

"...y la familia?"

Volume 8, Issue 5

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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

Move's Demo Release Party

Ruben Quiñones (my son) has been working on starting up a band, and the new group, *Move*, had their demo release party on March 27th. My sister, Olga, my niece, Angela, and my two youngest children, Vickie and Luke, were able to attend the exciting event.

Move treated an appreciative audience to a free concert, snacks, and all the free demo CDs we wanted to take. The event was held at the Old Firehouse at 52 Waller St. in

San Francisco and was very well attended.

Information on the band's website reads, "MOVE consistently rocks as much as it, well, moves. The band builds on the raw sincerity of solo-acoustic songwriting to create tunes with depth, energy, and even humor. Comparisons to Ben Harper or John Mayer seem inevitable, but MOVE provides a fresh take on the genre. It isn't uncommon to hear a beautifully lulling love song like "Absence" come right

on the heels of a heavy-metal-esque rocker like "Tragedy," nor is it unusual to hear a joke inserted in the midst of what might seem like a serious song. But as a whole, MOVE's music makes perfect sense. MOVE is (from left to right) Phil Metting Van Rijn (bass), Ruben Quiñones (guitar and vocals), Kenny Oyedeji (keys and vocals), Adam Burkett (hand percussion), and Nate Stein (drums)"

For more information on the group, visit their web page at www.movemusic.net.



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I Remember...By Bill Roig

Today is a very special Friday. As usual, today is a day that I reserve, not so much for deep meditation, but for quiet remembrance of its deep meaning.

I remember way back in Abra Honda, a remote chunk of Camuy, where I spent the first years of my life, how things were on Holy Friday. We were a bunch of restless kids. There must have been about 20 of us between brothers, first cousins, second cousins, third cousins, and every other neighboring child. This was right after the Second World War and Uncle Maso took to calling us "the Atomic Bunch" because we couldn't stay put for even a second. If you saw "Jurassic Park" and saw the scene of the stampeding velociraptors, that's what we all looked like running up and down looking for trouble. You should have seen Heyte, my 3 and a half -year old nephew throwing stones at *tía* Sofia's chickens!

The Holy Friday tradition in Abra Honda was shrouded in a lot of superstition with a sprinkling of tradition. You couldn't eat red meat all Easter Week. There were church activities every evening at the "*Capilla de Piedra*", the stone chapel that had been built by volunteer labor way back in the turn of the century. Everybody would dress real nice for the Holy Friday ceremony and you could tell that it was a big sacrifice to don these gleaming, freshly ironed stiff-cuffed garments for all the squirming and scratching that went on during the service.

Tías Mercedes and Sofia, my father's sisters that never married, and apparently spent all of their lives looking for ways to dampen all that stored energy, were always forbidding us from doing things that came naturally to us children, like hanging the cat from the highest limb of the mango tree, or expecting us to check for tadpoles every time we got a can full of water from the well before we drank it. They always took advantage of the special occasion to be even more forbidding. Forty days before Easter they would start admonishing the "Atomic Bunch" as to what was expected of us during Holy Week taking extra pains to warn us of what was waiting for anybody that wouldn't behave during the most Holy of Weeks. "Never run, always walk slowly and look like you are really sorry, or you will get polio.." Never laugh, no matter how funny it might seem to you to see the poor cat dangling from the mango tree, or you will get lockjaw..." " Don't dare go swimming in the cows drinking tub or the water will turn to blood and your blood will turn to water..." All this sounds preposterous now, but one thing our tiny brains took for granted then was that *tías* Mercedes and Sofia must have known what they were talking about, being so much older than Heyte. My nephew Heyte was probably the smartest of us all, he learned to read and write at the age of three and at 3 and a half he had already read "*El Pájaro Azul*", ("The Blue Bird") a classic of Spanish literature that I came to read in Jr. High School, years after we had moved from Abra Honda, so we all looked up to him as a role model and also for his incredible aim at knocking out *tía* Sofia's chickens with only one stone throw. Intelligent as he was, he never really believed what our *tías* kept telling us, to the point that one night he decided to go swimming in the cows drinking tub during Lent because, as he put it minutes after resuscitation, the most unbelievable thing to him was this bit about the water turning to blood. He was so intent in proving the *tías* wrong that he forgot everything about not knowing how to swim, with the expected results. He later explained that had the *tías* mentioned drowning as the punishment for going swimming during Holy Week, they would have saved him the trouble.

Aside from Heyte's challenge to tradition, we all were scared to death of the consequences of not being adequately reverent during Holy Week so for a whole 7 days and a few days after Abra Honda became a quiet, reverent place, The "Atomic Bunch temporarily disbanded, devoid of any meaningful purpose for the time being. Everybody attended the special events celebrated at the "*Capilla de Piedra*" donning their best starched garments, singing and praising, squirming and scratching.

At this time in our family history.....

- *María Inés Vilá and Marcelino de la Cruz were married on April 13, 1842. They were my dad's paternal great-grandparents.*
- *April 20th would have been Auntie Rosita's 84th birthday. She was the wife of Isidro Rivera and the mother of Carlos, Edward, Roberto and Orlando.*
- *On April 22, 1946, my parents, (Oscar and Ana) were married in San Francisco.*
- *Florencio Rivera (Tio Guar) died on April 22, 1986.*
- *April 23rd makes 9 years since my father 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, María Engracia García.*

The Way We Were



Guess Who This Baby Is?

The answer is found on page 7.

← The picture at left is of my mother, Ana García, on Easter, 1968



Cousin Rosa Honored

Cousin Rosa Meddaugh was recently honored with a very special award and recognition for her hard work in her Florida community. Thank you to Tía Tita for submitting a copy of the newspaper article, which I am quoting here.

Multi-tasker Meddaugh now wears Historian of Year hat

DELAND—Rosa Meddaugh wears a lot of hats—all of them vintage fashions, of course—and for that reason, she was crowned Historian of the Year for the West Volusia Historical Society.

The honor was awarded to the one-woman dynamo, a vintage clothing collector, museum curator and history buff, at the society's annual banquet last week. Although Meddaugh chaired the Jan. 20 event, she was caught off guard. The award is traditionally kept secret, even from the chairman, until it is announced at the banquet.

"It was just a complete shock," Meddaugh said in a telephone interview from her DeLand home. "I was just thrilled!"

But, to those who work with her, Meddaugh's honor, given at the DeBary Golf and Country Club, comes as no surprise.

"She's just a wonder, I'll tell you," said her coworker, Rita Gillis. "She represents us well."

Meddaugh has parlayed her passion for collecting antique clothing into a career of bringing history alive, up close and personal.

"I feel vintage clothing comes as close to living in that time as you can get," she said. "I've always loved history."

Last April, Meddaugh put together "SomeWear in Time: Vintage Clothing and Accessories from 1860 to 1960," an exhibition of antique clothing at DeBary Hall. It proved so popular that it was extended several weeks. Proceeds from admissions helped raise money for the building's ongoing maintenance and restoration efforts.

"Her efforts were greatly appreciated and it was a wonderful program," said Peg McAllister, who was president of DeBary Hall during the exhibition. "Rosa was very supportive toward our group. She's totally committed and she put a lot of energy and time into this. She's phenomenal."

McAllister said she was impressed by Meddaugh's vast knowledge of history, especially about historical clothing.

"I do a lot of research on all my clothes so I know what's going on in that time period," Meddaugh said.

She is already planning another clothing exhibition for the Christmas season. It is scheduled for Dec. 4 and 5 at the Athens Theatre.

Meddaugh often dresses up in her vintage fashions, becoming a World War II-era jitterbug queen at the annual DeLand Naval Air Station Hangar Dance, or Helen DeLand during the Lake Helen Founder's Day activities. She plans to wear an outfit from the 1920's to the Athens event.

Meddaugh exhibited an authentic Red Cross nurse's uniform from World War II at the DeLand Memorial Museum. She and her husband Brian contributed to the nationwide Veterans History Project, interviewing World War II veterans and videotaping their oral histories.

Bill Dreggors, executive director of the West Volusia Historical Society, likens Meddaugh to the bunny who keeps going, and going, and going in the battery

"She is a driving force behind this project," he said. "She is a bundle of energy. She and her husband Brian do a lot for us. I think she'd do anything almost for us. She even set up the tea room for our gingerbread festival last Christmas."

Meddaugh also became the curator of the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum in 2003. There, she reorganized the interior displays, ranging from World War II uniforms to combat equipment. She also edited the DNAS newsletter and chaired the hangar dance committee.

That's not all. Meddaugh edits the West Volusia Historical Society's newsletter, taught a scrapbook class, and produces the historical videos and DVDs. Her most recent projects were videos detailing the histories of Lake Helen and Seville. She and Dreggors have completed seven videos and plan about 15 more.

"All I do is talk—and she does the rest," Dreggors said.

Meddaugh also does video editing and is transferring videos from VHS format to DVD for the society.

"She's also a computer whiz," Gillis said. "She never says no to anything we need from her. And everything she ever does is perfect."

Below: Rosa Meddaugh poses with some of her vintage clothing collection before last year's exhibit at DeBary Hall. She is planning another antique clothing exhibit in December at the his-



Mexico Mission Trip



Norma Pettit (me!) went on a mission trip to Mexico during Easter week with seven others. Five of us were from my church, Christian Life Center, and three were from Bethu Shua Mesianic Jewish Temple in Sacramento. It was an awesome experience. This was my second mission trip to Rancho de Sus Niños in Tijuana, Mexico, but the first time for all the others.



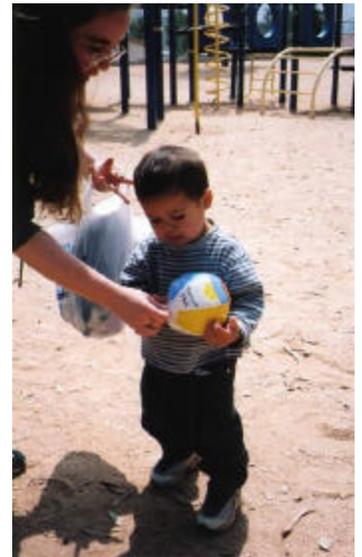
After a two day "Vacation Bible School" that we held for the orphans, we gave out prizes. Little Madai (above) was in love with her Raggedy Ann and her bear. Little Manuel (right) was enthralled with his "Jesus Loves You" beach ball.



These are some of the 50 or so children that live at Rancho de Sus Niños. They range in age from 1 to 18 years of age. Some of them remembered me from the last time that I went there.

As a group, we agreed that the biggest blessing was going into the impoverished area of Tecate and participating in a church service at one of the 16 churches that Rancho de Sus Niños has

planted in the Tijuana-Tecate area. The children there were so eager to color, do crafts, and listen to Bible stories. Many of these children do not attend school and do not know how to read or write. The bottom two photos are from this church, El Buen Pastor.



Student News

Luke R. Pettit, son of Randy and Norma Pettit, has completed all of the requirements for high school graduation through Horizon Charter Schools and is scheduled to receive his diploma in a graduation ceremony held at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium on May 23rd.

Photos and an article on the graduation will appear in the next issue, God willing.

Michelle Cabán, daughter of Robert and Vicky (Rivera) Cabán is celebrating her *quinceañera* on April 17th.

Michelle's 15th birthday was on November 17, 2003, but she chose to postpone the big celebration until her father returned from Iraq.

I am counting on Michelle's mother, Vicky, (daughter of Cousins René and Carmen), to send me photos and details about the *quinceañera* for the next issue of "*¿...y la familia?*"

Tory Pettit is going on a mission trip to Greece this June with a team from her school, Simpson College. Please pray for her safety and the safety of all who are going, and that they may touch lives in Greece in a positive way.

If you would like to contribute to her trip, the address is Simpson College, 2211 College View Drive Redding, CA 96003

Please indicate that the contribution is for GRE04TP.

Thank you and God bless you!

Other Family News

Our prayers have been answered! The Cabán family has been reunited upon the safe return of **Roberto Cabán** from Iraq.

Congratulations to Roberto and **our heartfelt thanks and admiration** for all that he has done for our country. We are all so very proud of you!!



...to a new little corner of the world!

NAME MR + MRS David L. Finch

NEW ADDRESS 1106 Oakleaf Way

Stockton, CA 95209

PHONE 1-(209) 478-1730 (same phone no.)

Hidden Easter Egg

I trust that all of you had a wonderful Easter. I'm a little late getting this issue out, and Easter has already passed, but I have hidden an Easter egg somewhere in this issue anyway.

Can you find it?

Family Reunion Plans

Where: In Lugoff, South Carolina

Part of the time it will be at the home of
Cousin Mari Lillian Pérez and her family—

190A Leaning Tree Road
Lugoff, South Carolina
Phone #: (803) 438-4214

And the rest of the time it will be at the home of Awilda Rivera (Mari
Lillian's sister) and her family—

1824 Baughman Rd. Lot 4
Lugoff, South Carolina

Both sisters live near each other in double wide mobile homes
surrounded by lots of property. There is room to stay in their
homes (your spot reserved on a first come, first serve basis),
or you can reserve a room at a nearby motel.

In the last newsletter I gave the phone numbers for
two motels in the Lugoff area, but cousin Mari Lillian said
they are not the best choices (not such a good area and kind
of dumpy). Her son, Frankie Valentin, reserved a block of
ten motel rooms in the **Holiday Inn Express**, a much nicer
and newer place that is also closer to Mari Lillian's house.

To reserve one of these rooms in your family name,
call 1-803-419-3558, ext. 7324 and speak to Mary, the Sales
Manager. The rooms are blocked in the name of *Rivera
Family Reunion*.

The Stenroos and the Pettit families already made
their reservations there. Call soon to reserve your space!



When: July 24 & 25, 2004

Personally, my family is flying out of
Sacramento on Thursday evening and a
riving in South Carolina on Friday
morning. We wanted to have an extra
day to visit with Mari and Awilda and
their families, and to be there to greet all
the rest of you as you arrive. We al-
ready made our reservations on Delta
Airlines.

Make your reservations early!!!

*Heads up! Mari Lillian and Awilda
are planning a Hawaiian theme for
the big Saturday night fiesta
(or should I say luau?).*

*So dig out those Hawaiian shirts/
dresses from the back of the closet!*



This reunion is going
to be **awesome!**
It is going to be a
wonderful opportunity to
meet new relatives and
reconnect with
family we haven't
seen in a long time.

Relatives ^{don't} Respond anymore

I thought for sure that I would hear from my brother, **Ruben García**, after printing his hilarious letter that he sent me 31 years ago. Since I didn't hear from him, I guess I should assume one of two things: either he doesn't read the newsletters I send him or else he isn't talking to me anymore after I quoted him as writing "neato-beato" in his letter. (*Snicker!*)

A while back I did hear from **Cousin René**. He sent me some updated addresses that I'd like to share with the rest of you. These are the addresses of René and Carmen's three grown children.

Rene Jr. & Mary Rivera
5136 Studio Dr.
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

Vicky & Robert Caban
3706 Stallion Dr.
Killeen TX. 76549

Nelson & Ely Rivera
818 Wilner Circle
Sanford FL. 32771

DAILY EXERCISE PROGRAM

The doctor told me, I should start an exercise program.

Not wanting to harm this old body, I've devised the following:

Monday

Beat around the bush
Jump to conclusions
Climb the walls
Wade through the morning paper

Tuesday

Drag my heels
Push my luck
Make mountains out of mole hills
Hit the nail on the head

Wednesday

Bend over backwards
Jump on the Band Wagon
Run around in circles

Thursday

Advise the President on how to run the country
Toot my own horn
Pull out all the stops
Add fuel to the fire

Friday

Open a can of worms
Put my foot in my mouth
Start the ball rolling
Go over the edge

Saturday

Pick up the pieces!!

Sunday

**Kneel in prayer
Bow my head in thanksgiving
Uplift my hands in praise
Hug someone and encourage them.**

Whew! What a workout!

It's enough to tire one out for a long time!!

I try to use Sundays' schedule each day of the week...

This was sent to me in an e-mail by Cousin Joi. 😊

A View of...

Our backyard mess. We are finally starting to do some landscaping in our backyard. Randy has built a fence and laid underground sprinklers. Now he is starting on a gazebo (not shown in this photo). I'll update you on our progress from time to time!



The baby pictured on page 4 is **Christopher Nicholson**, younger son of George and Barbara Nicholson.

Thank you to Tía Tita and Tío José for their recent contribution to the newsletter. I appreciate it so much!!

"¿...y la familia?"

C/o Norma I. Pettit
2426 Meadow Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
Phone: (530) 642-8960
E-Mail: mamanony@juno.com

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

Birthday Greetings

Michael Barnes (41) - April 1

Dustin Cavino (13) - April 4

Wilma E. Roig (19) - April 6

Marlynn (Merritt) Krause (56) - April 6

Tiana J. Rivera (10) - April 6

Ana V. Pettit (19) - April 8

María Nicholson (92) - April 9

Edwin Rivera (32) - April 10

Rocky Pettit (79) - April 12

Tom Smith (66) - April 13

Carly Díaz (19) - April 14

Vic Stenroos (56) - April 22

George Rivera (31) - April 29

Haley Frosheiser (8) - April 26

Nicholas Rivera (14) - May 5

Ryan Reinke (8) - May 12

Helen Correa-González (42) - May 12

Ted Reinke (67) - May 13

Roberto I. Rivera (53) - May 13

Alexis Valentín (19) - May 17

Raymond L. Cavino (5) - May 25

George Nicholson (59) - May 27

Lucas R. Pettit (18) - May 29

Stephanie (Krause) Thompson (28) - May 29



Anniversaries



Carol Lee and Roberto I. Rivera (17) April 26

Cathy (Rivera) and Eric J. Montalvo (7) May 24

Marlynn (Merritt) and Paul Krause (34) May 30

If you know of anyone in the family who is not receiving the newsletter, please send me their address.

Please let me know if I omitted your birthday or anniversary.