

"...y la familia?"

Volume 9, Issue 4

Feb/Mar '05

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

Boating Safety Course Proved Helpful

In an article printed in The Prairie Schooner, a publication of the Des Moines Sail and Power Squadron (October 2004), Cousin José Medina tells of a May Day incident that happened to him and his fiancée, Donna Bridges on Saturday, May 8, 2004.

"We decided to take our 19 ft. Boston Whaler to Lake Red Rock, which is located just outside of Pella, Iowa, for a day of fishing and just relaxing. It had been windy most of the day, but with our boat we had no trouble getting around. About 4 p.m. the wind started to pick up, and we decided to return to the Red Rock Marina. As we were heading back, there were a lot of white caps and it was beginning to get a little rough.

We noticed out in the middle of the lake a boat that looked like it was sitting low in the distance. We headed in its direction and saw people waving and someone bailing water. We could tell that they were in trouble, and we raced to help them. Just as we got to the boat, it sank right from under them.



There were five people aboard. Two of them were children with life jackets on and the other three were men without life jackets. The water was very cold, and we knew we needed to get them into our boat right away.

We pulled the two girls into the boat, and the three men used the ladder to come aboard. I immediately got on the ship-to-shore and called a May Day to Red Rock Marina. We had very cold and wet people on board and knew they needed help right away. Donna put the extra sweat suits we had onboard on the children and helped calm them down. She then gave the men towels and blankets to help them keep warm.

I was instructed by the marina to bring them back to the marina and that the DNR and the Highway Patrol had been alerted. Reports were taken about the incident and names were exchanged for use of any further information. Everyone seemed to be okay once we were back on shore, but it was quite an experience for all involved.

I had taken a boating safety course with the Des Moines Sail and Power Squadron, and many things in that course were helpful in this incident. We are proud of how we handled the situation. We encourage boating safety. In this accident only the boat ended up at the bottom of the lake—not people.

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I Remember...by Norma I. (García) Pettit

I subscribe to a wonderful magazine called Reminisce, which is published by Reiman Publications. I highly recommend this magazine for its first-hand account of days gone by, entirely written by subscribers. In the July/August 2002 issue, readers were asked to share their memories of Woolworth's. The stories printed in that issue triggered my own memory of an incident that happened in the Woolworth's store in downtown San Francisco in the mid 1960's.

My mom and I were there looking at black and brown leather purses in one of the bargain bins. Mom thought that I could use a new shoulder purse for school, and as we rummaged through the pile she held up one for my consideration. I glanced at it and said, "No me gustan las negras." (I don't like the black ones.) Unfortunately, although I was referring to black purses, my sentence could also have been interpreted as referring to black women. The next thing I knew—BAM! BAM! BAM!—I was being repeatedly hit over the head by a black woman wielding one of the leather purses.

Mom yelled, "¡Ay, ay, ay!" as she tugged me by the arm to get me out of the range of the woman's assault. But at the same time it struck her as funny and she was soon overcome with the giggles. I didn't think the situation was funny at all, and it was quite a few years before I could see the humor in it like Mom did.

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 128 years ago, on Feb. 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.*

"Look what I still have!"



"Clue"

(Parker Brothers Detective Game)

Do you remember Professor Plum in the library with the candlestick? Or how about Mrs. Peacock in the study with the rope? This is a game that I played for endless hours with Olga, Ruben and Norma. Sometimes we'd have marathon games that would last all weekend! Mom gave me this game one Christmas (probably 1957 or 1958) and I treasure it to this day. This box still has "Detective Notes" score sheets with Norma's and my name on them! Other games that we would play were "Monopoly" and "Life".

Guess Who This Baby Is?

The answer is found on page 7.



This picture (at right) was taken in March of 1951. The baby wearing the bonnet is Cousin Joi, and the family was celebrating her first birthday. From left: George, Olga, Ruben, Joi, Uncle Angelo, Edward, Auntie Helen, Vickie, Sylvia, and Jenny, with my dad (Oscar) standing behind Sylvia.

The Way We Were



How I Met My Spouse

**This is the story of Charley Tuna (René Rivera)
A fish, the bait, and the hook**

The summer of 1961... I got out of the U.S Army and came back home from Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Washington. In those days in the whole Island was the Rock & Roll fever. You could hear on all the radio stations and jukebox music Little Richard, Elvis, Fat Domino, Bill Haley & the Comets, The Platters and many more. Also this group of local musicians that was a smash in the Island, called *Cortijo y su Combo* and his lead singer Ismael Rivera. Man I'm telling you, what music. Well you know how it is. You are a bachelor, a young peacock, always going from here to there to watch the girls go by, coming from church or going to school or to downtown Ponce. So the best lookout spots were the places or *Cafetines* that had jukeboxes. Why? Who doesn't like music? And if you are shy you can relay across what you feel with music. Anyway, my best friend and I were always looking for a strategic area to watch the girls pass by; we always went to the *cafetin*. *Cafetin* is a shop (if you want to call it that), where they sell beer, rum, sodas, candies, and they have a pool table and a jukebox. Ask George Nicholson—he knows, he played billiard in one of them, and he can tell you. They also sell *siete arriba*, George's famous trademark for Seven-up.

Well to make a long story short. How short? To tell you the truth I myself do not know how short. But I will try my best not to bore you any longer. Oh! Yes, where was I? Ah! My apologies. For a moment I lost track of the story. I'm sorry if you, too, got lost in my story. No? Good—so let me tell you how I was caught and reeled in to the married life. One afternoon I was drinking a beer with my friend in one of those *cafetines*. In those places you buy a beer and most of the time you go outside to talk about any subject such as sports, music and other things. It is really a front; it is your way to show off how well dressed you are your new shoes or necktie, trying to be cool to impress the girls in the new territory. Oh! Also you have to buy one or two drinks for the fellows in the shop, yes! You've got to remember they are the local boys, and one of them might be your next brother in law, or you need his knowledge of everybody in that neighborhood so you are okay.

On this particular afternoon this beautiful small girl, sixteen years old, walked by. She was coming from her part time job, and all of a sudden she looked at me, I looked at her, and she reeled me in, using her beautiful smile as a bait and her warm look as a hook. There was no way for this marlin to run away. You can call me a marlin or Rene tuna, Charlie tuna, no matter what; the fish is caught, no two ways about it.

It has been 43 years and seven months, give or take, and this old fish is still in the frying pan.



René and Carmen Rivera's Wedding

¿Como nos conocimos Eric y yó?

Por Catherine (Rivera) Montalvo

Nos conocimos el primero de octubre del 1992, supuestamente por "casualidad". Yo le estaba haciendo un favor a mi prima Karina, de llevar una tarjeta de cumpleaños a un amigo de nosotras. Ellos se encontrarían frente al Fox Delicias Mall esa tarde, pero no llegó ella sino que fui yo. Y resulta con él estaba Eric. Ese fue el día que nos conocimos, luego Eric me comenzó a llamar a casa. A los cinco años de novios nos casamos un 24 de mayo de 1997. Dos años luego nace Joyce Nahir, nuestro hermoso regalo de parte de Dios. Y bueno, ya vamos para nuestro octavo aniversario de bodas y si contamos desde novios, casi la mitad de mi vida, trece años, WOW. Hacen cuatro años que vivimos en Gainesville, FL. Y sabemos que Dios nos trajo con un propósito, que a su tiempo será completado.

How Did Eric and I Meet?

By Catherine (Rivera) Montalvo

We met on October 1, 1992, supposedly by "accident". I was doing my cousin Karina a favor, taking a birthday card to a friend of ours. They were supposed to meet in front of the Fox Delicias Mall that afternoon, but instead of Karina, it was me who went. And Eric was with our friend. That was the day that we met, and after that Eric started calling me at home. After dating for five years we got married on May 24, 1997. Two years later Joyce Nahir, our beautiful gift from God, was born. And well, we're coming up to our eighth wedding anniversary, and if you count from when we started dating, it's almost half my life, thirteen years. WOW. We've been living in Gainesville, FL for four years. And we know that God brought us here for a purpose which in His timing will be revealed.

David Nicholson meets Angela Wood
March 16, 1995

It was ten years ago that David first walked into my life. I was single then, age 28 and doing the "career thing." David was likewise at age 30. A mutual friend, who thought of me upon meeting him, introduced us. So the introduction was arranged, with my stipulation that our friend would stay for the visit. The place where the magic began was Capitol Bar & Grill, now renamed "18th & N" in Downtown Sacramento.

As I turned the corner, getting ready to park, I looked over and saw this well-dressed and very good-looking man...and it wasn't the mutual friend. There was David, sporting these modest sideburns (think Dillon from Beverly Hills 90210). Of course, I couldn't wait to meet him.

The great thing about it was the timing. Neither of us was actually seeking a relationship, just busy in our careers. Dave's philosophy on finding your soul mate is that you have to be at the "tree" just at the right moment, ready to catch the ripest fruit as it falls. You can't pick it before it's ready and you definitely can't let it reach the ground. So timing is everything.

Back at the bar... I let David pay for my \$10 glass of merlot, which I explained later to him, was a compliment from me. You see, if I didn't like him, I would have insisted to pay for my own glass. But in this case, I was very interested, so consequently, David got stuck with the bill. We talked and talked and talked until at times it seemed awkward that our mutual friend was still hanging around...listening to us talk.

We met again the next night, St. Patrick's Day. Funny thing, a really inebriated guy approached us when we first arrived, looked us up and down and exclaimed, "I could see you two walking down the aisle someday!" Good thing he didn't get

invited to the wedding. The best part of our meeting is on that night when we discovered that we grew up in the same neighborhood and attended the same grammar and jr. high schools. We went to neighboring high schools, so had mutual friends from that area. In grammar school, Dave played soccer, and was on the same team as my brother. Dave's dad, George, was the coach! We had that picture on display at our wedding. In fact, I remember Dave from those days when we were 10 and 12 years old respectively. He didn't really remember me, the kid sister of this teammate.

But he sure made up for it in our courtship. David would buy me the most beautiful flowers, in which he dubbed "Monet Bouquets." The florist even used this name after David created it. Although now any romantic moments are overtaken by the pitter-patter of little feet, he still remembers special occasions and even everyday routines in thoughtful ways.

We share a common background, a compatible outlook, and a deepening faith that has bonded us for ten years and counting. And when things get challenging—as life sometimes presents—we fondly remember the sideburns and \$10 glass of Merlot.

David
and
Angela

June 21, 1997



How I Met My Spouse

By Vanessa (Bell) Braddock

Thursday, February 13, 2003 I had a job interview to go to that a Head Hunter had set up for me. I had already blown off my initial interview with this company because I was well aware that I was not qualified for the position they were hiring for, but the Head Hunter called me back and pretty much begged me to go. So I went ... reluctantly. When I showed up, it was after normal working hours, so there were only three people in the office ... The floor manager (Ken), the assistant manager (Dennis) and one employee. Dennis had me fill out an application and then interviewed me for the position. While I was filling out the application Ken was walking around the office talking on his cell phone, we locked eyes ... and for me ... that was it! During the interview, as soon as Dennis figured out that I was not even close to being a good candidate for the position, he started making small talk and we chatted for about a half an hour about absolutely nothing. When I was getting ready to leave, Ken came out of his office and told Dennis that he was ready to go play pool and have a drink. I then looked at Ken and said, "Great! Where are we going?" Ken looked puzzled for a moment, then said, "You should follow us!" So I did.

We played pool and had a great time. Ken ignored me a bit that night which I found out was part of his strategy to get my attention. It worked! While he was playing pool, I was standing behind him, and to get his attention, I kissed him when he turned around. That did it! I asked Ken if he believed in God and if he was a Christian, when he told me he did and that he was, I invited him to go to church with me sometime. He has since told me that these questions are what sealed the deal for him.

The next day was Valentine's Day and Ken asked me to spend it with him. I declined because I was in the last stage of breaking up with my current boyfriend and felt obligated to spend that night with him ... even though the relationship was over. To this day, Ken still accuses me of standing him up on Valentine's Day. He asked me for my phone number, I gave it to him and we parted ways. Sunday, February, 16th to my surprise there was a message from Ken on my answering machine ... he called to ask me out for dinner. I called him back to accept his offer and when he showed up at my mother's house to pick me up, he had two white roses with him ... one for me and one for Mom. I guess he got my mom's approval right then and there! He took me out to a wonderful Italian restaurant for dinner and as soon as we were seated, he asked me if I was a romantic. When I told him I was, he said, "I thought so", and pulled two candles out of his coat, set them on the table and lit them so that we could have dinner by candlelight. This was yet another point in his favor.

Two days after this date, Ken called me and asked me if he could stop by my house for a minute. He said that he had a Valentine gift for me. I informed him that I was right in the middle of eating dinner so if he wouldn't think I was rude for eating in front of him then I didn't mind if he stopped by. The gifts that he gave me that night were a sweet smelling candle and a genuine pearl necklace strung with silk along with pearl earrings. About 30 minutes after opening my gifts I started laughing and asked him if the pearls were real. Ken laughed and told me to look at the certificate of authenticity that came with them. He informed me that if they weren't real he and the jeweler were going to have a problem, then laughed at me for asking.

The next weekend Ken asked me out on another date, but this time he was going to cook for me. That night he cooked fettuccini with shrimp and scallops covered in a light garlic cream sauce ... which he made from scratch! Dinner was amazing! He really knows how to close a sale, doesn't he? He is an amazing cook and because of this, I don't even enjoy eating restaurant food anymore. This night sealed the deal. So ... we met February 13, 2003 ... went on our first date February 16, 2003 ... had our second date February 22, 2003 ... Moved in together within the month ... were engaged May 9, 2003 ... married June 15, 2003 ... and had a beautiful baby girl August 03, 2004. I wouldn't suggest to anyone that marrying this soon after meeting someone is a good idea ... but for us, it seems, this is the way things were meant to be.



¿...y la familia?

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This spring break, March 19-27, **Tory Pettit** will once again have the opportunity to go on a mission trip with a group from Simpson University. This time she is going to Utah to take part in prayer ministry and service projects on the college campuses in the Salt Lake Valley. The Simpson group will be partnering with Utah Partnerships for Christ, an organization that has been working for the past four years in sharing Christ's love with college-age students in Utah. Tory is asking that you partner with her in preparing for this trip through much needed prayer. If you feel that you are able to also help support this outreach financially, you may send a gift to **Simpson University, Attn: Student Missions, 2211 College View Dr., Redding, CA 96003**. In order to receive a tax-deductible receipt, please make the check payable to Simpson University and write the following code in the memo portion of the check: **USB05-TP**. This will ensure that your gift is designated for this particular trip.

Lisa Quiñones, who is completing her fourth year of medical school, will be traveling to Russia on February 21, 2006, where she will be taking part in a study on tuberculosis. She will be working with the World Health Organization (WHO); they have a thematic working group to address drug resistance from the point of view of the folks in charge of policy decisions. Says Lisa, "I'm so excited to be able to see this side of international health, and like all my other journeys to Russia, this seems such a blessing from God, such an open door. Not only do I get to go to a country I love, but I know some folks there! The family I home-schooled is there now, as well as two dear friends from Ulan Ude who have space available in the apartment they are renting. What a blessing!

I would love it if some of you would commit to praying for me from 2/21-4/19, and if many of you would pray for Russia (all the time!). It's an absolute mess, and drug-resistant tuberculosis is one of the top problems. As for me, my expenses are pretty much paid for by my school (yes!), and I'll be mostly in offices in a big city so I'm not worried so much about my health and safety."



The stork has brought a new little baby boy to Teena Warren and Rich Cavino. **Robert Paul Cavino** arrived at 12:45 a.m. on Sunday, January 9th. I don't have a picture of the cutie pie to put in this newsletter, but will do so for the next issue!

Cousin **Frankie Valentín and his wife, Amy**, are going on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Frankie is really jazzed about this. He says, "**Our church is going to Dominican Republic for a second year on a missions trip and this year God has given me the opportunity to go along with Amy. To me this is AMAZING. I have never been on a mission trip and I am ready to go and help.**

The reason that I am writing to you is that our church is accepting donations in order for us to buy school supplies, food and the basic necessities. If anyone is interested in sending a donation they can do so. We are going from July 11th-17th, 2005. I will bring back pictures so they can published in the newsletter."

**If you can help me with this request, your donation can be sent to:
Frankie Valentín
131 W Cedarwood Circle
Kissimmee, FL 34743
(407) 344-4111**



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Relatives Respond

Cousin José Medina wrote:

“Thanks again for the family newsletter. It was a real surprise to see my house on the cover! I hope it helped put our family in the holiday spirit.

Emily got her newsletter and enjoyed it. Thanks....say hi to all my cousins in California.

Josy



The baby pictured on page 2 is **Vic Stenroos**, the husband of our cousin Joi. He was probably about two years old in the baby photo. This more recent photo of Vic was taken last July on the occasion of his son Eric's 21st birthday.

*Thank you to **Cousin Carol (Medina) Wright** for her donation of \$50 to the newsletter. God bless you!*



"Just Dreams"

By

Delia Finch

Written January 17, 2005

I dream of lush Green Meadows
In the early Spring,
The burst of new beginnings,
And the wind blowing so free.

Waters flowing so Peacefully,
Down hills and across fields,
The chirping birds, the blue skies,
The fluffy clouds I see.

The smell of blooming flowers,
Of bright colors, paint the hills,
The fragrance floating in the air,
Bring contentment to my being.

I dream of someday to be sitting,
On a swing on my front porch,
Holding the hand of my loved one,
Singing Praises to the Lord.

For the bounty of life's most given,
Of Green Meadows, and water falls,
For without you, there would be nothing,
That we could ever dream of.

The **2005 Family Reunion Committee** is hard at work planning an unforgettable reunion in paradise...

Join us from **June 24-26** in **Ponce, Puerto Rico**. Cousins René, Raúl, Luz, and Lillian are opening their homes to us, plus Cousin Frankie Valentín is using his connections to secure special group rates for reunion attendees at the Ponce Holiday Inn and the Ponce Hilton. More info in next issue!

So far it looks like this is going to be our best attended reunion yet! Don't miss out. Remember, you will always have bills to pay, but an opportunity like this to have a dream gathering of relatives does not come along every day.

"¿...y la familia?

c/o Norma I. Pettit
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Visit us on the Web at www.ylafamilia.org.



Birthday Greetings

Eduardo Medero (17) - Feb. 2	Dustin Yager (20) - March 3	Raynell H. Díaz (24) - March 19
Juan González (44) - Feb. 2	Miguel González (11) - March 3	Veronica Nicholson (7) - March 21
Katherine García (41) - Feb. 4	Matthew William Hargraves (5) - March 3	Michael Rivera (6) - March 22
Brook Rivera (26) - Feb. 5	Stephen Nicholson (8) - March 11	Mackenzie Eddy (12) - March 24
Angela Nicholson (38) - Feb. 6	Rafael González (36) - March 13	Todd Anthony (3) - March 24
Maritza Rivera (42) - Feb. 11	Karen Rivera (26) - March 15	Sonia (Quiñones) Rambo (27) - March 26
Melissa González (19) - Feb. 15	James Caffey (63) - March 15	Barbara Nicholson (59) - March 26
Nicole García (9) - Feb. 16	Jenny (Nicholson) Reinke (67) - March 17	Milgros Rivera (62) - March 28
Ruben J. García (56) - Feb. 21	Joi Stenroos (55) - March 18	Lisa (Finch) Warner (39) - March 28
Heriberto Rivera (53) - Feb. 24		
Gwendolyn Rivera (3) - Feb. 27		

Anniversaries



Tom and Olga Smith (21) -
Feb. 19

**Sheila Andujar and
Edwin Rivera** (8)
Feb. 15

Frankie and Amy Valentín
(2) - March 29

**Sonia (Quiñones)
and Jake Rambo** (3)
March 30