

"...y la familia?"

Volume 12, Issue 1

Aug/Sept '07

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

2007 Rivera Family Reunion Des Moines, Iowa



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Pre-Reunion Fun



Joi and I both arrived in Des Moines on June 19th, which was Meryem's birthday. The next day was my birthday. Joi had presents for both of us, and then we spent several hours on Wednesday at Valley Junction.



We loved browsing through the antique and gift shops in Valley Junction. There was even an old-time soda fountain where Meryem enjoyed a root beer float and Joi and I had sundaes. Yum!

Other pre-reunion fun included preparing our quilt squares and setting up the pool.



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Friday, June 22nd

Well, some people blamed the stormy weather on me because I had been wearing my "Toto, we're now

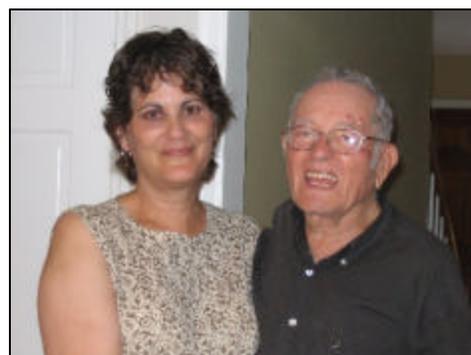
In Iowa" t-shirt that I had bought the last time I was in Iowa, in 1998. At that time there had been a violent storm and tornado warnings. This time, too, there were tornado warnings in areas just 15 miles from Des Moines. The wild weather took its toll on Meryem's property, taking down the tree in her front yard (it landed on Uncle Isidro's car, but thankfully no damage was done!) and snapped her patio umbrella in half after scooting the entire patio set across the patio in one whoosh. The lightning was flashing every few seconds and the thunder booms started our reunion off with a bang. The weather delayed my nieces that were driving up from Oklahoma, and they arrived in town too late to join us. Uncle Dave and Aunt Delia also stayed put at Lisa's house, but after things settled down, the rest of us enjoyed food and fellowship.



Meryem's one tree—gone!



Meryem and Orlando worked in the rain.



Uncle Isidro comes to every reunion.



Let's dig in!



Vanessa, Kirsten, Kathy, and Marlynn



First Cousins



David and Michelle were staying less than a mile away, with David's parents.



Father and son got the music going.



Meryem and Joi enjoy a leisurely chat.

Saturday, June 23rd

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Early Saturday morning, Marlynn, Meryem, Joi and I went to the huge West Des Moines flea market, where we browsed delightedly and even found a few treasures. (Pictures 1-4) At noontime we found ourselves at Ken and Vanessa's house, where the family was beginning to converge. My nieces arrived and it was a real joy for me to see all four of Olga's girls together, their combined presence representing my dear sister. Teena's two youngest boys, Raymie and Robert, met new little cousins and had a blast in the Braddock's back yard.

Uncle Dave and Aunt Delia, absent from Friday night's gathering, arrived with their photography equipment, as usual. They looked great!

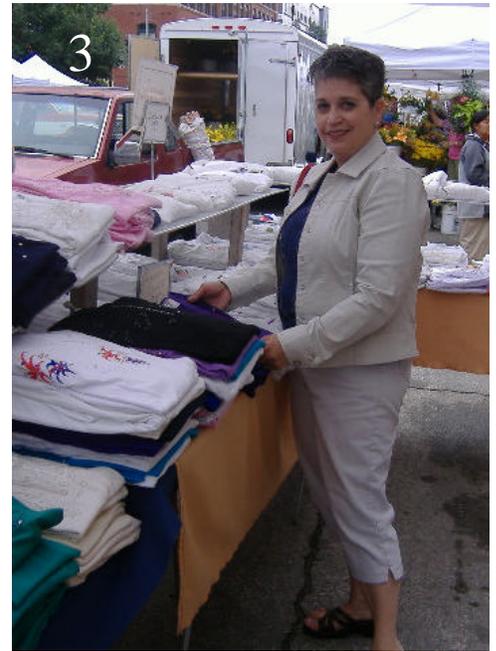
Ken prepared a fabulously lavish barbecue lunch that totally satisfied our appetites. These people know how to feed a crowd!



Ken and Vanessa



"I love kettle corn!"



Left: Robbie (6), son of Erika Frosheiser, plays with new friend, Raymie Cavino (Teena's son, 8).
Below: Don't my nieces look great? Teena tells me that she absolutely loves her new home in Oklahoma. Her property is right on the lake and her boys go swimming every day.



Delia

Isidro

They have the same smile!



All four of Olga's lovely daughters - Michelle, Angie, Marina, and Teena ➡



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Saturday evening, the party continued at Meryem's house with more music and food. Aunt Delia and Uncle Dave arrived with Lisa and Scott, bringing *arroz con gandules*, *habichuelas guisadas*, and *pasteles* to add to all the other goodies that Meryem had. Mmmmm! Aunt Delia's cooking was out of this world.

The reunion quilt is starting to take shape, with contributions from the following families: Stenroos, Merritt, Krause, Caffey, Thompson, Darnell, Frosheiser, and Pettit. A section of the quilt is shown at far right. There is still time for you to submit your quilt square. Remember, if you can't sew, you can always make a transfer of a favorite picture and iron it onto a 9" x 9" muslin square. I made one such square in memory of Olga (right). Send your quilt square to Meryem Merritt at the following address:





*The newlyweds:
Erika and James*



“¿...y la familia?”

Sunday, June 24th

Once again we convened at the Braddock’s home to enjoy a breakfast buffet that was a veritable feast.

Pictures on this page show Ken and Vanessa’s children, Anita (aka Thing 1) and Logan (aka Thing 2). Continuing clockwise, the pictures are of the Merritt girls (Marlynn Krause, Kathy Caffey, and Meryem Merritt); Meryem and her daughter, Vanessa; Norma Pettit, Joi Stenroos, and Ruben Quiñones; Kathy and Jim Caffey and their granddaughter, Hayli; and Kallie, Hayli, and Kate. Kallie and Kate are James Frosheiser’s new stepdaughters. I hope I spelled everyone’s name correctly—forgive me if I didn’t!

All in all, it was a wonderful reunion, and space doesn’t allow me to publish all the pictures or write about everything that happened, but I hope you have enjoyed reading about the highlights of this year’s Rivera Family Reunion.



Student News

Ryan—high school grad



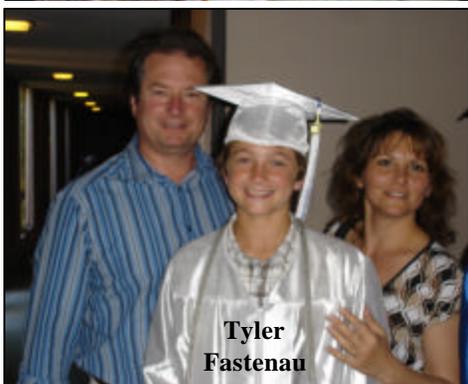
Michelle and David Fastenau had a busy end to the past school year with three of their children graduating! Michelle’s son, Christopher Burch, actually had two graduations—one from the Mission Middle College Program and one from Wilcox High School. Michelle says, “We are so very proud of Christopher, who he is, what he’s like and how he’s done.”



Ryan Fastenau’s graduation was a weekend affair that ended with the grad ceremony on Sunday, June 3rd and lunch following. Michelle added that unfortunately they don’t see Ryan much, so looking at this picture made her cry as she was prepping it to send to me.

David’s younger son, Tyler, graduated from 8th grade on May 31st. Michelle writes, “You just wouldn’t recognize Tyler. He’s growing into such a fine young man!”

Right: Craig and Christopher Burch with Michelle and David.



**Tyler
Fastenau**



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20th Avenue Reunion... by Barbara Nicholson

This photo was taken at Great Grandmother's (aka Maria) home in San Francisco on June 2nd at a reunion of the "kids on the block". She is seated in the middle and George is standing behind her. These people, and several others not shown, all lived on 20th Avenue at one time. Most had not seen one another for 40 years or more! Despite that huge passage of time, everyone got along so well that future get-togethers are planned. The original plan was to have a potluck lunch at a nearby park but it was a typical summer day in San Francisco - a cold misty foggy day. Grandmother graciously invited everyone in and we had an indoor picnic. She really enjoyed seeing everyone and seemed to remember all of these friends from long ago. After spending over 6 months in her home in Brentwood, Calif (across the street from daughter, Jenny), Grandmother decided that she really needed to return to her home of 50 years in San Francisco. We have arranged for her to have home care and visits. One of the neighbors who helped plan the reunion visits Grandmother regularly. Her mother is in her late 80s. She thought it would be nice to have a reunion that would honor the two parents still living from all those years ago.



Grandmother would really love to hear from family members. At 95 she is remarkably clear headed but can't run to the phone like in the old days. We recommend that you clearly identify yourself when phoning. The answering machine will often pick up before she can get to the phone. In that case, you'll want to say, for example, "Pick up the phone, Auntie, it's Norma". Her number is 415 -664-1685.

Relatives Write

Oh, the Newsletter did come yesterday. It was WONDERFUL! And, you are a little sneak for throwing in that picture of Meryem and I. Waaaayyyy too funny! Typical of Meryem to make a funny face over the birthday cake. She always was a joker...still is. Loved reading your "memory" of us growing up together. Remember when we drove out to Des Moines in Uncle's new car....with the plastic on the seats. It was so hot that we were sweating so much it looked like we wet our shorts? We were too embarrassed to get out of the car, but had to....to go to the bathroom. We were laughing so hard...we were running to the bathroom to go pee, tho our shorts look like we already had! :-D —Joi

I have heard you talk about the trip to Des Moines, but I wasn't in the car with you and Meryem. I wasn't invited to go back to Iowa, only you (no room for me in the car, I guess), and I am still pouting about it. So, reverting to the mentality of a 14-year-old, I say, "**Ha ha! I hope people really did think you peed your pants!!**" —Norma (still green with envy)

Oh, Eric even commented about the photo you put in the newsletter of Meryem and I. He said it's so funny! Told him that maybe Meryem and I can "re-create" that scene in Des Moines. Wouldn't that be funny, huh? 40 years later! Or, how about the one of the three of us taken on your birthday...think that was the same day, wasn't it? That'd be a great pic. :-D Eric also says that he appreciates your articles that you write about us. He laughs 'cuz he reads stories that I've never told him about, and, again, loves the pictures. Donna was so surprised to see me with long and "red" hair! —Joi

NEXT YEAR'S RIVERA FAMILY REUNION will be in Placerville, California, at the home of Randy and Norma Pettit. Please start making your arrangements to attend this reunion—We are already making plans to make it a fabulous one for everyone. Please note that we are sticking to the same weekend in June as we have done for the past few years, so for next year the dates are **June 20th to the 22nd.**

Thank you to Cousin Josy for his faithful support of the newsletter. You are appreciated!

"¿...y la familia?"

c/o Norma I. Pettit
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Phone: (530) 642-8960
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Visit us on the Web at www.ylafamilia.org.

Birthday Greetings

Anita C. Braddock (3) - Aug. 3	Héctor Burgos (41) - Aug. 24
Christian Rivera Rosa (15) - Aug. 3	Angelica Stickles (21) - Aug. 26
Brian Pineda (31) - Aug. 3	Frankie Valentin (26) - Aug. 26
Chet Kline (41) - Aug. 6	Hector González (45) - Aug. 26
Michael García (15) - Aug. 8	Yuly (García) Springer (35) - Aug. 26
Timothy Teal Barnes (16) - Aug. 9	Evelyn Roig (63) - Aug. 28
Leandro González (13) - Aug. 9	Julian Miller (9) - Aug. 29
Yamil Williams (21) - Aug. 10	Zulena Delgado (19) - Aug. 29
Rosa (Medina) Meddaugh (56) - Aug. 10	Taelyn Darnell (2) - Aug. 31
René M. Rivera (22) - Aug. 15	Nelson Rivera (25) - Sept. 5
José L. Medina (83) - Aug. 15	Luz Rivera (59) - Sept. 6
David L. Finch (67) - Aug. 15	Jerry Feliciano (31) - Sept. 6
Jennifer Campos (33) - Aug. 16	Iris L. Rivera (25) - Sept. 8
Carmen Rivera (64) - Aug. 18	Serena Campos (10) - Sept. 10
Andrea Rivera (18) - Aug. 22	Miguel González (44) - Sept. 10
Shanda Peters (21) - Aug. 23	Leslie (González) López (44) - Sept. 10
Zuleymi Cruz (3) - Aug. 23	

Charice A. Rivera (25) - Sept. 12
Rosanie García (30) - Sept. 13
Rachel Rivera (27) - Sept. 14
Kathleen (Merritt) Caffey (61) - Sept. 15
Craig Burch (20) - Sept. 17
Monica (Rivera) Shenker (27) - Sept. 21
Amy Valentin (25) - Sept. 21
Oscar González (68) - Sept. 21
Carmen E. Delgado (23) - Sept. 23
Edie (Jimenez) Neitzel (46) - Sept. 23
Raúl Rivera (14) - Sept. 24
Carlos M. Rivera (61) - Sept. 25
Marina M. Ramos (29) - Sept. 25
Johanna Rivera (35) - Sept. 26
Robert Rivera (38) - Sept. 26
Angélica Medina (79) - Sept. 27
Joseph Montalvo (2) - Sept. 29
Logan A. Braddock (2) - Sept. 29

Anniversaries

Michelle & David
Fastenau (6) - Aug. 4
Nellie (Feliciano) & David
López (19) - Aug. 6
Jeremy & Sheila
Carrasquillo (6) - Aug. 11
Luz Rivera & Ramón
Trinidad (16) - Aug. 14
Evelyn & Bill Roig (36)
Sept. 11
Rosa & Brian Meddaugh
(18) - Sept. 16
Yuly & Todd Springer
(13) - Sept. 17
Carol & Larry Wright (20)
- Sept. 26
Christina (Krause) &
Stan Darnell (4) - Sept. 27

