

the Lettini Newsletter

Volume 12

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happy holiday edition



The Bride & Groom

Wedding of the Decade

This years Newsletter may be viewed on the World Wide Web at <http://www.sea-net.com/~mlettini/news.pdf> (you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader).

It's been both a sad year and a good year. The sadness is that Grandpa Lettini passed away on September 7th ... a victim of cancer and a stroke. He was a good man always looking out for his family and always nice to everyone ... a person who truly had no enemies. May he rest in peace.

Well ... we can dwell upon the sadness ... but I'm sure Grandpa is looking down on us and would want us to focus on the positive ... so I'm going to talk about the good things that happened this year.

First off, Kim and Todd Dawson were married on July 20th and are now happily living in Oroville California. It was a wonderful wedding and reception ... with a truly diverse and international flavor. The Bride's Maids were: Korean, Chinese, Filipino, and Laotian. The Groom's men were Hispanic and African American. The

Minister was Caucasian Presbyterian. The Service was in a Congregational Church. The guests were from many different countries and religious backgrounds. Everyone had a GREAT time dancing, eating and mingling ... of course I'm still paying for it and probably will into my retirement.

We got to meet most of Todd's family (they came from all over the Country) ... all superbly nice people ... we are proud of becoming members of Todd's family.

Todd is kept busy working at his locksmith shop and is planning on expanding business to install security systems ... Kim is in Graduate school at California State, Chico ... majoring in Marriage, Family and Child Counseling ... and doing very well. She worked part time at Blue Cross during the summer and is now looking for a job on campus. She drives a truck to school ... and we heard that one day, after getting gas, she tried to take the gas pump island home with her ... the result was a smashed side of the truck. After a few months of family life, the only thing that Kim has to report is that

Todd snores ... like a bulldozer. Kim made me say that ... Todd.

Kara entered her sophomore year at the UW ... she changed her major to Environmental Biology and is taking all kinds of Chemistry classes and Lab's this year. She did very well in her Freshman year. She is a member of Alpha Chi Omega (the elite) sorority and was elected this years' Warrant Officer ... which means that she has to make sure everyone shapes up and does their chores ... or they have Kara to answer to ... most would rather do their chores. You can call her Nanny Kara too ... she spent the entire summer as a Nanny for two monsters, er ... kids on Mercer Island ... now that she has a taste of taking care of kids full time she has a much better appreciation of us older folk.

Kara requires a tremendously large wardrobe at school (goes through clothes changes for every class, lunch, dinner, studying, etc)... she brings home tons of laundry every weekend ... and it takes the entire weekend to wash them ... from Saturday morning to Sunday evening the washer and dryer are in continuous use ... the dryer in particular goes full time ... I had to replace the heater once already, and am working on a second replacement soon.

A peculiarity Kara has picked up is how she eats meats ... she removes every nanometer of fat from the meat before she eats it. The meat becomes totally fat free ... but ... it takes her seventeen hours to eat.

Two of Kim's friends, Kara and I went to Morgan Hill California in August for Todd's (friends and family) Wedding reception ... the reception was very nice except for one problem ... there was a nine state power outage ... power went out from Southern Washington to Mexico to Texas. A lot of theories surfaced as to the cause ... but we know what caused it ... it was a Northwest Salmon. You see, we brought Todd's family a large Washington State salmon ... and when they went to cook it, the power went out in nine states ... those few kilowatts needed to cook that salmon was all it took ... California couldn't take

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The Lettini Clan

Opa

Wedding of the Decade

"Story 1" continued from page 1

the power drain. Needless to say we are not welcome in California anymore.

I had a fantastic year. I was promoted to become the Operations Technology manager for the entire Everett Site ... where they make the wide body airplanes (747, 767 and 777's). I have responsibility for all Operations Technology at the site, which is the largest manufacturing facility in the world ... the site is so big you could fit the entire town of Cranford in it and still have room left over. It can be stressful ... especially since airplane orders are increasing, production rates are doubling and several new airplanes models are starting up ... I am responsible for nearly \$40 million in research and budget.

I also got to go to the Boeing Executive development program ... one month of training in airplane performance, maintenance and learning how to fly 757's and 767's. As part of the program we fly real airplanes and fly Boeing airplanes in the flight simulators. The real airplane that I flew was a high performance Cessna 184 single engine four seater. When I got to the airplane I thought that I would get some instructions ... but all I got from my instructor was ... here is the throttle, flap setting, rudder pedal and instrument panel ... taxi out to runway 13R, wait for the 777 to land and then take off. That was the total extent of my instructions. So I did it. I was a little panicked when that 777 came in about twenty feet away from me ... then I took off with no problems (a perfect takeoff) and flew over to Bremerton, did a touch and go, circled around and landed ... then took off and flew back to Seattle (Boeing Field) ... it was great ... but actually very boring ... except for my landing at Boeing field ... we hit some turbulence and I bounced onto the

landing strip. Oh well ... nobody was watching ... I hope.

Now my flights in the simulator were a bit different ... for example coming into Hong Kong airport in a 767 I missed the runway and landed on the grass infield ... a bit embarrassing, but I didn't crash ... on the other hand my partner went sideways on one approach and crashed (we think it was due to a simulator software glitch). Anyhow it was great but very intense ... we had the same training that pilots get but we did in one month what they do in six.

I also became an Industrial Advisor to Stanford University and a member of the Global Manufacturing Associates at Stanford. At my first Global Manufacturing meeting (Companies from all over the world are represented) I was invited to a dinner with the Institute for International Studies ... WOW ... it turned out to be a Heads of State dinner ... and guess where they put the Boeing guy ... at the head table. So here I am sitting with Walter Falcon (the head of the Institute), Helmut Schmidt (German Chancellor), Sir Jeffrey Howe (British Foreign Minister - who is a Lord and a Knight) and other leaders. The dinner was hosted by George Schultz, former Secretary of State. There were about 120 plus dignitaries there including the Japanese and Australian Prime Ministers ... Senators Bradely and Luger and many others. I had a great time talking to and mingling with these world dignitaries. The funny thing about it was when they found out that I was a High Tech guy from Boeing ... they were a bit intimidated of me (instead of me being intimidated by them). Most people would kill for some of the opportunities that I seem to fall into ... Guess I'm lucky.

I also went to MIT recruiting elite LFM's

(Leaders for Manufacturing) prospects, and to my NCAT (National Council for Advanced Technologies) committee in Washington DC ... the NCAT team got recognized for being one of the few teams to have accomplished something (course we all know why). Also, I talked Boeing into recruiting at Stevens this year ... I went there as part of the recruiting team.

Before I forget, I must tell you about Inge's latest fetish ... do you all remember Little Red Riding Hood and her basket ... well I think Inge stole her basket ... and now everywhere she goes she carries this basket ... fills it with food and drink ... she says it's for her Dad (but who knows) ... she is rarely seen without it. Old age creeping up on her ??? After all she turned 5X this year. Speaking of age ... we celebrated her Dad's (Heinz Betzler, aka Opa) 90th birthday this year ... wowzabonga ... 90 ... he was born almost a century ago ... I think that was before dinosaurs and maybe before the big bang.

Inge, Kara and I went to Emerald Downs (the new horse racing palace in Auburn) ... very nice place ... we went courtesy of the Boeing Management Association. Inge and Kara seem to have this knack for picking horses ... it's seems to be based on how pretty the horse looks and the colors of the jockey's outfit ... but they won more than I did. So much for handicapping.

Inge went to Las Vegas again this year during Spring Break ... she is going to take Kara next year ... but never takes me ... sob ... sob. She claims to have won her (god given) customary winnings again ... but I didn't see any of it. Her garden was productive again ... but we didn't have as many tomatoes this year.

Inge's teacher friends are taking over the neighborhood ... teachers here, teachers there, teachers all over the place ... but they are nice people and they love Inge ... think she's great ... because she's always helping everyone and cheering everyone up. They still feed the homeless every week ... and of course they have a party before they cook the food ... from the sounds of things they must have a few drinks too.

On the electronics front ... I picked up a demo Meridian Amplifier this summer for a steal ... it's not as powerful as the one's I've been using but it's a Class A amplifier and much, much smoother than the others. I also picked up an out of production fax machine very cheap and one of the first new HP Laser printers ... now, I have a complete home office for when I retire (in ... ???).

That's it for this year ... Have a HAPPY and SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON ... and don't forget to visit my Home Page on the Internet World Wide Web at the following URL : (<http://www.seanet.com/~mlettini/>) or send me e-mail at mlettini@seanet.com.

Happy Holidays !!!!!