took courses in Eastern philosophy at the University of Hawaii graduate school, worked evenings at a television station as a floor manager and made a 45 minute 16mm dramatic film which he wrote, directed, *Summer of 1965: Touring Europe with Judith in the blue Morgan which Richard had picked up at the factory when he first arrived in England*



photographed and edited about a couple on “rest and recuperation” in Hawaii. He also finally persuaded Judith to marry him. She had returned from a post-graduate year of study and travel in Europe to New York where she was working and doing graduate work at Columbia. They were married at St. Bartholomew’s in New York and had a wonderful reception at the Hampshire House afterwards. Returning to army life in Hawaii was a bit of a let down, but at least he was able to move out of the barracks into a house where the company was much more to his liking.

After the army he returned to film school, with a year at UCLA and three years with the newly founded American Film

*Hair styling and general mood courtesy of US Army.
Photo by Towner Hawkins, a friend acquired at the
Signal Corps School at Ft. Monmouth*



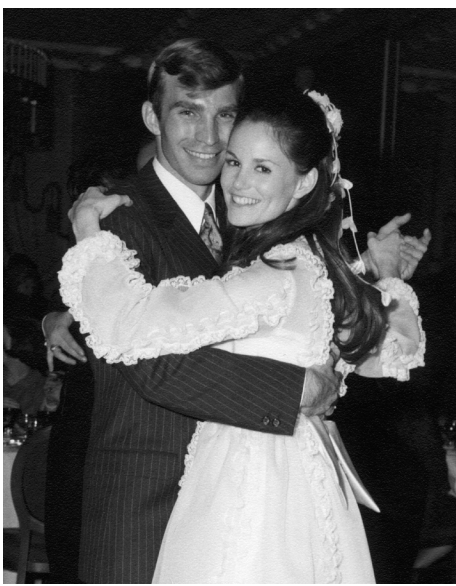
Army life was absurd and demoralizing, but Specialist Patterson had access to a fair amount of film equipment and a still photo lab where he learned the rudiments of photography from Paul Land, a talented photographer from New York who was also doing time in Honolulu.



Institute. Among his classmates at the AFI were David Lynch and Terrence Malick. It was a heady time for aspiring young filmmakers, and Richard dreamed of being able to have a creative career which involved all of his intellectual passions. Most of his time at the AFI was spent developing a feature script which was a personal philosophical-political statement, but his final project was a short adaptation of a Saki story. It was designed as a polished showpiece to help him get a foot in the door of Hollywood, and it stayed in distribution to schools and libraries for 30 years.

He spent 12 years working primarily as a film editor or making compilation films while trying to promote a career for himself as a writer and director. In 1973 he made a film on the life of Charlie Chaplin, for which he and Judith lived in London for six months. For this film Richard not only had the opportunity of meeting Chaplin and much of his family at his home in Switzerland, but also of working with producer Bert Schneider and cameraman Nestor Almendros as well as Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon. The film played at numerous film festivals, had a limited theatrical release and was nominated for a Golden Globe award. Richard and Judith got to visit Iran when it played at the Tehran Film Festival in 1975.

Their son, Tristan Daniel, was born in Los Angeles March 14, 1976. Prior to Tristan’s



Bride and groom dancing at the reception at the Hampshire House attended by the entire family including Kevin, Gibby, Nick and Kitty

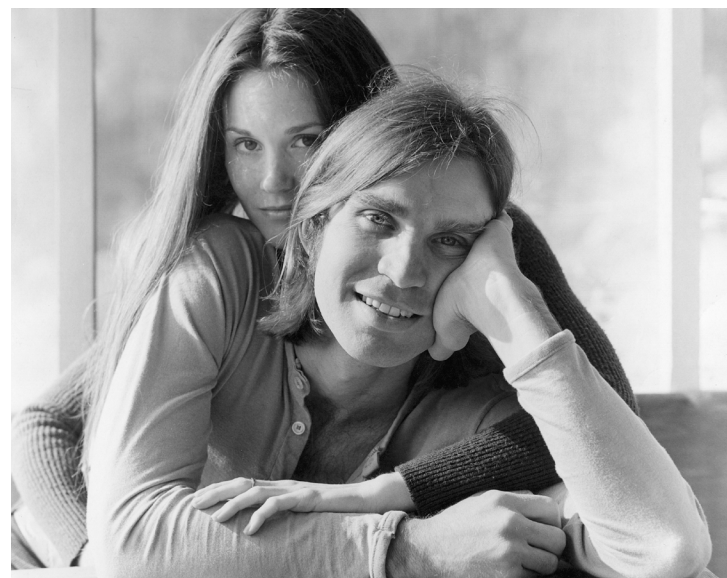


arrival Richard had been completely absorbed in trying to get his career off the ground. Tristan opened up a whole new world and provided Richard with the greatest joys of his life. What he had discovered with the birth of his younger sister was amplified a hundredfold with the birth of Tristan. Not only had he found the ideal playmate he had been looking for his entire life, but he discovered the joy of feeling free to love someone unconditionally. Among other things, Tristan re-introduced Richard to sports. Watching Tristan play basketball and watching Laker games with him enabled Richard finally to understand what team sports were all about. Richard started playing tennis again with Tristan; and he learned to ski with Tristan, completely erasing all memory of the humiliation he had suffered the one time he had tried to ski while he was in college. And Richard discovered soccer, not only coaching AYSO teams for 10 years but signing up to play on a coaches team as well. He eventually quit trying to play when it began to take him three weeks to recover from a 90 minute game, but

soccer remains enshrined with model airplanes in his temple of life's greatest pleasures.

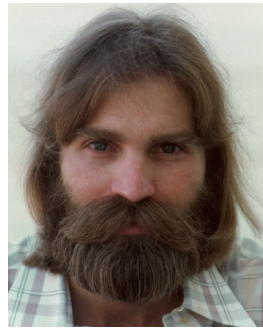
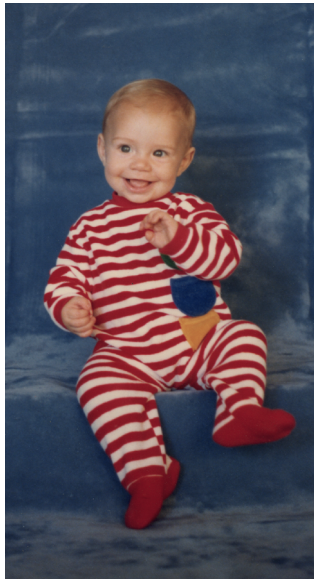
In 1982 Richard decided that freelance film work was not a good way for him to support a family and embarked on a series of mini-careers, each of which was designed to provide the stability which its predecessor lacked. The first was a job as editor and business manager for American Cinematographer, a magazine for which he had done technical writing. In 1985 went to work for Ultimatte, a manufacturer of professional video special

A typical Laurel Canyon couple in 1971





Preparing to sneak Tristan into the Golden Globe Awards shortly before he arrived to flood their lives with joy



His best beard ever just before it was shaved in honor of Tristan's arrival

Trying out a new look during a 1983 trip to Japan



effects equipment. While he was ostensibly the director of marketing at Ultimatte, Richard learned how to program a desktop computer well enough to write a program emulating the analog video process performed by an Ultimatte bluescreen image compositing device. His work became the basis for a digital version of the process which eventually received a scientific and engineering award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and Richard was one of the recipients of the award.

The latter part of his career has been devoted to digital imaging, first with a service bureau for still photographers and then with Illusion Arts, a company doing visual effects for movies. As a result of his work with Illusion Arts, Richard became a member of the visual effects branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Although he gradually abandoned efforts to write and sell screenplays, he has found other ways to satisfy the parts of his soul which do not get fed by his paycheck. In addition to personal desktop publishing projects, he has resumed his life as a student. He is currently enrolled in an off-site masters

degree program so that he can write papers on the likes of Norman O. Brown, Richard Rorty, Hans-Georg Gadamer, Paul Ricoeur and Martin Heidegger, who along with Brown has been a constant presence in his intellectual life since college.

Judith did graduate work in English at the University of Hawaii and UCLA and worked in a variety of jobs during the early years of their marriage. When Tristan was five, she went back to graduate school to study psychology and





Skiing at Snowmass where he and Judith and Tristan would often join Judith's family during the holidays



A photo Judith took on the patio for use on the jacket of a book Richard co-authored called Electronic Cinematography



Visiting Judith's sister, Elizabeth, in Marin County

became a marriage and family therapist. She has had a private practice for almost 20 years.

Tristan graduated from Yale in 1998 majoring in both American Studies and Film Studies. He worked for a year in New York as director of development for a company who sent him to the Sundance and Cannes film festivals. Then armed with his own script he came to Los Angeles and did the Hollywood Hustle well enough to secure deals writing screenplays for Disney and Jerry Bruckheimer.

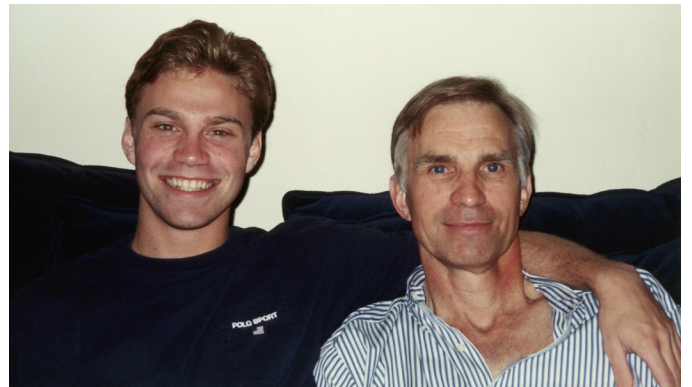


July 1996 at a lunch with Charlotte's family in Cincinnati



While working on a documentary on the life of Hugh Hefner in 1978, Richard won the costume prize at the Playboy Mansion Halloween Party by going as Hef. Judith went as Lee Wolfberg, one of Hef's closest friends.

Judith and Tristan in the summer before Tristan's freshman year at Yale.



January 1996

Visiting the house in April 2001 while in town for a Ramsay reunion

