

# "...y la familia?"

Volume 8, Issue 2

Oct/Nov '03

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

## Off to College!



My daughter, **Ana Victoria Pettit** (aka Vickie or Tory), made the big move from home to college on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. Her new place of residence and study is Simpson College, about a three hour drive north of Sacramento, California. It is located in the famous Shasta Recreation Area in the shadow of snow-peaked Mt. Shasta.

Simpson is a private Christian college that is affiliated with the Christian and Missionary Alliance and therefore has a strong missions orientation. Students represent a wide variety of Christian denominations.

This college was Vickie's first and only choice, and she was blessed to receive over \$13,500 in scholarships and awards. While she is still not totally decided on her course of study, Vickie is interested in pursuing a degree in Communications and in some kind of Christian ministry.

*For more on this story, turn to page 4. ☺*

**Wilma E. Roig**, daughter of Bill and Evelyn Roig, is now happily settled in at Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Roigs spent a week at Carnegie Mellon going to orientation meetings, getting Wilmi moved into her dorm, going to various ceremonies, dinners, meeting the staff, etc. Wilmi is sharing a two bedroom apartment with an exchange student from Hong Kong.

Bill Roig writes that Pittsburg "turned out to be a fantastically beautiful city. It maintains the character of a big small town. Unlike most people think, it is not a steel town choking in smog. The setting is unbelievably beautiful. It lays in the intersection of three rivers. Two of them connect to give birth to the Ohio river. The topography is more like San Francisco, a lot of hills and residential areas in the outskirts, except with a lot more trees. The panoramic views can be enjoyed from almost everywhere in town."

*For more on this story, turn to page 4. ☺*

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# I Remember...

## Juan Bobo Stories...



*Two issues ago I recalled how my father used to tell us kids Juan Bobo stories. Juan Bobo is an authentic invention of the Puerto Rican culture, and is a part of Puerto Rican folklore. Here is your second Juan Bobo story.*

Juan Bobo's parents were now resigned to the fact that their two month old infant son had died. They firmly believed that not even the leaves on the trees moved if it wasn't God's will. There was nothing more to say on the matter. All that was left was to ask the baby to remember them when he arrived in heaven. So they decided to hold the traditional wake before burying him.

The father went to notify the neighbors and relatives and to invite them to the wake. The mother prepared the child on the kitchen table. She dressed him in white, put flowers all around him and a calla lily in his little purple hands. She also prepared the gifts that she would give the guests. After the first rosary she would offer *horchata de arroz y arepas*; after the midnight rosary, *arroz con pollo* (using the chickens that Juan Bobo had threaded on the rod). At five in the morning she would offer *anis y café*. The *anis* had been donated by the innkeeper when he heard the news. He was sure to participate in the *anis* and to have a good time with the neighbors. Anyway, this would make him appear generous to his clients. Penny by penny he would earn back the cost of the *anis* with the extra sales generated by his goodwill.

Juan Bobo's mother needed a big pot in which to make the rice, and she told her son, "Go to the house of *comadre* Regina and ask her for her big pot. Tell her it's to make the chicken and rice and they should all come over after dusk.

Juan Bobo didn't wait until the message was repeated: he went quickly and gave the message point by point without forgetting a single word. When they gave him the pot he examined it carefully. He saw the three legs that it had, and how much it weighed. He put it in the path and told it, "With the three legs that you have, you can walk better than I can."

Since the pot didn't move an inch, Juan Bobo thought that the pot didn't want to make the whole trip by itself, and he suggested, "If you want, you can take me part of the way, and then I'll take you."

So saying, he squatted inside the pot and waited for it to drag him, but the pot didn't budge. Juan Bobo became enraged at such an uncooperative attitude. He got out of the pot and screamed at it, "Now you'll find out that you can't play games with me!" And he threw an enormous rock at it and broke it.

When he presented his mother with the broken pot, she thought that the neighbor had sent it that way, but Juan Bobo set her straight.

"No, mama, the crafty pot didn't want to come with me because it didn't want to work. It even wanted me to carry it. But I set it on the ground and I told it, "You have three legs and I only have two. You have to walk! If you want me to carry you, you have to carry me first. Since it didn't want to do this, either, I had to hit it with a rock to make it come with me."

Furious, the mother spanked Juan Bobo. Juan Bobo went to a corner to cry and say, "Humph! Do they think that I'm stupid? Stupid would be the person who carried someone with three legs."

## Family Reunion 2004

## Family Reunion 2004

Wow! We already have a location for next year's reunion. Cousins Mari Lillian and Awilda want to host it in South Carolina during the month of July. We will keep you posted as details are developed, but start making your plans now to attend this one!

### Guess Who This Baby Is?

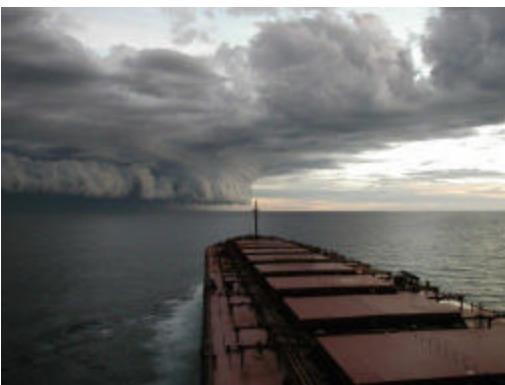
The answer is found  
on page 4.



### The Way We Were



Here is a rare photo of the De Nardo family all together:  
Elena, Sylvia, Angelo, and Joanne, circa 1952.



### A View of...

Hurricane Isabel, taken from a tanker  
off the coast of North Carolina.

At this time in our  
family history...

- Elena (our Auntie Helen De Nardo) and her twin brother, Sinforiano Rivera (our Tío Guar) were born on October 1, 1913, according to their baptismal records.
- Rosita Hernández and Isidro Rivera were married on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 58 years ago.
- Achilles George Nicholson was born in Elias, Greece 112 years ago on October 10<sup>th</sup>. He was the husband of Auntie Marie, and the father of Jenny, Victoria, and George. He died on Nov. 3, 1953.
- My father, Oscar Cruz García, was born on Oct. 30, 1910.
- Máximo Cruz Vilá and María Engracia García were married on Nov. 3, 1877. Their daughter, Ana, was the mother of Adela, Oscar, María, Elena, Guar, and Anita.
- My great-grandfather, Máximo Cruz Vilá was born on Nov. 18, 1853.

**Tía Tita Medina** writes (from Florida) that there is "never a dull moment, weather wise, with such a busy hurricane season, as you probably have seen on TV. There have been a few close calls down this way.

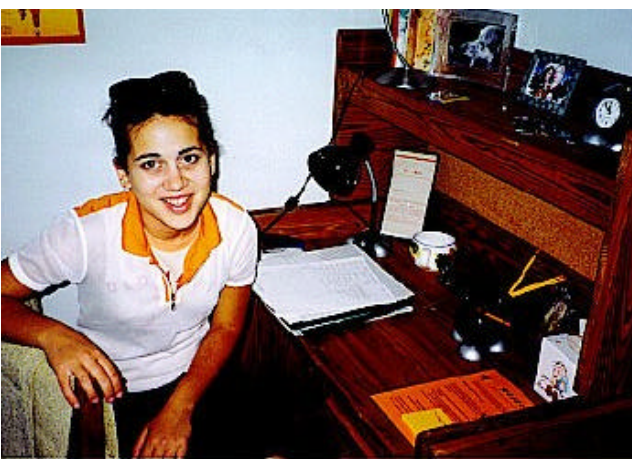
I remember as a young girl in Puerto Rico when a *ciclón* or *temporal* was coming for us it was like having a party, with *guineas verdes en la olla* and *jueyes hervidos*. Not anymore! We get scared to death; we know how serious it is."



**Ana Victoria Pettit** (continued from page 1)

*Moving day...Tory hauls her first load of stuff into her dorm. —*

*After four hours of unpacking and organizing, Tory is finally settled in. |*



*A preliminary report from Tory:*

My classes aren't too bad, some are really boring, though. English is stupid because my teacher talks too much about anything but English. First day of his class, we went around the room saying our names, where we are from, and how we got here. It took the ENTIRE class period to go through 25 people because it was like this:

"My name is Tory--"

"Tory....I used to know a girl named Tory. Oh, no, her name was Terry. She was really cool, you know, she....blah, blah, blah.....Oh, go on."

"I'm from Placerville--"

"Placerville? Oh, I know where that is. I drove through there to go to Lake Tahoe. I also have a friend who lives there. He used to live in Texas but now the Lord has called him over here because his wife's mother got sick so they moved out here to take care of her, then he started up a ministry and blah, blah, blah."

He did that with everyone. And people would talk back, encouraging him to get further off the subject. I was the very last person in the class to introduce myself.

**Wilma Roig** (continued from page 1)

"The cultural and artistic environment is another plus," adds Bill. "There are five or six universities in town plus a series of colleges, all focused in the cultural growth of the students. It will be easy for Wilmi to partake of the opportunity to complement her artistic inclinations alongside her studies in Architecture by taking advantage of the opportunities offered her by the University and the city. It will be like a continuation of her exposure to culture and art that she has had since birth."

In front of the School of Architecture - Carnegie Mellon University



**Why Architecture?**

For the last two years I have been thinking as to what I would like my future to be and which path should I take. I began evaluating my talents and interests and started to fit them like a puzzle in the right places. It so happened that like a coincidence and without ever thinking about it I realized that I had inherited most of my father's talents, a very creative person with a wonderful imagination as an architect and also as an artist and a writer.

I dived into the profession to find out more than what I had seen while growing at my father's side. I enjoyed every minute that I spent in his office or visiting his projects.

Architecture has become a part of me. Architecture is everywhere. It affects humans physically, emotionally, and psychologically. It is the ever changing environment that transforms societies and individuals. I want to participate in that process, to be instructed and receive all the tools to become a leader in helping to shape a new future for my fellow human beings. I thank God for all the talents given to me and find no better way to put them at the service of Humanity.

--Wilma E. Roig Torres

*The baby pictured on page 3 is my son, Ruben Alejandro Quiñones, at the age of 7 months. Ruben turned 27 on October 12<sup>th</sup>.*



"¿...y la familia?"

## Other Family News



Ken proposed to Vanessa at an Iowa Cubs baseball game.

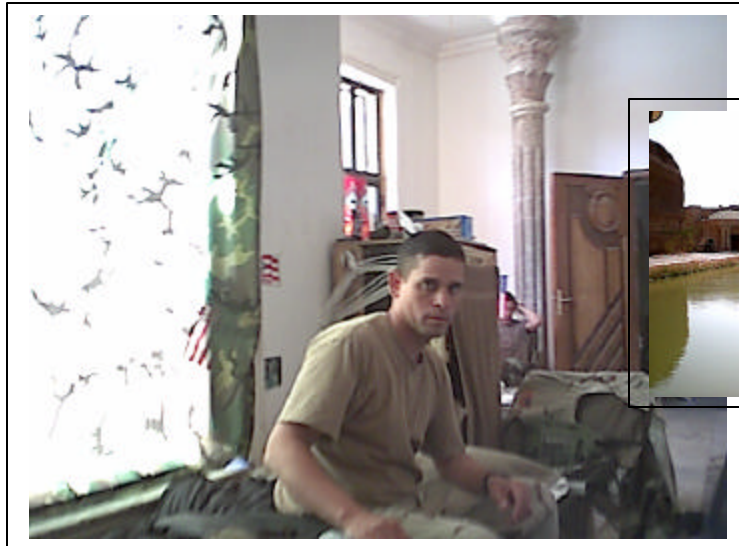
**Vanessa**, daughter of Cousin Meryem Merritt, sent these photos along with the exciting news that she got married on Father's Day, June 15, 2003! She met her husband, Kenneth Wayne Braddock III, at a job interview. "I didn't get the job...even better...I got a wonderful husband." Vanessa now has a stepson, Brandon, whom she describes as "the most well behaved 14 year old boy I have ever known!" Vanessa's own son, Austin (almost 9), is enjoying having an older brother to pick on and wrestle with. Ken stepped right up to the plate as Austin's new step-dad and treats him no different than he treats his own child, whom he has had full custody of and raised all by himself since he was born. Vanessa says that she is no longer working, due to her medical condition (MS), but that Ken is a wonderful provider for the whole family *and he cooks every meal*, "and the way he cooks, along with his presentation, it's like you are eating at a 5 star restaurant every night...I am so blessed!"

Ken and Vanessa are both born again believers and attend Faith Church of the Nazarene in Des Moines, where Ken serves as an usher and Vanessa is in charge of creating the weekly bulletin. They plan on being at the next family reunion, so we can all meet Ken there!

**Congratulations to the Braddocks!!**

## Your Prayers are Requested

*Please pray for the safety of **Roberto Cabán** (pictured below) in Iraq. He is due to return to the states in March or April '04. His wife, **Vicky Rivera**, needs prayer for various health issues, perhaps brought on or aggravated by the stress of having her husband in Iraq.*

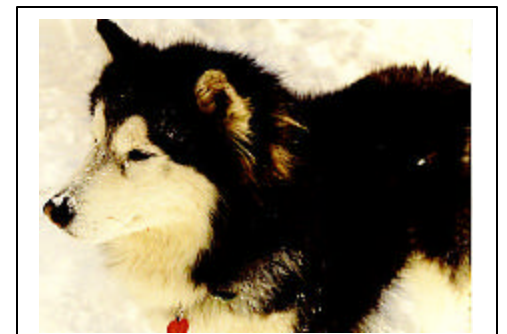


*My niece, **Marina Ramos**, was photographed with a little hedgehog while working in a tower in Kuwait. **Please continue praying for her safety.** Marina may be returning to the states by Christmas!*

*Above, the palace where Roberto is staying in Iraq. It may look fancy, but you know that there is no place like home. Keep praying for Roberto's safe return to the U.S.*

**The Stenroos family** is mourning the loss of their sixteen year old dog, Bandit. In doggie years he was 112! Bandit had long been suffering from arthritis, and he deteriorated to the point where he could no longer stand up.

In this picture Bandit, the "Love-Sponge," is enjoying the Colorado snow. Perhaps in Doggie Heaven he is now rolling around delightedly in pure white snow banks. He will be missed by all who knew him!





## “...y la familia?”

As is my custom in the October newsletter, I am printing the Rivera Family Directory that I use for the newsletter mailings in hopes that it will help you all with your Christmas card mailings. ☺

Michael & Angela Barnes	428 East H St.	Benicia, CA 94510
Ken & Vanessa Braddock	5019 Hawthorne Dr. #D	Des Moines, IA 50265
Roberto & Vicky Cabán	48653-1 Yano Court	Fort Hood, TX 76544
Jim & Kathleen Caffey	1760 Meadow Lane	Seward, NE 68434
Stan & Christina Darnell	28 Windsor Drive	Maumelle, AR 72113
Jackie Correa Rivera	169 Glen Meadow Road	Franklin, MA 02038
David & Michelle Fastenau	1035 Lupine Dr.	Sunnyvale, CA 94086
Bryan & Cheryl Finch	1424 Stetson Ave.	Modesto, CA 95350
Dave & Delia Finch	22 Golden Oak Way	Stockton, CA 95209
Kirstin Frosheiser	303 S. Columbia Ave	Seward, NE 68434
Ruben & Katherine García	2194 Greenbrier St.	Concord, CA 94520
Tom & Elaine Glimme	2568 Kevin Road	San Pablo, CA 94806
Oscar & Gladys González	33-47 96th St.	Corona, NY 11368
Oscar & Nellida González	8801 N. Brooks St.	Tampa, FL 33604
Rafael & Helen González	127 Standard Street	Mattapan, MA 02126
Kimm & Scott Hargraves	978 Dana Circle	Livermore, CA 94550
Leslie & Mark Hill	8517 NW 7th St. Apt. 401	Miami, FL 33126
Laurie Jimenez	P.O. Box 421	Crestone, CO 81131
Vickie Jimenez	1692 S. Vaughn St.	Aurora, CO 80012
Paul & Marlynn Krause	P.O. Box 10216	Conway, AR 72033
Scott & Stephanie Thompson	1234 Bluegrass Ln.	Menasha, WI 54952
Joanne McLaughlin	641 S.W. 4th Ave.	Boynton Beach, FL 33426
Sasha Lovelace	P.O. Box 421	Crestone, CO 81131
Rosa & Brian Meddaugh	1553 Chaucer Ct.	Deland, FL 32720
José Medina & Donna Bridges	4718 Palm Ave.	Des Moines, IA 50310
Jose & Tita Medina	9184 Beverly Ct.	Boynton Beach, FL 33437
Meryem Merritt	3900 S.W. 12th St.	Des Moines, IA 50306
Eric & Catherine Montalvo	3643 S.W. 20 <sup>th</sup> Ave. #603	Gainesville, FL 32601
Miriam Eileen Negrón	1770 9 <sup>th</sup> Ave. #11	San Francisco, CA 94122
Edie & Hartmut Neitzel	Manshardtstr 142	22119 Hamburg, Germany
Chris & Cindy Nicholson	271 Orchard Road	Orinda, CA 94563
David & Angela Nicholson	2667 Carnelian Circle	El Dorado Hills, CA 94762
George & Barbara Nicholson	3524 Ridgeview	El Dorado Hills, CA 95630
María Nicholson	2020-20th Ave.	San Francisco, CA 94116
Victoria Nicholson	2279 Hodgesferry Rd.	Seiverville, TN 3786
Mari Lillian Pérez	190A Leaning Tree Rd.	Lugoff, SC 29078
L.F. & Carol Pettit	639 St. Francis Blvd.	Daly City, CA 94015
Tory Pettit c/o Simpson College	CPO Box 503	Redding, CA 96003
Ruben & Lisa Quiñones	1748-8th Ave.	San Francisco, CA 94122
Jake & Sonia Rambo	9231 Elk Grove-Florin Rd #248	Elk Grove, CA 95624
Airman Ramos, Marina M. PSC3	386 ESFS/Raptor	APO AE 09855
Ken & Brenda Reinke	4852 Speak Lane	San Jose, CA 95118
Ted & Jenny Reinke	647 Baldwin Drive	Brentwood, CA 94513
Awilda Rivera	1824 Baughman Rd. Lot 4	Lugoff, SC 29078
Brook Nicole Rivera	271 Sharp Circle #4	Roseville, CA 95678
Carlos & Garnet Rivera	3760 W. Smokey Row Rd	Bargersville, IN 46707
Charice Ann Rivera	110 Country Club Rd.	New Britain, CN 06053
Ed & Chris Rivera	660 Hubart St.	Menlo Park, CA 94025
Edwin & Sheila Rivera	Ext. Valle Alto Calle 20 I-13	Ponce, PR 00731
Heriberto & Ada Rivera	Calle Fogos #89 Bo. Clausel,	Ponce, PR 00731
Inés & René Rivera Jr.	3540 Oakwood Dr.	Zephyrhills, FL 33543
Isidro Rivera	25 Trey Ct.	Carrollton, GA 30117
Nelson & Elizabeth Rivera	5111 Orchard Rd. #216	Pascagoula, MS 39581

## "¿...y la familia?"

Orlando & Donna Rivera  
Raúl Rivera Sevilla  
Raúl Jr. & Maritza Rivera  
René & Titi Rivera

Robert & Myrna Rivera  
Roberto & Carol Rivera  
Sastrería Texas (Julia)  
William & Evelyn Roig  
Wilma E. Roig., SMC 5978

Tom & Olga Smith  
Vic & Joi Stenroos  
Familia Vázquez Rivera  
Frankie & Amy Valentín  
Teena Warren  
Larry & Carol Wright

53 Buckhorn Drive  
Res. Tibes B18 #42  
8631 Wichita Pl.  
Urb. Bello Horizonte,  
1013 Calle Guarionex  
280 Cobalt Dr.  
334 Bankhead Hwy.  
Calle Virtud #1  
E-17 Calle Nueva  
Carnegie Mellon University  
5032 Forbes Ave.  
760 Kelly Ave.  
18905 East 47th St.  
Tibes Town House, Bl. 8, #43  
131 W. Cedarwood Cir.  
c/o Smith, 760 Kelly Ave.  
11 De Witt Pl.

Temple, GA 30179  
Ponce, P.R. 00731  
Orlando, FL 32827

Ponce, P.R. 00728  
Kissimmee, FL 34758  
Carrollton, GA 30117  
Ponce, P.R. 00731  
Guaynabo, PR 00657

Pittsburgh, PA 15289  
Martinez, CA 94553  
Denver, CO 80249  
Ponce, PR 00731  
Kissimmee, FL 34743  
Martinez, CA 94553  
Tequesta, FL 33469

# Relatives Respond

## From Cousin Joi:

Got Newsletter Monday! As usual, very nice. Your hard work and dedication has never faltered one bit! I'm hoping that one day I will be able to come out and hear Ruben in person. Hearing him play and sing at the family picnic in June was sweet. Got it on video at least....so we can hear him over and over again. As soon as there is a chance, we'll "order" his CD! Next thing we know, he'll be #1 and receiving an award on the Music Awards Show! Hey, it's okay to shoot for the moon!

## From Aunt Delia:

First of all, I want to let you know that we got the La Familia newsletter and enjoyed real well. The article about "JUAN BOBO" brought memories of my childhood. When I was on my second grade that was the first book I ever read. It had several stories about Juan Bobo. I still remember the pictures in the book of him. Some kids at school were called by that name by other kids and believe it or not, by teachers also, if the kids did not pay attention to the lessons and what the class was all about. Every time I read a story about Juan Bobo, I always felt sorry about his mishaps.

If you need anything written for the La Familia Newsletter, I can write something for you to publish if you want to. There is always some news floating around us all the time.

Thank you to Tia Tita and Tio José for their recent contribution to the newsletter! ☺