

"...y la familia?"

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 5

APR/MAY 2003

*Needed for
Future Issues:*

*"Stuff" about
you and yours...*

Announcements

- *New baby*
- *Engagement*
- *Graduations*
- *Promotion*
- *New address*

*Upcoming
Events*

- *family parties*
- *Reunions*
- *Weddings*

*Article, Photos
and Fillers*

- *Nostalgic stories*
- *Photos and artwork*
- *Original poetry*
- *Vignettes on your immediate family*
- *Favorite family recipes*
- *Cute things your kids have said*
- *Funny stories*



Just Married!



Congratulations to our cousin Frankie Valentin, who married his sweetheart, Amy, on March 29th, in Kissimmee, Florida. The picture at right is of them at Christmastime. For the next issue I will hopefully have some wonderful wedding pictures to share with you. Frankie's younger brother, Alex, scanned some informal photos and e-mailed them to me, but they got deleted from my computer and I wasn't able to insert them in this issue. That's okay---it will probably be worth the wait to get a good selection of wedding photos for the next issue, along with some information on the wedding.

You wouldn't believe the problems that I had getting this issue of the newsletter printed! First, my scanner broke, and I spent days trying to get it to work before I gave up. I eventually gave the pictures to my sister so that her husband could scan them and e-mail them to me. After he did that, though, I wasn't able to copy the images onto the newsletter. I finally got around the problem and here is the April/May issue...not without a lot of toil and trouble, but sent with love!



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I Remember...

Working on this issue's "Meet Your Relative" article made me remember the summer of 1969 when I first met the Medina family. I was seventeen that summer, and Mom let me travel across the U.S., making stops to visit relatives along the way...Joi in Colorado, the Merritts in Iowa, and the Medinas in Maryland. From there I flew to Puerto Rico and spent three weeks with some cousins on my mother's side of the family.

But I'll never forget the excitement and trepidation I felt as I arrived at the Medina home with Auntie Anita Merritt, who had traveled from Des Moines, Iowa to Odenton, Maryland with me on a Greyhound bus. I felt excitement because I was going to meet some cousins that I had known about all my life, and who were close to me in age. At the same time, though, I felt trepidation because these were the "perfect" cousins that my dad was always raving about. The girls, Pepa, Rosa and Carol used to give my dad scalp massages and manicures. Whenever he returned to California from one of his Merchant Marine trips, if he had recently been to Maryland he'd demand the same royal treatment from Olga and me. How I resented that!

How surprised I was when I met these cousins, and could instantly tell that they were *fun*. Rosa was less than a year older than me and Carol was less than a year younger. We had a blast together! José was two years older than me, and he was *nice* to me. The family called him Josy (and they still do), which made me giggle, since it sounded like a girl's name. Things have a way of coming around full circle, though. Many years later, I was trying to wake up my oldest son, Ruben, for school, and I stood at the top of the stairs calling down to him with my pet name for him, "*Ruby, time to wake up!*"

Josy spent that summer semi-attached to his guitar, and even taught me a few chords so I could play "Down in the Valley." Everyone was doting on Josy since he was entering the Navy at the end of the summer. The few weeks that I spent with the Medinas were filled with lazy summer days, frolicking in their doughboy pool, girl-talk at night, enjoying a family Fourth of July picnic, and savoring Tía Tita's delectable cooking. She was (and is) as sweet, warm, and loving as she is beautiful. Tío José got on a fresh corn kick, and would stop at roadside stands on his way home from work and buy sacks full of corn that I'd help him shuck. The "perfect" Medina kids would disappear when it was corn-shucking time (they were sick of doing it), but I was a city girl, and I thought it was fun. ☺



Guess who this tot is?

The answer is found on page 7.

MEMORIAS DE LA FAMILIA



Joi and Norma, April 1967

At this time in our family history...

- 161 years ago, on April 13th, Maria Inés Vilá and Marcelino de la Cruz were married. They were my father's maternal great-grandparents.
- Rosita M. Rivera was born on April 20, 1920. She was the wife of Uncle Isidro, and the mother of Carlos, Edward, Roberto and Orlando. She passed away last December.
- On April 22, 1946, my parents (Oscar and Ana) were married in San Francisco.
- Florencio Rivera (Tío Guar) died on April 22, 1986
- April 23rd makes eight years since my father, Oscar Cruz Garcia, passed away.
- Máximo Cruz, my father's maternal grandfather, married his second wife, Genara Maldonado on May 5, 1909. He was widowed from his first wife, Maria Engracia Garcia.
- Maria de los Santos Cruz, youngest sister of Maria Engracia Garcia was born on May 23, 1859.

Meet Your Relative: Jose Lino Medina

For this issue we have a very special relative—José Lino Medina, husband of Angélica Rivera (Tía Tita), and father of Pepa (Joanne McLaughlin), José Medina, Rosa Meddaugh, and Carol Wright. Here is Tío José's autobiography:

I was born on August 15, 1924 in Barrio Boquerón, located west of the city of Juana Díaz, Puerto Rico. After a big hurricane named San Felipe, back in 1928, we moved to Ponce. I attended Federico Degetau School in Ponce, where I played trombone in the school band.

In 1939 we moved back to Juana Díaz. In 1940, I lost my father. Then in 1942, I lost my mother. After becoming an orphan, my sister Divina and my Aunt Casilda and Uncle Julio offered me shelter and guidance.

In July of 1943, I was drafted to serve in the U.S. Army. After I came back from World War II, I was assigned to Rodríguez Army Hospital in San Juan, P.R. Every other weekend I used to travel to Juana Díaz to see my family. To catch transportation to go back to San Juan, I had to go all the way to Ponce, to catch a *carro público*—public transportation.

On Christmas Eve, 1948, I missed my transportation to go to San Juan, and was told that I had to wait about two hours for the next available vehicle. I was told jokingly to wait walking around and watch the beautiful *Ponceñas* go by at the Plaza las Delicias. Instead, I started walking down Calle Atocha, where all the big stores were.

Suddenly, across the street I saw this beautiful *Ponceña* in front of a store, watching an animated winking Santa Claus. Like a bullet, I crossed the street and introduced myself, and told her that I wished Santa would bring me her beautiful eyes. My wish was granted—a year later Tita and I got married. The rest is history and a match made in heaven, until death do us part...

The beautiful Ponceña that José fell in love with.



José and Tita in recent years.

What a striking couple!



José's family: his wife, Tita, and his children (in birth order), Pepa, José, Rosa, and Carol. The young lady on the right is Pepa's daughter, Angellica. This photo was taken at Carol's house during our awesome family reunion in July of 2000.

Meet Your Relative:

Jose Lino Medina

I. World War II and Korean Veteran; member of VFW Post 5335, Boynton Beach, Florida. A resident of 9184 Beverly Court, Rainbow Lakes, Boynton Beach, Florida since 1990.

II. Completed two years of college, interrupted by volunteering for the U.S. Army on July 15, 1943. After basic training, sent to the Republic of Panama for advanced infantry training, arriving on September 23, 1943.

In 1946, assigned to Puerto Rico, Fort Brooke Army General Hospital. From November 1952 to November 1955, stationed in Germany, United States Forces of Occupation. While serving in Germany, attended and graduated from the Seventh Army Noncommissioned Officers Academy, Munich, Germany. In December of 1955, stationed at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, with the 101st Airborne Division, as a Field First Sergeant. In 1956, assigned to Ft. Devens, MA, Army Security Agency. In 1957, assigned to Republic of Panama as a linguist and crypto-technician. In 1959, assigned to Ft. Devens, MA, Cryptologic School, graduating number four in a class of 48 students. On August 15, 1960, assigned to the National Security Agency as a crypto-technician, receiving a top-secret crypto clearance until retirement in 1987.

III. After retiring from the Army in September 1963, was re-hired as a civilian by the National Security Agency, receiving a GS-11 grade. Retired from the National Security Agency on October 1987, after completing 43 years, 11 months of Federal Government services.

While serving in the National Security Agency, received 15 outstanding performance ratings. Also received several commendations for services to the United States Federal Government.

- A 20-year cryptologic service award presented in January of 1985.
- On July 2, 1976, received cryptologic school award—Certificate of Cryptologic Management for Supervisors.
- On January 22, 1963, a Letter of Appreciation presented by Commanding Officer.
- On July 31, 1959, presented with a citation for award of the Commendation ribbon with metal pendant.
- On October 13, 1956, graduate of Communications Security entry course.



Jose Lino Medina has had great success in his military, professional and personal life, as delineated in this biographical resumé.

IV. United States Army medals and decorations:

- Legion of Merit
- Army Commendation medal
- Good Conduct medal with two silver loops
- American Campaign medal
- World War II Victory medal
- Army of Occupation medal with Germany clasp
- National Defense medal with star
- Paratrooper badge
- Marksman badge with carbine bar
- Honorable Service lapel button, World War II
- Medal 50 years anniversary of World War II.

Certificate of Recognition for services during period of Cold War (September 2, 1945 – December 26, 1991) signed by William S. Cohen, Secretary of Defense.

In July of 1949, married Angelica Rivera. Father of three daughters, one son. Son served in the United States Navy. Oldest daughter served in the Army during Vietnam conflict. Second oldest daughter served and retired from the National Security Agency. At the present, Honor Guard Commander and Bugler. Also is a proud grandparent and great-grandparent.

OPERATION BIRTH NEWS

The Hargraves—Scott, Kimm, Kelsey, Matthew and Riley— have a new address: 3083 Bertolli Drive Livermore, CA 94550

Marina Ramos is back in the States! She was transferred to Texas after spending a year in Iceland (my how time flies!).



Ryan Rivera (son of Carlos Rivera, Bargersville, IN) and his wife, Cindy, are proud to announce the arrival of their first child, Gwendolyn, born February 27. Gwendolyn weighed 8 lbs 3 oz and measured 20 1/2 inches. Mother and baby are doing fine.



Cousin Bill, Evelyn and daughter Wilmi visited us the past three days. We had a wonderful time catching up on old family stories, looking at family pictures, shopping, and giving them a tour of our house and property. On Saturday, the day before Easter, Garnet and I invited our children and their family to come over for a breakfast brunch and then we had an Easter eggs hunt for the children. It was great fun for all. I am sending you a photo of the Roig's and Garnet and me with granddaughter, Sophia.

On Saturday night, there was a baptism for Sophia among other children and adults, and we all attended mass that accompanied the baptisms. I am enclosing a picture of Wilmi together with Sophia [see next page]. It was a beautiful ceremony that began in darkness with only candlelight and ended with the lights on symbolizing the rise of Christ and new beginning.

Unfortunately, the Roigs had to leave by 2:00 a.m. Sunday morning to catch a train to Chicago so that they would be there in time to catch their flight to Pennsylvania. So, we stayed up late until it was time to leave. After such a busy day, I am sure it was exhausting for them but hopefully they will be able to sleep on the train and in the plane so they arrive at their destination well-rested. We pray for their safe journey as Wilmi examines all the schools and tries to decide which one to attend next fall. She is very talented and plans to follow her dad's footsteps as she studies to become an architect.

Take care.

Love,
Carlos

Photo Opposite: Bill Roig relaxing at home of Carlos and Garnet Rivera.

Yours prayers are requested



Roberto Cabán, husband of Vicky (Rivera) Cabán and son-in-law of Cousin René, has been deployed to Kuwait. Cousin Vicky reports that Roberto's troop will be travelling from Kuwait to Iraq. Please pray for his safe and prompt return to the U.S.!

Student News

Dear Family:

We will be leaving for the States on Friday 11th. We will be going first to St. Louis via Chicago to visit Washington U. (my Alma Mater) then back to Chicago to visit the Illinois Institute of Technology. From there we will go to Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. From there we will go visit cousin Carlos and spend Easter with them. We will then proceed to Pittsburg to Visit Carnegie-Mellon, Boston to M.I.T. and then Cornell and Syracuse, in Upstate N.Y. After that we will come back home and by then Wilmi will know which university she prefers.

These universities have offered Wilmi Merit Grants:

U. of Miami: \$8,500.00 /year for 5 years
Illinois Inst. of Tech. : \$10,000.00/yr. for 5 years
Syracuse U.: Elected her as a "University Founders Scholar" with a Merit Grant of \$12,000.00/year for 5 years.

This really surprised us. The letter she received announcing her election indicated that this was bestowed on not very many students and that she had competed against close to 4,000 applicants from all over the US for the honor.

Reporting from Bagdad, Bill Roig

During Easter and Christmas, many people flock to churches. Well, twice a year is better than not at all! Yet, with the hurdles in life, and the constant crossroads in the paths we walk, it's wise to seek guidance from above on a daily basis. I'd like to share the following with you:

Prayer for Guidance

*O gracious and holy God,
Give us wisdom to perceive You,
Intelligence to understand You,
Diligence to seek You,
Patience to wait for You,
Eyes to see You,
A heart to meditate on You,
And a life to proclaim You.
Through the power of the spirit
Of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

--Saint Benedict

My daughter-in-law, **Lisa Quiñones**, just completed her second year of medical school at the University of California School of Medicine in San Francisco. Wow! We are so proud of you, Lisa!!



Sophia and Wilmi

Relatives Respond

- ◆ From my mother-in-law, Carol Pettit: "Your last newsletter was terrific. It had me in tears."
- ◆ From **Chris Rivera**, regarding the...

2003 Family Reunion

Ed and I thought that **Shoup Park in Los Altos** is a good pick. It is easy access from 280 or 101 and it has lots of parking, a large shady/sunny grassy area, barbecues and a great playground with a cave structure for the little ones. Hopefully, it's convenient enough for people coming from the North or South.

Ed and I can go earlier that day to tag a good spot. Are we thinking lunch time? If so, I could plan a menu around a grilled meat or chicken. Ed and I will be responsible for the barbecue and paper products as well as a salad. Those from out of town could bring drinks or dessert. The locals might contribute a salad, side dish or dessert. If you don't mind announcing it in your April "la familia", I can keep track of RSVP's. You could provide my tel # **650-326-4841** or email **christinemr216@hotmail.com**. Hope we get a good turn-out.

Here are the directions:

From 280 - take the El Monte Road turnoff and head toward the bay. Turn left at University Avenue, which is the last signal before the Foothill Expressway intersection. Continue on University Avenue for about a half mile. There is a small sign for Shoup Park on the left side of the street. Make a left turn onto the driveway by the sign and look for parking. (280 is the most direct route)

From 101 - take the San Antonio Road turnoff and head toward the foothills. Continue on San Antonio Road until you reach downtown Los Altos. Make a right onto Main Street (this is a 3-way intersection, and if you make a sharp right turn you will be on Edith Avenue) and continue through the downtown area to the Foothill Expressway. Turn left just after the Expressway onto University Avenue and continue for about 100 yards until you see the Shoup Park sign. Turn right onto the driveway and park.

The baby pictured on page two is **David Nicholson**, oldest son of George and Barbara Nicholson, at about the age of 2-1/2. Joi and I used to babysit him back when we were in high school. In fact, it was while we were at a playground across the street from our high school, watching David as he played, that Joi and Vic first met. Vic was driving by with a friend who knew Joi, and Vic asked to be introduced.

Thank you to recent contributors to the newsletter—Cousin Bill Roig who sent in a generous contribution of \$100 through Pay Pal, which was split between Carlos and me, and Tío José and Tía Tita, who sent me another check for \$25. God bless you guys!

"¿...y la familia?"

c/o Norma I. Pettit
2426 Meadow Lane
Placerville, CA95667
Phone (530) 642-8960
E-Mail: mamanony@juno.com



Visit us on the web at www.ylafamilia.org.

4 6 1 5 6 + 5 5 8 7 0 3 9 5 0 6 5 8 Birthday Greetings

Michael Barnes (40) -
- April 1

Tom Smith (65) -
April 13

Ted Reinke (66) -
May 13

Dustin Cavino (12) -
April 4

Carly Diaz (18) -
April 14

Roberto I. Rivera (52)
- May 16

Wilma E. Roig (18) -
April 6

Vic Stenroos (55) -
April 22

Alexis Valentin (18) -
May 17

Marlynn (Merritt)
Krause (55) - April 6

George Rivera (30) -
April 28

Raymond L. Cavino
(4) - May 25

Tiana J. Rivera (9) -
April 6

Haley Frosheiser (7) -
April 26

George Nicholson (58)
- May 27

Ana Victoria Pettit
(18) - April 8

Nicholas Rivera (13) -
May 5

Lucas R. Pettit (17) -
May 29

Maria Nicholson (91)
- April 9

Ryan Reinke (7) -
May 12

Stephanie Krause (27)
- May 29

Edwin Rivera (31) -
April 10

Helen Correa-González
(41) - May 12

If I omitted your
birthday or anniversary,
please let me know!

Anniversaries

Carol Lee and
Roberto I. Rivera
(16) - April 26

Cathy (Rivera)
and Eric J.
Montalvo (6) -
May 24

Marlynn
(Merritt) and
Paul Krause (33) -
May 30

