

the Lettini Newsletter

Volume 14

Sat Nov 28, 1998

happy holiday edition



The Lettini Ladies at a Family gathering ...

Michael Makes E-Series

This year's newsletter starts on a sad note. On April 3rd Inge's dad (Opa) passed away. He was 92 years old. At his remembrance service he was characterized as a gentleman and a friend to all. That summarizes Opa as well as any words could. We won't dwell on this, but he is missed.

On a happier note ... I finally got my E-Series (Boeing finally gave in) ... I am now a full fledged executive of the Boeing Company ... an Officer of the Company. Do any of you believe it? It's real. You're probably wondering what it does for me ... basically, I get to be yelled at by more important people than before... and, since I represent the Company, I get to be sued ... and, oh yeah, I get to defer my salary ... oh sure, I don't take home enough now, so, I'll hold some back ... but maybe, if the Company ever recovers from current production problems, I'll get a bonus and stock ... and more stock options (which I already get) ... Humh ... there must be some good in this somewhere.

Kim and Todd moved up to Mercer Island and are living in Opa's house ... Kim is working at a

home for developmentally impaired people (Parkview) ... she seems to really like the job since it involves helping people. Todd is working for Clopay (a garage door manufacturer) ... started work in February and ... in fact he just got promoted to branch Manager. Wow, that's movin' up, it took me fifteen years to become a first level manager.

Kara and I visited Grandma and sister Maria in New Jersey this past summer ... we only stayed a few days, but it was lotsa of fun ... drove to Atlantic City with Maria, Jim, Anthony, Christina and Dave (Christina's boy friend). It was Kara's first exposure to gambling and of course she won ... at slots ... at craps ... and in everything else. She went to a crap (dice) table as little Miss Innocence, pretending not to know what to do ... and believe it or not ... the men running the table succumbed to her spell and helped her ... they were placing the bets for her ... and pretty soon she had won \$180. Of course I got Zippo out of it. And on top of it all I had to pay for dinner at Planet Hollywood.

Inge went to Las Vegas again and won again ... she went with a bunch of teachers from Island Park School ... usually she comes back and sez I won ... I won, but with no proof or verification ... this time there were witnesses. I was told that they could not believe how she won all the time ... seems like she'd walk up to a slot machine and say something like ... OK pay up ... and the machine would start spitting out coins. Of course I got Zippo out of it ... do you see a theme appearing here?

David, Kara's boy friend, is going to medical school at Tulane in New Orleans and Kara misses him ... so she calls him every night on a calling card for 'my' phone number ... she ran up over \$150 dollars a month in bills ... Of course I had to pay and guess what I got back ... zippo. Also, seems like nearly every month Kara decides that she needs to go visit David. Now this is not like driving her car a few miles, or even taking the bus ... it involves flying, and paying for airplane tickets ... and guess who pays ... yup, you got it ... Zippo pays.

Inge had another fantastic garden (again) this year ... she decided to plant one tomato plant on the side of the house in front, facing South ... I warned her that it would get too much sun and go wild producing tomatoes. Well, that one plant produced two trillion seventy-thousand and thirty two tomatoes. Here it is November ... and it's still producing. Shoulda listened to me, dear.

Right now Inge is fighting some kinda leg problem or disease ... she has a lot of pain in her legs ... and sometimes has to use a walker or cane. In fact at the Boeing open house this year Inge came, along with Kim and Todd ... and we had to wheel her around in a wheel chair. When we got up to my office ... Inge tried to rearrange everything and take over my job from the wheelchair. The doctors' haven't a clue as to the cause. We have a nickname for Inge ... it is the 'Roo' ... you ask what or why? It's for Rooler ... you know like King and Queen stuff only more emphatic.

We bought a used Infinity from one of Inge's

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Kara Meets with Governor Locke to discuss Environmental issues in Washington State !



... the year 2000 is coming ...
what will it bring ?

teacher friends' sister. Nice car ... according to Consumer Report it's one of the best made. It has everything except a satellite TV in it. Very luxurious.

I started a new hobby this fall ... Satellite tracking and Amateur Radio ... got an Icom R8500 wide band receiver and can pick up signals and broadcasts from 10KHz to 2 GigaHz ... I can even use it for SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) scanning ... who knows, maybe I'll be the one to make First Contact. For SETI I scan the 1.4 to 1.78 GHz range (the so called 'waterhole' or Hydrogen emission spectrum). I also have some software to decode signals and track satellites ... I get the keplerian elements from NASA or NORAD and plug 'em in the program and it plots out the satellite tracks ... it seems complicated but is actually quite simple ... and of course I do it with my Macintosh ... and ... I signed up for SETI @ home ... I'll be getting data from the Aericbebo Radio Telescope antenna array and analyzing it for ET signals on my Mac.

I now have my own domain on the world wide web ... I am www.mlettini.com ... type it into your web browser and you'll be hooked up directly to a computer in my basement (via a DSL line) that is being used as a web server for my web site ... I also, still have my old Homepage on Seagnet.

Perhaps I should tell you more about the kids ... Kara is a Senior at the UW and is planning on graduating this summer in Environmental Biology or something like that ... she still does these wierd experiments ... something about cloning and microbiology and microcutting stuff ... This past summer she worked as an intern for a professor collecting and analyzing dirt (oops, excuse me "soil") for heavy metals ... traveled all over Washington and Idaho collecting dirt ... er ... soil.

She and David drove to California earlier this

year. They went to the Redwood forest and David took pictures (he's an amateur photographer) ... she and David still get together and cook up exotic meals ... most of which I can't pronounce ... but they are good. Some of David's pictures are quite good ... there may be some prize winners amongst them. David wants to be an Emergency Room doctor. Right now he's studying wierd diseases, working as an Emergency Medical Technician and doing research at school ... all this while talking to Kara every night on the phone. Kara is getting interested in politics ... she met Governor Locke at a Democratic Party get-together and talked Environment and politics. I think she wants to be an Environmental lobbyist and make use of what she learned from being a VP at her sorority. She was in charge of regulations and discipline ... she showed good leadership qualities ... could be a management candidate.

Kim is getting ready to apply to Graduate School at the UW ... she has now re-established residency in Washington. She wants to go into Social Work and help people ... She and Todd have been working on Opa's house ... fixing it up ... and modernizing it ... and doing some landscaping. They have two dogs ... Smokey and Sampson. They don't like me ... every time I see them they go ... bark, arf, bark, bark, arf ... that's dog talk for "back off buster". Guess they are not impressed by my E-series ... but then neither is anyone else. Todd works a lot of overtime and Kim works abnormal hours ... so they don't get to spend a whole lot of time together ... when they do have the time they relax by playing golf and work fixing the house.

In preparation to taking over as Clopay Branch manager, Todd went to San Francisco to see how one of the best branches operates and took back some ideas. Kim gets to take outings with her clients ... they go to Oregon, Idaho and

sites around Puget Sound. Guess that one of the sites was a ranch where they did horseback riding ... Kim is still complaining about her sore 'butt'.

Just realized that while I'm slaving over this hot computer writing this ... Inge and her friends are out at dinner and off to a Jazz club. Think they'd invite me ... nope, you got it ... zippo again. Guess I'll take a break and do some star gazing.

I'm back in from my break ... wow, was Saturn spectacular ... it cleared up just enough so that I could see the separation in the rings. Jupiter was nice too ... could see the bands very clearly. I used the small telescope ... a Televue Ranger at about 120 power.

We had a pretty good summer ... it started out rather crummy but ended up great ... we got to go out in the lake and see the Blue Angels again this year ... it was so crowded that you could practically walk across the lake. We had a bit of a misshap while trying to anchor the boat ... Todd fell into Lake Washington and I lost my anchor ... oh well ... it was still spectacular watching the Blue Angels perform.

We are trying to work out Inge's inheritance from Opa ... you can not believe how terrible these financial institutions are. They don't follow directions and stall and stall ... and keep asking for more and more info ... so, we decided to put our investments with a broker ... Charles Schawb ... we get to invest over the internet. It's also unbelievable how much the IRS and Washington will get ... Inge is planning to buy a short latte with what's left.

The rest of the year was pretty typical ... Inge and friends feeding the Homeless ... me spending up to 4 hours a day in the terrible traffic we have ... it is worse that NY ever was ... a report just released a few weeks ago shows that Seattle has the worse rush hour traffic in the country ... I can attest to that ... but it's not just rush hour.

Well, goodbye until next year ... and Zippo says that you'd better have a ...

HAPPY HOLIDAY.

