

# "...y la familia?"

Volume 12, Issue 4

Feb./mar.'08

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

## Home Sweet Home

By Carlos Rivera

In 1987, Garnet and I moved into our home in Bargersville, Indiana. It was an idyllic location with 10 acres of woods, pond, creek, and lots of grass to mow. We enjoyed living there, but as we neared retirement, the "homestead" and its maintenance requirements began to take its toll on us.

In the fall of 2006 and with some regret, we made the decision to put our place up for sale so we could downsize the property and build our retirement home. We had a fair amount of experience with contractors remodeling our house, so we thought building a home from the ground up might be something we could tackle; you know, like we knew what we were doing.

Fall and winter are poor times of the year to try selling a house, but the housing slump that hit in the spring of 2007 was even worse. We thought we would never get our house sold. Lucky for us, the right buyer came along, and though we didn't get as much as we would have liked, we did get a good price and we quickly sold the place.

In July of 2007, we moved out and never looked back. More than half of our belongings had to be put in storage because our new building project had not yet started and we had to move into a small rented condo. Moving out was a good opportunity to clean out all the "unneeded" stuff stored in the attic and in the basement. Boy, was that hard or what!

*Continued on page 4.*



**Inside this issue:**

Home Sweet Home.....	1
Needed for Future Issues.....	1
A Page Out of Our Family History.....	2
At This Time in Our Family History.....	2
A Distinguished Guest.....	3
Look What I Still Have!.....	4
The Way We Were.....	4
Other Family News .....	5
2008 Rivera Family Reunion.....	6,7
Birthday and Anniversary Greetings.....	8

# A Page Out of Our Family History

By Norma I. (García) Pettit

Genealogical research continues to be a hobby of mine, although I don't get to dig around in the past as much as I'd like to these days. Recently, though, I was excited to make a few discoveries through online research on Ancestry.com.

My first discovery was finding my father listed on several passenger lists from his days as a Merchant Marine. One such list was from a wartime voyage out of Glasgow, Scotland on June 15, 1943. My father, who was listed as a West Indian with an approximate year of birth of 1911, weighed in at 135 pounds and measured 5'6". Huh! And he always said he was 5'7". They must have measured him wrong. This same document informed me that Dad had been in service at sea for 13 months, which coincides with what he had told me, that he had joined the Merchant Marines when he was thirty years old. Dad appears on other passenger lists in the years following the war, some from Oregon and Washington. In all of the rosters he is listed as a fireman.

I then searched for Uncle Angelo, and found to my amazement that he was on several passenger lists. On one voyage, out of Vancouver, British Columbia, headed for Seattle, Washington, he is listed as an Italian from Trieste, 26 years old and with three years of service at sea. His height and weight were noted at 5'4" and 155 pounds. His job was cabin boy.

Next, I focused my attention on finding information on the Sevilla line. Our cousins René, Roberto, Raúl, Lillian, Luz, Milagros, Heriberto and Edwin have Sevilla as their second last name since their mother was Elena Sevilla. Years ago, Luz told me that she wanted to find out more about her mother's ancestry. She knew that the Sevillas had originally come from the Canary Islands, and had lived in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. She was able to tell me the names and some dates of birth of several of her maternal ancestors.

Elena Sevilla was born on May 22, 1914 in Bayamón, P.R. and died on August 15, 1978 in Ponce, P.R. She was married to Auntie Helen's twin brother, Florencio Rivera (whose birth name was actually Sinforiano, and who was known by the nickname "Guar" or "Gual"). Elena's mother's name was María Ignacia Sevilla, and her father's name is not known.

María Ignacia Sevilla was born on August 1, 1896 in Bayamón, P.R., and she died on October 26, 1966 in Ponce, P.R. Her mother was Petrona Sevilla, but her father's name is not known. Petrona Sevilla was born on April 18, 1873, and she was the daughter of Juan Francisco Sevilla and Isabel Ríos.

My search on Ancestry.com with the information that Luz had given me produced several matches. In the 1910 census, Isabel Ríos y Cruz was 68 years old (which puts her birth year at about 1842) and she was already a widow. She lived in the Barrio Juan Sánchez and was a washerwoman. Two granddaughters lived with her: Ignacia "Ríos", 13, and Silvana Sevilla Marcado, 10. In this same census of 1910, but in a separate residence, Petrona Sevilla Ríos was listed as a single woman. This must be Ignacia's mother.

In the 1920 census, there is a listing for someone named Ignacia Sevilla y Rosendo, of Bayamón, 23 years old, and married to Juan Rivera y Díaz, 26. Luz's grandmother would have still been 23 when the census was taken in early 1920, so this may be the right person. If so, then this tells us that Ignacia's father's surname was Rosendo. Has anyone in the Rivera-Sevilla family ever heard Ignacia or Elena mention the surname Rosendo? This census entry does not list a child living with her, though. Elena would have been almost six years old at that time. Does anyone know if she was raised by another relative? If you have any information, let me know, and together maybe we can add another page to our family history. ☺

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

- *Hilario García, Jr. and Juliana Pérez were married on Feb. 1, 1861. Hilario's brother, José de la Cruz García became the maternal grandfather of my grandmother, Ana Cruz García.*
- *Florencio Rivera Maldonado and Ana Cruz García were married on Feb. 12, 1914.*
- *Auntie Marie and Achilles G. Nicholson were married on Feb. 15, 1937.*
- *Dionicio del Carmen Rivera Maldonado ( a sister of our family patriarch, Papa Flor) was born on Feb. 20, 1867.*
- *Victoriano Rivera Maldonado (my father's great-uncle) was born on February 23, 1845. He was a brother of Manuel Alejo Rivera Maldonado (my father's paternal grandfather).*
- *Juan Julian Rivera Maldonado was born 130 years ago, on February 28th. He was five years younger than his brother Florencio (my father's father), and died on New Year's Eve at the age of nine-and-a-half.*
- *One of Florencio's paternal uncles, Pedro Alcántara Rivera Maldonado, was born on March 21, 1844. He was the sixth child born to José de los Santos Rivera and Cipriana Maldonado.*

“¿...y la familia?”

## A Distinguished Guest

(Un Huésped Distinguido)

By Ada I. Pacheco (Heriberto Rivera’s wife)

In October of 2007, someone special arrived at our home. He is a very tiny thing with a wonderful voice. He took over our refrigerator as his home and when we noticed him, I made a habitat for him. He’s a little frog called a *coquí*. Our youngest son, Heriberto, named him “Carlitos,” and after that, “our” *coquí* sang every day with his *coquí-coquí* song.

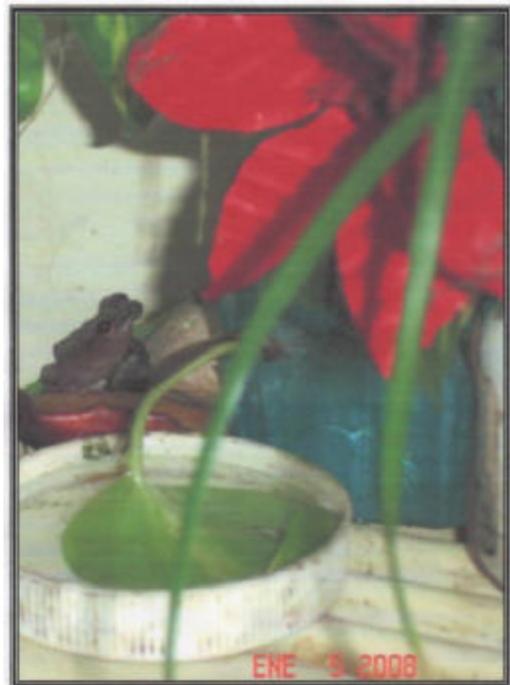
Many people didn’t believe us when we told them about Carlitos, but when they saw him, then they became astonished and believed us. He lives in our refrigerator door, in the water and ice dispenser area that we aren’t using. I put some plants and two water “ponds” in there so that he can take a bath and drink. I called the Natural Resources Department in Ponce and a biologist told me that *coquí*s eat plants, so I always change the plants that are in water so he has fresh food.

We, as Puerto Ricans *de clavo pasa’o*, are proud of this guest, and he is a special member of our family. His song reminds us of the country, the mountains, the rivers and cascades of Puerto Rico. We that live in a city full of cement, contamination and a lot of noise consider him a gift from God and of nature, and a symbol, as our beloved flag, of our Mother Country. (We are very sad because in Hawaii *coquí*s are treated as plagues and people kill them.)

Also, we have another *coquí* who lives in our yard. This one Heriberto found where he works. I put him in the refrigerator so he could accompany Carlitos, but he went away and lives in our backyard. His name is “Federico” and both of them give us a beautiful musical concert every night.

Through the “¿ ...y la familia?” newspaper we wanted to share with all of our family and other people about this special member of our family— “Carlitos, el *Coquí*”—and how proud we are of having a guest that sings to us every day and every night.

Happy New Year to all!



## Home Sweet Home ....continued from page 1

We broke ground on our new home in August of 2007 and our builder has made excellent progress. But in spite of his diligence and excellent management of the project, our home will not be finished until May of 2008, 20 months from the start. They originally estimated about 9 months, and though they are almost on time, it feels soooooo sloooow. We can't wait! Now we're in the middle of picking tile, faucets, carpet, door knobs, sinks, toilets, cabinets, cabinet knobs, light fixtures, switches, plugs, wall paint color, trim color, and wood floor stain color. Oh, my goodness. We have such a headache!



The  
Way  
We  
Were



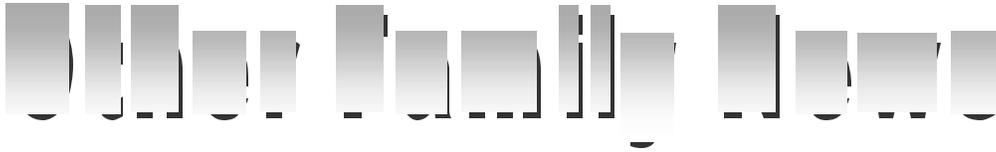
The above photo is of my mother, Ana (López) García, taken on March 12, 1946, about 5-1/2 weeks before her wedding day. The message on the back reads, "Para mi amorcito de quien le ama de veras, Anita"

## Look What I Still Have



This treasured picture of my mother, Ana María, at about age 9, with her parents Juan López Irizarry and María de los Santos Maldonado Torres dates from about 1920. It is centrally displayed on my living room picture wall.

Thank you to Tía Tita and Tío José and also to Josy Medina for their contributions to the newsletter. I appreciate it!!



In a beautiful ceremony at the Museum of History in Miami, the Army Freedom Team gave Tío José Medina and Carmen Bozak (second woman from the left) recognition for their meritorious services to the United States of America. Carmen Bozak was the first Puerto Rican woman that joined the Women's Army Corps.

Smiling proudly next to her distinguished husband is our gorgeous Tía Tita.



David and Angela Nicholson's son, **Zachary David Nicholson** on his 1st birthday on January 31, 2008. Big sisters Veronica (9), Rachel (7) and Annalise (5) are crazy about their baby brother.



## Upcoming Weddings

**Josy Medina** and **Donna Bridges** will be tying the knot on March 15, 2008.

They are getting married in Candlelit Way Wedding Chapel, a charming little 125-year-old chapel in Dallas Center, Iowa.

Josy promises to send photos shortly afterwards for the newsletter.

Hopefully, I will have the photos in time for the April/May issue.

**Orlando Rivera** and his fiancée, **Jana**, are planning their wedding for April 12, 2008, in Carrollton, Georgia.

Cousin Joi and I plan to attend, and we will give a first hand report on the wedding in the June/July issue.

*Congratulations to both couples!*

**Tory Pettit** has accepted a teaching position in South Korea and needs to be there by March 17th. Tory will be teaching English to elementary and middle-school students at Oedae School in Daegu, South Korea. Her commitment is for one year, so it will be hard on us not to see her for so long. Maybe Randy and I will have to take a trip to South Korea! Please pray for Tory's safety in travels and while overseas, and for God's angels to protect her at all times.

## *The Wild, Wild West*

**Cousins Yuly and Todd Springer and son, Joseph**, performed in Los Banos, California as part of the annual Henry Miller Wild West Weekend on October 12-14, 2007. Articles and photos on the Springer family appeared in their local newspaper, *The Los Banos Enterprise*. There are easy links to the newspaper articles through the family website, [www.ylafamilia.org](http://www.ylafamilia.org).

Joseph Springer, was asked to perform with Hilda Machado Brown, trick and fancy roper and Cowgirl Hall of Fame nominee. The following are quotes from the *Los Banos Enterprise* article on Joseph and his siblings.

"I do spinning and ones where you put your hands in and put your feet in. It took a while," said Isabella "Lil' Love" Springer, 6, who can now twirl a rope with her siblings, Juliana, Joseph and Todd.

"I've been doing this for a few days and we can do a few tricks," said 8-year-old Juliana "Sunshine" Springer, who said her favorite trick is to loop the rope around her body while twirling it at the same time.

For their brother, Joseph "Cherokee Kid" Springer, the thought of being on stage doesn't bother him, although he said he'd like to know a few moves before show time. "We just heard of it and it's going to be our first time doing it. I'm not nervous, but I want to learn a few more tricks," he said.



## 2008 FAMILY REUNION in Placerville, California

*“Una Pachanga en Placerville”  
(Mira lo que les tengo ya...) →*

Come early and stay late, if you can.  
There is lots to see and do in  
California.



While I don't have the schedule made out yet, my plans for Saturday include old-fashioned family fun during the day with events like whiffle ball baseball, water balloon volleyball, badminton, regular volleyball, basketball, sack races, and cooling off in the above-ground pool. For the professional relaxers there will be a hammock and a domino table. Saturday's lunch will be a BBQ—hot dogs, hamburgers and chicken, with all the usual picnic fixings like potato salad and watermelon. Saturday evening will be the Puerto Rican “Pachanga”—the big party with Puerto Rican food, salsa music and dancing. We also plan to have a karaoke machine.

Placerville is a charming California "gold rush" town named after the placer gold deposits found in its river beds and hills in the late 1840s. The City of Placerville is centrally located between Sacramento, the State capitol, and South Lake Tahoe, world-famous recreation center. Accessibility to Placerville is via State Highway 49 and U.S. Highway 50, along one of the most traveled corridors in California. Placerville's treasured heritage is reflected in the historical, nineteenth century architecture of its downtown core.



The history of Placerville began with the "rush for gold" to California in the 1840s. The highly publicized discovery of gold in the tailrace section at Sutter's Mill in Coloma (only 10 miles from Placerville) in 1848 resulted in the migration of thousands of fortune-seekers to Northern California in the mid 1800s. During the gold rush, Placerville became an important supply center for the surrounding mining camps.



*Make  
Time to  
Visit  
San  
Francisco!*



*¿...y la familia?*

# Reunion Lodging

Joi flew out to California on February 1st for the express purpose of going with me to scope out the different motels in the Placerville area. What dedication to the family cause, eh? I definitely appreciated her sacrifice of coming out here because it turned a chore into an adventure. Armed with my planner, we attacked the job with an organized itinerary and a professional air. We visited two places on Friday and five on Saturday. Here are our findings:



**#1 The Holiday Inn Express** at 4360 Town Center Blvd. in El Dorado Hills is the most expensive but also the nicest place to stay. Only two years old, this beautiful building is located in the new Town Center shopping complex. There are fancy shops and upscale restaurants, a 14 screen movie theater, a supermarket and a Target Store within walking distance. The list of amenities offered by the Holiday Inn Express is almost endless, and includes a complimentary and lavish continental breakfast (not just pastries and coffee mind you, but scrambled eggs, omelets, bacon, sausages, and the works), microwaves, refrigerators and in-room safes in all rooms, complimentary high-speed internet access (wireless and hard-wired), and a gorgeous outdoor heated pool and spa. After getting the tour of this hotel, I feel like booking a room for Randy and me there and letting someone else have our bedroom at our house! ☺ From the Holiday Inn Express it is an easy hop onto the freeway (Hwy 50) and then a 20 minute drive to my house under normal traffic conditions (I timed it). So, although it is the farthest away of all the places to stay, it is not that bad of a distance, and the plus side is that if you are going to drive to the airport from there, you are 20 minutes closer to it than if you stayed in Placerville. The “special” room price (only \$5 off the regular price) is \$114.95 per night (plus tax). There is a block of 10 rooms reserved under the Rivera Family name, and are guaranteed to be available up until two weeks prior to the reunion. Cancellations can be made up to 6 p.m. on the date of arrival with a full refund. Check out their website at [www.hiexpress.com/eldoradohills](http://www.hiexpress.com/eldoradohills) for more information or to make reservations. Phone #: 866-933-8773



**#2 The Cameron Park Inn** at 3361 Coach Lane in Cameron Park is undergoing a name change. It used to be a Best Western, but now it is going to be a Quality Inn. They also recently underwent a management change. New manager Adam Sangha explained that his family has owned the motel for many years, but just recently took over the management of it. The online reviews for this motel are not good, which probably explains why the owners dumped the previous managers and installed their son in that position. The outside of the motel was plain and unimpressive, but the rooms we visited were a delightful surprise—very nice, as you can see in the picture at right. Not only do they offer free high-speed internet, but *each room comes equipped with a computer!* (You can see it on the desk in the second picture.) Each room also has a hair dryer, coffee maker, refrigerator, microwave, iron and ironing board. The TVs get local channels plus HBO and Cinemax. Some rooms come equipped with full kitchenettes, which would be great for those of you planning on an extended stay in Northern California, and the motel also has a laundry area, pool and spa. For larger family groups, you can get adjacent rooms with a connecting door. There is a continental breakfast (not as lavish as the Holiday Inn Express has) that is served from 6:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Although the regular price is \$89 per night, Adam Sangha has given us a very special rate of \$59 per night, regardless of whether you have a regular room or one with a kitchenette, or whether you stay three nights or seven. Considering the fact that most of you will only be “crashing” in your room at night since you will be either at my house or out sightseeing most of the time, this is a great deal. Joi and I were shown the rooms at each motel we visited, and for the price and the amenities offered, you can’t beat the Cameron Park Inn with a stick. It is also a few miles closer to my house, and you have an Applebee’s restaurant within walking distance, and a Denny’s, a Sizzler, a Safeway other stores and fast food places nearby. We blocked ten rooms under the name Rivera Family, and you can call Adam at 530-676-1422 to make reservations.

**#3 The Best Western Placerville Inn** had no vacancies for June 20-22.

**#4, #5, #6 and #7** Okay, from there it went downhill very fast. The four motels we visited in Placerville (within 5 minutes from my house) were all dumpy and more expensive than the Cameron Park Inn, so they are not really worth mentioning, but since we visited them I might as well list their info.

**Gold Country Inn** - This place was such a dump that we didn’t even get their address or phone number. Stay away! They also wanted payment *in advance* for blocked rooms. I’m sorry, but they would have to pay *me* to stay there. **National 9 Inn** - 1500 Broadway, Placerville. Phone: 530-622-3884. The room rates ranged from \$65-\$80 per night. There is no pool or Jacuzzi, but rooms do come equipped with a microwave and refrigerator. This is a basic, no frills room. **The Motherlode Motel** - 1940 Broadway, Placerville. Phone: 530-622-0895. Microwave, fridge, free internet, pool. Rates are from \$64-78. The furniture in the rooms looked old. **The Gold Trail Motor Lodge** (next to the Motherlode Motel) - Phone: 530-622-0895 was undergoing total remodel and the office was closed, so we were unable to talk to anyone or see a room.

\*Add 10% tax to all room rates listed on this page.

## "¿...y la familia?"

c/o Norma I. Pettit  
2426 Meadow Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667  
Phone: (530) 642-8960  
E-mail: [mamanony@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mamanony@sbcglobal.net)

Visit us on the Web at [www.ylafamilia.org](http://www.ylafamilia.org).

## Birthday Greetings

**Eduardo Medero** (20) -  
Feb. 2

**Juan González** (47) - Feb. 2

**Katherine García** (44) - Feb.  
4

**Brook Rivera** (29) - Feb. 5

**Angela Nicholson** (41) -  
Feb. 6

**Maritza Rivera** (45) -  
Feb. 11

**Melissa González** (22) -  
Feb. 15

**Nicole García** (12) - Feb. 16

**Ruben J. García** (59) -  
Feb. 21

**Heriberto Rivera** (56) -  
Feb. 24

**Gwendolyn Rivera** (6) -  
Feb. 27

**Dustin Yager** (23) - Mar. 3

**Miguel González** (13) -  
Mar. 3

**Matthew Hargraves** (8) -  
Mar. 3

**Stephen Nicholson** (11) -  
Mar. 11

**Rafael González** (39) -  
Mar. 13

**Karen Rivera** (29) -  
Mar. 15

**James Caffey** (66) -  
Mar. 15

**Jenny (Nicholson) Reinke**  
(70) - Mar. 17

**Joi Stenroos** (58) - Mar. 18

**Raynell H. Díaz** (27) -  
Mar. 19

**Veronica Nicholson** (10) -  
Mar. 21

**Michael Rivera** (9) -  
Mar. 22

**Mackenzie Eddy** (15) -  
Mar. 24

**Todd Anthony Springer**  
(6) - Mar. 24

**Sonia (Quiñones) Rambo**  
(30) - Mar. 26

**Barbara Nicholson** (62) -  
Mar. 26

**Milagros Rivera** (65) - Mar.  
28

**Lisa (Finch) Warner** (42) -  
Mar. 28

## Anniversaries



Sheila Andujar and  
Edwin Rivera (11)  
Feb. 15

Frankie and Amy Valentin  
(5) - Mar. 29

Sonia (Quiñones) and  
Jake Rambo (6)  
Mar. 30

Belated Congratulations to  
Michelle Rivera and  
Jason Su'a (1)  
Dec. 30