

"...y la familia?"

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 6

JUNE/JULY 2003

Needed for
Future Issues:

"Stuff" about you
and yours...

Announcements

- New Baby
- Engagement
- Graduations
- Promotion
- New address

Upcoming Events

- Family parties
- Reunions
- Weddings

Articles, 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

2003 Family Reunion

Forty-six persons showed up at Shoup Park in Los Altos for the 2003 Rivera Family Reunion. It was a chance to see relatives some of us hadn't seen in years, and to meet some new additions to the family.

The reunion was the brainchild of Cousin Carlos, who figured that since the four "Rivera boys" and their families would be in California for Rachel Rivera's college graduation, it would be a perfect opportunity to gather the family together. Cousins Ed and Chris were instrumental in selecting the park, giving directions and providing much of the food and other picnic items. How they managed to do this in addition to

housing out of town family and celebrating their own daughter's 8th grade graduation is a mystery.

Cousin Orlando put his chef's talents to work in preparing marinated chicken and *lechón asado* (roast pork) to die for. The salads, rice, beans, fruit and desserts provided by all the family members were delectable, but I personally would like to turn back the clock and go back for more of that pork! Very special thanks to **Carlos and Garnet, Ed and Chris, and Orlando and Donna** for hosting this year's reunion. You did an awesome job!



María Nicholson (91) & Isidro Rivera (84)

(Continued on page 3)

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I Remember

By Norma I. Pettit

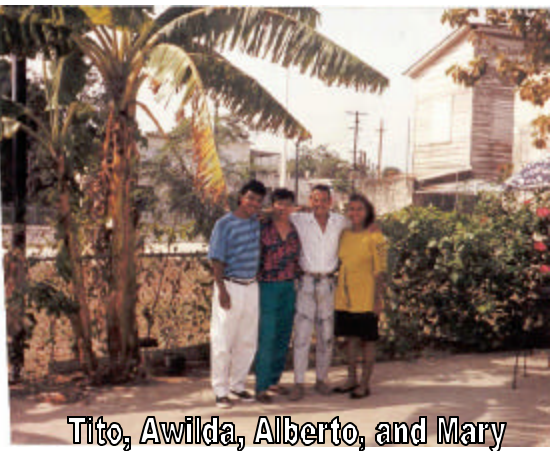
Carlos and Garnet Rivera came up to Placerville for an overnight visit a couple of days before the family reunion so that Carlos could work on my computer. Garnet and I spent part of the time browsing through the gift shops and antique stores on Main Street, which brought to my mind memories of the Cousin Reunion of 1999. That reunion was the start of something! The 2003 reunion is the 5th year in a row that family has gotten together for something other than a wedding or a funeral.

Garnet and I also spent almost an hour flipping through my fat newsletter binder, which contains the condensed version of family happenings over the past seven years. As we re-read several stories we marveled at the family's talent at storytelling. There have been wonderfully nostalgic stories from Carlos, Roberto, Olga, Joi, Aunt Delia, and me. Garnet and I shared belly-laughs over Uncle Isidro's story about the brown hen stealing Auntie Helen's wart, and "Helen crying for her wart like mad, instead of being glad that the hen did her a favor." In that same article ("My Sister Helen, God Bless Her Soul" —Dec.'99/Jan '00 issue), Uncle Isidro tells the hilarious story of how some crabs made my father crabby. He recalls, "When coffee picking was done my brothers Oscar and Gual teamed up and went crabbing. Oscar would bring the crabs home while Gual stayed trapping. He laced the crabs seven to the string, two big ones at the top...it sells better. While lacing them, he turns the string loose to reach in the bag and the crabs walk away. He gets mad, starts pulling and banging them! Pieces fly! Pinchers, legs, etc. That's where I come in! Pot in hand, I start picking up pieces and get my meal. That happened two or three times a week. What a temper!"

Yes, Dad was known for his temper. But he was also famous for his great storytelling. I told Garnet that at Mom's wake, I was wondering where everyone had gone. I looked around and found Dad sitting on a bench in another part of the funeral home with a crowd of men sitting around him listening to him tell stories about his adventures as a Merchant Marine. They were hanging on to his every word like schoolchildren at story time.

In fact, some of my most cherished memories of my childhood are of listening to Dad tell stories. Since he was a Merchant Marine, he wasn't home most of the time, but when he did return from one of his voyages, we kids would beg him to tell us bedtime stories. Our favorites were *cuentos de Juan Bobo*.

Juan Bobo is an authentic invention of the Puerto Rican culture. Even though a similar character exists in other countries, in Puerto Rico he has acquired an enduring significance. Mentally retarded yet innately astute, Juan Bobo is bathed in cultural idiosyncrasies and tipifies the wisdom of a simple-minded *jíbaro* boy. In future issues, as space allows, I will retell some Juan Bobo stories so that the younger generations can be introduced to this icon of Puerto Rican folklore...and so those of us who grew up hearing these tales can remember them.



Tito, Awilda, Alberto, and Mary
Children of Lillian Rivera
1988



Guess Who This Baby Is?
The answer is found on page 6.

At this time in our family history...

- 108 years ago, on June 7, Petronila Pacheco was born. She was the sister of Mamá Otilia. Their other sister, Francisca, was born on June 11, 1887.
- On July 3, 1861, my great-grandparents, Manuel Alejo Rivera and Maria Apolinaria Maldonado were married.
- Auntie Anita Merritt died in Nebraska on June 25th, 1998.
- Auntie Adele was born on July 22, 1909.
- Papa Flor, my grandfather, died on July 22, 1941.
- My mother, Anita García, was born in Adjuntas, P.R. on July 26, 1911, and was the daughter of Juan López and María de los Santos Maldonado.

More on the 2003 Family Reunion

(Continued from page 1)

So, who was there?

María Nicholson, Jenny Reinke, Ted Reinke, Kelsey Pombo, Ken Reinke, Ryan Reinke, Kayla Reinke, George Nicholson, Barbara Nicholson, Isidro Rivera, Carlos Rivera, Garnet Rivera, Edward Rivera, Chris Rivera, Andrea Rivera, Brett Rivera, Orlando Rivera, Donna Rivera, Leanna Rivera, Dave Finch, Delia Finch, Olga Smith, Tom Smith, Michelle Fastenau, David Fastenau, Angela Barnes, Michael Barnes, Teal Barnes, Alura Barnes, Marlin Barnes, Teena Warren, Shanda Peters, Dustin Cavino, Raymond Cavino, Marina Ramos, Will (Marina's fiancé), Vic Stenroos, Joi Stenroos, Eric Stenroos, Norma Pettit, Ruben Quiñones, Lisa Quiñones, Tory Pettit, Luke Pettit, and Eileen Negrón.



How precious can one little person be? This beauty is **Kayla Nichole Reinke**, daughter of Ken and Brenda Reinke (granddaughter of Ted and Jenny; great-granddaughter of María Nicholson). Kayla will be four years old on July 20th.



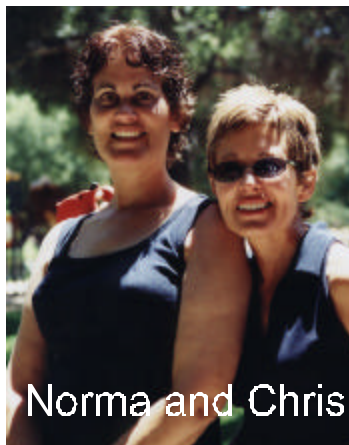
At left, family members start serving themselves. Clockwise from left, Ed Rivera, Ruben Quiñones, Tory Pettit, Lisa Quiñones, Leanna Rivera, and Brett Rivera. Lisa is sporting a bandage on her nose, a visual reminder of the auto accident she and Ruben had been in 10 days earlier.



Jenny



Donna



Norma and Chris



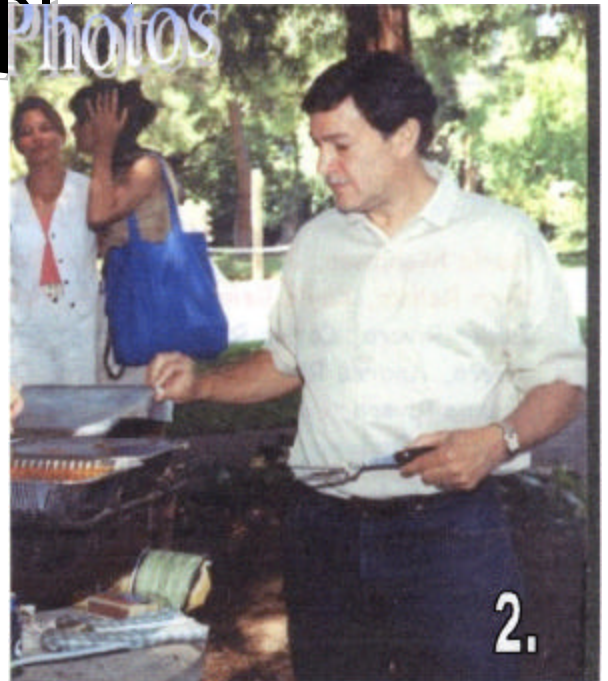
Garnet

"¿...y la familia?"

More Reunion Photos



1. Orlando Rivera
2. Carlos Rivera
3. Isidro Rivera, Eileen Negrón, and María Nicholson
4. Isidro Rivera, Barbara Nicholson and George Nicholson
5. Marina Ramos and Eric Stenroos
6. Michelle Fastenau and Olga Smith
7. María Nicholson, Jenny Reinke, and Kelsey Pombo



"¿...y la familia?"

Student News



Rachel Rivera, posing here with her father, Roberto, graduated from California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) in San Luis Obispo on June 14th. She received a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Chemistry. (Wow!) Her immediate plans are to take some time off to travel. Congratulations, Rachel, and best wishes for a bright future!!



Our congratulations to **Andrea Rivera**, pictured here with her parents, Ed & Chris, her grandmother, Alice Mansourian, and her brother Brett. She graduated from Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park and will be attending Menlo-Atherton High School in the fall. Andrea tried out for the Menlo Dance Squad and was one of three freshmen accepted to the team.

Ana Victoria Pettit, 18, graduated from Union Mine High School in El Dorado, California, on Saturday, May 31st.

The daughter of Randy and Norma Pettit, Tory (as she goes by nowadays) was homeschooled from 1st grade through 11th grade, and entered Union Mine High School for her senior year.



Following the graduation ceremony, a celebration was held at our home and was well attended by friends and family.



Tory with her grandparents, Carol & Rocky Pettit

Tory has been accepted at Simpson College in Redding, a private Christian college, and is in eager preparation for her move to the campus in late August.

Randy and I are very proud of our lovely daughter and her scholastic achievements. We wish her an exciting four years of wonderful experiences at Simpson College as she grows spiritually and academically. God bless you, Ana Victoria!

“...y la familia?”

Other Family News



Joseph, Juliana and Isabella
Are proud to announce the birth of their
Baby brother....

Todd Anthony

Born on March 24, 2003
At 11:15pm
8 pounds 7 ounces and 20 inches long

We thank the Lord that He has
Blessed us with another Beautiful
Child....

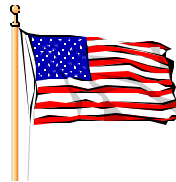
Todd and Yuly Springer

Congratulations to Cousin **George Nicholson**, who retired from a long and successful career in education. Most recently George was employed as the Director of Educational Technology for the Sacramento City Unified School District. In this position he had 78 schools and over 52,000 students in his domain. Prior to that, George was Program Administrator for the Elk Grove School District.

A retirement party was held for George by his co-workers on June 21st.

Guess that “Here Fishy, Fishy!” tee shirt is going to get a lot more use from now on, huh?

Marina Ramos, youngest daughter of my sister Olga, is being deployed to Kuwait in July, for an expected duration of four months. Marina has been in the Air Force since September of 2000. She spent a year in Korea and a year in Iceland, and is currently stationed in Texas.



Please keep Marina in your daily prayers...pray for her safety overseas and her safe return to the United States.



The baby pictured on page 2 is Eric Stenroos, who turns 20 on July 7th.

Your Prayers Are Requested

Yuly Springer, oldest daughter of Ruben García, underwent surgery on Saturday, June 14th, for the removal thyroid cancer.

She reports that the surgery was successful and that follow-up treatment of radioactive iodine is expected to further assure complete recovery.

Yuly resides in Los Banos, California, with her husband Todd and her four young children, Joseph, Juliana, Isabella, and baby Todd Anthony (see birth announcement above).

Please pray for Yuly's complete and speedy recovery.

*“And by His stripes we are healed.”
Isaiah 53:5*

Ruben and Lisa Quiñones (my son and daughter-in-law) were in a car accident on Wednesday, June 11th as they were crossing Geary Blvd. in San Francisco, on their way to Lisa's work at the Veteran's Hospital. They were broadsided on the passenger side by a semi truck that ran a red light.

Lisa suffered the brunt of the injuries, with broken cheekbones, a broken nose, broken upper jaw, black eyes, and numerous lacerations that required stitches around her eyes, on her temple, and on her cheek, plus staples on the back of her head.

The good news is that her brain, neck and back suffered no apparent damage, and she will recover from her injuries. We praise God for His hand upon the lives of Ruben and Lisa!

Please pray for Lisa's speedy recovery and God's continued protection and blessings on these two wonderful young people.

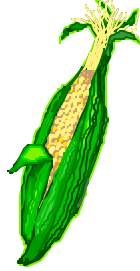
Relatives Respond

"...y la familia?"

In a "Thank You" card from Tío José & Tía Tita:

"Thank you so much for the Y la Familia. We loved it; you are so talented! Bless your heart! Here is a little check to help you out with the expenses of fixing your scanner.

We laughed so much about your article about your trip to Maryland to meet The Perfect Family. Corn is still present very much at our dinner table. I am now stuck with the shucking. Ha, ha!"



Dear Norma & Family,

Greetings from Arkansas! It has been a while since I have written with any family news (shame on me) and we actually have some! Our younger daughter, Christina, and her boyfriend, Stan Darnell, got engaged in March. The wedding is set for September 27th. Our older daughter, Stephanie, and her husband, Scott, are expecting their first child (our 1st grandchild) the end of November- early December. Needless to say we are in the midst of much planning for & excited anticipation of these events.

Paul went in this week to be evaluated for hip replacement surgery (something that has been coming for awhile now). He was hoping to be able to have the procedure done in July in order to give him enough time to recover to go back to teaching in the Fall & to participate in Christy's wedding. Unfortunately, the Dr. will not be available in July & an August surgery will make it impossible to return to lecturing/labs (there is a 12 week recovery necessary with 6 weeks on crutches). There is a possibility that it can be done in December giving his department time to cover his classes. Otherwise he will need to wait until next May (which I don't think is advisable as there has been significant bone loss & muscle atrophy). We ask for your prayers that this surgery can be done as soon as possible so that Paul can resume the active & pain free life he had enjoyed until a few years ago.

With all the different events coming up (wedding, baby, surgery & some think I should show up for work too!), I will not be able to attend the reunion. I will be looking forward to seeing the pictures & reading about Y'all. I know that you will all have a GREAT time! Love, Cousin Marlynn

In an e-mail from Cousin Carol:

"Hi Norma,
I just got the newsletter and it was so very special to me and my family.
I appreciate the work you put into it. God Bless you always."

From Cousin Joi via e-mail:

Hi there Sweets!

A VERY pleasant surprise to come home last night to see the newsletter waiting for "me" on the table! Vic had already read it, of course! After the past two terrible days at work, it was such a pleasure to "escape" reality at the present and go back in time to wonderful memories of our family and growing up. You didn't know that "y la Familia" was a therapy piece, now did you? It made me forget the stress I was feeling and those unpleasant situations just experienced with customers. It is always great to read about other news and events of our relatives and their families.

Vic and I were tickled that you mentioned David being the "fate" of Vic and I meeting when we were in high school. You know, I always thank George and Barbara when we see them for having David! :-)

In a "Thank You" card from Cousin Josy:

Norma,
Thanks for everything you do for the family and the newsletter. We appreciate it! I know I never call or write, but my family will tell you that I have never been good about that, even when I was in the Navy. I will try to help out when I can. Thanks again.

Love, Josy

*Thank you to recent contributors to the newsletter:
Tío José & Tía Tita, and Cousin Josy.
God bless you!*

"¿...y la familia?"

c/o Norma I. Pettit
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Visit us on the web at www.ylafamilia.org.

Birthday Greetings

Isidro Rivera (84) –
June 8

Alicia Rivera (21) –
June 12

C.J. Burch (14) – June 14

Emily Medina (25) –
June 15

Garnet Rivera (58) –
June 15

**Kimm (Reinke)
Hargraves** (40) – June 16

Ken Reinke (40) – June
16

Nelson Rivera (40) –
June 17

René Rivera (64) –
June 19

Meryem Merritt (52)-
June 19

Enid Rivera (18) –
June 20

Norma (García) Pettit
(51)

Laurie Jimenez (44) –
June 21

Tommy González (33) –
June 21

Scott Hargraves (39) –
June 25

Cindy Nicholson (33) –
June 29

Elizabeth Rivera (?) –
July 5

Eric R. Stenroos (20) –
July 7 (Getting OLD!)

Lilliam Rivera (60) –
July 11

José Medina (53) – July 1

Roberto Rivera (63) –
July 14

Angela Barnes (34) – July 15

Kayla N. Reinke (4) –
July 20

René Riera Jr. (41) –
July 21

Vickie Jimenez (43) –
July 22

Olga (Garía) Smith (56) –
July 22

Christina Krause (25) –
July 23

Ada Rivera Segarra (23) –
July 25

Rachel Nicholson (3) –
July 26

Fernando Vázquez (13) –
July 28

Paul Krause (58) – July 30

♥ Anniversaries ♥

René & Carmen Rivera
(42) – June 17

Jenny & Ted Reinke (43)
– June 18

**Angela & David
Nicholson** (6) –
June 21

**Angélica & José L.
Medina** (54) – July 8

Garnet & Carlos Rivera
(16) – July 14

**Cindy & Christopher
Nicholson** (10) – July 17

**Joanne & Robert
McLaughlin** (7) –
July 21

Sasha & Lloyd Lovelace
(25) – July 25

**Michael & Angela
Barnes** (6) – July 26

Randy & Norma Pettit
(21) – July 30