

"...y la familia?"

Volume 9, Issue 6

Apr/May '06

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

Luke Pettit in Costa Rica

Luke Pettit left for Costa Rica on March 1, 2006 and is now living in the town of Dominical. If you went to the family reunion in Puerto Rico last summer, you'll remember meeting Luke's friend, Chris Deming. Chris has been in Costa Rica since last November, overseeing the development of land that the Deming family purchased in Dominical. Luke saved up his money to go join Chris there. They are both involved in helping establish a new bilingual Christian church named *Agua Viva*.



Luke loves it there and is jazzed about his growing responsibilities in the church. He wrote, "I have been officially put in charge of Fun Nights," which occur every Friday. He asks that we keep *Agua Viva* in our prayers.

The length of Luke's stay in Costa Rica is as of yet undetermined. It depends largely upon if he finds work there to support himself. He is definitely loving it there and is learning Spanish. He noted that when he comes home he may be speaking "in an accent you're not used to, but you'll just have to get over that part."

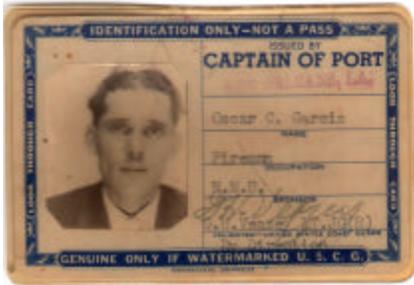
I have no problem with that. I'm just happy that he is finally learning Spanish!

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"¿...y la familia?"

"Look what I still have!"



This was my father's identification card from the National Maritime Union, issued in New Orleans on December 12, 1942. It states that his address at the time was No. 2 Agua St. in Ponce. Dad served as a Merchant Marine until 1966, when he retired early due to emphysema. As a ship's fireman, he had worked with coal and asbestos, plus he was a smoker.

**The
Way
We
Were**

My mother, Ana (López) García, had my sister take this picture of her on April 22, 1962 (her 16th wedding anniversary) so that she could send it to my Dad, who was navigating with the Merchant Marines.



Guess Who This Toddler Is?

I've actually already printed this picture before—in the Aug/Sept '99 issue—but I guess if you guys don't send me baby photos of yourselves or your children, I'll have to start repeating the ones that I've already put in previous issues.

The answer is found on page 3.

Please send me photos via e-mail or snail mail. If sent by regular mail, I promise to return them to you.



At this time in our family history...

- *Pedro José Rivera Maldonado was born on April 3, 1875. He was a brother of our family patriarch, "Papa Flor." Pedro only lived for 15 months, though, dying on July 10, 1876.*
- *164 years ago, on April 13th, María Inés Vilá and Marcelino de la Cruz were married. They were my father's maternal great-grandparents.*
- *On April 22, 1946, my parents (Oscar and Ana) were married in San Francisco.*
- *Florencio Rivera (Tío Guar) died on April 22, 1986.*
- *April 23rd makes eleven years since my father, Oscar Cruz García, 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.*
- *Jesús Cruz Maldonado was born on May 20, 1896. He was my father's uncle, the son of Máximo Cruz and his second wife, Genara Maldonado.*
- *Elena Sevilla Rivera (Tío Guar's wife) would have been 92 years old on May 22nd.*
- *María de los Santos Cruz, youngest sister of María Engracia García was born on May 23, 1859.*

A Page Out of Our Family History

by Norma (García) Pettit

I recently was surprised to receive a phone call from a man in Chicago by the name of Emilio Maldonado. He had made a trip to Puerto Rico, to his home town of Peñuelas, where he visited his cousin Virginia. Virginia took him to Ponce, to the homes of Luz, Lillian and René Rivera. There he saw the video of the 2005 Family Reunion and was shown copies of “¿...y la familia?” That’s how he obtained my name and phone number. When we spoke, Emilio wasn’t clear on how he was related to the people he had met in Ponce, nor who I was.

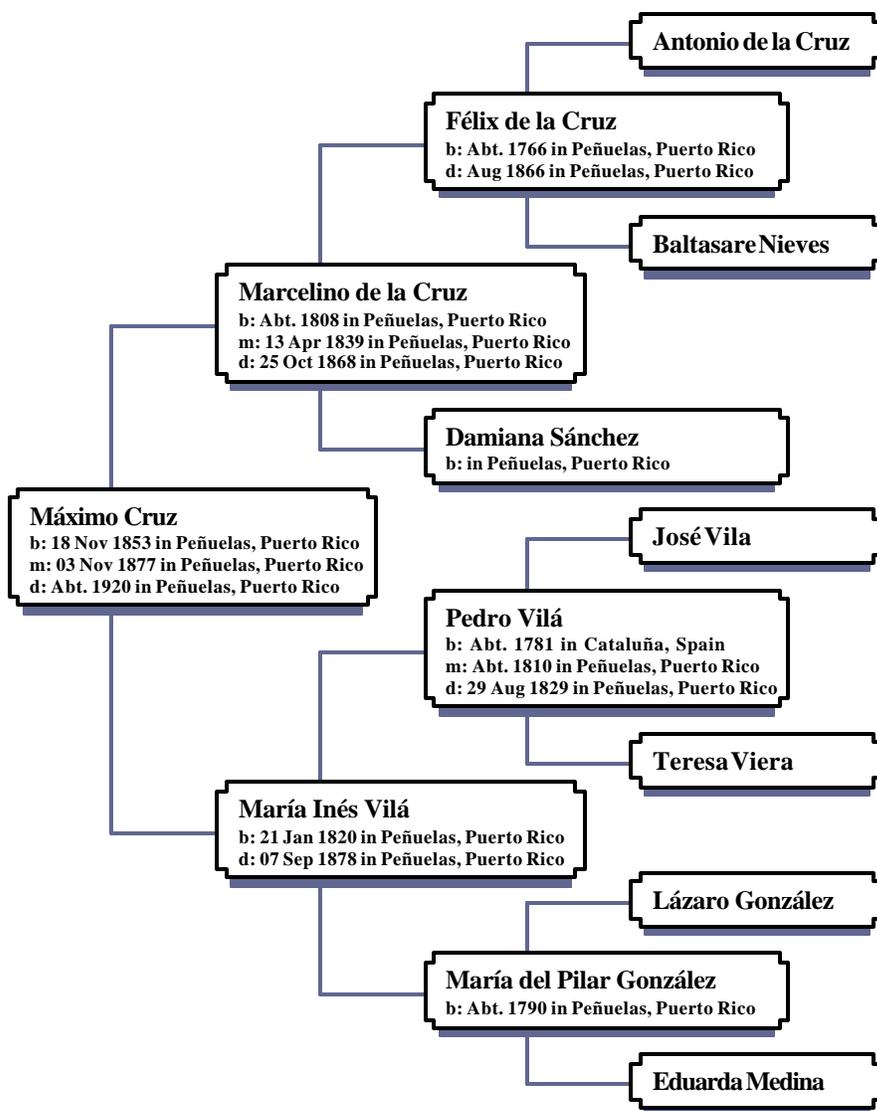
He told me that he was the son of Gilberto Cruz and the grandson of Máximo Cruz. Ah! Gilberto Cruz was a brother of my father’s mother. That meant that Emilio and my father were first cousins. I asked him if he had known Oscar Cruz García. He said, “¿Oscar? ¡Claro que sí! Él visitaba a mi Tía Carmela, y yo lo llegué a visitar en su casa en Ponce.” (“Oscar? Of course! He used to visit my aunt Carmela, and I visited him in his house in Ponce.”). I told him that I was Oscar’s daughter, and the cousins he had met were children of Oscar’s brother, Guar. Ahh! Connection made! In the few minutes that we were able to talk on the phone, I got some important information to add to the Rivera Family History, and Emilio expressed interest in finding out more information about his ancestors. Of course, Emilio Maldonado is now on my mailing list, so here, for Emilio and for everyone else, is some information about Emilio’s ancestors, taken from the Rivera Family History.

How are *you* related to Máximo Cruz? Well, you may not be. But if you are a descendant of Adela, Oscar, María, Elena, Guar, or Anita Rivera, then you are. The abovementioned were children of **Ana Cruz García** and grandchildren of Máximo. Other children of Máximo and his first wife, María Engracia García were **Alcislo, Emiliano, Nicolasa, Eugenio, Brígida and Jesús**. Following the death of María Engracia on June 23, 1891, Máximo went on to have more children with Genara Maldonada, whom he married on May 5, 1909. These children were **Agripino, Jesús, Ángel, Carmela, and Gilberto**.

If anyone has any information at all to add to what I have—names of spouses, children or in-laws of any of the people mentioned here, please send it to me. I’m always excited to add data to the Rivera Family History.

The Rivera Family History

Ancestors of Máximo Cruz



Meet Your Relative...

Last year I met (via phone and e-mail) Nellie Feliciano, who is a granddaughter of my great-aunt Carmela from Peñuelas. She is a first cousin of Annie Meléndez, the pharmacist cousin from Peñuelas that many of us met last year. If the relationship sounds distant to you, think of this: If you are a child of Adela, Oscar, María, Elena, Guar and Anita, then Nellie is your second cousin, since your parent was a first cousin of Nellie's mother. The following information that Nellie provided last year may make your head spin, but someday if we have a reunion in their neck of the woods, we may have a chance to meet our kin in person.

Carmen Maldonado and **Emilio Melendez** (*our grandparents*)

Lydia (my mother) b. June 09, 1929 d. Oct. 31, 1974

Married: **Epifanio Feliciano** b. Jan. 6, 1922 d. Nov. 24, 2003

My parents were married on Nov. 9, 1947. My mother died at age 45, after an 8 year battle with thyroid carcinoma. My father passed away at age 81 of a heart failure.

Children of Lydia and Epifanio

1. Carmen Luz b. Aug, 1948 d. Aug. 1953 (*I'm not quite sure of birth date or date of death...I'm taking a guess - I'm still looking for her birth certificate*)

2. Hector Luis Feliciano b. Nov. 26, 1949. Married: Christina Garcia - March 29, 1974 Divorced: 1988

Children: **Leslie** b. June 13, 1985

Joanna b. January 21, 1987. Married: Linda Argus - May 6, 1989 Divorced: 2001

Children: **Stephanie** b. November 6, 1989

3. Myriam Pineda b. January 26, 1955. Married: Billy Pineda - May 28, 1974 Divorced: 2001

Children: **Jennifer** b. August 16, 1974. Jennifer's significant other: Daniel Campos

Jennifer's Children: **Daniel** (b. 4/27/94), **Adam** (b. 3/3/95), **Serena** (b. 9/10/97)

Sierra (b. 10/21/98). **Damian** (b. 8/8/01), **Naiome** (b. 4/23/04)

Brian b. August 4, 1976

Jason b. June 22, 1979

4. Carmen Nydia Carrasquillo b. July 7, 1956. Married: Maximino Carrasquillo - May 16, 1975

Children: **Maximino, Jr.** b. June 5, 1976. Married: Rashawn Nicole Johnson - December 7, 2001

Children: **Alessandra Janae** (b. 2/13/2004)

Jeremy b. June 5, 1977. Married: Sheila Veteto - August 11, 2001

Children: **Reine Olivia** (b. 1/21/2003)

Lydia Nicole b. November 7, 1979

5. Epifanio, Jr. b. March 20, 1958

Children: **Jerry** b. September 6, 1976

Married: Divorced:

Children: **Jerry** (b.)

Jennifer (b.)

Cynthia b. July 25, 1978

Married: Jason Miranda -

Children: **Jason** (b.)

(*Jerry and Cynthia's mother is Carmen Suarez- they were never married*)

Married: Virginia Torres - October 21, 1989

6. Nellie b. June 9, 1960 (*I was born on my mother's birthday!*) Married: David Lopez - August 6, 1988

7. John b. November 22, 1962. Married: Kathy Fischer

Children: **Holly** (b.)

Crystal (b.)

Children: **Alexus** (b. 11/24/2003) - (*she was born 1/2 hour after my father passed away*)

Sonia (b.)

Brandon (b.)

(*I need to get the birth dates for all of them*)

8. Michael Anthony b. April 3, 1966. Significant Other: Carolina Rivera

Children: **Michael** (b. 01/01/91)

Johnny (b. 01/12/91)

Maria Luz (b. 06/24/93) AKA: *Lucy*

Angel (b. 07/02/95)

The toddler pictured on page 3 is José Medina (Cousin Josy), son of José and Tita Medina. This picture was taken in Puerto Rico. Josy looks like he is about three years old.

from Tory Pettit

¿...y la familia?

In 2004 I went to Greece on a summer's mission trip to help with the local church ministries in their preparation for the upcoming arrival of thousands of visitors for the summer Olympics. Because I developed serious interest in the country, I decided to return to Athens for my summer internship this year. The 2nd Greek Evangelical Church, that I'll reconnect with has several ministries with which I will be involved, including

- Working with Asian immigrants, helping them settle
- Working in the Internet Café/Youth Center, and mentoring teens
- Helping city clean up projects in central Greece
- Working with men and women in prostitution, which includes street ministry and office work
- Helping with children's ministry through a week-long VBS

I will be there for a total of five weeks, leaving May 23 and returning July 2. If you would, please pray for • Greek ministries--that all will go well • Strength and encouragement to the Greek Christians, who are the minority in their country • Funds to come in (still need \$1200) • Safety in travel and while in Greece • Overcoming cultural and language barriers • Responsibilities will not become burden, but that God will provide me with the energy and excitement that I need.

Other Family News

Two years ago, in the Apr/May '04 issue of "...y la familia?" the headline read, "Move's Demo Release Party. That article told about the new band that Ruben Quiñones had started, and the demo release party they held on March 27th. Since then, MOVE has continued performing in clubs mostly in the San Francisco Bay Area. Always experimenting with a variety of sounds and producing a continuous stream of new songs, the group has literally been on the move.

MOVE keeps its fans abreast of upcoming gigs and other news via their e-mailing list and their website, movemusic.com. Check it out! In a recent communique, MOVE had this to say:

MOVE is on the Airwaves!!!!!!!

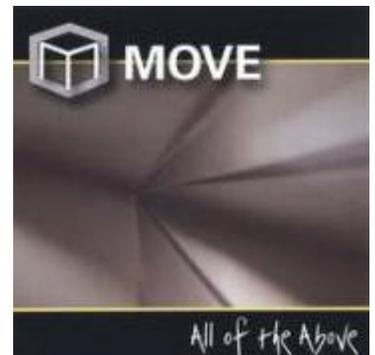
We always love telling you about big news and we have the biggest to date!!! Yes, drum roll please. . . . (cue lights)



We've been interviewed by **TOWER RECORDS!** Our friend, Damond Moodie invited us to join forces with him for an action packed podcast! "**Belly of the Bay**" is a show focused on exposing up-and-coming Bay Area music. We had a lot of fun and we're sure you will too. So what are you waiting for? Check it out NOW (and tell all your people about it too!)

<http://www.towerpod.com/channels.html?id=30>

In other developments, *All Of The Above*, our debut album, is now available at **towerrecords.com**



¿...y la familia? Update on Olga



Above, Olga and her daughter, Angela Barnes.

Following her surgery, Olga lost about 20 pounds. ¡Ay mi madre! Wasn't she skinny enough to start with? But now she is getting her appetite back and is eating well and feeling stronger. She has even begun to work in her backyard again, which is her favorite pastime.

I visited Olga in March 20th and went with Olga to get her CT Scan. In the afternoon, Angie and I accompanied Olga to her first radiation treatment. The radiation makes her feel tired, but otherwise, Olga is doing really well. She looks great, doesn't she? Notice her cute new haircut? Olga had her long hair cut off prior to her surgery and donated her 14" braid to Locks for Love, and organization that provides wigs to children with cancer.

Throughout her ordeal thus far, Olga has been blessed and encouraged by the many cards, gifts, flowers, letters, phone calls, and visits that she has received from family and friends. She told me, "I feel as if I have been physically lifted up!" You have been the wind beneath her wings, and she appreciates your prayers and expressions of love so much!

God bless you all—thank you for your continued prayers for Olga.



2006 Rivera Family Reunion

Location:
Carrollton, GA

Dates: June 23-25

Friday night:

Dinner at Uncle Isidro's house
25 Trey Court, Carrollton 30117

Saturday's fiesta:

At the lakeside home of
Orlando and Donna Rivera
53 Buckhorn Drive
Temple, GA 30179

Who is coming so far?

Definitely: Edwin & Felita and their children and their spouses—a group of about 15! Olga and Norma, Vic and Joi, Carlos, his daughter Alicia, Uncle Isidro and Orlando and family —(they are all co-hosting the event), Mary Lillian, Awilda, Papo and Ada. I am guessing that Roberto, Carol & family will also be there.

Possibly : Victoria Nicholson, Carol and Larry Wright, Tía Tita and Tío José Medina, Sara White, Mike Tokar, Kathy Merritt and Kirstin Frosheiser, Marlynn (Merritt) Krause, Meryem Merritt, and Ken and Vanessa Braddock and family. Between the definites and the maybes we have about 50 attendees already! Yippee!!!

If you are planning to go, let me know so that I can list your name in the next issue. Time's a-runnin' out! Make your plans now!!



Edwin & Felita and their group, Papo and Ada, and Olga and I are already booked at the Quality Inn & Suites. They have very reasonable rates—about \$55 per night, and have a pool, the usual room amenities, plus internet hookup in room, and continental breakfast. When we are not over at Uncle Isidro's house or at Orlando and Donna's house, we can have our own mini reunion at the motel. Care to join us?

Quality Inn & Suites
160 Centennial Rd, Carrollton, GA
(770) 832-2611

LET'S PRESERVE OUR FAMILY'S HISTORY

Dear Family Members,

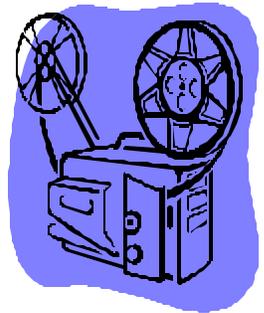
In the interest of preserving our family's rich history as it was captured on Super 8 film long ago, I am purchasing a rather expensive (\$725) high quality projector to use in converting the film to DVD. Unfortunately, the projector will not work with regular 8mm film, but if there is sufficient interest, I will investigate converting that film as well.

The old films will not last forever. They are already 30, 40 even 50 years old. Depending on how they have been stored, the film is becoming brittle. As with photographs, time affects the quality of color, thus deteriorating the picture. There are numerous professional companies that offer to convert your film to DVD. Some are better than others. The cost runs anywhere from \$8 to as high as \$20 or more for a 50' reel of film. It can end up costing you a lot of money!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SAVING YOUR OLD FILMS?

If you have Super 8 films that you would like to have preserved on DVD format, I am happy to do it for you. It is a lot of work, but it is for a worthwhile purpose. Additionally, with your permission, I would like to use edited clips from some of the films to produce one or more family history DVDs for everyone to enjoy.

If you send me your reels, I will convert them to DVD format, package the DVDs in a case complete with disk and case labels. It will look very professional, similar to what you buy in the store. I have professional software that gives me the ability to enhance the video. If the film needs to be color corrected, or improved contrast, etc., I will do my best to enhance it. All that I ask for in return is a donation of \$3.00 per 50' reel of film to help me with the cost of the projector and \$5.00 per DVD to help pay for the cost of the materials (disks, cases, insert and printing costs). If you are interested in preserving your films and your family's history, please send your Super 8 films to:



Carlos Rivera
3760 W Smokey Row Road
Bargersville, IN 46106-8890

Do not send money with the film. I will contact you with an estimate based on the number of 50' reels you send me. If you have regular 8 mm films that you want preserved, do not mail them to me at this time. I cannot convert them yet. Simply tell me how many reels you have. I will investigate the best and cheapest way to get them converted.

WHAT ABOUT OLD PHOTOS?

Also as part of the project to preserve our family's history, I would be very happy if you send me your old photos (the older the better) so that I may digitize them. In return I will send them back to you along with a disk of your photos digitized. They will be viewable as a slide show on your computer or TV. I will enhance the photos as much as possible to improve them. I will do this for FREE because of the desire to create a central repository of photos representing our family's history.

If you send me photos, please label them. I know this is a lot of work for you, but it is important that we know who is in the picture. You can write on the back of the photo or use a Post-It note or number the photo and write the information down on a piece of paper. English or Spanish is acceptable. If you think I know the people, then it is not necessary to label the photo. Send your photos to the same address above.

If you wish to donate to this cause, I am pleased to accept your donation. You can do it online at www.ylafamilia.org/donate.php if you wish. The costs for doing the photos are not as great as it is with film, but I do have to purchase large hard drives for storage, create back up systems and catalog the disks. The data that is collected will be made available to all family members. As much as time, money and resources permit, I will try to make as many photos as possible available to you via the internet but it is too costly to upload all of them.

I hope you are as interested as I am in establishing a centralized "warehouse" of our family's history. I will try to do with film and photos what Norma has done for capturing the genealogy of our family and the wonderful stories as told by family members. This is only possible with your help.



Love, Carlos
support@pgrcreations.com

"...y la familia?

c/o Norma I. Pettit
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Placerville, CA 95667
Phone: (530) 642-8960
E-Mail: mamanony@sbcglobal3.com

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



Birthday Greetings

Michael Barnes (43) - April 1

Emilio Maldonado (75) - April 1

Dustin Cavino (15) - April 4

Wilma E. Roig (21) - April 6

Marlynn (Merritt) Krause (58) -
April 6

Tiana J. Rivera (12) - April 6

Ana V. Pettit (21) - April 8

Maria Nicholson (94) - April 9

Edwin Rivera (34) - April 10

Rocky Pettit (81) - April 12

Tom Smith (68) - April 13

Vic Stenroos (58) - April 22

Raymond L. Cavino (7) -
April 25

Haley Frosheiser (10) -
April 26

George Rivera (33) - April 29

Nicholas Rivera (16) - May 5

Ken Braddock (38) - May 5

Ryan Reinke (10) - May 12

Helen Correa-González (44) -
May 12

Ted Reinke (69) - May 13

Roberto I. Rivera (55) -
May 13

Alexis Valentín (21) - May 17

Riley Hargraves (4) - May 22

George Nicholson (61) -
May 27

Lucas R. Pettit (20) - May 29

**Stephanie (Krause)
Thompson** (29) - May 29

*Did I omit
anyone's birthday
or anniversary?
Please let me know so
that I can print
a correction and
make sure you are
not left out next time.*

Anniversaries



**Carol Lee and
Roberto I. Rivera** (19)
April 26

**Cathy (Rivera) and
Eric Montalvo** (9)
May 24

**Marlynn (Merritt) and
Paul Krause** (36)
May 30