

"...y la familia?"

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2

OCT/NOV '11

*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 imme-
diate family*

*Favorite family
recipes*

*Cute things your
kids have
said*

Funny stories

*This is **your**
family news-
letter. Fill it
with things
about your
family!*

Luke Pettit Selected for NCAS Program

Luke Pettit, youngest son of Randy and Norma (García) Pettit, has been selected to travel to NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama to develop a prototype vehicle to roam Mars. He is among 48 students from 25 states who will visit Marshall November 8th through the 10th. Luke and the other participants were selected based on completion of web-based assignments during the school year centered on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) content.

Luke will participate in the three-day experience through the National Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) program. NCAS is based on the Texas Aerospace Scholars program, originally created in partnership with NASA and the educational community in Texas. The program is designed to encourage community and junior college students to enter careers in science and engineering and ultimately join the nation's highly technical workforce.

Alongside his peers, Luke will establish a team and form a fictitious company pursuing Mars exploration. The team will create a company infrastructure to design and develop a rover. The experience includes a tour of NASA facilities and briefings from agency scientists and engineers.

"Community colleges are a tremendous source of talented problem solvers and will help feed skilled scientists and engineers into the nation's workforce," said Susan White, Director of Education at Johnson Space Center in Houston, where the program is coordinated. "This program helps inspire students to pursue STEM careers in the future."

Luke is in his second year at Folsom Lake Community College and plans to pursue an engineering degree.

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I Remember...

¿...y la familia?

This is a reprint of a column that first appeared in the Oct/Nov 1997 issue of "¿...y la familia?" Some of our younger readers may not have read this classic family memory.

René's Initiation to Halloween

by Olga Smith and Norma Pettit

Cousin René Rivera, who came to live with us for a year when he was seventeen, hadn't been in San Francisco long and wasn't familiar with the Halloween tradition of dressing up and going trick-or-treating...

It was early in the evening on a mid-October night of 1957, and Mom had been looking through an old trunk in the "cuartito" in the basement of our house on 22nd Avenue. In the trunk she kept old dresses, shawls, scarves, and other articles that could be used for Halloween costumes. Olga was with her. René, Ruben and Norma were upstairs.

She found an old gorilla mask that Ruben had used when he was very small—probably for his first time out trick-or-treating. There was also an old fur coat hanging up in the *cuartito*, like the kind the college students used to wear back in the 1920's. Mom put on the coat and mask, and on a sudden whim, went out the garage door, and up the stairs to the front door, instructing Olga to stay below and out of sight. She rang the doorbell, and René opened the door without first looking through the little window as he was supposed to. As he opened the door, Mom started pushing against it. Frightened, René pushed back on the door in an effort to close it again. But Mom pushed harder, trying to get in, and René cried out in alarm, "*¡Mira, que hay una vieja que quiere entrar y no la quiero dejar!*" ("There's an old lady trying to get in and I won't let her!"). Mom didn't say a word but she was laughing silently, almost convulsed with mirth.

After a while, René realized that it was his fun-loving aunt playing a trick on him. We all had a good laugh at poor René's expense!

Payback Time!



Some days later, René wanted to go downtown, and Mom told him to take Olga with him. When they returned to the house, René was inspired with a sudden scheme of retaliation. Before ringing the doorbell, he picked up Olga in his arms. With his young cousin lying limply in his arms, he stood waiting for Mom to answer the door. When Mom saw them like that on the doorstep, her first thought was that something bad had happened to Olga and that René, not knowing how to speak enough English to ask for help, had carried the unconscious girl all the way home in his arms. While she was still standing there in shock, registering the scene before her with unbelieving eyes, René laughed and Olga jumped down from his arms.

"*¡Esto es para pagarte por la que me hiciste!*" ("This is to pay you back for the trick you played on me!")

It may have taken Mom a while to get over her fright, and she probably didn't like the joke, but she admitted that he had gotten her good, and had indeed paid her back for the trick she had played on him. As we were growing up, she loved to recount this story. It became a family favorite.

Student Trip to Puerto Rico



High school students are invited to join a group that I am planning to take to Puerto Rico with Prep Tours, an island-based educational tour company. Prep Tours owners have a thorough knowledge of Puerto Rico and possess strong backgrounds in education, tourism, transportation, safety and security. For more information on Prep Tours, check out their website, www.preptours.com. You can also click on the link for the beautiful Embassy Suites Dorado del Mar, where we will be staying.

The trip is from June 10-15, 2012, costs \$2,265 and includes air travel, lodging at the above mentioned resort, all ground transportation, entrance fees to the places we will visit, and most meals. Our itinerary includes the following excursions: the town of Loiza, Old and New San Juan, the Caves of Camuy, the Arecibo Observatory, evening bioluminescent bay kayaking, El Yunque Rain Forest, the town of Ponce, and a tour of Hacienda Buena Vista.

Family members are invited to join this trip. While intended for high school students, parents and younger siblings can also go. Price adjustments can be made for people traveling to Puerto Rico from states other than California. For more information, contact me (Norma Pettit) by e-mail at mamanony@sbcglobal.net or by phone at (530) 327-9361.

¿...y la familia?

Look What I Still Have

By Norma I. (García) Pettit



This was my mother's egg slicer, which slices eggs in four different ways after repositioning the egg. It is still in perfect condition and I use it all the time when adding eggs to macaroni or potato salad. My mother, Ana María López Maldonado married my father, Oscar Cruz García in 1946, so I figure that this egg slicer must be about 65 years old.

The
Way
We
Were



Guess who? Yep, it's Cousin Joi, stylin' in her big shades, and me with the Bay breeze whipping my hair. This was taken on a Bay Cruise in the summer of 1976. I was expecting my firstborn son, Ruben Alejandro, who turns 35 years old on October 12th.



Guess Who This Baby Is?

*She looks just like her daddy.
The answer is found on page 7.*

At this time in our family history...

- Elena and Sinforiano (Guar) Rivera were born on October 1, 1913, according to their baptismal records.
- Rosita Hernández and Isidro Rivera were married on October 2, 1945.
- My niece, Angela (Warren) Barnes, passed away on Oct. 8, 2007.
- On October 10, 1815, José Santa Ana de la Cruz married Lorenza de Santiago in Peñuelas, Puerto Rico. José Santa Ana was a great-uncle of Máximo Cruz Vilá.
- Achilles George Nicholson was born in Elias, Greece on Oct. 10, 1891. He was the husband of Auntie Marie, and the father of Jenny, Victoria, and George. He died on November 3, 1953.
- David Finch, husband of Aunt Delia, and father of Bryan Finch and Lisa (Finch) Warner, passed away on Oct. 26, 2007.
- Oscar Cruz García, second child of Florencio Rivera and Ana Cruz García, was born on October 30, 1910. He was the father of Oscar González (who took the surname of his stepfather), and Olga, Ruben and Norma García..
- Máximo Cruz Vilá was born on November 18, 1853. He and María Engracia García were married on November 3, 1877. Their daughter, Ana, was the mother of Adela, Oscar, María, Elena, Guar, and Anita.

Meet Your Relative

Emilio Meléndez

Emilio Meléndez is the brother of Annie Meléndez, who hosted the 2009 family reunion in Peñuelas. He was born on April 21, 1954, in Peñuelas, the son of Juan Meléndez and Rosa Rivera, and the grandson of Carmela Cruz Maldonado. He is married to Madeline Morales Santiago and they have two children: Juan Carlo Meléndez Santiago (born March 19, 1984 in Ponce) and Camille Vanessa Meléndez Santiago (born Dec. 15, 1985 in Ponce). Camille has a masters in Clinical Social Work and Juan Carlo is graduating from medical school in December of this year.

On June 8th of this year, Dr. Emilio Meléndez Rivera obtained his doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the Catholic University of Puerto Rico. He was also recognized in the Honors Assembly.



Above: Emilio's mother, Doña Rosa, is seated between his sister, Annie, and Annie's grandson, Jayden.



¿...y la familia?

Other Family News

Merritt Sisters Reunite with Cousins by Marlynn (Merritt) Krause

Dad had just one sister, Dorothy, who married Leo Suentjen (of Dutch decent), and lived in western Iowa. The Suentjen family has been farming for many generations. Their family farm is located near Danbury Iowa. Aunt Dorothy and Uncle Leo had three children, Diane, Neal & Beth. Aside from Christmas cards we had pretty much lost touch.

Our cousin Neal now lives in Mapleton, Iowa . A tornado hit Mapleton this spring and made national news. Concerned for Neal and family I did some digging around on the internet and found one of his sons on Facebook and he was able to get us in touch. They were all safe and did not have any damage from the storm but did have a pretty good scare as they were in the school auditorium for a program and all had to take cover in the gym.

Realizing it had been about 40 years since we last saw one another, we decided that we needed to get together especially since Kathy and I would be visiting Meryem in Des Moines. Though Diane was not able to make the trip (as it was sort of last minute) we had a wonderful time reminiscing and looking at the family history that Beth had compiled.

Cousin Beth has taken on the role of family historian much as you have (though no newsletter - yet!). She had a notebook with photos and histories. She even had researched where many ancestors were buried and had taken photos of the grave markers. Kathy was given a CD of the entire notebook so that she could make copies for Meryem and me. How lucky are we that we have someone on both sides of our family who is dedicated to maintaining a family record for future generations.

We were sorry to have missed the Rivera reunion at Carlos' but were blessed by being able to reconnect with cousins who we knew as kids playing together on their farm in the summers and visiting during holidays.



Cousin's Store Wins Popularity Poll

Circa Vintage, the store opened two years ago by Carol Wright, daughter of José and Tita Medina, was recently voted the most popular vintage store in a poll taken by the Palm Beach Post.

Earning a whopping 73.7% of the vote, it was a hands-down victory for the Tequesta store. Congratulations to Carol!

¿...y la familia?

A Page Out of Our Family History

By Norma I. (García) Pettit

I have been searching for the babies that Mamá Otilia and Papa Flor lost. Aunt Delia (Rivera) Finch says that there were twin babies, but I have not been able to locate the record of their stillbirths ("natimueertos"). There were also two little girls who died very young. I did find one of them—Aurea Esther—but not the other one (Carmen Lydia). Aurea Esther was born in Ponce on March 1, 1939 and died on Aug. 20, 1941. Tía Tita (Rivera) Medina says that the little girl was sickly from birth. Tita remembers that on the day that Aurea Esther died the tot was lying in her little "coi" in the morning before Tita left for school. That's her last memory of the little girl alive.

Another record that I found was that of Zoraida Rivera Pérez, the baby that Tío Nery and Tía Milla lost. The record below shows that the baby girl was only 10 months old when she died of acute gastroenteritis on January 30, 1950. So sad! But an interesting note is the name of the doctor, which you can see in the lower right hand corner: Dr. Carlos M. Finch.

No. 150 (Para el Encargo del Registro)		GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO DEPARTAMENTO DE SALUD NEGOCIO DE REGISTRO Y ESTADISTICA DEMOGRAFICA		CERTIFICADO DE DEFUNCION	
DISTRITO No. 56				No. DE ARCHIVO [No escriba en este espacio]	
1. LUGAR DE DEFUNCION: (a) Municipio de <u>Ponce</u> (b) Zona Urbana: [Calle y Número o Barriada] (c) Zona Rural: [Nombre del Barrio] (d) Nombre del Hospital o Institución donde ocurrió la Defunción: <u>Hospital Municipal Ponce</u> (e) Estadía en dicho Hospital o Institución: <u>3 días</u> [Especifique Años, Meses, Días]		2. RESIDENCIA USUAL DEL FALLECIDO: (a) Municipio de <u>Ponce, Puerto Rico</u> (b) Zona Urbana: <u>Callejon Congrejos</u> [Calle y Número o Barriada] (c) Zona Rural: [Nombre del Barrio] (d) Tiempo de Residencia en este Municipio: (e) ¿Es ciudadano de país extranjero? <u>no</u> (Si o No) Si lo es, mencione el país.			
3. (a) NOMBRE Y APELLIDOS DEL FALLECIDO: <u>Zoraida Rivera Pérez</u> (b) Si es Veterano, nombre de la Guerra: (c) No. seguridad social:		CERTIFICACION MEDICA 20. Fecha de Defunción: Mes <u>Enero</u> Día <u>30</u> Año <u>1950</u> Hora <u>4:30</u> Minutos <u>P.M.</u> 21. POR LA PRESENTE CERTIFICO QUE: (Complete a o b) (a) Asistí al fallecido desde <u>Enero 28</u> 19 <u>50</u> hasta <u>Enero 30</u> 19 <u>50</u> , y que lo vi vivo por última vez en <u>Enero 30</u> 19 <u>50</u> (b) No asistí al fallecido y esta Certificación se hace a base de información suministrada por [Nombre del informante] en su carácter de [padre, madre, hermano, amigo, etc.] del fallecido			
4. Sexo <u>Hembra</u> 5. Color o raza <u>Blanca</u> 6. (a) Solter <u>Casada</u> Viud <u>Divorciada</u> 6. (b) Espos. de: Viud. de: Divorciada de: Edad si vive: 7. Nacido en <u>25</u> <u>Marzo</u> <u>1949</u> [Día] [Mes] [Año] 8. Edad: años <u>10</u> Meses <u>5</u> Si menor de un día Horas <u>5</u> Minutos 9. Natural de <u>Ponce</u> <u>Puerto Rico</u> [Ciudad o Pueblo] [Estado o País]		Causa inmediata de la muerte: <u>Gastroenteritis Aguda</u> Debido a: Otras causas: [Anótese embarazo dentro de los 3 meses antes de la defunción] Diagnóstico confirmado por: (a) Examen de laboratorio [Mencione el análisis] (b) Rayos X (c) Autopsia Nombre y fecha de la operación quirúrgica, si la hubo: Motivo que la requirió:			
10. Oficio, Profesión u Ocupación: 11. (a) Industria o Negocio en que trabajaba: (b) Fecha en que trabajó por última vez en esta ocupación: [Mencione el análisis] (c) Años que ha trabajado en esta ocupación: 12. Nombre: <u>Vicente Nery Rivera</u> 13. Natural de: <u>Peñuelas, Puerto Rico</u> 14. Nombre de Soltera: <u>Emilia Pérez Ramírez</u> 15. Natural de: <u>Ponce, Puerto Rico</u> 16. (a) Firma del Informante: <u>Vicente Nery Rivera</u> (b) Dirección: <u>Padre</u> 17. (a) Cementerio donde fué enterrado o sitio donde se enterró el Cadáver: <u>Civil de Ponce</u> (b) Fecha de Inhumación o Entierro: <u>Enero 31, 1950</u> 18. (a) Firma del Agente Funerario: <u>Vicente N. Rivera</u> (b) Dirección: <u>Callejon Congrejos, Ponce, P.R.</u> 19. (a) Inscrito hoy: <u>31</u> <u>Enero</u> <u>1950</u> [Día] [Mes] [Año] (b) Encargado del Registro: <u>José Luis Lora</u> Permiso de (Enterramiento) <u>Enterrado</u> expedido en <u>Enero 31</u> 19 <u>50</u> Por <u>José Luis Lora</u>		DURACION: El Médico subrayará la causa que crea debe ser considerada para la clasificación Estadística.			

Puerto Rican Primer

The Taino Indians



The Taíno written language was in the form of petroglyphs, or symbols that were carved in stone. They spoke Arawakan. Their society was communal. Polygamy was common. The Taínos were farmers and fishermen.

Cristóforo Colombo wrote in his journal that Taínos had beautiful, tall, slender bodies. Their color was dark or olive, and they wore short haircuts with a long hank at the back of the head. They were clean-shaven and hairless. The islands were densely populated. According to Cristóbal Colón, the Taíno tongue was "gentle, the sweetest in the world, always with a laugh."

Borikén's head cacique at the time of the arrival of Colón was Agüeybaná. The island was divided into cacicazgos. Puerto Rico had approximately 20 caciques at the time of Columbus. The Island was divided into provinces, districts, and villages, each with a cacique.

The social structure was as follows: Nitaínos were the noblemen and were the warriors, craftsmen & artesans. Naborias were the laborers and were the lower class. Caciques (chiefs) were inherited positions and came from the Nitaíno class. Bohikes (shamans) were from a lineage of bohikes. The social structure was matrilineal - the lineage was carried by the mother. It is not clear if Nitaínos were born into or earned their social class. The Nitaínos ruled over the naborias. The Naborias were like serfs. Naborias fished, hunted, and worked the conucos, and generally did the hard labor.



Agüeybaná

The cacique was an inherited position of great privilege, which transcended individual yucayeques. The cacique was polygamous. Some of his wives were from political marriages that would unite yucayeques and form alliances. The cacique also wore a distinctive head covering made from a cotton band with a gold amulet or seal of the tribal chieftains. It was fashioned with blue and red macaw feathers and other parrot feathers of many colors. Caciques also wore a Mao, which was a round white cotton cover with a center hole used to cover the shoulders, chest and back. The Mao was a status symbol and was also used to keep the sun off the shoulders. Caciques participated in the cohoba ceremonies. They also owned the most powerful religious symbols, which were carved from wood or stone. A cacique was carried on a litter by Naborias. Often a cacique's favorite wife or wives were buried alive with him. First they were given a potion to drink that would allow them to sleep through it.

The yucayeques were built close to a source of water with a courtyard in the middle and under tall trees. Yucayeques had four roads that led out from the batey. A tall fence surrounded the village. A road was built leading directly to the water source, with two tall lookout towers at either side. Around the yucayeques were the conucos or farms. Sometimes ball game plazas were built outside the walls.

Yucayeques never went to sleep completely. There were lookout posts to be manned, nocturnal fishing and all night rituals to be conducted. The first order of the day was ritual bathing and prayers. A morning meal of cassave bread dipped in the communal pepper pot was served. Labor was then assigned by the leaders according to gender and group.

Source: Figueroa, Ivonne, "Tainos". *El Boricua*. <http://www.elboricua.com/history.html>. July 1996.

To be continued in next issue.

The baby pictured on page 3 is Ada Elena, the oldest child of Heriberto Rivera Sevilla and his wife, Ada I. Pacheco. Ada Elena is now 31 years old, married to Francisco Segarra, and has two children of her own.

“¿...y la familia?”

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

Birthday Greetings

Teena Warren (40) - Oct. 3

Christine Rivera (15) - Oct. 3

Roxanna Rivera (41) - Oct. 6

Eric J. Montalvo (34) - Oct. 7

*Ruben A. Quiñones (35) -
Oct. 12*

Mike Shenker (35) - Oct. 12

*Felipe René Rivera (28) -
Oct. 13*

Lourdes Rivera (38)- Oct. 13

Edwin Joel Rivera (14) - Oct. 14

*Jackie (Correa) Eddy (47) -
Oct. 15*

Sonia Rivera (37)- Oct. 15

Austin Rivera (17) - Oct. 17

*Annalise L. Nicholson (9) -
Oct. 17*

Javier Rivera (38) - Oct 18

*Virginia T. Feliciano (22) -
Oct. 21*

Sierra Campos (15) - Oct. 21

Tito Shenker (14) - Oct. 22

*Vicky (Rivera) Cabán (47) -
Oct. 23*

Brandi Klene (42) - Oct. 24

Randy Pettit (56) - Oct. 27

*Victoria Nicholson (72) -
Oct. 28*

*Madeline Rivera (45) -
Oct. 28*

*Joanne McLaughlin (64) -
Oct. 29*

Julie Rivera (19) - Nov. 2

Alex Joel Rivera (16) - Nov. 2

Lisa Quiñones (35) - Nov. 3

Adalberto Rivera (28) - Nov. 5

Orlando Rivera (56) - Nov. 6

*Stephanie Feliciano (22) -
Nov. 6*

*Matthew Thompson (6)-
Nov. 7*

*Lydia N. Carrasquillo (32) -
Nov. 7*

Rosa M. Rivera (88) - Nov. 8

Austin Miller (17) - Nov. 8

Joannie García (31) - Nov. 9

Neysha Rivera (21) - Nov. 12

Juan Meléndez (66) - Nov. 12

*Lilliana Charice Cruz (9) -
Nov. 15*

*Joseph T. Springer (15) -
Nov. 15*

*Esmeralda Rivera Delgado (7) -
Nov. 16*

*Carol (Medina) Wright (59) -
Nov. 17*

*Michelle (Cabán) Su'a (23) -
Nov. 17*

Amanda Knox (24) - Nov. 22

John Feliciano (49) - Nov. 22

Rose A. Segarra (11) - Nov. 23

*Marcantonio Williams Jr. (4) -
Nov. 25*

*Kaylee Noemí Valentín (3)
Nov. 25*

*Hector L. Feliciano (61) -
Nov. 26*

*Edwin Rivera (57) - Nov.
27*

*Solimar Delgado (24) -
Nov. 28*

Anniversaries

**Kim and Scott
Hargraves (15) -
Oct. 18**

**Yamil and Bianca
Williams (4) -
Oct. 20**

**Muñeca (Osorio)
and
David Simon-Baker
(5) - Oct. 21**

**Alicia (Rivera) and
Mike Tokar (4) -
Oct. 27**