

# "...y la familia?"

Volume 8, Issue 3

Dec. '03/Jan. '04

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

## *Christina Krause and Stan Darnell* *September 27, 2003*



*Mr. & Mrs. Stan Darnell*

**Christina Krause**, daughter of Marlynn (Merritt) and Paul Krause of Conway, Arkansas, was married in a lovely, intimate ceremony to Mr. Stan Darnell. The wedding was held in Little Rock, and was officiated by the couple's friend and pastor of the River Market Church, Jon Shirley.

From the young couple from their church who sang and played guitar to the friends who served as photographer and caterers, the celebration of Stan and Christy's marriage was a wonderful symphony of caring hands. The mother of the bride commented, "It was incredibly uplifting for us to see so many friends and family working together to create these precious memories out of love for Christy and Stan. We are so blessed!"

Marlynn added, "I must say one of the memories that will stay with me forever is the one of Uncle Isidro, bless his precious heart, diving for the garter (despite his bad knees) and coming up with it! He showed those young guys a thing or two!"

For more pictures of the Krause-Darnell wedding, please turn to page 5. And for the complete account of the wedding, please read Marlynn's letter under Relatives Respond, on page 7. ♥

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# I Remember... by Delia Finch

This is a little story about our childhood years and the house where four of us out of eight brothers and sisters were born, and grew up in. I am including a drawing of the house after it was re-built back in 1941, shortly after our father, Florencio Rivera Maldonado past away.

Our house was re-built after Papi's death, and thanks to God for Papi's lottery ticket winning. Nery my oldest brother, and our step brother Gual, tackled the big job on their own.

Papi's produce shop, no longer needed, was torn down for the addition of two bedrooms, one for Tita and the other for Nery. Altogether there were three bedrooms, a livingroom, (I normally slept with Mami in the third one,) and a small space which Mami utilized as dining-room. Our whole kitchen was updated, more comfortable than the old one, and it's concrete floor made it easier to keep clean. A water faucet was installed at the right corner of it, to bring fresh running water to our house, but the water pressure was so low that only a very thin thread like, was all that reached our kitchen. It took forever to accumulate a very small supply of the precious liquid for our daily use. Tita and I, had to make countless trips to the public water faucet, to El Barrio de Mameyes, (where the best water pressure was available,) to fetch water in large cleaned lard, tin containers, which we carried back home balanced on our heads on rolled towels in the shape of donut like. It was not an easy job, and by the time we reached home, we had about half of a full container left, and that was, if we were lucky enough to not fall down going up the uneven steep and rough rocky hill that led to our house, in Loma Bonita. We always got soaked and wet from head to toe. The whole neighborhood went through the same!

Our house had a nice front porch with a balcony, where we spent most of our leisure time, either balancing on the banister, (in Spanish is called baranda del balcon), or just sitting on it watching everything that went on around the neighborhood, or checking out the handsome guys that went by. From the ceiling of the porch, hung a handmade model version of a yellow biplane that Nery had carved himself on his sparetime, out of wood. He did a beautiful job on it, and hung it up there, where it remained indefinitely till when Mami and I came back from a trip to San Francisco, in 1950, and someone had disposed of it without our consent. There were two doors on the front of the house, and at the end of the porch, a stair of about five steps was built of a brick color concrete, to exit or enter the house. To cover the studs where the house sat on at the front, our brothers utilized three nice looking wooden doors that were given to them, and nailed them in place, to make the house look more finished. The house was painted in a very light beige tone, with light brown trimming around the doors and windows. We became the envy of our neighbors. Although I remember that quite a few of the homes there were pretty nice looking, with the exception of four of them. Our house needed the fixing for a very long time!

In those days, nobody had sanitary bathrooms, unless you were a rich folk. A fancy letrine on the left side of our backyard, we did have, and to top it all, there was a beautiful enredadera de flores, (flowering ivy plant) that disguised it from the public eye.

Boy, oh boy! If you want to find antique treasures, that is where you will find many of them! There is an old fashioned pair of roller skates of mine that Mami disposed of, just because I broke a wrist trying to get away from a crazy old man that chased me down Tricoche St. after school one afternoon. You'll find in there, a large assortment of marbles of all kinds, small, medium and very large ones, called bolones. I was a champion at marble playing, and won many of the games. A lot of the kids that were losers, never wanted to part with their marbles. If they made a big deal about wanting them back, I just disposed of all of them down the letrine hole. I used to have socks full of them, so...socks and all went down into the letrine!

We used to collect celitos when we were in Junior High, and High School. My first boyfriend gave me new ones each day he and I walked to school together. I had a long chain completely packed with beautiful celitos, given to me by him. (Celitos were made of a special type marfil like substance, similar to what elephant tusks are made of). These were, miniature charms in the shapes of little animals and other figures of shiny assorted pastel colors. They were just beautiful, and very

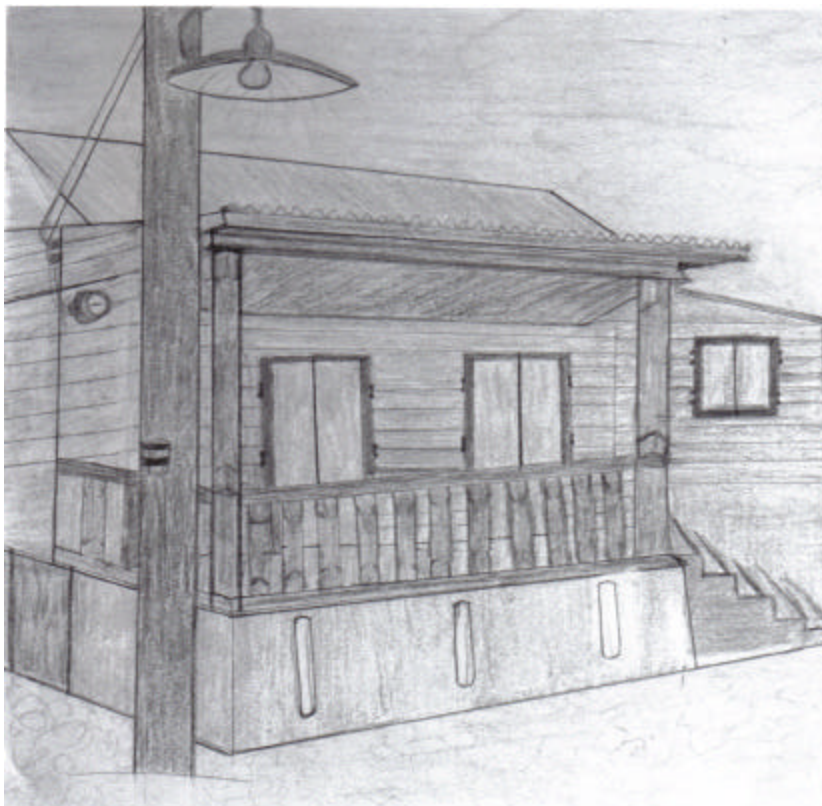
popular among students in Puerto Rico, back in 1947 and up. My chain went into the letrine also, on a day that Tita and I argued about who was to make her bed before going to school. I could not do it because I was late and there was a very long walk to make, to get to Juan Morell Campos Junior High. (I had slept with her that night because she was afraid of the dark. I always slept with all the little treasures I had gotten from my boyfriend, under my pillow every night, and then in the morning, I took them to school with me, but that day, I was in such a rush to get to my classes, and forgot them. Tita found them and rattled on me to Mami, and she threw them into the letrine also. I was so heart broken to have lost them that way, and nothing could be done about it. They meant a lot to me, and when I think about it, it saddens me still today!

You can find in there also, antique miniature medicine bottles of all kinds. They are pretty valuable today to collectors. In those days, that was the way in which people disposed of them safely. So...they thought!

Burried underneath our house, are the placentas and umbilical cords of each one of us kids born there. It was believed that if they were cut into pieces with scissors, several times, if it was a girl's, she would become a seamstress, and if it was a boy, it would be a tailor. Just a wives tale!

From the street lamp that you can see at the left side of our house, electricity was brought to our home. Before that, we did all our studying under hurricane lamp's light. It was very hard on our eyesight because of all the straining to be able to read and write. Mami made the living by doing fine needlework for a handmade blouse company, and having the real electric lights in the house was a big help and blessing for her and us all. We were able to help her with it too. She taught us both, Tita and I, to do that kind of work which required special skills. We have never forgotten how to do it, and are thankful, and proud, that she passed that trade to us too.

This is the story of our house, and I wanted to share it with all the family that did not know much about our home, and why it became so important to us as children, and adults. It was a home filled with parental love, and guidance, where good and bad times brought tears, enjoyment, and most of all, treasured memories to some of us. I hope you all enjoyed reading about it, as much as I have enjoyed writing it!



### *Our House*

*This is the house so well remembered.  
Back from our childhood years.  
Cradled each baby, with love so tender.  
Of loving parents watching us grow.*

*Each little corner preserves a memory.  
And deep in our hearts will always stay.  
Though far away we live today.  
All our memories remain the same.*

*We close our eyes, and re-live those days.  
Our Dad at work earning our bread.  
A loving Mother, keeping us fed.  
From time to time, none left for her.*

*Some tears of sadness, and some of Joy.  
Coosing our loved ones, hard times did come.  
But yet this house, so well remembered.  
It's still the treasure, we can't forget!*

*Drawing and Poem  
By  
Della Finch  
Written: Sept. 20, 2003*



# Family Christmas Party



1. The "Golden Girls" sporting their new Christmas vests.
2. Marlin Barnes, Luke & Tory Pettit, Olga & Norma
3. Joi and Olga's dog, Dee Dee
4. Kelly Sellwood & Tory Pettit
5. Olga and granddaughter, Alura
6. The party's over for Alura, but not for Dee Dee!



Guess Who This  
Baby Is?

The answer is found on page 7.



The  
Way  
We  
Were



Christmas, 1969, San Francisco  
Norma García with  
Vickie, Laurie and Edie Jimenez

At this time in our  
family history...

- Maria de Jesús García was born on Dec. 15, 1852. She was a sister of my great-grandmother, María Engracia García.
- My great-uncle Eugenio Cruz García was born on Dec. 15, 1884.
- Auntie Rosita, wife of our Uncle Isidro, passed away on Dec. 22, 2002. She was the mother of Carlos, Edward, Roberto and Orlando.
- Timothy Michael Warren, son of my sister Olga, was born on Dec. 26, 1974. He died at the age of 15 months.
- Juan M. García, a brother of Maria Engracia García, was born on Jan. 2, 1858.
- My father's uncle, Gilberto Cruz Maldonado, was born on Jan. 15, 1907.
- My great-great grandmother, Maria Vilá was born on Jan. 21, 1820. Her father was Pedro Vilá, the ancestor that came from Cataluña, Spain about 200 years ago.



**Group Photo:**

Isidro Rivera, Stephanie (Krause) Thompson, Paul Krause, Christina and Stan Darnell, Marlynn (Merritt) Krause, Kathleen (Merritt) Caffey, and Meryem Merritt.

**Below:**

Sisters Stephanie and Christy, with flower girl Haley, granddaughter of Kathleen Caffey.



**Above:**

The radiantly beautiful bride, Mrs. Christina Darnell.



**Above:**

Paul and Marlynn Krause, parents of the bride. Marlynn is the second daughter of Auntie Anita (Rivera) and Uncle Bob Merritt.

**Below:**

Uncle Isidro Rivera, proudly sporting the garter he captured, poses with Cousin Marlynn Krause. The Krause family was blessed by his presence at the wedding.





# Student News

**From the Roig household:** We talked to Wilmi last night. She had just gotten through her Studio revue and thought she did all right. She had called earlier and sounded a little nervous but I calmed her down and assured her that if I had done it, anybody could. She said "you are right". Anyway, first semester is always tough and the toughest part of it for her is to have to realize that it's not all "A's" anymore. But she is doing pretty good and is enthused with her studies, which is basic.

## **From the Pettit residence:**

My school, Simpson College, is a mission oriented school which prepares its students to be "missionaries" in whatever and wherever they are in life. I go to this school because I believe in their main focus, and I wanted it to be my main focus, too. Of course, a school with such a passion to serve others would have summer mission trips. Going to this school, I knew it was a possibility that I would join a mission team this summer, although I knew that I didn't have to...I realize that going on a mission trip is not the only way to spread God's Word. After a few weeks of school, I realized that I should go on a mission trip. I want to take every opportunity I have to send out His Word.

Even though I had agreed that going on a mission trip is what God wanted for me to do this summer, I didn't know where He wanted me to go. I was up for anything; I would go anywhere for Him. With prayer and advice, I applied for the Greece mission's team.

This summer, I plan to go to Greece. I am very excited about this trip, because for a long time I have been wanting to go on a mission trip to take the Word of God to those who haven't heard it. For me, it is nothing more than an act of obedience, because God calls all of His disciples to spread His Word. I want to take every opportunity I can to witness to others.

Being on the team is just another step towards my goal, and there are many more steps I must take before I go to Greece. In order for me to be on the team, prayer was required. My team leader prayed about whether or not it was the right thing for me to go on the trip. We had an interview, and I found out that she was from Placerville, too! A few days later, my team leader said that she had accepted me on the team, and I was so excited! She also told me that our team will be working at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens! Though I'm not sure what we will be doing, we will be doing it for God's glory. There will be many people from around the world there, and we will have the opportunity to talk to them.

This will be my second mission trip, but the first through any organization. As I said earlier, there are many more steps I have to take until my trip to Greece is certain. One of them is my finances, which will be about \$3000, roughly. I will be contributing as much as I can, but even with all my savings, it will not be more than a quarter paid. I am asking for your help, that maybe I can have more contributed to my funds. This trip is definitely requiring a lot of faith from me, because I believe I am going, which means I believe that I can raise the money to go, too.

This trip will not be for mere pleasure. In fact, I believe it is going to be one of the hardest things I will have to do. However, I know it's what God wants for me, and I will do all I can to obey Him. Please help make this trip possible. Also, money is not the only thing that will make my trip happen...prayer will, too! God bless you!

—Tory Pettit



**Emma Kathleen Thompson**  
Born Dec. 5, 2003 at 2:34 a.m.  
7 lbs., 12 oz. 20 - 1/2" long



## Other Family News

This newsletter is brimming with good news from the descendants of our **Auntie Anita Merritt**, who was the youngest child of Florencio Rivera and Ana Cruz Garcia. The young woman above is **Stephanie (Krause) Thompson**, oldest daughter of Paul and Marlynn Krause. She went into labor on December 4th, the same day that her dad had hip replacement surgery and gave birth early the next morning.

**Paul's** surgery went fine and he is now in physical therapy. Marlynn says that he received the Jack Nicholas hip, but not the "swing" that goes with it!

Meanwhile, Stephanie's cousin **Vanessa** and her new hubby, **Ken Braddock**, report that they are expecting a baby, due July 31st! **Congratulations!!**



# Relatives Respond

Dear Norma & family,

It is amazing to think that Christy & Stan's wedding was a month ago!

Like Stephanie & Scott, Christy & Stan were to be married in Little Rock, which is about 40 minutes south of Conway. When Stephanie & Scott got married things were complicated by an ice storm. With Christy & Stan it was road work on I-40. On some days there was a delay of upwards of 2 hours between Little Rock & Conway! We were going to have to haul a lot of stuff from home to set up the church so we were a bit concerned.

I started taking things & decorating on Wednesday. We weren't using a florist for anything more than bouquets etc. & the church was just a bare room so I basically stripped my dining room & garden. We even used the dining room rug!

We decided that staying in Little Rock in a motel would be the best way around the traffic issue and were very fortunate in that there was a nice motel just 1 block from the church.

Stephanie & Scott flew in from Wisconsin on Thursday. On Friday family on both sides began arriving. Meryem came in around noon & stopped by the church where we were trying to finish up the decorating. After she checked into the motel she came back to tell us that Uncle Isidro had been at the motel since 9 AM ( he had driven all the way from Carrollton, GA by himself!). Kathy, husband Jim and Hayli, their granddaughter & flower girl-to-be, were late getting in because Kathy's wallet had fallen out of her purse at the motel they had stayed at on their trip from Nebraska, so they had to go back & get it.

The girls ( Christy, Stephanie, Tuckie (bridesmaid) and Meryem) went out for manicures, pedicures and lunch. Meryem took this opportunity to impart "Meryem wisdom" (all who know her will understand). They had a giggling good time.

The rehearsal was a time to meet & try to remember who was whom. Stan's mom, stepdad, aunts & cousins were here

from northern Arkansas, and his dad & stepmother from Fort Levanworth, Kansas.

The rehearsal dinner, hosted by Stan's family, was held at Corky's Barbeque (a southern staple). Uncle Isidro was seated with 3 young ladies. I'm guessing he had a good time because there was a lot of laughing going on - Uncle Isidro has a real storehouse Of jokes!

After dinner there was a small lingerie shower for Christy in our motel room. For some reason Paul decided to brave the highway & go back to Conway--Hmmm.

Saturday morning was beautiful. After visiting at breakfast Kathy, Meryem, Uncle Isidro & I drove to Conway to pick up the cakes and the flowers. I made both the Wedding and Grooms cake this time. Back at the church a very dear friend had volunteered to make floral arrangements for the tables & the buffet. She does just magical things with stuff from her garden. Kathy & my friend, Judy, put on the finishing touches, Carolyn & Jack, Paul's sister & brother-in-law arrived

--We Were Ready!

The ceremony was lovely & intimate. Jon Shirley, Christy & Stan's friend & pastor of the River Market Church officiated. Having never seen Stan in anything but jeans Jon's one piece of marital advice to Stan was "BUY the tux!" A young couple from their church sang & played guitar. A girl-friend of Christy's who is an aspiring photographer took the pictures. A friend that Christy worked with provided the food for the reception. Paul produced a video of the couple from childhood to adults. Scott taped the service & reception. It was incredibly uplifting for us to see so many friends & family working together to create these precious memories out of love for Christy & Stan. We are so blessed!

Christy & Stan went on a cruise to the Bahamas and now are at home at 28 Windsor DR., Maumelle, AR 72113.

A Blessed & peaceful Christmas & New Year *a toda la familia!*  
—Marlynn Krause

Thanksgiving! I thank God that it's over! I'm still repeating the *pavo relleno con mofongo* with tons of garlic. Had the Pilgrims offered the Indians anything like what we had here for Thanksgiving, they would have probably thought that it was the "Revenge of the Gods". One thing about Thanksgiving...it happens only once a year. The only thing left to do now is try and see how to burn all the calories. I have "transfats" written all over my face.

—Cousin Bill Roig, Guaynabo, P.R.

As has been my custom during the past few years, I am including a "Christmas Card" to you with this newsletter, in lieu of mailing them out individually.

**Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 2004 Family Reunion—JULY 23-25. It will be in Lugoff, South Carolina. Look for more info in the next issue!**



*Wishing you and yours all the blessings of Christmas, with our prayers for good health and abundant happiness in the New Year.*

*With all our love,  
Randy, Norma,  
and family*

**Thank you to Uncle Isidro and cousins Carol, Joi, and Kathy for their recent contributions to the newsletter. God bless you!**

The baby pictured on page 4 is my husband, Randy Pettit, at birth.

“ ) ...y la familia? ”

c/o Norma I. Pettit  
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## Birthday Greetings

**Christopher Nicholson**  
(34) - Dec. 4

**Yanelis Alisha González**  
(3) - Dec. 9

**William A. González**  
(11) - Dec. 14

**Ryan Rivera** (24) - Dec. 17

**Jonathan F. Segarra** (6) -  
Dec. 17

**Raúl Rivera** (62) - Dec. 20

**Kelsey Pombo** (14) -  
Dec. 21

**Arlene González** (22) -  
Dec. 22

**Cama Klene** (36) -  
Dec. 25

**Michelle Harrell** (37) -  
Dec. 30

**Vanessa Braddock** (31) -  
Dec. 31

**Oscar González** (44) -  
Jan. 1

**Ada (Pacheco) Rivera** (49) -  
Jan. 10

**Marlin R. Barnes** (8) -  
Jan. 10

**Edward Rivera** (55) -  
Jan. 11

**Bélgica González** (24) -  
Jan. 13

**David Nicholson** (39) -  
Jan. 18

**Sylvia (Atilas) Lovelace**  
(66) - Jan. 18

**Amber Nicholson** (8) -  
Jan. 24

**William Roig** (71) -  
Jan. 31

## A nniversaries

**Ada (Pacheco) and  
Heriberto Rivera** (25) -  
Dec. 10

**Felí cita (Soto) and  
Edwin Rivera** (20) -  
Dec. 24

**Joi (De Nardo) and  
Vic Stenroos** (23) -  
Dec. 26

**Lisa (Wilson) and  
Ruben Quiñones** (3) -  
Jan. 6

**Stephanie (Krause)  
and Scott Thompson**  
(3) -  
Jan 6

**Helen (Correa) and  
Rafael González** (12) -